CONCEPT

Official Statistics for Government Planning: Indicators, Quality and Data Systems

31 May – 4 June 2027
Dubai - Five-star CBD venue



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Ref: 712_19074 **Date:** 31 May – 4 June 2027 **Location:** Dubai - Five-star CBD venue **Fees:** 21450 SAR

Introduction:

Official statistics often reach planning units late, inconsistently defined or without the breakdowns needed to track targets, so plans are set on estimates nobody can later verify. Survey producers, administrative record holders and planners rarely agree on indicator definitions, sources or release timing. This Core Concept course equips planners, statisticians and monitoring staff to use the national statistical system deliberately: choosing sources, writing indicator metadata, judging statistical quality and protecting confidentiality. Participants build a Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan for a case government programme.

Course Objectives:

- Map the producers, coordination roles and data flows of a national statistical system and the principles that govern official statistics
- Select between sample surveys, censuses, administrative records and statistical registers for each planning indicator, weighing coverage, cost and timeliness
- Write indicator definitions and metadata sheets with formula, unit, baseline, disaggregation, source, periodicity and custodian
- Assess the fitness of a statistical output against quality dimensions such as relevance, accuracy, timeliness, coherence and comparability
- Plan disaggregated and small-area figures, release calendars and disclosure controls that balance detail against respondent confidentiality
- Produce a Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan that links plan targets to sourced, quality-rated indicators

Target Audience:

- Planning directorates responsible for setting sector and programme targets and tracking progress against them
- Statistics units in ministries and agencies responsible for compiling administrative data and survey outputs
- Monitoring and evaluation teams responsible for indicator reporting on public programmes
- Data governance and information management staff responsible for registers, data sharing and dissemination
- Policy analysts responsible for briefing decision-makers with official figures

Course Outline:

Day 1: Official Statistics in Public Planning and the Statistical System

- UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: Relevance, Impartiality and Professional Independence
- Centralised Versus Decentralised Statistical System Models and Coordination Roles
- Statistical Producers Map: Statistics Office, Line Ministries, Central Bank and Registers Holders
- Evidence Needs Inventory for a Development Plan: Users, Decisions and Periodicity
- Current-State Assessment of a Ministry's Statistical Outputs and Gaps

Day 2: Statistical Production Models, Sources and Quality Frameworks

- GSBPM Phases from Specify Needs to Evaluate Applied to a Planning Indicator
- Sample Surveys, Censuses and Administrative Records: Coverage, Cost and Timeliness Trade-Offs
- Statistical Registers: Population, Business and Address Registers as Integration Backbones
- Generic National Quality Assurance Framework Dimensions and Self-Assessment Checklist
- SDMX Data and Metadata Exchange: Code Lists, Data Structure Definitions and Reference Metadata

Day 3: Indicator Design, Metadata and Plan Monitoring Frameworks

- Indicator Selection Criteria: Specific, Measurable, Available, Timely and Comparable
- Indicator Metadata Sheet: Definition, Formula, Unit, Baseline, Source and Custodian
- Results Chain Linking Plan Goals, Targets, Outcome and Output Indicators
- Target Setting from Baselines, Trends and Benchmark Series
- Record Linkage and Multi-Source Estimation Combining Survey and Administrative Data

Day 4: Disaggregation, Confidentiality, Dissemination and Revisions

- Disaggregation by Sex, Age, Geography and Income Group: Sample Size Limits
- Small Area Estimation Overview: Fay-Herriot Area-Level and Unit-Level Models
- Statistical Disclosure Control: Cell Suppression, Rounding, Threshold Rules and tau-Argus
- Release Calendars, Revision Policy and Open Data Portals with Machine-Readable Formats
- Communicating Statistics: Uncertainty Statements, Chart Choice and Plain-Language Release Notes

Day 5: Case Work and the Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan

- Housing Programme Case: Reconciling Survey Estimates with Permit Records
- Health Services Case: Quality Rating of Facility Records for Target Tracking
- Performance Review Simulation: Interpreting Indicator Movements and Data Caveats
- Data Supply Agreement Drafting Between Producer and Planning Unit
- Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan Assembly and Peer Review

Skills You Will Gain:

- Statistical System Mapping
- Data Source Selection
- Indicator Metadata Writing
- Statistical Quality Assessment
- Multi-Source Data Integration
- Small Area Estimation Literacy
- Disclosure Risk Control
- Statistical Release Communication

Why Attend This Course:

- Leave with a Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan built on a realistic government programme case
- Question the figures presented in performance reviews by knowing how each was produced and where its limits lie
- Negotiate indicator definitions and data supply terms with statistics producers using shared quality vocabulary
- Compare how planning and statistics units in other public bodies organise data flows, releases and confidentiality

Conclusion:

Plans are only as credible as the statistics used to set and track them. The week moves from the principles and structure of official statistics, through production models, data sources and quality frameworks, to indicator design, metadata and monitoring frameworks, then to disaggregation, small-area estimates, disclosure control and dissemination. Case work on the final day applies these methods to housing and health programmes and produces a Programme Indicator Framework and Statistical Data Plan ready for use in the next planning cycle.