

**PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FOR
EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL STATISTICS PROGRAM FOR RESULTS (EARSPP)
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2024 – MAY 2025 (Y1)
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA)**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Program-for-Results (EARSP-for-R) has been implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania to support the harmonization, availability, and use of core economic and social statistics. Funds are disbursed to the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) based on the achievement of Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs), which require independent verification. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has been contracted by the East African Community (EAC) to verify the Disbursement Linked Results (DLRs) under the DLIs using established procedures.

UNECA, through the Africa Centre for Statistics (ACS), has verified 33 DLRs in the first year of the project (April 2024 to May 2025). The verification was conducted by a team of experts, including staff, short-term consultants, and the project team, who strictly adhered to the agreed procedures and methodologies. It encompasses 16 DLRs for the United Republic of Tanzania, 12 for Kenya, and 5 for Rwanda, representing 51.6% of the total 64 DLRs. A total of 7 verification reports were submitted to the EAC and the WB within the stipulated timeline.

The onsite visit and efficient coordination significantly supported the timely completion of the verification. However, delays in verification feedback and the limited time for hiring consultants impacted onsite visits. Therefore, enhancing close communication and coordination with the EAC in advance submission of the DLRs will improve the verification results of the upcoming programme and the project's overall efficiency.

2. BACKGROUND

The Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Programme for Results aims to enhance the harmonization, availability, and use of core economic and social statistics in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The Program under the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU) is planned to support the statistical activities of implementing

countries from 2022 to 2027 within the strategic themes of SHaSA2¹. Funded by the World Bank, the program follows a disbursement-linked results (DLR) mechanism tied to specific achievements.

The EARSP-for-R is structured into three result areas (Result area 1: Harmonization, quality, dissemination & use of statistics; Result area 2: Availability & New Data Sources, and Result area 3: Infrastructure & Institutional Development) with disbursement link indicators (DLI) and identified DLRs. Hence, implementing agencies, which are the National Statistics Offices (NSO) of Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, are expected to report their country-specific achievement of DLRs to the Regional Program Coordination Unit (RPCU) EAC. These results must be independently verified to disburse the related trench of funds.

The UNECA, through the African Centre for Statistics, has been contracted as one of the Independent Verification Agencies (IVA) by the EAC to verify 64 DLRs under the six DLIs (DLI 1.1 (Improved harmonization and quality of statistics), DLI 2.2 (Improved availability of enterprise-based survey data), DLI 2.3 (Improved availability of agricultural statistics), DLI 2.4 (Improved availability of administrative data), DLI 2.5 (Improved availability of price & macroeconomic statistics), and DLI 2.6 (Gained experience with big data sources and new technologies). Following the agreed procedures, UNECA verified a set of DLRs across five verification windows in 2024-2025, and verification reports were submitted to EAC and the World Bank within the stipulated timelines.

3. PURPOSE

The main purpose of this report is to provide implementation status, achievements, challenges and ways forward of the EAC/WB project.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS / DELIVERABLES

UNECA, through the ACS, has verified 33 DLRs (Table 1) across the four quarters of year 1 (April 2024 - May 2025) against the 7 DLRs planned for the year in the agreement. The verification has been conducted by a team of experts, including staff (statisticians), short-term consultants, and the project team, who have strictly adhered to the agreed procedures and methodologies. It covers 16 DLRs for the United Republic of Tanzania, 12 for Kenya, and 5 for Rwanda.

¹ The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2017-2026 (SHaSA 2) aims to serve as a practical tool for producers and users of statistical data, including statisticians, decision-makers (i.e. those in governments, ministries, central banks, etc.) and institutions in charge of planning, forecasting and programming. ([The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa \(SHaSA\) | AKMH](#))

Table 1. Verification of DLI/DLRs by Country - Y1 (Apr 2024 – May 2025)

Country	Result Areas	Verified DLI	Verified DLRs	Planned DLRS in PCA	%	No. of Reports
Kenya	R2: Availability & New Data Sources.	2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5	12	3	400	3
Rwanda	R1: Harmonization, Quality, Dissemination & Use.	1.1	1	0	500	1
	R2: Availability & New Data Sources.	2.4, 2.5	4			
Tanzania	R1: Harmonization, Quality, Dissemination & Use.	1.1	4	4	400	3
	R2: Availability & New Data Sources	2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6	12			
	Total		33	7	471	7

- *One DLR is resubmitted for verification.*

The project achieved **51.6%** of the DLRs verification out of the total 64 DLRs specified in the Programme Cooperation Agreement. A total of 7 verification reports (see annexes 1-7) were submitted to the EAC and the WB within the stipulated timeline. The onsite visit and efficient coordination of RPCU/EAC and the program managers of the implementing countries significantly support the verification process to be completed on time.

5. CHALLENGES

During the implementation of the project, the following challenges were encountered:

- **Delays in Feedback:** Delayed responses to preliminary findings and validation of evidence (initial findings).
- **Data Accessibility:** Intermittent access to evidence and outdated data portals.
- **Limited time between notification of EAC/RPCU for verification and the 28-day cycle countdown:** leads to unfinished hiring of consultants and hence restricts them from being involved in on-site visits (leading to more online verification).

6. LESSONS LEARNED

- On-site visits significantly enhance the verification process.
- Effective coordination and communication among stakeholders are critical for the project.

7. CONCLUSIONS

UNECA has made significant progress in verifying 33 DLRs of the EARSP-for-R in year 1. However, the time for notification of DLRs from the partner has limited the involvement of the entire team and poses challenges to the successful management of the project resources. Therefore, adequate lead time, preferably 30 days prior to the 28-day cycle and advance submission of two-quarter DLRs are critical for achieving the project objectives.

8. WAY FORWARD

- UNECA request EAC to share the list of DLRs from a month ago, before the 28-day cycle verification countdown, for better team arrangement and logistics preparation.
- UNECA call EAC for advance submissions of at least two quarters of DLRs instead of one for efficient results verification and effective fund management.
- UNECA will closely follow up with EAC/RPCU for timely feedback on outstanding issues of the DLR verification.
- Enhance communication and coordination with RPCU/EAC and ensure the successful provision of the expected technical assistance on DLRs verification.

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET (2024/25)

As of April 2024, the execution of the work plan (Annexe 8), along with budget implementation, was primarily focused on activities related to the conduct set of DLRs verification under DLI in the program countries. Although 33 DLRs' verification was completed beyond the planned 7 DLRs, and reports were submitted to EAC and WB, the short time between verification notification and the 28-day countdown delay hiring consultants/non-key experts restricts their onsite travel and engagement for technical consultancy. The staff are responsible for conducting the onsite verification.

As a result, UNECA is unable to fully utilize the first fund instalment for remuneration and reimbursable budget of **\$384,756** in the first year. The budget performance on 20th June 2025 was about **\$194,470.62 (50.5%)**. UNECA reviewed the work plan and budget performance of the Year and put in place better strategies for effective and efficient management of the project fund.

The detailed planned activities and the budget performance are presented in Annexe-9 (UNECA Workplan and budget performance 2024/25, on 20th June 2025) and the Bank statement.

10. ANNEXES

- Annex1: April 2024 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the Republic of Kenya.
- Annex2: July 2024 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the Republic of Rwanda.
- Annex3: July 2024 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Annex4: October 2024 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the Republic of Kenya.
- Annex5: January 2025 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Annex6: January 2025 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the Republic of Kenya.
- Annex7: April 2025 EARSPPR DLRs Verification Report of the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Annex8: UNECA Work Plan.
- Annex9: UNECA Budget performance 20224/25, on 20th June 2025.