



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Ms. Yuko Naab, Chief
Program Management,
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From: Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo, OiC
African Centre for Statistics

Date: 17 June 2025

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Subject: Clarification notes on EAC/WB project of the Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Program for Results (EARSPR)

ECA has agreed with the EAC to provide technical support for the verification of results related to the Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Program for Results (EARSPR), which is being executed in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The program, financed by the World Bank, operates under a disbursement-linked indicators (DLI) framework that is contingent upon specific disbursement-linked results (DLR).

In its role as an independent verification agency, ECA through ACS conducted a five-window verification of the DLR at the National Statistics Offices of the three nations, adhering to established protocols. Out of a total of 64 DLRs, the ECA, through ACS, verified 33 DLRs, which constitutes 51.6%. Verification reports were delivered to both the EAC and the World Bank within the designated timeframe. The actual performance of the project has exceeded the initially planned DLRs.

Conversely, ACS has utilised the project funds to conduct the verifications. These funds are primarily allocated for remuneration (consultancy fees) and travel (reimbursable) expenses. In the first year, the fund utilization rate reached 50%, attributed to several factors.

1. **Limited timeframe for recruitment.** The short time interval between the verification notification from EAC and the 28-day countdown impacts the hiring of consultants or non-key experts, thereby hindering their ability to travel on-site and provide technical support. Consequently, the staff had to take on the responsibility of conducting the on-site verification, resulting in ACS being unable to fully utilize the funds designated for travel.
2. **Insufficient availability of consultants in certain sectors.** It has been observed that consultants or non-key experts are not available on a full-time basis to verify results. As a result, the staff were tasked with conducting the verification, which led to ACS's unable to utilise the funds allocated for consultancy and travel.

3. **Certain verification periods are managed by staff.** The first DLR verification (April 2024) was carried out for Kenya by ACS staff due to the late release of funds from EAC. This situation restricts the recruitment and involvement of consultants for the project.

The ACS has acknowledged the necessity to enhance project management and has communicated the challenges encountered during the first year to the EAC/RPCU, emphasizing the need to improve the timeline for DLR submissions. Furthermore, the ACS has pointed out to EAC that the 21-day travel policy of ECA is a compulsory guideline that must be adhered to for the execution of the verification mission. Following the request for early submission for verification, the EAC submitted the April 2025 verification two weeks before the actual verification date. This was recognized as a significant factor in enhancing project fund management, increasing from 37% in March 2025 to 50% in May 2025.

The ACS anticipates an increase in DLR verification requests from the three countries via EAC in the project's second year, as the project is set to close in June 2027. Consequently, additional resources or funds for verification are essential. Therefore, ACS emphasises the need for the second-year funding from EAC and assures effective and efficient management of the project funds.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.