

Counting What Counts: What Leads to Higher Statistical Capacity in Developing Countries?

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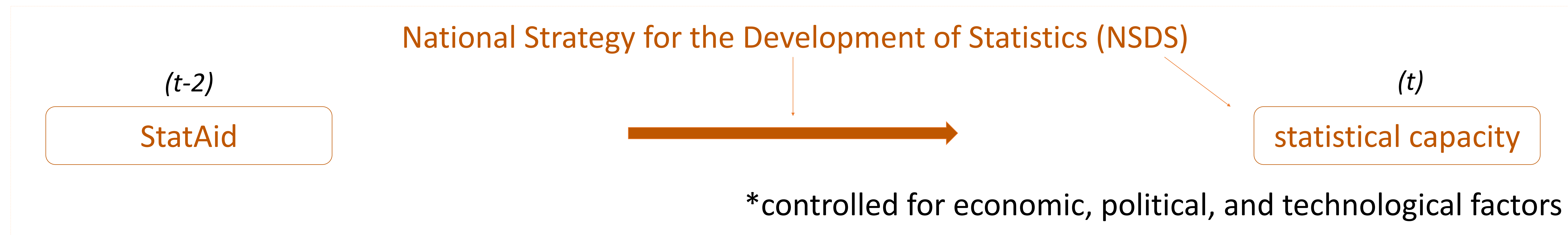
Research Question

What are the enabling conditions that help generate higher levels of statistical capacity in developing countries?

- How would approaches to increase foreign aid amounts compare and/or interact with approaches such as supporting the planning of national statistical strategies that build the policy environment for statistical capacity building?

Data and Empirical Model

Two-period lagged panel regression model with country and year fixed effects, as well as aid-policy interaction, on data for 135 developing countries over 2004-2016



Results

- The effect of foreign aid for statistical capacity building differs by the current status of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in each country-year.
 - With an active NSDS, increases in StatAid per capita are associated with increases in statistical capacity
 - With no/expired NSDS, increases in StatAid per capita are associated with decreases in statistical capacity
- The higher the GDP per capita in a country-year, the higher its statistical capacity
- Statistical capacity is high in country-years with neither strongly autocratic nor democratic qualities

