



**Ministry of Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic
Development**

National Bureau of Statistics

Progress Report

By

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OCTOBER 19, 2020

Consultancy
Somalia

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AfDB	African Development Bank
SBNS	Somali National Bureau of Statistics
DNS	Directorate of National Statistics
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
ToR	Terms of Reference
NA	Need Assessment
ICT	Information Communication Technology
CAPI	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ONT	On Job Training
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
DG	Director General
NADA	National Archive Data Administration
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rates
GIS	Geographic Information System
SHDS	Somali Health Demographic Survey
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
WB	World Bank
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund

1. Executive Summary

Somali National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) aims to produce comprehensive set of integrated statistics and provide high quality of information for evidence based decision making. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the national statistical system and enhance capacity for sustainable development. The SNBS is committed to improve data collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination for accurate and reliable statistical information through capacity development and training.

In order to meet the current and emerging demand for data in the country, the National Statistical System needs to be strengthened to make it more robust, more transparent and much better coordinated by a well structured, highly professional, strategy focused and IT-driven national statistical agency. A number of weaknesses, opportunities and threats have already been highlighted.

The need for strengthening the structure of SNBS, its Human Resource, Coordination among Producers and Users of statistics, etc are vital. The establishment of statistical units in the ministries is necessary. This would enable SNBS to concentrate on censuses and surveys, developing sampling frames and regularly updating them. At regional level, there is an indication that cooperation in statistical work exists and this could be used as the building block towards strengthening the National Statistical System.

The mission of the SNBS will be to serve the Federal Government, citizens and enterprises on equal basis, and free from any political influences with reliable and accurate economic, social and population information based on scientifically feasible and acceptable approaches. The National Statistical office shall provide the official statistical activities with unified management and coordination. **To ensure performance of the institution, the Bureau should focus on the nine key strategic areas of;**

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|--|--|
| 1. Institutional Development and Legal Reforms | 5. Data Development and Dissemination |
| 2. Human Resource Development | 6. Physical Infrastructure and Equipment Development |
| 3. Development of Statistical Infrastructure | 7. Coordination and Management |
| 4. Integration of National Statistical System | 8. State Offices |
| | 9. Re-open of National Institute of Statistics |
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This was to ascertain the current status of institutional, technical, and resource capacities to produce the requisite socio-economic statistics.

The Consultancy is addressed specifically to main target groups at the different sections of the newly established Somali National Bureau of Statistics. The main goal of this consultancy is to evaluate and analyse the current status of the SNBS, to review the proposed work plan and compare it with the current needs assessment, to list the technical support and training

needs of staff and to develop an updated practical work plan based on the projects terms of references in consultation with the DG and Deputy DG of SNBS. The consultancy covered the following:

- Skills of the Staff;
- Availability of data (Sources, Quality and Access);
- Linkages and Coordination Arrangements;
- Legal and Institutional Framework;
- Organizational and Institutional Aspects.

The assessment was carried out through the result of meetings, discussions, a document review and interviews with a selection of all the sections of the Departments of Statistics. The findings of the Statistical Needs Assessment show that there are variations in the status of capacity building needed across the Departments. Focusing on the Statistics Department sectors, the status of the National Statistics departments in these assessment can be grouped into three objectives as follows:

- a. To formulate the policy, institutional, legal and strategic frameworks to support statistical development for the National Bureau of Statistics.
- b. To enhance the technical capacity of staff, through trainings.
- c. To building functional Information Communication (ICT) for the Statistics Departments in SNBS.

An informative meeting took place at the newly established SNBS with the Director General, Mr. Sharmarke Farah, and Deputy Director of SNBS, Mr. Abdirahman Dahir, and the Head of departments, who provided the consultancy with comprehensive valuable information on organizations structure needed for National Bureau of Statistics. The information from the assessments would feed into the design of appropriate technical assistance and training interventions.

The information in this consultancy represents the current status, gaps, institutional and administrative needs, challenges and plans to achieve the results. The activities mentioned in the original proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) remain the same with some changes. The training plan was developed finalising the review of the proposed activities and based on the result needs assessment.

2. Background

Within the development of the statistics framework of LOA PIP - Strategic Planning in Somalia Project of the UNDP, the objective of the consultancy is to provide expert advice to the SNBS in developing a comprehensive National Strategy for the recently formed National Bureau of Statistics and closely work with the legal consultant on the formulation of institutional principles, organizational structures and the preparation legal frameworks and necessary regulations with the aim of transitioning the DNS into the SNBS, following the approval of the Statistics Bill early this year.

The Consultancy looked at the current situation of the National bureau of Statistics, the technical support and training needs of staff, and to collect information in order to develop an updated practical work plan in consultation with the Director General of SNBS.

There is a need to enhance the technical capacity of staff through trainings, especially on-the-job training to facilitate skills transfer and provide on-the-job training for the staff. In addition to the above received training, the consultancy ensured the provision of all necessary effective training and technical support needed by using practical on-the-job and one-on-one support when needed.

The consultancy advised SNBS to form a training working groups to take the lead on implementing tasks such as developing ToRs for all staff and job descriptions and monthly publications. It is one of the most practical approaches to transfer knowledge and experiences. The different components of the consultancy from the TOR was delivered in a participatory manner that will allow for optimal transfer of knowledge and impart new skills.

The present status of the statistical information sector and its overall performance, personnel and material capacities are inadequate to cope with the information requirements. In order to upgrade the SNBS, so that it can provide the required statistics in a timely and accurate manner, the current leadership will deliver different types of progress implementation components within the ongoing projects from different donors and development partners. These will include, among others, theoretical and practical approaches as well as case-studies.

The Implementation Plan for this consultancy will set out, for each action point under the nine high-level goals, the responsible owner within SNBS, the timetable for the action, and information on progress to date. This reporting template will be monitored each month by the SNBS Senior Management Committee, to ensure that progress is in line with the consultancy; and will also form the basis of the annual report on the strategy.

3. Process of the Consultancy

The consultancy was carried out through the result of meetings, discussions, document reviews and interviews with a selection of staff of all the sections of the Directorate of National Statistics (DNS) of Statistics. The findings of the statistical needs assessment show that there are variations in the status of capacity building needed across the sectors.

3.1 Objective of the project Consultancy

The objective of the consultancy is to provide expert advice to the SNBS in developing a comprehensive National Strategy for the recently formed National Bureau of Statistics and closely work with the legal consultant on the formulation of institutional principles, organizational structures and the preparation legal frameworks and necessary regulations with the aim of transitioning the DNS into the SNBS, following the approval of the Statistics Bill early this year.

4. Main Findings at Directorate of National Statistics Departments Capacity level

The DNS had a technical staff of 73 consisting of 38 Civil servants, 12 Project Staff and 23 Temporary Staff. The professionalization level works out to around 45%, which is considered to be low.

4.1 Economic Statistics Department

The previous Directorate of National Statistics had a department Head and has 29 staff, which is the highest number of staff compared to other departments. The staff in this department were trained in the following areas:

- CPI trainings - held within and outside of the country, e.g, Kigali, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya and Djibouti with support from Statistics Sweden and IMF.
- National Account (GDP) training held in different areas.
- Quality Control on CAPI tool.
- Guidelines on data collection through Webinar video.

4.2 Social and Survey Statistics Department

The Department had a total of 15 staff and has received various trainings in the past 4 years:

- Gender statistics training supported by Statistics Sweden.
- Population Estimation Survey (PESS) SDHS supported by UNFPA and LFS supported by ILO.
- Data analysis software training-SPSS, STATA, R, Excel and CSPro.

4.3 Production Statistics

There are a total of 9 staff in the department. The staff have reportedly undergone trainings in the following areas:

- Data analysis software training-SPSS, STATA, R, Excel and CSPro.

- SDHS training by UNFPA.
- CPI training
- GDP training

4.4 ICT and GIS Section

The department has 8 staff, with half of the IT staff are working with the GIS unit. The staff has knowledge on the following areas:

- SDHS data collection supported by UNFPA.
- TOT for Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR).
- Sampling frame-3 days.
- GIS training by UNFPA at the RCMRD in Nairobi.
- Publication dissemination policy-WB supported in the drafting of the policy.

4.5 Coordination Unit

The Department had a total of 3 staff. The Coordination Unit was established to fulfil the directorate's mandate, that is to coordinate all statistical activities within and outside the country and to lay down norms & standards in the field of official statistics, evolving concepts, definitions, classification and methodologies of data collection, processing and release of results. The unit looks after co-ordination work within DNS as well as with the line Ministries and Federal Member States in statistical matters, organizes Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations.

4.6 SDG Unit

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Unit has 3 staff and is working to integrate the SDGs indicators into the appropriate development plans including, both at national and federal member state levels as well as implementation; monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

5. Training Needs for SNBS

5.1 Economics Statistics Section Training needs

- Analysis and Data collection in CPI.
- Develop Manuals of GDP and CPI.
- Analytical report writing.

5.2 ICT Section Training Needs

- Assist in the design of a proper WLAN-Network for the department, assist in the procurement, installation, operation and maintenance of the network.
- Provide training and develop appropriate skills (software and server) at the Statistics Department.
- Web design and development applications.
- Network training.
- Basic and advanced GIS training.

5.3 Demographer Training Needs

- Provide technical training on methodologies on technical issues related to population estimation data.
- Provide training on population census.
- Assessment and strategy of civil registration and vital statistics.

5.4 Social Statistics

- Localising SDGs indicators and aligning SDGs with National Development plan indicators.
- Provide all the major Statistical indicators for social-economic statistics.

5.5 Other Needs

- Microsoft Windows server installation.
- Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) applications and advance SPSS database.
- Develop NADA (National Archive Data Administration) database.
- Data server and ICT Infrastructure.
- Long term statistician expert (on-the-job training GDP compilation).
- Review of DNS structure and align with the new National Bureau of Statistics structure.

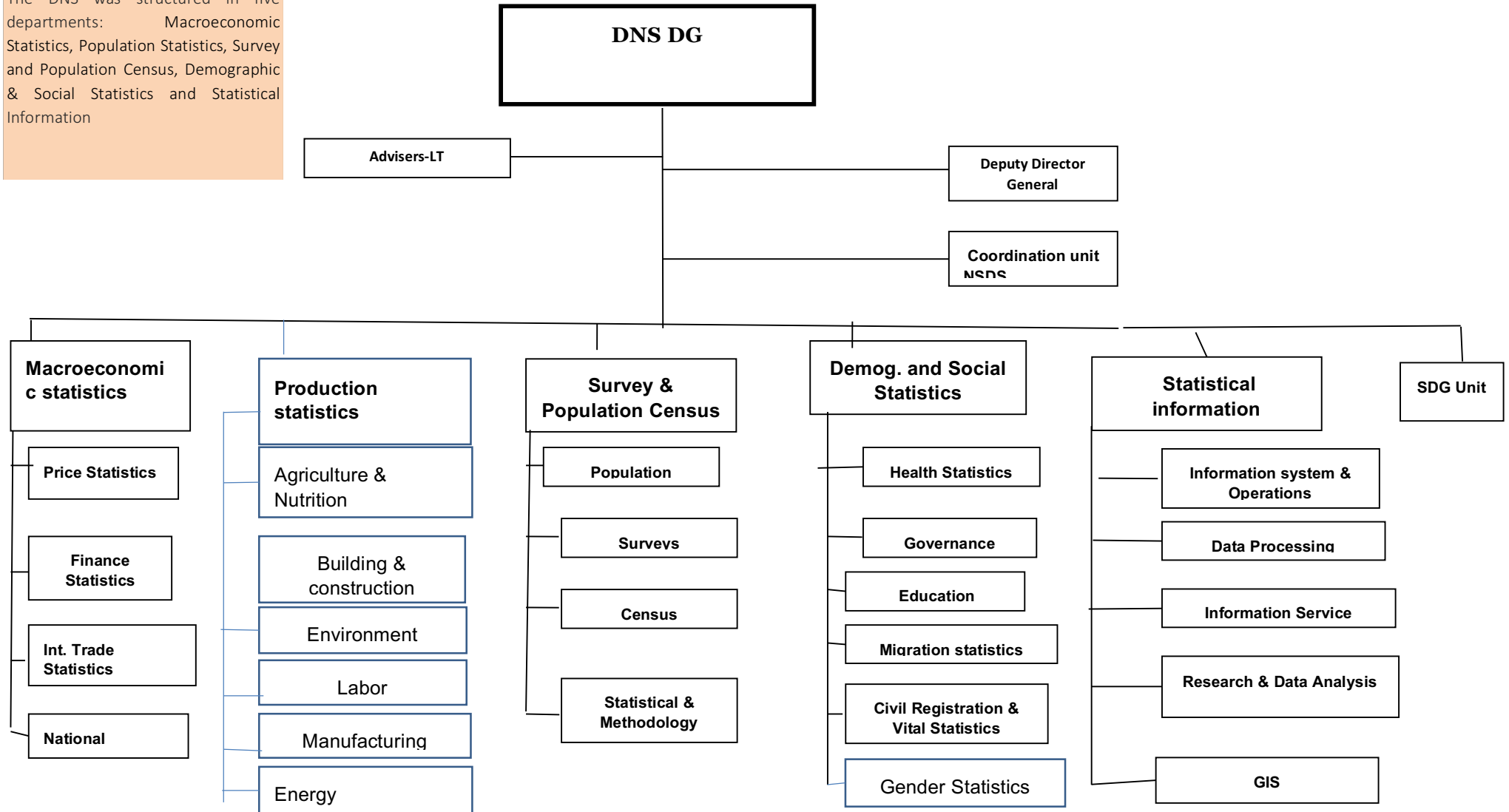
6. Key Issues

Key issues mentioned during the consultancy based on the project daily interaction with staff members of the Directorate of National statistics are:

- To enhance, increase and develop the skills of staff and head sections at the DNS by receiving practical on job training in all areas of economics statistics, social statistics, survey designs, statistical management information system, development of CAPI data collection.
- To receive professional support with a high quality of services from the project.
- To receive and install the IT server, install the IT network and build concrete databases.

7. DNS' STRUCTURE

DNS Structure
 The DNS was structured in five departments: Macroeconomic Statistics, Population Statistics, Survey and Population Census, Demographic & Social Statistics and Statistical Information



8. PROGRESS DURING THE CONSULTANCY PERIOD

Task 1: Organizational and Institutional Aspects

The Directorate of National Statistics had five departments. The structure of the DNS has been organised broadly by subject matter. This structure was not considered to be geared towards the objectives of a modern national statistical organisation. In particular, a large part of human resources was mobilised for data collection and not enough for data analysis and integration.

Structure of the SNBS

The consultancy proposed a new structure for the Somali National Bureau of Statistics with Six directorates: **Macroeconomic and Financial Statistics, Production Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Policy, planning and coordination Services, ICT and Data Processing** and **Administration and Finance**. The first three directorates are responsible for statistical domains. The Policy, planning and coordination Services and ICT and data processing directorate is tasked with assisting domain units in data management and methodological issues while helping the Office reach a higher level of efficiency in terms of processes and IT infrastructure. The Administration and Finance directorate provides lateral support to all units for matters related to human resources, finances, procurement and administration. All the Six directorates answer to the Director General, while the Office of the DG monitors and takes forward matters relating to the technical domains and the horizontal functions.

The six directorates of the newly formed SNBS are responsible for translating the Office's mission into statistical output that is timely, impartial, of a high quality and that is responsive to the country's needs in all contexts. A hierarchical organisation chart for SNBS is in annex one.

Task 2: Skills of the Staff and Development of TORs

Development of human resource through skills upgrading, knowledge enhancement and improved incentives is one of the key components needed. This will enable fulfilment of the intermediate outcomes of enhanced working environment and capacity for HR to produce quality statistics. It is therefore envisaged that long, short as well as professional courses must be conducted in order to build capacity. Equally various soft skills needed for staff at SNBS. Training needs assessment must be conducted and training programs to be developed to enhance staff capacities in the National Statistics System to meet the needs for producing quality statistics.

In so doing, the SNBS will: -

- Develop job description and competency mapping: The consultancy developed TORs for the all the Six Directors of the SNBS Directorates.
- Recruit experts and assign two staff members for each expert for knowledge transfer
- Recruit interns and temporary staff for succession planning and surveys

- Capacity Development and Training.

Task 3: Legal and Institutional Framework

Following the approval of the Statistics Bill early this year and the recent signed Statistics Act by the President which incorporates appropriate international best practice to guarantee independence of the system and respect for statistical confidentiality across the Somalia's Statistics. The new law also fosters the statistical coordination. It provides the SNBS the mandate for coordination and supervision of the entire NSS. The Act aims at paving the way for the collection, compilation, extraction, analysis, production and dissemination of official statistics and for related matters.

As the Statistics law implemented, the collection and production of statistics in general need to be examined and recommendations will be made for review. Equally important is the preparation of regulations of the Statistical Act by incorporating appropriate international best practices, in a way that still guarantees independence of the system and respect for statistical confidentiality across National Statistics system.

Main Strategies advised on during the consultancy

Assess and strengthen sectoral statistical systems.

- a) Strengthen SNBS capacity to coordinate, manage, and monitor statistical development processes.
- b) Prepare all the regulations from the Statistics Act
- c) Establish and/or strengthen and operationalise Statistics federal member state offices.
- d) Establish and operationalise the NSS Steering and Inter Agency Committees, Monitoring and Evaluation committee.
- e) Establish, manage and monitor the institutional structures, procedures and standards for national statistical development.
- f) Support the establishment of partnerships and collaboration among statistics users and producers.
- g) Sensitize statistics producers and users on the statistical structure, system, data production and utilization.
- h) Support the development and implementation of Federal Member States Strategic Plans for Statistics.
- i) Promote the use of statistical information in sectoral development plans and budgeting processes.
- j) Ensure production and dissemination of statistics in the NSS is carried out according to national and international standards
- k) Commission, conduct and disseminate findings of research studies.
- l) Establish and strengthen federal member state databases.
- m) Develop and harmonize the NSS databank.
- n) Develop and operationalise a website for the SNBS.
- o) Develop and maintain extranets for communication within the NSS.
- p) Strengthen, maintain and update statistical infrastructure.
- q) Develop the NSS basket fund mechanism.

- r) Develop and implement the Communication and PR Strategy.

Task 4: Federal member State Statistical Offices

Federal member state offices are important to put into action harmonized statistical programs, especially within a federal environment/policy of Somalia. The member state offices are responsible for all the fieldwork of the Bureau within or in a number of grouped districts. Initially, the Bureau's plan is to establish regional/zonal offices. The concept of revitalizing robust all federal member state offices shall be reviewed under the NSS implementation as a way of strengthening statistical coordination at local government (District) level.

Main Strategies advised

- Design and construct a new office in all the federal member states
- Procure appropriate hardware / software for State Data Processing Centres in all Federal Member States
- Provide adequate office space for SNBS branches in the regions
- Develop management information system
- Train National, District and Lower Local Government Level staff
- Train Statistical Assistants at certificate and diploma level
- Internship for University Students, studying statistics
- Establish the Statistical Training Centre
- Provide technical support to regional to compile indicators to facilitate planning at Local Government Level
- Mentor and Attach Statisticians regions to SNBS and vice versa
- Printing and Publishing of Training Modules
- Internship for University Students, studying statistics

Task 5: Linkages and Coordination Arrangements

There is a coordination mechanism between the SNBS and line ministries of the federal government, but there is a need to establish clear and coherent policies for data sharing and dissemination. The scope for coordination and management of statistics will address organisational development, human resources development, and coordination of statistical production.

The following set of strategies will be required among others to address institutional reforms:-

- a) Develop an NSS Capacity Development Plan.
- b) Provide sound infrastructure, systems, and resource outlay to support the strategic direction of SNBS.
- c) Promote common institutional procedures for coordination, collaboration and cooperation across the NSS; metadata dictionary; and standards for data quality across the NSS.
- d) Increasing access to statistics through a well developed data management system and a comprehensive dissemination policy for the NSS.
- e) Promoting, strengthening and creating nationwide awareness and appreciation.

Task 6: Data Quality and data gap

The DNS has been collecting data from various sources. Despite an actual lack of data, it has been developing monthly and yearly reports especially Consumer Price Index. Improvement of economic and social surveys is a prerequisite to measure results related to the fulfilment of national development frameworks as well as international obligations (SDGs). The production of routine and administrative data within statistics systems, which provide social economic data for continuous monitoring of results and early warning for decision makers at various levels, are of equal importance.

Key factors in providing the right environment for data development and dissemination will be strengthened under this objective in order to address the intermediate outcomes of improved quality and effective use of statistics, as well as access to information of public service delivery.

The Directorate of National Statistics has been collecting data from various sources to develop weekly, monthly and yearly reports. To improve statistical products and services, SNBS will focus on the following activities to provide accurate and reliable statistical products and services:

8.5.1 Main Strategies advised on:

- a) Release and disseminate all statistical products in accordance with the NSS publication calendar and National Development Framework.
- b) Develop a national master sampling frame.
- c) Promote and enforce the use of GIS standards and common definitions used across the NSS.
- d) Promote participatory approaches in data production within the NSS.
- e) Support the development of administrative data in the sectors
- f) Provide coordinated, harmonized, relevant and timely official statistics
- g) Documentation and publication of statistical activities and books
- h) Conduct surveys Household Budget Survey and census
- i) Implementation of International Statistical Cooperation framework and NSDS
- j) Collaboration with other government entities and development partners

Re-open of National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics

In Somalia, most of the Universities do not offer Statistics as undergraduate level, so there is need for Government Statistics Institute to re-open; it will help with the growth and increasing complexity of the Somali economy and the resulting societal changes. There has been an increasing interest in Statistics as a means of monitoring many aspects of the country's development, including the functioning of government, at all levels.

The building of the Institute was built in 1982 and is located in the MoPIC building, the Institute is urgently needed but requires renovation to modernize and update it for contemporary usage, through the ensuing two and a half decades of its existence and the long two decades of civil war. Three things have occurred that have rendered it obsolete:

1. The building has aged and many of its systems have reached the end of their service

life

2. The Building was destroyed during the civil war
3. All its facilities and equipments were looted and smashed.

8.5.2 Main Strategies advised on:

The proposed National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics is designed to equip students with the analytical tools and capacities to interact with real-world data in a research environment while also accommodating students who seek a more theoretical foundation in the field. The learning goals are as follows:

- Students will learn valid methods for data collection and be able to identify the impact of deficient data collection methods on inference.
- Students will be able to distinguish observational studies from experimental studies and be able to determine the types of conclusions that can be drawn from each.
- Students will learn how to display and describe data using appropriate methods.
- Students will learn to be proficient in the use of at least one statistical software package.

9. Key results achieved during the Reporting period.

- Reviewed Economic Statistics Action Plan
- Developed a road map concept note for establishing Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NSBS) for the collection, consolidation publication and analysis of statistics, and thereby to maintain peace and tranquility and provide for the comfort and economic well-being of the people in general.
- Developed a new structure for the National Bureau of Statistics and its relationship guidelines
- Prepared TORs for the Six Directors of the SNBS Directorates that is planned to be advertised.
- Successfully accomplish the compilation of the Economic Statistics (CPI) new weight data analysis and trained the team for analytical report writing and graph analysis.
- Prepared the draft concept note for National Institute for Statistics and applied Economics
- Improved communication and Statistical information sharing with Federal line Ministries
- Advised the new leadership of SNBS
- Advised both the Strategic planning consultant and the legal consultant.

10. Recommendations

It is very important for the project and the department of statistics to ensure that all services and support needed are received properly and in a practical approach. 'Learning by doing' is the requested methodology for this mission. Most results of this mission should be visible and

tangible to all concerned parties.

On a highly selective basis, some capacity-building priorities have been identified:

- The Department of Statistics has reported significant gap in ICT equipment to carry out their routine data production and management. There is lack of the infrastructure tools and equipment, including a server and IT-network in the ICT department in SNBS.
 - Focus should be enhanced on Statistics software and ICT. Information collection technologies and procedures of the agencies must be improved; this improvement should be aimed at establishing some degree of standardization and maximizing the use of computer and information technology, particularly in processing and publishing the statistical data. Hence, starting to document Meta Data for all datasets, (where the meta data is a framework for recording essential information on datasets to enable users to better understanding its underlying characteristics).
- The National Bureau of Statistics needs to be supported by adequate statistical infrastructure. Improvement of statistical infrastructure will not only ensure improved and harmonised data production within the department, but also the improvement in the usage of survey and census data.
 - Special efforts should be made and decision should be taken, soon, to unify all scattered existing statistical agencies in SNBS. Whenever it is appropriate, line Ministries and Agencies should consider the creation of separate office to be responsible of such important tasks as data collection, analysis and dissemination. Moreover, all government agencies and ministries must be encouraged to improve the collection and dissemination of information
- Request of additional long term expert specialized in data analysis.
 - Develop and prepare a comprehensive statistical medium-term action plan for data collection, prioritized statistical surveys, data methodology, periodicity and data coverage, including a stand-alone strategy to improve and coordinate dissemination of data, including introducing advance data release calendars. This is besides developing an effective procedure to clean, modifies, upgrade and publish historical data on the various segments of the economy with special and appropriate revisions and improvement in methodologies.
- Establishing Federal Member states (FMS) coordination National CPI data, taking considerable measures for improving the efficiency and integration of the CPI through internal improvement in data collection, methodologies, procedures and dissemination.

Annex1: Structure of Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)

