Not somebody else's business

- Affected population?
  - Directly affected
    - fatalities?
    - injured?
    - Relocated?
    - Homeless…
  - Indirectly affected?
  - All of the above?
- Who uses statistics & for what purpose
- Consistency & efficiency

Statistical standards and classification: 4 W's

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First meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

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This presentation introduces content of two papers, namely the Role of International Standards for National Statistical Offices and Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications. The papers were prepared by Mr. Andrew Hancock, Statistics New Zealand, for the UN Expert Group meeting on International Statistical Classifications in New York, 13-15 May 2013.

The paper on the Role of International Standards for National Statistical Offices aimed to stimulate a high-level discussion on issues that existed with international standards and the problems in adopting them. It was not a definitive statement about why International Standards are needed or should be used.

The paper on Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications has benefitted from the discussion at the UN Expert Group meeting on International Statistical Classifications. The definition of a statistical classification was changed after work done by the Neuchatel Terminology Model review undertaken by UNECE.

"*The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the <u>consistency</u> and <u>efficiency</u> of statistical systems at all official levels.*"

UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: #9

International statistical standards & classifications

- Provide <u>common framework for collecting and organising information</u> about a particular statistical concept or variable.
  - <u>facilitate exchange and comparability of statistics</u> and other information between countries
  - allow production and collection of statistics on a <u>consistent</u> basis to enable integration of data over time and across different data sources.
  - contain <u>concepts</u>, <u>definitions</u>, <u>classifications</u> and <u>rules</u>, which can be used in isolation or collectively, to support processing and output of data.

International statistical classification

- Ensure <u>standardised</u> and <u>consistent</u> approach to classifying statistical data
- <u>Simplification of the real world</u> and useful framework for collecting, organising and analysing data from both <u>statistical</u> and <u>administrative</u> purposes
- Framework for <u>international comparability</u> of and reporting on statistics.
- Using statistical classification:
  - Collect and organise statistical information in a standard way
  - Aggregate and disaggregate data sets in a meaningful way for complex analysis
  - Support policy and decision making

Key principles for developing a statistical classification

1. Conceptual basis
   - Sound and agreed concepts and principles.
   - Well defined and documented
2. Structure
   - Flat or hierarchic
3. Mutual exclusivity
   - Mandatory for both flat and hierarchic classifications.
4. Exhaustiveness
   - No surplus or unnecessary categories
5. Statistical
   - No too disparate categories at same level in population size

Key principles …(cont'ed)

5. Statistical feasibility
   - Considering how to use a classification in statistical data collections when designing coding tools and procedures…

6. Classification vis-à-vis statistical units
   - Classification unit: Basic unit to be classified in the classification (e.g. the job in an occupation classification, or the enterprise or establishment in an industrial activity classification.)
   - Statistical unit: Observation or measurement for which data are collected or derived, e.g. people, products, businesses, geographic areas, events, jobs etc. May, or may not be the same as the unit of classification.

7. Time-series comparability
   - Comparability between current and previous versions of the classifications. Important time-series breaks should be avoided but may sometimes be necessary when this reflects changes to the reality that the classification should mirror.

Key steps in developing a statistical standard

- Develop consistent methodological documents, guidelines and supporting metadata.
    - Concepts, Definitions, Classifications and Rules
- Develop operational guidelines to support data collection, processing and reporting.
- Develop an implementation strategy that enables key agencies, such as UN Statistics Division with support of major regional statistical agencies, to provide global technical assistance to countries.
- Accurately audit usage, compliance and implementation of standards.
- Establish knowledge base or inventory.

SWEET AND JUICY PLUMS
99 ¢ A POUND

NEW CROP RED PEARS
99 ¢ A POUND

BARLETT PEARS
99 ¢ A POUND

SWEET AND JUICY MINNEOLAS
2.49 A POUND

Questions

- For existing national, regional and international collection of disaster-related statistics
  - Methodological documents, guidelines and supporting metadata
  - Concepts, Definitions, Classifications and Rules
- How EG build upon the above?