

## AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS (ACS)

### MONTHLY ROUNDUP - JANUARY 2024

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#### New Year Message from Director- ACS to staff

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*“Greetings. As we embark on a new year filled with possibilities, I want to express my gratitude for your dedication and hard work in quest to build sustainable, agile, and resilient statistical systems of African countries, and to support the work of ECA. Your commitment to ensuring the production and dissemination of credible data plays a vital role in shaping informed decisions across Africa. Let’s embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, working together to make impactful contributions to data-driven solutions.*

*The data demands and the need to provide data that make impactful changes are increasing, including within the UN. As the African Center for Statistics, we will be challenged to uphold its objective to be a common point of call for data and statistics by stakeholders to using modern approaches, tools, and new data sources. The expectation is to respond to demand using modern technologies, such as Machine Learning, Large Language Models, Artificial Intelligence, Geo- Artificial Intelligence, etc including Big Data. Application of data science potentials will be core to our work. To tackle these issues, I intend to have meetings soon with the Chiefs and the Regional Advisor on how we can position ourselves to remain relevant and impactful. I am therefore calling on each of us to step up to contribute to transforming and modernizing the data value chain to provide evidence-based solutions that improve the lives of people.*

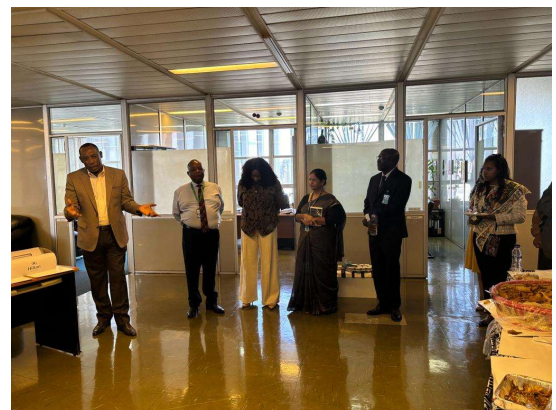
*Wishing you a year of growth, collaboration, and success. God bless you all.*

*Best regards,*

*Oliver”*



**15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 –** The ACS staff held their inaugural meeting with the UNECA Executive Secretary – Mr. Clavier Gatete. On the same day, the Director- ACS held a light moment with the staff to usher in the new year.



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## Technical consultative meeting to improve CRVS.

(Lome-Togo, 15-19 January 2024)

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ECA conducted stakeholder engagements and bilateral consultations with government entities responsible for the operations of the CRVS and the UN entities in Togo. The recommendations from the consultative meetings were 1) a CRVS legal review be conducted. 2) a national CRVS strategic plan be drawn up, 3) support development

of online training materials or guides 4) strengthen synergies and complementarities among CRVS stakeholders. To ensure universal civil registration, consideration was made to use the tablets used during the 5<sup>th</sup> population census in remote areas to increase registration coverage.



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## Result-Based Management and Quality Assurance Training Workshop

(Kigali-Rwanda, 22-26 January 2024)

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Eight staff of the ACS joined a training on result-based management in Kigali, Rwanda. The aim of this training was to enhance staff knowledge and skills to adequately mainstream and institutionalize result based management in ECA. Some of the specific objectives were to reinforce understanding of the revised ECA

evaluation policy, enabling staff to critically review evaluation designs and appreciate the practical utility of evaluations. As well as to reinforce better articulation and communication of results for enhanced ECA relevance and visibility.



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**Workshops on Rebasing of National Accounts and Illicit Financial Flow Statistics.  
(Nairobi- Kenya, 22 - 27 January 2024)**

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The ACS staff joined the workshop on Rebasing of National Accounts and Illicit Financial Flow Statistics organized by STATAFRIC in Nairobi, Kenya. ECIASS discussed the development of its African Continental Input-Output Table (AfCIOT), a statistical tool built on the statistics collected and compiled by African countries. Aiming to better include Africa in global databases, the tool brings together data from three domains: National Accounts, SUTs and trade statistics. The workshops were an opportunity to request Member States to engage in the development of AfCIOT by providing updated data in these domains. The ACS staff also emphasized the willingness to continue supporting Member States on the National Accounts rebasing efforts, especially on the outreach and the 2025 SNA early implementation plan.

On Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), the ACS staff promoted the work that ECA has done in supporting African countries in addressing IFFs in various capacities, including in collaboration with the UNCTAD to statistically estimate IFFs through an agreed-upon methodology that produces robust, consistent, and comparable estimates. ECA is partnering with STATAFRIC to deepen the work already done by expanding the list of beneficiary countries. Additional Member States represented in the meeting expressed interest in joining the IFFs calculation efforts. Recommendations for the joint support by Pan-African Organizations were provided.

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**Workshop on developing implementation guidelines to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.  
(Nairobi- Kenya, 29 January- 02 February 2024)**

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UNECA as secretariat of regional CRVS programme (APAI-CRVS), core group partners and selected countries reviewed the availability of existing global CRVS guidelines and their suitability for implementation in Africa and identified areas for which new guidelines are needed to better support country needs. The regional programme provides guidance on the

institutional and operational linkages, workflows, and results management mechanisms in a more comprehensive and holistic manner, encompassing the interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral interfaces of CRVS systems in Africa.



[Workshop on developing implementation guidelines to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems | APAI-CRVS \(uneca.org\)](https://www.uneca.org/apai-crvs)

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**Technical assistance and capacity building in big data and data science to statistical training centres in Africa.**  
**(December 2023 - January 2024)**

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ACS is bringing technical assistance and capacity building to Statistical Training Centres to prepare the next generation of statisticians to master big data and data science tools and techniques to fill the gaps in the data needed for the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

ACS sent missions to Dar es Salam, Dakar, Abidjan, and Yaoundé to establish a strong partnership with statistics training centers and explore collaboration opportunities in the fields of data science and artificial intelligence, which have the potential to significantly improve the production of official statistics. ACS also took the opportunity to discuss with the United Nations Resident Coordination Offices as well as the national statistical institutes the potential use of data science, big data, and artificial intelligence to strengthen data generation for supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, as well as other national and regional development goals.

**StatsTalk-Africa**

**Beyond Big Data: Modernizing administrative data for statistical purposes**

**Moderator**  
**Mr. Oliver Chinganya**  
Director, ECA- ACS

**Welcome remarks**  
**Ms. Janne Utkilen**  
Head of Division,  
Division for International  
Development Cooperation,  
Statistics Norway

**Presenter**  
**Mr. William Muhwava**  
Chief, DSSS, ECA-ACS

**Presenter**  
**Mr. Boateng Sadiq Kwesi**  
Senior statistics Adviser,  
Division for International  
Development Cooperation,  
Statistics Norway

The African Centre for Statistics held its 11<sup>th</sup> StatsTalk-Africa webinar series on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 that focused on “Beyond Big Data: Modernizing administrative data for statistical purposes”.

This 11<sup>th</sup> StatsTalk-Africa webinar aimed to give the National Statistics Offices in Africa an understanding of register-based statistics and an example of a process put in place to use administrative registers to produce socio-demographic and economic statistics. The webinar was important for countries planning to produce official statistics based on administrative data sources and registers; it discussed the steps to follow, challenges to address, available resources to exploit and lessons learned from advanced countries.