

Request for Incorporation of the following in the annual Report of 2014:

Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan is contradicting with some of the contents of the Annual Report, May 2015 and thereby requesting your office to please incorporate the following in the report:

Component A, Improvement of Framework for Institutional and Capacity Development: CSO of Afghanistan in this area during 2014 has successfully achieved through the assistance of SRF Project preparation of new strategic plan for human resources development and preparation of policies, arranged several training and study tour programs. It has also revised organization structure and the government of Afghanistan has accorded its approval.

Thirty four CSO officials are undergoing a bachelor degree on statistics to enhance their knowledge and capacity. Two teams of senior officials underwent training on report writing skills development and are now contributing in their regular jobs with the enhanced knowledge and skills. Improvement of information and communication capacity is also undergoing through arrangement of different skill based training. A complete overhaul of website of CSO is undertaken as well as establishment of a modern library.

Component B, Improve Data Collection and Analysis Capacity: CSO has already procured GIS systems, GPS, tablet computers, GIS software and related others for better collection of data and improvement of analysis. All the old statistical forms and questionnaires are revised and updated. Finalization of statistical standards and classification are under process.

CSO has taken a plan to publish quarterly GDP which is first time in Afghanistan and also could be first time in the sub-continent. Revision of national accounts files are under process. It has also taken a very bold step to rebase CPI of all the provinces of Afghanistan which is continuing.

CSO is publishing on regular basis survey results of all surveys like SDES, User Satisfaction, Men and Women Decision Making, AMICS and others.

Component C, Improve Administrative Data Systems: CSO is continuously having dialogues every month and quarter with the line ministries, different government directorates, NGOs, private sectors, international and multilateral agencies, donors and partners through taskforce meetings, individual discussions,

workshops, training and related others for improvement of administrative data systems. And it is a continuous initiative. It is also conducting several training and workshops for the stakeholders on awareness raising, statistical forms, coordination and communication.

Component D, Improve Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure: The SRF Project has undertaken a complete review of requirements of CSO data need and requirements for establishing a statistical data center. It has also prepared a comprehensive tender bidding document that are ready to be approved by the appropriate authority of the government of Afghanistan. Once it is approved the bid will be announced, evaluated and a contract will be awarded to the lowest and qualified service provider(s).

Involvement of GIZ, the Twinning Partner: Majority of the above initiatives are undertaken from CSO own and with the technical and financial assistance of SRF project. GIZ is engaged to improve capacity of CSO in all areas, but it has substantial lack of statistical capacity of its own. Again, GIZ was unable to field several missions to CSO in appropriate time with appropriate skills. Considering all these limitations of GIZ, CSO has temporarily stopped accepting missions from GIZ.