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General Notice

NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY

No. 232

2020

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR NAMIBIA QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR STATISTICS (NQAFS)

APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

This Implementation Plan was issued by the Statistician-General as a guideline to operationalise the Namibia Quality Assurance Framework for Statistics (NQAFS) by all producers within the realm of the National Statistical System. The Plan was developed and issued within the letter and spirit of the Statistic Act No. 9 of 2011. In particular, the provisions of Part VI dealing with the Coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS), with special emphasis on section 36 dealing with the issuance of statistical standards.

The Plan therefore provides a three-step implementation of the Framework based on a cumulative implementation of the components of quality and subsequent elements as well as in the dimension of official statistics designation. The Plan must therefore be read together with the Framework in order to ensure absolute coherence during implementation.

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1. Introduction

The Namibia Quality Assurance Framework for Statistics (NQAFS) provides a rational, transparent and sustainable methodology for assuring the quality of the statistics produced in Namibia. The Framework is long overdue, and its implementation is expected to herald a new and improved era in statistical production for decision making in the country. In particular, the Framework, provides a set of procedures for quality assurance, quality assessment and designating of statistics as “official” statistics. Assurance is carried out by applying the Framework in a forward-looking way to ensure that the current and planned statistical processes support quality statistics. On the other hand, assessment is carried out “after the event” e.g. after a survey or census or collection of administrative records or after a cycle of a statistical domain, to assess the actual performance in relation to quality maintenance.

The Framework is very comprehensive given that the guideline for quality assurance of a statistical undertaking comprises of 4 main sections made up of 18 components of quality with about 82 elements altogether. On the other hand, the guideline for designating a statistical undertaking as official statistics stands on 7 dimensions of Official statistics and 69 elements in total. Therefore, its wholesale implementation might pose some challenges that can derail the progress already made in the statistical system. This is simply because the statistical production in Namibia is still in a developmental and thus fragile state.

This plan therefore sets out the modus operandi on how the Framework will be implemented and must be read together with the Framework.

2. Implementation Plan

The Framework will be implemented based on the implementation plan of the respective guidelines. In particular, the guideline for quality assurance of a statistical undertaking will be implemented in stages following a systematic approach. The implementation of the guideline for designating statistics as official statistics will then follow suit as the elements of this guideline are a subset from the guideline for quality assurance of a statistical undertaking. The implementations are further discussed as follows.

2.1 Guideline for quality assurance of a statistical undertaking

This guideline will be implemented systematically in three stages. The stages were created in line with the definition of Official statistics outlined in the Statistics Act. No.9 of 2011. In particular, the Act refer to Official statistics as statistics that must be

- a) relevant, accurate, reliable and timely
- b) objective and comprehensive
- c) compiled, produced and analysed in a scientific and transparent manner
- d) disseminated impartially
- e) accessible
- f) in accordance with appropriate national and international standards and classifications, and
- g) sensitive to distribution by gender, disability, region and similar socioeconomic features

From the above definition, the following will then apply:

- 2.1.1 **Stage 1:** 10 components aligned to the definition of official statistics, resulting in 50 elements will then be evaluated leading to the quality and official designation.
- 2.1.2 **Stage 2:** An additional 4 components resulting in a cumulative 14 components will be implemented, resulting in a total of 69 elements under scrutiny.
- 2.1.3 **Stage 3:** The last 4 components will be added, resulting in a total of 18 components. This will then be comprised of 82 elements, comprehensively covering all elements of the guideline.

The table below summarises the composition of the stages described above as to be implemented.

Table 1: Summarised composition of the implementation stages of quality assurance of a statistical undertaking

Stage	Compositions of components	Number of elements
Stage 1	[NQAFS 2] Managing relationships with stakeholders [NQAFS 5] Assuring impartiality and objectivity [NQAFS 6] Assuring transparency [NQAFS 7] Assuring statistical confidentiality and security [NQAFS 10] Assuring methodological soundness [NQAFS 14] Assuring relevance [NQAFS 15] Assuring accuracy and reliability [NQAFS 16] Assuring timeliness and punctuality [NQAFS 17] Assuring accessibility and clarity [NQAFS 18] Assuring coherence and comparability	50
Stage 2	[NQAFS 3] Managing statistical standards [NQAFS 4] Assuring professional independence [NQAFS 8] Assuring the quality commitment [NQAFS 12] Assuring soundness of implementation	19 [69]
Stage 3	[NQAFS 1] Coordinating the national statistical system [NQAFS 9] Assuring adequacy of resources [NQAFS 11] Assuring cost-effectiveness [NQAFS 13] Managing the respondent burden	13 [82]

2.2 Guideline for designating a statistical undertaking as official statistics

The implementation of this guideline will closely follow the implementation of the guideline for quality assurance for statistical undertaking. This is because the elements used in the guidelines for designating a statistical undertaking as official statistics are subsets of the elements in the guideline for quality assurance of a statistical undertaking.

As such the implementation at each stage of the process will be as follow:

- 2.2.1 **Stage 1:** 9 components resulting in 44 elements in total will be implemented during stage 1 of the framework implementations.
- 2.2.2 **Stage 2:** An additional 4 components will be added, resulting in a total of 13 components and 67 elements to be implemented, whereas
- 2.2.3 **Stage 3:** Only a single component will be added during this stage, resulting in 14 components and 69 elements, completing the framework implementation.

The table below presents the summarised composition for the implementation of the guideline for designating a statistical undertaking as official statistics.

Table 2: Summarised composition of the implementation stages for the guideline for designating a statistical undertaking as official statistics

Dimensions of Official Statistics	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3	
	NQAFS	Elements	NQAFS	Elements	NQAFS	Elements
1. Relevant, comprehensive and Sensitive to distribution by gender, disability, region, and similar socio-economic features	2	1	3, 4	5	-	-
2. Accurate and reliable	2, 7, 10, 15,18	16	8, 12	15	13	2
3. Timely	16	7	-	-	-	-
4. Compiled produced and analysed in an objective, scientific and transparent manner	5, 6	9	4	1	-	-
5. Disseminated impartially	5	3	-	-	-	-
6. Accessible	17	7	-	-	-	-
7. In accordance with appropriate national and international standards and classifications	10	1	3	2	-	-
Total	9	44	4	23	1	2

2.3 Assessment and designations

The assessment of statistical undertakings for quality as well as the respective designation of statistical undertakings as official statistics will follow the same procedures as outlined in section 5 and 6 of the Framework. In addition, official designation will be provided when the following conditions holds:

2.3.1 100 percent compliance to all 44 elements (50 elements for quality) during stage 1 implementation or to 67 elements (69 for quality) during stage 2 implementation or to all 69 elements (82 for quality) at stage 3 implementation.

On the other hand, provisional designation will be given when the following conditions are achieved:

2.3.2 Compliance to 80 percent or more of the elements but not 100 percent of 44 elements (50 for quality) during stage1 or to 67 elements (69 for quality) during stage 2 implementation or to all 69 elements (82 for quality) at stage 3 implementation.

2.4 Duration of implementation

The implementation of the Framework will take about 6 years to be realised fully. This period is broken down as follows:

2.4.1 Stage 1 will be implemented over a period of 3 years

2.4.2 Stage 2 will be implemented over a period of 2 years, while

2.4.3 Stage 3 will be done over a year

It is further expected that the third year of implementation will coincide with the implementation of the National Strategy for the Dvelopment of Statistics (NSDS), currently being developed. This harmonisation will lead to a better coordination of the production of quality statistics that will lead to a smoother designation process going forward.