Somalia National Bureau of Statistics

Terms of Reference (ToR)
Development of the Somalia Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (SSQAF)
Reference Number: SO-MOPIED-521317-CS-INDV

1. Background

The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) is the principal government agency mandated to produce, coordinate, and disseminate official statistics in Somalia. Established under the 2020 Statistical Law, SNBS replaced the former Directorate of National Statistics to align with the Federal System and address the growing demand for reliable, high-quality data. SNBS plays a pivotal role in supporting evidence-based policymaking, planning, and monitoring developmental progress across sectors such as health, education, labour, governance and economic development.

Despite significant strides in statistical production including the Somalia Health and Demographic Survey 2020, Labour Force Survey 2019, and Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey 2022 as well as the publication of numerous administrative data reports across statistical sectors, Somalia's statistical system faces challenges in ensuring data quality, consistency, and adherence to international standards.

Reliable and timely statistics of good quality are central to effective government, sound policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, county and international resource allocation. In Somalia, considering the ongoing post-conflict recovery phase that defines the development lifecycle, strengthening the statistical system is central to sustainable development and evidence-based decision making.

The Second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDSII) underscores the urgency of enhancing quality assurance to align with global best practices. Within its commitment to enhance the quality, credibility and integrity of its outputs, SNBS recognizes the development and institutionalization of a national Statistical Quality Assurance Framework as a priority. The SSQAF will be a foundational document that seeks to communicate the principles, procedures, standards, and tools to promote the use of statistics produced in Somalia that will meet both national needs and needs that align with international standards, including the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework, and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model.

 The SSQAF will serve as a cornerstone for SNBS to institutionalize quality benchmarks, improve transparency, and foster trust among policymakers, development partners, and the public. By addressing these gaps, the framework will elevate Somalia's statistical ecosystem, ensuring data is accurate, reliable, timely, and actionable for national development.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of this consultancy is to develop a comprehensive, actionable, and sustainable SSQAF that:

a) **Standardizes and Institutionalizes QA Statistical Processes at SNBS:**

- Align methodologies with international best practices (e.g., UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, ISO 9001, Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), and Code of Practice (CoP).
- Harmonize data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination protocols across SNBS directorates and partner institutions.

b) **Enhance Data Quality and Credibility:**

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- Develop a Quality Assurance Framework that outlines quality objectives, indicators, and procedures
- Ensure statistical outputs meet benchmarks for accuracy, reliability and consistency
- Develop and integrate quality control mechanisms and systems (e.g., QA team checks, peer reviews, validation checks, metadata documentation) into all stages of statistical production at SNBS.

c) **Strengthen Institutional Capacity:**

- Build the technical expertise of SNBS staff through targeted training programs on quality assurance methodologies.
- Develop a continuous professional development plan to keep staff updated on emerging statistical technologies (e.g., GIS, advanced analytics).

d) **Foster Stakeholder Confidence:**

- Improve transparency and accountability in statistical processes to bolster trust among government agencies, NGOs, academia, and international partners.
- Ensure compliance with regional and global statistical commitments (e.g., SDG monitoring, African Charter on Statistics).

e) **Support Sustainable Implementation:**

- Establish an M&E system to track SSQAF adoption and impact.
- Recommend periodic review cycles to adapt the framework to evolving data needs and technological advancements.

3. **Scope of Work**

The Consultant will undertake the following tasks across four phases:

Deliverables

Phase	Deliverable	Key Activities	Timeline	Success Indicator
Phase 1	*Inception Report*	- Assess current statistical processes (institutional, process, output quality). - Stakeholder interviews (SNBS leadership, MDAs, partners). - Review previous SSQAF (if any) and user satisfaction.	Month 1	Approved report with actionable recommendations and detailed SSQAF development plan.
Phase 2	**a)** *First Draft of SSQAF*	- Align framework with international standards (UN, ISO, GSBPM). - Draft guidelines for data collection, processing, and dissemination.	Month 2	Submission of draft incorporating SNBS feedback.
Phase 2	**b)** *Final Draft of SSQAF*	- Incorporate feedback from SNBS technical review. - Validate coherence with NSDSII and stakeholder needs.	Month 3	Final draft endorsed by SNBS senior management.
Phase 3	*Training Program & Capacity Building*	- Conduct 4 training sessions (basic/advanced QA methods). - Develop a continuous professional development plan. Develop a QA system for staff for implementing QA procedures	Month 4	80%+ staff trained; training evaluation reports submitted.
Phase 4	**a)** *Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework for the SSQAF*	- Design M&E tools (QA team checks, peer reviews, validation checks, audits). - Recommend QA improvement cycles.	Month 4	Functional M&E framework adopted by SNBS.
Phase 4	**b)** *Final SSQAF Document & Dissemination*	- Publish framework on SNBS website/social media. - Share with NSS stakeholders.	Month 4	Framework publicly available; stakeholder acknowledgment.

4. Duration & Work Plan

The consultancy is expected to be completed within 90 working days, over spread over 4 months, with key milestones aligned with SNBS's fiscal.

5. Qualifications and Experience requirements:

The ideal consultant/team should have:

- Advanced degree (master's degree) in Statistics, Economics, Data Science, or related field.
- Minimum 7 years of experience in statistical quality assurance, data governance, or institutional frameworks.
- Proven expertise in developing statistical quality frameworks (e.g., for government/NGOs).
- Familiarity with international standards (e.g., UN Fundamental Principles, GSBPM, ISO, Cop).
- Familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for spatial data quality assurance (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS).
- Proficiency in statistical software for data quality assessment, such as: Stata, R, Python, Java, Excel or SPSS (for data analysis and validation)
- Strong training and capacity-building skills.
- Excellent report writing and communication skills.
- Proficiency in Somali & English both spoken and written is required.

6. Terms of payment

1. **20%** – Upon submission and approval of the Inception Report (including work plan).
2. **30%** – Upon submission and approval of the Draft SSQAF (must include an assessment and situational analysis)
3. **50%** – Upon submission and approval of the Final SSQAF Document & Dissemination as well as delivering of the Training Sessions, materials, and capacity-building plan and development of a functioning M&E System.