BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS LUNCH TIME SEMINAR

CONTRIBUTION OF DATA & STATISTICS TO REFORMING THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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OUTLINE

➢ Importance of Data & Statistics

➢ Value Creation Role of Data in Reform

➢ Context and Challenges of Using Data in Public Sector Governance

➢ Conclusions

IMPORTANCE OF DATA & STATISTICS

➢ Data plays a major role in shaping almost every aspect of human life

➢ ....they provide us with clear, objective, and numerical evidence
  ➢ Population
  ➢ Economic performance
  ➢ Health & Wellbeing
  ➢ Environment

➢ ....aids the decision making process
  ➢ Helps to establish numerical benchmarks
  ➢ Used in monitoring and evaluating the progress of policies or programs (such as reforms)
  ➢ Helps to ensure that reforms or policy interventions are well-designed.

GROWING DEMAND FOR DATA

➢ Previously, our statistical system was:

    ➢ Less than optimal
    ➢ Uncoordinated with lack of access & openness
    ➢ Policy makers and public sector largely ignored
      official data

➢ Currently however:

    ➢ There is improved coordination across
      government levels – federal and state – as well as
      across Ministries, Departments, & Agencies
    ➢ Increasing recognition of the importance of
      statistics to measurable outcomes
    ➢ Increased demand for data and for evidence
      backed planning and outcomes

HOW TO USE DATA TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

➢ Data is a guiding tool -> "must have the right data at the right time"

➢ Better reform outcomes and policy results relies on taking the right decisions at the right time, for the right reasons. All three pillars are important.

➢ Evidence based decision making requires decision makers to actively engage with data & analysis at every point.
  - ➢ From initiating programs;
  - ➢ To allocating resources;
  - ➢ To monitoring and evaluating outcomes.

➢ These are the key pillars to leveraging data & statistics for better reform outcomes and improved governance.

VALUE CREATION THROUGH DATA – RECENT EXAMPLES

- Corruption Trends Survey conducted in partnership with UNODC.

- 2nd survey in series which shines a light on the prevalence of bribery and other forms of corruption in citizen's engagement with the public sector.

- 1st version in 2016 was the first comprehensive nationwide survey to be carried out in Nigeria.

- Most recent version (2nd) interviewed 33,000 people, representative from each 36 states of the country.

- Adults – 18 and over, one randomly selected adult interviewed per selected household

Corruption Trends in Nigeria
Evidence from the 2nd survey on bribery and other forms of corruption in the public sector

Dr. Yemi Kale, Statistician-General of the Federation
Dr. Oliver Stolpe, Country Representive, UNODC

Survey parameters

33,067 persons interviewed across Nigeria

Sampling methodology: Stratified random sampling, representative for each of the 36 States (plus the FCT), around 900 households/State, results population-weighted

Target group: adults 18 years and older; one randomly selected adult interviewed per selected household

VALUE CREATION THROUGH DATA – RECENT EXAMPLES
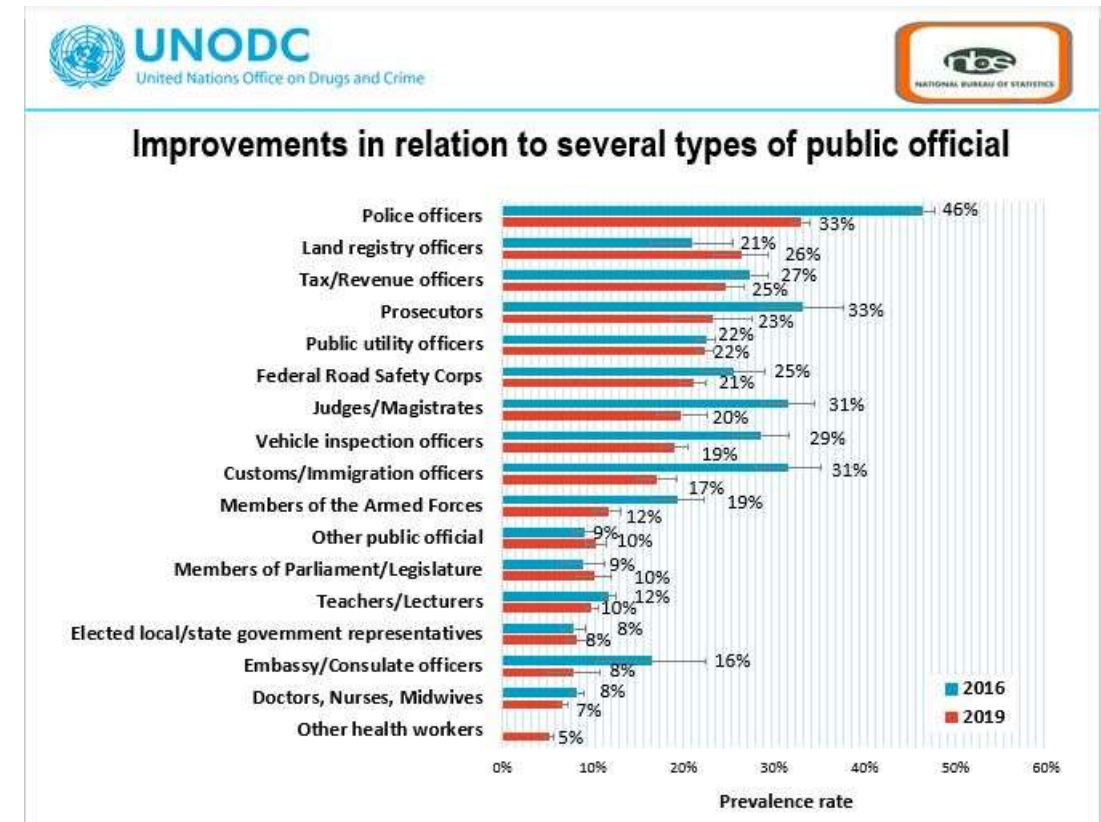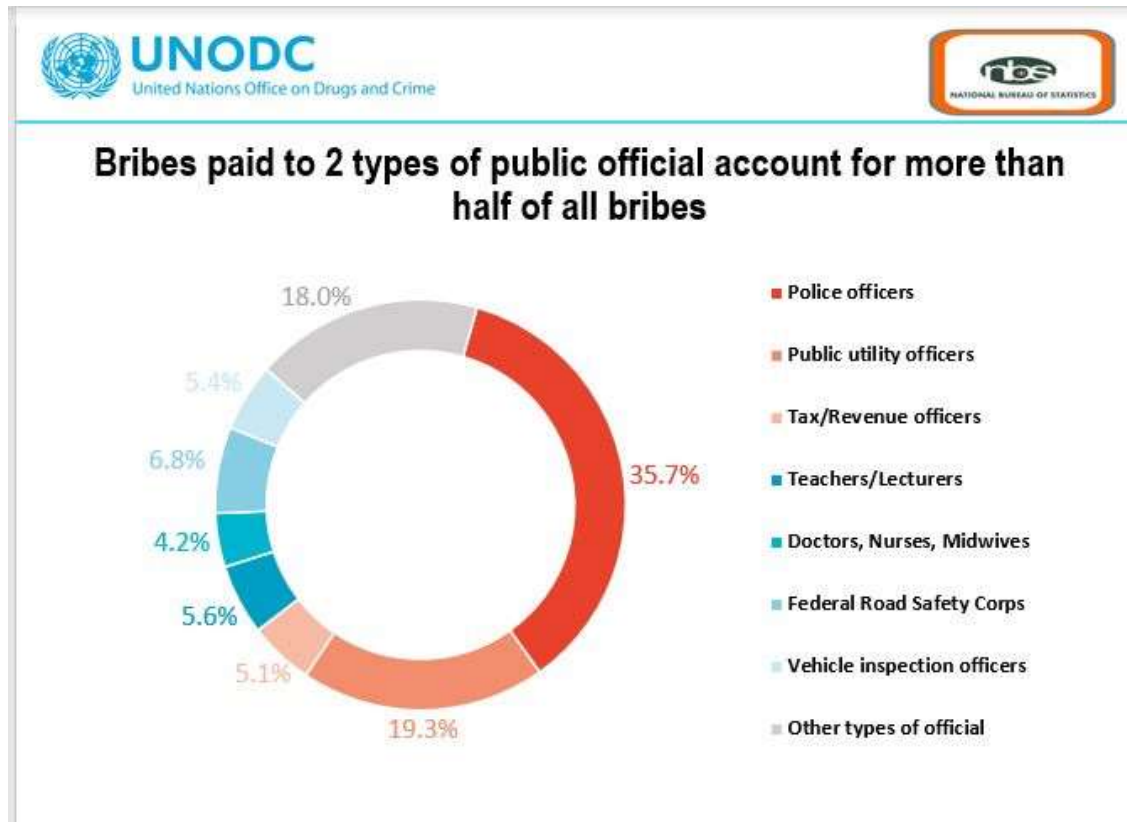
➢ Some highlights of the report:

➢ Five types of public officials account for over 70% of all incidences of bribe payments. Reduction in these areas would have a significant impact on public service delivery.

➢ Tracking shows some improvements in public service experience except for land registry officers, and members of parliament/legislature

VALUE CREATION THROUGH DATA – RECENT EXAMPLES

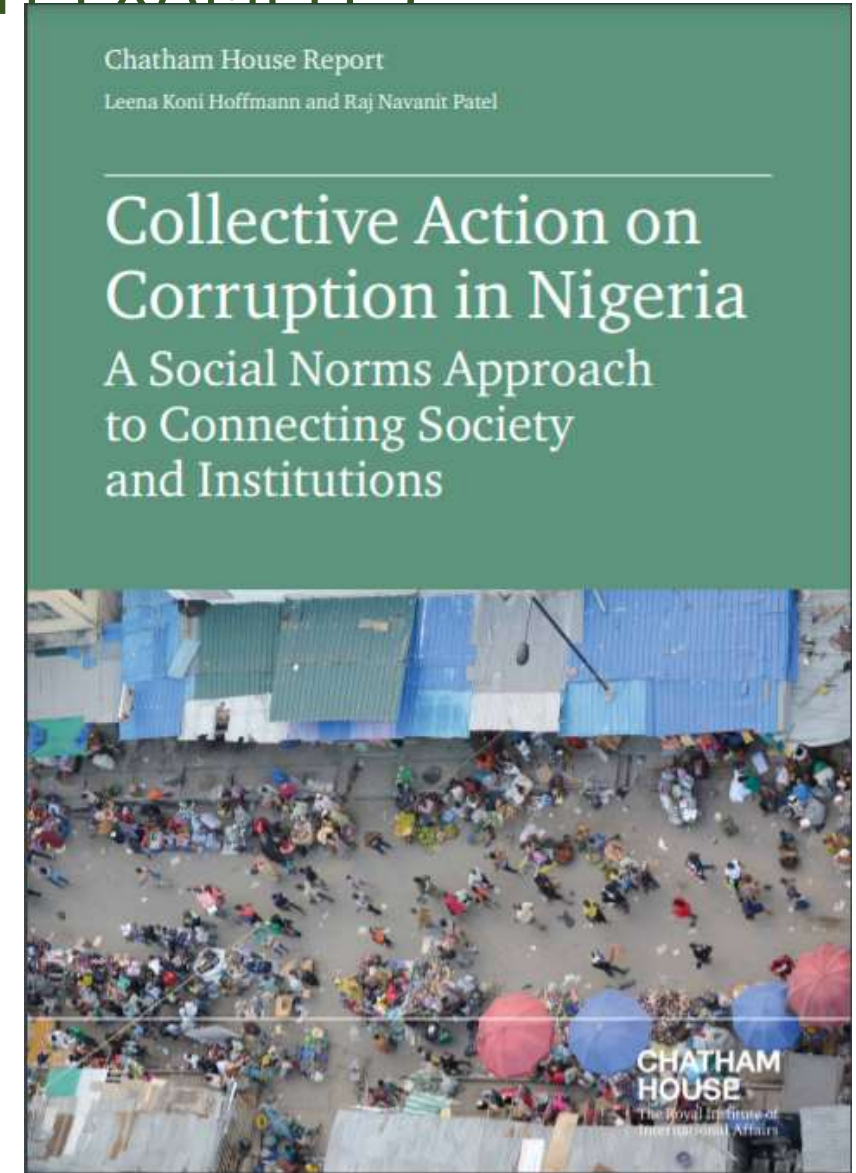➢ Collective Action on Corruption in Nigeria – findings based largely on a national household survey, jointly developed by Chatham House Africa Programme, University of Pennsylvania's Social Norms Group, and NBS.

➢ Study explores how interaction with public service is dependent on not just personal principles but also on what other people think and do, or the perception of this.

➢ Shows efforts to change beliefs and behaviours in individuals is not enough for change, must incorporate every aspect of individual's experience.

➢ Focused with highlighting underlying drivers of change for public service delivery.

Chatham House Report
Leena Koni Hoffmann and Raj Navanit Patel

Collective Action on Corruption in Nigeria
A Social Norms Approach to Connecting Society and Institutions

CHATHAM HOUSE
The Royal Institute of International Affairs

VALUE CREATION THROUGH DATA – RECENT EXAMPLES

Figure 2: Beliefs about bribery during a traffic violation check
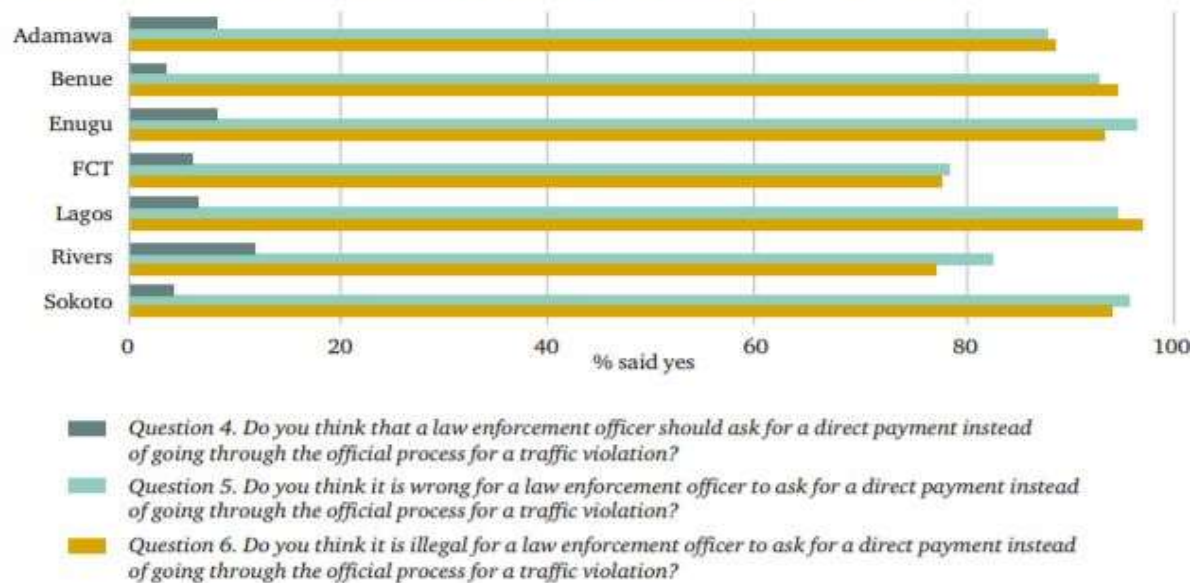
Question 4. Do you think that a law enforcement officer should ask for a direct payment instead of going through the official process for a traffic violation?
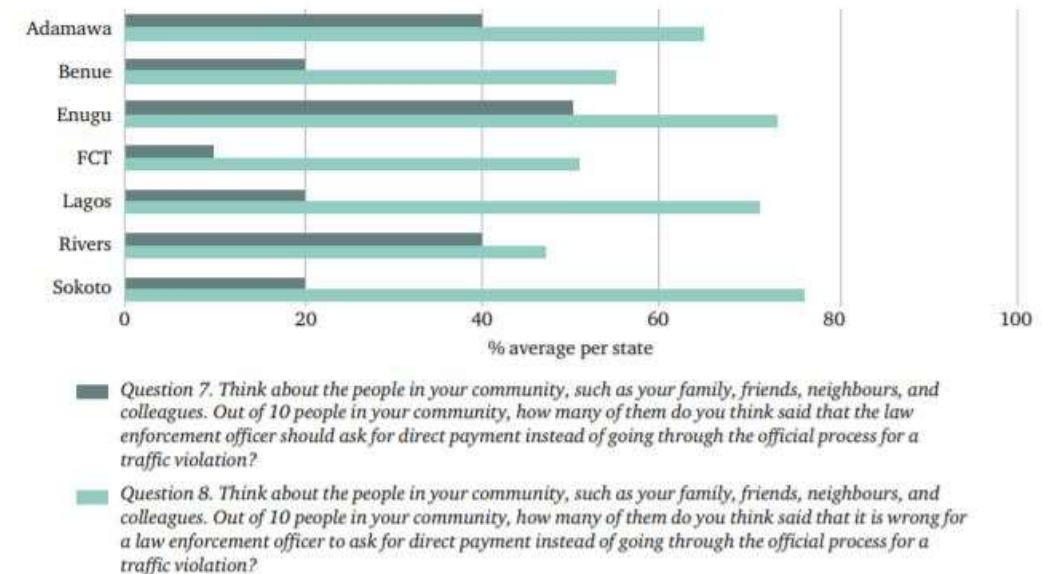
Question 5. Do you think it is wrong for a law enforcement officer to ask for a direct payment instead of going through the official process for a traffic violation?

Question 6. Do you think it is illegal for a law enforcement officer to ask for a direct payment instead of going through the official process for a traffic violation?

Source: Chatham House Africa Programme and PennSONG, Local Understandings, Experiences and Expectations Survey, 2016.

Figure 3: Beliefs about other people's beliefs regarding bribery during a traffic violation check

Question 7. Think about the people in your community, such as your family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Out of 10 people in your community, how many of them do you think said that the law enforcement officer should ask for direct payment instead of going through the official process for a traffic violation?

Question 8. Think about the people in your community, such as your family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Out of 10 people in your community, how many of them do you think said that it is wrong for a law enforcement officer to ask for direct payment instead of going through the official process for a traffic violation?

Source: Chatham House Africa Programme and PennSONG, Local Understandings, Experiences and Expectations Survey, 2016.

- ➤ Some highlights of the report:

- ➤ For every state, individuals personal beliefs were ranked much lower than what they thought others in the community would think about the issue.

- ➤ Rivers & FCT have the lowest difference in personal belief and perception of others' beliefs. Enugu has the highest gap between the two .

IMPROVING NIGERIA'S STATISTICAL SYSTEM

States that have established a Statistics Bureau or SG
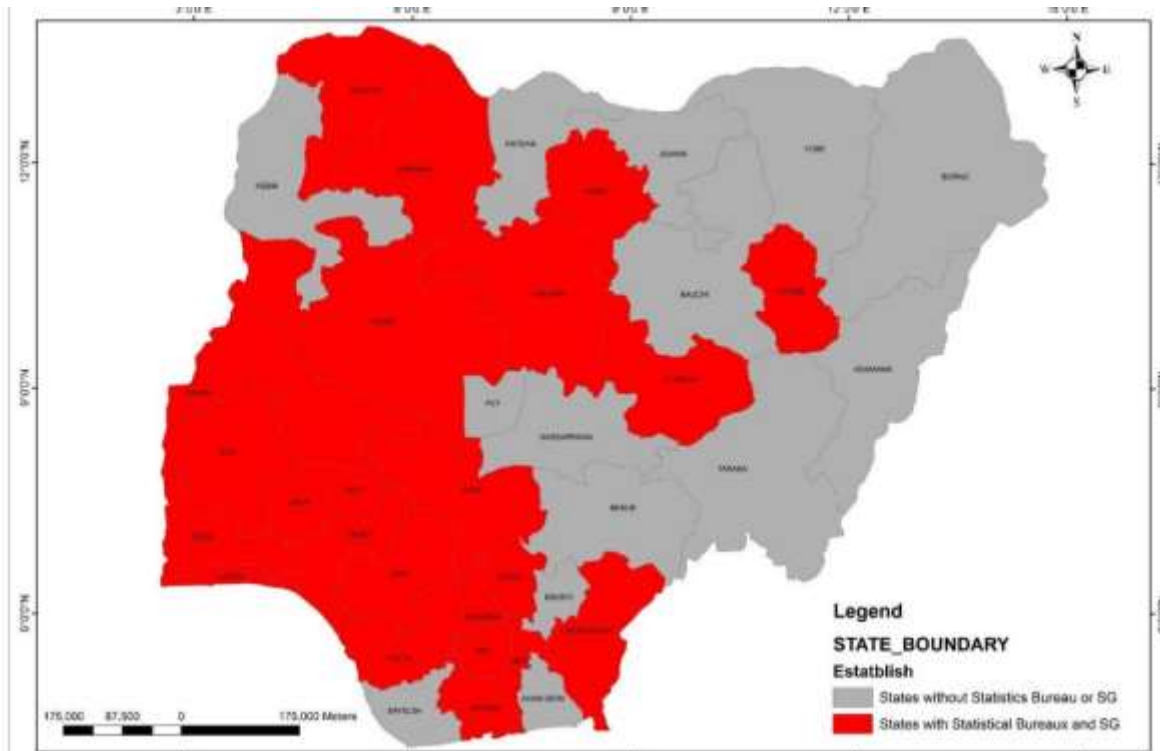
States that have enacted Statistics Edicts
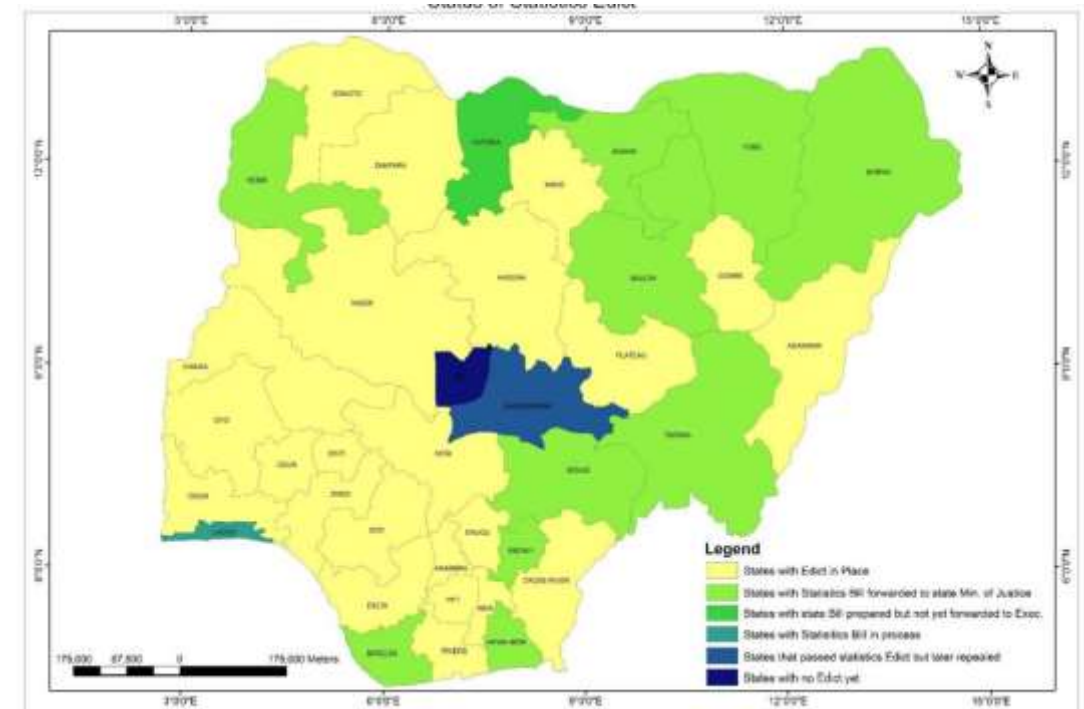
- ➢ Through NBS' role as Custodian of the National Statistical System, have taken a key role in supporting states in building a data and statistics infrastructure that can provide routine data to inform the work of agencies such as the BPSR.

- ➢ Most states have established a Statistics Bureau or enacted statistical edits – which simplify the work across government in not just enacting reforms, but ensuring that they are sustainable, and outcomes are measurable.

CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES TO ADOPTION OF DATA & STATISTICS

➢ NBS collects data primarily in two ways:

  ➢ Administrative – routine data generated by MDAs during the course of their work;
  ➢ Surveys and Census – carried out directly by the NBS, many times in partnership with local and international agencies, or when requested in partnership with MDAs.

➢ Still some infrastructural challenges:

  ➢ Reluctance to data sharing internally, within government
  ➢ Misconception that sharing data means loss of ownership or lack of visibility as relates to shared information.
  ➢ Significant capacity and skills gap within government which ensures reliable data.

SUPPORTING DATA & STATISTICS INTEGRATION INTO PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

➢ Policy:

  ➢ Anchored by reform objectives with the National Development Plan and the Economic Sustainability Plan
  ➢ Requires cooperation, collaboration, and coordination
  ➢ Bureau of Public Service Reform, Office of the Secretary General of the Federation
  ➢ National Statistical System – anchored by the NBS
  ➢ Other relevant MDAs

➢ Infrastructure & Culture:

  ➢ Regulatory frameworks and enabling policies
  ➢ Private sector support where relevant
  ➢ Ecosystem of stakeholders for public service reform can aid innovation in reforms & communication on reforms – e.g. Nigerian Economic Summit Group, etc.
  ➢ Some subnational governments are active and exemplary in addressing public service – drive an environment of collaboration & learning

SUPPORTING DATA & STATISTICS INTEGRATION INTO PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

- ➤ Building Trust:

    - ➤ Internally & externally
    - ➤ Often-downplayed but critical to the mission of public service reforms
    - ➤ Before data can be deployed in any meaningful way, both external and internal users must trust the data and ensure that the data is being used in ways that reinforce public trust.
    - ➤ Transparency & openness are key pillars of building trust

- ➤ NBS role:

    - ➤ As custodian of official data and coordinator of the National System, NBS is aware of the critical role we can play in building trust and is committed to this role
    - ➤ Strongly supports collaboration and cooperation, and is happy to work with MDAs in improving the quality of data about Nigeria's society and economy

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CONCLUSIONS

➢ Data is critical for public service reforms. Improved data use and data sharing is central to achieving our collective goals for successful reform outcomes.

➢ The demand for evidence backed programs and measured outcomes is growing and is not likely to abate anytime soon. Big data and new technological advancements mean there are increasing pressure for robust reform processes and users want data and statistics on results and outcomes.

➢ At the same time, incorporating data and statistics into the reform process requires deliberate investments in cultivating a data culture internally, and ensuring that the technical and capacity building is provided in order to meet the challenges.

➢ Data and statistics in the public service area relies on collaboration, coordination, and cooperation. Once trust is built internally, external partners such as MDAs also need to be able to trust. This solidifies better use of data across board, improves accessibility of data, and drives evidence-backed decision making for success.

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