



CSO's New Method of Data Dissemination, NADA!

Central statistics office's main mission and goal is to **provide for a comprehensive National Statistical Database yielding timely, relevant and high quality statistical information to institutions of the Government, Private sector and the wider national and international community.**

One of the CSO's responsibilities is to promote increased utilization of statistical information for effective decision making and informed debate on the economy by all major stakeholders.

The Central Statistical Office has therefore played a major role in archiving information for public consumption. The office has been documenting, preserving and disseminating statistical information to all its' data users.

Dissemination of information is done through various channels such as the website, hard copies, soft copies, and

NOW through the web based ***National Data Archive*** (NADA) which is a new method of disseminating micro-data and related metadata.

National Data Archive, what is it?

The web based National Data Archive (NADA) was developed in partnership with PARIS 21/ADP and Macro International.

The NADA has been established to:

- *Promote best practice and international standards for the documentation of microdata amongst data producers in the country.*
- *Provide equitable access to microdata in the interest of all citizens, by protecting confidentiality and following international recommendations and good practice.*
- *Promote the effective use of existing survey and census data for statistical and research purposes, thereby encouraging a diverse range of analytical work through secondary research.*
- *Ensure the long term preservation of microdata and the related metadata, and their continued viability and usability in the future.*

The National Data Archive pursues these objectives within the framework of the national legislation and of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Statistics. Where microdata cannot be released due to confidentiality or other reasons, the National Data Archive provides the public with detailed metadata and other publicly available materials.

How the NADA Works

The web based NADA is used to disseminate Micro and Meta data to the general public. CSO has used this system to document, disseminate and preserve data from its Surveys and Censuses.

Central Statistical office is charged with legal and ethical obligations to protect the confidentiality of survey respondents. The National Data Archive protects confidentiality of the data by:

- *Restricting access to data that present a potential disclosure risk to scrutinized users only, under formal conditions.*
- *Anonymizing data when necessary, by altering or suppressing variables which could potentially identify a physical or legal individual.*

The National Data Archive seeks to minimize the information loss while ensuring an acceptable level of disclosure risk. Principles and methods applied for measuring the risk and for anonymizing data are those provided or recommended by the International Household Survey Network (IHSN).

The Importance of Web Based National Data Archive

Documentation:

Data documentation serves several important functions. It helps data producers build institutional memory, and helps researchers to:

- *Find the data they are interested in.*
- *Locate the datasets and variables that meet their research requirements.*
- *Understand what the data are measuring and how the data have been created; and assess the data quality.*
- *Understand the survey design and the methods used when collecting and processing the data, thereby reducing the risk that data will be misunderstood or misused.*

Preservation:

Micro-datasets can be damaged or lost because of human error, because of technical problems, or because of disasters such as fire or flood. New technologies can also render old data unreadable, because of either hardware or software advances. The National Data Archive is implementing standard procedures for ensuring the physical security and long-term usability of its resources, together with associated backup arrangements for minimizing the impact of adverse events.

Dissemination:

Data dissemination increases the quality, use and potential impact of data, by:

1. *Making it possible for analytical work to be replicated, a critical step to good science;*
2. *Creating the potential to use old data to test new ideas;*
3. *Reducing the costs of data collection and the burden on respondents, by avoiding the need for researchers to undertake their own surveys;*
4. *Demonstrating transparency and credibility in data production, which are at the heart of good governance; and*
5. *Improving the relevance and quality of data by incorporating users' feedback in future data collection.*

Now available on the Web Based NADA!!

CSO has so far documented and uploaded 20 Censuses and Surveys using the NADA System. Some of these include:

- The 2000 Census of Population and Housing
- The 2005 Labour Force Survey
- The 2007 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey
- The Crop Forecast Survey

We insist however that access to micro-data must not be seen as a right. Access will only be permitted to *bona fide* users, and for statistical and research purposes only.

For further enquiries on the Web based National Data Archive (NADA), contact the Director, Central Statistical Office, Head Office.

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Remember: Statistical Information is Key to National Development

SERVING YOUR DATA NEEDS