An Assessment of Ethics and Proactive Communication Practices in The Nigerian Statistical System

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UNECE Workshop on Ethics in Modern Statistical Organisations Geneva, Switzerland, 26-28 March 2024



01

Introduction and Context



Background

- Nigeria's National Statistical System (NSS) is designed to provide reliable data for all stakeholders.
- However, the technical proficiency of statisticians is not sufficient to guarantee the integrity of statistical data...
- Ethical conduct and proactive communication practices must be imbibed.
- We shall assess ethical standards and proactive communication practices within the NSS and make recommendations.



Ethics and Proactive Communication in NSS

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics in Nigeria:

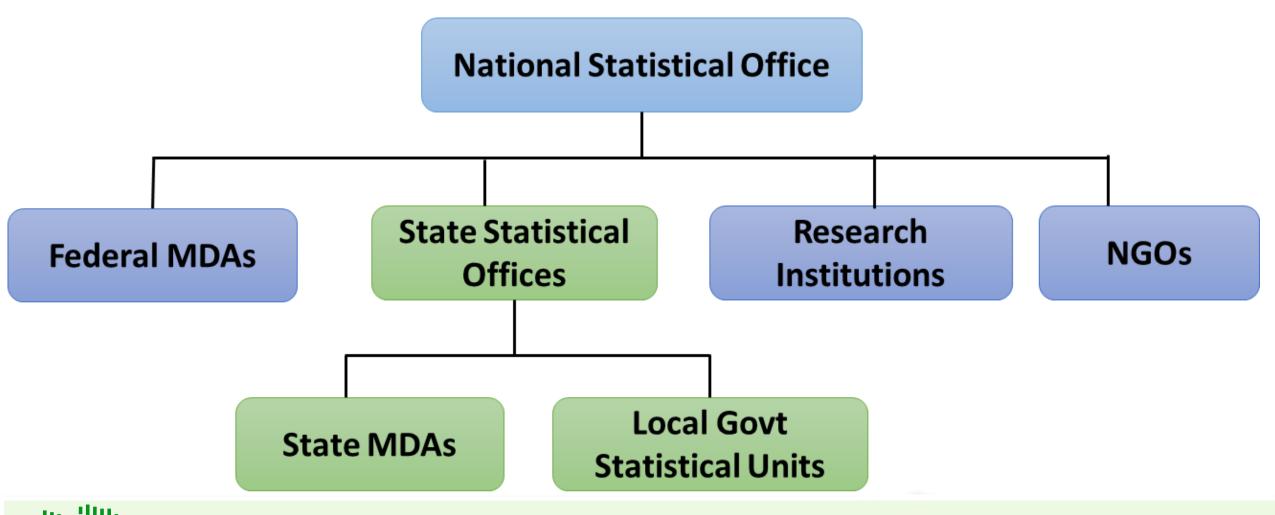
"The official statistics generated by the National Bureau of Statistics and the other statistics-producing members of the National Statistical System must be presented clearly and comprehensively and disseminated appropriately, thereby enabling equitable access by all users"

and

"The National Bureau of Statistics and other producers of statistics in the National Statistical System engage actively with the users of statistics to promote trust and maximize public values"



Structure of Nigeria's Statistical System



Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

2007

Statistics Act

National Code of Health Research Ethics

Central Bank of Nigeria Act



National Health Act



Nigeria Data Protection Regulation

Freedom of Information Act

2011

Code of Practice for Official Statistics

2016

National Data Strategy (Currently being revised)





02

Challenges and Opportunities in NSS



Challenges

A Capacity

Data Quality and Reliability are affected by insufficient human and institutional capacity in Statistics Offices (esp. sub-national)

B Bottlenecks

Suboptimal dissemination channels and bureaucratic bottlenecks affect data accessibility and timeliness

Coordination

Inefficiencies and inconsistencies due to duplication of efforts among different agencies and departments

D Modernization

Outdated technological infrastructure and IT systems due to insufficient investment in modernization



Opportunities

Technology

Leveraging technological advancements to modernize data activities and harmonize data collection

Capacity

Capacity-building programs for data practitioners

Collaboration

Collaboration with private sector, CSOs, and academia to harness resources

Awareness

Awareness of the importance of data is increasing

Cooperation

Regional and international cooperation initiatives can enhance capacity building and best practices





Recommendations and Conclusion



Policy Recommendations

Establish robust *Ethics*1 *Offices* for enforcement of ethical standards

Strengthen *collaboration* to share best practices and address ethical challenges collectively

Establish *Data Literacy Units* for education on ethical standards

Conduct *regular system-wide evaluations* and reviews of ethical practices in the NSS

Develop comprehensive ethical guidelines to guide all aspects of statistical activities

Provide statistical reports to journalists, let spokespersons grant interviews for *proper context*



Further Recommendations

Policymakers

Recognize the importance of ethical conduct and proactive communication, *allocate* adequate resources to strengthen ethical standards, *safeguard* the independence of statistical agencies

Statisticians

Embrace a culture of ethics and professionalism, *invest* in continuous capacity development, *champion* transparency to promoting public trust and confidence

Stakeholders

Advocate for the prioritization of ethics and proactive communication as core principles of the NSS, continually promote dialogue and mutual understanding on ethical issues, hold statistical agencies and policymakers accountable for upholding ethical standards



Conclusion

- Nigeria's Statistical System has the potential and opportunities to abide by the highest standards of ethical practices and proactive communication.
- It is time for Nigeria to harness these opportunities to upgrade its statistical system to a commendable status in Africa and the world.
- Collective commitment by policy makers, statisticians and all stakeholders is required to achieve this in the fastest possible time.



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Statistical Laws and Regulations

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Thank You for Listening!

Questions and Comments?

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