

1. Describe your knowledge sharing activity – what did you do? – how did you do it?

The Economic and Social Database (ESDB) brings statistics together into one source and makes them available online. The data come from multiple sources and are categorized into the following groups: Economic Growth, Trade and Finance, Population and Demographics, Health and Nutrition, Environment Natural Resources and Agriculture, Education and Labor Resources, Democracy and Governance, and Humanitarian Relief.

The Development Information Services (DIS) Statistical Unit regularly updates the database as new data become available.

This activity involves extracting, formatting, converting files into SAS format, and uploading the datasets to the ESDB.

2. Describe your motivation/rationale/value proposition/business case for the initiative – why did you do it? – for whom?

The ESDB was created to provide a central source of economic and social data pertinent to USAID activities so that users wouldn't have to gather it from multiple sources. The goal is to allow USAID to access economic and social indicators in USAID-assisted countries or regions and across countries and regions for relative standing at any given time. This allows USAID staff to monitor countries and assist them in making policy decisions.

The primary audiences are USAID, people in developing countries, and the university community.

3. Describe the results of the effort – who and/or what was impacted and how? – what are the benefits?

The database is very useful in responding to simple data requests or questions requiring in-depth analysis. For example, it recently allowed the Statistics Unit to conduct a corruption study which examined the relationship between USAID's development assistance funding levels and the extent of corruption in recipient countries.

The online database allows government workers in developing countries to get an idea of how their country compares to other countries in the region.

4. Describe any future implications or issues related to the initiative, e.g., what plans are in place? What current constraints or challenges are you facing? How is the initiative being sustained/maintained? How can it be replicated or scaled up?

The current effort is to continue updating the database with recently released data.

The Statistical Unit conducts internet research to identify new statistical resources on developing countries. Analysts attend two SAS training courses every year. The ESDB can be expanded to include data from a wider variety of sources.

We are also in the process of updating the server and its configuration. This will allow for increased efficiency and stability. We also hope to create additional products from the ESDB.