

The Challenges of Monitoring and Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals in Africa by 2015 and Beyond

By Dimitri Sanga¹

ABSTRACT

Since the advent of the Millennium Declaration, African countries have been challenged to provide the statistical information required to support of the process. This is in addition to ongoing needs emanating from the African development agenda as articulated through the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other statistical requirements in support of the African Union vision for continental integration.

This paper outlines the main challenges facing African countries in monitoring and reporting on progress made toward attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It suggests potential measures to improve the situation. It also discusses the opportunities offered by the current set of MDG indicators in monitoring development in African countries beyond the 2015 deadline. Finally, recommendations for the way forward are presented.

Keywords: Millennium Declaration, statistical information, data gaps, data discrepancies, coordination.

Enjeux du suivi et de l'établissement de rapports de suivi sur les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement en Afrique d'ici à 2015 et au-delà

RÉSUMÉ

Depuis la Déclaration du millénaire, les pays africains doivent relever le défi de fournir des informations statistiques, nécessaire à l'appui du processus. À cela s'ajoutent les besoins existants et nouveaux liés au programme de développement de l'Afrique tels qu'énoncés, notamment, dans le Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique, ainsi que d'autres exigences en matière de statistiques

¹ Dr Sanga is the Director of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). He can be reached at sanga@un.org. The views in this paper are personal to the author and do not necessarily represent those of the UNECA or its subsidiary organs. The original version of this paper was presented to the Fifth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) held in Dakar, Senegal in November, 2009. The author is grateful to participants in the ASSD who provided useful comments on earlier versions.

pour appuyer la vision de l'Union africaine de l'intégration du continent. Cet article présente les principaux obstacles que les pays africains doivent surmonter pour suivre et établir des rapports de suivi sur les progrès réalisés vers les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement. Il met aussi en relief quelques mesures correctives susceptibles d'améliorer la situation. En outre, il analyse les opportunités offertes par l'ensemble des indicateurs actuels des OMD en termes de suivi du développement dans les pays africains au-delà de l'échéance de 2015. Enfin, cet article émet un certain nombre de recommandations pour l'avenir.

Mots clefs: Déclaration du millénaire, informations statistiques, données manquantes, données divergentes, coordination.

1. INTRODUCTION

After the Millennium Summit in September 2000 in New York, 189 United Nations member states signed a declaration calling for world mobilization, which was the culmination of negotiations and compromises reached during the summits of the 1990s. Despite global growth during the 1990s, the living conditions of the citizens of many countries, especially in the developing world, were far from satisfactory. For example, one-third of the world's population was living on less than a dollar a day; one child out of ten died before age 5; and only seven people out of ten had access to safe drinking water. Such conditions led some participants in the summits to call for a global effort to tackle the multi-faceted problems facing developing countries. Formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was a response to the growing pressure to address these development challenges. The goals represent a partnership between developing and developed countries, all committed to creating an environment conducive to development and to the reduction of poverty. Clear targets to be reached by 2015 were set.

Tracking progress, or the lack of it, toward the MDGs is data-intensive. Thus, establishment of the MDGs increased the demand for reliable statistics. In Africa, the need to monitor, evaluate and track progress toward attaining the goals put considerable pressure on already weak and vulnerable National Statistical Systems (NSSs), but it also gave these systems an opportunity to develop their capacity to deliver the necessary information.

The international initiative to collect and transfer the information needed to monitor the MDGs at the global level involves cooperation among stakeholders at several levels—from national producers, via regional and international organizations, to the global database maintained by the United

Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York. The Inter Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators plays a central role in the smooth functioning of this process. However, a number of factors hinder the capacity of countries to report on progress toward reaching the MDGs: lack of data on some indicators; data discrepancies between national and international sources; methodological issues; capacity building; and statistical coordination within each NSS and between the NSSs and international organizations. With the collaboration of international technical and financial partners, stakeholders in Africa have tried to address factors that hamper the capacity of African countries to report on MDGs.

As well, with so few years to go until the 2015 MDG deadline, the need to monitor development efforts beyond that date has been recognized. In fact, many countries have imposed different deadlines and established their own national goals, often using the current MDGs as a subset; for instance, the Nigerian *Vision 2010* and the Rwandan *Vision 2020*².

This paper outlines the challenges that African countries face in reporting and monitoring progress toward achieving the MDGs, and presents potential strategies and measures to help remedy some of these problems. The next section describes the role of the IAEG on MDG Indicators in organizing and coordinating the work of various stakeholders in producing and using the information required to monitor the goals. The third section of this paper explains some of the factors that restrict the capacity of African countries to monitor and report on MDGs. Section four examines efforts to monitor development in African countries beyond 2015. The last section looks at the way forward and presents some recommendations.

2. THE INTER AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON MDG INDICATORS

To operationalize and ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting, an IAEG on MDG Indicators was established at the global level. Coordinated by the UNSD, this Group comprises departments in the UN Secretariat, other UN Agencies, government agencies, national statisticians and experts, development partners, and sub-regional, regional and international organizations. The IAEG is responsible for: preparation of data and analyses to monitor progress; review and definition of methodologies and technical issues related

2 Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, "Vision 2020," Kigali, November 2002.

to the indicators; production of guidelines; and definition of priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis and reporting.

Data on MDGs compiled through this international effort are organized in the UNSD database. Under the guidance of the IAEG, one or more UN and other international agencies have been designated to provide the data and develop collection and processing methods for each indicator. Until early 2007, this involved 48 MDG indicators, but the number has since increased to 60 after new ones were added, some were modified, and others were deleted³.

In addition, the IAEG is engaged in promoting better documentation of the standards and methods used to compile and analyze MDG indicators, specifically through *Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts, and Sources*,⁴ a handbook on MDG indicators. The Group also addresses problems of comparability through thematic sub-groups and other inter-agency mechanisms that bring together specialists in the fields covered by the MDGs.

3. CHALLENGES IN MONITORING AND REPORTING ON MDGS

At the midpoint review, African countries face considerable challenges in monitoring and reporting on the MDGs. These challenges include data gaps, insufficient use of official data produced by NSSs, and differences in indicator values between national and international sources. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), developing countries' National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and other regional and global statistical bodies have recognized the problems and have urged stakeholders to work on solutions, as summarized in the *Report of the Friends of the Chair on the MDG Indicators*

3 In his *Report on the Work of the Organization* to the General Assembly in September 2006 [A/61/1], the UN Secretary-General recommended the addition of four targets to the MDG framework, and indicated that the IAEG would select the appropriate indicators to measure progress for these new targets. The new targets were: full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people; universal access to reproductive health by 2015; universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for those who need it by 2010; and reduction of biodiversity loss, with a significant reduction in the rate by 2010.

4 United Nations, *Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts, and Sources*, New York, 2003. This Handbook was revised following the recommendations outlined in the document ESA/STAT/AC.138/8, which presented the decisions the IAEG made in 2005-2006 on updating it.

(E/CN.3/2006/15) and the *Report to the Secretary General on Indicators for Monitoring the MDGs* (E/CN.3/2007/13) tabled to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

The main concerns in the 2006 *Report of the Friends of the Chair on MDG Indicators* are: data gaps; poor reporting on some indicators; a focus on monitoring at the global, or sometimes, regional level, although the meaningful level for MDG effectiveness is national; exclusion of available data from the MDG database at the UNSD; differences between data held by countries and those reported by international agencies; variations in the quality of metadata provided by international agencies; and the use of imputed or significantly adjusted figures for specific countries. The UN system has since assigned high priority to strengthening national statistical capacities and providing more transparency in the way that international agencies use imputed data⁵.

For Africa, several initiatives were launched to identify the problems and propose solutions. Under the aegis of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)⁶, the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and AFRISTAT⁷, undertook an assessment of major problems facing African countries in MDG monitoring and reporting.

This assessment consisted of a workshop and case studies in six countries⁸: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Liberia, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. The *Workshop on Coordination of Reporting Mechanisms and Data Discrepancies in MDG Monitoring* was held in Kampala, Uganda, in May 2008. The case studies entailed an in-depth review of data availability for each MDG indicator at the national level, compared with the information available in the global MDG database; identification of potential sources of discrepancies between the two sources; and proposal for potential measures to reconcile national and international data on MDGs. These assessments are summarized in a

5 ECOSOC, Official Records 2006, Supplement No. 4, E/2006/24.

6 After the meeting of the representatives of AUC, AfDB, UNECA, and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Tunis, Tunisia, in September, 2007, to discuss the coordination of statistical capacity-building in Africa, the *African Statistical Coordination Committee* (ASCC) was established to lead the coordination of statistical activities in Africa. The ASCC works through Working Groups that report to StatCom-Africa.

7 Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique Sub-saharienne.

8 The assessments in Burkina Faso and Senegal were done by AFRISTAT; in Ethiopia and Uganda, by ACS; in Liberia, by ACS, UK DFID and UNSD; and in Tanzania, by UK DFID and UNSD.

report produced by ACS and submitted to the 14th IAEG on MDG Indicators Meeting⁹. The report identifies two main problems: data gaps and data differences between international and national sources.

A number of differences between national and international sources were identified: definitional problems, methodological issues, lack of recent data at the international level, lack of coordination at the national level, population estimates used at the international level differ from those at the NSOs, lack of transparency in the estimation and modeling procedures by international organizations, delay in publishing results by NSOs, and lack of coordination within and among international agencies. Several of these problems confirm the concerns expressed in *Friends of the Chair on MDG Indicators*.

Data availability is an issue for a substantial number of indicators. In some cases, data available at the national level are not being used in international estimates. According to the assessments conducted in the African region, international and national agencies in charge of MDG reporting do not make sufficient use of existing statistical information. For instance, if data had been reported and recorded in the UNSD database for the 48 indicators (out of the current 60, excluding 12 on global partnership in Goal 8), 384 data points for the 2000-2007 period would have been available for any given country. However, for Ethiopia and Uganda, only 24% and 32% of this number, respectively, are available in the UNSD database. Yet 36% and 34% have been collected from official government reports in the two countries¹⁰. Moreover, the latter represent only the lowest possible percentages, since sources not accessed during the assessment mission in the two countries may exist. In addition, those in the UNSD database likely contain model-based information. This emerged not only from the six in-depth country studies but also from the 20 African countries participating in the Kampala workshop.

The irregularity with which censuses/surveys are conducted in Africa contributes to the data gaps between national and international sources. Censuses and surveys are very expensive. As well, in many African countries,

9 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, "Toward the Improvement of MDG Reporting: Assessment of Data Discrepancies between National and International Sources and Possible Solutions: The African Region Report," Presented to the 14th IAEG on MDG Indicators Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2008.

10 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, "Assessment of Data Discrepancies between National and International Sources and Possible Solutions in the African Region: Study Cases of Uganda and Ethiopia," African Centre for Statistics, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 2008.

surveys are donor-driven, and so are often tailored to meet specific donors' interests rather than national ones. Sample surveys are usually done every 3 to 5 years, while censuses occur on a decennial basis.

The lack of communication and coordination within the NSS, between the NSS and international organizations, and within international organizations is a major source of data availability problems. Some data may be provided to international agencies but not to NSOs, especially if the latter are not considered to be the coordinating bodies of NSSs or the focal points for international agencies in charge of compiling a given indicator. For instance, UNESCO's focal points are generally ministries of education, while the FAO's are ministries of agriculture. On the other hand, international organizations do not make full use of data that exist in a country because of deficiencies in their own data collection systems. Their reliance on focal points means that other data producers in the country are not included and so contributes to the underuse of available data.

Although the international community has agreed on a number of priority areas for the MDGs, some indicators are not regularly produced by national statistical authorities because they are not relevant in the national context or are not among the priorities of specific countries. For example, many African countries are unlikely to collect data on carbon dioxide emissions, as this is far from being part of their national agenda.

As mentioned above, the set of MDG indicators has been revised a number of times. For example, the latest revision increased the number of indicators from 48 to 60. It takes time for countries to build their capacity to report on recently introduced indicators. Until they are able to do so, data gaps persist.

Various assessments reveal that data differences between national and international sources occur in almost the same set of MDG indicators, with some of them originating mainly in model-based estimates¹¹.

Even when national data are available, they are often not used by international agencies because they do not comply with international standards. The components of a statistical indicator may be defined differently at the national and international levels. Computation methods can also vary. In response to such comparability problems, international agencies often impute and/or adjust national data to render them comparable. Imputation and adjustment may also be used if countries do not provide adequate metadata

11 See E/CN.3/2008/29: Report of the Secretary General on the Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.

such as transparent definitions, data sources, and methods of computation and estimation.

Many countries lack coordination among national data producers, which can result in reporting of inconsistent or contradictory information to international statistical agencies. Different sources can produce different data because the underlying definitions and operational contexts vary. Using different sources also means that the data are updated irregularly, and the reference periods may differ (financial or calendar year).

Population estimates, which are used in the computation of the indicators (particularly for rates), contribute to the differences observed in data series. International organizations use population estimates from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD) as recommended by the IAEG, while individual countries produce their own estimates based on national practices.

Model-based estimates are derived by a number of UN agencies for several indicators and are used in decision-making. The relevance of the models to developing regions and the quality of the inputs for the models are often problematic. Moreover, countries have claimed that there is a lack of transparency and consultation on the part of international organizations when deriving such estimates.

4. MONITORING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS BEYOND 2015 IN AFRICA

The international community has expressed considerable concern about the ability of African countries to reach most of the MDGs by 2015. For example, according to the 2007 report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly¹², “Sub-Saharan Africa is reported to have the poorest performance in the implementation of the MDGs: the poverty level, the level of hunger, school enrolment, literacy rate, child, infant and maternal mortality, incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and environmental degradation appear to be the worst in the world.”

On the other hand, the MDGs coincided with a transition from structural adjustment programs to Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) in Africa and a general focus on human development. The integration of social dimensions in the structural adjustment programs led to PRSs that are now the

12 General Assembly Official Records, Sixty-Second Session, Supplement No. 1(A/62/1, 2007.)

principal national policy tool in the effort to achieve the MDGs. The PRSs summarize the current knowledge and assessment of a country's poverty situation, describe the existing poverty reduction strategy, and identify gaps in poverty data, diagnostics, and monitoring capacity.

Since the adoption of the Abuja Treaty in 1991, African leaders have been committed to establishing, via a common African market, the African Economic Community to increase economic self-sufficiency and promote endogenous and self-sustaining development of the continent as spelled out in the Treaty and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In 2000, when the African Union (AU) replaced the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the NEPAD was adopted as a reference framework for the objectives, prerequisites, strategic directions, and action lines of the continent's development. This was reinforced in 2002, with the adoption of the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, as specified in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). These visions and objectives are consistent with the internationally agreed upon objectives, including the MDGs, and can be considered to be part of the African development agenda.

The NEPAD is an integrated socio-economic development framework designed to address the challenges facing Africa through some key priority areas of action : operationalizing the APRM; facilitating and supporting implementation of the short-term regional infrastructure programs; facilitating implementation of the food security and agricultural development program in all sub-regions; facilitating the preparation of a coordinated African position on market access, debt relief and ODA reforms; and monitoring and intervening to ensure that the MDGs are met. The APRM, on the other hand, reinforces the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance through a well-defined broad structure embedded in four fields: democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance, and socio-economic development.

Many of the indicators needed to monitor the MDGs are suitable to support the African development agenda including the NEPAD. However, it is obvious that the need to monitor national, regional, and international development extends beyond 2015. Consequently, the question is what system should be put in place when the current set of MDGs expires.

A starting point is to look at how the MDG indicators are used and by whom. In Africa, the indicators are used by a broad array of stakeholders: governments to assess policy and program options aimed at improving the

well-being of the population, monitor progress in economic management and other sectoral policies and programs; civil society (NGOs, media) to assess opportunities, plan and take decisions and prepare reports; analysts and researchers, especially for policy-related analysis; general citizenry to be able to hold governments accountable; and international agencies to track progress and evaluate achievements of development programs arising from international summits.

The current MDG indicators seem to be relevant measures because many African development problems, visions and objectives are consistent with international ones. Nevertheless, African countries will need to revisit these MDGs to determine which ones are particularly relevant and what development goals/indicators are missing. A major strength of the current set of MDGs is that they are monitorable and time-bound. On the other hand, a major weakness is the assumption that data would be available. Countries have been struggling to build their capacity to collect, process and disseminate the requisite data. However, the indicators must be used as signposts and not become an end in themselves. They should support the national agenda, rather than being used mainly as material for various reports, agencies, etc. Pan-African institutions, including statistical training centres and universities, should start thinking about the monitoring and evaluation of development beyond 2015.

5. WAY FORWARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The need to report on and monitor development efforts in many countries throughout the world has increased the demand for statistical information. Africa is no exception, especially given the need to implement, monitor and report on the continent's development agenda. While these activities benefit from international mechanisms such as the IAEG on MDG Indicators, the latter has limitations. Some measures to deal with the challenges identified in consultations with African countries are presented below.

Coordination within the NSS, within international organizations, and between NSSs and international organizations is important for MDG monitoring, as it addresses both the data gaps and data differences. To improve the situation at the national level, coordinating bodies on MDG indicators in different countries must be established or reinforced. The parties involved should include the NSOs, all national ministries/agencies producing MDG-relevant indicators, and UN Country Teams. An MDG focal point should be appointed in each NSO to coordinate this group.

Under the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) Working Group on Development Indicators, African countries have been encouraged to set up such bodies and nominate focal points. The latter also act as an interface between national stakeholders and the international community. International organizations should be encouraged (if this has not already happened) to do the same under the leadership of the IAEG. In the same vein, African countries have been called upon, with the support of technical and financial partners, to develop national databases that contain national and international data on MDG indicators with related metadata that are available to all interested users. These databases should include additional indicators relevant to national and regional issues.

Technical and financial partners currently support African countries in MDG monitoring. This technical assistance should include the use of international standards and sound methodologies in data collection, processing and dissemination. Such activities should take national needs and priorities into account and aim to strengthen collaboration between national and international agencies.

Consultations and transparency are needed with regard to data estimation by international organizations. International agencies should improve the accessibility of information about their data production methodologies, notably, unadjusted country data, data collection protocols, and methods of estimation and adjustment. This will reduce discrepancies between national and international data on MDGs and explain those that still exist.

Population data contribute to the discrepancies between national and international sources. A long-term alternative to intercensal estimates is the establishment of civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS). Reliable vital statistics can provide essential input to 42 of the 60 MDG indicators, but only two African countries have complete and reliable systems. It is, therefore, imperative to promote these systems in order to make intercensal population estimates more reliable and reduce data gaps and discrepancies. Regional and international organizations can partner with national governments to set up and/or improve civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Pan-African institutions have launched a vast continental program aimed at improving such systems, starting with the August 2010 meeting of African ministers in charge of CRVS who convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The ministers gave clear support for the development of a continental medium-term program on CRVS. This program is being finalized by the AfDB and UNECA, in collaboration with other international partners.

African governments must be committed to the improvement of their NSSs. Some governments have enacted statistical acts to ensure the effectiveness of their NSOs through generous organizational and institutional support. Other countries require assistance in establishing stronger legal frameworks in line with the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs). According to this initiative, NSOs should have a legal framework that empowers them to operate independently and effectively under a competent and professional policy board. They should be strong enough to coordinate and harmonize the nation's statistical activities, and ensure the production of useful, usable and timely data for all stakeholders, including UN agencies. The organization and use of legally constituted producer-producer and producer-user committees is another way to enhance data quality and facilitate data production and dissemination. NSOs are also responsible for coordinating their activities and harmonizing their methods with those used by the international community. Such steps will help eliminate conflicting and discrepant data and facilitate timely data transfer to stakeholders.

Activities and programs aimed at enhancing the capacities of African member countries to produce and disseminate accurate and comparable MDG indicators and reduce data discrepancies between national and international data can benefit from existing initiatives: the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF)¹³, the MDG Africa Working Group¹⁴, the Statistical Training Program for Africa (STPA), the Africa Implementation Plan for the 2008 System of National Accounts, the Africa Implementation Plan for the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics¹⁵, and the Strategy for the Harmonization

13 Recognizing that most action must take place at the national level, the RRSF (whose overall objective is to strengthen NSSs) is a broad framework rather than a specific set of activities and policy prescriptions. It is built around three themes: meeting users' needs; improving management of statistical systems; and ensuring the sustainability and irreversibility of statistical development. The NSDS are the backbone of the RRSF at the national level.

14 Chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, the MDG Africa Working Group, which comprises representatives of the UN System and other major multilateral organizations, was set up to accelerate achievement of MDGs in African countries. It consists of a technical group on statistics led by ECA and the World Bank, the AfDB, OECD/DAC, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

15 Africa is the first region to initiate implementation of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The Implementation Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy was designed by the AfDB, ECA and the FAO. It has been shared and discussed with stakeholders in and outside Africa, including African countries, regional and international organizations, donors, and the UN Statistical Commission. The Implementation Plan takes a long-term perspective (10 to 15 years), but will follow a phased approach, with the first phase covering the five-year period 2011-2015.

of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)¹⁶. There is also a need to build on existing efforts to monitor development progress in Africa beyond 2015, as many of the requirements for monitoring the African development agenda are consistent with international ones. Nevertheless, the set of MDGs should be revisited to determine if the indicators are relevant for the African development agenda. The main frameworks—NEPAD and APRM— would provide guidance on this.

Monitoring MDGs at a level other than the national one requires that the data be comparable across countries and that the same definitions, concepts, standards, etc. be used. Therefore, a harmonized reporting mechanism, such as the one put in place through the IAEG to feed the database at the UNSD, is needed. This global database is the authoritative source of information on MDG monitoring at the global level, as the organizations in charge of compiling the information (from individual countries) crosscheck the data and ensure that they are harmonized and comparable through adjustments, imputation, modeling, etc. Nonetheless, transparency on methods and procedures used by international agencies for adjustments, imputations and estimations is necessary; consultation is necessary to ensure that the estimates are useful and agreeable to member states. As well, the monitoring of MDGs at the national level is important, because it guides decision-makers and policymakers in targeting interventions. At this level, the data collected nationally can be used, subject to the usual quality checks, without necessarily being made comparable with other countries' information.

REFERENCES

African Development Bank (2009), "A Framework for Improving MDG Data Quality, Availability, and Reporting in Africa", *Report*, Tunis, Tunisia.

AFRISTAT (2008), "Réconciliation des données nationales et internationales sur des indicateurs des OMD : Sources potentielles des anomalies et des mesures réparatrices: Le cas du Burkina Faso," *Rapport d'étude*, Bamako, Mali.

16 The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) has been prepared by the AfDB, AUC, and ECA in collaboration with other stakeholders of the African Statistical System (ASS). It aims to enable the ASS to generate timely, reliable and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural integration. It intends to contribute to the attainment of the continental integration agenda, which is a core concern of African Heads of State and Government.

AFRISTAT (2008), “Réconciliation des données nationales et internationales sur des indicateurs des OMD : Sources potentielles des anomalies et des mesures réparatrices: Le cas du Sénégal,” *Rapport d'étude*, Bamako, Mali.

AFRISTAT (2006), “Cadre de Référence Minimum Commun pour le Suivi des DSRP et des OMD en Afrique,” Bamako, Mali.

Cockburn, J. and M. Valdivia, (2008), “Reaching the MDGs: an International Perspective’, Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network, 2008 Commission on Growth and Development,” Washington DC: The World Bank, USA.

Manning, R. (2009), “Using Indicators to Encourage Development,” Danish Institute for International Studies,” *Report*, Copenhagen, Denmark.

MDG Gap Task Force (2008), “Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” New York: United Nations.

Ponty, N., A. Sawadogo et S. ZOUNGRANA (2008), “Évaluation du suivi statistique du CSLP et des OMD au Burkina Faso,” *Rapport*, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

UNECA, ACS (2008), “Toward the Improvement of MDG Reporting: Assessment of data discrepancies between national and international sources and possible solutions: The African Region Report”, 14th IAEG on MDG Indicators Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland.

UNECA, ACS (2008), “Assessment of Data Discrepancies between National and International Sources and Possible Solutions in the African Region: Study Cases of Uganda and Ethiopia,” Addis Ababa: African Centre for Statistics, Ethiopia.

UNDESA (2008), “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa,” New York: United Nations, USA.

UNDP (2004), “The Blue Book: A Hands on Approach to Advocating for the Millennium Development Goals,” New York: United Nations, USA.

United Nations, ECOSOC (2007), “Report to the Secretary General on Indicators for Monitoring the MDGs,” Note by the Secretariat, Statistical Commission, Thirty-seventh Session, Document E/CN.3/2007/13.

United Nations, *ECOSOC (2006)*, “Report of the Friends of the Chair on the MDGs Indicators”, Note by the Secretariat, Statistical Commission, Thirty-seventh Session, Document E/CN.3/2006/15.

United Nations (2003), “Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts, and Sources,” New York: United Nations, USA.