

Annual Report 2025

International development cooperation in Statistics Norway

TALL

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Southern Masked Weaver photographed in Liwonde National Park, Malawi. Image courtesy of Kristian Lønø

Cover page: An oryx standing in Sossusvlei National Park, Namibia. Image courtesy of Kristian Lønø

International development cooperation in Statistics Norway



Introduction – Annual Report 2025

In 2025, Statistics Norway continued its international development cooperation in statistics in a global context characterised by significant changes in development financing and reduced levels of international development

assistance. Across countries and regions, the demand for reliable and timely statistics remained high as governments sought evidence to inform policy decisions, allocate public resources and monitor development outcomes

The international agenda on Financing for Development and the launch of the [Sevilla Platform of Action](#) highlight the need for stronger national institutions capable of producing and using high-quality data. Statistics provide the empirical foundation for mobilising domestic resources, prioritising public expenditure and monitoring development results. They also underpin trust in public institutions by enabling transparency, comparability and accountability.

Throughout 2025, Statistics Norway strengthened its role as a global knowledge partner, supporting countries and international organisations in building sustainable statistical systems. Our cooperation focuses on long-term institutional development, national ownership and supporting use of statistics in policy development and decision-making. By combining technical expertise with experience in governance frameworks, quality management and the use of administrative data, SSB works with partners to make statistics relevant and available for decision-makers.

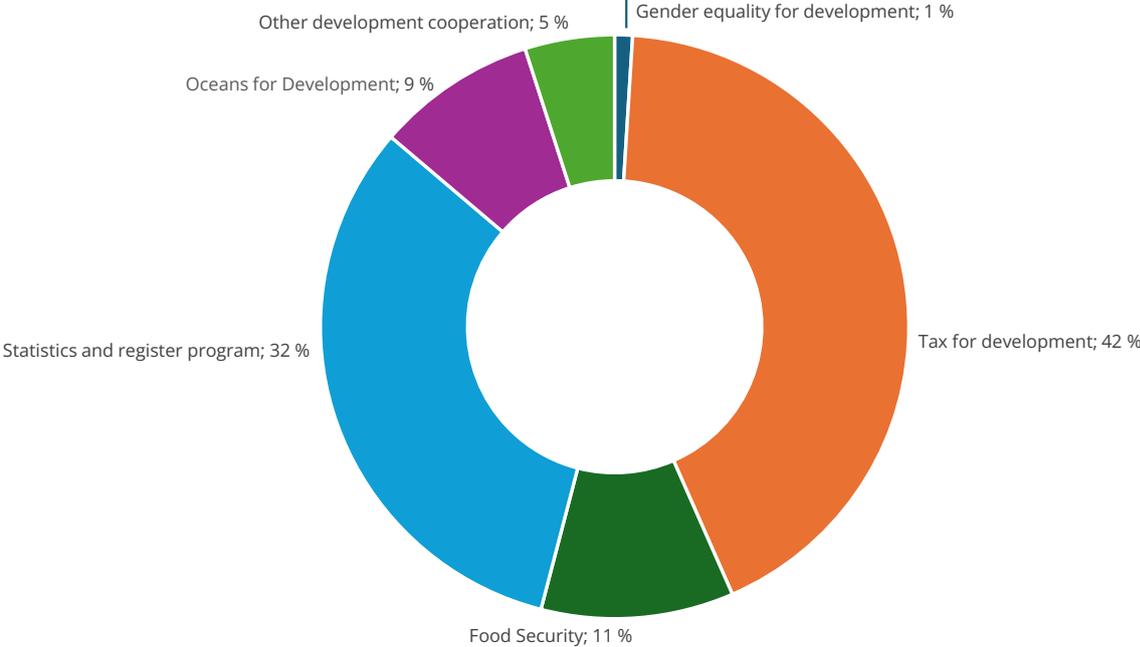
A key focus in 2025 was the strengthening of economic and administrative statistics that form the backbone of public financial management and accountability. This included support for national accounts, increased use of registers and administrative data, and improved dissemination of official statistics. Linking statistical production more closely to policy needs helps ensure that data are actively used to guide financing decisions, assess policy impact and support transparent governance.

Selected results from 2025 illustrate this contribution. The continued support to enhance countries' capacity to produce consistent and comparable national accounts, including the use of NADABAS, is strengthening the basis for macroeconomic analysis and fiscal planning. Improved use of household consumption and expenditure surveys has strengthened national and regional food security analysis and contributed to evidence-based crisis preparedness and planning. In parallel, SSB played an important role in advancing governance statistics, including the development of internationally harmonised tools for producing statistics on political participation and representation.

Together, these activities demonstrate how investment in statistical capacity supports better financing decisions, stronger institutions and increased accountability. Building on long-standing partnerships and accumulated experience, Statistics Norway remains committed to supporting the production and use of official statistics as a cornerstone of sustainable development and good governance.

Cooperation countries and projects

Projects 2025



Cooperation countries 2025



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Malawi – Tax for Development

Statistics Norway (SSB) is implementing an institutional cooperation project in Malawi with the National Statistical Office (NSO) and the Department of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization to strengthen statistical capacity and its use in macroeconomic analysis. The project is funded by Norad under the Tax for Development Programme. After an extensive 1.5-year planning phase, the project entered implementation in 2024, focusing on ten components including communication, economic statistics, National Accounts, and environmental statistics. Key challenges include poor infrastructure, severe ICT deficiencies, and under-staffing, which are being addressed through coordination with the World Bank's StatCap program providing USD 15 million for surveys and ICT investments. SSB supports capacity building through technical assistance, on-site advisors, and knowledge sharing across countries, aiming for flexible, demand-driven support that fosters ownership and sustainable improvements in Malawi's statistical system.

Major Achievements in 2025

The institutional cooperation project between NSO, EP&D, and SSB marked its first full year of implementation in 2025 with notable achievements in strengthening Malawi's statistical and analytical systems. Despite infrastructure and resource constraints, the project has laid a solid foundation for evidence-based policymaking and improved data availability.

Macroeconomic Modelling Supports Policy Planning

A framework for a macroeconomic simulation model for Malawi was initiated during a workshop in Oslo, where the first version of the model was created. This collaborative effort laid the foundation for subsequent refinements and applications of the model in national planning processes.

EP&D successfully applied the macroeconomic model developed under the project to national planning processes, including the Agriculture, Tourism and Mining Strategy and the post-election fiscal framework. Model enhancements in 2025 introduced exchange rate dynamics, export price equations, and labour-cost variables, strengthening Malawi's capacity for evidence-based fiscal analysis. However, further expansion and usability of the model depend on access to more and better-quality data—particularly timely national accounts, trade, and labour

Facts

Project	Tax for Development Programme
Partners	National Statistical Office (NSO) and Department of Economic Planning & Development (EP&D) in Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization (MoFEPD)
Accounts	NOK 9 077 499
Donor	Norad
Period	2024 - 2027
Purpose	Development of the partner institutions' ability to produce and disseminate official statistics on a regular basis, and to develop capacity on macroeconomic analysis
Key words	Institutional development cooperation, statistical capacity, economic statistics, national accounts, macroeconomic modelling

Achievements

- ✓ Applied the new macroeconomic model to national planning processes
- ✓ Planned and set up a comprehensive ICT upgrade; procurement funded by World Bank's StatCap project
- ✓ NSO launched full redevelopment of its website, formed a Content Team, and trained staff in statistical communication
- ✓ NSO successfully balanced the 2017 Supply and Use Table, enabling the publication of updated GDP estimates for 2017–2023
- ✓ Developed a framework and roadmap for environmental statistics and completed mapping of data sources and owners
- ✓ Cross-cutting training in R and Python for NSO staff to strengthen analytical capacity

market statistics. Improving these data flows will be essential for refining the model and enabling more robust policy simulations in 2026 and beyond.

National Accounts: Strengthening Core Economic Indicators

Significant progress was made in rebuilding Malawi's National Accounts framework. NSO successfully balanced the 2017 Supply and Use Table, enabling the publication of updated GDP estimates for 2017–2023. Work on Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) was initiated, marking a major step toward more timely and reliable macroeconomic indicators. Migration to the NADABAS¹ system for compiling National Accounts is underway, ensuring a more robust solution that will improve on the quality of national accounts. These developments not only improve the accuracy of economic data but also lay the foundation for better integration with macroeconomic modelling and policy analysis.

ICT Modernisation and Website Redevelopment

Recognising ICT as a critical bottleneck, the project supported the planning and setup of a comprehensive ICT upgrade for NSO, while the procurement of equipment was funded through the World Bank's StatCap project. This included 50 laptops, 10 desktops, printers, and installation of solar panels and a 16-kW battery system to ensure reliable power supply. LAN and Wifi installation are underway, and

¹ NADABAS – National Accounts Database System is a tool that integrates Microsoft Excel with a database, specifically designed for managing National Accounts.

Project challenges

- ✓ Insufficient basic ICT working tools in NSO
- ✓ Irregular access to administrative data sources
- ✓ Staffing constraints in NSO and EP&D
- ✓ Freeze in funding from the World bank

an ICT strategy is being drafted to guide future operations. Alongside infrastructure improvements, NSO launched a full redevelopment of its website, established a dedicated Content Team, and received training in statistical communication. The new user-oriented site is expected to go live in early 2026, marking a major step toward improved accessibility and transparency of official statistics.

Environmental Statistics and Training

A framework and roadmap for environmental statistics were developed, alongside mapping of data sources and owners. While progress was slower due to competing priorities, this sets the stage for future improvements. Cross-cutting training in R and Python equipped NSO staff with modern analytical



Mario Asanza on mission in Malawi. Meeting the Commissioner of Statistics, Shelton Kanyanda



Installation of solar panels on IT-building in NSO Zomba

programming skills, essential for building automated and efficient data processing systems.

Resident Advisors: Working Shoulder to Shoulder

A defining feature of the cooperation in 2025 was the presence of two long-term resident advisors from Statistics Norway embedded within NSO. These advisors worked side by side with Malawian colleagues in Zomba and Lilongwe, providing hands-on guidance in areas such as National Accounts, Balance of Payments (BoP), environmental statistics and cross-cutting components. The advisor dedicated to National Accounts and BoPs completed his assignment in August 2025 after making significant contributions to improving compilation routines, developing the framework for using NADABAS in compiling Annual National Accounts and Quarterly National Accounts. Meanwhile, the advisor based in Zomba—focused on environmental statistics and cross-cutting components—has had his assignment extended through the end of 2026. Their daily engagement has been instrumental in bridging capacity gaps, fostering practical learning, and ensuring that technical assistance is tailored to real operational challenges. This close collaboration has strengthened trust, accelerated knowledge transfer, and created sustainable routines.

Despite these gains, several challenges persist:

- **ICT Delays:** Slow procurement and installation of ICT equipment have delayed progress in data management and secure data storage systems
- **Administrative Data Access:** Limited and irregular access to data from key institutions such as the Malawi Revenue Authority and National Registration Bureau continues to hinder improvements in economic and civil registration statistics
- **Funding Freeze:** A temporary suspension of World Bank StatCap funding stalled the Census of Economic Activity in the last quarter of 2025, affecting development of the Statistical Business Register and related components
- **High workload:** High workload and competing operational priorities, such as the Agricultural Census, slowed progress especially in National Accounts, environmental statistics and questionnaire design for economic surveys
- **Staffing Constraints:** High turnover and limited capacity in EP&D's modelling team and NSO's technical units remain a concern



Donor coordination in practice. The SSB resident adviser and the World Bank Coordinator overseeing data collection in downtown Zomba



Lunchtime. Director for Agricultural and Economic statistics - Hector Kankuwe, Coordinator SSB - Irene Tuveng and Deputy Director Dissemination and IT - Dalitso Chabwera

Mitigating Measures to Keep Momentum

To counter delays and structural challenges, the project adopted several mitigating strategies in 2025. First, close coordination with the World Bank's StatCap team ensured that ICT procurement—though delayed—progressed, while SSB provided technical planning and setup support to accelerate ICT infrastructure readiness. Regular bi-weekly coordination meetings between NSO, EP&D, SSB, and the World Bank helped align priorities and troubleshoot bottlenecks. Where funding freezes affected activities such as the Census of Economic Activity, the project shifted focus to preparatory work, including software testing and administrative data mapping. For capacity gaps, resident advisors played a critical role in maintaining continuity and facilitating online collaboration when short-term missions were not feasible. These measures have helped sustain progress and position the project for stronger delivery in 2026.

Priorities for 2026

In 2026, the cooperation will prioritize strengthening NSO's data management capacity. Depending on the new ICT infrastructure to be in place in early 2026, the focus will shift to developing and implementing

robust working routines to ensure systems are maintained, data is securely stored, and information remains accessible. The completion of the Census of Economic Activity (CEA) in the first half of 2026 provides an excellent foundation for establishing an updated Statistical Business Register (SBR). Implementing the STATBUS² software and creating routines for regular updates and maintenance of the SBR will be a key deliverable. Additionally, the project will support improvements in the production process for the Annual Economic Survey (AES), aiming to enhance both quality and timeliness so that these statistics better meet the needs of National Accounts. Another priority will be supporting NSO in developing routines for regular dissemination and timely updates on the new website, ensuring that users have easy access to relevant and up-to-date statistics. Better and more regular access to administrative data sources for production of statistics—such as tax, business, and civil registration data—will also be a critical focus.



Tree in full bloom outside the NSO office in Zomba



View of the Mountains in Mulanje, Malawi

² STATBUS – a generic web application for Statistical Business Registers

Namibia – Tax for Development

Building strong foundations for Namibia's Data future

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and Statistics Norway (SSB) signed a four-year institutional cooperation agreement in May 2024. The partnership aims to achieve two primary long-term goals: Firstly, increased use of statistics and spatial data for evidence-based decision making and development of sound policies, and secondly increased trust in statistics and spatial data. These goals will be reached by strengthening the institutional capacity of NSA and the National Statistical System (NSS), improving communication and availability of statistics, and increasing the use of high-quality statistical surveys and administrative data sources. The cooperation covers many statistical areas of National Statistical Offices, including subject areas in economic and social statistics as well as cross-cutting functions such as IT, human resources, and communication.

Modernizing National Accounts – for the best of national economic planning

The major milestone in the cooperation between NSA and SSB in 2025 has been the preparation of a revision plan for Namibia's national accounts, which has been approved by the Statistician-General. This plan includes a full review of data sources, methods, and time series, ensuring that the national accounts remain a robust foundation for macroeconomic analysis, forecasting, and national budgeting.

Transforming Price Statistics

Significant progress has been made in price statistics, with new innovations that will enhance the quality, flexibility, and timeliness of key economic indicators. NSA has finalized and tested a new Python-based production system for the Producer Price Index (PPI), with dissemination approved for early 2026. In addition, a new system for import and export price indices (XMPI) has been developed and tested, also scheduled for release by mid-2026.

The two newly developed systems serve as pilots and support capacity building as the NSA price team starts the work for updating the consumer price index (CPI) production system. This modernization, including a Python based production system and improvement of both quality and efficiency, began in 2025 and will remain the focus throughout 2026. It is a substantial task that will take several years.

Facts

Project	Tax for Development
Partner	Namibia Statistics Agency
Accounts	NOK 5 075 668
Donor	Norad
Period	2024 - 2027
Purpose	Contribute to an improved tax system and increase tax revenue through the improvement of the National statistics system and the National statistics office.
Key words	Institutional development cooperation, statistical capacity, national accounts, economic statistics, social statistics, communication, IT, HR

Achievements

- ✓ Modernisation of National accounts
- ✓ New systems for price statistics
- ✓ Established environment statistics
- ✓ New IT-strategy approved

Project challenges

- ✓ Availability of staff at SSB and NSA
- ✓ Budget constraints



Deputy Statistician General from NSA explaining the approval process of new statistics products at NSA and Namibia to Norwegian counterparts

Roadmap for Producing Environmental Statistics

In 2025, a roadmap for producing data on greenhouse gas emissions and sustainability indicators was developed by NSA's new unit on environmental statistics developed with support from Statistics Norway. Production systems for these statistics are planned for 2026 and 2027, marking a major step toward strengthening Namibia's knowledge base on climate and environmental issues.

NSA achieving impressive results across the institution

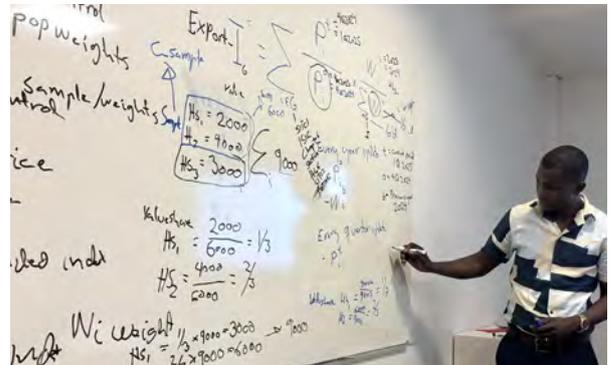
In addition to the headline results, the partnership has delivered tangible progress across several areas:

- Mixed-mode survey methodology has been introduced, paving the way for more cost-efficient data collection and improved quality, an approach that will significantly benefit from upcoming large-scale surveys such as the next census.
- Preparations for Namibia's first-ever time-use survey are underway, marking an important step in expanding social statistics with better coverage on gender statistics.

- In 2025, the NSA approved a new IT strategy for the coming years.
- NSA has strengthened its technical capacity through Python training and an IT assessment, supporting modernization of production systems.
- There has also been training on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and a successful pilot exercise has laid the ground for improvements in data quality assurance.
- Steps have been taken to improve NSA communication of statistics and to improve relationships with media and other users.
- Finally, efforts in human resource development have focused on strengthening NSA as a learning organization. HR systems and procedures for identifying and addressing training needs have been enhanced. Initiatives have aimed to improve manager-employee relations and promote active involvement by encouraging employees to take greater responsibility for their own learning and development. In addition, a South-South cooperation has been established with colleagues at the Ghana Statistical Service.



Python training at NSA, Namibia



NSA price statistician in Norway working on methodology improvements



Working with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) at NSA, Namibia



NSA visiting a Norwegian recycle center in Kongsvinger

Ghana – Tax for Development

Strengthening economic and statistical capacity in Ghana: Key achievements in 2025

Macroeconomic modelling in the Ministry of Finance

Since 2015, Statistics Norway has partnered with the Ministry of Finance and the Ghana Statistical Service, first under Norway's Oil for Development program and now through the Tax for Development initiative. The collaboration continues to focus on national accounts, economic modelling, HR-related topics, and internal training. In September 2025, Statistics Norway delivered a successful training workshop in Accra, Ghana, to strengthen the Ministry of Finance's capacity for macroeconomic modelling and forecasting. Fifteen officials gained hands-on experience using EViews, a tool to handle models, to build databases, estimate equations, and generate forecasts. Key outputs included a reusable program template and the introduction of GhanaMod, a tailored macroeconomic model that has been developed earlier by SSB and the Ministry. All participants completed practical tasks, laying the foundation for sustained analytical capacity. However, staff turnover and restructuring at the Ministry of Finance mean that many participants are new to macroeconomic modelling, requiring continued support and training. Ongoing assistance remains essential to maintain and build capacity.

Strengthening statistical systems and organizational capacity

In 2025, Statistics Norway (SSB) and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) continued to focus on strengthening national accounts and price statistics systems, as well as HR and organizational development. Two missions advanced the operationalization of NADABAS for compiling national accounts. Hands-on training and technical support enabled the structuring and uploading of sectoral data, integration of VAT data for monthly GDP indicators, and finalization of production accounts for all industries, a critical milestone for the 2023 GDP rebasing. Datasets were validated, classifications standardized, and feasibility work on the expenditure approach initiated. NADABAS is now ready to integrate major datasets and support the construction of Supply and Use Tables for 2023, keeping GSS on track for the 2026 rebasing goal.

Further progress was achieved on price statistics through improvements of the Producer Price Index (PPI) calculation tool. The workflow of producing the

Facts

Project	Institutional Cooperation under the Tax for Development program
Partner	Ministry of Finance, Ghana Statistical Service
Accounts	NOK 2 723 741
Donor	Norad
Period	2024 - 2027
Purpose	Improve the quality of statistics and to increase the capacity to perform fiscal policy analysis and research so that Ghana can build a strong and resilient economy
Key words	National account, capacity building, HR, organizational development, statistics, macroeconomics, fiscal policy

Achievements

- ✓ Empowered MoF with EViews for forecasting
- ✓ NADABAS ready: Driving Ghana's GDP rebasing forward
- ✓ Modern HR culture: Building leadership and engagement at GSS

Project challenges

- ✓ Staff turnover and restructuring at MoF: Many participants are new to the macroeconomic model, requiring continued support and training
- ✓ Sustainability of GhanaMod: Without follow-up workshops and regular use, capacity gains risk being lost

PPI was improved to make monthly production easier and to include complete historical data, with a plan set for full implementation of the software.

Beyond technical capacity, GSS undertook several initiatives to modernize its HR practices and organizational culture. These included improvements in onboarding routines, leadership development, and employee engagement. Over 200 staff participated in workshops on psychological safety and collaboration in Ghana, while virtual and in-person exchanges with Statistics Norway provided insights into structured onboarding, internal communication, and union engagement. Recommendations emphasized cultural transformation toward a performance-driven, learning oriented organization, with priorities such as launching an intranet, strategic competence development, job rotation, and mentoring.

Collectively, these efforts have contributed to strengthening GSS's technical systems, improving internal communication, and supporting the development of a more collaborative and learning-oriented organization. They aim to help GSS deliver better-quality data and maintain improvements that are important for Ghana's statistical development.



① Training in macroeconomic modelling in Accra. Participants from the Ministry of Finance and the Statistics Norway consultant



① Workshop on improving the calculation tool for Producer Price Index at Ghana Statistical Service, Accra

Impact on Ghanaian society

The improvements in macroeconomic modelling and statistics help Ghana make better economic decisions, leading to more stable public finances and more effective policies. More accurate data strengthen transparency and improve planning across government.

Stronger HR systems and organizational culture at GSS create more professional and efficient public institutions, which ultimately improve the quality of the data and services delivered to citizens. Building local expertise in modelling and statistics also reduces long-term dependence on external support.

Overall, these efforts contribute to stronger institutions, better governance, and more informed economic management, benefiting both the economy and the public.

Priorities for 2026

In 2026, our collaboration with the Ministry of Finance will focus on building capacity to effectively use the macroeconomic model for policy analysis and forecasting. With Ghana Statistical Service, the priority will be to implement the national accounts in NADABAS and prepare for a comprehensive rebasing exercise to ensure improved accuracy and relevance of economic indicators.



Workshop on Human Resource practices and organizational culture in Oslo. Participants from the Ghana Statistical Service and Statistics Norway

Ukraine

The institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) is a broad project aiming at institutional development, increased access to and understanding of official statistics for the users, together with more and better official statistics. The overall goal of the project is optimal resource allocation through improved evidence-based policy making. The administration of the project was transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway to Norad in 2021 and is now funded under the Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine. The second phase ended in 2025. Statistics Norway and SSSU have applied for a third phase, expected to start February 2026.

Institutional development

English language training continued in 2025 and the result of this is beginning to show. The training is increasingly important for facilitating participation in Eurostat working groups and other international fora, and for adopting international classifications, regulations, and methodologies. Training on confidentiality in official statistics was also conducted, which is an important part of the work to adapt to European standards.

The component on measuring response burden was finalized in 2025. As a result, SSSU has developed a questionnaire intended to assess the burden on respondents that will be implemented. This questionnaire is based on the approaches used in Statistics Norway, but adapted to the Ukrainian context, and used in a voluntary pilot survey resulting in improved questionnaires.

Gender statistics

The work on modernizing gender statistics continued in 2025. A well-attended user workshop provided important input to SSSU's gender statistics. "Women and Men in Ukraine" was further developed through developing more user-friendly versions of the chapters on education and women's participation in decision-making. This serves as a template for the remaining chapters.

Developing official statistics

SSSU and Statistics Norway worked on developing business demography which resulted in a successful transfer of business demography to Eurostat and was published by Eurostat starting 2025.

SSSU is required to provide quality indicators on the Statistical Business Register (SBR) to Eurostat, and

Facts

Project	Statistical development – institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway and State Statistics Service of Ukraine
Partner	State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU)
Accounts	NOK 4 307 558
Donor	Norad
Period	2017 - 2025
Purpose	Contribute to evidence-based planning for optimal resource allocation and improved welfare across the Ukrainian society
Key words	Quality management, internal training, internal communication, microdata, response burden, IT, dissemination, StatBank, gender statistics, metadata, statistical literacy, business register, crime statistics, price statistics, demographic statistics, IDP, LFS, SILC, national accounts, foreign trade, tourism statistics

Achievements

- ✓ The project contributed to implementing European requirements in areas such as the labour force survey, business demography and data quality in statistical business register
- ✓ Developed questionnaires and methodology for measuring response burden in Ukraine

Project challenges

- ✓ The Russian invasion and the following war
- ✓ The current working conditions for the SSSU staff
- ✓ Available human resources at both partners

Statistics Norway provided recommendations on how to develop these. The work progressed in 2025 by focusing on using BLUE-ETS (BLUE Enterprise and Trade Statistics) to develop quality indicators for the main administrative sources for SBR. BLUE-ETS is also used by EU.

The project facilitated SSSU's participation in the 18th Workshop on Labour Force Survey Methodology in Oslo and a study visit covering further recommendations and mixed mode data collection. This has contributed to two major achievements in 2025, firstly to improved methodology and reporting and statistical documentation of the labour force survey (taking into account thematic modular surveys) for 2025 and 2026 in accordance with the European requirements, and secondly, to developing a proposal for amending the Law of Ukraine "On Official Statistics" to provide SSSU access to administrative registers, the data of which can be used during the LFS. Draft electronic questionnaires have been developed for conducting a labour force survey using modern data collection methods.

Recommendations on tourism statistics were provided in 2025 and covering different survey such as the travel survey and accommodation statistics. The recommendations and discussions covered aspects such as data collection methods, questionnaires, administrative data, alternative data sources, macro controls, imputation and dissemination. SSSU developed a questionnaire for a household travel survey based on the recommendations, and this was assessed and discussed. Although the topic is not

immediately relevant due to the ongoing war, it is an EU requirement and contributes to laying the groundwork for a future system once the conflict has ended.

War and other challenges

The war following Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 continues to have a devastating effect. SSSU has despite this continued to produce and disseminate official statistics, although the staff encounters significant challenges. These range from



Labour Force Survey. Liudmyla Bashtova (SSSU), Alla Solop (SSSU), Tetiana Shcherban (SSSU), Geir Axelsen (SSB – Director general), Håvard Hungnes Lien (SSB), Nataliia Boichenko (SSB) and Natalia Kobrianska



Study visit on tourism statistics in March. Back row: Endre Brunner Furu (SSB), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB), Johanne Karlsen Saxegaard (SSB), Kristin Aasestad (SSB), Olha Karmazina (SSSU), Inesa Senyk (SSSU) and Valentyna Kukhtik (interpreter). Front row: Oksana Senyk (SSSU), Guro Henriksen (SSB), Nataliia Boichenko (SSB) and Boyd Oyier (SSB)

reduced access to data due to a special wartime law that, among other, allows businesses to postpone delivering data until after the war, to practical challenges such as power cuts, irregular access to internet, air alarms, losing staff directly or indirectly, and other difficulties brought on by the war. SSSU has been pro-active in finding new ways to continue to produce statistics despite the problems caused by the war.

Travels from Kyiv to Oslo was resumed in 2025. However, the cooperation is still mainly based on digital contact and activities. SSSU has persistently carried out digital activities despite the above mentioned difficulties. The war has, of course, led to both delays and reprioritisations. The current situation has demonstrated the importance of flexibility and the good partnership that has developed since the project started in 2017. A local project coordinator has been employed since 2018 and has become an important part of the project. The close partnership has made it easier to continue the project according to the needs of SSSU.

Preparing for EU

Ukraine was accepted as an EU candidate country in 2022, making the implementation of the European acquis (the European regulation on statistics) even more important. This is an extensive task. SSSU has focused on implementing European requirements for many years, which have been a major part of the institutional project. SSSU was screened by Eurostat in November 2024 and provided valuable input on the components to be included in a potential 3rd phase of the cooperation project between SSSU and Statistics Norway.

Priorities for 2026

2025 was the last year of phase 2, and SSSU and Statistics Norway have applied for a third phase. The focus on implementing EU regulations will continue, including statistical business register, implementation of NACE rev. 2.1, enterprise groups, owner occupied housing price index and time-use survey.

Project review

The project was reviewed independently at the end of 2025. The main findings were:

- The main Phase II of the project achieved a high degree of relevance and efficiency. It will be important to ensure that the factors underpinning this success are recognised and maintained in Phase III.
- During extremely challenging circumstances, Statistics Norway and SSSU have acted appropriately to ensure that the project has played a pivotal role in supporting a wide range of the necessary incremental steps for SSSU's ongoing journey to modernise and meet EU statistical standards.
- Some important building blocks for the sustainability of the project results have been put in place. To support sustainability, there will need to be a significant focus on managing external risk factors and ensuring the integration of domestic user needs in the future, including in close coordination with SSSU senior management and other donors. The review provided useful recommendations for the continuation of the project.



Study visit on tourism statistics in October. Endre Brunner Furu (SSB), Guro Henriksen (SSB), Jan Henrik Wang (SSB), Johanne Karlsen Saxegaard (SSB), Nataliia Boichenko (SSB), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB), Tetiana Bashko (SSSU), Oksana Senyk (SSSU) and Valentyna Kukhtik (interpreter)

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS) and Statistics Norway (SSB) established their institutional cooperation in September 2021, financed by Norad. The project aims to strengthen ESS's capacity to produce high-quality, reliable, and timely statistics. Its long-term objective is to build public trust in official statistics and promote their use in decision-making, thereby supporting better planning and resource allocation for the benefit of Ethiopian society.

A no-cost extension until 31 March 2026 was approved in 2024. The cooperation focuses on three key areas: enhancing institutional capacity within ESS and the National Statistical System (NSS), improving communication and accessibility of statistics, and increasing the production of high-quality data from surveys and administrative sources. The project is aligned with the implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS II), adopted by the Ethiopian Government in 2016.

The project has included a local project coordinator from February 2023 and a long-term adviser since December 2023. A new local project coordinator was in place April 2025.

Institutional development

During 2025, several achievements were reached in the process to improve the availability and quality of administrative data. Staff from ESS and other data owners worked together with SSB on methods for sharing and improving administrative data. Over time, this will improve the quality of administrative data, facilitate cooperation, and provide the basis for the institutions to implement self-assessment. This was coordinated with international partners including UNICEF, UNECA, and UN Women. An MoU was signed between ESS and 11 organizations to facilitate the exchange of administrative data, which is an important milestone that will lay the foundation for increased availability and use of administrative data in line with ESS' objectives. This was followed by a technical mission that provided further guidance and implementation strategies for these agreements.

Quality assessment work began with a technical mission aimed at strengthening ESS's understanding of assessment processes. A pilot was conducted, and the ESS tool was refined based on the Norwegian self-assessment model. This adapted tool has since been applied to evaluate selected statistical areas, for example agricultural surveys.

Facts

Project	Planning a new institutional cooperation project with Ethiopia/Statistical development - institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway (SSB) and the Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS)
Partner	Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS)
Accounts	NOK 8 948 451
Donor	Norad
Period	September 2021 – March 2026
Purpose	Increased use of official statistics for evidence-based decision making and increased trust in official statistics
Key words	Institutional capacity building, National statistical system (NSS) coordination, quality management, training centre, CRVS, communication, dissemination, environmental statistics and SBR

Achievements

- ✓ Enhanced quality assessment tool, adapted from the Norwegian self-assessment model
- ✓ Established a strong foundation for improving website content and dissemination practices
- ✓ Strengthened coordination on administrative data, including vital statistics

Project Challenges

- ✓ Limited staff availability due to large-scale national surveys engaging most headquarters personnel
- ✓ Organizational restructuring at ESS

For internal training, progress continued on drafting guidelines, alongside implementing key elements such as routines for organizing courses and defining roles and responsibilities. Efforts also focused on improving coordination between the division for internal training and research and subject matter division. Coordination between the division for internal training and research and HR was also improved.

Communication

Enhancing dissemination and communication to ensure quality statistics are accessible for policymaking and the general public remained a key priority in 2025. Draft dissemination guidelines were developed, and work continued on improving website content. A successful study visit to Oslo including staff from the dissemination, communication, and IT teams helped streamline workflows across ESS units, with a strong focus on enhancing website content. Subsequent technical missions in Addis provided targeted support to both the web team and the communication units. As a result, noticeable improvements in coordination and the development and use of dissemination tools have been achieved.

Vital statistics

Statistics Norway also provided support for strengthening vital statistics, particularly through improved coordination among data owners, analysis, and report writing.

New statistical law

Throughout most of the year, a dedicated taskforce continued work on drafting a new statistical law to replace the current proclamation. All partners share the expectation that this reform will strengthen ESS's role in coordinating and developing official statistics, and that the new law will be more in line with international recommendations. The draft law has been completed and reviewed by national stakeholders, but it has not yet been released for consultation with international stakeholders.



Dissemination team in action at ESS



Study visit on communication. Wondwosen Assefa (ESS), Aberu Sebsibe (ESS), Safi Gemedi (ESS), Ulrik Amundsen (SSB), Tigist Bekele (ESS), Jon Olav Folsland (SSB), Sadiq Kwesi Boateng (SSB) and Mekdes Tsegaye (ESS)

Priorities for 2026

The current phase of the project concludes in March 2026. A proposal has been submitted for a second phase until 2029. The next phase is expected to maintain a similar structure. The focus of phase 2 will be CPI, demography and time-use survey. Communication will continue to be a prioritized topic of the cooperation and will be extended to internal communication and metadata. Internal training will also include onboarding of new employees.

Review

The project was reviewed independently in 2025. The main findings were:

- The implementation of activities has had a slow start in the first years of the project due to various external factors, accelerating in 2024 with the presence of the Long-Term Advisor in Addis Ababa.
- The project aligns well with ESS's institutional needs and national priorities. Its demand-driven design has been flexible, adapting to external factors such as COVID-19, unrest in Ethiopia, leadership change, and ESS's reorganisation.
- Continuous consultation with ESS leadership and staff ensures activities remain relevant.
- The project contributes to ESS's institutional strengthening, delivering many planned results despite fewer activities than planned.
- Efficiency is reduced due to internal staff turnover resulting from the ESS reorganisation, varying managerial commitment, heavy workloads, and competing priorities within ESS.
- ESS staff show confidence in applying skilled acquired in the project going forward, while also expressing a need for support for more practical implementation.



Dag Roll-Hansen (SSB), Dr. Beker Shale (Director General ESS) and Silja Emmel (SSB)



Sadiq Kwesi Boateng (LTA SSB), Jemila Mehammed (Deputy Director General ESS); Emma Schiro (SSB), Katharina Rossbach (SSB)



Planning for a second phase. Abdulaziz Shiffa (ESS), Dr. Meron Kifelew (Deputy Director General ESS), Dr. Beker Shale (Director General ESS), Jemila Mehammed (Deputy Director General ESS), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB) and Sadiq Kwesi Boateng (SSB)



CRVS workshop, representatives from ESS, SSB, Ministry of Health, Immigration and Citizenship Service, and Regional Vital Events Registration Agency

Mozambique

In 2025, Mozambique and Norway embarked on a new partnership to strengthen the production and use of official statistics in Mozambique. The three-year programme, "Statistical Cooperation INE-SSB 2025-2027," brings together Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics (INE) and Statistics Norway (SSB), with funding from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Maputo. With a budget of NOK 12.5 million, the initiative aims to ensure that reliable data becomes a cornerstone for evidence-based policy-making, economic planning, and public debate.

The cooperation focuses on four strategic areas:

- Basic Economic Statistics – improving business registers, developing price indices, and enhancing production routines.
- Energy and Environmental Statistics – building capacity to produce high-quality energy data aligned with international standards.
- National Accounts – supporting maintenance of the NADABAS system.
- Communication and Dissemination – strengthening INE's ability to communicate statistics effectively to decision-makers and the public.

Beyond technical assistance, the project includes financial support to help INE address critical capacity gaps, including plans to recruit up to five additional professionals during the project period.

Achievements in 2025

Formal Launch of the Cooperation

The cooperation between INE and Statistics Norway formally began in May 2025 with the signing of an Institutional Cooperation Agreement (ICA) at the highest level of both institutions and the completion of a detailed results framework and activity plan. Although implementation started later than expected due to capacity constraints at INE, the year still delivered several important technical and institutional gains.

New Export and Import Price Indices developed

One of the most significant achievements was the development of new Export and Import Price Indices (XMPI), which will allow Mozambique to monitor price developments in foreign trade with far greater

Facts

Project	Statistical development cooperation
Partner	Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE)
Accounts	NOK 2 469 603
Donor	Royal Embassy of Norway in Mozambique
Period	2025 - 2027
Purpose	Strengthen the capacity of Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics (INE) to produce and communicate high-quality official statistics, so that statistical data becomes a reliable foundation for evidence-based decision-making, economic planning, and public debate.
Key words	Statistical capacity development, Economic statistics, National Accounts, Energy statistics, Communication and Dissemination

Achievements

- ✓ Institutional Cooperation Agreement signed
- ✓ New Export and Import Price Indices developed
- ✓ Draft communication strategy
- ✓ Launch of INE's LinkedIn account
- ✓ Improvements in INE website content, structure and searchability
- ✓ Initial knowledge exchange and technical insight into Structural Business Statistics, SBR, Energy- and environmental statistics

Project Challenges

- ✓ Capacity Constraints at INE

precision. During a mission in Maputo and a study visit to Oslo, INE and Statistics Norway jointly updated methodological documentation, validated time series from the first quarter of 2024 to the second quarter of 2025, integrated customs and external electricity data, and prepared draft publication materials. These efforts strengthened INE's technical capacity and laid the foundation for the first internal publication of the indices, expected in January 2026.

Improved Communication and Dissemination Capacity

A mission to Maputo in November resulted in a draft communication strategy with clearly defined target groups, channels and action plans. INE staff received training in article writing and internal communication, and the mission contributed to improvements in website content, structure and searchability. Direct engagement and discussions with Maputo-based journalists, and improvements on social media content further strengthened the institution's external communication capacity and user outreach. The mission also was a foundation for the work to be done in these areas for the rest of the cooperation.



Signing ceremony for the ICA with the INE President – Dr. Eliza Mónica Ana Magaua and Mr. Simen Bjørnerud from the Norwegian Embassy in Maputo



Kristin Goa, Stine Faraas and Jon Olav Folsland from Statistics Norway on mission in Maputo together with the INE team on communication

Knowledge Exchange and Technical Insights

A study visit to Statistics Norway in Oslo (November 2025) provided INE staff practical experience in the development and production of business statistics, including questionnaire design, sampling techniques, data collection, editing, and integration of administrative data.

A key highlight was the deep dive into the Statistical Business Register (SBR)—the backbone of economic statistics. Statistics Norway demonstrated how a centrally managed, continuously updated SBR supports efficient sample design, weighting, estimation, and non-response adjustment, while ensuring consistency with national accounts and international standards. INE also explored STATBUS, an open-source IT solution developed by Statistics Norway, which offers a scalable system for managing business registers in developing countries. The visit included hands-on sessions on reporting systems, enterprise dialogue, and digital data exchange, as well as discussions on legal frameworks and cooperation agreements with data providers. These insights clarified concrete steps for INE to strengthen its own SBR and improve the quality and analytical value of structural business surveys. Additionally, the visit provided exposure to the links between energy and environmental statistics, reinforcing the importance of integrated approaches to data production. This knowledge exchange laid a solid foundation for modernizing INE's statistical systems and methodologies in the coming years.

Preparatory Work for improvement of Energy Statistics

Initial steps were taken to strengthen energy statistics through mapping exercises and draft plans for capacity-building activities in collaboration with Mozambique's Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME). These efforts aim to align methodologies with international standards and support Mozambique's energy transition goals.

Challenges and mitigations

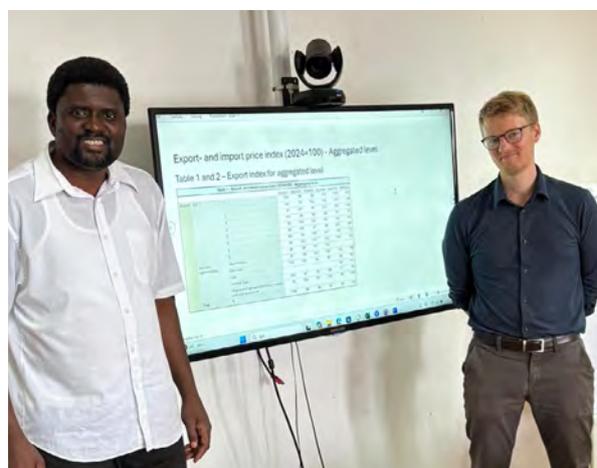
Despite these achievements, the project faced capacity constraints at INE, which delayed the start of planned activities until the second half of 2025. Recruitment of additional professional staff, intended to ease these constraints, was postponed. To mitigate these challenges, the project prioritized short-term technical missions and intensive training sessions, ensuring progress in critical areas such as price indices and in the communication area. The cooperation also adopted a flexible approach to planning, allowing activities to be rescheduled and adapted to INE's available resources while maintaining momentum toward long-term goals.

Priorities for 2026

In 2026, the cooperation will prioritize modernization of structural business statistics, the development of a new statistical business register system, and improved methods for energy and environmental data. Continued efforts will focus on making INE's website more user-friendly and enhancing the regular production and dissemination of high-quality economic statistics.



Delegation from NSO taking the train to visit Statistics Norway Kongsvinger



Håvard Georg Jensen from Statistics Norway in Maputo working together with Belarmino Pandela on development of XMPI

Indonesia – Ocean for Development

The Second Year of a Five-Year Cooperation for Sustainable Ocean Management

It is increasingly recognized that the ocean plays a critical role in supporting life on Earth and mitigating climate change. Ocean accounts provide an essential foundation for informed ocean management. Indonesia is among the first countries in the world to pilot ocean ecosystem accounts in several marine protected areas (MPAs). Norway is also one of the early adopters, conducting pilots in Norwegian maritime areas.

The statistical framework for ocean accounting is relatively new, and even advanced countries like Indonesia and Norway are still in the early stages of its development. To further advance ocean accounting practices, international collaboration and communication are crucial. The overarching objective of the Oceans for Development program is to promote a strengthened, sustainable, and inclusive ocean economy in the cooperating countries.

2025: The Second Year of Cooperation

The year 2025 marked the second year of the cooperation project between Norway and Indonesia. The collaboration focuses on developing ocean accounts and using the information derived from these accounts for planning and policymaking.

The project is divided into three components:

1. Ecosystem Services Accounts
2. Maritime GDP / Ocean Satellite Accounts
3. Visualizing the Ocean Economy

Many Partners Working Together

The project involves numerous partner institutions, reflecting the complexity of ocean ecosystem accounting. In addition to MMAF, Norad, BPS, and Statistics Norway, Indonesian institutions such as the Mapping Authority (BIG), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning (Bappenas), and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime & Investment Affairs are engaged. Norwegian partners include the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA).

Throughout 2025, many joint virtual and in-person activities strengthened mutual knowledge among partners and improved understanding of their diverse needs and areas of expertise. The process

Facts

Project	Ocean for Development
Partner	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Mapping Authority (BIG) Ministry of Finance Ministry of Planning (Bappenas) Coordinating Ministry for Maritime & Investment Affairs
Accounts	NOK 5 176 379
Donor	Norad
Period	2024 - 2028
Purpose	Development of ocean accounts and the use of the information from the accounts for planning and policymaking
Key words	Ocean accounts, maritime GDP, sustainable ocean management

Achievements

- ✓ The Savu sea pilot survey draft report was completed by November 2025
- ✓ Reports for 7 marine protected areas published in English and reviewed together
- ✓ Further progress in the identification of the maritime share of each product included in the maritime GDP
- ✓ The SUT's for Ocean Accounts have been compiled with preliminary numbers by BPS during 2025
- ✓ Workshop series on different types of dashboards for different user-groups
- ✓ Workshop series on classifications for products and economic activities with the Indonesian data holders

has been supported by the Rekam Nusantara Foundation, the national project coordinator in Indonesia, while Statistics Norway coordinates activities from the Norwegian side.

Main Achievements in 2025

A major achievement in 2025 was the compilation of preliminary figures for the Supply and Use Tables for Ocean Accounts. During the year, BPS concentrated on refining the Ocean Satellite Accounts process, particularly by working on access to additional administrative data sources to identify ocean shares in industries. Continuous working sessions between SSB and BPS aim to determine the ocean-related shares of the economy for Indonesia's national accounts.

For the Marine Protected Area (MPA) pilots in Indonesia, the Savu Sea data have been fully validated. The results of the pilot have been analyzed and compiled into a draft pilot survey report, submitted in late 2025. The draft has been shared with researchers and biologists within the Norwegian team for review. In addition, seven pilot reports from other MPAs in Indonesia have previously been reviewed by the Norwegian team. Together, these efforts contribute valuable inputs toward strengthening capacity on ocean accounting in Indonesia.

Key activities in 2025 included three visits to Norway by Indonesian partners and one visit to Indonesia by representatives from SSB, NIVA, and Norad for joint workshops and meetings. Most cooperation activities were conducted virtually, including monthly project meetings and hands-on working sessions on the

Project challenges

- ✓ The coordination is demanding due to a large number of partners
- ✓ Time differences sometimes cause difficulties for on-line workshops/meetings
- ✓ Availability of key staff in all respective organisations due to high workload



Study visit to Statistics Norway in May 2025 from BPS, MoF, REKAM Foundation and MMAF, with focus on Ocean Satellite Accounts and Visualizing the Ocean Economy

three components. Significant progress was made across all areas.

In November, part of the project team working on Ecosystem Services Accounts met in Norway. The delegation visited SSB, Norad, and the Ministry of Climate and Environment in Oslo to work on blue carbon accounting, carbon pricing, and national greenhouse gas emission mitigation. They also exchanged knowledge with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the research institute NORCE in Bergen, covering topics such as Climate Change in the Nordic and Barents Seas and Innovative Solutions to Reduce Aquaculture Emissions.

Two delegations from Indonesian institutions visited Oslo in May and June 2025, focusing on Ocean Satellite Accounts and Visualizing the Ocean Economy. The May visit included exchanges with the Norwegian Tax Authority to hear about data sharing in Norway. The June visit included workshops on interoperability and cybersecurity in IT infrastructure, as well as sessions on Norway's experience with IT security, security audits, and penetration testing.

A series of workshops on dashboards with BPS, initiated in 2024, continued in 2025. These sessions focused on organizing dashboard initiatives within a statistical agency, emphasizing a focus on different user needs, clear responsibilities, cross-functional collaboration, and practical management throughout the dashboard lifecycle.

Plans and priorities for 2026

The coming year will focus on advancing key activities that build on previous progress. This includes reviewing and summarizing studies of pilot projects for marine protected areas (MPAs) in a comprehensive report. Completion and refinement of the mapping of economic activities and products related to the ocean economy will be prioritized, along with updating the list of products with full or partial ocean-related shares.

Further priorities include identifying and securing necessary data sources, ensuring data availability, and engaging data providers for the compilation of Supply and Use Tables (SUTs). Procedures for data handling for the ocean economy dashboard will be strengthened.



A study visit to Statistics Norway in June 2025 from MMAF, BPS and REKAM Foundation included workshops on interoperability and cybersecurity in IT infrastructure, security audits and penetration testing



[↑](#)
Mangrove vegetation in Jakarta, Indonesia 2025

35 years of statistical software guidance

Statistical software are essential tools for statistical production. They are used in data cleaning, transformation, and analysis using advanced statistical methods. They also support automation and reproducibility of processes, making large-scale data handling and reporting more efficient and reliable. These software and how we use them have developed dramatically since the 1980s. In the same period, nobody in Statistics Norway has given more trainings in statistical software at home and abroad than Kristian Lønø.

Results?

While totally necessary for most statistics production, the ability to program is rarely the end goal of development cooperation projects in statistics. So how does he see the results of his work?

“It is not so easy to see”, says Kristian. “We come in, work for a while and then leave. We do not track how the skills are used in the long run. Turnover in the NSOs has also always been a challenge. Many people leave the statistics offices after having built experience. But some stay - almost as if they have a calling.

One of my favourite examples is Frank Kakungu in Zambia. In 1994 he attended one of my trainings. Soon after he came to Statistics Norway to work further on his project with us. 23 years later I happened to meet him in a hallway at ZamStats. By then, in 2017, he had become manager of the IT-department.”



Frank Kakungu in Oslo, 1994

Frank is seen here once gain with Kristian in Zambia 2017



Kristian Lønø conducting a workshop in Malawi

An evolving landscape

When Kristian Lønø boarded a plane to Zambia together with a colleague in 1992, he had little idea that this trip would mark the beginning of a three-decade-long journey of also shaping statistical capacity across continents. In their bags they had extra chalk for the blackboard, extra lightbulbs for the overhead projector and an open mind towards what may and may not be meeting them in the statistics office.

Since then, Kristian has gone abroad 60 times to conduct training or work with colleagues. He has been to 18 different countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. He has taught SAS, SPSS, Stata, R, CPro and Python, assisted in translating between languages and contributed to IT mapping and strategies. The arrival of internet has made the trips and the workshops much easier to organise, but flexibility is still an important element for success. "The need does not always match what is stated in the terms of reference," he says. "You just have to dive in and make the best out of it."

Hierarchical cultures and fear of mistakes can stifle initiative. "If you're afraid to fail, the safest option is to do nothing," he explains. "But things do change. Encouraging participants to present solutions in class-something unthinkable years ago-has helped build confidence and foster discussion. And another clear improvement over time is digital literacy. People are now more comfortable online and quicker to pick up new tools."

Time is however still a hurdle. "Capacity building takes more than a one-week course," Kristian empha-

sizes. "We want our colleagues to be able to do their own programming without support, but we have often ended up fixing problems for them because there is not enough time. It is always a challenge to get enough resources to get to a sustainable level of programming skills."

The Shift to Modern Tools

Blackboards are history, and even PowerPoint has given way to interactive coding environments. Kristian now teaches R and Python for statistical production, as the NSOs are moving away from proprietary software like SPSS and Stata. This shift isn't just technical-it's strategic. Open-source tools mean countries aren't locked into expensive licenses.

Another change also reflects a broader trend: statistical offices increasingly expect statisticians to program themselves. In the past, there was a clear divide between those who produced statistics and those who did the programming. Now, everyone involved in producing statistics must be able to use the software, and only the most advanced parts are developed by IT experts. "It's the same evolution we have had in Norway," Kristian notes. "The countries we work with are on the same path as us-we are just a bit ahead. That's how we have something to contribute."

Lessons learned

Kristian has taken a couple of pedagogy courses through Statistics Norway. Adding experience, he has a long list of lessons learned.

"We have started doing systematic IT assessments at the beginning of projects, so that we know in



Kristian Lønø conducting a workshop in Ghana, 2017



Kristian Lønø conducting a workshop in Malawi, 2025

advance what level to start from. This counts for both infrastructure and skills. Another lesson learned is that connecting the courses to the concrete tasks participants are working on is more sustainable than holding general courses. When people have a concrete task, they continue using what they have learned. We still often need to start with the basics, though now the learners can also find much of the general content online.”

People also need follow-up and to keep practicing after a training, just as in Statistics Norway. Online meetings are now making it possible to circle back after the trainings with short sessions where participants share progress and ask questions.

“It’s easier now, but it still requires commitment,” says Kristian.

Recycling work

You can’t just flip through the same stack of PowerPoints when you’re teaching six different programs to be used for a variety of statistical domains in 18 different countries. Some work can however be reused.

A main goal in official statistics is to produce it in the same way across countries to get comparability. In 2019, Kristian Lønø and head of price statistics at SSB, Espen Kristiansen, travelled to Mali with Statistics Sweden to assist the national statistical office develop a system for calculating price indices. The project was ambitious: create a robust method for foreign trade price statistics that could be maintained locally. Espen designed a framework, and together they simplified it as much as possible to match the programming skills available. “No matter



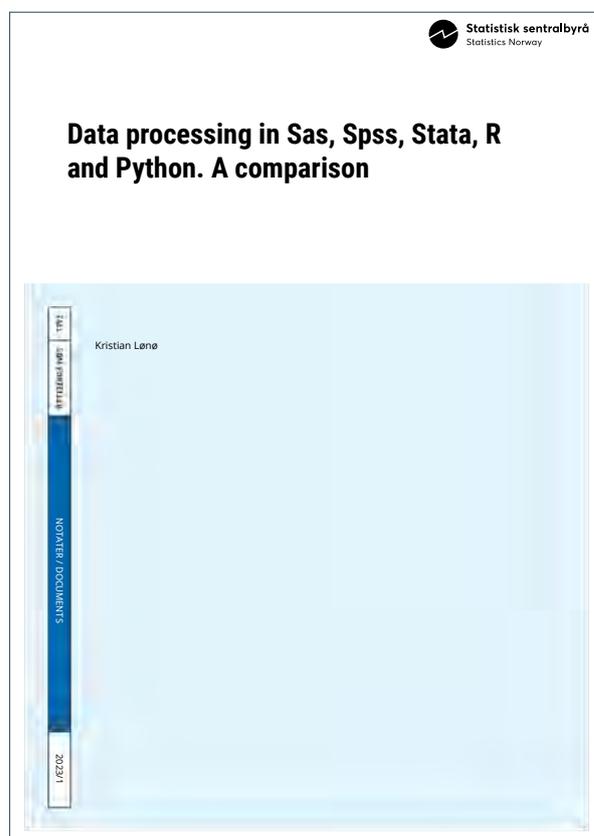
When you’re on assignment at the Malian statistical office, you come home with unique experiences—and clothing. Kristian Lønø and Espen Kristiansen with new shirts from INSTAT in 2022

how simple you make it, there’s always complexity in statistical production,” Kristian reflects.

Afterwards he saw an opportunity. He rewrote the system in Python to make the tool reusable and this decision paid off. The Mali solution became the foundation for a new, open-source version now used in Namibia, Malawi is working on it, and Mozambique is considering it. “It’s the same concept, adapted to local conditions,” Kristian explains. “Moving from proprietary software to open-source makes it sustainable. The NSOs can keep developing the tools themselves.”

SSB has published a document¹ by Kristian comparing five of the most used software to help people to decide which one to use and how to move from one software to another. Ironically, ChatGPT was launched at the same time. However, the days of this knowledge are not over.

“Some people have this idea that AI will soon write the syntax for us, but it’s not quite like that. AI is a very useful tool for finding code and suggest solutions. It can save us time, but you need to understand the code and critically assess what’s happening. Also, we should use it in a way that makes us smarter, not dumber. Otherwise, you can end up with seriously wrong statistics.”



¹ <https://www.ssb.no/en/teknologi-og-innovasjon/informasjon-og-kommunikasjonsteknologi-ikt/artikler/data-processing-in-sas-spss-stata-r-and-python.a-comparison>

Food Security Statistics Project

All activities conducted as part of the Food Security Statistics project are anchored in the UN endorsed [Guidelines on how to process food consumption data from Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys \(HCESs\)](#). Processing food consumption data in line with the Guidelines also contributes to the preparation of SDG 2.1.1: Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU). A French version of the Guidelines has been prepared and will be published online by FAO in early 2026. Continuous engagement with partners globally is essential to ensure widespread use of the Guidelines.

Our project supports National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in preparing food security statistics from already collected data and in integrating the approach into their regular statistical production. It is equally important that the food security statistics are used in national and regional planning by stakeholders, such as policymakers, so that the statistics can contribute to actual change and improvements for the population. Close collaboration with NSOs to engage stakeholders is therefore of great importance.

We are currently halfway through the second project phase, and we have made great progress together with our close partners. We appreciate the collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) on this project, and we welcome the African Union's official institute for statistics (STATAFRIC) as an additional partner for the last half of this project phase.

Capacity development

Three new NSOs, from Eswatini, Ethiopia, and Madagascar, joined the project in 2025. A workshop with a focus on data processing was held for the Central Statistics Office of Eswatini, while a more comprehensive workshop covering both data processing and analysis was held with the Ethiopia Statistical Service. Finally, a joint workshop with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was held with the National Statistical Institute of Madagascar, with support from a statistician from Statistics Mauritius. This opens up stronger collaboration between the two island states and, at the same time, strengthens capacity in preparing food security statistics from HCESs within Statistics Mauritius.

Additional presentations and discussions with NSOs have been conducted to inform about the Guidelines and the potential that lies within the use of food

Facts

Project	Food Security Statistics Project
Partner	COMESA
Accounts	NOK 6 215 265
Donor	Norad
Period	2023 - 2027
Purpose	To improve quality and use of food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys
Key words	Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCES), Food Security, Food Systems, Capacity Development, UN Endorsed Guidelines

Achievements

- ✓ Capacity building with three new NSOs from Eswatini, Ethiopia and Madagascar
- ✓ New international partnerships with UNHCR and UNSIAP established
- ✓ Dissemination and use of food security statistics from HCESs in Somalia and Mauritius

Project challenges

- ✓ Ensure that all stakeholders involved in preparing food consumption data from HCESs are following the UN-endorsed Guidelines

consumption data from HCESs; one example is a short webinar with Seychelles' National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with FAO.

Collaboration with UN agencies

In 2025, the project strengthened collaboration with several UN agencies. We continue working closely with FAO, both on technical issues and on joint workshops or webinars. This year, we also developed a close partnership with UNHCR, contributing to the development of food security statistics on refugees and host communities together with Cameroon's National Institute of Statistics and UNHCR. Several coordination meetings were held with the World Bank to coordinate data preparation for the National Statistical Office of Malawi's most recent HCES.

Finally, we made progress in developing online training resources, and an e-learning course will be prepared together with partners from FAO, SPC (Pacific Community), COMESA, and UNSIAP (UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific). The e-learning course will be finalised in 2026 and hosted by UNSIAP.

Priorities for 2026

Top priorities for 2026 are to finalise the e-learning course in support of the UN-endorsed Guidelines, which will be hosted by UNSIAP, and to engage French-speaking NSOs with the newly translated French version of the Guidelines, together with our new project staff at STATAFRIC.

Results of collaboration with Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)

SNBS joined the project in 2024. With support from the project and FAO, a [Food Security Profile](#) was prepared and disseminated in November 2024. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation used the findings to support efforts to increase local production, particularly by highlighting commonly consumed foods that were not locally produced. The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, together with the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, used the profile to inform the Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan through Joint Monitoring Reports. This plan was established to report on the country's food security situation on a quarterly basis through a Joint Monitoring Report.

Results after collaboration with Statistics Mauritius

Statistics Mauritius joined the project in 2024. In 2025, a [Food and Nutrition Analysis Report](#) was published with support from the project and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The report demonstrates how data from HCESs can be used to inform stakeholders about whether food consumption patterns are in line with the National Dietary Guidelines.



Discussion on the use of the food security statistics with stakeholders at the last day of our workshop with Ethiopian Statistical Service in Addis Ababa in April 2025



Joint workshop for Madagascar National Institute of Statistics with FAO, Statistics Mauritius and COMESA project coordinator in Antananarivo in August 2025

Statistical Business Register – Tax for Development

Statistical business registers are vital components of national statistical systems, serving as a foundation for the development of robust economic statistics. However, creating and sustaining a technical platform to host a statistical version of the administrative business register is challenging. The lack of readily available “off-the-shelf” solutions often results in inadequate systems for statistical offices. To address this issue, Statistics Norway, in collaboration with its partners, has developed [Statbus](#), a versatile, web-based application for statistical business registers. Statbus is designed in alignment with the UN international guidelines for the development and maintenance of statistical business registers.

In 2025, development of Statbus continued, with a focus on addressing concrete requirements identified through testing with participating countries. A major milestone achieved during the year was the introduction of reporting on historical data, allowing users to easily view status and trends over time, both year-to-year and month-to-month. During 2025, we conducted testing in collaboration with Statistics Sweden and expanded testing to two additional countries: Kenya and Albania. Testing with new countries and their national datasets typically generates new ideas and feature requests; however, no major surprises or critical issues were identified during this phase. Our original plan was to deploy Statbus in production in one country during 2025, but this was delayed due to the complexity of the installation process. The delay has allowed for additional testing and the implementation of minor improvements. Going forward, the primary objective is to further stabilize and strengthen version 2.0, with a strong emphasis on robustness and minimal introduction of new functionality.

Significant differences exist between the Norwegian model and the requirements of countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Countries such as Ukraine and Albania must comply with EU requirements, which differ somewhat from those of the United Nation.

Achievements

In 2025, all participating countries tested newer versions of Statbus deployed in the cloud. Throughout the year, several functional and technical improvements were introduced, including:

- Improved error messages and reporting when loading units.

Facts

Project	Statistical Business Register
Partner	Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland and Statistics Sweden
Accounts	NOK 4 803 233
Donor	Norad
Period	2025 - 2027
Purpose	To develop a generic web application for a statistical business register that can be used in countries in Asia, Africa and in Europe.
Key words	Statistical Business Register

Achievements

- ✓ History functionality implemented in Statbus
- ✓ Improved data loading functionality and enhanced error handling
- ✓ Tested with Kenyan data in a cloud environment
- ✓ Tested with Albanian data in Albania
- ✓ Edit and update screens made available
- ✓ User management functionality implemented
- ✓ APIs provided for accessing Statbus from Python and R
- ✓ Historical charts introduced
- ✓ Standard reporting functionality implemented

- Standardized monthly and annual reports, such as counts of units with new activity codes.
- Historical charts for monitoring the development of employees, turnover, and other customizable variables.
- A user interface for creating and managing users and access roles.
- Edit screens for updating and maintaining unit information within the system.
- Enhanced loading functionality to distinguish between domestic and non-domestic units.
- Availability of Statbus APIs for Python and R, enabling full access to web functionality programmatically.
- Visibility of system changes, including what was changed and by whom.

A key milestone in the latest version of Statbus was the introduction of a dashboard presenting the overall status of the data in the system. The dashboard provides clear visualizations of data quality, making it easier to identify and address issues. For example, records missing valid region or activity classifications can now be quickly identified and corrected. The newest versions of Statbus also provide the functionality to load and report on international units, and to use standard filters when reporting.

Project challenges

- ✓ Installation of Statbus has been challenging due to issues related to security and certificates
- ✓ Some countries use multiple data sources, which vary in structure and quality and introduce data integration challenges
- ✓ Statbus must handle non-unique identifiers provided by some countries



Business Register with Statistics Sweeden in Tirana, Albania October 2025. Erik Sjøberg (Statistics Norway), Birgitta Mannfelt, Christian Ekstrøm and Oscar Calson-Øhman (Statistics Sweden)



Statbus workshop with the Mozambique delegation in Kongsvinger november 2025. Hedda Hübertz and Anti Jokinen from Statistics Norway

Other activities

The current version of Statbus is approaching production readiness, with plans to initiate production use in early 2026. At the same time, development will continue with a focus on usability improvements and the introduction of carefully selected additional functionality.

Once the system has been verified as robust and reliable in production, other partner countries are expected to consider adoption. The long-term objective is to expand Statbus to additional countries; however, this will be pursued cautiously and only after successful production deployment has been achieved.

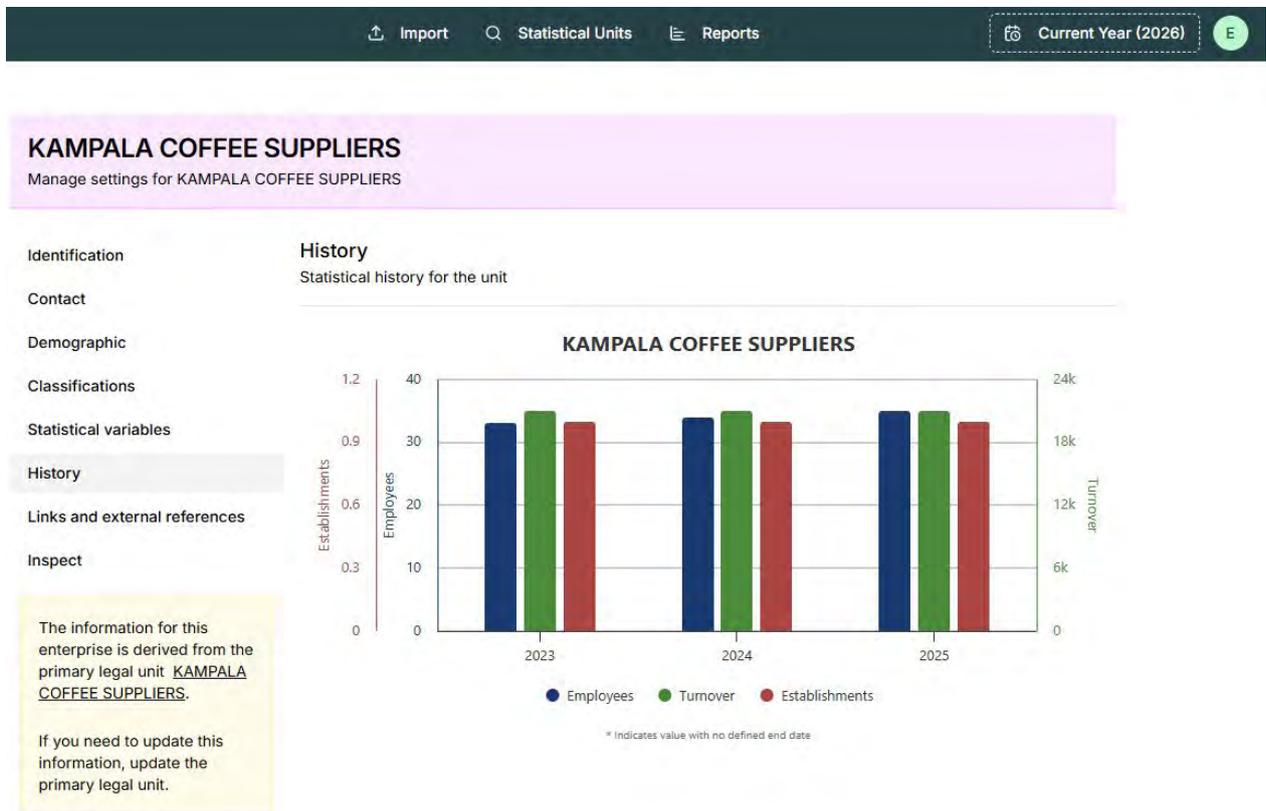
Building on the strong Nordic collaboration in the field of statistical business registers, Statistics Sweden invited the Statbus project to collaborate with Albania and Kenya. During the second half of 2025, we worked closely with both countries through the Swedish project and successfully installed test versions of Statbus in a cloud environment for each. As both countries use Windows-based server infrastructure, the system is deployed using VMware.

Priorities for 2026

The Statbus steering committee consists of representatives from Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden, Statistics Finland, and Statistics Denmark. Its primary objective is to ensure the successful implementation and operation of Statbus in production during 2026.

The current version of Statbus is close to production readiness, and plans are in place to initiate production use in early 2026. Development will continue alongside deployment, with a focus on further usability improvements and the introduction of carefully selected enhancements.

Following successful verification of the system's robustness and reliability in production, additional partner countries are expected to consider adoption. The long-term objective is to expand Statbus to more countries, and with the progress achieved so far, there is a solid foundation for continued growth in 2026 and beyond.



Statbus Chart, with development of employees and turnover over time



In November 2025, the Statbus project coordinator from Statistics Norway Erik Sørberg and Peter Nilsson from Statistics Sweden (SCB) worked with partners in Nakuru, Kenya, to adapt Statbus to national requirements



Workshop in Tirana, Albania, October 2025, where Statbus was demonstrated and adapted for INSTAT in collaboration with Statistics Sweden (SCB). Participants included Erik Sørberg from Statistics Norway, together with colleagues from SCB and the INSTAT team

NADABAS – a National Accounts Database System – Tax for Development

In 2025, the NADABAS programme reached an important maturity phase, with clear results in terms of capacity development, regional ownership and long term sustainability of national accounts compilation systems. The year was characterised by increased training activity, expanded geographical reach and strengthened institutional leadership, positioning NADABAS as a recognised and widely used tool for national accounts production in several regions.

A key development was the consolidation of STATAFRIC's role as lead institution for the NADABAS network. With project financing covering the focal point function and the African Union financing regional activities, the number of training delivery increased significantly. In 2025 alone, two large regional training workshops were organised, complemented by bilateral and online training for individual countries, including Ghana, South Sudan, Tanzania, Somalia and Seychelles. For the first time, NADABAS was also introduced to ASEAN member states, marking an important expansion beyond the programme's traditional partner regions. In July, 23 persons from 13 countries participated in a workshop in Oslo, financed by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

The programme also moved towards more advanced use of the system. In October 2025, the first regional workshop on Supply and Use Tables (SUT) in NADABAS was organised in South Africa, jointly by STATAFRIC and Statistics Norway. The workshop built on participants' prior NADABAS experience and made use of newly developed training material.

A major achievement in 2025 was the digitalisation of the training material. A comprehensive set of video based training modules were published on the NADABAS website, together with updated manuals, enabling countries to train new staff independently and reducing reliance on external experts. Early use of the material shows improved and more consistent understanding of system set up and compilation practices across users.

At the same time, IT support and back end development were strengthened through cooperation between Statistics Norway and COMESA. A certification scheme for NADABAS was introduced, and funding was secured for the first regional IT workshop at country level in 2026, financed by the World Bank.

Facts

Project	National Accounts Database System (NADABAS)
Donor	Norad
Accounts	NOK 2 959 038
Partners	Statistics Sweden and STATAFRIC, East African Community, and COMESA
Purpose	Improved quality of national accounts
Key words	National Accounts Database System
Duration	2022-2024, 2025-2027

NADABAS (National Accounts Database System) is a free, Excel based software for compiling national accounts. The system allows countries to design and manage their national accounts production in line with their own institutional structures and data sources.

Originally developed through a joint Scandinavian project in Mozambique in 2004, NADABAS has since been adopted by several countries, including Lesotho, Kenya, Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, and Botswana, with additional countries currently in the process of implementation.

More information is available at: www.nadabas.net

Overall, 2025 demonstrated that NADABAS has evolved from a tool supported by a limited number of experts into a sustainable, network based system with broad regional ownership. Statistics Norway's contribution has been central in supporting this transition through technical expertise, training development and long term institutional partnerships.

Plans for 2026

In 2026, the network will continue to support countries and organisations that have joined the network.

Strengthening the IT expert group will be a priority in 2026, in addition to support implementation in countries that have decided to start the process.

Achievements

- ✓ NADABAS training material and video tutorials published on www.nadabas.net
- ✓ Significant expansion of the NADABAS expert pool-no longer a shortage of qualified trainers
- ✓ First regional SUT focused NADABAS workshop successfully conducted
- ✓ First regional NADABAS training for ASEAN and SACU members
- ✓ Strengthened and formalised IT support structure for NADABAS
- ✓ Portuguese version of NADABAS officially launched
- ✓ New countries joined the network and initiated NADABAS implementation

Project challenges

- ✓ Time constraint for national accounts staff in general across countries. These are small teams with a large workload, now also starting with the preparation for the implementation of SNA2025.
- ✓ Shortage of IT experts for NADABAS software



↑
NADABAS training in Oslo July 2025, for ASEAN and SACU member states, financed by EFTA



⤴
NADABAS regional SUT workshop in South Africa October 2025, organised by STATAFRIC and Statistics Norway

Data for Now – Statistics and register programme

Improving data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Data for Now (D4N) is a global initiative launched in 2019 by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and led by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Its primary goal is to promote innovative methods and tools that enhance timeliness, coverage, and quality of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) data and statistics.

Many countries face significant challenges in producing reliable SDG indicators due to a lack of timely and accurate data. In 2025, Statistics Norway contributed to the D4N vision by making data more timely and relevant for SDG monitoring. Our focus this year has been on integrating statistical and geospatial data and building capacity in our partner country Namibia. In addition, Statistics Norway initiated cooperation on address register development in Jamaica and began preparing new collaborations on statistics dissemination with Palestine.

From a global framework to national action

Following the UN-supported High-Level Seminar on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (Bangkok, 2023), where the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) was introduced, the Namibia Statistics Agency partnered with Statistics Norway to develop action points for Namibia's Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) roadmap. This work has been ongoing for several years and culminated in the Namibia Stakeholder Workshop in February 2025.

The workshop was supported by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), the National Planning Commission, Statistics Norway, and the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), with the Data for Now initiative as the overarching framework linking the workshop to the GSGF and to global SDG data goals.

Result:

Namibia now has a clearer path to integrating geospatial and statistical data, furthering its national adoption of the GSGF framework. This integration is vital for evidence-based policymaking, supporting the monitoring of sustainable development and the SDGs, disaster response, urban planning, and countless other areas where local intelligence enhances decision-making.

In addition to the work in Namibia, Statistics Norway had its first engagements with Palestine and Jamaica,

Facts

Project	Data for Now
Partners	UNSD and NSOs
Accounts	NOK 1 112 232
Donor	NORAD
Period	2021 - 2025
Purpose	Contribute to the Data for Now initiative, increase innovation and use of robust methods and tools to improve the timeliness, coverage, and quality of SDG data and statistics.
Key words	Sustainable development goals (SDGs), CPI, GIS, methods, statistics

Achievements

- ✓ Action points for Namibia's Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) roadmap developed
- ✓ Cooperation with Jamaica on Address register
- ✓ Cooperation with Palestine on PX-Web

Project challenges

- ✓ Planned Address register workshops in Jamaica in 2025 was postponed to 2026 due to the Hurricane disaster
- ✓ Staff availability at Statistics Norway and partner institutions

both initiated through invitations from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) under the Data for Now initiative. The engagement with Palestine focused on an online discussion about the PX-Web solution for creating and disseminating data tables, supporting improved accessibility of official statistics.

The collaboration with Jamaica was more substantial with involvement in Jamaica's development of a National Address Register (NAR). In September, officials from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB) under the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation attended the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) in Oslo. The purpose was to learn from European experiences and explore opportunities for further cooperation with Statistics Norway under the Data for Now umbrella.

Following the forum, Statistics Norway joined Jamaica's efforts to establish the NAR and was invited to share experiences during the NAR Co-Design Workshop. However, due to the devastating impact of a hurricane, the workshop was postponed to 2026. UNSD, through Data for Now, has already been actively involved in supporting the NAR process, ensuring continuity and global best practices.

Priorities for 2026

- National address register Jamaica.
- Utilization of Satellite imagery, cooperation with Norwegian Space Agency.
- PX-web cooperation with Palestine.

The Namibia Spatial Data Infrastructure workshop in Namibia



Officials from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB) under the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation attended the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) in Oslo



The NSDI "The international frameworks for geospatial information were excellently presented, giving our stakeholders assurance that Namibia is not moving on the path alone." – NSDI Coordinator, Namibia

Pan-African Statistics Programme, PAS II

Capacity building through cross-country learning and strategy development for Statistical Business Registers

The Pan-African Statistics Programme, PAS II, launched as the successor to PAS I, is an EU funded programme that aims to support the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (ShaSA II). The PAS II programme consists of several components and partners, including National Statistical Offices (NSOs) within the European Statistical System. Statistics Norway has been a partner under the economic statistics grant, led by the National Institute of Statistics and Economics in France (INSEE), with the overall goal of strengthening economic and business statistics in African NSOs. The project began in March 2022 and continued until October 2025, concluding with a successful joint closing event in Casablanca, arranged by Expertise France and gathering all partners and participants across the entire program.

SSB has coordinated the support for the development of Statistical Business Registers (SBRs), collaborating with its Nordic counterparts in Denmark and Finland. The main objective has been to promote harmonization and strengthen SBR systems in selected African NSOs, including identifying suitable data sources. The African NSO's selected to participate under the component, were already advancing their business register independently. Rather than producing stand-alone improvements, this project has acted as a catalyst to their ongoing work, reinforcing existing efforts. Through joint activities, with a small group of SBR experts from the African and European consortium NSO's, the project has facilitated a unique exchange of experience, creating opportunities to discuss common challenges, comparing approaches and learn from each other's progress in developing and strengthening SBR systems.

The project also benefited from expertise outside the consortium members. In 2024, INE Uruguay shared valuable insights on handling the informal sector and on probabilistic data linking. Building on the latter topic, the developer of Splink, a tool used for probabilistic data linking, was invited to give an online demonstration of the software in spring 2025. Two additional joint online sessions were held in 2025: one covering sampling methods presented by Statistics Finland, and Statistics Mauritius sharing their experience transitioning to a new SBR system.

Facts

Project	Pan-African Statistics Programme II
Partner	Statistics Mauritius, Namibia Statistics Agency, National Statistical Institute of Senegal, NSOs of Finland, Denmark, France, Poland, and Spain
Accounts	NOK 400 000
Donor	European Commission – Eurostat and Statistics Norway
Period	2022 - 2025
Purpose	Developing economic and business statistics in African statistical offices
Key words	Statistical business register, administrative data sources, capacity building, experience sharing

Achievements

- ✓ Drafted SBR strategies for two NSO's and established a solid foundation for the remaining two to develop their own
- ✓ Established a cross-country network for potential future collaboration on SBR
- ✓ Strengthened the NSOs capacity to work with administrative data in a structured and sustainable way

Project challenges

- ✓ Finding suitable time for joint activities of the six involved countries
- ✓ The paradox of project period being shorter than development process – capacity building takes time
- ✓ Financial limitation of grants

The final session focused on the NSO's work on developing SBR strategies. Throughout the project, the emphasis on SBR strategy development has aimed to give the NSOs a clearer direction and a solid foundation for continuing to improve their business registers even beyond the project's completion.

In April 2025, SSB conducted its second technical mission to the National Statistical Agency of Namibia (NSA) in connection with the internal launch of NSA's new SBR system. Following the mission, NSA prepared the document "Purpose, Contents and Updates of the SBR". Key elements of their work and the content of this document were shared with the rest of the consortium members during one of the joint online sessions held in Spring 2025. This document later became an important foundation for the development of their SBR strategy. Although the public launch of NSA's new SBR system did not take

place within the project timeframe, continued collaboration between SSB and NSA under the Norad funded project "Tax for Development" might provide opportunities for future cooperation on SBR development.

Technical missions were also conducted by Statistics Finland to Statistics Mauritius and to the National Bureau of Statistics Nigeria, who joined the project in the last year.



Project coordinators from European NSO's, INSEE, DST, Statistics Poland, Statistics Finland, INE and SSB, at the last coordinating meeting in Copenhagen September 2025

Praia Group on Governance statistics

Praia Group on Governance Statistics – developing survey instruments and guidance on participation

The Praia Group on Governance Statistics works to develop internationally relevant methodologies for measuring key dimensions of governance. Within this framework, Statistics Norway, with support from UNDP and UN Women, leads a Task Team focused on measuring participation in political and public affairs.

The Praia Group is a so-called City Group established by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2015. Its mandate is to establish international standards and methods for statistics on major dimensions of governance. The group is chaired by the national statistical office of Cabo Verde and is named after the country's capital, Praia.

The Task Team has been mandated to examine how participation and representation can be measured by consolidating international and national experience in this field. It consists of more than 100 members from all regions, primarily national statistical offices, as well as representatives from research institutions, international and regional organisations, academia, and civil society. While a subset of countries participated directly in cognitive testing and pilot implementation of the survey module, feedback and technical input were provided by a much broader group of Task Team members throughout the development process. The main outputs of the Task Team are:

1. a harmonised survey module on Participation in Political and Public Affairs; and
2. guidance on how administrative data can be used to produce official statistics on participation and representation.

In 2025, the work of the Task Team focused on consolidating and validating the main methodological outputs. In the spring of 2025, Task Team members met to review draft versions of both instruments, enabling a structured technical review of the survey module and the guidance. A key result of the work in 2025 was the further development and testing of a harmonised post-election survey module on Participation in Political and Public Affairs. The module consists of a limited set of core questions, complemented by optional questions that countries can use depending on national priorities. Cognitive testing

Facts

Project	Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs under the Praia Group
Partner	UNDP, UN Women
Accounts	NOK 1 219 244
Donor	Norad
Period	2022 - 2026
Purpose	Improve governance statistics, statistics on elections and participation
Key words	Election statistics, Governance statistics, SDGs, Praia Group

Achievements

- ✓ Draft versions of a harmonised post-election survey module and guidance on using electoral administrative data were developed
- ✓ The survey module was tested in 14 countries, with technical input and feedback provided by a broader group of Task Team members
- ✓ Both drafts were circulated for a global consultation in October 2025 and are being revised ahead of submission to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2026

Project challenges

- ✓ Developing harmonised instruments applicable across different electoral systems, institutional settings, and governance contexts remains challenging
- ✓ Ensuring inclusion of different stakeholders' interests (e.g. vulnerable groups, intersectionality) while not making the instruments too broad

and pilot implementation were carried out on a voluntary basis by national statistical offices in 14 countries across Africa, Europe, and Latin America. The survey was tested in several international languages as well as local languages, demonstrating its applicability across different institutional and cultural contexts.

In parallel, Statistics Norway contributed to developing a *Guidance on Utilizing Electoral Administrative Data to Produce Statistics on Political Participation*. The guidance provides practical support to national statistical offices on how electoral data produced by electoral management bodies can be integrated into official statistics. In 2025, the guidance was structured into five chapters covering concepts and definitions, national legal frameworks, types of electoral data systems, the role of national statistical offices in adding value to electoral data, and models for sustainable data sharing between institutions.

Both the survey module and the guidance were circulated for a global consultation in October 2025. The instruments were well received, and the consultation generated a wide range of substantive feedback from countries and international partners. Work is currently ongoing to incorporate these inputs, ahead of the planned presentation of both instruments to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2026.



Task team members gathered in Oslo in May 2025 to finalise instruments

Towards Register-Based Population and Housing Censuses

Register-Based Censuses and the Use of Administrative Data for Population Statistics

Civil registration systems, population registers, and other administrative data sources are increasingly becoming the backbone of modern population statistics. While the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) for producing population statistics is well established, many countries are now shifting their focus towards the broader use of population registers and other administrative registers as a foundation for population statistics and register-based population and housing censuses. In many countries, population censuses are conducted only every ten years, and in some cases even less frequently due to the high costs and logistical challenges involved. A transition towards register-based censuses enables the production of more frequent, cost-efficient, and inclusive population data. This, in turn, leads to improved statistical outputs and stronger evidence-based policymaking, while at the same time reducing the burden on respondents and public administrations.

Statistics Norway has long experience in producing population statistics and censuses based on administrative registers. In 2025, international interest in the Norwegian register-based census model continued to grow, with an increasing number of countries seeking guidance on institutional arrangements, data integration, quality assurance, and governance frameworks needed to support register-based census production.

An achievement through the year was the establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) for register-based population and housing censuses, led by UNDP, INE Uruguay and Statistics Norway. Throughout the year, Statistics Norway strengthened its international cooperation with national statistical offices and international organisations, with a particular emphasis on register-based population and housing censuses. Several web-based meetings were organised, focusing on the exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

- Statistics Norway contributed to the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific by co-organising a [side event on register-based population and housing censuses](#) together with INE Uruguay and UNFPA. Statistics Norway shared Norway's experience with population registers, data integration and quality management, and contrib-

Facts

Project	Register-Based Censuses and the Use of Administrative Data for Population Statistics
Partner	NSOs, UNFPA, UNSD, INE Uruguay, UN ESCAP
Accounts	NOK 1 517 716
Donor	NORAD
Period	2021 - 2025
Purpose	Improve national and international population statistics
Key words	CRVS, vital statistics, population statistics, SDGs, register-based censuses, population registers

Achievements

- ✓ Establishment of the Community of Practice (CoP)
- ✓ First physical meeting of the CoP in Nairobi with more than 40 members present
- ✓ Development of a strong support package for interested countries by combining recent Uruguayan census experience with Norwegian experience that goes back longer in time
- ✓ Initial bilateral discussions with Mongolia, Bhutan and Indonesia regarding capacity building to build population registers and/or conduct register-based censuses
- ✓ Dialogue with two regional UN commissions regarding joint activities on register-based censuses

uted to UNFPA's global work on capacity building for register-based censuses. The side event attracted strong interest from countries in the UN ESCAP region exploring alternatives to traditional censuses. Through bilateral meetings and technical dialogue, Statistics Norway also helped initiate potential follow-up cooperation with several countries, including Bhutan, Türkiye, Indonesia and Mongolia within the newly established Community of Practice on Population Registers.

- First physical meeting of the CoP in Nairobi with more than 40 members present. The Community of Practice on Population Registers workshop in Nairobi in October 2025 included technical contributions and experience sharing from Norway related to the history of the Norwegian population registers and the use of administrative data for statistics and register-based censuses. Through collaboration with INE Uruguay and UNFPA, input was provided on governance frameworks, legal arrangements, unique identifiers and data-sharing practices. Experience from Statistics Norway's peer review and bilateral cooperation with Uruguay was shared, along with contributions to discussions on coverage, quality and usability of population registers. Participation in facilitated group discussions also supported the identification of follow-up activities and priorities for the Community of Practice in 2026, among them the updating/revision of [the UN's technical guidance on methodology and evaluation of population registers](#) which currently dates back to 1969.

Project challenges

- ✓ How to move beyond sharing of the Norwegian experience to provide practical support to countries building up their CRVS and population registration systems
- ✓ Making real progress on country level would require a bilateral cooperation and multiple activities, which goes beyond what this project allows for
- ✓ Institutional set ups vary greatly in different countries. While some general advice can be given, for real success each country needs to tailor solutions to their own circumstances



CRVS Ministerial Conference, Bangkok June 2025



Community of Practice, Nairobi October 2025

SCB/AU/EGRISS Collaboration on Forced Displacement Statistics in Africa

Context and background

Statistics Norway is one of the founding institutions of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS). The establishment of EGRISS represents a major step towards improving global statistics on people affected by forced displacement. Better, more comparable statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless persons are essential to ensure that the scale and characteristics of forced displacement are adequately reflected in official statistics and can inform humanitarian response, policy development and international cooperation.

Since its establishment, Statistics Norway has played an active role in EGRISS, as a member of its Steering Committee, contributing to the development of international recommendations and methodological guidance aimed at strengthening national statistical systems and improving the quality and comparability of forced displacement statistics globally.

Cooperation in Africa

As part of this broader engagement, Statistics Norway has supported efforts to improve forced displacement statistics in Africa through cooperation with Statistics Sweden (SCB), the African Union, regional economic communities and EGRISS. This cooperation is embedded within SCB's Migration Statistics in Africa project, where Statistics Norway has contributed specifically to the project components addressing forced displacement.

Within this framework, Statistics Norway has provided targeted technical support related to statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, ensuring alignment with EGRISS recommendations and international standards. The cooperation has focused on strengthening national and regional statistical systems, enhancing coordination across institutions, and improving the availability and use of forced displacement data.

Major achievements in 2025 includes:

- Strengthened national and regional coordination on migration and forced displacement statistics through the establishment of technical working groups in several African countries and regions, and through contributions to regional migration

Facts

Project	Improvement of Forced Displacement Statistics
Partners	SCB, EGRISS, African Union
Accounts	NOK 300 900
Donor	Norad/Statistics Norway
Period	2022 - 2025
Purpose	Implementation of recommendations for statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons
Key words	Forced displacement, refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless

Achievements

- ✓ Harmonisation of methodology at continental level
- ✓ Increased capacity to produce and use statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons
- ✓ The AU/STATAFRIC guidelines on migration and displacement statistics was published and endorsed by the African Union at the CoDGs meeting

reports and statistical yearbooks produced by [IGAD](#), EAC and COMESA.

- Methodological approaches to migration and forced displacement statistics were harmonised across regional economic communities and at continental level, alongside efforts to integrate international and national data sources and strengthen national ownership of data.
- In parallel, targeted capacity building and technical support were provided to support the implementation of EGRISS recommendations, enhancing national statistical systems' ability to produce and use statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons.
- Statistics Norway contributed in drafting of the [AU/STATAFRIC guidelines on migration and displacement statistics](#) that was endorsed by the African Union in the 19th meeting of the Heads of African Statistical Offices (CODGs) in Addis Ababa in December 2025.

Project challenges

- ✓ Heterogeneous national capacities and systems: Differences in institutional capacity and data availability across countries makes harmonisation and implementation of EGRISS recommendations challenging
- ✓ Coordination across multiple stakeholders: Ensuring collaboration among national statistical offices, regional communities and partners
- ✓ Integration and sustainability of data production: Integrating forced displacement statistics into national systems ensuring long-term sustainability, not only single year reporting



Regional guidelines on migration and displacement statistics, endorsed at the CoDGs meeting in December 2025. From left Simon Nissling (SCB), Sadiq Boateng (Statistics Norway) and Jean Pierre Ntezimana (SCB)

Study visits and multiple country workshops 2025

In total, Statistics Norway hosted 19 study visits last year, covering a wide range of topics. 2025 was also special, as we welcomed three delegations from Ukraine, marking their return to in-person participation after the onset of the war.

Statistics Norway also organized several international workshops and facilitated the participation of delegates from various National Statistical Offices at numerous statistical conferences.

Study visits to Norway, 2025

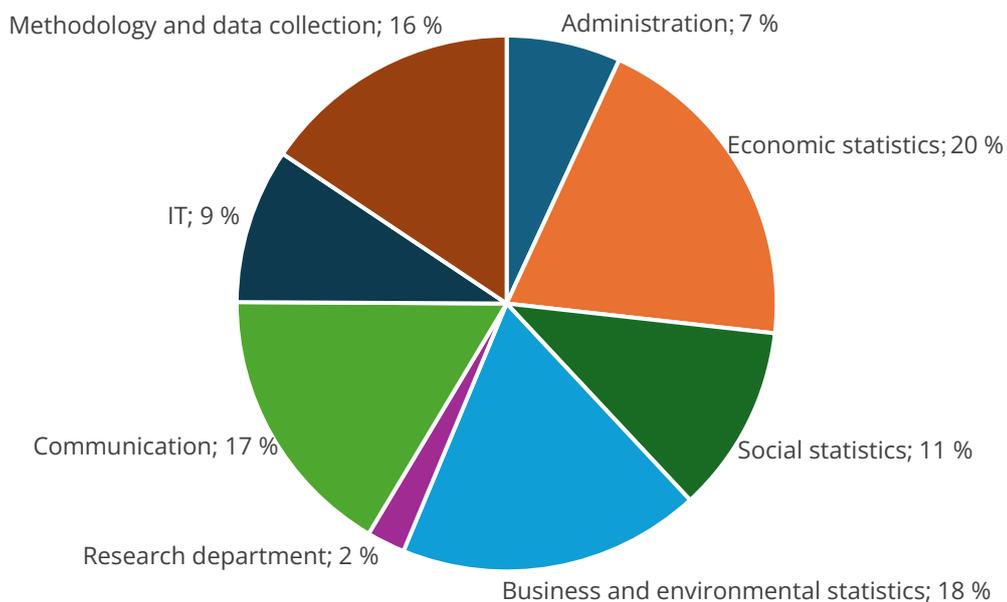
Guests by country	Month	Subject matter
Seychelles	January	Statistical business register and use of administrative data
Ethiopia	February	Communication
Malawi	March	Communication
Malawi	March	Macroeconomic model
Ukraine	March	Tourism Statistics
Ghana	May	Human Resources
Praia Group	May	Task team meeting. Statistics on Participation in Political and Public Affairs
Indonesia	May	Ocean Satellite Accounts
Ukraine	June	Labour Force Survey
ASEAN and SACU members	June	NADABAS/national accounts, co-organised with EFTA
Indonesia	June	Dashboards, IT-security and data sharing
Namibia	September	Price statistics and coordination
Kenya	October	Macro models
Namibia	October	National Accounts
Ghana	October	Nadabas/National accounts
Ukraine	October	Tourism Statistics
Mozambique	November	Business Register, Business Surveys, Environmental statistics
Indonesia	November	Ecosystem Services Accounts
Namibia	December	Environmental statistics

Workshops under the Food Security Statistics project 2025

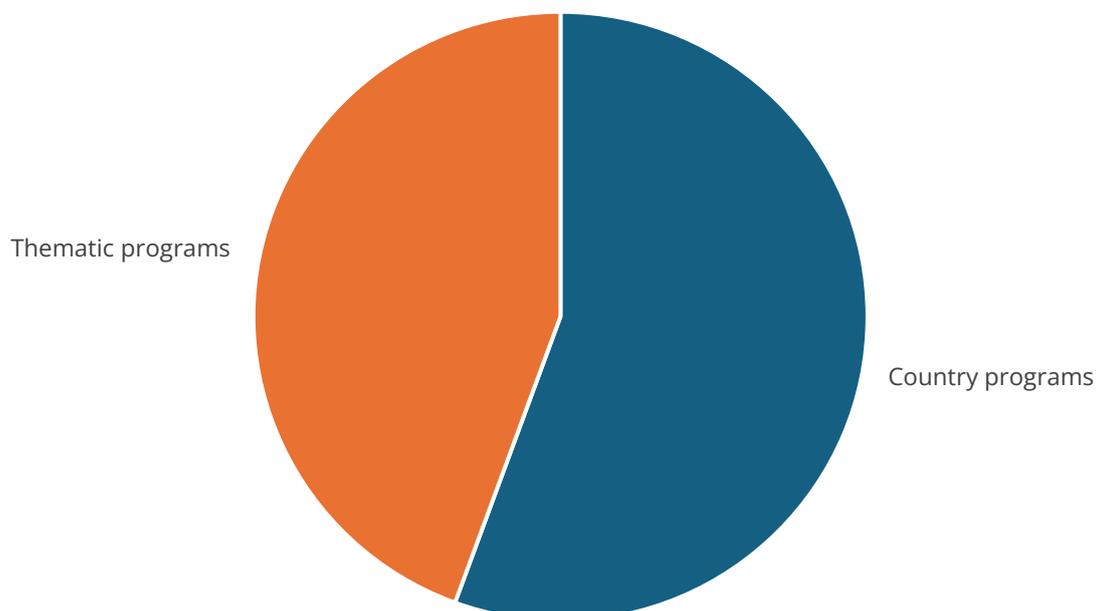
Country	Month	Description
Eswatini	April	Food security statistics
Ethiopia	April	Food security statistics
Madagascar	August	Food security statistics

The year in figures: visual summary

**Use of resources in SSB by department, 2025
(ex. division for international development)**



**Cost distribution of SSBs development cooperation by country programs
and thematic programs, 2025**



The year in figures: key accounts

In 2025, Statistics Norway was allocated 58,7 million Norwegian kroner to carry out activities related to international development cooperation. This represents an increase of 4 million kroner, or 7 percent, compared to 2024.

The program activities comprised 19 study visits and 68 short-term missions, with a total of 42 consultants from the entire organisation of SSB contributing to the short-term missions. Namibia was the country with the highest number of short-term missions, with a total of 17, of which 12 were related to activities within the Tax for Development programme.

By the end of 2025, the Division for International Development Cooperation employed 16 permanent staff members, the same as the previous year, corresponding to 15,3 full-time equivalent employees. This includes 2 long-term advisers seconded in Ethiopia and Malawi. In addition, two retirees work

part-time for the division and during 2025 the division had internship positions for two students.

The implementation of activities relies on access to resources and expertise from across the organisation. In 2025, eight departments contributed with their expertise. The distribution is relatively balanced among the statistical production units, but with a substantial contribution from the communication department and department for methodology and data collection as well. Altogether, 122 individuals from outside the Division for International Development Cooperation participated in the projects, corresponding to 8,2 full-time equivalents.

Accounts 2025	NOK
TOTAL	58 693 000
Ukraine – Statistics and Register Program	4 308 000
Ethiopia – Statistics and Register Program	8 948 000
Mozambique – Embassy (Min. of Foreign Affairs)	2 490 000
Uganda – Gender Equality for Development	575 000
Indonesia – Ocean for Development	5 176 000
Ghana – Tax for Development	2 724 000
Malawi – Tax for development	9 077 000
Namibia – Tax for development	5 076 000
Digital Goods – Tax for development ¹	7 531 000
Other – Tax for Development	515 000
Food Security	6 215 000
Other – Statistics and register program	5 471 000
International Migration Statistics	187 000
Pan-African Statistics Programme II	400 000

¹ NORCAP has in addition invoiced Norad directly for the Nadabas-position in Statafric, covered by the program.

Project groups	NOK
TOTAL	58 693 000
Gender equality for development	575 000
Tax for development	24 923 000
Food Security	6 215 000
Statistics and register program	18 914 000
Oceans for Development	5 176 000
Other development cooperation	2 890 000

Key numbers	2024	2025
Short-term missions and travels	61	68
Study visits	18	19
Long term adviser, person-years	2.4	2.7
Total SSB project consultants (full-time equivalent)	23.7	24.3
Total division employees (full-time equivalent)	17.2	16.3

Division for International Development Cooperation

Employees per 31 December 2025



Janne Utkilen

Head of Division

jtu@ssb.no



Vebjørn Aalandslid

Senior Adviser/Deputy Head of Division and Group leader

Project Manager: Praia Group, Task force on political and public affairs, Civil registration and vital statistics, International refugee statistics

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Tarik Ogbamichael

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Group photo of the division at the 2025 Division Seminar, held at the SSB premises in Oslo

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