

Annual Report 2024

International development cooperation in Statistics Norway

TALL

SOM FORTELLER

PLANER OG MELDINGER / PLANS AND REPORTS 2025/2



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Emperor Menelik II'S Palace Complex, Unity Park, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Image courtesy of Janne Therese Utكيلen

Cover page: Lake Mutanda, Uganda. Image courtesy of John Åge Haugen

International development cooperation in Statistics Norway



Introduction and summary of 2024

Since the 1960s, Statistics Norway has been actively engaged in international collaboration, and in 1994, we established the Division for International Development Cooperation. Over the last 30 years, the Division has expanded,

both in size and scope of projects. Today, we have a dedicated team of 15 staff members who coordinate our projects, drawing on the expertise from all departments within Statistics Norway. Last year, over 100 staff members contributed to our projects, enabling us to carry out activities in a wide range of statistical domains and support functions. Over time, our mission remains clear: support our partners to strengthening National Statistical Systems and enhancing the production of high-quality official statistics.

Our cooperation model involves three main types of projects. We engage in twinning or bilateral partnerships with National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to enhance their statistical capabilities. We also lead sector-specific projects that focus on targeted themes, such as our collaboration with Indonesia on ocean accounts to improve sustainable ocean management. Additionally, we participate in global and regional cooperation with international organizations on specific themes. These regional collaborations are particularly effective in scaling up successful solutions, benefiting multiple countries and NSOs.

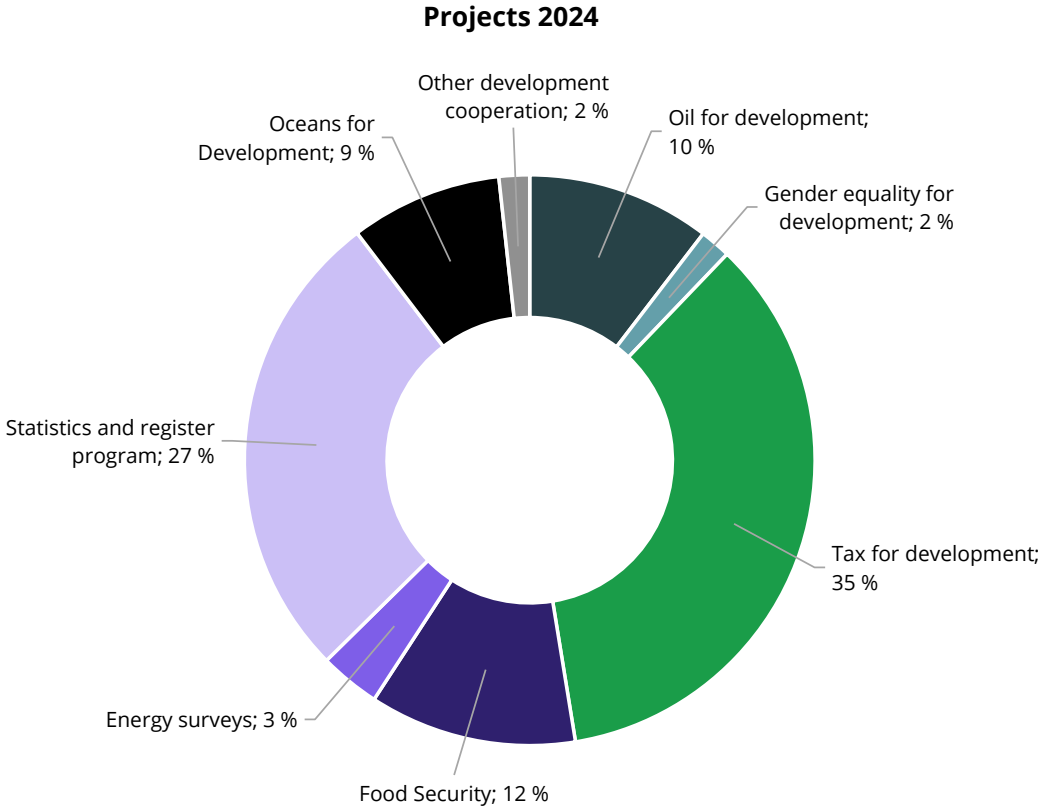
Triangular cooperation is a key aspect of our international efforts, bringing together Statistics Norway, partner countries and third-party organizations. For example, the NSOs in Kenya, Ghana and Uruguay have hosted study visits in 2024, sharing their experience with sister organisations. In 2024, we financed positions in both COMESA and STATAFRIC to strengthen regional capacity building efforts. Through these partnerships, we leverage additional resources and expertise to enhance the impact, while also fostering a more inclusive global statistical community.

A significant milestone for the food security project was achieved in March 2024 when the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the Guidelines on how to process food data from Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCES). These guidelines were developed by a task team under the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agriculture, and Rural Statistics (UN CEAG). Key partners in creating the guidelines included Statistics Norway, The World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and The Pacific Community (SPC). The guidelines help countries to standardize the processing of food data from HCES, aiming to improve efficiency, quality, and consistency of these data which is crucial for national accounts, consumer price indices, and analyses of poverty and food security.

Looking ahead, Statistics Norway remains committed to fostering international partnerships that drive progress in official statistics. By sharing knowledge, strengthening institutions, and promoting best practices, we contribute to more informed decision-making and sustainable development worldwide.

Most of Statistics Norway's international development cooperation is funded by Norad.

Cooperation countries and projects



Cooperation countries 2024



Source: Highcharts.com © Natural Earth

Map Source: Source: Highcharts.com © Natural Earth

Uganda – Oil for Development

Oil for Development in Uganda – concluded after 10 years of cooperation

Uganda has been a partner in the Oil for Development (OfD) programme since 2006, and with a Statistics cooperation since 2014. Over nearly two decades, OfD has strengthened Uganda's capacity to manage its petroleum sector sustainably and transparently.

The third phase of the programme, launched in March 2019, focused on enhancing Uganda Bureau of Statistics' (UBOS) ability to produce and disseminate petroleum-related statistics. The project also supported the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFEPD) on macro-economic topics. Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and local outbreaks of Ebola, work could not be done in accordance with the original time-frame. In 2022 a no-cost extension of the OfD-program in Uganda was granted for the years 2023-2024.

To achieve the objectives of the OfD, the project has focused on areas of statistics that are particularly important for covering the economic impact of activities in the oil and gas sector, including national accounts, investment statistics, foreign trade statistics, environmental statistics, business register, and macroeconomic and environmental models.

Statistics Norway has coordinated the cooperation between MoFEPD, the Ministry of Finance (Norway), the Ugandan Revenue Authority, and the Oil Taxation office of Norway (Oljeskattekontoret).

One of the main outputs for the Finance and Statistics areas under OfD cooperation in Uganda was the launch and approval in cabinet of the Uganda Charter of Fiscal Responsibility in 2022. The Charter also included a fiscal rule. The rule aims to ensure the sustainable and transparent management of oil revenues, preventing economic volatility and promoting long-term financial stability. During the years there have also been many other tangible results in the areas of statistics, tax and finance.

Facts

Project	Institutional cooperation under the Oil for Development Programme
Partner	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFEPD)
Accounts	NOK 5 751 000
Donor	Royal Norwegian Embassy, in Kampala
Period	2019-2024
Purpose	Improve the capacity of UBOS to produce and disseminate petroleum-related statistics
Key words	Oil and gas investments, national accounts, energy accounts, foreign trade statistics, environmental statistics, business register

Achievements

- ✓ Capacity building in environmental statistics and modelling
- ✓ Filling data gaps in the energy balance
- ✓ Updating the Petroleum Sector Economic Model (PSEM) at MoFEPD, and training new staff members, full ownership
- ✓ Capacity building in compiling institutional sector accounts

Closing conference for Oil for Development in Uganda

With the conclusion of the programme on 31 December 2024, the final two years saw a renewed momentum as postponed activities resumed. In early 2023, Allan Henrysson, a long-term consultant from Statistics Norway, was stationed in Kampala, playing a key role in both planning and execution.

In May 2024, a closing conference in Kampala brought together stakeholders from both Norway and Uganda, covering all the four programme components (Resource-, Revenue-, Environment- and Safety Management). This event underscored the programme's achievements and its lasting contributions to Uganda's petroleum governance. The Oil for Development programme in Uganda has now successfully concluded, leaving behind a strengthened institutional framework and enhanced statistical capacity to support the country's continued development.

Petroleum sector economic model, waste statistics, investment statistics and the statistical business register

The four main achievements of the cooperation between Statistics Norway, UBOS and MoFPED in 2024 are:

1. Full ownership of the Petroleum Sector Economic Model (PSEM) by MoFPED
2. Improved environmental statistics, with a focus on wastewater and plastic waste
3. Dissemination of investment statistics for the oil and gas sector
4. Tested the latest version of the Generic Statistical Business Register Tool (Statbus)

Project challenges

- ✓ Delays due to the Covid pandemic
- ✓ Availability of staff at UBOS and SSB
- ✓ Delays in finalization of Statbus
- ✓ Delays in the dissemination of oil and gas investment statistics



⤴ End conference for the OfD program in Uganda, May 2024



⤴ Uganda signing Fiscal rule launch in Kampala, Uganda, November 2022



Allan Henrysson at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Entebbe Office



Image of flags outside the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Entebbe Office

Namibia – Tax for Development

Namibia Statistics Agency and Statistics Norway sign a four-year institutional cooperation agreement

After nearly a year and a half of planning the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and Statistics Norway (SSB) formalized their partnership through the signing of a four-year institutional cooperation agreement in May 2024.

A broad institutional cooperation is established

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 nearly all core 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.



Facts

Project	Tax for Development
Partner	Namibia Statistics Agency
Accounts	NOK 5 258 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2024–2027
Purpose	Contribute to an improved and efficient tax system 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

- ✓ Institutional cooperation agreement between NSA and SSB signed
- ✓ Detailed plans for cooperation developed
- ✓ New production systems for Producer price index and import/export index developed
- ✓ IT courses on Python programming

Project challenges

- ✓ Availability of staff
- ✓ Budget constrains

⊖ Statistician General and CEO for Namibia Statistics Agency, Mr. Alex Shimuafeni, and Director General for Statistics Norway, Mr. Geir Axelsen, signed a 4-year institutional cooperation agreement in May 2024

Progress and results: The wheels of cooperation are in motion

In 2024, detailed planning and goal setting were prioritized for the subject areas under the cooperation, including concept notes for the development of environmental statistics and price indices. For almost all areas, more refined and updated versions of the goal hierarchy have been developed with concrete plans for the next years.

First results in price statistics

Significant progress has already been made in the field of price statistics. Two new production systems, developed in the programming language Python, have been made for producer price statistics and import/export indices. The latter represents a new statistical product for NSA. These systems are expected to undergo quality control and updates in 2025, with the aim of disseminating the indices based on the new system in 2025.

Other areas that have seen improvements this year include national accounts, communication, and IT focusing on Python. However, due to the release of the Namibia Census in late 2024 and the significant demands this placed on the staff, particularly in the area of social statistics, it was agreed that full-scale activities in this area will start in 2025.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the priority will be to include new statistical areas in the project, also outside the area of economic statistics.



The Executive Committee of Namibia Statistics Agency visiting Statistics Norway



Technical cooperation between NSA and Statistics Norway in Norway



Technical cooperation between NSA and Statistics Norway in Namibia

MALAWI – Tax for Development

Starting up a new four-year institutional cooperation in Malawi

2024 was the first year of the four-year institutional cooperation between the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Department of Economic Planning & Development (EP&D) in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) in Malawi and Statistics Norway (SSB).

The project is oriented at developing official statistics based on administrative registers, with economic statistics, including the national accounts, as the priority areas. The project also includes support to other statistical domains, such as vital statistics and environmental statistics. An important component of the cooperation with NSO is general support for institutional development such as capacity development for better data management (data security, storing and sharing), to improve NSO's standing in the society. It is also a goal to improve the system for dissemination and communication of statistics to user groups with different needs. The cooperation with EP&D is limited to the development of the capacity for macroeconomic modelling and analysis.

Progress and results – Setting the stage for sustainable capacity development

In 2024, the efforts were focused on finalising the plans and the formal agreement as well as preparing the partner institutions for the capacity development project. The Institutional Cooperation Agreement (ICA) was signed in June 2024 at a kick-off seminar in Lilongwe. This seminar had both high-level and broad participation from different stakeholders, providing a good opportunity to advocate for the need of quality statistics, and for informing about the cooperation project. The seminar also highlighted the importance of coordinating with the World Bank support to NSO through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Statistics Project (StatCap Project). In the coming years, the project is going to provide substantial support for the implementation of surveys and census planning and is also funding capacity development and investments in ICT equipment needed by the NSO. NSO, SSB and the World Bank have regular coordination meetings to make sure that our support initiatives are aligned.

Facts

Project	Tax for Development
Partners	National Statistical Office (NSO) and Department of Economic Planning & Development (EP&D) in Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA)
Accounts	NOK 5 774 000
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

- ✓ Project Document finalised and Institutional Cooperation Agreement signed in June 2024
- ✓ Two long-term consultants recruited
- ✓ Improved system for processing of the Annual Economic Survey
- ✓ New communication strategy (draft)
- ✓ NSO-staff trained on content development for website
- ✓ Improved working routines in NA/BoPs division
- ✓ EP&D staff trained in EViews

A long-term consultant (LTC) on National Accounts and Balance of Payments commenced his assignment to NSO in August 2024. A second LTC has been recruited to work at the NSO central office in Zomba from January 2025.

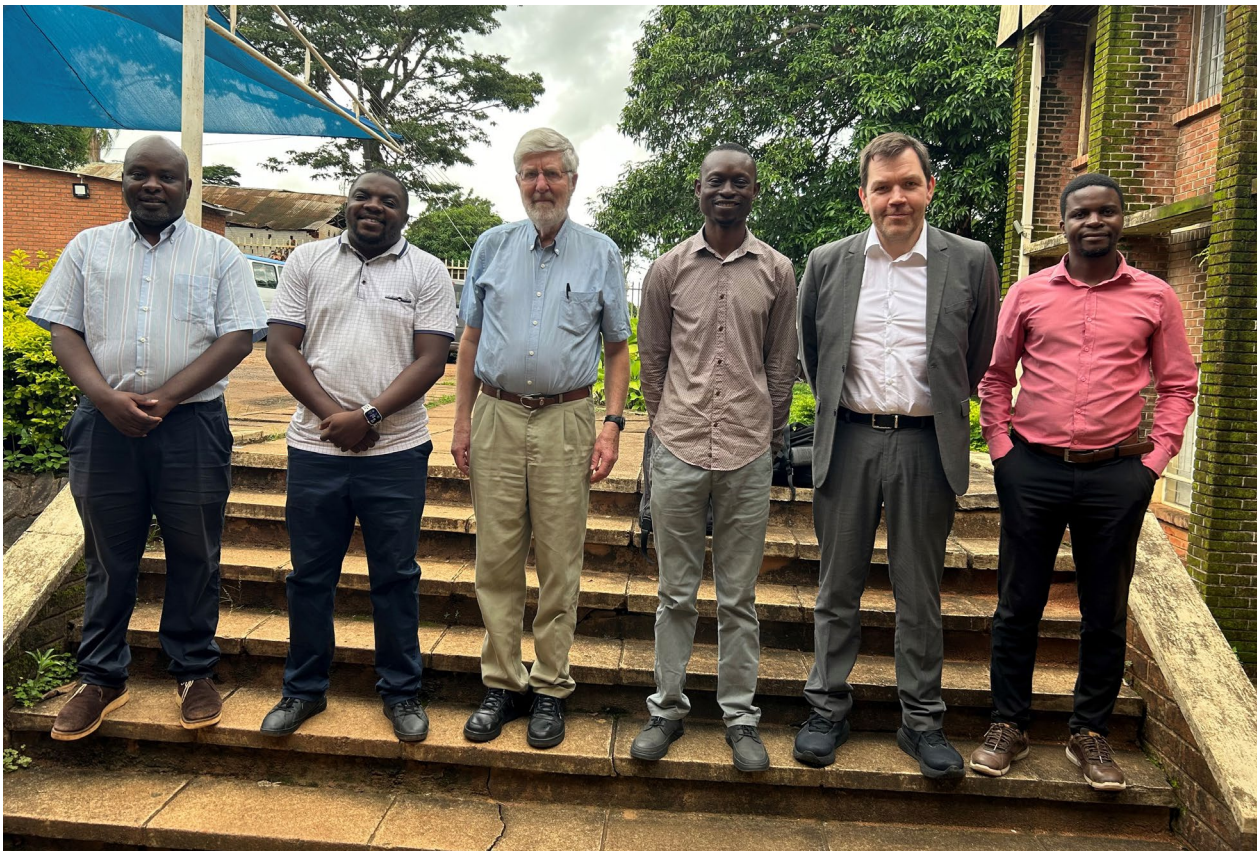
Improved working conditions for the NA/BoPs team in Lilongwe

In the area of National Accounts and Balance of Payments, the priority has been on improving the working conditions and the daily working routines for the NA/BoPs team. The division is located at the NSO regional office in Lilongwe, a four-hour drive from the main office in Zomba. When the LTC started his work in August 2024, the NSO-team were still located in the temporary office without basic working tools like laptops and access to the Internet. To improve the working conditions, the StatCap Project allocated funding for the NA/BoPs team to have regular working sessions with the LTC at a venue outside the office. At the end of 2024, the ICT situation had improved with all staff being equipped with new PCs from the StatCap Project.

Project challenges

- ✓ Lack of basic ICT working tools in NSO
- ✓ Lack of staff availability for project
- ✓ Capacity constraints in SSB on the EP&D component leading to delays

Signing of ICA. From the left: Jacob Mazalale (PS in EP&D), Ingrid Marie Mikelsen (Norwegian Ambassador to Malawi) and Shelton Kanyanda (CS in NSO)



Outside NSO main office in Zomba. Mapping mission on CRVS in March 2024. From the left: Atusaye Mwambyale, Lusungu Chisesa, Helge Brunborg, Richard Phiri, Vebjørn Aalandslid and Chisomo Singano

The first workshop, focusing on Supply and Use Tables (SUT), was conducted in December 2024. The team was trained in SUT theory, followed by actual balancing of GDP figures. The team aim to publish SUT statistics for GDP components for both production and expenditures approach for the years 2017-2023 in 2025.

Work initialized on modernizing production processes and improved dissemination and communication of statistics

During 2024, the production routines for the Annual Economic Survey (AES) have been improved. The goal was to reduce the processing time for the AES 2022 by improving the capacity on both methodology for data cleaning and for imputations using the programming language, Python. The AES team is now working on the final tabulations and hope to publish the report by the end of March 2025. This will give an improved timeliness of one year.

Progress has been made on the communication and dissemination component of the project. Experts from SSB are collaborating with the NSO communication team through regular online meetings. In November, a mission from Norway successfully focused on developing the contents for the new website launched by NSO in 2024. The NSO website has a good foundation but requires further improvements to enhance user friendliness.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, a major priority will be on developing the system for annual national accounts using NA-DABAS. Another priority is development of the NSO capacity on foreign trade statistics, including development of import and export price indices. These statistics are an important source for the National Accounts and Balance of Payment. In 2025, the NSO is planning to conduct a Census of Economic activity. The new LTC in the NSO main office in Zomba will assist in the preparations of this, with a focus on improving the cooperation and flow of data from owners of administrative data (e.g. from the Malawi Revenue Authority which is a mayor data source for the Annual Economic Survey and the Statistical Business Register). Development of the capacity for environmental statistics based on administrative data sources will also be initiated in 2025. For the macroeconomic component in EP&D, the main goal for 2025 is to establish a simplified macroeconomic model based on available data.



From the left: Håvard Sjølie and Geir Inge Gundersen, the resident consultants in Malawi

Ghana – Tax for Development

Workforce development and national accounts in Ghana

In 2024, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Statistics Norway (SSB) started a collaboration on several initiatives to enhance the capabilities of GSS. The project focused on adopting the National Account Database System (NADABAS), streamlining GDP compilation, and finalizing the Input-Output Table from the 2013 Supply and Use Table¹. GSS has gained insight in human resource development (HRD) and training practices, emphasizing knowledge sharing and employee engagement. The collaboration emphasised strengthening the culture of learning, improving motivation, and addressing task delegation. On macroeconomic modelling little was done during 2024 due to lack of available resources in Statistics Norway. This issue has now been resolved.

In April 2024, GSS and Statistics Norway held a one-week workshop in Oslo to advance the GSS adoption of NADABAS for compiling national accounts. The training focused on organizing source files, creating Excel workbooks compatible with NADABAS, and linking data files to streamline GDP compilation. Practical sessions covered five key sectors, and the experience from this would be applied to other sectors when the team returned to Ghana. During the workshop Statistics Norway experts provided technical guidance on NADABAS processes, troubleshooting and data integration.

GSS has decided to use NADABAS in the GDP compilation and this will contribute to reduce errors and improve efficiency. The next steps include updating classifications of products, industries, prices and so on, organizing source data, and securing a shared database location avoiding working on individual computers, with ongoing support from Statistics Norway. The workshop marked significant progress in modernizing the national accounting processes of GSS. GSS also shared its methods for compiling GDP using the production and expenditure approaches and the ongoing efforts to rebase GDP to 2023.

Although the main focus of the workshop was on NADABAS, time was also spent to finalize the Input-Output Table (IOT) from the 2013 Supply and Use Table, resolving outstanding issues and preparing it for publication.

¹ https://www.statsghana.gov.gh/gssmain/fileUpload/National%20Accounts/Input%20and%20Output%20Tables_2013.xlsx

Facts

Project	Institutional Cooperation under the Tax for Development program
Partners	Ministry of Finance, Ghana Statistical Service
Accounts	NOK 2 620 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2024–2027
Purpose	Improve the quality of statistics and increase the capacity to perform fiscal policy analysis and research to assist Ghana to build a strong and resilient economy
Key words	Planning, capacity building, statistics, macroeconomics, fiscal policy

Achievements

- ✓ Initialised the use of NADABAS for compiling the national accounts (production side)
- ✓ Finalised and published input-output tables
- ✓ Made progress in fostering a learning culture, improving HR practices, and addressing organizational challenges within GSS
- ✓ Contributed to GSS finalizing a draft strategy for internal training

Project challenges

- ✓ No progress on macroeconomic modelling in 2025 due to lack of resources in Statistics Norway
- ✓ Storage/server for sharing NADABAS files

In 2024, GSS and Statistics Norway made significant progress in enhancing human resource development and training practices. A delegation from GSS visited Statistics Norway to learn about human resource development and training practices, exploring how Statistics Norway manages talent, motivates employees, and integrates technology into the HR processes. Key insights included the Statistics Norway emphasis on knowledge sharing, employee engagement, and the use of tools like Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) and learning management systems to streamline operations and foster continuous learning. Statistics Norway prioritizes performance management through regular appraisals, skill development programs, and mentorship, while leveraging collaboration with universities to recruit and retain talent. Effective communication strategies ensure that the statistical products reach diverse audiences. During the visit to Oslo, GSS identified challenges in sustaining training programmes and resource constraints and outlined steps to align training with organizational priorities and build a culture of learning.

Progress was also noted on the GSS internal training programmes, particularly in R programming, with plans to introduce training on Python in January 2025. Efforts are underway to expand cost-efficient regional training using online tools and videos. Discussions emphasized aligning training with job-specific needs, utilizing the skills of newly recruited graduates, and addressing uneven workloads through better delegation of responsibilities. Motivation strategies were explored, highlighting both financial and non-financial rewards, knowledge sharing, and open communication between staff and management. The key next steps include an online HR induction workshop in early 2025, a study visit to Oslo for employee engagement activities, and a follow-up mission to Accra. GSS is well-positioned to foster a stronger and more engaged workforce.

The collaboration between GSS and Statistics Norway has laid a strong foundation for future initiatives. Both organizations are committed to continuous learning and improvement, using their shared experiences to overcome challenges and achieve their HR development goals.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025 we will contribute to creating an induction program for new employees at GSS. Also, we will prioritize training to update the macroeconomic model with new information and to establish a baseline scenario for the future. The adoption of NADABAS will continue.



⤴ Dag Roll-Hansen (Statistics Norway) talks about managing employee performance. Davis Maxwell Bessah (GSS) and Elizabeth Baffoe-Bonnie (GSS) listen carefully.



⤴ Janne Utkilen (Statistics Norway) delivers an update on NADABAS, while Francis Bright Mensah (GSS) and Abraham Bosu (GSS), along with Steinar Todsen (Statistics Norway), listen attentively.



Accra, Ghana
Image courtesy of Kristian Lønø

Ukraine – Statistics and register programme

The institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway (SSB) 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 the current phase, which is the second, will end in 2025.

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 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.

The cooperation is for the time being based on digital contact and activities. SSSU has persistently carried out digital activities despite the challenges mentioned above. 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.

Institutional development

English language training continued in 2024 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. A training on confidentiality in official statistics was also conducted, which is an important part of the work to adapt to European standards. It is also an important part of developing safe access to microdata for researchers and will support the earlier finalised project on microdata.

Facts

Project	Statistical development – institutional cooperation between Statistics Norway and State Statistics Service of Ukraine
Partner	State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU)
Accounts	NOK 2 647 000
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

- ✓ Project activities important for preparing for the EU screening in 2024
- ✓ Developed a plan for business demography
- ✓ New IT equipment which will allow more flexible working conditions for SSSU employees

SSSU had a severe hacker attack in 2023 and requested new laptops and screens. 80 laptops and 20 screens were delivered in 2024, which have been an important contribution to not only replace the destroyed hardware, but also to facilitate a more flexible working mode needed in the current situation of air alarms and power cuts.

Gender statistics

The work on modernizing gender statistics started in 2024 and will continue in 2025. This is supposed to result in a revised version of Women and Men in Ukraine, which is planned to be published in late 2025.

Developing official statistics

SSSU and Statistics Norway have developed a plan for business demography, which SSSU is working to implement with the support of SSB. The work will continue in 2025.

SSSU is required to provide quality indicators on the Statistical Business Register (SBR) to Eurostat, and Statistics Norway provided recommendations on how to develop these.

SSSU has already done a lot of work on developing the Producer Price Index for Services (SPPI). The staff working on this was introduced and trained in a newly developed tool for efficiently mapping new services to be included in the SPPI. This will make the introduction of new services faster and easier.

SSSU is also developing an import price index, and SSB provided recommendations on enterprise sampling for this.

Project challenges

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

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. The activities of the institutional project made SSSU able to show progress in several statistical areas. The screening and bilateral meetings between Eurostat and SSSU will provide valuable input on the components to be included in a potential 3rd phase of the cooperation project between SSSU and Statistics Norway.

Priorities for 2025

2025 is the last year of the current phase of the project, and the focus this year will be to achieve as many of the project's goals as possible. Both SSSU and Statistics Norway would like to continue the partnership and will develop a project application for a third phase.



Annual meeting: Vebjørn Aalandslid (SSB), Siv Irene Pedersen (SSB), Janne Utkilen (SSB), Tarik Ogbamichael (SSB), Chair Ihor Verner (SSSU) Tetiana Shcherban (SSSU), Reidun Gjengedal (Norad), Nataliia Boichenko (SSB), Interpreter Maryna Bondarenko, Kateryna Zhulay (SSSU) and Yulia Poznyak (SSSU)

Ethiopia – Statistics and register programme

The Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS) and Statistics Norway (SSB) established the institutional cooperation in September 2021, financed by Norad. The project supports the ESS efforts to improve the availability of high-quality, reliable, and timely statistics. The long-term goal is to increase the public trust in statistics and its use for decision-making, leading to better planning and allocation of resources to the benefit of the Ethiopian society. A no-cost extension to 31 March 2026 was approved in 2024.

The focus areas of the cooperation are improved institutional capacity in ESS and the National Statistical System (NSS), improved communication and availability of statistics, and increased production of high-quality statistics from surveys and administrative data. The project is designed to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS II) that was adopted by the Ethiopian Government in 2016.

Institutional development

The work to establish an internal training programme has continued, and draft guidelines for internal training have been developed. Statistics Norway has contributed to training courses on sampling and GIS, that has both tested the routines for organising courses and provided input to important areas such as the agricultural census.

The work on administrative data started by an introduction to how Norway's National Statistical System is set up, and how the cooperation between register owners, other producers of official statistics, and Statistics Norway works.

A long-term adviser from Statistics Norway started to work in Addis Ababa in December 2023. He has contributed to the organization of the training courses and provided general support. He and the Local Project Coordinator have been important for facilitating the activities of the project.

Communication

Improving communication between ESS and the Ethiopian society has been an important part of the cooperation project in 2024. Professor Røislien from the University of Stavanger provided together with Statistics Norway input on how to advocate for statistics, and there was training on how to write articles. Draft guidelines for dissemination were developed, and support for developing the content of the website was continued.

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 7 598 000
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

- ✓ Draft guidelines for internal training and communication
- ✓ Skills acquired from courses on sampling and GIS contributed to improved processes within data collection and dissemination in many areas
- ✓ Strong foundation created for environmental statistics

Project challenges

- ✓ The ESS mandate and authority changed by a government decision (proclamation)
- ✓ Reorganisation of ESS
- ✓ Availability of human resources

Environmental statistics and statistical business register

Environmental statistics is a priority for ESS, and Statistics Norway provided advice on how to develop this and the areas that should be included in this project. This has created a strong foundation for developing environmental statistics, an area where ESS had little experience. Statistics Norway provided input on the questionnaire for the agricultural census, and the work to developing energy indicators started.

Statistics Norway provided recommendations on the Statistical Business Register (SBR) along with training on different aspects of the SBR. Instalment of Statbus was discussed.

Reorganisation and other challenges

ESS had a major reorganisation in January 2024 that changed the organisational chart and moved many staff members. This created problems for the continuity of several components of the project, and there was a need to restart the cooperation in some areas, such as SBR and internal training. The situation has now stabilized, and we expect to see more progress also within these areas.

Availability of human resources was a challenge for both partners in 2024, partly because the agricultural census required a lot of ESS resources from June and onwards. This is common when censuses are conducted, as these are huge operations involving the whole NSOs.

The proclamation and the changed ESS mandate continues to affect the project. There is ongoing work to change the statistical law in line with international guidelines.

Priorities for 2025

2025 is the last full year of the first phase of the institutional project, and the partners will develop an application for a second phase. The aim for 2025 is to achieve as many of the project goals as possible.



Statistical advocacy: DDG Aynalem Teshager (ESS), DDG Muluken Kere (ESS), Léandre Ngogang Wandji (UNECA), Director General Dr. Beker Shale, Professor Jo Røislien (University of Stavanger)



Mapping environmental statistics: Fekade Asrat (ESS), Reidar Steffenstorpet (Statistics Norway), Ingrid Melby (Statistics Norway), Muluken Kere (ESS), Abdulaziz Shiffa (ESS), Gisle Berge (Statistics Norway), Andreas Lunde (Statistics Norway), Kassahoun Mengistu (ESS), Lasse Rasmussen (Statistics Norway), Asegash Assefa (ESS) and Dagfinn Sve (Statistics Norway)



Local project coordinator Aberash Tariku and Long-Term Adviser Sadiq Kwesi Boateng at work



Double mission to ESS on methodology and SBR: Frode Berglund (Statistics Norway), Magnar Lillegård (Statistics Norway), Director General Dr. Beker Shale (ESS), LTA Sadiq Kwesi Boateng (Statistics Norway), Antti Jokinen (Statistics Norway), LPC Aberash Tariku (Statistics Norway) and Svein Myro (Statistics Norway)



Joint mission on NSS and administrative data

Indonesia – Oceans for Development

The start of a five-year cooperation for sustainable ocean management

It is increasingly recognised that the ocean plays a critical role both in supporting life on earth and in mitigating climate change. Ocean accounts provide an essential basis for more informed ocean management. Indonesia is one of the first countries in the world to start piloting accounts on ocean ecosystems in some of the country's marine protected areas (MPAs). Norway is also among the first countries to carry out 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 phases of its development. To further advance the practice of ocean accounting, 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.

Implementation of the five-year project started in January 2024. The cooperation focuses on the development of ocean accounts and the use of the information from the 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

The many partners of the project are getting to know each other

The project has many partner institutions, reflecting the complexity of ocean ecosystem accounting. In addition to Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Norad, Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) and Statistics Norway, there is involvement of the Indonesian institutions: Mapping Authority (BIG), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning (Bappenas) and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime & Investment Affairs. Other Norwegian institutions involved are the Norwegian Institute for Water and the Environment (NIVA) as well as the Norwegian Tax Authority.

A large number of joint virtual and in-person activities during 2024 have strengthened mutual knowledge between partners and improved understanding

Facts

Project	Oceans 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 4 759 000
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

- ✓ Savu sea pilot survey completed
- ✓ Valuation guideline signed
- ✓ Progress in mapping ocean-related industries and products
- ✓ Progress in compiling tax and subsidies matrices in the supply and use tables
- ✓ Initiation of a data sharing dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and BPS
- ✓ Identified relevant ocean data in 23 line ministries
- ✓ Launch of [ocean accounts dashboard](#) at GOAP conference

of their different needs and areas of expertise. The collaboration has been great on projects like the valuation guideline and the Savu Sea Pilot.

The process has been supported by Rekam Nusantara Foundation, the national project coordinator in Indonesia, while Statistics Norway coordinates it from the Norwegian side. Also, Rekam and Statistics Norway spent the year of 2024 on finding joint workflows and routines for coordinating Indonesian and Norwegian activities.

Main achievements in 2024

The activities started in early 2024 and a local project coordinator was hired by Rekam in July 2024. Despite a slow start, good progress was made on all three components. The cooperation activities have been mostly virtual, including monthly project meetings and meetings on the components.

The component 1 project team on “Ecosystem services accounts”, met in person at the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) conference in Bali in July 2024 and held a back-to-back workshop with all stakeholders, discussing the Savu Sea pilot and preliminary results after the first round of surveys.

A delegation from six Indonesian institutions visited Oslo in September 2024. They met Norwegian stakeholders and discussed the use of ocean accounts in policymaking in Indonesia and Norway at both the national and the municipal level, as well as in areas such as environment and business.

Project challenges

- ✓ The coordination is demanding due to a large number of partners
- ✓ Delay in the start of the project
- ✓ Coordinating Ministry of Maritime and Investment Affairs closed due to change of Government



OfD participation at GOAP conference, 1 July 2024. Image courtesy of Wenting Chen

Progress was also made on initiating a dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and BPS regarding access to more detailed tax data for the compilation of the ocean-related shares in the Supply and Use Tables (SUT). Supply and Use Tables describe the national economy, what goes in and how it is being used. Regarding the project, the focus is on the ocean-related shares of the economy like fishing and marine tourism. Detailed data access is a key step on the way to a maritime GDP and finalising the maritime SUT.

Plans for 2025

For 2025 there are plans to continue the discussion on policy application of the ocean accounts, also at the sub-national level. Moreover, work on an Indonesian national standard for the valuation of ocean-related natural resources will be continued and topics

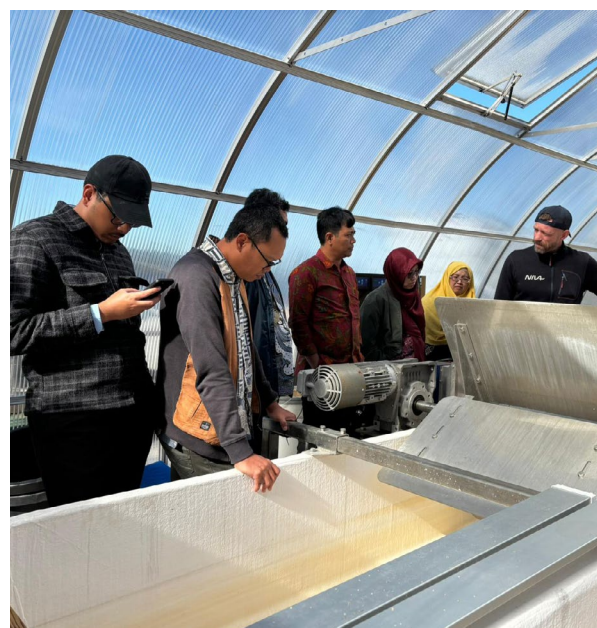
such as hedonic pricing to derive estimates of the value of ocean related resources to the residents of local recreation areas will be explored.

There is also a plan to continue the work on the classification of ocean related products as well as on supply and use tables for identification of ocean-related shares of the national economy. Closely connected, the dialogue will continue with the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia on exchanging more detailed data that is needed for the maritime GDP and SUT.

Indonesia and Norway will continue to work on the visualisation of ocean accounts statistics. They will also start exploring topics such as data transfer, IT security and data governance as key ingredients for safe sharing of data between institutions.



Group picture at tax data workshop in Jakarta in December 2024. From left: Asep Resmana (Directorate General of Treasury, MoF (DJPB)), Ria Arinda (BPS), Abdul Rahman (BPS), Dwi Arya Praja (Directorate General of Customs and Excise - MoF), Muhammad Adnan (Directorate General of Treasury, MoF (DJPB)), Laily (Directorate General of Taxes, MoF (DJP)), Puput Nurhayati (Directorate General of Fiscal Balance, MoF (DJPK)), Yuliana Fitri Syamsuni (RNF), Catur Panggih Pamungkas (Directorate Regional Tax – MoF), Benny Oktis Yanurwenda (Directorate General of Tax - MoF), Ferry Liu (Directorate General of Tax – MoF), Kadarmanto (BPS), Puji Agus Kurnawan (BPS), Martin Grimstad (Statistics Norway), Rahima (Norwegian Embassy), Ingunn Sagelvmø (Statistics Norway), Silja Emmel (Statistics Norway), Steinar Todsøn (Statistics Norway), Yunianto Sudrajad (Directorate General of National Assets - MoF), Maydita Ayu Nursaskiawati (BPS), Dwi Muslianti (BPS), Darma Endrawati (BPS), Lien Suharni (BPS), Cahya Alkahfi (BPS), Efi Yuliani (BPS) Etjih Tasriah (BPS), Kandi Pratiwi (BPS), Theresia Novalia (BPS)



On this page

a visit to NIVA research laboratory, September 2024. In the above images the Indonesian delegation with Tommy Marelius, NIVA. Images courtesy of Silja Emmel of Statistics Norway and Wenting Chen of NIVA



Visit to NIVA research laboratory, September 2024. Left back row: Imam Fauzi (MMAF Kupang), Herri Binarasa Putra (MMAF), Silja Emmel (SSB), Prita Dwi Wahyuni (MMAF), Mirta Dwi Wulandari (BPS), Kemal Pramayuda (Bapenas), Rachmat Kurniawan (Ministry of Finance). Left front row: Marselius Fransiskus Talahatu (MMAF), Tarik Ogbamichael (SSB), Wenting Chen (NIVA), Ragnhild Ryther Grimm Torstensen (NIVA), Annisya Rosdiana (Rekam Nusantara Foundation), Yoniar Hufan Ramadhani (Geospatial Information Agency BIG)

Nepal and Uganda – Gender Equality for Development

Statistics Norway contributes to Gender Equality in Nepal and Uganda

Gender Equality for Development (GEfD) is a No-rad-funded programme to reduce poverty and discrimination. The programme focuses on contributing to the UN Sustainability Development Goal 5 on Gender equality, and thus on strengthening the position of girls and women in society.

Nepal

The publication "[Gender Equality in Nepal: Facts and Figures](#)" was disseminated in Nepal in spring 2024. It contributes to better accessibility of statistics and knowledge on gender equality in Nepal, and to more knowledge-based decisions regarding policies that address gender issues.

With this publication, the cooperation under the GEfD programme with Nepal has been successfully completed.

Launched in 2019 as the first country programme under GEfD, the Nepal programme was initially planned for two years but was extended to June 2024 as a no-cost extension. The main Nepalese partners were the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, and the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Over the past years Statistics Norway has together with the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), contributed to developing the publication on gender statistics for Nepal, inspired by the "[Women and men in Norway 2018](#)". The cooperation has been organized as virtual workshops and physical workshops in Nepal. The main contribution of Statistics Norway has been improvement of skills to analyse gender data and disseminate gender statistics.

Uganda

Since 2021 there has been an ongoing dialog between the Ugandan and the Norwegian Governments on the potential for cooperation under the GEfD Programme. The partners in this are the Ministry of Culture Norway, the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), and the Ministry for Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in Uganda. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics

⁴<https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/women-and-men-in-norway-2018>

Facts

Project	Gender Equality for Development
Partners	Ministry of Culture (Norway); The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir); Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) (Nepal); National Statistics Office (NSO) (Nepal); Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) (Uganda); Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
Accounts	NOK (Nepal) 502 000 NOK (Uganda) 467 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2020–2025
Purpose	Gender statistics and data
Key words	Gender statistics, dissemination, institutional cooperation

Achievements

- ✓ Nepal: Dissemination of the publication [Gender Equality: Facts and Figures](#)
- ✓ Uganda: Launching the work on Gender Equality Fact Sheets

Project Challenges

- ✓ Uganda: Coordination of involved institutions
- ✓ Uganda: Limited availability of staff both in Norway and in Uganda

(UBOS) and Statistics Norway have contributed by identifying relevant areas of cooperation on gender statistics.

In 2024, an agreement was signed by the two Governments, formalizing the cooperation under the GEfD programme in Uganda. As part of this, Statistics Norway has been asked to contribute to strengthened capacities for using relevant gender equality knowledge to inform policies. The work on this started in November 2024 with a workshop in Uganda on the development and dissemination of gender equality fact sheets.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the priorities for SSB under GEfD Uganda, based on a request from Bufdir, will be to continue to contribute to plan, execute and disseminate fact sheets on gender equality in Uganda.



May 7, 2024, the publication of 'Gender Equality in Nepal: Facts and Figures'. The publication is a collaborative project primarily between the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens and the National Statistics Office. In the image, we see the key contributors to the publication from both institutions, as well as the representative from Statistics Norway, Jon Olav Folsland, present at the launch in Nepal.



Uganda GEfD workshop on Fact Sheets on Gender Equality in Agriculture, in Entebbe. Hanna Stangebye Arnesen of Statistics Norway together with Sophia Bertelsen Rodrigues Eusébio of The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir).

Food Security Statistics

The Food Security Statistics project has made great progress in 2024 in line with the two overarching goals. The first goal is to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to integrate food security statistics derived from Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCESs) into their regular statistical production. While HCESs are traditionally used for statistics such as poverty measurement and the Consumer Price Index (CPI), their potential for producing robust food security statistics has been underutilised. The second goal is to promote the use of these statistics in national and regional planning, and to inform policies and implementation of concrete projects to improve food security for the population of the country. It is of great importance to create a demand for these statistics among stakeholders, so that a broader audience can make practical use of the statistics.

Guidelines

In 2024, the project started with the endorsement of the Guidelines on how to process food data from Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCES)¹, which was a significant achievement. These guidelines were initiated in 2021 by Statistics Norway and produced under the aegis of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Statistics (UN-CEAG), which reports to the United Nations Statistical Commission. They were prepared by a team of experts from Statistics Norway, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Pacific Community, including several rounds of consultations with experts from national statistical offices, international organisations and academia. The Guidelines have already been used for capacity building at National Statistical Offices (NSOs). We are still waiting for the final layout and translation into other UN languages, and the aim is to finalise this work in 2025. The Guidelines will be revised and updated together with partners over the coming years, which is the normal procedure for such guidelines.

Capacity building

In February 2024, Statistics Norway arranged an analysis workshop in Dar es Salaam together with NSOs from Kenya, Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar), and Uganda. The outputs of the workshop were food security factsheets that each country prepared

¹ https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/documents/BG-3i-ProcessingFoodConsumptionData-E.pdf

Facts

Project	Food Security Statistics Project
Partner	COMESA, UN-CEAG, FAO, World Bank, Pacific Community
Accounts	NOK 6 494 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2023–2027
Purpose	To improve the quality and use of food consumption data from household consumption and expenditure surveys
Key words	Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys, Food Security, Food Systems, Capacity Development, International Guidelines

Achievements

- ✓ Guidelines on how to process food consumption data from HCESs were endorsed by the UN Statistics Commission in March 2024
- ✓ Capacity building together with COMESA conducted for National Statistical Offices from Kenya, Mauritius, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda

Project challenges

- ✓ Engagement of Francophone countries has been challenging due to language barriers
- ✓ The process of finalising the Guidelines on how to process food data from HCESs in new surveys in collaboration with international partners has been lengthy

during the workshop and improved with remote support from the project after the workshop. The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) was the next NSO to join the project and two workshops were held in Nairobi in the first half of 2024. During the first workshop data were prepared for food security analysis, while the project together with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization collaborated on the second workshop on food security analysis. This collaboration also resulted in the timely production of the Prevalence of Undernourishment (SDG 2.1.1 indicator). The Somalia Food Security Factsheet was disseminated on the African Statistics Day in November, with relevant ministers and other stakeholders taking part. Statistics Mauritius was the final country to join the project in 2024, and a combined data processing and analysis workshop was held in July. The support to Statistics Mauritius will continue in 2025 with data processing and analysis of their recent HCES survey. Statistics Norway has also started a dialogue with Malawi and Zimbabwe on how the approach covered in the workshops can be integrated into their new surveys. This requires close collaboration not only with the NSOs, but also with other international partners.

Other activities

In 2024 the project had a close dialogue with both old and potential new partners on capacity building on the use of HCES data for food security statistics and analysis, including these examples:

- The project has continued to work closely with FAO. One of the important achievements in 2024 was a joint workshop with FAO for SNBS, as well as technical collaboration and meetings to discuss shared interests.
- A potential new partner in the project is STATAFRIC, which is the African Union (AU) Institute for Statistics. We will continue the dialogue and explore shared interests and the possibility of having a secondment with STATAFRIC in 2025.
- Statistics Norway organised a successful side event at StatCom-Africa in Addis Ababa in October, where we presented and discussed the Food Security Statistics project with contributions of partners from Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe, and which led to a dialogue with several potential new partners.
- Our main partner in the Food Security Statistics project, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), delivered in line with the project goals, and we are very grateful for the partnership and collaboration with COMESA and their member states.
- In 2024, we published the article *“More efficient use of household consumption and expenditure surveys (HCES) to inform food security”* in the Statistical Journal of the IAOS².

Priorities for 2025

In 2025 the project will develop online training resources in support of the Guidelines on how to process food data from HCESs, conduct capacity building with new countries and support countries already part of the project with their new surveys, as well as explore new ways of conducting food security analysis.

² <https://content.iospress.com/articles/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/sjj230098>



Regional analysis workshop in Dar es Salaam with participants from Kenya, Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar) and Uganda in February 2024



StatCom-Africa 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Data processing workshop for SNBS in Nairobi in April 2024

Access to Sustainable Energy in Tanzania and Mozambique

About the Project

The project was completed in August 2024 and information on access to data, results, and documentation is available at the [Knowledge Platform for the Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey \(IASES\)](#).

The project aims to provide quality data needed to address planning, policy design, and decision-making at regional and country levels, as well as informing Sustainable Development Goal no. 7. The Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES) was based on the UN and World Bank initiative Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) survey questionnaire, to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The IASES describes the energy use both in households and local communities. The purpose of this was not only to establish whether households have access to electricity and what the main cooking fuel is, but also the type and quality of electricity access, barriers to access, and the safety and livelihood impact of household energy use. This information may also contribute to measure progress towards the SDGs on gender equality, economic opportunities, and other measures of well-being.

The project was organized primarily as a cooperation between SSB and INE in Mozambique and with NBS in Tanzania, but it also involved each country's national energy authority.

Project results and recommendations

The IASES survey has achieved the two objectives: To map energy access and use of sustainable energy, both electricity and energy used for cooking, and to measure the impact that access to energy has on people's lives.

The surveys showed that access to both grid electricity and solar electricity has increased considerably over the last years. While the number of communities with access to the grid has increased gradually, households on the outskirts of communities are often located too far away from the electricity transformers to be connected. More households could be connected if more transformers were installed when the grid reaches a new community. The solar power coverage is increasing, but more households in rural areas could gain from learning about the potential of solar power, e.g., if demonstration sites were established, preferably supported by

Facts

Project	Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES)
Partners	Instituto de Estatística, Mozambique (INE), National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania (NBS)
Accounts	NOK 1 898 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2018–2024
Purpose	Contribute to the SE4All initiative for measuring energy access in Mozambique and Tanzania Provide data for policy development in Mozambique and Tanzania Develop modern survey tools measuring impact of access adjusting for effects of the COVID-19 pandemic Develop the capacity of the national statistical offices on energy-relevant statistics
Key words	Impact of access to energy, household and community-based survey, remote cooperation with Mozambique and Tanzania

Achievements

- ✓ Survey development and implementation through remote cooperation
- ✓ Significant capacity shared
- ✓ Knowledge platform for IASES developed
- ✓ Evidence for policy making provided
- ✓ Data available for further analysis

a joint government/business action plan to increase the availability of solar solutions.

Energy-efficient cooking solutions for charcoal and LPG gas are increasing in urban areas, but less energy-efficient cooking fireplaces still dominate rural areas.

The IASES survey has documented a strong relationship between access and use of sustainable energy and improved welfare, such as improved livelihood and a larger share of schoolchildren completing school, but also a larger share watch TV and access other media. However, the surveys shows that it may take several years for households to gain from access to electricity. A system with low tariffs for low consumption of electricity helps even low-income households to enjoy the access. A similar low business consumption tariff would support the development of small businesses.

We have not yet analyzed the causal links: Does greater access to electricity lead to higher welfare and income, or is it the other way around, does higher income increase the likelihood of being connected to the electricity grid?

Analysis and use of data

The results have been published both in Mozambique and Tanzania. In Tanzania, the microdata from the survey have been made publicly available, to enhance further analysis¹.

The IASES survey provides information that helps us understand how improved access to energy changes people's lives. It also gives the governments of Mozambique and Tanzania knowledge that is useful for formulating and implementing policies on energy development and to make informed and better decisions for their citizens.

¹ [Please confer the Knowledge Platform for the Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey \(IASES\) on how to access data.](#)



⬆ Electricity grid in Mainland Tanzania

Project Challenges

- ✓ Postponement of work due to the global pandemic and adaptation to remote cooperation
- ✓ Having sufficient time for analysis and report writing
- ✓ Financial reporting

The way forward for energy statistics

Mapping and assessing existing data on energy can be a starting point to align efforts to collect energy statistics and improve existing information from utility companies, etc. This may be done by utilizing administrative as well as survey data from both energy suppliers and users, to better understand the situation and behaviour of not only households, but also health and education institutions and the private sector.

Integrating the survey questions into general household surveys can be cost efficient. Using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and small area estimates may also enhance the usefulness and quality of energy data.

Energy statistics are needed to measure progress on international initiatives. This is not only relevant for Sustainable Development Goal no. 7, but also the World Bank's and African Development Bank's Mission 300, which is a programme to connect 300 million people to electricity,² supported by the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) Program³.

² [Event | Advancing Africa's Energy Future at the Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit | World Bank Live](#)

³ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P180547>



⬆ Traditional three-stone fireplace

NADABAS – a National Accounts Database System – Tax for Development

NADABAS (National Accounts Database System) is a free software for the compilation of national accounts. It is an Excel-based tool which allows countries to design and organise the national accounts compilation system according to their own needs.

NADABAS was developed through a joint Scandinavian project in Mozambique in 2004. Since then, the system has been adopted in several countries, including Lesotho, Kenya, Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, and Botswana. More information about NADABAS can be found at www.nadabas.net.

NADABAS was developed mainly by the two experts, Søren Netterstrøm (IT) and Jan Redeby (national accounts). Improvements have also been contributed by Mark Sturton and Glenn McKinlay working with NADABAS in the Pacific.

In 2019, the NADABAS network was established to ensure its sustainability, with an aim to build capacity among a larger group. Since 2019, the network has met regularly to organize events, share information, and develop training material.

The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) is leading the NADABAS network, with support of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Sweden, and Statistics Norway. Everyone else using NADABAS is welcome to join the network.

NADABAS position in STATAFRIC in 2024

In July 2024, Titus Kamatuka started his position as the new focal point for the NADABAS network in STATAFRIC. The position is financed by the project. Mr Kamatuka is leading and supporting the NADABAS network, as well as providing training on national accounts and NADABAS to African Union Member States and the Regional Economic Commissions in Africa.

In October 2024, a delegation from Statistics Norway visited STATAFRIC in Tunisia to plan activities of the NADABAS network (covered by this project) and hand over the responsibility of the webpage and external communication to STATAFRIC.

Facts

Project	National Account Database System (NADABAS)
Donor	Norad
Accounts	NOK 1 048 000 (Part of the Digital Goods – Tax for Development project)
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 (duration of project)

Achievements

- ✓ NADABAS expert and focal point hired at STATAFRIC
- ✓ Expanded the number of NADABAS experts who can provide training and set up the system
- ✓ Established and trained the IT team for NADABAS
- ✓ First joint workshop for EAC, STATAFRIC, KNBS and Statistics Norway
- ✓ French version of NADABAS launched

Project challenges

- ✓ Shortage of available experts on NADABAS and national accounts
- ✓ Shortage of IT experts for NADABAS software

In the following week, the East African Community organised a one-week training for Tanzania and Zanzibar, with support of trainers from STATAFRIC, the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Norway. EAC also financed a NADABAS study visit from Uganda to Kenya.

In December 2024, the French version of NADABAS was launched. The Manuals and Tutorials are also available in French.

A new member of the network is ASEANstats. In the spring of 2024, Statistics Norway started online training for their team on NADABAS.

A one-week NADABAS training was organized for Ghana in Statistics Norway in April 2024.

NADABAS IT-support and back-end development

Mr. Netterstrøm, one of the founders of NADABAS, decided to retire from active participation in the network in 2024. A handover workshop on the IT solution of NADABAS was organised for a small group of IT experts from Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden and COMESA in May 2024. In the long term, COMESA will take a leading role in for IT maintenance and development, while Statistics Norway takes the lead during the interim period.

In December 2024, an IT workshop was organised as part of the handover from Statistics Norway to COMESA, where Jarle Kvile of Statistics Norway provided training on Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) coding. The IT-team agreed also on a governance model for maintaining the VBA code of NADABAS. In addition, a framework for a network of IT experts at country level was established, where the focus will be on IT issues related to the implementation of NADABAS in the NSOs. Visual Basic for Applications.

Plans for 2025

In 2025, the network will continue to support countries and organisations that have joined the network and started with NADABAS implementation and training. STATAFRIC will also organise regional activities, including webinars, for NSOs already using NADABAS.

Statistics Norway will take a leading role in updating the training material for NADABAS and make short videos for training.

Providing training and strengthening the capacity of the network members will continue to be a priority for 2025.



NADABAS meeting in STATAFRIC office in Tunisia. From left Jarle Kvile (Statistics Norway), Janne Utkilen (Statistics Norway), Adoum Gagoloum (Head of Economic Statistics Division at STATAFRIC), Alexandre Ailloud (STATAFRIC) and Titus Kamatuka (STATAFRIC)

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, SSB, 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.

Requirements for a statistical business register

In 2024, Statbus was made available in the cloud for designated users, with each participating country having its own site to practice the use of country-specific classifications and load statistical variables for their business units. The Statbus project has worked closely with Uganda, one of the first countries to test the system. The cloud solution has allowed the project to learn a lot about the different needs among participating countries.

Significant differences exist between the Norwegian model and the requirements of Uganda, as well as other countries in Africa and Asia. While the Norwegian model is based on administrative data with unique organisation numbers that can be used to link data sources, many countries lack a common unique identifier for organisations, and data sources are often not readily accessible. To address these challenges, Statbus is designed to handle multiple identifiers and combine and aggregate data from diverse sources. Furthermore, Statbus accommodates customized variables, such as the number of male and female employees, to meet the different statistical needs of national statistical offices.

Achievements

In 2024, we made Statbus available for test and practice in the cloud, a major milestone for the project. This approach has significantly improved our ability to test the system thoroughly and efficiently, without the need for travel or local installations in various countries. While National Statistical Offices worldwide remain cautious about storing real data in the cloud, using test data has proven to be a major success. This method allows us to identify problems and misunderstandings earlier in the process.

Facts

Project	Statistical Business Register
Partner	Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland and Statistics Sweden
Accounts	NOK 4 694 000
Donor	Norad
Period	2022–2024
Purpose	To develop a generic web application for a statistical business register that can be used in countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.
Key words	Statistical Business Register

Achievements

- ✓ Early version of Statbus available in the cloud
- ✓ The System is being tested in several countries, such as Uganda, Jordan and Morocco
- ✓ Initial meetings with Malawi and Ethiopia
- ✓ Statbus has functionality to customize different countries with different statistical variables and extra identifiers
- ✓ Drill-down charts and filters to group business units based on regions and activity categories

The practice environment is updated approximately once a month with improvements and new functionalities.

A key milestone in the latest version of Statbus is the introduction of a dashboard that displays the status of the data within the system. This dashboard provides a clear visualization of data quality, making it easier to identify and address issues. For instance, rows of data missing valid regions or activity categories are now easily accessible and can be corrected more efficiently.

The primary focus in 2024 has been to implement and refine Statbus in the test environment using Uganda's test data and configure and customize the system based on their requirements.

Other activities

The steering committee for Statbus includes representatives from Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden, Statistics Finland, and Statistics Denmark. The primary goal is to successfully implement and operate the system in production mode in at least one country by 2025.

Given the strong collaboration between Nordic countries in the field of statistical business registers, Statistics Denmark has invited Statistics Norway to work with several countries on Statbus.

The current iteration of Statbus is nearing production readiness, with plans to begin using the system in production mode during 2025. Simultaneously, we will continue to enhance the system by introducing additional features and improving its usability.

Project challenges

- ✓ The national Statistical offices often lack internal resources
- ✓ Some countries have multiple data sources, each with its own set of issues
- ✓ Building a multilingual system that accommodates different data and requirements for use in different countries is complex

Once the system is verified as robust and reliable, other partner countries are expected to consider adopting it. The overarching plan is to expand Statbus implementation to additional countries in the future.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the project will prioritize addressing the most critical outstanding issues to ensure that some countries can begin using the system in live environments. Additionally, there will be a strong focus on enhancing documentation, developing comprehensive user guides, improving system robustness, and providing reliable support. The project will also work on delivering upgrades and new improved releases in the near future.

Discussions with additional countries will continue, allowing the project team to explore potential new requirements and gather valuable insights for future implementations.

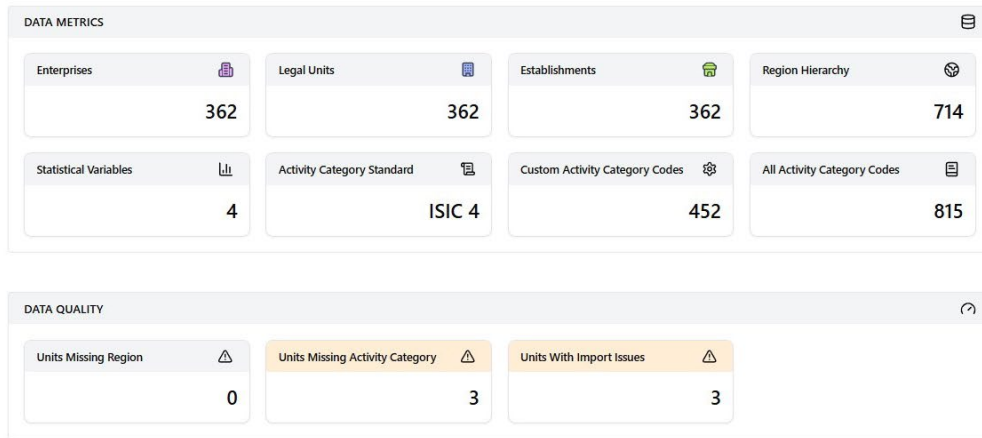


Group picture from a StatBus-mission to UBOS in Kampala in September 2024 (from left) James Anguzu (UBOS), Hedda Hübertz (Statistics Norway), Elvis Nuwabeine (UBOS), Brenda Lamwaka (UBOS), Erik Sørberg (Statistics Norway), Allan Henrysson (Statistics Norway) and Albert Bariho (UBOS)





Statbus Status Dashboard



Statbus Dashboard with data quality highlights of one Uganda data load in the practice environment in the cloud



Statbus testing and customizing in Kampala, Uganda September 2024

Pan-African Statistics Programme (PAS) II

Capacity building for statistical business registers

The Pan-African Statistics Program PAS II is the successor of PAS I, a program launched by Eurostat and the Statistics Division of the African Union Commission (AUC) in 2016. The main purpose of PAS II is to implement the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (ShaSA II). The program consists of several components and stakeholders, including contributions from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) within the European Statistical System (ESS). The contributions from the NSOs are financed by two grants from the European Commission through Eurostat, on social statistics and on economic statistics. Statistics Norway (SSB) is part of the grant on economic statistics, led by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), with the overall goal of developing economic and business statistics in African NSOs.

The project period started officially in March 2022, and until the fall of 2025, Statistics Norway will facilitate and give support on the Statistical Business Register (SBR) in cooperation with Statistics Denmark (DST) and Statistics Finland. The main objective is to enhance harmonization and reinforce the development of SBRs in a limited number of African NSOs, including identification of appropriate data sources for the SBR. The first year was used to identify countries that are interested in receiving support, as well as mapping their needs for support on SBR. One of the requests emerging from the mapping-period was the possibility to exchange experiences through joint activities for the African NSOs.

Exchange of experience on SBR and networking

In 2024 the focus has been to facilitate the exchange of experience on SBR between the NSOs of the partner countries Mauritius, Namibia (NSA) and Senegal (ANSD), and to facilitate the opportunity to establish a network among themselves. There have been two joint study visits, to Norway and Mauritius, and one joint online session on SBR.

The first study visit to Norway, and the first physical session, was hosted by Statistics Norway in May 2024. The main objective was to give the participants from Statistics Mauritius, NSA and ANSD an insight into the Norwegian SBR system and how it works. Representatives from DST and Statistics Finland were also participating in part of the visit, sharing experiences from the SBR system in their countries.

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 829 000
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

- ✓ Networking between the three NSOs of the African partner countries
- ✓ Sharing knowledge and experience on SBR related topics through two study visits and one joint online session
- ✓ Knowledge sharing on SBR related topics between the NSO of Uruguay and the three NSO's of the African partner countries

Project challenges

- ✓ Finding time for joint activities of the seven involved countries
- ✓ Finding topics on SBR that are relevant for all three African NSOs
- ✓ Identifying available staff in the Nordic NSOs with experience in areas relevant for the African NSOs in countries.
- ✓ Limitations of funding

The study visit led to interactive sessions with an open discussion on topics and issues emerging from the presentations.

One of the objectives of the joint sessions is to facilitate knowledge sharing and discussions between the NSOs, which they can apply in their work on SBR development. It is, however, a challenge to find topics that are both interesting and useful for all three countries. The online session held in September covered data linking which was addressed both theoretically and practically with examples on probabilistic linking from the NSOs of Finland and Uruguay.

The second and last study visit in 2024 was held in November and hosted by Statistics Mauritius. Compared to the visit to Statistics Norway, this placed greater emphasis on exchange of experience, sharing of knowledge and lessons learned on SBR topics by all NSOs. The study visit ended with a session covering the subjects from the agenda that the participants found the most important. As well as physical participation by the Nordic and three African NSOs, the NSO of Uruguay held an online presentation on how web scraping and similar methods can be used for detecting units in the informal sector.

Priorities for 2025

The project is ending in October 2025. The focus will be on technical assistance from Statistics Norway to the NSO of Namibia but there are also plans for one last joint online session.



Study visit at SSB in Kongsvinger. From the left: Sariff Mungralee (Statistics Mauritius), Khady BA (ANSD), Zehra Alamkhan (Statistics Norway), Jean Paul Diagne (ANSD), Ashini Devi Mutty (Statistics Mauritius), Mukesh Dawoonauth (Statistics Mauritius), Trofimus Sheefeni (NSA), Hedda Hûbertz (Statistics Norway), Ngaingonekue Uamburu (NSA), Palivamwe Merolly Ndeevelo (NSA), Erik Søbberg (Statistics Norway).



From the left: Jean Paul Diagne (ANSD), Ashini Devi Mutty (Statistics Mauritius), Jane Pandoo (Statistics Mauritius), Steen Eiberg-Jørgensen (DST), Ibrahima Thiam (ANSD), Mamadou Ngalgou Kane (ANSD), Ngaingonekue Uamburu (NSA), Palivamwe Merolly Ndeevelo (NSA), Trofimus Sheefeni (NSA), Timo Laukkanen (Statistics Finland).

Data for Now – Statistics and register programme

Data for Now: Improving SDG Data

Data for Now 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 the 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. As a contribution to this challenge, Statistics Norway has partnered with UNSD under the Data for Now initiative, contributing through various technical workshops and collaborations.

Utilizing administrative data sources in population and housing censuses

Over the past year, Statistics Norway has collaborated with Uruguay and Namibia to exchange knowledge on register-based censuses. Norway has conducted fully register-based censuses for more than 15 years, while Uruguay recently completed a census that incorporated administrative data. Namibia is also exploring this approach.

As part of this cooperation, online discussions were organized throughout the year, and the three countries participated at the International Workshop on Register-Based Censuses held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October. This workshop involved many countries in the region and was cofounded and organized by UNFPA, ECLAC, IDB and Uruguay (INE). Representatives of more than 20 South American countries, Norway and Namibia made presentations and discussed the use of administrative registers for population and housing censuses. The workshop addressed technical requirements, advantages, disadvantages, and lessons learned from both regional and extra-regional experiences.

Looking ahead, further discussions are planned to deepen the collaboration between Uruguay, Namibia, and Norway. The aim is to move towards more technical and tangible outcomes in the coming years.

Engagement at the World Data Forum – Colombia

Statistics Norway participated in the World Data Forum (WDF) in Colombia in 2024. Together with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), one of its key partners in the Data for Now initiative. At the WDF,

Facts

Project	Data for Now
Partners	UNSD and NSOs
Accounts	NOK 1 009 000
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

- ✓ Capacity building in the use of administrative sources for censuses
- ✓ Contributions at the International Workshop on Register-Based Censuses in Montevideo
- ✓ Contributions at the World Data Forum
- ✓ Planned multi-stakeholder geospatial workshop in Namibia for February 2025

Project challenges

- ✓ Planned CPI workshops with Morocco in 2024 were postponed
- ✓ Staff availability at Statistics Norway and partner institutions

the delegation contributed to the sessions organized by UNSD on Data for Now, as well as the session on “learning across borders” led by UNSD, UN Women, and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).

The forum provided an important opportunity for Statistics Norway to meet with global partners, strengthen existing relationships, and explore new collaborations.

Strengthening Namibia's Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

In late 2023, Statistics Norway supported the High-Level Conference on the Integration of Statistics and Geospatial Data in Bangkok. The event was co-founded and coordinated by, among other, the Data for Now initiative and Statistics Norway. Following the conference, the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), and Statistics Norway agreed on further collaboration. Several online meetings were held in 2024, and the three institutions have planned a workshop in Namibia in February 2025. This workshop will focus on advancing Namibia's spatial data infrastructure. Experiences on the topic from all three countries will be shared.

Priorities for 2025

The main priorities for Statistics Norway under the Data for Now initiative in 2025 will be to continue its cooperation with UNSD and contribute to technical missions. Possible activities include workshops on Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and the use of administrative data in the production of statistics.



The Data for Now team at the World Data Forum in Colombia



The Data for Now first presentation at the World Data Forum in Colombia

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is the registration and collection of data on births and deaths, often including causes of death, marriages and divorces, as well as the compilation and dissemination of vital statistics. A good CRVS system is important for the quality of vital statistics and essential for the development of a statistical system based on administrative data, including register-based censuses. An increasing number of countries are interested in learning about the Norwegian experience in developing the register-based census. Statistics Norway (SSB) has continued to collaborate with partners with the aim to improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) globally, either via our bilateral cooperation projects or collaborating with regional or global organisations.

- At the request of UNSD, Statistics Norway has worked with the National Institute of Statistics (INS) in Tunisia to share Norway's experience with register-based censuses. Through a series of virtual meetings, we presented the Statistics Norway cooperation with the owners of different administrative registers in Norway, with a special focus on data quality. Statistics Norway staff have also advised INS on how to improve the utilization of administrative registers. At the end of 2024, Statistics Norway made a presentation on this topic at a virtual workshop for the East African Community (EAC), organized by UNSDs Collaborative on Administrative data for statistics and the World Bank.
- In 2023, Statistics Norway and INE Uruguay agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding about sharing their experience on the use of administrative sources for register-based population and housing censuses, as well as for population statistics in general. Statistics Norway made several presentations on this at the International Workshop on Register-Based Censuses in Montevideo, which was organized by INE in October 2024 and attended by more than 20 South American countries (and one African country, Namibia). The cooperation has also included an assessment by Statistics Norway of the pilot register-based census in Uruguay in 2023. Furthermore, the agreement opens up for combined support to third countries on the use of administrative registers for production of population statistics.

Facts

Project	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)
Partner	NSOs, UNFPA, UNSD
Accounts	NOK 1 173 000
Donor	NORAD
Period	2021–2025
Purpose	Improve national and international statistics on vital events
Key words	CRVS, vital statistics, population statistics, SDGs, register-based censuses, population registers

Achievements

- ✓ Assessment of the Uruguay register-based census, which may be a valuable input for other countries

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

- At the end of the year, UNFPA, became part of this cooperation and took the initiative to establish a “Community of Practice on Population Registers”. The goal of this is to establish a global community on the use of administrative registers to support censuses and civil registration and to share and exchange lessons learned to advance technical cooperation and strengthen the capacity on population registers.
- The second phase of the cooperation project between the African Union Commission (AUC), through the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), six Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Statistics Norway, and Statistics Sweden, will span four years from January 2023 to December 2026. This phase aims to consolidate the achievements of the first phase and support STATAFRIC and the selected RECs in implementing continental and regional statistical plans. The project will enhance the capacity of STATAFRIC, RECs, and Member States to produce, harmonize, and disseminate migration statistics through capacity development activities. Five components have been identified, with the first four continuing

from the initial phase and a new fifth component added: Component 1: Statistics production, Component 2: Concepts and methods, Component 3: Dissemination and publication, Component 4: Coordination, Component 5: Forced displacement. The workshop in Kigali reviewed the results monitoring framework for the project and developed detailed plans and targets for the next phase, incorporating a gender perspective.

In addition to the activities described above, Statistics Norway has received delegations from the NSOs of Malawi, Namibia and Ethiopia, who learned about Norway's population registration system and the cooperation between register owners and Statistics Norway.



Delegation from INE Uruguay visiting Statistics Norway in February 2024. From left Kåre Vassenden (Statistics Norway), Esteban Cardoso (INE), Antonella Vignolo (INE), Lucia Perez (INE), Pablo Dubourdieu (INE), Diego Aboal (INE), Federigo Segui (INE), and Stian Nergård (Statistics Norway)

Praia Group on Governance statistics

Praia Group on Governance statistics – developing new survey instruments and guidance for use of administrative registers

Statistics Norway, with support from UNDP and UN Women, leads a Task Team of national statisticians and data experts established by the [Praia City Group on Governance Statistics](#) to develop internationally relevant and robust methodologies to measure political participation.

The Praia Group is a so-called city group - created by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2015 to “establish international standards and methods for statistics on major dimensions of Governance.” The group is chaired by the statistical office of Cabo Verde, and has its name from Praia, the capital city of the country.

The Task Team has been mandated to look at how “participation and representation” can be measured by consolidating international and national experiences in this area. The team is composed of 50+ members, mainly National Statistical Offices (NSOs), but also research organizations, civil society and international organizations producing or using governance data in their work. The main task of the Team is to produce 1) a harmonized survey module on Participation in Political and Public Affairs, and 2) a guidance on how to improve the use of administrative data to produce more and better statistics on participation and representation.

Since 2021/2022, sixteen statistical offices from countries as diverse as the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Slovak Republic, Mexico and Tunisia have worked together to design and test an international survey module that aims to provide a better picture of how people engage with their political system. SSB has more than fifty years of experience carrying out biannual election surveys covering both national and local elections – and in this work we can share some of our experiences in developing the survey instruments.

The Task Team has developed a general test protocol that has been deployed in several countries. Two survey experts from SSB have carried out an expert appraisal of the questionnaire, followed by a second round of cognitive testing with semi-structured qualitative interviews. The third round of testing consisted of structured protocol interviews that give insight in specific questions that may cause unwanted/irregular response patterns, and the statistical

Facts

Project	Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs under the Praia Group
Donor	Norad
Accounts	NOK 1 256 000
Partner	UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, Praia-Group, UNWomen National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
Period	2021–2026
Purpose	Improve governance statistics, statistics on elections and participation
Key words	Election statistics, Governance statistics, SDGs, Praia Group

Achievements

- ✓ Four NSOs have piloted the core questions on nationally representative samples whereas three NSOs have field-tested the full questionnaire on non-probability samples of 300+ respondents (rural/urban & different socio-demographic groups). Testing of survey instruments in four countries. These activities have been mostly self-financed where NSOs have contributed their own survey expertise with support from the core team.

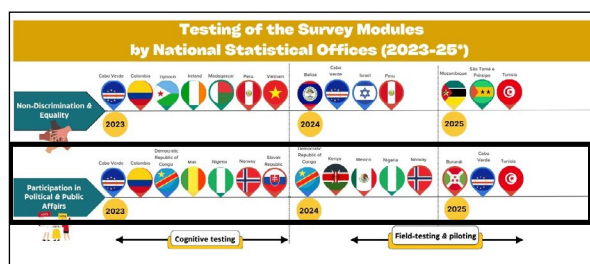
Project challenges

- ✓ Challenging to find the necessary resources to mobilise a diverse group of countries that can carry out cognitive testing / pilot testing of the questionnaire.
- ✓ Challenging to find questions that can work across different types of electoral registration system and different contexts for political and public participation.

impact of these discoveries. In 2024, the Task Team has arranged two all members meetings in addition to several working group meetings focusing on improving the survey instrument with participants from Nigeria, Slovakia, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, DRC.

In 2024 the task team also worked on collecting examples of use of administrative registers on political participation, to be used in a guidance for NSO on how to develop statistics on this topic. This work will continue in 2025.

During the 55th UN Statistical Commission, the Praia Group arranged a side event labelled “Towards Official Statistics on Participation in Political and Public Affairs” where SSB presented the work of the group together with other NSOs. In 2025 the Praia Group will arrange a global consultation on the survey instrument and on the guidance on use of administrative registers. Based on the input from NSOs, final versions of the instruments will be presented for endorsement to the 57th UN Statistical Commission in March 2026.



Overview of the survey testing in NSOs



Liliana Monteiro of INE Cabo Verde presents the work of the Praia Group at the 17th CODGs meeting in the Gambia December 2024



In 2024 the task arranged two all members meetings

Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators in Oslo

In October 2024, the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG (IAEG-SDGs) indicators met in Oslo. The meeting was organized by the UNDP Policy Center for Governance together with Statistics Norway. It was a true pleasure to host more than 100 engaged participants from around the globe to the plenary meeting of the expert meeting.

The 15th meeting marked an important milestone in the process of monitoring the SDGs. Proposals for the second major revision of the indicator framework were discussed and later submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption in March 2025. The process started with a global consultation on the possible needs for adjusting the indicator framework, followed by a thorough assessment of incoming proposals by the IAEG SDGs. The director of the UNDP office in Oslo, Arvinn Gadgil, stated that “This meeting could be decisive for the future. Because what gets measured gets done”.

Looking at the annual SDG reports published by the UN Statistics Division since 2016, it is obvious that the world is far from reaching the 17 ambitious goals for a sustainable future. It is also obvious that we still suffer from major data gaps and lack of reporting on many of the dimensions of the plan. The need for financing these gaps is more pertinent than ever. In the opening panel, NORAD highlighted the importance of data and statistics to enable the successful implementation of the SDGs.

The meeting was a good opportunity to share and discuss the many ongoing developments and initiatives related to the SDG indicators. Several “lightening talks” were made under different headings, including data disaggregation and inclusive data, data partnership, capacity development, data innovation, communication, and links to policy. Attention was also brought to a question; What about the 2030 Agenda and beyond?

Plenary recordings and documentation are available on the IAEG SDGs website <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-15/>



↑ UNDP co-hosted the IAEG SDGs meeting in Oslo with Statistics Norway. From left Arvinn Gadgil (Director at UNDP Policy Center for Governance), Yongyi Min (Chief of the Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division), Geir Axelsen (Director General, Statistics Norway)



← Participants at the open plenary session of the 15th IAEG SDGs meeting, Oslo

International meetings and conferences

The 55th United Nations Statistics Commission (UNSC), 27 February – 1 March 2024

The UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) is the highest body of the global statistical system. The meeting brings together Chief Statisticians from member states around the world and is responsible for developing international statistical standards and methods. In addition to Statistics Norway, Norad was part of the Norwegian delegation. A High-Level Forum on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics celebrated the 30-year anniversary of these principles and discussed the way forward for official statistics.

A decision to increase the number of members of the UNSC from 24 to 54 will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) summer session for budget approval.

Statistics Norway made presentations at several side events, including on Data for Now at the Norwegian UN Delegation, where our Director General Geir Axelsen participated in one of the panels ([Data For Now - Innovation to fill critical data gaps and inform decision-making](#) (un.org)). In addition to the main meetings, many virtual side events were organized of which many were available online ([United Nations Statistical Commission 55th Session](#) (2024)).

Management Group on Statistical Cooperation, 13-14 March 2024

Statistics Norway participated in the 26th meeting of the European Union's Management Group on Statistical Cooperation (MGSC), 13-14 March 2024. The MGSC is a forum for discussions on statistical cooperation both within the European Statistical System and with other global partners. The meetings are attended by representatives of national statistical offices in the European Statistical System, and EU candidate and potential candidate countries. Eurostat has launched new webpages and initiatives to strengthen communication on the importance of statistical cooperation. Communication on statistical cooperation will be followed up at next year's meeting. [The second Pan African Statistical program](#) was presented, where Statistics Norway is one of the partners in the ECOBUSAF grant for this.

The 18th AU Committee of Directors General of NSOs (CoDGs), December 2024

The 18th Committee of Directors General (CoDGs) of NSOs in Africa was held in Banjul in Gambia, December 9–12, 2024. Statistics Norway was invited by the Secretariat of the African Union/STATAFRIC, which,

together with the Statistics Office of The Gambia, organized the meeting. Thirty-five of Africa's statistics offices were present at the meeting, including our partner countries Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Additionally, several regional and international organizations participated. Statistics Norway was given time to present an overview of our bilateral collaboration in Africa and to present STATBUS, the generic business register system. During the meeting, several Statistics Norway projects were referred to, including the work on NADABAS together with AU/STATAFRIC, collaboration with Comesa on Food Security, and the support of the work of the Praia Group.

Collaborative on administrative data

Statistics Norway takes part in the UNSD and GPSSD initiative "Collaborative on Administrative Data" which aims to 'Increase access to administrative data for statistical production'. The collaboration is organized through work streams, where Statistics Norway has contributed to some of the ongoing work streams in 2024. An overview of some of the resources, including Norwegian examples, can be found at a [list of inventories](#). In 2024, Statistics Norway has contributed to some of the events of the CAD, including "Leveraging administrative data for statistical purposes: Global and regional perspectives for the East African Community", and a session at the World Data Forum: "Learning across borders: How countries share knowledge to harness administrative data for official statistics."

World Data Forum, 12-15 November 2024

The aim of the UN World Data Forum is to spur data innovation and contribute to better data for sustainable development. The Forum meetings have been held biannually since 2017. At this year's sessions, held in Medellin in Colombia, Statistics Norway participated together with INE, the statistical office of Uruguay, and presented our joint technical cooperation with third countries, sharing our experiences on the use of administrative registers in general and register-based census in particular. The session was organised by UNSDs "Collaborative on Administrative Data". At a session organised by UNSDs Data for Now, "A holistic approach to ensuring value and impact of data", the NSO of Namibia presented their bilateral cooperation with Statistics Norway and how we have worked together on the presentation of statistics.

OECD mission to Egypt

Statistics Norway was invited by the OECD to participate in a mission to Cairo on 22-26 September 2024. The purpose of the visit was to continue the OECD dialogue with CAPMAS, the National Statistics Office of Egypt, learn more about the Egyptian statistical system with a specific focus on IT infrastructure and administrative data, and provide recommendations in the areas. The team consisted of experts on IT systems, migration, population censuses, administrative data, and data quality from the OECD, CAPMAS, Statistics Finland and Statistics Norway.

During the meeting in Cairo, there was a joint CAPMAS-OECD high level meeting/technical workshop on the administrative sources for official statistics. Both Finland and Norway made presentations on population censuses and the quality of administrative data. The event was attended by more than 50 representatives of different Egyptian line ministries. The discussion in-between the presentations and the round table discussion was very lively.

Visit from Regional Economic Communities in Africa

Statistics Norway received a mission from the African Union/STATAFRIC and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa, 22-26 April 2025. The study visit was part of the Cooperation programme on “Migration Statistics in Africa” between Statistics Sweden, the African Union, and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa. The purpose of the visit was to share the Norwegian experience of producing refugee statistics based on administrative registers. During the visit, the delegates met the Norwegian Tax Authority, the Norwegian Mapping Authority, and the Norwegian Migration Directorate (UDI) to learn how these institutions share data with Statistics Norway that are used for refugee statistics. Statistics Norway is one of few statistical offices in the world that on a regular basis produces statistics on the stock of persons with a refugee background as well as statistics on the living conditions for such persons.

Global Network on Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)

Statistics Norway is a member of the Global Network on Institutions for Statistical Training, an international network of organizations dedicated to improving statistical training. The network's goal is to strengthen statistical capacity worldwide by delivering training in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner at both global and regional levels. As a co-lead of the task team responsible for identifying the training needs of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Statistics Norway played a key role in

establishing a sub-team focused on understanding and improving learning culture in mid-2024. This sub-team has served as a platform for sharing and discussing country-level efforts to promote training and learning, with a particular emphasis on innovative training methods. Additionally, the group has explored structural and organizational factors that influence learning culture and discussed strategies to foster a stronger culture of learning. In 2024, the group met four times to advance these discussions. GIST — [Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training](#).

IGAD Regional Migration Data Technical Working Group Workshop, Addis Ababa, 12-15 August

Statistics Norway and Statistics Sweden support both the AU and the Regional Economic bodies with technical assistance on migration data, with Statistics Norway providing support in displacement related statistics. The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with its Member States and partners, has been actively working to harmonize and improve the production and utilization of migration and forced displacement data in the IGAD region. The workshop aimed to strengthen national and regional actors in the production and use of migration and displacement statistics. Specific objectives included reviewing the status of migration statistics activities, providing input on the draft IGAD Regional Harmonization Guidelines, and gathering feedback on the second edition of the migration statistics report. The workshop also focused on sharing experiences and discussing the way forward for collecting and managing migration data. Recommendations for Member States included using regional guidelines to align with national contexts, strengthening coordination across national bodies, implementing standardized methodologies, and enhancing collaboration with neighboring countries to manage cross-border migration effectively.

StatCOM 28 October to 1 November 2024, Addis Ababa

The ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa under the theme “Unleashing the potential of African innovation in statistical development”. The Ethiopian Statistical Service (ESS) together with the Ministry of Planning and Development, MFA, Office of the Prime Minister and UNECA formed a planning committee to prepare for the event. The long-term adviser and the local project coordinator of the ESS Statistics Norway institutional project were members of the committee and provided technical support for planning and implementation of the event. Statistics Norway organized and participated in three side events: Food Security Statistics, Administrative Data and a Hackathon.

Study visits and multiple country workshops 2024

In 2024, Statistics Norway had the pleasure of hosting 18 study visits to Norway. Furthermore, Statistics Norway organised several international

workshops and facilitated the participation of delegates from various National Statistical Offices at numerous statistical conferences.

Study visits to Norway, 2024

Guests by country	Month	Subject matter
Uruguay	February	Civil registration and vital statistics
Ethiopia	March	Environmental mapping
Ghana	April	National accounts, NADABAS
Namibia	April	Information technology and communication
African Union/Statafric Regional Economic Communities in Africa (RECSs). Participation also by UNHCR/EGRIS and SCB	April	Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and statelessness
Namibia, Mauritius Senegal	May	Statistical business register and administrative data
Namibia	May	High - level visit
Ghana	June	Human resources
Uganda	June	Environmental models
Namibia	June	Environmental statistics
Malawi	September	Civil registration and vital statistics
Indonesia	September	Ocean accounting
Uganda	October	Production of statistics, statistical business register and Statbus
Namibia	October	National accounts
Ethiopia	November	National statistical systems and administrative data owners
Namibia	November	Price indices
Namibia	November	Methodology and field operations
Namibia	December	Social Statistics

COMESA Regional workshops on Food Security Statistics 2024

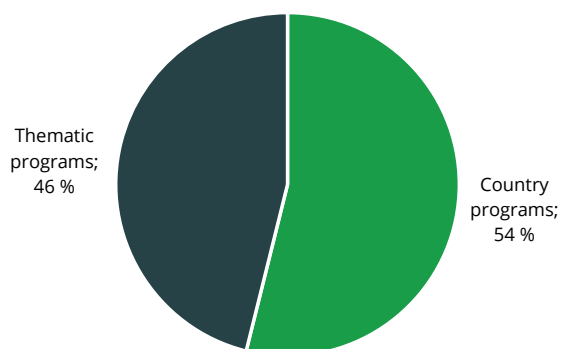
Country	Month	Description
Tanzania	February	Food Security Statistics project, COMESA
Somalia (in Nairobi, Kenya)	April	Food Security Statistics project, COMESA
Somalia (in Nairobi, Kenya)	June	Food security statistics, COMESA and FAO
Mauritius	July	Food Security Statistics project, COMESA
Ethiopia	October–November	Food Security Statistics project side event at Statistical Commission for Africa, COMESA

Participation in conferences and study visits to other organisations 2024

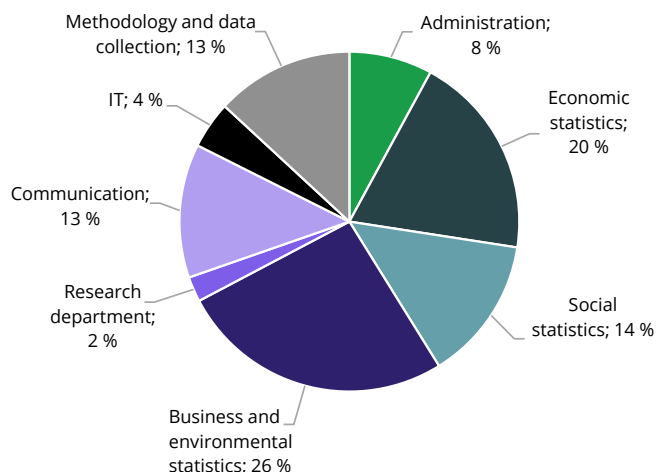
Country	Month	NSO	Description
USA	March	Malawi	UNSC – participation for the newly appointed Commissioner of Statistics
Kenya	May	Namibia	Tax for Development Nadabas workshop. Study-visit from Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)
Denmark	June	Zambia	Nadabas conference in Denmark (3 delegates)
Uruguay	October	Namibia	International Workshop on Register-Based Censuses in Uruguay for 2 delegates. The conference was organized by UNFPA, ECLAC, IDB and INE
Ethiopia	November	Malawi	Statistical Commission for Africa. Presentation at side event for the Food Security Statistics project arranged by COMESA and Statistics Norway
Columbia	November	Namibia	World Data Forum – participation for 1 delegate for the Data for Now sessions arranged by UNSD and the session on Learning across Borders arranged by UNSD, UN women and GPSDD
Mauritius	November	Mauritius, Namibia and Senegal	PAS II, Study-visit from the National Agency of Statistics in Senegal and Namibia Statistics Agency to Statistics Mauritius

The Year in figures: a visual summary

Cost distribution of SSBs development cooperation by country programs and thematic programs. 2024



Use of resources in SSB by department. 2024 (ex. division for international development)



The year in figures

In 2024 Statistics Norway received 55.3 million Norwegian kroner to work on international development cooperation programs. Compared to 2023 this is an increase of 10.3 million Norwegian kroner (23 per cent). The activities carried out on the programs includes a total of 61 short-term missions and 18 study visits. The number of short-term missions has increased with 27 per cent from 2023, involving 49 consultants from the entire organisation of SSB (ex. Division for international Development cooperation). There has been a particularly high level of short-term missions to Malawi, Namibia and Ethiopia, where Statistics Norway has projects under the Tax for Development program and

Statistics and Register program. The number of study visits has also increased from 16 in 2023 to 18 in 2024. At the end of 2024 the Division for International Development Cooperation in Statistics Norway had 16 permanent employees (14 in 2023) and in total 17.2 full-time equivalent employees. This includes 3 long-term advisers seconded in Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi. The division has performed work directly related to the projects equal to 15 full-time equivalents. Resources from the entire organisation, counting eight departments, is contributing with their expertise into the projects. In 2024 these resources counted to a total of 115 different people, equal to 8.8 full-time equivalents.

Accounts 2024	NOK
TOTAL	55 269 000
Ukraine – Statistics and Register Program	2 647 000
Ethiopia – Statistics and Register Program	7 598 000
Mozambique and Tanzania – Energy Survey ¹	1 898 000
Mozambique – Embassy (Min. of Foreign Affairs)	128 000
Uganda – Oil for Development	5 751 000
Nepal – Gender Equality for Development	502 000
Uganda – Gender Equality for Development	467 000
Indonesia – Ocean for Development	4 759 000
Ghana – Tax for Development	2 620 000
Malawi – Tax for development	5 774 000
Namibia – Tax for development	5 258 000
Digital Goods – Tax for development ²	5 741 000
Other – Tax for Development	103 000
Food Security	6 494 000
Other – Statistics and register program	4 649 000
International Migration Statistics	51 000
Pan-African Statistics Programme II	829 000

¹ The amount has been prepaid by Norad previous years. The reported amount shows accrued expenses in 2024.

² NORCAP has in addition invoiced Norad directly for the Nadabas-position in Statafric, covered by the program.

Project groups	NOK
TOTAL	55 269 000
Oil for development	5 751 000
Gender equality for development	969 000
Tax for development	19 496 000
Food Security	6 494 000
Energy surveys	1 898 000
Statistics and register program	14 945 000
Ocean for Development	4 759 000
Other development cooperation	957 000

Key numbers	2023	2024
Short-term missions and travels	48	61
Study visits	16	18
Multiple country workshops	12.0	15
Long term adviser, person-years	1.1	2.4
Total SSB project consultants (full-time equivalent)	20.0	23.7
Total division employees (full-time equivalent)	15.6	17.2

Division for International Development Cooperation

Employees per 31 December 2024



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Head of Division

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Register for development

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Silja Emmel

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Long term adviser Ethiopia, Statistics
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Håvard Sjølie

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Long term adviser Malawi, National
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Helge Brunborg

Senior Researcher/Part Time consultant
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statistics, Statelessness, Refugee
statistics, Register-based population
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Hedda Hübertz

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↑ View of fishing boats, Lake Malawi
Image courtesy of Håvard Sjølie

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