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*REVIEW OF EXISTING SITUATION IN THE REGION*

*C O N T E N T S*

	<u>Pages</u>
<i>Introduction .....</i>	<i>1-2</i>
<i>Organizational location and reporting responsibility of NSS .....</i>	<i>2-6</i>
<i>Budgetary Arrangements and Accounting Systems of NSS ...</i>	<i>7-9</i>
<i>Structure of Statistical Services .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Staff Position in NSS .....</i>	<i>11-14</i>
<i>Legal Provisions for a national statistical system .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Census and Surveys .....</i>	<i>16-17</i>
<i>Publications .....</i>	<i>18-22</i>
<i>Problems Affecting the Performance of NSS.....</i>	<i>23-24</i>
<i>Conclusions .....</i>	<i>24-25</i>

REVIEW OF EXISTING SITUATION IN THE REGION  
(REPORT ON THE REGIONAL SURVEY OF STATISTICAL  
ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING 1981)

Introduction

The use of statistical data for development planning has long been realised by most African countries. The experiences of the more developed societies show that development strategies supported by good quality statistical data yield the desired goal. Without this, planned, co-ordinated and sustained socio-economic development, especially under conditions of limited resources, is hardly, if ever, possible.

Realizing the need for the development of statistics in Africa, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa conducted a series of statistical activities in the region such as co-ordinating the activities of twelve training centres and promoting and supporting in-service training programmes in national statistical services as well as short-term courses organized by institutions outside Africa, etc.

This study is the fourth in the series of regional survey of statistical organization in the region. The first document entitled "Statistical Development in Africa" (E/CN.14/CAS.4/Dev.1/Rev.1) was presented to the 1965 Conference of African Statisticians. The second report entitled "Report on the 1974 Regional Survey of Statistical Organization" (E/CN.14/CAS.9/L4) was presented to the 1975 Conference of African statisticians. The results of the 1976 survey have not been published but have been utilized in connection with a "Working Group to review statistical training needs in Africa" held in 1977. The present study is more comprehensive than the previous studies of 1965, 1974 and 1976. Also the country coverage and sub-regional representation has been more acceptable in this survey than in the others.

Table 1 - Replies to the 1974 and 1981 Regional Survey  
of Statistical Organization and Staffing

Sub-region	No. of Countries in the ECA Region		Replies received in 1974		Replies received in 1981	
	1974	1981	No.	%	No.	%
North	6	6	3	50	3	50
West	14	16	10	71	10	63
Central	9	10	4	44	6	60
Eastern/ Southern	12	19*	7	58	13	69
Total	41	51	24	59	31	63

\* Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania treated separately.

At the time of writing this report, the Statistics Division of the ECA had received some 32 replies to the 1981 enquiry, considering mainland Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar separately. In fact, the number of member countries in the ECA region increased by 10 from 41 to 51; this increase being mainly due to some countries' achievement of independence in the interim period (Table 1). About 70% of the population of the ECA region has been covered in the 1981 survey.

Furthermore, the replies of countries according to the language they speak is given in Table 2. From the Anglophone group 16 out of 20 have replied i.e. 80 percent of them. From the Francophone group only 15 out of 26 (58%) and the Portuguese-speaking group only 1 out of 5 (20%) replied.

Table 2 - Replies to the 1981 Survey by Official Language of Countries

Sub-region	English		French		Portuguese	
	No. of Countries	Replies received	No. of Countries	Replies received	No. of Countries	Replies received
North	3	2	3	1	-	-
West	5	4	10	6	-	-
Central	-	-	9	5	1	1
Eastern/ Southern	12	10	4	3	2	-
Total	20	16	26	15	5	1

Organizational location and reporting responsibility of NSS

The location of the national statistical office within the government structure is different in several countries of the region. Some statistical offices are located in the Ministry of Planning, others in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Finance or Office of the Prime Minister or President. In the 1981 survey 21 out of 32 national statistical offices replied that they were located in the planning ministry, 6 in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, 1 in the Ministry of Finance, 3 in the Office of the Head of State (Prime Minister or President) and only 1 in the Ministry of Trade, Transport and Tourism. A similar pattern was observed in both the 1968/69 and 1974 surveys.

A question asked in the 1981 survey on reporting responsibilities was whether the director of the national statistical office reported directly to the minister or other (with specification). The responses were: 13 reported directly to the Minister, 16 to the Permanent Secretary and 3 to the Prime Minister/President. There is no significant sub-regional variation in reporting responsibilities. However, more (two-fold) directors of national statistical offices in the Central sub-region reported directly to the ministers of ministries to which their offices are attached than to their permanent secretaries or similar officers (Table 3).

In Table 3 salaries of heads of statistical offices and the highest paid official in the parent ministry are given. Obviously, the average salary of the director is lower than that of the highest paid official in the ministry with a few exceptions: in two countries (one in West and another in the Central) the salaries of heads of Statistical offices are higher than any official in the parent ministry, in another two cases both earn the same amount (West). This trend is averagely the same for all the sub-regions although in some, the gap is wider. Generally, the salaries of heads of national statistical offices in the Central sub-region are relatively lower, followed by the Eastern and Southern sub-regions. Furthermore, the salaries of heads of statistical offices and highest paid officials in the ministry to which the statistical office is attached are higher if the office is under the Ministry of Finance and Planning than under Planning, Office of the President/Prime Minister or other in two sub-regions: North and Eastern/Southern. Nevertheless, perhaps due to the paucity of data and/or sampling variability in the responding countries, in the Western sub-region statistical personnel appear to be more highly paid if their offices are located in the Ministry of Planning than in the others. As far as the Central sub-region is concerned, all responding statistical offices were located in the Ministry of Planning and, thus, comparison of salaries of heads of statistical offices is not significant.

To further elaborate the financial status of statistical personnel and salary comparison with the highest paid official in the ministry more clearly, Table 4 is given. It shows that country variation is very significant. Ten countries of the region pay their heads of NSS below US\$ 7,500.00 per annum. On the other hand one country pays more than US\$ 20,000.00 per annum, four pay upto an amount of US\$ 20,000 and five others in the interval \$12,500 - \$15,000 per annum. At this stage of the discussion it is quite clear that the heads of NSS are paid much lower than the most highly paid officials in the parent ministries. This claim could be observed in the distribution of figures in Table 4.

Table 3 - Location of NSS. reporting responsibility & comparison of salary of its Head with that of highest paid official in same Ministry, etc.

Location of NSS and Salary Comparison	Reporting Responsibilities of Directors in the Sub-region and Average Salaries (US\$)								T O T A L
	N O R T H		W E S T		C E N T R A L		E A S T E R N / S O U T H E R N		
	Minister	Other	Minister	Other	Minister	Other	Minister	Other	
<b>A. <u>Planning</u></b>									
No. of Countries	1		3	5	4	2	1	5	21
Average salary of head of NSS	9,200		13,328		8,981		8,950		10,586
Average salary of highest paid official in min.	10,300		14,769		9,136		13,059		12,305
<b>B. <u>Finance and Planning</u></b>									
No. of Countries	1		1	1			1	3	7
Average salary of head of NSS	13,865		7,702				10,833		10,372
Average salary of highest paid official in min.	19,010		5,839				18,277		14,828
<b>C. <u>Office of the President/Prime Minister</u></b>									
No. of Countries		1						2	3
Average salary of head of NSS		N.A.					10,716		10,716
Average salary of highest paid official in min.		N.A.					13,323		13,323

Table 3 cont'd

Location of NSS and Salary Comparison	Reporting Responsibilities of Directors in the Sub-region and Average Salaries (US\$)								T O T A L	
	N O R T H		W E S T		C E N T R A L		E A S T E R N / S O U T H E R N			
	Minister	Other	Minister	Other	Minister	Other	Minister	Other		
<u>D. Other</u>										
No. of Countries								1		1
Average salary of head of NSS								N.A.		
Average salary of highest paid official in Min.								N.A.		
<u>Total</u>										
No. of Countries	2	1	4	6	4	2	3		10	32
Average salary of head of NSS	11,533		11,461		8,981		9,956			10,343
Average salary of highest paid official in min.	14,655		13,085		9,136		14,857			13,234

Table 4 - Salary of Head of NSS Compared with that of Highest Paid  
Official in same Ministry

Salary of Head of NSS	SALARY OF HIGHEST PAID OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY (US\$)								<del>Not</del>		
	2000	2000-4999	5000-7499	7500-999	10000-12999	12500-14999	15000-19999	20000-24999	25000-29999	Stated	Total
2000											
2000-4999		1	1		1						3
5000-7499			5							2	7
7500-9999					5		1			2	8
10000-12999								1			1
12500-14999							4			1	5
15000-19999							2		1	1	4
20000-24999								1			1
25000-29999											
30000+											
Not stated										3	3
Total		1	6		6		7	2	1	9	32

Budgetary Arrangements and Accounting Systems of NSS

The need for adequate budgetary provision for any organization that aims at national development programmes is very well known. And a national statistical organization is no exception to this.

The accounting system of 32 national statistical services is summarized in Table 5 below. 24 of these maintained their own accounts out of which/were self accounting; 4 were accountable to the parent ministry; 5 accountable to other ministries (such as the Central Treasury, Auditor General, etc) to which they were not functionally attached; and 1 statistical office did not specify its system of accountability. On the other hand 8 statistical services did not have their own accounting unit. Their accounts were controlled entirely by either the parent ministry or others. Assuming that an independent status in the financial activities of an organization promotes efficient management, African statistical services have undergone a considerable improvement in re-organizing their statistical services over the last 7 years. In 1974 only 13 out of 24 (i.e. 54%) statistical services had kept their own accounts, whereas in the 1981 survey 24 out of 32 (i.e. 75%) kept their own accounts. However, it could be argued that the exact implication of such a situation is not clear, because the dispute between the advantages of centralization and decentralization is yet unresolved.

Table 5 - No. of NSS classified by their Accounting System

Accounting System	Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	
<b>A. Own Accounting Unit</b>					
a) self accounting	3	4	2	5	14
b) Non-self accounting					
1. Parent Ministry		1	1	2	4
2. Other		2		3	5
3. Not stated		1			1
<b>B. No Accounting Unit</b>					
a) Parent Ministry		1	2	1	4
b) Other		1	1	2	4
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>



A high quality statistical data is secured if, among other things, governments allocate sufficient amounts of money for their statistical services. This in turn helps nations to develop in a planned, coordinated and sustained fashion. However, adequate budget has not been allocated for statistical work in Africa with the possible result that a sufficiently qualified technical and administrative personnel has not been maintained. Table 6 shows the average government and technical assistance budget for national statistical services (this does not include budgets for statistical units in other ministries or government organizations). The average budget for the region as a whole is slightly more than US\$ 2.5 million. The Western and Northern sub-regions have the highest budget in the region, whereas the remaining two sub-regions have the highest budget in the region, whereas the remaining two sub-regions have much lower budgets for statistical work. Of the total budget nearly 62 percent is spent in staff salary.

Table 6 - Average Government Budget and Technical Assistance Budget for NSS (US Dollars)

Type of Expenditure	Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	
A. Gov't Budget					
1. Staff	2,699,027	2,470,694	570,381	507,323	7,567,981
2. Travel & Transp.	522,703	404,291	15,634	52,473	248,775
3. Equipment, Supplies etc.	440,921	597,646	44,756	95,915	294,810
4. Others	371,368	873,635	243,693	176,309	416,251
Total	4,034,019	4,346,266	874,464	832,519	2,522,817
B. Technical Assistance	-	267,007	162,345	163,382	148,184
C. No. of reporting Countries	A. 3	8	6	13	30
	B. 2	5	3	7	17

Technical assistance fund was available in the West, Central and Eastern/Southern sub-regions. The Western sub-region received a relatively higher assistance for statistical activities. The average for the region as a whole indicated in the table is US\$ 148,184.

Similarly Table 7 shows the budgets that the various African Governments allocated to statistical activities in relation to size of country. Two countries among those who replied to the enquiry did not answer this particular question. Again the budgets for mainland Tanzania and the island Zanzibar have been combined for reasons of convenience. This table clearly reveals that there is a considerable difference among countries in annual budgetary provisions. It ranges from a low of US\$22,000 to a high of US\$19 million. Eleven statistical services have annual budgets below US\$500,000; and three others over US\$5 million. The average for the region, as mentioned earlier, is a little more than US\$2.5 million.

Table 7 - Number of Countries classified by budget class and population size.

Population Size of Country (million habitants)	Budget Class (US, 000)								Total
	100	100-499	500-999	1000-1499	1500-1999	2000-2999	3000-4999	5000+	
Under 1	2	5		1			1		9
1 - 4	1	2	1	2					6
5 - 9		1	1	1	1	3			7
10 - 14								1	1
15 - 19			1			1			2
Over 20				1		1		2	4
Total	3	8	3	5	1	5	1	3	29

Relationship between population size of country and budget for statistical services has been examined. They are fairly well related. The pattern of distribution of figures in Table 7 indicates the degree of relation between population size and budget classes. The co-relation coefficient  $r = 0.54$  shows that there is fairly strong correlation between size of a country and the budget it allocated for statistical service. On the other hand it does not mean that this is true for all ordered pairs  $(X, Y)$ , where  $X$  is the population and  $Y$  is the annual budget for statistical service of a country. For example, in some cases a country with twice as much population had about half as much budget for statistical service as a smaller country.

Structure of Statistical Services

Table 8 attempts to explain the structure of statistical services in Africa. It has been observed that it varies from country to country. Preparing a single model representing all services has been found problematic because of the variety of arrangements adopted by the countries. However, an attempt is made to fit the various structures into a standard structure which is given hereafter:

Agriculture Statistics Division  
Industrial Statistics Division  
Economic Statistics Division  
Population & Social Statistics Division  
Methods & Standards Division  
Field Organization Division  
Electronic Data Processing Division  
Administration Division

These again have been sub-classified into sections. But all countries did not respond in a similar way (three did not reply at all). For example some countries listed all sections or units under the economic division while others gave economic statistics without specification. In all 25 statistical services had population and social statistics division; 23 had national accounts section; 19 had external trade statistics section; 17 had a section on prices; 16 had agriculture and 14 industrial statistics sections, etc. Very few statistical services had separate sections engaged in the collection of data on balance of payments and public finance. Presumably such data are being collected by Central Banks. Similarly, only 7 statistical services included a methods and standards division in their structures.

Of the 29 statistical services that replied to this question only six of them had a section responsible for documentation and publication. Two countries had a section on tourism. It appears that each country adopted a structure best suited to meet its requirements and interests.

22 countries reported having regional/district offices. In the northern sub-region all three have regional offices; 7 out of 10 in the West, 5 out of 6 in the Central and 7 out of 12 in the Eastern/Southern sub-regions have regional offices.

Table 8 - Subject Coverage and Functions of NSS

Subject or Function	Number of Countries in the Sub-region				
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	Total
Agric. Prod.	2	5	1	8	16
Industrial Prod.	3	4	2	5	14
External Trade	3	5	4	7	19
Balance of Payments	1	-	-	2	3
National Accounts	3	7	3	10	23
Public Finance	2	1	-	3	6
Economic (W.O.S.)	-	4	2	3	9
Labour (Empl. & Earn)	3	1	1	7	12
Prices	1	4	3	9	17
Trade & Transport	1	4	2	7	14
Population & Social	3	8	4	10	25
Methods & Standards	2	3	1	1	7
Field Organization	2	6	2	6	16
EDP	3	4	3	6	16
Documentation & Publication	-	2	5	-	6
Tourism	-	1	-	1	2
Regional Offices	3	7	5	7	22
No. of Reporting Countries	3	9	4	13	29

Staff Position in NSS

Table 9 shows the distribution of statistical staff in the head office and the regional/district offices by sub-region. The position of staff has been divided into three major groups, namely, statistical personnel, EDP personnel and supporting staff. The statistical personnel again has been sub-divided into professionals, middle level and clerks/enumerators; the EDP personnel into professionals and others; and the supporting staff into administrative and general service. In general terms, about 12 percent of all staff in the 31 statistical services were professionals; the rest being middle level and junior level officers. This proportion compared with the 1974 enquiry returns is quite an improvement. The 1974 survey showed that only 9.2 percent of all staff were professionals. However, this does not mean that still there is no shortage of professional statistical personnel. In fact, in Table 9, the total for vacancies shows that

Table 9 : Staff Position In NSS

## NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE REGION

Staff position	North		Vacancies	Totals	West		Vacancies	Totals	Central		Vacancies	Totals	Eastern/Southern			Totals	Totals			
	Staff in post				Staff in post				Staff in post				Staff in post		Staff in post		Staff in post		Staff in post	
	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others	Nationals	Others		
		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		Tech. Gov.t Ass.		
<b>A. Head Office</b>																				
<b>a) Stat. Personnel</b>																				
Professionals	886 ✓	2	16	704 ✓	211 ✓	38	1	314	564	144 ✓	3	1	149	163 ✓	23	22	86	294	1204 <del>1196</del> ✓	66
Middle level	1 339		53	1 392	335		89	424		243		1	244	239			125	364	2 109	-
Clerks/Enum	337		12	349	904		167	1 071		230			230	856			112	968	2 281	-
<b>b) EDP Personnel</b>																				
Professionals	153 ✓		17	170 ✓	45 ✓		60	105		94 ✓		1	95	30 ✓	5	1	13	49	322 ✓	5
Others	417			417	252		96	348		75			75	196			47	243	940	-
<b>c) Supporting staff</b>																				
Administrative	656		8	664	272		55	327		58		1	59	94			4	98	1 080	-
General service	471		2	473	533			533		41			41	397			96	493	1 442	-
<b>B. Reg./Dist. Office</b>																				
<b>a) Staff personnel</b>																				
Professionals	72 ✓	911		72 ✓	17 ✓	273		20	37	14 ✓			14	7 ✓				7	110 <del>109</del> ✓	-
Middle level	162			162	117		161	278		65		1	66	141				141	478	-
Clerks/Enum	231			231	1 942		404	2 346		200			200	546				546	2 896	-
<b>b) EDP Personnel</b>																				
Professionals	-									46 ✓	298		46	1 ✓	201			1	47 ✓	46 ✓
Others	-									2			2					2	-	168
<b>c) Supporting staff</b>																				
Administrative	11			11	24			24		35			35						70	-
Gen. Services	32			32	420			420		29			29	5				5	486	-
No. of reporting countries	3			3	9			9		6			6	12				13		2683

the 31 services still need 527 professional staff to fill their vacant posts. About 75 percent of these vacancies were found in the services of the Western sub-region.

The Northern sub-region, with only 3 services reporting, had the highest number of professional staff in absolute terms and the highest average number of them per country (315). The remaining three sub-regions had an extremely lower average number of professional staff per country. The central, Western and Eastern/Southern sub-regions had an average of 43 and 18 professionals per country, respectively.

So far in the discussion we have focussed our attention on the staff position in the national statistical offices. Table 10 shows the staff position in other statistical units (ministries of other organizations). The answer supplied to this question was not satisfactory for some countries of the region.

Table 10 - Other Statistical Units and Staff Position

Av. Number of Units per Country	Av. No. of Persons per Country					Prof- essionals	Others	No. of Reporting Countries
	Professional Staff		Other Staff		Vacancies			
	Total	on second- ment from NSS	Total	in second- ment from NSS				
North	5	16	-	295	-	-	-	1
West	3.4	19	18	370	355	-	1	7
Central	6.5	4	2	15	14	3	4	4
Eastern/ Southern	4.0	5	2	32	18	1	4	9
Total	4.7	11	6	178	97	1	2	21

The reason may be because the statistical offices did not know much about the staff of other statistical units in their respective countries. At the same time the responses of some 21 statistical services were fairly good.

Average number of statistical units per country varied from 3.4 in the West to 6.5 in the Central sub-region; the average for the region being 4.7 units per country. Moreover, the average number of professional staff in these units was 11 for the region as a whole. It was highest (19) in the Western and lowest (4) in the Central sub-regions. Most of these professionals were seconded by the national/Central statistical office. On the other hand, on the average, only 1 professional and 2 others were needed to fill the vacant posts in the other statistical units.

Table 11 attempts to show the coordination of national statistical activities and the kind of links that exist between the statistical office and other units in 26 responding countries. The classification of the mechanism for co-ordination are: 1) no co-ordinating body, 2) single co-ordinating body, 3) main co-ordinating body plus specialized committees, and 4) specialized committees only. 13 countries reported that there was no co-ordinating body for all statistical activities in the nation. 9 others had single co-ordinating body, 2 had main co-ordinating body plus specialized national committees and 2 had specialized committees only.

Among the 13 nations who had no co-ordinating body for their statistical activities 4 had no formal link with the various statistical units in the ministries (i.e. agriculture, health, education, finance, labour, etc.). Another 4 were related by consultation with their respective units. 2 countries reported having joint cooperation and another 2 are charged with supervision and assistance in statistical work. One country which reported having no co-ordinating body did not specify the kind of links with other statistical units.

Table 11 - Coordinating Arrangements and links with other Statistical Units.

Co-ordinating Arrangements	Kind of Links with other Units						Total
	All under SS	Joint Co-operation	Supervision and Assistance	Consulta- tion	No Formal Link	Not Stated	
No. Coord. body	-	2	2	4	4	1	13
Single Coord. body	3	-	-	1	4	1	9
Main Coordin. Body & specialized Committees	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Specialized Comm. only	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>

Of the 9 countries who had a single co-ordinating body for statistical activities, 3 were directly under the National Statistical Service structure; 4 had no formal link, 1 was engaged in consultation with other units, and 1 did not state the kind of link.

In all, 9 countries reported having no formal links between their national statistical office and other units. Of these, 4 countries did not have any co-ordinating arrangements of one kind or another; 4 had single co-ordinating body, and 1 had specialized committees only.

On the main, the survey showed that the major government organizations that had their own statistical units were the ministries of health, agriculture, education, finance, labour, national bank, in that order. An examination of the sub-regional or country conditions of the existence of other statistical units have proved futile, because in most cases, the data has been found unwieldy.

#### Legal Provisions for a national statistical system

In the survey a question was asked regarding the availability and nature of statistical legislation in individual countries (see Table 12). In all 30 countries replied to this question. 27 of them (90%) claim that they had a legislation with both penalty and confidentiality clauses. 2 countries expressed the existence of a legislation with confidentiality clause but no penalty clause. One country did not have any kind of statistical legislation whatsoever. At the same time, two countries failed to state the existence and nature of such a legislation.

In the 1974 survey of statistical organization 79 percent of the responding countries had statistical laws of some kind or another and 21 percent did not reply to the question. In the 1981 survey, however, about 97 percent expressed the existence of statistical laws in their countries.

Table 12 - Availability & Nature of Statistical Legislation

Nature of Legislation	Number of Countries in the Sub-region				Total	%
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern		
With penalty Clause only						
With Confidentiality Clause only		1		1	2	6.5
With both penalty & Confidentiality clauses	3	8	4	12	27	84
No legislation			1		1	3
Not stated		1	1		2	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Although some countries who did not reply to the 1974 enquiry may have had some legislation or governmental authorization for statistical activities, it appears that in general terms, more countries are realizing the need for such a legislation.



Census and Surveys

In the survey, a question was asked whether censuses and surveys were in progress or planned in the near future to be conducted either by the National Statistical Services (NSS) or other governmental organizations in the four sub-regions. Analysis of the data shows that at the time of writing this report, a total of 163 census and survey projects were in progress and/or planned in future in the 32 responding countries (Table 13). 68 of these censuses or surveys were in the Eastern/Southern sub-region and 53 were in the Western sub-region. For the region as a whole, 138 of these projects were to be conducted by the National Statistical Services and the remaining 30 by the other government departments or ministries who have specialized responsibilities.

Population and agriculture related censuses and surveys were dominant among the project areas, constituting nearly 43 percent. Surveys on income, consumption and expenditure and economic activities were next in the row. Moreover, a significant number of projects related to health and social affairs (literacy, education, etc.) were in progress or planned in future. Quite a few census and survey projects covering nutrition, food consumption and housing conditions and facilities appear to be in progress or planned in future.

In the survey a question on the participation of countries in the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) was asked. As could be observed in Table 13, 10 countries out of 32 confirmed that they were participating in the programme. 4 of these countries were in the Eastern/Southern sub-region, and 2 each in the other three sub-regions. At the same time 19 countries reported to have been planning to participate in the programme. 2 others explicitly indicated that they are not even planning to take part in the programme in future. One country in the Western sub-region did not answer this question. This finding indicates that the AHSCP project has shown a considerable improvement over the last few years. As this programme was intended to help countries to maintain a reasonably uniform standards of household data, it is hoped that its present pace of growth in the region will enable it to reach its desired goal in a reasonably short time.

Table 13 - Censuses and surveys in progress or planned  
and participation in AHSCP

Censuses	Number of Projects and No. of Countries								Total		
	Sub-region and Agency Responsible										
	North		West		Central		Eastern/Southern				
	NSS	Other	NSS	Other	NSS	Other	NSS	Other			
Population	5		13		9	1	10	1	39		
Income, Consumption and expenditure	1		7		1		3		17		
Labour force/ Employment	1		3				3	2	9		
Health			1	6	1		2		10		
Nutrition			1				3		4		
Housing Conditions and Facilities	1		2				2		5		
Social (literacy, education, etc.)		2	1	2			4		9		
Food Consumption			1			1	2	1	5		
Household/small Scale enterprise	1		2		2	1	2		8		
Agriculture		2	4	5		3	16	3	33		
Industrial Prod.	2		3		1		4		10		
Economic data	4		2		4		5		15		
Others	1				3				4		
Total	No. of Projects		16	4	40	13	21	6	61	7	168
	No. of Countries		3		10		6		13		32
Parti- cipa- tion in AHSCP	Participating		2		2		2		4		10
	Planning to participate				7		4		8		19
	Not planning to participate		1						1		2
	No. response				1				1		1

Publications

The quantity and scope of the subject matter of statistical publications to a greater extent indicates the level of organization of National Statistical Services. The list of publications obtained from these services shows that the nature and frequency varied from country to country. The number of publications ranged from 1 to over 50; the average being slightly more than 12 publications per country.

Table 14 shows the nature and frequency of statistical publications in 32 National Statistical Offices classified by sub-region. In all, a total of 380 publications, containing 12 subjects were reported in the survey. An examination of the frequency of the publications shows that nearly 43 percent were ad hoc, 30 percent annual, 10 percent quarterly and 8 percent monthly publications. Furthermore, a significant proportion (44%) of the publications covered financial and other economic activities and statistical yearbooks/abstracts/digests/handbooks published at regular intervals or ad hoc. Publications related to population and demography were also relatively significant, but they were not regular. A similar situation exists for the publications on prices, household budget and consumption. Not much is published in areas related to social conditions, labour and employment and transport and communication.

Table 14 - Nature and Frequency of Publications by Sub-region

Nature and Frequency	Number of Publications in the Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	
1. Stat. Bulletin/ Abstract/Year- book/digest etc.					
Monthly	1	5	2	4	12
Quarterly		6	3	5	14
Bi-annually		2	1	2	5
Annually	3	5	1	15	24
Decennially			2	1	3
Ad hoc	4		1		5
2. Financial & Other Econ. Act.					
Monthly	4	1			5
Quarterly	1	4		1	6
Bi-annually		1	1	1	3
Annually	5	17	4	25	51
Ad hoc	3	12	10	13	38

Table 14 cont'd

Nature and Frequency	Number of Publications in the Sub-region				
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	Total
3. Prices, hh budget and consumption, etc.					
Monthly	3	4	1	2	10
Quarterly	1	1	1	3	6
Ad hoc	4	6	1	15	26
4. Labour & Employment					
Quarterly		1			1
Bi-annually				1	1
Annually		1		5	6
Ad hoc	2		1	4	7
5. Transport & Communication					
Quarterly				3	3
Annually	1	2	1	5	9
Ad hoc	5		2	3	10
6. Agric. Forestry & Fisheries					
Weekly	1				1
Monthly	1				1
Quarterly				3	3
Annually		1		8	9
Ad hoc	8	3		7	18
7. Population & Demography					
Annually				2	2
Decennially	1	1		4	6
Ad hoc	20	7	2	16	45
8. Social Conditions					
Quarterly	1				1
Annually		2		5	7
Ad hoc	5		1	3	9

Table 14 cont'd

Nature and Frequency	Number of Publications in the Sub-region				Total
	North	West	Central	Eastern/ Southern	
9. Tourism & Int. Migration					
Monthly		1			1
Quarterly	1			1	2
Bi-annually				1	1
Annually	1	1		4	6
Ad hoc			1		1
10. Annual Econ. Surveys		2		1	3
11. Special Surveys	5	2	1	7	15
12. Others				4	4
No. of reporting countries	3	10	6	12	32

The timeliness and regularity have been examined for individual countries and sub-region by the subject matter. Table 15 shows that out of a total of 380 publications 313 (i.e. about 82%) were published before 1980; 41 of them (i.e. 11%) during 1980 and the remaining 26 (i.e. 7%) publications during the first six months of 1981. This clearly implies that statistical publications have not been frequently published as regularly as they were at first set. The year 1980 was especially worse as there were only a very few publications compared to the previous years and the year afterwards.

Table 15 - Timeliness of Publications

Nature and Frequency of Publications	Date of Last Issue							Total
	Before 1980	1980				1981		
		Jan-Mar.	Apr-Jun.	Jul.-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Jan-Mar.	Apr-Jun.	
<b>1. Statistical Bulletin/ Abstract/ Yearbook etc.</b>								
Monthly	6	1	2		2	1	3	15
Quarterly	9				4	1		14
Bi-annually	1		1				1	3
Annually	15		1	3	3			22
Ad hoc	9		1					10
<b>2. Financial &amp; Other Economic Activities</b>								
Monthly	1					2	1	4
Quarterly	4		2		1	1	4	12
Bi-annually	2	1						3
Annually	49		1	1	6	1	1	59
Ad hoc	31	1		1	2		1	36
<b>3. Prices, hh budget and consumption</b>								
Monthly	4		1			3	2	10
Quarterly	3							3
Bi-annually								
Annually								
Ad hoc	21					1		22
<b>4. Labour &amp; Employment</b>								
Quarterly	1							1
Bi-annually		1						1
Annually	6							6
Ad hoc	7							7

Table 15 cont'd

Nature and Frequency of Publications	Date of Last Issue						Total
	Before 1980	1980			1981		
		Jan-Mar.	Apr-Jun.	Jul.-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Jan-Mar.	
5. Transport & Communication							
Quarterly	3						3
Bi-annually							
Annually	8		1		1		10
Ad hoc	8						8
6. Agric. Forest- ry & Fisheries							
Weekly	1						1
Quarterly	4						4
Annually	13				2		15
Ad hoc	13	1	1				15
7. Population & Demography							
Annually	2						2
Decennially	2					1	3
Ad hoc	51	1		1	1	1	55
8. Social Conditions							
Quarterly	1		1				2
Annually	5				2		7
Ad hoc	9						9
9. Tourism & Int. Migration							
Monthly						1	1
Quarterly	1		1				2
Bi-annually			1				1
Annually	4		1		1		6
Ad hoc	1						1
10. Annual Econ. Surveys	4						4
11. Special Surveys	3						3
12. Others	11	2		1			14

Problems Affecting the Performance of NSS

In the questionnaire the various National Statistical Services were asked to explain their existing problems in order of seriousness of the Problem. Of the 31 countries who sent back the filled in questionnaires 25 answered this question properly i.e. ranking their problems in order of seriousness. The rest did not rank their problems but, instead, simply indicated the problems their offices are confronted with.

Table 16 indicates the rank order according to the seriousness of problems affecting the performance of National Statistical Services.

Table 16 - Rank Order of Problems Affecting the Performance of NSS

Problems	Ranks							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Not stated	
Budget	10	5	4	3	-	-	8	30
Staffing	9	9	3	-	-	-	6	27
Administrative set-up	-	4	6	3	-	-	5	18
Managerial Capability	1	3	1	3	1	1	4	14
Processing Facilities	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
Others	3	1	-	5	2	-	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>

The insufficiency of the budget and the lack of qualified statistical manpower seem to be the most serious problems in this connection, followed by the lack of administrative set-up and of managerial capability. Various problems such as the absence of data processing facilities, the inadequacy of means of transportation, equipment, office buildings, etc..., are also matters of concern.



This study also attempted to investigate the sub-regional variation in the problems of statistical offices (Table 17). It shows staffing are the most serious problem of National Statistical services in each sub-region. An exception to the previous analysis is that 2 statistical services in the West and 2 in the Eastern/Southern sub-regions had a shortage in data processing facilities while it was non-existent in the other sub-regions. A second important point was the existence of other problems in the Central sub-region as serious as the problems of budget and staffing.

Table 17 - Problems of NSS by sub-region

Problems	Sub-region				
	N	W	C	E/S	T
Budget	2	7	3	10	22
Staffing	2	7	3	9	21
Administrative set-up	1	3	3	6	13
Managerial capability	1	3	2	4	10
Processing facilities	-	2	-	2	4
Others	-	4	3	4	11

Conclusions: This survey which was expected to cover 51 member states of ECA region obtained replies from 32 countries (63%). This proportion is quite an improvement compared with the 1974 survey which covered 59% of the region. As far as population coverage is concerned, the 1981 enquiry represented 70% of the population of the region.

As regards the organizational location of National Statistical Offices, the 1981 survey revealed that 66% were located in the planning ministry; 22% in the finance and planning ministry; 9% in the office of the President or Prime-Minister; and only 3% in other ministries. Slightly higher proportions of National Statistical Services were located in the planning ministry in the 1974 (70%) than in the 1981 survey (66%).

In the 1974 survey only 54% of the statistical offices had their own accounting unit. Whereas in the 1981 survey they stood at 75%.

The average budget of a National Statistical Office was slightly more than US\$2.5 million in 1981. By comparison the 1974 enquiry revealed a national average of US\$913,000. 62% of the budget of statistical offices in 1981 were spent in staff salary. Technical assistance accounted for US\$148,194 on average. The countries in the Northern sub-region did not receive any technical assistance for statistical activities in the 1980/81 budget year.

There was an improvement in the average number of professionals in statistical offices over the last few years. In 1974 the average professional per statistical office was 23 and in 1981, this figure increased to 56.

Another improvement during the same period was legal provisions for national statistical system. It increased from 79% in 1974 to 97% in 1981. Furthermore, 93% of the countries had statistical legislation with both penalty and confidentiality clauses in 1981. However, there had been a slow down in the regularity and timeliness of statistical publications.

The 1981 survey also showed that the most serious problems affecting the performance of statistical services were budget and staffing.