

Report of the activities of the Project

“Strengthening the Statistical Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Monitor the Progress toward the Millenium Development Goals” (StatCapCA-Project),

financed (mainly) by the UN Development Account, 5th Tranche, Project 06/07F in the period April 2006 – March 2007

Report submitted in April 2008 by
Petteri Baer, Regional Adviser
Economic Commission for Europe, Statistical Division
United Nations, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10, Switzerland
e-mail: petteri.baer@unece.org
phone: +41 22 917 33 11
fax: +41 22 917 00 40

PROJECT DURATION: 2006-2008 (2009)

REPORTING PERIOD COVERED: April 2006 – February 2008

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION RATE: 59.1 % of the total budget (USD 385,000)

SUMMARY OF IMPACT: During the first 22 months reporting period April 2006 – February 2007 nine main actions of the Project have been organized.

Additional to this there has been one additional Training Workshop, financed by funding outside the StatCapCA project, but related to its content directly with the project. Additional to these activities also one Advisory Mission has been organized already in 2007.

During the forthcoming four months, March – June 2008 four more actions will take place. This means that already 15 activities, envisaged for 2006-2008, have been accomplished. After June 2008 only advisory missions and one evaluation Meeting remain to be implemented.

Recent Activities in the StatCapCA Project

After the previous report, delivered in April 2007, the following actions have taken place in 2007:

- ❖ Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy, April 2007, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic;
- ❖ Training Workshop on Census Technology, June 2007, Astana, Kazakhstan;
- ❖ Study Visit for members of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics concerning best management practices in official statistics, June 2007, Geneva, Switzerland;
- ❖ PWG Meeting on Statistics, June 2007, Geneva, Switzerland;
- ❖ Advisory Mission on Non-Observed Economy, November 2007, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Population and Housing Census of the 2010 Round Component

All three Training Workshops, planned to take place on the project component on Population and Housing Censuses of the 2010 Round, have now been organized. All three workshops have been planned and led by the three resource persons from UNECE: Ms Angela Me, Section Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Section of the Statistical Division of UNECE, Mr Paolo Valente, Statistician at the same Section and Mr Petteri Baer, Regional Adviser of the UNECE Statistical Division and Project Manager of the StatCapCA Project.

The most recent one was the Training Workshop on Census Technology, organized back-to-back with the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Census preparations in Astana, Kazakhstan in June 2007.

The three training workshops on Population and Housing Censuses, organized in the framework of the StatCapCA Project, have promoted the preparations of the Central Asian National Statistical offices to have a solid base on numerous MDG indicators as far as they can be achieved by the Census. The quality of the forthcoming Censuses in Central Asia are of importance also for securing as good denominators for different MDG indicators. The three Training Workshops on Census issues have been a success both as to the satisfaction expressed by participants as well as to the number of participants.

Directors, managers and specialists from the NSOs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have taken part in all Training Workshops on Population and Housing Censuses. In the Baku and Dushanbe Workshop we also had participants from the NSO of **Georgia** and Turkmenistan (UNFPA, not NSO). In the Dushanbe Workshop two specialists

also from the **Afghan NSO** participated. The number of participants from NSOs has usually been two and the number of participants from the hosting country clearly higher than that. CIS-STAT has been invited to the Bishkek and Dushanbe Workshops but has for financial reasons not been able to do so. The Georgian Country Office of UNFPA has made the participation of the Georgian NSO in all three Census Workshops financially possible through their active support.

In the most recent workshop in Astana, we, additionally to the two participants from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, had two participants from **Afghanistan**, seven **additional participants** from **Kazakhstan**, two additional participants from **Tajikistan**, one additional participant from **the Kyrgyz Republic and Georgia**, the **UNFPA Country Organization of Kazakhstan** and from **CIS-STAT**, two from **Moldova**, three from **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, five from **UNMIK/Kosovo**. Resource persons in this training workshop were two persons from **UNECE**, and one from **UNESCAP**, **UNSD**, **Canada**, **Italy** and **United States**. From Turkmenistan there were no participants. Altogether 42 persons participated in this Training Workshop.

One “additional” Training Workshop on Censuses

Besides the three Training Workshops on Census issues, directly organized in the framework of and financed by the StatCapCA Project, **a fourth Training Workshop on Censuses was organized in 7 – 11 May 2007** with the participation of three resource persons from UNECE. The travel and DSA for the three resource persons of this National Workshop were **financed by the UNFPA Country Office of Turkmenistan**. **The aim of this Workshop was to train the staff members of the State Committee of Statistics of Turkmenistan (NISSI) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**, as they had not visited the Sub-regional Training Workshops on Censuses of the StatCapCA Project.

This national Training Workshop replicated in a country-adjusted way the main content of the StatCapCA Training Workshops in Baku (Autumn 2006) and Dushanbe (Spring 2007). NISSI, The Turkmen NSO participated with 15 persons, including the Head and Deputy Head of the Division, responsible for the 2010 Census preparations and staff members from other with the Census related divisions. The Project Manager of the StatCapCA Project participated in Ashgabat already in the previous week to the Training Workshop in a one-day training and information workshop for Turkmen Media on the preparations of the Census in Turkmenistan (3 May 2007). The organizational and financial assistance for this “additional” Training Workshop from the UNFPA Country Office was indispensable.

Health Status Component

The first Training Workshop on Disability Statistics was organized successfully **in December 2006 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**. This training

Workshop was planned and led by Ms Angela Me and Mr Petteri Baer from UNECE. It was organized in cooperation with UNESCAP, the World Bank and the Chairperson of the Washington Group, Ms Jennifer Madans. Two participants per country from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan attended. From the Kyrgyz Republic the number of participants were three, from Uzbekistan one. Nobody participated from Turkmenistan.

Most of the participants of this Training Workshop expressed great satisfaction to the content and arrangements of the Workshop.

In the original StatCapCA Project Plan a second Training Workshop on the Health Status Component was foreseen. As a compensating activity for the originally in Turkmenistan and later in Uzbekistan planned Training Workshop on the Health status (see below, Chapter 2) UNECE has now in cooperation with UNESCAP agreed on organizing participants from three Central Asian countries to an UNESCAP Regional Workshop on promoting disability data collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses. This Workshop will take place in **Bangkok** on 8-10 April 2008. The participating countries will be Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The two former countries were the most active and interested ones on the Disability Statistics topic in the Bishkek Training Workshop in December 2006. Turkmenistan is presently the only Central Asian country that has concrete plans to include questions on disability into their Census questionnaire in their next Census. Also a resource person from UNECE will participate in this joint workshop.

Non-Observed Economy Component

The first Training Workshop of the component of Non-Observed Economy was organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on the 25-27 April 2007 in cooperation with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with UNESCAP, SNA93 1.Rev Update Group and Eurostat. This Training Workshop was planned and led by Ms Tiina Luige and Tihomira Dimova from UNECE.

In this Training workshop we had participants from all Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, from where we until that time had encountered serious problems of attracting participants. Besides the training materials all participating countries also provided papers and small presentations on their work and estimations on non-observed economy in the workshop. The two resource persons from UNECE gave the most part of presentations but there were also presentations of the Chairperson of the SNA93 1.Rev Update Group, Ms Carol Carlson, UNESCAP and Eurostat. Altogether 21 persons participated in this Training Workshop.

The first Advisory Mission of the Project was implemented on the 14-16 November 2007 **on the Non-Observed Economy component.** Two specialists

in National Accounts and Non-Observed Economy from UNECE organized a three days' set of advisory activities for the State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. Altogether 24 persons participated in the Advisory Mission, including heads of all departments of the State Statistical Committee and representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, and the Tax Committee. Mr Mirgand Shabozov, Chairman of the State Statistical Committee, chaired the seminar. Mr Anders Nordin from Sogety Luxembourg S.A. which is the organization implementing the TACIS project on Non-Observed Economy in Tajikistan participated and presented that project.

Ms Tiina Liuge and Ms Tihomira Dimova from UNECE gave altogether 12 presentations (of the total 17) during the seminar. Mr. Mustafa Dinc, Senior Economist from the Development Economics Data group of the World Bank participated during the first day. Consultations with the staff of the State Statistical Committee Divisions on National Accounts and Classifications were also held outside the seminar.

The main purpose of the Advisory Mission Seminar was to deepen the knowledge of the principles and methods of measuring the Non-Observed Economy and to provide information on other national accounts issues to a wider audience than can normally participate in our meetings. Using the opportunity that the TACIS project on Non-Observed Economy in Tajikistan was just at its final stage, the methodology used in the project and its first preliminary results were presented. The agenda included a general presentation of UNECE Statistical Division's work and of the statistical office of Tajikistan, specific issues in measuring the NOE, in particular misreporting and illegal activities and other questions related to implementation of the international standards in economic statistics (regional accounts, classifications).

The Second Training Workshop of the Non-Observed Economy component will be organized in Geneva back-to-back with the UNECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting on National Accounts in April 2008.

* *

*

All materials of the performed actions are available in the English and Russian language to both participants and anybody else at the following web sites:

SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics, Paris, June 2006

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.06.speca.htm>

Training Workshop on Census Management, Baku, October-November 2006

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.10.census.htm>

Training Workshop on Disability Statistics, Bishkek, December 2006

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.12.health.htm>

Training Workshop on Census Questionnaire Design, Dushanbe, March 2006

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.03.census.htm>

Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy, Bishkek, April 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.04.noe.htm>

Training Workshop on Census Technology, Astana, June 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.census3.htm>