



# IMF Data Standards Initiatives

**High Level Meeting and Regional Seminar  
on the Implementation of *2008 SNA* and Supporting  
Statistics in the Arab Region**

**Amman**

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# Overview of Lecture

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Overview of the GDDS
- ❖ Overview of the SDDS
- ❖ Comparison of the SDDS and the GDDS
- ❖ Data included in the GDDS and SDDS
- ❖ Recent developments (enhancements to the SDDS and SDDS plus)

# Background

- ❖ In the aftermath of the 1994-1995 international financial crises, there was
  - ❖ Increased recognition that reliable, timely, comprehensive and accessible data could
    - ❖ Facilitate formulation and implementation of sound economic policies and investment decisions, which in turn
    - ❖ Reduce turbulence in the financial markets
  - ❖ Increased recognition of the challenges that globalization implies for data producers
- ❖ In recognition of the “public good” features of data and as a service to the membership, the IMF’s governing body called for standards in April 1995

# Background

❖ ***October 1995***

- ❖ The principle of two tiers is approved

❖ ***March 1996***

- ❖ The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) is approved as a guide for countries having, or seeking, access to international capital markets

❖ ***December 1997***

- ❖ The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) is approved as a guide for all member countries

❖ In drafting the SDDS and GDDS, the IMF staff drew on a wide range of experiences

- ❖ Consultation with data producers and users by visits, questionnaires, and discussion drafts
- ❖ Reference to internationally accepted practices and principles, such as the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

## Background

- ❖ As of April 2013, GDDS has 108 participants. There are 69 SDDS subscribers. (Two territories are also SDDS subscribers).
- ❖ As the IMF's membership stands at 188, only a handful of member countries lie outside the data standard initiatives.

# Background

## ❖ Interagency coordination

- ❖ Coordination among concerned agencies within a country is a critical element

## ❖ Metadata and electronic bulletin board

- ❖ Participating countries inform the public and provide ready access to metadata, including plans for improvements, through the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) maintained by the IMF:

<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dsbbhome/>

## ❖ Links to the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)

- ❖ The IMF DQAF identifies quality-related features of the governance of statistical systems, statistical processes, and statistical products. It is rooted in the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and grew out of the SDDS and GDDS.

# A Closer Look at the GDDS

## ❖ What is the GDDS?

- ❖ The GDDS provides a framework for participating countries to develop a strategy for strengthening their statistical systems.
- ❖ It fosters:
  - ❖ The application of sound methodology
  - ❖ The adoption of good compilation and dissemination practices
  - ❖ The observance of procedures ensuring professionalism

## ❖ Documentation

- ❖ *The General Data Dissemination System* (January 1998)
- ❖ *The General Data Dissemination System: Guide for Participants and Users* (2007)
- ❖ *The General Data Dissemination System: Guide for Participants and Users* (2013)



# How does the GDDS achieve its goals

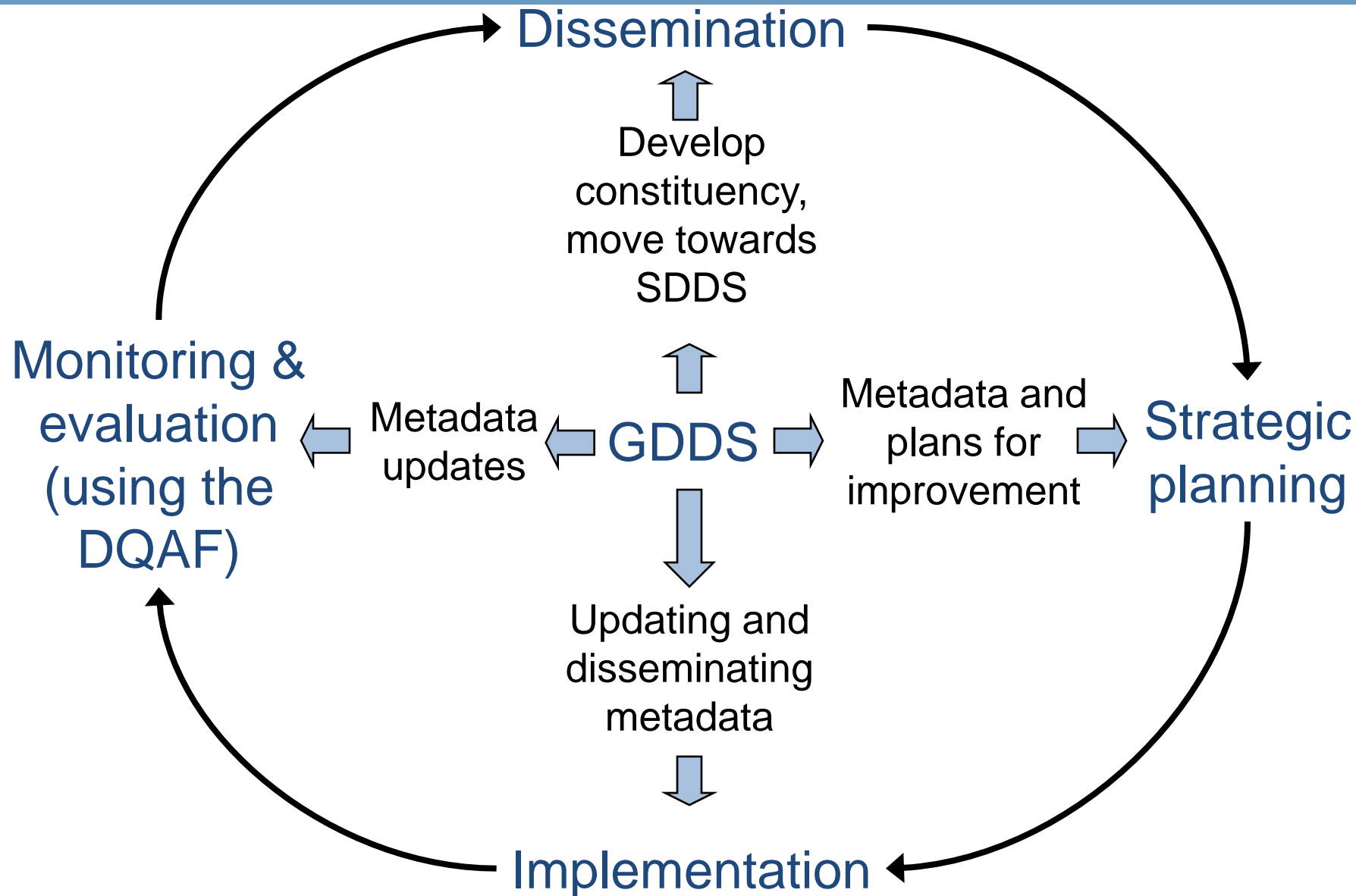
- ❖ Participation indicates commitment to change
- ❖ Focuses on national statistics and covers main datasets
- ❖ Metadata provide structured framework for assessing current capacity
- ❖ Places emphasis on outputs not inputs
- ❖ Plans for improvement provide basis for a statistical master plan
- ❖ Provides mechanism for monitoring progress
- ❖ Proposal to shift emphasis to focus on data (dissemination via National Summary Data Pages and Advance Release Calendars):

<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dsbbhome/>



## GDDS: Why it is effective

- ❖ The GDDS calls national authorities to set their own priorities and timing to achieve their objectives over time:
  - ❖ plans for short- and longer-term improvements are the key features of the GDDS framework
- ❖ Many countries that have adopted the GDDS see it as a bridge to subscription to the more demanding SDDS
- ❖ With strengthened plans for improvement, the GDDS effectively serves as a project management tool for developing countries' statistical systems



- ❖ Enhanced GDDS plans for improvement become a statistical action plan.
  - ❖ Statistical action plan is a detailed multisector action plan using the DQAF-based statistical development framework
  - ❖ Where relevant to medium-term public expenditure planning, coordinating technical assistance, and integrating statistical development with poverty reduction strategies and other national development schemes, it can be extended to include cost estimates for the items in the plan
  - ❖ The framework facilitates monitoring the implementation of the action plan (for evaluating implementation and sustainability)
- ❖ To ensure implementation of the statistical action plan, country authorities would:
  - ❖ officially endorse the action plan and implementation timeframe
  - ❖ include the costs of the statistical development plan into the public expenditure plan
  - ❖ identify costs and sources of funding

# A Closer Look at the SDDS

## ❖ What is the SDDS?

- ❖ Data dissemination standard that identifies best practices in the dissemination of economic and financial data
- ❖ For countries having, or seeking, access to international capital markets
- ❖ For countries that subscribe to specific, internationally agreed data dissemination practices
- ❖ Requires the presentation of metadata describing dissemination practices on the electronic bulletin board—Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB)—on the internet (<http://dsbb.imf.org>)

## ❖ Documentation

- ❖ *The Special Data Dissemination Standard* (April 1996)
- ❖ *Guide to the Special Data Dissemination Standard* (May 1996)
- ❖ *New versions of the Guide were released in 2007 and 2013*

# A Closer Look at the SDDS

- ❖ Subscription to the SDDS is voluntary but observance of the standard is an obligation
- ❖ Subscribing members generally want the public and financial markets to know of their subscription to the standard and their observance of the standard
- ❖ Annual Reports are prepared, with the first dissemination in 2007 for 2006 Annual Reports.
- ❖ Executive Board emphasized that the SDDS should be implemented flexibly and called for periodic reviews to make needed adjustments
- ❖ Eight reviews of the Fund's data standards' initiatives have been conducted to date. The last review was conducted in February 2012.
- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> Review is tentatively planned for 2014.

# A Closer Look at the SDDS

- The SDDS takes into account differences in institutional arrangements by providing flexibility options.
- ❖ The availability of flexibility options for periodicity or timeliness varies with data categories (targeted flexibility options and 2 other data categories).
- ❖ Advance Release Calendar (ARC) shows release dates for each data category at least for the following four months, i.e. quarterly update.
- ❖ Hyperlink to National Summary Data Page (NSDP) from the DSBB. From the Base page, users can access the latest actual data (for the most recent two periods) through hyperlinks to the NSDP maintained by the subscribing country.

# Comparison of SDDS and GDDS

- ❖ A ***standard*** (SDDS) is precise
  - ❖ Specific requirements for coverage, periodicity, and timelines of data
- ❖ A ***system*** (GDDS) is less prescriptive
  - ❖ Emphasis on improvement over time and progress toward higher quality, increased periodicity, and more timely data
- ❖ Both the SDDS and GDDS are open to all Fund members; however, the SDDS is intended for member countries that already have or seek access to international capital markets



# Comparison of SDDS and GDDS

- ❖ By ***subscribing to SDDS***, countries undertake to
  - ❖ Observe the elements of the SDDS (including data dissemination with prescribed periodicity and timeliness, and certification of metadata)
  - ❖ Designate a country coordinator
  - ❖ Provide metadata to the IMF, describing current practices
  
- ❖ By ***participating in the GDDS***, countries undertake to
  - ❖ Use the GDDS as a framework for statistical development
  - ❖ Designate a country coordinator
  - ❖ Provide metadata to the IMF describing current practices and plans for improvements

# Data Included in the GDDS/SDDS

- ❖ Data Standards Bulletin Board:  
<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dsbbhome/>
- ❖ Comprehensive frameworks
  - ❖ Real sector
    - ❖ National accounts (SDDS/GDDS)
  - ❖ Fiscal sector
    - ❖ General government or public sector operations (SDDS/GDDS)
    - ❖ Central government operations (GDDS)
  - ❖ Financial sector
    - ❖ Depository corporations survey (SDDS/GDDS)
  - ❖ External sector
    - ❖ Balance of payments (SDDS/GDDS)

## Data Included in the GDDS/SDDS

- ❖ For socio-demographic data
  - ❖ The SDDS prescribes population data as an addendum; useful as a scaling factor (e.g., GDP per capita)
  - ❖ The GDDS provides examples of commonly used indicators for population, health, education, and poverty

# Recent Developments in the IMF's Data Dissemination Standards

- ❖ Broadening Financial Indicators in the SDDS (March 2010 Board discussion)
  - ❖ Prescribe quarterly IIP with quarterly timeliness (replacing annual IIP with 9 months timeliness)
  - ❖ Encourages 7 financial soundness indicators in the SDDS as a new data category
  - ❖ Encourages external debt by remaining maturity following a simplified table

## **Interim Report for the Eighth Review of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives, March 2010**

- ❖ The global financial crisis has highlighted areas for statistical development, especially for countries with systemically important global financial sectors.
- ❖ The Interim Report was built on the work for the G-20 and paved the way for the preparation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives (February 2012) to fill data gaps and promote transparency through data dissemination.

## **Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiative (February 2012)**

### ❖ SDDS Enhancements

### ❖ SDDS Plus (additional tier of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives)

- ❖ Intended for subscribers to the SDDS with systemically important financial sectors while contributing to address further the data gaps revealed in the global financial crisis.

# SDDS Enhancements

- ❖ Structuring timelines for non-observance procedures
- ❖ Requiring hyperlinks to time series on the NSDPs
- ❖ Restructuring the Forward Looking Indicators
- ❖ Deleting ARC flexibility options after a transition period
- ❖ Termination of the SDDS quarterly update
- ❖ Include two encouraged data categories (Sectoral balance sheets, general government gross debt)



# SDDS Plus

## ❖ A spectrum



- ❖ A third tier that goes beyond the focus on access to international capital markets by emphasizing countries that have systemically important financial sectors

## Why an SDDS Plus?

- ❖ The SDDS is an effective tool to encourage member countries to improve data dissemination
- ❖ More may be needed from countries with financial sectors that are integrated to international financial markets to help monitor systemic risk and implement macro-prudential policies

## Why an SDDS Plus? (concluded)

- ❖ The recent global financial crisis revealed serious data gaps in key areas that inhibited the identification of the crisis in real time
- ❖ The purpose of the SDDS Plus is to create a stronger data dissemination standard, particularly for SDDS subscribers with systemically important financial sectors
- ❖ SDDS Plus aims to serve the broad membership by focusing on stronger data dissemination by a narrower range of target economies that could help strengthen the international financial system

## Governance and Modalities

- ❖ Adherence to the SDDS Plus:
  - ❖ To adhere, a country would need to be in full observance of the SDDS
  - ❖ Adherence would be voluntary (like the SDDS), but once a country adheres, it undertakes to meet the most rigorous data dissemination and data quality standards within the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives
  - ❖ Countries with systemically important financial sectors would be encouraged to adhere, for example, those countries required to undertake a mandatory Financial Stability Assessment.

## Governance and Modalities (continued)

### ❖ Modalities:

- ❖ SDDS Plus data categories have periodicity and timeliness requirements (with no flexibility options)
- ❖ The SDDS Plus contains only required data categories (nothing is categorized as “encouraged”)

## Governance and Modalities (continued)

### ❖ Modalities:

- ❖ No flexibility options are incorporated into the SDDS Plus
- ❖ Transition periods are taken into account, as appropriate
- ❖ Modifications to the SDDS Plus data elements would follow the same process as the SDDS, through IMF Executive Board decision, normally as part of the periodic Reviews of the Data Standards Initiatives (the 9<sup>th</sup> review is tentatively planned for 2014)

# Governance and Modalities (concluded)

## ❖ Modalities:

- ❖ Metadata are required for each SDDS Plus data category
- ❖ Metadata need to cite the relevant internationally accepted statistical methodologies and any deviations from these methodologies
- ❖ Metadata formats and certification follow the same modalities as the SDDS



## Data Categories

SDDS Plus includes all SDDS data categories and the following additional data categories:

1. Sectoral Balance Sheets
2. General Government Operations
3. General Government Gross Debt
4. Other Financial Corporations (OFC) survey
5. Debt securities
6. Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs)
7. Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS)
8. Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS)
9. Currency composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)

## Sectoral Balance Sheets

- **Coverage:** The SDDS Plus requires a minimum set of internationally comparable sectoral balance sheets, for financial assets and liabilities with a focus on the sub-sector details of the financial corporations, and standard 2008 SNA instrument classification.
- **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data dissemination within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.

# General Government Operations

- ❖ **Coverage:** The SDDS Plus requires GGO data presented in the *GFSM 2001* format. The recording basis could be on a cash, modified accrual or accrual basis (full adoption of the *GFSM 2001* methodology is not required).
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data dissemination within 12 months after the end of the reference period.

# General Government Gross Debt

- ❖ **Coverage:** The SDDS Plus requires data on general government gross debt at nominal value, *classified by debt instrument, currency of denomination, and residence of the creditor; and for memorandum items, general government debt securities and loans classified by remaining maturity, and total debt securities at market value*
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data dissemination within 4 months after the end of the reference period.

## Other Financial Corporations (OFCs) Survey

- ❖ **Coverage:** The OFCs survey covers a minimum set of assets and liabilities compatible with the MFSM.
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.

## Debt Securities

- ❖ **Coverage:** The Handbook on Securities Statistics coverage by issuer and holder on a from-whom-to-whom basis, as outlined in Part 2 Section 5 (especially the time series presentation in Table 5.2). Debt securities should be presented at market value, but can be presented at nominal value or both.
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data within one quarter after the end of the reference period.

## Financial Soundness Indicators (FSI)

- ❖ **Coverage:** All of the FSIs encouraged under the SDDS are required, except the “net open position in foreign exchange to capital.” In addition, the FSI on residential real estate prices is also required.
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires data within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.



## Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS)

- ❖ **Coverage:** The SDDS Plus requires participation in the CPIS by providing at least the core (required) set of data (see the CPIS Data Template under CPIS Documents at <http://cpis.imf.org/>).
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires semi-annual data, as of end of June and December each year, beginning in 2015.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires the data to be reported to the IMF within 7 months after the end of the reference period. Countries should disseminate these data on their NSDPs once it is disseminated by the IMF or provide a hyperlink on their NSDPs to the data.

## Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS)

- ❖ **Coverage:** The SDDS Plus requires participation in the CDIS by providing for inward direct investment, the value of outstanding end-year positions by immediate (first) direct investor, by counterpart economy, for both equity and debt.
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires annual data, as of end-December each year.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires preliminary data to be reported to the IMF within nine months after the end of the reference year. Countries should disseminate these data on their NSDPs or provide a hyperlink on their NSDPs to the data once data are disseminated by the IMF.

## Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)

- ❖ **Coverage:** Participation in the COFER database. Although countries are not required to make public their information on reserves by individual currency, adherence means that a country would make public its participation in the COFER database.
- ❖ **Periodicity:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** The SDDS Plus requires quarterly data to be reported to the IMF within one quarter after the end of the reference period.

## Transition periods

- ❖ Countries could adhere to the SDDS Plus if they meet all the SDDS Plus requirements.
- ❖ Alternatively, a country could adhere if it meets the requirements for five or more data categories and applies a transition period for up to four data categories.
- ❖ The use of a transition period must include a description of plans to meet the SDDS Plus requirements by no later than end-2019.
- ❖ Thus, by end-2019, all SDDS Plus adherents should meet the requirements for all data categories

# For Questions and Queries

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