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ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
STATISTICAL SERVICES IN THE
PORTUGUESE PROVINCES IN AFRICA

Note prepared by the Portuguese Delegation

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
STATISTICAL SERVICES IN THE POR-
TUGUESE PROVINCES IN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

Official statistical services in Portugal were for a long period decentralised at all levels of the statistical work: collection of data, processing and tabulation, publication.

In 1935, after long and careful study, a full reorganization of the portuguese official statistical services took place. A central body: the "Instituto Nacional de Estatística" was established, to whom were entrusted all functions pertaining to the collection, processing and publication of statistical data of national interest.

This centralisation did not however exclude in any way the cooperation of any other official organizations or services for the purpose of carrying out, on behalf of the central body, any of the tasks needed for the completion of statistical work in their respective fields of activity.

Within the "Instituto Nacional de Estatística" a special division was established for the purpose of providing technical guidance to the statistical services in the Overseas Provinces, which for reasons of administrative convenience were to operate under the direct control of the provincial governments. This division was also given the task of collating and coordinating the statistical data collected and processed in the Overseas Provinces for publication in national statistical volumes, for research, and for providing any information as required by international organizations, acting thus as a national focal point.

Experience in the operation of the organization established in 1935 did show that, if it was not necessary to modify in any way its central structure, it was convenient to strengthen the position of the services responsible for statistical work in the various Overseas Provinces.

Present organization

In 1957 the provincial statistical services were integrated in their respective Economic Departments, with the exception of the Province of Cabo Verde where it was thought, keeping it integrated in the Civil Administrations Department. All statistics services did however maintain full technical independence in their field of work.

It was considered that in this way, the possibilities of effective action of the statistical services could be enlarged by a close association with the departments in which the economic policy of the provinces is enacted and where are centralised large amounts of information usable both for planning of statistical surveys and as primary data. In the other hand, the close cooperation with the largest consumers of statistical data within official circles, could not have but a very favourable effect upon the quality and utility of statistics collected.

The 1957 reorganization answered also the question of professional staff. The integration of all overseas statisticians in one single staff embracing all provincial services, opened up a career with professional and financial incentives, as well more interesting prospects than before.

In what concerns non-professional staff, it was organised on a provincial basis, in such a way as to give the best conditions and prospects possible.

Within the scope of these category of personnel, which is recruited by public examination from persons with at least secondary level education, technical training is given by the means of advancement tests, by in-service training and by attending special courses or training centers: the Bangui Training Center was, for instance, attended by members of the staff of the statistical services of Angola and Mozambique.

They are presently thus special statistical services, integrated although with full technical independence, within the Economic Departments of all overseas provinces, with the above mentioned exception of Cabo Verde. (See Appendix A).

The size and equipment of these services varies according to their respective needs. In Angola and Mozambique, the statistical services have tabulating equipment with sufficient capacity to process at a high level of efficiency all data collected, the statistical services of the other provinces having the equipment adequate for their more limited needs.

The central structure of the organization was kept without significant changes: the "Instituto Nacional de Estatística" being still responsible for the technical guidance and standardization of the provincial services: for the publication of national statistical volumes and for the provision of statistical data to international bodies (national focal point).

The action of the Ministry of Overseas at the executive level was strengthened by the establishment of the Direction-Geral of Economy, to which as the department responsible for economic affairs were entrusted all aspects pertaining to the operation and activities of the provincial statistical services.

Development of the statistical work in the portuguese province of Africa.

The reform of the portuguese statistical organization thus described has as basic purpose making it possible to develop their activities in such way as to fulfill the requirements in the field of statistical information for administration and research purposes.

Developments are now made simultaneously in four directions:

- 1) Technical improvement of statistics presently available;
- 2) Reduction of the time lag between collection and publication of data;
- 3) Widening of the scope of statistical data available by additional current statistical series, censuses and other surveys; and
- 4) the integration of such data as is already available, or will be in the future, in national accounts systems.

The critical evaluation of presently available statistics (Appendix B) is already under way, having in mind mainly its technical improvement, specially in what concerns international standards and recommendations, and the simplification of the methods used for their collection and processing.

In relation to the acceleration of the processing and publication of statistical data, consideration was given in the first place to the reduction of the lag (see Appendix C) between final tabulation and publication. Plans drawn for the purpose are already in operation and in a very near future, publication of statistical volumes will be always made on a regular and satisfactory up-to-date basis.

The speeding up of tabulating work does not hold large prospects, given the quick tempo at which they are already performed. All possibilities will however be explored particularly in what concerns the study of the methods more suited for the

statistical services to reach the highest degree of efficiency possible.

It is however in connection with the increase of the scope of presently available statistical data that a larger number of projects, under way or under consideration, can be mentioned. These projects are in general, either connected with or taking as their Base line, the censuses that will take place in 1960 and following years.

These censuses are: the population census, in the 2nd half of 1960, and the agricultural census starting the same year but lasting for two or three years in the provinces of Angola and Mozambique, at least. These two censuses will be entirely independent operation at the charge of different organizations, but they will be interconnected in such way as to secure the fullest use of the work done by both. The list of agricultural exploitations to be used as sampling frame for the agricultural census for instance will be set up through the population census. In the other hand consideration is given to the possibilities of utilizing agricultural census teams for demographic sample surveys, made with the double purpose of checking data obtained through the population census and of obtaining additional information.

It is also planned to utilize primary data collected during the preparatory work for the population census to establish master card indexes of existing manufacturing, distribution and service establishments, in order to improve the coverage of industrial and labour statistics already available, and to start the now lacking statistics on distribution and services.

All these projects are already planned and integrated in a comprehensive scheme of inter-connected operations, from

which implementation will result a statistical coverage satisfying large part of the needs felt in the field of statistical information.

In what concerns the integration in national accounts systems of the statistical data already available and of such as will be possible to obtain through the statistical studies under consideration, preparatory work is already under way, having in view particularly the choice of the more adequate organization to be established for the purpose. Such organization will however be only able to get full results when significant lacuna in the present statistical data shall be eliminated as the result of the above-mentioned statistical developments or of any additional enquiries that may be advisable.

In the implementation of the plan drawn up in this memorandum, the international standards and recommendations will be followed as closely as possible having in mind the need for international comparability of national statistical data as well as the high level of cooperation always given by the portuguese statistical services of Portugal to the U.N.O. and their specialized agencies.

Lisbon, September 1959.

Appendix A

Official statistical services of the

Portuguese Provinces in Africa

Province of Cabo Verde

Secção de Estatística Geral (Repartição Provincial dos
Serviços de Administração Civil) Praia.

Province of Guinée

Secção de Estatística (Repartição Provincial dos
Serviços de Economia e Estatística Geral) Bissau.

Province of S. Tomé and Príncipe

Serviço de Estatística Geral (Repartição Provincial
dos Serviços de Economia) S. Tomé.

Province of Angola

Repartição de Estatística Geral (Direcção Provincial
dos Serviços de Economia e Estatística Geral) Luanda.

Province of Mozambique

Repartição de Estatística Geral (Direcção Provincial
dos Serviços de Economia e de Estatística Geral)
Lourenço Marques.

Appendix B

Statistical Publications

Province of Cabo Verde

Anuário Estatístico (1950)
Comércio Externo (1956)
Recenseamento da População (1950)
Boletim Trimestral de Estatística (IV-1958)

Province of Guinée

Anuário Estatístico (1950/1951)
Comércio Externo (1955/1956)
Censo da População (1950/1951)

Province of S. Tomé and Príncipe

Comércio Externo (1951/1955)

Province of Angola

Anuário Estatístico (1957)
Comércio Externo (1957)
Boletim Mensal de Estatística (April 1959)
Censo da População (1950)

Province of Mozambique

Anuário Estatístico (1956)
Comercio Externo (1957)
Recenseamento Geral da População (1950)
Recenseamento da População nao indigena (1955)
Estatística Industrial (1955)
Estatística Agrícola (1954)

In additon to the volumes edited by the provincial services, the following publications of the "Instituto Nacional de Estatística" include summary data on all overseas provinces for the subjects normally covered by the statistical yearbooks:

- Boletim Mensual de Estatística (Overseas appendix)
- Anuário Estatístico do Ultramar.

Appendix C

Statistics available for the portuguese province in Africa.

(under the headings provided in the draft content of the proposed statistical survey of Africa - Doc. E/CN.14/4).

a) Population

- i) Aggregates by sex and age groups distinguishing the principal ethnological groups - from the 1950 Census (the data available was published for all provinces).
- ii) Fertility - data available refers to:
 - 1) births registered giving reliable information for the provinces of Cabo Verde, Guinée (non native population), S. Tomé and Príncipe, and Mozambique (non native population). Birth registration being for native populations in general incomplete.
 - 2) Total fertility data obtained by retrospective inquiry at censuses, and covering total number of children born and still alive by sex and age of mothers.
- iii) Mortality - data available on causes of death is only reliable for the provinces of Cabo Verde, Guinée (non native population), S. Tomé and Príncipe, Angola (non native population) and Mozambique (non native population), death registration for native population being in general incomplete.
- IV) Migration Migratory flows can only be measured in a satisfactory way when taking place through controllable border points, i.e. by sea, by railway and by road. Data available is therefore incomplete, as it does not cover movements across open land frontiers.
- V) Households Data on households was collected and processed in the 1950 censuses.

b) Labour

Statistical data on labour is incomplete, covering only the aspects considered for certain sectors:

manufacturing, mining and agriculture in Mozambique, agriculture in S. Tomé and Príncipe; labour under contract in Angola.

The establishment of an annual enquiry giving full coverage is presently under consideration.

c) Agriculture

Production and area data is available for some of the more important commercial crops, as well as data on livestock and annual slaughtering by species. For Mozambique a large scale inquiry is carried out covering, for non native farms, the area cultivated, value and volume of production, labour employed and wages paid. For native agriculture the data yearly collected refers only to the value and volume of the production marketed, by products.

d) Forestry

No information on this item is regularly published.

e) Fishing

Information is available on an annual and quarterly on fishing-craft by size and type motor-vessels, etc.), on fishermen and on landed weight of catch.

f) Industry

Data regularly collected and published covers the volume of production by products and provinces. For Mozambique additional data on the number of establishments, number of persons engaged, salaries and wages paid capacity of installed power and value of raw materials, fuel and energy consumed annually by kind of economic activity, is collected regularly. This sector of economic statistics is to be completely overhauled, in order to provide full coverage and a larger scope of data in line with international recommendations. For these purposes it is planned to utilize the preparatory work to be done for the 1960 Population Censuses, in order to obtain a complete list of existing industrial establishments.

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g) Transport

1. Water Transport

Information on the number and tonnage of vessels in inland traffic, on the annual tonnage of goods loaded and unloaded in sea borne and inland traffic and on the number and tonnage of vessels entering harbours is regularly collected and published.

2. Rail Transport

Data published in statistical publication covers length of track, number of vehicles classified by type, freight ton-kilometres and passenger kilometers performed, freight and passenger revenue; exploitation expenditure and fuel consumption. More detailed information can be found in the Railways Administration Annual Reports.

3. Air Transport

Information on items ii), and iv) is regularly published.

4. Road Transport

The data regularly collected and published covers items i) and ii), information on capacity of vehicles excluded.

h) Education

All the information listed is regularly collected and published.

i) Health Services

All the information listed is regularly collected and published.

j) External Trade

Data on the value and quantity of exports and imports by commodity and by countries of destination or origin is published every year in addition summary information showing exports and imports by countries of destination and origin, and by principal commodities is published monthly or quarterly.

Index numbers of volume and price of exports and imports are calculated on an annual basis by the "Instituto Nacional de Estadística".

k) Money and Banking

Bull Balance sheets for all credit institution are published yearly; detailed information being provided on monthly or quarterly basis.

Data on discount and rediscount, exchange rates is also available the Balance of payments is established on a national basis, information by provinces not being available yet.

l.) Government

Information on items i) and iv) is available regularly, as well to the national budgetary classification.

m) Personnel income and expenditure

Inde-Numbers of retail prices in the provincial capitals are regularly published.

n) Housing

The data available on this matter was such is collected at the 1950 Population Census.