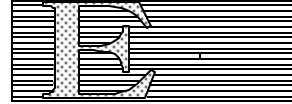




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ACS 2008-2009 programme of work

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I. Introduction

The 2008-2009 programme of work of the Centre for Statistics (ACS) was formulated by drawing upon the Centre's 2007-2009 Strategic and Business Plan, which was designed in accordance with the recommendations of major regional statistical bodies, including the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA), the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV), the Committee on Development Information (CODI), the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa (RRSF), and "Friends of ECA". It also took into account initiatives aimed at revamping the statistical function at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Statistics is subprogramme 9 of UNECA and is under the responsibility of ACS.

The 2008-2009 programme of work has a total of 25 outputs, an increase of 39 per cent as compared to the preceding biennium. It is characterized by the first meeting of StatCom-Africa in 2008 and a bigger emphasis on technical cooperation. A narrative of the programme of work is presented in the annex.

II. 2008-2009 programme of work

The ACS 2008-2009 programme of work by category, subcategory and outputs is as follows:

Categories	Subcategories	Outputs
(a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies	Subsidiary body in charge of statistics	1. First session of StatCom-Africa
	Parliamentary documentation	2. Progress report on statistical coordination and harmonization in Africa
		3. Report on statistical capacity-building in Africa
	Servicing of expert bodies	4. Expert group meetings on censuses (2008, 2009)
(b) Other substantive activities	Recurrent publications	5. African Statistical Yearbook (2008, 2009)
	Non-recurrent publications	6. Handbook on census planning and enumeration (2008) 7. Handbook on census data processing, analysis and dissemination (2009)
	Booklets, information kits	8. Themes, posters, press releases for African Statistics Day (2008, 2009)
	Special events	9. Celebration of African Statistics Day (2008, 2009) 10. Forum on African Statistical Development (2008, 2009)
(c) Technical cooperation	Group training	11. Four workshops on censuses (2 in 2008, 2 in 2009) 12. Workshop on statistical training and curricula harmonization (2009) 13. African Symposium on Statistical Development (2009)
	Fellowships	14. Five visiting scholars, fellows and interns
	Field projects	15. Household surveys, censuses, gender statistics and national accounts 16. Statistical harmonization 18. Support to NSDS implementation and data management.

III. Issues for consideration by the Committee

The Committee may wish to express its views, comments and recommendations on the 2008-2009 statistical programme of work.

IV. Annex: ACS 2008-2009 programme of work

Subprogramme 9: Statistics

This subprogramme is under the responsibility of ACS. The programme of work was formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 9 of programme 14 of the 2008-2009 biennial programme plan.

Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, performance measures, external factors and outputs

Objective of the Centre: to improve the production, dissemination and use of key demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators, in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices, as well as to promote the implementation of the new RRSF.

Expected accomplishments

- (a) Enhanced statistical capacities of member States to improve economic management and track progress towards the achievement of nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992; and
- (b) Enhanced capacity for the collection of sex-disaggregated and gender-responsive statistics in socio-economic groups.

Indicators of achievement

- (a) Increased number of statistical agencies compiling the minimum required datasets and complying with the 1993 System of National Accounts.
Performance measures:
Baseline 2004-2005: 22
Estimate 2006-2007: 26
Target 2008-2009: 30
- (b) Increased number of countries that have adopted and implemented the national strategy for the development of statistics.
Performance measures:
Baseline 2004-2005: 0
Estimate 2006-2007: 3
Target 2008-2009: 29

- (c) Increased percentage of participants and stakeholders in workshops and seminars organized by UNECA who indicate that their knowledge of the collection and use of sex-disaggregated and gender-responsive statistics has improved.

Performance measures:

Baseline 2004-2005:22

Estimate 2006-2007:26

Target 2008-2009:30

External factors

ACS is expected to achieve its objective of providing adequate backing to member States and its other goals on condition that:

- (a) Member States and their national statistical systems (NSSs) secure adequate human and financial resources for statistical operations, including censuses, surveys and national accounts, and that the countries' senior officials are supportive of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and
- (b) Partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), regional economic communities (RECs), and regional and subregional organizations extend their full cooperation in the harmonization and coordination of statistical activities and support UNECA's leadership in the implementation of the RRSF.

Outputs

During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

- (a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):**
 - (i) Substantive servicing of the first session of the Committee on Statistics (StatCom-Africa 2008);
 - (ii) Parliamentary documentation: two progress reports to StatCom-Africa on statistical coordination and harmonization in Africa; implementation of statistical capacity-building activities in Africa; and
 - (iii) Two ad-hoc expert group meetings on census planning and enumeration for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2008); census data processing, analysis and dissemination for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2009).
- (b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB):**
 - (i) Recurrent publications: African Statistical Yearbook (one in 2008 and one in 2009);

- (ii) Non-recurrent publications (two): Handbook on Census Planning and Enumeration (2008); Handbook on Census Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination (2009);
- (iii) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits; promotional materials for African Statistics Day, including posters, press releases, audio, video and DVD information kits (one in 2008 and one in 2009); and
- (iv) Special events: African Statistics Day celebrations (one in 2008 and one in 2009); Forum on African Statistical Development (one in 2008 and one in 2009).

(c) Technical cooperation (RB/XB):

- (i) Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia): two four-day workshops for approximately 15 professionals on census planning and enumeration for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC) for English- and French-speaking countries (one in 2008 and one in 2009); two four-day workshops for approximately 15 professionals on census data processing, analysis and dissemination for English- and French-speaking countries for the 2010 RPHC (one in 2008 and one in 2009); one three-day seminar for approximately 25 professionals on statistical training for curricula harmonization and development (2008); one five-day African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) for approximately 25 professionals (2009).
- (ii) Fellowships: five visiting scholars, fellows and interns to enhance the statistical capacity of member States and RECs.
- (iii) Field projects:
 - a. Increase the capabilities of member States and RECs to develop and compile gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive accounts from household surveys, population censuses and national accounts. The projects will consist of fellowships, group training, pilot studies and advisory services;
 - b. Statistical harmonization and coordination with consideration to the gender perspective, through the implementation of international standards and classifications, including the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) and the principles and recommendations (P&R) for the 2010 RPHC and the international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS). The project will focus on the provision of technical assistance, pilot studies, advisory services, networking and support to ASSD; and
 - c. Support member States to design and implement the NSDS and to develop and maintain national and subregional data management systems and databases, for tracking progress towards the MDGs.