

STATISTICS SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN MOROCCO & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019

Statistics Denmark



Project description

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to public debate in Morocco by providing society with relevant and easily accessible statistics, and support informed decision-making. The activities will support Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) in improving quality, data coverage, data systems, digitalisation and use of official statistics in Morocco.

The project will overall contribute to the achievement of SDG 17 (Partnerships) with focus on the targets related to data, monitoring and accountability. In fact, the project will indirectly influence all SDGs, as HCP is responsible for monitoring the indicators on Morocco. The project has a green component, which will contribute to SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation).

Key activities in 2019

The Background Document was completed and gives a clear understanding of the situation of producing statistics in Morocco. The document was written by Statistics Denmark based on meetings with staff at HCP. During these meetings, the staff also identified areas of interest for support. The Background Document thus contains a long list of potential topics for cooperation. This has been the key for discussing with HCP which topics to include in the full SSC project.

Building relations between HCP and Statistics Denmark has been important to create mutual understanding. The Minister of HCP and the Director General of Statistics Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2019 to emphasise the shared vision for cooperation.



Statistics Denmark and the Embassy have engaged in **dialogue with DI and Danish companies** in order to understand their needs and use of statistics on Morocco. Importantly, HCP has been informed about the response from the Danish companies in order to

understand how users (in this case foreign companies) perceive their statistical products.

The **provision of subject-matter technical assistance** has been in focus already in the inception phase to keep momentum and motivation. At the same time, it has given Statistics Denmark practical insights into HCP. The focus has been on digitalisation of HCP since digitalisation of the public sector is high on the Moroccan agenda. Experts from Statistics Denmark provided guidance and recommendations during a number of activities.



The focus on digitalisation has led to **a wider cooperation** among the Embassy, the Moroccan Digitalisation Agency, Statistics Denmark and HCP. In this context, the Embassy organised a study trip to Denmark where the Moroccan Digitalisation Agency among others visited Statistics Denmark.

Finally, **the full SSC project has been formulated** in close cooperation with HCP. Workshops with staff at HCP were facilitated to engage HCP actively in the formulation of the project. Coordination with other donors has been organised and will continue.

Ten missions to HCP in Rabat and two study visits to Statistics Denmark in Copenhagen took place in 2019. The Sector Counsellor arrived at the Danish Embassy in Rabat in August 2019.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

A close and trustful cooperation has been established between HCP and Statistics Denmark.

The project design and work plan has been formulated in close cooperation with HCP in order to build a strong ownership and commitment to the project.

Status: Inception phase

Project period: February 2019 to January 2020

Partners: Haut Commissariat Au Plan

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