Statistics Capacity Development in Uganda

Data for Decisions (D4D) Steering Committee

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OUTLINE

Introduction

Progress – Improvement in Government Finance Statistics, Uganda

Contribution/Impact on decision making, transparency and accountability

Pitfalls and Lessons learnt

Introduction

❑ Fiscal and public debt data compiled as a requirement of the legal framework – The PFM Act

❑ Data was not based on International best practices.

❑ Adopted national nomenclature and aspects of GFSM 2001

❑ Salient issues – Gaps in Uganda GFS data

Timeliness	GFS data produced not according to the e-GDDS criteria
Comprehensiveness	GFS mainly produced for budgetary central government
Comparability	GFS data produced according to the GFSM 1986 and aspects of GFSM2001but not GFSM 2014

Progress – Improvement in Government Finance Statistics, Uganda

❑ Increased Focus on GFS – Started with request for Technical Assistance from the IMF as part of the EAC single currency project and PEFA requirements

❑ IMF Technical Assistance through AFRITAC East

| Approach | Regional perspective geared towards establishment of single currency among 6 member states of EAC (Hence need for harmonized statistics and methods) |
	Established a regional and national GFS/PSDS Technical Working Groups
	Developed a time-bound GFS M 2014 concept-based implementation workplan focusing on flows first and then stocks
	Developed EAC-wide GFS compilation guidelines based on GFSM2014 methodology

Progress – Improvement in Government Finance Statistics, Uganda ……. Ctd

❑ Significant progress achieved on improvement in quality of fiscal and public debt data although still on-going.

❑ Significant progress on adoption of best practices (GFSM 2014 methodology) achieved.
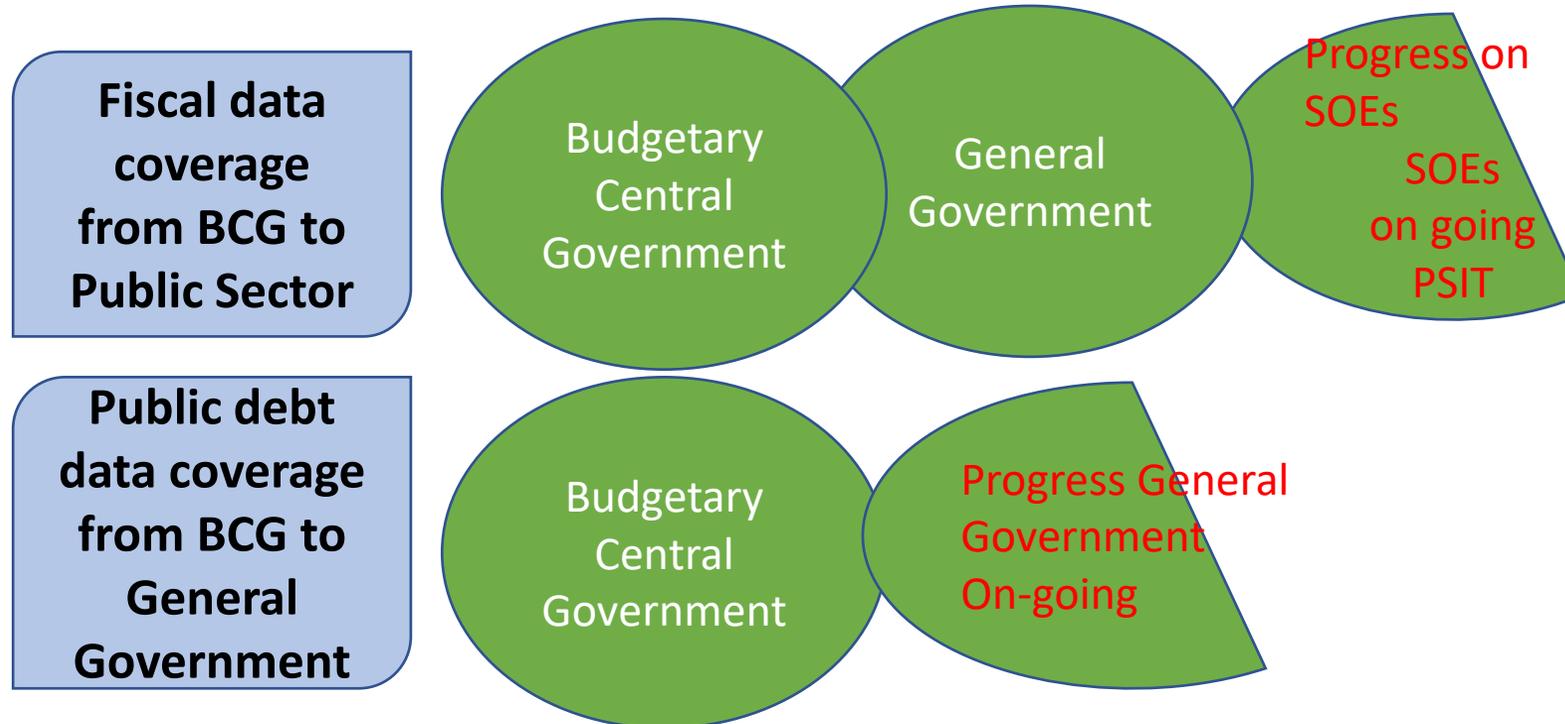
Contribution to decision making, transparency and accountability

❑ Availability of high frequency data to support decision making
  ❑ Monthly and quarterly BCG fiscal data
  ❑ quarterly BCG public debt data.

❑ Adopted the macro-fiscal framework (fiscal strategy) to GFSM2014 concepts – improved transparency

❑ Partial adoption of GFSM 2014 concepts in budgeting (budget execution reports) thereby enhancing accountability

❑ Partial availability of stock data (Balance sheet) based on GFSM 2014 concepts

Lessons learnt

❑ Improving quality of fiscal data is tenable –
  ❑ Requires institutional and legal arrangement
  ❑ Commitment – political commitment/ good will

❑ Advocacy:
  ❑ Improve timeliness in data production to Inform decision making.
  ❑ Improved use of GFSM 2014 concepts in budgeting – Budget execution reports adopting GFSM 2014 concepts will enhance transparency

❑ Quality of source data –
  ❑ Requires enhanced collaboration with accountant general , revenue authority, etc
  ❑ Continuous improvement in government accounting systems including lower governments
  ❑ Automation of government systems is fundamental. (real time data)

❑ Staff rotation – requires continued capacity building and TA of compilers in compiling institution/ MoF. Having a business processes document is one of the solutions.

❑ Regional approach with a goal of economic integration (eg EAMU) helps fast track improvement of fiscal statistics

❑ Technical support by IMF is key and required on a continuous basis especially in developing countries