

## AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS

### Monthly update of activities and events- June/July 2024

#### Collaboration with African Union in supporting member states

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024, ACS Director Oliver Chinganya with ECA up management had an excellent meeting with Ambassador Muchanga of the African Union Commission on deepening AU-ECA collaboration.

Discussed among others supporting member states at Ministerial level in the implementation of civil registration and vital statistics, and population census undertaking ahead of the 2030 round of census undertakings (2025 -2035).



#### Global Expert Workshop on Operationalizing Holistic Approaches to CRVS System Strengthening



9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024, a global CRVS experts' workshop co-organized by the Government of Rwanda, Vital Strategies, and ECA, in partnership with GFF, UNFPA, the CDC Foundation, and UNICEF was held in Kigali, Rwanda. There was a total of 105 attendees representing current and next generation CRVS experts from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It created a dynamic space for CRVS experts to share insights, delve into nuanced discussions, and explore innovative solutions necessary for holistic CRVS system strengthening. The goal of the workshop was to build a pool of experts who have a full understanding and expertise of the holistic operationalization of CRVS strengthening efforts.

The workshop covered the pre-and post CRVS reform state in Rwanda and it was structured around the 11 CRVS Strategic Outcomes and provided insights into the potential and options for a Community of Practice. Noting that strengthening CRVS systems is a complex process requiring collaboration across various sectors, namely health, civil registration, national statistics, and ID. An important outcome of the workshop was the enhanced and

expanded knowledge of attendees about the interoperability between civil registration, health sectors, and ID systems.



The hands-on and case-based learning opportunity of this workshop focused on aligning CRVS system strengthening strategies to the UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics Systems, and the UN Legal Identity Agenda. The workshop focused on birth and death registration and the interoperability between the civil registration agency and the health sector and the ID system as key focus areas. The workshop further will offer a platform to delve into the practical application of the process-centric approach to CRVS system strengthening which is outlined in

the CRVS Systems Improvement Framework. [CRVS Workshop in Kigali | Linktree.](#)

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### ECA's scoping mission to Eritrea on data and statistics, and energy

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3rd to 7th June 2024, ACS undertook a scoping and overview mission of the Eritrean Statistical System and the energy sector at the request of the Minister of Finance and National Development of Eritrea, Giorgis Teklemikael (PhD). The mission was a result of an engagement between ECA's Executive Secretary and the President of the State of Eritrea on the side of the Italy-Africa Summit in January 2024 in Rome, which followed exchanges between the Government of Eritrea and ECA on data and statistics and Energy initiated in 2019. The mission was also a result of the fruitful dialogue the Minister had with ECA facilitated by the United Resident Coordinator to discuss the National Statistics Office's Joint Triennial Work Plan 2024-2026, and the productive virtual discussion on possible cooperation in the energy sector he had with ECA's energy team jointly with the Minister of Energy and Mines. The African Development Bank was part of the mission.

In the area of statistics, the mission comprehensively reviewed Eritrea's needs and requirements and identified key areas for technical assistance and advisory support in the context of the National Statistics Office's Joint Triennial Work Plan 2024-2026 and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and its triennial implementation plan (2024-2026).



For the energy sector the mission had a deep engagement with country experts and identified possible areas of cooperation between ECA and Eritrea. The mission provided strategic advice, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and geothermal resource development and energy sector capacity development.



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## WTO Thematic Course on Trade in Value Added Statistics and Global Value Chains

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1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024, this training was held at World Trade Organisation’s headquarters in Geneva. During which, ACS presented the African Continental Input Output Table (AfCIOT) project. The AfCIOT aims to support policymaking in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through the calculation of Trade in Value Added (TIVA), employment, environmental and macro/structural indicators for African countries. The project provides an analytical and statistical tool that combines SUTs, national accounts, trade, and other statistics to generate relevant analytical results for regional and global value chains to boost African trade flows and trade analysis. It also enables analysis for evaluating the implications of trade policies, uncovering value chains, and promoting sustainable development. The audience was composed of statisticians, trade analysts and policy makers from 25 developing countries, including eight from Africa. Other international organizations, such as Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) also presented their databases.



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## Launch of Amaris Institute of Statistics and Economic Research (AmariStat)

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On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Amaris Institute of Statistics and Economic Research (AmariSTAT) was officially launched in Accra Ghana. The Director ACS, Oliver Chinganya was the guest of honor at the event focusing on the theme “Harmonizing,



*benchmarking and improving statistics in Anglophone West Africa”*. Access video of the launch [HERE](#). YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3zpRR2d>

The institute focuses on addressing statistical capacity gaps in Anglophone West Africa. It provides technical support to disseminate data through an open data platform and produces thematic reports to inform policy decisions.

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## Collaboration with UNICEF

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On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the UNICEF Global Director of the Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring - Vidhya Ganes visited the African Centre for Statistics and discussed strategic statistical issues with the Director.



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## The ACS Medium Term Programme on Statistics

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9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, ACS held a consensus building seminar on its medium-term statistics programme for the period 2024-2026. The programme is aimed to enhance ACS’s capacity to support member states in their statistical endeavors.



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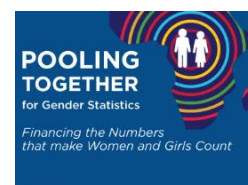
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## Sixth Africa Gender Statistics Forum

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8 -12 July 2024, ACS as the secretariat of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics partnered and co-hosted the 6th Africa Gender Statistics forum in Gaborone, Botswana. The partnership agencies included Statistics Botswana, AUC, AfDB, PARIS21, SADC, UNECA, and UN Women. The theme was “*Pooling Together for Gender Statistics: Financing the Numbers that make Women and Girls Count*”.



The forum created an opportunity to link gender statistics financing for accelerated progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment to the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> international conference on financing for development in 2025 as well as a follow up to the Addis Ababa action agenda.

The forum specifically:

- 1) Took stock of Africa’s progress and gender perceptions in the Addis Ababa declaration on population and development, the Addis Ababa action agenda, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Program on Gender Statistics at regional, subregional, and country levels.
- 2) Provided input to the report of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission for Africa scheduled in October 2024.
- 3) Presented the latest methodological developments and best practices in the production, dissemination, and use of gender statistics.





To this end, the forum covered various areas of gender statistics, including (i) Financing gender statistics, (ii) gender in trade statistics; (iii) Africa Gender Index; (iv) gender data in fragile states, countries in transition, humanitarian settings (v) gender and education statistics in Africa; and (vi) Building a common agenda for gender statistics in Africa, including review of progress of the Africa Group on Gender statistics. See more [HERE](#).

## Measuring Gender-in-Trade Statistics in Africa

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, ACS shared key findings and insights from the African pilot case studies on measuring gender-in-trade statistics. This aimed at enhancing understanding of the need to regularize and implement long-term data collection of both formal trade and International cross border trade to create evidence-based policies that support inclusive trade and gender responsive policies.



The pilot project was undertaken in Kenya, Cameroun, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The project successfully:

- Implemented the "Compilation Guidelines for Measurement of Gender-In-Trade Statistics" developed by UNCTAD.
- Compile the first-ever gender equality indicators in international trade for these countries, paving the way for broader adoption and highlighting the importance of such data.
- Leveraged the strengths and regional expertise of each UN agency. UNECA expanded the framework by incorporating informal cross-border trade (ICBT), a crucial aspect in Africa.

## 15<sup>th</sup> StatsTalk-Africa monthly webinar series

# StatsTalk-Africa

**Creating National Reporting Platforms for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa**



**Welcome remarks and Moderator**  
**Oliver Chinganya**  
Director, ECA- ACS



**Presenter**  
**Sarah Beasley**  
Deputy Head of SDG Data Website Development Branch, UK- ONS



**Presenter**  
**Serah Mwikali Ndunda**  
Manager of Data Processing, KNBS



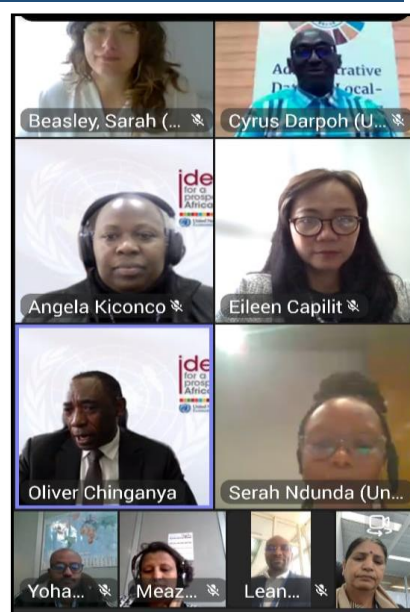
**Presenter**  
**Cyrus Kwesi Darpoh**  
Team Lead National Reporting Platform (NRP) on SDGs, GSS

On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, ACS convened its 15<sup>th</sup> StatsTalk-Africa monthly webinar series that provide a space for dialogue about data, statistics, and innovative tools with data experts and users.

This particular webinar focused on a conversation about developing open-source dissemination platforms for SDGs at country level.

For more details click: [HERE](#).

Access previous StatsTalk – Africa Webinar Series [HERE](#)



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## Cooperation between the ECA and the OIF in the field of civil registration and vital statistics

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On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Permanent Representative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), H.E. Madame Néfertiti MUSHIYA TSHIBANDA held a fruitful meeting with the Director of the African Centre for Statistics.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the ACS and the OIF in the field of civil registration and vital statistics in Francophone Africa.

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## Upcoming events

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ACS has scheduled the 16<sup>th</sup> StatsTalk -Africa webinar series on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 from 11:00 to 12:30 hrs. (EAT).

The webinar will show practical uses for NSOs and other organizations of several key applications of Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and generative AI in economics and statistics as follows:

- Large Language Models as virtual tutors for online training courses on the System of National Accounts and the System of Economic Environmental Accounting.
- Retrieval-Augmented Generation for data querying: using RAG to query data availability and data sources from national accounts websites using natural language.
- Extracting structured information such as statistical data from complex documents for research purposes.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on current and upcoming events of UNECA.

United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# StatsTalk-Africa

Generative AI Applications in  
Economics and Statistics - Part I

**Welcome remarks**  
**Oliver Chinganya**  
Director, ECA-ACS

**Moderator**  
**Uwamahoro Sandrine**  
Data Scientist, National Institute of  
Statistics of Rwanda

**Presenter**  
**Issoufou Seidou Sanda**  
Statistician, EIAS, ECA-ACS

**Contact Persons**  
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Mr. Yonas Mersha, ECA-ACS, yonas.yigezi@un.org

Tuesday  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2024,  
11:00 to 12:30 (EAT)

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## Global and continental statistical events

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Here are some global and continental statistical events that will take place in August 2024:

- Call for papers and posters submission deadline of 15 September 2024 for the 30<sup>th</sup> International Population Conference (IPC2025) will take place in Brisbane, Australia from 13 to 18 July 2025. <https://ipc2025.iussp.org/>
- See more [HERE](#).

*Thank you.*