

Newsletter Q4 2025

Spotlight on the Data Science Champions Network for Africa

Welcome back!

We're excited to bring you the fourth edition of our newsletter which is designed to keep you informed and inspired as we work together to modernize official statistics across the continent. This quarter, we celebrate the growth of the Data Science Champions Network, share promising updates on the future of the Regional Hub, and highlight recent and upcoming webinars that showcase innovation in action.

If you need more information about anything mentioned in this edition, please email us at regionalhubforafrica@un.org

Stay Connected

We would love to hear from you. Whether you want to share your data science news, join the Data Science Champions Network, or explore collaboration opportunities, please get in touch with us.
regionalhubforafrica@un.org
<https://ecastats.uneca.org/regionalhub/>

Since its launch, the Data Science Champions Network for Africa has held two vibrant meetings, in May and September of this year. The network now includes 33 members from national statistical offices across 16 countries, including Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Together, members have explored:

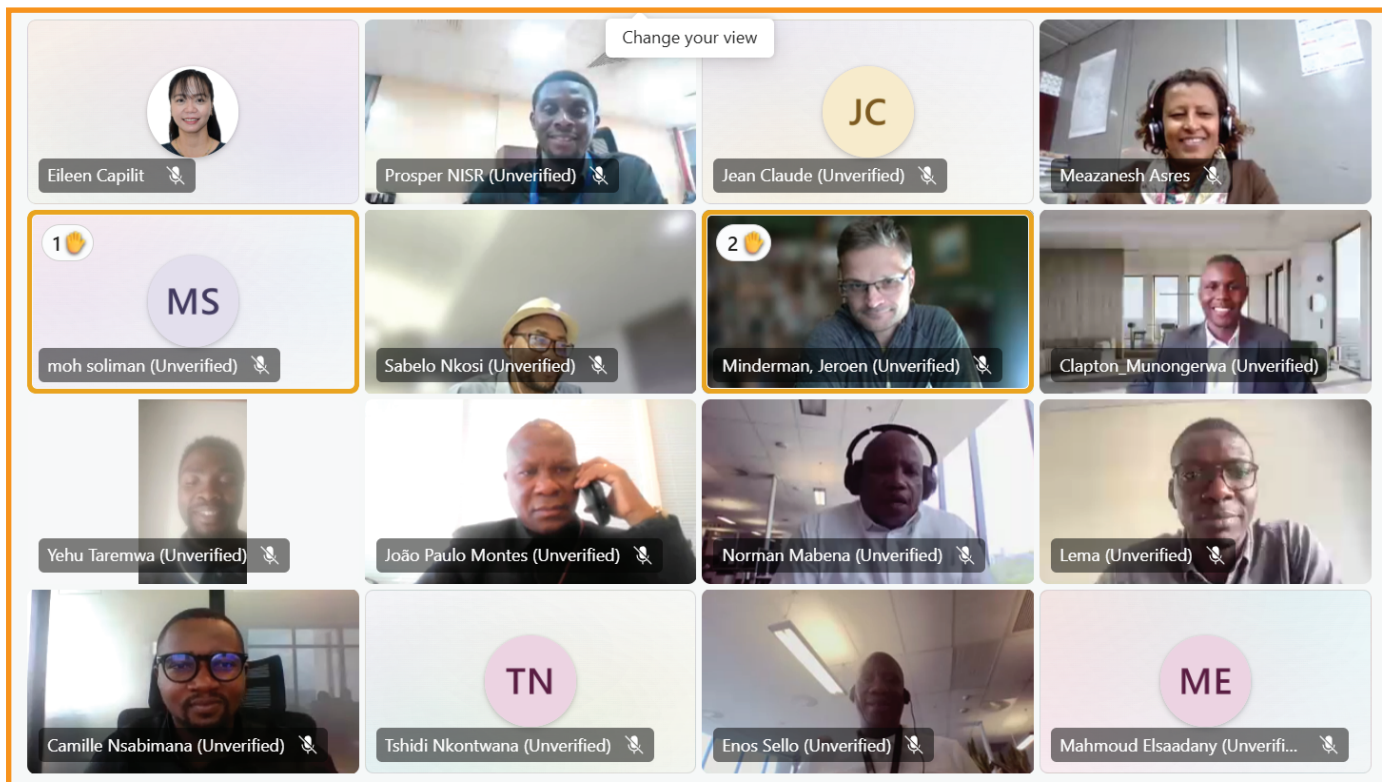
- Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in NSOs
- The structure of data science functions within NSOs
- How to build data science capability at the NSOs

If your NSO is not yet represented, we invite you to join us. The next virtual meeting will take place on 11 November 2025, from 14:00 to 16:00 EAT, where we will be discussing the challenges NSOs are facing with operationalising/implementing innovative solutions in official statistic.

If you want to find out more on what the network offers, please see the Terms of Reference here. Interested? Please apply to become a Data Science Champion or Data Science Practitioner by emailing us at regionalhubforafrica@un.org.



Webinar Recap: Zimbabwe's Leap into Automated Occupation Coding



On October 7, 2025, over 250 participants joined our monthly webinar to learn how Zimbabwe is transforming its Labour Force Survey through automated occupation coding. The Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency demonstrated how automation enhances efficiency and accuracy in classifying occupation codes – traditionally a manual task. The presentation also showed how automation can support quality assurance, speeding-up validation and improving overall data integrity. Participants engaged in a lively Q&A, raising important questions about language integration, confidence scoring, and data quality. This session reflects the Regional Hub's commitment to modernizing statistical systems across Africa.

As a follow-up to the session, we've published a blog post entitled *Automating Occupation Coding in Zimbabwe: A Leap Toward Smarter Labour Statistics*. The article dives deeper into the innovation, lessons learned, and its potential for replication across other NSOs. We encourage you to read and share it widely.

Looking Ahead

Next month, we will feature a joint presentation by the Ghana Statistical Service and Flowminder. Together, they will share insights into rural–urban migration patterns using call detail records. This promises to be another exciting opportunity to explore how unconventional data sources can inform policy and planning. Details of the October 2025 webinar, all upcoming webinars, and recordings of past webinars can be found [here](#).