

Strategies for better statistics  
Investment in statistical systems  
Participation in the 2010 Census  
Better household surveys  
Measuring key topics and the MDGs  
Harmonizing effort

# Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

## What is it?

Good statistics are important for achieving better development results. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics is a global plan for improving development statistics, agreed at the Second Roundtable for Managing for Development Results held in February 2004

## Progress has been made

**Strategies.** Around 100 countries have prepared (or are preparing) a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics as a basis for improving statistical capacity

**Projects and investment.** Some countries have started to implement statistical development strategies, with external support in some cases, although much more is needed

**Censuses.** A World Program has been launched by the UN to support the 2010 census round through technical assistance and advocacy

**Surveys.** The International Household Survey Network has been launched to better coordinate international household survey efforts and to provide countries with helpful planning and dissemination tools

**MDGs and other key statistics.** The UN has coordinated international reporting of estimates of MDG progress, has supported improved access to indicators, and has trained users in their interpretation. Some specialized agencies of the UN have implemented programs to help countries improve statistical capacity in key areas, such as education, health, urban welfare, and gender

## More is needed

**Scaling-up.** Countries and donors need to scale-up investment in statistical capacity, to implement National Strategies for the Development of Statistics as part of development policy

**Censuses.** Countries should plan to take a good census during the 2010 census round, with support from the international community

**Surveys.** International household surveys need to be better coordinated, survey datasets need to be more accessible and better used, and survey programs need to be better established in some countries

## Support is available

**United Nations:** Provides guidance for the collection of official statistics, including the coordination of international standards and support for countries undertaking censuses. Specialized agencies and regional commissions also support improvements in statistics, often in specific areas. [unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

**PARIS21:** Provide guidelines and advocacy for improving statistical capacity, including for National Strategies for the Development of Statistics. [www.paris21.org](http://www.paris21.org)

**World Bank:** The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building provides grants for statistical capacity improvement projects, including the development of strategic plans. Large projects can make use of STATCAP, a lending program for improving statistical capacity. A new Accelerated Data Program supports shorter-term improvements to household survey programs. [www.worldbank.org/data](http://www.worldbank.org/data)

**Other partners:** Many other bilateral and multilateral agencies support countries in making improvements in statistical capacity, including regional development banks, the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission, and bilateral donors



**Better Statistics  
Better Results**