COMMUNIQUÉ

2025 ANNUAL FORUM FOR DATA PRODUCERS, USERS, AND ENHANCERS HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA, ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

1. The first Annual Forum for Data Producers, Users, and Enhancers took place in Accra, Ghana, on December 8, 2025, with the theme: "Financing Innovations in Data and Statistics for Sustainable and Inclusive Development."

2. The Forum was convened under the auspices of the Ghana Statistical Service Development Partner Group (GSSDPG) to improve coordination, dialogue, and sustainable financing within Ghana's national data ecosystem. It also marked the observance of African Statistics Day 2025, celebrated under the continental theme: "**Leveraging innovations in data and statistics to promote a just, peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous society for Africans**."

3. The Forum aimed to: (i) identify barriers to sustainable financing for data production in Ghana, (ii) explore opportunities for adopting innovative approaches in data production and use, (iii) recommend strategies to strengthen national and institutional ownership, sustainable financing for data production and utilization, and (iv) outline approaches to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and use of data in policymaking, practice, and programming.

4. Over the past decade, Ghana has made significant progress in modernizing its data landscape, including the implementation of the first fully digital Population and Housing Census in 2021, high-frequency socio-economic surveys, and expanded enterprise and agricultural statistics. These transformations have been accelerated by the application of data science and geospatial innovations, disseminated through enhanced digital platforms such as StatsBank and the Ghana Stats App.

5. Despite these achievements, stable and adequate financing for data, poor coordination, and capacity constraints remain major challenges to the national statistical system.

6. Key messages were delivered by the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Government Statistician, and the Country Representative of UNFPA and Chair of the Ghana Statistical Service Development Partners Group (GSSDPG). The program also had useful inputs from panellists from academia, the private sector, CSO space, as well as group discussion and strategies for deepening government commitment for financing data production and leveraging technological innovation in data production and use. The messages included:

  i. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable financing mechanisms to support data production and use as Ghana can no longer rely on sporadic donor funding to run a modern statistical system;

  ii. Emphasizing the importance of innovative technologies such as digital tools, artificial intelligence (AI), geospatial technologies, and real-time data systems to improve the efficiency, quality, and accessibility and use of data;

  iii. Reinforcing the commitment to strengthening collaboration among government agencies, development partners, academia, civil society, and the private sector; and

  iv. Agreeing to promote data visibility and accessibility to ensure evidence-based policymaking and inclusive development;

7. The Forum agreed on the following recommendations and call to action:

  i. Adopt new financing models, such as establishing a national data fund by pooling resources from government, donors, and businesses; mainstreaming data financing into sector budgets; treating data as core infrastructure; and adopting public-private partnerships that create mutual value;

  ii. Promote and institutionalize the adoption of innovative technologies, including data science, digital data collection tools, geospatial systems, and data integration platforms to enhance data quality and efficiency;

  iii. Strengthen data governance frameworks, enforce quality standards and ensure interoperability, data security, confidentiality, and ethical use of data at all levels;

  iv. Improve the availability, accessibility, and use of data through user-friendly platforms, visuals, and local-language communication and by investing in modern dissemination platforms and strengthening feedback loops between producers and users;

v. Encourage knowledge sharing and joint research to promote efficiency and break down silos;

vi. Treat data as is national infrastructure, just like roads and electricity given that wiithout good data, no plan, programme, or reform can succeed;

vii. Support capacity building for institutions to adopt modern tools, innovations, and digital platforms for data management and use including training of key stakeholders such as analysts, MPs, journalists, teachers, CSOs, and regional data teams; and

viii. Promote cross-sector collaboration by formalizing partnerships across MDAs, MMDAs, development partners, and CSOs to foster a culture of evidence use, leverage shared infrastructure, and support joint innovation initiatives.

The Forum agreed that Ghana's future depends on strong data. When data is produced well, funded well, shared well, and used well, it leads to smarter decisions, fairer policies, stronger public services, better use of public money, and more opportunities for every community. To advance this vision, the Forum recommended sustainable data financing, adoption of modern technologies, stronger governance standards, improved accessibility and use of data, enhanced capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration. It called on all institutions and citizens to actively support these actions and uphold a culture where data guides Ghana's development choices.

Adopted and Issued in Accra, Ghana, on December 8, 2025.