

NEWSLETTER

NL #3, Mar. 2018

CSA Ethiopia

World Bank Financed Project
Statistics for Results (SFR)



Hawassa CSA Branch Office, inaugural Ceremony



Bahir Dar CSA branch office inaugural ceremony



Mekele CSA Branch office, Inaugural ceremony

The Additional Financing from World Bank for CSA, through SFR Project, has approved.

Best Lessons are learned through the course of SFR project implementation activities.

The four Branch office buildings has become functional.

Thank you for reading; for more information please visit our website:

www.csa.gov.et

Contact:

Jemal Hassen/Project Manager-SFR project

+251 912042025

email: jemal2208@yahoo.com

Abebe Teshager/Newsletter Editor

+251 911 23 26 05

email: abeteshager@gmail.com

The Additional Financing for CSA through SFR Project, has approved

The approved Additional financing will support the scaling up of successful activities supported under the original SFR project and support new activities that will enhance the achievement of the Project Development objectives (PDO). The SFR (PDO) is to enhance the capacity of the Central Statistical agency (CSA) at the organizational, human, and physical levels in order to produce and disseminate reliable, accessible, and timely statistics.



Ato Jemal Hassen, SFR project Coordinator

With this respect in line with NSDS II priorities, and to meet the project implementation needs, the AF will help scale-up current project activities, specially related to data production, dissemination, and institutional infrastructure. The AF will also help strengthen CSA capacity in information and technology (IT) systems and tools for data dissemination. The AF will finance the construction of Adama & Dessie CSA branch offices construction works including furnishing with office furniture and IT equipment.

The AF will also finance activities including gardening, fencing, and terrazzo works to finish the construction works of the conference hall and training center at the CSA head quarter. The AF will also finance retention payment for all the construction works by CSA financed under the parent/original project.

In general, with a total commitment of 5.5 million USD, budgets are allocated for various activities such as:

- Organizational strengthening through training and equipment purchase, 10.90%
- Development of physical infrastructure through two branch office building construction, 25.45%
- Development of ICT infrastructure through ICT systems & tools for data production & management, 14.54%
- Development of Business Statistics by completing the production phase of Statistical Business register (SBR), 10.90%
- Strengthening agricultural statistics through preparing agricultural sampling frame production and analysis of basic agriculture statistics & training of statisticians, 5.45%
- Providing support for social/price/and poverty statistics through supporting HCE pre-survey preparatory activities, supporting CPI rebasing, providing technical assistance and providing on job-training for statisticians, 5.45%
- Providing support for national account statistics through providing technical assistance to prepare the Supply & Use Table, to conduct the rebasing exercise, equipment purchase and staff training, 7.27%
- Strengthening Vital statistics through supporting vital events instrument design and vital statistics management, 1.81%
- Strengthening statistical methodology, standards and data quality assurance by supporting EDQAF through preparing educational and outreach materials, through staff training of CSA and NSS members staffs, through organizing study visits and providing technical assistance, 1.27%
- Strengthening information dissemination through carrying out user satisfaction study, upgrading CSA library, providing training on EDQAF, developing CSA brand and dynamic website, 7.81%
- Carrying out project management activities, 7.27%

In order to accomplish these major activities during the life span of the project, the project Implementation Unit begun actions ahead of time.

Best Lessons are learned through the course of SFR project implementation activities

Statistics for Result Project (SFR) has been implementing through World Bank support since late 2014. The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) and members of National Statistical System (NSS) at the organizational, human, and physical levels in order to produce and disseminate reliable, accessible, and timely statistics.

Since its commencement, SFR project has accomplished various activities to strengthen the capacity of CSA head office, branch offices and NSS members. These activities are mainly in the area of skills development, infrastructure and procurement of goods and services captioned under four components of the project: i) Organizational and Infrastructure Capacity Development in the NSS; ii) Statistical Data Development & Management; category, iii) Statistical methodology, Standards and Data Quality Assurance & Information Dissemination and iv) M&E and Project Management.

Over the implementation period, the project has experienced various successes and challenges in designing, executing, managing and controlling the implementation process. SFR project has successfully implemented most of the capacity building activities as planned. High level commitment and support, strong project team, and strong collaboration and partnership have been found as major contributors to the positive results achieved. Regarding the challenges, some of them are found to be external to the project (eg. shortage of foreign currency), while others are deemed to be within the scope of the project and hence need to be improved. Given the successes and challenges that the project experienced, the following can be forwarded as recommendations.

- *Strong project team, high level commitment and strong partnership with key stakeholders are indispensable for successful project implementation and hence need to be strengthened*
- *Training using worded net video conference need to be strengthened as it is found to be functional and cost effective. The training need to be intensified using the video centers established at CSA and branch offices.*
- *Comprehensive design with exhaustive details is needed to avoid variation and additional works for the future genera-*

tion of construction projects.

- *Payment for construction supervision consultancy service on a monthly basis may not be cost effective and hence other payment modalities need to be devised.*
- *CSA carried out an Info-graphics Competition as part of a dissemination improvement activity. The competition engaged data users in visualizing statistical information produced by the CSA, using the Urban Employment – Unemployment Survey (UEUS) from 2016. Invited participant students from Ethiopian higher learning educational institutions (public and private). Competition was announced on national television media to engage a wider pool of students who could understand and produce good results. Winners (first, second and third) of the competition exhibited their works during the Statistics Bazaar held in Bahir Dar in August 2017. The bazaar aimed to promote statistics to the public; raise awareness about CSA's vision, mission, and goals; highlight CSA's major achievements during the past three years; and advocate for the upcoming Population Census.*



Info-graphics Competition 2017, winner University students

Given the fact that CSA produces several statistical survey publications, reports, and census activities throughout the year, from the competition it is learnt that scaling up the application of infographics is vital to improve services for data users by allowing them to access well-presented information quickly and clearly. Therefore, CSA should include infographics competitions and other data visualization activities as part of its regular statistical release programming. CSA staff and members of the National Statistical System and universities should be trained and made aware of various data representation methods so that they include it in their data production and analytical work.

The four Branch office buildings has become functional and employees and Branch managers on duty has expressed their impression about the current working environment.



Amare Dagneu, CSA- Bahirdar Branch Manager

What was the working atmosphere before the new building became functional in CSA- Bahir Dar branch office?

Our branch office was first established in Debre Makose, but when later the workload increased, we moved to Bahir Dar, which is the capital of Amhara region. Since then, we've had to rent flats for the office, which was difficult for two reasons. Firstly, landlords can kick you out at any time they like; and secondly, due to budget constraints we could only rent small flats. This greatly inconvenienced workers. Most of the time, almost half of our employees did their job outside the office.

How do you compare the past and the present office setting?

Our present building was constructed by the SFR project from the Fund granted by World Bank and is now owned by CSA. Being only an owner of the building by itself gives liberty. We have sufficient rooms for all employees, with all the facilities such as computers, printers, copiers, and furniture. Employees no longer complain about the absence of office rooms and facilities; we're no longer worried about whether we will be kicked out of the building. We have the right to install all the necessary facilities such as the internet, and other networks for statistical work. This could not happen in the past as we

were never sure when the owners would kick us out.

Also, in terms of enhancing CSA's reputation, the building makes us feel very dignified. When customers come to our office, the quality of your work could be judged by the quality of your office. This new building improves CSA's reputation.

The improved working environment also motivates employees to perform their duties well. In the past, many of them were obliged to sit outside on the stone under a tree to do their job. In such working environment, you may have no a moral ground even to force them to stay in "the office".

Which rooms in the new office building support statistical work?

Let me begin with the training rooms; for over a year we have been providing various trainings about statistical surveys and related areas for collecting quality data. For this, accessions trainings used to be given by borrowing training rooms from other regional offices or by renting conference rooms in hotels. The inconveniences in this regard were countless. But now we have enough training rooms, and we even rent out the rooms to other regional offices for workshops and trainings, which also

promotes CSA, isn't it wonderful? We have a library, which we did not have before, IT rooms, server room, enough parking spaces, an elevator (which above all, assists disables), a green area, canteen, video conference room, and many more.

Doe the location of the office convenient for employees and users?

It is in the center of the city, and users can easily locate our office. The office is next to one of the main roads in Bahir Dar, close to downtown, between other main government buildings, and is convenient for transport.

What gaps have you observed?

I think the project has achieved, more than we expected, its set objectives, and we all are satisfied. For this we thank the World Bank. We are also looking forward to other CSA branch offices to come to the stage that we've reached. Otherwise, we are happy, if the SFR project could consider maintenance in the future.

Impression of employees about the new office building and working environment



Chalachew Admas, Finance expert Bahir Dar CSA Branch office

The old office had a number of problems, in terms of space and facilities. It was difficult to handle users (customers) who came for various needs. As the residential buildings were not designed to be offices, which made it difficult to arrange the office. Since our budget was small, the branch office could only afford small private residences, which could not accommodate all staff members.

At times safety was one of the major problems in our old office rooms. The walls of buildings were cracked and I personally was scared every day if it could fall on top of us while we were working. Leakages in the rainy season were another problem, which exposed our files to damage. This is now becoming history for the Bahir Dar Branch office. It is like a dream for me now to be in such huge office building of the CSA; it inspires me to work better.



Tsigereda Tsega Abera, Procurements and Finance Coordinator, Bahir Dar Branch office

My first day in this new office was special; I felt like I own a residence for myself. A simple issue like finding a proper restroom for women was the most difficult problem in our old office. We had only one toilet for all staff members, which was very difficult to use and manage. But now go and take a look, on every floor you can find four rest rooms with all the facilities.



Asresahign Negash, Senior Statistician, working since 1980 at the CSA Bahir Dar branch office, here is his impression

I am lucky that after long years of service I've gotten to see such a working environment. I feel sad about my friends who passed away before seeing this new building and facilities. Thank you CSA, SFR, and the World Bank. CSA produces data vital for the development of this country, and now our work is supported by technology and a good working environment.



Amare Gebre Wahid, Mekele CSA Branch Manager

His Comparison of the previous and the current working environment

The new and the old offices.....? They are incomparable! No ventilation, not enough light, no meeting rooms, doesn't accommodate all staff members, some forced to sit in the back yard on the stone to do their job, this created conflicts among the employees. We're embarrassed when costumers appear in our office for various reasons. We didn't even have chairs to welcome them. A customer once fell down when trying to sit on a broken chair. How can you compare the old office to the new? We now have enough rooms, and even extra if we need more data collectors on special occasions, like for census activities. Each of them has a computer on their desk, which was a dream for many of them for many years. Conference and training rooms are now available. Each employee has comfortable managerial chairs, they even spend extra hours in the office. Now we don't have to make appointments outside of the office, we are rather eager to invite people/users to visit our office.

His appreciation

Thank you, World Bank, and especially Mr. Waleed, who deserves a big appreciation. In the beginning on 2013/14, we had to convince the municipal office of Mekele to get the land to build on and it wasn't easy. Later, Mr. Waleed was the one who influenced the regional government and help us to lease the land easily for the construction.

Thank you, CSA HQ, for giving priority to the Mekele Branch office among the 25 branch offices.

Thank you SFR project and its employees, who traveled frequently to the region to maintain its quality and follow up. When they couldn't visit, they made frequent calls, and we sent photographs of the construction progress through Viber.

Impression of employees about the new office building and working environment



Messeret Ayinalem, has worked at CSA Mekele Branch office for 11 years of service and one expressed her previous and current impression

I work in the Record and Archives office. It used to be awful to sit between the stacks of documents. Bad smells used to come out of it, which affected our health, and you couldn't locate any of the documents when they were needed, as we didn't have sufficient space to put documents we collect one over the other. Now each material is filed based on their years in Dixon shelves, which we have reserved even for future documents. We have all the facilities we need, chairs, tables, computers etc. We have also taken computer skill trainings through the SFR project, using the computers given to us.



Dereje Alemu, Junior statistician

We used to have only one computer desktop for all statisticians. I personally used to work on official government business on my own private laptop. But now the office provides each of us with desktops, and that helps us to accomplish our jobs on time.



Aregash Addisu, Finance officer, has worked for 16 years' in CSA Mekele Branch Office also shared us her impression

Now if we need to sit longer in the office we have a reason, comfortable seats, computers and facilities and clean rooms, this really is inspiring to do our job better. And we are now in a better location, on top of a hill where we can access great weather with a nice view.



Birhanu Hailu, CSA Hawassa Branch Manager

His impression

Well, we're relieved to be in the new office building with the necessary facilities. It's impossible to compare the past branch office working atmosphere with the current one. We are now in an office that all employees deserve. We are not going out to find training halls, because we have our own. Short term trainings have begun to be provided in our training rooms. Recently, Hawassa University lecturers came for a visit, and they felt proud and felt a sense of belongingness, since they are from the Statistics Department. We are located where many of government offices are located, but a bit away from where many employees reside. This may demand transport services for the staff.

The two offices, the old and new, cannot be compared at all. Many employees now feel as though they are professionals, which they did not feel before. People now ask what building is this when they pass us on the main road, and we are proud about that. It is a good promotion for the CSA in general. Everyone has personal drawers now to put their files in a locker. Meanwhile, our old furniture has been

replaced with new furniture, and the old chairs and tables may be 'donated' to other branch offices depending on the decision from the HQ.



Ayele Worku, Senior Supervisor, Hawassa CSA branch office
I have been working for about 30 years for CSA. I started as an enumerator and have worked at the branch management level, and it is great for me to see what's happened at this age, before I retire.



Dagegnaw Tesfaye, Internal Auditor
I recently transferred from the Gambela branch office and had a complete surprise when I arrived at this office. I am an internal auditor in the Gambela branch office and my office was in a corri-

dor. Imagine I am an auditor, and need my work and documents to be safe, but had no office. I feel like I am a very lucky man who arrived to Hawassa at the right time.



Getachew G/Hanna, Procurement and finance

In a place like Hawassa, where the weather is hot during the summer, it is difficult to work in a crowd, especially doing financial work, which keeps you under pressure. Previously, five or more people used to be shut in a small room to work. We had no proper place to put our documents. Thankfully this problem is resolved and we are relieved.

Conference Hall, CSA HQ



The building shown here is under construction, and is located at CSA headquarters. It is a conference hall which will accommodate over 400 people, and will have a modern restaurant, basement, parking lot, and storage space for tools. Currently, the basement, sub-basement, and ground floor are completed. The conference hall is expected to be functional by the end of June 2018, and a total budget of 612,109.22 ETB has been allocated for its completion.

Training Center, CSA HQ

There was once an old office at the CSA HQ, is now being renovated by the SFR project to become a training center.



This training center has one main training hall that can accommodate 150 trainees, as well as five other syndicate rooms; training coordinator and information rooms, data and documentation facility rooms and ample restrooms. Final finishing work such as the installation of doors, windows, and electricity are in progress, and the building is expected to be functional in three months. The training center is being re-innovated with a total amount of ETB 5,678,774.75.



Generator,

A high capacity 500KVA stand by generator set is currently providing service to CSA headquarters since last month. The SFR project purchased this automatic diesel generator to give a one-stop solution in terms use of electricity. As it has been known, the electrical problem is common in Addis Ababa. Due to this, CSA's server rooms and digital work have been suffering, but the installation of the generator

is alleviating this problem.



What does the main directorates of the CSA benefited from the SFR Project Implementation Unit? Five Directors shared us their assessments:



Alemayehu Teferi, Director, Household Surveys Price Statistics Directorate

The SFR project is a milestone in CSA's history because CSA's capacity has been boosted in an unprecedented manner in the area of manpower capacity building and infrastructure development. The construction of four modern statistical branch offices and the planned construction of more branch offices makes the project's impact on CSA's future development long-lasting.

The Household Surveys and Price Statistics Directorate has gotten the opportunity to send experts abroad for short term statistical training and experience sharing through the support of the SFR project. The project has also supported the directorate to train field staff on the Consumer Price Survey.

Head office staff has also been provided with on the job training in various statistical software, which helps them to effectively discharge their daily duties. Office furniture and up-to-date materials has been provided by the SFR project to make the work environment more suitable for the staff.



Kifle Gebre, Director, IST Directorate

CSA is preparing to undertake the fourth round, fully digital Population and Housing Census. The digital census needs intensive IT infrastructure. Most of its preparation activities are directly or indirectly supported by the SFR project unit. Just to mention some, the following activities are supported by the SFR project.

- The project unit procured more than 260 tablets for conducting the pilot census.
- In order to improve the working environment of CSA staff, the SFR project unit procured 300 desktop computers and 100 laptop computers.
- Power issue was one of the bottle necks for the delivery of services for data users through our website. This problem was resolved by the implementation of a Centralized UPS system for one of the headquarters' newly built buildings. In addition to this, the project unit also rented an automatic generator.
- The implementation of the Video Conference System—two in headquarters and four in the newly built branch offices in Mekele, Bahir Dar, Ambo and Hawassa.
- As recalled, CSA has no licensed software in the data center. The SFR project unit procured various Microsoft products with appropriate capacity building training. This is presently under implementation.
- To strengthen the IT Directorate, the SFR project unit hired two consultants to fulfill the identified gaps.

Generally speaking, the support of the SFR project unit was very much important as compared to any project that I have seen during my stay at CSA.



Esayas Muleta, Director, Quality and Standard Assurance Directorate

The Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) is a sole legal organization in producing, compiling, and disseminating official statistics in the country. In addition, the CSA is responsible to guide and coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) of the nation. Thus, the agency should have to be armed with different components of best experiences, equipment, trained staffs and legislations for the successful attainments of its missions here above mentioned. Therefore, the Statistics for Results (SFR) project is closely working with CSA to push forward the agency to attain organizational missions.

SFR project is a key venture in supporting the CSA in its expedition of the progress of the entire development of statistics. One of the tremendous contributions of the project is creating training opportunities for CSA staff in general and the National Statistics Data Quality and Standards Directorate (NSDQSD) in particular. This includes organizing, sponsoring and coordinating the capacity building of local and abroad trainings on various statistical and related concerns. Moreover, this project is contributing to the financing of second degree schol-

arships for thirty experts per year within the organization. The project has also funded and conducted successive users satisfaction surveys.

The SFR project has also extended its support in another major activity, statistical advocacy, which is one of the thematic areas in the National Strategy of the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Video conferences have been successfully done upon the provision of funding and coordination of this project. Thus, it was possible to address various issues of statistics for participants from different corners of the country to discuss on statistical aspects simultaneously. With regard to advocacy of statistics in the country, the project has financed the festivities of the African Statistics Day in Addis Ababa.

Another wonderful movement the SFR project is contributing to the statistical community in the CSA and the country at large is funding on infrastructure. The project is working on establishing a statistical training center in the CSA. This statistical training center is currently under construction. The project has also planned to furnish this training center to make it a conducive environment for various and continuous statistical trainings. In relation to this, the project has also supported in financing the process of producing the training curriculum and syllabus of different course titles. This training center thus will have a remarkable role in bringing differences in the struggle of the development of statistics in Ethiopia. Moreover, the project extended its support in funding the construction along with furnishing the four statistical branch offices.

In conclusion, had it not been for the assistance of the SFR project, the CSA could not have taken these long progressive steps towards the development of statistics in Ethiopia. Thus, I would like to see the project extend its duration so that it can expand its invaluable assistance to further advance statistics in Ethiopia.



Sahelu Tilahun, Director, Population Statistics Directorate

The SFR project is a valuable addition to CSA's organizational system. It has contributed a lot in enhancing CSA's capacity in many facets, such as through the building of new premises for branch offices; rendering training support for technical and professional staff, and purchasing equipment for office use. The total effect of such support has made CSA annual plans to be implemented successfully. It is therefore a project that has fulfilled the goals it has setup been for and this good culture has to be kept up for the future.



Sisay Guta, Cartography & GIS Directorate Director

The 2018 Population and Housing Census mapping of Ethiopia (large undertaking with vast amount of data collection, verification, and evaluation) have been carried out by the core team of Cartography & GIS Directorate and a large team within CSA led by Director of Cartography & GIS Directorate. Cartography and GIS Directorate found in Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) administers, conducts, supervises, produces EA maps and its corresponding spatial information all over Ethiopia without gaps/overlaps and strongly believe in that this spatial information (database) not only allow a wider community of policy-makers, academics, and development partners to assess and evaluate challenges to and opportunities for policy formulation and development investments in the future but also provide a better understanding of the spatial dimensions of demographics, poverty, and opportunities for economic growth in Ethiopia. Given the extent, complexity, and cost of a population and housing census mapping, it is important to recognize the concerted efforts of different government, non-government organizations and development partners since the success & production of this EA maps made possible through their technical, financial and core in-kind support. The Cartography & GIS Directorate, would, therefore, like to thank all who have contributed to the successful completion of the 2018 EPHC mapping, including the Government of Ethiopia for its financial and administrative support.

Finally, the Cartography and GIS Directorate would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to SFR project (Statistics For Result) for their generous financial, logistics support, technical assistance (sponsoring study tour & useful Trainings abroad) and have made their level best for the success of 2018 EPHC mapping by mobilizing their experts to have better understanding of our specific needs thereby addressing our critical/main issue.





Mekele CSA branch office



Mekele CSA Branch office



Bahir Dar CSA Branch Office



Hawassa CSA Branch Office



CSA and World Bank officials, Bahir Dar CSA branch office Inaugural ceremony



Hawassa CSA Branch Office, inaugural Ceremony, Ato Tewedros Gebiba, Mayor of Hawassa(front right) and Ato Biratu Yigezu, Director General CSA (front left)



Bahir Dar CSA branch office inaugural ceremony, Ato Gedu Andargachew, President Amhara Regional State visiting the Statistics Exhibition