

# NEWSLETTER

## GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE (GSS) DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PLATFORM



Group photo of GSSDP members at the fourth quarter meeting @ Embassy of Denmark

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS INVOLVED



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Organization of the  
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**unicef**



**IOM**  
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Programme  
wfp.org

**World Health  
Organization**  
Ghana

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Participants at the Q3 Ghana Statistical Service Development Partner Meeting. © UNFPA

## Ghana Statistical Service Development Partners Group Engages Data Protection Commission and Parliament for a Discussion on the Harmonization of National Data Strategies.

Organized by Embassy of Denmark in Ghana and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In October, the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), hosted a dialogue on "Methods for Addressing Challenges and Identifying Best Practices in Harmonizing National Strategies." The discussion focused on the National Data Strategy and the New National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

Mr. Omar Seidu, Director of Social Statistics at GSS, outlined the objectives and progress of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. Ms. Patricia Adusei-Poku, Executive Director of the Data Protection Commission, shared updates on the Commission's achievements in advancing the National Data Strategy.

Additionally, Mr. Ebenezer Ahumah Djietror, Director in Charge of Legislative Business in Parliament, provided insights on Parliament's role in harmonizing national strategies.

Key discussions emphasized the importance of aligning data strategies for a strengthened national system of statistics, fostering stakeholder engagement, and addressing challenges to develop collaborative and effective strategies.

The support for the GSSDPG is a part of Phase II of the Strategic Sector Cooperation between the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service, and Statistics Denmark.

## Empowering Informed Decisions for a Healthier Ghana

Supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

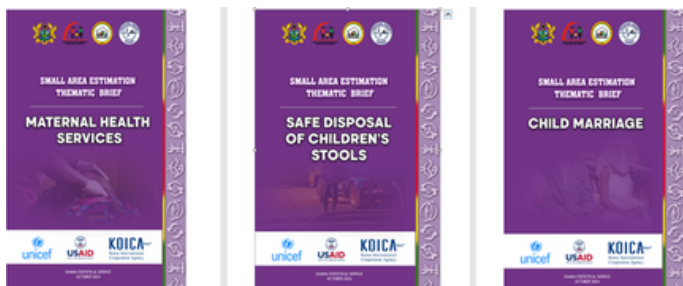
In 2022, Ghana took a bold step toward bridging a critical gap in its population health data. The Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), a vital tool for understanding national and regional health dynamics, revealed a limitation: its data, while comprehensive, lacked district-level disaggregation. To address this gap, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) introduced a transformative initiative.

By combining 2022 GDHS data with the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the GSS developed district-level small area estimates, producing 15 thematic briefs. These briefs addressed priority areas such as childhood immunization, domestic violence, adolescent sexual health, child marriage, and hand washing and water treatment practices. Their insights will provide actionable data for policymakers to design interventions tailored to local needs.

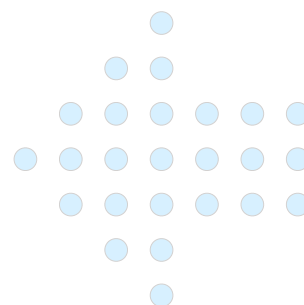
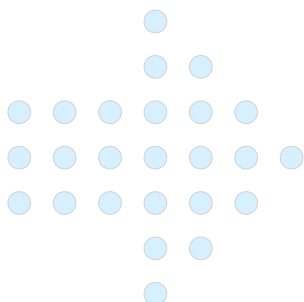
The project included a five-day capacity-building workshop, which refreshed the knowledge of writers in small area estimation. Expert reviewers from academia and government ensured the thematic briefs met high academic and policy standards. This collaborative approach strengthened the rigor and relevance of the findings.

The briefs, set for dissemination in January 2025, will equip stakeholders with localized data to guide resource allocation and decision-making. By bridging data gaps, this initiative empowers communities, improves health outcomes, and fosters a safe environment for Ghanaian children.

This effort exemplifies the power of data-driven solutions to transform national challenges into opportunities for growth. Ghana's commitment to evidence-based policies is paving the way for a healthier, more equitable future for its citizens.



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Ghanaian delegation at Biofos wastewater treatment plant Lynetten in Copenhagen. © Harrison Ofori, Embassy of Denmark

# System for Environmental Economic Accounting Study Visit to Denmark on Water and Material Flow Accounts

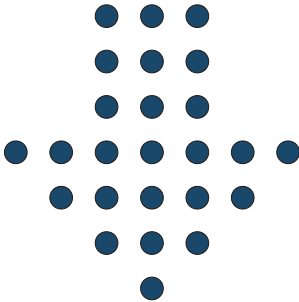
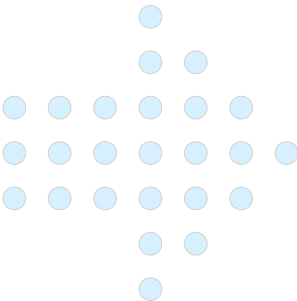
Organized by Embassy of Denmark in Ghana and Statistics Denmark

At end of October, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana Water Company, Environmental Protection Agency, and Water Resources Commission visited Denmark to collaborate with Statistics Denmark to develop waste and water accounts for informed policy-making in Ghana.

During the one-week study trip, they developed a transformation map for timely, user-friendly environmental-economic accounts (EEA) for 2025 - 2027.

During the visit, the delegation toured Denmark’s top facilities, learning from Denmark’s largest waste and energy company Vestforbrændingen, Biofos Wastewater treatment plant Lynetten, and more. The EEA on Waste and Water will help track waste, water use, and support sustainability goals.

The study visit is part of Phase II of the Strategic Sector Cooperation between the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service, and Statistics Denmark.







Stakeholders at the Validation Meeting for the National Disability Data Collection Framework. © UNFPA

# Validation of the National Disability Data Collection Framework

Organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), hosted a validation meeting for the National Disability Data Collection Framework, aimed at addressing gaps in disability data within Ghana’s administrative data system.

A prior assessment by GSS on data gaps for persons with disabilities revealed that 95% of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) collecting routine administrative data lack disability-specific information. The remaining 5% that do collect disability data often use only binary “Yes or No” questions, limiting understanding of disability diversity.

The validation meeting, which coincided with a donor delegation’s visit to Ghana, saw active input from stakeholders on refining the framework. Discussions centred on addressing identified data gaps to ensure alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) standards.

This approach highlighted a strong multi-stakeholder commitment to developing inclusive policies, laws, and data systems for persons with disabilities in Ghana.

The National Disability Data Collection Framework represents a pivotal step in advancing inclusive development in Ghana. This collaborative initiative showcases Ghana’s dedication to inclusivity and the potential impact of coordinated efforts among stakeholders.

Through the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), UNFPA continues to support Ghana’s journey toward a society that respects and protects the rights of all individuals, ensuring a comprehensive and nuanced approach to disability inclusion in policy and planning.



The Donor delegation team and the focal points for UNFPA, UNDP and RCO. © RCO

## Donor Mission on United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), are implementing a joint project under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

Funded by the Global Disability Fund (GDF), this initiative seeks to advance inclusivity for persons with disabilities in Ghana by integrating disaggregated disability data into the national statistical system, allowing for more inclusive and informed policy making.

From October 14 - 17, 2024, a donor delegation visited Ghana to evaluate the project's impact and exchange insights from global initiatives. This mission underscored Ghana's commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the achievement of disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals.

Key partners including the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations, the National Council on Persons with Disabilities, and the National Development Planning Commission collaborated in the discussions to emphasize the progress and achievements made thus far.

During the visit, stakeholders reviewed the project's progress and discussed future directions for disability inclusion in Ghana. The delegation, comprising Tino Clemens (Germany), Petri Phuakka (Finland), Sakunthala Mapa (M&E Specialist), and Natalia Mattioli (GFD Secretariat Programme Coordinator), addressed critical topics such as the reenactment of the Disability Bill, the development of a disability data framework, the review of sector plans for disability inclusion, and the need for disaggregated data to guide policies. The delegation expressed satisfaction with the project's achievements and its potential for impactful, inclusive progress.



GSS IT Directorate drafting a new IT Strategy in Accra. ©Elisabeth Loewe, Embassy of Denmark

# Driving Digital Transformation in Ghana with a New Draft IT Strategy at GSS

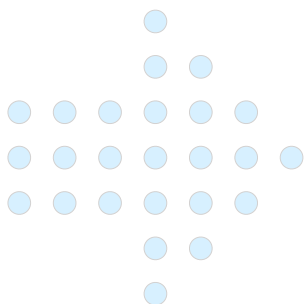
Organized by Embassy of Denmark in Ghana and Statistics Denmark

In November, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) took a significant step toward a digital empowered new way of working. Guided by IT Experts from Statistics Denmark, GSS has developed a draft IT Strategy to transform data management and statistical processes over the next five years.

Through interactive workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions, GSS and Statistics Denmark collaborated to turn bold ideas into actionable plans, focusing on infrastructure, data management, security, and smart workplace practices.



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Additionally, in alignment with the Data and Research Agenda for the UNFPA 8th Country Programme, targeted interventions have been rolled out to improve health, gender, and youth-related development outcomes. Conducted in partnership with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the Investment Case on the Three Transformative Results analysed both the cost of inaction and the required investments to accelerate progress toward reducing maternal mortality, meeting family planning needs, and ending child marriage by 2030.

The analysis was structured around three scenarios: Business as usual (current trend), Achievable scenario (feasible accelerated action), and Ambitious scenario (maximum effort intervention). This study provided a data-driven foundation for prioritizing national investments. Building on this, a Deep Dive Study into maternal health, teenage pregnancy, and family planning offered nuanced insights into structural and socio-cultural barriers, service delivery gaps and behavioural dynamics.

Together, the thematic data analysis briefs and the research initiatives underscore the commitment to evidence-based policymaking and value of strategic partnerships with GSS and development partners in driving inclusive, rights-based, and data-informed development outcomes.

## The Power of Data: Using Evidence to Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Equality and Youth Development

Organised by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) played a pivotal role in advancing evidence-based policymaking through the development of four thematic briefs addressing critical population and development issues.

These include maternal mortality, fertility and family planning, adolescent fertility, and gender-based violence. Drawing on the 2021 Population and Housing Census and the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), the briefs explore key demographic and social challenges at the district level. The initiative not only fills with key data gaps but also provides policymakers and development partners with actionable evidence to design targeted interventions that address local needs

UNFPA's contribution underscores its commitment to promoting reproductive health, gender equality, youth empowerment, and inclusive development, ensuring that no one is left behind in Ghana's progress.





# FOCUS ON NEXT QUARTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2025



## UNICEF

- » Conduct District Health Information Management System (DHIMS) Data quality audit on Maternal and Child health data.
- » Assess the maturity level of the Social Welfare Information Management System (SWIMS) using the Administrative Data Maturity Model (ADaMM) model and enable benchmarking.

## Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- » Training on data analysis which includes communicating uncertainty, time series analysis and data imputation techniques as part of the GSS mentoring programme .
- » Capacity building on questionnaire design/data collection methodology and statistical disclosure control.

## Embassy of Denmark

- » Metadata Experts from Statistics Denmark will come on mission to Ghana to support the strengthening of the GSS working with metadata.

## IMF-AFW2

- » National accounts mission to support update of general government estimates.
- » A follow up mission on developing new CPI weights.

## USEFUL LINKS TO RECENT GSS RELEASES

- » [The Digital Census Atlas](#)
- » [Rasterized Data Platform](#)
- » [Multi-dimensional Poverty Report](#)
- » [Press Releases](#)
- » [District Ranking of Micro-Level Indicators](#)
- » [Maternal Mortality in Ghana](#)
- » [Statistical Year Overview, 2024](#)
- » [Final Independent In-Depth Evaluation Ghana National Anti-Corruption Action Plan \[NACAP: 2015-2024\]](#)
- » [Ghana Poverty Mapping Brief](#)
- » [Ghana National Human Development Report](#)

Further information can be found on the Ghana statistical service website  
[www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh)