

The official statistics issued by government institutions have a great value, as they constitute the basic tools for measuring indicators in various fields. Without the actual statistical figures, most decisions will be made based on mere questionable opinions that do not rely on actual irrefutable facts. Across the world, there are governmental institutions that are concerned with such figures, whether in terms of collecting and publishing them, or even in terms of analyzing and extrapolating their findings and indications.

Countries rely on statistics to help identify needs and problems, and then set long-term goals, and monitor progress and discipline in national strategies and plans. These statistics are essential in decision-making and vital in publishing. Through such figures, it becomes clear for the citizen to what extent national strategies are efficient and successful in achieving their desired goals.

In order for official statistics to play this role, they must be reliable, trustworthy, independent, objective, transparent, abiding to the highest professional standards, relevant, impartial, accessible, accurate, timely, well-timed, and comparable at the national and international levels.

Through our experience in the Planning and Quality Department of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the great role of official statistics was evident at the strategic level during the preparation of the Culture and Sports Sector Strategy within the Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, and the preparation of the ministry's strategy, where the absence of some statistics was problematic, whether at the stage of analyzing the current situation or when setting goals and indicators.

At the level of executive planning and decision-making necessary to implement activities related to projects, and even occasional activities, statistics and information still has a major role in their satisfactory achievement.

On the other hand, the role and importance of statistics became evident at the level of preparing international reports by following up the international indicators issued by international institutions and organizations related to the ministry's fields of work. The Ministry tried as much as possible to bridge the gaps and gave within its strategic projects a priority for conducting studies and surveys that cover part of this deficit. A project was developed to establish an observatory for culture, youth and sports that is concerned with developing comprehensive frameworks for databases related to those areas and defining clear mechanisms for collecting data from its sources according to standards that ensure accuracy and objectivity, in addition to studying the use of non-traditional methods to address the problem of lack of data, such as the use of BIG DATA and the possibility of analyzing social media data to obtain indicators that help understand the social and cultural trends of the society to be used in the preparation of appropriate plans and programs.

In conclusion, we emphasize that coordination and cooperation among all governmental and non-governmental agencies that produce and benefit from data have a great role in the success and development of the statistical system in the State. This success is also due to the fact that each agency is aware of the importance of its role in completing the integrated system of official statistics in its various stages

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