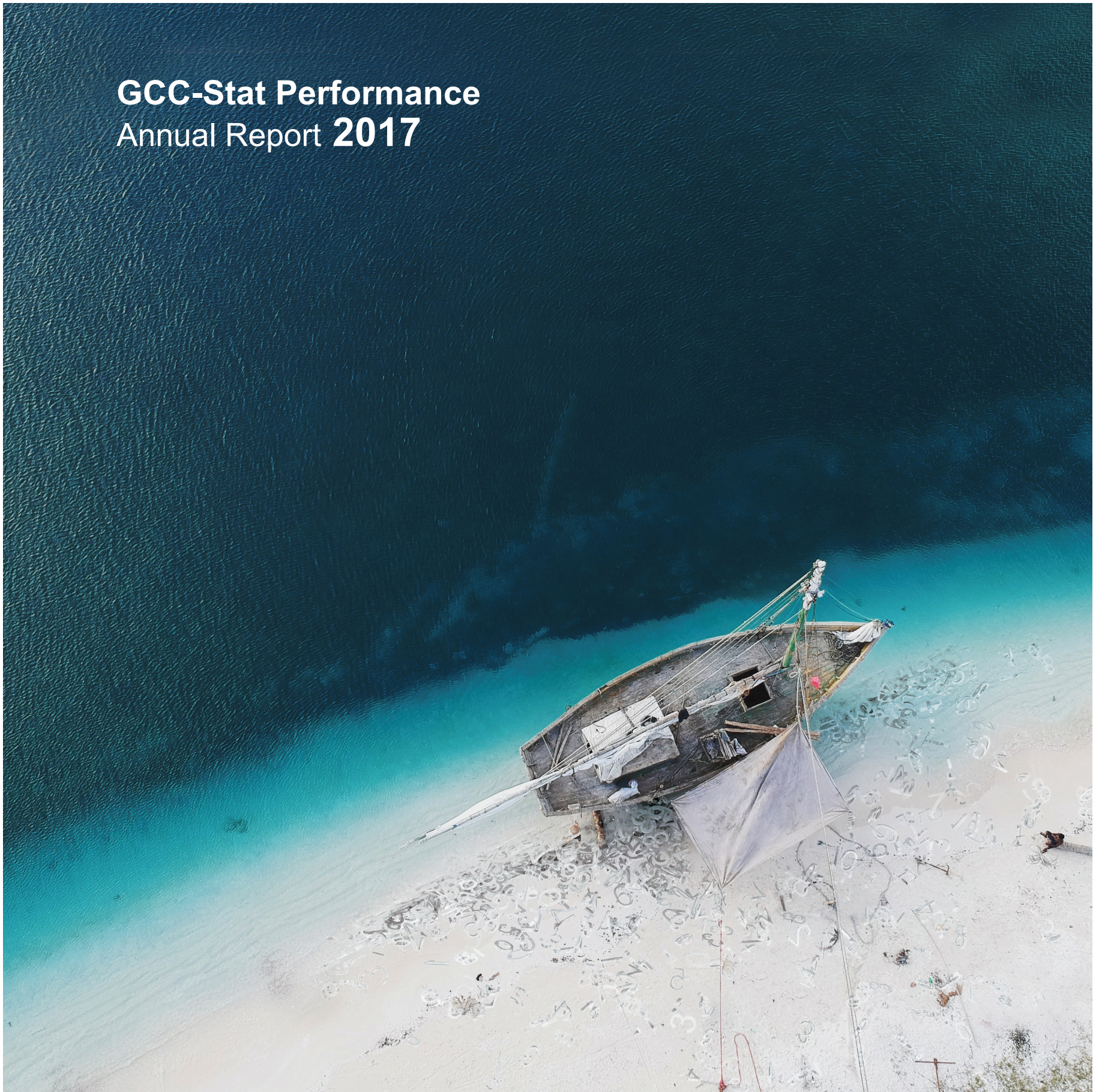


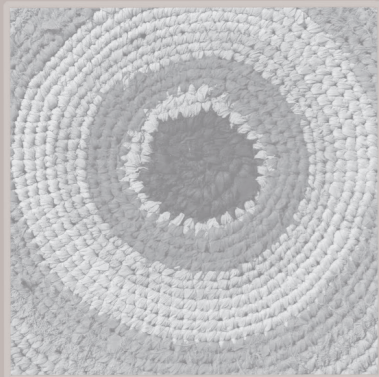
GCC-Stat Performance Annual Report 2017





The Performance Report of the Statistical Center for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC-Stat)

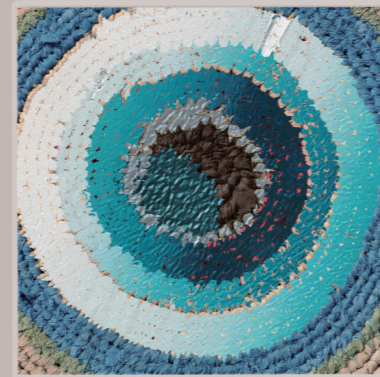
In our new performance report for 2017, we highlight the efforts of GCC-Stat to provide statistical data and information in support of decision and policy makers and to follow-up the achievements in the context of the common GCC development process. The process aims to achieve greater well-being and prosperity for the GCC citizens, and to strengthen the status of the GCC as an important economic and social bloc at the international level.



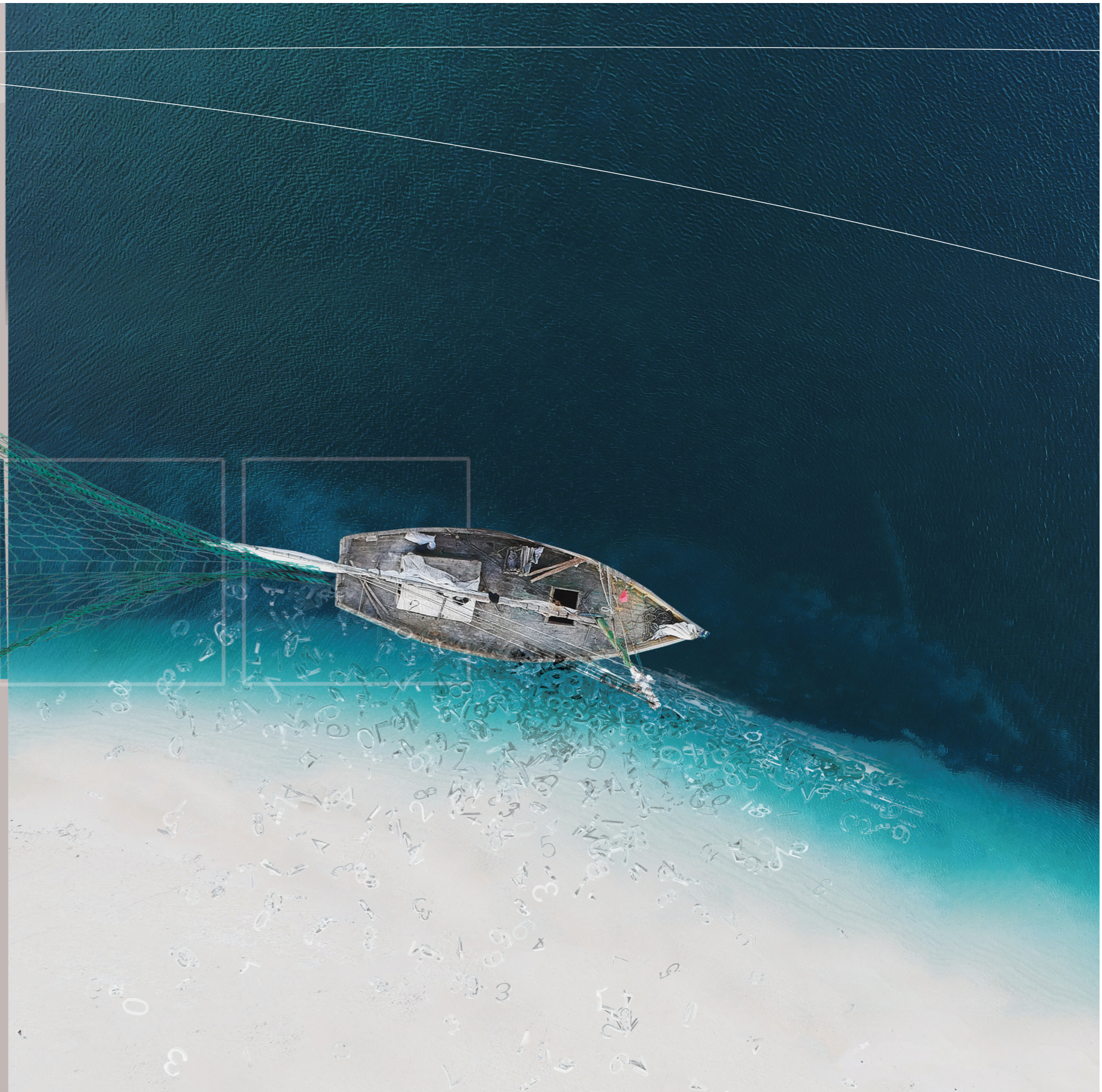
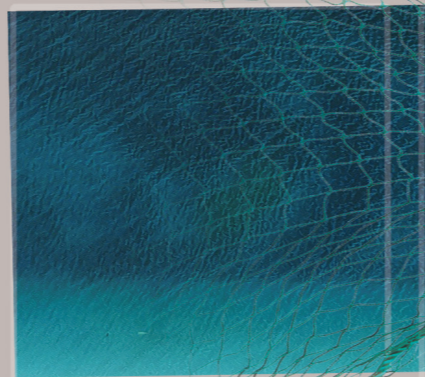
Our Vision: A Reliable source and a dynamic driver of the GCC Statistical System.



Our Mission: Provide decision makers, researchers and those concerned with reliable statistical knowledge.



Our Values: Integrity, Excellence, Professionalism, Collaboration, and Relevance.



Highlights of 2017



GCC Secretary General's Visit to GCC-Stat's Headquarters

On 10 January 2017, His Excellency Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, visited GCC-Stat's headquarters in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. During his tour of the different departments and sections, the Secretary-General was offered a detailed explanation of the functions and responsibilities of the center.



GCC Statistics Day – 24 December

GCC-Stat celebrated the first GCC Statistics Day, which was approved by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in its 140th Session, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain, on 24 November 2016.





The Fourth Anniversary of the Center

GCC-Stat celebrated the fourth anniversary of its inception in 2013. The GCC Council of Ministers approved the creation of the Center in September 2011. The statute was adopted in December 2012 by the GCC Supreme Council, which includes their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the Member Countries.



First GCC Statistical Forum

In collaboration with the Saudi Government General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), GCC-Stat co-organized the First Statistical Forum for the GCC countries in the Saudi capital Riyadh, under the theme of "Enhancing Statistical Partnerships to Support Economic Policies and Sustainable Development in the GCC Countries". The forum brought together high-level decision makers, policy analysts and academics as well as the leaders of entities and institutions producing statistical data and information in the GCC and beyond.

Statistical Research Competition

GCC-Stat launched the "Statistical Research Competition", which was held as part of the events in the First GCC Statistical Forum. The competition aimed to enhance the value of statistical research, promote competitiveness among young statisticians in the GCC countries, and discover statistical capacities and talents among GCC youth.



GCC-Stat Annual Staff Day

In an intimate family atmosphere, GCC-Stat held its annual staff gathering in 2017.





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2014 - 2017
Years of transforming strategic objectives into achievements 2014-2017

GCC-Stat seeks to achieve the strategic objectives based on the themes set out above while focusing on the following statistical areas:

- National Accounts;
- Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics;
- Price indices and short-term statistics;
- Foreign trade statistics;
- Energy statistics;
- Environment statistics;
- Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators;
- The Harmonized register-based 2020 Census;
- Tourism statistics;
- Enhanced Use of Administrative Data Sources for Statistical Purposes;
- Standards, classifications, methodologies and data quality;
- Ongoing assembly, dissemination and analysis of statistics;

Executive Summary 2017

In 2017, GCC-Stat, in cooperation with National Statistical Centers in the GCC countries, has intensified its efforts to implement the GCC Statistical Strategic Plan (2015-2020), which was approved by the GCC Ministerial Council at its 136th Session held in Riyadh, on 15 September 2015. In this context, the following has been achieved:

57

Technical Assistance missions to Member Countries in the various priority statistical areas, totaling 1456 expert-days, and at a monthly average of 4.8 missions and 121.3 expert-days.

8

workshops as per the annual program, with the participation of 131 representatives from the national statistical centers and some government agencies in the GCC countries.

18

Committee and Taskforce meetings, with some of them held through video-conferencing. In addition, GCC-Stat held bilateral technical meetings with Member Countries.

2

reports on the statistical indicators used to measure the implementation of the decisions of the GCC Supreme Council concerning the Gulf Common Market.

- Completion of the initial requirements of the first phase of the study of statistical needs to support a number of GCC strategies and agreements.
- Launch of the third version of GCC-Stat's website.
- Organization of the First GCC Statistical Forum.
- Uploading of new data related to some statistical sectors to the GCC-Stat Data Portal.
- Publication of the 2016 GCC Economic Performance Indicators Report.
- Release of a number of statistical publications that reflect the economic and social aspects of the GCC Countries individually and the GCC as a bloc.
- Leading the coordination process among regional and international organizations concerned with statistical work in the GCC countries, to avoid inconsistency and duplication of activities. In this context, 9 strategic partnerships were established with international and regional organizations, with participation in the implementation of the GCC-Stat Work Program in 2017. In addition, GCC-Stat enhanced coordination and cooperation with 14 GCC institutions.
- Creation of the position of GCC-Stat Spokesperson.
- Adoption of the GCC-Stat Policy on Managing Technical Assistance Experts.



Message from the Director General ... Steadily Heading Forward

We at the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), have endeavored to achieve our ambitions, while regarding each achievement as a building block and a step forward to make other goals come true. Since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the joint work of the GCC countries has achieved many goals and embarked on various joint projects; thus contributing to further promoting coordination and cooperation among the

GCC countries in all fields. Statistics are among these important fields of joint work in the region, with the establishment of the GCC Statistical Center (GCC-Stat), to serve as a key source and a dynamic driver in the decision-making process.

The leaders of the GCC countries have consistently shown great interest in the statistical sector, with a firm belief of the importance of statistical information in supporting policy and decision-making, as well as comprehensive development plans and programs in the GCC States, which aim to enhance the growth, progress and prosperity of the Gulf society. In this context, the first GCC Statistics Day was celebrated on 24 December 2017, amid feelings of pride among all employees in the statistical sector in our member countries.

In 2018, we will endeavor to strengthen GCC-Stat's approach to deepen cooperation with universities and research centers. We will further our efforts to enhance the GCC countries presence, visibility and participation in the key regional and global statistical forums, and keep abreast of the unprecedented developments in data sources and flows. In addition, the Center will make strides in investing more time and effort in the "Fourth Industrial Revolution", and in innovative ways of handling modern data exchange, in order to provide more up-to-date indicators in a more sophisticated and professional manner, to support planning, policy-making and monitoring the implementation of GCC strategies and agreements. This year will witness the implementation of a more focused and creative plan that will open up wider prospects for the Center.

I hope that this new year will bring more excellence and creativity as it starts amid our great hopes and aspirations to create more achievements in all fields of work. I hope all GCC-Stat's staff members will keep in mind our 2018 slogan "Steadily Heading Forward". I would like to seize this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to the GCC-Staff and to our colleagues in all GCC National Statistical Centers for their tireless efforts to support the development and progress of the GCC joint statistical work.

With my best regards,
Sabir bin Said Al Harbi
Director General, GCC-Stat

GCC-Stat Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of the Center are as follows:



Theme

1

Assembly, analysis and regular dissemination of data and statistical information

2

Development and harmonization of statistical work

3

Development of statistical capacities

4

Cross-cutting institutional activities

5

Support programs

Themes identified to achieve the strategic objectives

Details

The regular assembly, analysis and dissemination of statistical data and information (including population, social, economic, environment, etc. data) that are of interest to decision and policy makers, researchers, planners, regional, Arab and international organizations, and society in general. The collection of these takes place through data and metadata transmission tables prepared by GCC-Stat, in agreement with the national statistical centers. Statistics are aggregated at the GCC level whenever possible. Policies and data dissemination procedures are adopted, GCC statistical bulletins are issued about different topics, following best practices in the assembly and dissemination of statistics.

Statistical development in GCC countries aims to achieve relevance and consistency through the use of standardized concepts, methodologies and reference periods for statistical operations, adopting the latest international and GCC standards and classifications, and promoting cooperation at national and regional levels. Cooperation is promoted at the Gulf level through GCC-Stat's support of existing committees and working groups, forming new working groups and committees to ensure full implementation of the strategic plan and work program; and the provision of technical assistance to countries.

The development of GCC statistical capacities is achieved through the provision of all technical training and support requested by national statistical centers. GCC-Stat also supports the establishment of national working groups to serve the implementation of the strategic plan and work program.

This theme seeks to harmonize national statistical strategies in GCC states, build a culture of statistics and promote statistical awareness, develop institutional statistical capacities, ensure the active presence in international and regional statistical development, and ensure the sustainability of GCC-Stat.

GCC-Stat seeks to ensure that work progresses as required, through the provision of human, financial, and ICT resources and the enhancement of their capacities, so that the implementation of projects and programs contributes to achieving the required strategic objectives.



Governance and Policies

Governance

Since its actual start and until the end of 2016, GCC-Stat had a Board of Directors that reported to the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The GCC-Stat Board consisted of the Heads of the National Statistical Centers in the GCC Member Countries, the representative of the GCC General Secretariat, and the Director General of GCC-Stat. The Board supervised the work of the Center and identified its strategic directions, including the approval of the GCC Statistical Strategy 2015-2020 prepared by the Center, in addition to the usual administrative and financial supervisory functions carried out by similar boards.

From 2017, based on the decision of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC-Stat was placed under the umbrella of the GCC Secretary-General. The GCC Ministerial Council subsequently established the Standing Committee for Statistical Work, in its 142nd session held on 30 March 2017. This Committee consists of the Heads of the National Statistical Centers in the GCC Member Countries and the Director General of GCC-Stat. It aims to support the joint GCC statistical work to achieve remarkable development in the availability of harmonized, relevant and high quality statistical data and information, in line with the latest international standards, classifications and methodologies.

Policies

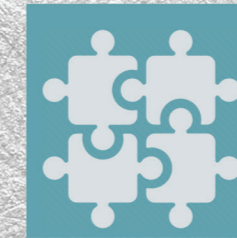
In its continued efforts since 2014 to establish a solid institution with effective internal rules and regulations,, GCC-Stat adopted its Policy on Managing Technical Assistance Experts in 2017. This brings the total number to 12 policies as follows:



Governance of
GCC-Stat's Work



Strategy for the use
of social media



Governance of
committees and
taskforces work, the
implementation of the
decisions of the Board
of Directors, and the
escalation process



The procedural
framework for
statistical analysis of
key social, economic
and environmental
phenomena in the
GCC countries



Policy on
workshops and
training courses



Policy on
committees
and taskforces
meetings



Technical
Assistance Policy



Data dissemination
policy



Change
Management
Policy



Policy on Managing
Technical
Assistance Experts



Green Policy



Information
security policy



Key Performance Indicators

- Regular assembly, analysis and dissemination of statistical data and information;
- Development and harmonization of statistical work;
- Statistical and institutional capacity development;
- Cross-cutting institutional activities;
- Support programs.

Theme 1: Performance Indicators for Data Assembly, Analysis and Dissemination

To support Gulf work and in line with the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Joint Statistical Work (2015-2020) approved by the Council of Ministers, and to follow-up the joint statistical work with Member Countries, the GCC-Stat started the first phase of the study of statistical needs to support the following Gulf strategies and conventions:



- The World Trade Organization Agreement and its implications for the GCC Countries
- GCC Unified Customs Law
- Unified Law on Commercial Establishments
- Long-term strategy for the GCC countries' relations and negotiations with countries, regional blocs and international organizations
- Monetary Union Agreement
- Unified Value Added Tax Agreement
- Resolutions of the Supreme Council for the Promotion of Joint GCC Action
- Standard Law (System) on Industrial Organization
- Unified Strategy for Industrial Development
- Transit System
- The Long-term Development Strategy of the GCC Countries 2010-2025
- Cultural Strategy
- Revised Population Strategy

In 2017, GCC-Stat adopted the revised and updated strategy for the dissemination and accessibility of statistical data, in light of the growing and diverse needs of data users and the development of statistical work in the GCC region. The updated strategy takes into account that official statistics get their legitimacy from their ability to meet the growing and diverse needs of users.



GCC-Stat published a number of statistical releases in 2017 as follows:

- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and the United Kingdom 2015;
- Monetary and Financial Statistics of the GCC Countries 2016;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and Arab Countries 2015;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and the Association of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN) 2015;
- Labor Statistics in the GCC Countries, 2015;
- Sarah and Ahmed in the World of Statistics (Children's Booklet) - First Issue;
- GCC Statistical Profile 2015;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC Countries and the European Union 2015;
- Education Statistics in the GCC Countries 2010/2011 - 2013/2014;
- Statistical Yearbook of the GCC Countries, 2015;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and Turkey 2015;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and Singapore, 2015;
- Latest Macroeconomic Developments, Income Sources Diversification, Fiscal Control Policies and the Labor Market 2015;
- Water Statistics in the GCC Countries, 2015;
- GCC Statistical Atlas 2015;
- Foreign Trade Exchange between the GCC and Malaysia 2015;
- The Economic Performance of the GCC Countries 2016;
- Consumer Price Index 2016.

Theme 2: Performance Indicators for the Development and Harmonization of Statistical Work

GCC-Stat works on strengthening cooperation with the National Statistical Centers in the GCC countries, in order to develop and enhance the statistics they produce and ensure their harmonization, consistency and conformity with the relevant international standards, to make it possible to compute aggregates that represent the region as a unified economic and social bloc.

In this context, GCC-Stat prepares the necessary methodological materials, and discusses them with the National Statistical Centers through the work of the Standing and Technical Committees, and Taskforces.



Technical Manuals, Methodologies and Questionnaires

GCC-Stat has prepared more than 60 technical documents since 2015, including manuals, methodologies and questionnaires that support National Statistical Centers to achieve harmonization and consistency in the priority areas of the joint GCC statistical work. In this context, GCC-Stat has prepared or started preparation of 24 technical papers in 2017 as shown in the following table:

No.	Title
1	Short Notes on Estimation of GCC Regional Aggregates for Monetary Indicators
2	GCC Country Specific Metadata on Monetary and Financial Statistics, Revised (In progress)
3	GCC Coordinated Foreign Investment Survey Guide
4	Model questionnaire for the GCC Coordinated Foreign Investment Survey
5	Reconciliation Tables for the GCC Coordinated Foreign Investment Survey (In progress)
6	GCC Data Quality Report on Foreign Trade Statistics (In progress)
7	Questionnaire for the GCC Harmonized Annual Labor Force Survey
8	Guidelines for Implementing the GCC Harmonized Annual Labor Force Survey (In progress)
9	Questionnaire of the Quarterly Labor Force Survey (for a member country)
10	Guidelines on Instructions of the Quarterly Labor Force Survey (for a member country)
11	Guidelines on the Rules of Consistency and Editing of the Quarterly Labor Force Survey (for a member country)
12	Guidelines on Classification of Individuals According to their Relationship to the Labor Force in the Quarterly Labor Force Survey (for a member country)
13	Guidelines on Labor Statistics Indicators (for a member country)
14	Guidelines on Labor Statistics Indicators in GCC countries (In progress)
15	Guidelines on the Harmonized Final Energy Consumption, Water and Waste Survey (In progress)
16	Guidelines on Water Statistics, in collaboration with Bahrain (In progress)
17	Guidelines on Waste Statistics
18	GCC Census Data Basket (draft, final feedback from member countries in progress)
19	Administrative Census Quality Guidelines (In progress)
20	Manual on GCC Economic Activities Classification Version 4
21	Guidelines on the Implementation of the User Satisfaction Survey
22	Questionnaire of the User Satisfaction Survey
23	Training and Statistical Capacity Development Manual for 2017
24	Some Statistical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Value Added Tax in the GCC Countries

Meetings of Committees and Taskforces:

GCC-Stat organized 18 meetings of committees and working groups/taskforces at the GCC level, including one international meeting and one regional meeting at the level of Western Asian countries (ESCWA). These meetings resulted in a number of recommendations that were discussed and agreed upon by representatives of Member Countries. These meetings were as follows:

1. Third meeting of the Environment Statistics Taskforce;
2. Third meeting of the Foreign Trade Statistics Taskforce;
3. Fourth meeting of the Information Technology Standing Committee - video-conference meeting;
4. Second meeting of the Working Group on Classifications - video-conference meeting;
5. Fourth meeting of the National Accounts Committee;
6. Sixth meeting of the Harmonized Register-based Census 2020 Committee;
7. First meeting of the Big Data Taskforce;
8. Fourth meeting of the Geographic Information Taskforce;
9. Third meeting of the Energy Statistics Taskforce;
10. Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators;
11. First meeting of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey Taskforce;
12. Third meeting of the Administrative Records Taskforce;
13. First meeting of the Health Statistics Taskforce;
14. Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics;
15. Third Meeting of the Foreign Investment Statistics Taskforce;
16. Fifth meeting of the Information Technology Standing Committee;
17. Thirtieth meeting of the International Committee of Statistical Organizations (CCSA);
18. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 20th International Conference of Labor Statisticians 2018.



Theme 3: Performance Indicators for Statistical and Institutional Capacity Development

The efforts to develop and strengthen the GCC statistical competencies in the priority statistical areas include the following activities:

1. Direct technical assistance (TA) to countries, through TA missions conducted by GCC-Stat experts or contracted consultants;
2. Training through organizing national and regional workshops and training courses.



Technical Assistance by Country:

In 2017, GCC-Stat provided direct technical support to the six Member Countries through 53 TA missions totaling 1419 expert-days, in the following areas:

1. National Accounts and Supply and Use Tables;
2. Foreign Investment;
3. Price Statistics and Real Estate, Consumer and Producer Price Indices;
4. Foreign Trade Statistics;
5. Labor Statistics;
6. Energy Statistics;
7. Environment Statistics;
8. Sustainable Development Goals Indicators;
9. Harmonized Register-based Census 2020;
10. Statistical Business Register;
11. Data Quality.

Specialized Seminars and Workshops Organized by GCC-Stat

1- Environment Statistics Workshop (Air Statistics), 5-7 February, Kuwait, State of Kuwait:

In collaboration with the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) in Kuwait, GCC-Stat organized a regional workshop on environment statistics, which aimed to:



- Promote understanding of international standards for air statistics in the GCC statistical system;
- Explain the links between air datasets and energy balances, and discuss user requirements to improve and disseminate air emissions data for the energy sector annually;
- Promote knowledge sharing and cooperation among the producers of air statistics.

The workshop attendance included 20 participants from the member countries, representing the statistical centers, as well as representatives from the relevant entities in the Member Countries, as shown in the following table:

Table 1
Workshop on Environment Statistics (Air Statistics) in the GCC Countries 5-7 February, Kuwait, State of Kuwait

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	0	1	2	2	1	12	2	20

2- Workshop on the methodology for compiling labor statistics indicators based on administrative records, in collaboration with the International Labor Organization, 12-14 March 2017, Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain.

GCC-Stat, in cooperation with the Information and e-Government Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain (IGA), organized a regional workshop on Labor statistics which aimed to:

- Promote the use of administrative records data for statistical purposes in the GCC countries;
- Strengthen the labor data related technical capacities of national statistical centers staff and those working in the other entities producing labor statistics;
- Define the methodology of compiling labor statistics indicators based on administrative records data, and identify the constraints of using these indicators by decision makers.

35 staff attended the workshop from Member Countries representing the statistical agencies and other relevant entities, as shown in the following table:



Table 2

Workshop on the methodology for compiling Labor Statistics Indicators based on administrative records, in Collaboration with the International Labor Organization 12-14 March, Manama- Kingdom of Bahrain

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	4	20	2	5	2	0	2	35

3- Workshop on the social, population and environmental indicators included in the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, 26-28 March 2017, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

GCC-Stat organized a regional workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (SDGs), which aimed to:

- Increase knowledge of the SDGs Indicators among statisticians in different fields;
- Training GCC statisticians on how to calculate indicators and identify data sources;
- Agree on the GCC priorities in terms of population, social and environmental indicators;
- Agree on the processes to provide GCC-Stat with the necessary data to issue timely periodic reports.

The workshop was attended by 17 participants as shown in the following table:

Table 3

Number of Participants in the Workshop on Social, Population and Environmental Indicators included in the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators 26-28 March 2017, Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	0	2	2	2	1	2	8	17

4- A workshop on quality management in registers-based censuses, 9-11 April 2017, Muscat - Sultanate of Oman.

GCC-Stat organized a workshop on quality management, which aimed to:

- Understand the sources of errors in censuses, especially administrative based censuses;
- Understand the key steps to build quality in register-based censuses;
- Understand the techniques used in quality management in census operations;
- Understand the techniques of statistical assessment of population and housing censuses;
- Understand the techniques used to prepare quality reports;
- Understand how to apply the GCC Data Quality Assurance Framework in the Harmonized Register-based 2020 Census.



The workshop was attended by 15 participants as shown in the following table:

Table 4

Number of Participants in the Workshop on Quality Management in Registers-based Censuses
9-11 April 2017, Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	1	2	1	3	1	1	6	15

5- Workshop on innovative uses of GIS techniques and integration of statistical and spatial data, 19-20 April 2017, Muscat - Sultanate of Oman.

GCC-Stat organized this workshop to achieve the following objectives:

- Share Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) experiences among GCC Member Countries;
- Review best practices in the field, using geospatial information applications;
- Acquire knowledge of global trends in the application of GIS in statistics.

19 participants attended this workshop as shown in the table below:



Table 5

Number of Participants in the Workshop on Innovative Uses of GIS Techniques and Integration of Statistical and Spatial Data
19-20 April 2017, Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	1	2	2	3	1	2	8	19

6- Workshop on energy statistics (energy efficiency indicators), 23-25 April 2017, Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain

GCC-Stat, in cooperation with the Information and e-Government Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain, organized this workshop. The objectives were as follows:

- Enhance understanding of international standards related to energy statistics and indicators in the GCC statistical system;
- Explain links between datasets and energy indicators, and discuss user requirements for improving data quality and dissemination;
- Promote knowledge sharing and cooperation among producers of energy statistics.

20 representatives of GCC countries attended the workshop as per the table below:



Table 6
Number of Participants in the Workshop on Energy Statistics (Energy Efficiency Indicators)
23-25 April 2017, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	1	7	2	3	1	4	2	20

7- Workshop on the main Issues related to Business Registers, 8-10 MAY 2017, MANAMA - KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN.

GCC-Stat, in cooperation with the Information and e-Government Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain, organized this workshop, the objectives of which were as follows:

- Demonstrate the importance and benefits of improving administrative records in source agencies and their use for statistical purposes;
- Agree on concepts relevant to statistical business registers;
- Identify the requirements for creating a statistical business register;
- Identify the required data sources and variables;
- Identify the best ways to overcome the challenges of creating a statistical business register.

18 participants attended this workshop as shown in the table below:



Table 7
Number of Participants in the Workshop on the key Issues related to Business Registers
8-10 May 2017, Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	2	10	2	2	1	0	1	18

8- Third seminar on foreign investment statistics, in cooperation with UNCTAD and the MENA Centre for Investment, 23-24 May 2017, Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain.

The objectives of this seminar were as follows:

- Development of foreign investment statistics (FIS) as outlined in the GCC Statistical Strategy 2015-2020 and the related work programs, aiming to coordinate FIS produced by the National Statistical Centers;
- Harmonization of frameworks and enhancement of coverage;
- Compilation and dissemination of harmonized FIS, including GCC regional aggregates.

The seminar was attended by 20 participants as shown in the following table:



Table 8
Number of Participants in the Third Seminar on Foreign Investment Statistics
23-24 May 2017, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Country	Emirates	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other Organizations and Entities	Total
Number of Participants	2	7	3	2	2	0	4	20

Training Gulf statisticians in major international organizations

To strengthen the statistical capacity of the staff of the National Statistical Centers (NSCs) through on-the-job training, GCC-Stat concluded a cooperation agreement with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), through which six 6 staff of the GCC NSCs receive three months of training at the headquarters of the UNSD in New York. So far, two candidates, from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman have benefitted from this training.



Table 9
Number of Participants in the Seminars, Workshops and Training Courses

Title of Workshop/Training Course	Date	Country	Number of Participants							Other entities	Total
			UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait			
Workshop on Environment Statistics (Air Statistics)	5-7 February	Kuwait, State of Kuwait	0	1	2	2	1	12	2	20	
Workshop on the methodology for compiling Labor Statistics Indicators based on administrative records, in Collaboration with the International Labor Organization	12-14 March	Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain	4	20	2	5	2	0	2	35	
Workshop on the social, population and environmental indicators included in the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators	26-28 March	Muscat, Sultanate of Oman	0	2	2	2	1	2	8	17	
Workshop on the management of quality in register-based censuses	9-11 April	Muscat, Sultanate of Oman	1	2	1	3	1	1	6	15	
Workshop on innovative uses of GIS techniques and integration of statistical and spatial data	19-20 April	Muscat, Sultanate of Oman	1	2	2	3	1	2	8	19	
Workshop on Energy Statistics (Energy Efficiency Indicators)	23-25 April	Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain	1	7	2	3	1	4	2	20	
Workshop on the Main Issues related to Business Registers	8-10 May	Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain	2	10	2	2	1	0	1	18	
Third Seminar on Foreign Investment Statistics, in cooperation with UNCTAD and the MENA Centre for Investment	23-24 May	Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain	2	7	3	2	2	0	4	20	
Total			11	51	16	22	10	21	33	164	



Theme 4: Performance Indicators for Cross-cutting Institutional Activities:



General Framework for the GCC Statistical Work

GCC-Stat provides advice and technical support to GCC Member Countries, to prepare the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), in accordance with the adopted standards and international recommendations. The aim is to achieve one of the strategic objectives of the GCC joint statistical work, which is the harmonization of national statistical strategies in the GCC countries with the needs of common statistical programs according to best international practice.

The Center is also preparing a draft law for the GCC statistics, and provides support to the countries for reviewing and updating their national statistics laws, to ensure harmonization of these laws and their relevance in terms of supporting enhancement of the joint statistical work at the GCC level.

Relations with Data Users

GCC-Stat undertakes continuous efforts to enhance relations with GCC data and information users, starting with the GCC General Secretariat and other GCC institutions and organizations, through the Center's strategic demand-driven approach. The system in place has helped identify the priority needs of the GCC General Secretariat, and prepare regular reports on the implementation of the GCC Supreme Council's decisions on the ground, as well as a report on the GCC population. In addition, the Center is studying other statistical needs for monitoring the implementation and achievements of the GCC strategies and agreements, in collaboration and cooperation with the relevant GCC institutions.



Cooperation with International and Regional Entities

Since its establishment, GCC-Stat has been developing relations with regional and international organizations and institutions, through entering into cooperation agreements in order to contribute to the development of the GCC Statistical System. Cooperation includes the organization of joint events such as workshops and training courses, participation in key events, as well as bilateral visits to exchange experiences and get closer knowledge of best practices, and enhancing the presence and role of Member Countries and the GCC bloc in all international statistical forums.

The Center has signed cooperation agreements with the following organizations:

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA);
- Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS);
- International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- The World Bank (WB);
- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD);
- Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat);
- Middle East and North Africa Centre for Investment (MENA);
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);
- World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO).

Key Participations and Visits

Ensuring that the GCC region has an active presence and participation in regional and international statistical development is one of the strategic objectives of the GCC joint statistical work. This comes from the recognition that such participation is important in developing and enhancing the performance of the GCC statistical system, in addition to contributing to the development of statistical work at the regional, Arab and international levels. In this context, we summarize some of the Center's key participations in 2017 as follows:

America

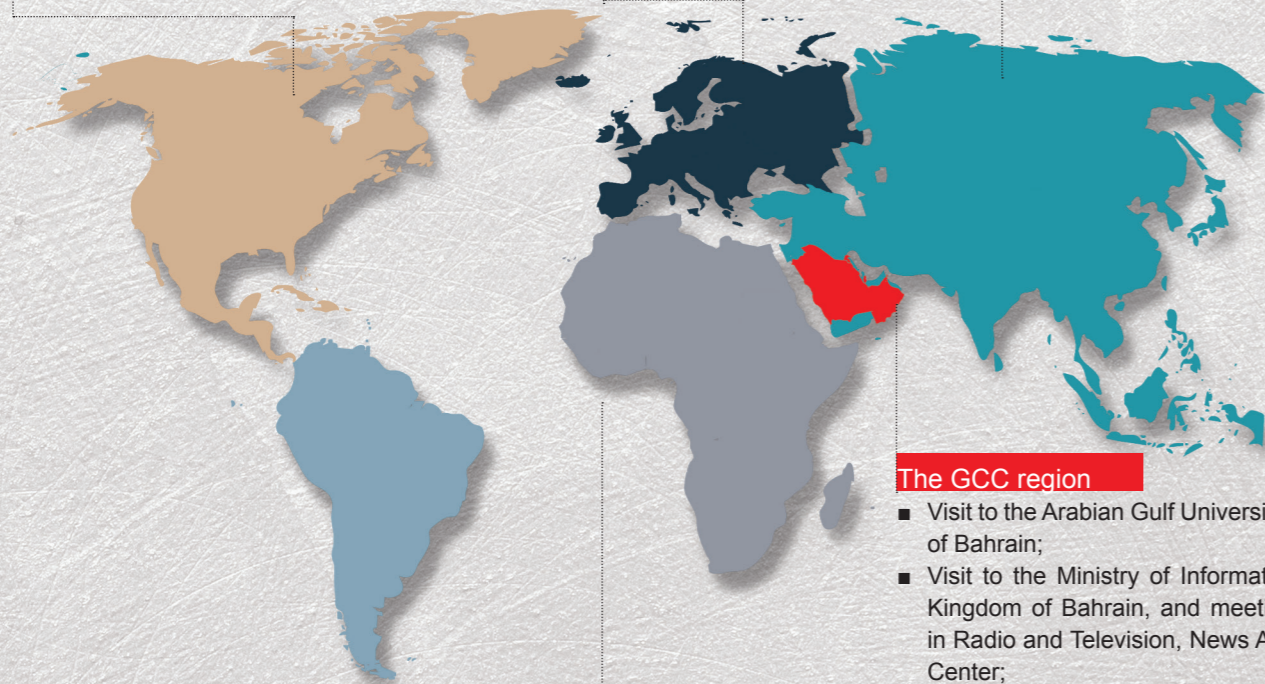
- United Nations Statistical Commission meetings in New York;
- United Nations High-Level Forum on Spatial Data Management in Mexico;
- Big Data - United Nations Statistics Division;
- Meeting of the Global Big Data Group for Official Statistics held in Bogota, Colombia.

Europe

- Visit to the European Commission in Brussels;
- Visit to the Statistical Office of the European Union in Luxembourg;
- Visit to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

Asia

- Expert Group Meeting on "Use of Registry Linking Studies to Assess the Completeness of Death Registration".
- 2017 International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals Statistics (IC-SDGs), Manila, Philippines.



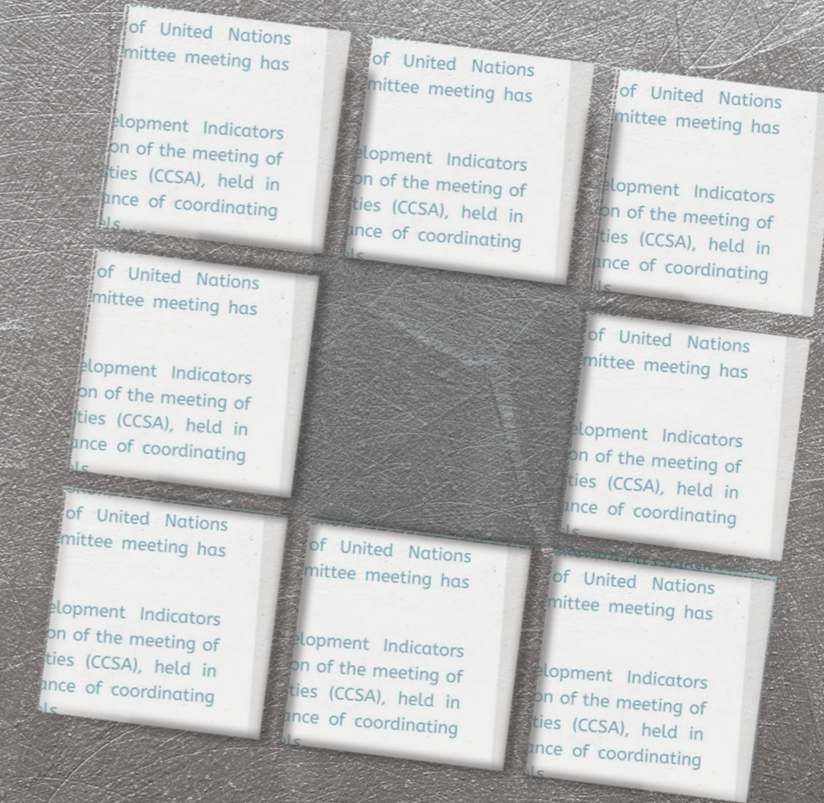
The GCC region

- Visit to the Arabian Gulf University in the Kingdom of Bahrain;
- Visit to the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and meetings with officials in Radio and Television, News Agency and News Center;
- Visit to Ministry of Information, Sultanate of Oman;
- Second UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture in the Sultanate of Oman;
- Visit to the Gulf Cooperation Council's Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization in Kuwait;
- Visit to the Ministry of Information in Kuwait.

Africa

- The UN World Data Forum, Cape Town, South Africa;
- The 6th Data and Metadata Exchange Global Conference (SDMX), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- World Statistics Congress (WSC), Marrakech, Morocco;
- Meeting of the United Nations Population Fund, Cairo, Egypt.

GCC-Stat Hosts the Meeting for the



Theme 5: Performance Indicators for Support Programs

Information Technology

Progress made towards obtaining the ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 certificate in 2018

Completion of the final report of the consultancy study of the Statistical Linkage Project between GCC-STAT and the national statistical centers

Launch of the third version of GCC-Stat's website

Inclusion of 15 statistical fields in electronic publications



Human Resources



5 group sessions in the GCC-Stat premises, benefiting 135 employees



1 employee received training, to obtain a specialized international professional certificate



16 individual specialized courses, benefiting 20 employees



9 on-the-job training courses presented by GCC-Stat's experts to train 15 employees from different departments



