

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS

Monthly update of activities and events- September 2024

Census Expert Group Meeting



9th to 13th September 2024, The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in partnership with the Office of National Statistics - United Kingdom (ONS-UK), the East African Community secretariat (EAC), Statistics South Africa, and the US Census Bureau held a census Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in Pretoria, South Africa.

The EGM was attended both in person and virtually by census experts from National Statistical Organizations (NSOs), UNECA, UNFPA, African Development Bank, ONS-UK and US Census Bureau. They undertook a comprehensive review of the 2020 Round based on a draft E-Census handbook by UNECA focusing on country experiences and lessons learned. Pursuant to the review, recommendations for the 2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses were made and will be presented for adoption at the 9th Africa Statistical Commission by heads of National Statistical Offices.



The EGM was preceded by the Third United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses held 4th to 6th September 2024 in New York. See details [HERE](#).

National Validation Workshop on Agro-Pastoral Data

19th to 23rd August 2024, ACS convened a national validation workshop in Bujumbura-Burundi, to review the inventory and methodology for centralizing administrative data in the agro-pastoral sector. This is the second national event focused on administrative data as part of an EU-funded initiative implemented by ACS on transformation and modernization of National Statistical Systems in Africa.

The workshop brought together forty participants from the national statistical system, including representatives from the National Institute of Statistics of Burundi (INSBU), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and Livestock, and other relevant ministries. A participatory approach was employed to gain valuable insights and feedback on the methodology, the quality of existing data, and strategies for improvement. These discussions were



anchored on the draft report titled "Transformation and Modernization of Administrative Data in the Agro-Pastoral Sector in Burundi: Status and Centralization Methodology" prepared collaboratively by ACS, INSBU, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

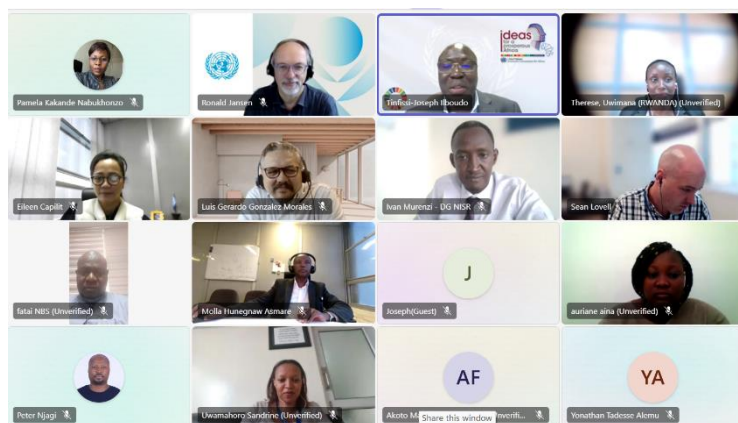
The Director General of INSBU, highlighted the significance of ensuring availability of up-to-date and harmonized agricultural data. He underscored the importance of the agro-pastoral sector as a major contributor to Burundi's economy and expressed gratitude to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the European Union for their

ongoing support. While ACS emphasized the potential of administrative data as a valuable resource for official statistics to address gaps by providing more granular, frequent, and disaggregated data to effectively monitor the implementation of national agendas.

StatsTalk-Africa: Leveraging the UN Global Platform to foster innovation in African NSOs

On 18th September 2024, ACS convened its 19th 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: Leveraging the UN Global Platform to foster innovation in African NSOs. It was co-organized by the United Nations Regional Hub for Big Data and Data Science in Africa in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The webinar introduced the platform to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in Africa, highlighting how it can be utilized to enhance research projects, improve data processing capabilities, and support the adoption of cutting-edge technologies in statistical analysis. Participants gained insights into the platform's features, ongoing projects, and the potential for collaboration, all of which are crucial for advancing statistical capacity and meeting the evolving demands of data-driven decision-making.



More details about the webinar can be accessed through the [event webpage](#). Previous StatsTalk – Africa Webinar Series accessed [HERE](#).

In-country capacity strengthening for production of a Vital Statistics report

Within the framework of transformation and modernization of statistical system, ACS in collaboration with the Office of National Statistics UK (ONS-UK), embarked on development of a training course for statistical computing and graphics tailored towards cleaning and processing of civil registration data to produce a vital statistics report based on the [standard guidelines and template](#) using R programming language.



Subsequently, an R package called *crvsreportpackage* was designed to extend the functionality of the base R system for vital statistics to output tables.

In addition to Uganda and Malawi that were trained in August, Namibia and Nigeria received this training in September.

These in-country trainings aim at strengthening the capacity of CRVS stakeholders to systematically organize existing data from civil

registration for production of a vital statistics report. The trainings focus on the use of R programming language, R studio and GitHub. The setup for the CRVS report package is available at <https://tech-acs.github.io/crvsreportpackage>. The vital statistics report is aimed at providing evidence on the performance of civil registration systems and making these results available for policy and planning for the country.

Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme



On 19th September 2024, the Takwimu Programme held a webinar to boost connections with its members and share updates on the programme's ongoing and upcoming activities. The session

provided opportunity for the Takwimu Young African Statisticians (YAS) to present progress of the work and Programme activities to gather feedback gathering and share experiences. At the same event the Takwimu programme launched its first Takwimu newsletter ([view](#)) and a brand new Takwimu website. ACS highlighted opportunities for capacity building in Geospatial analysis for the YAS to embrace.

The Takwimu YAS Programme was established upon the premise that young Africans constitute a critical mass of the current and future statistical leadership on the continent. The creation of Takwimu YAS Programme, through the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa, was endorsed during the 8th session of the Statistical Commission for Africa in October 2022. The session also endorsed the Programme's strategy for the period 2023–2025 and recommended creating national associations of Young African statisticians.



Takwimu YAS Programme creates a platform to train and empower a new generation of skilled young Africans who will actively engage and contribute to the continental statistical discourse and therefore towards the continent's development agenda. In addition, the Programme seeks to facilitate mentorship of young professionals by facilitating engagement with more experienced statisticians.

For more information, please visit the Takwimu TAS website at <https://yas.uneca.org/> or contact the Takwimu Secretariat, takwimu@un.org

Gender Data Analysis Workshop

From 24th to 26th September 2024, ACS facilitated a Gender Data Analysis Workshop organized under the Data for Health Initiative (D4H) in Nairobi Kenya. The workshop was led by the Gender Equity Unit at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and other D4H partners including Vital Strategies and the CDC Foundation and relevant experts. During the three-day, in-person training, the Workshop offered support to Data for Health Initiative stakeholder teams from Kenya, Liberia, South Africa, India, and Vietnam in strengthening data analysis with a gender lens specifically working with CRVS and mortality data, routine health information data to come up with reports on gender disparities.

Courtesy call to the Secretary General- Nigeria Bureau of Statistics



In a bid to strengthen collaboration and partnership between the ACS and NSOs, on 25th September 2024, a team from ACS and the Office of National Statistics- UK (ONS) visited the Secretary General (SG) of Nigeria Bureau of Statistics at Statistics House, Abuja.

The key message from the SG was a quest to further strengthen partnership buy-in to enhance utilization of administrative data records in the country to measure nation development progress. The SG

appreciated the enthusiasm, and the effort made by ECA and ONS to strengthen statistical production regarding CRVS, GDP, CPI and digitalization of processes in Nigeria. He confirmed the commitment from his office to take forward the production of vital statistics reports as per the schedules in the action plan.

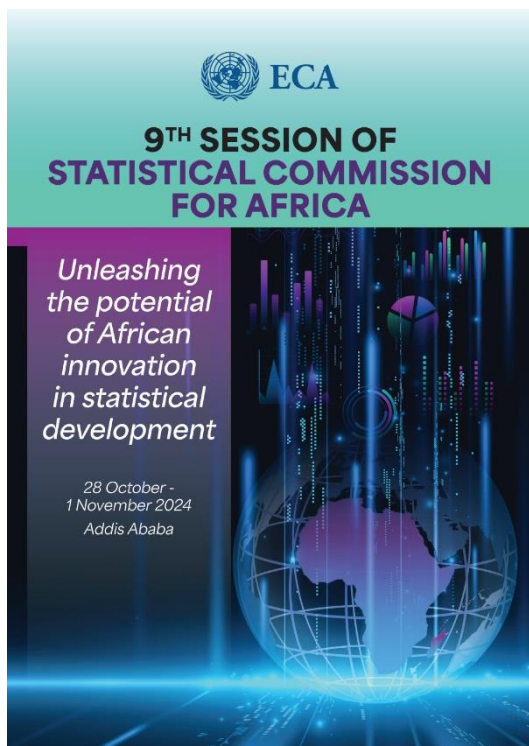
Regional Webinar on the 2025 System of National Accounts for African Countries

The African Centre for Statistics, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Statistics Division, is hosting a Regional Webinar on the new 2025 System of National Accounts for African Countries from October 1-3, 2024, between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. (GMT+3).

The webinar will bring together national accountants, policymakers, and other stakeholders from African countries to discuss the implementation and application of the 2025 System of National Accounts. This webinar series will serve as a platform to review updates to the 2025 System, address potential implementation challenges, and explore opportunities to apply the methodologies for more effective economic planning and decision-making.

To register and attend the webinar, please use the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1013879/>.

Please contact Issoufou Seidou Sanda seidou@un.org for any questions



Statistical Commission for Africa, an intergovernmental entity established in 2007 at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Statistical Commission operates within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and is overseen by the Conference of African Ministers.

The ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa will be held from 28th October to 1st November 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It will be held under the theme “**Unleashing the potential of African innovation in statistical development**”, which reflects the imperative to challenge traditional approaches to statistical development by using disruptive innovation to bridge the statistical literacy divide on the continent. By harnessing African innovation and technology to revolutionize data collection, analysis and dissemination processes, Africa will leverage home-grown solutions, foster a culture of innovation in statistical practice and be propelled towards achieving its development goals.

There will be events held alongside the ninth session include: Pre-events, including:

- a. The eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development.
- b. A meeting of young African statisticians, as part of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme.

There will be a parallel session of the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa will be held under the theme “**Harnessing the potential of geospatial intelligence for a disaster-resilient Africa**”. The two entities will also meet jointly on several occasions over the course of the week, with a view to highlighting the strong connections between geospatial information systems and statistics.

For more information, click <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/data-and-statistics/ninth-meeting-statistical-commission-africa>.

Upcoming events

StatsTalk-Africa

ACS has scheduled the 20th StatsTalk -Africa webinar series on Tuesday, 8th October 2024, from 11:00-12:30 hrs. EAT, which will focus on: **Demystifying STAT tool for skill development for official statistics**. Noting that competent staff is key for national statistical offices but how do you make sure that the organization develops the needed competencies to meet current and future tasks? The “Statistical Training needs Assessment Tool”, also known as STAT, is a tool developed for National Statistical Offices (NSO) to help them assess and analyze skills gaps of staff and decide on how to prioritize and meet competence development needs by using different types of informal and formal learning approaches. STAT has been developed by the Global Network of

Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) that works to support and coordinate the training needs of NSOs. ECA-ACS is an active member of GIST and has contributed to the development of STAT.

The webinar will introduce STAT and present experiences from countries that have started the process of adopting STAT to strategically plan competence development of staff to produce official statistics now and in the future.

Please register [HERE](#). Contact the StatsTalk-Africa Core Team, statstalk-africa@un.org

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

Global and continental statistical events

Here are some global and continental statistical [events](#) that will take place in October 2024. See ECA conferences, meetings and events [HERE](#).

Thank you.