

**UNODC-UNECA Workshop on  
Crime Statistic  
8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2008, Ethiopia  
Addis Ababa.**

Over the past few decades, the advent of difficulty in Data Generation in Africa has been persistent. UNAFRI Research and Policy Advisor, Dr, Macibi Alhas found these difficulties very threatening and that they needed immediate attention.

The difficulties vary from country to country; from region to region and from sub African regions to other sub-regions. Data generation starts from the conception of the study, when its design and methods are envisaged. It has got difficulties worldwide however the African difficulties are uniquely African. The instruments for data generation are not as effective as expected because the documentary analysis and results from researchers, library-literal and technology knowledge which if effective would assist in measuring issues on crime such as pattern, frequency and causes.

The difficulties realized in data generation include: high mortality rate of questionnaires; mixing juvenile and adult data; misapplication of meanings of concepts; ethnicity; gender; age and language which may tend to affect data collection silently.



*Dr. Macibi Alhas, (Research and Policy Dev't Advisor, UNAFRI)  
Presenting his views on the difficulties of Data Generation.*

Researchers in Africa, including UNAFRI experts, face particular difficulties which often pose a considerable threat to the authenticity of their work. These include:

- ❖ The confidentiality/secretcy
- ❖ Records keeping and use
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Illiteracy/language barriers
- ❖ Corruption
- ❖ Incomplete/poor data coordination
- ❖ Commercialization of researches
- ❖ Poor finances
- ❖ Multiple earnings
- ❖ Weak Public Relations departments
- ❖ Obscure benefits of researchers
- ❖ Lack of country/ regional experts
- ❖ Lack of consensus on agreed definitions
- ❖ Cultural practices
- ❖ Political interference
- ❖ Reportability

All these impact on the quality of the data generated.

During the four day workshop, the discussions held yielded policy recommendations/ suggestions on how to overcome the difficulties on Data Generation in Africa.

It was proposed that data released should be availed to all users. Efforts should be made to avoid releasing data on any selective criterion, since statisticians are not to serve partial interests, particularly those which would not enhance the relationship between the givers and users of data. The delegates also emphasized the importance of police surveys on domestic crimes such as domestic violence, prostitution, child labour, incest, polygamy, and drugs/alcohol.

Statisticians inclined to administrative departments recommended the strengthening and establishing of Research Police Surveys (RPS) within all ministries that are properly manned, equip and prepare them for coordinating the relationship with the central National Statistics Organization (NSO).

Through the police reports, materials used are to be harmonized and there should also be a budgetary provision for the CID for ability to operate to ease the difficulties of data generation in Africa and to increase the capacity for African countries to improve the production and dissemination of their criminal statistics.



*A Group Photograph taken by the Participants at UNODC Workshop in Addis Ababa*