

Country:	Myanmar
Project name:	Capacity building in statistics
Implementing agency:	Istat – National Statistical Institute of Italy
Duration:	12 months (6/8/2014 – 5/8/2015)

CONTENTS

1. General overview and strategy
2. Key features of the initiative
 - 2.1 Expected results and implementation
 - 2.2. Activities and resources
3. Workplan

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The democratic transition Myanmar is undergoing and the related launching of the reform process in the country call for the availability and regular provision of statistical information that meet the requirements of quality, reliability and timeliness, to support national authorities and international actors in strategies and decision making.

Scarcity of reliable statistical information, or the existence of conflicting information, may jeopardise the efforts of the government, of the private sector and of the international community in funding and development programmes.

With the overall objective to increase the quality and availability of official statistics that are timely, consistent and reliable, as key governance tool supporting the socio-economic growth of the country, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the Central Statistical Organisation - CSO, to increase its centrality and core role within the national statistical system currently strongly decentralised and poorly coordinated.

The project will therefore develop and implement a series of activities aimed at increasing the capacity and professional standards of CSO, together with technical assistance actions on specific issues, identified and agreed with the partner institution. Institutional building will be based on the introduction and application of methodologies and techniques appropriate for the national context and aligned with international standards and best practices, with focus also on CSO infrastructures and equipment.

2. KEY FEATURES OF THE INITIATIVE

. Overall objective

To contribute to the improvement of the statistical information available in Myanmar, essential to support and steer the social, economic and demographic development processes.

. Specific objective

To improve the national statistical system in Myanmar reinforcing institutional capacity of CSO, in view of increasing its coordinating role of the country statistical activities, to meet the information needs of the different stakeholders.

. Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the Central Statistical Organisation, placed within the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

2.1 EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The project expected results are the following:

R.1. Improvement of the statistical production also by introducing new technologies and methodologies and an increased inter-institutional coordination.

R.2. Increased production of economic and socio-demographic statistics.

R.3. Statistical capacity building through the increase of the average professional level and qualifications through training on the job activities.

Senior and junior experts from Istat, with the proper professional and technical requirements, will be selected to carry out effectively the activities as per the workplan that will be agreed with the counterpart and harmonized with other international support, taking into proper account the absorption capacity of CSO.

Focus will be on statistical training and training on the job on specific statistical processes, to introduce staff to modern and internationally acknowledged standard and best practices.

Project deliverables will be:

- Periodical (quarterly) reports, approved by the counterpart, on implementation progress, results, possible problems encountered.
- Mission reports for each activity carried out.
- Recommendations stemming from the technical assistance activities.
- Training materials and documentation.

2.2. ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Istat will provide technical assistance and specific training on the job addressed to CSO staff for a total of 27 technical mission, plus 8 coordination and monitoring missions during the 12 months of project duration.

The project consists of three components:

- **Componente 1**, (15 weeks /missions) focuses on **technical assistance**, with a number of activities centered on specific issues identified and agreed with the beneficiary, in coordination with other possible actions delivered by other actors. In a effective capacity building perspective technical assistance will focus on current CSO activities and processes, aimed at introducing effective improvements and recommendations on:
 1. Institutional framework and placement, role of CSO within the national statistical system.
 2. CSO capacity and resources, to identify strenghts and weaknesses of the organisation and start prioritisation of activities, assessment of sustainability of interventions and innovations to be introduced. It includes the drafting of a training needs plan in the short and medium term, part of which will be satisfied by the project.
 3. Planning and monitoring in CSO: annual and multiannual programs, national statistical programme, cooperation with other producers, users and respondents.
 4. Statistical and IT infrastructures, aimed at gap identification, release of recommendations and, when feasible, possible introduction of new IT tools.
 5. Policies and measures for data protection, disclosure control and confidentiality, with the twofold goal to ensure data protection at IT level and to increase confidence and authority of CSO.
 6. Relations with users and respondents, communication and dissemination policies and strategies.

Scheduled activities are listed in detail below.

1. 1 **Assessment of CSO**, with attention paid to sustainability of production and innovation processes – **4 weeks/missions**

- 1.1.1 Staffing and human resources: qualifications, competences, management, recruitment and training policies.
- 1.1.2 Management model, internal organisation and governance.
- 1.1.3 Models and tools for planning, monitoring and performance assessment.
- 1.1.4 Set up of regular reporting and documentation systems.
- 1.1.5 Assessment of trainig needs and requirements, design of training programs.

1.2 **Institutional framework** – **3 weeks/missions**

- 1.2.1 Analysis of the Statistical Law, alignment with UNFP, advice and recommendations for possible revisions.
- 1.2.2 Analysis of institutional mechanisms set up for coordination and harmonisation of official statistical production. The Statistical Council.

1.2.3 Review and analysis of potential administrative sources in the country, access and use of administrative records and data.

1.2.4 Agreements and protocols with key producers and other relevant bodies.

1.3 Statistical programs and planning – 1 week/mission

1.3.1 CSO annual, multiannual and short-term planning of activities and production.

1.3.2 Statistical planning and programs at national level.

1.4 Statistical and ICT infrastructure – 4 weeks/missions

1.4.1 Analysis and assessment of IT equipment and competences.

1.4.2 Development of ICT strategy, recommendations on hardware and software tools.

1.5 Confidentiality and data protection – 1 week/mission

1.5.1 Recommendations, tools and application for data protection and disclosure control in CSO.

1.6 Relations with users and respondents – 2 weeks/missions

1.6.1 User-oriented and demand-driven statistical production. Institutional communication: strategies for effective interaction with users and respondents.

1.6.2 Data dissemination. Strategies, coordination and role within CSO.

• **Component 2** (8 weeks/missions) is focused on **training and training on the job** of CSO staff on **statistical techniques and methodologies**. The approach will be more centered on transfer of knowledge on practical aspects and issues of current statistical production. These practical interventions will be implemented on

1. Specific production processes in the priority sectors for CSO.
2. Use and exploitation of administrative sources: evaluation of possible information resources that can be used for statistical purposes, taking into account both technical and regulatory issues.
3. Data analysis and presentation of results, with an eye to increasing CSO capacity and competences in using modern tools for data release and visualisation.

Training will be designed with an effective blended approach, based on transfer of theoretical knowledge and practical application to production processes.

In detail, activities of component 2 will concern:

2.1 Statistical training on specific sample surveys and production processes identified with the beneficiary (agricultural surveys, employment surveys, economic surveys and trade statistics) – **5 weeks/missions**

2.1.1 Survey design and implementation

2.1.2 Tools and methodologies for data collection

2.1.3 Sampling techniques

2.1.4 Methods and tools for estimation, editing and imputation (including the statistical treatment of administrative sources)

2.1.5 Quality in statistical surveys.

Quality will be dealt with as a cross-cutting issue, pertaining not only to production processes but to the overall activity of CSO. This can be of key importance with an eye to the future, as all actions related to the general concepts of quality in statistics could be gradually concentrated in CSO as reference for the whole official statistical production, rather than having each body considering quality issues on their own.

2.2. Training on the job on administrative sources – 1 week/mission

2.2.1 Administrative sources: identification, features, quality and use.

2.2.2 Treatment of administrative sources for statistical purposes.

2.3 Analysis and presentation of results – 2 weeks/missions

2.3.1 Statistical analysis and presentation of results. Methods and tools for data visualization.

2.3.2 Statistical indicators.

2.3.3 Introduction to thematic statistics: population statistics, social and gender statistics, demographic analysis

This training on the job may also deal with quality controls and procedures for data validation before final release.

- **Component 3** (4 weeks/missions) is intended to **support the implementation of the national birth registration project**. UNICEF, in cooperation with the EU, launched in some regions of the country a pilot project to develop the birth registration system, backbone of socio-demographic statistics and key tool to ensure children's rights. From a statistical viewpoint, the project will also benefit from the results and outcomes of the population census carried out in the first half of 2014. CSO has active role in the project too.

The Italian project will provide support with regard to the statistical aspects, such as forms used (classifications and variables), data collection, quality control on raw data, elaboration of socio-demographic indicators. Istat contribution will be so designed:

3.1 Analysis and possible revision of forms used to register births – 1 week.

3.2 Definition of information flows of raw data and final outcomes. Design of monitoring system for data flows – 1 week.

3.3 Quality controls of raw data – 1 week.

3.4 Design and elaboration of demographic indicators – 1 week.

The intervention will be implemented in a blend of conceptual *training* of the staff involved (use of administrative sources, data editing and imputation, demographic analysis and indicators) and *technical assistance* (guidelines for the forms, design of monitoring system for data flows).

- The **technical and administrative coordination** will be ensured through constant monitoring and assessment of the progress. 8 quarterly coordination missions and the related reporting are foreseen.

Proper consideration will be given, together with the beneficiary, to the identification of the resources CSO will involve in the project. Appropriate involvement of the officials and staff is in fact essential to ensure effectiveness, ownership and sustainability of results and outcomes.

The allocation of resources/missions is liable to changes against newly arisen needs or reprioritisation of needs, that will be assessed in agreement with the counterpart.

3. WORKPLAN

Expected results

R.1. Improvement of the statistical production also by introducing new technologies and methodologies and an increased inter-institutional coordination.

R.2. Increased production of economic and socio-demographic statistics.

R.3. Statistical capacity building through the increase of the average professional level and qualifications through training on the job activities.

ACTIVITIES	Weeks	R*	Workplan (8 + 27 s)											
			m1	m2	m3	m4	m5	m6	m7	m8	m9	m10	m11	m12
0. Management and coordination	8													
0.1 Drafting of the workplan														
0.1 Monitoring, assessment and coordination missions (including quarterly reports).				2			2				2			2
Component 1 – Technical assistance	15	1,3												
1.1 Assessment del CSO	4													
1.1.1 Staffing and human resources: qualifications, competences, management, recruitment and training policies					1									
1.1.2 Management model, internal organisation and governance					1									
1.1.3 Models and tools for planning, monitoring and performance assessment									1					
1.1.4 Set up of regular reporting and documentation systems														
1.1.5 Assessment of training needs and requirements, design of training programs											1			
1.2 – Institutional framework	3													

1.2.1 Analysis of the Statistical Law, alignment with UNFP, advice and recommendations for possible revisions					1			1						
1.2.2 Analysis of institutional mechanisms set up for coordination and harmonisation of official statistical production. The Statistical Council														
1.2.3 Review and analysis of potential administrative sources in the country, access and use of administrative records and data						1								
1.2.4 Agreements and protocols with key producers and other relevant bodies														
1.3 – Statistical programs and planning	1													
1.3.1 CSO annual, multiannual and short-term planning of activities and production.									1					
1.3.2 Statistical planning and programs at national level.														
1.4 Statistical and ICT infrastructure	4													
1.4.1 Analysis and assessment of IT equipment and competences.					2									
1.4.2 Development of ICT strategy, recommendations on hardware and software tools.										2				
1.5 Confidentiality and data protection	1													
1.5.1 Recommendations, tools and application for data protection and disclosure control in CSO.												1		
1.6 Relations with users and respondents	2													
1.6.1 User-oriented e demand-driven statistical production. Institutional communication: strategies for effective interaction with users and respondents.													2	
1.6.2 Data dissemination. Strategies, coordination and role within CSO.														

Component 2 – Training on the job on statistical techniques and methodologies	8	2,3												
2.1 Statistical training on specific sample surveys and production processes identified with the beneficiary (agricultural surveys, employment surveys, economic surveys and trade statistics)	5													
2.1.1 Survey design and implementation							1							
2.1.2 Tools and methodologies for data collection														
2.1.3 Sampling techniques									1					
2.1.4 Methods and tools for estimation, editing and imputation (including statistical treatment of administrative sources)									1					
2.1.5 Quality in statistical surveys								1						
2.2. Training on the job on administrative sources	1													
2.2.1 Administrative sources: identification, features, quality and use									1					
2.2.2 Treatment of administrative sources for statistical purposes.														
2.3 Analysis and presentation of results	2													
2.3.1 Statistical analysis and presentation of results. Methods and tools for data visualization										1				
2.3.2 Statistical indicators														
2.3.3 Introduction to thematic statistics: population statistics, social and gender statistics, demographic analysis												1		
Component 3 - Support to the implementation of the national birth registration project.	4	2,3												
3.1 – Analysis and possible revision of forms used to register births				1										

3.2 – Definition of information flows of raw data and final outcome. Design of monitoring system for data flows.							1							
3.3 – Quality control of raw data										1				
3.4 –Design and elaboration of demographic indicators													1	

Tot. weeks	35
-------------------	-----------

* Connected result.

