



GDF

GLOBAL DATA FACILITY

**FINANCING
DATA-POWERED
DEVELOPMENT FOR
BETTER LIVES**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024



WORLD BANK GROUP



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COVER IMAGE BY RICHMOND OSEI VIA UNSPLASH.
LEFT PAGE IMAGE BY SALAH DARWISH VIA UNSPLASH.



FOREWORD

Data powers development; it is at the heart of the World Bank's mission to end poverty and ensure a livable planet. It provides the essential analytics

that developing countries need to navigate and create policies to confront the continuing polycrisis and seize opportunities. It also enables the creation of new insights and understandings across development contexts, to be shared, replicated, and expanded. In short, data offers new opportunities for hope and progress around the world.

Thanks to the support and collaboration of our growing number of development partners, the Global Data Facility (GDF) is rising to its potential as a global coordination mechanism for donors, practitioners, and country partners around the world. The GDF is helping to optimize the alignment of funding and priorities across developing countries for data and statistics by ensuring that it is driven by country demand. The GDF is likewise providing just-in-time support and enabling durable solutions.

Through investments in foundational and cutting-edge data and statistics, the GDF's impact is being felt in important ways, including improving economic statistics, enhancing debt transparency, collecting price data for purchasing power parity, building infrastructure for geospatial data, leveraging mobile phone data for official statistics, and enabling scaled-up World Bank IDA investments. Taken together, these efforts are supporting countries' data transformations, harmonizing data standards, strengthening

data institutions and regional integration, improving data management systems and governance, establishing fit-for-purpose data policies, and building lasting data capabilities across developing countries.

With the support of the GDF, the newly published *International Debt Report 2024* presents a debt analysis of 2023 as well as the macroeconomic and debt outlook for 2024 and beyond. This is a crucial tool to help shape policies in development finance, particularly now that external debt of low- and middle-income countries touched a record \$8.8 trillion in 2023, and since debt servicing costs for low- and middle-income countries have reached an all-time high.

Similarly, a focus on well-being and sustainability in the update of the System of National Accounts manual will serve as a catalyst for policy dialogue on "Beyond GDP". This work prioritizes enhanced measurement in macroeconomic statistics and harmonization - and linkages to other frameworks - with an emphasis on new measures of economic activity that better account for depletion of natural resources.

Additionally, through a groundbreaking mobile phone data (MPD) maturity model, together with an in-depth training for key public and private sector stakeholders in their local MPD ecosystems, the Mobile Phone Data Program has created the world's largest cohort in mobile phone data for policy. This program is now partnership with an initial 18-country cohort to put MPD plans into action for development impact.



This includes an array of MPD applications ranging from dynamic population mapping for disaster response to tourism statistics, and more.

Substantial impact has likewise been achieved at the country level. For example, in Guatemala the GDF's support for the national statistical office (NSO) to conduct the 2023 National Life Standards Survey led to the publication of official poverty estimates after a nine-year hiatus. In Panama, GDF support has enabled the NSO to adopt a global microdata documentation standard, which has enhanced data production quality and is facilitating wider dissemination. This broader access is enabling the NSO to reach a far larger audience for substantial co-benefits, from increasing government transparency to supporting data-driven decision-making across government sectors and service delivery, to strengthening the role of the NSO itself as a trusted data provider.

In the Southern Africa region, GDF support has enhanced the capacity of NSOs of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members to collect, analyze, and publish high-quality business statistics through both capacity development and the development and deployment of versatile tools and methods.

Moreover, it is clear that the value proposition of artificial intelligence (AI) for development entirely depends on the quality of the data on which AI tools are trained. Good quality, representative data from and about developing countries are crucial to drive meaningful, actionable AI insights. The GDF thus has an important role to help put data to work for AI and to leverage AI to improve development data quality.

As this report shows, the GDF is committed to enable the achievement of a *social contract for data* as set out in the World Bank's *World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives*, where the production, use, and reuse of data create economic and social value, promote equitable opportunities, and foster public trust. This commitment shaped not only the design of the GDF, but all of the work it supports.

I invite you to join us to partner with developing countries around the world to achieve this *social contract for data*, and to fully realize the opportunities of the data revolution.

— **HAISHAN FU**
WORLD BANK GROUP CHIEF STATISTICIAN & DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT DATA GROUP



JOINING FORCES FOR DATA-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

PHOTO BY CALIN STAN VIA UNSPLASH.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



Gates Foundation

The Global Data Facility (GDF), a multidonor umbrella trust fund, was established in 2021 by the Development Data Group of the World Bank to strengthen data and statistical systems in low- and middle-income countries. As of December 2024, it has received contributions totaling \$20 million from various development partners,¹ including the European Commission through its Directorate for Macroeconomic Statistics (EUROSTAT), Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO), and Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA); the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, through its Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and Spain, through its Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise; and the Gates Foundation.

The GDF recognizes that working collaboratively and harnessing the power of partnerships is essential for achieving meaningful progress in transforming data systems and capital in low- and middle-income countries. By joining forces, many challenges and opportunities associated with data in these countries could be addressed more effectively. The success

of this data financing model is fueled by the dedication and generosity of our partners, who are deeply committed to advancing the global data agenda.

Notably, the role of donors and development partners in the GDF operations extends well beyond financial contributions. Their involvement is multifaceted, ensuring that they have both a seat and a voice in the decision-making processes of the GDF work.

The GDF recognizes that donors contribute valuable knowledge and expertise, offering unique perspectives that enrich policy discussions and shape the global data and development agenda. The GDF is committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring regular financial and progress reports and communicating how donor contributions are being used and the impact being made.

Together, we are striving for better lives and a safer planet, recognizing that sustainable transformation of data is a cornerstone of progress in today's interconnected world.

¹ AS OF DECEMBER 31ST, 2024.

ABOUT THE



The Global Data Facility (GDF) is an innovative global funding mechanism that was established in October 2021 to strengthen and facilitate transformative and sustainable improvements in data systems and data capital in low- and middle-income countries with the overall objective of improving social, economic, and sustainable development outcomes. The GDF seeks to assist these countries not only in boosting their financial resources to enhance data systems but also in developing the essential data infrastructure, technical skills, and institutional and regulatory frameworks needed to facilitate access to and foster trust in data systems.

The GDF prioritizes data and statistics through pooling resources and expertise to create data-driven policies that enhance interventions and yield better development results in areas such as climate action, poverty alleviation, gender equality, food

security, and youth economic empowerment. The GDF also ensures demand-driven funding for data and statistics priorities at the global, regional, and national levels. It supports flexible, country-led approaches by investing in both data fundamentals and innovative data frontiers.

Additionally, the GDF serves as a global coordination mechanism for a spectrum of partners, practitioners, and country clients to improve and scale up support for the global development data agenda. Operating in tandem with other initiatives, such as the Bern Network's Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and the United Nation's Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd), the GDF optimizes alignment of funding and priorities around the world.

PRIORITY AREAS



Capacity building



Frontier data sources and tools for development



Data as a global public good



Data research, knowledge curation, and dissemination

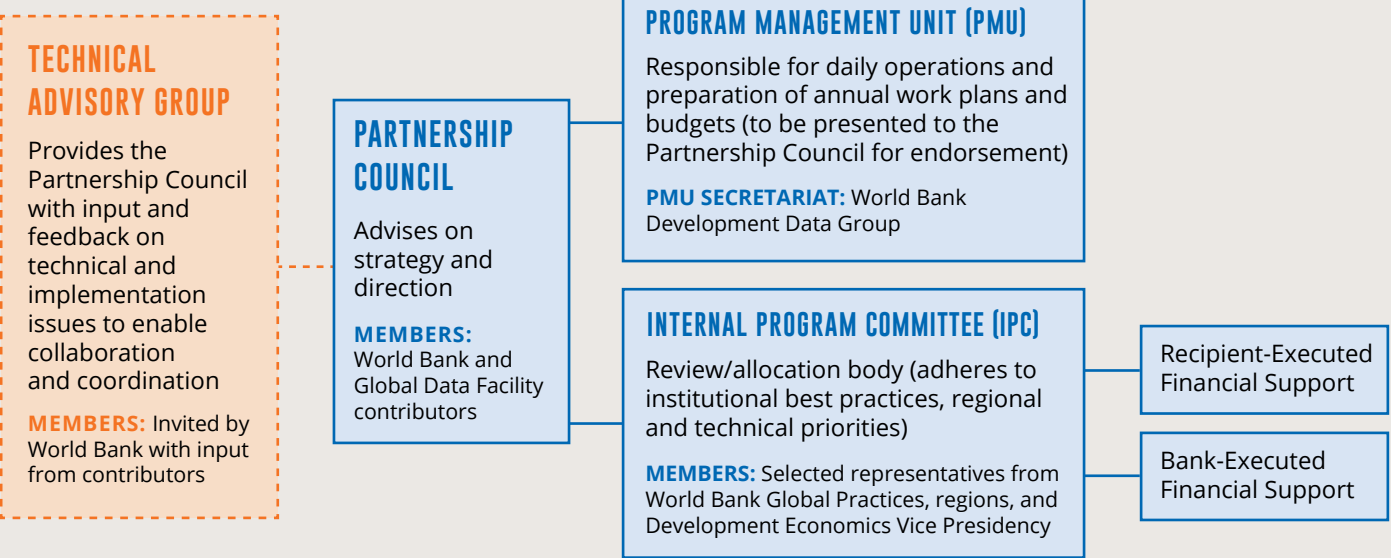


Modernization and transformation of countries' data systems



Inclusive data and closing data gaps

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL DATA FACILITY



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL DATA FACILITY - TF073793	IN US\$
SIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS	20,429,290
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED	19,027,300
REMAINING COMMITMENTS	1,401,990
European Commission*	1,049,150
Gates Foundation	352,840
INVESTMENT INCOME	999,740
WORLD BANK ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	605,570
TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED OR ALLOCATED	16,823,060
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	5,051,490

* DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
NOTE: AS OF DECEMBER 31ST, 2024.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

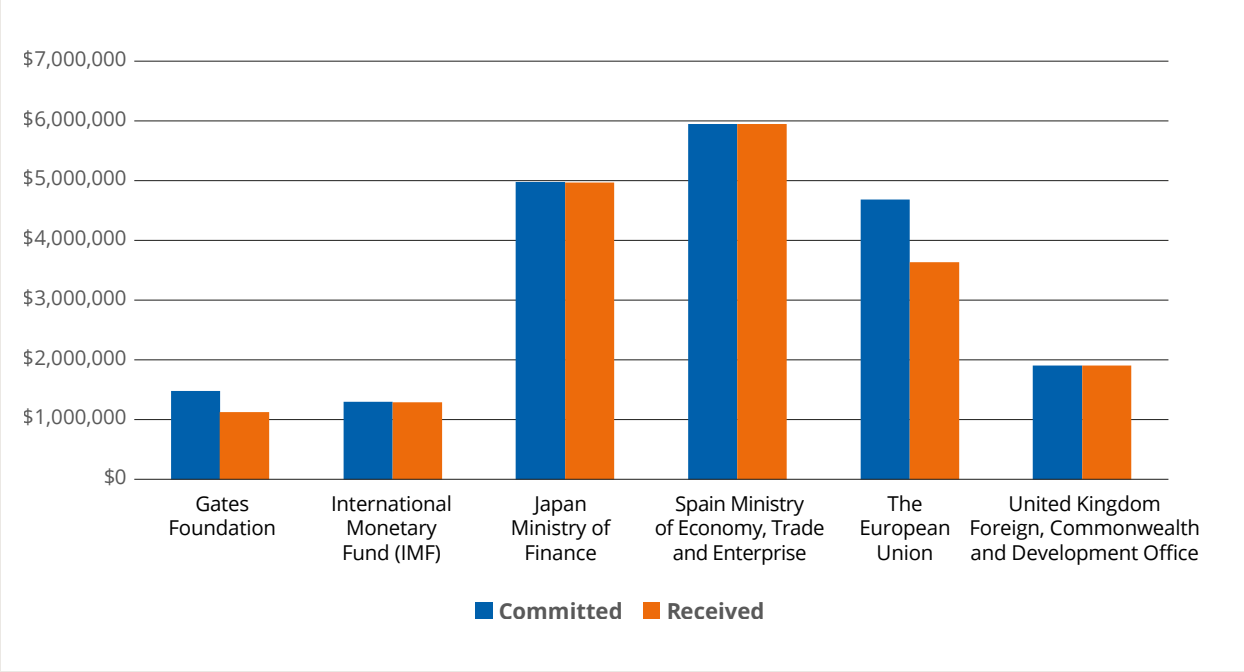


PHOTO BY TOBIAS NII KWATEI QUARTEY VIA UNSPLASH.



GDF IN NUMBERS

PARTICIPATING ECONOMIES:

181+ SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS UPDATE

176+ INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

120+ DEBT REPORTING AND RECORDING

36+ SPACE2STATS

18 MOBILE PHONE DATA

19+ COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

EARTH IMAGE BY NASA VIA UNSPLASH.

DATA COLLECTION & RELEASE:

9 LIVING STANDARDS MEASUREMENT STUDY (LSMS) SURVEYS PUBLISHED

3 OPEN-SOURCE CODE REPOSITORIES

3 DATABASES

3 GRANULAR DATA FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DISSEMINATED



PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS:

2 MANUAL AND GLOSSARY

82 GUIDANCE NOTES

12 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS

4 PLATFORMS/WEBSITES

12 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED

10 WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS

5 DATA VISUALIZATIONS

20 TECHNICAL BLOGS

CAPACITY BUILDING:

63+ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAININGS

32 FORMS OF CONTINUOUS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



LEFT PHOTO BY NATHAN CIMA, TOP PHOTO BY EQUALSTOCK, BOTH VIA UNSPLASH.

HOW WE WORK

The Global Data Facility (GDF) is designed to ensure that demand drives funding for data and statistics priorities at the global, regional, national, and community levels. Through investments in the fundamentals as well as at the frontier of data and statistics, the GDF ensures flexible and adaptive country-led approaches. It allows for customized entry points in countries and distinct levels of engagement with country partners and practitioners supporting data and statistics priorities through its global, country, and hybrid pillars.²

The **GLOBAL PILLAR** champions data as a global public good, allows cross-country comparability, advances the “Data for AI and AI for Data” agenda, and focuses on inclusivity by closing critical data gaps.

The **COUNTRY PILLAR** prioritizes modernizing national data systems, implementing international best practices and standards, and enhancing the capacity of national statistical institutions.

The **HYBRID PILLAR** leverages frontier data sources and tools for development while conducting research, curating knowledge, and ensuring the dissemination of expertise from development partners for action at the country and global levels.

Among its global pillar standout initiatives, the GDF is building advanced infrastructure to collect, analyze, and standardize geospatial data and household surveys, providing policy makers with critical insights to tackle challenges like urban planning, disaster resilience, and sustainable development. Its efforts to enhance debt transparency, advance purchasing power parity (PPP), and update the System of National Accounts (SNA) empower nations to manage resources more effectively, reduce poverty, and foster inclusive economic growth.

Under the country pillar, the GDF is making a tangible impact on vulnerable communities by expanding access to geospatial data, bridging service gaps in health care, education, and infrastructure. Its work to improve labor and gender statistics supports equitable policies that benefit marginalized groups.

Innovatively, under the hybrid pillar, the GDF leverages mobile phone data to deliver real-time insights, enabling governments to engage dynamically with underserved populations and design tailored interventions. These initiatives demonstrate how the GDF’s data-driven solutions are transforming lives and advancing a sustainable, equitable future for the people and planet.

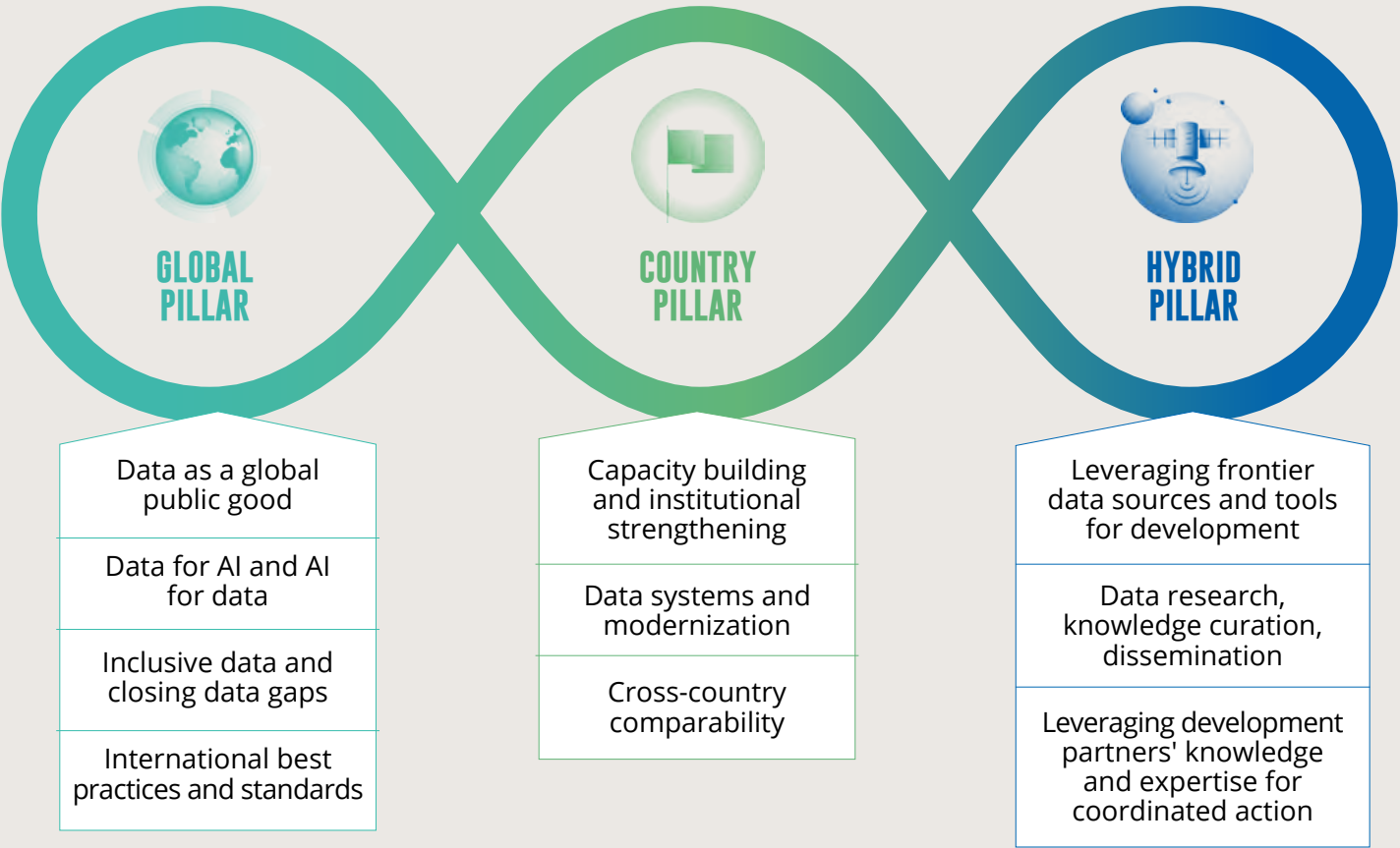


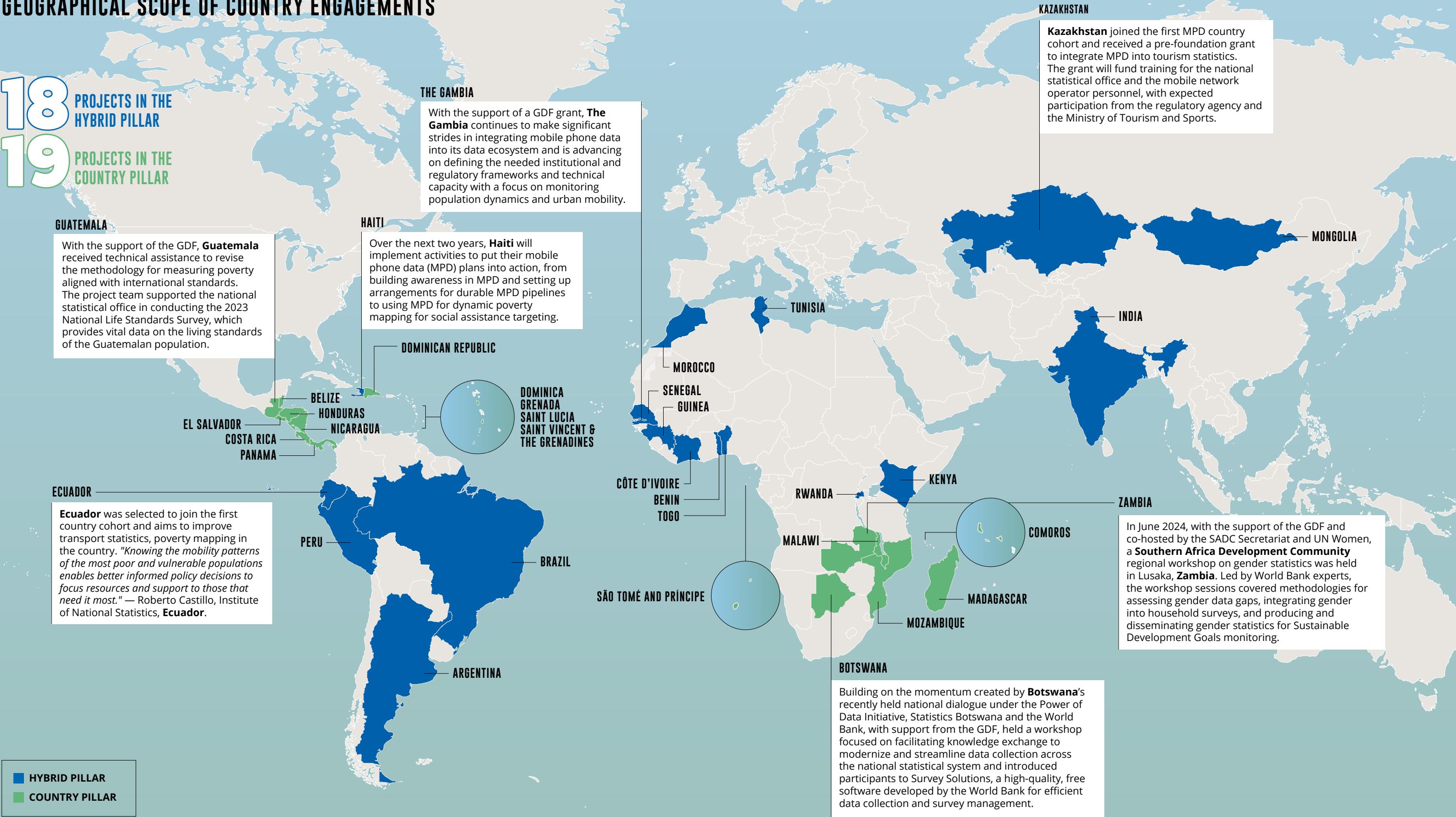
PHOTO FROM THE TRAINING FOR THE SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND HOUSEHOLD BUDGETARY IN SAINT LUCIA, DECEMBER 2024.



² AS OF DECEMBER 31ST, 2024, THE GLOBAL PILLAR ENCOMPASSES FOUR PROJECTS: DEBT REPORTING AND RECORDING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM, UPDATE OF THE SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2008 STATISTICAL STANDARDS, AND SPACE2STATS. THE COUNTRY PILLAR INCLUDES THREE CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS: STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION, SADC REGIONAL STATCAP AND BOTSWANA – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF STATISTICAL SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPCS DATA FOR DECISION MAKING REGIONAL PROJECT. THE HYBRID PILLAR HAS ONE PROJECT: MOBILE PHONE DATA FOR POLICY.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF COUNTRY ENGAGEMENTS

18 PROJECTS IN THE HYBRID PILLAR
19 PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY PILLAR



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PHOTO BY AZZEDINE ROUICHI VIA UNSPLASH.

DEBT REPORTING & RECORDING

INDIA. PHOTO BY ABHISHEK KIRLOSKAR VIA UNSPLASH.

The Debt Reporting and Recording project aims to support borrowers' efforts to strengthen debt reporting and recording, at national and international levels, and to meet the data needs of policy makers, academics, and the international community. The objective of the grant activities is to enhance debt transparency, which is the foundation of better management of public liabilities and of the effective and sustainable use of borrowed resources.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REDESIGNING THE DEBTOR REPORTING SYSTEM:

The new Debtor Reporting System (DRS) reporting template was completed in December 2024. The Technical Working Group on Improving Public and External Debt Statistics (TWGDS) provided input and feedback on the template throughout the year and reviewed the final version at their annual meeting in November 2024. The new DRS template is in line with recent updates in international standards and captures more information on debt characteristics and operations, which will enhance the granularity of available debt statistics for better analysis and policy use. In parallel, work is ongoing to develop the new debt system capable of accommodating the new DRS reporting requirements, data collection, and data management and curation. With the new DRS reporting template finalized, work has begun on updating the DRS manual to incorporate the new reporting requirements. The next phase of this process is the integration of the new DRS template into two debt management systems, Meridian and Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS).

EXTENDING THE DRS TO COVER DOMESTIC PUBLIC DEBT:

In the latter half of 2024, additional staff were hired and are now fully dedicated to advancing the domestic public debt project. Work is under way to develop the domestic public debt data collection process. A proposal was made to the TWGDS outlining the project timeline for completion of a reporting template, manual/guide updates, and the implementation of changes in the Meridian and DMFAS debt management systems. The work to develop the domestic debt reporting template is benefiting from the experience gained in developing the new DRS reporting template for external debt.

CLOSING THE DATA GAPS AND RECONCILING DISCREPANCIES:

The second phase of the data comparison between the G7 and the DRS involved a loan-by-loan comparison. It entailed identifying and accounting for discrepancies between the two data sets. Subsequently, in May 2024 individual assessment reports documenting the findings were prepared and shared with each G7 creditor country. In September 2024, as part of the data sharing from creditors, the 2023 debt data were sent to the Paris Club and G20 creditor countries. Work has begun to compare the 2023 creditor debt data to the DRS. A list of loan-level data from creditors' websites was compiled and completed in July 2024. A list of available debt bulletins published by DRS reporting countries was also compiled and used to validate and reconcile the data reported by countries to the DRS. This has helped reduce data gaps between the two data sources for some DRS countries.

DISSEMINATING MORE GRANULAR DRS DATA TO SUPPORT DEBT TRANSPARENCY AND FACILITATE BETTER RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS:

On December 3, 2024, the annual [International Debt Report](#) was published, and the International Debt Statistics (IDS) database was updated with end-2023 external debt data. *The International Debt Report 2024* includes an analysis of end-2023 external debt flows and debt stock positions as well as the macroeconomic and debt outlook for 2024 and beyond, and updates on the debt transparency agenda. During the year, five blogs on debt were released:

- [Up & Coming: Unpacking South Asia's Growing Role in Global Debt](#)
- [The Data Behind the International Debt Report 2023](#)
- [Multilateral Lenders, Led by the World Bank, Are Set to Boost Support for the World's Poorest Countries](#)
- [International Debt Report 2024: Low- and Middle-Income Countries' Debt Stock Increased by US\\$205.9 Billion in 2023](#)
- [Introducing the New Guide to the International Debt Statistics \(IDS\) Database](#)

INTERNATIONAL DEBT STATISTICS 2024

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY





CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING:

Presentations at regional training courses regarding debt statistics at the World Bank and the enhancements and expansion of the DRS included the following:

6 International Monetary Fund (IMF) workshop/training courses on debt statistics that covered several regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and the Middle East and North Africa.

2 countries (Tanzania and Zambia) — The World Bank participated in the IMF Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Missions.

1 World Bank Institute for Economic Development course—"Making Debt Data Transparent and Sustainable Amidst Debt Distress"—with representation from 15 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East and North Africa regions.

Participation in the 12th Biennial Conference of the Irving Fisher Committee (IFC) on Central Bank Statistics of the Bank for International Settlements, "Statistics and Beyond: New Data for Decision Making in Central Banks." Participants were mainly central bank statisticians, with

150 participants from the 105 IFC member central banks, plus representatives from academia, the International Statistical Institute, and international organizations (in particular the World Bank, IMF, ECB, and OECD).



TRAINING COURSE "MAKING DEBT DATA TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE AMIDST DEBT DISTRESS," IN PERUGIA, ITALY.

IMPACT STORY

MAKING DEBT DATA TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE

In June 2024, the World Bank's Development Economics Data Group introduced a new training course, "Making Debt Data Transparent and Sustainable Amidst Debt Distress," in Perugia, Italy. The course was offered under the new World Bank Group Academy and DEC Institute, with generous support from the government of Japan. Its primary aim was to equip borrowing countries with the tools and knowledge to better record and measure their debt instruments and their borrowing terms, enabling them to avoid trade-offs between servicing their debt and investing in health, education, and welfare. There was also guidance for increasing transparency to better facilitate restructurings.

The course offered participants an in-depth understanding of debt statistics from the World Bank Debtor Reporting System and the methodologies for compiling external debt statistics. It addressed gaps and discrepancies that undermine confidence in debt data, the impact on debt sustainability, and the complications of debt restructuring. The course delved into the debt challenges faced by countries and focused on debt distress, the Multipronged Approach (MPA) to support countries in distress, and how to address their debt vulnerabilities. It also thoroughly examined policies that enhance debt

transparency and data quality; introduced debt sustainability frameworks with the emphasis on country data reported through the DRS; and concluded with a discussion on debt transparency and the World Bank Sustainable Development Finance Policy (SDFP). The ultimate purpose was to guide trainees toward sustainable financing with a focus on fiscal sustainability and debt management challenges, as part of a broader series designed to provide comprehensive insights into debt statistics.

Nineteen participants from 15 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa regions attended the course. The participants were mainly debt specialists and mid-level officials in debt management offices at ministries of finance and central banks. Participant feedback at the end of the course was revealing. Sixty-three percent of the participants noted that their main reason for attending was to enhance the performance and efficiency of their current work, while 19 percent said their attendance was for professional interest and growth reasons. Forty-four percent of participants noted that the course increased the quality of their work, while another 44 percent said the knowledge they gained will aid in applying new tools, methods, and knowledge to their current jobs. The course material imparted participants with significant new skills, with 84 percent saying they would use the knowledge gained



in their jobs, and 88 percent predicting it will improve their work performance. The course was highly effective in enhancing participants' capacity to manage debt data, which increases the quality and productivity of their work and improves reporting compliance.

There are plans to offer similar courses in the Asia Pacific and Africa regions in 2025.

- <https://wbginstitute.learnworlds.com/course/debt-data-transparent>
- <https://lwfiles.mycourse.app/6613b4d8a84131aad4ec685b-public/publicFiles/1-Debt%20data%20course%20Infographic%20VJul23.pdf>
- https://lwfiles.mycourse.app/6613b4d8a84131aad4ec685b-public/publicFiles/Debt%20Data%20Course%20Agenda-%20June%202024_final.pdf
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/debt-statistics/events>

PARTICIPANTS OF THE COURSE "MAKING DEBT DATA TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE AMIDST DEBT DISTRESS" IN PERUGIA, ITALY, JUNE 10-14, 2024.



IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

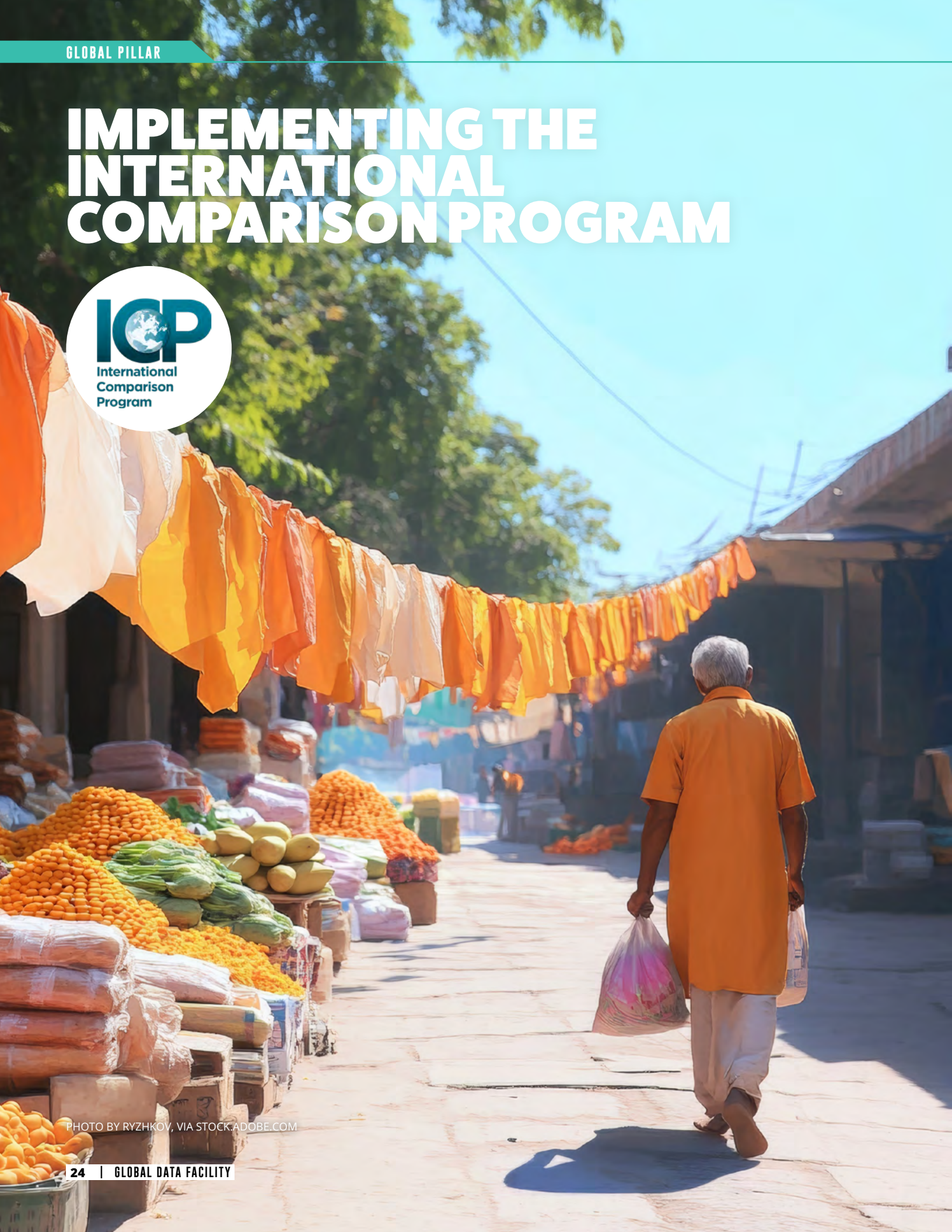


PHOTO BY RYZHKOV, VIA STOCK.ADOBE.COM

The International Comparison Program (ICP) is a worldwide statistical initiative to collect comparative price data and estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) and price level indexes for the world's economies. The project's objective is to ensure the successful and ongoing conduct of ICP activities at the global, regional, and national levels and enable the production of PPP-based indicators.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

With the support of GDF funding, and in-kind contributions from other partners, [results for the ICP 2021 cycle](#) were released on May 30, 2024. They encompass results for the reference year 2021 for **176** participating economies and their aggregate regions and other groupings. The results cover:

45 expenditure headings and several indicators provided for each heading, including PPPs, national accounts expenditures, and price level indexes.

19 additional economies that did not participate in the ICP 2021 cycle now have imputed results available.

Revised data for:

178 economies for the reference year 2017, PPP time series for 2018 to 2020, and extrapolated GDP PPPs for 2022 and 2023 were published.

Users can access the ICP 2021 cycle results via the [ICP global website](#) and the [World Bank's DataBank](#) and explore key findings with accompanying [interactive data visualizations](#) and related materials. The release of the ICP 2021 cycle results provides an essential tool for policy makers, analysts, and researchers

on cross-country comparison of prices, expenditures, output, and material well-being.

The PPP estimation methodology used across successive cycles remains stable and well documented, ensuring comparability between the ICP 2021, 2017, and 2011 cycles.

Implementation of the ICP 2024 cycle is ongoing. Efforts are under way to further enhance the methodology, explore the integration of the latest technologies into ICP activities, and align the ICP classification with other international standards. The ICP Global Office finalized and disseminated the ICP 2024 item lists, outlining the specifications of items to be priced by each participating economy, in close collaboration with regional and national implementing agencies. An online item list management tool was used to build the item lists in an efficient, collaborative, and transparent manner. The ICP 2024 items lists introduced new global core items, based on the ICP 2021 regional item lists, as well as necessary revisions to the item specifications, particularly those for fast-evolving technology items.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS:

The ICP report to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) was discussed at its 55th session, held in March 2024, and subsequently published [online](#). One [Governing Board meeting](#) (February 2024), two [Technical Advisory Group meetings](#) (February and April 2024), and one [Inter-Agency Coordination Group meeting](#) (November 2024) were organized. Continuous and close coordination occurred among the ICP's governing and coordination bodies, and agencies have closely coordinated the release of the ICP 2021 results as well as the implementation of the ICP 2024 cycle.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE:

Research and simulations were conducted to improve the quality of PPPs at both the global and regional levels for the ICP 2021 cycle. As a result, enhancements were made to the calculation methodology for

- a. the global linking procedure for the Commonwealth of Independent States region,
- b. the regional housing PPPs for economies in the Asia and the Pacific region, and
- c. the imputation of PPPs for an additional classification heading for non-ICP participating economies.

OUTREACH:

[The ICP website](#) is updated regularly and features recent highlights and [uses of ICP data](#). A World Bank [press release](#), a launch [blog](#), [interactive key findings visualization and analysis](#), [global and regional highlights](#), [ICP fact sheets](#), and [frequently asked questions](#) related to the ICP 2021 release were published in May 2024, accompanied by a successful [social media campaign](#).

New Data from the International Comparison Program

Purchasing power parity data is crucial for monitoring progress towards many of the #SDGs.





SHIBUYA CROSSING INTERSECTION, JAPAN. PHOTO BY RYOJI IWATA VIA UNSPLASH.

IMPACT STORY

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM: A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD ENABLING MEANINGFUL COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING STATISTICAL CAPACITY AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

As a unique example of enduring [statistical cooperation and collaboration across national, regional, and global agencies](#), the ICP delivers a vital public good: PPPs for economies across the globe. These metrics enable an array of indicators that help track progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and many other targets that aim to improve people’s lives and livelihoods in low- and middle-income economies, and they allow national governments, policy makers, and other users to measure the effectiveness of current domestic policies, compare themselves with other economies, and monitor improvements over time.

The [latest set of results from the ICP](#) was released in May 2024. Alongside PPPs, it includes price level indexes and estimates of GDP and expenditure components for both the reference year 2021 and revised results for 2017. Annual extrapolations to 2023 are also provided, responding to users’ requests for up-to-date data. The reaction from *The Economist* and other media outlets

to this release articulates how these results throw light and much-needed clarification on the dynamic global economy and how material well-being varies across the world, identifying where the most vulnerable live. At the same time, custodians of indicators based on PPPs have started to update their data with the new 2021 estimates. One example is the [International Labour Organization, which revised its suite of income statistics using 2021 PPPs](#). Another is the [International Monetary Fund, which used the latest ICP data to update its PPP-based GDP for its World Economic Outlook](#) finding that emerging markets and developing economies have increased their share of the global economy.

New indicators based on ICP data and PPPs have been introduced in recent years, including a [new higher poverty line](#), a [prosperity gap metric](#), the [cost and affordability of a healthy diet](#) to measure food security, and [expenditure on cultural and natural heritage for SDG 11](#). Research is under way to incorporate PPPs into the World Bank’s income classification and into [estimates of global wealth](#). These demand-led applications join a [host of established metrics used to measure progress](#).

For national statistical offices and other national implementing agencies participating in the ICP – representing over

170 economies in the last two cycles of the program—the breadth of training, support, and knowledge they receive in price and national accounts data, in data collection methods, management, and validation, and in international data standards has led to huge gains in statistical capacity and adoption of new technologies at the country level, meeting local demand and benefiting data systems outside the ICP itself. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICP teams across the world navigated the challenges to statistical processes with resilience and ingenuity, by innovatively using web scraping and scanner data to collect prices and by using guidelines on conducting price, expenditure, and private education surveys during the period that were distributed to national agencies.

As the ICP 2024 cycle progresses, the program is exploring more frequent production of PPPs, expanding participation to ensure no economy is left behind, aligning more closely with other international statistical standards, and continuing to modernize its data collection, validation, and PPP calculation systems. What began as a modest initiative has become an essential resource for decision-making and a beacon of innovation. With continued support, the ICP will deepen its impact, empower more economies, and remain a vital tool for understanding and navigating today’s complex global landscape.

UPDATING THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2008 STATISTICAL STANDARDS

PHOTO BY GEORGE TASIOS VIA UNSPLASH.

The objective of the activities under the National Accounts workstream is to complete the update of the *System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA2008)* statistical standards under the auspices of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), for endorsement by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and publication in 2025. To achieve this development objective, project activities are organized under five components, and the GDF supports three of them: drafting of the *SNA2025*, consultation and outreach activities, and partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure consistency across statistical standards.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

As one of the five organizations overseeing updates to the SNA standards via a collaborative interagency arrangement, the World Bank has assumed the role of chair of the ISWGNA this year. The World Bank continues to play an active role developing implementation plans for the new SNA guidance and provides leadership in a number of areas for the current update process, including a task team focusing on well-being and sustainability (“Beyond GDP”), and for effective communication of the new standards, among others. Here is a summary of activities in the last year, organized under the project components.

DRAFTING OF THE *SNA2025*:

A consolidated list of changes for global consultation was prepared in mid-2023, then the list of recommendations was finalized and presented to the UNSC for endorsement in 2024. The UNSC endorsed the entire suite of proposed SNA changes with one

exception: the extension of the SNA asset boundary to include marketing assets; this item will remain on the research agenda for future consideration. The editorial team then expedited the drafting of the new SNA manual, which was targeted for global consultation in June 2024. A glossary of terms and definitions was developed to underpin the *SNA2025* as well as the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) updated *Balance of Payments Manual*, 7th edition (*BPM7*). The full draft of the *SNA2025* manual was available for global consultation from July to September 2024. Feedback provided at the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) will be incorporated into the final version, targeted for endorsement by the UNSC in March 2025.

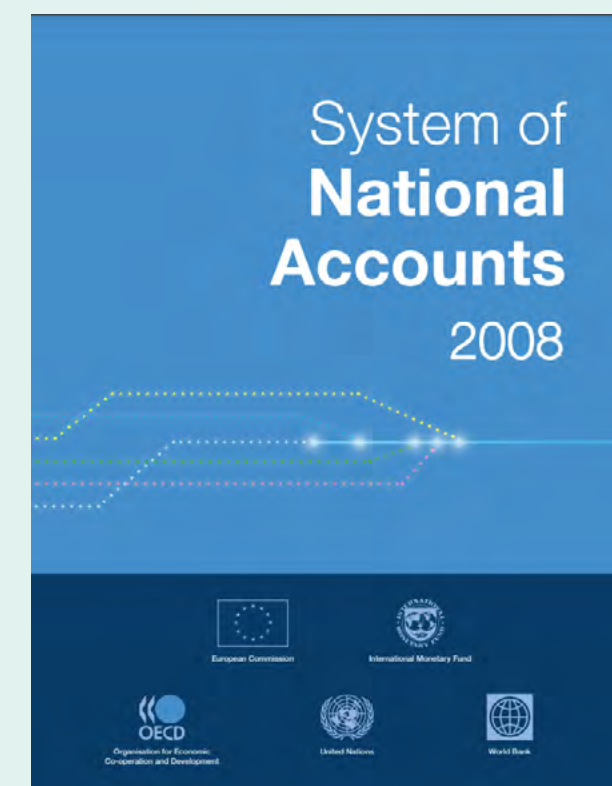
CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

The outreach is supported by dedicated [web pages](#). Several conferences and seminars were planned—for example, participation at the annual conferences of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Group of Experts on National Accounts, Eurostat, and UNSC dedicated sessions, the International Statistics Institute meetings, and the General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) in London in August 2024. A preconference training session on the new National Accounts standards was included as an IARIW event, with a focus on how it relates to environmental-economic accounting. As part of the implementation strategy for the *SNA2025*, task teams met throughout the year to develop implementation guidance in three important areas: data and the digital economy (led by Eurostat), natural capital (led by the OECD), and marketing assets, which will continue as part of the ongoing SNA research agenda

(led by IMF). In addition to the manual, an implementation strategy, including elements on training, country planning, and technical assistance, is also being finalized for UNSC endorsement.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION:

A key feature of the *SNA2008* update is the collaboration with the custodians of other macroeconomic statistical standards as well as with other key stakeholders in the international statistical community. For example, chapters with significant overlap between the *SNA2025* and the *BPM7* were authored and edited jointly, and the objective to arrive at a common glossary of terms and definitions for the two standards was achieved. The success of this unprecedented collaboration and transparency spurred an initiative for broader coordination and harmonization of statistical standards. A proposal is in development and consultation is already under way.



IMPACT STORY

SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2025:
ECONOMIC MEASUREMENT FOR THE FUTURE

UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION TO
ADVANCE MEASUREMENT

In 2021, an interagency group including the United Nations, IMF, OECD, Eurostat, and the World Bank embarked on a complex and ambitious undertaking to update the statistical standards included in the *SNA2008* manual. This update addresses key themes of globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability and is critical to ensure the “economy” in all its various dimensions is defined and measured in the right way, accounting for emerging phenomena such as new business models for global production spanning multiple countries, or advanced enabling technologies like digital platforms and data-driven production processes leveraging advanced software and artificial intelligence.

The new SNA standards will come into effect in 2025, and their development has engaged task teams with literally hundreds of global experts from the statistical and research communities. The update process has involved unprecedented collaboration to advance economic measurement, in a fully transparent and harmonized process with statistical standards for the *BPM7*, the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), and the Government Finance Statistics (GFS). All aspects of this project have benefited from multiple stages of global consultation and extensive outreach efforts across world regions.



MEASURING WELL-BEING AND
SUSTAINABILITY “BEYOND GDP”

The third key pillar of the SNA update has been to assure that the new standards address material well-being and sustainability appropriately—in essence, clear and concrete steps to address information requirements “Beyond GDP.” While it’s well understood that the SNA is an information system tracking activity from production to wealth accumulation across sectors (including households), the *SNA2025* goes further, to show how households are impacted by broader economic developments via the distribution of their income, consumption, saving, and wealth. New details are also included on sociodemographic characteristics of the labor force and on health and education systems. These new elements make it easier to establish links between economic data and social and demographic statistics.

In terms of sustainability, the new standards enable an expanded capital (wealth) approach, highlighting the role of natural assets in economic activity by better accounting for the depletion of natural resources, and otherwise harmonizing with environmental accounting standards. Broadening prior standard national wealth measures to include both natural and human capital for a concept of “comprehensive” or “inclusive wealth” that better addresses the sustainability of economic progress is supported in recent “Beyond GDP” discussions.



MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY EXPERT GROUP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, HOSTED BY THE WORLD BANK, WHERE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE PROJECT WERE MADE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL
IMPLEMENTATION

The *SNA2025* manual is poised for endorsement by the UNSC in early March 2025. In addition, a broad and detailed implementation strategy has been developed for endorsement by the SNA project team, as a guide to support broad, inclusive, and timely implementation of the new, fit-for-purpose standards across world regions. The strategy elaborates six aspects considered fundamental for implementing the *SNA2025* and *BPM7*, including a strategic approach, communication and outreach, advocacy, training and technical assistance, new manuals and handbooks, and ongoing research. New practical implementation

guidance has been developed to assure international comparability for the challenging new elements, such as data as an asset, natural resources, and cryptocurrencies.

A planned Compilers Hub, in development by the IMF, will also support implementation by housing a range of available reference materials, serving as a portal for training materials and providing a platform for organizations to share experiences and collaborate on implementation issues. An important feature of the Compilers Hub will be the ability to apply artificial intelligence to query reputable sources with a direct interface to the new standards and compilation guidance.

SPACE2STATS

This project is focused on generating a global database of subnational geospatial indicators at the administrative 2 level that are commonly used in development and economics analysis, known as Space2Stats (S2S). This project was designed with open innovation at the forefront, so all the code and data will be made public. The S2S work will continue under three principal components:

- 1. Disaggregated spatial statistics
- 2. Geographic variables in survey data
- 3. Training and capacity building for subnational data



PHOTO BY SPACEX VIA UNSPLASH.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

DISAGGREGATED SPATIAL STATISTICS:

The development of the Space2Stats database and application programming interface (API) is under way in collaboration with partners. The following deliverables have been completed:

1 new database with four new data sets: Officially launched the Space2Stats database and API at a World Bank hack-a-thon with global coverage of four data sets:

- 1. Population demographics from WorldPop
- 2. VIIRS monthly nighttime lights data
- 3. Population exposed to floods (Fathom flood models)
- 4. Urbanization coverage and population breakdown (GHSL)

1 new member added to the working group: Expanded the Space2Stats Working Group to 19 members and held another consultation. This group includes experts from the Energy, Urban, Poverty, IT, and DEC teams in the World Bank.

SUBTASKS:

2 concept notes prepared and reviewed: Officially completed the concept note review process for (a) the Gender, Jobs, and Geography Project, and began the review process for (b) the People and Planet subnational indicators.

GEOGRAPHIC VARIABLES IN SURVEY DATA (GEO-ENHANCEMENT):

The geo-enhancement of surveys has progressed in two ways:

2 new country surveys: Continued application of the geo-enhancement methodology for LSMS surveys. Two new countries have adopted the methodology to new surveys: Uganda and Nigeria.

2 pilot programs have been launched in collaboration with the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement to replicate; the LSMS geo-enhancement methodology. The work will continue to explore how the data and information can be safely disseminated, and the application can be expanded to additional surveys.



WEBSITE UPDATES:

- [Space2Stats website](#) updated with complete metadata library and API documentation
- [Gender, jobs, and spatial factors website](#) was updated with geospatial data

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES:

In summer 2024, the contract for the production of the new high-resolution boundaries was awarded to IMA, a vendor with extensive experience in producing legally approved boundary data sets for international use. The draft data set was delivered in October 2024 and edited by the World Bank's legal department. The final legally approved boundaries will be delivered in early 2025. The boundaries will be placed on the World Bank data catalog and made publicly available.

IMPACT STORY

PROVIDING UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND DISASTER

The Space2Stats program covers a broad range of topics, all of which focus on surfacing and simplifying access to geospatial data and activities for our World Bank colleagues and country counterparts. A key aspect of the program is the geo-enhancement of surveys whereby foundational geospatial data are attached to household survey data while ensuring the privacy of the survey participants. In collaboration with the JDC in Copenhagen, this activity has recently been expanded to include processing of surveys of forcibly displaced populations (FDPs).

The need for timely and accurate information about the current population, infrastructure, public services, and environmental factors is core for planning and policy intervention. Collecting this information remains a challenge, especially in developing countries that continue to suffer socioeconomic impacts from climate change, pandemics, conflict, and other disruptions. This exercise is even more challenging for vulnerable groups such as FDPs. Their locations are often hard to reach, and governments may consider them less of a priority for data collection because of competing demands and budgetary constraints. Nonetheless, the collection and use of this information are extremely useful for policy making as the data can inform policy interventions and humanitarian and development operations working to improve the livelihoods for these vulnerable groups.

When assessing the situations faced by FDPs, experts increasingly turn to geospatial data. Such data include satellite imagery and the features that may be extracted from it,

such as the location of buildings and roads, whether lights are on at night, or which areas, buildings, and facilities will flood in the monsoon season. Such remotely sensed data can provide unique perspectives in situations of conflict and disaster because the data collection is not affected by borders or political machinations, and the data are collected in a consistent, replicable manner.

Through the World Bank’s engagement with the JDC, the GDF team has started knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives with colleagues at the JDC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The S2S program provides access to novel geospatial insight using our established geo-enhancement process, and at the same time, we learn much about how the UNHCR carries out, analyzes, and disseminates their survey data. While both organizations still have a lot to learn about the other’s work, our initial engagement has produced some interesting discussions.

One example of how novel geospatial data can inform UNHCR survey activities is through the attribution of collected surveys with objective measures of urbanization. All countries classify urban areas differently, and while none of these country policies are objectively wrong, the inconsistency of the measures makes comparability impossible. By comparing the collected urbanization classifications from the household surveys to objective measures of urbanization, we can identify areas of disagreement and use that to inform how to better interpret and analyze the results.

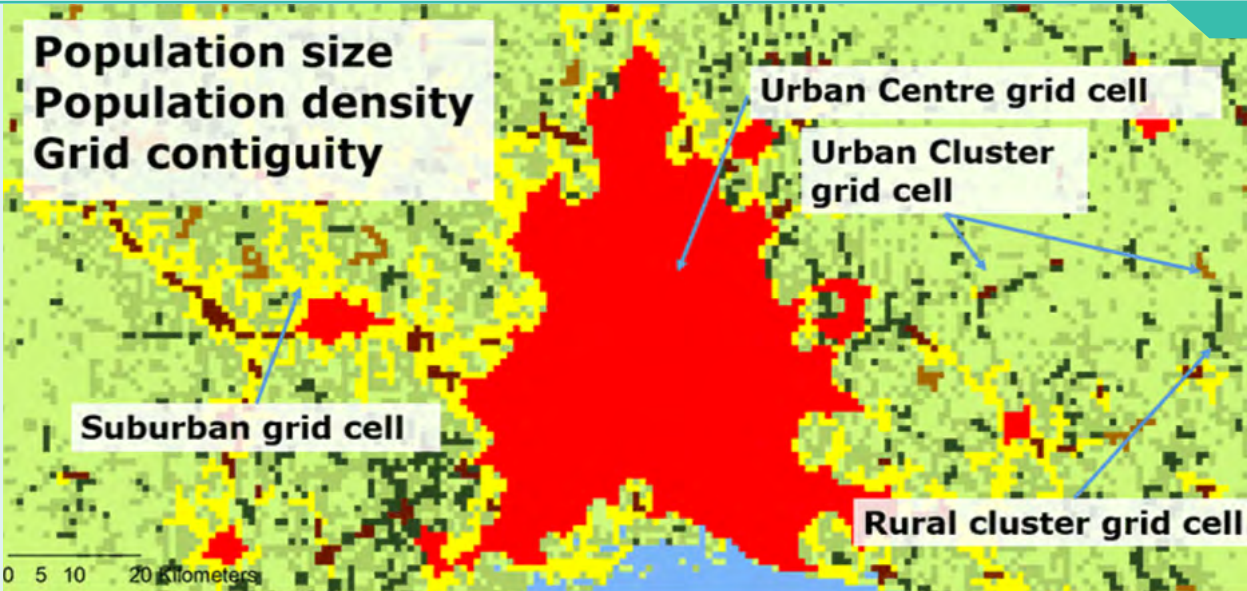


FIGURE 1. EXAMPLE OF THE URBAN CLASSES IN THE GHS-SMOD DATABASE

Figure 2 shows the distribution of household survey locations in the 7-category [Global Human Settlement Layer \(GHSL\)](#) Degree of Urbanization.³ While there is agreement in the urban center classification (far left bar) and the rural classifications (three right bars), there is confusion in the suburban areas. In these settings, where GHS-SMOD differentiates multiple classes, the household survey sites are more likely to be classified as rural. This discrepancy can now be incorporated into the UNHCR analysis to get a more nuanced view of the urban rural divide in the survey responses.

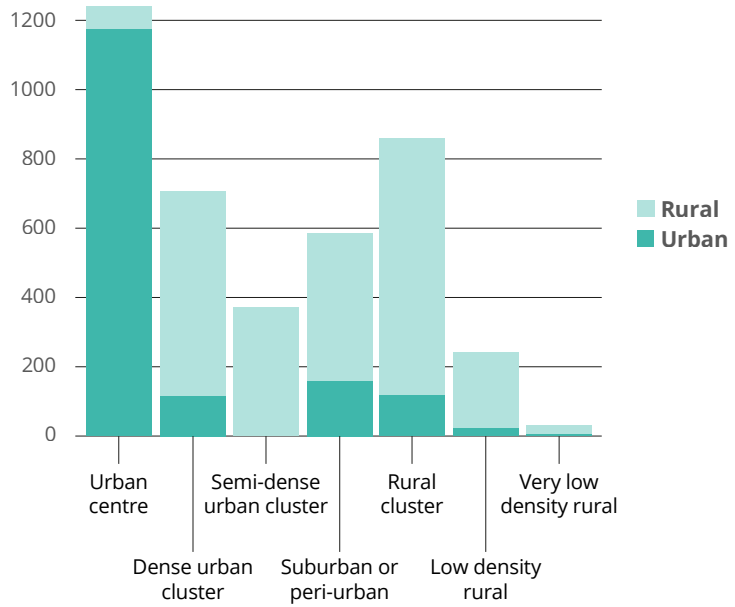


FIGURE 2. COMPARISON OF THE URBAN MEASURES FROM THE SURVEY AND FROM THE GHS-SMOD SAMPLING

This is just one example of how our geospatial data can inform UNHCR results. We have additional fascinating results looking at electrification status, access to services, and more. We hope to continue this fruitful engagement with our UN and European counterparts and to spread the word on how geospatial information can provide novel insight to our development operations.

3. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE DATA CATALOGUE, GHS-SMOD R2023A - GHS SETTLEMENT LAYERS, APPLICATION OF THE DEGREE OF URBANIZATION METHODOLOGY (STAGE I) TO GHS-POP R2023A AND GHS-BUILT-S R2023A, MULTITEMPORAL (1975-2030), EUROPEAN COMMISSION, [HTTP://DATA.EUROPA.EU/89H/A0DF7A6F-49DE-46EA-9BDE-563437A6E2BA](http://data.europa.eu/89H/A0DF7A6F-49DE-46EA-9BDE-563437A6E2BA).

STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GUATEMALA: PHOTO BY CURT CARNEMARK VIA WORLD BANK.

The objective of this grant is to strengthen and modernize the national statistical systems of Central America and the Dominican Republic to increase the quality, availability, and use of statistics and microdata in Latin America and the Caribbean (allowing to monitor progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs], including ending poverty), resulting in informed public policies and regional integration.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:

Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Developing a regional microdata catalog: In association with the regional statistical body for Central America and the Dominican Republic, SICA-Centroestad, the team is supporting the creation of a regional micro-catalog. This involves providing technical assistance to countries with existing cataloging efforts to migrate to the newest tools promoted by the World Bank Group and providing access to the tools for those countries in initial stages. The team provided a virtual seminar and shared tools with the national statistical offices (NSOs) in September 2024 and held a one-week, in-person workshop in November 2024 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The team is assisting three NSOs to migrate to the new catalog, where they can include videos, maps, tables, and more. Additionally, there is an agreement with Central American Integration System (SICA) to create an offline version of the catalog that includes all existing documented microdata after the in-person workshop. Completed outcome is expected in March 2025.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:

- **Guatemala:** The country had gone nearly a decade without official poverty estimates. Technical assistance was provided to finalize the 2023 ENCOVI (Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida) survey and to update the poverty measurement methodology. The government launched the survey results and the new poverty estimates in August 2024, in a high-level event at the presidential palace.
- **Panama:** The team provided technical assistance for microdata dissemination, anonymization, data cataloging, and quality control to ensure that statistical information is accessible and reliable. While over 12 data sets are in the final stages of documentation, work was interrupted by National Institute of Statistics and Census of Panama (INEC) work to collect the agricultural census and other relevant surveys. The World Bank team has the full support of the INEC director, with a dedicated team at INEC, so the work is expected to conclude in early 2025. Also, it is not expected that the end of the INEC director's term will affect the progress made.
- **Belize:** An assessment of Belize's national statistical system was conducted and validated by the Statistical Institute of Belize authorities. The report is in its final editing stages and set for typesetting by December 2024. The report presents an action plan that has been instrumental in discussions about potential technical assistance between the Statistical Institute of Belize and the World Bank.
- **Costa Rica:** The original activity planned for Costa Rica was to update the productivity assessment of the NSO; however, Costa Rica has requested urgent support in adopting the World Bank's

Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software, Survey Solutions (SuSo), for data collection. A training workshop was in December 2024, and a proof of concept will be conducted through a pilot in the first quarter of 2025.

OUTREACH:

- 1
- blog: [New Poverty Estimates: A Crucial Tool to Shape Guatemala's National Development](#)
- 1
- [in-person, one-week workshop on microdata cataloging in Honduras](#)
- 1
- microdata documentation workshop in Panama
 - [La Estrella \(a local newspaper\) on the microdata workshop](#)
 - [Instagram Panama on the microdata workshop](#)



SAMUEL MORENO WITH WORLD BANK INSTRUCTORS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE MICRODATA DOCUMENTATION WORKSHOP, PANAMA.

IMPACT STORY

NEW POVERTY ESTIMATES: A CRUCIAL TOOL TO SHAPE GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

After a nine-year hiatus, Guatemala has published official poverty estimates. The World Bank played a key role by supporting the NSO in conducting the 2023 National Life Standards Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Condiciones de Vida [ENCOVI]), which provides vital data on the living standards of the Guatemalan population.

In addition, the World Bank provided technical assistance to revise the methodology for measuring poverty, aligned with international standards and supported by the [World Bank's GDE](#). The process was completed in summer 2024, and the survey [results](#), along with the new official poverty estimates, were unveiled by the NSO during a high-level event at the presidential palace in August 2024.

A crucial element of the project was the capacity-building efforts within the NSO, which significantly enhanced the NSO's technical skills. This was not a one-sided endeavor but a truly collaborative and interactive process, characterized by a shared workload and joint responsibilities between the NSO and World Bank teams. Both teams contributed knowledge, skills, and experience, fostering an environment of mutual learning and cooperation. The World Bank provided substantial technical assistance, offering guidance on [international best practices](#) and

CHILDREN DOING CRAFTS IN ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA. PHOTO BY SHELBY MURPHY FIGUEROA VIA UNSPLASH.

sharing experiences in other countries. The NSO, in turn, played a central role in adapting these practices to the Guatemalan context, ensuring that the methodologies developed were both rigorous and locally relevant.

The results of this project will play a pivotal role in shaping Guatemala's national development and informing critical decision-making processes:

First, the new poverty estimates will allow the government to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and projects designed to alleviate poverty. The new data will enhance the capacity to monitor the well-being of the population, serving as baseline for poverty projections and nowcasting, the latter a term which usually refers to estimates of poverty in the present (could be year or month). This way, policy makers can assess which initiatives are delivering tangible benefits to the population and which may need adjustments or redesign to better meet their objectives.

Second, the data will enable the estimation of small area poverty statistics using the most [up-to-date techniques](#), which is essential for the equitable allocation of resources. These estimates provide a granular view of poverty levels at low administrative levels, such as municipalities, allowing for more targeted interventions. By understanding local variations in poverty, the government can ensure that subnational transfers and public

funds are distributed more effectively to areas with the greatest need, thereby enhancing the impact of social programs and reducing regional disparities.

Third, the data will allow further analysis by academics, think tanks, and development partners (including the World Bank) to identify barriers to inclusive growth and to pinpoint the factors that perpetuate poverty and inequality. This includes understanding structural issues such as limited access to education, health care, and job opportunities as well as the social and economic inequalities that hinder upward mobility. Armed with this knowledge, policy makers can design more inclusive strategies that foster economic growth while ensuring that its benefits reach the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Finally, the updated data will significantly contribute to understanding vulnerability to climate change and related shocks. Guatemala, one of Central America's Dry Corridor countries, is highly susceptible to environmental risks such as droughts, floods, landslides, and hurricanes, which disproportionately affect poorer populations. The data provide valuable insights into how climate change exacerbates poverty and which communities are most at risk.

STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AND BOTSWANA

SUNSET AT THE OKAVANGO RIVER BRIDGE IN BOTSWANA, AFRICA. PHOTO VIA SHUTTERSTOCK.

The objective of the SADC regional STATCAP and Botswana project is to support the production, dissemination, and use of high-quality and harmonized statistical data in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries and help strengthen and modernize Botswana's statistical system, including addressing gaps in poverty monitoring. The GDF supports technical assistance to accompany the implementation of the World Bank's \$185 million regional statistical capacity building project.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:

Botswana, the Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Zambia

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The SADC regional STATCAP and Botswana project has successfully conducted **seven** training events for countries in the SADC region, significantly enhancing the capacity of project implementation units to monitor and evaluate project progress continuously and promoting the production of harmonized statistics following the best international standards. These trainings have ensured timely procurement and addressed delays in project activities. Member states have gained valuable knowledge on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). Additionally, timelines were established for capturing baseline information and conducting needs-assessment studies, which are crucial for effective project implementation and monitoring. The workshops on labor, gender, poverty, and industrial statistics have provided platforms for learning and exchange, leading to

the development of key frameworks and action plans, such as the Financial Inclusion Gender Action Plan and the road map for harmonizing poverty measurement using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Through the GDF, the project was able to leverage World Bank knowledge and expertise in these critical areas.

However, the project faced significant challenges, particularly with the logistics of the regional training events. Managing a significant number of participants required constant team involvement, even over weekends. Immigration issues also posed problems, with some participants experiencing delays or being denied boarding because of name errors. These challenges necessitated extensive coordination with teams, especially in the training host countries. The main lessons learned include the critical importance of effective coordination and continuous monitoring to manage logistics and address delays. Additionally, ongoing capacity building and stakeholder engagement are essential for the successful implementation and monitoring of projects, ensuring that all member states can produce and disseminate high-quality data and statistics.

BOTSWANA

In Botswana, the project successfully delivered:

2 training workshops:

1. The first workshop and the technical assistance on the questionnaire of the 2024/25 Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey (BMTHS) helped strengthen the quality of data collection for this upcoming survey. Statistics Botswana had urgently requested this very timely assistance. The 2024/25 BMTHS is now in the field. It is Botswana's key household survey to

monitor national development plans and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to monitor the welfare of the population, and to boost evidence-based policy making and poverty reduction. This survey fills a large data gap since the last BMTHS is from 2014/15.

2. The second workshop helped Botswana move toward modernizing and digitizing the data collection and management processes across the national statistical system (NSS). The feedback was positive from more than 50 participants from 23 ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs). We requested that each institution send a system developer and a person who is responsible for data so the workshop could help each institution close the gap between their specific data needs and data systems.

2 sets of technical assistance and help organizing a launch event: All successfully contributed to the goal of modernizing Botswana’s statistical system and addressing gaps in poverty monitoring.

An important challenge encountered during the NSS workshop was learning that many of the MDAs collect data on paper and use systems that cannot link across the NSS or that are not secure. Therefore, the transition to digital data collection and management will require a lot of effort and resources, and this workshop was only a small first step in that long road. Another challenge was that the five-day training was too short—the variety in skills among the participants required the team to go at a slower pace. The NSS members have requested further training and consultations. The main lesson learned is that this effort will require close hand-holding for all NSS members to move forward in this transition.

IMPACT STORIES

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



The initial workshop on industrial statistics held for SADC members revealed two overwhelming messages:

1. There is huge diversity and inconsistency in terminology, methods, outputs, and so on, highlighting the need for follow-up support.
2. There is huge interest and demand from countries to receive such support. Leveraging the resources from the GDF, the support on business statistics therefore grew from a regional workshop to laying the foundation for a more streamlined harmonized process across the region through enhanced support to pilot countries and the development of regional guidelines.

The first training covered various domains of business statistics, including establishment census, business register, annual economic survey, and short-term statistics such as the index of industrial production, turnover index, and other price and volume indexes. Additionally, cross-cutting topics like methods, digital data collection using Survey Solutions, industry coding, data editing, data imputation, and data publication were addressed. Participants included all SADC countries (except for the Comoros and Seychelles), and São Tomé and Príncipe. The workshop was unanimously evaluated as highly relevant, and the trainer received excellent feedback.

To address the notable demand, the GDF funded follow-up support on individual pilot countries, which will serve as proof of concept toward the regional harmonization process.

STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS



SADC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GENDER STATISTICS, JUNE 2024

In the first phase, three countries (Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia) received individual technical assistance in their own offices. This allowed for:

- a. the consultant to get more familiarized with the needs and challenges of the specific country, and
- b. the national statistical office (NSO) to extend the capacity building to a wider audience.

While the regional workshop was only available to two representatives per country, the individual follow-up included a more diverse audience, including national accounts, IT, and price statistics staff. In the second phase, two hands-on training sessions to select countries working on the next Economic Establishment Census (week 1) and annual enterprise statistics (week 2) were designed. Participants in the first week included staff from Malawi, the Seychelles, and Zambia; staff from Malawi, Lesotho, Zambia, and Zimbabwe participated in the second week.

Altogether, these training sessions and the development of versatile tools and methods have significantly enhanced the capacity of NSOs across the SADC region to collect, analyze, and publish high-quality business statistics. Specific outputs available for

countries to use include a common statistical output program, a turnkey solution for an inclusive economic establishment census (methodology, templates, tools, training materials), a digital questionnaire for annual enterprise surveys, and a system for rule-based data checks, coding, editing, and imputation. Furthermore, the development of a draft manual outlining key terminology, methodology, processes, and instruments constitutes the first milestone in the regional harmonization process. These guidelines are expected to be presented to the SADC Statistics Commission for endorsement in March 2025.

The improved efficiency and effectiveness of economic surveys and censuses will lead to better data quality and more informed decision-making, supporting economic planning and policy development. This, in turn, contributes to economic growth and development in the region. The focus on digital data collection and streamlined processes ensures that NSOs can produce timely and reliable statistics, crucial for monitoring economic performance and addressing socioeconomic challenges. The project’s emphasis on capacity building and knowledge transfer has empowered local staff, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in statistical practices.

BOTSWANA CONFRONTS DATA CHALLENGES HEAD-ON IN TRANSITION TO DIGITAL DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Botswana is making notable strides to modernize and digitize its data collection and management processes and to strengthen data exchange across its NSS. This effort is part of the new Power of Data Country Plan, developed since the nation joined the Power of Data – High Impact Initiative in September 2023. In March 2024, Botswana was one of the first countries to convene a national dialogue on the Power of Data Initiative. This dialogue aimed to strengthen political support and partnerships to leverage data for inclusive and sustainable development. Statistics Botswana is collaborating with the National Planning Commission to address data gaps that persist for monitoring Botswana’s

development frameworks, including the National Vision 2036, the National Development Plans, and the SDGs.

To address data gaps, Statistics Botswana is engaging with various MDAs within the NSS to review, harmonize, and standardize administrative data collection tools and methods. The data collection and processing needs of these MDAs are diverse, ranging from crime and incident data documentation to wildlife surveys, events attendance, and project implementation data. Despite the diversity, the requirements for accuracy, rapid data availability, multi-source collection, electronic transmission, central coordination, security, privacy, and standards of exchange are common across all MDAs.

Previously, each institution developed its own data collection systems, with different components, standards, and protocols, leading to inefficiencies and difficulties in data management and sharing.

With the support of the GDF, Statistics Botswana and the World Bank organized a training workshop in June 2024. The workshop aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange to modernize and streamline data collection across the NSS and to introduce participants to Survey Solutions, a high-quality, free software for data collection and survey management developed by the World Bank. Participants learned to implement electronic questionnaires for data collection online and using tablets.

Statistics Botswana, an experienced user of Survey Solutions, shared the benefits of



OVER 50 REPRESENTATIVES FROM 23 MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES IN BOTSWANA PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKSHOP. PHOTO BY STATISTICS BOTSWANA.

using the platform for several data collection operations. They highlighted that the platform “saves time, makes surveys more efficient, and ensures higher quality data. It provides real-time monitoring and facilitates supervision.” It also has great potential for administrative data collection.

50+ More than 50 representatives from 23 MDAs participated in the workshop, gaining a fundamental understanding of the software, possible applications, and questionnaire design techniques.

MOVING FORWARD

The knowledge gained from the workshop is helping Botswana advance in modernizing and digitizing its data collection and management processes. While some NSS members need more time to transition, every small step propels Botswana

forward. The goal is for all NSS members to move from paper-based to electronic systems; improve data quality, security, and compatibility; reduce implementation costs; build local capacity; and enhance collaboration and data exchange between government branches.

This transition will not happen overnight and will require additional efforts and resources. However, investing in modernization will ensure compliance with the 2021 Data Protection Act, provide unprecedented flexibility and efficiency in NSS processes, and strengthen data for better development outcomes.

Botswana’s commitment to confronting data challenges head-on and transitioning to digital data collection and management is a significant step toward achieving its development goals and ensuring sustainable progress.



STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

The objective of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Dominica project is to support the production, dissemination, and use of high-quality and up-to-date statistical data in the Eastern Caribbean under the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Data for Decision Making Project. Technical assistance will be provided, focusing mainly on supporting and overseeing the preparation and implementation of the Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey (SLC-HBS) in Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:

Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

IN THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES AND DOMINICA

GRENADA: PHOTO BY PRISCILLA DU PREEZ VIA UNSPLASH.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The team has made strong progress on the preparations for the Saint Lucia SLC-HBS, currently scheduled to be fielded in February 2025. The trust fund financing enabled the team to obtain technical assistance support from the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) team. This team has extensive experience with the design and implementation of household surveys around the world.

Collaboration with the LSMS team has two important advantages: First, the LSMS team's global experience allows us to integrate international best practice into the design of household surveys in the Eastern Caribbean. This includes, for instance, adaptation of the questionnaire consumption modules to allow for the production of globally comparable poverty measurements. Likewise, adaptation of the labor market modules of the questionnaire to new guidance of the International Conference of Labor Statisticians allows for reliable comparisons of labor market outcomes to those of other countries. Second, the LSMS team can impart many practical lessons to the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Saint Lucia related to the design of the data collection activities. These lessons improve the quality and reliability of the data to be collected through the upcoming SLC-HBS, including improved data collection protocols and procedures to monitor data quality. But these lessons also inform future data collection activities of the CSO and thus contribute to the sustainability of the impacts of the OECS Data for Decision Making Regional Project.

In Saint Lucia, the team has made strong progress on the preparation of the new SLC-HBS. The first in-person workshop with the LSMS team in Saint Lucia, regular follow-up

meetings, and hands-on support have been critical for the development of the new survey instrument, coding the Survey Solutions data entry application, constructing the sampling frame, and preparing implementation plans. A second in-person workshop with the support of the LSMS team in Saint Lucia took place in the second week of December to finalize these activities. Saint Lucia's Ministry of Equity has signaled an interest in expanding the SLC-HBS to cover a representative sample of households benefiting from its main social assistance program. The aim is to use the SLC-HBS data to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The team has responded by supporting the design of an additional sample of program beneficiaries.

Progress on the initiation of the SLC-HBS in the other countries has been somewhat slower than expected because of Hurricane Beryl in June 2024. In Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the SLC-HBS implementation plans were expected to be finalized in August and September of 2024; however, Hurricane Beryl significantly impacted the data collection calendars in both countries, with planned survey field work postponed and NSO staff diverted to support recovery activities. Nonetheless, both Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have a continued and clear commitment to administer a new SLC-HBS in 2025. Given this circumstance, the team responded by focusing support for the Saint Lucia CSO to the maximum extent possible. Saint Lucia has been a front-runner and has moved on the design of the SLC-HBS with a sense of urgency. The ongoing support to the data collection activities in Saint Lucia will provide an excellent example and many lessons learned for the other countries to draw on. There will also be economies of scale, as the questionnaire and data entry application for Saint Lucia can be reused with limited modifications in the other countries.

MOBILE PHONE DATA FOR POLICY

The objective of the Mobile Phone Data for Policy project is to support low- and middle-income countries to responsibly integrate mobile phone data (MPD) into their data systems for policy and statistics. The program supports the delivery of programmatic activities and essential resources to help country beneficiaries build durable MPD pipelines, local capacity, and the knowledge and evidence base for the durable use of MPD for policy.

The Mobile Phone Data for Policy Program is the first project under the hybrid pillar. It involves country-specific activities as well as the development of global core knowledge products through its two components: operations and research.

OPERATIONS:

This component provides essential resources and operational support (primarily) to World Bank task teams and their country clients to put mobile phone data to work for policy. Six objectives guide the activities of this component:

1. Development of local partnerships and country MPD action plans
2. Provisioning of MPD pipelines, including the infrastructure and technical capacity for durable access to MPD for policy
3. Operationalizing the use of MPD for policy applications and statistics
4. Promotion of open MPD standards, tools, and practices
5. Promotion of knowledge exchange and peer learning through country cohort implementations
6. Conducting programmatic activities designed to advance the level of maturity in the local MPD ecosystem (pre-foundation, foundation, practitioner, expert)

RESEARCH:

This component supports global research activities focused on the technical challenges of using mobile phone data for policy as well as for development of new policy use cases. This component has four objectives:

1. Centralizing existing knowledge on MPD methods
2. Addressing critical technical challenges in foundational MPD applications
3. Establishing methodological standards for MPD applications
4. Exploring innovative methods and new policy-relevant applications of MPD

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The MPD program worked together with various partners to “think slow to deliver fast.” This entailed working together with our key partners, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Mobile Phone Task Team, to develop our approach and essential resources, including the **Theory of Change** and the **Country Maturity Framework**. These tools have been instrumental to the delivery of the capacity-building activities with the partners by helping the cohort country teams design and implement their activities. The main lesson is that, to go far in MPD, it is important to work together with the public and private sector stakeholders to build partnerships to ensure that safeguards and institutional capacity are in place to support durable MPD pipelines.

18 country teams were selected for the MPD first country cohort through a competitive call for proposals process that was launched in June and

concluded in August. Each selected team, comprising key public and private sector stakeholders in their local MPD ecosystems, was invited to participate in the inaugural country cohort launch event in Washington, D.C., October 7–10, 2024, in collaboration with the NETMOB conference organized under the research component.

130+ With over 130 participants across the 18 teams, it was the world’s largest cohort in mobile phone data for policy. The official 18-month-long implementation began in November 2024. The research team also held its first Steering Committee in November 2024. Table 1 provides an overview of the MPD 2024 cohort initiatives.

GDF’S NETMOB EVENT FLYER.



MPD COUNTRY COHORT LAUNCH WORKSHOP, WASHINGTON DC.

Table 1. MPD 2024 Cohort Initiatives

COUNTRY TEAM	SUMMARY OF MPD POLICY APPLICATION
Argentina	Dynamic Population - Information Society Statistics
Benin	Dynamic Population Mapping – Tourism Statistics
Brazil	Transport and Mobility Statistics
Côte d'Ivoire	Dynamic Population Mapping – Migration Statistics
Ecuador	Transport Statistics, Poverty Mapping
Gambia, The	Dynamic Population Mapping – Migration, Urban Mobility
Guinea	Dynamic Population Mapping – Transport, Mobility
Haiti	Dynamic Poverty Mapping for Social Assistance Targeting
India	Public Health – Monitoring, Crisis Response
Kazakhstan	Tourism Statistics
Kenya	Dynamic Population Mapping – Disaster Response, Transport
Mongolia	Migration and Information Society Statistics
Morocco	Dynamic Vulnerability Mapping – Social Assistance
Peru	Disaster Response – Public Health Services
Rwanda	Dynamic Population Vulnerability Mapping – Social Assistance
Senegal	Dynamic Population Mapping – Urban Mobility
Togo	Dynamic Population Mapping – Migration, Tourism Statistics
Tunisia	Dynamic Vulnerability Mapping – Social Assistance

OUTREACH

Cohort Launch Workshop (18 country teams, 130+ participants)	[https://bit.ly/48WvejM]
Cohort 1 highlight video	https://youtu.be/StrdJGEMJgl
Cohort blog post	https://bit.ly/3ZfnoQQ
Promotional video (reedited/branded)	[see cohort event page]
Training videos (reedited/branded)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fWzhXqzr7Y
World Data Forum participation	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/programme/
Repository of Essential Resources	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDResources
Country Theory of Change	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDTOC
Country Maturity Framework	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDCME

IMPACT STORY

WORKING TOGETHER TO LAUNCH THE WORLD’S LARGEST COHORT IN MOBILE PHONE DATA FOR POLICY

The process of setting up a durable mobile phone data pipeline for policy requires safeguards, enablers, and technical capacity in the local MPD ecosystem and partnerships and arrangements with several local stakeholders, notably the mobile network operators, ICT and data protection regulators, national statistical offices (NSOs), and government ministries. While the process of creating policy products from MPD involves interoperability with other policy data for purposes of validation and calibration stabilization, local capacity is also required.

The Mobile Phone Data for Policy Program of the GDF, launched in July 2024, aims to support low- and middle-income countries to responsibly integrate mobile phone data into their data systems to strengthen development decision-making and policy making, including standards and processes, and the knowledge base to enable stakeholders to durably use MPD for development policy action.

After a competitive application process, 18 country teams were selected to join the first country cohort and awarded grants through the program. Working together was the main theme that resonated throughout the workshop held October 7–10, 2024, where over 130 participants from the selected task teams gathered to learn, work, and launch their initiatives together. Each country team comprised key public and private sector stakeholders in their local MPD ecosystem (mobile network operators, regulators, NSOs, and so on) along with their World Bank counterparts.

Achieving the main MPD goal in each country—setting up a durable MPD pipeline for policy use—requires thoughtful multi-stakeholder partnerships, planning, and investments, from investments in public-private partnerships and data infrastructure and methods to investments in data safeguards and governance and local technical capacity.

But where to begin? The early sessions delivered the foundational knowledge necessary to inform the country teams to prepare their MPD Country Action Plans. The training program was developed and delivered *together* by Flowminder, Positium, Nommon, the ITU, the University of Tokyo, and the World Bank. The country teams learned how to use various essential resources developed through the GDF-MPD Program, including the [MPD Country Maturity Framework](#) to assess their current state of MPD maturity, the [MPD Country Theory of Change](#), to guide their MPD adoption process, and the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data (CEBD) Task Team on MPD for methodological guidelines. Further into the workshop, the teams applied their training in several group sessions to develop their respective MPD Country Action Plans.

"Knowing the mobility patterns of the most poor and vulnerable populations enables better informed policy decisions to focus resources and support to those that need it most."

— Roberto Castillo, Institute of National Statistics, Ecuador (Cohort 1 team)

Over the next two years, the country teams in the 2024 cohort will implement activities to put their MPD plans into action. From building awareness in MPD at the *pre-foundation* level, to setting up of arrangements for durable MPD pipelines at the *foundation* level, to consistently using MPD toward a policy application at the *practitioner* level, toward multiple policy applications and multi-MNO pipelines at the *expert* level.

LOOKING AHEAD

PUTTING DATA TO WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

Much progress has been achieved in just the last few years with respect to the global development data agenda. This year, 2024, marked the 10-year anniversary of the publication of the landmark report *A World That Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, authored by the United Nations Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals—now past the halfway point to the 2030 deadline—represent one of the most comprehensive development data collection and analysis efforts in history. Next year will mark the five-year anniversary of the World Bank's seminal *World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives*, which originated a global call to establish a social contract for data.

However heartening this progress may be, it has coincided with a historic reversal in development. The shock of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent overlapping (poly)crises have hit developing countries the hardest and precipitated this reversal: between 2020 and 2024, per capita incomes in half of the world's 75 most vulnerable countries are on a trajectory to grow more slowly than those of wealthy economies.⁴ At the same time, International Development Association (IDA) countries account for [92 percent of the world's](#)

[food-insecure people](#). Half of IDA countries are now in [debt distress](#) (or at high risk of it). The share of people living in extreme poverty in IDA countries is now [eight times](#) that of the rest of the world, and by 2030 nearly [60 percent of people in extreme poverty](#) will be living in countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence.

The lack of data, and limited country capacity to produce and use good quality data, is only worsening these crises.

The GDF is the World Bank's response to increasing calls by the global community for enhanced investment in data and statistics priorities in recent years. It was designed to ensure that country demand drives investments in data and statistics and to serve as a global coordination mechanism to help ensure maximum value creation for countries by helping to defragment the global support landscape for data and statistics.

WHAT'S COMING

The GDF team is working with a broadening range of development partners to mobilize more and better financing, as well as to improve coordination of technical assistance, for developing countries' data and statistics priorities. At the same time, the GDF is scaling up support for actionable data innovations and global public goods, to help drive data transformations across developing country contexts.

In the near term, the GDF is working to augment and scale up the World Bank's portfolio support for country data systems. This includes making financing available to serve as “first-mile” investments to identify country demand for data and statistics support, and to then help catalyze World Bank IDA lending support to deliver comprehensive, extended-term support to help meet these discerned country priorities. To help achieve this objective, the World Bank has joined forces with the UN Executive Office of the Secretary General, several UN agencies, and global partners to co-launch the *High Impact Initiative on the Power of Data*. This joint effort particularly focuses on bringing together governments, donors, civil society, and others to build on existing country strategies and plans to strengthen the use of data and drive progress on the SDGs and other national priorities, which requires technical collaboration and financial support to implement and sustain. The GDF has been identified as the foremost global mechanism to help coordinate joint financing and leverage it for larger World Bank (IDA) lending to support developing countries' data and statistics priorities. Likewise, the GDF is simultaneously scaling up support for key data innovations, from enabling the integration of mobile phone data into developing countries' statistics analytics and policy-making processes to AI-enabled improvements to development data quality and discoverability, to piloting the development of a large language model training library for development, and more, specifically to help drive evidence-based development efforts.



PHOTO BY EYOEL KAHSSAY VIA UNSPLASH.

NEW PARTNERS

The GDF team continues to strengthen global collaboration and coordination of financing and activities to support developing countries' data and statistics priorities. As more development partners join forces with the GDF, these improvements in strategic investments in developing countries' data systems and data capital amplify, which is enabling better, more sustainable impact and improving the development “return” of partners' investments.

Incoming partners of the GDF include the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the Gates Foundation, and an expanded partnership with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

4 T. CHRIMES ET AL., *THE GREAT REVERSAL: PROSPECTS, RISK, AND POLICIES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA) COUNTRIES* (WASHINGTON, DC: WORLD BANK, 2024), [HTTPS://WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/EN/RESEARCH/PUBLICATION/PROSPECTS-RISKS-AND-POLICIES-IN-IDA-COUNTRIES](https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/publication/prospects-risks-and-policies-in-ida-countries).

APPENDIX: CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
DEBT REPORTING AND RECORDING		
9 TRAINING WORKSHOPS	South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center Workshop: Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt Statistics for South Asia Countries	
	IMF – Singapore Regional Training Institute - Blended Course on External Debt Statistics for East Asia and Pacific counties	
	IMF HQ - Public Sector Debt Statistics Course– Advanced	
	IMF JVI Training & Workshop: Advanced Government Finance Statistics for Europe and Central Asia countries	
	Debt Statistics course at the World Bank Group Institute of Economic Development (Perugia, Italy): Making Debt Data Transparent for Sustainable Development Finance to selected Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa DRS countries	https://wbginstitute.learnworlds.com/course/debt-data-transparent https://lwfiles.mycourse.app/6613b4d8a84131aad4ec685b-public/publicFiles/Debt%20Data%20Course%20Agenda-%20June%202024_final.pdf
	Bank for International Settlements- Irving Fisher Committee (IFC) on Central Bank Statistics – 12th biennial IFC Conference on "Statistics and beyond: new data for decision making in central banks" - 50 years of quality and transparency of the World Bank Debtor Reporting System ... counting	https://www.bis.org/ifc/events/12th_ifc_conf_prog.pdf
	IMF Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) Data	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/imf-data-imfs-statistics-department-is-conducting-activity-7244384754936999938-MtqC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios
	IMF HQ – Government Finance Statistics Course	
	IMF- Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF)-Economic Policy Institute (Arab Monetary Fund) - Course on External Debt Statistics for Arab countries	
2 ASSESSMENT	Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Mission to Tanzania and Zambia	
5 BLOGS	Up & coming: Unpacking South Asia’s growing role in global debt	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/coming-unpacking-south-asias-growing-role-global-debt
	The data behind the International Debt Report 2023	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/the-data-behind-the-international-debt-report-2023

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
5 BLOGS (CONTINUED)	Multilateral lenders, led by the World Bank, are set to boost support for the world’s poorest countries	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/multilateral-lenders-led-by-the-world-bank-are-set-to-boost-su
	IDR2024: Low- and middle-income countries’ debt stock increased by US\$205.9 billion in 2023	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/international-debt-report-2024-low-and-middle-income-countries
	Introducing the new guide to the International Debt Statistics (IDS) database	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/introducing-the-new-guide-to-the-international-debt-statistics--
1 PUBLICATION	International Debt Report 2024	https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/f1700aa0-cc73-42b7-8ceb-630c5528a574
1 DATABASE	International Debt Statistics	https://databank.worldbank.org/source/international-debt-statistics
1 MANUAL	DRS Manual	Currently being revised
IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM		
2 REPORTS TO UNSC	The ICP report for the 55th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) was published.	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions
	The report for the 56th session, scheduled for March 2025, was submitted in November 2024.	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions
2 PUBLICATIONS	Knowledge brief: Food Prices for Nutrition DataHub: global statistics on the Cost and Affordability of Healthy Diets	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition
	Knowledge brief: ICP 2021: Data Visualizations of Main Findings	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz
1 DATABASE	ICP Databank	https://databank.worldbank.org/source/icp-2021
4 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS	Governing Board meeting (Feb 2024)	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/gb-february-2024
	Two Technical Advisory Group meetings (Feb and Apr 2024)	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/tag-meetings
	One Inter-Agency Coordination Group meeting (Nov 2024)	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/iacg-nov-2024
5 BLOGS	How much does a healthy diet cost in your country? And is it affordable? Introducing a new Food Prices for Nutrition online course	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/how-much-does-healthy-diet-cost-your-country-and-it-affordable-introducing-new-food-prices
	Charting Uzbekistan's path to poverty reduction: insights from international comparisons	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/charting-uzbekistan-s-path-to-poverty-reduction--insights-from-i

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
5 BLOGS (CONTINUED)	New International Comparison Program data sheds light on global economy and living standards	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/new-international-comparison-program-data-sheds-light-on-global-
	What do the revised 2017 Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) mean for global poverty?	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/what-do-the-revised-2017-purchasing-power-parities--ppps--mean-f
	Uneven recovery post-COVID: healthy diets remain out of reach for many in lower-income economies	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/uneven-recovery-post-covid--healthy-diets-remain-out-of-reach-fo
1 PRESS RELEASE	Global Purchasing Power Parities Data Released for 2021	https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/05/30/global-purchasing-power-parities-data-released-for-2021
16 DATA VISUALIZATIONS	Size of Economies	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz_1
	GDP expenditure components	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz_2
	Per capita measures	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz_3
	Intercountry income inequality	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz_4
	Price Levels	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/ICP2021_DataViz_5
UPDATING THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2008 STATISTICAL STANDARDS		
GUIDANCE NOTES	75 Guidance Notes are finalized and endorsed by the AEG.	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/SNAUpdate/GuidanceNotes.asp
CHAPTER OUTLINES	39 Draft Chapter Outlines are finalized and endorsed by the AEG	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/SNAUpdate/2025/chapters.asp
1 WEBINAR	Webinar on the 2025 System of National Accounts	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/SNAUpdate/Towards_2025_SNA_ACS_6Feb2024.pdf
1 PRESENTATION	The New SNA	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/SNAUpdate/Conference_of_European_Stakeholders_2025SNA.pdf
1 MANUAL	Full draft SNA 2025 manual completed and sent for global consultation	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/RAConlist.asp
WEBSITE	“Towards SNA 2025” pages on the UNSD website	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/Towards2025.asp
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS	Extensive collaboration with statistical partners in BoP, and other statistical standards such as GFS, IFS, SEEA, and classifications	https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM
	Regular meetings of task teams developing practical implementation guidance for challenging areas: data as an asset, natural capital, draft implementation guidance on return to capital on government output.	
	Advisory Expert Group meeting on National Accounts hosted by the World Bank in Washington DC focused on final input to finalize manual	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2024/M27/M27.asp
TRAINING	Training session hosted at conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth in London	https://iariw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Training_sessions_details_London.pdf

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
1 NEW HUB FOR COMPILERS	Test version of compilers’ hub, leveraging AI tools, developed in collaboration with IMF	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2024/M27/M27_10_Compilers_Hub_Pres.pdf
1 REPORT TO THE UNSC	Report for UNSC for endorsement of manual and related materials to be finalized	
1 STRATEGY DOCUMENT	SNA 2025 implementation strategy finalized for UNSC endorsement	
UN RESOLUTION	Resolution of UN economic and social council (ECOSOC) to adopt the new standards finalized for later endorsement	
SPACE2STATS		
2 WEBSITE UPDATE	Updated S2S Website	S2S Website
	New Website	A new Gender, jobs, spatial website
2 DATABASE	S2S Database	Publicly available here: S2S Website
	Admin 2 Level Boundaries	Acquired the updated, legally approved administrative boundaries to be used as the basis for database statistics (with GCSIM). Will be available publicly in 2025.
4 DATASETS PUBLISHED	Population demographics from WorldPop.	Publicly available here: S2S Website
	VIIRS monthly nighttime lights data.	Publicly available here: S2S Website
	Population exposed to floods.	Publicly available here: S2S Website
	Urbanization coverage and population breakdown.	Publicly available here: S2S Website
1 WORKING GROUP MEETING	Hosted another consultation with the Working Group (19 members)	
2 EVENTS	Presented the Space2Stats database and geo-enhancement methodology to the Joint Data Center	https://worldbank.github.io/DECAT_HH_Geovariables/README.html
	Officially launched the Space2Stats database and API at a hack-a-thon organized at the World Bank in December.	https://www.dc2.org/datadive
2 LSMS SURVEYS	2 additional countries (Uganda and Nigeria) adopted S2S methodology.	
2 PILOT PROGRAMS	Expansion of work program to the Joint Data Centre (JDC) surveys of refugees and IDP. Pilots will replicate the LSMS geo-enhancement methodology.	https://worldbank.github.io/DECAT_HH_Geovariables/README.html
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
4 WORKSHOPS	Microdata documentation workshop Panama	Estrella local newspaper note on the microdata workshop https://www.laestrella.com.pa/economia/inec-aplica-estandar-internacional-para-mejorar-su-sistema-estadistico-YA7130098 Instagram Panama on microdata documentations workshop: https://www.instagram.com/inecpanama/reel/C6MQY39LtNJ/

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
4 WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)	Workshop to Costa Rica’s INEC on the CAPI tool (Survey Solutions SuSo)	
	Regional training Workshop on data harmonization and cataloging (Virtual)	
	In person one-week workshop on micro-data cataloging in Honduras	https://www.facebook.com/INEHonduras/posts/hoy-concluy%C3%B3-exitosamente-el-taller-regional-documentaci%C3%B3n-y-diseminaci%C3%B3n-de-mic/1009035927918701/
1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EVENT	Technical assistance for poverty measurement in Guatemala	
1 ASSESSMENT	Belize National Statistical Office Assessment completed	
1 BLOG	New poverty estimates: A crucial tool to shape Guatemala’s national development	New poverty estimates: A crucial tool to shape Guatemala’s national development
1 DATASET PUBLISHED	Guatemala: GTM ENCOVI 2023 and poverty estimates are publicly available	https://www.ine.gob.gt/pobreza-menu/
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS: SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AND BOTSWANA		
7 SADC WORKSHOPS	Cross-learning event on National Statistics Development Strategies and Project Implementation	
	Regional Workshop on Poverty (Monetary and MPI)	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/bds5JWJNBk1HEisi/?mibextid=qj2Omg
	Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics with a focus on Financial Inclusion	https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/10/financial-inclusion-and-gender-in-the-sadc-region-her-finance-her-future-building-stronger-economies-one-woman-at-a-time#view
	Regional Workshop on Labor Statistics with a focus on the informal sector	https://x.com/SADC_News/
	Country specific training workshop on Industrial Statistics for Malawi, Lesotho, South Africa, Seychelles, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.	
	Training workshop on advanced features of Survey Solution software (data entry application) to strengthen quality of data collection for the 2024/25 Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey.	
	Botswana Training workshop to facilitate knowledge exchange to modernize and streamline data collection across the Botswana NSS and introduce participants to Survey Solutions	https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_
2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EVENTS DELIVERED TO BOTSWANA	Technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance on their Data Management Framework	
	Technical assistance to Statistics Botswana on the questionnaire for the 2024/25 Botswana Multi Topic Household Survey (BMTHS)	https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/journals/002/2023/124/article-A001-en.xml
1 EVENT	Botswana National Dialogue and Launch of the Power of Data High Impact Initiative	

PRODUCT	NAME	LINK
2 BLOGS	“Botswana confronts data challenges head-on in transition to digital data collection and management”	https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/botswana-confronts-data-challenges-head-on-in-transition-to-digi
	“Technical Assistance to Support the Enhancement of Statistical Systems in SADC Member Countries”	
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS: THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES AND DOMINICA		
2 TRAINING WORKSHOPS	Implemented in-person workshop to update the questionnaire and draft the implementation plan for Saint Lucia	
	Second workshop to review SLC pilot data and finalize data entry application, implementation plan, and sampling frame for Saint Lucia	
MOBILE PHONE DATA FOR POLICY		
1 CONFERENCE	Netmob conference	https://bit.ly/4fR74t6
2 TRAINING WORKSHOP	Cohort Launch Workshop (18 country teams, 130+ Participants)	https://bit.ly/48WvejM
	UN 8 th International Conference on Big Data and Data Science	https://bit.ly/4aQdjMI
2 PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS	GDF-MPD Cohort 1 Highlight Video	https://youtu.be/StrdJGEMJgl
	Promotional Video (re-edited/branded)	[See Cohort event page]
1 SET OF LEARNING SERIES VIDEOS	GDF-MPD Training Videos (re-edited/branded)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fWzhXqzr7Y
1 BLOG	GDF-MPD Cohort Blog Post	https://bit.ly/3ZfnoOQ
1 EVENT/ PRESENTATION	Panel session event in the 2024 World Data Forum	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/programme/
4 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS	GDF-MPD Theory of Change Framework	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDCMF
	GDF-MPD Country Maturity Framework	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDTOC
	GDF-MPD Training Curriculum	https://bit.ly/40Kuhay
	GDF-MPD Essential Resource Repository	https://bit.ly/GDFMPDResources

ACRONYMS

AI	artificial intelligence
API	application programming interface
BPM7	<i>Balance of Payments Manual</i> (7 th edition)
BMTHS	Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey
CSO	Central Statistical Office (Saint Lucia)
DEC	Development Economics Vice Presidency
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
DRS	Debtor Reporting System
FDPs	forcibly displaced populations
GDF	Global Data Facility
GDP	gross domestic product
GHSL	Global Human Settlement Layer
ICP	International Comparison Program
IDA	International Development Association (of the World Bank Group)
IDS	International Debt Statistics
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEC	National Institute of Statistics and Census (Panama)
ISWGNA	Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts
JDC	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
MDAS	ministries, departments, and agencies
MPD	mobile phone data
NSO	national statistical office
NSS	national statistical system
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PPP	purchasing power parity
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SLC-HBS	Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey
SNA	System of National Accounts
S2S	Space2Stats
TWGDS	Technical Working Group on Improving Public and External Debt Statistics
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission



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