

National Statistics Bureau (NSB) – 12th Five Year Plan (July, 2018-June, 2023)

1. Introduction

The NSB shall be implementing the program, “Quality and timely statistics for evidenced based policy and decision making enhanced.” Total indicative outlay is Nu. 470.000m (includes Nu.170.000m for office construction under office building program).

2. AKRA of the Agency

Key Performing Indicators	Weight	Description	Unit	Baseline (Year)	Baseline	Target	Data Collection Methodology	Data Collection Frequency	Implementing Agency	Collaborating Agency
National surveys and related reports	15	It is the number of national survey and related reports published	Number	2018	4 (BLSS, PAR, MPI, Adhoc Surveys)	13 (2022 BLSS, 2022 PAR, 2022 MPI, 5 no. LFS, 2019-20 NHS/BMIS, 2022 Mid Decadal Census Listing update, QHES, 2023 Users' Satisfaction & Adhoc Surveys)	Survey-primary/secondary. (Administrative- reports for M & E)	Bi-decennial / Annually, Adhoc. (Quarterly & Annually for M & E)	NSB	MoLHR, MoH & relevant agencies
National censuses and related reports	10	It is the number of national census and related reports published	Number	2018	1 (PHCB)	3 (2018-19 ECoB, 2022 Population Projection Report, 2019-23 Thematic Reports)	Census - primary and secondary (Administrative- reports for M & E)	Decennial I (Annual for M & E)	NSB	MoF, MoEA & relevant agencies

Regular official statistics reports	20	It is the total number of regular and periodic official statistical reports (administrative reports) published and disseminated	Number	2018	12 (NAS, CPI, ICP, PPI, AES, SYB, BAG, ADS, DAG, NSDP, SEI, GLD)	14 (NAS, CPI, CMI, ICP, PPI, AES, XMPI, SYB, BAG, ADS, DAG, NSDP, SEI, GLD)	Primary data/Secondary data (Administrative -reports for M & E)	Annual/periodic/ad hoc (Quarterly & Annually for M & E)	NSB	MoLHR, MoH, MoF & relevant agencies
National Statistics Development Strategy	5	This is the national strategy for the development of statistics which is a roadmap for five years aligned in line with the 12 th FYP period	Number	2014-18	1	1 (2018-23 NSDS)	Administrative -Report	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders
Revision of Executive Order/Statistics Bill/Policy	7	This indicator measures the number of statistical and legal	Number	0	0	1 (2019-23)	Administrative - Report	NA	NSB	Cabinet, GNHC, Parliament and BSS stakeholders

		frameworks developed								
Data Assessment	5	This indicator shall measure the number of Data assessment exercises carried out to meet and identify the data requirements and gaps for the 12FYP and SDGs	Number	0	0	1 (2018-19)	Administrative - Report	NA	NSB	GNHC, GPMD, Major Data using and producing agencies
Statistical capacity	5	This indicator is to measure the total number of statistical and technical trainings provided to the users/agencies in data use	Number	2018	10 (CPI, ICP, NAS, Population Dynamics, Poverty, MPI, Stata, CsPro, SPSS, CAPI)	20 (CPI, ICP, NAS, ES, XMPI, ADS, GLD, Population Dynamics, Poverty, MPI, FIES, Labour & Employment, Stata, CsPro, SPSS, CAPI, Sampling, Masters in specialized fields & Diploma,	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders & all relevant data users

						certificate in Statistics)				
Statistical technical support	3	This indicator measures the total statistical technical supports provided from amongst total requested	Percent	2018	3 (100%) (Population dynamics, Sampling, Statistical softwares)	7 (100%) (Population dynamics, Labour & Employment, RNR, Health, Education, Sampling, Statistical softwares)	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders & all relevant data users
Micro-data in the form of public use files to agencies/ persons	2	This indicator is to measure the percentage of micro-data in the form of public use files to agencies/ persons provided from total	Percent	2018	100%	100%	Administrative	NA	NSB	Data users/individuals

		requests received								
Statistical infrastructure	5	This indicator measures the physical infrastructure (Office building)	Number	2018	0	1 (Office building)	Administrative	NA	NSB	NLC, GNHC, MoF, TCC, Thimphu Dzongkhag
	5	This indicator measures the integrated ICT infrastructure (Integrated ICT infrastructure-both hard and soft)	Number	2018	0	1 (Integrated ICT infrastructure)	Administrative	NA	NSB	NSB [In collaboration with the GNHC, MoF and MoIC]
Information dissemination programs	5	This indicator is to measure the number of information dissemination programs in place	Number	2018	4 (PHCB, BLSS, BMIS & Adhoc Surveys)	8 (PHCB, BLSS, BMIS, HNS, Adhoc surveys, RNR, ECoB, LFS)	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders

National Statistical Standard and Compliance Guidelines	8	This indicator is to measure the number of National Statistical Standard and Compliance Guidelines developed	Number	2018	0	1	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders
Census and surveys compliance	2	This indicator is to measure the total number of surveys and censuses monitored	Percent	2018	Adhoc	10% of the surveys and censuses cleared	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders
Statistical Coordination	3	This indicator is to measure the number of statistical coordination activities carried out to bridge the gap between the data users and producers	Number	2018	2 (Stats conf., dissemination prog., etc.)	11 (Stats conf., dissemination programs., etc.)	Administrative	NA	NSB	BSS stakeholders
	100									

3. Strategies: Linkage to NKRA and AKRA (Narrative story)

The NSB as the central authority for collection and release of any official data and their custodian, is mandated to conduct national surveys and censuses, publish statistical reports, validate and maintain a data repository of the country, ensure statistical uniformity and standards, provide technical supports to streamline and strengthen the statistical system in the country.

The Mid Term Review of the 11th FYP underlined the weakness of the statistical system to produce timely and reliable data for Key Performance Indicators (KPI) as one of the major challenges, with existing discrepancies between local and national data sources, unreliable estimation of baseline and targets for many sectors, and inadequate capacities within such sectors in terms of data production, analysis and use. The data ecosystem study and the organizational development exercise also points out that the coordination of the Bhutan statistical system and availability of data produced through censuses/ surveys and administrative data remains weak, leading to a low-quality data and less cost-effective use of limited resources.

In this regard, in the 12th FYP, the NSB shall focus to develop and implement the coordination strategies and mechanisms, statistical policies and legislations, statistical methodologies and guidelines for quality assurance, strengthening administrative data, leverage on the new technologies for statistical purposes and construct office building to ensure data security. The NSB shall also make consistent efforts to provide statistical and technical supports and create data literacy among the data users.

For easy access and availability of data to the users, the NSB shall leverage on technology and digital resources for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data. It is expected to ensure the usage of time-series and better administrative data, disaggregated at the lowest levels which shall also save the limited resources. However, in order to avoid data duplication, inconsistencies and respondents burden, the coordination mechanisms and development of statistical legal and policy framework is viewed critical to strengthen and streamline the statistical activities in the country. Importantly, as we face the challenges of information loss and disclosure risk, the issues on data security and confidentiality pertaining to any surveys and censuses data has been a great concern. The statistics that NSB publish are aggregated from individual records which may contain personal or commercial information. The NSB as a national custodian of all official statistics has a mandate and is obliged to protect the personal information of any respondents. In this regard, the NSB shall focus to ensure a permanent and an adequate office space to house sensitive information of the country which is critically important for NSB to safeguard, protect and ensure data confidentiality.

Therefore, the NSB shall work closely with the Gross National Happiness Commission, Government Performance Management Divisions, central and local government institutions and other relevant data users and producers in the national statistical system to meet data requirements through production of timely and reliable data for evidence-based decision making, formulation of policies and plans, and monitoring of the plans and programs.

4.1 Program Title: To enhance the quality and timely statistics for evidence-based policy and decision making.

Total Cost: Nu. 416.100m (excludes Nu.170m for office construction which is reflected under office building program)

a. Activities:

Activities*	Capital	Recurrent	Frequency	Base year	Planned	Critical info	Indicative funding source
Mid Decadal Census household listing	32.500		Quinquennial	New	2022	Updates the socio-economic and demographic indicators.	RGoB
Bhutan Living Standard Survey	32.000		Quinquennial	2017	2022	Provides important information about the living standard of the Bhutanese (assess the 11 FYP, baseline information for the 12th FYP and update weights required for estimation of the Consumer Price Index)	RGoB
Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey and National Health Survey	75.000		Quinquennial	2010	2020	Generates reliable and up-to-date benchmark data on range of priority national health indicators.	RGoB/U NICEF/ UNFPA
Labour Force Survey**		50.000	Annual	2017	Beginning 2018	Provides quantitative information for the preparation of plans and programs pertaining to the employment and labour market.	RGoB

Household Income and Expenditure Survey		10.000	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Produce quarterly GDP from expenditure side to monitor the performance of the economy in the short span of time. (Enables the government to check performing and non-performing sectors of the economy, facilitates government to intervene with policy corrections, provides information to monitor the economy on quarterly basis; and provides information to implement corrective measures to resolve practical issues as well.)	RGoB
Enterprise Survey	29.250		As and when required	2015	As and when required	Provides statistically significant business environment indicators that are comparable across all of the world's economies, assess the constraints to private sector growth and enterprise performance, builds a panel of establishment-level data that will make it possible to track changes in the business environment over time, thus allowing, for example, impact assessments of reforms and policy changes; and stimulates policy dialogue on the business environment and to help shape the agenda for reform.	RGoB/Dev. Partners
Users Satisfaction Survey	5.000				2023	Data assessment shall provide the data requirements and gaps for the 12FYP and SDGs	RGoB/Dev. Partners
Data Assessment for the 12 th FYP & SDGs	5.000				2018-19	Client Satisfaction Survey shall evaluate and assess the users's data requirements	PARIS21 /Dev. Partners

Adhoc surveys	30.000		Surveys to be conducted as per the directives of the government.	2014, 2015	As and when required	Suicide, crime, knowledge, Attitude and Practice Surveys and any surveys on emerging social issues.	RGoB/Dev. Partners
Economic Census of Bhutan	35.000		Decennial	New	2019	Identifies the actual situation of business activities of establishments and enterprises. (Establishes the benchmark for core set of economic statistics in formulating the economic policies, plans and programs to achieve the SDGs, serves as a benchmark information in the measurement and comparison of national, regional and district economic growth, collect, process, analyze and publish statistical information of all the establishments existing/operating in the territory of Bhutan)	World Bank
Regular publications*** (List provided below)		22.000	Monthly, quarterly and annually published	Periodically	Regularly	All periodic publications listed below	RGoB
Construction of office building	170.000				2018-23	To be reflected under the office building construction program (Nu. 170 million)	
Use of new technology for online data collection and dissemination	40.000				2019-20	Digitization (CAPI, Server, development of an Integrated Digitized system and etc.,)	RGoB/Dev. Partners

Others (Executive Order/Statistics Bill/policy-3.5m, Statistical technical support-6.25m, National Statistical Standards & compliance guidelines-2.5m Data dissemination programs-4m)	16.250				2018-23	1. Drafting, consultation and implementation of the legal nad policy frameworks. 2. Survey clearance and technical support to conduct the surveys and censuses including monitoring and assessments. 3.To harmonize data (development of comprehensive National Statistical Standards & compliance guidelines at national and international standards. 4.Data Literacy and dissemination on social and economic domains and support programs (Poverty, national accounts, demography, labour etc,.).	
	470.00 0	82.000					
Grand NSB Total	552.000						
* As per the RoD of the meeting held on 13 April, 2018 between GNHC & MoF, it was, it was agreed that expenditures related to annual surveys would be treated as recurrent and those conducted once every five years and above would be capitalized. **NSB to conduct beginning 2018.							
***[Consumer Price Index Nu. 3m + International Comparison Price Nu. 2.5m + Producers Price Index Nu. 1m + Export and Import Index Nu. 0.5 m + Annual Environmental Statistics Nu. 3.5 + National Accounts Nu. 3.5 m +Annual Dzongkhag Statistics 3.5+ Dzongkhag At a Glance Nu. 1m+Statistical Year Book Nu. 3.5+Gewog Level Database Nu. 3.5+thematic research reports Nu. 2]							

4.2 PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Data is critical for decision-making and monitoring. Designing, monitoring and evaluating of the plans and policies are impossible without timely and high-quality data. The official statistics generated by the National Statistics Bureau (NSB), respective ministries and agencies have been the main source of evidence for planning and evaluating thus far.

Presently, ministries and agencies are collecting and disseminating their own sector specific data using different formats and methodologies. A number of statistical activities are also being carried out by various agencies, but mostly on adhoc basis dependent on the availability of the funds. This has resulted in a lot of data gaps, inconsistencies, duplication, waste of limited resources and respondent burden which calls for a in-depth exercise on data assessment for the 12th Five Year Plan and Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, development of a legal and policy framework, national statistics development strategy, national statistical standards and methods and a clear data reporting mechanism are critically necessary.

To collect and disseminate the survey, census and more importantly, the administrative data, there is a need to leverage on the information technology to ensure data reliability, comparability, timeliness and accessibility.

One of the critical challenges is the lack of dedicated office infrastructure for data processing, training and national data warehousing (storage of censuses and surveys documents). There is a huge cost incurred in hiring private spaces. The construction of an office building shall be a priority as the registration of the land is in the process with the relevant agencies.

It also lacks human capacities, both in terms of numbers and ability to undertake key statistics-related activities. It has been important to develop the competencies of the statistical staff. It is also equally important to enhance the data literacy of the users and create demand for the use of available data as well.

With emerging socio-economic challenges, timely, reliable and relevant data is necessary for Bhutan to be able to monitor and measure progress towards Gross National Happiness and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore, important to fund the designated statistics and strengthen the statistical system to produce better statistics for better decisions.

4.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

- 1. A better-informed society:** The stakeholders have increased trust in statistics, use statistics in key areas of governance, and contribute to building a culture of data use by having:
 - 1) Institutionalized use of statistics in the management of national development;
 - 2) Increased data delivery to users;
 - 3) Improved trust in statistics and data literacy among key users; and
 - 4) Established system of user-producer consultations and feedback.

- 2. Improved quality of data.** The stakeholders collect, compile, and disseminate data within established quality assurance framework by having:
 - 1) Rationalized survey program;
 - 2) Improved administrative data systems;
 - 3) Established Statistical Standards, Methods and Compliance Guidelines/Data Quality Assurance Framework; and
 - 4) Institutionalized coordination mechanisms specifically with the major data users and producers such as GNHC, GPMD and other major statistical stakeholders respectively.

- 3. Strong statistical institutions:** The Statistical institutions have sustainable organizational resources and strengthened capacities in key areas of statistical work by having:
 - 1) Strengthened management systems, practices and statistical infrastructure (Office building);
 - 2) Instituted results-based resource allocation for statistics;
 - 3) Optimized use of technology (data collection, analysis, dissemination - ensuring data security); and
 - 4) Strengthened competencies in statistical work.

- 4. Established authority for statistics:** Legal and policy framework to collect, compile, and disseminate data and to protect the privacy of data providers consistent with the Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics is in place by having:
 - 1) Statistical functions governed by revised Executive Order/Statistical legislation/policies; and
 - 2) Established code of ethics for statisticians.

4.4 Multi-year Programme Matrix: [annual targets to be adopted at APA/APT level

Results (AKRAs)	Indicators	Indicator Weight	Indicator Unit	Baseline (Year)	Projected Annual Target					12 FYP Target
					Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	
					2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	
Timely, relevant and reliable statistics for evidenced-based policy and decision making provided	National survey and related reports	15	Number	2018	1	2	3	4	3	13
	National census and related reports	10	Number	2018	1	0	0	1	1	3
	Regular official statistics reports	20	Number	2018	14	14	14	14	14	14
	National Statistics Development Strategy	5	Number	2014-18	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Executive Order/Statistics Bill/Policy	7	Number	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Data Assessment	3	Number	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Statistical capacity	7	Number	2018	3	5	5	4	3	20
	Statistical technical support	3	Percent	2018	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Micro-data in the form of public use files to agencies/persons	2	Percent	2018	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Statistical infrastructure	10	Number	2018	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Information dissemination programs	5	Number	2018	1	1	2	3	1	8
	National Statistical Standard and Compliance Guidelines	8	Number	2018	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Census and surveys compliance	2	Percent	2018	2	3	2	2	1	10
	Statistical coordination activities	3	Number	2018	2	2	2	3	2	11
		100								

E. Programme Monitoring Matrix:

Results (Outcome/output)	Indicator	Baseline	12 FYP Target	Data Source	Reporting Frequency	Reporting responsibility	Reporting To
Timely, relevant and reliable statistics for evidenced-based policy and decision making provided	National survey and related reports	4 (BLSS, PAR, MPI, Adhoc Surveys)	13 (2022 BLSS, 2022PAR, 2022MPI, 5 no. LFS, 2019-20 NHS/BMIS, 2022 Mid Decadal Census Listing update, QHES, 2023 Users' Satisfaction & Adhoc Surveys)	Survey reports	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	National census and related reports	1 (PHCB)	3 (2018-19 ECoB, 2022 Population Projection Report, 2019-23 Thematic Reports)	Census reports	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC

	Regular official statistics reports	12 (NAS, CPI, ICP, PPI, AES, SYB, BAG, ADS, DAG, NSDP, SEI, GLD)	14 (NAS, CPI, CMI, ICP, PPI, AES, XMPI, SYB, BAG, ADS, DAG, NSDP, SEI, GLD)	Primary data/Secondary data/administrative data reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	National Statistics Development Strategy	1	1 (2018-23 NSDS)	Administrative reports	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Executive Order/Statistics Bill/Policy	0	1 (2019-23)	Administrative	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD, Cabinet, GNHC
	Data Assessment	0	1 (2018-19)	Administrative reports	Quinquennial	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Statistical capacity	10 (CPI, ICP, NAS, Population Dynamics, Poverty, MPI, Stata, CsPro, SPSS, CAPI)	20 (CPI, ICP, NAS, ES, XMPI, ADS, GLD, Population Dynamics, Poverty, MPI, FIES, Labour & Employment, Stata, CsPro, SPSS, CAPI, Sampling, Masters in specialized	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC

			fields & Diploma, certificate in Statistics)				
	Statistical technical support	3 (100%) (Population dynamics, Sampling, Statistical softwares)	7 (100%) (Population dynamics, Labour & Employment, RNR, Health, Education, Sampling, Statistical softwares)	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD, GNHC
	Micro-data in the form of public use files to agencies/persons	100%	100%	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Statistical infrastructure	0	This indicator measures the integrated ICT infrastructure (Integrated ICT infrastructure	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD-GNHC

			e-both hard and soft)				
		0	2 (Office building and ICT infrastructure)	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Information dissemination programs	4 (PHCB, BLSS, BMIS & Adhoc Surveys)	8 (PHCB, BLSS, BMIS, HNS, Adhoc surveys, RNR, ECoB, LFS)	Administrative reports	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	National Statistical Standard and Compliance Guidelines	0	1	Administrative reports	Annually	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Census and surveys compliance	Adhoc	10% of the surveys and censuses cleared	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC
	Statistical coordination activities	2 (Stats conf., dissemination prog., etc.)	11 (Stats conf., dissemination programs., etc.)	Administrative reports	Periodic (monthly, quarterly, annually)	PPS, NSB	PMCD, GPMD - GNHC

F. Collaborating partners: *[key partners, include CSOs, CBOs, private sectors, cooperation, other agencies, LGs whose intervention would be critical to achieve this programme]*

Agency/Local Governments/CSOs/private sector	Type of collaboration required (specific interventions)
All central ministries, agencies, local government, state owned enterprises, corporations, private sectors, NGOs and CSOs and international institutions.	Support and provide required data as well as communicated data requirements to NSB
Local Government/MoH/MoLHR/MoIC/MoF/MoEA and other relevant data producing agencies	Support for the development of the National Statistical Standard and Compliance Guidelines, NSDS, Data reporting guidelines, legal and policy frameworks
GNHC/Thimphu Thromde/Dzongkhag/ NLCS/MoF/ MoIC	Support for the construction of the office building and the ICT infrastructure

G. Domain Effect: *[positive, negative or neutral impact and briefly explain the remedial measure for negative impact]*

GNH Domain	Impact (positive/negative/neutral)	Remarks (reasons for the (+) & (-) impact/mitigation for negative impact)
Living standard	Positive	With generation of the household poverty on consumption and multi-dimensional official statistics - evidence-based policy and decision making shall be supported for positive impact
Community vitality	Positive	With collection, compilation and dissemination of the lowest/Gewog level data, the local leaders/communities shall be facilitated to make better decisions for positive impact
Education	Positive	With parenting of statistical services, the Official Statistics relating to Education shall be supported. Various other national level surveys and census shall also support the generation of relevant education related data for better decisions

Ecological Diversity and Resilience	Positive	The Bhutan Statistical System shall continue to produce enhanced/improved official statistics on Environmental Accounting and Statistics with improved coverage of the relevant indicators for better policy and decisions
Cultural Diversity and Resilience	Positive	Relevant Official Statistics shall be produced to support this domain whenever possible and administrative data shall be strengthened to positive impact
Health	Positive	The National Health Surveys is planned to be conducted to generate improved health related official statistics. Other health official statistics and administrative data shall be strengthened to for quality data
Time Use	Positive	The NSB shall be supporting the generation of indicators relating to time use whenever possible in collaboration with the relevant BSS stakeholders. Specific studies may also be conducted if required or support the relevant sectors in this regard
Psychological Well-being	Positive	The NSB shall be supporting the generation of indicators relating to time use whenever possible in collaboration with the relevant BSS stakeholders
Good Governance	Positive	The NSB shall continue producing relevant, reliable and timely official statistics on all key socio-economic indicators and other relevant indicators to [periodic publications/surveys and censuses/research reports] to facilitate the Good Governance. The NSB shall be providing technical backs toppings to relevant sectors wherever required and shall provide data for public use. In addition, NSB shall continue to support the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the Annual Performance Agreements as a part of National Technical Committee and as one of the core mandates. The affords shall be made to validate data and strengthen the statistical system to better support the good governance.

ACRONYMS USED	
CPI	Consumer Price Index
PPI	Producers Price Index
NAS	National Accounts Statistics
AES	Annual Environmental Statistics
BAG	Bhutan at A Glance
ADS	Annual Dzongkhag Statistics
DAG	Dzongkhag at A Glance
PAR	Poverty Analysis Report
BLSS	Bhutan Living Standard Survey
BMIS	Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey
PHCB	Population and Housing Census of Bhutan
NSDS	National Statistics Development Strategy
ECoB	Economic Census of Bhutan
PHCB	Population and Housing Census of Bhutan
NHS	National Health Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RNR	Renewal Natural Resources
QHES	Quarterly Household Survey
GLD	Gewog Level Data
SEI	Socio-Economic Indicator
NSDP	National Summary Data Page