



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE

PRESS RELEASE



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National Partnership to Harness the Power of Data for Development Develops Roadmap for Producing Data, Statistics and Policies for National Development

Statistical Service in collaboration with the Office of the Head of Civil Service convenes a two-day meeting with Chief Directors and key stakeholders

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in collaboration with the Office of the Head of Civil Service organised a high-level engagement with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and the National Statistics Advisory Committee (NSAC) in Accra from 6th to 7th January 2024. Also in attendance were representatives of the Board, Management and Staff of GSS, UN agencies, and the media.

The purpose of the two-day meeting was to establish a national data partnership and develop a roadmap to ensure a coordinated process of producing data, statistics, and policies for national development. The initiative is engendered by the efforts of the Statistical Service and the Office of the Head of Civil Service to strengthen the capacity of the National Statistical System and support the alignment of policies, statistics, information, and research across key government institutions as well as the private sectors and development partner community. **This meeting was thus the first of proposed regular engagements with the Chief Directors of MDAs, NDPC, and NSAC to unlock the dividends of the power of data for national and livelihood transformation.**

The opening session of the meeting commenced with welcome remarks from Dr. Grace Bediako, the Chair of the GSS Board, and a statement on the rationale for the engagement by Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim, the Government Statistician. This was followed by statements from Dr. Evans Aggrey-Darkoh, the Head of the Civil Service, on the role of Chief Directors as stewards of data, and the statistics and policy linkages in Ghana's sector ministries.

International Data Partners then gave statements on the power of data and transforming national statistical systems: Dr. Claire Melamed, the CEO of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD); Ms. Vibeke O. Nielsen, the Inter-Regional Advisor for Statistics Training and Capacity Building, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); Ms. Angela Lusigi, the Resident Representative for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Dr. Johannes Jutting, the Executive

Head of PARIS21. One notable takeaway from these statements was that **every \$1 invested in a data system yields an average of \$32 in return.**

The subsequent sessions featured presentations from the Management and Staff of GSS on the areas integral to defining Ghana's roadmap on the national data partnerships; interspersed with discussion on the development of the roadmap. **Highlights of these discussions included deliberations on how capacity is built and sustained in the statistical ecosystem and an assessment of the 70:20:10 learning principle which recommends a combination of structured training (70%), informal learning on the job (20%), and entry qualification (10%).**

The meeting concluded with securing the commitment of participants to the initiative and documenting the next steps. Overall, there was a consensus on **the criticality of statistics and the scarcity of persons with the requisite statistical skill sets.** The meeting thus concluded with the following commitments from the represented institutions:

1. Initiate the national data partnership through the signing of Memorandums of Understanding, micro data sharing, mapping of sector statistical indicators, and use of metadata for all statistical and policy exercises.
2. Jointly develop a national strategy for the development of statistics.
3. Deploy a competency framework that would inform recruitment, retention, and promotion of staff within the national statistical system.

Group photograph of participants

