

MARCH DASHBOARD

2020 ...towards a developed Western Nigeria



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Domestication of SDG Data Disaggregation for Effective Tracking

By Oluwatosin Oke and Olalekan Ibikunle

*Data is to development conversations what blood is to human beings. Data is the major enabler of a good development plan. Planning without data is like driving without a compass. It is to this end DAWN Commission has shown interest in developing data infrastructure through a concept tagged; **Southwest Sustainable Open Data Management System (ODMS)**. The concept's central focus is to make quality data accessible to different stakeholders with interest in the growth and development of the Region including tracking of the Region's SDG's performance.*

For DAWN Commission, the ODMS concept is aimed at facilitating the creation of a harmonised data management system that will enable the production, assemblage, warehousing, analysing and broadcasting of statistical information for the sustainable development of Southwest Region of Nigeria. Undoubtedly, the attainment of this lofty goal requires high level strategic collaboration with key stakeholders and decision makers across the six Southwest States.

Thus, the concept was made a subject of conversation at the recently held Southwest Commissioners for Economic Planning and Budget's Community of Practice (CoP) hosted by State of Osun Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Prof. Olalekan Yinusa. The CoP had in attendance Commissioners for Economic Planning and Budget; Statisticians-General, and Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Economic Planning and Budget across the six Southwest States, as well as the Special Advisers to Osun and Oyo States Governors on Economic Planning and Economic Affairs respectively and DAWN Commission's Data Advisor, Prof. Vincent O. Akinyosoye, a former Director-General of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The DAWN Commission team, led by the Economic Development and Investment Desk, presented for adoption the ODMS Strategic Action Plan. The ODMS Strategic Action Plan is a fall-out of series of technical meetings on data management in the Southwest. The process started in 2016 with the conceptualisation of Southwest Open Data Initiative (SWODI) and the implementation was supported by DFID. This was followed by a presentation at the first meeting of the Commissioners for Economic Planning and Budget hosted by Lagos State in 2017 where Prof. Akinyosoye made a presentation on how to leverage administrative data for tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Region.

Consequently, ODMS was conceived to develop a template for data collation across the States and an IT-enabled platform for data storage. The ODMS concept was discussed and adopted by the six Southwest States with an agreement to domesticate the process of coordination for effective monitoring of development activities within the Region and by extension, for global comparison.

The full implementation of the ODMS Strategic Action Plan is tentatively scheduled to commence in March

2020 with a Regional Technical Workshop to develop a uniform disaggregated data coordination template based on the SDGs indicators, as well as identify the human and infrastructural needs of the six States' Bureau of Statistics for effective implementation of the web-enabled ODMS.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

DAWN-DFID/PERL PARTNERSHIP

How the Southwest States are achieving Regional Integration through the DAWN-DFID/PERL Partnership

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DFID – Department for International Development

PERL – Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn

The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL), a programme of the Department for International Development (DFID), supports how governments organise their core business of making, implementing, tracking and accounting for policies, plans and budgets used in delivering public goods (economic stability and an enabling environment for private enterprise to promote growth and reduce poverty) and services to the citizenry, and how citizens themselves engage with these processes.

Governance, as it has been described, is central to development conversations. The World Bank (1992) defines it as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development. According to the Bank, one of major reasons programmes or projects funds fail is due to factors deeply related to the quality of government action.

Thus, promotion of good governance is at the centre of DAWN Commission's activities geared towards making the Southwest Region the preferred place for people to visit, live, work and invest. In pursuit of this vision, the Commission has been engaging different stakeholders ranging from development partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and organized private sector on facilitating process and structure that will enable governance best practice across the States of the Region.

Thus, DFID, in conceiving its ongoing governance and accountability programme, Partnership to Engage Reform and Learn (PERL), opted for a regional approach in the Southwest and DAWN Commission was chosen as an implementation partner. The five-year programme mobilizes government and citizen groups to collaboratively address governance challenges for improved delivery of public goods and services.

Since 2016 when PERL started implementation, technical support has been channeled towards strengthening governance processes and structures for improved service delivery in selected sectors. For instance, support has been given towards improving the Southwest States ranking on ease-of-doing business (EoDB), establishment of reform coordinating agencies (RCAs) for effective coordination of reform initiatives in the States, and facilitation of public finance management (PFM) reform. Agriculture and Health sectors have also benefited from the programme.

There is abundance of evidence on how the interventions are changing the face of governance in the Region. For instance, in the area of PFM, there is now proper planning and budgeting framework, as well as an improved accounting system. Citizen groups have also been trained on budget monitoring to ensure effective involvement

in the preparation of State budget. Town Hall meetings are now a regular occurrence in almost all the States as a result of DAWN/PERL interventions. Oyo State, for instance, has moved from closed budgeting process to Open and transparent participatory budgeting. In the same vein, Ondo State currently publishes all taxes, rates, levies, and laws online following DAWN/PERL facilitated peer reviews with Lagos and Ogun. Ekiti and Osun States have both conducted Citizens Needs Assessment exercises, demonstrating the inclusion of citizens in the budget and policy development process of the States.

On Agricultural development, the mandate of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the Agricultural sector have been clarified, with overlaps and duplication of efforts eliminated to ensure synergy for effective performance of these MDAs operating within the Agriculture value chain.

In line with DAWN Commission's mission of engendering collaboration and cooperation among the Southwest States, we have facilitated series of cross learning among the States that has led to the adaptation and replication of good practices in various States through the programme. As an example, Ogun State, taking a cue from Lagos during one of the learning tours facilitated by DAWN/PERL, has reviewed its hospitals management structure such that 12 General Hospitals in the State now have semi-autonomous status. This would ensure proper management of these hospitals as approvals, to a reasonable limit, are now within the purview of the hospitals' management as against the centralised method that was initially adopted.

Due to lack of State-wide coordination in terms of reform implementation in many of the States at inception of the PERL programme when we travelled round the States to map reforms, the need for a well-structured reform coordinating agency became imperative. However, the Commission's advocacy for establishment of a reform coordinating agency has been successful because three of the States now have functional RCAs, and they have been at the centre of reforms that are being facilitated in the States. They have also maintained close relationship through their Community of Practice where heads of these Agencies come for peer learning and experience sharing.

The series of regional meetings under the auspices of DAWN Commission has also spurred the establishment of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) across the Region and this has further entrenched inter-agency collaboration which has had a tremendous effect on service delivery and improvement on the business environment across the States of the Region.

The success of the methodology adopted by DFID on implementation of PERL has further lent credence to the essence of regional approach as a catalyst for growth and development in a society that is resource-challenged like Nigeria. DAWN Commission platform has been a veritable platform for States to cooperate and collaborate on governance issue.

As the PERL programme comes to an end, we are optimistic that the beneficiary States will not only sustain but scale up various reforms that are being implemented in different sectors.

DAWN Commission, DFID Convene Southwest Education Forum

By Abiodun Oladipo and Oluyomi Agge

In response to the interest shown by the Governments of Six Southwest States towards improving the quality of basic education in the Region, DAWN Commission, with the support of DFID, facilitated a meeting of Education Policymakers and other Stakeholders; ranging from the Education Commissioners to SUBEB Chairs, Chairs of different Houses of Assembly's Committee on Education and top bureaucrats working in the Education sector across the States.

The challenges militating against having a functional basic education system in the Region were discussed extensively as well as the need to collectively develop workable solutions to effectively address the identified problems the States are faced with in the Education Sector.

The platform also provided the opportunity for peer learning and experience sharing on good practices among the six Southwest States and also States from other Regions in the Country as Mrs. Yayi Phoebe Sukni, Permanent Secretary, Kaduna State Ministry of Education and Mrs Joahno Oviame, Edo State SUBEB Chair also brought learnings and experiences from implementing reforms in their respective States.

Also in attendance were the DFID Education Advisor, Mrs. Esohe Eigbike, and top DFID officials. Dr. Olatunde Adekola, the World Bank Education specialist, was also around to share data on the Southwest performance in education, while Mrs. Folashade Jaji, the Secretary to Lagos State Government, was the chief host who also had the honour of declaring the Forum open.

The Director-General of DAWN Commission, Mr. Seye Oyeleye, in his welcome address appreciated the interest of all the attendees in the Region's education development and charged the policymakers to do more by rising up to the challenges of education in the Region and restore us to the glorious era when the region was synonymous with quality education. The Secretary to Lagos State Government, Mrs. Folashade Jaji, before declaring the event open, made a few remarks where she reiterated the need to focus on basic education as we prepare for the future. She also intimated the audience on the policies being implemented in Lagos State towards improving basic education.

The opening ceremony was followed by presentations from Dr. Olatunde Adekola of the World Bank, the DFID Consultants, Dr Sulaiman Adediran and Dr Oluwafunmilayo Olalusi and Prof. Olalekan Yinusa, State of Osun's Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, on how to improve Southwest regional education service delivery, issues from institutional capacity analysis in Southwest education systems, using evidence to sustain ongoing reform and how to link policy, planning and budgeting in the planning and resource management cycle with a particular focus on education sector respectively.

The Head of Programmes at DAWN Commission, Abiodun Oladipo, made a presentation on the challenges facing the Education Sector in the Region. Mr. Oladipo, in his presentation, reiterated the need for the States to work together so we can build a good education system in the Region.

Dr. Adekola, in his presentation, focused on the challenges and the current state of education in the Southwest; at the basic and post basic level, stating that language, literacy and learning, low STEM pupil-teacher ratio, use of data for planning, ICT, teachers' development programmes are critical areas that should be addressed.

He urged participants to be aware that the resources spent on education has correlation to the functionality

of the educational systems with attendant effect on learning and desired outcomes. He provided evidence indicating how some Southwest States spending on education is not commensurate to the desired outcome. He opined that though the Southwest States can be said to be doing well when compared to other Regions of the country, but for him, the benchmark for the Southwest ought to be middle income countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Ghana, Kenya etc. He pointed out that a functional system, and not necessarily money, is the foremost mechanism to improving education outcomes. He emphasized the need for partnership, collaboration, and cooperation among the States and non-State actors as a tool for a regional advancement.

Dr. Adediran highlighted the issue of funding for basic education, especially on how the States can maximize the benefit of UBEC intervention fund while Dr. Olalusi premised her presentation on developing a legacy of sustainable and effective Roadmap using data. She spoke about the Integrated School Development (ISD) model as a tool for determining and measuring the level of development and the capacity of schools using school scoring system. This model is based on data collection for project interventions in schools whose impacts are measured over time. She submitted that ISD model engender decisions that are based on robust data that makes it easy for results to be measured.

Prof. Yinusa's presentation focused on how to ensure the budget delivers value in the Education Sector. He advised participants to ensure effective collaboration between the Education Ministry and their counterpart in Economic Planning and Budget while they also build relationship with development partners. They must also have timely and comprehensive reporting on KPIs as contained in the results framework while ensuring availability of performance information to inform strategic resource allocation. He, however, advised that there should be a change of focus from short term to medium term or multiyear budgeting.

The Forum identified about six major challenges that will need to be addressed if we must have quality basic education that can prepare the young children of the Region for 21st century workplace. The identified issues are school governance, quality of teachers, out-of-school-children, digital literacy, substandard/unapproved private schools and of course, education data management. Meanwhile, the issues were not only highlighted but workable solutions were proffered with timelines for implementation that will be tracked through the Community of Practice (CoP) and this is to be managed by DAWN Commission.

AMOTEKUN:

Southwest States' Response to Rising Insecurity in the Region

By Oyedolapo Oyesiji and Olawole Oladeji

There is an indisputable relationship between economic development and security, and most security challenges are essentially economic challenges. The importance of security cannot be overstressed as it is the most fundamental of the socio-contractual responsibilities of the State to its citizens which directly or indirectly affects everybody. Thus, security is the protection or defence of people against all kinds of victimization from physical attack, economic want, poverty, illiteracy, disease/ill-health, political exclusion, social exploitation and criminality.

Meanwhile, the **Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission** has Homeland Affairs and Security Matters as one of its key development pillars. The Commission, as a technocratic institution set up to facilitate corporation and collaboration among the six Southwest States and between governments and other governance stakeholders operating in the Region to address and proffer practical solutions to the issues that

could pose a threat to the security of lives and properties of citizens.

Early in year 2019, Western Nigeria witnessed an upsurge in crimes and criminality that was perpetuated by some criminal elements within and outside the Region who posed a threat to the tranquillity and serenity of the Region and attempted to disrupt and change the hospitable nature of the people. The crime surge became rampant and it manifested in different dimension such as kidnapping, robbery, assassination and farmers-herdsmen clashes.

The security breach led to frenetic calls for governments' intervention to stop the tide because the matter had already cast a shadow of trepidation in the minds of the citizens, sent shivers across the spines of all shades of citizens including prospective investors.

Consequently, the Governors, after the meeting of June 7, 2019 where they discussed the pivotal issues of insecurity in the Region. Collectively, the Governors expressed their commitment to protect and safeguard lives and properties of citizens being the first responsibility of any government and thereafter mandated DAWN Commission to convene a security stakeholders summit.

Thus, the security summit was convened and hosted in Ibadan, Oyo State, between the 25th-27th June, 2019. The summit was convened to discuss and proffer immediate, medium, and long-term actionable solutions to the rising incidents of insecurity, particularly recent widespread and incessant kidnapping and banditry on various highways and rural roads within the Region.

The summit was delivered in two sessions - open and closed session. The open session, held on Tuesday, 25th June 2019, was attended by all the Six Southwest Governors, traditional rulers, security operatives, important dignitaries from the Region, media, and of course, the general public. At the event, all the six Governors took turn to express their commitment to ensure safety of life and property of everyone that lives within the geographical space of Western Nigeria. While day one of the Summit was opened to the general public, the other two days was strictly for experts from the Region's Homeland Group, which included the representatives of security agencies, bureaucrats, academia and government officials.

One of the immediate recommendations from the summit was the setting up of the Western Nigeria Security Network, codenamed **Amotekun**, which was launched on January 9, 2020 in Ibadan, Oyo State. Prior to the launching, the six States had procured patrol vans that are dedicated to the initiative.

The six Southwest Governors while speaking at the launch, posited that the Western Nigeria Security Network-Amotekun, is a community policing using which was conceived as a confidence boosting mechanism for the people and not an attempt to replace the existing security architecture. They insisted that the outfit is to complement and collaborate with the existing security agencies and thereby strengthening the security architecture of the Region. The operatives will be comprised of locals who understand the terrain and can provide local intelligence for the existing security agencies.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Amotekun has since been developed but the legal framework that will guide the operation of Amotekun is currently being worked on with the bill currently before the various Houses of Assembly in the Region.

The Western Nigeria Security Network- Amotekun, is indeed a right mechanism for safeguarding the Region's development interest and it is expected to be seen and embraced as an effort to complement the already over-burdened security agencies.