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Assistance in Statistical Training:
the experience of Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC)

By

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1. Background

Initially, with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre was established as an East African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), under the East African Common Services Organisation (EACSO) in 1965. In addition to serving the member countries of Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda, it also received participants from other English speaking countries of Africa. Over the years, the institutional arrangement of running the center changed as the organizations that ran the center changed. With the assistance of UNDP, the EACSO ran the center for the period 1965-1967 and its successor the East African Community took over in 1967. As UNDP assistance ended in 1972 the EAC took over full control until it collapsed in 1977. For the period 1977 to 1994 the centre operated as a department under Tanzania government although it continued to provide services to other user countries. In 1994 an act of Tanzania Parliament established the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) as a national institution that would provide regional services. The Public Service Reform Programme of Tanzania transformed the EASTC into an executive agency from May 2002. The changes in the institutional status of EASTC over time had some impact on the sources of funds for its operations.

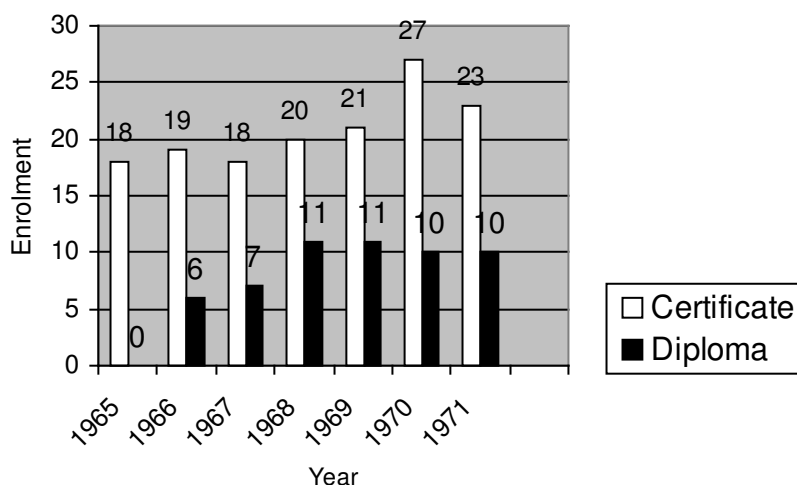
2. EASTC under EACSO/EAC/UNDP 1965-72

For period 1965-67, EASTC was under the East African Statistical Department (EASD) of the EACSO. During 1967-72 it was part of (EASD) that fell under the Common Market Secretariat of the East African Community. As a regional organization the EACSO/EAC mobilized resources from the partner states and development partners to run its activities including those of EASTC. During this period most of the financing, including fellowships for participants was covered by UNDP. Physical facilities in terms of offices, classrooms and participant hostels were hired from the University of Dar es Salaam. There was a regular annual enrolment, increasing over time depending on the space provided by the University. The annual intake is shown in table 1 and chart 1.

Table 1: EASTC Enrolment 1965-1972

<i>Year Programme</i>	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Certificate	18	19	18	20	21	27	23	24
Diploma	0	6	7	11	11	10	10	10
Block fellowships	UNDP EACSO	UNDP EACSO	UNDP EACSO	UNDP EAC	UNDP EAC	UNDP EAC	UNDP EAC	UNDP EAC

Chart 1: EASTC Enrolment 1965-1971



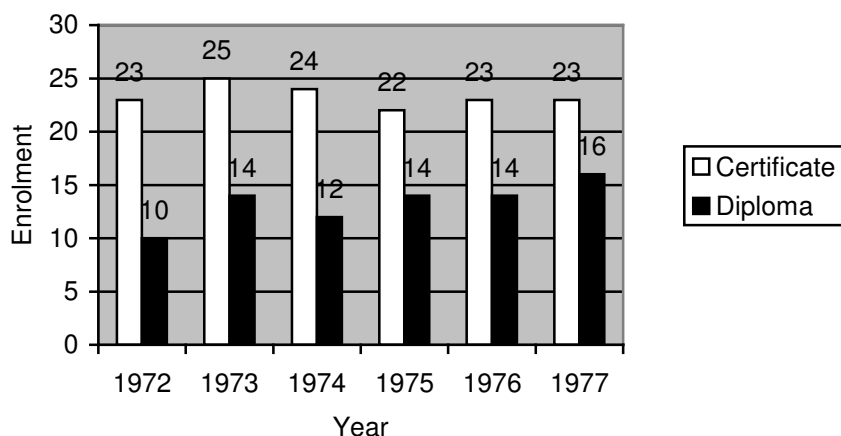
3. EASTC under EAC 1972-77

As the UNDP pulled out in 1972, the EAC assumed full responsibility of the EASTC. While it continued to cover the cost of tuition, sponsors other than the member states of EAC were required to meet the cost of living for their participants. Most of the user countries were able to meet these costs. Enrolment continued to be regular but flat. Physical space available at the University determined the enrolment levels. Table 2 and chart 2 show the annual enrolments of the period.

Table 2: EASTC Enrolment 1972-1977

<i>Year Programme</i>	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Certificate	23	25	24	22	23	27
Diploma	10	14	12	14	14	10
Block fellowships	EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC

Chart 2: EASTC Enrolment 1972-77



4. EASTC under Tanzanian Government 1978-94

The period of 1977-94 was a time of uncertainty over the status of EASTC. At the same time, the Statistical Training Programme for Africa was in place and right from 1978 it requested the government of Tanzania to increase the intake of participants to cover some ten more English-speaking countries of East, Central and Southern Africa while the user countries were looking for the appropriate institutional status of the center. At the same time finances were being sought for development of the infrastructure to meet the increased enrolment. Fees were gradually increased to ease the burden on the government of Tanzania. As the process of deciding on the appropriate institutional status protracted, from 1982 fees were raised to cover economic costs. Countries met the cost of fees themselves or by development partners through bilateral arrangements.

In 1979/80 CFTC provided full fellowships for sixteen participants. For the period 1981/82-1987/88 CFTC provided block fellowships for fourteen participants per year that covered two thirds of the cost per participant. Nominating governments were expected to complement the remaining one third. Collection of the complementary component was difficult and resulted into accumulation of debts. From 1988 CFTC continued to provide full fellowships through bilateral arrangements.

When CTFTC block fellowships stopped, there was an increase of fellowships through bilateral arrangements. However enrolment started to fall in 1992.

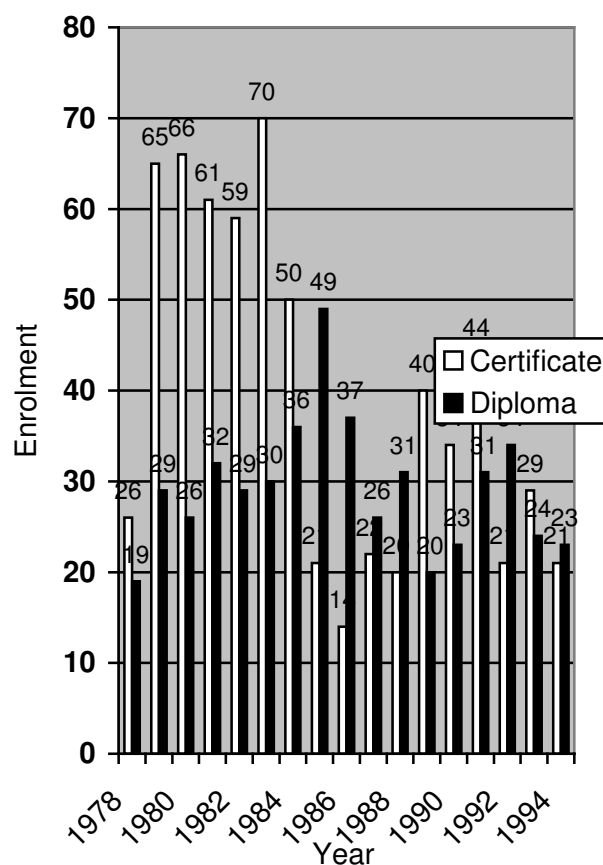
STPA and the Federal Republic of Germany provided some fellowships for training teaching staff of EASTC during the period. It was also during this period when Tanzania government put up the office and classroom building and some temporary hostels for fifty-six participants.

The annual enrolment and sources of fellowships and other financing is given in table 3. Enrolment is given in chart 3.

Table 3: EASTC Enrolment 1978-1994

Year Programme	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Certificate	26	65	66	61	59	70	50	21	14	22	20	40	34	44	21	29	21
Diploma	19	29	26	32	29	30	36	49	37	26	31	20	23	31	34	24	23
Block fellowships	TZ	TZ Cftc	TZ	TZ Cftc	Cftc	Cftc	Cftc	Cftc	Cftc	Cftc							
Bilateral and multilateral fellowships				Undp EU	Undp WB	Undp Usaid	Undp WHO			EU	Cftc Dfid WB Harvard Unher	Cftc Dfid SIDA Undp Unfpa	Cftc Dfid Undp Unfpa Unicef Nerth.	Cftc SIDA ODA Unfpa	Cftc SIDA	Cftc Dfid SIDA Undp	Cftc Dfid SIDA
Other		Frg	Stpa Frg	Stpa	Stpa	Stpa Frg	Stpa Frg	Stpa	Stpa	Stpa	Stpa TZ	Stpa TZ	Stpa TZ	Stpa TZ	Stpa TZ	SIDA	

Chart 3: EASTC Enrolment 1978-1994



5. EASTC as a National Institution Providing regional Services

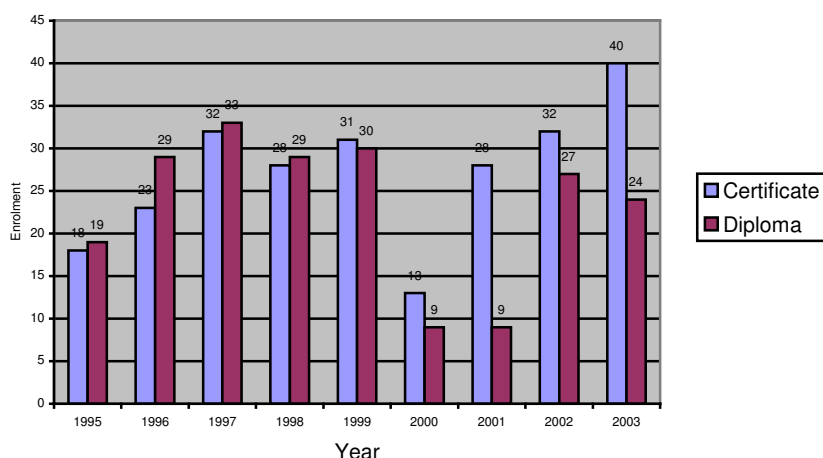
After the establishment of EASTC as a national institution providing regional services, the Institutional Support Project funded by the EU was signed. It covered the period 1995-2000. The project provided funds for development of infrastructure (cafeteria, permanent hostels, furniture, teaching equipment such as computers etc.), forty fellowships per year and a twinning programme with Applied Statistics Unit of the University of Kent. During the winding up period 2001-02 it funded some workshops and short courses.

Annual enrolment increased from 1995 to 1997 when it started to drop reaching the lowest ebb in 2000. The drop in 2000 was due to the late decision by the EU that the savings from the project that was coming to an end would not be used to provide fellowships as anticipated by user countries. Enrolment began to pick up in 2001 when South Africa started sending participants and 2002 when the government of Tanzania started to provide block fellowships to train personnel for local government. Enrolment and sources of funds for the period are shown in table 4 and chart 4. The picture for the thirty-nine years of the operations of the EASTC is as shown on table 5 and chart 5.

Table 4: EASTC Enrolment 1995-2003

Year Programme	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Certificate	18	23	32	28	31	13	28	32	40
Diploma	19	29	33	29	30	9	9	27	24
Block fellowships	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU				
Bilateral and multilateral fellowships	DFID SIDA	DFID SIDA WB UNDP UNFPA	WB	DANIDA	WB Priv.	Priv.	DFID	DFID	DFID CFTC
Other	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU	

Chart 4: EASTC Enrolment 1995-2003



Over the period 1965-2003, it is observed that there has been a heavy dependence on foreign assistance in statistical training. During the Institutional Support Project financed by the EU, from the experience of the immediate past, it was assumed that user countries were able to raise fellowships for sixty participants. The allocation of forty fellowships per year was meant to complement the efforts of user countries to fill estimated requirements of enrolment of one hundred per year. To the contrary the annual enrolment remained at the same level, around sixty. The offer of fellowships seems to have replaced rather than complemented user country efforts. However block fellowships increased

country participation. There are countries that have never sent participants to the EASTC except when they were allocated block fellowships.

6. Joint Activities

During the time of its existence, EASTC had a number of collaborators in running its programmes. It has had a continuous close working relationship with its neighbour the University of Dar es Salaam through staff exchanges. The Royal Statistical Society (including the former Institute of Statisticians of the UK) and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) of Makerere University of Uganda have been external examiners of EASTC for accreditation purposes. The Munich Centre has provided training to the EASTC teaching staff. Munich Centre has also collaborated with EASTC in running short courses at EASTC. The Applied Statistics Research Unit of the University of Kent had a twinning arrangement with EASTC with financing of EU under STPA during 1987-91. Under the Institutional support Project financed by EU the twinning programme was resumed during 1995-2002. In collaboration with the World Bank Institute, EASTC has run some workshops at EASTC. From 2002, EASTC has been participating in the CWIQ project and is currently on-going.

7. Coordination of Assistance

From the time of its inception, EASTC has involved the users in running its activities through its Advisory Board. Membership has consisted of heads of statistical departments of user countries and co-opted members from organizations that had interest in the activities of EASTC at the time. Currently known as the Regional Advisory Board, it has played crucial role in coordinating assistance for EASTC. The Economic Commission for Africa is the other major coordinator. The first request to establish the EASTC was channeled through the ECA to the United Nations headquarters. Through STPA the Institutional Support project was conceived. Sub-regional organizations such as EAC, SADC and COMESA have contributed in mobilizing resources.

8. Lessons Learned

Development partners have always insisted on assistance based on demand driven training needs. Assistance has been forthcoming when user countries seriously sought for them. It has been observed that statistics is a crosscutting subject relevant to all projects that require monitoring and evaluation. As such it should not be difficult to justify inclusion of a statistical training component in such projects. Sub-regional and regional organizations have an obligation in promoting regional statistical training institutions. For statistical training institutions to be sustainable, they need high and stable enrolment in order to keep operational costs low and be assured of inflow of funds through fees.

9. The Way Forward

In the long term, there is need to find a lasting solution to the problem of low and fluctuating enrolment at statistical training institutions due to lack of fellowships. Among other options, one is to establish fellowship foundations for each institutions or group of institutions. Financial markets within and outside Africa could be used to invest the foundation funds to generate regular incomes that would be used to finance fellowships. User countries would be expected to contribute to the funds of the institution they use. Development partners would be requested to complement.