INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTING

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

STATISTICS
DENMARK

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INTRODUCTION

Looking back to 2024

The year 2024 was a pivotal one for Statistics Denmark, both as an institution and in terms of our international activities. We welcomed Martin-Ulrik Jensen as our new Director General, bringing extensive experience from his roles in the Danish central administration, most recently as Head of Department at the Danish Ministry of Finance.

2024 also marked the launch of our 2024–2027 Strategic Framework Programme, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This initiative highlights the critical role of National Statistical Institutions (NSIs) in supporting democratic, economic, and environmental development by providing essential data to both policy makers and the public. Reliable data and statistics are crucial for fostering democratic dialogue and informed decision-making.

As part of this programme, we initiated new projects in Ghana and Morocco, conducting a stakeholder analysis in both countries. These analysis aimed to assess the role of NSIs as trusted providers. og data and statitics. Our objective is to strengthen this role throughout the projects, ensuring that NSIs are better equipped to deliver credible and reliable data and statisticsthat supports societal development and a just green transition.

In 2024, we also concluded our first project in Vietnam and laid the groundwork for a new phase focusing on utilising administrative data for business statistics, IT and digitalisation, dissemination and communication, and environmental statistics.

Our EU-funded projects continued in Jordan, Bosnia and Hersegovina (BiH), and the Pan African Statistics project (PAS II). The outcomes of these efforts are detailed in the project descriptions throughout this report.

Looking ahead to 2025

The upcoming year we will mark a milestone as Statistics Denmark celebrates 175 years of providing essential statistics for Denmark. Our international consultancy efforts will expand with the launch of activities in a fourth country under our Strategic Framework Agreement with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We will officially begin implementing our new project in Vietnam, continue our EU Twinning project in BiH and finalise our activities in Jordan.

In 2025, we will emphasise collaboration and communication - both within Statistics Denmark and with our global partners. A key focus will be deepening the understanding of Danish foreign development policy within Statistics Denmark and reinforcing the importance of data and statistics in shaping societal progress and a just green transition in our partner countries. We aim to engage more Danish experts in our international initiatives to enhance project sustainability and bring back valuable knowledge and insights from alternative approaches worldwide.
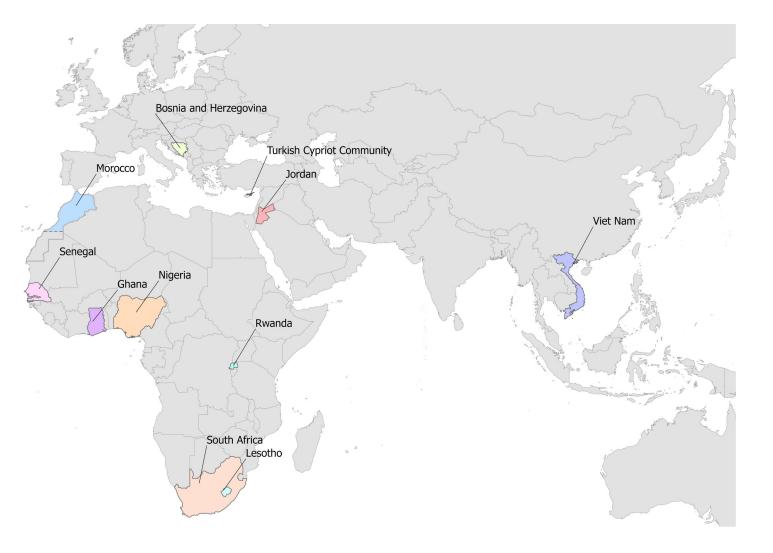
We also look forward to forging new collaborations under the Strategic Framework Programme, working with other Danish ministries and agencies operating globally, where data and statistics can play a vital role in supporting and strengthening other projects.

Additionally, we anticipate contributing to the development of a new strategy for development cooperation, likely maintaining a strong focus on Strategic Sector Cooperations as a key element of Danish development aid.

We extend our gratitude to our partners, particularly our partners in the NSIs, and key stakeholders in Denmark and worldwide. A special thanks to the EU and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for funding our projects. We look forward to continuing our collaboration, working together to empower NSIs to provide reliable and credible data for societal development and a just green transition ∎

Carsten Zangenberg
Director, Communication,
Methodology and Consulting

PROJECT COUNTRIES 2024

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Turkish Cypriot Community

Jordan

Morocco

Viet Nam

Senegal

Nigeria

Ghana

Rwanda

South Africa
Lesotho

Twinning projects – financed by the EU:
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina**
- **Jordan**

Strategic Sector Cooperation – financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
- **Ghana**
- **Morocco**
- **Vietnam**

Pan African Statistics (PASII) – financed by the EU:
- **Lesotho**
- **Nigeria**
- **Senegal,**
- **Rwanda**
- **South Africa**

Other technical assistance – financed by the EU:
- **Turkish Cypriot Community**

USING STATISTICS TO STRENGTHEN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

By Klaus Munch Haagensen

Statistics play a crucial role in development cooperation by providing the foundation for evidence-based decision-making, ensuring resources are allocated effectively, and enabling transparency and accountability. From tracking social progress to empowering citisens, statistical data is essential for shaping policies that drive real-world change. This article explores how statistics support democracy, transform lives, and contribute to sustainable and just development.

Statistics Supporting Democracy

In democratic societies, access to accurate and unbiased data is fundamental for informed decision-making. Governments, international organisations, and civil society rely on statistical evidence to craft policies that address societal needs. Development cooperation initiatives use data to identify the most pressing challenges, measure progress, and ensure that interventions are effective. Moreover, statistics help combat misinformation by providing objective facts, strengthening democratic institutions, and enhancing public trust.

Data Transforms Lives

In development cooperation, data is more than just numbers; it has the power to transform lives. Health programs, education policies, and economic reforms all depend on statistical analysis to ensure resources reach the most vulnerable. For instance, in global health, statistical models help predict disease outbreaks, allowing for timely interventions. In education, data-driven policies can reduce inequalities by identifying gaps in access and quality. Without statistics, many development programs would lack the necessary insights to create meaningful change. The ability to measure change and adapt strategies accordingly ensures that development efforts remain effective and relevant.

Human Rights and Social Justice

A fundamental aspect of development cooperation is ensuring that all individuals have legal recognition, which is where civil registration comes into play. Birth, marriage, and death registrations are essential for upholding human rights, as they provide individuals with legal identity and access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and social protection. Statistical data from civil registration systems also help monitor demographic trends, ensuring that policies address social inequalities and promote justice.

Empowering Citisens

Data empowers citisens by giving them the tools to advocate for their rights and demand better governance. Again, civil registration is a key component of this empowerment, as it enables individuals to participate

fully in society. When people are officially recognised in statistical records, they can - besides getting access to services - vote, and benefit from legal protections. Moreover, open data initiatives promote citisen engagement by allowing individuals and organisations to scrutinise government policies and demand accountability.

Graphics:Klaus Munch Haagensen

Monitoring Development Interventions
Development initiatives must be continuously monitored to assess their effectiveness and impact. Statistics provide measurable indicators that track progress toward sustainable development goals (SDGs). Whether assess-

ing poverty reduction efforts, evaluating environmental conservation programs, or analysing the impact of social policies, data-driven monitoring ensures accountability. By identifying successes and shortcomings, statistics help refine strategies and optimise future interventions.

Safeguarding Privacy
While statistics are essential for development, ensuring the privacy and security of personal data is equally important. Development cooperation must balance the need for data collection with the protection of individuals' rights. Ethical data governance frameworks are necessary to prevent misuse, discrimination, or breaches of sensitive information. Strengthening data protection laws and implementing best practices in anonymisation help build trust in statistical systems, encouraging participation in data-driven initiatives.

Contributing to a Socially Green Transition
The transition to a sustainable and environmentally friendly economy requires solid statistical evidence to guide decision-making. Climate policies, resource management, and green energy projects rely on data to assess environmental impact and track progress. Statistics help governments and organisations measure carbon footprints, monitor biodiversity loss, and design policies that promote social and ecological sustainability. By integrating social and environmental data, development cooperation can ensure that the green transition is inclusive and equitable.

Statistics are the backbone of development
Statistics are indispensable in development cooperation, providing the backbone for informed policymaking, efficient resource allocation, and effective monitoring. By supporting democracy, transforming lives, promoting human rights, and safeguarding privacy, statistical data ensure that development efforts are transparent, accountable, and impactful. As societies strive for a socially just and environmentally sustainable future, the role of statistics in shaping inclusive and effective policies remains more important than ever ∎

GHANA

OBJECTIVE
The main objective of the strategic sector cooperation between the Ghana Statistical Services (GSS), Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) is to support informed decision-making and ensure that the public debate in Ghana builds upon relevant and easily accessible statistics.

Key achievements in 2024

Phase II Launched with High-Level Engagement
The second phase of the Strategic Sector Cooperation on Statistics in Ghana has begun with a Memorandum of Understanding between Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) and Statistics Denmark. A high-level panel discussed data-sharing, administrative data, and strategies for efficient, user-driven statistical development. Building on phase I's success, this renewed collaboration aims to enhance data quality for evidence-based decision-making.

Advancing Green Statistics
A high-level meeting with Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the foundation for integrating environmental data into policymaking. A Ghanaian delegation—including representatives from GSS, the EPA, the Ministry of Sanitation, Ghana Water, and the Water Resources Commission—visited Denmark to develop waste and water accounts. Site visits to Danish facilities such as the incineration plant "Vestforbrændingen" and the water treatment plant "Biofos Renseanlæg Lynetten "provided valuable insights into data production processes.

The outcome was a transformation map designed to facilitate the development of timely, user-friendly environmental-economic accounts. In Accra, experts from Statistics Denmark collaborated with EPA and GSS to refine environmental data collection methodologies. Key outcomes included a deeper understanding of the revised Classification of Environmental Purposes and plans to integrate data collection with the upcoming business survey.

Strengthening Statistical Capacity
Statistics Denmark provided training on Python, R, sampling techniques, and PxWeb to enhance data analysis and accessibility. A major milestone was Ghana's first-ever Unit Value Index (UVI), measuring import and export price changes. A GSS team visited Denmark to refine the methodology and integrate it into Ghana's StatsBank, improving trade statistics for policy and business decisions.

Developing a Future-Ready IT Strategy
GSS has taken a bold step toward a digitally empowered future with the development of a draft IT Strategy. Guided by Statistics Denmark, this five-year roadmap will modernise data management, IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital workplace practices. Through interactive workshops, GSS and Statistics Denmark translated ambitious ideas into visions, missions and actionable plans. This strategy will ensure that official statistics are more reliable, timely, and widely accessible.

Empowering Youth Through AI & Digital Innovation
Fifteen young Ghanaian students and entrepreneurs from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology participated in the Next Generation Digital Action Summit in Copenhagen, competing against teams from Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, Kenya, Tansania, India, South Korea, and Denmark.

A Ghanaian team won the case developed by Danish company Hempel, while a Danish team won the case designed by GSS, highlighting a mutual exchange of expertise. This initiative enhanced digital skills among Ghanaian youth, fostered AI-driven solutions for gover-

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Strengthening official statistics in Ghana.
Key topics	Use of administrative data sources for statistical production, IT infrastructure, quality management, economic statistics, environmental accounts, dissemination and communication.
Partner	Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
Donor	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Period	2024–2026

nance and business, and demonstrated the potentials of statistics in driving innovation.

Unlocking Data's Potential for Governance and Transparency

In September, GSS, the Danish Embassy in Ghana, and Statistics Denmark hosted a roundtable with 23 key Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to explore how data-sharing can enhance transparency and improve governance. Discussions focused on data storage, accessibility, and security, identifying opportunities for collaboration across sectors.

The outcome was a policy paper outlining key recommendations to optimise data-sharing across government institutions. By fostering greater collaboration, policymakers will have access to timely, high-quality data for informed decision-making. As Deputy Government Statistician Dr. Faustina Frempong-Ainguah stated, "No single source can solve all problems—we must work together."

Mapping Administrative Data

To maximise the use of administrative data, GSS mapped databases across Ghana's MDAs. This effort identified data availability, quality, and integration potential, offering recommendations on how microdata can be better leveraged for statistics production.

By streamlining administrative data use, GSS is building a more efficient, cost-effective statistical system that reduces reliance on traditional surveys while producing richer, more timely insights. The improved use of administrative

Photo: Bo Illum Jørgensen

microdata will result in more publicly available, high-quality data to support Ghana's development agenda.

What's next?

Looking ahead to 2025, a key focus will be leveraging administrative data from the health sector. Statistics Denmark will support the implementation of the new IT strategy through technical missions, ensuring a smooth transition. Efforts in green statistics will continue, with an emphasis on waste and water accounts. Additionally, the project will enhance GSS's capabilities in Python, R (training of trainers) and metadata while further strengthening the National Statistical System. With continued support from Statistics Denmark, GSS aims to advance the use of statistics in decision-making and drive further digitalisation across Ghana ∎

"It was an incredibly exciting experience to join a workplace that mirrors my own in many ways, yet is completely different. It was clear that we share many of the same challenges, even though our starting points are different. This made it particularly interesting to develop an IT strategy together that reflects their vision and outlines the steps that can lead them there. Additionally, it was a pleasure to collaborate with kind and competent people and experience the culture in Ghana."

Sara Rytter Nielsen,
Head of Section, IT, Statistics Denmark

MOROCCO

OBJECTIVE
The main objective of the strategic sector cooperation between the Moroccan statistical office (HCP), Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) is to support informed decision-making and ensure that the public debate in Morocco builds upon relevant and easily accessible statistics.

Key achievements in 2024

In 2024, activities were significantly influenced by HCP's resource allocation to the decennial Housing and Population Census. As a result, the focus remained on initiatives that were not directly involved in or hindered by the census. The Data Management Centre (DMC), which was developed during phase I of this project with the assistance of Danish experts, played an important role in the 2024 Census. The 55,000 enumerators, supervisors and controllers used tablets for the data collection. The DMC was used for secure transmission and storage of the data collected in the field.

Below are the key achievements of the year:

Stakeholder Conference on Digitalisation

Held in May 2024, the conference aimed to facilitate knowledge-sharing and best practices on digitalisation in Morocco and Denmark. It also sought to promote the utilisation of digital processes to maximise the reuse of existing administrative data in the public sector, thereby enhancing the quality and efficiency of official statistics.

The conference successfully brought together key stakeholders, fostering future dialogue. It also demonstrated how linking administrative data from different sources could enhance data value and expand statistical dimensions. A key takeaway was the consensus that digitalising national statistics is not solely HCP's responsibility but a collaborative effort involving the entire National Statistical System (NSS) and all public data owners. In addition, the conference was a good opportunity for HCP to showcase themselves as a digital leader in the public sector.

Utilisation of Administrative Microdata in the Public Sector

Meetings held with stakeholders before and during the conference mentioned above, highlighted the need for a long-term vision for digitalisation, implemented through incremental and feasible steps. International experiences provided proven concepts and historical perspectives on successful digital transformations. However, these concepts must be tested and gradually adapted to Morocco's specific context.

Implementation of the Statistical Business Register 2.0

STATBUS is an innovative software designed to streamline business information across statistical surveys. At the end of 2024, STATBUS 2.0 was successfully installed on HCP servers and tested by HCP staff.

This upgraded system ensures consistency in business data across HCP surveys by consolidating and updating information in one central database, using key administrative sources. Instead of multiple HCP departments maintaining separate business records, STATBUS allows for uniform classification—ensuring, for example, that a shoe manufacturer is categorised consistently across all surveys and administrative sources. This enhances comparability, such as linking value-added data in National Accounts with employment statistics in labor market surveys.

Beyond improving data consistency, STATBUS also enhances cost efficiency by eliminating the need for separate statistical units to maintain their own business records.

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Strengthening the Statistical System in Morocco
Key topics	Strengthening HCPs capacity and the national statistical system to work with administrative and survey data for statistical purposes is done by improving the economic modelling, digitalising prioritised statistical processes, working on IT and data security issues, improving the quality work, and providing technical support to the further development of the implementation of The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA).
Donor	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Period	2024–2026

Development of a Water Account

Water scarcity is a serious problem in Morocco and the satellite water account is therefore of high priority both in HCP and in the Moroccan society at large.

The satellite account feeds into the overall System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) – the so-called green national accounts. The Water Account will provide an integrated approach to water monitoring by consolidating diverse water-related statistics into a coherent information system. In 2024, a concept note for the Water Account collaboration project was finalised between HCP and key ministries, departments, and agencies. Work has also commenced on hiring a local consultant to support the collaboration process.

Development of a New Macro-Economic Model for Morocco

Building on the Danish macro economic model ADAM, work has begun on developing a similar model for Morocco. This model will provide a framework for predicting economic trends and assessing the impact of economic and political interventions.

A roadmap for the modeling project was produced, and a Moroccan delegation visited Denmark to gain insights into ADAM's framework and theoretical foundations.

Additionally, groundwork was laid to assess the feasibility of revitalising or adapting components of the existing Moroccan macro economic model (Pressimo) to current needs. This process includes establishing a revised Moroccan database with longer time series.

What's next?

In 2025, the focus will be on:
- Continuing the development of a new macro-economic model for Morocco.
- Establishing procedures for updating and utilising the new Statistical Business Register.
- Advancing work on the Water Account, including data localisation and agreements for data sharing with public authorities.
- Enhancing quality assurance, including documentation and declarations of statistical production processes.
- Improving communication strategies by finalising the establishment of user groups.
- Initiating research on leveraging data and statistics to gain insights into Morocco's energy sector ∎

Photo: Klaus Munch Haagensen

"In May, we welcomed a delegation from Morocco's Haut-Commissariat au Plan (HCP) seeking insights into our macroeconomic model ADAM. While their focus is the Moroccan economy, economic modeling principles are universal. The HCP economists quickly solved standard exercises but, more importantly, asked insightful questions about key equations. Their curiosity reinforced that meaningful discussions, not silence, are the best indicators of real understanding."

Dan Knudsen, Chief Advisor,
Economic Models, Statistics Denmark

VIETNAM

OBJECTIVE
The overall objective of the Strategic Sector Cooperation project is to contribute to the development of the Vietnamese society by providing adequate and trustworthy statistics, which is built on international standards and trends.

Key achievements in 2024
The Strategic Sector Cooperation Project on Statistics between Statistics Den-mark and the General Statistics Office (GSO) has significantly advanced GSO's transition to modern statistical methodologies, with a focus on administrative data integration, big data applications, and the System of Environmental-Economic Ac-counting (SEEA). In 2024 six missions in Hanoi and two study visits to Statistics Denmark were conducted. Key activities included:

Population data
A major achievement was enhancing the use of admi-nistrative data for official statistics. While access to population data from the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) remains limited, successful collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has laid the groundwork for broader administrative data use. In 2024, GSO re-ceived a large dataset from MOJ containing microdata on vital events (births, deaths, marriages and divor-ces) from all districts. Additionally, admin-istrative data sources with the potential to digitize parts of the Vietnamese pop-ulation census were identified. This marks a crucial step towards reducing, and eventually phasing out the costly population decennial census.

Education statistics
In 2023, a prototype for an integrated student register was developed. This standardised small-scale model will be gradually expanded in collaboration with GSO to cover additional geographic areas and fields of education. The plan for upscale will be discussed and planned in cooperation with GSO. The upscaling plan will define the standards and methods for digitising education data collec-tion in Vietnam.

"Since 2022, we have helped GSO in being acquaint-ed with the use of scanner data for the calculation of the Consumer Price Index. The collaboration with col-leagues from GSO has been a big driver. Being on a mission helps you get a much better understanding of the local culture than just being a tourist. Vietnam is very different from Denmark, which is a big inspira-tion and a lot of fun. Visiting Vietnam and working with colleagues there has been very inspiring. Every-one is very helpful and committed to delivering the best results possible."

Thomas Hjorth Jacobsen,
Senior Advisor, Prices and Consumption

Big data
The project introduced big data techniques, such as using scanner data for Con-sumer Price Index (CPI) calculations, to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of economic statistics. Despite challenges in obtaining private-sector transaction data, test data from the Vietnamese supermarket provider DMX were analysed and an R-generated prototype system for CPI calcu-lation was developed. Next steps involve refining data quality, ensuring structural coherence and establish-ing a continuous data flow for the CPI production at GSO.

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Support to Vietnam's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of official statistics.
Key topics	Inception phase with a view to build a longer-term collaboration around population and migration statistics, education, Big Data and Environmental Accounts.
Partner	General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO).
Funding	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Period	2022 - 2024

Environmental Statistics

Collaboration between GSO, Statistics Denmark and Vietnamese ministries (Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Natu-ral Resources and Environment, and Ministry of Trade and Industry) has ad-vanced energy accounts and energy related emission . In 2024, Vietnam's first Energy and Emissions Accounts were developed, aligning national statistical reporting with international sustainability standards and improving climate-related monitoring. This milestone strengthens Vietnam's capacity for data-driven decision-making in its green transition.

Challenges

Legal and institutional barriers to data sharing, along with limited IT system interoperability, remain key challenges. Despite these obstacles, the project has laid a solid foundation for modernising Vietnam's statistical system. Future efforts should focus on formalizing data-sharing agreements, enhancing IT in-frastructure, and developing sustainable models to consolidate and expand project gains. With continued cooperation and strategic adjustments, GSO is well-positioned to strengthen its role as a trusted national data provider, sup-porting data-driven policymaking and a more transparent statistical ecosystem.

What's next?

Phase I of the project concluded in 2024, with Phase II commencing in 2025. The project's focus will shift to new components: Communication and dissemination, Administrative data for Business Statistics, IT and Digitalization, while continuing Environmental Statistics from phase I. In 2025, eight missions to Hanoi and two study visits to Statistics Denmark are planned ■

Photo:
Colourbox

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STATISTICS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

By Klaus Munch Haagensen

Apart from implementing our own projects, Statistics Denmark has launched an initiative to support other danish auhorities with data and statistics in their development efforts. We call the initiative "SIAM" and it is funded by the danish MFA with a budget of 4 mill. DKK from 2024-2027.

The Purpose of SIAM

SIAM's primary objective is to support Danish authorities' development aid projects, within the modality of Strategic Sector Cooperation, by embedding a statistical component that strengthens their overall impact. By doing so, SIAM emphasises the critical role of statistics in development work, aiding decision-making processes and reinforcing the importance of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in partner countries.

How SIAM Supports Development

Through strategic collaborations, SIAM helps build robust statistical infrastructures in partner countries, ensuring that policymakers and institutions can base their decisions on high-quality data. Here are some concrete examples of collaborations and interventions that are in line with the purpose of SIAM:

- **Ghana**: In partnership with Aarhus Water, we are working with Ghanaian authorities to improve urban climate adaptation by integrating census data with data on water pipelines, enhancing access to clean water, flood resilience and infrastructure planning.
- **Morocco**: Statistics Denmark collaborates with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and Moroccan partners to establish a water accounting system. This system is essential for ensuring equitable and sustainable water resource management. Mapping water ressources and flows and followingly where to find data has been an essential part of the collaboration.
- **Ghana**: Together with the Danish Maritime Authority, SIAM is supporting Ghana Maritime Authority and Ghana Ports and Harbour Authorities in utilising

ship position data (big data) to estimate emissions from vessels in selected ports, contributing to environmental sustainability. This is meant to support the strive to demonstrate the feasibility of zero emission shipping by 2030. Findings may guide similar efforts globally.

Future SIAM projects could also include initiatives such as assisting Ministries of Agriculture in leveraging agricultural statistics to enhance food security and promote sustainable farming practices. Or engage in developing a statistical framework for tracking renewable energy production and usage, facilitating the country's green energy transition.

Strategic Priorities and Criteria

SIAM's activities are carefully aligned with key development priorities for Statistics Denmark´s own Strategic Sector Cooperation projects, focusing on:

1. Strengthening Statistical Frameworks – Enhancing the capabilities of NSIs to work with administrative data, digital tools, and effective communication.
2. Improving Statistical Systems – Empowering statistical institutions to produce and deliver relevant statistics to support public and private sector decision-making.
3. Promoting Danish Data Solutions – Sharing Denmark's expertise in data-driven governance to

facilitate knowledge exchange and also to support partner countries in engaging in public-private partnerships.

SIAM Activities

To achieve these goals, SIAM engages in a variety of activities, including:

*   Deploying expert missions to partner countries to provide technical assistance.
*   Hosting study visits to Statistics Denmark, enabling knowledge exchange and capacity building.
*   Producing expert reports based on fieldwork and study visits.
*   Conducting virtual workshops and training sessions to facilitate continuous learning and collaboration.

SIAM serves as a vital bridge between Danish authorities and partner countries, ensuring that statistics and data-driven insights are at the core of development efforts.

By strengthening statistical systems and fostering international cooperation, SIAM contributes to better policy-making, sustainable development, and improved living conditions worldwide. As the global challenges of climate change, economic development, and resource management become increasingly complex, initiatives like SIAM highlight the indispensable role of statistics in shaping a better future for all ■

Photo: Colourbox

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

OBJECTIVE

This project marks the fifth Twinning initiative between Statistics Denmark (SD) and the partners of the National Statistical System (NSS) of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its overall objective is to modernise the NSS and align its statistical products with European standards, supporting the country's status as an EU candidate.

Key achievements in 2024

2024 marked the conclusion of the Twinning project: Further support to the reform of statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has now been succeeded by a new initiative: EU for Further Development of Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The key distinction between the two projects is that, in addition to Finland, the new project includes Italy and Slovenia as official junior partners. Niels Madsen continues as the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) in Sarajevo, with the project set to run until mid-January 2026.

The new project is structured around five independent components:

- Business Statistics
- Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA)
- Information and Communication Technology Statistics (ICT)
- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
- Monthly Balance of Payments Statistics

Business Statistics

This component facilitates specialised technical discussions among statisticians. Work on the financial and insurance sector for structural business statistics, initiated in the previous project, is now accelerating as EU member states gain relevant experience to share.

Additionally, the project has launched work on Commercial Real Estate Indicators (CREI) – a complex but important area, as European legislation is still under development. Efforts on deflators for various business sectors and enterprises profiling are also continuing from previous projects

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT Statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina are to a large extent already aligned with European standards. This project, therefore, focuses on modernising data collection methods. The goal is to ensure that enterprises report their ICT use via electronic questionnaires rather than traditional paper surveys sent by ordinary mail or e-mail.

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	EU for further development of statistics system in BiH
Key topics	Business Statistics, ICT, Tourism, Income and living conditions (SILC) and Balance of Payments
Partner	Statistical System of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Funding	EU – Twinning project
Period	2024–2026

Photo: Colourbox

identify gaps, and develop a clear plan for additional data collection. As tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to grow these data will be increasingly valuable for policymakers.

Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
Originally expected to focus on the use of administrative data sources for labor market statistics, the SILC component has taken a broader approach. SILC is a major European initiative trying to measuring living conditions and the risk of social exclusion. In many countries, it combines administrative data with interviews, and the EU expects SILC to be compiled annually.

Monthly Balance of Payments
The Balance of Payment component remains a collaboration between the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Statistics Finland. Significant progress has been achieved in both the previous and current projects, with ongoing efforts to enhance data collection and processing. The ultimate goal is to establish a fully operational monthly Balance of Payments system.

What's next?
In 2025, the project will organise an outreach event where schools will compete in story telling about the European Union and Bosnian and Herzegovina using official statistics.

According to current plans, the project will conclude in mid-January 2026. It is expected to be the fifth and final Twinning project led by Denmark in Bosnia and Herzegovina ∎

Beyond improving efficiency, this shift offers an alternative benefit: data collection software can be adapted for multiple surveys, increasing efficiency across Bosnia- and Herzegovina's statistical institutions.

Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA)
Tourism statistics traditionally answers questions like: Where do we go on vacation? And how many tourist visit our country and where do they stay? However, Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) go further examining tourism's economic impact such as job creation and contribution to GDP.

Rather than compiling and publishing TSA for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project will assess available data,

"As one of the most digitalised member states, Denmark has often led the way in modernizing public sector processes. Statistics Denmark's shift from traditional to web-based data collection 15 years ago was challenging, but it provided valuable insights to share.

It was a pleasure to reflect on this experience and exchange lessons with our colleagues in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The discussions were lively and engaging, and I am grateful to have been part of this EU Twinning project. I look forward to future collaborations with colleagues in other countries."

Agnes Tassy, Chief Advisor,
Population and Education, Statistics Denmark

JORDAN

OBJECTIVE
The project is the second EU-Twinning project between Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Department of Statistics of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (DoS). The current project is implemented by the DoS as Beneficiary, Statistics Denmark as lead Member State partner, and the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat), Statistics Lithuania – State Data Agency as Junior Partners with additional support from Statistics Finland. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of Jordan's Department of Statistics to compile, analyse and report statistical data in line with International and European best practices and contribute, to delivering the strategic goals of the statistical system in Jordan.

Key achievements in 2024
2024 was a challenging year for the project in Jordan. The ongoing situation in the Middle East impacted the Twinning project, as European experts hesitated to travel to Jordan. Ensuring that traveling experts feel safe and comfortable must always be the highest priority in any cooperation project.

The National Data Centre
At the end of 2024, DoS officially established and began staffing the National Data Centre (NDC) as a new part of its organisational structure. As a key element of Jordan's National Economic Modernisation Vision the NDC is a critical development not only for DoS, but for the country as a whole. In the long term the NDC has the potential to evolve into an independent entity.

During 2025, DoS will launch the first version of the NDC's dissemination platform, providing access to aggregated data to ministries, governmental departments and the general public. Over time, the platform will expand to facilitate micro data access for government institutions and researches. The vision of the NDC and DoS is to showcase not only statistics produced by DoS but also data from all governmental and private entities in Jordan. The ultimate goal is to allow authorised users to securely access and analyse data remotely, enabling informed decision-making from their offices.

Twinning projects partner from Finland and Denmark have closely worked with DoS and the NDC team, sharing relevant European best practices to support the realisation of the NDC's vision.

Metadata
Metadata - information about data - is fundamental to all aspects of statistical production and dissemination. Achieving the vision behind the NDC is impossible without robust metadata management. The long term IT architecture of the NDC is based on the Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) paradigm. As part of the project, training sessions and workshops were conducted to enhance DoS's handling various types of metadata, including the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard.

Dissemination
In a previous Twinning Project (2013- 2014), DoS adopted the Swedish open source platform PxWeb for disseminating aggregated data. A decade later, PxWeb remains a key component of DoS's online dissemination strategy.

To support modernisation, DoS collaborated with experts from Statistics Finland to explore how PxWeb can be used for API's, allowing users to access data in a machine readable format. This work also underscored the need to harmonise concepts, variables, code lists and classifications across statistics - both of which provide valuable inputs to the NDC's IT architecture.

Additionally, DoS is conducting a technical review of its current web-site in collaboration with experts from Italy. The goal is to optimise the content management system,

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Strengthening the capacity of Jordan's Department of Statistics in terms of compilation, analysis and reporting of statistical data in line with International and European best practices.
Key topics	Administrative data for Business Statistics and Population Statistics, Small Area Estimations, Missing and Erroneous data.
Partner	Department of Statistics of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (DoS)
Funding	EU-Twinning project
Period	2022-2025 (34 months in total)

ensuring a safer and better-performing user experience. While the current web site functions well as a communication tool, performance issues have been identified that impact the overall user experience

Address Register

Jordan is preparing for its Population and Housing Census in 2025. As part of the census planning process, the Twinning project and DoS have explored how data from the census and existing administrative sources can be transformed into an address register. This work has been supported by experts from Germany and Lithuania.

Statistical Business Register (STATBUS)

A series of activities have supported DoS in establishing a Jordanian Statistical Business Register (SBR) in STAT-BUS - a web application system developed and maintained by the Nordic Cpuntries (see STATBUS website: www.statbus.org). Throughout the project period, DoS has tested various versions of the STATBUS software, and the 2025 version is expected to be in use before the project concludes.

The concept of a generic statistical business register built on open-source software is highly promising. However, the Twinning project has demonstrated that selecting and harmonising data sources, as well as ensuring that the data entered into the register is fit for use, is a time consuming process requiring significant analysis. Ultimately, the success of an SBR is more dependent on organisational processes than simply implementing new software.

What's next?

In 2025, the project will focus intensely on catching up with postponed activities across all components. A key deliverable will be the "phasing out" strategy, ensuring that lessons learned are sustainable and fully integrated into DoS's daily operations.
DoS is currently engaging with several development partners to determine the most suitable cooperation modalities for advancing Jordan's statistical system in the years ahead ■

Photo: Colourbox

"In January 2025, I had the pleasure of serving as a short-term expert in the EU-Twinning project at the Department of Statistics in Amman, Jordan. My colleague and I were visiting the Agricultural Statistics directorate to present the topics of agricultural prices statistics, the use of administrative data sources and the Farm Register. We were met by competent and friendly staff members and we had lively and interesting talks all through the mission. It was my first time as a short-term expert, but hopefully not my last. If the opportunity arises, I would definitely go on a new mission."

Simone Thus, Head of Section,
Food Industries, Statistics denmark

PAN-AFRICAN STATISTICS PROJECT (PASII)

OBJECTIVE
To support African integration through strengthening the African Statistical System and ensure the use of quality statistical data in the decision-making process and policy monitoring, in order to facilitate monitoring of societal progress in Africa, with a special focus on the social domain.

Key Achievements in 2024

Leveraging Administrative Data in South Africa
In February 2024, Statistics Denmark led a series of discussions in Pretoria on enhancing the production of official statistics through administrative data. The mission, involving experts from Statistics Denmark, Statistics South Africa, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), highlighted South Africa's potential to build an integrated statistical system using administrative microdata. This potential is strengthened by Statistics South Africa's central role in coordinating national statistics and the increased use of national IDs in administrative systems.

A key outcome of the mission was the recommendation to launch a small-scale pilot project, involving two or three key stakeholders. This initiative will integrate administrative data systems using a unique ID, demonstrating the value of linking microdata within South Africa's National Statistical System. The project has the potential to enhance decision-making and collaboration across institutions. Statistics South Africa is now in the process of identifying stakeholders for the pilot, which will serve as a stepping stone toward broader data integration and sharing.

Revolutionising Statistical Dissemination in Rwanda
In May 2024, two experts from Statistics Denmark supported the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) in implementing a new statistical dissemination database using the PxWeb software programme. This programme will revolutionise how statistical data is accessed, allowing users to explore data cubes, export results, and automate data analysis while ensuring greater transparency and accessibility.

The experts provided training on creating, updating, and managing data, ensuring that NISR can operate the software independently. The underlying database is expected to transform Rwanda's statistical landscape making official statistics more accessible to the public and policymakers and facilitating data-driven decision-making and policy development.

Enhancing Statistical Communication in Rwanda and Nigeria
In November 2024, delegations from Rwanda's National Institute of Statistics (NISR) and Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) visited Statistics Denmark to strengthen their capabilities in statistical communication and dissemination. The visit focused on understanding best practices for sharing official statistics, including website design and strategic publication, planning, and engaging with the press and social media.

Participants also explored approaches to reaching younger audiences through educational initiatives and digital platforms. These insights will help NISR and NBS refine their communication strategies, ensuring that official statistics are more accessible and engaging for the public, policymakers, and researchers alike.

Strengthening Business Registers in Senegal and Beyond
In May 2024, Statistics Norway hosted a study visit on Statistical Business Registers (SBR), which was attended by representatives from Senegal's National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD), as well as Mauritius and Namibia. Experts from Statistics Denmark, Finland, and Norway shared insights on integrating administrative data and improving the quality of business

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Pan-African Statistics Programme II: Developing social statistics, economic and business statistics in African national statistical offices.
Key topics	Statistics within health, education, labour, national accounts, and Statistical Business Register (SBR).
Partner	Senegal, Tunisia, Rwanda and South Africa. More countries will be identified during the project.
Funding	Eurostat
Period	44 months starting from 28 February 2022

registers. Discussions covered key challenges, including the informal sector and the use of web scraping to identify businesses.

A follow-up study visit in Mauritius in November 2024 allowed ANSD and other national statistical offices to exchange their progress. The visit featured practical examples from Uruguay and Colombia on the use of web scraping to improve business identification. This collaboration has strengthened technical skills and fostered a shared commitment to building more reliable business registers.

Enhancing Senegal's SBR is crucial for economic planning and transparency. The ongoing support from Statistics Denmark will help ensure that Senegal's business register becomes more accurate and effective, supporting data-driven policymaking and economic development.

What's next?
In 2025, a key focus will be on leveraging administrative data in labour force statistics in Lesotho. A dedicated mission will engage with relevant stakeholders and facilitate workshops for the Bureau of Statistics in Lestoho. Additionally, follow-up missions may take place in Rwanda and South Africa to further strengthen the Statsbank and the use of administrative data, respectively. The project will conclude with a final online event to share outcomes and lessons learned ■

Photo: Colourbox

"My first mission for Statistics Denmark took me to Rwanda, where my colleague and I helped build the country's PxWeb statbank. It was inspiring to witness their dedication and ability to work with limited resources – because statistics is not just about technology, but about making knowledge accessible to society."

Jacob Solander, Senior Advisor,
StatBank and Information Services, Statistics Denmark

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE
To improve statistical actions regarding administrative data sources management and governance, and further develop statistics in the Turkish Cypriot Community.

Key achievements 2024

Data Sharing
At the project's inception, data sharing was primarily seen as a matter of establishing the appropriate protocol s and technical specifications between the involved parties. However, as the project progressed, the focus shifted towards supporting the Statistical Institute in it's discussions with ministries and authorities to secure the necessary "buy in" at all levels for data sharing.

Although most NSI' have the legal mandate to request and process microdata, the actual process of gaining access remains time consuming and requires significant diplomatic efforts.

Business Register
During the project, work on the statistical business register was successfully completed. However, further efforts will continue under the TAIEX modality, with Statistics Finland providing the expertise. The Business Register is built around STATBUS, an open source solution developed by Statistics Norway (see statbus.org).

The reliability of business statistics depends on companies being correctly registered and classified. Therefore, we have worked extensively with the Statistical Institute to establish a shared understanding of relevant classifications and their correct application.

Working Side by Side
A key component of the project was hands-on-training, where staff from Denmark worked side by side with the SI staff. This approach was particularly effective in building skills in the use of SAS.

What's next?
The project concluded as planned during July 2024, when the allocated budget was fully utilised. From the Turkish Cypriot Community perspective, there is a strong interest in identifying new modalities to continue collaborating with EU member states. The Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission is an obvious and easily accessible instrument.

The Statistical Institute is expected to expand its staff in the coming years. This expansion is essential for building a robust organisation. In the final report, we recommend that the Statistical Institute establish a dedicated unit for data collection, while also developing specialised units for metadata, quality and IT as the organisation grows ■

PROJECT FACTS

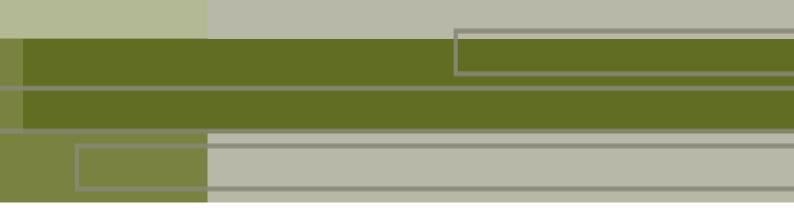|	
Project name	Technical Assistance on Statistics for the Turkish Cypriot Community
Key topics	Business statistics, administrative data sources management and governance, communication strategy and branding, building partnerships
Partner	The Statistical Institute of the Turkish Cypriot Community
Funding	The European Union, represented by the European Commission
Period	November 2022 - July 2024

Photo: Colourbox

"As technical experts, we supported the Statistical Institute of the Turkish Cypriot Community by training staff in SAS programming. Our work ranged from teaching basic skills to providing technical assistance in addressing specific challenges within the statistical production system. This required assessing staff competencies and adapting to their needs.

Working with a relatively new statistical institution adapting to international standards was both an interesting challenge and a valuable experience. Teaching SAS required adaptability – understanding the organisation's challenges, finding solutions, and delivering training at both technical and fundamental levels. Collaborating as a team with diverse backgrounds in education, experience, and work areas made the process very rewarding."

Nils Galberg Enoksen, Senior Adviser, Survey
Lonnie Graversgaard Jensen, Head of Section, Consulting,
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