



Assessing the General Data Dissemination System—After 10 Years, What Has Been Accomplished? And Where Do We Go From Here?

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Introduction

- A work-in-progress: after 10 years, what has the GDDS accomplished?
- As 13 countries from the region are GDDS participants, a good opportunity for us to *listen* to you about your own experience
 - What have you found good or bad about the GDDS?
 - Do you agree that our thinking is moving in the right direction?
 - Are there special issues for small economies?

What is the GDDS?

- As the name implies, it is a *data dissemination* system.
- Differs from its “big sister,” the SDDS in two respects:
 - SDDS is for countries with *access* to international capital markets.
 - GDDS is a general *framework* to guide countries in *developing* sound statistical *systems* as a *basis* for data dissemination.
- Priority given to making improvements in data quality which “*may need to precede improvement in dissemination practice*”

A Country's Commitments in the GDDS

- Appoint a *national coordinator*
- Prepare *metadata* that describes current practices on data compilation and dissemination (and update the metadata annually)
- Develop *plans for improvement* in short and medium term, and identify associated needs for assistance in implementing these plans
- Contains a *data dimension* (timeliness and periodicity elements) but *no requirement* for participants to actually disseminate data

How to Assess to the GDDS?

- Global acceptance and participation
- Number of participants progressing to the SDDS
- Compare metadata and plans for improvement with developmental needs
 - Adoption of best practice methodologies; identified developmental issues; sociodemographic data
- Assess data dissemination
 - Against the GDDS periodicity and timeliness goals
 - Against the SDDS standards

How Many Countries Can “Afford” the SDDS?

- Generally, SDDS subscribers have *significantly higher* per capita incomes than GDDS participants.
- 61 percent of GDDS participants (versus 12 percent for SDDS subscribers) have per capita income below \$2,000.
- 18 percent of GDDS participants (22 percent for SDDS subscribers) have per capita income in range of \$2,000–\$5,000.
- Presumptive *threshold* values:
 - above \$5000, prime candidate for SDDS
 - \$2000–\$5000, move gradually toward SDDS
 - below \$2000, stay in GDDS
- *Exceptions* prove the rule!

Countries with Credit Ratings and Sovereign Market Access

- 33 of 55 countries in the sample have a ***sovereign credit rating***
 - 15 of these meet the \$2000 threshold for future SDDS subscription
- In the Caribbean, **8 of 13** GDDS participants have credit ratings (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)
 - All meet the \$2,000 threshold and **3** meet the \$5,000 threshold

Adopting New Methodologies

- **All countries:** 1993 SNA (61 percent); GFSM 2001 (11 percent); MFSM, 2000 (59 percent); BPM5 (92 percent)
- There are pronounced *regional differences*.
- **Caribbean:** 1993 SNA (46 percent); GFSM 2001 (0 percent); MFSM 2000 (92 percent); BPM5 (100 percent)

Major Issues Identified in Plans for Improvement

➤ Metadata and Plans for Improvement confirm existence of

- ***All countries:*** Source Data; Scope; ***Resources;*** Statistical Techniques; Concepts and Definitions
 - Data Accessibility (#6); Periodicity and Timeliness (#8)
- ***Caribbean:*** Source Data; Scope; ***Data Accessibility; Periodicity and Timeliness;***
 - Resources (#10)

Meeting the GDDS Periodicity and Timeliness Elements

- 58 percent of participants from *all regions* meet *both* the periodicity and timeliness recommendations.
- 72 percent meet *periodicity*; implies that *timeliness* is the issue for most countries.
- For the *Caribbean* region
 - 54 percent meet both criteria
 - 67 percent meet periodicity
- Caribbean countries have difficulties with *production* and *producer prices* and with timeliness for *balance of payments*.

Meeting the SDDS Periodicity and Timeliness Elements

- 32 percent of participants from *all regions* meet *both* the periodicity and timeliness recommendations.
- 53 percent meet *periodicity*, again implying a problem with *timeliness*.
- For the *Caribbean* region—23 percent meet *both* criteria; 42 percent meet *periodicity*.

Overall Assessment

Positives

- *Global* participation; near-universal *acceptance* as a developmental framework
- Metadata and plans for improvement *confirm fundamental weaknesses.*
- Participation *reduces borrowing spreads.*

Overall Assessment

Continued

Less Positive

- **Mixed experience** in adopting “best practice” comprehensive frameworks
- **Slow progress** in general; six countries have progressed to SDDS; many countries obtain credit rating but have not progressed to SDDS
- **Limited incorporation** of sociodemographic data
- Data **dissemination** remains a **weak** point.

Role of Data Dissemination

- Ongoing globalization, growing reliance on open capital and product markets, focus on governance, increased use of the Internet and electronic forms of data dissemination – ***heighten importance*** and ***reduce cost*** of data dissemination
- Shift in development philosophy: dissemination ***(supply) creates its own demand*** for higher quality information and more extensive coverage of indicators
- Creating a demand for statistics will lead to ***higher priority*** and ***more budget resources***

Possible New Directions

- Give *greater emphasis to data dissemination* and *better align* GDDS with SDDS
 - Data dissemination to become an *explicit commitment* (but not monitored)
 - Adopt ARC and National Summary Data Page from SDDS
 - Simplify and realign the data dimension more closely with SDDS
 - SDDS an explicit end-goal for countries above per capita income of \$5,000
 - Strengthen the developmental aspect: less emphasis on metadata and more emphasis on using plans for improvement as a basis for *interagency coordination* of technical assistance