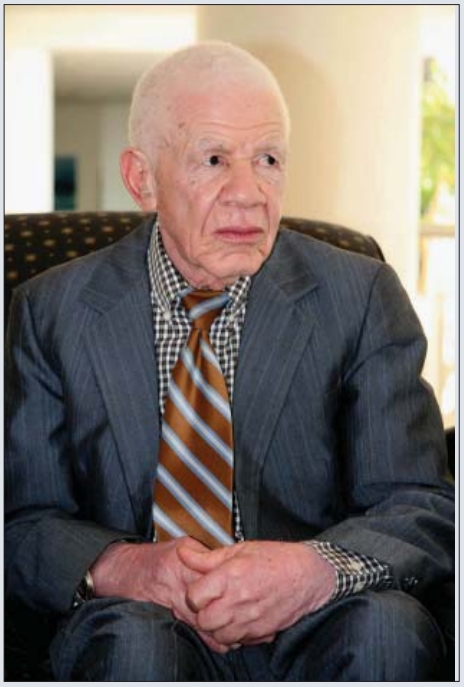
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics



Prof. Tamsanqa Kambule

Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane

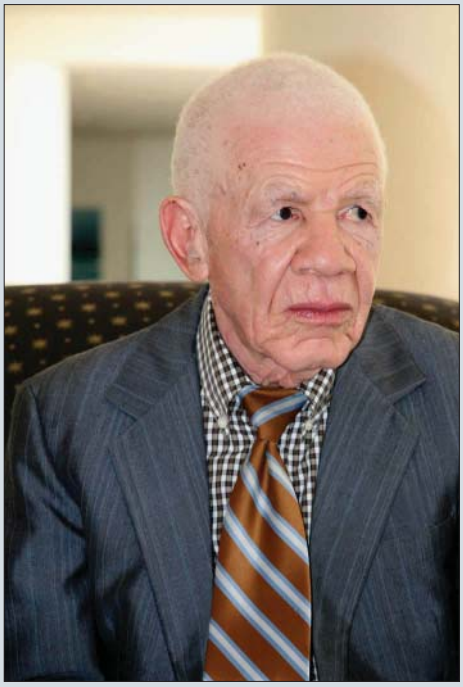
Octogenarian pioneers in the teaching of mathematics in South Africa: at 88 years and still teaching

African Statistical Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Nations Unies, Commission économique pour l'Afrique
Centre africain pour la statistique



Prof. Tamsanqa Kambule

Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane

Des octogénaires pionniers dans l'enseignement des mathématiques en Afrique du Sud: Toujours enseignants a 88 ans.

Bulletin d'information statistique africain

VOLUME 2, NUMÉRO 3 SEPTEMBRE 2008

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Contents

From the Director, ACS

I welcome you to this issue of the African Statistical Newsletter. It is very encouraging to learn that the Newsletter is not only being accessed (online and in hard copy) and read by the statistical community in and outside Africa but also that it has been found interesting and informative. Dr. Paul Cheung, the Director of the UN Statistics Division in N.Y., ACS's leading partner institution, had this to say about the Newsletter:

Ben Kiregyera, Director
African Centre for Statistics

"*I think this is an excellent newsletter. It is very rich in content, and has many good articles. My warmest congratulations*"

This issue of the Newsletter also has a lot of interesting information about statistical developments in Africa. It reports on: two octogenarian mathematics teachers in South Africa - against the backdrop that during the dark era in that country, the apartheid government had decreed that mathematics and sciences should not be taught to the black population; the "First Women" gracing the Centre - the first woman Head of an African Statistics Office and the first woman President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI); the meeting to discuss implementation of the African Charter on Statistics; the first ever conference of young statisticians held in Africa; the first regional dialogue on gender statistics; revision of the SNA93; progress in preparations for ISI Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa in August 2009; etc.

The African Centre for Statistics has had the rare privilege of hosting for six months Prof. Denise Lievesley, the President of the ISI and one of the luminaries of official statistics in the world. In the last six months, Denise assisted the Centre to think through its strategies and programmes, became an Ambassador for the Centre at many meetings she attended in her capacity as the President of the ISI, spent considerable time working with the Centre and Statistics South Africa on arrangements for the 2009 ISI Congress and assisted to advocate for strong national statistical associations in Africa. She also served as a member of the Editorial Board of this Newsletter.

I am sure that as a result of her sojourn at the Centre, Denise has a greater understanding of issues germane to statistical development processes in Africa, including constraints and the role the international community can play in this process. Denise returned to U.K. on 17 September to take up her new appointment as Professor of Social Statistics and Head of the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College, London University. On behalf of the African Centre for Statistics and the entire statistical community in Africa, I wish to thank Denise for the service she has rendered to Africa in the past and especially during her stay at the Centre. I urge her to be the Centre's Ambassador in Europe and beyond.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya on his recent appointment as the Director of the Statistics and Research Department of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to thank him for visiting the Centre in August this year; Dr. E. S. K. Muwanga-Zake as his appointment as the new chairman, Board of Directors of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics; and Dr. Jairo Arrow on his appointment as the new Executive Secretary of the 2009 Durban Session of the ISI. We would also like to congratulate the African Development Bank, InWent of Germany, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and ECA for organizing in June a High Level Forum on Gender Statistics in Kampala, Uganda; Statistics South Africa for organizing in July in Pretoria what the President of the ISI has called "*the most successful first regional conference of young statisticians in Africa*"; the African Capacity Building Foundation for organizing a restitution workshop in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in July on Capacity Building Program for Statistical Training Centres in Africa; the African Union Commission for organizing a meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in August to discuss implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the possibility of establishing an African Statistics Fund; the PARIS21, ACS's partner institution, for holding in June, a successful Steering Committee meeting whose decisions will impact statistical development in Africa; and the African Development Bank for hosting the third meeting of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) and the 12th meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).

In a special way and on behalf of the entire statistical community in Africa and indeed the African Centre for Statistics, I would like to commend the octogenarian teachers of mathematics, Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane and Prof. Tamsanqa Kambule, for their dedicated and exemplary life-long service to the teaching and development of mathematics in South Africa as a foundation for statistics and other sciences.

We continue to encourage the statistical community in Africa to send us articles and any information deemed interesting for us to publish in the Newsletter. We also encourage readers to send us reactions to and feedback on the materials we publish. We are providing in this and future issues the editorial policy of the Newsletter, which provides guidance on how to prepare and submit an article for publication.

It is our expectation that you will find this issue of the Newsletter informative and interesting to read.

The Director and staff of the Centre wish the statistical community in Africa happy 2008 African Statistics Day Celebration. ❑

I. CENSUSES

Liberia Conducts her First Post War Census

Diavana Z. Koikoi, Liberia

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf announcing provisional results of the Census

The West African State of Liberia has conducted its first Census in more than two decades.

The 2008 National Population and Housing Census began in March 2007, with the conduct of a geographic planning exercise in the fifteen counties of Liberia.

With Funding from the United Nations Population Fund, the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) in collaboration with the GIS Unit of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and a UNFPA sponsored International Cartographer and GIS Advisor, recruited and conducted a one month training for ninety-nine persons in geographic planning and the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment.

Using the GPS equipment, the mapping personnel, succeeded in mapping cities, towns, villages, social service facilities, infrastructure as well as telecommunications towers in the country.

The geographic planning exercise succeeded in the creation of seven thousand twenty three (7023) Enumeration Areas in Liberia that are now being used as sample frame to conduct other surveys.

The ten- month geographic planning exercise also generated Maps of Supervisory and Enumeration Areas that were used in the Field Enumeration activities of the National Population and Housing Census which ran from 21 to 30 March 2008.

More than eleven thousand including county coordinators, county inspectors, district inspectors, field supervisors and enumerators recruited across the country participated in the field activities of the Census.

Though the processing of the Census data is continuing, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on June 20, 2008 officially announced the provisional results of the Census which puts the population of Liberia at three point five million (3.5 Million) people.

"*Now that the requisite data on the size, structure and spatial distribution of Liberia are available, the post conflict country's progress can be measured as it tries to implement its reform agenda and institute polices and programs that would enable Liberia take its rightful place in the comity of nations*," President Sirleaf said while launching the provisional results of the Census.

Final results of Liberia's Census are expected to be released by the end of 2009.

2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) Report Launched

(L-R) Dr. Liberty, Director General of LISGIS and University of Liberia President Conteh at the launch of 2007 LDHS Report

The Liberian government in collaboration with development partners has also launched the results of the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey.

The LDHS was conducted among 6,824 households, 7,092 women aged 15-49, and 6,009 men aged 15-59 by the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and puts the current HIV/AIDS infection rate among Liberia adults aged 15-49 at about 2 percent.

HIV prevalence estimates were determined by interviewing residents and obtaining blood samples from a representative national sample of Liberian adults between January and April 2007.

The LDHS is the first national survey to use population-based testing to determine HIV prevalence. This method provides direct information on HIV infection among adult women and men. Previous HIV estimates in Liberia have been principally based on the results of sentinel surveillance of the rate of HIV infection among pregnant

I. Censuses

women attending ten antenatal care clinics in urban areas. These estimates tend to be higher and cannot be directly compared to the LDHS results.

The LDHS results also point to several encouraging trends in other maternal and child health indicators including:

- The total fertility rate (TFR) is 5.2 children per woman, down from 6.2 children in 1999/2000 and 6.6 children in 1986.
- Child mortality also shows a decline, with the under-five mortality dropping from 220 deaths per 1,000 births in 1986 to a rate of 110 per 1,000 from the 2007 LDHS.
- During pregnancy, a majority of women (79 percent) receive antenatal care from a health professional and 78 percent of births are protected against tetanus.
- Nevertheless, some indicators show room for improvement. For example:
- Only 39 percent of children are considered fully immunized against major preventable childhood diseases, such as polio and measles.
- Almost four in ten children under five are considered 'stunted' or too short for their age; 20 percent of children are severely stunted. Additionally, 8 percent are 'wasted' or too thin for their height.
- Despite widespread interest in stopping or delaying childbirth, only 11 percent of married women are using a method of family planning, mainly injection and pills.

Macro International Inc. Provided technical assistance as part of the USAID-funded Demographic and Health Surveys project (MEASURE DHS). Funding for the survey was provided by the Government of Liberia, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP).

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Status of 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa

Country	Pays	2010 round of censuses
Algeria	Algérie	2008
Angola	Angola	2010
Benin	Bénin	2012
Botswana	Botswana	2011
Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	2006
Burundi	Burundi	2007
Cameroon	Cameroun	2005
Cape Verde	Cap-Vert	2010
Central African Republic	République Centrafricaine	2013
Chad	Tchad	2008
Comoros	Comores	2013
Congo	Congo	2006
Ivory Coast	Côte d'Ivoire	2008
Democratic Republic of the Congo	République Démocratique du Congo	2009
Djibouti	Djibouti	2008
Egypt	Egypte	2006
Equatorial Guinea	Guinée équatoriale	(Last census 2002)
Eritrea	Erythrée	2009
Ethiopia	Ethiopie	2007
Gabon	Gabon	2013
The Gambia	Gambie	2013
Ghana	Ghana	2010
Guinea	Guinée	2008
Guinea Bissau	Guinée-Bissau	2008
Kenya	Kenya	2009
Lesotho	Lesotho	2006
Liberia	Libéria	2008
Libya Arab Jamahiriya	Jamahiriya Arabe Libyenne	2008
Madagascar	Madagascar	2009
Malawi	Malawi	2008
Mali	Mali	2008
Mauritania	Mauritanie	2010
Mauritius	Maurice	2010
Morocco	Maroc	2014
Mozambique	Mozambique	2007
Namibia	Namibie	2011
Niger	Niger	2010
Nigeria	Nigéria	2006
Rwanda	Rwanda	2012
Sao Tomé and Principé	Sao Tomé-et-Principe	2011
Senegal	Sénégal	2010
Seychelles	Seychelles	2010
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	2014
Somalia	Somalie	(Last census 1987)
South Africa	Afrique du Sud	2011
Sudan	Soudan	2008
Swaziland	Swaziland	2007
Togo	Togo	2009
Tunisia	Tunisie	2014
Uganda	Ouganda	2012
United Republic of Tanzania	Tanzanie, République Unie de	2012
Zambia	Zambie	2010
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	2012

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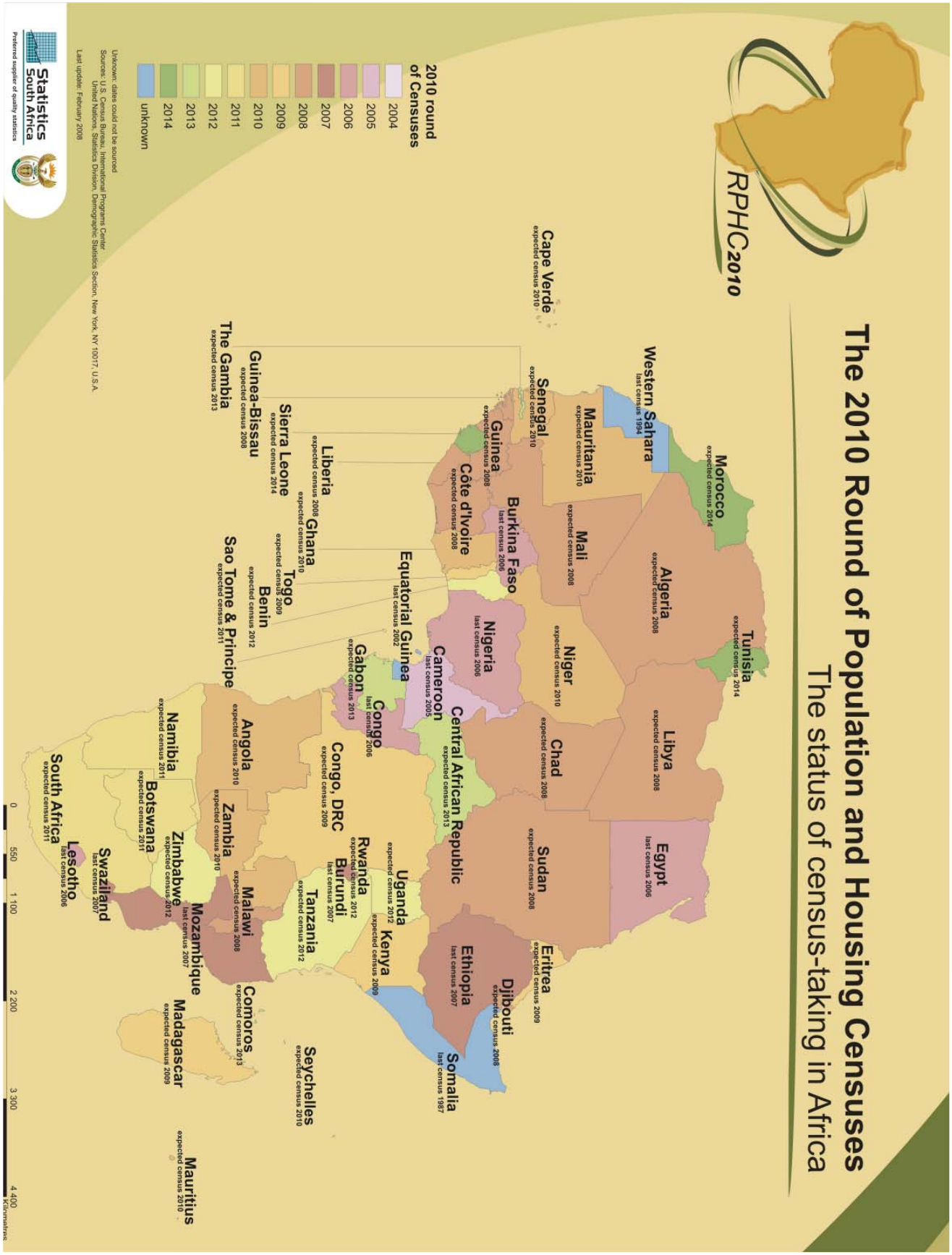
AFRICAN STATISTICAL NEWSLETTER
BULLETIN D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE AFRICAIN

I. CENSUSES



I. CENSUSES

Roundtable Meeting on Programme for the 2010 Round of Censuses of Agriculture Kampala, Uganda, 21 – 25 April, 2008

Seth Mayinza, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Vincent Ngendakumana and Naman Keita, FAO

The meeting was organized by the FAO Statistics Division in collaboration with Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). It was held in the Conference Room of UBOS, in Kampala-Uganda, from 21 – 25 April 2008. Invited participants were from English speaking countries. A similar meeting was previously held in Mali for agricultural statisticians of French speaking countries.

The meeting aimed at presenting and discussing with Senior Statisticians from Anglophone countries from Africa the technical guidelines and recommendations of the new World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010) that covers the period 2006-2015. Specifically, the meeting was to help the participants gain a deeper understanding of the new features and strategy being recommended by FAO through this programme, including the modular approach to data collection in light of countries past and on-going experiences.

Twenty five senior statisticians responsible of census and agricultural statistics from fourteen African countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) attended the meeting. Some countries sponsored one or two additional participants to the one sponsored by FAO.

The session was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Mr Vincent Rubarema). The Executive Director of UBOS (Mr. J.B. Male-Mukasa) gave the welcoming address. The Chief of the Country Statistics Service of FAO-Rome (Mr. Hiek Som) and the FAO Country Representative (Mr. Percy W. Misika) also addressed the meeting at that occasion.

The meeting was organized into the following twelve technical sessions:

1. Overview of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010
2. Integration of Agricultural Census in the National Strategy of Statistical Development and the Modular Approach
3. Use of Information Technology for Agricultural Censuses
4. Statistics on Water Resources
5. Livestock Population
6. Frames for Agricultural Census and Surveys
7. The role of the census of agriculture in monitoring of MDGs, Poverty and Food security
8. Gender and Management of Holding
9. Agricultural Census for Rural Planning
10. Planning an agricultural census and mobilization of the financing of the agricultural census
11. Community-Level Statistics
12. CountrySTAT + FAO DVD for the advocacy of agricultural statistical development + Visualizing world development trends (UNECA)

Each session focused on a specific technical aspect of the WCA 2010 and comprised several presentations. Almost all participants prepared and presented papers. Presentations were followed by discussions involving all participants.

FAO Staff made presentations on the general approach and some specific features and changes introduced in the new programme as compared to the past programme.

The participants made presentations on particular aspects of agricultural census as per WCA2010 recommendations and the relation to their own experience that are relevant to other countries. The Director, African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) made an important communication on the integration of agricultural statistics within the overall framework of National Statistics and the place of the census of Agriculture in this process. The head of the Statistics Unit of the East African Community (EAC) also made a presentation on the activities and strategy of the EAC regarding the support to harmonisation and integration of agricultural statistics of the member states of the Community.

Very lively discussions and exchanges took place and areas where additional work is needed were identified. The Round table made the following recommendations:

1. In general, the meeting endorsed the recommendations of the WCA 2010 and recognised the need for adaptation to specific country situations. However, when adapting FAO recommendations to country specific circumstances, caution should be taken to ensure and allow for international comparison of results to be obtained.

2. FAO should continue to provide technical support to countries for better planning and implementation of agricultural census. More specifically, it has been recommended that FAO continues to undertake investigations on the use of new Information Technology for conducting agricultural censuses and surveys. It was also recommended that FAO, in cooperation with other institutions (such as UNECA and EAC), organise a technical meeting on frame construction and sampling issues in agricultural censuses.

3. Regional economic communities, in collaboration with other institutions, should provide support to agricultural census activities.

I. CENSUSES

4. Countries should develop National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) programmes including an agricultural statistics component as a good vehicle for monitoring and evaluating MDG interventions and also gradually used as criteria by donors for sponsoring statistical activities.

5. Countries should collect comprehensive data on the water management indicators to meet the increasing demand in this area. For this purpose, a technical national working team composed of experts in this field should be established to ensure that all stakeholders concerned are providing their respective input.

6. When preparing and conducting the census of livestock, statisticians should work with livestock specialists. At this end, countries should consider the questions presented in the WCA 2010 when preparing their livestock censuses.

7. Where countries would want to collect information from the population census for purposes of creating a sampling frame for the agricultural census, the time difference between the two should not be too long (if possible, the agricultural census should be planned to be conducted just after the population census). An alternative means would be to collect the core module data of the WCA2010 through complete enumeration with the advantage of collecting Community Level Data.

8. Consultation, links and good communication with users, stakeholders like planners, researchers, government agencies and donors, institutions involved in monitoring MDGs, etc. should start from the planning stage of the censuses and be maintained during the whole process.

9. The activities of reconciling agricultural census data and the current statistics should be included into the timetable of the programme of the agricultural census. Moreover, new emerging issues affecting the food security situation in countries, such as soaring food prices, climate change, biofuel, etc. should be considered when planning to conduct an agricultural census.

10. Food security and poverty could be assessed through a combination of the agricultural core module and the supplementary modules on food security and community level data.

11. Countries should increase efforts to enhance awareness on the need for and usefulness of sex-disaggregated data for gender-responsive planning and monitoring-evaluation of agricultural development programmes. For this purpose, gender specialists should be involved in the preparation of agricultural census programmes.

12. The FAO's recommendation on community-level data collection should be implemented to facilitate rural development planning. Tor this end, community data should be part of the tabulation plan of the agricultural census. Countries should also adopt the chapter on planning for agricultural censuses as reflected in the WCA 2010 FAO manual. Depending on the country situation, population census or existing community information system and mailing systems may be used when sample censuses are being implemented.

13. Governments should prioritise funding for census activities in the national programs.

The meeting was very productive. Good quality papers were presented and lively discussions took place. Participants werewell equipped for planning and implementing their coming national agricultural censuses according to the recommendations contained in the WC2010 publication.

A field tour was also organized in the framework of the meeting. The trip was a visit to a mixed farm in Mukono District (aquaculture and poultry), a sugar cane industry and the source of the Nile in Jinja District. The first visit gave the participants the opportunity to observe the importance of aquaculture and hence the need for inclusion of aquaculture in the planning and conducting of agricultural censuses. The second visit showed the relationship between primary crops (the case of sugar cane) and agro-processing (sugar and other by products).

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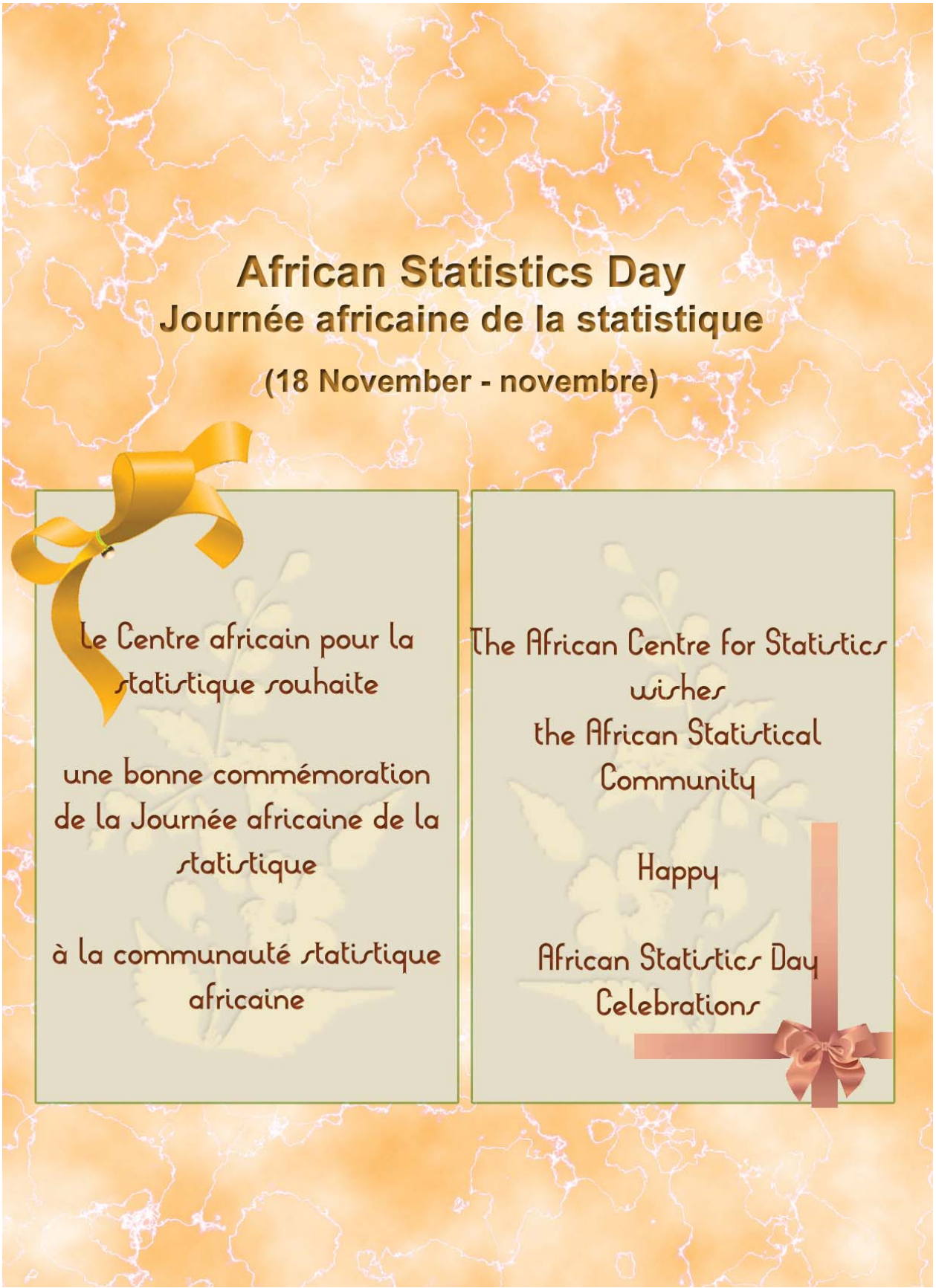
African Statistics Day
Journée africaine de la statistique
(18 November - novembre)
Le Centre africain pour la statistique souhaite
une bonne commémoration de la Journée africaine de la statistique
à la communauté statistique africaine
The African Centre for Statistics wishes
the African Statistical Community
Happy
African Statistics Day Celebrations

II. Statistical Capacity Building / Workshops

Meeting on the Validation of the Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Creation of an African Statistics Fund, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 4-5 August 2008

Yeo Dossina and Hiwot Tifsihit, African Union Commission

Background

Statistics is central to African development and integration. In this respect, the African Union Commission attaches great importance to quality data in terms of its relevance, accuracy and timeliness, interpretability, accessibility, comparability and coherence. It was under this understanding that the Seminar on the Harmonization of Statistics held from September 28-29, 2006, in Bamako, Mali, recommended the preparation of an African Charter on Statistics. The recommendations indicated that the Charter would apply to all Member States and African Statistical Institutions and help clarify the critical roles of the AUC, AfDB, and UNECA as well as partner organizations outside the continent. This Charter will aim to serve as an advocacy tool of statistics, strengthen the coordination of statistical activities across the continent, promote adherence to international standards and professionalism in statistics, and ensure the production of a quality data.

Following this recommendation, a Charter was drafted and reviewed during the Expert Meeting held in Addis Ababa between 25-27 April, 2007. This reviewed Charter was submitted to and validated by Representatives of National Statistical Offices, in Rubavu, Rwanda, in June 2007. During this validation meeting, the core recommendation was to assess the African Statistical System in order to identify the problems and obstacles that can undermine the effective implementation of the Charter and the creation of an African Statistics Fund. It was in this line that the African Union Commission prepared a study assessing the above mentioned factors.

Following the completion of the study, an expert meeting on the Validation of the Coordination Mechanisms for the Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, and the Creation of an African Statistics Fund took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 4-5 August 2008.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by Directors and representatives of National Statistical Institutes from thirty one Member States of the African Union Commission. The meeting was also attended by observers from United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Central Bank Association, African Capacity Building Foundation, AFRISTAT, African Development Bank, West African States Central Bank, Economy Commission of West African States, Ecole Nationale de Statistique, et Economie Appliquée – Abidjan), EUROSTAT, Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique), Makerere University, Paris 21, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - France and the World Bank.

The Bureau

The meeting elected the following Bureau by acclamation: Cote d'Ivoire as Chairperson; Ethiopia and Gabon as Vice-Chairperson; and Tunisia and Mozambique as Rapporteurs.

The programme

The key agenda items aimed at assessing various efforts that exist within various continental and regional organizations in the field of statistical coordination, and their expected role in the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics. The meeting also discussed the feasibility of the establishment of an African Statistical Fund.

Key recommendations

Following the discussions, the meeting made these recommendations:

- In the field of statistical coordination, the meeting noted that in order to avoid duplication of efforts and taking into account the issue of subsidiarity, a bottom-up approach should be adopted. Accordingly, National Statistical Systems should be strengthened through provision of capacity building and training facilities;
- Regarding the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, the meeting recommended that the role of each national, regional and international stakeholder should be clearly defined and agreed upon; and while adopting international standards for the implementation of the Charter, African specificities should be considered;
- It was recommended that in order to establish an African Statistical Fund, a thorough technical study should be undertaken in order to shed light on the arrangements and practical modalities for the effective creation of the fund and its implementation mechanism. While mostly depending on internal sources, the fund should prioritize the development of National Statistical Institutes, and especially should be directed towards fragile states and countries, which have identified national statistical strategies;
- The meeting noted the important role of the African Union Commission in each area and recommended the need for collaboration between the various stakeholders and building on existing coordination and harmonization activities of partner institutions such as the Afristat and Eurostat; and
- The meeting also adopted a decision, which mainly acknowledged the importance of statistics in Democracy and Good Governance.

Way forward

II. Statistical Capacity Building / Workshops

The implementation mechanism was discussed during the African Statistical Coordination Committee meeting, which was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from September 9 to 10, 2008. This meeting discussed the role of each African institute at national, regional and continental levels and the different Organs and Committees in the implementation of the Charter. In order to avoid duplication with other existing working groups, a meeting will be convened between the AUC and its partners to have a common understanding on the activities of the Organs and the African specialized committees on statistical harmonization.

The draft African Charter on Statistics will be considered by the Conference of Justice, which will be held in October 2008 and will be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2009.

In addition, a technical study on the arrangements and practical modalities for the effective establishment of an African Statistical Fund will be undertaken jointly by the AUC, UNECA and AfDB.

The African Union Commission is also drafting a continental strategy on statistical harmonization for African Integration, which aims to improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical information and to establish a system whereby reliable statistical information systematically flows from countries to RECs onward to AUC for the monitoring of the integration agenda.

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Réunion des experts statisticiens sur le mécanisme de coordination pour la mise en œuvre de la Charte africaine de la statistique, et la création du fonds statistique africain les 4 et 5 Août 2008, à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Dossina Yeo, La Commission de l'UA

Contexte

Aujourd'hui, l'information statistique est considérée comme une ressource vitale dans le suivi des performances accomplies dans l'atteinte des objectifs de développement économique et social tant au niveau national qu'international. C'est pourquoi, la Commission de l'Union africaine (CUA) accorde une importance singulière au développement statistique en Afrique. Elle œuvre dans le sens de l'amélioration de la qualité des données produites sur le continent. De façon particulière, depuis la création de son Unité statistique, elle travaille pour le renforcement du système statistique africain afin de le rendre capable de fournir des données statistiques faible, cohérentes et comparables et produites en temps réels.

C'est ainsi qu'elle a organisé un séminaire sur le l'harmonisation statistique, en septembre 2006, à Bamako (Mali). Les participants, après avoir discuté des problèmes liés à la production des données statistiques comparables en Afrique, ont recommandé l'élaboration d'une Charte africaine de la statistique qui devra être mise en œuvre par l'ensemble des Etats Membres ainsi que toutes les institutions statistiques africaines.

Le projet de Charte a, subséquemment, été rédigé et validé par les membres du système statistique africain en juin 2007, à Rubavu (Rwanda). Ces derniers ont, par ailleurs, recommandé une évaluation du système statistique africain dans le but d'identifier les obstacles qui pourraient entraver la mise en œuvre effective de la Charte et une étude de faisabilité d'un fonds africain de la statistique.

Sur la base de ces recommandations, la Commission a entrepris une étude dont les résultats ont été présentés à la réunion des experts statistiques pour valider le mécanisme de coordination pour la mise en œuvre de la Charte africaine de la statistique, et la création du fonds statistique africain les 4 et 5 Août 2008, à Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

Participants

Ont pris part à la réunion, les directeurs ou représentants des instituts nationaux de la statistique de 31 états membres de l'Union africaine ainsi les représentants des organisations suivantes : CEA, Association des banques centrales africaines, ACBF, AFRISTAT, BAD, Banque Mondiale, BCEAO, CEDEAO, EUROSTAT, IFORD, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, PARIS 21 et Ministère des Affaires étrangères – France.

Bureau

La réunion a élu le bureau suivant par acclamation :

- Président : Côte d'Ivoire
- Vice-président : Ethiopie et Gabon
- Rapporteur : Tunisie et Mozambique

Programme de travail

Les sessions clés du programme de travail se sont focalisées sur les initiatives de diverses organisations en Afrique et en Europe en matière de coordination statistique, et les rôles qu'elles pourraient jouer dans la mise en œuvre de la charte africaine de la statistique. La réunion a également discuté la faisabilité d'un fonds statistique africain.

Recommandations de la réunion

A la suite des discussions, la réunion a fait des recommandations dans les trois principaux domaines suivants : la coordination statistique, la mise en oeuvre de la Charte africaine de la statistique et la création du fonds statistique:

En ce qui concerne la coordination statistique, les participants ont

II. Statistical Capacity Building / Workshops

noté que pour éviter la duplication des activités et programmes des différentes institutions, et tenir compte du principe de la subsidiarité dans la coordination et l'harmonisation statistique, il faudrait adopter une approche du bas vers le haut. Pour ce faire, ils ont recommandé le renforcement des capacités des systèmes nationaux de statistique en leur dotant en matériel didactique afin de leur rendre plus opérationnels.

En ce qui concerne la mise en oeuvre de la charte africaine de la statistique, les participants ont recommandé l'identification et la clarification du rôle de chaque organe du mécanisme de coordination de la charte et l'application des normes internationales, en les adaptant aux spécificités africaines, comme référence pour l'harmonisation et la coordination statistique en Afrique.

Quant au fonds statistique, les participants ont recommandé d'entreprendre une étude technique approfondie en vue d'identifier les dispositions et les modalités pratiques pour sa création effective et son mécanisme de mise en œuvre. Par ailleurs, la réunion a indiqué que le fonds doit largement dépendre des contributions internes, et financer les instituts nationaux de la statistique dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des stratégies nationales de développement statistique ainsi les états fragiles.

Les participants ont également montré que la Commission de l'UA doit jouer un rôle important dans chacun de ces domaines. A cet égard, la réunion a recommandé que la Commission doit collaborer avec les autres parties prenantes et s'appuyer sur les expériences en matière de coordination et d'harmonisation statistique des institutions partenaires telles que AFRISTAT.

La réunion a également fait une déclaration sur l'importance de la statistique dans la promotion de la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance.

Perspectives

Le mécanisme de mise en œuvre de la charte africaine de la statistique a été discuté lors de la réunion du Comité africain de coordination statistique, à Tunis (Tunisie), les 9 et 10 septembre 2008. Cette réunion a discuté le rôle de chaque organisation africaine - aux niveaux national, régional et continental – et des différents organes et comités spécialisés dans la mise en œuvre de la Charte.

Le projet de Charte sera examiné par la Conférence des Ministres de la Justice, qui aura lieu en octobre 2008. Ensuite, il sera soumis à l'adoption au Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement en janvier 2009.

S'agissant de l'étude technique sur le fonds statistique africain, elle sera entreprise par la CUA en collaboration avec la CEA et la BAD en vue d'identifier les dispositions et les modalités pratiques pour la création effective du fonds.

Par ailleurs, la Commission de l'UA compte élaborer une stratégie continentale d'harmonisation statistique pour la conduite de l'intégration africaine. Cette stratégie vise à améliorer la qualité, la comparabilité et les délais de production de l'information statistique. Elle vise également à établir un système statistique africain performant et permettre la circulation de l'information statistique des pays vers les Communautés économiques régionales (CER) et des CER vers la CUA, pour le suivi du programme d'intégration.

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Snapshots of the AUC Abidjan meeting

Official Opening of the Validation of the Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Creation of an African Statistics Fund
(L-R) Dr. Rene Kouassi N'Guettia, Director of Economic Affairs Department, African Union, Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union, Mr. Bohoun Bouabre, Minster of State, Minster of Planning and Development, Mr. Mathieu Meleu, Institut National de la Statistique, Côte d`Ivoire, Mr. Amadou Kone, Minster in-charge of African Integration

(L-R) Dr. Rene Kouassi N'Guettia, Mr. Bohoun Bouabre, Minster of State, Minster of Planning and Development, Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba

II. Statistical Capacity Building / Workshops

(L-R) Mr. J.B. Male-Mukasa (Executive Director, Uganda Bureau of Statistics) OO Ajayi (Consultant of African Union), Prof. Ben Kiregyera (ACS)

(L-R) Dr. Coffi Remy Noumon (African Capacity Building Foundation), Mr. Jean Louis Bodin (French Ministry of Foreign Affaires), Mr. Martin Balepa (Director General, Afristat) and Mr. Lamine Diop (PARIS21 Representative)

UNSD Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing for the English Speaking African countries: Contemporary Technologies for Data Capture, Methodology and Practice of Data Editing

Kidus Mengistu, ACS and Jean-Michel Durr, United Nations Statistics Division

A workshop on Census Data Processing for the English Speaking African countries: Contemporary Technologies for Data Capture, Methodology and Practice of Data Editing was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 9-13 June 2008. The main objective of the workshop was to present international standards for processing population and housing censuses and to highlight the significant additional capabilities of contemporary technologies and their use for census data capture and data editing.

The Workshop:

1. Presented revised international standards for conducting population and housing censuses, focusing on recommended core topics as identified in the United Nations Principles and Recommendations Revision 2;
2. Discussed ways of improving the management and planning of the census, including outsourcing issues;
3. Presented and discussed contemporary technologies in census data capture, including the use of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR), Optical Character Recognition/Intelligent Character Recognition (OCR/ICR),
4. Discussed the process stages for data capture,
5. Presented an overview of major commercial suppliers for data capture; and
6. Presented the principles and practices for census data coding and data editing. The workshop also offered the possibility to the participants to present the experience of their countries in census data processing.

The workshop was attended by 53 participants from 20 countries, three international/regional organizations (UNFPA, UNECA and UNSD), and by two commercial providers (DRS and Betasystems). Members of the press were present during the opening of the workshop and the opening speech of the Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs of Tanzania, Hon. Mustafa Haidi Mkulo, was read by Ms. Albina Chuwa, Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania.

An overview of the World Population and Housing Census Programme for 2010 was presented by UNSD. The three essential goals set for the 2010 programme were reiterated and the specific role of the

II. Statistical Capacity Building - Workshop

UNSD in respect of these was outlined. UNSD has recently published the second revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and released it this year. The Africa addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2, which will serve as a guide and complement the global P&R was presented by UNECA.

UNSD made several presentations throughout the duration of the workshop and participants also shared the experiences of their respective countries on various stages of census taking. There were also presentations by UNECA and the commercial providers.

The workshop's main focus was introducing new technologies for data capture and editing which also included a physical demonstration of census form scanners. The overall focus on the introduction of new technologies and the sharing of experiences among countries were appreciated by the participants.

The recommendations of the workshop were:

1. The workshop reiterated the need for African countries to collect data on the core topics presented in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Rev. 2 and those listed in the African Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations.
2. The workshop took note that disability was a core topic in the revised Principles and Recommendations. In order for African countries to successfully administer the Washington Group proposed census questions on disability; the workshop called upon UNECA and UNSD to provide support to African countries on the implementation of the disability module in their censuses.
3. The participants underscored the importance of the complete coverage of a country with respect to delineation of enumeration areas (EAs), without omission or duplication. The development of a master file, after the completion of a census mapping exercise, comprising a complete list of EAs was recognized as an indispensable step in controlling the process of data capture.
4. Timeliness and accuracy in census data capture were emphasized by participants. Different methods of data capture were accordingly discussed, including OMR, OCR/ICR and manual data entry. In this regard countries were urged to take advantage of the available data capture technology, taking cognizance of the countries' circumstances with respect to financial resources, expertise and outsourcing modalities. On the other hand scanning systems contractors were urged to include, in their solutions, the sustainability of their products.
5. Statistical/census offices should encourage their staff to be proactive in acquiring the relevant knowledge from contracted consultants or solution providers in order to build capacity.
6. The meeting discussed, at length, the possibilities of outsourcing as part of the census process in the area of data capture. In this regard participants recommended that decisions pertaining to outsourcing should be taken early enough during the preparatory stages of a census in order to allow time for the bidding process, for testing and implementation of technical specifications. The following aspects should be considered before embarking on outsourcing:
    a. An assessment of skills available at the national statistical/census office to prepare the tender documents and implement the technology;
    b. The contract should describe precisely the deliverables expected, the timeframe, and should include strict confidentiality and security requirements, as well as a quality assurance plan;
    c. National Statistical/census offices should be actively involved in the drawing up of contracts and cooperating partners should be responsive in involving NSOs in substantive contract discussions.
7. The workshop recommended that the census data capture process should have a complete quality assurance plan, regardless of the technique used. The different parts of the process should be monitored with few but reliable indicators. If the process is outsourced, the national statistical/census office should control the quality assurance process including security requirements and conformity to the deliverables.
8. The participants discussed different stages pertaining to the processing of census data. They emphasized the importance of early preparation for data capture activities including logistics issues. In addition, it was recommended that the pilot census should include a test of data capture and data editing.
9. Regular backups of material and captured data should be planned for at the earliest possible stage of the census programme. Archiving of the census forms should be undertaken according to the national laws on archiving, and the database should be wholly archived with the relevant metadata. In this regard, the workshop urged UNECA and UNSD to organize training workshops on data archiving and to support the development of projects and tools to help countries to safely archive their upcoming census data.
10. In developing the whole process of data capture, national statistical/census offices are to ensure that editing

II. Statistical Capacity Building - Workshops

specifications and codes for open-ended questions are developed in collaboration with subject matter specialists.

11. Although editing and imputations may improve the reliability of census data, the workshop recommended adoption of minimalist approaches and the use of sound statistical techniques when imputing. Over-editing and over-imputation should be avoided.
12. The participants expressed, with great appreciation, the benefits they drew from the exchange of relevant experiences during the workshop. In addition, they recommended for enhancement of the knowledge pertaining to census data processing, and urged UNSD to collect and disseminate information through its 2010 World programme website and knowledge base.
13. African countries should mobilize technical expertise from different countries and share knowledge, including providing assistance to each other in census and survey processing.
14. The workshop recommended that national statistical/ census offices contribute to the 2010 World programme on Population and Housing Censuses website in terms of programs used in data processing; reports; questionnaires; experiences and any other material that might be useful to other countries.

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High Level Policy Dialogue on Gender Statistics - Paving avenue for a standing dialogue between statisticians and gender specialists, Kampala, 9-10 June 2008

Awa Thiongane, African Centre for Statistics

A high level policy dialogue on Gender Statistics was held in Kampala, Uganda from 9 to 10 June 2008. The dialogue was jointly organized by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) and the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS) of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Uganda Statistical Society (USS), the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics of Makerere University (ISAE), in close collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the German International Capacity Building Centre (InWent), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the African Capacity building Foundation (ACBF).

The dialogue was one of the first steps to implement the recommendations of the first meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa I) held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 January 2008. The dialogue was attended by representatives from 35 countries and national and international organizations.

A recent study of the United Nations that assessed the progress worldwide in the development of gender statistics showed Africa lagging behind in the collection and dissemination of gender statistics. Moreover there has been very little progress in this area over the last three decades of increasing demand for gender responsive statistics. As a response to the general lack of progress in gender statistics, significant steps have been made at the regional level: The ACGS has developed the Africa Gender and Development Index (AGDI) to bring focus to the gender inequalities and the value of statistics in assessing and monitoring progress, and the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa) has set up a standing Working Group on Gender Statistics to mainly addressing measurement problems of gender-related issues.

(L-R) Mr. Male-Mukasa (Executive Director, Uganda Beruea of Statistics), Hon. Rukia Isanga Nakadama (Ugandan Minister of State for Gender), Prof. Ben Kiregyera (Director, African Centre for Statistics), Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo (Officer-in-Charge, African Centre for Gender and Social Development)

The overall objective of the workshop was to sensitize statisticians about the importance and urgent need to take into account the gender dimension in data collection, analysis and dissemination. Indeed, many statisticians in Africa are not fully aware of the importance of gender statistics, and therefore, often, think that there are tradeoffs in choosing to mainstream gender into statistical processes.

The conference was officially opened by the Ugandan Minister in charge of Gender on behalf the Primer Minister Prof. Apollo Nsibambi. In his statement read by the Minister, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of data and information as inputs in effective management at all levels – individual, national and international. He recalled the fact that the Government of Uganda (GoU) resolved to foment equality between sexes with the institutionalization of gender in development programmes since 1997. Therefore, there is a need for gender disaggregated data to inform more specifically poverty reduction programmes and GoU related programmes on primary education for example. He urged the UBOS to move fast

II. Statistical Capacity Building - Workshop

on the setting up of the Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics with the support of AfDB and to engage all partners in this dialogue. He invited the private sector and the civil society to demand and use gender statistics for investment and business planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of their plans and programmes. He finally thanked UNECA, AfDB, InWent, and UNFPA for their support in organizing the dialogue.

Prior to this statement, the Executive Director of UBOS and the OIC of the ACGS welcomed the participants and gave the objectives of the meeting as well as exploring future areas for collaboration. A message from the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) was also read to the participants. It emphasized, among others, the fact that considering gender in budgets has triggered more transparent processes for gender responsiveness in public expenditures. It noted ACBF commitment to continue supporting statistical development with its partners.

Then, the floor was given to the representative of AfDB for his keynote address. He recalled that the importance of producing gender statistics was recognized as far back as 1975 when the first World Conference on Women took place in Mexico. But it is with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 that gender issues were officially accepted in development discourse. He stressed the need to review the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) in order to engender it and thus provide guidance on the issue for the preparation of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs). Finally, he invited the audience to take the necessary steps to set up the Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics as the main outcome of the meeting.

Several topics were covered by presentations from countries, regional and international organizations. These were meant:

- To clarify the issues of gender as a concept and of gender statistics ("Understanding Gender Statistics" and "What is Gender Statistics?");
- To explain why gender statistics are needed and used and the challenges statisticians are facing in producing them ("Why the Need for Gender Statistics" and "MDG – the Challenge for Gender Statisticians");
- To discuss the experiences in data collection and tools designed to measure inequality as well as ways and means to engender projects ("AGDI as framework for data collection", "The experience of countries in data collection", and "The experience of AfDB in Engendering Projects: Implications for Agricultural Statistics");
- To review initiatives taken at regional level to build capacity for producing gender statistics ("Capacity Building for Producing Gender Statistics" and "Ongoing Initiatives at Regional Level"); and
- To pave avenues for the future ("Way forward + Plan of Action").

For the next steps, the presenters proposed several actions differentiated as follows:

- Long term actions: To develop an African Gender Statistical System (AGSYS). This will imply the need to design a conceptual framework, a methodological framework, reference gender classifications, gender indicators, and to set up gender units in NSOs as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and conduct studies that allow comparisons over time and among countries;
- Medium term actions: To contribute to the global statistical agenda through the development of an African Gender Statistics programme (AGSPRO). This will imply designing of the programme, country participation, methodological developments, planning activities, implementing the activities, reviewing the quality of data, analysing the data collected, building capacity, managing databases, reporting, and continuously advocating for gender mainstreaming.
- Short term actions: To promote a dialogue among regional and subregional organisations; the preparation of an African strategy on gender statistics, the establishment of a Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics; and the preparation of a short term action plan.

The expected outcome of all these actions is to influence regional and national statistical programmes to make them gender responsive.

A set of recommendations came out of the discussions:

- There is need to create awareness on gender issues and concerns among data producers and users to increase appreciation of gender statistics. ECA in collaboration with AfDB should continue to promote dialogue among regional and subregional organisations;
- National Statistics Offices should ensure that gender statistics are institutionalised and integrated in all data collection activities (censuses, surveys, administrative records). This is emphasised in the Beijing Plan of Action which is the yard stick for measuring progress in this direction;
- Methodologies for gender statistics production must be developed building on AGDI. In addition,
  - NSOs should adopt approaches that complement quantitative and qualitative methods in the collection and analysis of gender statistics;
  - The classification of gender should go beyond sex and age, focus on access to and control of resources, and highlight differences between men and women;
  - Generation of gender statistics indicators should be standardised across the region to promote comparability; and
  - Gender statistics must be published and disseminated in

II. Statistical Capacity Building - Workshops

user friendly formats;

- Statistical training institutions should embed modules on gender and other new areas in their curricula. Short courses in gender statistics should be introduced for the benefit of practitioners currently out of school;
- Data producers should internalise the international, regional and national agenda on gender issues;
- Programmes for mainstreaming gender statistics must cut across the social, economic and political spheres;
- There should be greater coordination between NSOs and gender experts as subject specialists;
- There is need to review Statistical Acts which limit access to micro data. Data should be more accessible but under specific terms;
- The STATCOM-Africa Working Group on Gender Statistics should scale up their commitment to gender statistical development, and ensure that gender statistics are integrated in all development programmes in Africa;
- An African Gender Statistics Strategy (AGSS) should be developed. The strategy will provide a framework within which to strengthen gender statistics in Africa. This will be spearheaded by the ACS in collaboration with ACGS. A process of reviewing the strategy should be put in place and it should finally be endorsed by STATCOM-Africa; and
- The Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics should be set up as soon as possible.

Dr. Grace Bediako (Government Statistician, Ghana)

Mr. Souleymane Abdallah (African Centre for Gender and Social Development)

Ms. Amie Gaye (Policy specialist, UNDP, USA)

Ms. Elizabeth Annan Yao (Executive Director, IFORD, Cameroon)

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

Développement et renforcement des systèmes de registres civils en Afrique

Hassan Yusuf, UNECA

Introduction

Les systèmes des registres civils et vitaux enregistrent les faits et les caractéristiques des événements civils et vitaux dans la population tels que les naissances, les décès, les mariages, les divorces, les adoptions etc. selon ce qui est stipulé dans un décret ou un règlement, conformément aux dispositions légales d'un pays. Ils sont généralement caractérisés par la constance, la permanence, l'obligation et l'universalité. Ces systèmes servent à enregistrer légalement les évènements civils et vitaux afin de produire les documents légaux tels que les certificats de naissance et de décès en tant que documents officiels reconnus par le pays émetteur. Ils permettent, en ce sens, aux autorités de produire les documents légaux aux individus afin, entre autres, de faciliter leur accessibilité aux programmes publics tels que les écoles, la santé publique, le bien être social et la sécurité sociale. Par ailleurs, ils constituent une source continue de statistiques vitales sur notamment les naissances et les décès ainsi que leurs causes. Ainsi, les démographes et les statisticiens utilisent cette source d'information pour étudier la dynamique reliée à la population et faire des analyses sur l'histoire démographique et les évènements qui y sont reliés.

Il existe une différence notoire entre les registres civils et vitaux et les autres sources de statistiques sur la population comme les recensements et les enquêtes sur les échantillons. Contrairement à ces dernières sources qui produisent les statistiques décrivant l'état de la population à un moment donné dans le temps, les systèmes des registres civils et vitaux consistent en des mesures précises sur les évènements civils et vitaux et les changements dans la population de manière continue à travers le temps. Généralement, lorsque les registres civils et vitaux sont continus, complets et exacts, les taux vitaux qui en découlent tels que les taux de mortalité infantile et maternelle sont exacts et fiables.

L'exactitude des taux vitaux est importante pour comprendre les changements réels dans la population ainsi que l'évolution de la société dans son ensemble. Les recensements et les enquêtes sur les échantillons ne donnent que de mesures instantanées et des estimations grossières des taux vitaux même lorsqu'ils sont considérés entre deux points dans le temps : ils ne mesurent pas les changements réels. Cette différence est particulièrement importante lorsqu'il s'agit de la mise en œuvre des interventions publiques et de mesurer les progrès réalisés dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement comme les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD).

Situation en Afrique

Les registres civils et vitaux en Afrique ont généralement été établis par les pouvoirs coloniaux. Ils ne se sont développés que très peu après les indépendances. La législation et les règlements entourant les systèmes des registres civils et vitaux en Afrique sont généralement caduques. Dans la majorité des pays, ces registres souffrent des problèmes reliés à l'infrastructure, l'organisation et la gestion du processus d'enregistrement ainsi que le manque de capacités de la part de ceux qui sont en charge de ces registres. De plus, ces systèmes ne sont pas soutenus politiquement et sont influencés par la faible alphabétisation de la population qui limite leur capacité à rapporter les évènements civils et vitaux. Par ailleurs, les gens ne s'engagent pas nécessairement à déclarer les événements civils et vitaux les concernant, ce qui fait que plusieurs de ces événements ont lieu mais ne sont pas enregistrés. Il s'agit là d'une perte d'information qui est très dommageable pour le développement du continent.

La couverture des événements vitaux est généralement en dessous de la moyenne. Par exemple, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé avait réalisé une étude sur les décès et leurs causes par âge et sexe couvrant les pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Selon cette étude, sur les neuf pays qui ont fait partie de cet exercice, seuls l'Ile Maurice et les Seychelles ont une couverture des décès de 90% à 99% respectivement. La couverture est estimée à 5% pour le Mozambique, 25% pour le Botswana, 25% pour le Ghana, 16% pour la Zambie, 40% pour le Zimbabwe, 60% pour le Kenya et 67% pour l'Afrique du Sud[1].

Ces observations sont aussi valables pour l'enregistrement des naissances. La couverture des naissances est en bas de 50% dans 33 pays. Seuls l'Ile Maurice, l'Egypte, la Lybie et la Tunisie ont des couvertures de plus de 90%. Les systèmes des registres civils et vitaux sont mieux organisés dans ces pays que dans le reste des pays africains[2].

En plus des problèmes mentionnés ci-haut, la faiblesse de la couverture est en grande partie imputable à la concentration des systèmes dans les centres urbains, laissant de côté les milieux ruraux ou la grande majorité de la population vit. À cause de la faiblesse de la couverture, certains taux vitaux comme l'espérance de vie à la naissance et le taux de mortalité infantile ne peuvent être mesurés correctement par ces registres. Ainsi, les pays se tournent vers les recensements et les enquêtes sur les échantillons de la population pour estimer les taux démographiques vitaux.

La Banque mondiale a réalisé quant à elle une revue de 125 pays à faible revenu[3] ayant une population de plus de 1 million d'habitants.

1 Voir Calapati rao, Debbie Bradshaw and Colin D. Mathers, Improving death registration and statistics in developing countries: lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa. Southern African Journal of Demography 9(2) 79-97.
2 UNICEF on Deficient Birth Registration in Developing countries. Population and development review, vol 24. No. 3 (sep. 1998) pp-659-664)
3 World Bank. Building Statistical capacityto monitor development progress. 2002:

II. Statistical Capacity Building - Workshops

Le rapport note que plus de la moitié de la population africaine n'a pas été couverte par un recensement au cours de plusieurs décennies. Par ailleurs, la série the Lancet[4] a émis des réserves sur les données sur l'espérance de vie à la naissance telles que présentées par certains pays africains. Au Nigeria par exemple, l'espérance de vie à la naissance estimée officiellement à 47 ans sous-estime la réalité selon the Lancet. Ceci milite dans le sens de l'importance de développer les systèmes des registres civils et vitaux en Afrique.

Quelques bonnes pratiques

L'histoire des systèmes des registres civils et vitaux n'est pas totalement sombre. Il y a des cas intéressants qui méritent d'être mentionnés. En 1996, l'Afrique du Sud s'est engagée dans une initiative visant à mettre en place un système des registres civils et vitaux ayant pour but d'améliorer la couverture des naissances et des décès dès qu'ils apparaissent et à avoir une seule base de données sur les statistiques vitales. Cette initiative a regroupé les ministères de la santé, des affaires internes, et Statistics South Africa. Cette opération a résulté en une amélioration substantielle de l'enregistrement des évènements vitaux en Afrique du Sud.

L'Ile Maurice a un système des registres civils et vitaux assez développé. La division du statut civil est responsable de la collecte des statistiques vitales qui sont transmises à l'Institut National de la Statistique où elles sont utilisées pour dériver les projections de la population. Le système est informatisé à tous les niveaux avec une bonne base de données qui est utilisée pour générer un numéro d'identification unique pour chaque citoyen. La couverture des registres est complète, ce qui constitue une situation peu commune sur le continent. La Tunisie a aussi un système bien avancé qui se manifeste par une très bonne couverture des naissances et des décès. L'Egypte est un autre pays qui a un système des registres civils et vitaux avancé comparativement aux autres pays sur le continent.

Recommandations

Le développement des systèmes des registres civils et vitaux en Afrique requière de la volonté politique, du support et de l'engagement de la part de toutes les parties prenantes, plus particulièrement, durant cette période où les pays sont entrain de mesurer les progrès réalisés dans la réalisation des objectifs du développement. Il y a aussi lieu d'attirer ici l'attention des donateurs et des organisations régionales sur ce sujet. En ce sens, étant donné que ces registres sont importants pour les activités de la CEA notamment dans le cadre de la gouvernance, le développement social et l'évaluation des progrès réalisés dans l'atteinte des OMD, la CEA devrait entreprendre, en collaboration avec les pays, une étude visant à les améliorer ou les développer là où ils n'existent pas. Il importe d'examiner l'état des systèmes des registres civils et vitaux en Afrique, de trouver les problèmes et les contraintes qui s'y rattachent, leur ampleur et leur couverture ainsi que les besoins en termes d'amélioration des activités qui y sont reliés. Une pareille étude devrait aussi souligner les bonnes pratiques et les leçons apprises ainsi que favoriser les échanges entre pays sur le sujet.

Il est aussi important que les pays fournissent à la CEA de l'information sur l'état de ces registres. Cette information se baserait sur les lignes directrices que le Centre africain pour la statistique aura développées en collaboration avec le Centre africain sur le genre et le développement social. La CEA devrait organiser des séminaires, des séances de formation et des réunions des groupes d'experts sur les registres civils et vitaux.

Le support des Nations Unies et des donateurs dans l'amélioration ou la mise en place des systèmes des registres civils et vitaux est important. Plus particulièrement, il importe de supporter les pays en termes de formation, renforcement des capacités et de support technique afin d'améliorer ces systèmes en Afrique.

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Sub-national Statistical Development: The case of Uganda

Norah Madaya, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Sub national (District/Higher Local Governments) Statistics in Uganda are one of the most required information for measuring delivery and impact of national development programmes. A district is an administrative area below the national level, and is governed under the decentralized programme. Uganda embraced the decentralisation policy in the early 1990s. This resulted from the enactment of the Local Government Statute by Parliament in 1993. Functions, powers and services including fiscal management were transferred from central government to local governments. Districts in Uganda are mandated to carry out different functions in line with effective and efficient service delivery as provided by the Local Government Act, CAP 243 under the Decentralization Policy. Statistics compiled by districts form the basis for planning not only at the district level but also at the national level. They are incorporated in the National and District development plans and programmes to facilitate improved service delivery. They also contribute to resource allocation and service delivery with respect to Programme Priority Areas (PPA) such as health, education, agriculture safe water provision, and road infrastructure. Further, effective decision making and research in various fields require thses statistics. The distribution of public utilities/ social services (piped water, training institutions, road infrastructure, energy in relation to electricity etc.) demand that a clear inventory

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SCBINTRANET/Reosurces/239410-11133340/board-paper-feb4.pdf.

4 Mahapatra P. Shibuya K, Lopez AD et al. Civil registration systems and vital statistics; successes and missed opportunities. Lancet 2007

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

of the population is determined, the production sector (agriculture, industry) established and documented.

The need for data to support evidence based planning and management at this level cannot be over emphasized. District Planning Units have been set up and entrusted with the planning function including the coordination of the collection, processing, storage, analysis and dissemination of data among sub-sectors at this level. Consequently, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) established a Directorate for District Statistics and Capacity Building to further support this policy. The Directorate supports the development of district profiles and provides statistical training.

The UBOS is mandated to coordinate, supervise and monitor the National Statistical System (NSS). It is legally responsible for nurturing statistical development even at the sub-national level. Currently, UBOS is supporting government's 'Sub-County Development Programme' through the implementation of the Community Information System (CIS). The CIS is aimed at generating basic information from communities to monitor household welfare as well as promoting effective utilization of information at the grass root.

The CIS comes after government's pronouncement of a strategy of promoting "Prosperity for All", towards building socio-economic transformation and peace, in the financial year 2006/2007. In order to transform communities and society as a whole, there was need to identify and understand the situation in the community and in households. It is also desirable of Government and the community to obtain this data on a regular basis for continuous understanding of the situation at micro-level.

Whereas several data collection exercises are conducted at household, community, and institutional level, most data is under utilized. Within the Decentralisation Framework, key policy decisions at national level are implemented at the sub national level. To measure progress, efficiency and effectiveness of government and non-government programmes across sub-sectors at the sub national level, quality data is needed. An assessment of district data production processes was conducted under the Data Needs Assessment Study (DNAS) in 2006. This was undertaken in a sample of 13 districts across the country namely; Bundibugyo, Mubende, Rakai, Ntungamo, Arua, Jinja, Kamuli, Tororo, Soroti, Kalangala, Luweero, Masindi and Wakiso. The study presented challenges affecting the district statistical production. The aim of the DNAS was to review the existing data gaps in order to establish the current and future district data needs. The DNAS focused on the relevance, quality, quantity, timeliness, completeness and adequacy of the existing data, and, whether the data is supportive of the sectoral and overall district planning processes. The study further investigated the levels of data use, disaggregation, frequency, source and computerization.

A model District Statistical Action Plan (DSAP) was later developed in 2007 to spell out the strategy for developing district statistics. The DSAP helped districts envision the future of district statistics. It revealed the need to re-organise and create an internal statistical network that facilitates the generation of valuable information using the available limited resources to support their planning processes. The DSAP focused on:

- Developing a credible and efficient mechanism of co-ordinating data production, and utilisation, based on good practices (e.g. standard definitions, concepts and terms) in data collection, management and dissemination at local government levels;
- Providing a mechanism for intra-district data co-ordination and utilisation;
- Addressing most statistical needs without compromising quality and recommend cost effective and sustainable methods of data production (collection, processing and dissemination), and
- Linking the districts with other stakeholders including UBOS.

The individual DSAPs were never undertaken by districts due to lack of funding for this purpose. However, UBOS has through EU, UNICEF and Government of Uganda (GoU) support provided district capacity development in data collection, analysis and report writing skills and re-tooling. Some district officers have also been supported to attend Certificate Courses at the East African Statistical Training Centre, Tanzania. Nonetheless, there are some challenges still faced by districts including;

- Strategic planning and strengthening of statistical production in districts
- Improving and enhancing standard formats for data collection and management at District and lower levels
- Developing modules that interface with existing Management Information Systems used in Local Governments
- Establishing a mechanism for analysing and utilising detailed data at district level
- Strengthening District Planning Units to support, co-ordinate and monitor intra-District statistics.
- Piloting the implementation of the new data management framework

The Bureau developed and is implementing its national statistical strategy, the Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD). The PNSD has so far covered 16 sectors under phase 1 and II. Each of these sectors has developed a Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics (SSPS). In the third phase of the PNSD, the Bureau plans to bring on board, more sectors, and a set of districts. The districts will require support to review the DNAS and DSAP findings, and develop a model district/sub-national strategic plan for statistics based on the PARIS21 principles. This will deepen the NSDS process in the country. There is urgent need to harmonise data flows between sub-sectors at district level and the centre, promote standards and harmonise data production including institutionalising planning for statistics in sub-sectors and districts. ❑

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

Developing Migration Information Systems in Developing Nations

William L J Xu-Doeve, ANRC Consulting, the Netherlands

Official statisticians, demographers and planners enjoy surveys, so let us begin with a brief questionnaire.

		Yes	No
1	My National Statistical Office (NSO) should be the prime supplier in the country of relevant, timely and high-quality official statistical data and information on socio-economic matters. As such, it has a key role to play in enabling effective and transparent evidence-based policy making, planning and administration at all levels. Do you agree?		
2	If I ask my NSO for data about mortality and fertility, then I am unhappy if I am told that they can only provide me with statistics on the population growth rate based on a comparison of two population counts 10 years apart. Do you agree?		
3	If I ask my NSO for data about fertility, then I am unhappy if they can only give me statistics on the number of mothers. Do you agree?		
4	If I ask my NSO for data about fertility, then I am unhappy if they tell me that they only have statistics on the single most recent birth that has occurred to mothers in the last 10 years. Do you agree?		
5	Internal migration is an issue of prime concern for policy making regarding economic and social development and regarding urban and regional development in our country. It can have major implications for the labour market, for the provision of housing, education, health care, clean drinking water and sanitation, as well as for the management of informal and slum settlements. Do you agree?		
6	International migration is an issue of prime concern for policy making, both within our country and in an international context. It can have major implications for economic and social development, for social harmony and stability, for the labour market, for skills development and brain drain, and for international remittances. Do you agree?		

If you have answered no to question 1, then you may consider skipping the rest of this article. The same applies if you have answered no to both questions 5 and 6. (We'll come back to the fertility questions later.)

For all other respondents, we recall that migration is a dynamic process defined by persons changing their place of usual residence as time and age progress. Such a change or migratory move is also called an event, and a person can experience such multiple events as life goes on. A person who has experienced at least one event is called a migrant. The result of an ongoing process of migration can be summarized at any time in many ways. Familiar summary statistics include migration rates (intensities) and migrant flows and stocks (absolute numbers). As with all summaries, their compilation necessarily requires full information on what we actually try to summarize. In other words, in order to get such summary statistics complete and correct, it is necessary to have adequate data capturing the full migration process. That is, we need to have data on the events experienced by members of the population: the origin and destination of the events, as well as their position on the age scale and on the time scale. For explanatory studies, additional data on topics that may have a bearing on the propensity to migrate, such as data on a person's educational level and economic activity, on the socio-economic context, and on many other topics, are invaluable. Here, however, we shall not concern ourselves with such explanatory variables; we shall merely explore what is required to get the migration picture itself right.

The truly tricky bit in collecting migration data is that persons can experience multiple events. Here, migration differs from mortality. A move (event) is something quite different from a migrant (person). However, a person dies only once, and so there is no difference between deaths (events) and deaths (persons). This makes mortality data collection a much simpler and more straightforward affair. In fact, there is greater similarity in this respect between migration and fertility. A mother (person) is not a birth (event). But, actually, migration is much more complex even than fertility. Fertility merely adds extra persons of age zero to a single population. Migration, on the other hand, both adds and subtracts existing persons of all ages, simultaneously affecting multiple sub-populations defined specific by the migration-defining areas which are the focus of interest. This very significantly complicates migration data collection and the proper measurement of migration.

Little surprise, then, that migration data collection is a truly underdeveloped area in the realm of official statistics, and by no means only in developing countries. This is not helped by the fact that, in their training, population statisticians and demographers are being drilled in mortality analysis first and foremost (liberally mixing persons and events). Fertility analysis usually comes as a second serving. Some simple migration, if any, may be on offer as a quick side-dish at best. Finally, amongst all three demographic processes, migration is also the least stable and predictable empirically. It does not have the nice solid biological underpinnings of mortality, for example. Consequently, it also does not allow for the convenient type of generalization which underpins the model life tables that have become ubiquitous in mortality estimation in countries with poor statistics. The actual migration life history of each cohort is unique and a specific response to its particular place in time as socio-economic, political and cultural conditions evolve and change. So, knowing what may have happened in the past, or to other populations, or even to other cohorts within the same population, cannot simply be relied upon to repeat itself. Inevitably, actual empirical evidence, that is, statistical data, are of the essence.

Clearly we are facing a complex set of problems here, and it is tempting simply to abandon the whole matter. Yet, if you have read to this point, then you will likely have answered yes to question 1 and to questions 5 and / or 6. So, unfortunately, we shall have no choice but

to work our way out of this, one way or another. Let us go step by step, beginning by briefly exploring suitable data sources.

We are in Africa (or elsewhere in the developing world), so complete continuous population registration systems are not normally an option. Other administrative sources suitable for deriving migration data also tend to be weak and patchy at best, so usually we can rule those out as well. That leaves us with the periodic population and housing censuses (P&HCs) and with probabilistic sample surveys. Dedicated migration sample surveys would be great, were it not for the inherent variability of migration processes. In order to get a comprehensive picture of what goes on in terms of population movement within a country and across its borders, the sample size would have to be exceptionally large in order to avoid massive margins of stochastic uncertainty. Unfortunately, dependable prior information enabling stratification, allowing us to reduce these large sample sizes, is not usually available. Effectively, therefore, this leaves us with the full P&HC as the only suitable standard data source.

Next, let us explore how NSOs in the developing world have handled migration information through censuses in the past. This will help us to focus more clearly on what are, in fact, adequate approaches to migration data collection. This is also where questions 2, 3 and 4 of our short survey come in. Incidentally, as a good statistician, you will surely have answered these questions affirmatively.

A common traditional approach has been to collect no migration data at all. Then you would rely on the great but very outdated 1970 United Nations Manual VI, "Methods of Measuring Internal Migration", and resort to indirect estimation. You would take two successive censuses, project the population from one to the next given suitable data on intercensal mortality and fertility, and you would simply ascribe the discrepancies between the projected and the observed population to migration. It is a procedure called residual estimation. To this day, the principle is also still applied to international migration. The problem with this residual approach is twofold. First, any uncompensated errors in the input data (two different population counts and the intercensal mortality and fertility schedules) are also called migration, and you will never be able to tell how badly the estimates are affected by this. Second, at best we get information on what is called net migration, the difference between persons in and persons out. The actual flows and counterflows themselves, the moves involved, the persons involved, the dynamics over age and time, it all remains obscure. If you have answered yes to question 2 of our survey, then you will, of course, also have to say no to net migration.

The alternative is to ask direct questions in the population census aimed at actually capturing past migration behaviour. These questions essentially fall into two categories, the person-based questions and the event-based questions. Person-based questions are designed to capture persons who have experienced at least one migratory move, that is, persons who are migrants. Familiar examples of such questions include: where were you born, where did you live 5 years ago, and what is your nationality. These questions do not capture the underlying events (migratory moves), neither their timing (when did a move take place) nor their direction (origin and destination). They are in particular unable to deal properly with multiple events in the life history of persons. Consequently, for instance, return migration, a very common phenomenon, remains highly problematic. Overall, the resulting statistics on intensities and on actual true flows and stocks are deficient and selective, but inevitably so to an unknown degree. In view of this, considerable work has been done on estimation to fill in the gaps in the resulting knowledge, in particular in Europe where person-based questioning has become quite common. However, in the absence on data on actual moves, all such estimation necessarily remains at best (intelligent) but unverifiable guesswork. To put matters in perspective, let us go back to our survey. You surely answered yes to question 3? Then we definitely cannot but discard person-based data collection, at least for the purpose of measuring migration processes.

Thus, clearly, in order to properly capture migration processes, we have to collect data on events (migratory moves), rather than on persons (migrants) -- even if we would ultimately only want statistics on migrants. However, collecting data on events is, in fact, not at all unusual in population censuses. The familiar traditional question to do so is: how long have you lived here, combined with a question on the place or country of previous residence if the residence duration is less than the length of life. This gives us complete information on both the timing and the direction of the most recent move for all persons in the population. However, recall that a census is usually conducted no more frequently than once every 10 years. Further, recall our survey question 4, which you surely also answered affirmatively. Then we have to conclude that this type of questioning is at best a good start to migration data collection. Clearly, if you also answered yes to survey question 5 or 6, and if that was a well-considered answer, then we simply have no option but to do better than collecting data on the last move only. Extending retrospective questioning further back beyond the most recent move is the only way to properly capture migration processes.

Dealing with the measurement of migration processes along proper cohort lines using event-based migration data in manners that are mathematically consistent and methodologically sound is not part and parcel of traditional training programmes in population statistics and demography. Developing familiarity, skills and experience requires dedicated capacity building. The African Statistics Centre of UNECA should take a lead role in coordinating and facilitating such efforts in Africa.

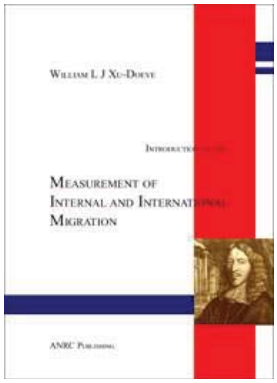
Further, your NSO may well baulk at extending retrospective questioning on migratory moves in the population census. Traditional excuses will surely be raised: tight schedules, census overload, enumerator skills, response error, costs, and so on. It is, however, simply an inevitability that has to be faced in the light of the six reasonable assertions in our small survey above. Importantly, though, there are also other good reasons to address this challenging issue. In many respects, the practice of census taking in most developing countries

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

suffers from serious and outdated legacies of the past. Well beyond the issue of migration data collection, a fundamental rethink of data sources, of methods and of procedures would, in fact, structurally reinforce and reinvigorate NSOs and add to their relevance as prime demand-driven statistics and information service providers.

Just in terms of data sources, let us give three obvious examples of good reasons for a structural redesign of approaches to P&HCs. For instance, many of the core topics in P&HCs could quite adequately or even better be handled through sample surveys. Often, too, there are already existing but unused alternative sources of data on many of the core census topics. Think for instance of pertinent data in government or from service providers. Assembling these is usually more timely and cost-effective and does not need to sacrifice, or may even add to, the relevance, quality and completeness of information. And the traditional housing census, for example, could much more adequately be based on well-established aerial surveying methods as a point of departure. Other strategic, substantive, operational and organizational reasons for census redesign abound. The traditional full census can then be refocused on and specialize in only those few topics, such as migration, for which a full enumeration is absolutely indispensable.

In this article we can, of course, not go into too much detail. However, all the issues addressed here are treated in depth in a new book 1. It discusses the state of the art in methods of measuring migration, sources of migration data, and methods of migration data collection. It demonstrates how much unique information can already be gleaned from data on no more than only the most recent move. It also deals with the wider practical operational implications for census taking, for the future of P&HCs, and more broadly for the organization and operations of NSOs. Based on well over 25 years of experience in training and capacity building, it is designed as a practical and application-oriented handbook and reference for NSOs, research institutes, universities and professional training institutions. For readers in developing countries and in emerging economies, complimentary copies are available by writing to w.l.j.xu doeve@anrc consulting.com.



Improving the World Bank's Database of Statistical Capacity

Neil Fantom and Naoko Watanabe, World Bank

The articles published in the March and June issues by Wingfield-Digby[1] and by Ngaruko[2] respectively raise important issues concerning the Statistical Capacity Indicator that is currently published on the World Bank website.[3] The purpose of this short article is to inform your readers of the background to the World Bank indicator and the underlying methodology, and to describe the efforts that are being undertaken to improve its usefulness in response to these and other issues raised by users.

As the readers of this newsletter may be aware, the World Bank has been actively supporting countries in their efforts to strengthen statistical capacity, particularly through investment in statistical systems. The World Bank, through both lending instruments and through multi-donor trust funds, has financed over 100 projects in this field since 2004, almost half of which have been in Africa. As the number of projects has grown, there has been a greater need to measure the results of this work, and also to provide an analysis of the status of statistical capacity in developing countries to a broad range of users.

One of the responses to this need was to create and publish a database containing a set of information about the statistical systems of over 140 developing countries. This is accessible through the World Bank website and has been updated annually since its inception in 2004. Using a subset of selected indicators in the database and comparing them to international good practice in three equally weighted areas – statistical practice, data collection, and indicator availability – a composite index, or score, is calculated. The scores of individual countries and the assessment methodology used are available on the website (http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/csid.html).

The statistical capacity indicator has been a helpful instrument to measure and track the level of statistical capacity of developing countries. It has also stimulated discussion, both about how to measure statistical capacity, and also about how to help countries take the necessary action to improve their statistical systems. However measuring statistical capacity is not an exact science, as is well illustrated by the articles of Wingfield-Digby and Ngaruko. The choice of indicators and weights employed in the current World Bank indicator is subjective and just one of many.

A key advantage of the current indicator methodology is that it does not require data collection from countries; the metadata used is extracted from existing databases of international organizations, as a

1 Wingfield-Digby, P. (2008): "Africa's STATS League – the Movers and Shakers 2006-2007" African Statistical Newsletter, Volume 2 Issue 1, p. 26-28
2 Ngaruko, F. (2008): "The World Bank's Approach to Statistical Capacity Measurement: The Missing Link" African Statistical Newsletter, Volume 2 Issue 2, p. 16-18
3 http://www.worldbank.org/data/statcap

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

by-product of their regular efforts to collect data from countries and publish them in statistical compendia. This approach minimizes the reporting burden on countries, does not require additional country visits, reduces data reporting delays, and provides consistency of information over time and across countries.

However, limiting the choice of indicators to those that are already publicly available also means that the database coverage and the choice of indicators that can be used to compile the indicator are also limited. To a large extent this explains the lack of coverage of institutional or "latent" capacity identified by Ngaruko. The use of indicators that measure the frequency and timeliness of major data collection exercises also explains some of the year-to-year volatility in measured statistical capacity mentioned by Wingfield-Digby.

For the reasons mentioned by these authors, and because of several requests for improvements to the information collected and disseminated about statistical systems, capacity and quality (including a request by donors during the last replenishment of the International Development Association), a process of review and improvement of both the database and the indicator of statistical capacity has been started, with the objective of developing a new system. This system, which will take the form of a Bulletin Board of Statistical Capacity, will help to monitor a broader set of data about national statistical systems. It will include an improved interface (with tools such as checklists and color-coded maps) to help users identify good practices and areas which need improvement, and to make it easier for countries to provide feedback and updates to the information held in the database. Data from existing publicly available sources will continue to be used wherever appropriate, but it will be supplemented or replaced with data provided directly by countries where possible.

Through closer engagement of countries, it will be possible to include additional aspects that are important for assessing statistical capacity. The current proposal has four dimensions compared to the three currently used: institutional framework, statistical methodology, data sources, and data dissemination. In particular, the institutional framework dimension will include new information on the legal framework, work planning, coordination, human resources, budgeting, and informational technology.

In the spirit of building on what already exists, the overall guiding frameworks used for the assessment criteria are the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework and the PARIS21 Indicators of Statistical Capacity Building. The new system will also be coordinated with the new initiative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in this area.

During 2009 the new system will be pilot tested and then implemented. As well as providing a better basis for monitoring improvements, it is hoped that the improved database of knowledge about statistical systems will also contribute to a better understanding of the statistical challenges faced by countries. ❑

Le PASEC, un pas important vers la culture de l'évaluation

Pierre Varly, CONFEMEN

Le PASEC est le programme d'analyse des systèmes éducatifs de la CONFEMEN[1], la plus ancienne des institutions de la Francophonie et qui réunit les ministres de l'Éducation des pays ayant le français en partage. Mis en place dans la foulée de la Conférence mondiale sur l'Éducation pour tous qui s'est tenue à Jomtien (Thaïlande), le PASEC est un programme d'évaluation dédié à la qualité de l'éducation dont les ministres se sont dotés en 1991. Ce programme vise à identifier les facteurs d'amélioration de la qualité. En effet, pour scolariser davantage d'enfants, une réflexion importante était à l'époque à mener sur la diversification des modes de scolarisation.

Le modèle d'école publique pour partie hérité de la colonisation et le fonctionnariat ne pouvaient garantir une scolarisation primaire universelle pour des raisons de coût et les donateurs internationaux invitaient à refonder les systèmes éducatifs francophones, jugés très centralisés et peu efficaces, tant sur le plan de leur capacité à scolariser les élèves que sur celui de la qualité de leurs apprentissages. Des modes alternatifs de scolarisation, moins coûteux, devaient être recherchés tels que l'usage de classes multigrades, la double vacation ou le double flux, l'implication des communautés et une plus grande contribution des familles dans le fonctionnement du système éducatif (enseignants et écoles communautaires).

Les paramètres clés des systèmes éducatifs en matière de dépenses tels que le taux de redoublement et le ratio élèves enseignant devaient être optimisés dans l'optique d'une massification de l'enseignement et dans le souci de maintenir ou d'améliorer la qualité des acquis. Les défis principaux du programme PASEC étaient donc posés. A ces défis s'ajoutaient le renforcement des capacités nationales et la diffusion des résultats et des données, avec pour objectif d'établir une véritable culture de l'évaluation, corollaire des réformes éducatives à venir.

A la même époque, se met en place un programme similaire pour l'Afrique australe, le SACMEQ[2], qui s'inspire des techniques de l'IEA[3] et qui vise essentiellement à mesurer et à suivre le niveau des élèves. Mais ce n'est qu'à partir de la Conférence de Dakar en 2000, qu'un programme de suivi des acquis scolaires se met en place au niveau mondial. C'était le MLA ou

Monitoring learning achievement, un programme cogéré par l'UNICEF et l'UNESCO, et qui est arrêté depuis.

Sur le plan scientifique, le PASEC se distingue des autres programmes par ses objectifs et donc par ses méthodes qui reposent sur une mesure en valeur ajoutée des acquisitions scolaires. Le but est

1 Conférence des ministres de l'Éducation des pays ayant le français en partage
2 www.sacmeq.org
3 www.iea.nl

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

d'identifier par l'analyse multi variée, l'effet net des différents facteurs sur des résultats aux tests, le niveau initial de l'élève étant contrôlé par un test en début d'année. Les autres programmes mettent davantage l'accent sur la mesure du niveau des élèves en mobilisant des techniques psychométriques avancées telles que la théorie de réponse aux items et définissent des échelles de compétences à atteindre. La méthode PASEC est décrite dans un guide méthodologique en cours de validation et est amenée à évoluer dans un proche avenir sur la question des tests pour tenir compte des changements de curricula opérés depuis le milieu des années 1990. Les lecteurs anglophones peuvent se référer utilement aux modules réalisés par l'IIPE et le SACMEQ pour se familiariser avec les techniques d'évaluation des acquis scolaires.

Les données produites par le PASEC et le SACMEQ sont régulièrement utilisées par l'UNESCO et la Banque mondiale dans le cadre de leurs rapports de suivi, mais sont sujettes toutefois à des différences méthodologiques[4] qui empêchent toute comparaison au niveau des tests. A l'échelle du continent, peu de travaux de synthèse des résultats ont été réalisés, mais on peut citer la publication du PASEC sur le redoublement intitulé « Le redoublement : mirage de l'école africaine ? », disponible en français et en anglais. On notera au passage, surtout si l'on prend en compte la réduction importante du redoublement observée ces dernières années en Afrique francophone, que la publication et la diffusion de travaux au niveau régional semblent avoir un impact plus important sur les réformes éducatives que la simple production de travaux nationaux,. Or, la production de synthèse régionale passe nécessairement par la production de comparaisons internationales, ce qui pose un problème politique puisque les pays africains sont en concurrence pour l'accès aux financements internationaux et que les mesures de la qualité sont de plus en plus intégrées aux indicateurs déclencheurs des crédits d'appui, liés aux initiatives de réduction de dette en particulier ou dirigées vers l'éducation, telle que l'initiative Fast track.

Malgré cela, le PASEC et le SACMEQ ont une longévité relativement importante qui mérite d'être soulignée et qui est d'autant plus remarquable qu'il s'agit de dispositifs techniques financés par les autorités politiques, auxquelles ils rendent compte. A l'heure actuelle, les dispositifs nationaux d'évaluation des acquis scolaires se mettent en place en Afrique et prennent le relais des dispositifs régionaux. Néanmoins, ces travaux nationaux sont encore peu diffusés, preuve s'il en est, que la culture de l'évaluation ne s'est pas encore complètement installée.

Certes, il s'agit là d'un pas vers une plus grande utilisation des données d'enquête dans l'élaboration des politiques éducatives mais celle-ci n'est pas systématique. Schématiquement, certains pays anglophones intègrent les données d'enquête dans leurs systèmes statistiques, en l'occurrence d'évaluation des acquis scolaires, tandis que les pays francophones utilisent les données d'enquête auprès des ménages dans l'élaboration des politiques éducatives, en se focalisant sur l'accès des pauvres à l'école et en cherchant à apprécier l'efficacité externe des différents ordres d'enseignement, notamment dans le cadre des RESEN[5].

Cependant, malgré le développement impressionnant des outils statistiques africains, comme en témoigne la plus grande fourniture de données à l'Institut de statistiques de l'UNESCO, les statistiques sociales restent encore le parent pauvre des annuaires et rapports nationaux. Le travail visant à élaborer des normes pour le suivi de la réduction de la pauvreté se poursuit, notamment via Afristat pour les pays francophones, mais les données d'enquête servent encore principalement à nourrir les rapports internationaux et les publications scientifiques en dehors du continent.

Pourtant, la réduction de la pauvreté passe nécessairement par le ciblage des politiques et l'usage intensif des statistiques. Si l'on veut réduire la pauvreté, autant savoir où sont les pauvres ! Il n'est pas inutile de rappeler dans une perspective historique et épistémologique, que l'étude des questions de pauvreté a largement contribué à l'édification de la science statistique en Europe, même si certains points restent très discutables sur le plan éthique. Les deux sont donc intrinsèquement liés.

En Afrique, les questions de ciblage sont primordiales en matière d'éducation où le défi de la scolarisation universelle reste celui des pauvres et des populations dites défavorisées. Malgré des progrès quantitatifs indéniables et une diversification des modes de scolarisation, la réflexion doit se poursuivre sur l'offre de services éducatifs adaptés à une grande disparité attendue des publics d'élèves. A l'heure actuelle, les chances d'accès à une éducation de qualité ne sont pas garanties, comme en témoigne la présentation rétrospective du PASEC à la dernière Conférence ministérielle de la CONFEMEN (Caraquet, juin 2008).

Cela milite pour des analyses plus fines des questions d'équité que l'exploitation des données d'enquête rend possible pour peu que les compétences et les moyens soient mobilisés au niveau national. En Afrique francophone, les statisticiens professionnels sont globalement embauchés par les instituts nationaux de statistiques qui traitent principalement et en priorité des aspects économiques et démographiques, ou recrutés par des projets ou des institutions non étatiques. Rares sont ceux qui exercent dans le domaine des statistiques sociales au sein d'instituts spécialisés.

Les expériences menées en Afrique anglophone ou lusophone pour s'occuper des statistiques éducatives et des questions de qualité et pour stimuler la recherche et l'évaluation pourraient bien enrichir la réflexion dans les pays francophones. On pense par exemple au travail réalisé en Afrique du Sud par le Human Sciences Research Council[6].

En ce sens, les programmes et les institutions régionales, telles que le centre africain de statistiques, ont un rôle à jouer, pour peu qu'ils collaborent effectivement et efficacement entre eux. Le bulletin d'information ou News Letter du centre devrait être notamment traduit en français et en anglais pour une meilleure circulation de l'information.

4 http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001555/155511e.pdf

5 Rapport d'Etat du Système Educatif National

6 http://www.hsrc.ac.za/Annual_Report-63.phtml

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

Les investissements dans la production de statistiques étant des opérations rentables en termes de visibilité immédiate et de communication pour une meilleure gouvernance, ils sont encore disparates et peu coordonnés. Historiquement, la mise en place de dispositifs internationaux, tels que ceux de l'OCDE et de l'UNESCO, a largement facilité le renforcement des capacités des pays du Nord en matière de données sur l'éducation, même si l'adoption de normes communes ne s'est pas faite sans heurts. Le PASEC et le SACMEQ ont œuvré dans le même sens et contribuent largement à la formation des cadres nationaux et au renforcement des capacités[7]. Les efforts doivent être poursuivis. L'Afrique ayant réalisé des progrès considérables sur le plan de la massification de la scolarisation, elle pourrait être davantage accompagnée sur le chemin de la qualité de l'éducation pour tous.

Visitez le site web de la CONFEMEN: http://www.confemen.org/spip.php?rubrique3

Pour nous contacter pasec@confemen.org

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7 Chaque année, le PASEC organise des ateliers internationaux de formation pour les membres des équipes nationales et réalise de nombreuses missions d'appui technique.

Data Documentaationi Initiative

Molla Hunegnaw, African Centre for Statistics

Introduction

The exchange of data is one of the requirements of statistics. The existence of metadata documentation that enables a full understanding of the dataset without any consultation with its creator is critical to effective exchange of data. In exchange of micro data it is widely believed that most documentation accompanying datasets are often inadequate, unstructured and lacks standard.

It is also seen that formats of the existing documentation of micro data are not suitable for modern computer software. For the documentation of the micro data and accompanying datasets to be shared and reused across software, organizations and users it must use a standard specification language, and the information contained must be given well-defined and structured meaning.

Traditionally, it has been the data archivists who have tried to address the problems surrounding secondary analysis. Whereas the creators and primary users of statistics have first hand knowledge of the data, secondary users must rely on the documentation supplied with the data to fully exploit the dataset. The metadata provides the essential link between the primary data source and secondary use.

The primary goals of statistical data archives have been preserving data resources and making them readily accessible for secondary analysis. The diversity of these archives' user communities, such academics, researchers, planners and decision-makers not involved in any primary data collection but requiring answers from it, goes a long way to explain the high priority that the archives have given to the development of metadata.

Data Documentation Initiative

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an effort to establish an standard criterion and methodology for the content, presentation, transport, and preservation of metadata about datasets in the social and behavioural sciences.

In social science, metadata about datasets are often called codebooks. Systems established for such datasets could search on fairly limited fields (i.e. name, author, study number, and abstract). Users needed to manually examine the codebook to find out detailed and important information about the study (such as variables, methodology, and structure of the data) that determine the usefulness of the data.

With the advent of the DDI, codebooks can now be created in a uniform, highly structured format that is easily and precisely searchable on the Web, that lends itself well to simultaneous use of multiple datasets, and that will significantly improve the content and usability of metadata. Further, this specification may have far-reaching implications for improvement of the entire process of data collection, dissemination, and analysis.

In addition to easier searching, many see the DDI as enabling a new mode of doing comparative and other research that uses multiple datasets. Users will be able to document a complex dataset to statistical packages through its codebook, rather than have to go through conversion processes. Thus, many see the DDI as offering not only data producers and data archivists but also data users a new power and flexibility to do their work and to do it effectively and efficiently.

The standard is maintained by the Data Documentation Initiative Alliance, a membership-driven consortium including universities, data archives, and national and international organizations.

The Alliance is a self-sustaining membership organization whose members have a voice in the development of the DDI specification. It has currently more than 30 member organizations actively involved in the development of standards. The Alliance is also structured into expert committees and working groups. The DDI Expert Committee is comprised of XML experts, social science researchers, and data archivists who serve as Alliance representatives from their respective member organizations.

The Expert Committee also has a number of working groups devoted to improving the specification's handling of special types of data.

Initially with support from member institutions all over the world, the working group has created what is known as a Document Type Defi-

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

nition (DTD) for the "markup" of codebooks.

DDI Version 1 along with accompanying instructions and examples in using the DTD was formally published on March 24, 2000. It is available onlinehttp://www.ddialliance.org. The site also provides sample marked-up codebooks, suggestions for markup tools and software, and additional information about the initiative.

The Alliance for the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) released Version 3.0 of the DDI specification for documenting micro data in May 2008. The version incorporates major advance by fully incorporating XML Schemas and moving to a data life cycle approach.

DDI Document Type Definition

DTD defines the legal building blocks of an XML document. It defines the document structure with a list of legal elements and attributes. The validity of documents and structures are guided by the DTD.

Basically, DDI DTD incorporate five sections:

1. Document Description: Items describing the marked-up document itself as well as its source documents (citation, title, etc.), Element -- optional, not repeatable.

2. Study Description: Items describing the overall data collection (title, citation, methodology, study scope, data access, etc.), Element -- required, repeatable.

3. Data Files Description: Items relating to the format, size, and structure of the data files, Element -- optional, repeatable.

4. Variables Description: Items relating to variables in the data collection, Element -- optional, repeatable.

5. Other Study-Related Materials: Other study-related material not included in the other sections (bibliography, separate questionnaire file, etc.), Element -- optional, repeatable.

Conclusion

Datasets could be derived from surveys, censuses, administrative records, experiments, direct observation, and other systematic methodologies for generating empirical measurements. Observations in such datasets may pertain to individual persons, households, families, business establishments, transactions, countries, and many other subjects of scientific interest. This datasets may consist of measures taken at a single point in time in a single setting, such as a sample of people in one country during one week, or they may consist of repeated observations in multiple settings, including longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional data from many countries, as well as time series of aggregate data.

The DDI specification has been designed to fully encompass all of these kinds of data and to provide all the information a user needs. In addition, the structure supplied by DDI XML metadata allows computer manipulation. This structure allows:

- the ability to input the data directly into software packages
- the tailored display of the information through style sheets to satisfy unique user needs
- the ability to perform complex precision searches
- the output of traditional style codebooks.

Another major benefit of using the DDI standard is that interoperability within and between systems and organizations has become much easier. Codebooks marked up using the DDI specification can be exchanged and transported seamlessly, and applications can be written to work with these homogeneous documents.

The richer content of the DDI encourages the use of a comprehensive set of elements to describe datasets thoroughly, thereby providing the potential users with broader knowledge about a given collection and facilitating informed use of the data. Due to the fact that the DDI markup extends down to the variable level and provides a standard uniform structure and content for variables, DDI documents are easily imported into on-line analysis, rendering datasets more readily usable for a wider audience. Since each of the elements in a DDI-compliant codebook is tagged in a specific way, field specific searches across documents and studies are enabled. Thus, it is simpler for users to discover the studies, variables, or datasets relevant to them. With the ability to embed hyperlinks in the DDI XML in version 3.0 and through the use of controlled vocabularies for retrieval software to utilize, other relevant work also becomes easier to discover. Through this enhanced discovery functionality, comparative secondary analysis becomes much more feasible.

With the DDI becoming a widely adopted standard, the potential for sharing software developed to manipulate and utilize it increases, creating a software community similar to that of open-source. This, along with the XML specification being widely supported, can also help to reduce the cost of producing good quality documentation.

The DDI can serve as the foundation for content, distribution, use and preservation of data collections in the social and behavioural sciences, across institutions, countries, and disciplines. That foundation will be stronger if the specification is independent of any particular software or computing platform. Expressing the specification as a generalized conceptual data model will further enhance this independence. The data model is extensible and modular, supporting the specification of even the most complex data systems in a way that is simultaneously flexible and rigorous.

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3. http://www.opendatafoundation.org

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

The Journey From Punch Card to Scanning Technology at Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopia

Yakob Mudesir, Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopia

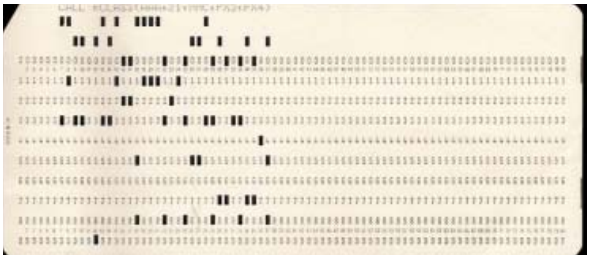
Introduction

The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia is responsible to provide timely and accurate statistical information for development planning and monitoring purposes. To this end CSA has been engaged in utilizing ICT to facilitate its data processing, archiving and dissemination system so that the required statistical information can be generated and reaches users for the desired purposes.

CSA is one of the leading institutions in Ethiopia utilizing ICT for accomplishing its basic tasks. This article describes briefly the history of ICT development at CSA since the 1970's.

Computer using punch card

The modern data processing activity utilizing the ICT products at the CSA goes back some forty-three years. The first computer system used was the IBM System/3 with12k CPU which accepted data from 96 column punch cards. (See below)



The CSA was utilizing these types of machines on a rental basis with a monthly rental value of 2,498 USD which was increased to 7300 USD in 1980's. Price surveys and small sized socio economic surveys used to be processed by this system. It is recorded that about two million punch cards were utilized per annum to transcribe the data collected through survey questionnaires to process the survey conducted at that time. The IBM machines used to utilize 1200 feet and 2400 feet tapes to store the electronic data

Evidences reveals that CSA was one of the institutions with this "fancy" technology at the time and various institutions including the Economic Commission for Africa requested to use these machines for various purposes.

This IBM system was utilized for about sixteen years with its 12k CPU which is really difficult to imagine at this stage of ICT development.

Main Frame System

The CSA migrated to HP main frame system since 1982. This was realized by the financial assistance obtained from UNDP and the machines were supplied by a Paris based company called SERIC. The initial cost for the HP3000/Series 44 system was 241,433 USD and the system comprises the following:

- HP 3000/Series 44 system processor unit with 1MB memory
- Two 404 MB Removable Media Disc Drives
- Two 1600 bpi 45ips Tape Drives
- Two Line Printers 300 LPM
- COBOL, Fortran and RPG Basic compilers

This was a great improvement in the system compared to the 12k CPU IBM machines CSA has utilized this system to process various surveys data including the 1984 Population and Housing Census. The HP3000/Series 44 system had been upgraded to the HP3000/series 48 and this system was then upgraded to HP3000/Series 925 in 1989.

Stand Alone PC- based System

The introduction of PC based system was not effectively relaized until 1994 when the CSA was busy in undertaking the second population and housing census. Documents reveal that the first set of PCs available in late 80's were:

1. IBM PS/2 MOD 80
2. HP VECTRA ES/12 MOD 21

During this time, there were not more than five PCS dedicated to senior programmers and access to those PCs wa very limited.

The CSA decided to process the 1994 population and housing census on a PC system and the issue of abandoning the HP3000/Series925 main frame was seriously thought by the management. This was not well received by the data processing experts at that time, basically fearing the new environment. However, with the financial assistance obtained from UNFPA, more than 90 (486 DX) PCs were introduced for census data capturing in the year 1994. In addition, the fifth generation computers with Pentium processors were used for data processing activities of the census.

This exercise of using a PC based system for census encouraged the CSA to use PCs for all of its survey processing. Accordingly all of CSA's survey migrated to a PC based system in 1995 and the HP main frame system was put out of action.

Network Environment

The PC system used until 2004 at the CSA was a stand alone system and the resource sharing and efficient communication was a serious

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

problem. Utilization of 1.44 MB floppy diskettes was considered the efficient means of transferring files or documents among professionals. In addition, there was no centralized management of the system which was hindering the data security and management system. This gave rise to the necessity of establishing a Local Area Network (LAN) and CSA established its LAN in 2004. (See diagram below)

The CSA network at its inception connects the users at the two campuses to a centralized data center and to the internet. The connection of the two campuses was made by fiber optics cable using 100Base-FX standard.

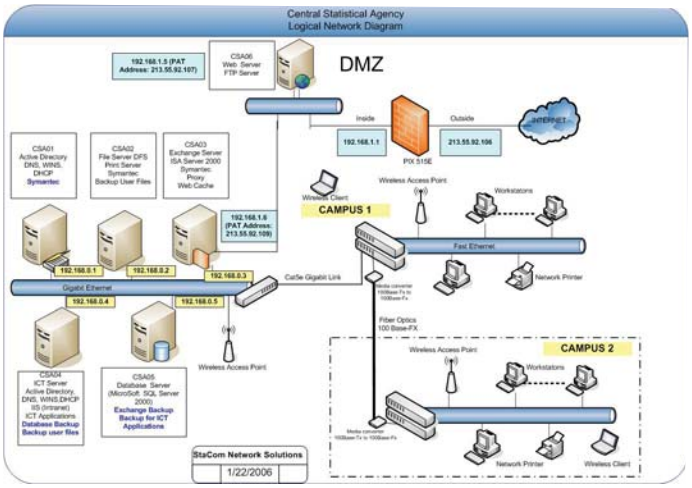
The network that the CSA has currently is an improved version of the previous network setup.

The CSA has increased the number of servers from three to nine with different functionalities.

The new network system set in place also facilitates the back up system and these days the CSA is using HP-DL 380 G5 (Generation five) Tape drives and HP Ultrium data cartridge with a capacity of 400 GB

The IT Based Dissemination System

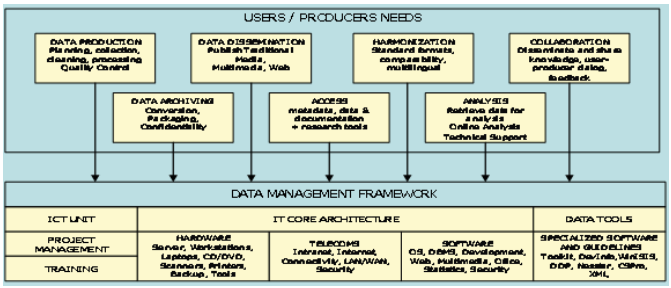
The CSA's top priority has become to aggressively improve its data collection, management and dissemination system by making an effective use of ICT. Accordingly, the Agency has given a better profile for ICT in its organizational structure and set a vision towards the improvement of ICT capacity that pursues different action plans. One of those action plans deals with setting up an IT based dissemination



system for its survey micro & macro data and related metadata. This was made possible through the following:

- Development of an integrated Central Data Bank of survey and other data and on Ethiopian Socio-Economic Database for basic indicators;
- Development of database management systems;
- Website Development;
- CD-ROM publishing;
- Comprehensive Program of Documentation of existing and new data especially related to socio-economic indicators;

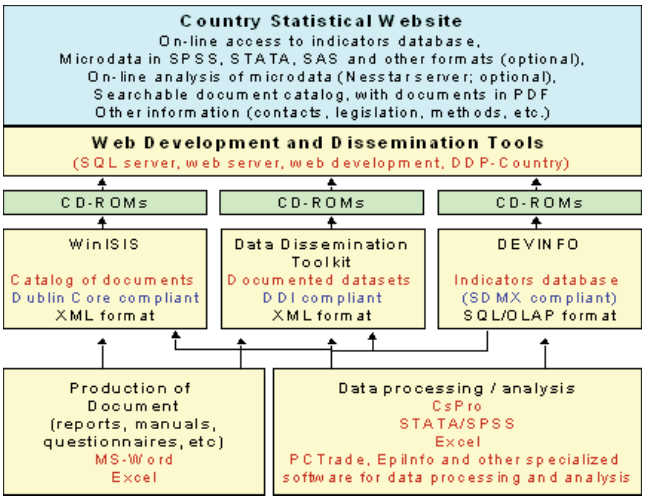
To achieve the above mentioned activities, the IT framework has been designed in accordance with international metadata recommendations and best practices in data archiving to facilitate data dissemination and metadata exchange at the global level. The picture below depicts the IT framework at CSA.



As one can see from the diagram above, the IT infrastructure is based on users/producers needs and sets up a data management framework which takes into consideration the establishment of a task performing body, IT core architecture and data archiving and dissemination tools.

The IT based archiving and dissemination system is made possible by establishing a central databank to archive all documentation and micro data obtained from various surveys and censuses and develop a user friendly system for its dissemination so as to make an easy access of the Agency's data by users. This in turn will help establishing a one-stop data shop for users.

Setting up the IT based dissemination system calls for the adoption of the standards and specialized data management tools illustrated below. These include specifications such as DDI, Dublin Core and SDMX and the use of tools like the International Household Survey Network Microdata Management Toolkit and the DevInfo.



III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

The data management framework that we are putting in place takes into account the global recommendations and best practices in micro and macro level data management and plans for step by step improvement to reach high quality online accessibility to metadata and aggregated data, online analysis and micro data access services.

Accordingly the following main achievements have been accomplished so far related to IT based archiving and dissemination system since 2004:

- A Central Databank has been established for the microdata and contains today over 5000 data and documentation files covering about 60 surveys;
- About 36 surveys have been archived using the World Bank Microdata Management Toolkit , therefore making the metadata compliant with the Data Documentation Initiative DDI-XML specifications, as recommended by the International Household Survey Network;
- CSA is able to disseminate its statistical information through its official website
- CD-ROM products have been prepared and a CD based electronic dissemination system has been put in place
- The EthioInfo database has been finalized and is available on CD-ROMs and online;
- The National data Archive (NADA) system with its efficient cataloging system is set to be available on the internet
- The price database has been developed and made available online

Scanning Technology

For the 2007 Population and Housing Census, the CSA utilized the PS 900 iM2 heavy duty scanners and the data capture has been completed in less than five months. This improves the timing of data capturing compared to the previous two censuses that the CSA had in 1984 and 1994.

Introducing GIS system

The CSA has been heavily engaged in utilization of GIS and in the last two years the following major activities were performed:

- The Production of Atlas of Ethiopian Rural Economy in collaboration with EDRI and IFPRI
- Different spatial data analyses were done and various maps have been produced using the 2004 Welfare Monitoring Survey data.

Digitized Wereda maps that show each EA with in the Wereda including the following futures are being produced

- Urban/Rural Kebele Boundaries
- Cultural and Natural Features
- Educational/Health Facilities
- Religion Centers
- Localities with in the Wereda
- Roads of any type
- Rivers
- Rail ways

Moreover, data from Satellite images has been acquired for demarcation of EAs in Somali Region and will be further utilized for development planning.

In addition, this process helped the CSA to establish its GIS infrastructure and manage and maintain its database system through the capacity building obtained.

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Highlight of Major Differences Between the 1993 SNA and the SNA-rev1

Andriantseheno Andry, African Centre for Statistics

At the 39th session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2008, the UNSC adopted the Volume 1 of the revised 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA-rev1) and recommended that countries should use it for the compilation and reporting of economic accounts. To ensure a comprehensive and transparent review process, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) agreed on the governance arrangements for the SNA update, including the project on SNA revision, led by a project manager and assisted by an editor, and the Advisory Experts Groups (AEG). The SNA-rev1 represents the outcome of wide consultations and collaboration of experts on national accounts at international, regional and national level.

As the SNA is a coordinating framework, its revision is fully consistent with that of other manuals; the revision was undertaken within a context of changes in financial innovation, trends in economic analysis and responds to globalization.

The SNA-rev1 also responds to further needs for clarifications on public sector, in terms of its many borderline issues. Major changes and clarifications on public sector data relate to public enterprises dividends, taxes on an accrual basis, privatization, sector delineation, public-private partnerships, and restructuring agencies.

III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

Globalization had raised new issues on the residency and operation of units such as internationally mobile individuals, complex corporate structures, including holding companies and special purpose entities and multi-territory enterprises.

Issues related to financial assets include pension schemes, guarantees, repurchase agreements, arrears, non-performing loans and index-linked instruments. For example employee stock options is neither part of compensations of employee nor a financial operation. Issues for non financial assets included the capitalization of some operations such as treatment of land, water, mineral exploration, capital services, military assets, research and development, originals and copies, goodwill, databases, mineral exploration and evaluation and costs of ownership transfer. Some of the changes will primarily have impact only on balance sheets and other sets of accounts, while other accounting rules such as capitalization of some operations will have major implications on the production boundaries, the level of GDP as well as on the income accounts.

In addition, there are improved methods for financial services and insurance at both current and constant prices; for example in Africa, non-life insurance was small and not subject to fluctuations due to catastrophies, therefore the optional methods to take into account volatility would not be necessary. More complex treatments are provided for such as the alternative methods of deriving adjusted claims for insurance or the reference rate approach for FISIM.

There is a changed classification of military capital items. However, the sensitivity of data on military spending is a major source of problem for African countries; hence the need for indirect approach such as fixed ratios, special confidentiality, and aggregation.

The changes to include data on capital services in the calculation of non-market output demonstrate that failing to take these into account caused biases in data. In this regard, capital services are derived in an integrated manner with data on capital stock and consumption of fixed capital, which are already generated to produce general government output.

In all, there were 44 issues requiring revision in the SNA-rev1. The mechanisms for the revision with the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) have successfully solved the bulk of the issues.

The 1993 SNA-Rev1 will consist of two volumes. Volume 1 is similar to the 1993 SNA, to ensure continuity. The numbering in chapters in Volume 1 is kept the same as in the 1993 SNA up to and through the sequence of accounts (Chapter 13). The additional Volume (2) will be dedicated to interpretations and extensions of the accounts and tables. The Volume 2 will contain new and separate chapters, among others, on informal aspects of the economy, on non-profit institutions, and on population and labor, and will provide clear guidelines in addressing the problems of African countries.

The implementation of the 1993 SNA-Rev1 requires additional resources at national and international levels as well as the development of practical guidelines and training material on specific and complex aspects of the SNA. This includes a manual on Quarterly National Accounts and a Handbook on capitalization of certain expenditures, the measurement of FISIM, insurance and pension schemes.

With the low implementation rate of SNA, especially in Africa, according to various assessments by ECA and the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), less than one sixth of African countries have implemented the previous version, up to milestone 2. This points to the need to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy for the 1993 SNA-Rev1 - now officially refereed to as SNA 2008. The involvement of international, regional and national organizations will be necessary, including the use of existing frameworks such as General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) and National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), with their implementation strategy, monitoring and coordination mechanisms. The high level meeting in Luxemburg organized by UNSD and EUROSTAT during 5-8 May 2008, was the first consultation at global level, while at the African level, two meetings were held to further develop an implementation strategy of the SNA 2008 (see next article).

Volume I is already adopted by the 39th UNSC and ECA and partners are planning to use it as training materials for planned workshops. ECA in collaboration with UNSD, the SNA revision projects and partners, will conduct extensive dissemination and advocacy through dispatching the new manuals and organizing meetings and workshops for countries,.

This will assist African countries in implementing the new version of the SNA, namely full compliance with the concept of the SNA-Rev1 and in increased capabilities of countries to compile quality data and sets of accounts. It is noted that National Statistical Offices (NSOs) can increase their capabilities to comply with the concept of the SNA. However, they are less capable to compile the sets of accounts on a regular basis due to mainly to financial and human resources constraints.

To address these issues, the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), the coordination entity for the promotion of statistical standard in Africa, established the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) led by African Development Bank (AfDB) and ECA.

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III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

African Countries to Develop an Effective Strategy for National Accounts

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, African Development Bank

Second Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts

The Statistics Department of the African Development Bank (ADB) hosted from the 2nd to the 4th of July in Tunis, Tunisia, the second meeting of the African Group of National Accounts (AGNA). The main objective of the meeting was to design a strategy for the implementation of the revised 1993 System of National accounts (SNA 93) – designated SNA 2008 - in the African context, to follow-up on the recommendations of the first workshop of the AGNA held in Lusaka from the 7th to the 11th of April 2008, and to review the status of the submission of time series data (2003-2007) of the uses of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by African countries, and the breakdown of GDP estimates for the year 2006 according to the 200 basic headings of the ICP-Africa classification.

Representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), African Regional Economic Communities (ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC), and of AFRISTAT attended the meeting and presented progress reports on the various objectives of the meeting. National accounts experts drawn from ten African countries were also invited and participated in the workshops as well as representatives of INSEE-France, ONS-U.K., the IMF, the World Bank and the John Hopkins University (USA).

The African Strategy

A framework of strategic lines and strategic objectives was proposed by the ADB and endorsed by the workshop participants. All in all, five strategic lines were presented, with a view to optimizing the compilation of National Accounts on the continent. Each strategic line is further sub-divided into strategic objectives as shown below.

Strategic Lines		Strategic Objectives	
1			
	Provide Africa with a SNA suited to its socio-economic specificities.	1.1	Develop the first African System of National Accounts (ASNA) derived from the revised 2008 SNA
		1.2	Prepare methodological handbooks and guidelines for good practices
2	Improve the outcomes of the ICP-Africa in the context of national accounts	2.1	Increase the capacities of African countries to integrate ICP-Africa activities into routine activities.
3	Develop a time frame for national accounts production	3.1	Ensure that national accounts are produced according to a time frame that meets national, sub-regional and international requirements
		3.2	Optimize and rationalize national accounts production
4	Improve capacity in the production and analysis of national accounts	4.1	Strengthen production capacities using suitable software and methodological documents
		4.2	Improve the training in SNA-2008 compliant national accounts.
		4.3	Improve capacity in the analysis of national accounts
5	Improve the quality of source data necessary for compilation of National Accounts based on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)	5.1	Develop a system of benchmark and annual socio-economic surveys
		5.2	Develop a system of administrative sources of data
		5.3	Adopt the various international statistical systems (Balance of Payments, Government Finance Statistics, Monetary and Financial Statistics etc) in line with the system of National Accounts
		5.4	Adapt international statistical classifications to African socio-economic realities.
		5.5	Develop a framework for statistics on Non-profit institutions
		5.6	Develop a statistical system relating to development projects and programs.

Promoting the Strategy

A number of resolutions and recommendations were made after extensive deliberations during the three day meeting, and were arrived at with a view to promoting the African strategy at the international level in order to create advantageous synergy for Africa. In this regard, the recommendations of the international conference held in Luxembourg from the 6th to the 8th of May 2008 were endorsed as a reference point for leveraging a strategy of implementing the 2008 SNA in Africa. The Organizations in attendance were expected to perform certain tasks to ensure the smooth implementation of the 2008 SNA.

The ADB was tasked to ask African countries, other Regional Organizations and Sub-regional organizations (SRO) their priorities with regard to National Accounts activities and specify possible synergies

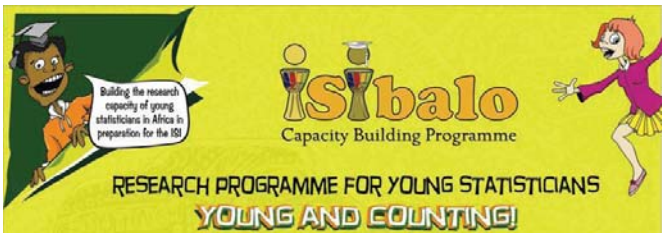
III. Statistical Development - Selected Areas

of the strategy with the ICP-Africa program. Additionally, the ADB is expected to formalize the AGNA by informing the countries and other Regional Organizations and SROs about the activities of the AGNA.

The ECA was given responsibility for gathering all the methodological guidelines on the implementation of various statistical initiatives of relevance to National Accounts activities. In conjunction with the ECA, the ADB was assigned the role of finalizing the governance structure of the African strategy which involves finalizing both the matrix of the allocation of tasks within the work plan and the strategy in conjunction with the SROs.

Representatives of SROs were expected to brief their respective managements on the progress of the strategy. The AUC was given the role of advocating for the African strategy in all African countries. Other resolutions focused on the activities of ADB, the SROs and countries on the transmission of data concerning the GDP breakdown and focal points. It was resolved that the SROs should not merely be used as data conduits from countries but should play a bigger role in the implementation of the strategy by designing specific National Accounts programs and harmonizing them with the various Regional Organizations. It was estimated that it will take five years, from January 2009, to implement the 2008 SNA in Africa in accordance with this strategy.

IV. International Statistical Institute



The 1st Africa Conference of Young Statisticians, Pretoria, South Africa, 1-3 July 2008

Miranda Mafafo, Statistics South Africa

One of Africa's major challenges has been the glaring absence of the data needed to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other development targets. Statistical development in Africa has witnessed an increase in programmes, projects and activities in recent years but these have had varied outcomes. Thus the impact of statistics has also varied in relation to development across Africa. The past ten years have witnessed an improvement in the capabilities of national statistical offices in the production of official statistics in Africa through a range of programmes initiated by regional economic communities (SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS), regional organizations (AFRISTAT, ECA, African Development Bank), universities, development partners (World Bank, PARIS21, OECD, IMF) and African national statistical offices themselves. These have been implemented within a range of frameworks, most notably, the Regional Reference Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa. (RRSF)

However, the commendable work in African statistical capacity building has by and large focused on survey and census operations, processing and dissemination. Very little attention has been paid to targeted sectors of the statistical community in Africa such as women and young statisticians. There is a need to identify potential areas of investment for long-term research in order that statisticians can contribute to new knowledge for the development of the technologies needed in Africa and thus can enhance the relevance of statistics.

The ISIbalo Capacity Building Programme has been developed as the flagship programme of the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) so as to prepare the African statistical community to participate in and contribute effectively to the current discourse on measurement, monitoring and evaluation of key development issues as well as to develop new methodologies and innovations. One of the main aims is to widely disseminate and share knowledge and best practice across Africa. In this way, ISIbalo aims, in the immediate term, to mobilize and build the capacity of the African statistical community in preparation for the 57th Session of the ISI. ISIbalo has five areas of focus:

ISIbalo-1:	Africa Statistical Research & Capacity Development
ISIbalo-2:	Africa Research Programme for Young Statisticians
ISIbalo-3:	Maths, Stats and the Girl-Child
ISIbalo-4:	The ISIbalo International Statistical Education Programme
ISIbalo-5:	Africa Women in Statistics

The First Africa Conference of Young Statisticians which was held in Pretoria, 1-3 July 2008 falls within ISIbalo-2.
(i) The increased demand for information places pressure on the statistical community for innovative statistical research to design and evaluate policy interventions. Successful initiatives are those which are demand driven with a clear link to policy.

(ii) There is a need to promote broader African and South African participation at the 57th Session of ISI in 2009 through special topics, workshops, contributed papers and special ISI Presidential sessions in order to improve the statistical contribution to developing policy programmes and interventions.

(iii) ISIbalo-2 has been established in recognition of the poor linkages between the production of official statistical and relevant policy interventions and frameworks, and the need for statistical research in support of evidence-based policy making and planning. It provides a platform for cross-pollination of ideas, the sharing of experience and the development of knowledge base on statistical developments.

(iv) The demographic profile of Africa's statistical community is relatively old and predominantly male. Insufficient opportunity is provided for the intellectual participation of young statisticians. Currently, there is no clear plan for involving young statisticians in the leadership of the profession to support Africa's development.

Thus the overriding objective of ISIbalo-2 is to accelerate the participation of young statisticians in statistical research and training, by involving them in the methodological and technological development of the discipline of statistics, and to foster the integration of the young statisticians in Africa's development processes.

ISIbalo-2 focuses on young statisticians, who may have primary degrees in statistics, demography, economics, population studies or GIS, in the early years of relevant careers in South Africa and in the SADC region. There are in addition some opportunities for the involvement of young statisticians from across the continent.

ISIbalo-2 is designed to develop research capacity and critical thinking skills of young statisticians and to encourage them to present, and publish, their research at a variety of scientific fora. This programme aims to increase the number and quality of young researchers participating in the international 57th Session of the ISI.

The First Africa Conference of Young Statisticians held in Pretoria in early July drew 228 young statisticians from 25 African countries, mainly from national statistical offices, universities, research institu-

IV. International Statistical Institute

From Left to Right: Prof Ben Kiregyera (UN Economic Commission for Africa), Prof Denise Lievesley (ISI President), Mr. Pali Lehohla (Statistician-General), Prof Richard Mkandawire (NEPAD Secretariat), Mr. Howard Gabriels (SA Statistics Council) at the opening ceremony of the 1st Africa Conference of Young Statisticians

tions and government line ministries. After the welcome address by Mr. Pali Lehohla, the Statistician General of South Africa, the conference was addressed by Hon. Trevor Manuel, the Minister of Finance of South Africa by video link from N.Y. The Minister highlighted the importance of statistics to democracy and national development, and also the need for more statisticians to support national development processes. Three keynote statements were made by Pro. Richard Mkandawire, Director of the New partnership for African development (NEPAD), Prof. Ben Kiregyera, the Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the UN Economic Commission for Africa and Prof. Denise Lievesley, the President of the ISI.

The scene for the young statisticians' conference was set by Mr. Pali Lehohla who talked about Africa's vision for statistical development in the 21st century, Prof. Jacky Galpin who talked about the 57th session of the ISI and Dr. Miranda Mafao who talked about the ISIbalo Capacity Building Programme with a focus on young statisticians. Dr. Howard Gabriels, the Chair of the Statistics Council of South Africa, chaired this session.

The conference was also attended by older statisticians who mainly chaired sessions. These included Prof. Sheryl Hendriks (University of Kwazulu, S. Africa), Dr. Louis Munyakazi (Director General, National Statistics Institute of Rwanda), Dr. Lehana Thabane (McMaster University, Canada), Mr. Zeph Nhleko (South African Reserve Bank), Dr. Ros Hirshowtitz (South Africa), Dr. Cassim Rashad (Statssa), Dr. John Kekovole (Statssa), Mr. helmo Preuss (Statssa), Dr. Vusanani Dlamini (Statssa), Mr. Oliver Chinganya (IMF), Ms. Cecilia Makupe (University of Malawi), Mr. Chibwe Lwamba (USAID, Zambia), Mr. James Mubiru (Uganda Bureau of Statistics), Dr. Hillary Southall (S. Africa), Prof. Peter Ubomba-Jaswa (University of Johannesburg, S. Africa), Mr. Vekondja Tjikuzu (Namibia), Prof. Ahmed Awad (Sudan), Prof. Robert McCaa (University of Minesotta, USA) and the oldest mathematics teachers in S. Africa - Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane and Prof. Tamsanqa Kambule.

The young statisticians presented papers on a range of topics which included the improvement of data quality in Africa; agriculture, food security and nutrition; climate change; biostatistics and the disease burden of Africa; measurement challenges of the MDGs; HIV and AIDS; business sector performance in Africa; trade and market access; African labour market dynamics, energy statistics; gender issues in education; tourism; together with other issues that affect the development of Africa today.

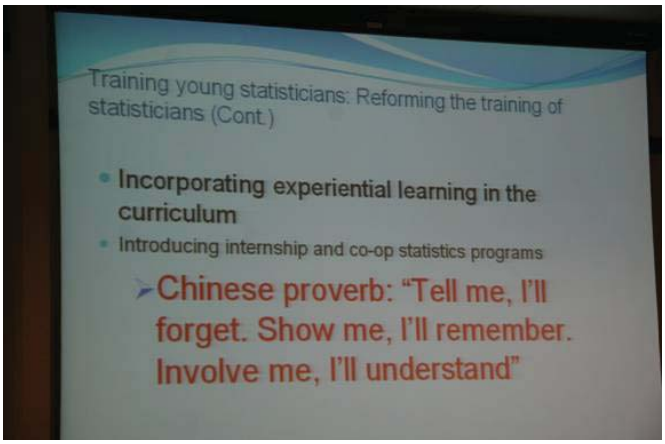
Recognizing the limited capacity to write "policy-friendly" reports, the

Young statistician, Koleka Rangaza, presenting on statistical education and the performance of the girl-child in Africa

Young statisticians from 25 African countries at the 1st Africa Conference of Young Statisticians held in Pretoria, July 2008

conference was preceded by a scientific report-writing workshop, facilitated by Dr. Lehana Thabane of McMaster University in Canada. The conference comprised a combination of parallel and plenary sessions together with roundtable discussions on topics such as data archiving and dissemination; public health, HIV /AIDS and African society; agricultural economics and statistics in data collection; energy statistics and emerging issues in labour statistics in Africa.

IV. International Statistical Institute



Dr. Lehana Thabane's presentation on "Reforming the Training of Young Statisticians in Africa"

In addition to presentations, roundtable meetings were organized on Data Archiving, Public Health, HIV/AIDS and African Society, Applications of Agricultural Economic and Statistics in Data Collection, Energy Statistics and Emerging Issues in Labour Statistics in Africa.

A multi-disciplinary advisory team from across Africa had been established to assist in mentoring and coaching the participating young statisticians. It is to be hoped that as many as possible of these young statisticians will be able to participate in the ISI Session in Durban, presenting papers there with even more confidence and assurance because of their opportunity to rehearse at the First Africa Conference of Young Statisticians.

Some additional comments by senior participants:

Denise Lievesley, International Statistical Institute

For a significant proportion of these young people this was their first opportunity to speak about their research or work at a conference, and to gain from the feedback they received there. The content and quality of the presentations were extremely high and I was particularly struck by the social commitment demonstrated in so many papers. The enthusiasm and talent of these young people is remarkable. It is to be hoped that as many of them as possible will build on this experience by contributing to national statistical society meetings or even to the ISI in Durban if they are successful at getting support to do so.

In the unique way that Africans have of combining fun with serious work the conference managed to be both a milestone scientific event and a great party. We were entertained by a Zulu dancing troupe and by children's choirs from two schools. There was a wonderful South African braai and a dance where the air crackled with the energy of the dancers – there are no 'wall flowers' at African dances!

One of the highlights was a very special dinner for female statisticians to celebrate the increasing number of young women who are making a positive impact on our profession. We were entranced by a speech of 88 year old Mathematics teacher Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane who told us of her long career and her commitment to the education of the African child.

The conference was a foretaste of the ISI 2009, and, based on this, I have no hesitation in recommending that you put Durban firmly in your diaries.

Ben Kiregyera, African Centre for Statistics

The whole idea of this conference resonates well with the vision I and some of my contemporaries have about the need to start producing statisticians for the 21st century in Africa. Statistics South Africa and its leadership must be commended for not only seeing the need to produce such statisticians but also for taking concrete measures including the conception of ISIbalo programme, to contribute towards meeting this need. And this conference which was fully funded by Statistics South Africa as part of the South African "generosity of spirit" must challenge those involved in statistical capacity building in Africa to give special attention to young statisticians.

The conference was remarkable. Not only was it well organized and well attended (so many young men and women) but also it revealed tremendous potential among young statisticians in Africa to take over from the present generation of statisticians and sustain statistical systems and development in the motherland. A good number of the papers were just brilliant. The conference gave most young statisticians their first opportunity to attend and present a paper at a conference – this was a learning experience for most of them. Secondly, the conference provided unique opportunities for the young statisticians from many countries to meet, share experiences and network. Thirdly, the presence of great names in statistics and the messages they delivered must have become a source of inspiration to the young statisticians.

The African Centre for Statistics is proud to have Statistics South Africa as a great partner in supporting evidence-based policy and decision-making in Africa by assisting to build capacity to produce and use development statistics.

Lehana Thabane , McMaster University in Canada

A great conference! It opened and closed the African way – with great African beat! This was the first conference of its nature in Africa, aimed at providing young African statisticians with an opportunity to showcase their research work, to network with colleagues from other African states and institutions and learn from the "elders". Most of the young attendees experienced both the nervousness and delight of attending and presenting their research at a statistical meeting for the first time. The mentees were well prepared for the task

IV. International Statistical Institute

and this showed during most of the presentations. I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm among the young statisticians and the friendly constructive atmosphere that prevailed throughout the conference – which were in harmony with the capacity-building goals. The conference was enriched by the attendance of several prominent statisticians (see above list) – who shared their wisdom with young people through feedback during presentations and discussions during breaks. This was a great occasion for our young African statisticians to learn from their mentors. As the Chinese proverb says "A single conversation with a wise man is better than ten years of study". This opportunity for interactions and exchange of ideas laid the ground work for further improvements in capacity building efforts for the development of statistics in Africa – particularly in the areas of practical mentoring in preparation for ISI 2009.

We thank Dr. Miranda Mafafo, the conference organizer, and her team of enthusiastic, energetic young people from Statistics South Africa, for putting on such a great show. To Mr Pali, the SA Statistician General, we extend our gratitude for your leadership and vision of advancing statistics in Africa. Cheers to the mentors who generously gave their time to guide, coach and advise; to the young people who worked tirelessly to prepare and present their work at the conference – some with limited resources; to the people of South Africa, who welcomed all the delegates from different countries with great warmth – many worked behind the scenes to make all of us feel at home. We acknowledge with gratitude the three keynote speakers - Professors Richard Mkandawire, Ben Kiregyera, and Denise Lievesley – for their inspiring message of hope and ideas for maintaining the desire for statistical inquiry to our young African statisticians. Finally and most importantly, we applaud the South African government for their generous support for the conference without which this unique capacity-building initiative would not have been possible. Yes, it was a good time "to be an African"! A great time to be an African statistician!

Pali Lehohla, Statistician Genera of South Africa

When approached by Dr. Mafafo in October 2007 about a brilliant idea, I retorted that it would never fly, it is too late, we have attempted a number of times in Statssa and at South African Statistics Association and the Population Association of Southern Africa and the response has always been poor. A good idea that I had no belief could fly. It was an idea I bought into but remained acutely skeptical of its success. It remained in the realm of nice dreams.

The team mobilized locally and shook our offices in the provinces and I was not disappointed. On the continent, the levels of participation were quite high and it was encouraging to see the Kenyan and Tanzanian scholars who participated in our South African Statistical Association young statistician competition emerge again. The Ugandan statistics community had good numbers and intellectual presence. By the way when we had to answer some of our capacity building questions, the Institute of Statistics, and Applied Economics at Makerere University became our answer and the impact was really profound when one looked at these African folk from South Africa and Uganda engage as former student colleagues and at times rattle away in Swahili.

The conference sealed our belief that to make Africa work, Africans have to work. The President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, will be pleased to know that the African Renaissance is taking root in statistics. The young statisticians have asked one of the most successful Ministers in his Cabinet, Hon. Trevor Manuel, the Minister of Finance, to be the Patron for the Young African Statisticians and they can be assured that this matter in Minister Manuel's hands has only one outcome, success. Young African Statisticians have set the agenda and the tone for the deliverance of a better Africa. The second conference will be in Durban for the week of 10 to 15 August 2009 and will precede the 57th Session of the ISI. Young African Statisticians will have the rare opportunity to attend this male and white dominated conference and begin to make their contribution to the creation of knowledge. Africa has to stake its claim and space not by empty slogans, freebees and handouts but by participating as potential equals in the creation and application of knowledge. The time is now.

Young statisticians relaxing during a tea break

For more information on the ISIbalo Capacity Building Programme:

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Office of the Statistician-General
Statistics South Africa

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Fax: (012) 336 – 0190
Email: MirandaM@statssa.gov.za
Website: www.statssa.gov.za

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Octogenarian Pioneers in the Teaching of Mathematics in South Africa

Miranda Mafafo and Pali Lehohla, Statistics South Africa

Five years ago, the Minister of Finance responsible for statistics, Hon. Trevor Manuel, identified the development of a numerate society as one of the paramount challenges faced by South Africa's new democracy.

The building of capacity in mathematics, statistics and science was devastatingly interrupted as part of apartheid's social engineering project, with the Bantu Education Act No. 47 of 1953 becoming a pillar of the apartheid project, consciously destroying a generation of scientists, mathematicians and statisticians. This intention was well-captured on 17 September 1953 when apartheid architect then prime minister of South Africa, Dr HF Verwoerd asked Parliament 'what is the use of teaching the Bantu child mathematics when it cannot use it in practice?'.

The debilitating effects of underdevelopment, economic depression, unemployment, war, poverty and gender discrimination combined with apartheid policy and practice wreaked havoc on the education of the majority of South Africans. The social, political, economic and personal effects of this continue today.

It is against this scourge of innumeracy that President Nelson Mandela when interviewed about still being very alert even in his advanced age, Mandela's response and advice to the young generation was and still is that they should study mathematics and practice it for at least thirty minutes every day.

Against these odds, a group of educational pioneers, who are the age of Mandela, bravely fought the effects of apartheid education, and today as we celebrate Mandela's 90th birthday, we are equally exited to be able to celebrate the lives of South Africa's oldest educators in mathematics, who have become beacons of hope for the statistical community. In August 2006, Statistics South Africa appointed two renowned octogenarians and experts in mathematics, Professor Tamsanqa Kambule and Mr. Frans Jenneker (deceased), as ambassadors, thereby acknowledging their contribution to education and affirming the role that senior citizens can play in education in a democratic South Africa. Mr Jenneker, after 82 years of fighting odds, got involved in a car accident and the world of aspirant mathematicians was robbed of this fine teacher who had committed himself to continuously training South Africans as they extricate themselves from the ravages of apartheid. Mrs Nontsikelelo Qwelane, was appointed a third ambassador, with special acknowledgement of her role in education for the girl-child in South Africa. We are privileged to present to you Professor Tamsanqa Kambule and Mrs Nontsikelelo Qwelane.

Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane

Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane was born in 1920 at Manzama in the Transkei, now part of the Eastern Cape, South Africa, but designated a homeland under apartheid South Africa. One of eight children, she left the area after getting married, and sought work in Cape Town, then the Transvaal. With laws discriminating against married women, especially in the work place, she was forced into a nomadic lifestyle, and found herself in the then Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga) town of Barberton, where she became principal of Barberton Lower Primary School between 1958 and 1968.

Now 88, Mrs Qwelane still teaches at Nelspruit's Metropolitan College, where the Mpumalanga education authorities recently acknowledged her as the oldest practising teacher in South Africa.

'Gogo' (grandmother) to the fifth power, as her learners fondly call her, matriculated in 1936 and was then enrolled for a three-year teachers' course, qualifying in 1939. Her teaching career started in 1940 at All Saints Training School in Engcobo in the Eastern Cape. She has taught at and headed several schools and lectured to University of South Africa (Unisa) students in her long and varied career.

Mrs. Qwelane has never stopped studying and learning. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975, a Diploma in Development Studies in 1983, a Higher Education Diploma in 1993 and a Bachelor of Education degree in 1996, all undertaken through Unisa. As if that was not enough, Gogo then registered for a Master's degree in Public Administration with the University of Pretoria in 1998.

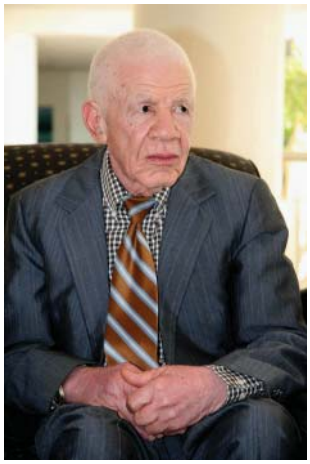
Gogo has been teaching English, Mathematics and Geography all her working life. In her current job at Metropolitan College, she serves as part of the institution's senior management team, is a member of the disciplinary committee, and also responsible for the school choir that is so close to her heart.

Apart from being a veteran teacher, she is also a lifelong learner and has four degrees, all from Unisa.

"I stopped studying in 1998, when I got my Masters in Public Ad-

IV. International Statistical Institute

ministration, because people were saying you're studying for your grave," she says with a smile.



Prof Tamsanqa Kambule

Prof. Tamsanqa Kambule's long career as an educationist began in 1947 and although he attempted retirement in 1997, he has continued consulting from home, helping learners to develop and refine their mathematical skills.

He started teaching in Rhodesia with a sprinkling of students from Nyasaland, subsequently teaching mathematics in South Africa, Swaziland and in Zambia. His stay in Zambia was short lived as he contracted tropical fever and had to come back to South Africa. He then taught in Transvaal and later headed Soweto's Orlando High School for many years where, among many others, Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu and the grandchildren of his peer and friend, Nelson Mandela, passed through his caring hands.

In 1977 the University of Witwatersrand invited Professor Kambule to join its staff as a mathematics lecturer. He declined that offer, but a year later began a ten-year stint at the university, where he became its first black professor of mathematics, writing a number of textbooks. In 1995, he joined the Technology College in Midrand as the head of the college, remaining in that post until 1997.

Professor Kambule received an honorary doctorate in science from the University of Fort Hare, South Africa in May 2004. In 2006 he became the first person ever to receive honorary membership of the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA). Recently, he has raised concerns over the diminishing number of teachers who teach what he refers to as the 'queen of sciences'. Revered for his motivational skills and dedication in educating young students, Professor Kambule recently retired due to illness, but continues to teach young learners mathematics in the comfort of his home.

In 1999, he was honoured by the then Deputy President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, for his outstanding achievements in mathematics and education. Paying special tribute to this beacon of hope, the Deputy President noted that,

"*Professor Kambule, who has dedicated his whole life to education, is a man who has always seen research as a permanent activity. He is a mathematician who thinks that there are unifying laws behind all things.*

And, above all, he believes fully that education is about humility. 'The more educated you are, the more humble you should become,' are the very words that come from Professor Kambule himself …Professor Kambule is one of that rare breed of academics, who never allowed apartheid and its Bantu Education, to get the better of them, who always believed in fighting for change on the education front, even if this meant at great personal cost to himself.

Despite all the obstacles which apartheid put in his path, he continued without fear in educating and instilling many generations of black students with the skills of mathematics and the skills of life.

Some of his students are here with us today and many of them occupy key positions in South African society. Like your old teacher, you too are working towards creating a better life for us all. Without him, you may have been lost.

When I think of Professor Kambule, I am reminded of the past, where long before the coming of Western education, we had in African society those - whom we called - men and women of practical wisdom.

These were not men and women who had gone to a university or a technical college, but they were men and women chosen because of their knowledge of society. They would give guidance, provide advice on governance and ensure social interaction …

Professor Kambule through his trust has placed us on the right road in realising …the dream that the city, the country can be a vast network of thoughts - not streets, not crime - but a network of thoughts. Let us build on this dream so that our country can become a place of which we are truly proud".

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Developing Mathematics and Statistics: Young Trail-blazers Partner with Statistics South Africa

Miranda Mafafo, Statistics South Africa

Victor Sebothoma addressing teachers at an ISIbalo workshop in Cape Town, March 2007

In August 2006 Statistics South Africa's attention was drawn to a newspaper article about a young man called Victor Sebothoma who was teaching Mathematics in a remote school outside Hammanskraal, Pretoria. Victor Sebothoma was 24 years old then and cherished a love for Mathematics and a desire to see the African child excel in Mathematics, a subject he loved but was denied when he was a young boy.

To achieve this dream he taught at a local village school. Between 1004 and 2006, he brought the school's results for mathematics up from 13% to 46%, and from 23% to 64% in Physical Science.

Statistics South Africa convinced Victor to become part of the ISIbalo Capacity Building Programme, where he helped develop a Student Volunteer Program. Assisted by Statistics South Africa, Victor enrolled for a Bachelor of Education Degree (majoring in mathematics) at the University of Pretoria. Within the Student Volunteer Program he has incorporated 18 student teachers of Mathematics drawn from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education, who go out into the nearby village schools every Saturday morning to give children extra lessons in mathematics and statistics. Currently the 18 student teachers are teaching over 500 learners at Saturday school, who attend faithfully every Saturday morning, neatly dressed in their full school uniform, eager to learn as much as they can from the young student teachers. Statistics South Africa's commitment to this Saturday school initiative has been to provide transport and teaching resources for the student teachers led by Victor Sebothoma. Recently, the student teachers have started teaching mathematics in one of South Africa's juvenile prisons.

In addition to sponsoring the annual Congress of the Association of Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA), Statistics South Africa also sponsored the student teachers of Mathematics to attend the 14th Annual Congress of AMESA held in July 2008.

Victor and the other student teachers will attend the 57th Session of the International Statistics Institute to be held in Durban in August 2009. They will take part in facilitating some of the Mathematics and Statistics activities for learners that will take place at the ISIbalo Activity Centre and will also assist Dr. Juana Sanchez to moderate the International Statistical Literacy Project Competition examination.

Six student teachers at the 13th Congress of AMESA, White River, South Africa, 2007

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IV. International Statistical Institute

Latest News on ISI Congress in Durban August 2009

Denise Lievesley, African Centre for Statistics

Registration

Registration for the Conference is now open see http://www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009

All registration fees include full access to the conference venue, including scientific sessions, exhibition and poster areas, as well as transport to and from the official hotels. Accompanying persons may not present papers or posters.

Delegates and students:

Conference bag
Session material
Lunch vouchers Monday, Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday
Opening and closing ceremonies
Reception Sunday 16 August
Gala dinner Saturday 22 August
Beach party Tuesday 18 August
Airport transfers
Hotel/ICC shuttle services (daily)

Accompanying persons:

Conference bag
Opening and closing ceremonies
Reception Sunday 16 August
Gala dinner Saturday 22 August
Beach party Tuesday 18 August
Airport transfers
Hotel/ICC shuttle services (daily)
Lunch vouchers (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday) can be purchased

Day registration (Sunday to Saturday): **Available to South African** residents only.
Conference bag
Session material
Lunch voucher

Contributing to the conference

The ISI scientific programme comprises four components:

- Invited Paper Meetings (IPMs). These meetings are largely finalised. The topics being addressed are listed on the ISI website at www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009 which also contains contact details for the organisers of the IPMs.
- Special Topic Contributed Paper Meetings (STCPMs). There are still opportunities to organise meetings on a particular topic or aspect of statistics of your choice. Each STCPM will be allocated a slot of two and a quarter hours. The format of the meeting is flexible – you may want to include a number of short presentations, or fewer more substantial papers, or you could organise a panel discussion. We welcome innovation and look forward to your contributions! If you would like to discuss your ideas please contact Professor Tim Dunne, Chair: Local Scientific Programme, by email Tim.Dunne@uct.ac.za as soon as possible.
- **Contributed Paper Meetings (CPs).** Please consider submitting a contributed paper to the Durban conference. You have until 13 April 2009 to submit your abstract on any topic within the very broad field of statistical theory, methods, application or education, but please do not leave this until the last minute as it helps our South African colleagues to have as much notice as possible regarding the contributed papers. We will aim to include as many of the contributed papers as possible but you will be asked if you would be prepared to present a poster if there is no room left in the contributed paper meetings. We will attempt to group contributed papers according to their content and it will help with this process if you can select one or more of the categories offered on the registration form which best describes your paper. Contributed paper authors are typically offered 15 minutes for their presentation.
- **Posters.** An alternative to offering a contributed paper is to prepare a poster on a topic of your choice. If selected you will be asked to bring your poster with you to Durban and you will be allocated a time slot and display space so that you can explain your research/work to interested participants and answer their questions. There will be prizes for the best posters and our intention is that this should be a fun part of the conference, at which we particularly welcome contributions from students and other young statisticians.

Deadlines

13 April 2009	Submission of the final manuscripts of invited papers. If the paper has not been received, the IPM Organiser may withdraw the author from the programme
27 April 2009	Deadline for each IPM and STCPM Organiser to provide the Local Programme Committee with a meeting schedule, indicating the order of presentation and specific time allocated for each author and discussant, for inclusion in the Conference Week Programme
15 May 2009	Registration deadline for all authors of both invited and contributed papers, invited meeting organisers and discussants, as well as poster presented

IV. International Statistical Institute

30 June 2009	Local Programme Committee to notify organisers, authors and discussants of date and time of meeting, order of presentations within meeting and to put the programme on the website.
25 Sept. 2009	Dissemination Embargo date. Final papers of registered authors to be available for viewing via the Session website

African legacy projects

The ISIbalo Capacity Building Programme has been designed to facilitate participation of Africa's statistical community in the debates over key issues on measurement, monitoring and evaluation of development and to encourage the improvement of statistical methodologies and foster innovations. Its five focus areas aim to mobilize and build the capacity of the African statistical community in preparation for the 57th Session of the ISI in order to ensure that the ISI leaves a lasting legacy on the continent. They cover

- Statistical Research and Capacity Development
- Training and support for Young Statisticians (see the report on the young statisticians conference on page …)
- Maths, Stats and the Girl-Child
- The Statistical Education Programme
- Africa Women in Statistics

Events and activities in relation to these African Legacy Projects are being designed to take place at the ISI congress and we are seeking ways to involve participants in these.

Social programme and tours

The Social Programme will be a highlight of the 57th Session of the ISI and is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to relax and experience a taste of South African cuisine and culture and maximize networking opportunities.
Durban is an excellent location for a family holiday and there will be many options for half and one day tours during the ISI congress for participants and accompanying people. Wednesday afternoon is free for exploring the city, lazing on the beach or taking trips to the beautiful surrounding country.

South Africa is "A World in One Country" – one of breathtaking scenery and interesting history. Your ISI 2009 team has designed special ISI 2009 tours to many of our major tourist attractions. Please visit our web site for a selection of tours or tailor-make your tour to your own requirements.

Opening and closing ceremonies

The conference will open on Sunday afternoon (16 August) with a ceremony incorporating cultural displays and an informal dinner. It will close with an exciting closing ceremony followed by a gala dinner on Saturday evening (22 August). All of these are included in the registration fee for all participants and accompanying persons. Plan your dates of travel well to prevent missing out on these memorable occasions!
Entry information
Requirements for entering South Africa
You will need the following:

- A valid visa, for specified countries (see information on visas below)
- Sufficient funds
- A return or onward ticket
- Yellow fever certificates will be needed by some African participants. Visit http://www.travelclinic.co.za for more information

Passports

Please make sure that you have at least TWO EMPTY PAGES in your passport before travelling to South Africa and that your passport is valid for at least six months after your departure from South Africa.

Visas

Please access http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/visas.asp to view the list of countries whose citizens currently require a visa for South Africa. Note that this list is subject to change.

If you do require a visa, you must apply and receive your visa BEFORE your departure for South Africa. Visas are not issued at South African ports of entry and if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to South Africa.

Please check as soon as possible whether you need a visa and apply for one well in advance. We suggest that you check again before you travel to make sure that there are no changes to the list of nationalities exempt from visas. The ISI office in The Hague and the South African team are ready to assist with your application (such as supplying letters of invitation) but this help will be less effective at the last minute. Any enquiries can be directed to us by email at isi2009@globalcon.co.za

Security and safety information

The South African organisers of the conference do appreciate that some participants may be concerned about security and safety. Creating a safe and secure environment for our guests during ISI 2009 is of paramount importance to us and you can rest assured that detailed plans are in place to address this issue.

IV. International Statistical Institute

What actions are being taken to ensure that you have a pleasant and memorable visit to Durban in 2009?

- Participants to the conference will be met at their point of entry into South Africa, and guided though the airport formalities and - if they arrive at a different airport - will be helped with the transfer to Durban
- Transport will be provided to and from the airport to the conference hotels
- All the conference hotels have been vetted and are in acceptable locations
- Transport will be provided to the International Conference Centre (ICC) from the conference hotels at key points in the day
- In addition there is to be a new public bus system by August next year which will be running a service around the centre of the city every few minutes
- Briefing meetings have been held with the Durban City Metro Police who are very experienced at supporting international conferences and will be aware of our particular programme
- The ICC is in a pleasant location and has excellent security systems and staff – participants and accompanying persons will have automated passes to get into the Centre
- Security guidance will be provided to every participant and updates posted in the hotels and in the ICC
- Security advice will be available in the ICC

So... what makes Durban a great destination for ISI 2009?

- Durban, according to the latest published data, has the lowest crime rate of all the major cities in South Africa
- It is a very popular holiday destination for families in South Africa
- Durban has hosted many large international conferences without incident including the United Nations Conference against Racism, and the 13th International AIDS Conference both of which attracted more than 13 000 delegates. Other high profile events include the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the Southern African Economic Summit, hosted by the World Economic Forum (for an unprecedented three years running) and over 70 international events since ICC opened in 1997. More recently, the 2nd Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning attracted Ministers and delegates from 60 countries.
- Durban was recently ranked as the No. 1 International conference destination in Africa by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) – testimony to its ability to host successful International events.
- ICC Durban was ranked as the No. 1 Convention Centre in Africa by the International Travel Awards in 2001.

For more information on Durban visit the website www.durban.kzn.org.za

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International Statistical Literacy programme announcement

Those of you interested in keeping up to date with developments in the International Statistical Literacy programme, which was featured in the June 2008 issue of the African Statistics Newsletter, might wish to access the web site http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/newsletter which contains the latest ISLP newsletter and other information.

IV. International Statistical Institute

New African Members of the International Statistical Institute

ACS would like to congratulate the following members of the African statistical community on their recent election to Membership of the International Statistical Institute.

- Dr. Grace Bediako, Government Statistician, Ghana
- Prof. Jacky Galpin, South Africa

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A New Executive Secretary for the ISI Congress in Durban Appointed

Denise Lievesley, ACS

Dr. Jairo Arrow

The team organising the ISI congress in Durban (16 – 22 August 2009) has been strengthened by the appointment of Dr. Jairo Arrow as Executive Secretary. We are happy to report this news and also that Prof. Jacky Galpin remains a key and very active member of the local organizing team. Dr. Miranda Mafafo also remains involved, pioneering the ISIbalo projects.

We thought that readers of this newsletter might appreciate a little of the background of Jairo. He is currently Deputy Statistician-General, Methodology and Standards, Statistics South Africa where his key responsibilities are:

- Methodology
- Standards
- Business Register

and now the ISI congress!

He has worked at Statistics South Africa in various positions since early 1997. Jairo was born in the Sudan and did his first degree in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Khartoum/American University of Beirut graduating in 1973. His Masters and PhD were both obtained in Mathematical Statistics at University of Bremen, Germany.

Prior to joining Statistics South Africa he was an academic holding teaching posts at the University of the North, South Africa; University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe; Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; and University of Bremen, Germany.

For a period of over four years in the first part of the 1990s Jairo was a Senior Researcher at the University of Bremen where he undertook research into relationship between health and unemployment, using health insurance data and the German Socio-economic Panel, This work led to a number of important publications on this topic. Jairo has many other publications on a wide range of topics including measuring infant mortality and the compilation and use of business registers.

Dr Arrow is currently a member of the Council of the International Association of Survey Statisticians, a Section of the ISI.

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IV. International Statistical Institute

Announcing the 2009 IAOS Prize for Young Statisticians

Prizes

€1,500

Invitation to the ISI Session in Durban, South Africa, in June 2009

Airfare and Hotel Accommodation for the ISI Session

An opportunity to present their paper at the Session

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2 years of IAOS membership

A certificate of award from the IAOS acknowledging their success in this competition

2nd Place - €1000, 2 years of IAOS membership and certificate;

3rd Place - €500, 2 years of IAOS membership and certificate

The field of official statistics offers great challenges and opportunities. To encourage more young statisticians to take an active interest in official statistics, the IAOS is again sponsoring a competition for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. In addition to the monetary prize, the winner(s) will be invited to present the paper in one of the IAOS sessions at the 57th ISI Session in Durban, South Africa 16-22 August 2009.

Young statisticians are invited to submit a paper not to exceed ten pages on a topic of their choice. We encourage submitters to address pressing issues in the area of official statistics. The paper will be judged by an international panel based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit;
- Originality;
- Applicability of ideas in statistical offices; and
- Quality of the exposition.

The decision of the panel will be final. Prizes will only be awarded if papers of significant quality are submitted. To be eligible, you must:

- be under the age of 35 on 1 January 2009;
- be employed by an official statistics agency; and
- be prepared to travel to Durban in August 2009 to present the paper.

Please submit papers, preferably in MS Word format, to JMadans@cdc.gov. If you have any questions, she will be happy to assist you.

The deadline for submissions is **27 February 2009**. The winners will be announced by the end of **April 2009**.

IV. International Statistical Institute

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI) invites applications for the position of DIRECTOR of the ISI - based in the Netherlands

The ISI is a professional society, established in 1885, with individual and institutional members in over 120 countries. Its objective is to promote the understanding, development and good practice of Statistics worldwide.

The ISI comprises a central core of eminent statisticians and seven Sections, each focusing on a different area of statistics. Since 1853, the ISI has held prestigious biennial world congresses. Nowadays, these are hosted by national governments and bring together several thousand statisticians. In addition, numerous smaller meetings and conferences take place under the auspices of the ISI Sections. The publishing of several professional journals and the ISI Newsletter completes the ISI portfolio.

To service and support the members of ISI and its Sections, the ISI has a Permanent Office as its administrative hub.

The Director reports to the Executive Committee (EC) of the ISI. He or she is responsible for designing in collaboration with the EC the strategy and policy of the ISI and for implementing these in the operation of the ISI.

Key elements are:

- to prepare annual business plans and budgets;
- to manage finances of the Institute and its Sections;
- to liaison and communicate with national statistical societies, other professional organisations, international agencies, national governments and non-governmental organisations;
- to expand both income and membership services to further the aims of the ISI;
- to manage the ISI staff;
- to ensure sound relationships with Statistics Netherlands, the host of the ISI Office.
- candidates must ideally fulfill the following requirements:
- a university degree;
- an interest in, and understanding of, the role of statistics;
- proven commercial, financial, IT, staff management and motivational skills;
- senior management experience, preferably within a voluntary professional or charitable organisation;
- ambassadorial and advocacy skills with a proven ability to communicate effectively;
- fluency in spoken and written English.

This is a challenging and exciting post in an international environment. The salary and benefits are competitive with senior positions in government or academia. The ISI is prepared to discuss a part-time appointment for exceptional candidates.

Interested candidates are invited to apply before 15th of November. Letters of application in electronic form explaining your interest in the post and outlining your relevant experience should be sent, together with a CV, to the e-mail address of the ISI Permanent Office for the attention of Prof. Denise Lievesley, President of the ISI, isi@cbs.nl.

For further information, see http://isi.cbs.nl or contact Wim Senden, Interim Director (w.senden@cbs.nl, +31-70-3375737).

V. African Statistics Day

2008 African Statistics Day Celebrations

Communiqué

African Centre for Statistics

"Challenges of Rising Food Prices and Agricultural Development in Africa: the Role of Statistics"

November 18 is African Statistics Day. This day was adopted in May 1990 by the twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Sixteenth Meeting of African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development to be celebrated each year in order to *"increase public awareness about the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life"* of our countries and the continent.

The theme for the celebrations this year is: Challenges of Rising Food Prices and Agricultural Development in Africa: the Role of Statistics.

Agriculture remains the dominant sector in most African economies. The sector contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), national exports and employment. In addition, most industries and services in African countries are based on this sector. It is obvious that the health of the agricultural sector has a huge impact on the rural poor, but the urban poor too depend on agriculture because basic foodstuffs account for the larger part of their total expenditure. The planned expansion and improved efficiency of the agricultural sector, therefore, provides opportunities for increasing wealth, reducing poverty and for setting African countries on the path to sustainable development.

The recent escalation of food prices and the reports of food crises in East Africa threaten economic growth, peace and security. Thus the prospects for meeting development goals set out *nationally* in wealth creation and poverty reduction strategies and other sectoral development programmes, *regionally* in initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and *internationally* through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are detrimentally impacted. The increasing disparities in African Societies resulting from rising prices and food shortages highlight the need for more concerted efforts at national and regional level to harness the potential of the agricultural sector for national development, and to understand the effects of environmental changes on agriculture. The Ministerial panel discussion on topical special and economic issues during the Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 31 March to 2 April 2008 noted that *"For this to happen, there is a need for structural transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa, anchored on better use of science and technology, infrastructure expansion and market access to increase yields and productivity"*. The NEPAD has formulated a collective agenda - A Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) – aimed at generating a 6% annual growth of agricultural gross domestic product, reducing poverty and achieving food and nutrition security. The main goal of CAADP is to help African countries achieve greater economic growth through agriculture-led development. The Programme is anchored in four pillars that summarise the key priority areas for investment in African Agriculture, including: a) land and water management; b) rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access; c) increasing food supply and reducing hunger; and d) agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Although CAADP is of a continental scope, its implementation mechanisms involve regional and country level roundtables aimed at developing and building consensus among stakeholders on investment programs, funding arrangements, sector policies, and review and dialogue that are required to ensure that each country fully buys in the Programme. CAADP thus aims to ensure that the promotion of agricultural sector growth is an integral part of national development efforts.

The planning, management and monitoring of the agricultural sector should be based on sound evidence, given its importance to the economy and well being of African nations. This in turn requires sustained availability of comprehensive, reliable and consistent statistical data and information in a timely manner and in a format that promotes their informed use. Such data and information are a critical resource essential to enlighten policy and programme design and implementation, to measure progress, and to report on development outcomes. They are also needed for other purposes such as input into national accounts.

Lack of quality data on agriculture and related topics remains a major constraint to agricultural development in many African countries. Although African countries have a tradition spanning a period of about four decades of collecting agricultural statistics, they have by and large not developed structured National Agricultural Statistical Systems with well-defined objectives and a strategic direction. The current systems are fragile, largely uncoordinated and unintegrated in overall national statistical systems, insufficiently resourced and essentially unsustainable. Many countries have not undertaken a census of agriculture in the recent past whereas such data are critical to obtaining an accurate picture of the structure and organization of the agricultural sector. Similarly, many countries are not undertaking agricultural surveys on a regular basis and as a consequence lack current agricultural data to measure the performance of policies and programmes over time. Data from administrative sources such as the agricultural reporting services are often incomplete and are difficult to link data with socio-economic data from agricultural households.

A narrow focus on economic growth can give a misleading picture of the health and wellbeing of our people. Economic growth is a necessary but not sufficient condition. Often it can be an indicator of an increase in cash crops and the result can be greater disparities between the wealthiest and the poorest in a country. As statisticians we have a responsibility to measure the distribution of resources within our countries. To this end an important component of our data armoury is a living standards household survey. Better information is needed on nutrition and its impact on the health of the people.

The African Day Celebrations this year, therefore, aim to highlight the need for countries to do more to improve the collection, management and use of agricultural data and information for national development, and to build an understanding of the ways in which the detrimental effects of climate change on agricultural production might be mitigated.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa wishes you success in all the activities you will undertake in the celebration of African Statistics Day.

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V. African Statistics Day

Célébration de la Journée africaine de la statistique 2008

Communiqué

Centre africain pour la statistique

«Défis de la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires et du développement agricole en Afrique: le rôle des statistiques»

Le 18 novembre marque la Journée africaine de la statistique. C'est en mai 1990 que la vingt-cinquième session de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA)/seizième réunion des ministres africains de la planification et du développement économique a décidé qu'une journée de la statistique sera célébrée chaque année afin de *«sensibiliser le grand public au rôle important que jouent les statistiques dans tous les aspects de la vie sociale et économique dans nos pays et sur le continent.»*

Le thème: Défis de la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires et du développement agricole en Afrique: le rôle des statistiques a été retenu pour la célébration de cette année.

L'agriculture demeure le secteur dominant dans la plupart des économies africaines. Elle contribue notablement au produit intérieur brut (PIB), aux exportations nationales et à la création d'emplois. En outre, la plupart des industries et des services dans les pays africains dépendent de ce secteur. Il va sans dire que la bonne santé du secteur agricole a un impact considérable sur les pauvres vivant en milieux ruraux, mais également sur ceux des milieux urbains, qui consacrent une grande part du total de leurs dépenses à l'achat de denrées alimentaires de base. L'élargissement prévu du secteur agricole et l'amélioration de son efficacité offrent donc des possibilités d'accroître la richesse, de réduire la pauvreté et d'engager les pays africains sur la voie d'un développement durable.

La récente flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires et les crises alimentaires signalées en Afrique de l'Est, menacent la croissance économique, la paix et la sécurité. Les chances d'atteindre les objectifs de développement définis, *au niveau national*, dans les stratégies de création de richesse et de réduction de la pauvreté et dans d'autres programmes sectoriels de développement, *au plan régional*, dans des initiatives comme le Nouveau Partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD) et, *au plan international*, dans les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) sont donc gravement compromises.

En raison des disparités grandissantes au sein des sociétés africaines dues à la hausse des prix et aux pénuries alimentaires, il est nécessaire de multiplier les efforts concertés aux niveaux national et sous-régional pour exploiter le potentiel du secteur agricole en faveur du développement national et pour comprendre les effets du changement climatique sur l'agriculture. Les participants à la Table ronde ministérielle sur des questions d'actualité sociale et économique, organisée lors de la réunion annuelle conjointe de la Conférence des ministres de l'économie et des finances de l'Union Africaine et de la Conférence des ministres africains des finances, de la planification et du développement économique de la CEA tenue à Addis-Abeba du 31 mars au 2 avril 2008, ont noté *"qu'il faudrait cependant pour cela engager une transformation structurelle du secteur agricole du continent, reposant sur une meilleure utilisation de la science et de la technologie, le développement de l'infrastructure et l'accès au marché afin d'accroître le rendement et la productivité."* Le NEPAD a élaboré un programme collectif intitulé- le Programme intégré pour le développement de l'agriculture en Afrique (CAADP), qui vise à atteindre un taux de croissance annuel du produit intérieur brut agricole de 6%, à réduire la pauvreté et à parvenir à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Le programme CAADP à pour principal objectif d'aider les pays africains à améliorer leur croissance économique par un développement soutenu par l'agriculture. Le programme s'appuie sur quatre piliers qui correspondent aux domaines prioritaires d'investissement agricole en Afrique, à savoir: a) la gestion des terres et des ressources en eau; b) les infrastructures rurales et capacités commerciales pour améliorer l'accès aux marchés; c) l'augmentation des réserves alimentaires et la réduction de la faim et, enfin, d) la recherche agricole ainsi que la l'adoption et la diffusion de la technologie. Bien que le programme CAADP ait une portée continentale, ses mécanismes de mise en œuvre nécessitent la tenue aux niveaux régional et national de tables rondes permettant aux parties prenantes de s'entendre sur les programmes d'investissement, les modalités de financement, les politiques sectorielles, l'examen et le dialogue nécessaires pour obtenir de tous les pays qu'ils adhèrent entièrement au Programme. Le programme CAADP vise donc à garantir que la promotion de la croissance du secteur fasse intégralement partie des efforts de développement national.

La planification du secteur agricole, sa gestion et son suivi devraient se fonder sur des éléments d'appréciation solides, étant donnée l'importance de ce secteur pour l'économie et le bien-être des États africains. Pour cela, il faudrait disposer constamment de données statistiques complètes, fiables, cohérentes, fournies en temps voulu et dans un format qui en favorise une utilisation judicieuse. De telles données et informations représentent des ressources cruciales, indispensables pour éclairer la conception et la mise en œuvre des politiques et des programmes, mesurer les progrès et rendre compte des résultats en matière de développement. Elles peuvent aussi servir à d'autres fins, comme par exemple constituer des intrants dans la compilation des comptes nationaux.

L'absence de données de qualité concernant l'agriculture et les domaines connexes demeure un obstacle majeur au développement de ce secteur dans de nombreux pays africains. Bien que familiarisés depuis quatre décennies avec la collecte de statistiques agricoles, les pays du continent n'ont pas, en général, développé de systèmes nationaux de statistiques agricoles structurés, assortis d'objectifs et d'une orientation stratégique bien définis. Les systèmes actuels sont fragiles, généralement non coordonnés et non intégrés dans des systèmes globaux de statistiques nationales, de même qu'ils manquent de ressources et sont pour l'essentiel non viables. Ces dernières années de nombreux pays n'ont pas entrepris de recensements agricoles, alors que l'information qu'ils génèrent est essentielle si l'on veut obtenir une image précise de la structure et de l'organisation du secteur agricole. De même, nombreux sont les pays qui ne mènent pas d'enquêtes agricoles régulières et qui, par conséquent, ne disposent pas de données agricoles actualisées permettant de mesurer la performance des politiques et programmes au fil du temps. Les données provenant de sources administratives telles que les services d'information agricole sont souvent incomplètes et difficiles à relier avec les données socioéconomiques provenant des enquêtes sur les ménages agricoles.

À ne considérer que la croissance économique, l'on risque de donner une image trompeuse de la santé et du bien-être de nos populations. La croissance économique est une condition nécessaire mais pas suffisante. Elle peut souvent être un indicateur d'un accroissement des cultures vivrières, qui peut se traduire que par des disparités plus grandes entre les couches aisées et les pauvres d'un pays. En tant que statisticiens, il nous incombe de mesurer la répartition des ressources au sein de nos pays. À cet effet, une importante composante de notre arsenal de données consiste dans les enquêtes sur le niveau de vie des ménages. Il nous faut de meilleures informations, sur la nutrition et son impact sur la santé des populations.

Les célébrations de la Journée africaine de la statistique de cette année visent donc, d'une part, à souligner la nécessité pour les pays de faire davantage d'efforts pour améliorer la collecte, la gestion et l'utilisation des données et informations agricoles au service du développement national et, d'autre part, à arriver à comprendre comment atténuer les effets néfastes du changement climatique sur la production agricole.

La Commission économique pour l'Afrique souhaite plein succès à toutes les activités envisagées dans le cadre de la célébration de la Journée africaine de la statistique.

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V. African Statistics Day

احتفالات اليوم الأفريقي للإحصاءات لعام 2008

بيان

المركز الأفريقي للإحصاء

"التحديات التي يفرضها ارتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية والتنمية الزراعية في أفريقيا: دور الإحصاءات"

يصادف يوم 18 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر اليوم الأفريقي للإحصاءات. وقد اعتمد هذا اليوم في أيار/ مايو1990 من قبل الدورة الخامسة والعشرين للجنة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا والدورة السادسة عشرة لاجتماعات الوزراء الأفريقيين المسؤولين عن التخطيط الاقتصادي والتنمية، ويجري الاحتفال بهذا اليوم كل عام بغرض " زيادة الوعي العام بشأن الدور الهام للإحصاءات في جميع جوانب الحياة الاجتماعية الاقتصادية " لبلداننا وللقارة.

وموضوع الاحتفال لهذا العام هو: "التحديات التي يفرضها ارتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية والتنمية الزراعية في أفريقيا: دور الإحصاءات".

ما زالت الزراعة هي العنصر المهيمن في معظم الاقتصادات الأفريقية. ويسهم هذا القطاع إسهاماً كبيراً في الناتج المحلي الإجمالي، والصادرات الوطنية والعمالة. فضلاً عن ذلك فإن معظم الصناعات والخدمات في البلدان الأفريقية تستند إلى هذا القطاع. ومن الواضح أن عافية القطاع الزراعي تؤثر تأثيراً بالغاً على فقراء الريف؛ بيد أن فقراء الحضر أيضاً يعتمدون على الزراعة لأن الغذاء يشكل الجزء الأكبر من مجمل نفقاتهم. وبالتالي فإن ما يجري التخطيط له من توسيع للقطاع الزراعي وتعزيز لكفاءته يوفر فرصاً لزيادة الثروة وتخفيف حدة الفقر ووضع البلدان الأفريقية على مسار التنمية المستدامة.

إن التصاعد الأخير لأسعار المواد الغذائية والتقارير بشأن الأزمات الغذائية في شرق أفريقيا يهدد النمو الاقتصادي والسلم والأمن. وعليه فإنها تؤثر سلباً على احتمالات بلوغ الأهداف الإنمائية التي يجري وضعها على الصعيد الوطني المتمثلة في خلق الثروة واستراتيجيات تخفيف حدة الفقر والبرامج الإنمائية القطاعية الأخرى، كما أنها تؤثر على الصعيد الإقليمي في مبادرات من قبيل الشراكة الجديدة لتنمية أفريقيا (نيباد)، وعلى الصعيد الدولي من خلال الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية. وتؤكد التفاوتات المتزايدة بين المجتمعات الأفريقية الناتجة عن ارتفاع الأسعار وندرة الغذاء، تؤكد الحاجة للمزيد من تضافر الجهود على الصعيدين الوطني والإقليمي للاستفادة من إمكانات القطاع الزراعي في التنمية الوطنية، ولفهم آثار تغير المناخ على الزراعة. وقد أشارت مناقشات الفريق الوزاري بشأن القضايا الخاصة والاقتصادية خلال الاجتماعات السنوية المشتركة لمؤتمر الاتحاد الأفريقي لوزراء الاقتصاد والمالية ومؤتمر اللجنة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا لوزراء المالية والتخطيط والتنمية الاقتصادية المعقودة في أديس أبابا، إثيوبيا في الفترة من 31 آذار/ مارس إلى 2 نيسان/ ابريل 2008 أشارت إلى أنه " لكي يحدث هذا تدعو الحاجة إلى إحداث تحول هيكلي للقطاع الزراعي في أفريقيا، يستند إلى استخدام أفضل للعلم والتكنولوجيا، وتوسيع نطاق الهياكل الأساسية وفرص الوصول للأسواق لزيادة العائد والإنتاجية". ووضعت مبادرة نيباد جدول أعمال جماعي يحمل اسم برنامج التنمية الاقتصادية الشامل في أفريقيا- يهدف إلى توليد نمو سنوي للناتج المحلي الإجمالي الزراعي يبلغ 6 في المائة، وخفض حدة الفقر وتحقيق الأمن الغذائي والتغذوي. ويتمثل أهم أهداف البرنامج في مساعدة البلدان الأفريقية على تحقيق نمو اقتصادي أكبر عن طريق التنمية المرتكزة إلى الزراعة. ويستند البرنامج إلى أربع ركائز تلخص الأولويات الرئيسية للاستثمار في الزراعة الأفريقية، وتشمل: (أ) إدارة الأراضي والمياه؛ (ب) الهياكل الأساسية الريفية والقدرات المرتبطة بالتجارة لتحسين الوصول إلى الأسواق؛ (ج) زيادة الإمدادات الغذائية والحد من الفقر؛ (د) البحوث الزراعية ونشر التكنولوجيا وتبنيها. وعلى الرغم من أن هذا البرنامج ذو أبعاد قارية فإن آليات تنفيذه تتضمن اجتماعات طاولة مستديرة على الصعيد القطري تهدف إلى وضع وبناء توافق الآراء فيما بين أصحاب المصلحة بالنسبة للبرامج الإنمائية وترتيبات التمويل والسياسات القطاعية، والاستعراض والحوار المطلوبين لكفالة تبني كل البلدان لهذا البرنامج. وعليه فإن البرنامج يهدف إلى كفالة جعل تعزيز النمو في القطاع الزراعي جزءاً لا يتجزأ من الجهود الإنمائية الوطنية.

وينبغي أن يستند التخطيط والإدارة والرصد للقطاع الزراعي على أدلة سليمة نظراً لما يتسم به من أهمية للاقتصاد ولرفاه الأمم الأفريقية. ويتطلب هذا بدوره توافر بيانات ومعلومات إحصائية شاملة وموثوقة ومتماسكة، تكون متاحة في الوقت المناسب وفي شكلٍ يشجع على استخدامها على نحو مستنير. فمثل هذه البيانات والمعلومات تمثل مورداً حيوياً لا غنى عنه لوضع السياسات والبرامج وتنفيذها، ولقياس التقدم المحرز، وللإبلاغ عن النواتج الإنمائية. ومن ناحية أخرى، فإن هناك حاجة لهذه البيانات والمعلومات لأغراض أخرى مثل إدماجها في الحسابات الوطنية.

ولا يزال الافتقار إلى البيانات الجيدة النوعية عن الزراعة والمواضيع المرتبطة بها يمثل معوقاً أساسياً للتنمية الزراعية في العديد من البلدان الأفريقية. وعلى الرغم من أن البلدان الأفريقية اعتادت على مدى نحو أربعة عقود على جمع الإحصاءات الزراعية، فإنها بصورة عامة لم تطور نظم إحصائية زراعية وطنية لها أهداف ووجهة إستراتيجية محددة. والنظم الحالية تتسم بالهشاشة وهي غير منسقة وغير مدمجة في النظم الإحصائية الوطنية العامة، كما إنها ناقصة الموارد وبصفة عامة غير مستدامة. وهناك بلدان عديدة لم تجر أي تعداد للزراعة في الفترة الأخيرة رغم أن هذه البيانات تتسم بأهمية حاسمة في الحصول على صورة دقيقة لبنية وتنظيم القطاع الزراعي. وهناك بالمثل عدد من البلدان لا يقوم بإجراء دراسات استقصائية زراعية بصورة منتظمة ويفتقر بالتالي إلى بيانات زراعية حالية لقياس أداء السياسات والبرامج عبر فترة من الزمن. والبيانات الواردة من مصادر إدارية من قبيل خدمات الإبلاغ الزراعي في الغالب غير مكتملة ويصعب ربطها بالبيانات الاجتماعية الاقتصادية للأسر المعيشية الزراعية.

إن التركيز الضيق على النمو الاقتصادي يمكن أن يعطي صورة خاطئة عن صحة ورفاه شعوبنا. فالنمو الاقتصادي ضروري بيد أنه ليس شرطاً كافياً. وغالباً ما يمكن أن يمثل مؤشراً لزيادة المحاصيل النقدية وتكون نتيجته المزيد من التفاوتات بين الفئات الأغنى والأفقر داخل البلد الواحد. وبوصفنا إحصائيين فإننا مسؤولون عن قياس توزيع الموارد داخل بلداننا. وتحقيقاً لهذا الغرض، فإن وجود دراسات استقصائية للأحوال المعيشية للأسر يمثل عنصراً هاماً ضمن مجموعة البيانات المطلوبة. وهناك حاجة إلى المزيد من المعلومات عن التغذية وأثرها على الصحة العامة للسكان.

ونظراً لكل ما تقدم، فإن احتفالات اليوم الأفريقي للإحصاءات لهذا العام تهدف إلى التأكيد على ضرورة أن تقوم البلدان بفعل المزيد لتحسين جمع وإدارة واستخدام البيانات والمعلومات الزراعية للتنمية الوطنية، والوصول إلى فهمٍ الوسائل التي يمكن من خلالها تخفيف الآثار الضارة لتغير المناخ على الإنتاج الزراعي.

وتتمنى لكم اللجنة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا كل نجاح في جميع ما تقومون به من أنشطة في إطار الاحتفال باليوم الأفريقي للإحصاءات.

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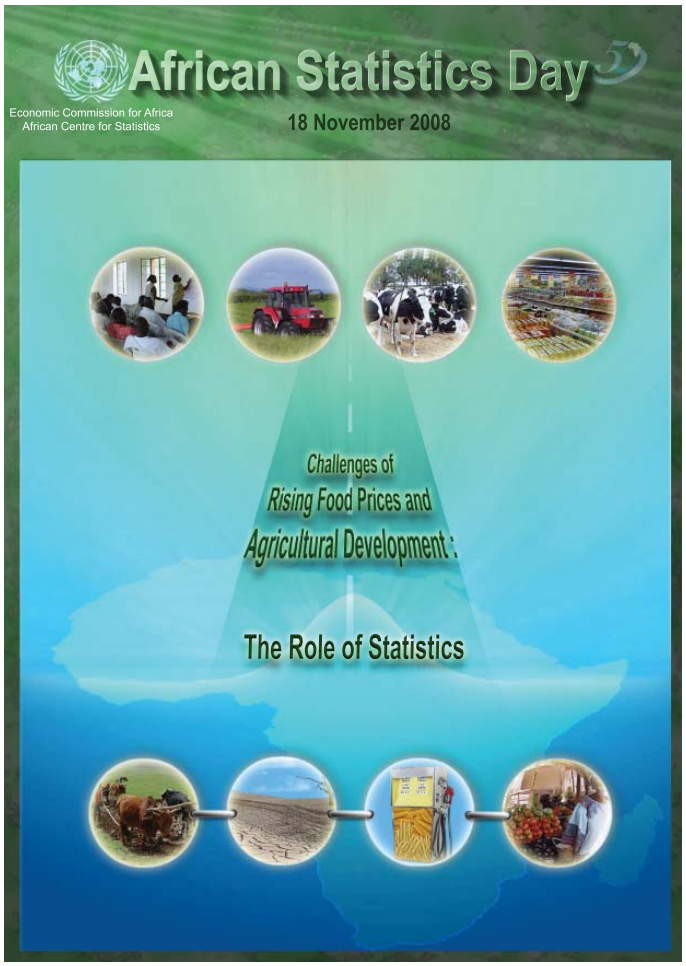
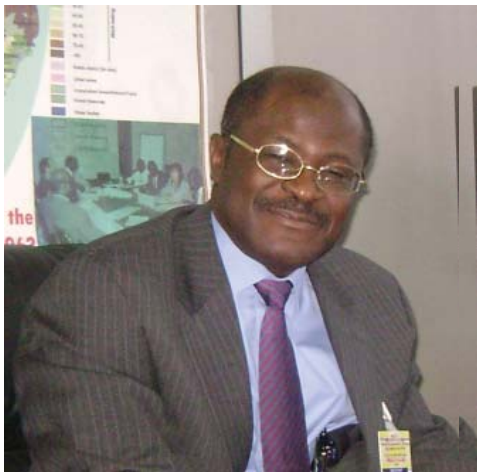
V. African Statistics Day



VI. News and Events

The Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation visits the African Centre for Statistics



Dr. Edwin N. Forlemu, the Executive Secretary (a.i), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

(L-R) Dr. Coffi Remy Noumon (ACBF), Dr. Edwin N. Forlemu (ACBF), Prof. Ben Kiregyera (African Centre for Statitics)

On 10 October 2008, Dr. Edwin N. Forlemu, the Executive Secretary (a.i) of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) visited the African Centre for Statistics. ACBF, based in Harare, Zimbabwe is an independent capacity building institution established in 1991 through a collaborative efforts of three multilateral institutions – the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, and UNDP, African governments and bilateral donors.

ACBF has launched Knowledge Networks including Technical Advisory Panels and Networks (TAP-NETS) to encourage the emergence of communities of practice in various areas including statistics. TAP-NETS are global knowledge networks comprising African and non-African experts and institutions. ACBF like ECA are members of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) which was established in 2007 to coordinate statistical work of pan-African institutions. Accompanied by Dr. Coffi Rémy Noumon, the Manager (a.i) of the Operations Department for eastern and the Horn of Africa, the Executive Secretary met and held discussions with the Director and staff of the Centre. He underscored the need for collaboration between the Centre and the ACBF in assisting African countries build sustainable statistical capacity. This visit is to be followed by more detailed discussions on possible areas of collaboration.

Meeting with ACS staff

VI. News and Events

African Centre for Statistics Graced by "First women" Statisticians born in same year but different countries (Senegal and UK)

The African Centre for Statistics has been graced by two women statisticians (same age) - Awa Thiongane and Denise Lievesley. We are happy to briefly write about them. It is our expectation that women in Africa will get inspired by those articles to pursue careers in statistics and excel as these two women have done. It can be done.

Awa Thiongane, First woman Head of a National Statistics Office in Africa, African Centre for Statistics

Denise Lievesley, African Centre for Statistics

Awa Thiongane

One of the great privileges for me of working at the African Centre for Statistics has been to have Awa Thiongane as a colleague. Awa and I were born in the same year and our paths have crossed many times at international statistics meetings but this is the first time we have had the opportunity to work together.

Awa was the first ever female to hold a position of head of national statistics on this continent when she was appointed as long ago as 1981 to be Director of Statistics for the Government of Senegal. When I arrived at the ACS and informed some of the junior staff of the eminence of our colleague, they were startled. She manages to combine confidence with humility and she never 'stands on ceremony'.

Her schooling was carried out in Senegal until the senior three years which she spent at "Classes préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles" in Bordeaux. Throughout her schooling she excelled in mathematics and physics. In addition she was also talented at design, winning an award at the age of 14 for the design of a dress which could be worn four ways. She then attended the CESD-Paris to study for a "Diplôme d'Ingénieur Statisticien-Economiste" graduating in 1975.

Returning to Senegal she combined work as a junior official statistician with lecturing in the University of Dakar. In only one year she made the amazingly rapid progression to Chief, Economic Analysis Division in the Senegal Statistics Office becoming the Director only five years later.

I recall the buzz of excitement when Awa attended statistical meetings – here was someone who combined incredible competence in the technicalities of the subject (standards and methodologies) with a real passion for the use of sound reliable statistics to serve for the development and empowerment of her country.

She was a key participant in the elaboration of the Economic and Social Development Plan-Orientation for Economic and Social Development 1989-1995 (VIIIth Plan), and served as member of the Steering Committee for the study entitled "Sénégal Horizon 20015" for the Ministry of Plan and Cooperation.

Given these interests it is perhaps no surprise that, on a re-organisation of statistics in Senegal, she was promoted to be Director of Forecasting and Statistics a post she held for seven years from 1990. This allowed her to ensure that statistics were used effectively instead of gathering dust on shelves in a statistical agency. It also gave the opportunity to enter the econmic and financial world. She was, for example, in charge of the technical team responsible for negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on economic and financial programmes from 1990-1997. Her success in these positions is due to a determined core within a very warm and gentle exterior.

It must have been a difficult decision for her to leave Senegal but I think that African Statisticians will be proud of her work since joining UNECA in 1997 as a Regional Advisor on the Organization and Management of Statistical Systems. She has provided sound advice to national statisticians on many aspects of our work.

Awa influenced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa and the Forum for African Statistical Development which in 2006 adopted the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Development in Africa (RRSF). She also continued teaching at the West African Statistical Training Centre. When the ACS was established two years ago Awa became one of its senior team. She has three talented daughters, and a loving son with her in Addis Ababa.

One of her passions these days is gender – ensuring that both data and analyses reflect the role of women in African societies and that women are supported in the contributions they can make to our profession. Having combined her career with nurturing her family she is, indeed, a role model for young women.

Awa has too many distinctions to mention here but I must mention that she has been a member of the ISI Council in the early 90s. She was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite du Sénégal in 1985 and the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Lion du Sénégal in 1995. I am amazed that in addition to this she writes poetry and is very good in drawing.

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VI. News and Events

Prof. Denise Lievesley, First woman President, International Statistical Institute

Ben Kiregyera, African Centre for Statistics

Prof. Denise Lievesley

The African Centre for Statistics has had the rare privilege of hosting Prof. Denise Lievesley, the President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), for six months (March – September 2008). It is ironic that in its long history (over 120 years) and with a membership of over 5,000 professionals from over 130 countries, the ISI had not had a woman President until Denise was elected to the post in 2007. Who is Denise and why was it a rare privilege for the Centre to host her for 6 months?

I first met Denise in 1982 when as a Ph.D. student, I attended her summer course on survey sampling at Essex Univesitiy (U.K.). Since then, we have been in constant contact, serving on various international committees and attending international meetings. In October 2007, Denise and I were invited as guest speakers at the 50th Annual Conference of the South African Statistical Association. At that time, Denise was waiting for her next appointment to mature. So I took advantage of this opening in her calendar to invite her to spend a couple of months at our Centre. To my surprise she agreed and the time she spent at our Centre has been great for statistical development in Africa.

Prof. Lievesley has had a remarkable statistical career since she walked out of the gates of the University College, London where she studied statistics. She has an honorary doctorate degree from City University in London and is a fellow of the University College, London. Denise began her career as an official statistician specializing in survey sampling and subsequently conducting research on non-response and on panel surveys. Her first appointment after graduation was at the U.K's Office of Population Census and Surveys where she spent 10 years and ended up heading the Sampling Branch. She then worked for 7 years at the Survey Methods Centre, Social and Community Planning Research first as Assistant Director and then as Acting Director. From 1989 to 1991, she worked as the Director of the Permanent Office and Research Centre of the International Statistical Institute in The Hague. She was appointed the Director of the UK Data Archive and Professor of Social Research Methods at the University of Essex, a post she held for 7 years until she moved to UNESCO as the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. From UNESCO, she was appointed Chief Executive of the Information Centre for Health and Social Care in U.K. before joining the African Centre for Statistics on a short-term basis.

Prof. Lievesley has taught at many institutions and Universities throughout the world. She has served on some 25 national and international committees concerned with, inter alia, the use of information for public policy, the application of statistics, the census, research resources and methods, statistical and mathematical training, data archiving, electronic records management, datasets policy, library networks, the environment, geographical information systems, the public understanding of science and official information. She has also run, chaired sessions or been a member of the organizing committees for some 65 national and international conferences, workshops and meetings. She is a member of many professional associations, a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (was the President of the Society from 1999 to 2001), Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the international representative on its Board from 2005 -7, the Editor or Associate Editor of a number of professional publications, etc. She has written many papers for publication in international journals or for presentation at conferences and professional meetings.

While at the Centre, she got involved in the many activities undertaken by the Centre including editing this Newsletter. Denise returned to U.K. on 17 September to take up her new post as Professor of Social Statistics and Head of the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College London. On behalf of the Centre, the Editorial Team of the Newsletter and the entire statistical community in Africa, I wish to thank Denise for the service she has directly rendered to Africa during her short stay at the Centre.

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VI. News and Events

Brief on National Statistical Associations

Kenya

The statistical community in Kenya met in June 2008 to establish a Kenya National Statistical Society. An Interim committee was formed comprising:

- Dr. Leo Odongo – Chairman
- Prof. Romanus Odhiambo-Vice Chairman
- Dr. Patrick Weke-Secretary
- Dr. James Kahiri-Deputy Secretary
- Dr. Samuel Mwalili- Organizing Secretary
- Dr. George Orwa- Deputy Organizing Secretary

A special meeting was held in mid June 2008. This meeting was addressed by Prof. Denise Lievesley.

A second meeting was held in July 2008 to review the constitution of the Society.

Activities envisaged include organizing seminars, workshops, conferences etc

The Kenya National Statistical Society is to be registered by October 2008 in readiness for the launch slated for the statistics day celebrations (18 November).

Tunisia

The Tunisian Association of Statistics and its Applications (TASA) was founded in March 2008. The main goal of the association is to foster connection between Tunisian Statisticians and promote their research and professional interests. Also, the scope of the association is to promote and increase interest for statistics in education as well as in the rest of the society, by helping the general public get better understanding of the place of statistics applications such as in datamining, biostatistics and qualities. The association works strongly to foster relationship with the international statistical society.

TASA Objectives:

- To create a Forum between the engineers in Statistics , professors and researchers in the field of statistical sciences.
- To promote the profession of statistician and statistical culture.
- To reinforce the cooperation between Universities and Companies in the field of Statistical Sciences and their applications.
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In August, Prof. Denise Lievesley, the President of the ISI visited and held discussions with the President and officials of the Association.

Zambia

The process of forming a National Statistical Association has started. The process is spearheaded by Ms. Celestina Katalu, a former Director of the Central Statistics Office and now a consultant.

DR. Congo

Le Centre africain pour la statistique (CAS) a été approché par la communauté statistique de la République Démocratique du Congo pour un soutien dans le cadre du lancement du processus de création de l'association statistique national dans ce pays d'Afrique centrale.

Dans un message adressé au CAS par l'intermédiaire de Monsieur Simon Ntumba du département des Mathématiques et Informatique de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Kinshasa et Directeur Général du Bureau International d'Etudes et de Recherche pour le Développement (BIERD), la Communauté statistique de la RD Congo a fait part des efforts actuellement consentis pour la mise en place de l'association dans le pays.

Cette demande de la part de la communauté statistique congolaise est en ligne avec les différentes recommandations de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique (StatCom-Africa) et du Comité de Coordination des activités statistiques en Afrique (CCASA) en ce qui concerne la création des associations statistiques nationales ou leur revitalisation là où elles existent déjà. Le CAS envisage de soutenir ce pays dans la création de l'association statistique et projette d'entreprendre une mission dans ce pays afin non seulement de discuter les modalités relatives à la création de l'association mais aussi faire une évaluation des besoins relatifs au développement de la statistique de manière générale.

The Statistical community of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) to support the creation of the National Statistical Association (NSA) in this central African country.

In a message to the ACS, Mr Simon Ntumba, from the Department of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Kinshasa and Director General of the Bureau International d'Etudes et de Recherche pour le Développement (BIERD), explained the efforts made by the Congolese statistical community in establishing the National Statistical Association.

The request for assistance is very much consistent with recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) and the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) to create NSAs or to strengthen them where they exist. The ACS intends to support the creation of the NSA in this country and plans to undertake a mission to the country in the near future not only in connection with the establishment of the NSA but also to assess requirements for wider statistical development. ❑

VI. News and Events

New Appointments

Chairman, Board of Directors of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Dr. E. S. K. Muwanga-Zake

Dr. E. S. K. Muwanga-Zake has been appointed the Chairman of the new Board of Directors of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. He replaces Prof. Ben Kiregyera who was the Chair of the Board from 1998 to July 2007 when he was appointed Director of the African Centre for Statistics at UNECA.

Dr. Muwanga-Zake holds a B.Sc. (Economics & Statistics) (1st Class Honours) degree from Makerere University, Uganda; M.Sc. (Statistics), Kansas State University) and a Ph.D. (Emphasis on Agricultural Statistics) from School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, UK. He is also a Member, International Statistical Institute and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

Dr. Muwanga-Zake lectured at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Makerere University for 12 years and also worked briefly as a Commissioner for Statistics, Statistics Department (Head of the then Central Statistics Office) and was instrumental in the transformation of the department into the current semi-autonomous Uganda Bureau of Statistics. He has also worked as a Senior Economist/Statistician, and Deputy Director, Trade & External Debt Department, Central Bank of Uganda before retiring. He is now involved in statistical consultancy work.

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Director, Statistics and Research Department, ECOWAS

Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya

Following the restructuring of ECOWAS Secretariat, the Statistics Division was upgraded to a Statistics and Research Department. Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya from Cameroun is the new Director of this department. Before joining ECOWAS, he worked as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at USAID in Nigeria.

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This newsletter aims to keep Directors General of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) informed about what is happening to their peers across Africa. In this connection, we will appreciate receiving information from NSOs about retirements and appointments of new Heads of offices.

VI. News and Events

Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia Paid a Visit to ACS and Held Discussion with the Director and Staff

The Director General of the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia, Ms. Samia Zekaria and Mr. Yakob Mudesir, Deputy Director General paid a visit and held discussion with the Director and staff of ACS on 28 August 2008.

The Director General briefed the meeting on the statistical programmes of the CSA including censuses and surveys, computerization of statistical operations and statistical planning. The Director of ACS briefed the CSA team on its work programme in relation to statistical work taking place in African countries.

The two institutions agreed to work together on a number of activities including launching the Ethiopian National Data Archive and a public lecture by Prof. Denise Lievesley.

The Director of ACS was invited to present a Seminar to Members of Parliament of Ethiopia later this year.

Meeting between CSA and ACS staff

(L-R) Awa Thiongane (ACS), Samia Zakaria (CSA), Yakob Mudesir (CSA)

ECOWAS Delegation visited ACS

Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya, Director of the Statistics and Research Department of the ECOWAS secretariat and Mr. Christopher Ajaero, Programme Officer visited ECA from 18 to 22 August 2008.

The two officers held discussions with the Director and staff of ACS, the staff of other substantive ECA Divisions and the Printing Unit.

Discussions with ACS focused on possible areas of cooperation. ECOWAS team was happy with the assistance ACS has given in installing and training ECOWAS staff on the ECA statistical database platform which had earlier been installed at ECOWAS Secretariat. ACS was requested to extend the database platform to a number of ECOWAS member states including Ghana, Togo, Guniea, the Gambia and Liberia.

ACS was also invited to participate in the review of the ECOWAS statistical programme.

Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya (ECOWAS)

Mr. Christopher Ajaero (ECOWAS)

VI. News and Events

Statistical Journal of the IAOS – Call for Papers on Statistical Literacy

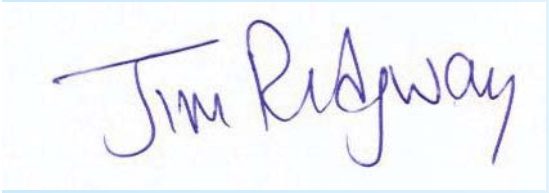
The Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics (SJIAOS) is pleased to announce a forthcoming special issue focused on "Statistical Literacy" The Guest Editors for this special issue are Professor Neville Davies ("Davies, Neville" neville.davies@ntu.ac.uk) and Professor Jim Ridgway ("RIDGWAY J.E." jim.ridgway@durham.ac.uk).

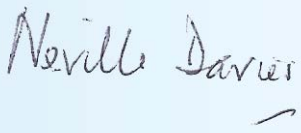
The Guest Editors are pleased to invite you to submit papers on this topic by end 2008 for consideration for publication in this special issue of SJIOAS. To give prospective authors some guidance on the kinds of papers the Editors are particularly looking for, we have provided below a list of possible topics:

- Overarching framework for statistical literacy and how it can be used to inform the development of programs to improve statistical literacy;
- Research to inform the development of effective teaching methods or programs to improve statistical literacy;
- Innovative teaching methods to improve statistical literacy;
- Innovative work programs and initiatives in national statistical offices to improve statistical literacy;
- Statistical literacy needs of different segments of the community and initiatives to address those needs;
- Review of work programs or initiatives used in national statistical offices to improve statistical literacy.

Prospective authors are not required to limit their papers to the above topics as long as they are relevant to the theme of this special issue of SJIAOS. Papers should generally be less than 25 pages in length (double spaced in 12 point type). Detailed instructions for manuscript preparation can be found at http://www.iospress.nl/html/18747655_ita.html.

Papers should be submitted to one of the Guest Editors as a Word document by the end of 2008. All papers will be refereed.





Neville Davies and Jim Ridgway
September 2008

VI. News and Events

Heads of National Statistical Offices in Africa

Country / Pays		Name
Algeria	M.	Mohammed Boumati
Angola	Ms.	Maria Ferreira dos Santos Oliveira
Benin	Mr.	Cosme Vodounou
Botswana	Ms.	Anna Majelantle
Burkina Faso	Mr.	Ouattara Bamory
Burundi	Mr.	Déogratias Buzingo
Cameroon	Mr.	Joseph Tedou
Cape Verde	M.	Francisco Fernandes Tavares
Central African Republic	M.	Félix Moloua
Chad	M.	Ousmane Abdoulaye Haggar
Comoros	M.	Bastoine Msoma
Congo	M.	Samuel Ambapour Kosso
Côte d`Ivoire	Mr.	Mathieu Meleu
D.R. Congo	M.	Marcel Nyumbaiza Malungu
Djibouti	Mr.	Amareh Ali Said
Egypt	Mr.	Abou Baker M. El- Gendy
Equatorial Guinea	M.	Luis Ondo Obono
Eritrea	Mr.	Aynom Berhane
Ethiopia	Ms.	Samia Zekaria
Gabon	M.	Louis Martin Wora
Gambia, The	Mr.	Alies. S. N'dow
Ghana	Dr.	Grace Bediako
Guinea	M.	Oumar Diallo
Guinea-Bissau	M.	Carlos Mendes da Costa
Kenya	Mr.	Anthony K.M. Kilele
Lesotho	Ms.	Liengoane Mothoweso Lefosa
Liberia	Dr.	Edward Liberty
Libya	Mr.	Salem Abu-Aisha
Madagascar	M.	Rakotomalala Andriamampianina
Malawi	Mr.	Charles Machinjili
Mali	M.	Seydou Moussa Traoré
Mauritania	M.	Baba Ould Boumeiss
Mauritius	Mr.	Harish Bundhoo
Morocco	Mr.	Mohammed Taamouti
Mozambique	Mr.	Joao Dias Loureiro
Namibia	Mr.	Fanuel Hangula
Niger	M.	Abdoullahi Beidou
Nigeria	Mr.	Vincent O. Akinyosoye
Rwanda	Dr.	Louis Munyakazi
Sao Tomé and Principé	M.	Albano Germano de Deus
Senegal	M.	M. Babakar Fall
Seychelles	Mr.	Jude Padayachy
Sierra Leone	Mr.	Joseph A. Lawrence Kamara
Somalia	Mr.	Nur A. Weheliye
South Africa	Mr.	Pali Jobo Lehohla
Sudan	Dr.	Yassin Abdin
Swaziland	Ms.	Isabella Hlophe
Tanzania	Ms.	Albina Chuwa
Togo	M.	Kokou Yao N'guissan
Tunisia	M.	Khalifa Ben Fekih
Uganda	Mr.	J.B. Male-Mukasa
Zambia	Ms.	Efrida Chulu
Zimbabwe	Mr.	Moffat Nyoni

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Request:

ACS will appreciate it if it can be kept updated about changes in the leadership of NSOs.

VI. News and Events

National Statistical Associations in Africa

Country	Association		Name	
Burkina Faso	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Burkina Faso	M.	Some Nibene Habib	President
Cameroon	Association des Statisticiens du Cameroun	Mr.	Isaac Njiemoun	Contact person
Congo	Association des Statisticiens	Mr.	Bolide Ntumba	Contact person
Equatorial Guinea	Association des statistciens		Angeles Ngongolo	Contact person
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Statistical Association	Dr.	Emmanuel G. Yohannes	President
Gabon	Association des Statisticiens du Gabon	Mr.	Jean Nestor Nguema	Contact person
Ghana	Ghana Statistical Association	Mr.	Nicholas Nsowah-Nuamah	Contact person
Kenya	Kenya Statistical Society	Dr.	Leo Odongo	Chairman
Madagascar	Association Malgache des Ingenieur Statisticiens	Mr.	Eric Raktomanana	Contact person
Malawi	Statistical Association	Dr.	Lawrence Kazembe	Contact person
Mali	Association de Malienne Statistiuqe	M.	Aboumediane Toure	Contact person
Mauritania	Association des Statisticiens de Mauritanie	M.	Cissoko Mamadou	President
Niger	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Niger	Mr.	Alichina Idrissa Kourguéni	President
Rwanda	Association Rwandaise des Statisticiens	Mr.	Nzayisenga Canisius	President
Senegal	Association Sénégalaise pour la Statistique	Mr.	Amadou Talla Gueye	President
South Africa	South African Statistical Association	Dr.	Khangelani Zuma	President
Tanzania	Tanzania Statistical Association	Mr.	Peter C.T. Mayeye	Contact person
Togo	Association des Statisticien et Démographes	Mr.	Kponton Anani Théodore	Président
Tunisia	Tunisian Association of Statistics and its Applications	Mr.	Malika Charrad	Contact person
Uganda	Uganda Statistical Society	Mr.	Owino Abraham Yeyo	President

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Request:

ACS will appreciate it if it can be kept updated about changes in the leadership of National Statistical Associations and Statistical Training Centres.

Statistical Training Centres in Africa

Centre	Location	Contact
Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Michael Sindato
Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée	Dakar, Senegal	Serigne Touba Diasse
Ecole nationale de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Rabat, Morocco	Abdelaziz El Ghazali
Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Augusto Roku Mesani
Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Abidjan, Côte d`Ivoire	Koffi Nguessan
Institut supérieur de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Akoto Eliwo Mandjale
Regional Institute for Population Studies	Legon, Ghana	Stephan Owusu Kwankya
Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics	Kampala, Uganda	Jonathan Ochono Odwee

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Statistics Units in Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Centre	Location	Contact person
Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA)	Zambia, Lusaka	Mr. Anthony Walakira
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)	Tripolli, Libya	
East African Community (EAC)	Arusha, Tanzania	Mr. Robert Maate
Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	Libreville, Gabon	Mr. Louis Sylvain Goma
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Nigeria, Abuja	Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya
Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)	Djibouti, Djibouti	
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Gaborone, Botswana	Mr. Ackim Teudulo Jere
Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)	Morocco, Rabat	Mr. Habib Boulares

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VI. News and Events

Second announcement

The NTTS (New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics) seminar is an international scientific conference on the impact of new technologies on statistical collection, production and dissemination systems. The conference is intended to stimulate and facilitate the preparation of new innovative projects, to encourage co-operation and possible building of consortia by researchers with the aim of enhancing the quality and usefulness of official statistics. The main scope is to facilitate the relationship between official statisticians and researchers, in order to favour the proliferation of networking and ideas.

This new NTTS conference will carry on the tradition of NTTS/ETK conferences which have been organised in 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.
NTTS 2009 will be held in Brussels from 18 to 20 February 2009 in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission.
Submission of abstracts is now open, until 4 November; instructions and the submission form are available on the conference website: http://www.ntts2009.eu

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

A Challenging International Career at the United Nations

The United Nations Secretariat is seeking highly qualified individuals for employment as junior professional officers (P-2 level). For this purpose, a competitive examination will be held on 24 February 2009 in the following disciplines:

Administration • Economics • Finance • Information Technology • Public Information
Social Affairs • Security • Statistics

The competitive examination will be open to nationals of the following countries:

Afghanistan	Gabon	Mexico	San Marino
Andorra	Iran	Micronesia	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Ireland	Moldova	Sierra Leone
Antigua and Barbuda	Japan	Monaco	Solomon Islands
Bangladesh	Kuwait	Montenegro	Swaziland
Bostwana	Laos	Namibia	Tajikistan
Brunei Darussalam	Lesotho	Norway	Tonga
Comoros	Libya	Oman	Tuvalu
The Republic of the Congo	Liechtenstein	Palau	United Kingdom
Denmark	Lithuania	Republic of Korea	United States of America
	Marshall Islands	Samoa	Yemen

In order to qualify for the examination, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:
1. Be a national of one of the countries listed above;
2. Be no more than 32 years old as of 31 December 2009 (should be born on 1 January 1977 or after);
3. Have at least a first-level university degree relevant to the discipline for which they apply; and,
4. Be fluent in either English or French, the two working languages of the Secretariat. Knowledge of additional official languages of the U.N. (Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish) is an advantage.

Additional criteria over and above the minimum may be required.

All those who believe in the purposes and ideals of the United Nations and who wish to participate in the competitive examination are encouraged to apply.

Applications must be received by **31 October 2008** in the Examinations and Tests Section at the United Nations in New York (acceptable by e-mail, fax or mail).Detailed information and application forms may be obtained from the Internet (**www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/exam.htm**) or from below:

United Nations, 2009 NCRE, Room S-2575E,
Examinations and Tests Section/OHRM
New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.
Fax: (+1) (212) 963-3683 E-mail: OHRM-NCE2009@un.org

VI. News and Events

Upcoming Events

(October 1 - December 31 2008)

Date	Event	Organisers	Location
October 14-16	International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Conference 2008	IAOS	Shanghai, China
October 22-23	Expert Meeting on Agricultural Statistics	FAO	Washington, USA
October 22-24	International Seminar in the Informal Sector in Africa	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
October 22-24	Advisory Panel of the first sub-Saharan Africa's Human Development Report	UNDP	Johannesburg, South Africa
November 3-7	International Economic and Social Classifications	UNSD/ECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
November 5-7	PARIS21 Steering Committee Meeting	PARIS21	Paris, France
November 10-14	Workshop on Industrial statistics	UNSD/ECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
November 10-14	Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Census Planning	UNECA/Statistics South Africa	Johannesburg, South Africa
November 16-20	Roundtable Meeting on Programme for the 2010 Round of Censuses of Agriculture	FAO	Cairo, Egypt
November 24 - December 5	18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians	ILO	Geneva, Switzerland
December 1-3	Atelier sur stratégies de renforcement des capacités statistiques et de la coopération statistique entre les pays maghrébins	AMU/PARIS21	Tunis, Tunisia
December 8-10	Regional workshop on National Strategy for the Development of Statistic (NSDS)	UNECA/AfDB/PARIS21/InWent	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
December 11-12	Workshop on Gender Statistics	UNECA/InWent/GSS	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
December 8-12	Workshop on Crime statistics	UNECA/UNDOC	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Other Events

Date	Event	Organisers	Location
18 November 2008	African Statistics Day	African Countries	Countries in Africa
February	4th Africa Symposium for Statistical Development	ECA/Statistics South Africa	Luanda, Angola
16-22 August 2009	The 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI 2009)	Statistics South Africa	Durban, South Africa

Editorial Policy
African Statistical Newsletter

The Newsletter: The African Statistical newsletter aims to supplement the efforts of the African Statistical Journal to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and information about statistical methodologies and their application to solve practical problems in Africa. It covers all activities and news deemed to be of interest to the African statistical community, ranging from statistical advocacy to institutional development including capacity building and technical assistance, to specific statistical activities like censuses and surveys.

Target Clientele: The Newsletter is intended for the statistical community, across the whole of Africa as well as development practitioners with an interest in Africa's development.

Frequency: The African Statistical Newsletter is a quarterly periodical published four times a year. Issues are generally released within two weeks after the last day of the quarter. Material should be submitted to African Centre for Statistics email (bkiregyera@uneca.org) by 15th day of the last month for publication in that quarter's newsletter.

Source of Articles and Photos: The articles and photographs published are written and submitted by experts practicing statistics in Africa and the rest of the world who are interested in statistical development in Africa. All articles must comply with the standards and technical publishing requirements. Generally, articles should not exceed 4 pages and should be of general interest to the statistical community. The editorial board carries out minor editing of the articles and reserves the right to determine the content of the newsletter.

Language: The Newsletter is bi-lingual –English and French. Articles are published in the language in which they are submitted. If an article is deemed to be of especial interest across the continent, we aim to publish it in both languages of the Newsletter.

Accessibility: The African Statistical Newsletter is posted on the Internet and is also published in hardcopies for limited distribution. An electronic version in PDF format is also emailed to all contacts maintained by the African Centre for Statistics - to be added to this database send your contact details to ….

Subscription: The African Statistical Newsletter can be accessed free of charge.

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is not an official document of the United Nations, nor does it express the official position of the United Nations.

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