

# AFRICAN CENTRE *for* STATISTICS



# INTRODUCTION

Statistics provide a basis for good decision-making and help governments identify the best course of action in addressing development problems. They are essential in managing the effective delivery of basic service, and are indispensable for assuring accountability, transparency and democracy.

To this end ECA has strengthened its statistics sub-program to be able to support its Member States statistical capacities. Support is provided to member States through harnessing new technologies, including geospatial information systems, to improve data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and archiving capabilities, as well as facilitating access to national, sub-regional and regional databases. In addition, services are provided to member States and regional entities on statistical legislation and national strategies for the development of

statistics (NSDS), aligned with national strategies and plans.

Harmonization of statistics is a key pillar of the statistical work of ECA in the continent. In addition to introducing new systems and methodologies for standardization, harmonization takes place through the adoption of international statistical norms, standards and classifications, and adaptation to regional and national realities.

ECA in 2017, recalibrated its work building on what is outstanding from its past and present and based on its main comparative advantage, which is being a knowledge institution, to meet the challenges of a changing Africa. This is encapsulated in the 5 strategic focus areas of the Commission, namely:

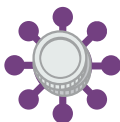




1. Advancing the position of ECA as a premier knowledge institution that builds on its unique position and privilege to bring global solutions to the continent;



2. Building sustainable development solutions to accelerate Africa's economic diversification;



3. Creating innovative solutions to finance sustainable infrastructure—human, physical and social—for a transforming Africa;



4. Contributing solutions to transboundary issues, with a focus on social inclusion;



5. Developing regional solutions as a contribution to global governance issues, and build-

ing knowledge to manage the challenges in store for and support Africa's next generation.

In doing so, it intends, among others, to generate the policy thinking that would help African countries own their development efforts and narrative. To achieve this, the Commission promotes the generation of research and policy knowledge, advocating policy, promoting policy consensus, and offering capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas contributing to the development agenda of African countries. As can be expected, statistics are at the core of this generation of policy research and knowledge.

...being a knowledge institution, to meet the challenges of a changing Africa.

# AFRICAN CENTRE *for* STATISTICS

## ACS VISION:

*Transforming Africa through credible data & statistics*

## ACS MISSION:

To enable the African statistical system to produce high quality statistics, data and geospatial information to inform sound and evidence-based decision-making in support of sustainable development as well as regional and national initiatives. This will be achieved through capacity building, advocacy, adoption of relevant standards, and research on statistical concepts, methods, and processes including the use of innovative technologies.

## 02 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategic focus of the statistics sub-programme is to support statistical capacity development for strengthening the capacity of Member States in Africa to build robust, and sustainable statistical systems that are versatile and resilient to respond to increasing demands for data and statistics for the implementation, monitoring, decision making and reporting on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

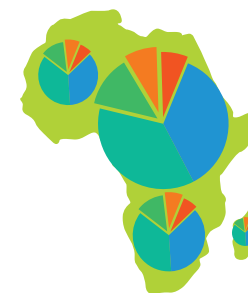
It focuses on the two core mandates of ACS:

1

to provide leadership and technical support to the pan African System, focusing in particular on the national statistical systems of ECA member States.

2

to compile and make available key data sets on African development to ECA, UN agencies and other data users.



The strategic objectives of the ACS are:

- 1. Capacity development:** Enhance the capacities of member States to respond to demands for fit-for-purpose data.
- 2. Governance and policy:** Promote statistical governance mechanisms as well as raise awareness on the role and importance of statistics for development and including ensuring effective coordination of information infrastructures and development of data policies in Africa.
- 3. Data Services:** Provide authoritative development information on Africa and provide support in data production for ECA research and policy analysis work.
- 4. Modernization of Statistical value chain:** Conduct and promote research on methods, concepts, definitions and classifications with relevant information infrastructures to optimize statistical and spatial data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination through use of innovative technologies.
- 5. Outreach and Partnership:** Build partnerships, nurture technical assistance and advisory services, collaboration, and networking with national, regional and international entities.





## MAIN WORK PROGRAMME AREAS



**Data:** Collection, processing and dissemination of statistical and geospatial information;

**Methodology:** Standardization of statistical concepts, definitions, methods and classifications;

**Capacity Development:** Technical assistance and cooperation programme;

**Coordination:** Coordination of regional statistical programmes and activities including strengthening coordination between the global and regional statistical systems; and

**Management of data bases,** in support of monitoring SDGs, these are enshrined and elaborated into Sections and thematic statistical areas below:

**Economic, Infrastructure & Agricultural Statistics**

**Demographic and Social Statistics**

**Statistical Development, Data Innovation & Outreach**

ACS has 3 main sections and 1 unit that supports the centre and the Commission as a whole

**U**

**Geospatial Information Management System**

## SECTION 1



### Economic, Infrastructure and Agricultural Statistics

The section is engaged mainly in promoting the production of harmonized and quality economic and agricultural statistics in African countries by applying international statistical standards; providing advisory services and technical assistance to Member States in the collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of economic statistics; and conducting methodological research to improve the production and use of economic and agricultural statistics including infrastructure. The section has currently three main workstreams.

- System of National Accounts and research on beyond GDP indicators.** This workstream provides technical assistance on GDP updating and rebasing, participate and support the participation of member countries in the global SNA update programme.
- Wellbeing and sustainability, regional development, and integration.** This workstream main activities are updating and analysis of price statistics for the UNECA Price Watch Centre, providing technical assistance and developing new methodologies to produce Regional Input-Output tables and trade-in-value added indicators,
- Big data, data science, and modernizing methods in economic statistics.** The objective of this workstream is to take advantages of new data sources and advances in data science to improve the collection, compilation, and analysis of economic statistics in a context of low funding of economic statistics production and high demand of economic data resulting from the data needs of the SDGs, agenda 2063 and the countries development plans.

## SECTION 2

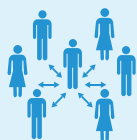


### Demographic and Social Statistics

The section advocates for and build capacities of the statistical systems of Member States in the production and use of demographic and social statistics, particularly in conducting population and housing censuses, improving civil registration and vital statistics systems, migration statistics, gender statistics, education, health, urban and human rights statistics, etc.

- Developing manuals, guidelines and tools on various aspects related to the production and use of demographic and social statistics based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies that are adapted to the African context;
- Conducting research and contributing to the development of international standards in the area of demographic and social statistics including gender statistics
- Contribute to the coordination of regional statistical programmes by working with Statistical Commission for Africa and pan-African organizations
- Supporting research and analytical needs to various ECA divisions in the area of demographic and social statistics,



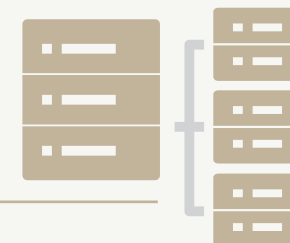


## SECTION 3

### Statistical Development, Data Innovation & Outreach

The function of the section include standardization of statistical concepts, definitions, methods, classifications and database management as well as coordinating regional statistical programmes and activities entrusted to the Centre by the Committee on Statistics of Directors General of Statistics and the African Statistical Coordinating Committee (ASCC). In addition, acts as the interlocutor, and strengthens statistical coordination between the global statistical system and the African Statistical System, as well as promoting and coordinate the African inputs to United Nations Statistical Commission. Other functional areas are:

- a. Supporting the development and implementation of national sub-regional and continental statistical strategies.
- b. Statistical advocacy for efficient coordination of national statistical systems and resource mobilization to conduct statistical operations;
- c. Supporting statistical training and human resources development in Africa;
- d. Undertaking methodological research on new and emerging issues in various areas of statistics through technical networking and working groups;
- e. Undertake the development and adoption of data quality assurance frameworks
- f. Encouraging and supporting member States to modernize their statistical information systems improve statistical analysis, data exchange and dissemination through adoption of new initiatives and standards such as open data, statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX).
- g Management of ECA statistical database, including harmonization of data,
- h. Promoting innovation in statistical production processes, big data and other data sources to support the production of official statistics through advisory services and technical assistance to member States
- i. Supporting member States to explore the use of Big Data and other data sources; and applications of data science for official statistics.



## SECTION 4

### Geospatial Information Management System

The function of this section is to support the work of ACS and ECA. Its function is to advance holistic policies and strategies to foster the effective use of geospatial products and resources in support of emerging global challenges and various socio-economic sectors in Africa. Specifically;

- a. Policies: Advancing integrated geospatial information frameworks and governance (UN-GGIM: Africa). Providing assistance to member States in the development and implementation of national spatial data infrastructures (NSDI).
- b. Technicalities: Maintaining information and knowledge resources, and services that improve availability and use of spatially-enabled data for informed decision-making: streamlined online applications and services, core fundamental and thematic geospatial datasets, geospatial standards and interoperable common tools, geo-referencing, and geographic names.
- c. Capacities: Building a comprehensive, vision-driven, long-term transformative development of capacities; fostering spatial literacy, spatial awareness and navigational abilities and promoting infrastructural capabilities in global satellite navigation systems (GNSS).
- d. Partnership: Facilitating and encouraging linkages with international programs and initiatives. Collaborate and coordinate activities with other agencies in UN system, with international and regional associations, networks and programmes, and other development partners.
- e. Integration of geospatial and statistical information: fostering the integration of geospatial and statistical information in sustainable development planning and monitoring, and mainstreaming geospatial technologies into all relevant stages of statistical processes to facilitate spatial analytics and the spatial enablement of development information.

# **AFRICAN CENTRE *for* STATISTICS**

***Transforming  
Africa through  
credible data  
& statistics***

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