

# BUILDING STATISTICAL CAPACITY

## Why bother with statistics?

A country needs statistics to describe its social, economic and environmental conditions in order to improve the lives and opportunities of its citizens. Statistics thus play an important role in planning, governing and developing societies.

Statistics provide the information needed for policy-makers to make evidence-based decisions; for citizens to form opinions and hold government accountable; for businesses to make sound decisions; and for researchers to analyse society.



## Evidence-based policies

Statistics provide the information needed for evidence-based policy-making and can foster more targeted policies. E.g. statistics on education can help governments plan educational systems on a fact-based basis.

Statistics can also be used to identify the effect of donor aid.

## Meeting both national and international needs for statistics

The national statistical institution plays a central role in producing official statistics. The institution must be professional and independent from the political system and have the capacity to produce impartial, relevant, reliable, timely and comparable statistics of high quality.

Producing statistics for national needs as well as international monitoring of among others the Sustainable Development Goals are important tasks. This requires a competent and professional national statistical institution which is competently staffed and sufficiently funded.

## How we build statistical capacity

Statistics Denmark is the national statistical institution of Denmark. We have participated in statistical capacity building in many countries for the past 20 years.

We work closely with our partner institution and tailor our advice to local needs and conditions while aspiring to international standards. The close cooperation with our partner ensures a high degree of ownership for the project and creates lasting results. Our goal in capacity building is to achieve sustainable change through knowledge transfer and practical advice.



Our staff transfers knowledge on the topics they work with on a daily basis. This ensures discussions on an equal level and a mutual understanding between our staff and the staff in the partner institution. Theoretical discussions are important to understand the substance but hands-on practical advice is crucial to achieve results.

Our work has lasting impact.



## Our expertise

Statistics Denmark participates in capacity building projects in all aspects of the statistical production from data collection to processing of data to dissemination of statistics to users. We work with social, economic and business statistics.

We can also build capacity on issues like quality management, administrative data sources, legislation, IT infrastructure and databases, and coordination of the national statistical system.

We have experience from countries in East Europe, Caucasus, the Middle East, Central Asia, South East Asia and Africa.

## How to proceed

If your institution is seeking to add a statistical component to your projects or in general wishes to support the need for building up statistical capacity in recipient countries, Statistics Denmark will be happy to discuss opportunities and cooperation possibilities.

Our involvement in building statistical capacity is either financed by international institutions like the European Union and the World Bank or by bilateral donors. Our projects are designed in close cooperation with the partner institution and the funding agency to ensure local needs are met.

If you are interested in working with us, please do not hesitate to use the contact information below.

## International Consulting

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## The demand for best practice

The global demand for capacity building on statistics is high. Many national statistical institutions around the world are seeking cooperation opportunities to strengthen their institution's capacity to produce statistics of high quality and statistics which meet international standards.

Capacity building on statistics can take many forms and support many different aspects of the statistical production. Below are a few examples of capacity building which Statistics Denmark has carried out around the world.

### Jordan: Providing a detailed description of the economy

National Accounts are developed to measure economic activities in a country and provide the basis for GDP calculations. The compilation of National Accounts is internationally regulated to ensure comparability between countries.

Statistics Denmark has worked with the Department of Statistics of Jordan to improve their National Accounts. Through this cooperation, statistics on the Jordanian economy have been strengthened. This has led to the most detailed description of the economy to date. The informal sector; the so-called "non-observed economy" has also been estimated so Jordan now has more exhaustive information of the national economy.



### Armenia: Giving users access to statistics

Giving citizens easy access to statistics is crucial for planning and developing societies. National statistical institutions therefore have the important task to disseminate statistics to different user groups in society.

In Armenia, Statistics Denmark has helped the National Statistics Service with developing an online statistical database. ArmStatBank.am gives users the possibility to access data free of charge and to put together data tables matching their need for information.

### Kosovo: Creating knowledge on businesses

Having knowledge on businesses, their production and development is indispensable for a society. A key foundation for creating this knowledge is the statistical business register. The statistical business register contains information on all businesses in the country and is used to describe the country's economic structure and processes.

In Kosovo, Statistics Denmark has worked with the Agency of Statistics on creating a new statistical business register. Through practical guidance and on-the-job-training knowledge on database design, business demography and enterprise groups have been transferred, creating a new foundation for knowledge on business in Kosovo.

### Kazakhstan: Increasing knowledge on agriculture

Agriculture in many countries makes up a substantial share of the economy. Accurate statistics on agriculture are highly important for creating a healthy and sustainable agriculture.

In Kazakhstan, Statistics Denmark has provided advice and training to the Committee on Statistics on how to improve data for agricultural statistics, e.g. through the creation of a farm register and updating of questionnaires for agricultural surveys.



### Bhutan: Strengthening sustainable development

Environmental statistics describe the state of the environment and its interaction with human activities and natural events by integrating data from a multitude of different subject areas and sources. Environmental statistics is indispensable for evidence-based policies and decision-making to support sustainable development.

Statistics Denmark has trained staff of the National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan in the United Nations System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA).

Statistics Denmark provided practical guidance on how to compile energy and air emissions accounts. These accounts give a coherent description of economic transactions related to the flow of energy and air emission. The accounts can e.g. be used to analyse the effect of increased economic activity on the use of energy and air emissions.



### Statistics on gender

Disaggregating statistics by gender gives countries the opportunity to learn about the social, political and economic inequalities between men and women.

Statistics Denmark has trained national statistical institutions and women's rights groups in the Middle East in the production and usage of gender-differentiated statistics.

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