United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS

Monthly update of activities and events-Oct/Nov/Dec 2024

Modernizing the Methodology for Turnover Index in Cameroon

From 30th September to 4th October 2024, ACS held a technical assistance mission to the Cameroon National Institute of Statistics on modernizing the methodology for the turnover index. Promoting the drive to move from the survey approach to the use of administrative data

sources. The approach will make it possible for the NSO to publish in a timely manner the indicator on a monthly basis required by international standards, compared to the actual quarterly production based on data from the quarterly economic survey.

Updated Master Sampling Frame for Eritrea

25th September to 5th October 2024, ACS supported Eritrea to review and update the existing master sampling frame through a Capacity Building Workshop held in Asmara.

A sampling plan was also designed to be used for the Eritrea Population and Health Survey 2024 which is the fourth of its kind following the ones completed in 1995, 2002, and 2010. ECA also supported south to south Cooperation for Eritrea with Kenya on Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) Programming on Tablets.

The Gambia Post Enumeration Survey

ACS continues to advocate for and build capacities of National Statistical Systems in the production and use of demographic and social statistics particularly in conducting Population and Housing Censuses. As part of the 2020 Population and Housing Census Round concluding activities, the Government of The Gambia will conduct a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) after its 2024 Population and Housing Census. In October, ACS assisted The Gambia to develop the sample design for the Post Enumeration Survey, review the sampling frame and conduct the sample selection of Enumeration Areas (EAs) for the PES.

StatsTalk-Africa: Demystifying STAT tool for skill development for official statistics

On 8th October 2024, ACS convened its 20th 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 demystifying the STAT tool for skill development for official statistics. The webinar provided a platform to share experiences and thoughts from statistical offices that have started adopting the tool to strategically plan for staff competence development to produce official statistics now and in the future such as Ghana Statistical Service, National Bureau of Statistics- Seychelles and the High Commission for Planning- Morocco.

The statistical training needs assessment tool also known as STAT was developed for National Statistical Offices to help them to assess and analyze staff skills gaps and decide how to prioritize and meet competence development needs using informal and formal learning approaches.

The proceedings of the webinar can be accessed at https://youtu.be/6jre30yOboc . Previous StatsTalk – Africa Webinar Series accessed HERE.

Committee of Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System

From 1st to 3rd October, the Chief Statistician-Director ACS participated in the meeting of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Montreal, Canada.

He attended the 44th session of the global Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities.

The committee organized a dinner in honor of the Director's impending retirement.

11th Meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development

On 28th October 2024, ACS held the 11th meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV). The FASDEV is an initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and is supported by the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank.

The overall objective of the eleventh meeting was to foster connections among countries, partners and institutions that support statistics, with a view to addressing the need of national statistical systems for technical and financial resources to accelerate the transformation and modernization of those systems.

In his Opening Remark by Oliver Chinganya at the Eleventh Forum on Africa Statistical Development | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, one of the key messages was that Africa should urgently invest in robust data, statistical systems to accelerate sustainable dev't — ECA – Welcome to Fana Broadcasting Corporate S.C.

Food Security Statistics and Analysis from Household Expenditure and Consumption Surveys

On 29th October 2024, held a joint event in Addis Ababa with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Statistics Norway together with NSOs from Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe. The event focused on the state of play of food insecurity and nutrition measurement and statistics. The key speakers were from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia and Voices of the Hungry.

This is part of a regional collaboration that has supported eight African nations in strengthening their food and nutritional security through enhanced capacity building in processing and analysis of Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys data. The project has built NSO capacities, created food security fact sheets, and established reliable poverty and food security data. https://www.uneca.org/stories/a-food-security-statistics-project-is-enhancing-food-security-data-across-africa

9th Meeting of the Africa Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission for Africa is 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 9th session of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held from 30th October to 1st November 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was attended by participants from National Statistics Offices of 51 member states, and observers from non-African States, International, regional, and subregional organizations and institutions, Training institutions, Specialized agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations, statistics elders and the young statisticians. At the official opening ceremony, Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister, Temesgen Tiruneh challenged African policy makers to build robust data and statistical systems that support development. See more video HERE.

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

10th Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

30th October to 1st November 2024, the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee was held in a hybrid format in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.

The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UNGGIM: Africa) was established to oversee geospatial development in Africa and to contribute to the larger global geospatial information management effort.

For more information on the proceedings visit Tenth Session of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) | Events | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics

The 2024 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, back-to-back with the STACOM: Africa, from 28 October to 01 November 2024.

This is an Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics that is organized every year, by the United Nations in collaboration with its partners, to advance the production and use of disaster-related statistics for risk-informed development in support of the aim of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS) of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Forum provides a platform where users and producers of disaster-related statistics collaborate and share knowledge.

The Director ACS gave the opening remarks Opening Remark by Oliver Chinganya at the Fourth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-Related Statistics | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. For more information on the proceedings visit Fourth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster Related Statistics | Events | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Local media reports: Ethiopia: Statistics Crucial for Addressing Disaster, UNECA - teleSUR English
Accurate, timely statistics crucial for addressing escalating disaster shocks: UNECA By IANS

Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme

The Takwimu Young African Statisticians (TYAS) held a Side Event on the side lines of the 9th Africa Statistical Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. See video recording at

https://youtu.be/D_y59GVqQJ0

The TYAS honored the Director, ACS for his efforts in encouraging Young African Statisticians to engage and use innovative approaches in statistics.

Blog post by Mr. Oliver Chinganya: Empowering the next generation of statisticians: The Role of Takwimu Young African Statisticians in Africa's Development | ISI

ECA Article: A Young Statistician's Reflections on Investing in Human Capacity to Drive Sustainable Development | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

For more information, please visit the Takwimu YAS website at https://yas.uneca.org/ or contact the Takwimu Secretariat, takwimu@un.org. Follow: https://x.com/TakwimuYAS

Launch of the Africa Gender Index 2023 Report

ECA together with the African Development Bank (AfDB) developed and launched the Africa Gender Index (AGI) 2023 Report on 1st November 2024. The AGI is a measure of gender inequality in Africa, one of the findings is that women in Africa score just 50.3% in equality across economic, social, and public representation areas, which is a slight improvement from the 48% score in 2019. The AGI is also an advocacy tool for countries to support policy actions towards greater positive change in the lives of women and girls in Africa.

Please find more details at Africa Gender Index Analytical Report reveals progress, but gender equality remains only half achieved | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
Other media report on The Launch of the Africa Gender Index 2023 Report - allAfrica.com

STAT tool on skills development for official statistics

From 4th to 8th November 2024, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) collaborated with ECA to enhance the statistical capacity of the Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The mission aimed to: 1)provide comprehensive training on the Statistical Training Needs Assessment Tool(STAT tool), including its implementation, data collection, analysis, and prioritization of training needs; 2)to introduce key fundamental statistics concepts that are essential for effective statistical development; and 3)to facilitate discussions on statistical development processes relevant to the Seychelles context.

The activities conducted included prioritization of the required staff skills to fill capacity gaps, more consideration for in-house learning options, other learning options like self-paced and facilitated online eLearning courses. As well as practical development of an institutional training plan, training strategy and steps to design an individual competence plan.

East African Regional Statistical Program for Results

From 5th to 7th November, a mission to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics was held to identify outstanding challenges, opportunities, and formulate plausible recommendations which will further improve its current work on the Foreign Investment Survey and the monthly Harmonized Consumer Price Index.

This was the October 2024 verification window of the East African Regional Statistical Program for Results.

ECA was contracted by the East African Community to be an independent verification agency to authenticate specific disbursement linked results using agreed verification protocols and methodologies for Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Transformation and Modernization of South Sudan's National Statistical System

From 18th to 22nd November, UNECA-ACS undertook a scoping mission on data and statistics in Juba, South Sudan. This was at the request of the National Bureau of Statistics of South Sudan's Director General and recommendation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office.

The mission conducted a comprehensive assessment of the South Sudan Statistical System in support of the design and implementation of the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. It has been organized in the context of

strengthening data generation and use and ECA's programme support to the transformation and modernization of National Statistical Systems in Africa.

The mission assessed the national statistical system through strategic meetings and consultations articulated on the pillars for the road map on transformation and modernization of official statistics.

Regional Capacity Strengthening Initiative on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Data Analysis

19th – 24th November, a regional capacity strengthening initiative focusing on enhancing skills in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) data analysis and reporting was organized by UNFPA WCARO in collaboration with UNFPA HQ, The World Bank, ECOWAS and UNECA for countries in West and Central Africa.

The capacity strengthening initiative sought to empower stakeholders to harness the full potential of CRVS data for evidence-based decision-making, improved service delivery, and sustainable development.

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 World Bank Global Financing Facility partnered to support Zambia to hold an in-country training workshop on "Production of a vital statistics report using an R pipeline". The workshop took place from 25th to 29th November 2024 in Zambia.

Zambia was supported to process its existing data from civil registration (on birth, death and cause of death) using R programming language to produce a multi-year vital statistics report. The setup for the CRVS report production package is available at https://tech-acs.github.io/vsreport/. The mission identified challenges and advised the country CRVS stakeholders to strengthen their Vital Statistics Business Process.

Enhancing Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade Measurement in COMESA

ECA and COMESA explored the use of camera-based video monitoring on borders as a data source for improving small-scale cross-border trade statistics and enhancing other applications of big data and data science to improve trade statistics and data analysis in COMESA.

Malawi Census of Agriculture

The Malawi National Statistics Office (NSO) will soon carry out its first digital National Census of Agriculture and Livestock. This November, the Director-ACS handed to Malawi NSO over 2,000 tablets for data collection in the census of agriculture. ACS supported the digitization process and will continue to provide technical support for tablet provisioning and developed application tools.

2024 Statutory Executive Committee meeting of SHaSA 2

From 2nd to 4th December, the Executive Committee of the Second Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2) held its 2024 statutory meeting in Banjul, The Gambia. ACS participated in the meeting and in attendance was the SHaSA 2 national, regional, and continental coordinators, and observers.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the 2024 Report of the Implementation of the Revised Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2). Participants also shared experiences in the Implementation of the SHaSA 2 on various topics among the 33 African Union Member States present. Other partners present included AfDB, AFRISTAT, AUC, AUDA/NEPAD, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, UMA, and EU PAS II SC. Access the SHaSA 2 at https://au.int/en/ea/statistics/shasa

Meeting of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)

From 5th to 6th December, the African Statistical Coordination Committee held its meeting in Banjul, The Gambia. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) represented by the ACS as a member attended this meeting including other statutory members and observers.

The meeting discussed mechanisms for achieving greater synergy between continental, and regional institutions to better coordinate statistical programmes for effective support of the African statistical system.

Workshop on the African Continental Input-Output Table (AfCIOT)

ECA initiated the development of the African Continental Input-Output Table (AfCIOT) as a crucial tool for understanding economic interactions across African economies and with the world. The tool aims to provide insights into how economic sectors in various geographic territories contribute to meeting final demand and how value is added throughout production processes.

Webinar series were held in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

For any further information, please contact Leandre Ngogang at ngogangwandji@un.org .

See more at https://www.uneca.org/stories/unlocking-africa%27s-trade-potential-with-cutting-edge-data-tools

https://www.iioa.org/conferences/30th/papers/files/presentations/5195_IIOA-TechnicalIssuesinCompilationofAfCIOT_2024-05-31.pdf

From 2nd to 5th December, ACS held a workshop on the African Continental Input-Output Table (AfCIOT). The workshop held in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia aimed to include additional African countries in the AfCIOT successfully.

18th Session of the Committee of Director Generals of National Statistics Offices (CoDG)

From 9th to 12th December, UNECA represented by the ACS attended the18th Session of the Committee of Director Generals (CoDGs) of National Statistics Offices meeting in Banjul, The Gambia. The theme of the CoDG is *"Contribution of Statistics to educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa"*.

The opening ceremony was led by the Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia. Here is an excerpt of his speech "I implore all African governments to increase investments in statistics to achieve the sustainable development [..].

I encourage South to South cooperation as a cost-effective knowledge and skill transfer particularly for Population and Housing Censuses. I encourage continuous engagements with the media."
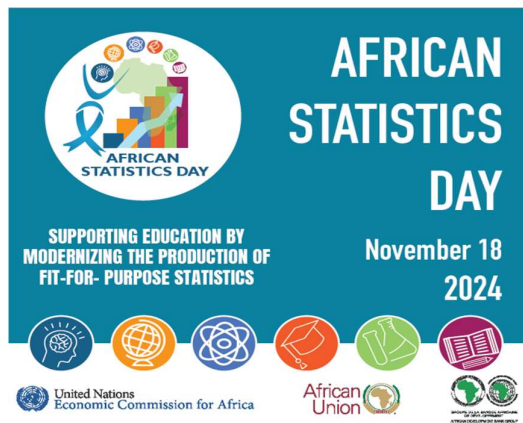
2024 African Statistics Day

African Statistics Day is an annual event, celebrated on 18 November to raise public awareness of the importance of statistics in all areas of social and economic life. In 2024, it was held under the theme "*Supporting education by modernizing the production of t-for-purpose statistics*", which captures the call to modernize data ecosystems on the continent, with a view to producing and using high-quality education-related statistics and to seizing the opportunities presented by technological advances and big data.

Prioritizing education, African States can harness the demographic dividend, drive economic growth and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.National Statistical Offices and organisations commemorated the day in style. UNECA, AUC and AfDB provided a media advisory.

2024 Statistics Week in Taiwan

From 9th to 12th December was the statistics week for Taiwan organized with a series of eminent speakers on a range of topics.

The Director, ACS who is also the Vice President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) participated in the event and delivered a presentation on "*The role of official statistics and how the academia can support National Statistics Offices*".

See more details here: https://www3.stat.sinica.edu.tw/swt2024/

Key Macro Economic Statistics Production for Eritrea

ECA-ACS continued to support the production of harmonized and quality economic statistics in African countries by providing advisory services and technical

assistance. 9th -13th December, a study tour for Eritrea to Kenya on GDP compilation and key macroeconomic statistics production was held by ECA.

Using Data science to produce timely key Macro Economic statistics

16th-20th December, 41 participants from Nigeria, Cameroun, Kenya, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mauritius gained from ACS's efforts to reinforce African countries capacity to

produce more timely GDP estimates with the support of data science techniques, including review of progress made towards more availability of quarterly GDP in Africa. This was held in Abuja, Nigeria. The ACS team paid a courtesy call to the Statistician-General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the NBS National Accounts team.

2025 Sprint on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for Economic Statistics

 At the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), we have been among the first to explore how data science can improve economic statistics. Over the past three years, with the support of our management, we introduced ideas like using generative AI technologies such as retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), to help share, teach, and interpret economic statistics, including SNA and SEEA. Today, these ideas are being promoted by the Data Science Leaders Network and the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians as valuable tools for improving economic statistics. This is a testimony to ACS's vision and potential leadership in identifying and driving innovation in statistical methodologies.

"The Data Science Leaders Network and the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians are organizing a Sprint aimed at enhancing the capabilities of NSOs in the use of innovative AI and data science applications for the production and dissemination of economic statistics.

All efforts are made to provide a broad horizon scan of ongoing projects undertaken at the national and international levels by the statistical community and its partners. Appropriate deliberate reference will be made to implementing the System of National Accounts 2025."

As part of the sprint on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for Economic Statistics, webinars were held on 7th November and 12th December 2024. It will conclude with a symposium from 20th to 22nd January 2025 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

See more details and access recordings to webinars at https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/events/2025/ai-data-science/

The 9th Statistical Commission recognised Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director ACS and Mr. Greg Gong, Chief Economic, Infrastructure and Agricultural Statistics, ACS as soon to retire from the UN at the end of this year. As part of the closure of the 9th Statistical Commission, participants together with ACS staff celebrated the career and contributions of the two esteemed Statisticians to the Africa statistical system.

Mr. Greg Gong, Chief Economic, Infrastructure and Agricultural Statistics, ACS received a certificate of recognition from the ECA Executive Secretary on retirement.

Farewell and best wishes

Eman Aboaldahab Elsayed Ali left ACS to pursue an exciting new opportunity in New York. A farewell party was held on 5th November 2024.

Global and continental statistical events

Here are some global and continental upcoming statistical events.

See ECA conferences, meetings and events HERE.

Blog post by Mr. Oliver Chinganya: (Blog) What Matters in Statistical Development: A Focus on Official Statistics in Africa | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

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Thank you.