



Carlos Lopes stepped down from ECA end of October

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## Note from the Director



Mr. Oliver Chinganya  
Director, Africa Centre for Statistics

The African Centre for Statistics revived the publication of the African Statistical Newsletter in 2008 under the leadership Prof. Ben Kiregyera with the aim of providing a platform for sharing knowledge and information about statistical methodologies and their application to solve practical problems in Africa. The intention was to cover 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.

Unfortunately over the years especially after the 2013 when the African Centre for Statistics did not have a Director until April 2016, the African Statistical Newsletter lost focus and concentrated mainly on reporting statistical events.

This edition is picking up on the ideals and objective of the Newsletter at inception, thus to provide a forum to countries, regional economic groupings and development partners to showcase and highlight various statistical activities taking place on the continent of Africa. It also provides a vehicle for individual statisticians to share experience, exchange ideas and solutions.

The African Statistical Newsletter will continue to be published on a quarterly basis. It covers a number of areas, but mainly on emerging issues within the realms of data revolution, Big Data, open data initiatives as well as the issues around the

agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and activities being undertaken in countries.

This new issue will cover the following topics: stepping down of the ECA Executive Secretary, civil registration and vital statistics, statistical training center, statistical associations, the highlights of the book on the emerging data revolution appointments, new and retiring heads of national statistical offices, and upcoming events. It is with great pleasure that I want to thank all those who have contributed articles to this revived African Statistical Newsletter. I also want to thank the Editorial Board and the members of staff at the African Centre for Statistics who have worked so tirelessly to bring back the spirit of the Newsletter. I hope you find this edition interesting and that you will continue to submit articles for the next edition and the subsequent ones.

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CRVS web-based application.



The 15th session of the National Statistical Council, 20 October 2016.

## Carlos Lopes stepped down from ECA end of October

Addis Ababa, 29 September 2016 (ECA) – Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes, of the Economic Commission for Africa told ECA staff that he was stepping down from the organization he has led for the past four years.

Speaking at a town hall meeting, Mr. Lopes, who joined the ECA as its eighth Executive Secretary in September 2012, said he was proud of what the ECA had collectively achieved during the last four years. He commended the ECA staff for what he said were their tremendous efforts in supporting and working with him in the vision to make sure the ECA became a think tank of repute on the continent, making a difference in the lives of Africans through various products that are and will continue to make a positive impact.

“ECA has gone up quite considerably in terms of image and credibility in terms of its work and I’m sure people feel it in their

interactions everyday with our interlocutors,” Mr. Lopes said, adding the ECA did indeed live by its motto of “Africa First” in all its work.

“We have done it because of Africa. There’s a lot to be proud of on what we have been able to achieve together and this is the reason why I have confidence that the ECA will continue to shine”. Mr. Lopes, who was flanked by his two deputies, Abdalla Hamdok, Chief Economist and Deputy Executive Secretary, Knowledge Generation Pillar, and Giovanie Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery, said he had no doubt that from what the ECA has been able to deliver during his tenure, the organization will collectively continue to work together with its strategic partners like the African Union and the African Development Bank to promote Africa’s economic development.

“I’m just one person. With or without me the work has to continue. I was certainly your leader

during these four years but all things have to come to a close,” he said. “It is very important for us to realise that leaders are always transitional leaders if they are supposed to be good leaders. To be a good leader you have to be capable of leaving when you think the time is appropriate not when you are being pushed. This decision was on my timing.”

Speaker after speaker praised Mr. Lopes for, among other things, the role he played in reforming the ECA and taking the relationship between the organization, its partners and member states to a higher level, beautifying the ECA compound, leading the organization to host big conferences impacting on Africa’s development and empowering employees across the shop floor, mostly ensuring there was gender parity in the organization.

He left the organization on the 30th of October.

## Carlos Lopes démissionne de la CEA en fin octobre

Addis-Abeba, le 29 septembre 2016 (CEA) – Le Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique pour l’Afrique, M. Carlos Lopes, a officiellement annoncé au personnel de la CEA qu’il se retirait de l’organisation qu’il a dirigée ces quatre dernières années.

Prenant la parole lors d’une réunion du personnel, M. Lopes, huitième Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA qu’il a rejoint en septembre 2012, dit qu’il est fier de ce que la CEA et son personnel ont ensemble réalisé au cours des quatre dernières années. Il a félicité le personnel de la CEA pour les énormes efforts qu’il a fourni pour lui apporter un appui et une collaboration dont il a fait preuve pour garantir que sa

vision de voir la CEA devenir un groupe de réflexion de renom sur le continent, faire la différence dans la vie des Africains à travers divers produits qui sont et continueront d’avoir un impact positif.

«La CEA s’est considérablement redorée une image, une crédibilité dans ses activités et je suis certain que les gens le ressentent dans leurs interactions quotidiennes avec nos interlocuteurs», déclare M. Lopes. Et ajoute que la CEA vit en effet de sa devise «L’Afrique d’abord» dans tous ses travaux. «Nous l’avons fait à cause de l’Afrique. Il y a de quoi être fier et je suis très fier de ce que nous avons été en mesure de réaliser ensemble et ceci est la raison pour laquelle je suis convaincu que la CEA continuera de briller. Mon souhait,

mon espoir et ma conviction sont que, la CEA continuera de briller».

M. Lopes, accompagné de ses deux adjoints, M. Abdalla Hamdok, Économiste en chef et Secrétaire exécutif adjoint en charge de la production du savoir et Mme. Giovanie Biha, Secrétaire exécutive adjointe en charge de la diffusion du savoir, dit qu’il ne doute point que compte tenu des résultats de la CEA durant son mandat, l’organisation continuera de travailler main dans la main avec ses partenaires stratégiques tels que l’Union africaine et la Banque africaine de développement pour promouvoir le développement économique du continent.

«Je ne suis qu’un individu.

*Continuer à lire la page 4*

# Africa Metamorphoses from Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS): Comprehensive Assessments into the Implementation Stages of Strategic Plans

Africa has advanced considerably in identifying CRVS as a development imperative as it is apparent from the declarations of the first conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2010. In this historical conference, the ministers underscored the imperative of CRVS for Africa's development and laid the groundwork for securing the much-needed political commitment for accelerating CRVS in African. This conference also distinguished the holistic nature of CRVS and suggested a coordinated and integrated approach for strengthening CRVS systems in countries and further requested the three pan-African institutions, namely the Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to support the initiative in partnership with other United Nations agencies and other organizations.

The 2012 second conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration marked the turning point, as the ministerial conference was institutionalized as a standing forum of the African Union Commission. The institutionalization of the Conference was approved during the nineteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in July 2012 in Addis Ababa. This was further strengthened by the recommendations of the Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance. The 2012 Ministerial conference endorsed the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). In line with the recommendations of these high-level gatherings, the

third session of the conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration was held from the 12 to 13 February 2015, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on the theme, "Promoting the Use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Support of Good Governance in Africa", and this was the first such conference to be held under the auspices of the African Union Commission. The fourth session of the conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration is planned for April 2017 and will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania on the theme "Accelerating a coordinated improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) for implementation and monitoring development in Africa: Review of progress and the way forward". The ministerial conference is held every two years to take stock of the progress made in implementing the continental CRVS programme and provide policy makers with programmatic guidance. The Heads of States and Governments in their summit held in July 2016 declared 2017-2026 as the decade of CRVS and 10th August every year to be celebrated as the CRVS day.

Due to the significance of CRVS in the continent, the last five successive African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), namely the January 2012 in South Africa (7<sup>th</sup> ASSD), November 2012 in Cote D'Ivoire (8<sup>th</sup> ASSD), February 2014 in Botswana (9<sup>th</sup> ASSD), January 2015 in Uganda (10<sup>th</sup> ASSD) and November 2015 in Gabon (11<sup>th</sup> ASSD) have encouraged the development of CRVS comprehensive plans as well as the strategic plan for implementation purposes. These ASSD CRVS initiatives have unceasingly and fruitfully upheld the collaboration of CRVS actors at the country level mainly national statistics offices and civil registration authorities.

The seventh edition of the ASSD was the first ever continent-wide meeting between civil registration authorities and heads of national statistics offices. Some of the key recommendations from this meeting included strengthening coordination between national statistics offices and civil registration offices, and enhancing the roles and responsibilities of the two players in the operational aspects of CRVS at the country level. The eighth and ninth sessions of the Symposium went a step further by involving officials from ministries of health, in recognition of the important role of the health sector as a producer and user of vital statistics from civil registration, as a key player and potential resource in the registration of births and deaths, and as a core actor in the accurate recording and certification of death and the collection of cause of death information. The tenth edition of the Symposium resolved that countries should use CRVS systems to generate mortality and cause of death statistics in a seamless cooperation between National Statistics Offices, Civil Registration Offices and Ministries of Health. During the eleventh Symposium, the last one dedicated to the improvement of CRVS, the representatives of national statistical offices and civil registration authorities of African states committed to establishing a Committee of Civil Registrars at the continental level. It was also resolved that each country should set up a mechanism to regularly measure the completeness of vital events registration at all levels of hierarchy based on CRVS systems.

The continental CRVS programme is supported by a group of pan-African institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, which together form the continental CRVS Core Group. The objective of this



partnership is to bring together all of the key CRVS actors on the continent to work within a common framework. Set up in 2011, the Core Group is intended to harmonize approaches, harness synergies and thus help to avoid duplication of efforts. It provides technical and financial support to the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). The core group arrangement is currently being formalized through a memorandum of understanding, which will ensure a more sustainable engagement by partners in the implementation of the continental APAI-CRVS programme.

Due to the differences between the English and French countries CRVS systems, ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa in Niamey was requested to lead the French speaking countries in the implementation of the APAI-CRVS programme. Equally, already developed technical materials were translated and aligned to suit the French pattern of CRVS for an effective implementation of the CRVS process in French speaking countries. A Regional Support Group for Francophone countries was officially established in February 2015. A sub-regional core group, made up of the same institutions and based in the Sub-regional Office for West Africa, in Niamey, was created in 2013 to serve the specific needs of French-speaking African countries.

As provided for in the APAI-CRVS programme, a total of twenty-six countries have completed the assessments, five countries are in the process and further nine countries are initiating the process as of October 2016. Out of those, twenty-four countries have already developed strategic plans for CRVS. The Core Group has contributed immensely to this process by supporting the development of the required resource materials and helping Governments to find funding for the various components

of the assessment and planning processes.

Now that more than 25 countries have conducted the assessments and many of them have developed the plans, it becomes crucial to support and guide countries in the implementation of the plans as well as ensure that they are progressing in the right direction. CRVS by its nature is multidisciplinary and different types of support are required for the implementation of the reform of different parts of the system. The Core Group has already started developing guidance on the key areas, such as digitization, mortality statistics and vital statistics. However more support and capacity building is needed, including building a pool of specialized experts.

Although most countries adopted a uniform approach to conducting the assessments, some of them followed different methods and a few others used tools for CRVS assessment and planning that were different from the ones developed by the Regional Core Group under APAI-CRVS. Such deviations were mostly found in the northern African countries and in those countries that had completed their assessment even before the tools and guidance were developed by the Regional Core Group. Some countries adopted different approaches to planning and there were those where the process of assessment and planning was consultant driven. The question that needs to be addressed is whether the strategies and plans developed by countries would lead to the desired goal of achieving an efficient and effective CRVS system that meets the international benchmark as envisaged in the UN Principles and Recommendations and also other global guidelines and standards and also whether these are best suited to the country context. Analysis of the business processes of CRVS system was not always properly conducted during the assessment, mostly due to limited guidance and

tools in this regard. The strategy on how to incorporate the methods of enterprise architecture in APAI-CRVS assessment guidelines and tools is currently being developed to address this issues.

As a way forward, countries that have not yet undertaken assessment of their CRVS are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. It should be noted that the availability of CRVS plan based on a comprehensive assessment can no longer be taken to an indicator of successful implementation of APAI-CRVS in a country. A clearer results-based framework needs to be introduced and discussed to take the programme to the next level. The strategic plan 2016-2020 developed by Regional Core Group (RCG) can be the basis for this discussion and equally considering setting up a review mechanism process in which a template based review can be carried out in the countries, if required through the imperative of a peer-review process. These should not be just fact or fault finding exercises but should have an expanded scope of proposing changes and providing clear directions for CRVS implementation

followed by technical assistance wherever required. Moreover, the review of existing guidelines and tools on CRVS assessment and planning should be undertaken and should explicitly include the process of business process mapping as an integral part of the process. There is also a need to develop a strategic set of guidelines for implementation of the plans.

Developing a monitoring framework in countries with two essential components aimed at a) measuring registration coverage on a regular basis; and b) a template-based annual review of progress of implementation of CRVS plans are in the process of being implemented. Undertaking a donor mapping exercise including specific area of support for each donor in each

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## Namibia Statistics Agency appoints new Statistician General & CEO

The Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA), an autonomous government agency responsible for official statistics in the country has appointed Mr. Alex Shimuafeni as Statistician General and CEO as from the 1 April 2016 for a five (5) year term. Mr. Shimuafeni is a holder of a Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Statistics Degree. In addition, he is also a holder of an MBA (Marketing) and Master's Degrees in Statistics from the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Mr Shimuafeni's illustrious career as a statistician started at the former Central Bureau of Statistics. He then was appointed as Chief Statistician for a 3 year term at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Over the next 21 year period, he held senior management

positions in the banking sector and various state-owned enterprises. His last position before joining NSA was Chief Commercial Officer at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. He therefore brings to the job not only rich experience in organizational leadership and management but also critical networks that will prove invaluable to NSA going forward,

Mr. Shimuafeni is an inspiration and trailblazer to many young upcoming Statisticians and a trendsetter in encouraging professional statisticians to expand their professional careers and horizons beyond statistics and to manage and lead organisations without limiting themselves to the technical aspect of statistics as a profession.

Mr. Shimuafeni replaced Dr.

John Steytler, former Statistician General, who was appointed Economic Advisor to His Excellency President of the Republic of Namibia as from 21 March 2015.



Mr. Alex Shimuafeni

Continuer à lire la page 1: Carlos Lopes démissionne de la CEA en fin octobre

Avec ou sans moi, les travaux doivent se poursuivre. J'étais certainement votre chef au cours de ces quatre années, mais toute chose à une fin », dit-t-il. « Il est très important que nous réalisons que les leaders sont toujours de transition s'ils sont compétents. Pour être un bon leader, vous devez être capable de quitter quand vous

pensez que le moment est opportun et non quand on ne veut plus de vous. Voilà pourquoi cette décision vient de moi et à point nommé». Chaque fonctionnaire ayant pris la parole a fait l'éloge de M. Lopes pour, entre autres, le rôle qu'il a joué dans la réforme de la CEA, les rapports entre l'organisation, ses partenaires et les États

membres à un niveau supérieur, l'embellissement de l'enceinte de l'institution et son rôle d'accueillir de grandes conférences ayant un impact sur le développement du continent, habiliter les employés et surtout garantir la parité hommes-femmes dans l'organisation.

Il quitte l'organisation le 30 octobre 2016.

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country and the APAI-CRVS website can be used to do this. It is also important that there is more active engagement with major donors. The idea of creating a multi-donor trust fund for resourcing the continental strategic plan can be scrutinized. Developing pools of experts on various aspects of CRVS such as law and policy, vital statistics, causes of death, digitization etc. should be well integrated in the process. These pools can be effectively used to support countries in need during their implementation phase. Expanding the existing pool of

overall CRVS experts by including more potential candidates from emerging CRVS champions from countries is essential. Considering strategies for deploying long-term advisers in countries to support implementation of the CRVS improvement plan is critical. Equally, developing a strategy and action plan on sustainable capacity development on CRVS in Africa should include academic and in-service training curriculum on CRVS including its various elements and deliver them through universities, statistical training

centres, public administration and public health training institutions. There is also a need to promote south-south cooperation including creating of "centres of excellence" in country based institutions.

'We would all agree that a civil registration and vital statistics system is an integral part of the regular and routine governance of a country and it is primarily the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to run it smoothly and efficiently'. Says Dr. Carlos Lopes, Former Executive Secretary of UNECA.

## Farewell and welcome to the departing and incoming Director Generals

Over the past months there are ten countries seeing the change of Director Generals in their National Statistical Offices. The African statistics community and African Centre for Statistics would like to wish the very best to the retiring director generals, congratulate their decorated careers, and wish the best to their next endeavors. We thank them for their continuing service to the countries and to African statistics community, the tremendous contribution they have put in over the years, and their unbroken dedication to lift African statistical systems. The ACS would also like to welcome the new incoming Director Generals, and extends our highest regards to their reaffirming dedication to statistics and looking forward to their many years of contribution and collaboration to the

Country	Title, Organization	Departing Director General	New Director General
Cabo Verde	Président , Instituto Nacional de stica (INE)	Mr. Duarte Antonio dos Reis	Dr. Osvaldo Borges
Côte d'Ivoire	Directeur Général, Institut	Mr. Ibrahima Ba	Mr. Nguessan Gabriel
Ghana	Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service	Dr. Philomena Efua Nyarko	Mr. Baah Wadieh
Lesotho	Director, Bureau of Statistics	Ms. Lefosa Liengoane	
Mali	Directeur Général, Institut	Monsieur Traore Seydou	Monsieur Harouna Kone
Mozambique	President, National Statistical	Loureiro João Dias	Dr. Rosário Bernardo
Namibia	Namibian Statistics Agency	Dr. John Steytler	Mr. Alex Shimuafeni
République Démocratique du	Chargé de Mission, Institut National de la Statistique	Prof. Grégoire Kankwanda Ebulelang	Monsieur Roger Shulungu Runika
Somalia	Director General of Statistics and Planning, Ministry of National Planning and Statistics	Ahmed E. Muhumad	Mr. Mohamed O. Moalim
Sudan	Director General , Central Bureau of Statistics	Dr. Yasin Abdin	Dr. Karam Alla Ali Abdelrahman Salih

Mr. António dos Reis Duarte, President of the National Statistics Institute (NSI), Cabo Verde, is leaving the NSI. Mr. Duarte was in the Presidency of National Statistics Institute in Cabo Verde from May 2007 to June 2016. The new President of the Institute is Dr. Osvaldo Borges. Mr. Ibrahima Ba served as the Director General of Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Côte d'Ivoire since July 2011. The new Director General is Mr. Nguessan Gabriel Doffou. Dr. Philomena Efua Nyarko, Government Statistician of Ghana, is leaving the Ghana

Statistical Service (GSS) this year. The new Acting Government Statistician, Mr. Baah Wadieh, is taking the helm at GSS. Ms. Lefosa Liengoane Mothoweso left from the Director, Bureau of Statistics Lesotho position. On 21 September, Mr. Harouna Kone was officially nominated by the Council of Ministers as the new Director General at Institut National De la Statistique (INSTAT), Mail, bidding farewell to Mr. Traore Seydou. Mozambique selected the new President for National Statistical Institute, Dr. Rosário Bernardo Francisco Fernandes. The retiring

President is Loureiro João Dias. The Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) has appointed Mr. Alex Shimuafeni as Statistician General and CEO as from 1 April 2016. He replaced Dr. John Steytler, former Statistician General, who was appointed in March 2015. Institut National de la Statistique of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ministry of National Planning and Statistics of Somalia and the Central Bureau of Statistics of Sudan also welcome their newest leaders, Monsieur Roger Shulungu Runika, Mr. Mohamed O. Moalim and Dr. Karam Alla Ali Abdelrahman Salih.



# Civil registration and SDGs: The case of Rwanda

**Yusuf Murangwa**

Director General

National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

## 1. Introduction and background

Individual identity records and documents generated from a civil registration system provide the basic legal documents to an individual to fulfill the first fundamental human right that every individual is entitled to upon birth i.e. the right to a name and an identity; from which other human and civil rights are founded. Records of vital events derived from a well-functioning civil registration systems also provide a permanent, continuous, universal and reliable source of vital statistics including causes-of-death for accurate and timely planning, resource allocation and for good governance. However, in the absence of a fully functioning CRVS system, the need for vital statistics is met by conducting expensive periodic demographic and health surveys and decennial population censuses.

Registration of vital events started in Rwanda during the colonial period, however it only catered to the colonial interests. In Rwanda, like in many other African countries, most of our people have therefore come into this world and left without leaving trace in official records. The laws regulating civil registration<sup>1</sup> evolved with time after independence but they were weak and did not meet international standards until the Government repealed all previous laws and replaced them with a comprehensive law (ordinary law

No 32/2016) on 28 August 2016. The current law makes registration compulsory. Moreover, there is a strong political will to implement the Civil Registration law and support the development of CRVS systems.

Rwanda has a decentralized administration with 30 districts, 416 sectors and over 2000 cells designed as an approach for people's political empowerment geared towards sustainable democratization and to serve as a structural arrangement for mobilization of economic development initiatives and resources, and as a means to achieve reconciliation, social integration and well-being. By its very nature CRVS system cuts across many sectors thus involving many stakeholders either as providers or users of the service. The key stakeholders are the National Institute of Statistic of Rwanda (NISR), Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), the National ID Agency (NIDA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Districts administrations. NISR was designated by law (Law N° 45/2013 of 16/06/2013) as the only competent institution empowered to officially organize statistical activities in Rwanda. MINALOC coordinates the civil registration system nationally through the National ID Agency (NIDA) and the districts within their areas of responsibilities.

## 2. Current status of the CRVS systems of Rwanda

Over 95 % of births take place at health facilities. Almost 100 % of new born are vaccinated immediately after birth whether it occurs at home or in a health facility, whereas birth registration is only about 51 %. About 40 % of deaths

occur at health facilities and about 10 % of these are not registered. Moreover almost all births, whether at health facilities or at home, have at least one contact with the health sector as indicated by the very high rate of new-born vaccinations (Table 1). Despite these opportunities to register all births and deaths, the current situation is unacceptably low. All marriages take place in front of a Civil Registrar in Sector Office and divorces take place in courts. Again, the official registration of these events is dismally low.

## 3. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

CRVS system is a key priority area for the second National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS2)<sup>3</sup> which was developed in September 2014. To date, the CRVS systems in Rwanda are too weak to provide reliable and complete information to serve as a source for vital statics on a continuous basis. The need for vital statistics is therefore met by conducting expensive periodic demographic and health surveys and decennial population censuses. NSDS2 recognizes civil registration as one of the statistical transformative agenda for Rwanda.

## 4. Main challenges and achievements in the development of CRVS systems

The Second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration held in 2012, called on all African countries to take urgent measures towards improving their CRVS systems. In line with the recommendations of the Conference, Rwanda conducted a comprehensive assessment of

<sup>1</sup> The term used to express civil registration in Law no.32/2016 OL is "civil status". In this report civil registration and civil status are used interchangeably.

**Table 1. Indicators on birth and death by source of data**

	Urban	Rural	Total	Source
Birth registration coverage (%)			51	NISR Annual CRVS Report, 2015
Antenatal care coverage (%)	44	44	44	RDHS 2015 <sup>2</sup>
Attended at least 1 ANC Visit during	99	99	99	RDHS 2015
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	97	89	93	RDHS 2015
DTP3 Immunization coverage among 1-year-	99	98	98	RDHS 2015
Death registration coverage			31	NISR Annual CRVS Report, 2015
Causes-of-death	No ICD compliant data available			
Marriage registration coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Divorce registration coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	

the state of its systems in order to identify the weaknesses and gaps that need to be addressed. One of the major weakness of the CR system identified was the lack of simplified and efficient processes for delivering service to the people therefore contributing to low registration. Although there are arrangements in many of the health facilities to record and notify Sectors on occurrences of births and deaths as they occur, they are operating at a sub-optimal level. The recording of causes of death is inadequate.

Other areas that need to be improved or strengthened are coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders; organizational structure for CR system; monitoring and evaluation framework; comprehensive integrated and secure IT solutions; expertise in civil registration, vital statistics

and cause of death; advocacy and communication programme; standardizing and aligning registration to international recommendations; clearing vital events registration backlog; among others. On the other hand there are several developments that are conducive for a well-functioning CRVS system and even more potentials to bring about quick improvement in the state of CRVS systems in the country. Some of these achievements are given below.

#### *a. Legal framework*

A CRVS system should be anchored on a strong law with supplementary regulations, directives and policy documents. The recently decreed law on regulating civil registration (ordinary law N° 32/2016) of 28 August 2016 makes registration compulsory, and it is, to a large extent, aligned to international principles and

recommendations.

#### *b. Coordination and collaboration*

The key stakeholders of the CRVS system (NISR, NIDA, MINLOC, MoH and MINJUST) have an understanding of the importance of concerted effort and commitment to align institutional mandates to achieve a well-functioning system and thereby maximizing available resources for the nation. Although this is a significant achievement, there is still room for strengthening and formalizing implementation.

#### *c. CRVS web-based application*

Since 2008, NISR has worked in collaboration with the National ID Agency (NIDA) and MoH to develop a web-based application system that facilitates the collection, storage and production of vital events data

<sup>2</sup> Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2015. <http://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/demographic-and-health-survey-dhs-20142015-key-findings>.

<sup>3</sup> National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), *The Second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics*, September 2014. [http://www.statistics.gov.rw/sites/default/files/publications/bf898934-f309-4ee4-8590-1747f750e513/NSDS2-Final\\_%20November\\_2014.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.rw/sites/default/files/publications/bf898934-f309-4ee4-8590-1747f750e513/NSDS2-Final_%20November_2014.pdf).



from civil registration,

including causes of deaths, through registration at 416 Sector office and online notification in about 600 health facilities. NISR, has also developed capacities, both in terms of human and required IT infrastructure for the Sectors and health facilities. The software behind the web-based application is home-grown developed at a reasonable and affordable cost.

The web-based application has several benefits which include: connecting health facilities to the sectors, through web interfaces, such that all births and death from these entities are registered and automatically transferred to the respective sectors for confirmation; instant transfer of the data from the sector to the national database; monitoring of civil registration from both district and central level; secure storage of the civil records; nationwide system that will help detect unauthorized practices regarding individual civil status. It has the potential to give limited access to others, on need basis through user interfaces created at the central level.

#### *d. Death and causes-of-death registration*

In the absence of a fully-functioning civil registration and vital statistics system, Rwanda has not benefitted from a continuous recording of information on causes of death and the statistics derived thereof. Currently, there is no solid basis to determine which diseases have major impacts on the population. This in turn has impacted negatively on the development and transformation efforts to improve the wellbeing of the people. NISR and MoH are collaborating to change this unacceptable situation using two prongs approach:

- i. Deaths in health facilities: Ministry of Health has laid out a plan to institute in all health facilities based on standard medical cause of death certification as defined by the WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD). This is expected to capture about 60% of deaths with the causes-of-death recorded; and
- ii. Deaths in the communities: Rwanda is introducing pay-for-performance incentive for deaths notified, registered and with causes of death captured with Verbal Autopsy interview completed. This initiative will start in pilot 200 cells and scaled up to cover all communities over the next few years. Every cell covered in the VA will be integrated with civil registration activity in that area so that capacity is built and the initiative is sustained when the project phases out.
- iii. CRVS systems and regional and international development agendas In September 2015, 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the historic resolution committing themselves to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which build on the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) which came to an end in December 2015. The SDGs are ambitious, universal and transformational, aimed at balancing economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The Agenda is driven by

the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ and rooted in universal rights.

CRVS plays a critical role in supporting efforts towards the realization of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063, in particular to inclusive growth and sustainable development; African integration; good governance, respect for human rights and rule of law; and people-driven development. It also plays significant role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs at the global, national and sub-national levels as the primary source information across all the goals and many of the associated targets and indicators.

## 5. Conclusion

Rwanda has embarked on the modernization and integration of its CRVS systems. This is in line with the government policy to create a digital society. Thus, CRVS systems will play a critical role in the effective implementation of universal and inclusive policies and programmes essential for achieving several of the goals and targets of the Agenda 2030 in Rwanda and Agenda 2063 in Africa. In Rwanda, much has been achieved in laying the ground work for digitized CRVS systems. We are now finalizing a strategic plan to serve as a road map towards “Leave no one behind”; by ensuring complete registration of vital events as they occur so that no one is excluded and/or denied universal human rights and access to basic economic opportunities.



## Address by the Chair of African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) and Statistician General of South Africa on the 12<sup>th</sup> ASSD held in Tunis, 2 November 2016



Pali Leohla  
Statistician General  
Statistics South Africa

The journey to Tunisia for the 12<sup>th</sup> African Symposium for Statistical Development has been one long coming. It represents three major milestones since the inauguration of the ASSD ten years ago in Cape Town, South Africa. More appropriately our journey has connected the furthestmost tips of the north-south axis in Africa, Cape Town in South Africa and Tunis in Tunisia. When we started we were not certain about the future but we were driven by a profound conviction that what we were up to was the correct path, we knew that we anchored our vision on the true north hence our journey today landing us in the north most tip of North Africa. We were in search of our history, a journey for Africa to reclaim its place in history and put paid the prospect of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as one belonging to Africa.

Tunisia carries the history and pride of being African. Legend tells us that before the whole of

Africa adopted the name Africa, Tunisia was already called Afriqiya. How such of a magnificent history of our being. Such a history that dates back to the Mesolithic period during the middle of the Stone Age period. The Phoenicians first touched the shores of this northern Africa country that they called Kart Hudesht, meaning the “new city”, which would later become the famous state of Carthage. Carthage, the pride of Africa, would go on to wage the undisputed First and Second Punic Wars which gave rise to Hannibal, the son of Barca. History is no pastime. The narrative of ancient Tunisia tells how quickly the Tunisia of today went to position herself following the revolutions that centered around north Africa only about five years ago. Tunisia is setting herself as a trailblazer of human dignity not only in Africa, but the world over. The building institutions of the state and giving credence to the function of official statistics in this country has been breathtaking. This is encapsulated in the statement by the President of Tunisia, His Excellency Beji Caid Essebsi, on 21 September 2016 during the US Africa Business Forum, when he said:

*“We have now started a democratic system. But democracy is not easy. It’s practiced, it’s not imposed.”*

Only about two years back we were here at the same hotel during the meeting of Statistics Commission for Africa. This kind of priority on official statistics by a nation gives us hope that not

only is it about hosting meetings here in Tunis, but that statistics is being placed at the centre of the democratization project in this country. And this hope will one day transcend the whole of our beloved continent as we continue to trudge towards Africa’s Agenda 2063 within the era of Sustainable Development Goals that will hold the whole world together in prosperity. Just yesterday, literally yesterday, sons and daughters for Africa were discussing how we will track the indicators in supporter Agenda 2063.

What have been the major milestones? Irked by lacklustre performance on matters statistics at the ECA fifteen years ago, clouds of discontent began to build and hover over the ECA. It was in November 2005 that we deliberated our displeasure at our continental performance on matters statistics especially the 2010 Round of Population Census Programme. We took a decision to convene in South Africa to take deep deliberations on this matter and fortunately Mr. Janneh had just been appointed as the Executive Secretary and he joined the call made by the then Minister of Finance of South Africa, Trevor Manuel to discuss matters statistics in Cape Town. That was the birth of the ASSD. Today we are witnessing the hosting of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASSD here in Tunisia, where our African leaders have made a determination that it is the seat of African Statistics. Statisticians have proposed that the African Institute of Statistics be named Mandela African Institute of Statistics. More about this later.

In Cape Town we agreed to the resuscitation and inception of the Statistics Centre at the ECA. In this regard the African Statistics Centre at the ECA was established after Chief Ajayi and I worked on a strategy for this to eventuate. By the end of our mission for the creation of the centre, the search for a director of the centre was under way and in 2007 Mr Janneh appointed Professor Ben Kireyegera as the centre's first director. A man of great innovation, vision and one imbued with immense pragmatism ensured that in the two years of his sojourn at the ECA his presence was felt in Africa and yonder. Ben ran with the census programme and in short order brought to the attention of the ASSD, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). Within a short period of time CRVS had made its waves and the world watched with awe as Africans rose to the greatest of heights. ASSD took on CRVS as the next crucial priorities after it enjoyed continued success in censuses. The third milestone emerged as the AU brought to our programme and action list Strategies for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). As we did so we participated in the 2011 Round of International Comparisons Programme (ICP). Today we enjoy the fourth milestone as we change gear and move towards economic statistics.

The years 2007-2012 no doubt have been ones of great prowess in statistical development in Africa and our appreciation goes to the leadership that Trevor Manuel of South Africa and Abduale Janneh of the ECA demonstrated in institution building. To these Africans we should add Dr Kaberuka of the AfDB and Dr Konare of the AUC. Africa was taking off in statistics armed with crucial assets of statistical development.

Post 2012, although we are not as strong, we have taken on two major programmes and delivered on them and promise the continent that it has the competence, brilliance and commitment of its talented sons and daughters to deliver. We have as a matter of fact provided strategy informed costed SDG indicators and we have just concluded another costed strategy informed programme on indicators of Agenda 2063. We have finalised the resource mobilisation strategy as well as the technology strategy for Africa. However we remain concerned as African statisticians. Amongst our concerns is that we do not see on the radar, countries going in for the census with same vigour in the 2020 Round as we did in the 2010 Round. The collapse of commodity prices lays a real threat. But like monocrops of the 1960s, commodity prices of the 80s, all these in today's subdued demand is a *de javu*. So is Africa capable of learning and ensuring that it can avoid what are predictable disasters and cycles. At least we know Lesotho has completed its 2016 obligation in this regard, with Egypt hot on its hills in this year. Ethiopia and Kenya are preparing for their censuses in 2017 and 2018/19 respectively. Each and everyone of these countries have been inspired by the new tablet technology. We however are unable to with certainty say whether Nigeria will run its census this year ten years after it ran one in 2006. This is a matter we have to worry about more so Nigeria being such a big country, a giant of Africa. We remain concerned as almost 20 countries face one or other civil unrest including the new form of attacks, militancy and radicalism that appear to emphasis a religious base. We are concerned not because of lack of trying and expressing our views and participating in seeking solutions but we are concerned that our own

pan African institutions have chosen to ignore African census data for other datasets and when asked they provide very unscholarly and lame excuses. We are concerned that our very crucial data from the International Comparisons Programme is not part of the arsenal of data that informs Africa's industrialisation strategy, trade, nor integration index. This data lies idle whilst other disparate efforts are underway to search for magic wound solutions. We are concerned that the CRVS programme in Africa has just but collapsed. One of the flagship programmes that remained the pride of this continent is a sad shadow of itself for no other reason but absence of structured decisiveness. We are concerned that resolutions carried out at the highest level of the African Union and the ECA on matters data such as one on the creation of the Global Partnership for Data which was supposed to be directed to the UN Secretary General have hitherto not been communicated thus paralysing Africa's own futures to deal with challenges of global data governance. This is a matter left to its own devices to the detriment of the African continent. We remain concerned but we shall do what we have to do because as African statisticians we remain committed to Agenda 2063 as well as our own national development plans and look ahead at connecting globally for the future of humanity for delivering SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, South Africa won the bid for hosting on behalf of Africa in the first instance and the world, the very first United Nations World Data Forum to be held from 15-18 January 2017 in Cape Town. We are grateful to fellow Africans and Kenya particularly for being a great competitor for this and we have started our work with hosting. We are grateful to the Secretary



# Calendar events

**15-18 January 2017**  
UN World Data Forum  
Cape Town, South Africa



The first ever UN World Data Forum will be hosted by Statistics South Africa, with support from the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**23-28 March 2017**  
2017 Conference of Ministers and Africa Development Week:  
“Growth, inequality and unemployment”  
Dakar, Senegal

The Tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa’s Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will be held as part of Africa Development Week 2017 in Dakar, Senegal, from 23 to 28 March 2017. The conference will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Committee of Experts. The themes of the Meetings are “theme of “Growth, inequality and unemployment””. They will explore measures for reducing inequality and extreme poverty on the continent in order to achieve the targets of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2013-2023) of Agenda 2063 and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Meetings will consider statutory issues in relation to the Economic Commission for Africa.

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Continued from page 10: Address by the Chair of African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) and Statistician General of South Africa

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General of the United Nations, Mr Ba Ki Moon for having deemed it fit to ask South Africa to host this the very first United Nations World Data Forum.

We are pleased that Tunisia will host the African Union Statistics Institute and we are pleased that on the fateful day that befell South

Africa in December 2013, with the passing on of our beloved Madiba, our African brothers meeting in Benoni, South Africa deemed it fit to name the AU Statistics Institute, the Nelson Mandela AU Statistics Institute. We are connecting Africa from Cape to Tunis through statistics, a conduit of trust. A conduit for development.

A conduit for world peace, détente and development. It is here in Tunis that we can resuscitate the glory of African statistics so we can put paid Longfellow’s wise words that read “The heights by great men reached and kept were not by sudden flight, but they whilst their companions slept were toiling away through the night”.

## Introduction to African Centre for Statistics: Geoinformation and Sectoral Statistics Section

**Vision:** Ensure that spatial information (data, information products and resources) permeates every aspect of society and that they are available to people who need them, when they need them, and in a form that they can use to make informed-decisions.

**Mission:** Leverage geospatial information technology to meet African development agenda and in support of the emerging global challenges: Climate change impacts, Water resources management, Environmental stresses (Desertification, Disasters); Infrastructure Development and also to champion the use of geospatial science and technology and spatial information services to drive Africa to become more spatially enabled.

**Strategy:** Develop an African holistic purpose-oriented geospatial information resources linking global to local, but based on prevailing social, economic and technological realities in the continent. Among others, some of the core features of the strategy include:

- Advancing holistic geospatial information policies
- Establishing authoritative repository of development data
- Fostering spatial literacy, spatial awareness and navigational abilities
- Mainstreaming geospatial technology into Statistics
- Promoting strategic partnerships.

### Focus Areas:

- Pillar 1 – Policies: Overarching governance mechanism to coordinate Geospatial information related institutions and initiatives focus areas and activities that are in synergy - UN-GGIM: Africa, ARSDI, and NSDI.
- Pillar 2 – Technicalities: Developing enabling environments; harmonizing spatial data management with common fundamental datasets, standards, e-Services and geodetic reference – AFREF, SALB, GeoNyms, etc.
- Pillar 3 – Capacities: Strengthen and harmonize human resources development across Africa. Fostering spatial literacy, spatial awareness and navigational abilities. Promoting infrastructural capabilities. – AFREF, Regional Centre of Excellence, etc.
- Pillar 4 – Partnership: Facilitate and encourage linkages with international programs and initiatives such as UN-GGIM, UNGIWG, UN Space, GSDI, GEO, GMES, etc.
- Pillar 5 - Geographic Statistics: Encourage linkages between national spatial data infrastructures (NSDI) and national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) and mainstream the enabling capabilities of geospatial technology into national statistical offices (NSO) activities (all the way through training, data and processes).

Officer-in-Charge  
Andre Nonguierma  
E-mail : ANonguierma@uneca.org  
Telephone : +251115444718



# Africa celebrates African Statistics Day 2016



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

**Strengthening Economic Statistics  
for Regional Integration,**

**Structural Transformation, and  
Sustainable Development**

**African  
Statistics Day  
2016**

## African Centre for Statistics

Each year Africa celebrates on 18 November for the African Statistics Day. The theme of the Day this year is “Strengthening economic statistics for regional integration, structural transformation and sustainable development”.

High-quality economic statistics are critical to Africa’s regional integration and economic transformation, and in achieving the aims set by the United Nations in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and by the African Union in Agenda 2063 – “The Africa We Want”. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) encompass the interlinkages between the three dimensions of economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability - all crucially linked to economic statistics. To achieve the SDG and goals of Agenda 2063, it is imperative to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism for economic statistics. Countries must ensure a reliable supply of core economic statistics needed to monitor and evaluate progress towards the SDG.

The sustainable growth and development of Africa call for structural transformation of its economies. Economic statistics are an essential tool for promoting structural transformation, tracking reallocation of resources from less productive to more productive sectors, boosting the contribution of manufacturing sector to GDP, and advocating a demographic transition from high to low birth and death rates and supporting a rise in urbanization. Economic statistics also play a central role in recognizing and defining development issues, informing policy design, monitoring and evaluation and forecasting future trends.

Regional integration enhances economic growth and development. Economic statistics provide data for tracking various aspects of regional integration, including trade, infrastructure, labour mobility, energy, capital investment, productive capacity and monetary and financial integration.

“Africa Rising” is now a reality, and the growth of Africa is one of the most exciting and important stories in the world today. On 18 November, 2016, countries across Africa celebrate the African Statistics Day, and advocate the strengthening economic statistics for regional integration, structural transformation and sustainable development for a brighter, greater future of African statistics.

**18 NOVEMBER 2016**



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

*Paix – Travail – Patrie*

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

*Peace – Work – Fatherland*

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## CAMEROON STATISTICS MONTH

20 October to 20 November 2016

**THEME:** Strengthening economic statistics for regional integration, structural transformation and sustainable development



Under the coordination of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS)

PB: 134 Yaoundé Tel: (237) 22 22 04 45 Fax: (237) 22 23 24 37

Website: [www.statistics-cameroon.org](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org)

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

*Paix – Travail – Patrie*

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

*Peace – Work – Fatherland*

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## MOIS DE LA STATISTIQUE AU CAMEROUN

20 octobre au 20 novembre 2016

**THEME:** Renforcement des statistiques économiques pour l'intégration régionale, la transformation structurelle et le développement durable



Sous la coordination de l'Institut National de la Statistique (INS)

BP: 134 Yaoundé Tél: (237) 22 22 04 45 Fax: (237) 22 23 24 37

SiteWeb: [www.statistics-cameroon.org](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org)

## Cameroon Statistics Month

### To celebrate the achievements of statistics

#### Key dates

20 October 2010: celebration of the First World Statistics Day (WSD);  
18 November 1990: celebration of the First African Statistics Day (ASD);  
20 November 1946: the official inauguration of the first statistics services in Cameroon.

### The inception of statistics service in Cameroon

The first statistics service was created on 20 November 1946 in the East Cameroon (Francophone Cameroon) by the then High Commissioner of the French Republic in Cameroon following decision no 4241 of 20 November 1946. The head office of this structure was in Douala. Over the years, the statistics service has been transformed into the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), created by Presidential Decree n° 2001/100 of 20 April 2001.

### The institutionalization of the African Statistics Day

This day was instituted in 1990 by the Conference of Ministers of Economy Planning and Development of member countries of the United

Nation Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The intention was to boost public awareness of the importance of statistics in taking decisions concerning socioeconomic development of a country. Cameroon always celebrates this day alongside other African countries.

### The institution of the World Statistics Day

In 2008 the United Nations Statistics Division proposed to countries and regional and international institutions that the World Statistics Day should be celebrated every 20 October after every five years. Due to the approval of almost every member countries, it was decided in 41<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistics Commission, held in New York from 18 to 26 February 2010 that the World Statistics Day will be celebrated every 20 October and after every five years. The first and second editions of the World Statistics Day were celebrated in 2010 and 2015.

### Objective

To improve and widen the knowledge of statistics. It is about creating awareness of the important

role of statistics using vital service, integrity and professionalism as a leeway. It is an occasion not only to sensitize the public on the role of statistics in social and economic life but also to highlight the cooperation between statisticians in the world within the global statistical system.

### Cameroon's response

*To sustain this momentum, Cameroon instituted the "MONTH OF STATISTICS" since 2015. Activities to mark this month run from 20 October to 20 November. By so doing, Cameroon is heeding to the call of the United Nations inviting every country to promote the use of statistics as an important tool in results-based decision making.*

### Activities of the month

For 2016, Cameroon Statistics Month (CSM) is marked by the following activities:

- 20 October 2016** Official launching of CSM with the lone activity of the day being the Ordinary Session of the National Statistical Council. This launching day coincided with World Statistics Day (WSD) celebrated every five year on 20 October.
- 09 November 2016** Conference/ debate at the Sub-regional Institute of Statistics and Applied

*Continue reading on page 17*





## Le mois de la statistique au Cameroun

### Célébrer les avancées de la statistique

#### Les différentes dates clés

20 octobre 2010, célébration de la Première Journée Mondiale de la Statistique (JMS);

18 novembre 1990, célébration de la Première Journée Africaine de la Statistique (JAS);

20 novembre 1947, mise en place du tout premier service statistique au Cameroun

#### Naissance de la statistique au Cameroun

Le tout premier service de Statistique au Cameroun fut créé le 20 novembre 1946 au Cameroun Oriental, par le Haut-Commissaire de la République Française, à la suite de l'Arrêté N°4241 du 20/11/1946.

Le siège était à Douala. Ce Service a évolué au fil du temps pour se transformer en Institut National de la Statistique (INS) par Décret Présidentiel N°2001/100, du 20 avril 2001.

#### Institution de la Journée Africaine de la Statistique

La Journée Africaine de la Statistique a été instituée en 1990 par la Conférence des Ministres chargés de la Planification Economique et du Développement des pays membres de la Commission Economique des

Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA). Cette Journée visait à sensibiliser l'opinion publique sur le rôle de la statistique dans le développement socioéconomique d'un pays en tant qu'outil d'aide à la prise de décision. Le Cameroun s'est régulièrement associé à la communauté africaine pour célébrer cette Journée.

#### Institution de la Journée Mondiale de la Statistique

En 2008, la Division de Statistique des Nations Unies a proposé aux pays et aux institutions régionales et internationales de célébrer chaque 5 ans, la Journée Mondiale de la Statistique le 20 octobre 2010. Cette initiative a quasiment été soutenue par tous les pays membres. Fort de cet écho favorable, la Division de statistique a proposé au cours des travaux de la 41<sup>ème</sup> session de la Commission des Statistiques des Nations Unies qui s'est tenue à New York du 18 au 26 février 2010 que soit célébrée le 20 octobre 2010 la Première édition de la Journée Mondiale de la Statistique. La deuxième édition était le 20 octobre 2015.

#### Objectif

Mieux faire connaître la statistique. Il s'agit de mieux faire connaître le rôle de la statistique, en s'appuyant sur les valeurs essentielles de service,

d'intégrité et de professionnalisme. Bien plus, c'est une occasion non seulement de sensibiliser l'opinion publique sur le rôle crucial que jouent les statistiques dans la vie économique et sociale, mais aussi, de mettre en exergue la coopération entre les statisticiens de la planète au sein du système statistique mondial.

#### Implication du Cameroun

*Depuis 2015, le Cameroun a institué le MOIS DE LA STATISTIQUE qui couvre la période du 20 octobre au 20 novembre dans le but de marquer son adhésion à la résolution des Nations Unies qui invite les pays membres, de promouvoir à travers des actions, la statistique en tant qu'outil d'aide à la prise de décision axée sur les résultats.*

#### Centre d'intérêt

Pour l'année 2016, LE MOIS DE LA STATISTIQUE AU CAMEROUN est meublé par les activités suivantes :

1. **20 octobre 2016** lancement officiel des festivités du MOIS à travers la tenue de la session ordinaire du Conseil National de la Statistique. Le 20 octobre coïncide avec la Journée Mondiale de la Statistique (JMS) qui se célèbre tous les 5 ans. La dernière édition remonte à l'année 2015.

*Continuer la lecture à la page 18*





Continued from page 15: CAMEROON STATISTICS MONTH

Economics (ISSEA) of Yaounde on the theme “the National Statistical Information System and the challenge to meet emerging statistical needs”

3. **12 November 2016** Sport walk involving every body of the National Statistical Information System (NSIS).
4. **17 November 2016** Exhibition of statistical productions by the National Statistical Information System at the National Institute of Statistics through the Open doors Days.
5. **16 November 2016** Organization of conference/debate on the theme “Contribution of national accounts to development policies” to be held in Yaounde at “l’hôtel Mont Febe”. This activity will bring together producers and users of statistics.
6. **18 November 2016** Publication of the declaration of the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development on the theme of the day.

## ADDENDA

### Statistics in Cameroon: Historical turning points

1946: The first statistics service called Local Service of General Statistics was created on 20 November 1946 in the East Cameroon by the then High Commissioner of the French Republic in Cameroon following decision no 4241 of 20 November 1946. The head office of this structure was in Douala.

1947: Creation of the first statistics service called Provincial Bureau of Statistics in the then West Cameroon and it was attached to the office of the “Resident” of “Cameroon Province in Buea. Activities of this service were under the control of the Department of Statistics for the Eastern Region based in Nigeria.

1952: Transformation of the statistics service in the East Cameroon into General Bureau of Statistics and data Processing. This service were later moved to Yaounde in 1957 and attached to the Directorate of Economic Affairs and Planning.

1961: Following the reunification of the two Cameroons separated in 1916, statistics services in the two Cameroons were merged to have federal service called General Service of Statistics and of Data Processing.

02 May 1967: Statistics service (General Service of Statistics and of Data Processing) became Department of General Statistics and Economic Accounts and was attached to the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic.

29 September 1967: Creation of the Department of Statistics and National Accounts (DSNA) and it is attached to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning.

20 April 2001: Creation of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) by Presidential Decree N°2001/100 of 20 April 2001.

2008: Adoption of the first National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) covering the period 2009-2013.



Family picture taken at the end of the 15th session of the National Statistical Council (20 October 2016)



Front view of the model of NIS building under construction

### Remarkable Statistics Events in 2016

Decree N° 2016/209 of 25 April 2016 making Cameroon signatory to the African Charter on Statistics adopted in Addis Abeba (Ethiopia) on 03 February 2009 ;

Decree N°2016/0895/PM of 03 May 2016 obliging the use of Cameroon’s nomenclatures of activities and goods;

Decree N°2016/0895/PM of 03 May 2016 obliging the use of Cameroon’s nomenclatures of trades, employments and profession;

Workshop organized by the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Cameroon on the theme “leadership and management”;

Adoption of the 2017-2019 Three-year Statistics Programme by the National Statistical Council (NSC) on 20 October 2016.

2. **09 novembre 2016** Organisation d'une conférence/débat à l'Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ISSEA) de Yaoundé, sur le thème «le Système National d'Information Statistique et le défi de satisfaire les besoins statistiques émergents».
3. **12 novembre 2016** Marche sportive rassemblant toutes les personnes en activité au sein du SNIS.
4. **17 novembre 2016** Exposition, à travers des Journées Portes Ouvertes, des publications statistiques du SNIS à l'INS.
5. **16 novembre 2016** Organisation d'une conférence/débat réunissant les producteurs et les utilisateurs des statistiques économiques et des comptes nationaux, à l'hôtel Mont Febé de Yaoundé, sur le thème « Contribution des comptes nationaux aux politiques de développement ».
6. **18 novembre 2016** Publication de la Déclaration du Ministre de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire sur le thème de la Journée.

## ADDENDA

### La Statistique au Cameroun: Repères historiques

1946 : Création au Cameroun du Service Local de Statistique Générale, le tout premier service de statistique au Cameroun oriental, par le Haut-Commissaire de la République Française, à la suite de l'Arrêté N°4241 du 20/11/1946. Le siège était à Douala.

1947 : Création au Cameroun occidental du Bureau Provincial de la Statistique, rattaché aux Services du «Résident» du «Cameroun province» à Buea. Les activités de ce Bureau étaient coordonnées par le Département des Statistiques de

«Eastern Region» basé à Lagos. 1952 : Transformation de ce service en «Service Général de Statistique et de Mécanographie». Il est transféré à Yaoundé en 1957 et est rattaché à la Direction des Affaires Economiques et du Plan.

1961 : Suite à la Réunification des deux parties du Cameroun séparées depuis 1916, les services de production statistique du Cameroun oriental et du Cameroun occidental vont fusionner pour donner naissance à un service fédéré appelé « Service Général de la Statistique et de la Mécanographie ».

02 mai 1967 : Il devient la « Direction de la Statistique Générale et des Comptes Economiques » rattachée au Secrétariat Général de la Présidence de la République.

29 septembre 1967 : Création de la « Direction de la Statistique et de la Comptabilité Nationale » (DSCN) rattaché au Ministère des Affaires Economiques et du Plan.

20 avril 2001 : Création de « l'Institut National de la Statistique (INS) » par Décret présidentiel N°2001/100 du 20 avril 2001.

2008 : Adoption de la première Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique (SNDS) 2009-2013.



Photo de Famille à l'issue des travaux de la 15ème session ordinaire du CNS, 20-oct-2016



Vue de face en profil de l'immeuble siège de l'INS (en cours de construction)

## Faits statistiques marquants en 2016

Décret N° 2016/209 du 25 avril 2016 portant adhésion du Cameroun à la Charte Africaine de la Statistique, adoptée le 03 février 2009 à Addis Abéba (Ethiopie) ;

Décret N°2016/0895/PM du 03 Mai 2016 rendant obligatoire l'utilisation de la nomenclature camerounaise d'activités et des produits;

Décret N°2016/0894/PM du 03 Mai 2016 rendant obligatoire l'utilisation de la nomenclature camerounaise des métiers, emplois et profession;

Atelier de l'Institut International de Statistique (ISI) sur le « leadership et le management » organisé au Cameroun en avril 2016;

Adoption du Programme Statistique Triennal 2017-2019, par le Conseil National de la Statistique, le 20 octobre 2016.



## The Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre: A fountain of professional competency in official statistics in Africa

The Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) was established in 1965 under an agreement between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the East Africa Common Services Organization (EACSO), the predecessor to the East African Community (EAC). It was established as an intergovernmental professional statistical training institution in East Africa with the objective of organizing training of middle level personnel for National Statistical Offices of the East African countries.

In the 1990s National Statistical Offices used to recruit and employ Form Four and Form Six school leavers. After a long experience in data collection, such employers were sent to EASTC to be trained and obtain a Certificate or Diploma in Statistics. However, in the early 2000s a good number of African Governments embarked on employing only graduates, mainly graduates of theoretical statistics from universities. EASTC then realized that there was a gap in

standards as a higher learning institution. During the same year EASTC started to offer the first Bachelor's degree in Official Statistics. However, it has been realized that the introduction of a Bachelor's degree in Official Statistics did not really meet the needs, expectations notwithstanding, of the NSOs in the sub-region. This is because many of their staff had already obtained a Bachelor's degree in Theoretical Statistics; and many of those with a Master's degree were doing a job



*Hostel for Students Accommodation*



*EASTC Administration Block*

In 1980 EASTC was made a regional training institution to serve more African countries, a move that changed the name from East African Statistical Training Centre to Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre. Currently, EASTC serves 18 countries from Eastern and Southern Africa namely Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Incidentally EASTC has been even serving students from West Africa. As such all of our students are Anglophone countries in Africa.

official statistics skills. In order to fill this gap, the Centre had to design an internship programme for these graduates so as to convert them into official statisticians. The programme has been designed in such a way that it enables the theoretical statisticians to develop and acquire skills in official statistics within seven months. Upon successful completion of study the trainees are awarded a postgraduate diploma in official statistics.

### **EASTC as a Higher Learning Institution**

In 2012 EASTC was accredited according to UNESCO

not related to their qualification. This situation was so because it used to be a practice by which if one was seeking for promotion, one had to have a Master's degree regardless of its relevance. For that reason, you may find a person with a Master's degree in Business Administration and yet he/she is the head of environmental statistics unit within a National Statistical Office.

Therefore, the rationale for establishing EASTC as a statistical training institution is based on the principle of professionalization in Official Statistics. This means that EASTC exists for the purpose



of facilitating employees of the National Statistical System Staff, with academic qualifications, to up-skill their capacity and become professional Official Statisticians, with assured competence in quality data production. In this way, as professionals, the employees are able to inform reliably decision-makers and policy formulators so that they can come out with evidence-based policies.

### Professionalization of EASTC Programmes

In 2014 EASTC began to offer a Master's Degree in Official Statistics (MOS), which is professionally oriented. This means that the Master's programme is comprehensive and covers all the sectors covered by Official Statistics; but also a student taking the programme has to specialize in the area that he/she is already working on as an employee. If, say, he/she is working in the Agricultural Statistics unit for example, then the student has to specialize in Agricultural Statistics.

It is clear from what has been explained above that the introduction of the Master's Degree in Official Statistics is intended to distinguish the Centre from other STC's as the 'Centre of Excellence in National Accounts'. As already pointed out, the programme is 'sector-inclusive' and no sector is left out. This allows for sector specialization in the respective modules; and, more importantly, the programme is geared towards mastery of sectoral accounts.

It is evident that Agriculture plays a central and strategic role in the development of most of the developing countries, more so in case of African countries. Indeed,

it is the key to economic growth, increased incomes, improved living standards, poverty eradication, and enhanced food security. The importance of the agricultural sector demands that its planning, management, and monitoring be based on sound evidence. This, in turn, requires the sustained availability of comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date, and consistent statistical data. In response to the many challenges of meeting user needs for agricultural statistics in developing countries, a Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics was produced and endorsed in February 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). For that reason, in 2015 EASTC introduced a Master's Degree in Agricultural Statistics (MAS).

This programme takes a minimum of two years, and is intended to enable students to become competent Agricultural Statisticians in the agricultural, social, economic and socio-economic aspects of a national statistical system. At the end of the programme the prospective Agricultural Statisticians will be able to apply knowledge and skills, understanding of complex statistical issues of development problems, statistical and analytical techniques in statistics production, agricultural statistics in assessing food security aspects of society, economic statistics in assessing economic performance and socio-economic statistics for assessing cross-cutting issues in society. They will also be able to assess statistically Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sector issues and their impact on the economy of a nation; to conduct statistical research addressing food production issues

of a nation; and to manage a statistical office.

### EASTC International Recognition

With this orientation of professionalism and competence-based approach in Official Statistics, and with the witnesses of its Master's graduates, EASTC has become well known so much so that the United Nations Statistical Division recognizes this, and EASTC now has an observer status in the United Nations Statistical Commission meetings.

### EASTC's Professional Awards

Like all autonomous higher learning institutions, EASTC not only designs and introduces professional programmes in collaboration with other reputable training institutions, but it also gives its own awards to successful graduates. The following is a list of all programmes for which EASTC gives its own awards:

#### A. Postgraduate Programmes

1. PhD in Official Statistics (minimum 3 years) – By Thesis;
2. Master's Degree in Official Statistics (MOS) – Dissertation (18 months);
3. Master's Degree in Agricultural Statistics (MAS) – Dissertation (24 months).

#### B. Undergraduate Programmes

1. Bachelor's Degree in Official Statistics (36 Months);
2. Diploma in Statistics (24 or 36 Months);
3. Certificate in Data Collection (six months).

For more information visit:  
[www.eastc.ac.tz](http://www.eastc.ac.tz)

## The revival of African Statistical Association

**Prof. Dahud Kehinde Shangodoyin**

*Interim Association President,*

**Mr. Mohammed Bessa, Interim**

*Association Secretary*

Evidence-based decision-making is a universally recognized paradigm of efficient management of economic and social affairs and of overall effective governing of societies today. Generating relevant, accurate and timely statistics is a sine qua non of this model. In order to plan for, and implement, economic and social development, official and administrative activity or scientific research, it is necessary to have reliable and detailed data which is produced by an efficient National Statistical System; and Statistical Association is an integral part of this system. National, continental and international statistical associations can and do play important roles in statistical development at all levels. Currently, upwards of 28 African countries have in place a National Statistical Association with varying degrees of intensity of activities. Indeed, some of them are inactive and need to be activated and strengthened. At the continental level, we used to have an African Statistical Association (AfSA) which became moribund after mid-1990s. And at the international level there are associations such as International Statistical Institute (ISI) and its various sections, the Royal Statistical Society, etc.

The African Statistical Association was established in March, 1984. The two notable events of the association took place in 1989 in Abuja, Nigeria and 1995 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. These events provided a unique forum for African statisticians to share knowledge and experience, and also to collectively contribute to main programmes and initiatives for further development of statistics in the continent. From 1995, AfSA ceased to function and became moribund. Given the importance of the association to statistical development in Africa, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa have since the beginning of this decade taken various initiatives to revive the

association.

The most recent effort took advantage of the opportunity presented by the the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Ethiopian Statistical Association which took place in Addis Ababa from 20 – 22 May, 2016. With support from the African Development Bank, a Statistics Conference that brought together heads of National Statistical Associations from across Africa was held back-to-back with the said anniversary celebrations to: review the state of National Statistical Associations in Africa – learn lessons from those which are doing well (what has worked and why), discuss why some associations are not doing well; and discuss how to revive the African Statistical Association. Accordingly AfDB with support from UNECA, the Ethiopian Statistical Association and the Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency organized an African Statistical Conference back-to-back with the 25th Anniversary of the Ethiopian Statistical Association. For this purpose, the leadership of national statistical associations across Africa was invited to attend the conference and the anniversary celebrations.

The purpose of the conference was to enable members of Africa Statistical Community from African countries exchange best practices and experiences in running statistical systems, discuss the impact of new data requirements on statistical systems, review the challenges facing National Statistical Associations and celebrate with the Ethiopian Statistical Association its 25th anniversary. Also the conference was to discuss and establish a process to resuscitate the defunct AfSA. The conference resolved to revive the AfSA. Accordingly, it was decided to establish an AfSA Interim Committee and charged it with the following tasks: advocating for AfSA among National Statistical Associations, National Statistics Offices and the community of data producers and users in Africa; facilitating the draft constitution of AfSA; and organizing an inaugural conference for AfSA.

The following were elected

members of the Committee:

1. Prof. Dahud K. Shangodoyin (Botswana) (representing Southern Africa) (Chair);
2. Mr. Bessa Mohamed (Tunisia) (representing North Africa) (Secretary);
3. Mr. Souleymane Diallo (Senegal) (representing West Africa – Francophone);
4. Dr. Mohammed M. Tumala (Nigeria) (representing West Africa – Anglophone);
5. Mr. Nzemen Moise (Cameroon) (representing Central Africa); and
6. Dr. Butte Gotu (Ethiopia) (representing East Africa).

In addition, it was resolved to form an advisory group to support the work of the interim committee. Members of the advisory group are: Dr Pali Lehohla (South Africa); Mr O. O. Ajayi (Nigeria); Mr Yacob Zewoldi (Ethiopia) and Prof Ben Kiregyera (Uganda).

The Africa statistics community needs a vibrant African Statistical Association that can help to raise individual and collective statistical consciousness, nurture the statistical profession in the continent, support National Statistical Associations, and promote evidence-based policy, planning and decision making for sustainable development in Africa. We appeal to you to join the African Statistical Association. You can get information on how to join the Association from the President and/or Secretary of the interim Committee or the Association Secretariat at email address below. Please be proactive and pass on the message to all members of statistical ecosystem within your country and region.



## Book announcement: The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa

**Prof. Ben Kiregyera**, Ph.D., CStat, CSci, FUNAS

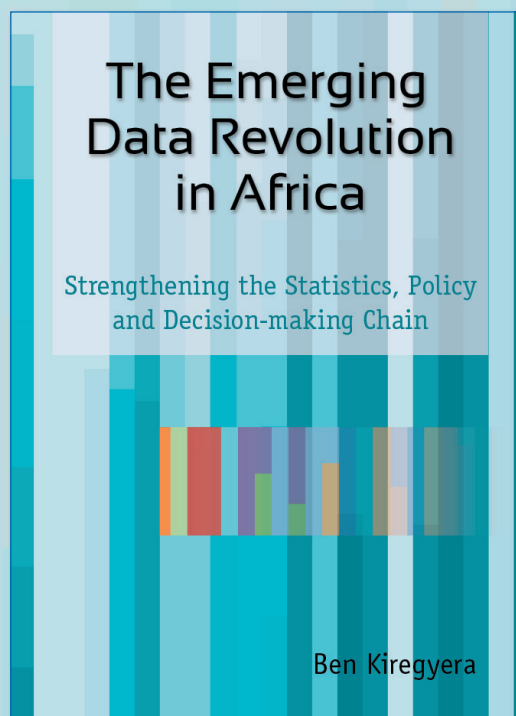
The book presents a nuanced narrative about statistical development in Africa since around the time of independence when emerging states needed statistics mainly to support their planning processes. It highlights challenges faced then, some of which have persisted, including institutional, organizational and technical challenges. These challenges manifest themselves in countries with different degrees of severity and are quite severe in post-conflict countries. Key statistical programmes to support statistical development in Africa in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s are presented.

It is shown that embracing management for results agenda by African countries created unprecedented demand for statistics that overstretched young and fragile National Statistical Systems but also engendered opportunities to address the above challenges.

The results agenda also raised the profile of statistics in countries and at continental organizations, and led to increased investment in statistics in addition to positioning statistical systems to play a greater role in policy, planning and decision-making processes at different levels. Statistical systems have also been positioned to play a greater role in regional and continental integration processes and development by providing harmonized statistics. The book presents various frameworks, strategies, structures and initiatives (some home grown) that have been put in place by the African statistical community especially in the last ten years to meet the above challenges and lay a firmer foundation for statistical developments in the countries and continent. The role of civil registration systems in fostering statistical development is also addressed. So too are the various roles of change agents in statistical development – governments, statistics champions, leaders, statistical associations, “ubuntu” value system, intergovernmental

processes, regional and continental organizations and development partners.

In short, the book presents the African statistical agenda and trajectory that is heralding into the continent a “data revolution” that is slated to change the African statistical landscape and calculus thereby leading to better development outcomes in Africa – a better Africa. The book calls on the African statistical community to embrace change, to be more proactive in addressing user needs including new development policy areas such as gender, energy, environment and governance, and to be more creative, innovative and professional in confronting remaining data challenges. It presents pathways for consolidating achievements made so far and for stemming possible reversals. Finally, the book debunks myths about African development data spread in recent years by Afro-statistical pessimists.



# The Emerging Data Revolution in Africa

**Prof. Ben Kiregyera**  
Ph.D, CStat, CSci, FUNAS

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The Prime Minister of Uganda launches the book at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASSD in Kampala, Uganda.



Chief Economist and Vice President of the African Development Bank launched the book at the Bank in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.



Author with Hon. Trevor Manuel, Former Minister of Finance and later Minister of Planning in the Presidency of South Africa. He wrote the Foreword to the book.



Book launched in Johannesburg by Minister for Planning in the Presidency of South Africa. In the picture, Statistician General of South Africa, TV news anchor and the author.



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