

## Building capacity for collecting better quality data

The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) plays a critical role in collecting data for surveys which are used in ESSP's research activities. To achieve quality and efficiency in data collection processes, ESSP has supported CSA in training trainers and supervising computer training to provide data capture skills using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). ESSP set up approximately 600 netbooks for data entry and flash disks for data transfer.

This new way of data entry has been time-saving by effectively reducing time needed for data entry and data verification, as well as improving the accuracy and consistency of data. As a consequence, more rapid analyses of thousands of household records is now possible.

**ESSP has supported the CSA through:** i) Capacity building through training events and supervision ii) Introducing new ways of entering data and ensuring data quality iii) Technical input and help with computers iv) Practical assessments to embed learning

[www.csa.gov.et](http://www.csa.gov.et)

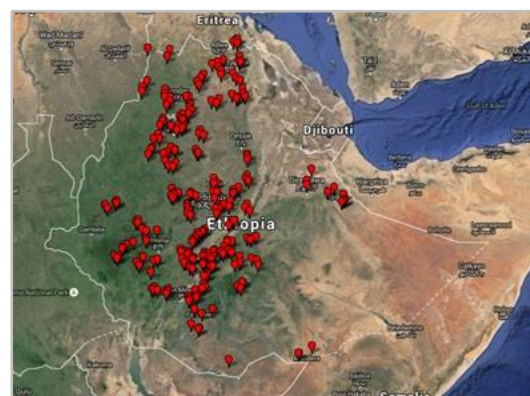


Figure 1 - Household locations in the FtF impact survey

ESSP has worked with CSA for many years, yet the computer training for data capture is the biggest operation the agency has undertaken with 3531 people trained on the CAPI software over the past 3 years.

The CAPI method for data capture has been used in many ESSP surveys, including: the Feed the Future (FtF) Baseline Survey, Protective Safety Net Programme (PSNP) 5<sup>th</sup> Round Impact Survey, and the FtF Impact Survey. Before computer aided data entry was used, typically it took 6 to 9 months to access the collected data for analysis. As a consequence, the data often became outdated by the time it was presented. In contrast, the data for the recently conducted FtF impact survey were available a month after the completion of the survey; and the analyses were completed along with the results only a month after that. CSA is one of the pioneering African statistical institutes that has embraced the use of advanced data entry tools to improve data collection methods in Africa.

Providing people at CSA with new skills, particularly in technology, is likely to have spillover effects in areas of future employment. Therefore, ESSP's commitment to up-skill those engaged in all aspects of data collection, is likely to have an impact on the quality of data available in Ethiopia in the future.

Working alongside CSA to build a solid understanding of the data collection process using computers, ESSP has imparted well-structured, relevant training, as well as demonstrated the impact quality data has on ESSP's research. By empowering enumerators and their supervisors to conduct accurate surveys nationwide, this in turn, will have long-term impacts on data analyses and the subsequent results, which will ultimately affect policy decisions.

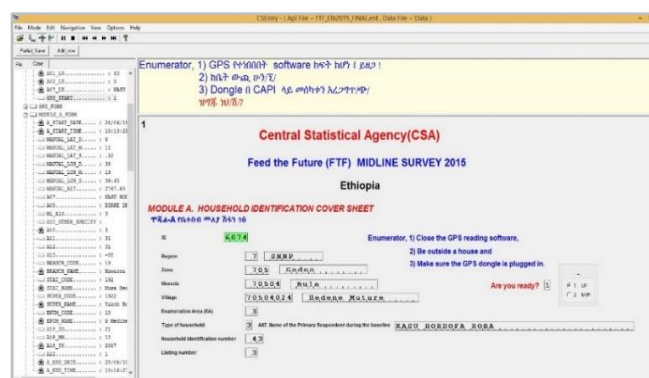


Figure 2 – Screenshot of the CAPI software

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