



International Development Cooperation at Statistics Norway

A Newsletter from Statistics Norway's Division for Development Cooperation

A busy year for Statistics Norway's Development Cooperation

As 2018 is coming to an end we can look back at a very active year for everyone in SSB engaged in development cooperation. We have been busy working together with national and international partners both at country level, the regional level and at the international level.

I am happy to see this development of increased awareness and interest of supporting statistics also on the donor side in Norway. Looking at the Norwegian development policy, it is clear that supporting statistics, and development of better administrative data, is something that has become well recognised. One example of this is the new Digital strategy for Norwegian development policy (2018), where support to the development of better systems for data management and use is highlighted. In this strategy, a new program; Digitalization for Development, is presented. Sharing Norwegian experiences on development and use of basic public registers, including population, business, property and address registers, is one of the elements in this initiative.

More and better use of administrative data in statistics has been a priority in SSB's development cooperation for many years. In this newsletter, you can read about our work of sharing experiences and contributing in developing capacity for the use of administrative data both on country level and at the international level. Together with our Nordic colleagues, SSB arranged a session on use of register-based statistics at the World Data Forum (WDF). Jointly with our partners in Ghana, Sudan and Kyrgyzstan, we shared examples of how we are working together to increase the use of administrative data in

statistics. We have also provided advice and training on how countries better can utilize CRVS (Civil Registration Vital Statistics) data in producing statistics

Another area of high priority in SSBs development cooperation is to promote and develop capacity for more use, and more efficient use, of national official statistics. In this newsletter, you can read about how we have worked together with the National Statistical office in Sudan and the WFP in data preparation, and analysing household data giving better indicators for both poverty and food security. You will also find an article about how we, together with the National statistical office in Ghana, have analysed data collected through a national business survey to see how it may be used to report on the Sustainable Development Goals. The result of this work has resulted in two Papers presented at this year's International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) conference in Paris.

Securing access to modern energy for all is one of the 17 SDG-goals. Supporting poor countries in reaching this goal is a high priority in Norwegian aid policy. The first article in this newsletter is about a new project on development and implementation of a survey programme on access to modern energy. This project is linked to the global initiative led by the World Bank; Sustainable energy for all (SE4All). The work has started, and next year will be used to develop the methodology in close cooperation with Norwegian energy partner countries and the WB. First out in testing and conducting the survey program supported by SSB will be Tanzania and Mozambique.



Irene Tuveng,
Head of International
Development
Cooperation

This project will be one of our biggest co-operation projects for the next 2-3 years.

As previously mentioned, 2018 has been busy, and I expect the plans for the coming year will generate an even higher level of activity. One of the exciting new areas

for SSBs development cooperation next year is our involvement in the Norwegian Gender for development programme (LIKE). In this newsletter, you can read more about the process of planning a statistical component in the first two “LIKE-countries” - Nepal and Ethiopia.

Survey program on increased access to sustainable energy in developing countries – does it pay off in increased welfare and economic activity?

In the previous newsletter we wrote about the background and goals for a planned Norwegian contribution to the global effort to measure the current access and the options to move beyond access to energy in developing countries. The Norwegian contribution to the Multi-Tier Framework will be done in close collaboration with the Sustain Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative. Norad has asked Statistics Norway to work with colleagues in the national statistical institute in Norwegian energy partner-countries, first for further methodological development and then for nationwide surveys.

The special Norwegian contribution to the approach has a focus on the outcome of increased access, both in potentially increased economic opportunities at household level and increased human welfare.

In all the Norwegian energy partner countries, there is a large national focus on energy. In the pre-study phase of this project, Statistics Norway met with national representatives from a selected number of countries, all of whom showed strong interest in conducting a survey on access to and impact of energy. Hence there is a solid potential for national ownership and use of the findings from nationally conducted surveys. This will include a close collaboration with the national stakeholders from the energy ministries, energy regulatory authorities or service providers and national statistical offices.



The Sustainable Energy for All prototype household survey on energy

The global initiative, Sustainable Energy for All, has developed a baseline survey approach and an annual monitoring survey approach for addressing quality of access to energy ranging from the SDG goal of access to at least one light bulb for at least 4 hours, to stable and unlimited access to electricity from tier 1 to 5.

The baseline approach can be summarized as follows:

- Access to electricity through national grid, local mini grids and private production by solar panels or generators.
- Measuring the households' willingness and ability to pay for energy supply looking at both initial and recurrent costs.
- The range of energy consumption from lightning and cooking to a range of electric devices
- Solutions for cook stoves and heating of water.
- Proxy information on consumption and poverty, time use for household chores and potential health hazards.
- Community lightning, attitudes and women's empowerment.

How access to sustainable energy can have an impact

The additional focus on the impact of getting access to sustainable energy requires information on economic activities and human welfare at household and community level.

Many studies focus on electrification including a diverse range of issues, such as indoor and outdoor lightning in the homes and communities, improved cookstoves combined with electric light, water pumps, powering of electrical devices, communication (mobiles, radios), torch, fan and fridge.

The research on impact addresses a further range of issues, including on health, education, social life and security, time allocation and labor market, as well as income generation and environmental issues.

The prototype already addresses some of these issues, but an additional survey module may be needed for a more comprehensive measurement of the potential impact.

How to carry out the work for measurement of access and impact of access

A Norwegian follow up of the WB/SE4All survey will include information both on access to sustainable energy, and on whether and how households utilize the opportunities created by access to electricity to new or increased economic activity and welfare. This would require the prototype survey with an extension or small revision of some of the sections and an extra section. An extra section may measure both the current level and the changes for communities and households with recent access to sustainable energy, and whether and how they have managed to utilize the potential for economic activity and human welfare.

In order to learn about the impact, a sufficient sample-size of communities with recent (during the last 5 years) connection to the main grid is needed. GIS based information may be used to draw an extra sub-sample of such communities.

In order to provide an unbiased measure of the impact of getting access to electricity the survey would measure the changes over the last 5 years for communities with long term access, recent access and no access.

National demand and requirements

In all the selected partner countries, there is a large demand for statistics on access to energy in general, and especially on access to sustainable and modern energy. This includes the national energy authorities such as the ministry, the regulatory authority and the energy service provider. The national statistical offices SSB are collaborating with are all aware of this demand. They welcome the possibility for technical cooperation and funding on



the development of a survey on access and impact to sustainable energy and the implementation of a nation-wide survey. However, they also stress that in order to serve the national, policy issues and the national statistical needs, it is essential to

ensure consistency with existing national statistics and province estimates. The project's aim is building capacity for the survey work, statistical reporting and further analysis. To build such a capacity this project has been designed with an active joint exercise of national staff and international expert both for the development and testing of the instruments, for the field work and the interpretation, analysis and publishing of the findings.

One of the key ideas of this project is to support the international SE4All initiative, hence we will work closely with international partners throughout the project to ensure that changes to questions and the additional module is properly discussed and ideally agreed upon. The World Bank has been the main developer and implementer of the survey, and it will therefore be particularly important to have regular exchange with the WB team working on this survey program.

Two phases, methodological development and nationwide surveys.

The program comprises two phases. First, there will be a methodological development phase where Statistics Norway will work with National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania and Institution Nacional de Estatística in Mozambique to develop and test an electronic version of the questionnaire in the first half of 2019. Second, there will be nationwide surveys in Tanzania and Mozambique during the following two years. The program may also include the development and implementation of a module on impact to be implemented as a follow up survey in the countries, where the pilot-survey on access to electricity already has been implemented. But this would require additional agreement and funding.

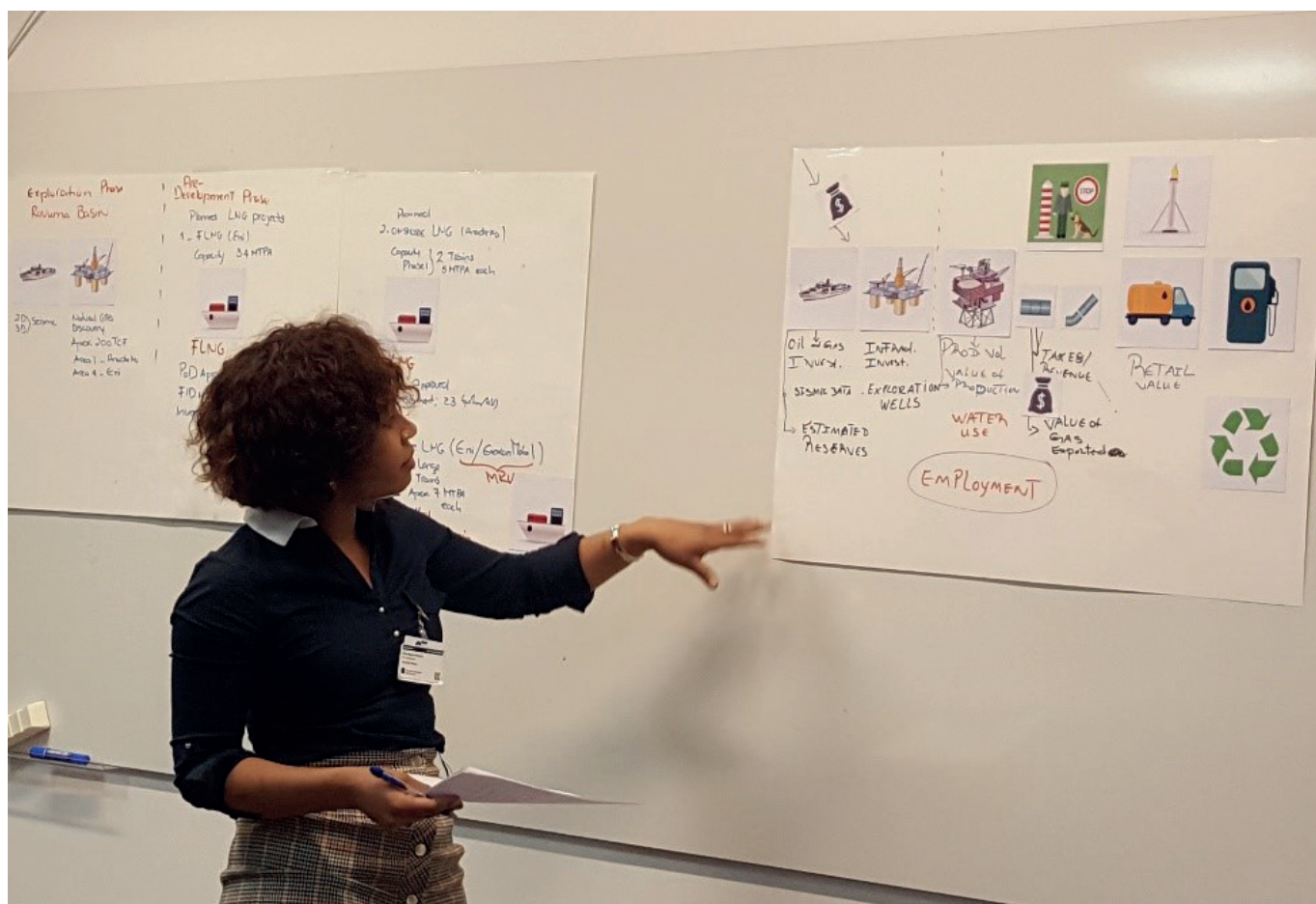
Mozambique – Oil for Development

In June 2017 the Norwegian Oil for Development Program management group expressed the interest of planning a comprehensive country program in Mozambique. The statistics project involving SSB is under the Revenue Management Pillar of the OfD Programme. The aim is that the National Statistical System is better prepared to produce and publish petroleum related statistics which improves national planning, policy making, accountability and transparency within the petroleum sector.

Three scoping missions have been conducted during 2017 and 2018 with the aim to start a full-scale revenue pillar program in 2019. Statistics Norway will cooperate with Mozambican authorities with special emphasis on our sister institution National

Institute of Statistics (INE) to develop petroleum related statistics. The planning phase has focused on mapping data and statistics that exist today in addition to working on the programme document that is planned to be finalized within the first quarter of 2019.

In November 2018, Mozambican stakeholders to the revenue component participated in a 2-week course on petroleum revenue management. To read more about the course see the article Oil for Development – Course covering the Financial Component. Spending two weeks together in Oslo provided a chance to strengthen the network between the Mozambican institutions as well as between them and their counterparts in other participating countries.



Elma Mujovo Ferreira from the National Petroleum Institute of Mozambique is explaining the petroleum value chain of Mozambique

Quality in Health Management Information

A Health Management Information System (HMIS) is a key element for a country's capacity to monitor and improve the delivery of health services. Many developing countries work to improve the quality of HMIS data in order to facilitate decision making and allocation of limited resources.

In September 2018, representatives from ten different countries met in Rwanda's capital Kigali to work on data quality in Health Management Information Systems at the DHIS2 Data Quality Academy, Level 2. All the countries use the DHIS2 software, developed by the Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) at the University of Oslo. The World Health Organization have supported the work to build tools for enhancing data quality in DHIS2. Statistics Norway participated at the Quality Academy to bring new per-

spectives in efficient data editing to the table; adapting them to the DHIS2 tools, and recommending further developments to facilitate efficient data editing. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has been supporting the work.

During the week-long Quality Academy, the participants learned how to assess and improve data quality in DHIS2, prepare the data for information needs and plan for the adaptation of the WHO dashboards and other apps. The Academy focused on challenges to good data quality; assessing the quality of data through population control and identifying the main sources of errors in order to prevent them from happening; improving data quality through system design and DHIS2 configuration; and preparing data for analysis.



Participants from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, as well as HISP, WHO and Statistics Norway working to enhance quality in health data.

Statistics Norway at the World Data Forum

Together with our Nordic colleagues, Statistics Norway arranged a session on use of register based statistics at the World Data Forum (WDF). The WDF has become a biannual event that gathers statistical offices, international institutions, private companies and NGOs and focuses on how the statistical world can deliver better data for the Sustainable Development Goals. This year's forum was held in Dubai hosted by the Statistical office of the United Arab Emirates together with the UN Statistical Division.

Together with the statistical offices in Denmark and Sweden, Statistics Norway organized a separate session on how we work on capacity development with our partner countries. The presentations were held with our respective partner countries. Denmark presented with Ghana, Sweden with Kenya, the Brønnøysund Register center with Sudan and Statistics Norway with Kyrgyzstan. In our presentations, we shared our experiences of building and using administrative records for statistics, while representatives of our partner countries showed how this could be used in their systems. The session was a mix of practical, concrete examples, and a review of what needs to be in place to apply administrative records in the statistical production.

Anne Abelsæth presented a new software for a generic statistical business register. The register solution has been developed on behalf of Statistics Norway by an IT company in Kyrgyzstan in cooperation with the statistical office. Internationally, there are few off the shelf programs that countries can use if they want to create a statistical business register. The software is based on international guidelines, and is planned to be used in several of our partner countries, including in Kenya. At the same session, Sweden presented how they, in cooperation with KNBS, have worked to exploit data from the tax office in Kenya to create a statistical business register.



The presenters at the Nordic session on administrative registers at the 2018 World Data Forum

Håkon Olderbakk from the Brønnøysund Register center and Hanan Abbas from CBS in Sudan presented work to introduce a company number / Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in Sudan. This work is part of the SSB's cooperation project with the Sudan statistical office. Sudan has started work on a common identifiers act, but the law still must be finally adopted. When the law is implemented, it will lay the foundation for the exchange of data from the tax office and national information center to CBS.

Increased use of administrative records as a source of data for sustainability goals was a recurring theme at the conference, and in particular how countries could better utilize CRVS (Civil Registration Vital Statistics) data. Statistics Denmark and GSS showed in their presentation how they have worked in Ghana to build a system for better utilization of civil records for population statistics.

Statistics Norway in the Norwegian delegation to the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July,



By participating in the Norwegian delegation to HLPF 2018 Statistics Norway got a unique opportunity to raise awareness of official statistics in the context of the SDGs also among national stakeholders.

(Photo credit: Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations)

With Agenda 2030, the statistical offices across the world have become an important player in the most comprehensive political project ever agreed globally, namely the Sustainable Development Goals. At annual meetings under the auspices of ECOSOC the development within the SDGs are reviewed by the High Level Political Forum. The global SDG indicators are important fundaments for these assessments.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes the universality of the SDGs, and the necessity of including all parts of society in order for Agenda 2030 to succeed. This is also why the Ministry every year compose a team of approximately 15 experts and representatives from various parts of the society to represent Norway

at the HLPF - ranging from government officials to civil society organisations, academia, labour unions and businesses.

This year also Statistics Norway (SSB) took part in the delegation, which was very timely given the strong focus of the forum on statistics, data and evidence based follow up of the 17 SDGs. From the opening sessions focusing on the lack of good quality data for monitoring the SDGs to several side-events highlighting the need for speeding up the efforts in financing for data, in the strengthening of national statistical systems, to give access to available data and to ensure that statistics are policy relevant and used by the policy makers. As stated from the Norwegian bench in the plenary session on SDG 17; "Commitment to new and innovative partnerships, and how they commit us to join action, is a vital success factor for the Agenda. So is deeper involvement with the statistical bureaus, it is a low hanging fruit and a welcome message from this forum".

At a side-event held collaboratively between Bangladesh and Norway, the representative from SSB urged countries to ensure that the basics are done. This to ensure that all people are included in a population survey, that civil registrations systems are put in place and that the statistical offices in collaborative efforts to utilize all relevant and available administrative data for statistical purposes are included.

Being at the HLPF gave useful insight on how the stakeholders to official statistics use our products. Our time is now, and we should all take the opportunities the SDGs has given the global statistical community; to position the national statistical system as the key resource for facts-based policy making, to foster new and fruitful partnerships and to speed up investments in more and better statistics.

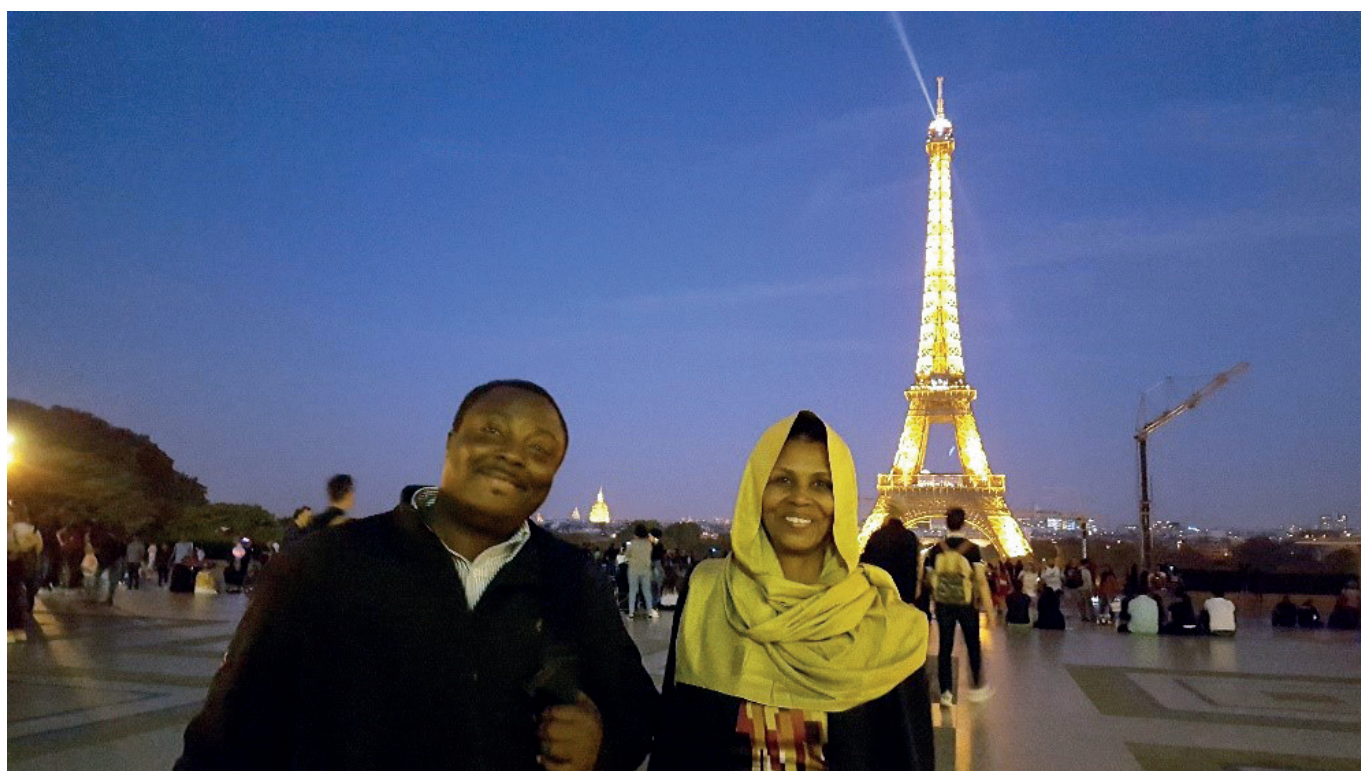
SSB and partners at the IAOS conference in Paris

SSB Division for International development cooperation submitted two papers together with partners to the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) conference in Paris in September.

The first was called "Why food security and poverty analysis must be anchored in the national statistics office". SSB has worked on poverty and food security analysis with Central Bureau of Statistics in Sudan since 2010. The focus of collaboration has been on producing food security statistics together with poverty statistics. They tell different stories about deprivation, and it is therefore important to have data on both together at the same time. However, one of the main lessons learned was that data preparation for the two analyses should happen not only at the same time but also by the same team. This approach is increasing efficiency, and particularly quality, of the indicators. It was this part of the work that was highlighted at IAOS. The paper was written by Astrid Mathiasen (SSB), Ellen Cathrine Kiøsterud (SSB) and Inaam Mubark Mustafa Mohamed

(CBS), and it was Kiøsterud and Mohamed who presented it.

The second presentation was on "Sustainable Development Goals and Business Surveys", and was presented by Anthony Krakah from Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Ellen Cathrine Kiøsterud. This is a spin-off of the work GSS and SSB are doing on analysis of the Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES) under the Oil for Development programme. The starting point was to look at whether the data collected in IBES could be used to report on the Sustainable Development Goals. The result of systematically going through the SDGs revealed that very few indicators are based on business data. Businesses are, however, important in reaching the goals, and there is much information in the survey that could contribute to policymaking and monitoring. The presentation contained examples of how it can be done. It also pointed to how small additions to the questionnaires could add further to national SDG monitoring.



Anthony Krakah (GSS) and Inaam Mubark Mustafa Mohamed (CBS) was in Paris for IAOS 2018
(Photo: Ellen Cathrine Kiøsterud)

Statistics Norway visiting State Statistics Service of Ukraine

The Division for Development Cooperation at Statistics Norway (SSB) visited State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) in September. SSSU and SSB launched a broad institutional cooperation a year ago. The cooperation is going well, and the main object of the visit at SSSU this time was to further strengthen the cooperation between the two institutions and its experts. SSSU gave the delegation from SSB an interesting tour of SSSU.

EU is the largest donor for SSSU. Other important donors and partners includes the World Bank, UN, Poland and EFTA.

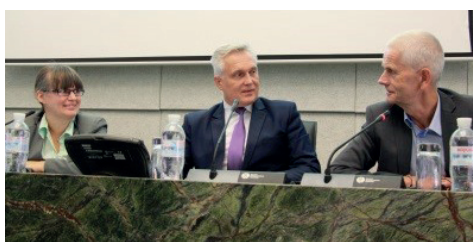
SSSU is a member of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS), and SSB leads the group together with Eurostat and UNHCR. Mr Vedym Pyschcheiko, Adviser to Chair in SSSU, and Mr Vebjørn Aalandslid from SSB presented the work on developing guidelines for refugee and IDP statistics. SSB presented a new project together with the Norwegian Tax Authorities, Brønnøysund Registers (owner of the administrative business register) and the Norwegian Mapping Authorities on building administrative registers and using those registers for statistical purposes.



Vadym Pishcheiko, Adviser to Chair, from SSSU

Mr. Ihor Verner, chair of SSSU, welcomed SSB and the Norwegian embassy to the SSSU press centre. After presentations of SSSU and SSB, Mr Petter Bauck, Counselor for Development Cooperation at the Norwegian Embassy, informed about the cooperation between Norway and

Ukraine, emphasising the long common history between Ukraine and Norway. The institutional project was presented by SSB's new long-term adviser to SSSU, Mr Allan Henrysson. Mr Kostiantyn Babak, Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Department, presented SSSU's regional cooperation. While the SSSU-SSB institutional project is the largest project,



Good atmosphere at the podium in SSSU's press centre. From left: Acting Head of Division for international development cooperation in SSB Vibeke O. Nielsen, Chair of SSSU Ihor Verner and Chancellor for Development Cooperation at the Norwegian Embassy Petter Bauck.



Tour of SSSU. Kostiantyn Babaktaks about the work of the International Cooperation and European Integration Department in their offices at SSSU.



Division for international development cooperation accompanied by Local Project Coordinator Nataliia Boichenko and Katherine Zhulai from SSSU

The Oil for Development programme

– Course on petroleum revenue management

Twenty-nine participants from four countries (Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon and Mozambique) came to Oslo in November to participate in a 2-week course covering topics relevant to fiscal policy, sovereign wealth funds, Dutch disease, transparency, plus more – with statistics related to petroleum activity being the main topic for 2 of the 10 days.

The first week was filled with lectures, small group discussions and short quizzes. There was good time for questions from participants and relevant examples were provided – both from Norway and other countries. As part of the preparations for the course, the countries had to prepare their own country case study. These formed the basis for discussions for much of the second week.

The course was led by NORAD Oil for Development (OfD) consultants, Vidar Ovesen, Martin Skancke and Ole Ekern with John Åge Haugen and Julie L. Hass from the Division for International development cooperation at Statistics Norway responsible for the statistics component of the course. On the first Monday, representatives from all involved institutions on the Norwegian side of the revenue component held a presentation. This included, Mr. Tore Eriksen from Ministry of Finance (former PS), Ms. Ine Eriksen from the Oil Taxation office and Ms. Brita Bye Director of Statistics Norway's research department.

On the first Friday, we welcomed the group to Statistics Norway. In the morning, Julie started with an introduction about petroleum related statistics, and some of the specializations Norway has made in their statistical system in order to deal with the large influence of the off-shore oil and natural gas activities on the Norwegian economy.

This focus on how to produce the statistics needed by the Ministries and the public, continued as we heard from five colleagues, from national accounts, price statistics, foreign trade, government fi-

nance, and business statistics, who gave short presentations and then participated in a panel discussion where the audience asked most of the questions. Having learned about Dutch disease earlier in the week, it was much easier for everyone to understand why Norway needs to have 2 GDP calculations, one with, and one without, the petroleum activity!

SSB's new Director General, Geir Axelsen, joined the group, and in addition to providing an overview of Statistics Norway, he shared some of his personal experiences from working at the Ministry of Finance and from working in the Norwegian oil company, Equinor (former Statoil).

After lunch John Åge Haugen explained the group work of mapping the petroleum activity in each country. The groups worked hard pasting and drawing on a big sheet of paper how oil and natural gas goes from exploration to development to extraction/production to export/refining to retail and finally to shut down/dismantling in their countries.

Based on this mapping, and for the second statistics day of the course, each country needed to identify at least one data gap or stoppage – and propose how to improve this situation. There can be a lack of information where new data needs to be obtained perhaps by a new survey – or the figures may already exist in one institution, but they are not shared with other institutions who need these numbers for their own work. At the end of the two days with statistics, each country left with an outline of a plan for improving their statistics related to the petroleum activities in their country.



Study visits from Nepal and Ethiopia to explore cooperation on Gender statistics



The delegation from Nepal together with Norwegian colleagues.



The Ethiopian delegation together with their Norwegian colleagues.

In September and October, delegations from Nepal and Ethiopia visited Oslo as a part of Norad's Gender for Development Programme (LIKE). The Norwegian partners in LIKE who received the visitors are the Norwegian Ministry for Children and Equality, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs and Statistics Norway

The general idea behind the LIKE programme is to share the experiences of how Norwegian public institutions have

developed and managed gender equality policies and how this has contributed to a more gender equal society. Good statistics is an essential building stone for developing such policies both in terms of describing the central equality challenges, as well as for measuring changes over time.

The visit from Nepal consisted of a delegation from the statistical office CBS as well as representatives from the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens (MOWCSC). Whereas the Ethiopian delegation was represented by the Central Statistical Agency and the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWCA).

The study visit from Ethiopia coincided with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announcements of his new Cabinet where the new ministerial portfolio had a record number of female ministers consisting 10 out of the 20 ministers. This included the position of Ministry of defense, which will be held by a woman for the first time in history. This major leap in representation provided an encouraging backdrop to the discussions about strengthening implementation of gender equality policies.

During the two visits Statistics Norway presented the role of its Gender statistics coordinator, and how this position has contributed to developing gender statistics in Norway. SSB has had a designated focal point for gender statistics since 2003. The focal point has expertise in gender equality, and specifically in analysing and disseminating statistics that reflects equality challenges. One important role of the gender coordinator is to have an overview of gender and other equality-related statistics in SSB, such as labour statistics, wage- and income statistics and to work for these disciplines to prioritize gender equality perspectives in the production, dissemination and analysis of the statistics.

For both countries it will be further explored whether a more formal long-term cooperation on statistics can be established as a part of the Gender for Development Programme.

Workshop in Ghana on Macroeconomic modelling

In July 2018 Statistics Norway visited the Ministry of Finance in Ghana for technical work on the macroeconomic model under construction. The model was developed using annual statistics including 2016.

One of the critical elements for maintaining a relevant model includes updating its database. By June 2018 the main data sources for the database, the national accounts and the government fiscal tables (Central Government Operations), was finalized with preliminary 2017 figures. The statistics was provided by the Ghana Statistical Service and the Ministry of Finance respectively. In addition, data from various sources was downloaded and implemented into the database. This comprises the Bank of Ghana, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the FRED database from the St. Louis Federal Reserve.

As part of transferring knowledge in maintaining the model, this annual event is crucial for the model team at the Ministry of Finance to gain experience. Most of the work was about entering 2017 statistics and check earlier years for revisions.

After the model database was completed with one more observation, all the econometric equations were re-estimated and checked for coefficient stability.

Another task accomplished was to separate oil revenues from their broader aggregates to be able to estimate then separately, and for the model to calculate the Benchmark Oil Revenue.

Responsible for hosting the mission was Dr. Joseph Kwadwo Asenso (Head, Energy, Oil and Gas Unit). The work on the database and the macroeconomic model was carried out

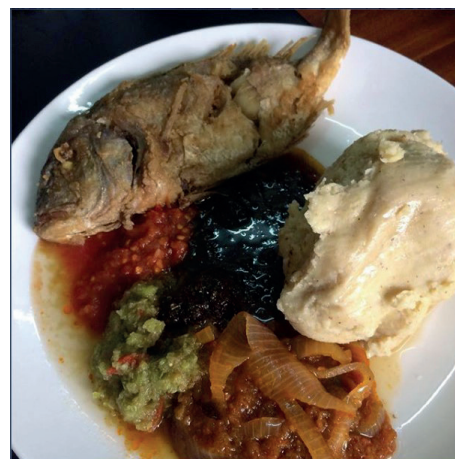
by Mr. Erick Asuman (Energy, Oil and Gas Unit) and Mr. Robin Choudhury) Division for international development cooperation at Statistics Norway).

Workshop in Oslo on the Integrated Business Establishment Survey and rebasing of the Index of Industrial Production

In November 2018 Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) visited Statistics Norway for a workshop. The main subject was to finalise the Integrated Business Establishment Survey, but two days were used on establishing a plan for rebasing of the Index of Industrial Production.

Still some work on the unit of measure and conversion factors remained before production tables at a macro level could be generated.

The Ghanaian Index of Industrial Production (IIP) needs to be rebased and the workshop considered possible methodologies for rebasing and sampling.



Picture Ghana July 2018. Wonderful lunch served at the office. Kenkey (made from ground maize) served with fish and pepper sauce.



Picture Ghana November 2018. The team working on the Integrated Business Establishment Survey. From left Jakob Kalko and Kristian Lønø from Statistics Norway, Anthony Kofi Krakah and Isaac Dadson (from Ghana Statistical Service).

Institutional cooperation program with the Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

The Norwegian Embassy in Sudan continues to fund the three-year program of institutional cooperation between CBS and SSB, which started in November 2017. During the third and fourth quarters of 2018, the project has supported one CBS mission to Norway and six SSB technical assistance missions to CBS as follows:

- 13/08-17/08
CBS to SSB on a combined Consumer Price Index (CPI) and IT/data security program
- 27/08-30/08
SSB support to CBS media contact and dissemination combined with project planning
- 14/10-18/10
SSB support to project annual meeting (15/10)
- 14/10-18/10
SSB support to topic Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)
- 11/11-15/11
SSB support to CBS on further processing and dissemination of CPI
- 11/11-15/11 SSB
support to CBS on Foreign Trade (FT) statistics sources/processing/dissemination
- 25/11-06/12 SSB support to CBS State training program

The project annual meeting

The meeting was held October 15th at the CBS main office in Khartoum and attended by CBS, SSB and Norwegian Embassy representatives. The progress report and accounts for 2017/18 and the plan and budget for 2019 were all approved. The project continues its overall profile by supporting further improvement of economic statistics with the long-term objective of providing better basic statistics for the Sudan National Accounts. The project will have flexibility for ad-hoc support to possible upcoming national censuses and surveys. An activity calendar for 2019 was agreed and this will help to smoothen further project implementation. The next annual meeting will be held in Oslo.



Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Sudan

CBS requested more assistance to population statistics and some support on CRVS was agreed. This is linking registration of civil events to improvement of core administrative registers. A senior expert from SSB visited CBS and other national stakeholders in Khartoum for a fact finding and statistics advocacy mission in parallel with the timing of the project annual meeting in October.

Vital events in Sudan are at the national level registered by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior (including the Commission for Refugees and the Civil Registration Directorate) and by the Ministry of Justice. Currently 67% of births and 10% of deaths are registered, but with large regional variations in birth registration. The CBS has so far not published any vital statistics (VS) based on civil registration (CR), but it is publishing population statistics based on other sources, especially as the population census 2008 and recent sample surveys such as MICS and DHS.

A CRVS workshop, attended by representatives from all national core stakeholders, was held at the CBS premises in Khartoum on the last day of the mission. The main message, as presented by the SSB expert is to increase number of registered events, sharing of national administrative data on CR and to use the National ID Number in all administrative and statistical registers. The SSB/CBS cooperation will follow up to facilitate more cooperation and possible further improvement of the CRVS work in Sudan into 2019. A delegation with representatives of all major stakeholders on CRVS in Sudan will visit Norway in February 2019.

Visit from ROSSTAT

Statistics Norway received a delegation from the Russian Statistical Agency (ROSSTAT) June 5-6, 2018. The delegation comprised 5 directors in the area of dissemination & PR and was headed by the Deputy DG. The visit was initiated by the “Strengthening Statistical Expertise Project” conducted by an international consortium and headed by the World

Bank. The main focus of the visit was to get a broader understanding on how to establish a statistical Resource Center in ROSSTAT including an e-library and an updated web-portal. The 2-days intensive program was developed jointly by the SSB Department of communication and the Division for development cooperation.

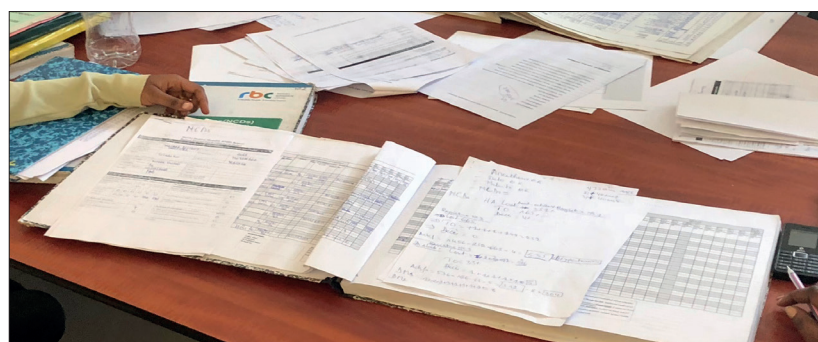
Data Quality Self-Assessment of the Rwanda Health Management Information System by the Rwanda Ministry of Health

The UN National Quality Assurance Framework (UN NQAF) is an evaluative tool developed in 2013 by the United Nations Statistics Division to assess the quality of routine data collection systems within a specific sector. In December, the Health Management Information System (HMIS) Units of the Rwanda Ministry of Health, and Rwanda Biomedical Centre, conducted a UN NQAF self-assessment to identify limitations and subsequently strengthen their data quality frameworks. Data quality experts were convened to assess the current data quality infrastructure to facilitate the attainment of high quality data in the HMIS. The process was facilitated by Stein Terje Vikan and Dag Roll-Hansen.

The self-assessors addressed the following four over-arching themes: managing the statistical system, managing the institutional environment, managing statistical processes, and managing statistical outputs.

All responses and results from the exercise were summarized and presented for participants to agree on action items to address the major challenges identified.

Assessment of the data quality starts when information is retrieved and first entered into the system. Even after several rounds of data validation at the local level, central level staff may still find additional errors. Some errors are more frequent than others. Errors occurring ought to be recorded to identify the most com-



Cross-checking data at Masaka Hospital.

mon errors and remove their root causes. This can e.g. be done by reviewing data collection processes in order to find out how respondents interpret forms, retrieve information and fill them in.

The UNQAF self-assessment revealed the strengths of the HMIS Units which facilitates the relatively high rates of completeness, timeliness, and accuracy in HMIS. Despite the strengths, the self-assessment unearths areas for improvement. The integration of tools such as the WHO Data Quality App, simplified data collection processes and greater use of computer systems could strengthen data quality procedures while concurrently reducing the time allocated to sustaining high data quality. Through reviewing the challenges and recommendations discussed during the assessment and subsequently planning appropriate actions, the quality of data entered into HMIS will probably remain high or improve while reducing the amount of time staffs dedicate to data validation processes.

New employees at Division for international development cooperation



Allan Henrysson

Since September of this year I have worked for Statistics Norway as the long-term advisor (LTA) in Ukraine, and this is my first work position at Statistics Norway. My previous occupation for the last 10+ years has been in Statistics Sweden (SCB), where I worked with wage- and labor cost statistics, with the business register and with statistical classifications and metadata. During my time at SCB, I also held the position as LTA in Tbilisi,

Georgia during for about three years in a project much like the cooperation project between Norway and Ukraine that I am currently working in. My previous experience from working in a development project has, during my first months here in Kiev, proved to be very useful in how to approach the work and how to build relationships with the staff in SSSU. A key word for me in such a cooperation is to always show great respect for the individual employees' knowledge and dedication.



Signe Vrålstad

During the last 10 years I have worked with social statistics, covering themes as living conditions, well-being, income and marginalization, child poverty and domestic violence. Mostly I have worked with surveys and analyses of survey data in Statistics Norway, and I spent one year in the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs. In 2010 I was stationed in the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (now National bureau of Statistics) as part of the exchange program FK Norway (Norek).

In my current position I am one of two project coordinators for the cooperation with the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan (NSC). This cooperation has a long history, and we are working closely with the local project coordinator posted in Kyrgyzstan. I am also participating in the further development of a World bank survey on energy use in households, and the aim is to gain more knowledge about the impact access to energy has on living conditions.



Tarik Ogbamichael

For the past 10 years, I have worked with economic statistics, mainly focused on price statistics and the monthly consumer price index at the Division for price statistics. I have also worked with the yearly rental market survey for several years.

In recent years, I also contributed to the Division for international development cooperation in various ways:

In 2015, I provided statistical analysis (as part of the collaboration between UN-CHR, JIPS, SSB and NORCAP) to a Cross-camp and trend analysis report of people displaced across Myanmar's Kachin and Northern Shan states. In 2016, my colleague Kjersti Nyborg Hov and I cooperated with our sister institution in Sudan to update their consumer price index basket of goods and services based on the national household budget survey.

I started working at Division for international development cooperation in September of this year, and in my current position I am working towards establishing a statistics cooperation project with the National institute of statistics in Mozambique. The project is under the Revenue Management Pillar of the Oil for Development Programme. The aim is an improved national statistical system to be better prepared to produce and publish petroleum related statistics which improves national planning, policy making, accountability and transparency within the petroleum sector.

Contributing to improving the statistical performance of institutions require a broad overview, and a critical look on our own methods and practice, making capacity building quite challenging and fun.

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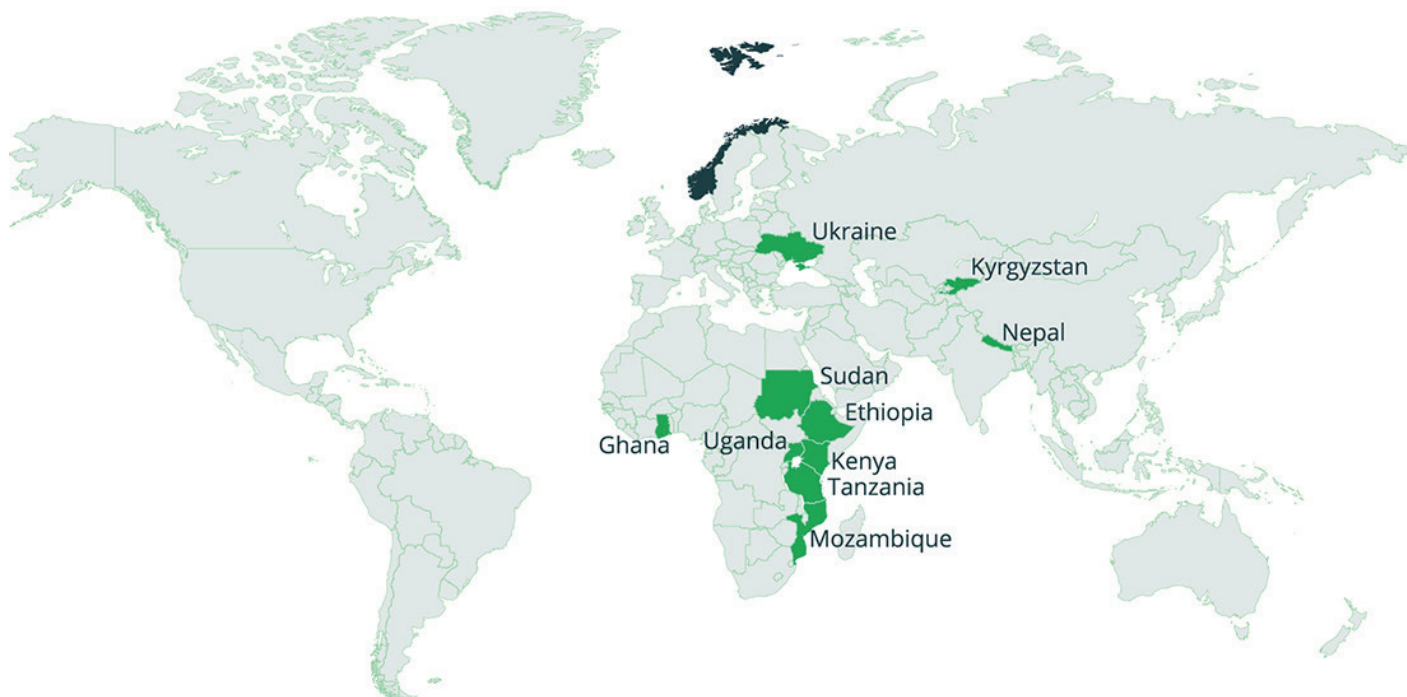
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Countries where Statistics Norway has Institutional Cooperation projects:



The Division for International Development Cooperation at Statistics Norway wishes everyone Happy Holidays!

More information about the division for Development Cooperation can be found at:

www.ssb.no/en/omssb/samarbeid/internasjonalt-utviklingssamarbeid

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