

**Joint UNODC-UNECA Workshop on Crime Statistics  
Addis-Ababa, 9-12 December 2008**

**Recommendations**

*1. Development of an African framework of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics to put existing international standards/guidelines into the African context and support countries in their efforts to strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate crime and criminal justice statistics*

- a) African countries should consider, with the support of UNODC and UNECA, developing a framework for the production of crime and criminal justice statistics to be submitted to the Statistical Commission of African countries for discussion and consideration by its members. Such framework may include the implementation of national victimization surveys and other surveys, as well as developing a core list of offences which could be used to compare data across countries in Africa.
- b) Regional and subregional workshops should be carried out to disseminate international recommendations in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics (particularly the UN Manual on Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics, the UNODC-UNICEF Manual on the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators and the forthcoming UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys and related instruments) and to discuss their applicability into the African context and eventually develop specific African recommendations. Such events should be carried out in partnership with UNODC, UNECA, AUC, UNAFRI and other African stakeholders.
- c) UNECA, ADB, AUC and other African stakeholders should consider the translation of UN Manual on Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics, the UNODC-UNICEF Manual on the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators and the forthcoming UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys into the main African official languages.
- d) A network of experts on crime and criminal justice statistics in Africa should be established. UNECA and UNODC should put in place a “working group on crime statistics” under the UNECA knowledge management platform to ensure a continuous exchange of information among African experts in this area. National and international stakeholders in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics should be invited to participate in this working group. Task teams may be set up within the working group to deal with specific tasks and issues.
- e) UNODC, UNECA, AUC, EC, UNAFRI, other African stakeholders and other donors should support African countries in their efforts to improve their national crime and criminal justice statistics systems according to their national needs. In particular, they should support the sustainable implementation of national victimization surveys and other crime and justice related surveys, including analysis and dissemination. They should also provide technical assistance where needed.
- f) More African countries should regularly report to the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems by responding to relevant questionnaires.

*2. Improve the coordination of the production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics at national level*

- a) Countries should advocate and take necessary steps to ensure that the NSO plays a key role in the coordination of the production of crime statistics. It therefore should be provided with the necessary resources and internal capacity to fully play this role in NSS.
- b) Where mechanisms to coordinate crime statistics are not in place, NSO should initiate the development of partnerships with the other data producing agencies considering that sustainable partnerships can be built only if the other agencies see the benefits of coordination. It is therefore important that NSO has a constant consultation with the stakeholders on crime and criminal justice in the NSS.

- c) Countries should consider involving all producers of crime and criminal justice statistics during the design for implementation of strategic plans (NSDS). In this regard, NSO and other producing agencies should prepare sectoral plans on crime and criminal justice statistics that would be part of the national plan.
  - d) NSO should support the statistical capacity of the other criminal justice institutions by:
    - Providing statistical training on an on-going basis (to overcome the high turn-over of staff)
    - Setting-up statistical standards on crime and criminal justice statistics together with the other agencies
    - Working with other agencies to revise and streamline their data collection tools and methods
    - Working with other agencies to revise and update the methodology used to transform administrative data into statistical information and ensure that methodology is internalized by producers of administrative data.
  - Nurturing relationships with other crime and criminal justice agencies
    - e) The national statistics act and/or statistical strategic plan shall have provision for a coordinating role to be played by the NSO as far as crime and criminal justice statistics are concerned. Provision should also be made to facilitate the provision of data from the criminal justice institutions to the NSO.
    - f) Countries should explore the possibility of establishing a Crime and criminal justice statistics national committee to provide a forum where relevant agencies can have a constant interaction to ensure full coordination in the production and dissemination of statistics. This committee could be chaired by the NSO.
    - g) Countries should explore the possibility of developing MoU between NSO and other agencies to coordinate the production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics.
    - h) Countries should consider a specific role for the various agencies in the dissemination of data. This may take into account the need for relevance, accuracy and timeliness in the analysis, along with the need for a broader approach to integration of different sources.
3. *Support the regular implementation of crime-related surveys in African countries*
- a) Countries should explore the possibility of embedding victimization surveys into their regular statistical production process (either as a module in existing surveys or as a stand-alone victimization survey). Such surveys should be conducted at least every two years.
  - b) Victimization surveys should be done by or in collaboration with the National Statistical Office, in line with good standard statistical practices.
  - c) When undertaking victimization surveys it is important to consider the following issues:
    - Written translation of key concepts and definitions into main local languages
    - Allocating adequate time to training of interviewers, including - as much as possible - translation of questionnaires into local languages and dialects in which the survey will be conducted
    - Additional modules may be developed for specific population groups such as women, youth and vulnerable people. In such case, additional specific training of interviewers will be required.
    - Feedback to respondent through various dissemination means including media and local community leaders
  - d) Countries should be encouraged to conduct other types of surveys to address specific issues such as integrity of judicial system, civil servants, police, prisons as well as the experience of corruption in the private and public sectors.