

We can do better if we know better!

STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT

2016 edition



The more we know, the better we do

The world is becoming more and more interdependent. Economic globalisation and migration binds countries and people closer together, while the challenges of climate change and a sustainable economic, social and environmental development is common to us all. Development assistance is an expression of solidarity in this interdependent world.

Together, the EU Member States, the European Commission and the other European institutions provide more than half of all official development assistance to developing countries.

Do all these resources go where they are most needed? Are they used according to the priorities of the developing countries and the priorities for development assistance? Do the programmes and projects lead to a better life for the most vulnerable people?



Statistics help to answer all these questions

Statistics help to turn development objectives into targets that can be measured, assessing what has been done and what remains to reach these targets. A 'Data Revolution' is needed to meet the growing demand for better, faster, more accessible, and more disaggregated data for bringing poverty down and achieving sustainable development

Who needs development assistance?

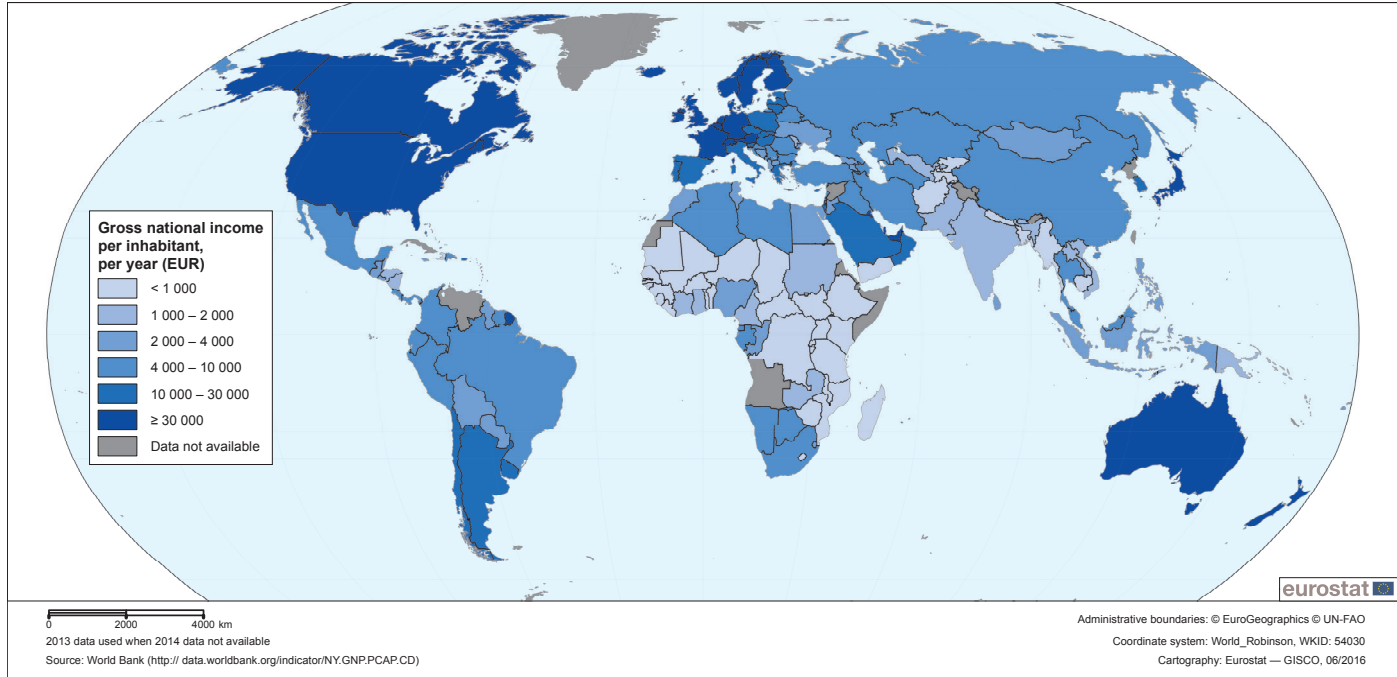


Reliable data are needed to identify people in need and where they are.

Supporting developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty is the primary objective of development policy; it is a priority for EU external action in support of EU's interests for a stable and prosperous world. The EU has done much to help reduce poverty and in particular to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet severe poverty still exists in many parts of the world.

Reliable and robust data are critical for formulating successful policies to reduce and eradicate poverty. Over the past decades, statisticians have made great efforts to develop methods for collecting data on the lives and economic situation of households in developing countries. A key part of this has been to strengthen the capacity of the developing countries to carry out such household surveys themselves, to produce relevant data and to analyse the poverty in the country.

World poverty map: Gross national income per capita (EUR), 2014 (Atlas method)



Example of the importance of statistics: Poverty monitoring in Tanzania

In Tanzania, the government has established a comprehensive poverty-monitoring system based on reliable and timely data. It has used this information to improve its Poverty Reduction Strategy and to take actions to address rural poverty and food security.

▶ Reliable data are needed to set realistic and measurable targets.

In 2015, the world came together again to strengthen and widen the common work towards a better life for all. Building on the achievements of the MDGs, the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) apply to all countries; they are ambitious and action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate.

Statistical indicators were agreed for each MDG; for the SDGs, the number of indicators will increase even further. The SDGs will oblige UN member countries to develop statistical capacity so their national statistical system can provide the information needed.

The international statistical community has helped to improve methodologies, produce guidelines, and define priorities and strategies. When we have comparable statistics, we can assess the progress made, as illustrated by the figure on the 'Proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day' (MDG Indicator 1.1):

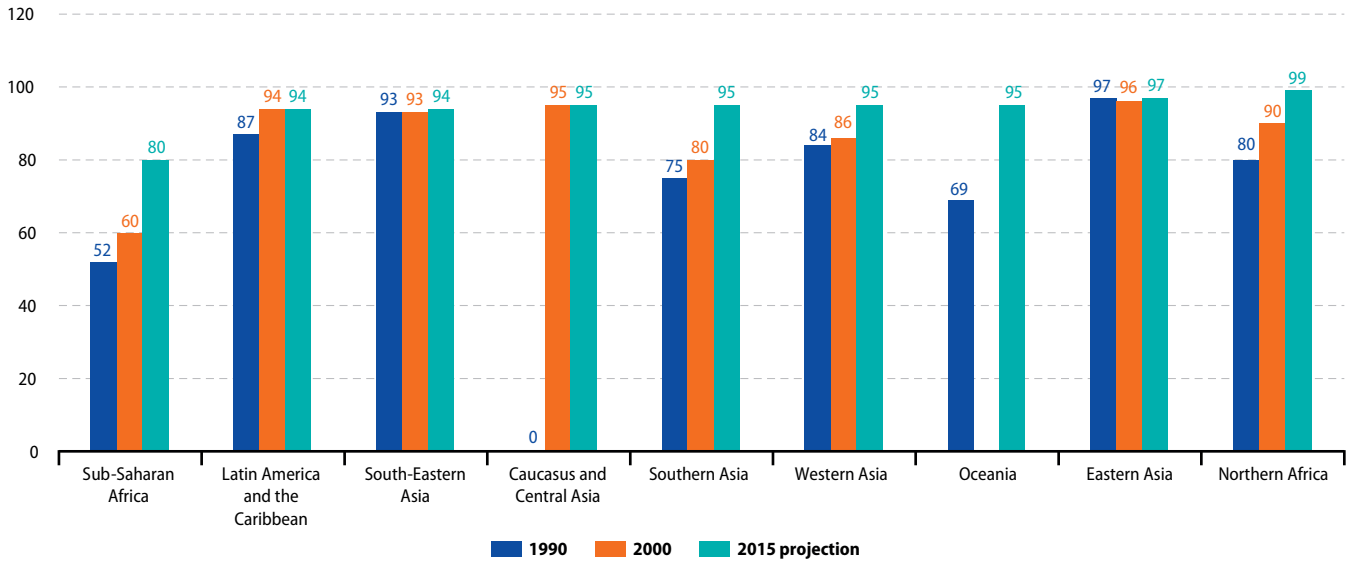
▶ Reliable data are needed for the people concerned wherever they are.

When statistics are broken down by local areas or by population groups, they can help identifying problems and provide information needed to address these problems efficiently. 'Disaggregated data' makes it possible to track progress specifically for vulnerable groups of the population and to map inequalities across the country.

For aid programmes and projects, data are needed on inputs and outputs. This information is needed to make the programmes effective and make efficient use of the resources. It is also necessary for transparency about how assistance is provided and who benefits from it. To make sure that the aid really makes a difference, data are also needed on the impact on the lives of the people targeted.

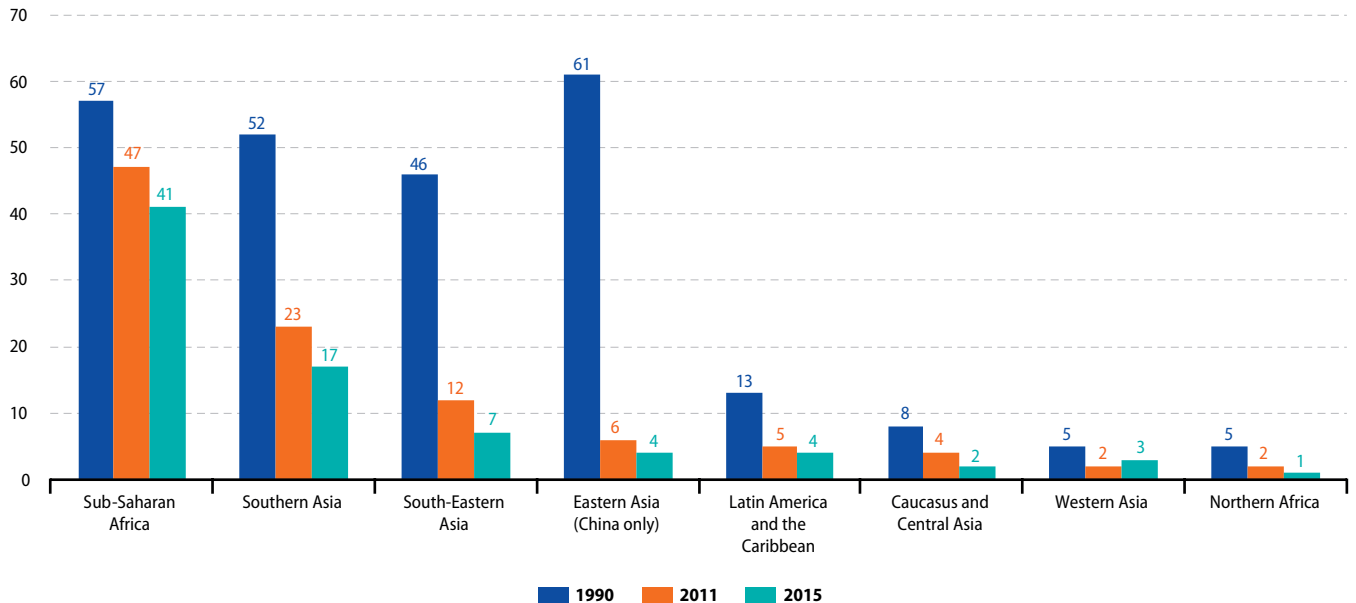
▶ Reliable statistics are vital for defining development priorities.

Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education, 1990, 2000 and 2015 (%)



Note: 1990 value for Caucasus and Central Asia and 2000 figure for Oceania not available
 Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015

MDG Indicator 1.1: Proportion of people living on less than 1.25 USD a day, 1990, 2011 and 2015 (%)



Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015

Using statistical indicators to measure progress and the impact of aid

The EU helps beneficiary countries develop national health policies and strengthen their health systems. Logical frameworks ('logframes'), using indicators, are set up to link main objectives, starting point, targets and their measurement. The following example is an extract of Zambia's Health Information System Strategic Plan 2009-2015:

Objective	Baseline value / status	Target	Indicator	Means of verification
To strengthen the national role, reputation and authority of the HIS	Lack of adequate technical/ human resources for HIS development and operation	80% of posts filled by technically qualified human resources to support HIS operations by 2010; 90% by 2014	% of posts filled by technically qualified human resources to support HIS operations	Policy documents, consultancy reports, HIS data quality assessments, HR reports/ analysis
To increase the availability, distribution and use of resources for HIS	Lack of adequate qualified personnel to support HIS functions	80% of posts filled by qualified personnel by 2011; 100% by 2015	% of identified positions filled by persons meeting technical requirements	Training reports, human resources assessments, curricula developed

Sources: European Commission - DG Health and Food Safety;
World Health Organisation - Health Metrics Network

The international development agenda goes well beyond economic development and the fight against hunger and poverty. One aim of the development agenda is to provide good and healthy lives to everyone everywhere. The key to achieve this is also to ensure a better access to basic social services. Thus, both the MDGs and the SDGs cover goals, targets and indicators related to health and education, from maternal health via fight against HIV and malaria to provision of clean water and sanitation; from ensuring that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education to equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary/university education.

Example of the importance of statistics: EU support to Burkina Faso 2014-2020

The cooperation between the European Union and Burkina Faso for 2014-2020 focuses on 3 key sectors, identified in the country's own national development strategy and under the leadership of the national government:

- Governance
- Health
- Food and nutrition security, including sustainable agriculture and water

The support from the EU is results-oriented; for each specific objective, indicators for monitoring progress are identified; most of these indicators build on statistics from the national statistical institute INSD and from the responsible ministries.

One of the results expected from the support to governance is a strengthening of the national statistical system of Burkina Faso, both for improving policy making and for providing the statistics needed to monitor progress in key sectors.

Source: EU-Burkina Faso National Indicative Programme 2014-2020 (11th European Development Fund)

International cooperation to strengthen statistics in developing countries

The Busan Action Plan for Statistics aims to:

- strengthen and re-focus national statistical strategies to produce data that support countries' own development priorities;
- improve accessibility of statistics and enable full public access to official statistics;
- develop programmes to increase the knowledge and skills needed to use statistics;
- ensure that outcomes of global summits and high-level forums specifically recognise the need for statistical capacity development,
- ensure that financing for statistical information is robust.

The Busan Action Plan for Statistics proposes a country-led process to address country-defined needs.

Source: Busan Action Plan for Statistics (2011)

How is the EU supporting statistics in developing countries?

The EU and its Member States have also supported the development of statistics in developing countries for many years.

The EU's support to statistics builds on a set of international principles; from the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (2004), via the Dakar Declaration on the Development of statistics (2009) to the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (2011), the international community has agreed on key principles and priorities:

The EU coordinates its support to statistics more and more with its Member States, creating new synergies and boosting the impact of the support. In particular, as outlined in the EU's Agenda for Change (2011), this has led to:

- Joint EU and Member States response strategies, based on partner countries' own development strategies, with a sectoral division of labour between the EU and the Member States;
- A common results reporting framework for the EU and the Member States.

Support from the EU is given at several levels and in different forms

Continental

In 2016, Eurostat launched a Pan-African statistical cooperation programme, including support for the set-up of a Statistical Institute for the African Union (AU) and support to provide users with more and better quality data.

Regional

The EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building Programme (COMPASS) 2014-2018 supports ASEAN integration through the availability and use of more timely, comparable and relevant statistics. It facilitates monitoring and decision-making across ASEAN.

National

The EU provides budget support to Togo to support the country's efforts towards good governance, economic recovery and inclusive social progress. Budget support is based on performance assessment and strengthening of capacities of the partner country. This requires a good quality national system to collect information and provide statistics.

Global support to statistics or support to statistics in specific sectors

The EU provides institutional support to statistics and public financial management to Rwanda, including support to the National Institute

of Statistics. The aim is to improve the availability of good development statistics, also at local level.

Capacity strengthening

The EU provides technical assistance and training to continental, regional and national statistical offices, including support for key methodologies and tools, for the production and dissemination of statistics, to coordinate relations with the users, etc.

Eurostat support for strengthening statistical capacity to provide official statistics

Through the Pan African Statistics (PAS) programme, Eurostat aims to support African integration through better availability and quality of statistical information facilitating political decision-making and policy monitoring.

The specific objectives are:

- To improve the production and dissemination of quality statistics in Africa.
- To support the African Union in strengthening its capacity to provide comparable official statistics.

These indicators are used to monitor the performance of the programme:

- Number of technical networks established by African institutions to support country statistical systems.
- Number of countries in Africa with statistical yearbooks updated yearly, online and downloadable.
- Number of countries for which peer reviews reports on the quality of statistics are published and shared.
- Number of networks built and coordination meetings organised within the African Statistical System.
- Number of countries where African Economic Outlook reports are available and used at the Ministry of Finances/Planning.

Source: European Commission's Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2014 of the Pan-African Programme

Over the last decade, thanks to EU funding, almost 14 million pupils could go to primary school, more than 70 million people were linked to improved drinking water, and over 7.5 million births were attended by skilled health workers, saving the lives of mothers and babies.

Without statistics, it would be impossible to know this. To which extent development aid makes a difference to the lives of poor and vulnerable groups is a legitimate question. Both authorities and the public need to know if the resources are used effectively and efficiently, and to report on results and achievements. They need reliable data to assess the level of achievement of the goals and to monitor the progress made.

However, in an interconnected world it may be difficult to attribute progress and change to a specific development action, or to calculate how much the specific development action has contributed to this progress.

Eurostat's support for development

Eurostat provides several very helpful tools to strengthen partner countries' capacity to produce official statistics:

AT STRATEGIC LEVEL:

- The **Snapshot** is a user-friendly tool to assess strengths and weaknesses of National Statistical Systems and the quality of key indicators.

AT PROGRAMMING LEVEL:

- The **Guide to statistics in European Commission development co-operation** provides knowledge on statistics in the development process, on support to statistics and the use of statistics to define and follow up co-operation programmes.

AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL:

- **ERETES** is an information system used to produce national accounts according to the System of National Accounts (SNA).
- **"Essential SNA: building the basics"** is a practical handbook for implementing national accounts in full compliance with the 2008 SNA rules and recommendations.
- **Eurotrace** is an open IT application for collecting, compiling and disseminating external trade data at national and regional level.
- **SDMX** is an international initiative to foster standards for the exchange of statistical information.

To accompany these tools and to support users, Eurostat has developed a large body of free-of-charge training materials. These come in the form of e-learnings (Snapshot, Guide and Essential SNA), online tutorials (SDMX) and regional training courses (ERETES, Eurotrace, SDMX).

Eurostat cooperation resources

For information on Eurostat's statistical cooperation activities: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/international-statistical-cooperation/overview>

E-mail: ESTAT-STATISTICAL-COOPERATION@ec.europa.eu



Guide to statistics in European Commission development cooperation

2013 edition



The European Union and the African Union - a statistical portrait

2015 edition



Essential SNA: Building the basics

2014 edition



Snapshot

A user-friendly tool to assess the strengths and weaknesses of National Statistical Systems

See 'Statistics explained' for further insight into Eurostat's international cooperation activities, in particular the articles on statistics in development cooperation and on building national accounts in developing countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Non-EU_countries

See also

European Commission; Directorate-General International Cooperation and Development: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid>

World Bank; World Development indicators: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>



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