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**African Centre for Statistics**

**Ambassadors’ Quarterly Briefing (DSSS)**

**1 January - 31 March 2024**

**March 2024**

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# Key Activities (max 2-4 lines on the title, date and venue of the event, purpose and results/outcomes)

* 1. **Technical assistance to improve the CRVS in Togo from 15-19 January 2023**

The mission team conducted individual consultative meetings with government entities responsible for the operations of the CRVS and the UN entities. As an outcome, the mission team provided recommendations for immediate actions that the country should take to improve the CRVS system. These include: (i) The need to undertake a comprehensive review of the civil registration legislation. Such a review should be preceded by analysis of CRVS business processes.; (ii) The need for the country to develop a national strategic plan for CRVS which should guide improvement efforts; and (iii) the need for capacity building of civil registrars in Togo including through rolling out an online training course. The mission also discussed considerations for use of tablets used during the 5th population census to increase civil registration coverage in remote areas.

* 1. **Workshop on “Developing Implementation guides for CRVS systems Improvement”.**
  2. **January 2024, Nairobi, Kenya**

The workshop was attended by civil registration experts from 12 African countries[[1]](#footnote-1) and members of the regional CRVS core group[[2]](#footnote-2). The key outcomes of the workshop include:(i) the orientation of participants on existing CRVS guidelines for implementation in the African context[[3]](#footnote-3); (ii) identification of areas for which new guidelines are required including specific topics that the new guidelines should address; (iii) an agreement by partners on the need to coordinate in the development of resources including in the development of new resources; (iv) recognition of the importance of the APAI-CRVS Secretariat in regional CRVS knowledge management. A meeting of the APAI-CRVS core group and the APAI-CRVS digitalisation working group was held along the sidelines of the workshop.

* 1. **Global Strategy for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics Phase II**

Together with implementing partners in three statistical training centres (ENSAE – Senegal, ENSEA-Cote d’Ivoire, and EASTC, Tanzania), ACS continues to support and coordinate the provision of Master's in Agricultural Statistics to 48 scholars (42% female) from NSOs and agricultural line ministries of 24 member states. All 48 beneficiaries completed their master’s as follows: twenty-four (24) scholars from Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) graduated in November 2023; 12 each from ENSEA an ENSAE in December 2023 and January 2024. Except for the Sudanese scholars who were given fellowship grants to continue further training at the EASTC, all 46 beneficiaries are now serving their respective national statistical system.

# Knowledge generation and information-sharing

* 1. **Statistical abstract on demographic projections for Africa, 2024**

The draft statistical abstract and sample dashboard on demographic projections for Africa was submitted for feedback.

* 1. **Revised Time use, labour and gender capacity building training plan**

Revised time use, gender, labour, UNSD tool customization and design training plan produced by the experts to build NSO’s capacity.

* 1. **Census project management, Data dissemination, and Tracker digital tools**

Provided technical inputs for development of the Census project management, Data dissemination, and Tracker tool. Developed a reporting format for census project tool.

* 1. **Increased online visibility of national CRVS activities and the regional CRVS programme.**

Published the 2nd volume of the CRVS newsletter – CRVS Pulse on various fora <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/ACS/monthly-roundups/crvs-pulse-newsletter-volume2-2024.pdf>

Updated the APAI-CRVS web page <https://apai-crvs.uneca.org/> to include articles of recent activities undertaken by the APAI-Secretariat.

* 1. **Development of knowledge resources on population registers**

Produced an information note on population registers which is currently under review. Other related resources are under development.

* 1. **StatsTalk-Africa webinar series, January to March 2024**

The ACS is convening the monthly webinar series – StatsTalk-Africa – to provide a space for a dialogue about data, statistics, and innovative tools with data experts and users. Specifically, StatTalk-Africa aims to serve as a knowledge-sharing and exchange platform; and to demystify and promote greater understanding of key statistical concepts and alternative data sources that could be harnessed in the African context. For the first quarter of 2024 the topics discussed include: Modernizing administrative data for statistical purposes (30 January); Building of Inclusive National Identity Systems by Inter-linking digital identity and legal identity (20 February); and Understanding the Role of the UN Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Africa in Advancing the work on official statistics (19 March).

# Trainings Activities | Support

* 1. **Organization of PES workshop to be held in Addis from 20-23 February 2024.**

The workshop was designed to train participants from countries that are due to carry out a census and post-enumeration surveys (PES). Seven countries were invited to the workshop: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Nigeria, Tunisia, and Uganda. Training was provided by experts from National institute of Statistics Rwanda, ONS, UNFPA and ACS. Case studies from Rwanda, Ghana and Namibia were presented. Participants realized the steps required to carry out a successful PES, including operational management and tools that can be used to help monitor response, implementation of automatic matching, analysis and reporting.

* 1. **Training Workshop on development of register based official statistics in collaboration with Statistics Denmark**

DSS staff collaborated with officials of Statistics Denmark in the delivery of a capacity development programme aimed at capacitating staff from Statistics South Africa on the use of administrative data sources for the production of official statistics and strengthening co-operation between Statistics South Africa and administrative data owners to showcase the advantages of using linkable administrative microdata in the production of official statistics. The mission facilitated the launch of a national small-scale pilot project that would assess the possibility of Stats SA succeeding in establishing an exchange of microdata containing the national ID.

**3.3 Capacity Development of member States in Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) Tools and Open SDGs Platform**

ACS in partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the National Statistics Office of the United Kingdom (ONS-UK) conducted a hands-on training for member states in the use of SDMX to enhance data exchange for reporting on the SDGs as well as on the use of Open SDGs platform – an open-source dissemination platform for the SDGs. In the framework of the Eurostat grant to ECA to support monitoring of SDGs and statistics in Africa, participants of six beneficiary countries including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, and Morocco were trained in the use of SDMX and Open SDGs tools for onward implementation in their respective countries. The training workshop was held in Harare – Zimbabwe from 5 – 10 February 2024. Follow-up virtual meetings are held with countries to ensure application of the acquired skills towards official launching of SDG Dashboards in each respective country.

# Capacity Development and Technical and advisory services

* ONS/UK conducted a training, on “Women into Leadership” for NSO staff in Botswana from 22nd to 26th January.
* In collaboration with ONS/UK, ACS is in the process of developing a training course and reproducible pipelines in R for cleaning and analysing CRVS data. The purpose is to support countries to efficiently produce vital statistics reports.
* The APAI-CRVS Secretariat is collaborating with UNECSAP in rolling out the “The CRVS applied research training (CART)”. Twenty participants from African countries have been nominated to participate in the training which will provide mentorship in research, writing and publishing of scientific articles on CRVS.
* Assisting the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in developing a field monitoring system for the Ugandan Population Census 2024, adaptations of ECA Census digital tools.
* Collaborating with the Burundi National Statistics Office to develop a field monitoring system for Burundi's forthcoming census.
* Supporting Benin National Statistics Office in establishing a field monitoring system for the census mapping exercise scheduled for 2024.
* Collaborating with the Namibian Statistics Agency to create a digital census dissemination and communication product for the Namibian Census.
* The Performance Management Dashboard System, developed by ECA for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, was officially launched in Gaborone, Botswana, on 23rd Assisting the Gambian Bureau of Statistics in developing a field monitoring system and tablet provisioning system for the upcoming Gambian population census 2024.
* Supporting the Djibouti National Statistics Office to develop a field monitoring system for the upcoming population and housing census 2024.

1. **Consensus building activities | support**

* Gambian 2024 Population and Housing Census, high-level weekly virtual meeting held on census preparatory activities including digital data capture and building dashboards.
* Two virtual meetings conducted with AfDB and AUC for the production of a join African Statistical Yearbook Weekly virtual program management unit is being held with National Statistics Office of Rwanda, ONS-UK for the UN regional hub for Big Data and Data science to promote and develop capacity of member States in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics.

# Key Upcoming Events (for the period of April – June 2024 - max 2-4 lines on the name, date and venue of the event and its objectives)

* Regional Training Workshops on Improving and Analysing Mortality Levels and Cause of Death Data for Francophone countries in Dakar-Senegal, from 25 to 29 March 2024.
* A CRVS side event will be held along the sidelines of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on 23rd -25th of April 2024.
* The APAI-CRVS Secretariat in collaboration with Vital Strategies will organize a Global Workshop on Use Cases of End-to-End CRVS System Improvement in Kigali, Rwanda

Regional Data validation workshop for the joint statistical publication of ECA, AfDB and AUC will be held in Addis Ababa, 28 to 31 May 2024.

New Partnerships (a paragraph on any new partnerships formed and the focus/ purposes)

1. Cameroun, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. AfDB, AUC, CDC, ECA, IOM, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, Vital Strategies, World Bank GFF [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. see: <https://apai-crvs.uneca.org/events/workshop-developing-implementation-guidelines-improve-civil-registration-and-vital> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)