



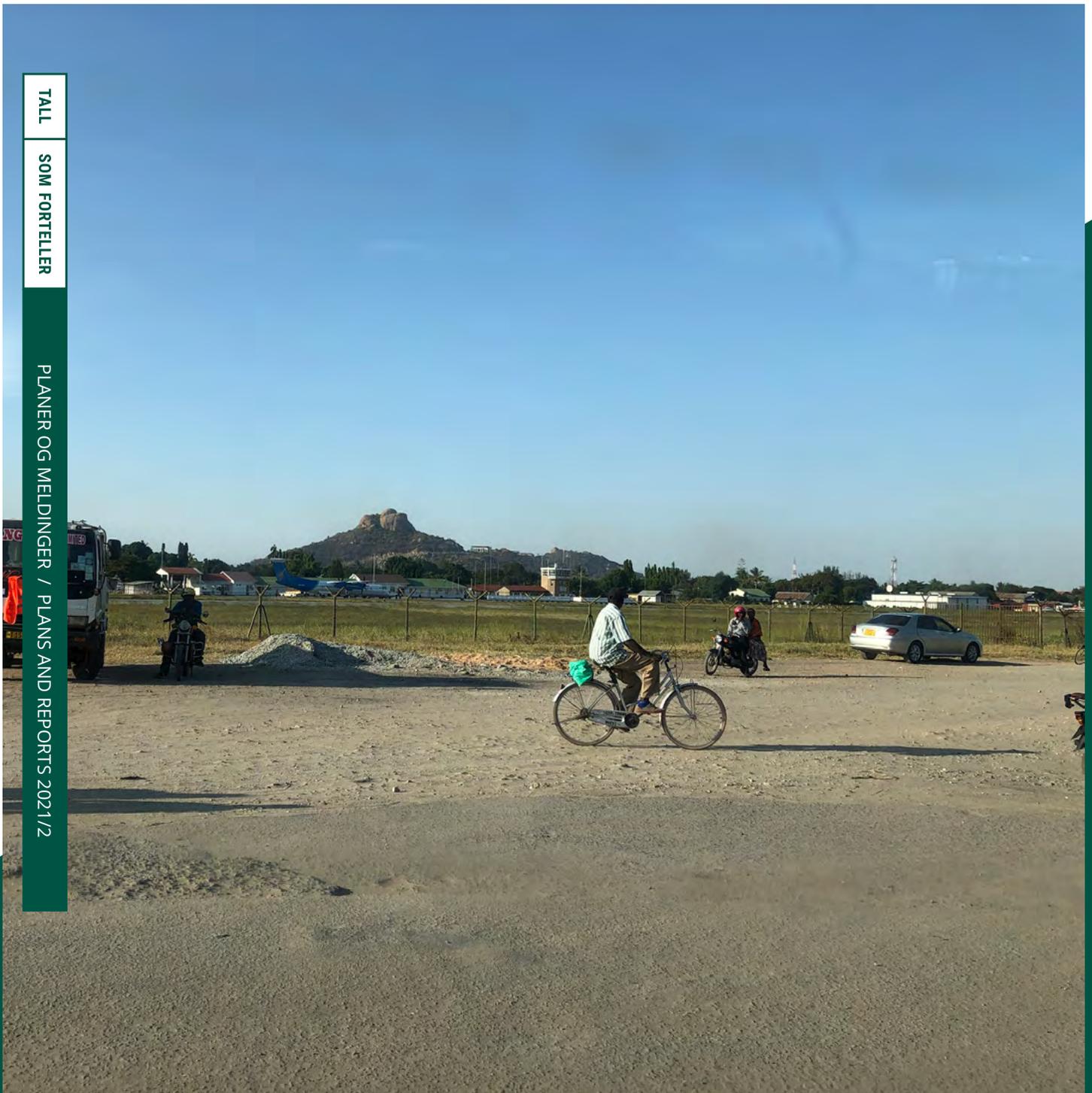
# Annual Report 2020

International development cooperation in Statistics Norway

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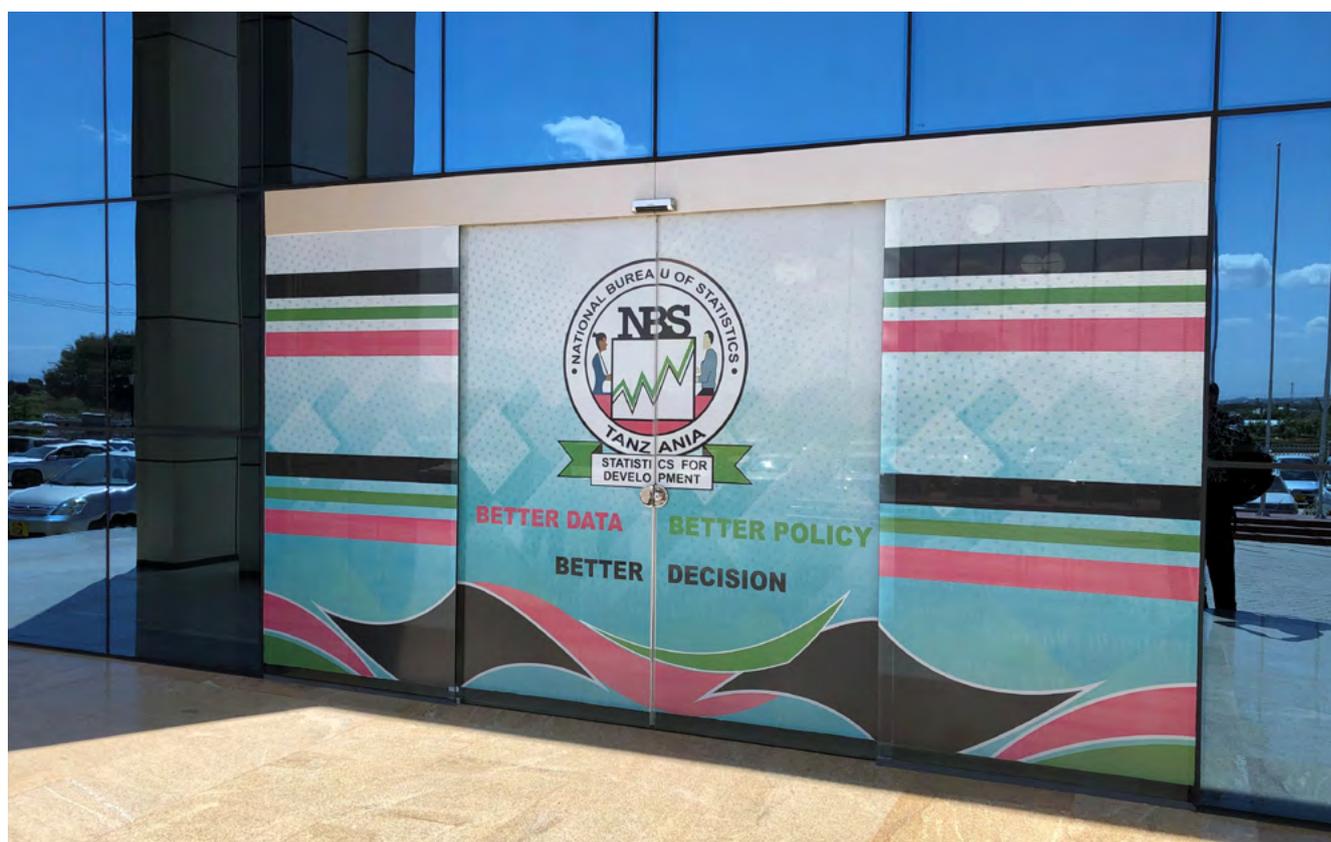
SOM FORTELLER

PLANER OG MELDINGER / PLANS AND REPORTS 2021/2



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# International development cooperation in Statistics Norway



Statistics Norway (SSB) has been engaged in international development cooperation for more than 50 years. Since 1994, SSB has had a division dedicated to this work, and over the years our approach has moved towards long-term institutional cooperation projects. Experience has shown us that a

long-time horizon is more likely to contribute to sustainable and resilient results for our partner institutions. The main purpose of SSB's international development cooperation is to build capacity in producing official statistics of good quality and to contribute to the development of a strong National Statistical System. This we believe, will in the long run contribute to evidence-based decision making, public transparency and good governance. As the new strategy for Statistics Norway states: "Official statistics are the nation's shared factual basis. This is crucial for a well-functioning democracy, and the statistics are thus a public good that everyone should have equal access to."

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with its 247 indicators, have underlined the importance of statistics. However, with less than 10 years left to meet the goals of Agenda 2030, there is still a need for substantially more support to capacity building in statistics. The SDG report 2020 states that "international funding for data and statistics is about half the level it needs to be". Although there is an increase in the number of countries that have a national statistical plan, only 25 percent of these plans were fully funded in sub-Saharan Africa. Statistics Norway's focus continues to be on building and strengthening national statistical institutions and systems, with the purpose of making our partner institutions better equipped to produce statistics, including SDG indicators.

A key prerequisite for SSB to enter into an institutional cooperation agreement is that there is a strong and clear demand for support from the partner country. The beneficiary institution needs to request the project and be in the driver seat in defining the overall content. Only through local ownership can we achieve lasting results.

More countries are looking into the possibilities of using administrative data for statistics, an area where Statistics Norway has a long tradition. Statistics Norway has a register-based system for production of statistics, and in addition to the traditional surveys, Statistics Norway has access to data from more than a hundred administrative registers. In many countries, one of the main challenges is getting access to administrative data. Our experience is that the data owners also benefits from sharing data, and many of our new initiatives in this area therefore also includes our partners from the key data owners in Norway. In 2017, SSB and the major data owners in Norway established a working group to also focus on joint efforts in development cooperation.

The cornerstone of the Norwegian development cooperation in statistics has been based on face-to-face meetings and working shoulder-to-shoulder, in the partner country or in Norway. COVID-19 has set an effective stop to this, and since March 2020 all cooperation has been digital. Although there are many challenges with digital cooperation, there are also a lot of potential. The future of development cooperation will be based on a combination of travel and remote activities, allowing for more regular contact. This we believe will make our projects more efficient and sustainable, providing better value for our partners and strengthen international development cooperation in statistics in the long run.

Janne Utkilen  
Head of division

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# Summary for 2020

The purpose of Statistics Norway's development cooperation is to contribute to the development of good national statistical systems in our partner countries. The Division for International Development Cooperation is responsible for coordinating Statistics Norway's activities in this area, but rely on experts from all the subject matter divisions in Statistics Norway. The division for international cooperation had 15 employees in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all programmes for international development cooperation in 2020. The division started the year with high ambitions and expected a record number of activities in 2020, but this came to an abrupt stop in March 2020. COVID-19 has affected all our partners, to different degrees, but most institutions have been operating with substantial use of home office. All cooperation has taken place on digital platforms, reducing the activity level in 2020 significantly.

Before the travel restriction was imposed, Statistics Norway organised 19 short-term missions (of 149 planned for 2020) and received 4 study visits (of 25 planned). Since March 2020, SSB has carried out several digital workshops, covering topics such as price statistics, NADABAS, macroeconomic modelling, questionnaire design, metadata, sample design, R-training, GSBPM, CRVS and national accounts. SSB has gradually strengthened its expertise in digital collaboration, which will become an integrated part of all projects in the future.

Currently, Statistics Norway has bilateral cooperation with 11 countries; Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Mozambique, Somalia, Nepal, Ethiopia and Tanzania. At the start of the year we had two long term advisors working in Ukraine and Uganda, but our consultant in Uganda returned to Norway in March 2020 due to the uncertainty around the pandemic.

In 2020, SSB planned to assist Tanzania and Mozambique with a full-scale household survey on energy access, but the data collection was put on hold due to the uncertainty in connection to the pandemic. Together with Tanzania and Mozambique, SSB has developed the survey on households' access to energy and its impact on living conditions. The field work is currently postponed until 2021.

Despite challenges, we also moved forward with several large projects. During the year we have signed a four-year agreement with Mozambique to start a new project

under Oil for development, and we have signed a three-year agreement with Ukraine to continue our institutional collaboration in 2021-2023.

Although the bilateral country cooperation is the basis of our work, we also focus on some key thematic topics with international partners. The rationale of engaging in thematic work is that it brings added value to the country programmes. In this work we prioritise contributing in development of statistical areas and methods relevant and demanded by developing countries. Key topics in 2020 was food security statistics, administrative data and registers, and the national accounts tool, NADABAS.

Statistics Norway has for many years worked on the topic related to poverty and food security statistics. In 2020, we signed an agreement with Norad for a three-year project on food security statistics and analysis. The project involves cooperation with international organisations and statistical institutions, including COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), FAO (the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation) and the World Bank.

More and better use of administrative data in statistics, has for many years been a priority in SSBs development cooperation projects. Although there are challenges with the use of administrative data, it can improve coverage and accuracy of the statistics, and at the same time reduce costs significantly. Norway has extensive experience in development and use of administrative registers for statistical purposes. During 2020, we have continued to share experiences and contributed in developing capacity for the use of administrative data for production of official statistics both on country level and at the international level.

NADABAS, a national accounts software, is another thematic area where Statistics Norway has been contributing in 2020. Statistics Norway is an active member of the NADABAS network and participated in developing a webpage to share information about the software.

SSB's international development cooperation was in 2020 mainly financed by Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Norwegian embassies in our partner countries.

This annual report provides information about activities and results for our main projects in 2020.

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# Cooperation countries



# Ethiopia

The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia and SSB are in the process of establishing a new long-term institutional cooperation. Norad has provided funding to allow for a comprehensive planning phase, including several scoping missions and start-up activities. The planning phase was planned to last until spring 2020. Norad approved a cost extension until spring 2021 due to issues relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

## COVID-19 caused delays and uncertainties

The pre-project was off to a good start of 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions came into force in mid-March. COVID-19 caused several problems for the project causing delays. All traveling within the project was stopped, primarily because of Norwegian restrictions and restrictions in SSB both on international travels and on arrangements. Activities meant to take place either in Addis Abeba or in Oslo had to be re-planned. The alternative was to do it digitally. However, Ethiopia has some issues on internet capacity, and not all staff has an internet connection in their home or even in their office. The result was that digital meetings and a workshop in Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) was done using a meeting room at CSA. The circumstances created by COVID-19 led to a reduced activity level, and several activities has been postponed. The planning phase was extended to spring 2021 to accommodate for this.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Planning a new institutional cooperation project with Ethiopia</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Central Agency of Statistics of Ethiopia (CSA)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>1 318 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>June 2019-March 2021</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Establish the programme for a three-year institutional cooperation between CSA and SSB</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Institutional capacity building, NSS coordination, quality, training centre, CRVS, environmental statistics and SBR</b>

## Achievements

- Application for project finalised by CSA and SSB and submitted to Norad.
- CSA has been introduced to GSBPM.
- CSA developed the communication strategy.

## Project challenges

- COVID-19 caused delays.
- Delays in project application.



Janne Utkilen (SSB),  
Aberash Tariku (CSA),  
Dag Roll-Hansen (SSB) and  
Christine Sørøy Rokkan (SSB)  
outside the training centre at CSA

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The pandemic also led to a reallocation of funds from regular project to COVID-19 related project in Norad. This has again caused delays in the processing of the application for the institutional project.

Ethiopia experienced fighting in the Northern Region of Tigray during the autumn 2020. The situation is followed closely, but it has not affected the project so far.

### **Register-based system for production of population statistics**

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is one of the areas covered by the institutional project. The component was started in February 2020 by a visit from CSA to learn about Norway's register-based system for producing population statistics. The delegation learned from both the administrative side and the statistical side. The administration side included presentations from the Central Population Register (CPR), registrations of mi-

grants and its link to CPR and the Land Administration in Norway. The Statistical side included the whole process from the statistical population register based on CPR, via population projections, register-based population census, use of maps, to dissemination. The visit created a good basis for working on CRVS in the institutional project.

### **Quality management and improved dissemination**

CSA was introduced to GSBPM through a webinar in November. GSBPM is an important basis for strengthening CSA's quality management work. CSA identified supervisors that would work with implementing GSBPM. The top management and the supervisors were introduced to the structure of GSBPM and how to use and understand it. The production process for the main season agricultural statistics was mapped for all GSBPM phases: specify needs, design, build, collect, process, analyse, disseminate and evaluate.



Timket celebrations in Addis Ababa

In October 2019, Norwegian experts carried out the first workshop with CSA on developing a communication strategy, but due to COVID-19, the follow-up workshop planned for March 2020 was cancelled. Meanwhile, CSA developed a communication strategy in 2020, which will also be important input for the project for further developing dissemination and website. Norwegian experts contributed by provided comments and advice to the strategy in autumn 2020.

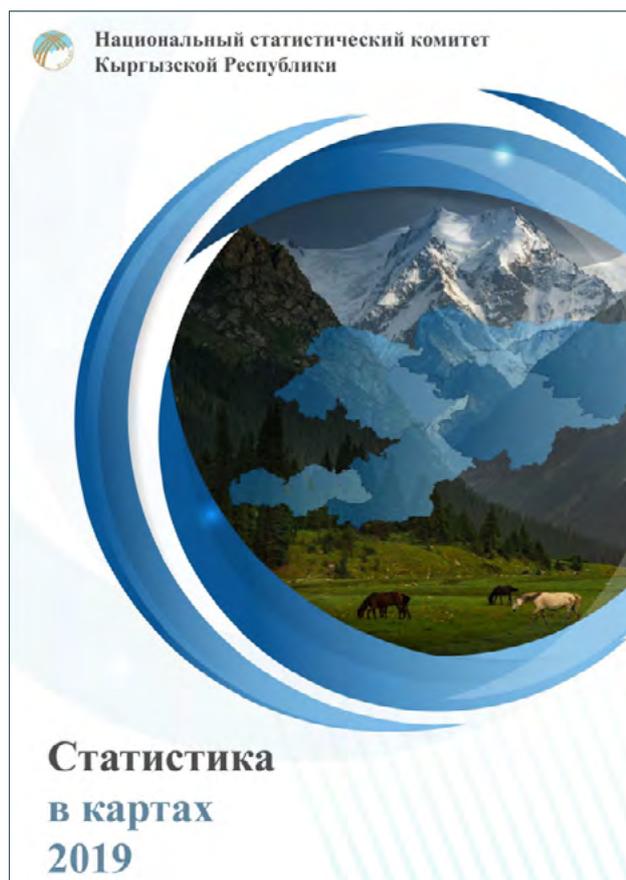
In January 2020, Norwegian experts held a workshop for future trainers within CSA. During the mission, CSA and the team agreed on a plan forward to support CSA's work to establish a training centre for the whole National Statistical System.

# Kyrgyzstan

The cooperation between Statistics Norway (SSB) and the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC) started in 2006. Over these 15 years SSB has worked together with NSC on restructuring and improving processes within the Kyrgyz statistical system both regarding technical solutions and organization of the institution. The cooperation is currently SSBs longest lasting institutional project.

In the current project period, starting from January 2018, the cooperation has been expanded to also include the Norwegian Mapping Authority (NMA) and the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic (SRS).

The overall goal of the current project is to increase the use of administrative data, to improve data quality, and to improve cooperation between public sector institutions.



A revised version of the publication Statistics on Maps was published on the NSC website in December 2020  
<http://stat.kg/en/publications/statistika-v-kartah/>

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Institutional cooperation</b>
<b>Partners</b>	<b>National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC), Norwegian Mapping Authority (NMA) and State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz republic (SRS)</b>
<b>Accounts*)</b>	<b>1 118 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2006-2020/2021</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Improved routines and systems in the statistical production</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Modernising the institution, methodology, statistics on maps, use of administrative data</b>

\* Not including the NMA and SRS project

## Achievements:

- NSC has developed a GIS strategy.
- NSC has established a GIS unit.
- NSC has published publications on thematic maps.
- NSC has published articles with statistical analysis.

## Project challenges

- COVID-19 led to reduction and delays in project activities.

The project is organized in two main parts: NSC and SSB works together on Statistics cooperation which now has focus on statistics on maps, use of administrative data and CRVS (Civil Registration and Vital Statistics), while NMA and SRS cooperate on the creation of maps as well as a national geo data portal.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) led to a reduction in activities

The annual meeting between the two institutions was arranged in mid-February and NSC and SSB planned for a series of activities during the year. However, from early March traditional activities first stopped and was later replaced with web meetings. During the year there has still been activities on all components of the projects, but some areas have been reduced in scope or postponed.

### **Using spatial data to produce official statistics**

During the year NSC developed a strategy for Geographic Information System (GIS) use in the organisation. The strategy was combined with the establishment of a designated unit responsible for GIS implementation in the NSC. One concrete output of the group was the dissemination of a revised version of the special booklet "Statistics on Maps". A publication with thematic maps with selected social and economic indicators. The booklet was prepared by NSC staff, who during the project period have taken part in training courses on the use of GIS.

### **Improved skills in statistical analysis**

During 2020, NSC and SSB has worked together on improving the statistical analytical skills of the NSC staff, and articles on demographic behaviour and marriages and divorces was published on the NSC website.

In October and November, the project conducted a series of webinars on analysis and dissemination of statistical reports.

### **Metadata system**

A few years ago, SSB had a project on metadata at NSC. This was focused on collection and documentation and in 2020 NSC suggested a project to make a metadata system which is connected to other systems at NSC as well as the web site and the national TUN-DUK. The planning part of this project is mostly done, and the actual implementation will be tendered soon.

### **Statistical business register (SBR)**

As the SBR software still is not finished, the finalization of this project was postponed to 2021.



Webinar on analysis and dissemination of statistics

# Sudan

The overall objectives for the cooperation in Sudan are to further strengthen the economic statistics portfolio in Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), to provide ad-hoc technical support to national censuses and surveys taken on by CBS, and to provide training and capacity sharing on commonly used software or procedures according to the user's request.

Up to February 2020, and before the start of the pandemic, the project continued according to the agreed annual activity plan with short term consultancy presence in Khartoum for further support to ICT, dissemination and planning. Thereafter, travels were impossible, and CBS reduced staff-presence in office to the degree that cooperation completely closed to early September. In the third and fourth quarter the communication slowly picked up to speed again as more CBS staff returned to office and both partners had established infrastructure for video-based communication and capacity sharing. Through a series of video-based contacts, capacity sharing on topics such as national accounts, register coordination, SDG work and macroeconomic modelling could continue. Furthermore, CBS started piloting a jointly developed tablet-based application for electronic market-price data collection in Khartoum State. The pilot is expected to continue into 2021.

The annual meeting was held digitally October 12th. According to the initial plan, 2020 was the last of 3 years co-operation and thus the end of the project phase 2. However, due to the slowdown of project implementation during the Sudan revolution in 2019 and the pandemic in 2020, the annual meeting formally agreed to open for a no-cost-extension of the project into 2021/22 based on total remaining funding.



Khartoum, Sudan

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Institutional cooperation</b>
<b>Partner (CBS)</b>	<b>Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>1 364 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2017-2020(22)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Institutional and individual capacity sharing</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Economic statistics</b> <b>Registers</b> <b>Supplementary support to upcoming national census and surveys</b> <b>Capacity sharing/training courses</b>

## Achievements

- Further improved ICT capacity in CBS.
- Pilot of tablet-based market price data collection started in December.
- Reestablishing contact with CBS based on video meetings.

## Project challenges

- Slow-down of implementation progress due to civil unrest in Sudan 2019 and the pandemic starting in 2020.
- The economic embargo still has negative impacts on the economic situation in Sudan and makes it difficult to operate projects.
- Communication problems due to variable quality of internet connection, reduced staff present in CBS offices and that Sudan "home-office" is not an option.

# Ukraine

The institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway (SSB) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) is a broad project aiming at increased institutional development, increased access to and understanding of official statistics, and more and better official statistics available for users. The overall goal for the project is optimal resource allocation through improved evidence-based policy-making. The project started in November 2017, and the current phase will be finalised by the end of 2023.

## Approval for a second phase

2020 was the last year of phase one, and an internal assessment of achievements and further needs was done by the partners. This assessment together with the mid-term review was the basis for an application for a phase two. When coronavirus (COVID-19) struck it was clear that a no-cost extension for phase 1 was needed. The solution was to apply for a cost extension which was approved by MFA. The cost extension allows for a more flexible implementation of the activities needed to achieve the goals, making it possible to move forward activities suitable to do remotely while postponing activities needing a physical presence. The grant agreement between SSB and MFA and an updated Memorandum of Understanding between SSB and SSSU were signed late 2020, and the project extension was registered with Ukrainian authorities.

Several output goals from phase one was extended and will continue in phase two. This includes the internal training programme, metadata, the statistical business register and price statistics. Other output goals were added to support the outcomes goals. This includes developing internal communication, organisation for providing microdata, reducing response burden, gender statistics, statistical literacy, labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions.

SSSU has demonstrated that they use experiences from the project to further develop the institution. They have used experiences from the work on the website to move further and develop an app for statistics on smartphones which was launched in the autumn 2020.

## COVID-19

The year did not turn out as planned, as is probably true for most projects in 2020. The project was instantly affected by COVID-19 when Norway decided to close the society on 12 March. An SSB expert on a mission in Kiev was called home after just a few days, and a study visit planned for the following week was postponed. However, it was possible for the long-term adviser to stay in Kiev, which had a positive effect on the project.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Statistical development – institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway and State Statistics Service of Ukraine</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>6 855 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2017-2023</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Contribute to evidence-based planning for optimal resource allocation and improved welfare across the Ukrainian society</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Quality, internal training, internal communication, microdata, response burden, IT, dissemination, StatBank, gender statistics, meta data, statistical literacy, business register, crime statistics, price statistics, demographic statistics, IDP, LFS, SILC, national accounts, foreign trade, tourism statistics</b>

## Achievements

- A phase two of the project approved by MFA as a cost extension.
- SSSU has developed quality reports for metadata.
- CAPI for CPI developed.
- SSSU and SSB has changed activities to remote activities.

## Project challenges

- COVID-19 led to postponements and changes of working methods.
- Component on dissemination dependent on an EU financed project which is delayed.

Several activities were postponed. The institutions started working from home and needed to focus on establishing new routines for their daily work. It was also necessary to find new ways of working within the project when it was clear that the pandemic would last. Plans for remote activities were made. This included identifying which activities were suited for remote activities, and the best method for different types of activities. It has been a period for testing of and learning from new methods,

which will be a useful addition to more traditional working methods at later stages. However, it has not been possible to achieve everything that was planned in 2020.

This period has showed SSSU as a robust institution. SSSU was able to produce and disseminate all planned statistics and has been able to continue with other development work. The difficulties also proved that the partnership between SSSU and SSB is strong enough to facilitate remote activities and to keep up a close communication and collaboration throughout.

### Metadata further developed

The work on metadata continued in 2020 and has benefitted from the presence of the long-term adviser in Kiev. A list of variables has been developed. Input has been provided on the content of a future metadata system. A general setup for quality reports according to SIMS was developed and used for some statistics. This work will continue, and the aim is to develop quality reports for all the statistics.



Vadym Pysheiko (SSSU), Anna Rozumna (SSSU), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB), Olha Pravosud (SSSU), Liudmyla Yanush (SSSU), Iryna Nikitina (SSSU), Nataliia Boichenko (SSB) and Allan Henrysson (SSB) in Oslo in February.

### Progress made on technical solutions

Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) for the consumer price index (CPI) has been developed and is in the final stages of testing. The solution was meant to be finalised in March but had to be postponed because the expert was recalled due to COVID-19. The remaining work was done remotely when it was possible to test the application in shops in Kiev and Lviv. The final last stage has been delayed due to a new lock-down in Ukraine. Tablets will be purchased in 2021.

A large portion of the SSSU staff did not have access to internet and email. Servers for this purpose was purchased and established in 2020.

A new website has been a part of this project since the start. This has also become one of the major challenges. An EU project was developing a technical solution, and the task went to the Italian company Memetech. The work was meant to be finalised in June 2019 but was only started autumn 2020. New uncertainty arose late 2020. The project includes developing the content of the website, which has been finalised. However, the implementation of the content depends on the finalisation of the website. SSB has assisted SSSU in their communication with Memetech and EU throughout this process.



New working methods during a pandemic – a metadata mission on zoom.



Remote mission on tourism statistics: Guro Henriksen (SSB), Jarle Kvile (SSB), Tatyana Yurina (interpreter), Allan Henrysson (SSB), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB), Inesa Senyk (SSSU), Oksana Senyk (SSSU), Tetiana Bashko (SSSU) and Olha Karmazina (SSSU)



Kiev seen from St. Sophia Cathedral

# Ghana

## Background

Ghana discovered commercial quantities of offshore oil reserves in the 1970s. In 2007, oil and gas reserves were discovered in the Jubilee Fields, containing up to 3 billion barrels of crude oil. In 2010 Ghana started producing oil in commercial quantities. In 2019 the volume of oil export was 70 million barrels, or a daily average of about 192,000 barrels. The value of oil export in 2019 was about USD 4.5 billion.

The Norwegian Oil for Development programme was introduced in Ghana in 2008 and included components to support resources management and the environment, along with support to civil society. Statistics Norway became involved in establishing a revenue component of the program in 2015, and in 2018 both the Program Agreement and the Institutional Agreement was signed.

The main goal of Statistics Norway's involvement is to assist the Ghana Statistical Service on oil related statistics, and to work with the Ministry of Finance on developing a macroeconomic model. Together, more and better statistics, and a tool for macroeconomic analysis, will assist the government in economic planning and good management of petroleum revenues.

## Achievements in 2020

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic 2020 was a difficult year for the cooperation project. The initial 2020 budget amounted to about NOK 3 million, and after several downward revisions because of the travel ban, the actual spending amounted to about NOK 0.3 million.

Working towards the output to develop an operational macroeconomic model and database, and before the pandemic adversely affected the cooperation, the macroeconomic baseline scenario was updated. Main focus was on the macro-fiscal relationship and the model was calibrated towards the 2020 budget and 2021–2023 indicative budget figures. Main results indicated an improvement in the primary balance and the debt ratio. Also, assumptions for important trade prices such as the cocoa price and the oil price were implemented based on estimates from the IMF's World Economic Outlook.

During the first quarter technical work on improving and generalizing the model's computer code was done. These routines, as well as other technical work, were documented and added to the User's Guide.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Institutional cooperation under the Oil for Development program</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Finance Ghana Statistical Service</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>810 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Norwegian Embassy in Accra, Ghana</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2018–2020</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Develop capacity for producing relevant statistics on the petroleum sector and to analyse the economy at a macro level</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Petroleum statistics, oil investments, business survey, business register, macroeconomic model</b>

## Achievements

- An updated macroeconomic model with a baseline projection.
- Training in NADABAS.

## Project challenges

- Travel ban related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Few staff in the Ghana Statistical Service.
- Short duration of the project may result in too little time to practise.

On the other output related to macroeconomic modelling, i.e. training Ministry of Finance staff on maintaining and using the model to produce model-based analyses, little work was done. However, the annual update of the model with 2019 data from the national account, the government revenue and expenditures, and miscellaneous data for international prices etc. was completed from home office in both Ghana and Oslo. In connection with this the baseline scenario was further updated with recent information on the coming national budget. Most of the work was done by the Ministry of Finance guided by Statistics Norway.



Francis Bright Mensah, Head of National Accounts at Ghana Statistical Service, participates in online training on Nadabas

Related to their need for a tool to organise and compile their national accounts, staff from the Ghana Statistical Service was introduced to a tool called NADABAS. Due to travel restriction, videoconferencing was used for training provided by experts from Statistics Norway's national accounts division. Part of the training is financed from other sources.



Ghana

# Kenya

Since 2014, the Kenyan and Norwegian government institutions involved in the Oil for Development program have worked together to identify areas of cooperation. Statistics Norway has been involved since 2016. The partners in the project have agreed upon a programme document that awaits a final confirmation. At the time of writing it is unclear when a possible agreement can be signed.

## Achievements in 2020

Activities in the project were paused in the first half of 2020 and activities in the second half of the year were influenced by the coronavirus pandemic. Overall, 2020 was a difficult year for the cooperation project as the initial 2020 budget and activity plans were reduced with 80 percent. Hence, only a few activities took place during the year.

On development of petroleum related statistics, resources were channelled towards building a statistical business register in KNBS. The register will include business/legal entities in Kenya and form an important building stone for development of all economic statistics in the country. This work will be done in close cooperation with the Swedish statistical office, SCB. A plan for setting up a register within KNBS was discussed and will, depending on continued funding for the project, be implemented in 2021.

On macromodels, activities have centred around training of key personnel in KIPPRA and KNBS. During the autumn a series of web-based training sessions in EViews,

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Pre-project - institutional cooperation under the Oil for Development program</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>404 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad/Oil for Development</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2016–onwards</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Develop capacity for producing relevant statistics on the petroleum sector and to analyse the economy at a macro level.</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Petroleum statistics, business register, macroeconomic model.</b>

## Achievements

- KIPPRA and KNBS have carried out training in model building in EViews.
- Revised programme document.

## Project challenges

- Travel ban related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Reduced budgets and cuts in planned activities.

an econometrics software, were carried out. In addition, the project group also further developed plans for what will be a future macroeconomic model for Kenya.



Trainings in EViews via MS Teams with experts from Statistics Norway, KIPPRA and KNBS

# Mozambique

## Background

Exploration in Mozambique's hydrocarbons sector dates back more than a century, to the 1904 discovery of on-shore sedimentary basins in the Mozambique. Between 1961 and 1967 further onshore discoveries by multinational oil companies, but their commercial viability remained untested. Since 2010, Mozambique has found major gas reserves off the coast of Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province. Estimates from two of the five exploration blocks in Cabo Delgado indicate that the country possesses well over 100 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. These discoveries have the potential of putting Mozambique into the world's third largest exporter of LNG.

The Norwegian Oil for Development programme was introduced in Mozambique in 2006. The first phase of cooperation (2006-2010) was limited to cooperation between the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate and The National Petroleum Institute in Mozambique. The second phase (2014-2018) was extended to include activities under the safety component. Finally, in 2018 the planning for a holistic OfD-programme was initialized with all components of the programme to be included.

INE is Statistics Norway's main counterpart in this OfD-programme. During the past two years, SSB and the Mozambique National Institute of Statistics (INE) have cooperated to map and plan for a statistical component under the Oil for Development programme in Mozambique. Several missions and study visits have been conducted. Areas where SSB's expertise can be used to establish and improve petroleum related statistics, as well as specific areas in the national accounts which are impacted by petroleum activities, have been identified. With the country-level agreement now in place, signed February 12th, 2020, the cooperation was ready to move from the planning phase and over to the 4-year implementation phase.

## Achievements in 2020

With the country-level agreement in place, the cooperation was ready to move from the planning phase and over to the 4-year implementation phase. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all plans for missions and study visits was put on hold. In close cooperation with INE, the activity plan for 2020 was revised to fit the new situation. This resulted in activities significantly reduced from the initially planned budget of 6,6 million NOK down to 1 million NOK.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Statistical development cooperation. Part of the revenue component of the Oil for Development programme</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Instituto Nacional de Estatistica (INE)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>1 093 000 NOK (Norad) + 703 000 NOK (Embassy)</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad and Royal Embassy of Norway in Mozambique</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2020-2023</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Develop statistical capacity and make available relevant statistics for all users to enable analysis as well as a fact base for public discussions on management of both revenue and the sector in general</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Statistical capacity development, petroleum related statistics, investment statistics, National Accounts, data sharing, data quality, administrative data</b>

## Achievements

- Roles and responsibilities established in INE.
- INE's technical staff has improved cooperation on data management and data sharing with INP.
- INE has increased knowledge on how to include the petroleum sector in the National Accounts.
- INE has started the development of a new petroleum investment statistics.
- Guideline on NA and how to include the petroleum sector is nearly finalized.

## Project challenges

- Lack of IT-equipment, unstable internet and power cuts has made virtual cooperation troublesome.
- Halt in cooperation related to delays in signing agreements and later the COVID-19, has led to cancellations, delays of activities and fewer results.
- The Technical Working Group on Oil and Gas statistics is not formalized.

There was little activity going on between March and August other than re-planning of the project. In September, we started a series of subject matter webinars with INE. In addition to developing capacity, the purpose of these webinars is to build ownership and commitment to the project, both in INE and SSB, and getting to know each other better.

From September to December we have conducted 4 capacity development webinars covering the following subjects:

1. Introduction and main lessons from Norway in incorporating the petroleum sector in NA
2. The role of oil and gas investments in NA – the principles
3. Oil and gas Investment statistics - Definitions, Investment categories, reporting units, variables
4. Norwegian approach to data collection for Investment statistics, agreements and operation with data owner
5. How to handle direct import and pipeline transportation in the NA

In parallel to this series of CD webinars, SSB has worked on development of a guideline on how to include the petroleum sector in the national accounts. The guideline is planned to be finalized during the first quarter of 2021. Development of a new system for petroleum investment statistics has started with mapping of available data. A Memorandum of Understanding on data exchange between INP and INE was signed in December 2020, and a core working group on investment statistics has been established with technical staff from both INE and the National Petroleum Directorate in Mozambique (NPD).

**Example of a WPB**

**BUDGET CATEGORIES**

BUDGET CATEGORIES	2020 WPB (Sk) Approved
<b>Drilling</b>	\$3,191
Environmental	\$263
Planning	\$2,802
Well Geology and PE	\$127
Testing	\$0
<b>Seismic</b>	\$250
Seismic Acquisition (incl. Licensing)	\$0
Seismic Processing	\$250
<b>Technical Studies</b>	\$1,355
Geological & Geophysical Studies	\$1,155
Non-Geoscience Studies	\$175
Other Data Acquisition/Field work	\$25
<b>General &amp; Administrative (Studies)</b>	\$2,714
Payroll and Benefits (National)	\$15
Payroll and Benefits (Expatriate)	\$577
Venture Office Space	\$0
Other Venture Office Costs	\$2,123
<b>Fees</b>	\$1,450
Training Support (16-2) INP	\$500
Institutional Support (16-5) INP	\$750
Social Support (16-6) NREAME	\$200
Application Filings, Renewals, Extensions (Annex B)	\$0
<b>Indirect Charges</b>	\$369
Overhead as described in EPCC (Annex C.2.5)	\$369
<b>Total</b>	\$9,929

**SUMMARY**  
(in thousands US\$)

Area 1	Budget Use Item	Description	Year 2021				Sub-Total
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>PRE-DEVELOPMENT COSTS</b>							
1.1	Pre-Development Costs	Proprietary & Appraisal A	7,238	8,198	6,214	5,820	27,368
		Proprietary (IODA)	675	675	675	675	2,700
1.2	Pre-Development Costs	Other Discovery Areas	1,489	1,287	1,920	1,789	5,965
		Other Discovery Areas					
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		9,402	10,160	8,809	8,284	36,655
<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; PRODUCTION CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
2.1	Drillers	Drillers - Plant	429,393	426,960	538,063	806,140	2,200,556
		Drillers - Area 1 shared projects	78,191	58,245	-30,137	78,909	205,208
	<b>Drillers Total</b>		507,584	485,205	507,926	885,049	2,405,764
2.2	Offshore		282,481	120,864	189,622	109,238	692,205
2.3	AO		13,845	11,720	7,870	7,505	41,940
2.4	Equipment		18,227	10,939	4,007	3,993	37,166
2.6	Drilling		12,862	22,187	34,972	85,794	155,815
2.6	Drillbit Cost		195,779	151,963	75,709	133,907	457,358
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		963,878	703,878	807,046	1,006,585	3,481,436
2.7	Administrative Costs		30	30	30	30	120
	Financing Fees and Interest		62,762	553,275	58,488	282,465	857,030
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		92,792	583,305	58,518	312,495	1,447,110
	<b>Total</b>		1,019,550	1,287,083	865,071	1,319,079	4,848,571

Participants: Irene Tuving, Tor Arnestad, INE MOZAMBIQUE, Ståle Møylund

Screenshot from a webinar on investment statistics and mapping of available data. Participants from INE, INP and SSB

# Uganda

## The different year

Uganda has been a partner in the Oil for Development (OfD) programme for many years. In March 2019, the third phase of the programme started. The main objective of the OfD project is to enable UBOS to produce and disseminate petroleum related statistics. To achieve this objective, the project focuses on five statistical areas that are particularly important for covering the economic impact related to activities in the oil and gas sector and environmental aspects. These are national accounts, investment statistics, foreign trade statistics, environment statistics/energy accounts and the business register.

2020 has been a very different year for the world and for this project. A long-term consultant from SSB have been working at UBOS since April 2019, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consultant had to return to Norway and work remotely since March 2020. During the year, plans and budgets have been changed, and activities have been adjusted to fit the situation on the ground. Online communication has become the main platform for cooperation. Because of this, skills and capacity using online communication systems both at Statistics Norway and Uganda Bureau of Statistics has been vastly improved. This includes both infrastructure investments and on the human resource side. Therefore, for 2020 one of the major achievements are the improvements in skills and infrastructure for online communications, something that will benefit the institutions in years to come.

In 2020, UBOS published statistics on foreign trade in services for the first time as well as the related documentation report. This area of cooperation was established in 2019 and Statistics Norway have contributed on methodological issues connected to the current publication but is also involved in activities to further improve quality for the survey in the coming years. Foreign trade statistics is important both as a stand-alone statistic providing information on cross border trade but also to further improve national accounts, an area that SSB also has contributed in 2020.

SSB has contributed to both the collection of investment statistics from the oil and gas sectors, and to update the national accounts system to incorporate the oil sector in 2019. The oil and gas investment statistics measure both the amount already invested, but also the planned future investments. SSB has supported UBOS in all steps of developing the oil and gas investment statistics, which

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Institutional cooperation under the Oil for Development Programme</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>4 445 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Royal Embassy in Kampala, Oil for Development</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2019-2022</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Improve UBOS' capacity for producing and disseminating petroleum related statistics</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Oil and gas investments, national accounts, energy accounts, foreign trade statistics, environmental statistics, business register</b>

## Achievements

- UBOS and SSB has improved capacity in the use of online communication platforms.
- UBOS has published documentation report and statistics on foreign trade with services.
- UBOS has improved methodology and questionnaire used to collect foreign trade in services statistics.
- UBOS has further developed infrastructure and capacity necessary for the Business register.

## Project challenges

- The consequences of COVID-19 including lock down in both countries, travel restrictions and communication challenges. Activities have been changed and postponed which has had negative impact on results.

is now carried out quarterly. In 2019, the methodology report was finalised and presented for UBOS management. Further data collection has been carried out in 2020 and it is expected the first results will be published in 2021.

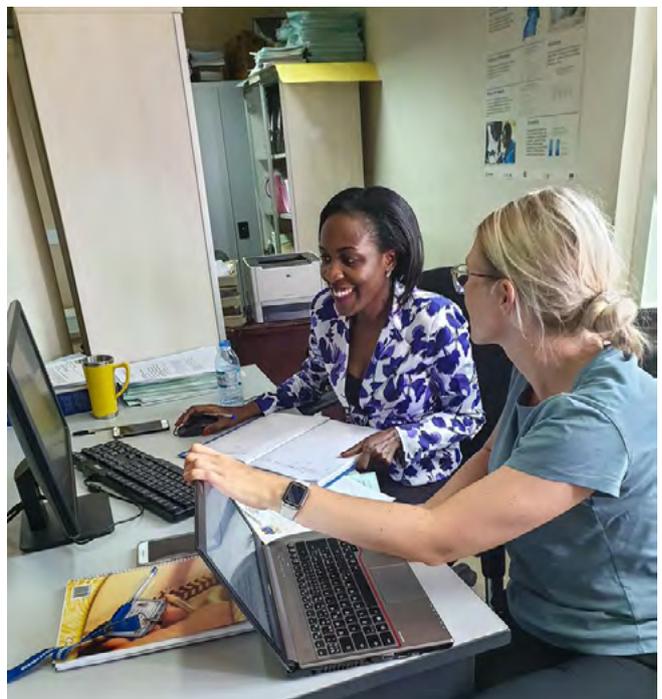
SSB has continued supporting UBOS with the Statistical business register (SBR) in 2020, but with very reduced activity. The initial plans were also to start cooperation on environmental statistics and energy accounts in 2020, which hopefully now can be initiated in 2021.



Field trip to the oil region of Western Uganda, for the revenue component. Learning more about the Ugandan Petroleum sector. Participants from Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, UBOS, Petroleum Authority of Uganda and SSB



Landscapes of Western Uganda



UBOS and SSB working shoulder to shoulder on International trade in Services

# Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASSES)

The IASSES project is based on the UN and World Bank initiated Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) survey questionnaire under the SDG 7 goal hierarchy. The questionnaire(s) are targeting the situation in households and local communities. In addition to information on access and use of commonly used types of energy carriers, the IASSES expands the international survey template with a module for analysis of the socioeconomic impact of access over time specifically related to electricity.

The project is organized primarily as a cooperation between SSB and the NSOs<sup>1</sup> in Mozambique and Tanzania but is also involving the national Energy Authorities in the two partner countries respectively.

The objective with the methodological phase of the project is to provide a well-documented, generic survey tool package that can be re-used in several countries of choice. The survey will measure both the access to sustainable energy and the impact of getting access. Hence, since the global COVID-19 pandemic caused other economic impact, the project has developed a separate module to disentangle the impact of getting access to sustainable energy from the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. A draft methodological report which documents the methods and the final approach developed for all the mentioned survey elements is shared by the cooperation partners and ready for practical use. The final update of the technical survey application/programming will be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

The objective with the project survey implementation phase is to conduct the fieldwork in Mozambique and Tanzania and thereby provide quality data to national and international (SE4All) databases. Due to the global pandemic, the implementation phase is as of now postponed to 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASSES)</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Instituto de Estatística, Mozambique and National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>2 891 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>NORAD</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2018-2022</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Contributing to the SE4All initiative for measuring energy access by conducting the already developed survey in two new countries; Mozambique and Tanzania</b></li><li>• <b>Developing state of the art survey tools and an “impact of access” module now with adjustments for possible recent effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic</b></li><li>• <b>Further develop the capacity of the national statistical offices on the topic energy relevant statistics</b></li></ul>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Household survey, Community survey, Access to energy, Impact of energy, Mozambique, Tanzania</b>



Fieldworker in action before the COVID-19 outbreak

### Achievements

- The questionnaire phrasing and skip-patterns further optimized and finetuned.
- Catalogues with solar systems and cooking ovens linked to the tier-classification ready for use.
- A separate module to disentangle the possible impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the possible impact of access and use of sustainable energy has been developed.
- State of the art link between the electronic questionnaire and the EA cartography introduced.
- Tabulation- and analysis plan inclusive data constructs for processing and tabulation developed.
- Capacity sharing between the partners on developing and testing part of the survey tools is completed.

### Project challenges

- Postponing the survey fieldwork for at least a year due to the global pandemic.
- Adapt to video-based cooperation.
- Achieve final agreements for budget, fund transfers and accounting.
- Developing instruments has taken more time than anticipated.

# Gender Equality for Development

## Adjustments and new skills

2020 started positively for both Gender Equality for Development (GEfD) projects. In Nepal the final signatures to the cooperation were in order and the cooperation was to begin in full. In Ethiopia the project was already moving well with activities lined up. Then the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced a new direction. Budgets and plans were revised and revised again to adapt to the new situation.

In April the partners chose to not assume that we could travel again in 2020. The focus quickly shifted towards what may be achieved online. With flexibility provided from the donor, the coordinating partners – Bufdir and the ministries in Nepal and Ethiopia – turned to upgrading infrastructure to enable online cooperation. Both skills and tools improved throughout the year and regular contact was maintained. The GEfD programme is based on capacity building through sharing experiences, but the largest learning achievement in 2020 is probably exploring together something neither of the organisations had experienced before. Learning to communicate and learn through online tools at this level will have impact for the rest of the project and beyond.

That said, not all the planned activities were possible to move to online cooperation. Some were set on hold and progress in general was slow. Both projects had significantly reduced activity level compared to the plans throughout the year. However, managing progress and embracing new ways of communicating in the difficult year of 2020 gives reasons for optimism when the world returns from crisis management mode.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Gender Equality for Development - Ethiopia</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY) Ethiopia, Central Statistical Agency (CSA) Ethiopia, Ministry of Culture Norway, The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>777 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Strengthening knowledge management in development and implementation of gender policies</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Gender statistics, dissemination, institutional cooperation, Gender asset gap survey</b>

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Gender Equality for Development - Nepal</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) Nepal, Central Statistics Bureau (CBS) Nepal, Ministry of Culture Norway, The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>264 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad, via Bufdir</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Strengthening knowledge management in development and implementation of gender policies</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Gender statistics, dissemination, institutional cooperation</b>



Home offices:  
Online meeting with CBS, MoWCSC, Bufdir and SSB

## The project in Nepal

2020 started very good, with the final signatures to the project agreement between the partners in Nepal and Norway. The first technical mission was just a week away when all trips were cancelled in March.

The second quarter had low activity. The infrastructure in Nepal was not conducive for home office and core people had to prioritize more urgent issues in the new crisis. But things picked up. IT equipment was procured and towards the end of the year there were regular online meetings and workshops.

The most concrete output in the plan was prioritised: A statistics booklet team was established and started their work. We experienced that it takes longer to establish good relations online when those involved do not know each other from before. Poor internet connection added to the challenge, but the team found their way around it and by the end of the year there had been four booklet workshops and the work is progressing.

The other main product for 2020 - mapping a gender management information system (GMIS) – did not have separate activities. However, both GMIS and creating tools to strengthen institutional cooperation between partners within Nepal are integrated in other activities around knowledge management. Through the booklet project and other cooperation meetings some progress on these outputs were achieved.

## The project in Ethiopia

The Ethiopia project hit the year running with a workshop in Addis Ababa in January before travelling was stopped. The workshop was on questionnaire development, using the blended learning tool SSB has developed and took place in CSA's brand-new training centre. The questionnaire in question was for the Gender Asset Gap Survey, which CSA is undertaking with support from UNWOMEN and where MoWCY is a stakeholder. The workshop also took advantage of synergy between the separate institutional cooperation project between CSA and SSB. After March, follow-up from the workshop had to be moved online and two topics were covered with e-mail correspondence and online meetings. (More on the course can be found in the separate article on page 31.)

In the second half of the year, IT equipment had been purchased and contact improved. Contact with Ethiopia was however also hampered with unstable access to internet and electricity blackouts affecting with meetings.

The booklet work that started in 2019 was continued. The progress was slower than originally planned for and some staff turnover affected it. But new steps were taken, and drafts for the booklet were uploaded to the online workspace. A programme on leadership was also developed between Bufdir and MoWCY.

### Achievements - Nepal

- All the partners have built digital competence
- CBS, MoWCSC, Bufdir and SSB have started online production of statistics booklet

### Project challenges

- Poor internet infrastructure.
- Reduced communication.



Ethiopia: Gender Asset Gap questionnaire developers at the last face to face workshop in 2020.

### Achievements - Ethiopia

- CSA has built more competence in developing questionnaires.
- All the partners have built digital competence.
- CSA and MoWCY have made progress on developing gender statistics booklet

### Project challenges

- Poor internet infrastructure.
- Less capacity to work on the project.
- Staff turnover.

The programme involves employees in the institutions with diverse responsibilities. With COVID-19, political unrest and natural disasters to handle, long term capacity development sometimes must come second.

# Food Security Statistics

## A multi-year food security project

Norad's Knowledge Bank and SSB entered a three-year programme on "Food Security Statistics" in 2020. The programme is a part of the newly established Agriculture for development programme related to Norway's action plan for sustainable food systems 2019-2023.

Division for Development Cooperation has for many years been engaged in improving and making better use of HCES (Household Expenditure and Consumption Surveys) for Food Security Statistics. The new project has been designed to work with partners at both the global, regional and national level of the statistical systems to contribute to this goal. Focus for 2020 was to anchor the project with partners and finalise programme agreements.

## From global to national: Working with all levels in parallel

The project follows two interlinked trajectories. At the global level, it works through the UN-CEAG (UN United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics) to develop a joint guideline for National Statistical Offices (NSO) on how to prepare food consumption data for both food security analysis and poverty together. A major milestone was met when the suggested project was included in UN-CEAG's programme for 2020-2021. Statistics Norway will also chair the workstream on "food security and consumption statistics" covering five projects including the guideline project.

At the regional level, and parallel to developing the guideline, the project will build partnership and capacity with the COMESA (The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Secretariat in preparing HCES data for food security, and to identify how to use these data in a food system analysis with other information compiled by COMESA.

The collaboration and overall work plan developed by COMESA secretariat and SSB was presented and adopted in the COMESA Committee on Statistical Matter in October 2020. The Cooperation Agreement between the COMESA secretariat and SSB was signed in December. In 2021, COMESA will hire a technical expert that will work closely with SSB experts in developing capacity in food security based on HCES data.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Food Security Statistics</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>COMESA, UN-CEAG</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>1 525 000 NOK</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2020-2023</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>To improve quality and use of food consumption data from household budget surveys</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys, Food security, Food system, Capacity development, Guideline</b>

## Achievements

- International attention and support to the projects.

## Project challenges

- New rules for applications to Norad.
- Challenges in obtaining HCES data sets containing all information required for food security analysis.

At the national level, NSOs in the COMESA member countries interested in doing the analysis will receive training and mentoring from COMESA and SSB. By working with a regional actor several countries can be reached at the same time, and the data can be prepared for both regional and national food security analysis. This provides a chance to also strengthen south-south collaboration.

## Challenges during 2020

A challenge has been to access data that can be used for piloting the training with the COMESA-secretariat. Paradoxically this challenge underscores the importance of the project itself: to make the HCES food data readily available for food security analysis.

The process of developing the final project document, budget and contracts took more time than anticipated, largely due to new routines having to be established following the new framework agreement between Norad and SSB. A thorough process to develop the collaboration with COMESA was part of the challenge, but the result is a plan well anchored in COMESA's own programmes.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not have major impact on the project in 2020. The UN-CEAG-meeting under UNSC was before March and most meetings afterwards were intended to be online anyways. Continued travel limitations in 2021 are expected to negatively affect the efficiency on capacity building and joint analysis.

While meetings so far have been mainly between people who have met each other before, the next step is to build relations with experts in NSOs we have not yet met. Our experience is that online collaboration is easier between people who have met in person.

### Astrid Mathiassen og Ellen Cathrine Kjøsterud

Astrid Mathiassen, forsker, og Ellen Cathrine Kjøsterud, seniorrådgiver, Statistisk sentralbyrå (SSB)

Innlegg

# Innlegg: Å redde millioner av mennesker fra sult

Årets fredsprisvinner FNs Matvareprogram må få hjelpen dit den trengs, under vanskelige forhold, på kort tid. Så hvordan vet de hvor flyet skal slippe forsyninger, hvor lastebilen skal kjøre og hvilke familier som skal prioriteres?

🕒 2 min 📅 Publisert: 09.12.20 – 19.34 🔄 Oppdatert: 2 måneder siden



“To save millions from starvation”: In April we wrote an article in Bistandsaktuelt connecting food security statistics to the pandemic. In December (picture) we had another one in Dagens Næringsliv about the data needs of Nobel peace prize laureate World Food Programme and the humanitarian community working towards ending hunger.

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# Register cooperation Norway

The Norwegian Tax Administration, the Norwegian Mapping Authorities, the Brønnøysund Centre and SSB constitute a register group drawing from the Norwegian expertise in a holistic approach to create, maintain and use of administrative registers in international development cooperation. The cooperation mirrors the national cooperation between the institutions.

The register group is working without external financing, which makes it challenging to develop the cooperation and offer broad support to countries. This has been complicated by coronavirus (COVID-19). The institutions have been focused on adapting their working methods to the new reality, and some smaller activities have been postponed. However, contact has been maintained to a certain degree and the institutions have exchanged experiences. Cooperation has been continued within the existing projects in the different institutions.

The Knowledge Bank investigated the possibility of including a "Statistics and Register for Development" programme in 2019 based on a KPMG report done the same year. The KPMG recommend such a programme and continued support to the current work. The conclusion was expected in 2020 but has been postponed due to the fluent situation caused by COVID-19. It is expected to be resumed by early 2021.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Register cooperation in Norway</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>The Norwegian Tax Administration, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Brønnøysund Register Centre</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2017-onwards</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>A holistic approach to developing administrative registers and their use for official statistics</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Registers, administrative data</b>

# International Refugee and IDP Statistics

At its 47th session, in March 2016, the Statistical Commission decided to establish an Expert group on Refugee and IDP statistics. The decision was based on a report presented by Statistics Norway, Turkstat, UNHCR and Eurostat. The Commission mandated the group to develop a set of international recommendations on refugee statistics and at the same time explore the possibilities of developing a set of international recommendations on IDP statistics.

After two years, in 2018, the group came back to the Commission and presented a set of international recommendations on refugee statistics, that was supported and adopted by the Commission. At the same session, UNSC supported to mandate the Expert Group to develop a set of International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS).

Over the last two years the EGRIS group has worked on developing this framework for countries and international organisations to improve the production, coordination, and dissemination of high-quality official statistics on internally displaced persons that are consistent over time and comparable between regions and countries.

The IRIS was presented at the UNSC in 2020 by Lasse Sandberg from Statistics Norway. Following a debate, the UNSC decided to endorse the IDP statistics recommendations. The UNSC also endorsed a Compilers Manual, a practical guide that countries can use to develop statistics on forced displacement.



Lasse Sandberg presented the IDP recommendations to the UNSC on behalf of the EGRIS group

## Facts

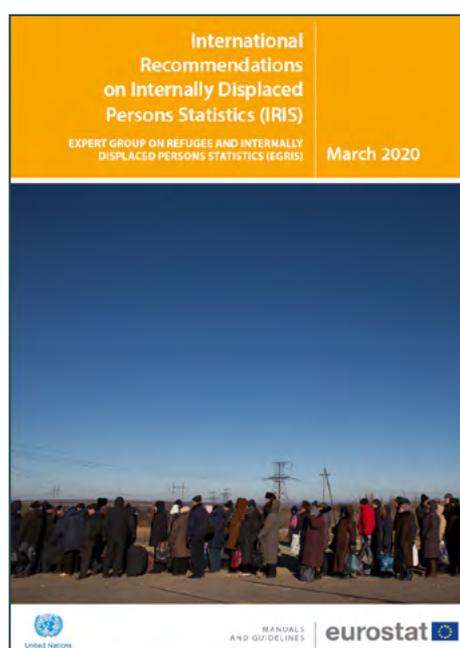
<b>Project</b>	International recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics
<b>Partner</b>	UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
<b>Period</b>	2015 - onwards
<b>Purpose</b>	Contribute to the work on improving international refugee and IDP statistics
<b>Key words</b>	UN Statistical Commission, UN High Commission for Refugees, International recommendations Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

## The EGRIS group

The EGRIS group currently consists of 40 + countries and 16 international institutions. It is led by a Steering committee currently consisting of members from Colombia, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Ukraine, IDMC, IOM, JDC, Norway (SSB), Eurostat, JIPS, UNHCR, UNSD and the World Bank.

## Achievements

- Developed International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS).
- Developed a Compilers Manual on forced displacement.



International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)

# Cooperation with NORCAP

SSB and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) entered into an agreement in 2010 on secondment of SSB employees to UN operations. The agreement is organisationally a part of the NORCAP programme, which is an emergency force assisting UN and is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During 2020, SSB experts were seconded to different UN organisations. The assignments varied from home-based work on analyses and reports to different missions abroad.

One SSB expert was seconded to JIPS and gave support on questionnaire design and testing of guidelines. A long-term assignment to JIPS was also planned, but this was delayed to 2021, due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

## UNHCR Regional Bureau for East Horn of Africa and Great Lakes (EHAGL)

The SSB expert worked with the Regional Bureau for EHAGL helping with the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on refugees, IDPs, stateless populations and host communities together with the World Bank and NSOs in Uganda, Kenya and Djibouti providing training and technical support on sampling and other survey meth-

## Facts

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)/NORCAP force</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)</b>
<b>Time period</b>	<b>2010-onwards</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Statistical assistance to various UN institutions</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>NRC, NORCAP, UNHCR, JIPS</b>

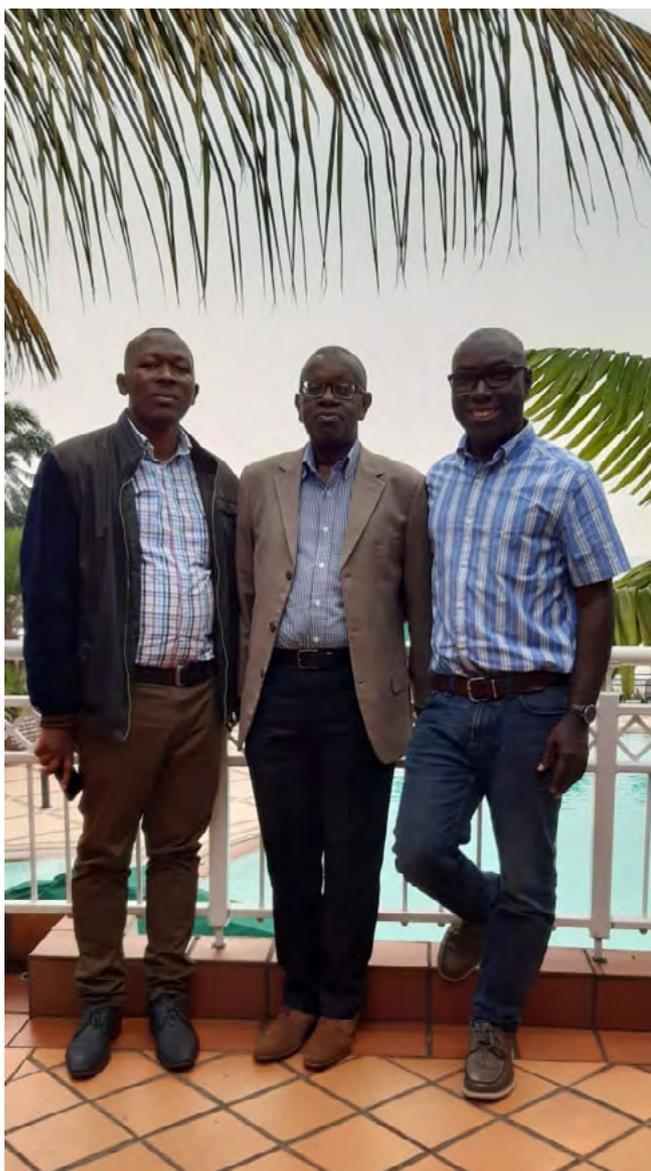
odology. Another important milestone is also measuring the COVID-19 preparedness in UNHCR among different sectors, like health, education, registration, RSD, WASH and livelihoods in the region. The expert helped to develop the monitoring tool and analytical framework for the assessment. Rapid intention surveys for the Burundi situation was also conducted in Eastern and Southern Africa after the elections in Burundi to advise on possible voluntary returns. The expert helped in the design, training, implementation, and analysis of the results. Improvement of data on statelessness is a major area of work for the expert and supported surveys in both Kenya and Rwanda. Cooperation with Rwandan Institute of Statistics and The National Statelessness Taskforce in the planning of a major nation-wide statelessness study was one of the highlights of the past year. A training session was organised in early part of the year for the National Task Force and after the restrictions were lifted in the



The Shona and Rwandans receiving their certificate of nationality from President Kenyatta on Independence Day, December 2020

latter part of the year, the expert went on a mission to help develop the methodology and tools for a pilot survey, train enumerators and conduct the survey. He also supported the analysis of the data. A good and solid partnership was built with the Directorate of Immigration, UNHCR, Rwandan Institute of Statistics and the National Task Force on Statelessness to improve the data and visibility stateless people in Rwanda. All the organizations supported the successful pilot survey on

statelessness. The year also ended very well when the Shona of Kenya and people of Rwandan descent were recognised as citizens and the data collected during the survey was the main advocacy tool. The enumerators trained during the survey also supported the Directorate of immigration in the final registration for citizenship. All the hard work paid off when the President handed over citizenship documents to the stateless populations during the Independence Day celebration.



Sadiq Boateng together with Mr. Rusanganwa Damascene, Director of Citizen Services at Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration and head of the National Statelessness Task Force (middle) and Venant HABARUGIRA, Director of Census Unit National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (left) at the Training workshop for the National Taskforce on Statelessness in Rwanda



Fieldwork during statelessness pilot Sadiq Boateng together with UNHCR colleague Johanna Seidl from UNHCR Rwanda

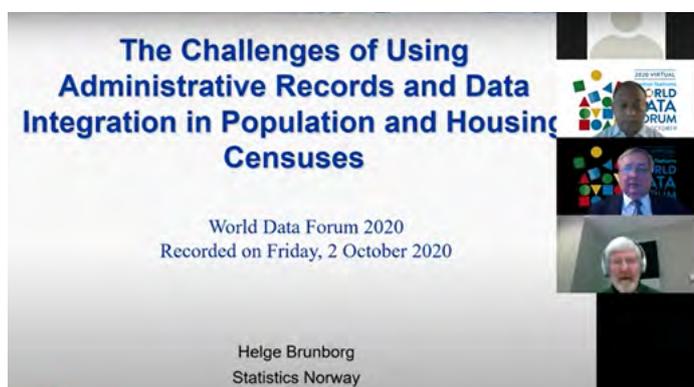
# Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

Statistics Norway has continued the work to improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) globally, including the following activities:

In 2015, SSB was asked by UNECA to develop a practical guideline to be used by countries to analyse their civil registration data and produce vital statistics reports. This report was published in 2018, used extensively at workshops and otherwise, and revised and expanded with a Template and a Workbook in 2020 at the initiative of Vital Strategies, see "[Production of a Vital Statistics Report: Guide](#)",

The Guide provides important background information, as well as a template that contains notes and table shells to complete a vital statistics report. Moreover, the accompanying Workbook can assist in the calculation of measures and indicators and in the production of tables and figures for the report. In countries with low registration of vital events, producing a vital statistics report can help encourage increased investment for strengthening the existing civil registration system.

As a continuation of the work on CRVS, Statistics Norway has become involved in the development of register-based censuses. There is an increasing interest in this all over the world, due to the significant savings in costs as well as the improvements in quality and frequency in producing census-like statistics. Due to the travel restrictions the work on this has consisted of contributions to various CRVS-related documents and



Dr Helge Brunborg presents "The Challenges of Using Administrative Records and Data Integration in Population and Housing Censuses" at the World Data Forum

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) / population registration and demographic statistics</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>166 000 NOK</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>UNECA, SCB, UNSD, UNESCAP, UNFPA</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Improved knowledge of births and deaths from the administrative register system</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Vital statistics/Demographic statistics</b>

reports, web participation in working groups, and presentations at seminars and conferences, including:

- Participation in a group established by UNFPA to develop an UNFPA eLearning Module on Register-based Censuses
- Presentation at World Data Forum 2020 on "The Challenges of Using Administrative Records and Data Integration in Population and Housing Censuses"
- Presentation at a Webinar organized by the Data Integration Community of Practice (DI-CoP), UNESCAP, on "The development of register-based population censuses in Norway"
- Presentation at an UNESCAP Stats Café on "Population statistics from Population Registers: Experience from Norway and other countries"
- Presentation at a Webinar organized by the Pacific Community (SPC) on "Establishing, running and using population registers: The Norwegian experience"
- Presentation at the [Virtual Expert Group Meeting on Access versus Privacy: The Special Case of Population Data](#) organized by UNFPA in partnership with the Global Partner for Sustainable Development Data. Statistics Norway presented Norwegian experiences with building a population register and using these data for population statistics under the session Population Registers and Data Privacy.

# NADABAS

## – a National Account Database System

NADABAS, the National Accounts Database System, is a useful free tool for countries that use Microsoft Excel in compiling their national accounts. Though still using Excel, NADABAS provides a solution more robust replacing links between workbooks with a database. It is a tool to design an organised national accounts compilation system to improve the quality of national accounts.

The new website for NADABAS, the National Accounts Database System, was launched in September 2020 (<http://www.nadabas.net>). On the website you can read more about NADABAS and find training material for using NADABAS. As new training material is developed by the NADABAS network, it will be made available on the website. NADABAS is a free software for the compilation of national accounts. On the website you can register to get access to the latest version for the software.

Statistics Sweden and StatAfric, together with Statistics Norway, was planning several NADABAS-training work-

### Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>National Account Database System (NADABAS)</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	<b>352 000 NOK</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>SCB and StatAfric</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Improved quality of national accounts</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>National Accounts/Database System</b>

shops in 2020. Due to COVID-19, these are postponed until travel can resume. Bilateral training on NADABAS has been carried out, over videoconferencing, and new e-learning and video training material developed.

NADABAS  
National Accounts Database System

- Calculations organized in Excel workbooks
- Source data and results stored in a database
- NADABAS is managed from the ribbon of Excel

#### Advantages of NADABAS

- Many countries use a Microsoft Excel based system for the compilation of national accounts, but without a database system. NADABAS provides a solution where the national accounts compilation remains in Excel but are more robust and reliable by replacing links between workbooks with a database. In doing so, it provides a tool to design a structured system to compile national accounts at low cost that will ultimately lead to improved quality of national accounts.
- For countries that already use Excel for their national accounts, NADABAS can be used to improve the existing systems and does not require a total change in how the accounts are compiled. NADABAS can be used to structure and systemize existing workbooks, while at the same time being flexible enough to be adjusted to the data available in the country.
- NADABAS shows all the calculations and links to sources in a transparent system which makes it easy to check and replicate results.
- Finally, there are no license costs for NADABAS except the cost for Microsoft Office, which most national statistical offices have. The system is available free of charge by filling in this [registration form](#).

Nadabas webpage

# Mixing learning modes: The SSB online course in questionnaire development and testing

In 2020 Statistics Norway (SSB) launched an online course in questionnaire development and testing. The content is based on face to face trainings SSB has provided for NSOs and international organisations over many years. The idea was to turn the lectures from a week-long training into videos and assignments that can be accessed by anyone across the globe.

The course consists of five modules covering questionnaire development and testing. The first module presents some background and concepts. The next modules follow the steps of the development process: Specification of information needs, operationalisation of questions and answers, structural and visual design and, in the last module, several different ways of testing.

Most of the development took place in 2019. We knew that making online lectures requires a lot more work than recording lectures that function well in a face to face setting. But not just how much, so the project extended into 2020.

## Mixed mode learning

In January 2020 we enjoyed a great opportunity to test the course during a one-week mixed mode course together with the Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency (CSA) and UNWOMEN in Ethiopia. The event was financed through the Gender Equality for Development programme. All exercises in the training centred around the Gender Asset Gap survey, which CSA was in the process of developing.

## Facts

<b>Project</b>	<b>Online course in questionnaire development and testing</b>
<b>Partner</b>	<b>Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training,</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Norad and SSB</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Providing an online course in questionnaire development and testing based on practical experiences in SSB</b>
<b>Key words</b>	<b>Questionnaire development and testing, online learning, mixed mode</b>

The course videos were at this point rather rough around the edges and some of the assignments had not been used before. The participants at CSA knew they were testing a draft product. They provided helpful feedback throughout the course and in an evaluation at the end of it.

The videos allow us flexibility in future trainings. Long lectures in face to face sessions can be reduced by having the attendees seeing them before the event. Most importantly, it will leave us more time for discussions and working together on the assignments when we are physically together.



Presentation of flow-chart exercise on questionnaire design

It also means those who want to see it more than once have a chance to do so. Interested institutions can evaluate the relevance of it before spending resources on it. And those who take the course keep the videos. They can refresh the knowledge when they face the same task a year or two later.

### Guided web-learning

After the training in Ethiopia, we took a closer look at some issues. The first follow-up was a demonstration of expert appraisals. A significant part of this is to give comments in writing which are later discussed in meetings, and it functioned well to do this by e-mail exchange and online meetings.



Online demonstration of testing questionnaires through cognitive interviews

### Achievements

- Lectures are published online.
- Successful use in mixed mode training.

### Project challenges

- Designing good assignments for self-study.
- Underestimating resource needs.

From the evaluation of the course we learned that the participants wanted to learn more about cognitive interviews. We discussed a second trip to Addis Ababa but had to change plans due to the pandemic. We thus decided to do a cognitive interview online with the team watching. The online test turned out to be a good step forward. Having such a test can increase the value of on-site work giving participants time to reflect on it between the demonstration and the real test.

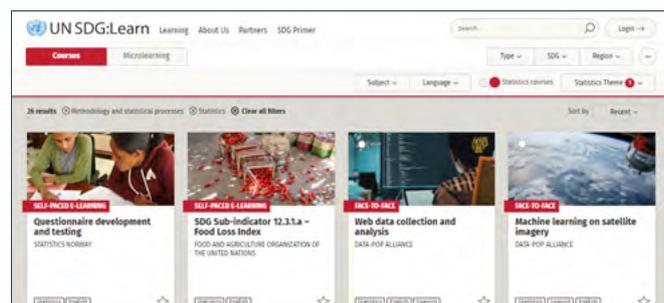
There are obvious financial and environmental savings in doing a course online compared to travelling between continents. But there are also losses. In the case of cognitive interviewing, the facial expressions and body language are important and were reduced by the medium. The informal discussions and observation of how people do the interview are also limited when we are not in the same place. In conclusion, we see that an online interview can give participants a good understanding of how cognitive interviewing works. It is economical and useful, but if we want to learn all aspects of it, we must be in the same place and preferably in the environment of the test person.

Statistics Norway aims to use online mode of training more in the future and 2021 will be a year to evaluate which elements that work for webinars and which to prioritize when we are physically together.

### Published online

The lectures are available online and the feedback is positive. The course has received much interest, as well as suggestions to develop it further. The test revealed that the practical exercises in the course are hard to implement without two-way communication with a trainer. The pandemic has shown that a full course delivered online could be an interesting next step.

Statistics Norway is member of Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST). GIST launched a web-portal with e-learning courses in statistics in March 2020: [www.unsdglearn.org/statistics/](http://www.unsdglearn.org/statistics/). This allows us to share the questionnaire development course next to courses by UN organisations, regional training institutions and other National Statistical Offices. The portal lets us reach out to a much larger audience than initially hoped for. The lectures may also be downloaded. The main target group is NSO staff in countries who often have unstable or just expensive internet connections, who may want to download when there is a chance and watch it at another time.



The GIST web-portal with statistical courses at UN SDG:Learn

# International meetings, working groups and conferences

From March 2020, all international meetings and conferences were moved to digital platforms. Most of the planned events of 2020 have been carried out, but in a different format, and often substantially scaled down. On the positive side, the digital solution has allowed many more participants, increasing the scope of the events. Below is a short summary from some of the international conferences, meetings and working groups where Statistics Norway participated in 2020.

## The 51st UN Statistical Commission, 3-6 March 2020

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) is the highest body of the global statistical system. The meeting brings together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world and is responsible for developing international statistical standards and methods as well as implementing these at the national and international level. On behalf of the EGRIS-group, SSB presented the international recommendations on IDP statistics (see separate article) and was cohost of a side event on the same topic. SSB also participated in a side event on Quality in official statistics organized by the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks where we presented our experiences with developing quality report for administrative data used for production of official statistics. 21st meeting of the Management Group on Statistical Cooperation (MGSC) – postponed and online



SSB participated at the annual MGSC meeting which was carried out digitally in 2020. The MGSC is a forum for discussions on statistical cooperation, and is important for donor coordination, initiating new projects and general exchange best practice and information. The meeting is organised by Eurostat, and representatives of national statistical offices if the European Statistical System and EU candidate and potential candidate countries partici-

pate. An important topic this year was a potential update or redefining of the role and mandate of the MGSC. Other important topics were priorities of Eurostat's international cooperation, donor coordination, Eurostat's activities in the pan-African statistical cooperation programme and peer reviews in Africa. SSB gave a presentation of the Norwegian development cooperation.

## Annual meeting of Paris21, online

The annual meeting in Paris21 was one of the first large meetings in the statistical community that had to move to online platforms due to COVID-19. While it limited the discussions around formal reports and plans, it also opened up for participation by many people who do not normally have a chance to participate.

## World Data Forum, main event postponed to 2021. Digital webinars.

The third UN World Data Forum was scheduled for October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland, but was postponed until 2021. Instead, a series of webinars were held. Statistics Norway participated in the session; "The Challenges of using administrative records and data integration in Population and Housing censuses" where we presented Norwegian experiences of building a system for register-based censuses. The director general of Norad, Bård Vegard Solhjell, participated in one of the main sessions "Leaving no one behind in data for Covid-19 and the 2030 Agenda".

## Global Network of Institutions in Statistical Training (GIST)

Statistics Norway is member of the Global Network of Institutions in Statistical Training (GIST). The network is coordinating efforts on e-learning, on statistical literacy and on addressing NSO's training needs. Statistics Norway contributes actively to e-learning and training needs of NSOs, drawing on recent experiences developing e-learning and many years of working with partners in the Global South, jointly building statistical capacity. SSB held a presentation about the user potential of the GIST web-portal of statistical courses, which was launched at the annual meeting in March.



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## UNSD - Collaborative on Use of Administrative Data for Statistics

SSB is a member of the newly developed UNSD-led *Collaborative on Use of Administrative Data for Statistics*. The purpose of the collaborative is to “strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to better make use of administrative data for statistical purposes, in order to fill gaps in the data available to policy and decision makers to monitor progress and implement the 2030 Agenda”. The Collaborative consists of three task teams. SSB is a member of all three teams and is co-leading the team on “Data management and standardization”. One of the concrete outputs of the Collaborative has been the development of an *“Inventory of resources”* where SSB has shared Norwegian examples.



## OECD/DAC – Data for Development work stream

During 2020, SSB took part in the OECD/DAC – Data for Development work stream. The objective of this work stream is for DAC members to share good practices and improve collective effectiveness in development cooperation. Key outputs in 2020 was the OECD policy paper on “Key trends in development co-operation for national data and statistical systems”, published in April 2021. SSB contributed to this report through taking part in workshops, sharing information on the Norwegian strategy for development cooperation in this area and commenting on drafts.

Another key product coming out of this work will be the D4D profiles of DAC members’ support to data and statistics. These profiles are in the final stages and will give valuable information on DAC members support to development of data and statistics. SSB has contributed to the profile for Norway.

In addition to mapping development cooperation in this area from the donor side, the work stream is also in the process of mapping co-ordination, ownership and sustainability of support to statistical systems in two pilot countries (Uganda and Mozambique). The purpose of these country studies is to get an overview of total support to the country and to analyse how coordination functions; amongst donors, between donors and partner and towards national priorities. The studies are looking at existing constraints and seeks to identify examples of good coordination that may guide future support on country level. SSB has provided information of our ongoing cooperation projects in Uganda and Mozambique.

### Reports published:

“Key trends in development co-operation for national data and statistical systems”:  
<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1ce044d2-en.pdf?expires=1613382541&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=A02C3C1DCD5440E7D956F903E4033C62>



# Study visits and workshops in 2020

Statistics Norway hosted 4 study visits in 2020. The overall number of visits were related to ongoing cooperation projects. Due to the coronavirus pandemic all planned study visits and workshops from mid-March

and throughout the year had to be cancelled. Many of the planned activities were converted to webinars and online lectures.

Guests by country	Month	Subject matter
Ethiopia	February	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
COMESA	February	Technical training and planning for collaboration between COMESA and SSB on food security statistics
Uganda	February	Foreign trade statistics
Ukraine	February	Planning mission for phase 2



# The year in figures

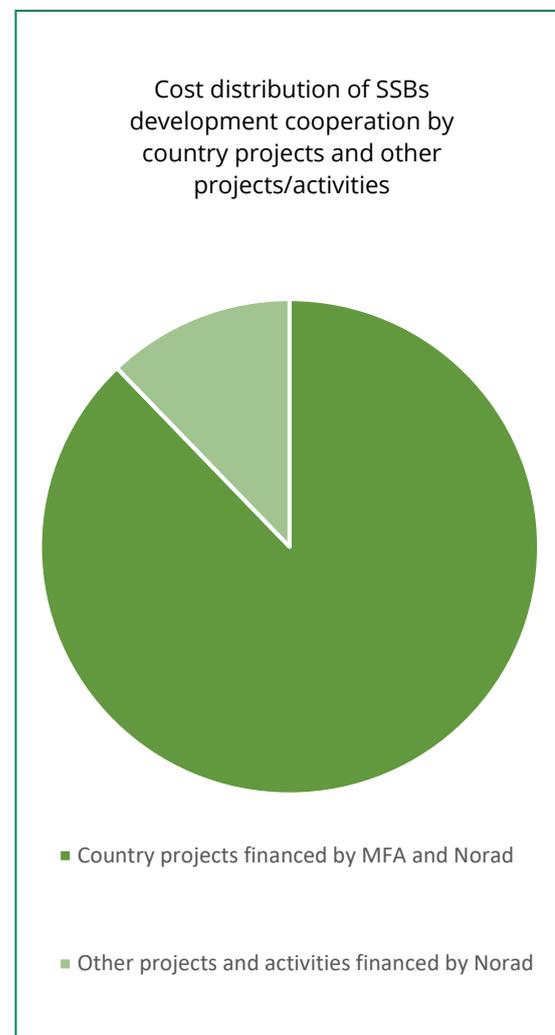
Statistics Norway's international development cooperation consisted of 17 person-years in 2020. There were 19 short-term missions involving experts from different subject matter divisions, including experts from Division

for development cooperation. Short-term missions were significantly reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic.

SSB had two long-term advisers in Ukraine and Uganda.

Accounts 2020	NOK
<b>Country projects financed by MFA</b>	
Ghana	810 000
Uganda	4 445 000
Kirgistan	1 118 000 <sup>1</sup>
Ukraina	6 855 000
Sudan	1 364 000
Mozambique	703 000
<b>Country projects financed by Norad</b>	
Energy Survey; Mozambique and Tanzania	2 891 000
Ethiopia	1 318 000
OfD <sup>2</sup> Mozambique	1 093 000
OfD Somalia	79 000
OfD Cuba	61 000
OfD Kenya	404 000
GEfD <sup>3</sup> Ethiopia	777 000
GEfD Nepal	264 000
<b>Other projects and activities financed by Norad</b>	
Food security	1 525 000
Participation at international meetings, seminars and conferences	220 000
Cooperation with international partners	583 000
Participation meetings in Norway	225 000
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	166 000
NADABAS <sup>4</sup>	352 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 253 000</b>

Short-term missions	19
Study visits to SSB	4
Long term advisers, person years	2
Person-years	17



<sup>1</sup> Total accounts for 2020 are 3 394 000 NOK. The remaining amount is related to the projects of the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic.

<sup>2</sup> Oil for Development

<sup>3</sup> Gender Equality for Development

<sup>4</sup> National Account Database System

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demography of armed conflicts, mortality  
analysis, population projections



