APRIL - JUNE 2024

ISSUE 5

NEWSLETTER

GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE (GSS) DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PLATFORM

GSSDPG group members in a group picture after a meeting

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS INVOLVED

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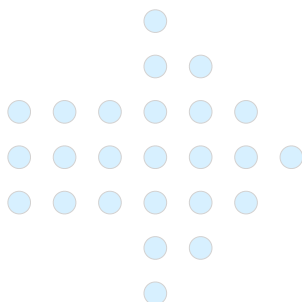
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Unit Value Index Study Visit to Denmark

Organiced by the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana and Statistics Denmark

Partners from Ghana Statistical Service and Statistics Denmark sharing insights on UVI methodology during visit to Copenhagen, Denmark.© Harrison Ofori, Embassy of Denmark.

In April, a delegation from the Unit Value Index (UVI) team at GSS visited Statistics Denmark in Copenhagen. The partners engaged in a weeklong collaboration gaining valuable insights and knowledge on UVI methodology. The visit was part of the work leading to the development of GSS's first-ever UVI, which was launched on May 31 and is now available on the GSS Statsbank
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The UVI is a crucial tool that measures changes in the average cost of imported and exported goods. The index helps identify which categories of goods are driving the overall changes in the cost of imports and exports within the economy.

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

Strengthening the capacity of the GSS Data Science Unit

Organised by UK Office for National Statistics (ONS)

In April 2024, the ONS successfully delivered a weeklong in-country training initiative aimed at enhancing the data science capabilities of GSS data scientists. They undertook training in natural language processing, exploratory data analysis, and language modeling. This intensive program equipped participants with advanced skills in Python programming and the use of tools like spaCy, stanza, and nltk, empowering them to apply these techniques to specific GSS projects effectively.

The training session not only reinforced GSS's commitment to integrating data science into its operational framework but further enhancing the skills and knowledge of data scientists to support statistical production and dissemination. We look forward to the continued application of these enhanced capabilities as GSS progresses towards achieving its strategic goals in data science and statistical innovation.
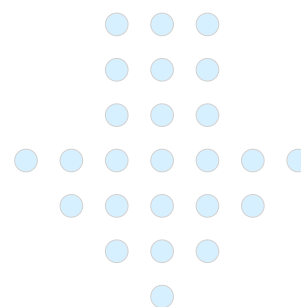
Participants at the Strategic leadership and embedding data science workshop in April 2024. © William

Enhancing the Strategic Leadership of Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Sectional Heads and Regional Statisticians and Embedding data science in operations

Organized by UK Office for National Statistics (ONS)

The ONS, in collaboration with the GSS Research & Data Science directorate, organised a workshop on enhancing the strategic leadership of staff and embedding data science in their operations.

The overall purpose of the workshop was to deliver an action-oriented intervention package to enhance the strategic leadership of the participants with the view to change mindsets and to give them a strong sense of responsibility, and ownership, to help transform their areas of operation. Delivering this workshop fits nicely with GSS' CAN agenda – Change, Automate and Innovate. It is also a testament of the appreciation of the role data science plays in official statistics.

The workshop, which was held in April 2024, engaged 60 participants who were mainly GSS Regional Statisticians and Sectional Heads. Virtual sessions were followed by in-country engagements to ensure the intervention was potentially more effective, practical and impactful.
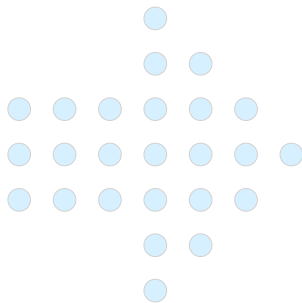
This comprehensive program provided orientation in strategic leadership to promote innovative thinking and effective ways of working. It also raised awareness about successful data science projects, both within GSS and globally, illustrating the potential value data science can bring.

An outcome from the workshop was a clear intent for GSS staff to have at least a basic knowledge of using R and a more effective collaboration between data scientists and other units. The program ended with participants developing actionable plans to assist them embark on their journey of transformation within their respective regions and sections.

With the involvement of the GSS Data Science Unit, ONS will further engage with participants in August 2024 to ascertain progress on implementing action plans to embed data science (and other innovation) into areas of operation, any challenges and further support that may be required in this space.
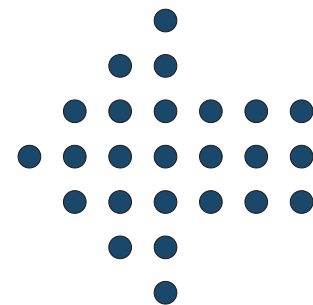
Professor Samuel Annim and Penny Holborn from the ONS Data Science campus pictured after signing the MOU between the ONS and GSS

Extending Our Partnership with the Ghana Statistical Service: MoU Renewed for Another Year

Organized by UK Office for National Statistics (ONS)

We are thrilled to announce the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), in April 2024. This reaffirms our commitment to promoting statistical modernisation and maximising the sharing of statistical achievements between Ghana and the United Kingdom.

This collaboration continues to be centred in areas of mutual interest, particularly to support GSS in its statistical transformation, strengthening GSS expertise in strategic leadership, build capacity in data science techniques and methods in relevant topics and embedding into routine practices, enhancing the quality of administrative data from MMDAs, other capacity building activities, provision of technical support, and some work to help bridge the disconnect between data and policy.

Looking ahead, the extended MoU will enable us to build on the existing partnership, explore new opportunities and address emerging challenges. Indeed, we are excited to continue working together, leveraging our strengths to create innovative solutions and drive sustainable development in statistical practices.
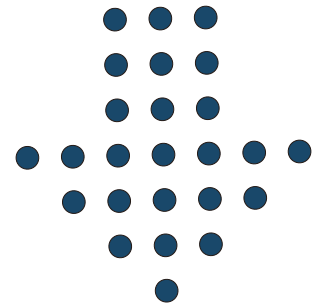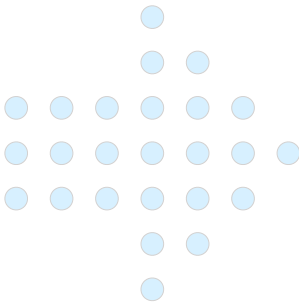
Representatives of Ghana Health Service and NADMO engaging with GSS and Flowminder on the dynamic health metrics preliminary results © Flowminder
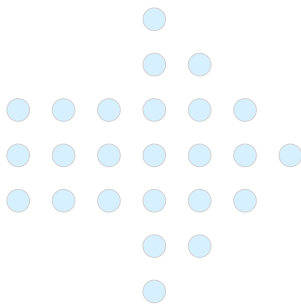
Revolutionizing aid: data for good innovation for improving health metrics

Organised by Flowminder, Ghana Statistical Service, Telecel Ghana, Ghana Health Service, WFP Innovation Accelerator and BMZ digilab via their Digital Health Innovation Acceleration Programme (DHIAP).
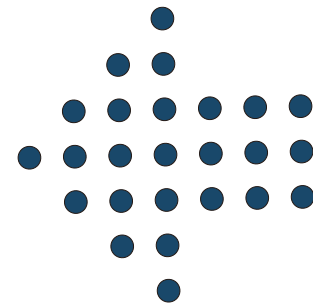
For decision-makers across sectors, population size greatly impacts resource allocation and the implementation of strategic interventions for population well-being. Additionally, human mobility can cause significant inaccuracies over time as people move or relocate.

The Data for Good Partnership, a unique public-private partnership and not-for-profit initiative between Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Telecel Ghana, and the Flowminder Foundation, aims to support evidence-based decision-making for the wellbeing of all in Ghana. Together, the Data for Good partners produce and provide estimates of population mobility and distribution using anonymised and aggregated mobile phone usage data, and work with key actors in the development and humanitarian sector to integrate these new data into their programmes and interventions.

Flowminder is one of the innovations participating in the Digital Health Innovation Acceleration Programme (DHIAP), powered by the WFP Innovation Accelerator and BMZ digilab, which focuses on scaling digital innovations that advance pandemic preparedness in Ghana and other countries.

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Working closely with GSS and the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Flowminder used the support from DHIAP to test the value of integrating call detail records-derived dynamic population estimates into key health metrics for GHS in non-emergency and non-pandemic conditions. The preliminary findings showed promising results.

The team met with some representatives from GHS in April 2024 to present their latest findings and continue discussions on the best way to integrate such data into GHS' plans. Read the full story here.

Accelerating Ghana's development, the future value of work: pathway to sustainable jobs

Organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Launch of the National Human Development Report(NHDR) ,UNDP Communication Team © UNDP

On June 26, 2024, a significant milestone in Ghana's development journey was marked with the launch of the 2023 National Human Development Report (NHDR). This important report, produced through the collaborative efforts of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), brought together key policymakers, senior government officials, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

The focus of this year's report, titled "The Future Value of Work in Ghana: Pathways to Sustainable Jobs," explores the pressing challenges facing Ghana's workforce. It highlights the importance of understanding both past and present notions of work and the intrinsic value it holds. By examining these concepts, the report provides actionable recommendations that can shape strategies for addressing the evolving landscape of work in Ghana.
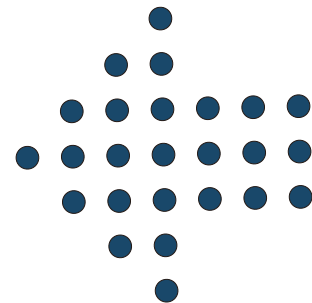
The NHDR emphasizes seven critical messages:
• Work and the value of work
• The emerging areas of work
• Identifying and nurturing talents for tomorrow
• Building consensus for national development
• The need to formalize the informal sector
• Promoting entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth.
• Investing in infrastructure to support sustainable development.
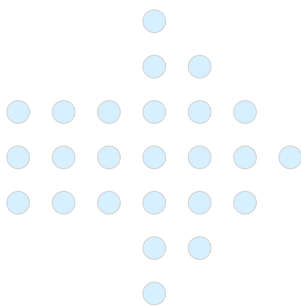
In addition to these key messages, the report highlights the crucial role of STEM/STEAM education, the enhancement of digital infrastructure, and the need for efficient energy and transport systems, among other vital sectors.

By drawing attention to the intricate link between different concepts of work and human development, the NHDR not only sheds light on the challenges ahead but also transforms these challenges into opportunities for growth and innovation. This comprehensive approach ensures that the future of work in Ghana is not only sustainable but also inclusive and dynamic, paving the way for a brighter future for all Ghanaians.

Targeting the poorest of the poor using the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index.

Organised by German Corporation for Internationaal Cooperation (GIZ)

Mr. Simon Tichutab Onilimor from GSS providing detailed explanation on Incidence and Intensity of Poverty. ©GIZ

Data is of great value, but its power is felt only when used to inform better decisions for the public good. Data that is therefore produced for local governance must have beneficiaries at that level being at the center.

For this reason, the Ghana Statistical Service with support from GIZ, built the capacities of all district planning coordinating units (DPCU's), civil society organisations (CSOs) and media personnel, to appreciate the relevance of the complementary non-monetary measure of poverty.

These zonal trainings which were organised for the latter from 27th to 28th June and DPCU's, 24th - 28th June, provided participants with an in-depth understanding of the multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) and how to make use of such information for the greater good.

A sneak peak of the results indicates that 7.3 million (24.3%) of the population are multidimensionally poor and they suffer simultaneous deprivation in about 6 out of the 13 weighted indicators used. The district reports provide even deeper revelations on multidimensional poverty. In the hands of DPCU's, the poverty grid for instance, becomes an essential tool to drive well-targeted interventions.
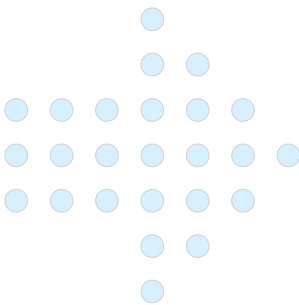
The training was intended to empower the stakeholders and trigger pragmatic discourses on having evidenced-based policies, advocate for better targeted interventions to reduce inequality by applying a needs-based policy approach.
Factsheet on the 261 Districts
Ghanaian Times Report on MPI
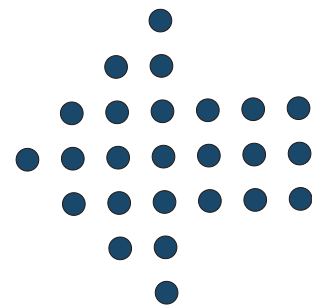
FOCUS ON NEXT QUARTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

FLOWMINDER

» Deployment of a Flowminder staff to GSS between now and September 2024 to provide on-the-ground technical assistance and capacity strengthening to GSS' data science team, as well as support with use case development.

» A thematic brief on mobility in Ghana for 2023 is about to being completed and will be released shortly.

» Continue use case development and user engagement, particularly with NADMO (potential flood response); and GHS (dynamic health metrics and vaccination use cases).

UNICEF

» MICS support: MOU signing (10 July), Composition of the Steering and Technical Advisory Committees and Development Partners engagement.

» Data Dictionary workshop for MDAs.

» Development of thematic and policy briefs from 2022 GDHS.

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

» Enhanceing quality in administrative data workshops in August and September 2024

Embassy of Denmark

» Green Goods and Services experts from Statistics Denmark go to Ghana in July to assess the IBES Phase I for establishments of Environmental Goods and Services sectors and sample producers and/or users.

» Experts from Statistics Denmark go to Ghana in August on a PxWeb training mission.

» IT experts from Statistics Denmark go to Ghana in September to work on IT Strategy with GSS IT Department.

» Automatic Identification System (AIS) experts from Statistics Denmark go to Ghana in September for follow-up mission from June to estimate emissions based on AIS data.

» Statistics Denmark and the Embassy of Denmark will host a one-day event on Data for Impact together with the other Strategic Sector Cooperations at the Embassy.

USEFUL LINKS TO RECENT GSS RELEASES

» **The Digital Census Atlas**

» **Rasterized Data Platform**

» **Multi-dimensional Poverty Report**

» **PHC 2021 StatsBank**

» **Mid-Year 2023 Trade Report**

» **Consumer Price Index- October 2023**

» **Producer Price Index- September 2023**

» **Trade Vulnerability Report 2022**

» **Ghana 2010 and 2021 Population and**

» **Housing Census Water Report**

Further information can be found on the Ghana statistical service website **www.statsghana.gov.gh**