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| **Name of Donor** | **Name of Project** |
| **African Development Bank (AfDB)** | Statistical Capacity Building Programme (SCB 4.2) |
| **Grant start date**:  | 1st April, 2016 |
| **Grant End date:** | 30 June, 2020 |
| **Grant Amount:** | USD 2,080,850 |
| **Disbursed before current year:** (2019) | USD 2,080,850 |
| **Balance:** | Nil |
| **Disbursed in 2019**:  | Nil |
| **Balance yet to be disbursed:** | Nil |

1. **Brief about the programme**

**Overview**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat, with the financial support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), has been implementing the Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) program in selected COMESA member states. COMESA acts in its capacity as the administrator of the Multinational Program to Build Statistical Capacity for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Monitoring and Results Measurement.

 In 2016, the Program completed phase III activities and begun implementing phase 4.2 activities. The agreement for SCB phase 4.2 was signed on 19 April 2016. The closing date of the grant is currently 30 June 2020. SCB 4.2 follows and builds on the achievements of three similar earlier programs (SCB I, II and III), implemented from 2004 to 2007, 2009 to 2011 and from 2012 to 2015 respectively.

**Overview of relevant issues in 2016-2020 Medium Term Strategic Plan**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) develops Medium-Term Strategic Plans (MTSP) for a period of five years, the current MTSP spans from 2016-2020 and aims to respond to the COMESA Treaty provisions to foster economic development through regional integration that covers market integration, industrialization, and infrastructure development. The MTSP 2016-2020’ policy objectives focus on creating jobs, raising incomes, and achieving economic transformation towards improved livelihoods and well-being of the people. In order to strengthen evidence-based decision-making, the MTSP 2016-2020 has clearly highlighted the need for policy responsive statistics.

Six of the nine MTSP’ strategic objectives require statistical response, and cover the following areas: market integration, investment, blue economy, economic infrastructure, industrialization and gender equality and social development.

As a response to the MTSP 2016-2020 statistics demand, in 2017, COMESA developed and adopted the COMESA Statistics Strategy 2017-2020 that takes on board the need to align the tenure of the statistical response to the MTSP 2016-2020 and takes into account the requirements of the United Nations agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union agenda 2063.

As one of the key Regional Economic Communities (RECs), COMESA has been entrusted with the role of Regional Coordinator of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2017-2026 (SHaSA 2) adopted by the Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa in January 2018.

The COMESA Statistics Strategy 2017-2020 includes six strategic objectives with one related outcome each : (i) strengthen producer/user dialogue to boost the use of statistics in policy and decision-making; (ii) strengthen statistics to support MTSP 2016-2020 strategic objectives; (iii) strengthen strategic partnerships; (iv) consolidate harmonization of statistics to ensure that statistics in the region are produced using harmonized frameworks that enable regional and international comparative analysis; (v) enhance statistical technical skills, competencies, literacy and structures; and (vi) strengthen technologies and systems as enablers for the statistical system.

1. **Overview of 2019 programme and expenditure implementation**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COMESA Sub Regional Activities** |   | Planned  | Accomplished |
| **Improving Economic Statistics** | Industrial Statistics | Technical Assistance to RMCs on implementation of *IRIS* *2008* | In collaboration with the COMESA Regional Support Mechanism (RISM) Unit, the Statistics Unit supported Sudan to undertake its first Industrial survey that will also help them to compute an Index of Industrial Production. There was a follow up assessment mission in September 2019 to determine the level of preparedness to implement agreed statistical activities in Sudan.  |
|  | Statistics of International Trade in Services | Technical Assistance on implementation of MSITS 2010 recommendations | * Continuous engagement of member countries to come up with Action Plans to implement MSITS2010 recommendations. So far Rwanda and Seychelles have been assisted to come up with road maps and are currently under implementation.
* 11th EDF support to development of Statistics of International Trade in Services under the Trade Facilitation Program. On a pilot basis, the COMESA statistics Unit has been working with Ministry of Trade and Industry in Zambia to introduce the program before reaching out to other countries
 |
| **Improving Environment Statistics** | Environment Statistics | Implementation of FDES in COMESA countries | a. Short Term Expert on FDES engaged. b. National FDES workshops undertaken in Ethiopia. |
| **Capacity Building for Secretariat** |   |  Courses on statistics/Data Analytics/Software | Statistics unit staff trained on Statistical Data and Meta data exchange (SDMX) and a program for rollout to member countries underway. |
| **Improving Economic Statistics** | Consumer Price Statistics | One Workshop Improving HCPIs in COMESA/SADC regions and one workshop on ICP | * A technical assistance mission was undertaken to Tunisia to assess their HCPI readiness and to assist their Statistical Office to begin compilation of their national HCPI in readiness for inclusion into the COMESA aggregate HCPI in January 2020. The mission was successfully concluded and the National Institute for Statistics in Tunisia has started compilation of the national HCPI
* An ICP data validation and closure workshop was held in April 2019 that also included training on improving HCPIs.
* Engaging member countries to come up with a roadmap for ICP-CPI integration.
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| Labour Statistics | 1 Workshops in Labor Force Data Analysis & LMIS  | Workshop undertaken with AfDB and ILO as a preparation for the twentieth ICLS |
| **Improving Infrastructure Statistics** |  |  AIKP Data collectionWorkshop | Data collection preparations for AIKP indicators started in April 2019 and will end in 2020*.* |
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Table 1, below presents expenditure incurred in the period in implementing the above activities

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Budget Line Description [as in grant contract]** | **2018** | **2019** |  |
| **Actual** | **Original Budget** | **Actual: Six months** | **Forecast: Six months** | **Revised Forecast** | **% Budget Utilisation achieved** | **% Forecast Budget Utilisation** | **Proposed budget revision** |
| **12 months** | **12 months** | **Jan - June** | **July-Dec** | **Jan - Dec: 12 months** | **Jan - June** | **Jan - Dec: 12 months** |  |
| Col 1 | Col 2 | **Col 3** | **Col 4** | **Col 5** | **Col 6** |  **Col 7=5+6** | **Col 8=5/4** | **Col 9=7/4** |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1** | **Program Coordination** | 226,756.00 | 67,836.18 | 67,836.18 |  - |  67,836.18 | 100 |  100 | - |
| **2** | **Program Supervision /Technical Missions/ Financial Management** | 97,753.00 |  10,843.09 |  10,843.09 | - |  10,843.09 |  100 |  100 | - |
| **3** | **Sub Regional Activities** | - | 25,870.00 |  25,870.00 | - |  25,870.00 | 100 |  100 | - |
| **4** | **Regional Public Goods Activities** | 17,061.00 |  170,000.00 |  13,019.00 |  156,981.00 |  170,000.00 |  8 |  100 |  - |
|  | **Total** | **341,570.00** | **274,549.27** | **117,568.27** | **156,981.00** | **274,549.27** | **42%** |  **100** | **-** |

As reflected in the above table, budget utilisation during the first half of the year was USD 117,568.27 representing 42% of the 2019 budget. The balance outstanding will be used for AIKP activities scheduled to begin in the last quarter of 2019

Furthermore, the project’s budget outturn is expected to be 100% once AIKP activities are implemented in the last quarter of 2019.

1. **Risk Management**

Major risks faced by the programme include;

1. Some countries (particularly those with large geographical areas) had to scale down on coverage due to limited resources;
2. Delays in signing the Implementation Agreements consequently affected the commencement of surveys in some countries;
3. Delays in retiring disbursed funds had an impact on the implementation of activities in some countries
4. Disbursement of funds to some countries was a challenge due to some factors such as political sanctions and economic difficulties causing scarcity of foreign exchange resulting in hard cash being physically delivered to these countries;
5. A good number of countries did not factor in the National Accounts activities in their budgets, this paused a risk to the implementation of National Accounts surveys;
6. Staff turnover in some countries caused delays in the implementation of activities.
7. **Recommendation**

Based on the budget outturn analysis and risk, management proposes the following;

1. Timely and consistent bilateral engagement with participating Member states
2. Training of staff from the Central statistics offices
3. Timely engagement of relevant Ministry’s/Departments to mitigate challenges of Government bureaucracies.