International Development Cooperation at Statistics Norway

A Newsletter from Statistics Norway's Division for Development Cooperation

Achieving results by working together

Statistics Norway is involved in many different projects linked to capacity development in statistics. For a broader reach and better impact, we are working actively together with other partners, both nationally and internationally.

In our experience, collaboration with partners is particularly important when it comes to reuse of data and information. Data primarily collected for administrative purposes, and put together in a database or register, is potentially a great source of information for statistics. However, in many of our partner countries we observe a lack of knowledge and trust between agencies. Statistics producers therefore often do not get access to these data, or only receive them on an aggregate level. This makes it difficult for them to properly assess data quality and ensure that the statistics published meet the standards required. In Norway we are in a very lucky situation where we have free access to most registers at individual level. This leads to reduced costs for data collection and less time spent for respondents.

With this experience in mind, Statistics Norway has partnered up with the owners of what we in Norway call the base or core registers: the population register, the business register and the cadaster/land register. Together we want to support our sister institutions and show that collaboration can improve the quality of both registers and statistics, and reduce the report burden on society. The directors of our four institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April this year. In some countries we already work together. One example is Sudan where the Bronnoysund Register Centre, who owns the registers for legal entities in Norway, is working together with us and partners in Sudan to establish a unique business identity code.

Capacity development and knowledge sharing between Norwegian and sister institutions in partner countries has been an important element of Norwegian aid for a number of years. The Oil for Development program is a good and well-known example of this. Other programs with a similar set up are Tax for Development, Fish for Development and the gender equality program LIKE. The different programs and twinning projects have now been placed under one umbrella at Norad called the 'Norwegian Knowledge Bank' which was launched in March this year. Statistics, which can be linked to most of these programs, is now also explicitly included as a thematic area, this highlights the important role that statistics plays in Norwegian development policies.

The gender program LIKE is currently in the process of starting broader projects in a selected number of countries. Statistics Norway has been invited to contribute to this program on gender data and statistics in Nepal and Ethiopia. As you can read in this newsletter, a first joint mission to Nepal took place in April this year.

Partnering up with other Norwegian Government institutions to achieve better results is important, but collaboration with international partners also has many advantages. One project where we have seen very clear benefits of international collaboration is the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS). The group consists of around 40 national statistical offices and 20 international organizations. We at Statistics Norway are part of the steering committee overseeing the work. A great milestone for us was the adoption of the Recommendations for Refugee Statistics and Technical report on IDP statistics at the UN Statistical Commission in March this year.



Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen, Head of International Development Cooperation

Another project we recently started working on is a new initiative led by the World Bank which aims at measuring access to energy. Norad has asked Statistics Norway to contribute to this work by implementing a survey developed in a selected set of countries. In addition, we are developing a module which also measures the impact of access to modern and sustainable energy. Hopefully, this will help donors in their decision making on how to support improvements in energy access more efficiently in the future.

Planning and implementing projects can sometimes become more complicated when many actors need to coordinate efforts, but our experience is mainly positive. Funds are spent more efficiently, and the impact is usually better. You can read more on recent events related to many of these collaborative efforts in this newsletter.

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

In order to "leave no one behind" while ensuring a sustainable global development, it is necessary both to increase the share of those with access to energy and to make sure that the share of energy production from sustainable sources is increasing. This is also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

- SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and
- Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services.

Norway is in an exceptional energy situation. We have a large domestic production and distribution of hydroelectric energy for both businesses and households and we have a large production and export of oil and gas. The latter is under tight public regulation and carried out by large scale national and international petroleum firms. This has served as the base both for development cooperation through the Norwegian government and business investment by Norwegian companies, as well as public-private partnership with energy partner countries in Africa and Asia for many decades. But still, while urban access to sustainable energy varies from 50 – 100 percent, the rural access is below 15 per cent in all African energy partner countries and around 50 and 80 percent in the Asian energy partner countries.

Norway is now considering how to contribute within the new international initiatives for access to sustainable energy for all (SE4All), such as the World Bank/ SE4All initiative to provide a better knowledge base on who has access to energy. Norway hopes



to contribute to this improved knowledge base by taking an important step further by documenting the impact of getting access, both as improved economic activities and as improved human welfare.

Current research has documented there is a wide range of benefits from receiving access to energy to power electric light and electrical devices. This includes new income opportunities in agriculture, fishing, SME enterprises, handicrafts, reduced time burden, better health, improved access to education, improved social life and security, lower environmental stress and better community services.

Hence Statistics Norway has now completed a planning phase with our sister-organizations in Mozambique, Tanzania and Malawi in order to plan for both a development phase and a nationwide Impact of access to sustainable energy household-survey.

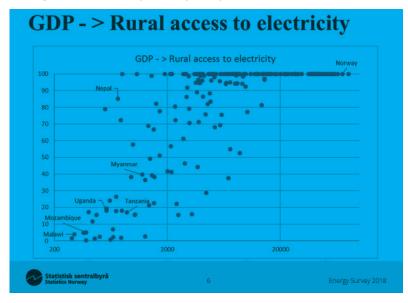
All three countries have already focused on the development of sustainable energy even in rural areas. Smaller nationwide surveys have documented the demand for access to electricity, but only with limited information.

In order to document the impact, Statistics Norway may work with the national statistical office, the electricity service provider and the regulating authority to identify areas which were connected to the national grid during the last 10 years. A household survey will then be used to document the impact of getting access to electricity, in matter of further economic development, change in time use and human welfare.

Such a program would allow Norway to provide a contribution to the international program SE4All led by the World Bank. This program focuses on household surveys to measure the Access to sustainable energy. The Norwegian contribution will be based upon and include these surveys, but also take it a step further by measuring the impact.

In other Norwegian energy partner-countries such as Myanmar, Nepal and Uganda, the

Table Percent of households in rural areas with access to electricity by general domestic product per capita in US dollars in 2015



SE4All/World Bank initiative may already have started to collect the household-survey data on Access to sustainable energy. In these countries Statistics Norway and the sister-organization may conduct the extra module for a sample of households from the same communities.

Statistics Norway is now discussing with Norad the possibility to develop the survey methods jointly with the sister-organizations in the partner-countries.



Gender equality statistics in Nepal

In April 2018, a team from the Norwegian Gender Equality for Development Programme (also called the LIKE programme) visited Nepal to explore a possible institutional cooperation between Norway and Nepal on gender equality. The general idea behind the LIKE programme is to share the experiences of how Norwegian public institutions have developed and managed gender equality policies and how this has contributed to a more gender equal society. Good statistics is an essential building stone for developing such polices both in terms of describing the central equality challenges, as well as for measuring changes over time.

The team consisted of experts from the Norwegian Agency for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Statistics Norway. During the visit the team had meetings with Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), the National Planning Commission (NPC), Department of Women (DW), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and UN Women.

The team organised a workshop in Kathmandu where the Norwegian system for both production and further use of gender related statistics was presented. A special emphasis was given to how key indicators on demography and living conditions are used to shape and measure the effects of gender policies, both at the national and regional level. From the Nepalese side there was a call for learning more from Norway in this regard, in particular since the current available data and knowledge on gender in Nepal is limited and not easily accessible.

The mission will be followed up by a Nepalese study visit to Norway later in the year. Since many topics are still under discussion, it was agreed that the study visit will include representatives from various Nepalese stakeholders. SN and the other Norwegian partners in the LIKE programme will then be able to present the Norwegian system more in detail. This will be used as a basis for identifying which areas and activities that will be included in a programme.



The Norwegian team together with representatives from MoWCSC, NWC, DW and UN Women

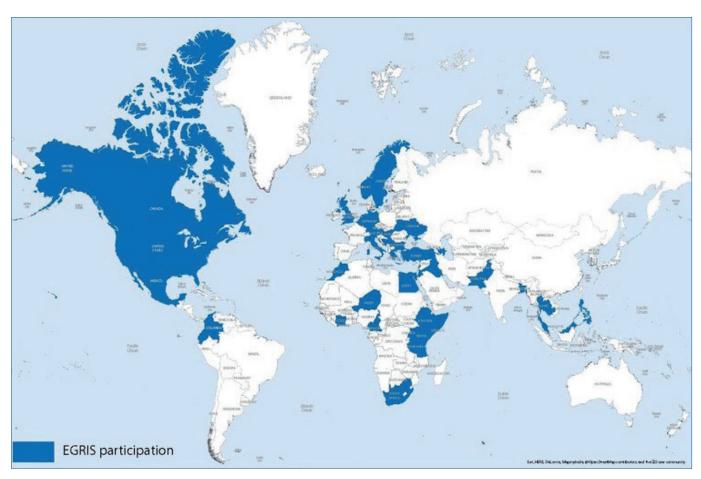
Refugee statistics at the UN Statistical Commission

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, Eurostat and UNHCR. The group was mandated to develop a set of international recommendations on refugee statistics, and to produce a report on the feasibility of making statistics on internally displaced persons. The group was asked to report back to this year's session in March 2018. Over the two years, the Expert Group has arranged two international meetings. The first meeting established a chapter structure for the two reports, the second meeting discussed a first draft of the two recommendations. In addition, a separate international conference was arranged to more specifically cover IDP statistics. Membership in the Expert Group has been open to all national statistical offices and international organizations. In its current form, the Expert Group consists of the Steer-

ing Committee, statistical authorities from 40 countries and territories, and around 20 regional and international organizations.

In the two reports that were presented to the Commission the Expert group introduced a framework for defining refugees and refugee-related populations for the purposes of statistical measurement. They also include an assessment of data sources and methods that can be used, as well as identification of socioeconomic indicators for measuring how refugees integrate into host societies. The technical report on IDPs takes stock of the existing practice on collection of official IDP statistics and presents a way forward to produce comparable, quality statistics on IDPs across different contexts.

The two reports were presented by Lasse Sandberg from Statistics Norway on behalf of the EGRIS group. In its following decision the UNSC endorsed the recommendations



Members of the EGRIS group



UNSC. The annual gathering of the world's chief statisticians. Photo UNSD

and appreciated that the Expert Group had conducted global consultations involving national statistical offices before the finalization of the documents. The UNSC also supported the plans for further work including development of a compiler's manual to provide hands-on guidance to collect statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons. Further, the Commission

expressed the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons.

You can read more about the decision here: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/ 49th-session/documents/

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Ghana - Oil for Development

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, and Ghana started producing oil in commercial quantities in 2010. In August 2016 Ghana added to its production capacity when the first oil from the Tweneboa-Enyenra-Ntomme (TEN) field was lifted. In 2015 the daily average production was about 102,000 barrels. Although falling to about 88,000 barrels in 2016 caused by a 34-day shutdown of the Jubilee Field for maintenance, this volume is expected to double within a few years. Ghana's total proven oil reserves at the end of 2016 was estimated at 1,253 million barrels of oil equivalents out of which 72% is oil and the rest gas.

The Norwegian Oil for Development programme was introduced in Ghana in 2008, and targets poverty reduction through responsible management of petroleum resources. The cooperation has included components on resources and environment, along with support to civil society. Statistics Norway became involved in establishing a finance component of the program in 2015.

The goal of Statistics Norway's involvement is to assist the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) on oil related statistics, work on the Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES), establishing a statistical business register, and to work with the Ministry of Finance on developing a macroeconomic model. Together, more and better statistics, particularly on the oil industry, and a tool for macroeconomic analysis, will contribute to the government's economic planning and good manage¬ment of petroleum revenues.

Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES)

The work on the Integrated Business Establishment Survey has been in progress for a while and Statistics Norway has assisted since 2016 by arranging four workshops.

Compared to previous industrial surveys IBES is the first non-household economic survey covering three major sectors of the economy; agriculture, industry and services. The IBES is structured in two phases, IBES I and IBES II. The survey is used i.a. to produce data for rebasing Ghana's Gross Domestic

Product. A total of 31,152 establishments were sampled for the IBES II. In early 2017 work on data cleansing was carried out, and in September 2017 a summary report was published.

Plans involve finalising the IBES II dataset and possibly to advice in preparing the questionnaires for the next survey. The IBES dataset will also be used to populate the planned Business Register.

Oil investment Statistics

Just like in Norway the discovery of oil in Ghana has resulted in significant petroleum investments. These investments are expected to have an increasing and volatile trend, leading to increasing and fluctuating effects on the Ghanaian economy. On this



Workshop on economic modelling in Accra, April 2018. From left: Robin Choudhury (SN), Erick Asuman (MoF) and Dr. Jamil Seini (MoF).

background there is a need for information on how the investments would develop, and hence a need to compile oil investments statistics. This will improve national planning, policy making, accountability and transparency within the petroleum sector.

In 2017 Statistics Norway and Ghana Statistical Service started to cooperate with a goal to produce statistics on oil investments. The statistics will be integrated into the national account as well as published separately.

The development of a questionnaire and its accompanying manual was finished in June 2018. The goal is for GSS to collect data during third quarter of 2018 and to process the data by end of 2018. GSS are aiming at publishing the statistics during the first quarter of 2019.

Statistical Business Register

Work on establishing a statistical business register was initiated in 2017 comprising a visit to the GSS to study the data sources and to set up a test version of the software. The project is facing some delays in the software development, but by first half of 2019 we expect to have the essential elements in place for a comprehensive statistical business register.

Macroeconomic model

In April 2017 the initial steps were taken to develop a simple macroeconomic model by implementing equations reflecting the real sector identities and the government sector. After successive workshops the macro model and the Ghanaian model group's skills in modelling has developed gradually. The model focuses on the dynamic interactions between the real and the fiscal sectors

and is intended for use to produce short to medium term forecasts and for policy simulations.

The model comprise the non-oil private sector, the government sector and the oil sector. The oil market is determined by assumptions from national experts on production volumes and IMF's forecasts for oil prices. Non-oil export volume is determined by competitiveness and world demand, whilst the non-oil export price is determined by domestic costs and world market prices. The import share is determined by domestic prices relative to import prices.

Future work, apart from capacity building, will add more details to separate government revenues from the oil industry. On the non-oil private export, we aim at separating cocoa and gold to describe them independently.

Although we have only just started to use the model for policy analysis, this will be an important activity onwards. Most important is to learn the techniques and the workings of the model, but it also help us to keep track of the links to be developed in the model.

We have struggled to find a measure for domestic production costs but will try to use some proxy variables to reflect wages or unit labour cost. A simple labour market will be developed linking the labour force to the working age population size.

More details will be added to the balance of payments to complete it with a capital account and a financial account. When this is in place we can integrate some main aggregates from the monetary sector.

Institutional cooperation program with the Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics

Statistics Norway and the Sudan central Bureau of Statistics have cooperated for many years with first contacts as far back as in 2007/2008. The Norwegian Embassy to Sudan agreed to fund another three years of cooperation starting in November 2017. During the two first quarters of 2018, the project has supported one CBS mission to Norway and four SN technical assistance missions to CBS as follows:

07/01-11/01

High level project planning mission from CBS to SN Oslo/Kongsvinger

28/01-01/02

SN support to CBS staff&organization for self assessment on survey-related capacity

11/03-15/03

SN support to CBS on a table based system for collecting price statistics at markets

22/04-26/04

SN support to CBS on weights for update of consumer price index (CPI)

22/04-26/04

BRREG follow up support to CBS and other Sudan institutions on business register

At startup of the SN mission to Khartoum the experts visited all relevant CBS departments for discussions of status and plans. The review followed a structured template covering the number of staff by age, gender, education, experience in CBS and capacity in English and IT, in addition to a description of main working areas. Training needs and challenges were registered. After the round of visiting all CBS departments, a CBS selfassessment exercise was conducted over a two days internal work shop. The exercise was based on the technical software "Tool for Assessing Capacity" (TASC) developed by the USCensus Bureau. More than 25 CBS managers and experts participated at the work shop. First the TASC self-assessment form was completed individually for the areas where the participants had experiences or qualified views. Based on the completion of the various modules by the participants, 6 groups were formed, and the form was filled out again following discussions in each group. All results from both the individual and group sessions were punched into a re-





Some impressions from the CBS self-assessment of own technical and institutional capacity

sults template and summary analyses were calculated automatically. The main findings in terms of strengths and weaknesses and challenges were presented and discussed in plenum with the participants and also as a debriefing with the CBS Director General at the last day of the SN mission in Sudan.

Registers for Development

In April, Statistics Norway signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Norwegian Tax Authorities, the Brønnøysund Register Centre and the Mapping Authorities on working together on developing a joint programme for assisting developing countries on improving their core administrative registers, and their solution for sharing and exchanging information. The initiative comes from an increased demand for Norwegian register expertise from developing partner countries. While the institutions' individual development work has been important, and needs to be continued, there is a potential for further improving core administrative registers in our partner countries through a coordinated effort from the involved institutions.

High quality registers on population, businesses, properties and addresses are fundamental to social and economic development, transparency and good governance. Each of the mentioned registers provides benefits to the society, and the benefits are greater if the information is co-ordinated and shared. This makes it possible to report information only once, and for institutions to avoid collecting the same information several times from different sources - saving time and costs for citizens and businesses. This can be a challenge in many of our partner countries, and a holistic approach is important. In Norway the Norwegian Tax Administration, the Brønnøysund Register Centre, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and Statistics Norway co-operate closely on exchanging and sharing information. This cooperation is considered best practice, and it would be useful to share our experiences with partner institutions.

Good quality official statistics is important for evidence-based policy-making, and is widely used in a modern society. Official statistics is traditionally produced using surveys and censuses. Good quality administrative registers, where available, is a cost saving and time efficient alternative as collected information can be re-used. A good quality register provides detailed information which allows more disaggregated statistics. This is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) requirements where countries are obliged to report on implementation of the SDGs with data on many indicators. Administrative registers of sufficient quality are often the best sources for measuring the current state and progress made on SDGs. A key reason is that they cover whole populations and therefore allow for disaggregated data which makes it easier to oversee that no-one is left behind.

Foreign trade in services, metadata and quality management topics for study visits from Ukraine

Statistics Norway (SN) received three study visits from State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) the first half of 2018.

The first activity of the SSSU-SN cooperation project was a study visit on foreign trade in services 29 – 31 January 2018. There was a special focus on foreign trade in construction services, but foreign trade in services was also discussed at a general level. The study visit was followed up by a mission to Ukraine on the same issue.

Olena Puzanova, Anna Rozumna and Anna Zakharchenko from SSSU participated in a study visit on metadata 11- 13 April 2018. The aim of the study visit was to set up a plan for developing a metadata system in SSSU. There were discussions on the classifications, code lists and variables. The study visit also included an introduction to UNECE's MordernStats Standards and the implementation of these in Statistics Norway, lessons learned from Kyrgyzstan and metadata seen from a statistician's view.

A study visit from SSSU to SN on quality management took place 23 – 26 April 2018. The programme included work on quality, especially self-assessment, GSBPM and process mapping, user needs workshop, quality assessment of administrative sources and cost calculating. The work on self-assessment demonstrated how Statistics Norway includes all sides in the process; from data collection to the presentation of statistics. The basis for the self-assessment is the European Statistics Code of Practice and the quality framework. The participants filled in a self-assessment form. This will be followed-up in several later activities.



Study visit on foreign trade in services.
Front row from the left: Viktor Kostyrko (SSSU), Tetiana Poremska (SSSU),
Valentyna Kruhliak (SSSU) and Espen Kristiansen (SN).
Back row: Kim Boué (SN) and Vadym Pyshcheiko (SSSU)



Study visit on quality management.
From left Svitlana Babych (SSSU), Siv Irene Pedersen (SN),
Varvara Riabova (SSSU), Serhii Bashkirov (SSSU), Nataliia Pavlenko (SSSU),
Hans Viggo Sæbø (SN), Nataliia Boichenko (local project coordinator for the project), Grete Olsen (SN), Natalia Karpova (interpreter) and
Vadym Pyshcheiko (SSSU) with a part of a self-assessment questionnaire filled in the study visit.

Visits from Ghana

During May and June 2018 Statistics Norway's Division for Development Cooperation hosted three visits from Ghana as part of the Norwegian Oil for Development programme.

Integrated Business Establishment Survey

From 30th April to 9th May a delegation from Ghana Statistical Service visited Statistics Norway for a workshop to continue work on the Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES), and to discuss possible methodologies to rebase their Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and their Producer Price Index.

A summary report on the IBES was released in September 2017 but some work on the details remain. The workshop aimed at finalizing cleaning of the IBES production data, mainly to systematize the units of measurement to convert records measured in value into volume.

Ghana Statistical Service has asked for assistance to rebase their Index of Industrial Production and their Producer Price Index. Experts from Statistics Norway and the Ghanaian delegation spent two days exchanging facts and discussing a possible future cooperation on this topic.

Further, to commence work on a separate project, one day was devoted to discuss the use of a business survey to produce Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.

Macroeconomic modelling

From 14th to 18th of May a delegation from the Ministry of Finance visited Statistics Norway for a workshop on macroeconomic modelling.

The topics for this workshop was to estimation trade equations for prices and volumes, to do policy shocks to better understand the working of the model, and to do in-depth training on the technicalities of installing the model's equation and its database.

Statistics on oil investment

From 4th to 8th June a delegation from the Ghana Statistical Service participated in a workshop on preparing for collection of statistics on oil investments. The work during the week focused on finalising the questionnaires for the oil companies and its corresponding manual. Further, planning for how to process the collected data was initiated.



Picture text: Rooftop lunch at Statistics Norway. From left. Kristian Lønø (SN), Isaac Dadson (GSS) Anel Finci (SN), Marte Claussen (SN), Anthony Kofi Krakah (GSS), Jacqueline Dede Anum (GSS), Patrick Darko Agyekum (GSS), Robin Choudhury (SN).



Picture text: From the left: Abraham Bosu (GSS), Ståle Mæland (SN), Francis Bright Mensah (GSS), Robin Choudhury (SN), Anel Finci (SN) and Dominic Odoom (GSS).

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Statistics Norway continues to contribute to the Oil for Development program (OFD) in Uganda

Since March 2018 Uganda Authorities conducted two missions to Statistics Norway (SN). In addition, SN attended the OFD annual meeting in Kampala April 19th.

Project planning mission in Oslo hosted by SN March 19-23

A delegation from Uganda Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) worked together with Norwegian counterparts, hosted by SN, with the objective to:

- agree on goal hierarchy and budget for Revenue Component Phase III
- agree on annual plan and budget for 2018
- agree on Organization of Revenue Component
- to give input to the Program documentsincluding an agreement on justification, baseline and risk/mitigation on outcome level

The second phase of the OFD program in Uganda came to an end in 2017, with a no cost extension into first half year of 2018,however, with clear indications that the program would be continued into a third phase starting in second half of 2018. The planning mission worked out a detailed goal hierarchy for the Finance Management Pilar concerning the upcoming phase III of the OFD program in Uganda, and also addressed the budget and detailed activity plans for 3rd and 4th quarter of 2018.

The OFD Annual Meeting

By holding the position of OFD pillar manager on the Norwegian side, SN attended the third projectannual meeting at Hotel Africana in Kampala Uganda April 19th.

During the mission SN also met bilaterally with colleagues in UBOS, participated in preparatory meeting and attended a user producer workshop. The latter with the

objective of involving and informing Uganda NGOs in the oil sector activities.

UBOS and MoFPED mission to SN for continued cooperation on national Accounts April 23-27

A delegation from UBOS and MOFPED worked together with SN counterparts to follow up the ongoing preparations/upgrading of the system of Uganda National Accounts to better cover economic activities related to oil-and gas sector. The main highlights from the mission are:

- Reviewed the draft supply and use tables for available 2016-17 data on Oil- and Gas activities
- Developed output sheets from investment statistics data that maps to National Accounts requirements
- Splitting Gross fixed capital formation into Own-account capital formation and Imports of capital formation
- Splitting also operating expenses, investment costs, transport investments
- Discussions on sectorization of Uganda and Norwegian National Accounts

The Uganda mission also met with Norwegian experts to discuss incorporation of the Oil- and Gas sector into the Integrated Macroeconomic Model (IMEM).

Planning mission to SN

A High level delegation comprising of three Revenue Pillar Institutions (UBOS, URA and Mofed) led by the Revenue Pillar Manager, Dr. Albert Musisi from the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic development undertook a planning mission to statistics Norway from 17th to 24th March 2018.

The main goal for the mission was to map out needs and set goals for the next OfD programme period in Uganda. This includes overall goals, organization and resource allocation. In addition, to agree on the scope and content of the mission.

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Administrative tasks. Accounting.

Study visits

Countries where Statistics Norway has Institutional Cooperation



We wish you a wonderful Summer!



More information about the Division for International Development Cooperation can be found at: www.ssb.no/en/omssb/samarbeid/internasjonalt-utviklingssamarbeid

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