



Statistics Norway (SSB) has a long history of engaging in international development cooperation. Over the last three decades, this cooperation has moved from individual ad hoc assignments to becoming an activity fully integrated in the institution. At the core of these activities today are the institutional cooperation projects in our partner countries.

The main objective is to contribute to the development of statistical systems and capacity, analysis and policymaking in developing countries and countries in economic transition.

Statistics Norway is currently engaged in long term institutional cooperation programmes in 11 countries.



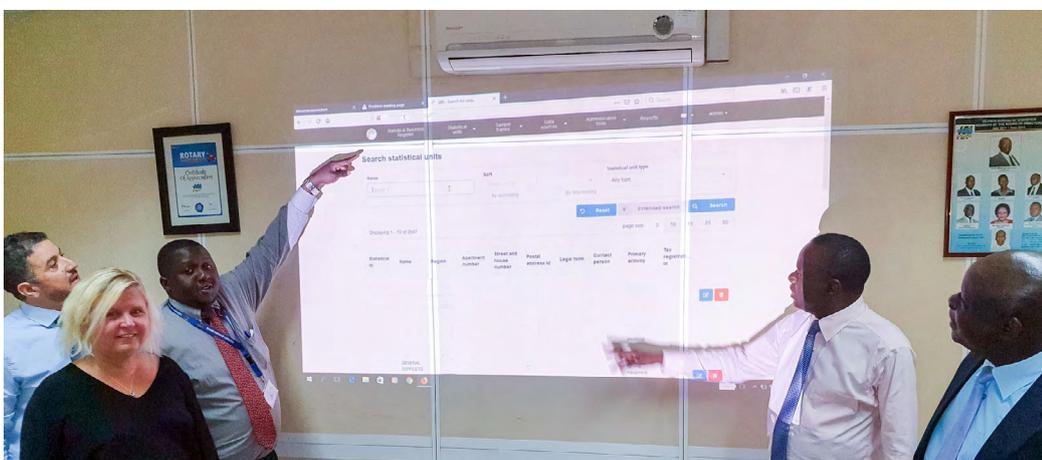
Irene Tuveng
Head of International
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Statistical business register (SBR) ready for implementation

A project aimed at developing a business register has been running for the last few years. The purpose has been to create a general and reusable business register software solution. The design builds on UNECE's "Guidelines for statistical business registers", which is a de facto international standard for SBRs. After a few delays, the system is now ready to be rolled-out. The system has been developed in cooperation with the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan, and the first implementation will occur there. The final mission is planned for February 2020.

The Kyrgyz will run the new system in parallel with the old one for the first year. This approach will be a valuable experience and can serve as input to a version 2 of the SBR software for the future.

Implementations are ongoing in other partner NSOs concurrently. During 2019, we had missions to our sister organizations in Kenya, Ghana and Uganda to install test versions of the SBR software and analyse the baseline data. The climax of the year was a workshop with these countries participating,





as well as Statistics Sweden. Assembling several cooperation institutions in joint study visits is part of our efforts to stimulate and strengthen south/south cooperation. National challenges are identified and shared, and overall better solutions are the desired outcome of these type of visits. During this workshop, we found that the different countries struggle with similar challenges. Access to administrative data, and the lack of a national business ID which makes it challenging to connect data from different sources. All three countries use a business census as the starting point, but data from other, more updated sources will be possible future solutions.

There are a few details remaining to finish for the software: The final acceptance test of the software will be completed in Spring 2020. Also, guidelines on how to adapt the system and fit it to national needs will have to be established. The institutions will assess which parts of the system they want to use, and how they will address quality issues.

Although some details were not specified effectively in the original technical specifications, and confirmed funding has not yet been established, we have commenced working on a version 2 of the SBR system.

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Preparing for Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey in Mozambique and Tanzania

This year there will be a nationwide survey on access to energy amongst households in Tanzania and Mozambique and impact of getting such access on economic activities and human welfare. To prepare for the main survey a pretest was conducted in both countries in 2019.

The aim was to test the instruments which will be used in the Mainland Tanzania survey and the nationwide survey in Mozambique on the Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES).

Three NSOs were involved in the pretest conducted in June 2019 in Tanzania and in August 2019 in Mozambique: Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) in Mozambique,

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Tanzania and Statistics Norway (SSB). To support the training of enumerators, energy experts from the energy sector were also present during the training, from Ministério dos Recursos Minerais e Energia (MIREME), Electricidade de Mozambique (EDM), Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) and Rural Energy Agency (REA). The governments in both Mozambique and Tanzania are giving a high priority to increase the coverage of the national grid and other means to increase the share of households with access to energy.

The objective of the IASES survey is twofold. First to map the energy composition of the households in Tanzania and Mozambique.

How many households use solar power for lighting up their house or for powering a TV, and how many are connected to the national grid? How many use traditional three-stone stoves for cooking and how many use more energy effective stoves, such as a biogas stove?

The second objective is to measure impact on the social and economic welfare of the households when getting access to either electricity or improved cooking stoves. One hypothesis is that when you switch from a traditional three-stone stove to an improved cookstove, less fuel is needed for cooking, and therefore the household reduces the time spent on collecting firewood and have more time for other activities. Having access to electricity for lighting might lead to children doing homework in the evening, or the adults using the power for income generating activities.



Field work during the pretest in Xai-Xai region in Mozambique

A few enumerators were trained during a week in the two countries and then continued with a week of field work. As part of the test, a team of observers noted down respondent behavior and feedback from supervisors and enumerators.

The pretest disclosed themes that need to be emphasized during training, challenges of the questionnaires, and IT issues that need to be resolved before the main survey. A first analysis of the data collected also served as vital input for improvements of the survey. The pretest gave a first practical experience of the cooperation between the three institutions on the Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASSES), with good results.

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Another home getting access to the national grid in Morogoro region of Tanzania with the help from TANESCO

With these objectives in mind, it was important to ensure that the sampled households for the pretest were of varied character when it came to energy composition. Therefore, both urban and rural Enumeration areas (EAs) were sampled and both EAs with and without access to the national grid. The pretest was conducted in the regions Xai-xai in Mozambique and in Morogoro in Tanzania.



Building energy lines in Morogoro region in Tanzania

Statistics Norway visit to Havana under the Oil for Development programme



Old cars in Havana

Today Cuba produces a limited amount of oil onshore. In 2018, the oil production was about fifty thousand barrels per day. In June 2019, Cuba launched its first offshore licensing round for blocks in the Cuban Economic Exclusive Zone in the Gulf of Mexico, calling on oil companies, operators and non-operators to bid for available blocks under the Production Sharing Agreement.

In 2018, Cuban authorities applied for a continuation of the Oil for Development cooperation. A full survey of a new comprehensive program was then endorsed by NORAD. In relation to this, Cuban institutions expressed interest in meeting Statistics Norway to discuss possible areas of cooperation within the Oil for Development program.

In November 2019, Statistics Norway visited Havana, Cuba to meet with the statistical office called Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI) and the Ministry of Energy and Mines (Ministerio de Energía y Minas, MINEM) to examine any interest and need for a cooperation on petroleum related statistics and analysis.



ONEI staff

The initial meeting was focused primarily on the institutions getting to know each other. Both ONEI and Statistics Norway gave presentations on their respective institutions, their mandate and their statistical system. One major difference between the two statistical institutions is the level of centralisation. While SSB is a rather centralised institution, ONEI is represented with one head office, and are present in 15 provinces and in 168 municipalities.

ONEI identified some areas of interest for a cooperation, and clearly stated that a project to transfer knowledge and experience from Norway related to oil and gas statistics would be much appreciated and helpful to them. There is a general challenge of modernising economic statistics in Cuba. ONEI and the National Statistical System have access to a lot of data but lack experience in creating good statistical systems.

Our preliminary conclusion is that work on analytical tools and analyses, such as macroeconomic models and their use, is not the most urgent. Rather a project should start by improving the statistical system before an analytical component may be considered. Statistics Norway will follow up the planning process throughout 2020. The goal is to clarify topics of cooperation and to finalise a project document.

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Ing. Mercedes González (First Deputy Chief ONEI) presents the National Statistical system



Mr. Robin Choudhury (top) and Mr. Ådne Cappelen with interpreter (bottom) presents the institution and its work.



Learn to develop and test questionnaires through e-learning!

See information video: <https://vimeo.com/385467592/e90ddecac3>

Statistics Norway is in the final stages of developing a web-course in questionnaire development and testing. The course is aimed at those who plan to develop or revise a questionnaire; more specifically for people working in National Statistical Offices or other organisations who produce statistics based on surveys. The course is based on experiences from Norway, and from working together with other statistics offices and UN organisations in Africa and Asia.

The course consists of both theory and practical tips and is built up with video lectures and exercises. We explain how we work and why in the videos, followed by individual, practical exercises on improving questionnaires. The course does not lead to any

official educational credits, but it will help users improve their present work, or empower them to take on new tasks in the field of facilitating and implementing a questionnaire development process.

The overall goal for this course is increased quality of the statistics that can provide a solid base for political decisions and initiatives. The road towards this goal goes through improved quality of the collected data in general, and easy-to-use tools and basic knowledge for questionnaire developers. In short, the purpose is to make it easier to develop good questionnaires. Through this course we also hope to contribute to raised awareness about data quality, which is a significant pillar for building reliable official statistics.

Ethiopia and Norway planning a new cooperation project



Lunch with CSA management at the end of the communication mission

The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia and Statistics Norway are planning a new 3-year collaboration project. Norad has provided funding to allow for a comprehensive planning phase. These first planning activities started in summer 2019. In total, four missions have taken place in 2019 to

both Oslo and Addis Ababa. The new project is expected to start in 2020.

In September 2019, CSA participated in a workshop on Statistical Business Registers (SBR) in Norway, together with delegates from Mozambique and Somalia. The delegates learned about how administrative registers are used for the SBR in Norway. They met and learned from the owners of different administrative registers, including the Norwegian Tax Authorities, the Brønnøysund Register and the Norwegian Mapping Authority.

In October 2019, a mission on communication and advocacy took place in Ethiopia to agree on the main outputs under the communication component of the project. During the mission, the work on the new communication strategy for CSA started and a strategy workshop is planned for early 2020.

The final activity of 2019 took place in Oslo in December. The one-week study visit covered all the cross-cutting components of the project. The planning phase will continue at full speed in 2020 to finalise the application, and the programme document, at the start of the year.

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Presentation by Jon Olav Folsland about communication



CSA billboard – news updates

Nepal visiting Norway to learn about administrative registers



The delegation outside the main offices of the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Kartverket) in Hønefoss.

A delegation from Nepal consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission, and the Ministry of Land Management visited Statistics Norway during the last week of November. The study visit was organised together with the World Bank. During the study visit, the participants were introduced to core elements of the establishment register, and the wider use of administrative registers in Norway on central topics such as population and business registration. The participants also learnt how these types of registers form the foundation for most of official statistics in Norway. During the week, the delegation visited the Norwegian Mapping Authority at their central premises in Hønefoss.

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Gender equality programme started in Ethiopia

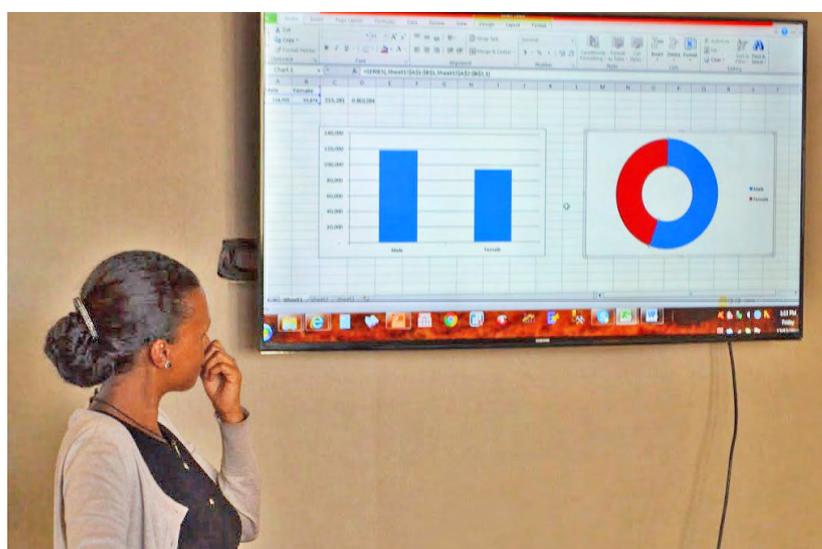
The Equality for Development (GEfD) Programme started in 2019 and brings together different public institutions in Norway and international cooperation partners. The first partner country involved is Ethiopia. The objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity to prepare and implement legislation and policy that yield results for women's rights and gender equality. The Ethiopian Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY), and their Norwegian counterpart, the Norwegian Directorate for < Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), are the lead agencies. All the outputs are based on participation and cooperation from all the partners. As producers of knowledge, Statistics Norway and our sister organisation, the Central Statistical Agency, in Ethiopia are brought into the collaboration.

Presenting statistics in a user-friendly manner is one of the first activities of the Gender Equality for Development (GEfD)

Programme. It involves considering what information to collect, where and how it can be obtained, and what it will be used for, as well as, how to present it as statistics, use of infographics, and writing text about it and linking it to other research.

The second planned country cooperation is with Nepal, with implementation beginning in 2020.

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Which illustration presents the story best?
Mahelet Meswaet from CSA shows three ways to illustrate employment statistics.
(Photo: Bufdir)

A second phase in Ukraine recommended in mid-term review

The institutional cooperation project between the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) and SSB started in late November 2017. The independent mid-term review made in July 2019 stated that the project is relevant, efficient and sustainable, and that SSSU is improving its capacity by building competence and confidence. SSSU's capacity and engagement provide a good basis for sustainability in the project.

The project is, according to the review, well linked with the 2017 global assessment.

The project framework is logical, and the indicators are relevant and realistic except for some delays. The review recommends applying for a second project phase.

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SSSU

New agreement for statistical work in Sudan

After several months of civil unrest, and a no-go situation for Norwegians to travel to Sudan during much of 2019, the institutional cooperation between CBS and SSB could start up again from October 2019. On the first SSB visits to Sudan after the difficult times, we were happy to see that our colleagues are well and that the technical and organizational infrastructure continues to improve.

There is now a new political regime in Sudan working towards a general election in 2022. With the new regime, there also came an increased demand for statistical information both for Governmental use and from other national and international stakeholders. In 2020, CBS expects to conduct at least two large sample surveys; a new round for a Household budget and poverty survey (HBPS), and a Multi indicator cluster survey (MICS), which are supported by the World Bank and UNICEF respectively. There are

demands for several other surveys, and planning has started. The new population census should really be conducted before the elections. The cooperation projects annual meeting was held in December of last year in Oslo. The partners agreed on an activity plan and budget for 2020. The cooperation will continue mainly focusing on economic statistics support and general capacity sharing. These activities are now, to some extent, adjusted to the new situation with so many stakeholders requesting for updated or new statistics. Since October last year, SSB has provided technical support to ICT infrastructure, hereunder CBS server management capacity.

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Enabling joint poverty and food security analysis

[The eight International Conference on Agricultural Statistics \(ICAS\)](#)

took place in Delhi in November 2019. Statistics Norway held a presentation under the theme, Food Security. In the presentation we argued for joint production of poverty and food security data, and for bringing analyses of these two dimensions together. Household Budget Surveys (HBS) regularly collect information on living standards included comprehensive information on food consumption. It is a lot of work to prepare these data for poverty or food security analysis, and although the preparations have a lot in common, they are rarely done together. More commonly the work is done in “silos”, that is at different times and by different institutions and people. This implies double work and inconsistency, and data needed for food security statistics is not readily available from the statistical office, as is the practice for poverty data.

The presentation was based on concrete experience documented in a [report](#) by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) Sudan and Statistics Norway (SSB). Using data from Sudan, we demonstrated the synergies of integrating the preparation of the data for the two important areas into one process within the statistical office.

Concrete suggestions for follow up were presented. One of the suggestions to facilitate regular data preparation for poverty and food security, is to make one joint integrated guideline for the process. Currently there only exist separate guidelines and the analyst needs a good understanding of both themes to integrate the two. A joint guideline does not need any new inventions, but rather an agreement among the stakeholders regarding how to integrate existing best practices. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG-AG) recently provided a common guideline for how to develop a food consumption module in HBS-surveys with the purpose of collecting data for both poverty and food security. Thus, SSB sees this group is a natural place to coordinate the development of a guideline for the joint preparation of these data. Our suggestion was well received by relevant people from FAO and the World Bank. We will present the idea to the IAEG-AG at the next UNSC meeting in New York in March 2020.

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Astrid Mathiassen presents in the ICAS-conference in Delhi (Photo: E.C. Kiøsterud)

A milestone for the Statistics Bureau in Ghana

For the very first time Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) published investment statistics for the oil and gas industry with assistance from Statistics Norway. The statistics were published in December 2019 at a press conference at the GSS.

Video from the GSS press conference presented by the Government Statistician, Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim:
<https://vimeo.com/385438209/f45e2751bd>

There is a lot of work behind the statistics. Since the launch of this part of the project in May 2017, five workshops have been completed, two of them at GSS in Accra. In addition, the Ghanaians have collected the basic data.

The project is part of Norway's Oil for Development program and is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by the Norwegian embassy in Accra. At Statistics Norway, the project is led by the Division for international development cooperation. Technical assistance is provided by Ståle Mæland and Anel Finci from the Division for Business Cycle Statistics.

The Ghanaians themselves emphasize that the statistics, apart from being important for policy purposes, contributes to increased transparency and accountability.

Highlights of the statistics show that total capital expenditure on oil and gas activities in 2017 amounted to \$ 2.3 billion. The corresponding expenses for 2018 amounted to \$ 2.6 billion. Preliminary forecasts show that the investment spending is expected to increase to \$ 3.1 billion in 2019.

In 2017 and 2018, field development expenses account for 70 and 64 per cent of total expenses, respectively. The projections for field development costs for 2019 are \$ 1.2 billion.

It is planned that GSS will make the next statistics themselves in 2020.

To view the statistics, follow this link
<https://statsghana.gov.gh/gssmain/fileUpload/National%20Accounts/Newsletter%20Annual%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Investment%20Statistics%20December%202019%20Edition.pdf>



From left: Robin Choudhury (Project manager, SSB), Francis Bright Mensah (Head National Account, GSS), Anel Finci (SSB), Ståle Mæland (SSB) and Abraham Bosu (GSS).

Keeping track of the petroleum industry in Mozambique

In November 2019, Statistics Norway (SSB) hosted its third study visit from Mozambique National Institute of Statistics (INE). The visits are organized as a part of Norad's Oil for Development (OfD) Programme where the overall goal is to achieve an economically, environmentally and socially responsible management of petroleum resources which safeguards the needs of future generations.

SSBs contribution to the OfD programme is to share the experiences of keeping track of the petroleum industry for several decades. Answers to important questions like how much income the petroleum activities will generate, how it will be distributed and how many jobs will be created, requires good statistics. Good statistics is in turn an essential knowledge base for developing policies that will contribute to a responsible management of petroleum resources.

Mozambique has made huge natural gas discoveries, and when brought on stream the country is set to become one of the largest natural gas exporters in the world. If properly regulated and managed, the revenue expected from LNG and gas sales, as well as the industrial development related to these discoveries, have the potential to change the prospects for the country's economic future.

A delegation from INEs National Accounts team spent a week with SSB counterparts in November 2019. The purpose was to establish an understanding on how the system of Mozambique National Accounts can better cover economic activities related to the oil



The National Account team from Mozambique together with SSBs most experienced expert in the field who contributed throughout the entire week; Ann Lisbet Brathaug



Yun Walther-Zhang and Trine Heill-Brathu covered the annual oil and gas statistics, while Tor K. Ånestad presented the compilation of the statistics into the national accounts

and gas sector. The participants engaged in many good discussions and debates. The main highlights and subjects for follow up from the study visit were:

- Better understanding of the petroleum statistics needed to compile national accounts (annual oil and gas statistics and investment statistics)
- Lectures on how to treat the import/export of large investment objects
- Increased expertise regarding the data requirements for the national accounts and how to obtain data from the Central Bank of Mozambique related to tracking the petroleum related investments in the balance of payments

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