# NEWSLETTER

## GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE (GSS) DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PLATFORM



GSSDPG group members and guest in a group picture at the July 2023 meeting. © GSS

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS INVOLVED



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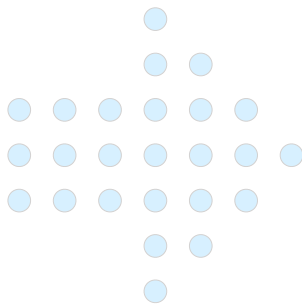
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Ghana is prioritizing the inclusion of environmental factors in its economic measurements by working towards estimating Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)

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GSS Officials collecting Data on businesses in some selected districts. © UNDP

# Finding Solutions to mobilizing revenue in District Assemblies

**Supported by -United Nations Development Programme. (UNDP)**

Insufficient data on businesses, especially MSMEs, has long been a key impediment to the MMDA's revenue mobilisation in Ghana. This has reportedly led to biases in local level taxation, where all businesses, irrespective of type and size are charged a flat tax rate. This approach has shown to be both "business killing" and "under-taxing" for small and large businesses respectively. This has created gaps in the tax system at the sub-national level, which must be closed to maximize the full tax potential of Metropolitan Municipal Districts Assemblies (MMDAs).

For this reason, and as part of UNDP's continued effort to support the Government of Ghana in national and sub-national taxation, the UNDP collaborated with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to support six MMDAs (Jomoro, Kassena, Ketu South, Kumasi, Sagnarigu and Sefwi Wiawso) to collect data on the type, number and sizes of businesses in their jurisdiction. This exercise was targeted at helping these MMDAs with information on businesses under their administration and to accurately estimate the rates that firms should pay to prevent over- and-under taxing them.

Additionally, the exercise was also to assist in realising the revenue potential of these MMDAs, which would inform their revenue-improvement strategies, and ultimately aid in the achievement of the SDGs.

# Publication of 2022-2023 Annual Review report

**Published by the Office for National Statistics**

In May 2023, the International Development Team reviewed the Office for National Statistics (ONS) project "High quality statistics that improve lives globally" for the period 2022-2023.

We are pleased to announce the publication of the **2022-2023 Annual Review**.

In this review, we present findings including how the project is delivering as planned, the success of the partnership model with the Ghana Statistics Service and in other countries, and the value and trust stakeholders have in the project.

You may access the **full report here.**



©ONS

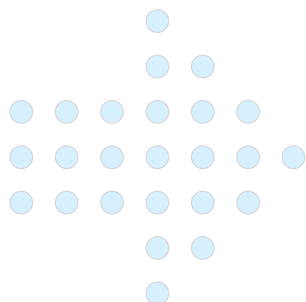Hybrid training on sampling, weighting and estimation methodology. © ONS

# Sampling, Weighting and Estimation Methodology Training

**Organised by the Office for National Statistics**

The ONS delivered a successful hybrid training on sampling, weighting and estimation methodology to 18 GSS officers from 18 to 22 September 2023.
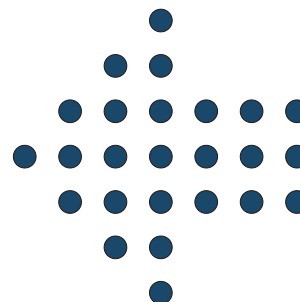
An experienced Principal Methodologist from the ONS facilitated this training remotely from the UK, with participants engaging in the learning from a venue in Accra. The training aimed to enhance the skills of staff to enable them to independently develop effective sampling, weighting and estimation design methods that meets international standards and best practice for surveys conducted by the GSS including IBES, GLSS8 and MICS.

Daily sessions included hands-on group exercises using GSS data, informative sessions that provided participants with useful insights into techniques that are pivotal to producing precise results when sampling, weighting, and estimating data. The group was further exposed to sampling using the R programming tool which will enable them to sample data speedily than they would manually.

Participant feedback suggested that the training was beneficial and timely, and it has boosted their level of knowledge, such as the use of R in sampling.

To maximise impact and ensure sustainability, a follow-up session is planned for mid-November to ascertain how participants are faring post training, if they have faced any challenges, and perhaps more importantly if they have used their acquired learning in supporting GSS corporate goals.

# Strategic leadership and transformation; A Study Visit to the UK Office for National Statistics

**Organised by the Office for National Statistics**


Delegation from the GSS pictured at the ONS headquarters in Newport, United Kingdom. © ONS

In line with our efforts to support a more sustainable and inclusive leadership, we are delighted to have hosted 7 delegates from the GSS on a week-long study visit to the Office for National Statistics in the UK in July 2023. The GSS delegation was led by the Deputy Government Statistician, Dr Faustina Frempong-Ainguah.

The enlightening experience was intended for the delegates to interact with colleagues from across ONS and engage in strategic conversations on the theme of transformation, which aligns with GSS' vision regarding the Change, Automation, and Novelty (CAN) agenda. It was further intended to exchange knowledge and share experiences. Lessons were shared from our transformation journey – the challenges we've overcome, how our senior leadership team work together, and the innovative methods we're using.
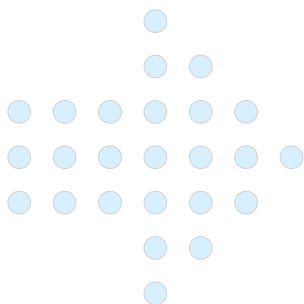
The group engaged in a series of meetings and discussions around the topic areas: corporate governance, administrative data, data science - strategic leadership, census data collection transformation, social statistics transformation, strategy and organisational effectiveness and digital transformation and communications.

Dr Faustina Frempong-Ainguah had direct strategic engagements with Prof. Sir Ian Diamond, the UK National Statistician which involved her attending key executive meetings, and with Emma Rouke, the Deputy National Statistician for Health, Population & Methods. She also interacted with colleagues from different business areas about the broader theme of transformation.

In terms of impact, the study visit is expected to enhance strategic leadership so that the quality of leadership remains high, and this is manifested in institutional changes, changes in mindsets and improved ways of doing things across GSS.

Participants in Ghana Green GDP Sensitization Workshop  © FAO

# Ghana takes steps towards Green GDP Estimation to Account for Environmental Factors

**Supported by - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Ghana is prioritizing the inclusion of environmental factors in its economic measurements by working towards estimating Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP). The country recognizes that the conventional GDP fails to consider the sustainability of income generated, making the concept of Green GDP essential. By incorporating the costs of environmental degradation and climate events, the Green GDP subtracts the expenses associated with natural resource depletion and environmental harm from the overall economic output.

In June 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and other key national institutions organized a National Sensitization Forum on Green GDP in Koforidua. The forum raised awareness among sub-national actors and strengthened their capacity in natural capital accounting, using the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) framework for Green GDP estimation.

Stakeholders from regional statistical services, the Environmental Protection Agency, Agriculture Officers and Civil Society Organizations participated in the event. Environmental statistics integration in the system of national accounting presents a comprehensive approach which would enable better management of Ghana's natural resources, supporting the country's economic development.
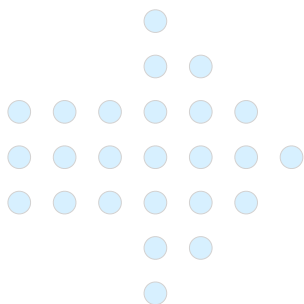
Ghana's commitment to environmental accounting demonstrates its dedication to managing the economy in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Technical Working Group in SEEA-AFF Air Emission Compilation Exercise. ©FAO

Winners of the Hackathon and academic launch. Team Badwenba from UCC © GSS

# National Hackathon and Academic Launch of the Statistical DataBank (StatsBank)

**Supported by - GSS and Denmark**

This is a successful cooperation between Ghana and Denmark on statistics reaching the university students to demonstrate analytical skills in using data from a novel dissemination product called the StatsBank. This product was developed as part of the Strategic Sector Cooperation between GSS and Statistics Denmark.

StatsBank is a platform where census data and other surveys for policy- relevant research can be freely accessed. It has been our desire to see the wealth of statistics produced by GSS not stay on the shelves but rather widely disseminated and used. The Danish Ambassador to Ghana Mr. Tom Nørring in his speech indicated, "Real value is made when data can easily be accessible to journalist, researchers, decision makers and the general public".

Between the Months of August to October the first-ever statistical Hackathon and academic launch of the StatsBank in five public universities across the country namely University of Ghana, University of Development Studies, Tamale, University of Cape Coast, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi and University of Health and Allied Science, Ho was launched.

The Best 3 winners of each school level competition (15 teams) who battled for the National StatsBank Hackathon were awarded on 26th October 2023 at a ceremony chaired by the Director General of the National Communication Authority, Mr Joe Anokye.
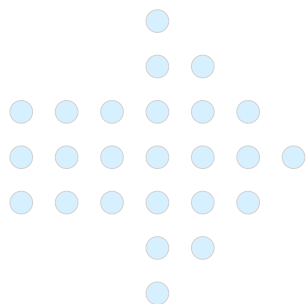
Easy access to data ensures transparency, promotes accountability and strengthens democracy. Using the data from the StatsBank, the students made great and meaningful analysis. Team Badwenba from the University of Cape Coast emerged the winner of the hackathon.

Their winning project involves the creation of a website that used data from the StatsBank and other sources for policymakers to easily identify districts with inadequate health and education facilities. It furthermore highlighted the most pressing infrastructure needs marking a significant step towards addressing critical societal issues.'.



Present at the National Hackathon Award ceremony were Dr Evans Aggrey-Darko, Ag Head of Civil Service(Left of Prof Annim) and Joe Anokye, NCA Boss(Right of Prof Annim) ©GSS

Eritrean Delegation debriefing with the FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Africa ( Yurdi Yasmi) at the FAO Regional Office. © FAO

# Eritrean Delegation embarks on Study Tour to Learn from Ghana's Agricultural Census

**Supported by -** **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

In August 2023, a delegation from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Eritrea embarked on a transformative journey to Ghana, seeking to draw from Ghana's experience in conducting the 2017/18 Census of Agriculture. This visit, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), holds particular significance as Eritrea prepares for its very first Census of Agriculture.

Eritrea's unwavering commitment to fostering agricultural development and data-driven decision-making propelled them to Ghana, with regards to its recent achievements in agricultural census efforts. Their primary objective was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the details involved in planning and executing an agricultural census—a task of paramount importance for a country venturing into this endeavor for the first time.

Throughout their ten-day stay, the Eritrean delegation engaged in profound discussions with key officers from the Ghana Statistical Service and the Statistical Research and Information Directorate, who conducted the Agriculture Census. The discussions encompassed survey methodologies, field operations, data collection techniques, data processing, analysis, and dissemination strategies—each a vital component of a successful agricultural census.

The Ghanaian hosts warmly welcomed their Eritrean counterparts, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge sharing. This exchange of expertise has strategically positioned Eritrea on the path to conducting a robust and impactful Census of Agriculture. The insights gained during this study
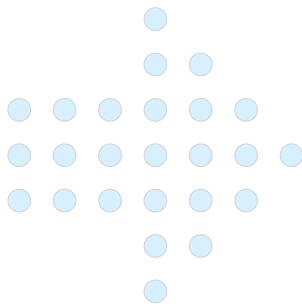
In June 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and other key national institutions organized a National Sensitization Forum on Green GDP in Koforidua. The forum raised awareness among sub-national actors and strengthened their capacity in natural capital accounting, using the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) framework for Green GDP estimation.


Delegation in a field visit to a farm in Dodowa . ©FAO

National Human Development Report consultations with Persons with Different Abilities(PWDAs) in Cape Coast  © UNDP

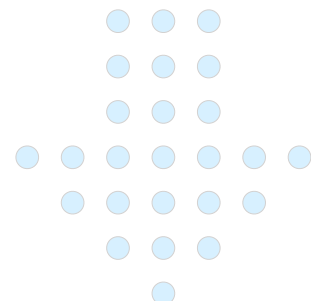# The Future Value of Work: A National Human Development Report.

**Supported by -United Nations Development Programme. (UNDP)**

The UNDP, with leadership from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is producing a Ghana National Human Development report 2023 that will investigate the nexus between the issue of jobs and human development in Ghana.

In August 2023 and as part of the NHDR process, GSS in partnership with UNDP and NDPC carried out consultations in selected regions across the country to engage key stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges of work to enhance national human development at all levels.

The Ghana Statistical Service is also providing support in calculating the human development related-indexes, including the Human Development index, Gender development index, multi-dimensional poverty index among others. Accurate calculation and understanding of these indexes are pivotal in understanding and providing up-to information on human development in Ghana, as well as appropriate policy recommendations to further human development in the country.

**Read more**

# FOCUS ON NEXT QUARTER

### OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



## UNDP

» Pilot testing SDG indicator 16.6.2 using Citizen Generated Data

» Covid 19 Agri-Business Tracker Wave 4

## ONS

» The ONS is organising a series of training for staff at the Ghana Statistical Service to enhance communications and dissemination – 30th October to 8th November 2023

» Launch of the International Data Masterclass- w/c 13 November 2023

## IMF

»  A TA mission on Air Emission Accounts (October 23 – 27, 2023)

»  Regional workshop on GDP rebasing and data sources in Accra (Nov. 13-17, 2023)

»  National Accounts mission on GDP rebasing to support the GSS on preparation for the next GDP rebasing exercise. (Nov. 27 – Dec 01, 2023)

## FAO

» Nationwide capacity strengthening in natural capital accounting with the application of SEEA framework for Green GDP estimation.

## 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**