

Implementing SDMX and .Stat Suite: the Maldives Experience

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In partnership with



Project Objectives



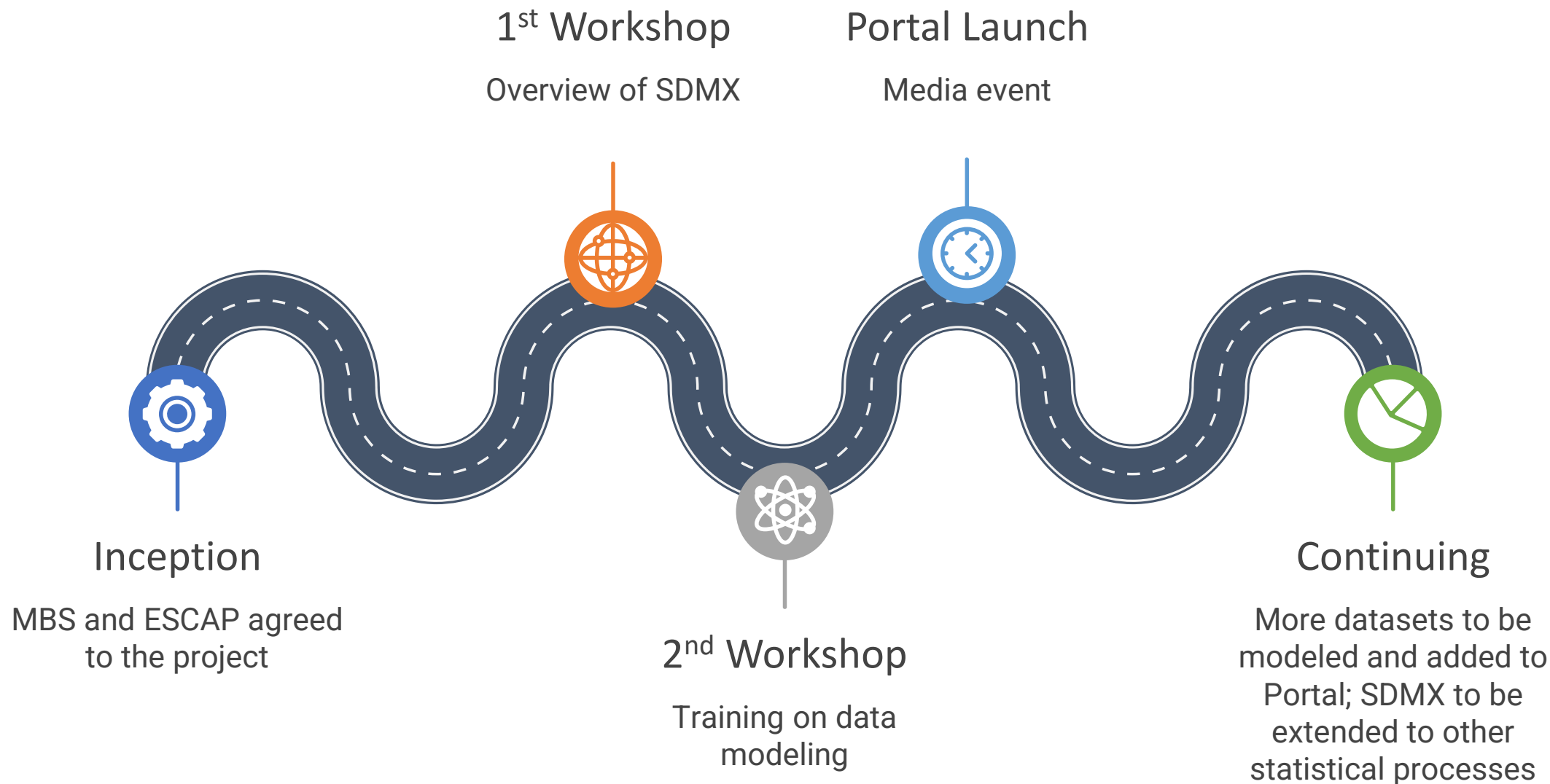
Publish MBS Yearbook in a Data Portal while also improving process efficiency and quality

MBS has adopted the **.Stat Suite**, an industry-leading, state of the art data portal for the dissemination environment

The initial project consists of migrating the existing **Statistical Yearbook** data from the current MS Excel dissemination format and publishing it in .Stat suite

MBS also wishes to adapt the **Statistical Yearbook** collection process and make it more template-driven

Steps





Why SDMX?

- **Data Collection and Storage:** MBS collects and stores data in accordance with SDMX data structure definitions. This ensures that data is structured consistently and can be easily exchanged
- **Data Dissemination:** Using a SDMX-compliant data services like .Stat-Suite to disseminate data will allow users, including government agencies, researchers, and international organizations, to access the data in a standardized format
- **Timely Updates:** SDMX allows for automated data updates and synchronization. When MBS releases new data or updates existing data, SDMX-based systems can automatically retrieve and integrate the latest information
- **Data Exchange:** MBS can exchange data with international organizations (e.g., UN, IMF, World Bank) using SDMX. Since these organizations often follow SDMX standards as well, data exchange becomes more efficient and less error-prone
- **Metadata Standardization:** Metadata, including data source information, definitions, and classifications, is provided in accordance with SDMX metadata standards. This makes it easier for users to understand and use the data



Challenges

- **Data Interoperability:** Government agencies often collect data in different formats, making it challenging to share and compare with other agencies and international organizations
- **Data Timeliness:** Unable to get data up-to-date and available in a timely manner
- **Metadata Standardization:** With the lack of a consistent metadata standard, it was challenging to describe the data, including definitions, units of measurement, and data sources
- **Data visualization and dissemination:** Our existing method of Data visualization and dissemination is inefficient (Eg. Most of our data is uploaded in .xls format)
- **Staff Capacity:** With 45 staff at MBS, this project happened simultaneously with the census. Due to limited staff, we faced delays in data verification for standardisation of area and other codes. However with additional resources we were able to accomplish the objectives.

Success Factors



- **Inter-agency Collaboration:** The project is being done in close collaboration with key ministries and ministry experts (e.g., Ministry of Education, Central Bank, Ministry of Health) in the training workshops allowed the knowledge of SDMX to be spread beyond the Bureau of Statistics, creating a network of professionals that support the dissemination of standards-based statistics
- **Data Ownership:** MBS has ownership of the data, so the team manages future updates to the platform.
- **learning-in-practice approach:** Instead of having theoretical presentations about SDMX, we focused on the real Yearbook data with exercises and examples. The SDMX conceptual elements were introduced as needed in the context of the need for the project.
- **Fusion Metadata Registry (FMR)** was adopted as the structural metadata management tool.
- **FMR Reporting Templates** was adopted to improve upon existing Excel-based processes for collecting data from ministries
- **Project scope and Way forward:** limited to a set of data (Yearbook) and gradually released on the platform. Instead of waiting for all data to be modeled, the approach was "agile", with future datasets (Census, SDGs, etc.) to be added in the future.

Thank You

