United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS

Monthly update of activities and events- May 2024

Inequality assessment for registration of vital events based on the 2020 round of censuses

29th April to 3rd May 2024, ACS embarked on a regional study on "Inequality Assessment of Registration of Vital Events Based on the 2020 Round of Censuses". The objective is to establish the extent of inequalities in Civil Registration among member states so that the problem can be addressed with evidence. A training was undertaken to provide practical knowledge and skills on assessing differentials in birth, death and marriage registration. The training took place in Nairobi, Kenya for 10 countries that have undertaken a population census in the 2020 round and included questions on civil registration in their questionnaires.

Policy brief writing and gender mainstreaming capacity strengthening workshop

29th April to 3rd May 2024. The African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) in collaboration with Africa CDC and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are implementing a collaborative project on equitable access to vaccines in Africa (ECOVA). As part of activities a workshop was held in Ghana on policy brief writing and gender mainstreaming capacity strengthening. ACS contributed to the review of draft policy briefs and research reports, capacity training on how to write a good policy brief and gender considerations in project implementation.

Leveraging Household Surveys to Close the Gender Data Gaps

The World Bank's Center for Development Data and the Development Economics Institute held a training on "Leveraging Household Surveys to Close the Gender Data Gap" from 20th to 24th May 2024 in Italy. This was based on its long experience of partnerships with international organizations and National Statistical Offices in low-income countries to develop improved survey methods and international guidelines for collecting individual-level data on a range of topics; and providing technical assistance for adoption/scale-up of these guidelines. The African Centre for Statistics participated in this training.

15th StatsTalk-Africa monthly webinar series

On 13th May 2024, ACS convened its 15th 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: Monitoring Roads at a Large Scale in low income and developing countries using Big Data and Remote Sensing. The webinar delved into a new platform designed to: (i) help countries monitor the size and quality of their road network in real time and at a low cost; and (ii) use those inputs to measure investment gaps, sequence road maintenance work or simulate the resilience of road networks to climate shocks for better pilot investments. It provided insights on the African Regional Transport Corridor Management System.

For more details click: HERE. Access previous StatsTalk – Africa Webinar Series at HERE

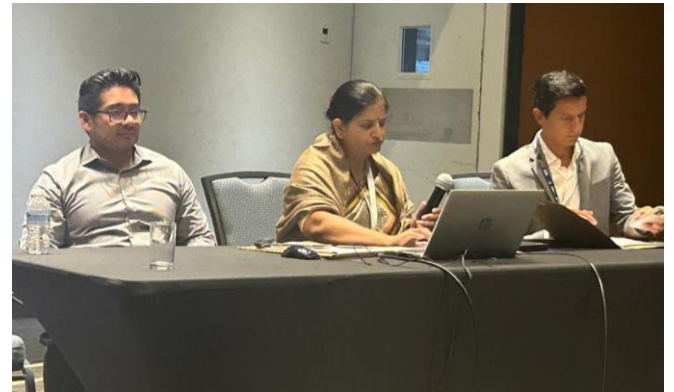## IAOS-ISI 2024, Mexico Conference - Improving Decision-Making for All

15th to 17th of May 2024 - The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS) and the International Institute of Statistics (ISI) jointly hosted the 19th IAOS Conference and the 4th ISI Regional Statistics Conference in Mexico City, Mexico. The conference had 49 sessions and two side events discussing the role of data, official statistics, Artificial Intelligence and machine learning, new methods, and other topics. The aim of the conference was to build a new social contract around data based on value and trust. Some of the topics discussed in the plenaries included the role of National Statistical offices in the ever-changing world to ensure improved decision making, getting back on track to end poverty among others.

ACS played an active role in discussions and made five presentations in various sessions on "building public trust in the use of big data for official statistics", "democracy and statistics", "principles of official statistics and various challenges in its implementation", "understanding data stewardship and role of NSS in Africa" and "enhancing the quality of online self-paced training on the SEEA using large language models and interactive knowledge graphs".

ACS also participated in the pre-conference side event on GDP Nowcasting on 14th May 2024.

The ACS Director, as vice president of the ISI, participated in the executive committee meeting on 18th May 2024.
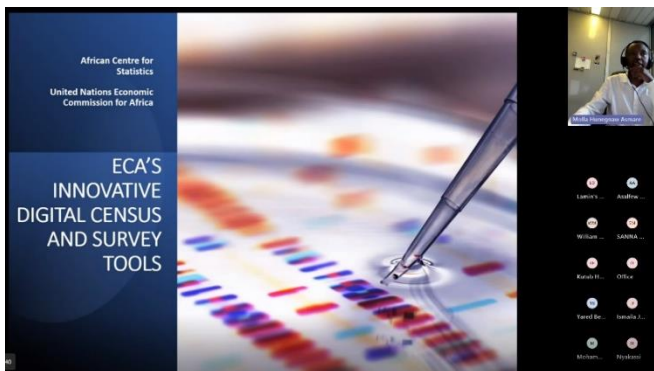
ID4Africa 2024: Annual General Meeting

The ID4Africa 2024 Annual General Meeting hosted and organized by ID4Africa took place from 21st to 24th May 2024 in South Africa with an extraordinary program that gave an immersive and unique knowledge-sharing experience with a fresh and innovative approach to addressing Identity matters in Africa. It also marked the 10th Anniversary of ID4Africa and the dawn of the ID4D Movement. The conference, workshops and expo paid particular attention to the context required for the adoption and deployment of responsible identity systems including the necessary legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, governance, data protection, privacy and human rights.

ACS actively participated as chair and discussant in workshop 3 on "Practical End-to-End Guide for Identifying, Procuring and Deploying the Right Identity Solution for your Country". The workshop allowed experts from the identity community who attend physically, to engage in deep and meaningful dialogue, as part of multiple working groups collaboration, brainstorming and networking. The outcomes, recommendations and summations of the workshop will be presented virtually during the ID4Africa live cast episodes. See more HERE.

Training on census monitoring dashboard for the Gambia's Upcoming Census

The Gambia is finally set to conduct a digital population and housing census for the first time in May-June 2024. The digital Population and Housing Census will be implemented by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) in collaboration with all relevant government stakeholders and development partners. Prior to enumeration, on 24th May 2024, ACS conducted an online training on the developed census monitoring dashboard with the census technical staff and management of GBoS. The training highlighted the effective use of indicators in census fieldwork monitoring including the relevant working arrangements through use of the ECA developed data collection monitoring dashboard utilized by several countries in implementing the 2020 round of population censuses.

National capacity building training on statistical, methodological, and computational aspects of the Productive Capacities Index (PCI)

6th -7th May 2024. ACS in participated in a National Capacity Building Training on the Productive Capacities Index (PCI) was held in Harare, Zimbabwe. This marked a significant step forward in enhancing statistical and economic expertise across the continent. This event was organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The training aimed to equip national statisticians and economic experts with the necessary skills to implement the PCI, a multifaceted indicator designed to gauge and analyze nations' capacities to sustainably produce goods and services. This tool is pivotal in driving economic growth and development, making it an invaluable asset for countries striving to enhance their economic landscapes and in steering economic policies toward inclusive and sustainable growth. The two-day event covered various topics, including the basic understanding of the PCI, its computational aspects, and practical exercises in R programming for data analysis. The training also fostered a collaborative network among African statisticians and policymakers, promoting the exchange of best practices and addressing shared challenges. This network is envisioned to enhance the application of the PCI across different contexts within the continent. Experts from UNCTAD and ACS- ECA provided in-depth training and led discussions on future developments of the PCI, feedback sessions, and interactive presentations, creating an engaging learning environment.

The PCI offers a detailed portrait of a country's economic strengths and weaknesses across multiple dimensions, such as human capital, natural resources, institutional frameworks, and infrastructural development. By enabling a nuanced understanding of these areas, the PCI assists policymakers in identifying targeted interventions that can lead to substantial and sustainable economic improvements.

Data Validation workshop of the African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)

28th to 31st May 2024. ACS in collaboration with STATAFRIC- AUC and AfDB held a data validation workshop for the African Statistical Yearbook with member states in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia. The three institutions are jointly working towards a centralized database for Africa.

Beyond the validation of country data for the ASYB, this year-round contemporary data issues including data challenges, data management for high quality data, a centralized data exchange and dissemination mechanisms including innovative tools to facilitate the processes of data management and reporting for the ASYB, and other data was discussed. In line with the UN Secretary General's call at the 2023 SDG Summit, for countries' urgent action to reap the data dividend by working towards securing data for at least 90% of the SDG targets in each country by 2027; and fully implementing the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data among others. See more details HERE

Population Development Composite Index (PDCI) for Somalia

ACS in collaboration with Somalia National Bureau of Statistics and UNFPA-Somalia conducted a workshop to validate the methodology and calculation of a Population Development Composite Index (PDCI) for Somalia and its sub-regions. It involved contextualization, testing robustness and statistical soundness of the index. PDCI- Somalia is a tool to summarize complex multi-dimensional issues in the context of a people-centered SDG approach. PDCI is based on the reference framework of thematic foundations for population and development post-2014, developed by UNFPA based on 33 relevant sustainable development indicators classified according to five axes (pillars) stipulated in UN General Assembly Resolution No. 65. /234, namely dignity and human rights, health, place and mobility, governance and accountability, and sustainability.

PDCI is initially developed by UNFPA- Arab States Regional Office to reflect the position of Arab countries towards the International Conference on Population and Development Plan of Action (ICPD-PoA) within the context of the ICPD beyond 2014 review and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Upcoming events

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 June 2024:

- 4th June 2024. First webinar of data strategy sprint of the United Nations Network of economic statisticians. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/groups/NetEconStat/FirstWebinar-of-DataAccessSprint
- 10th - 14th June 2024. Informing climate change and sustainable development policies with integrated data. https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/events/2024/conference/
- 10th – 28th June 2024. Government Finance Statistics. https://www.imf.org/en/Capacity-Development/Training/ICDTC/Schedule/AT/2024/GFSAT24-37
- 10th June – 5th July 2024. STATA for Labour Market Analysis. https://www.itcilo.org/courses/stata-labour-market-analysis-0
- 25th – 26th June 2024. 19th meeting of the UN committee of experts on environmental economic accounting
- Call for papers and posters submission deadline of 15 September 2024 for the 30th International Population Conference (IPC2025) will take place in Brisbane, Australia from 13 to 18 July 2025. https://ipc2025.iussp.org/
- Online training on Sampling in DHS Surveys, June 17 – July 29, 2024 (DHS Program)

Thank you.