

The contents of this report constitute advice and recommendations provided by Directors General or Deputy Directors General (the "Peers") of the African Statistical System (AfSS) to their counterparts from the National Statistical System (NSS) of an African Union Member State (the "Reviewed country") in response to their request for an assessment.

"The reviewed countries committed themselves to publishing (or allowing the publication of) the Peer Review reports and to ensuring their discussion among the NSS partners" (see the Manual for Peer Reviews of National Statistical Systems in Africa, available at www.austat.org).

The African Union Commission (AUC) may disclose this report (in whole or in part), or summaries thereof, to all African Union structures and bodies, and to members of their staff. Upon request, the AUC may also disclose the report to the European Union, other technical assistance providers, and donors with a legitimate interest, unless the reviewed country objects to such disclosure.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report has been made possible through the European Union-financed Pan African Statistics Programme II (PAS II). This programme, which was built on the first phase (PAS I, 2016–2021), was launched in January 2022, and its implementation phase runs until October 2025. The peer review programme under PAS II is led by the Institute for Statistics of the African Union Commission (STATAFRIC) and managed by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, based in Luxembourg. It is implemented by Expertise France, a French government organisation based in Paris.

The Pan African Statistics Programme II (PAS II) is designed to assist the African Union Commission in improving its statistical operations, as well as those of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs). One of the aims of PAS II is to improve statistical dissemination.

The Peer Reviewers and the Expert would like to thank **Mr. Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang**, Statistician-General of The Gambia Bureau of Statistics, the Directors and Heads of Departments, and the entire staff of the Bureau for their assistance and hospitality provided during the review mission. The team would also like to thank all the institutions and individuals who participated in the review sessions. Without their involvement, this report would not have been possible. The team would also like to thank **Mr. Baboucarr Jobe**, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, for his interest in the presentation of the review mission's preliminary findings and recommendations, and for his valuable comments.

**Special thanks are due to AUC/STATAFRIC, EU/Eurostat and Expertise France** for their invaluable support before and during the mission.

The Peer Review team comprised **Mr Semiu Adeyemi Adenira**n, Statistician-General and CEO of the National Bureau of Statistics and Team Chair, **Mr Florent Bigirimana**, Head of the Census Project at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and Deputy Team Chair, and **Dr Peter Hackl**, former Director General of Statistics Austria and PAS II expert.

© African Union - 2025. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions.



#### THE GAMBIA'S PEER REVIEW TEAM

#### **PEERS**

#### Chair

Mr Semiu Adeyemi Adeniran, Statistician-General and CEO of the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria

#### **Deputy Chair**

Mr Florent Bigirimana, Head of the Census Project at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

#### **EXPERT**

Dr Peter Hackl, former Director General of Statistics Austria, Expert of the PAS II Programme

#### **CONTACT PERSON FROM THE GAMBIA BUREAU OF STATISTICS (GBOS)**

Mr. Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang, Statistician-General

Mr. Sanna Manjang, Director of Coordination, Statistical Methods, Quality Assurance and Dissemination, Country Coordinator for the Peer Review

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	6
FOREWORD	7
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
RECOMMENDATIONS	10
A. ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION OF THE NSS	10
B. INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT	10
C. QUALITY	1
D. STATISTICAL PROCESSES	
E. DISSEMINATION	1
INTRODUCTION	12
2	
ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL	
STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND OFFICIAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES THE COUNTRY	
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	14
2.1. THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF THE GAMBIA	15
2.2. INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT	16
2.3. QUALITY OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTS	16
2.4. STATISTICAL PROCESSES	17
2.5. DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION	17

3 STRENGTHS OF THE NSI AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE COUNTRY	18
DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
4.1. FINDINGS	21
I. Organization and Management of the National Statistical System	21
II. Institutional Environment	23
III. Quality	24
IV. Statistical Processes	
V. Dissemination of Statistical Information	25
4.2. RECOMMENDATIONS	26
I. Organization and Management of the National Statistical System	26
II. Institutional Environment	26
III. Quality	
IV. Statistical Processes	
V. Dissemination of Statistical Information	27
ANNEXES	28
ANNEX 1: Agenda for the Gambia Peer Review	29
ANNEX 2: List of Participants of the Peer Review Meetings	30

# **ABBREVIATIONS**

**ACS** African Charter on Statistics

**AfSS** African Statistical System

**GBoS** The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

**MDAs** Ministries, Departments and Agencies

**NSDS** National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

**NSC** National Statistics Council

**NSI** National Statistical Institute

**NSO** National Statistics Office

**NSS** National Statistical System

**PAS** Pan African Statistics Programme

**PAS II** Second Pan African Statistics Programme

# **FOREWORD**

n 2018, the European Union (EU) funded the Pan-African Statistics Programme I (PAS I) to support the implementation of peer reviews of the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of sixteen African countries. The programme aimed to identify weaknesses in statistical capacity, production processes and outputs, helping participating countries to strengthen their National Statistical Systems (NSSs) and improve performance. Following the success of the first round of peer reviews, the EU has once again offered to support the African Statistical System (AfSS) in conducting a second round of peer reviews as part of the Second Pan-African Statistics Programme (PAS II). Technical assistance will be provided through the PAS II service contract. The second round of peer reviews will cover up to 15 countries, including The Gambia.

The review of the Gambian statistical system took place from 4 to 8 August 2025. The assessment was conducted by Mr Semiu Adeyemi Adeniran as the chair of the review, Mr Florent Bigirimana as the deputy chair, and Dr Peter Hackl as the PAS II expert.

The main purpose of the Peer Review was to assess the GBoS's compliance with the African Charter on Statistics, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and the recommended practices of official statistics. Before the mission, the GBoS completed the Self-Assessment Snapshot Tool and returned it with other relevant supporting documents. These documents served as a starting point for the review. The review's results are based on an analysis of the documents provided by the GBoS, documents available on its website, and information collected and discussed during the in-country mission.

The collaboration between peers and the GBoS team remained constructive throughout all phases of the Peer review process.



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

he Peer Review of the statistical system of The Gambia is the second to be conducted in the country. It is one of 15 peer reviews taking place across African countries as part of the second phase of the Pan-African Statistics Programme (PAS II). The European Union is providing financial support, while STATAFRIC and a consortium led by Expertise France are providing technical assistance. These peer reviews aim to evaluate the extent to which African National Statistics Institutes and National Statistics Systems have implemented the principles and standards set out in the African Charter on Statistics.

Peer reviews aim to provide an objective assessment of the participating country's current NSS situation and help it strengthen and improve its overall NSS performance. This review focused on the five themes of the African Charter on Statistics. These are the organization and coordination of the NSS. Then there is the institutional environment. Also, there is the assurance of the quality of statistical products. Then there is the management of statistical processes. Finally, there is the dissemination and communication of statistics.

The methodology involved consultations with the Statistician-General and the GBoS's Senior Management, as well as with identified groups within the NSS, including the main producers and users of official statistics. To complement the information gathered from these consultations, relevant strategic documentation and publications were reviewed, including the legal framework, administrative policies and operational procedures.

The Statistics Act of 2005 established both the NSS and the GBoS, clearly spelling out their mandate to produce official statistics. The NSS comprises three main groups, namely producers of official statistics, data suppliers, and data users. The GBoS acts as the coordinating agency. The Ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) that produce official statistics have legal frameworks governing their statistical activities. However, some shortcomings have been identified in the Statistics

Act. These include strengthening the GBoS's coordination powers within the NSS when planning the working programme and producing statistics, establishing sectoral working groups, and creating a unified appearance for users. All these issues will be considered in the upcoming amendment of the statistical legislation.

The NSS is coordinated by the National Statistics Council (NSC) and the GBoS. The NSC is responsible for formulating the national statistical strategy and overseeing its implementation. It also sets policy guidelines for the GBoS operations, approves strategic and operational plans, and monitors performance. The GBoS is responsible for coordinating and promoting standardisation in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics. It also advises MDAs on how to apply relevant standards, classifications, procedures and quality criteria. As the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs' representative, the Minister of Finance acts as the government's main point of contact with the GBoS, exerting substantial influence over it. He receives the annual report on the activities of the GBoS and is responsible for making regulations to coordinate the NSS. He can also amend the statistical working programme and instruct data collection. Furthermore, he decides on the timing of the population and housing census and approves that of other censuses. The concentration of these competencies within the NSS must be critically examined in terms of the independence of official statistics in The Gambia, as set out in the Africa Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) provides a framework for statistical planning and development. The most recent strategy is NSDS III, which covers the period from 2024 to 2028, and is closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP). The development of the NSDS involved conducting internal and external evaluations of NSDS II implementation, as well as extensive consultations with NSS stakeholders and local and international

partners. Improving NSS coordination is one of the NSDS III priorities, alongside modernising NSS infrastructure, improving data production and dissemination, and developing a sustainable and realistic financing strategy. Besides the issues of coordination and financing, the challenges identified include the inadequate number of statistical staff within the NSS and the absence of professional statisticians in some MDAs.

In conclusion, the Peer Review findings suggest that the NSS in The Gambia has both strengths and weaknesses. Together, the GBoS and the MDAs produce a wide portfolio of official statistics. However, there is a general shortage of skilled personnel within the NSS, and the NSS lacks coordination. The statistical activities within MDAs are neither explicitly defined nor carried out by dedicated statistical units. This makes it difficult to ensure harmonisation, adherence to standards, and the efficient use of resources. Further improvements are needed to ensure highquality official statistics, stronger collaboration and partnerships among data producers, better statistical legislation, and more funding for statistical operations.





# RECOMMENDATIONS

# A. ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION OF THE NSS

- 1) The Peer Review team recognizes that numerous MDAs and other institutions produce official statistics or provide data. Therefore, the Peer Review team recommends that the renewed Statistics Act specifies these bodies as members of the NSS. The Act should also grant the GBoS a coordination mandate that is consistent with best practice.
- 2) Other producers of official statistics have units that plan the statistical work and consult the GBoS on methodological issues. The Peer Review team recommends that these units be upgraded to proper statistical departments, with statistical experts recruited to carry out the required activities.
- **3)** The 2018 Peer Review Report identified the need to strengthen the GBoS's coordination powers within the NSS as one of the reasons for updating the Statistics Act. The Peer Review team emphasizes this need. To this end, the following measures are recommended: GBoS approval of surveys and other data collections planned by MDAs, regular meetings of a coordination body, stronger communication within sectoral working groups headed by the GBoS, improved methodological support for the MDAs, and a unified appearance for users.
- **4)** The GBoS organizes the annual Conference for Official Statistics, which provides a platform for communication within the NSS and particularly with producers and users. In addition to this conference, the establishment of GBoS working groups is recommended as proposed in NSDS III to address issues related to specific statistical domains. These working groups would facilitate discussion and clarification of methodological and other issues, with the participation of users and producers.

b) The importance of annual and mid-term statistical working programmes is widely recognized. However, the NSS's budgetary situation makes the planning extremely challenging. The Peer Review team, therefore, recommends implementing innovative mechanisms to make NSS financing more predictable. This could include allocating 0.15% of the national budget to official statistics, as recommended in the African Charter, or engaging key data users as contributors.

# B. INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- **6)** The need to adapt the Statistics Act 2005 to meet current requirements was first suggested in the 2018 Peer Review Report. Since then, this issue has been discussed in detail. However, Parliament has not yet addressed this issue. Therefore, the Peer Review team recommends renewing the Statistics Act as soon as possible, bearing in mind the African Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- 7) The NSS' budgetary situation includes the risk that the NSDS actions cannot be conducted as planned. The Peer Review team therefore recommends that the GBoS and all other relevant producers of official statistics make every effort to ensure that these actions are carried out as planned.
- 8) Some data producers of official statistics, such as the Ministries of Health and of Basic and Secondary Education, have developed comprehensive systems for collecting administrative data in their respective sectors. It is recommended that GBoS further supports these efforts by guiding the development of structured, interoperable administrative data systems. This would enhance the efficiency of statistical production and improve the quality of official statistics, while reducing the cost and burden associated with traditional surveys and censuses.
- 9) The importance of increased capacity-building efforts was emphasized during meetings with staff members and representatives of MDAs. This point is also mentioned in the NSDS III. It is recommended that the GBoS designs a training strategy, establishes an in-house training programme and provides access to relevant external training programmes. This initiative should be a high priority.

**10)** The Peer Review team believes that the staff satisfaction could be improved by increasing communication within the GBoS organization, particularly between management and other staff. They recommend establishing a platform for sharing knowledge and opinions, and holding regular meetings to keep staff informed about important developments and events.

## **C. QUALITY**

- 11) The Peer Review team has been informed that metadata and quality reports are available for GBoS's statistical products. It is recommended that such reports should be made available for all relevant NSS statistical products. These reports should be accessible via the website.
- **12)** Making the release calendar available on the GBoS website demonstrates a focus on users. The Peer Review team recommends displaying the advance release calendar for GBoS's statistical products as prominently as possible on the GBoS website. This calendar should show the release dates for the current year and at least three months in advance.
- **13)** The Peer Review team was informed that the procedure for error correction exists in the Gambia Dissemination Policy. However, the procedure is not being followed. Errors are corrected, and revised reports are uploaded without communication. The Peer Review team recommends that the GBoS website should provide easy access to explanatory notes on the revised statistics and the relevant special register.

# D. STATISTICAL PROCESSES

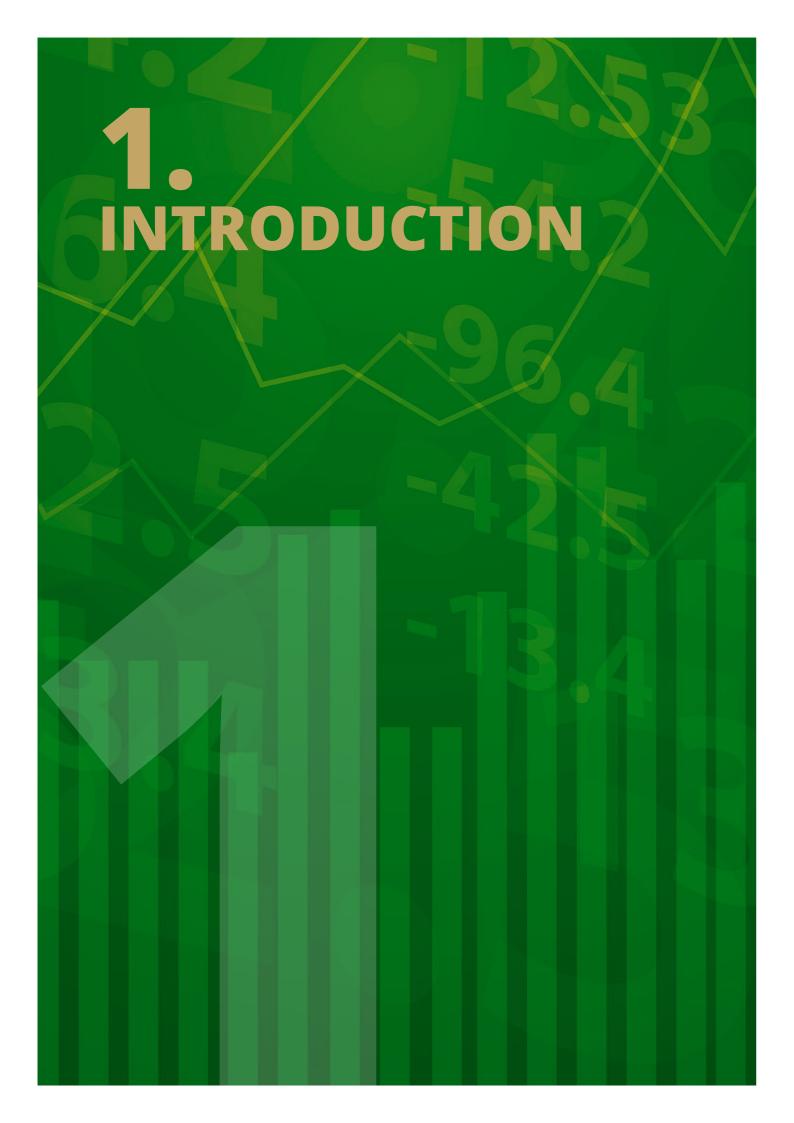
14) The Peer Review team has observed that data exchange within the NSS generally works well, particularly between the data producers and the GBoS. However, delays or hindrances to the delivery of such data can occur in some circumstances. Therefore, it is recommended that the details of each data transfer (content, method and format of transfer, facilitation, deadline, etc.) are set out in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or similar agreement.

## **E. DISSEMINATION**

- 15) Users of statistical products may find the necessary information on the GBoS website or on the website of the product's producer within the NSS. The Peer Review team recommends that the NSS develops a platform to serve as a centralized access point for data users. This platform should contain links to, and further information on, all MDAs engaged in surveys and statistical data production. It should cover all statistical products available from the NSS and provide a release calendar.
- 16) The GBoS website provides an overview of a variety of subjects. While some themes are covered in detail, others are only represented by a few statistics. The Peer Review team recommends thoroughly revising the website's structure to create clearer categories for the statistical products, such as economic, business, social or spatial statistics. This would give users easy access to these products and their associated metadata.
- 17) The Peer Review team has noted that, while many MDAs and other official statistics producers publish useful information about their statistical products on their websites, this information is presented in a variety of different formats and styles. The Peer Review team therefore recommends that the GBoS proposes a common template for the NSS websites in terms of appearance and content, to complement the GBoS website. The team also suggests that the dissemination policy for The Gambia should cover aspects such as equal access, timeliness, metadata provision and cooperation with the media.
- **18)** The Gambia has been a subscriber to e-GDDS for a long time, publishing many indicators alongside data and metadata. The Peer Review team recommends that the metadata for the individual items should be as accurate as possible.







he peer review of the NSS of The Gambia is one of a series of statistical peer reviews being conducted in 15 African countries as part of the second phase of the Pan African Statistics Programme (PAS II). PAS II is a programme financed by the European Union which provides support for developing African statistics systems.

The objective of peer reviews is to help participating countries strengthen and improve the performance of their NSS. This is achieved by providing an objective assessment of the current situation, which is then benchmarked against the five themes of organization and coordination, institutional environment, quality, statistical processes and dissemination, based on the principles of the African Charter on Statistics. Statistical peer reviews are an efficient way of identifying weaknesses in the production of statistics, providing a useful basis for improvement.

The Manual for Peer Reviews of National Statistical Systems outlines the methodology for conducting peer reviews. This manual was prepared under the auspices of the PAS programme. The Peer Review of the Gambian NSS adheres to this methodology:

- The peer reviews will be conducted through visits by designated Peer Review teams to each participating country. During these visits, the teams will meet with the NSIs and NSS stakeholders to discuss the reviews.
- The length of the Peer Review visit to each country shall last five days.
- The peer reviews will be based on the documentation submitted by the country being reviewed.
   This will primarily consist of a brief outline of the NSI and NSS, the Statistics Act and associated legal instruments, accessible statistical policy documents, and a self-assessment questionnaire based on the Eurostat Snapshot tool.
- The Peer Review discussions and meetings should include the main producers of official statistics, data providers and key users such as ministries, the central bank, research institutions, business organizations, international organizations and the media. Any other relevant organizations in the country should also be included.

The Peer Review of The Gambia took place in Banjul during the week of 4-8 August 2025. It was organized by the GBoS, the country's lead producer and coordinating authority for statistics. The GBoS also prepared the week's itinerary. The review team was tasked with meeting representatives from 19 ministries, departments and organizations, as well as four communication companies and seven international development agencies. Unfortunately, meetings with the Gambia Revenue Authority, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the University of The Gambia, communication companies, and international development agencies, including the World Bank, UNDP, IMF, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, and WHO, could not be arranged.

Annex 1 provides the full list of organizations and individuals met by the review team.

# ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND OFFICIAL STATISTICAL **ACTIVITIES IN THE** COUNTRY

This chapter provides an overview of the NSS, divided into five sections according to the principles of the African Charter on Statistics. It covers the NSS in general and the GBoS in particular. It describes the institutional environment, as well as the quality of statistical products and processes. Finally, it examines the dissemination of statistical information.

# 2.1. THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF THE GAMBIA

The National Statistical System (NSS) of The Gambia was established by the Statistics Act of 2005 to produce official statistics on the country's economic, social and environmental situation. The NSS of The Gambia comprises three main actors:

- Producers of official statistics: The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), which, together with the National Statistics Council (NSC) is the coordinating agency for the NSS, and ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).
- Data suppliers include households, administrative data suppliers, and business establishments.
- Data users include government bodies, development partners, businesses, researchers, civil society organizations and individuals.

The Secretary of State for Finance, holding the title Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, represents the government within the NSS and exerts a substantial influence over both the NSS and the GBoS. For example, he receives the annual report on the GBoS's activities. He decides when the population census should take place and approves the timing of other censuses. He has the power to amend the First Schedule, i.e., the subjects covered by the statistical working programme. The National Statistics Council (NSC) is responsible for formulating the national statistical strategy and coordinating its implementation. The NSC also sets policy guidelines for the GBoS's operations, approves its strategic and operational plans, monitors its performance, and appoints senior staff.

The GBoS is responsible for key statistical activities, including the population and housing census, some household surveys, the national accounts, merchandise trade statistics and price statistics. The GBoS is also responsible for coordinating statistical policy as well as promoting standardisation in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics. It also provides guidance, training and other assistance. The GBoS provides specific advice to MDAs on applying relevant standards, classifications, procedures and quality criteria. Various MDAs, including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Central Bank of The Gambia, are also responsible for producing official statistics. While the Statistics Act assigns relevant coordinating functions to the GBoS, it lacks the power to enforce actions. In practice, each MDA and other agency is largely responsible for its own statistical activities, and the mechanisms for coordinating the production of statistics are not particularly robust.

The Gambia has developed and is implementing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for the period 2024-2028 (NSDS III), which is closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP). Improving the coordination of the NSS is one of the NSDS III's priorities, alongside focusing on improving efficiency, modernising NSS infrastructure, enhancing data production and dissemination, and devising a sustainable financing strategy.

The GBoS organizes the annual Conference for Official Statistics, providing a platform for sharing statistical outputs, innovations and best practices, and for identifying and addressing challenges and weaknesses in the system. The conference brings together all the stakeholders in the NSS, including the official statistics producers, administrative data suppliers, and users from the businesses, the private sector and the civil society, as well as research and training institutions.

The GBoS is headed by the Statistician-General. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the GBoS, as well as representing official statistics at international statistical meetings. The Statistician-General reports to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

For the GBoS and the NSS to function effectively, the GBoS and the NSC must cooperate. The two bodies must agree on matters such as the implementation of the NSDS, with the NSC supporting the related strategic and operational plans developed by the GBoS



GBoS employs around 100 people, excluding field staff. It has been reported that many of the professional staff lack a strong statistical background. This considerably restricts statistical output at the GBoS and within the NSS. The importance of increased capacity-building efforts was emphasized during meetings with both staff members and representatives of MDAs. The NSDS III also recommends the implementation of a sustainable training policy and the establishment of a statistical training centre. It should be a high priority to establish an in-house training programme and provide more access to relevant external training programmes.

Other issues affecting the GBoS include a shortage of sampling experts and qualified programmers. According to the NSDS, the existing computer equipment has reached its replacement deadline, and renewal of the computer hardware, printers and peripherals is recommended. However, the relevant staff have been issued with new computers that were purchased for the 2024 population and housing census.

The way in which official statistics in the NSS are funded is problematic. Government support is insufficient to fund the entire working programme. While the budgets of the GBoS and MDAs are based on government expenditure, surveys and other activities are primarily funded by development partners and other external sources. However, these funding streams are neither entirely predictable nor reliable. Furthermore, the release of the promised government budget is uncertain, which could result in projects being delayed or even stopped completely. The NSDS includes a budget of 70 million USD.

The GBoS works closely with the MDAs that provide their data. The information management systems of these MDAs primarily rely on administrative data, and these systems generally require substantial development and improvement. The GBoS provides methodological support and advice on request.

The Gambia has been a member of the IMF since 1967 and a subscriber to the e-GDDS. According to the IMF website, the Central Statistics Department is still listed as the data and metadata provider.

# 2.2. INSTITUTIONAL **ENVIRONMENT**

The Statistics Act of 2005 sets out the legal framework for statistical activities in The Gambia. Both the GBoS and the NSS were established under this Act. The Act outlines the responsibilities of both organisations, as well as the role of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Other producers of official statistics and suppliers of data include the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Central Bank of The Gambia, various other ministries, the Gambia Revenue Authority and the Gambia Tourism Board. Key partners include UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF, as well as the University of The Gambia.

Various shortcomings in the Statistical Act have sparked discussions about improvements and adaptations. Proposed changes include measures to ensure the professional independence of official statistics and improve coordination within the NSS.

# 2.3. QUALITY **OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTS**

The Directorate of Coordination, Statistical Methods, Quality Assurance, and Dissemination is responsible for and ensures the quality of all statistical processes and products within GBoS. Quality assurance measures are implemented during the planning and design of surveys, throughout fieldwork and when editing, validating and documenting data. The statistical production process is supported by quality guidelines and manuals, as well as a compendium of statistical concepts, definitions and classifications. Technical committees periodically convene to discuss and validate the methodologies of specific statistical domains.

The criteria used to assess the quality of statistical products are relevance, comparability and coherence, accuracy and reliability, and timeliness. Metadata and quality reports are available for some statistical products.

Errors in published statistics are corrected, but there is no formal procedure for recording them.

# 2.4. STATISTICAL **PROCESSES**

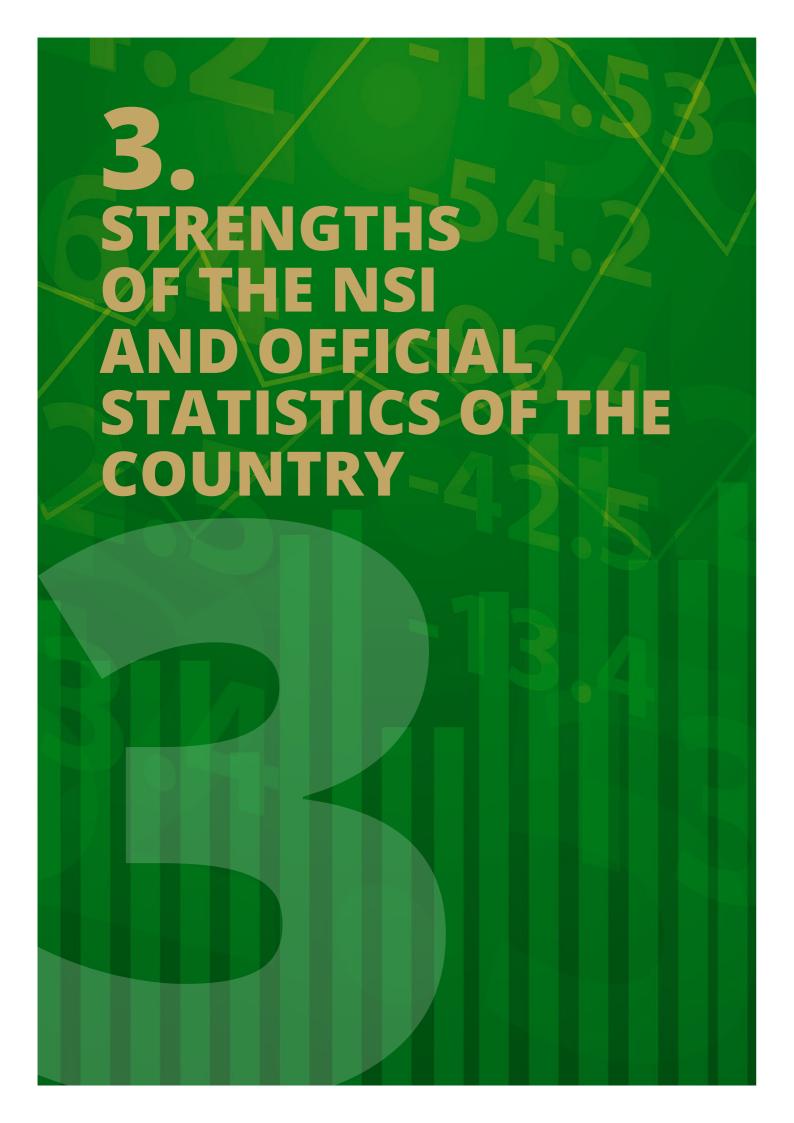
The GBoS adheres strictly to international standards, classifications, concepts, and definitions in all statistical domains. This is an important factor in ensuring the comparability and coherence of statistical products. The shortage of statistical staff is a particular problem within some MDAs and other agencies.

In addition to survey data, the GBoS also relies on administrative data from various sources relating to areas such as education, health, immigration, trade, civil and vital registration.

# 2.5. DISSEMINATION **OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

The GBoS makes statistical information accessible through a variety of channels. These include the GBoS website, the Gambia Data Portal and social media platforms such as Facebook. Press releases are disseminated through multiple channels, including print media, television, radio, and social media platforms. Statistical products can be downloaded free of charge from the website. The GBoS provides simplified summary reports and fact sheets to improve understanding. Both the Gambia Data Portal and the GBoS portal allow users to create tables and visualisations. A support service is available for users. The website has been upgraded based on user feedback.





The Peer Review team identified several strengths of the GBoS and the NSS of The Gambia, which can be summarized as follows.

- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS III): The Gambia has developed and is implementing the NSDS for the period 2024-2028, which is closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP), SHaSA 2/Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. The NSDS III focuses on improving efficiency, modernising NSS infrastructure, enhancing data production and dissemination, and devising a sustainable financing strategy. Improving the coordination of the NSS is one of the priorities of NSDS III; to this end, working groups have been created that also serve as forums for users and producers.
- Engaged staff and strong management of the GBoS: During its mission, the Peer Review team was impressed by the motivation and engagement of the staff at all levels. This is more remarkable given the problems, such as an inadequate number of staff and a lack of capacity building. Further improvement is clearly possible, which would require the design and implementation of a training strategy and programme, as recommended in the NSDS III.
- Constructive cooperation with MDAs: The Gambian NSS comprises many producers of statistics and data providers. Representatives of these units generally expressed high satisfaction with their cooperation with and support from the GBoS. This positive feedback provides a solid foundation for the further development of effective statistical processes and high-quality statistics.
- Enhanced Data Dissemination via e-GDDS and NSDP: The Gambia has implemented the IMF's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS) and set up the associated National Summary Data Page (NSDP). This easily accessible portal provides key macroeconomic data that is widely accepted by policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders.
- Comprehensive Environmental Statistics Action Plan: The Gambia has developed a National Action Plan for Improvement of Environmental Statistics that is aligned with international frameworks such as the Framework for Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES) 2013. This plan aims to strengthen inter-institutional coordination, methodology, human resources, ICT infrastructure and awareness of environmental data.





This chapter begins with a discussion of the key issues that were identified during the Peer Review meetings. The corresponding recommendations then follow.

## 4.1. FINDINGS

The discussions of the main findings have been organized according to the themes specified under the Principles of the African Charter on Statistics, namely: Organization and management of the NSS; institutional environment; quality, statistical processes; and dissemination.

## I. Organization and Management of the National Statistical System

The NSS of The Gambia comprises three main stakeholders:

- Producers of Official Statistics: The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), which, together with the National Statistics Council (NSC), is the coordinating agency for the NSS, and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);
- Data suppliers: households, administrative data suppliers and business establishments.
- Data users include the government, development partners, businesses, researchers, civil society organizations, and individuals.

As the representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister represents the government within the NSS and exerts a substantial influence over both the NSS and the GBoS. He receives the annual report on the activities of the GBoS and forwards it to the National Assembly. Among other things, he can make regulations for coordinating the NSS and safeguarding confidentiality. He has the power to amend the statistical working programme and order data collections. He decides when the population census should take place and approves the timing of other censuses. The Minister's substantial influence on the GBoS must be critically examined in the context of the independence of Official Statistics in The Gambia, as outlined in the Africa Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The National Statistics Council (NSC) is responsible for formulating the national statistical strategy and coordinating its implementation. The NSC comprises seven members, including the Statistician-General (SG) and is chaired by a representative from the private sector. The NSC is also responsible for setting out policy guidelines for the operation of the GBoS, approving its strategic and operational plans, monitoring its performance, appointing senior staff and determining the staff structure, levels and terms and conditions of service.

As the central authority, the GBoS is responsible for key statistical activities, such as the population and housing census, some household surveys, the national accounts, merchandise trade statistics and price statistics. In addition to its role as the primary producer of official statistics, the GBoS is responsible for coordinating the NSS. This involves coordinating statistical policy, promoting standardisation in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics, and providing guidance, training and other assistance. It also promotes cooperation, coordination and rationalisation between those who use and provide statistics. Specifically, GBoS advises MDAs on how to apply relevant standards, classifications, procedures and quality criteria.

The following MDAs also produce official statistics: the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; the Central Bank of The Gambia; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Health; and the Ministry of Agriculture. Although the Statistics Act assigns relevant coordinating functions to the GBoS, it lacks the power to enforce action. In practice, each MDA and other agency is largely responsible for its own statistical activities, and the mechanisms for coordinating the production of statistics are not particularly robust. The Statistics Act should provide a list of the producers of official statistics and specify the organizational structure of the statistical unit within each producer; see recommendations 1) and 2) in item I. of Section 4.2. See recommendation 3) in item I. of Section 4.2 regarding the need to strengthen the coordination powers of the GBoS.

As part of the coordination process within the NSS, GBoS organizes the annual Conference for Official Statistics. This event provides a platform for sharing statistical outputs and innovations, as well as identifying and addressing challenges and weaknesses in the system. This conference brings together all the stakeholders in the NSS, including the official statistics producers, administrative data suppliers, and users from the businesses, the private sector and civil society, as well as research



and training institutions. This conference enhances the NSS's shared understanding and professional partnerships, even though it is not a coordination tool in itself.

The Gambia has developed and is implementing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for the period 2024-2028 (NSDS III), which is closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP). The development of the NSDS involved extensive consultations with NSS stakeholders and local and international partners. The preparation of NSDS III was informed by the results of prior internal and external evaluations of the implementation of NSDS II. Improving the coordination of the NSS is one of the priorities of the NSDS III, alongside a focus on improving efficiency, modernising NSS infrastructure, enhancing data production and dissemination, and devising a sustainable and realistic financing strategy. The NSDS also establishes technical working groups and committees to support its implementation. These groups facilitate cooperation, communication and coordination.

A shortcoming of the 2005 Statistics Act is that it does not assign a stronger coordinating role to the GBoS within the NSS. The following measures could be taken to strengthen the GBoS' coordination power within the NSS, thereby increasing its efficiency and the quality of its output:

- GBoS approval. Given its superior expertise, the GBoS should take greater responsibility for the statistical products and their quality. In line with best practice, the revised Statistics Act should state that the GBoS must approve the MDAs' actions and results as part of its coordination remit.
- Statistical departments. Although statistics producers mostly carry out their statistical work within the planning units of the MDAs, statistics usually play a minor role in these units. Upgrading these units' staff dealing with statistics to a proper statistical department would improve capacity across the entire NSS. Such a department would naturally cooperate with the GBoS.
- Working groups. Guidance on methodology from GBoS on statistical projects is frequently the exception, and related communication is often insufficient. To improve the quality of the statistical processes and products, it would be beneficial to establish groups led by GBoS, each focusing on a specific statistical subject. See recommendation 4) in item I. of Section 4.2 regarding the communication within the NSS.

- Annual statistical working programme. This should cover the surveys and activities planned for GBoS, as well as those of MDAs and other statistical producers. This annual statistical working programme is intended to inform all stakeholders and is aligned with the five-year statistical programme presented in the NSDS. Users will find it easier to understand which statistical products are available and when. It is considered an effective means of ensuring the strategic and operational management and coordination of activities within the NSS. See recommendation 5) in item I. of Section 4.2 regarding the annual and mid-term statistical working programmes.
- The common internet platform. Providing access to all statistical products, either directly or via a link, creates a centralized access point for data users. In line with the mandate given to GBoS in the Statistics Act to be "the principal source of official statistics information", GBoS should establish such a platform and ensure that the MDAs' websites are unified in appearance and linked to it.

The way in which official statistics are funded is problematic. While the budgets of the GBoS and MDAs are based on government expenditure, surveys and other activities may also be funded by external sources. However, these funding streams are neither entirely predictable nor reliable.

#### The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

In addition to its role as coordinator of the NSS, the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), is the primary producer of official statistics. It is responsible for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data. The GBoS produces a wide range of socioeconomic statistics and conducts the necessary censuses and surveys to generate data for assessing the country's level of development, informing decision-making and monitoring and evaluating government policies and programmes.

The GBoS is headed by the Statistician-General. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the GBoS, supervising the staff and representing the organization at international statistical meetings. The Statistician-General reports to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

For the GBoS and the NSS to function effectively, the GBoS and the NSC must cooperate. The two bodies must agree on matters such as the implementation of the NSCS, with the NSC supporting the related strategic and operational plans developed by the GBoS.

The GBoS employs around 100 people, not including field staff. It has been reported that many of its professional stafflack a strong statistical background, resulting in a shortage of sampling experts and qualified programmers. This considerably restricts statistical output at the GBoS and within the NSS. The NSDS III recommends increased investment in human resources, including the development and implementation of a sustainable training policy and the establishment of a statistical training centre. There is hope that the training situation will soon improve. See recommendation 9) in item II. of Section 4.2 regarding training strategy and programme.

The Peer Review team believes that staff satisfaction could be improved by increasing communication within the GBoS organisation, particularly between the management and the other staff. See recommendation 10) in item II. of Section 4.2 regarding communication within the GBoS.

Another issue for the GBoS is that the existing computer equipment has reached the end of its useful life. This means that the computer hardware, printers and peripherals need replacing. However, the relevant staff have been issued with new computers that were purchased for the 2024 population and housing census.

There are two issues regarding the funding of the GBoS. Firstly, government support is insufficient to fund the entire working programme, meaning that external sponsors must be sought to support projects. Secondly, the release of the promised government budget is uncertain, which could result in projects being delayed or even halted. It would be helpful if The Gambia were to follow the suggestion in the African Charter that 0.15% of the national budget should be allocated to official statistics. The NSDS includes a budget of 70 million USD. See recommendation 7) in item II. of Section 4.2 regarding the critical funding situation of the NSS.

The GBoS works closely with the MDAs that provide their data. These MDAs' information management systems of these MDAs primarily rely on administrative data, and these systems generally require substantial development and improvement. Furthermore, it is difficult to motivate key data suppliers to provide their data. See recommendation 8) in item II. of Section 4.2 regarding the data exchange within the NSS. The GBoS provides methodological support and advice on request.

The Gambia has been a member of the IMF since 1967 and a subscriber to the e-GDDS. According to the IMF website, the Central Statistics Department is still listed as the provider of data and metadata.

#### **II. Institutional Environment**

The Statistics Act of 2005 establishes the legal framework for statistical activities in The Gambia. Both the GBoS and the NSS were established under this Act. The GBoS succeeded the Central Statistics Department. The Statistics Act covers the entire NSS and sets out the functions of the GBoS and the NSC, as well as the role of the Secretary of State, who represents the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The 2018 Peer Review Report already highlighted the shortcomings of this legislation. See recommendation 6) in item II. of Section 4.2 regarding the need to renew the Statistics Act. Important themes not considered in the Statistics Act are

- the coordination of statistical activities within the NSS
- the professional independence of official statistics and the appointment process for the Statistician-General.

Access to administrative data and the annual and mid-term statistical working programmes are not considered either. However, the planned revision of the Statistics Act will address these issues and consider other points. It should

- ensure the consistency of legislation with the Africa Charter of Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- list the MDAs and other producers of official statistics as well as suppliers of data, clearly vesting the mandate for data collection in these entities;
- cater for emerging areas of statistics such as big data, the digital economy, technology, Al, data science and innovation.

Other producers of official statistics and suppliers of data include

- the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs,
- the Central Bank of The Gambia,
- the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
- the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education,





- the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology,
- the Ministry of ICT,
- the Gambia Revenue Authority,
- Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA),
- the Gambia Tourism Board,
- the Fisheries Department,
- the Ministry of Agriculture.

Important partners include UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF. Another important partner is the University of The Gambia.

## **III. Quality**

The NSDS was developed through extensive consultations with the official data producers and users, as well as other NSS stakeholders to ensure that it meets the requirements of key data users and is also well aligned with the national development plan. It is implemented through the annual work programmes of the GBoS and the MDAs. The statistical work is guided by the African Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other international statistical standards.

The Directorate of Coordination, Statistical Methods, Quality Assurance, and Dissemination is responsible for ensuring the quality of all statistical processes and products. According to the GBoS quality assurance policy, quality assurance measures must be implemented at various stages of the statistical production process. These stages include the planning and designing survey instruments, conducting fieldwork, and editing, validating and documenting data. Quality guidelines and manuals support the statistical production process. They are intended for use by enumerators, supervisors, editors and data processors. They should be accessible on the GBoS website. The shortage of skilled personnel in the NSS, as mentioned in the context of the GBoS, is causing quality issues.

The criteria used to assess the quality of statistical products are

- relevance,
- comparability and coherence,
- accuracy and reliability.

Timeliness is also a factor.

The relevance of the data produced by the NSS is assessed through mid-term and end-of-term evaluations within the NSDS. Users are asked whether the statistical outputs are relevant to their needs, particularly in terms of development planning and decision-making.

To help ensure that the statistics produced are coherent and comparable over time, a compendium of statistical concepts, definitions and classifications has been developed. Some statistical domains have set up technical committees that meet periodically to discuss and validate methodologies, review draft reports and share knowledge and experiences.

The Peer Review team has been informed that metadata and quality reports are available for statistical products. These reports provide information on sampling and non-sampling errors. These reports should be made available for all relevant statistical products in the NSS. They should be accessible via the website. See recommendation 11) in item III. of Section 4.2 regarding metadata and quality reports.

The annual release calendar, which includes the exact date and time of all individual statistical releases scheduled for the following twelve months, should be published at the beginning of each year. Any deviations from the release schedule should be noted on the website. See recommendation 12) in item III. of Section 4.2 regarding the release

Some statistical products, especially those based on administrative data, are difficult to produce promptly. This is because most of this data requires technology to be deployed and templates to be developed to make it easily accessible.

Errors in published statistics are corrected in accordance with the procedure described in the Dissemination Policy for The Gambia. The GBoS website should provide easy access to the explanatory notes on the revised statistics and the relevant special register. See recommendation 13) in item III. of Section 4.2 regarding errors in published statistics.

#### **IV. Statistical Processes**

All statistical domains are subject to the same international standards, classifications, concepts and definitions adopted and strictly employed by the GBoS. This ensures that the statistical products are comparable and coherent. Efforts are also planned to promote methodological soundness, which will be achieved through capacity building. There is still a shortage of statistical staff. This shortage is particularly evident within certain MDAs and other agencies.

In addition to survey data, the GBoS relies heavily on administrative data. This data is typically sourced from education, health, immigration, trade, civil and vital registration, business registers and monetary indices. See recommendation 14) in item IV. of Section 4.2 regarding the use of administrative data within the NSS.

## V. Dissemination of **Statistical Information**

The Peer Review team has been informed that all users are treated equally concerning their access to data. The GBoS uses various methods to make statistical information accessible and improve user understanding and interpretation. These methods include publication on the GBoS website and the Gambia Data Portal, as well as dissemination via print media, television, radio, and social media. Press releases are circulated via mailing lists.

Statistical products are uploaded to the website, where they can be downloaded free of charge by all users. To improve interpretation and usability, in addition to the main report, the GBoS produces simplified summary reports and fact sheets alongside the main report to facilitate easy understanding. Both the Gambia Data Portal and the GBoS portal enable users to generate tables and visualisations from the available data. Although a support service is available for users, it is unfortunately very slow.

It would be useful for users of statistical products of the NSS to have a common internet platform as a centralized access point. Such a platform should contain links to, and further information on, all MDAs engaged in surveys and statistical data production. It should also cover all NSS statistical products. A comprehensive release calendar should also be provided. See recommendation 15) in item V. of Section 4.2 regarding a relaunch of the GBoS website.

The GBoS website provides an overview of a variety of subjects, including demographics, macroeconomics, finance, agriculture, health and education. While some themes are covered in detail, others are only represented by a few statistics. Information such as metadata and quality reports is not yet available. The relaunch of the GBoS website will provide a clearer structure for the statistical products, categorised by economic, business, social and spatial statistics. This will give users easy access to the products and their associated metadata, enabling them to obtain either a comprehensive overview or in-depth insights into the relevant statistical products in each category. See recommendation 16) in item V. of Section 4.2 regarding a centralized access point for data users.

Many MDAs and other official statistics producers publish valuable information about their statistical products on their websites. This information is presented in various formats and styles. The GBoS should propose a common template for the NSS websites, in terms of both appearance and content. Furthermore, the GBoS should develop a common dissemination policy, covering aspects such as equal access, cooperation with the media, timeliness and the provision of metadata. See recommendation 17) in item V. of Section 4.2 regarding an NSS dissemination policy.

The Gambia has been a member of the IMF since 1967. The country has implemented the IMF's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS) and established the corresponding National Summary Data Page (NSDP). This easily accessible portal provides key macroeconomic data that is widely accepted by policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders. A lot of key indicators for The Gambia are released along with data and metadata. However, the Central Statistics Department is still listed as the provider of this data and metadata. See recommendation 18) in item V. of Section 4.2 regarding e-GDDS.



# 4.2. RECOMMENDA-TIONS

Overall, the Peer Review team's findings suggest that several improvements have been made to the National Statistical System since the 2018 peer review, despite some prevailing challenges. Based on these findings, the following recommendations are proposed for each of the five themes.

## I. Organization and Management of the National Statistical System

- 1) The Peer Review team recognizes that numerous MDAs and other institutions produce official statistics or provide data. Therefore, the Peer Review team recommends that the renewed Statistics Act specifies these bodies as members of the NSS. The Act should also grant the GBoS a coordination mandate that is consistent with best practice.
- 2) Other producers of official statistics have units that plan the statistical work and consult the GBoS on methodological issues. The Peer Review team recommends that these units be upgraded to proper statistical departments, with statistical experts recruited to carry out the required activities.
- **3)** The 2018 Peer Review Report identified the need to strengthen the GBoS's coordination powers within the NSS as one of the reasons for updating the Statistics Act. The Peer Review team emphasizes this need. To this end, the following measures are recommended: GBoS approval of surveys and other data collections planned by MDAs, regular meetings of a coordination body, stronger communication within sectoral working groups headed by the GBoS, improved methodological support for the MDAs, and a unified appearance for users.
- **4)** The GBoS organizes the annual Conference for Official Statistics, which provides a platform for communication within the NSS and particularly with producers and users. In addition to this conference, the establishment of GBoS working groups is recommended to address issues related to specific statistical domains. These working groups would facilitate discussion and clarification of methodological and other issues, with the participation of users and producers.

**5)** The importance of annual and mid-term statistical working programmes is widely recognized. However, the NSS's budgetary situation makes the planning extremely challenging. The Peer Review team, therefore, recommends implementing innovative mechanisms to make NSS financing more predictable. This could include allocating 0.15% of the national budget to official statistics, as recommended in the African Charter, or engaging key data users as contributors.

#### **II. Institutional Environment**

- **6)** The need to adapt the Statistics Act 2005 to meet current requirements was first suggested in the 2018 Peer Review Report. Since then, this issue has been discussed in detail. However, Parliament has not yet addressed this issue. Therefore, the Peer Review team recommends renewing the Statistics Act as soon as possible, bearing in mind the African Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- 7) The NSS' budgetary situation poses a risk to the implementation of NSDS actions as planned. Therefore, the Peer Review team recommends that the GBoS and all other relevant producers of official statistics do their utmost to ensure that these NSDS actions are carried out as planned.
- 8) Some data producers of official statistics, such as the Ministries of Health and of Basic and Secondary Education, have developed comprehensive systems for collecting administrative data in their respective sectors. It is recommended that GBoS further supports these efforts by guiding the development of structured, interoperable administrative data systems. This would enhance the efficiency of statistical production and improve the quality of official statistics, while reducing the cost and burden associated with traditional surveys and censuses.
- 9) The importance of increased capacity-building efforts was emphasized during meetings with staff members and representatives of MDAs. This point is also mentioned in the NSDS III. It is recommended that the GBoS designs a training strategy, establishes an in-house training programme and provides access to relevant external training programmes. This initiative should be a high priority.

10) The Peer Review team believes that the staff satisfaction could be improved by increasing communication within the GBoS organization, particularly between the management and the other staff. They recommend establishing a platform for sharing knowledge and opinions, as well as holding regular meetings to keep staff informed about important developments and events

## **III. Quality**

- 11) The Peer Review team has been informed that metadata and quality reports are available for GBoS's statistical products. It is recommended that such reports should be made available for all relevant NSS statistical products. These reports should be accessible via the website.
- **12)** Making the release calendar available on the GBoS website demonstrates a focus on users. The Peer Review team recommends displaying the advance release calendar for GBoS's statistical products as prominently as possible on the GBoS website. This calendar should show the release dates for the current year and at least three months in advance.
- 13) The Peer Review team was informed that errors in published statistics are corrected in accordance with the procedure described in the Dissemination Policy for The Gambia. The Peer Review team recommends that the GBoS website should provide easy access to the explanatory notes on the revised statistics and the relevant special register.

#### **IV. Statistical Processes**

14) The Peer Review team has observed that data exchange within the NSS generally works well, particularly between the data producers and the GBoS. However, delays or hindrances to the delivery of such data can occur in some circumstances. Therefore, it is recommended that the details of each data transfer (content, method and format of transfer, facilitation, deadline, etc.) are set out in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or similar agreement.

## V. Dissemination of Statistical Information

- **15)** Users of statistical products may find the necessary information on the GBoS website or on the website of the product's producer within the NSS. The Peer Review team recommends that the NSS develops a platform to serve as a centralized access point for data users. This platform should contain links to, and further information on, all MDAs engaged in surveys and statistical data production. It should cover all statistical products available from the NSS and provide a release calendar.
- 16) The GBoS website provides an overview of a variety of subjects. While some themes are covered in detail, others are only represented by a few statistics. The Peer Review team recommends thoroughly revising the website's structure to create clearer categories for the statistical products, such as economic, business, social or spatial statistics. This would give users easy access to these products and their associated metadata.
- MDAs and other official statistics producers publish useful information about their statistical products on their websites, this information is presented in a variety of different formats and styles. The Peer Review team therefore recommends that the GBoS proposes a common template for the NSS websites in terms of appearance and content, to complement the GBoS website. The team also suggests an NSS dissemination policy that covers aspects such as equal access, cooperation with the media, timeliness and the provision of metadata.
- **18)** The Gambia has been a subscriber to e-GDDS for a long time, publishing many indicators alongside data and metadata. The Peer Review team recommends that the metadata for the individual items should be as accurate as possible.







# **ANNEX 1: Agenda for the Gambia Peer Review**

Date	Time	Activity		
03 August 2025	-	Initial meeting of the Peer Review Team		
04 August	09:00 - 09:30	Meeting with GBoS Statistician-General		
2025		Discussion of the programme of the peer review visit		
	00 20 42 00	Discussion of the methodology and focus of the peer review		
	09:30 – 12:00	Description of the statistical system of the country		
		Theme 1 - Organisation and coordination of NSS		
		Meetings with GBoS Senior Management – cont.		
		• Theme 2 – Institutional environment		
	14:00 - 16:00	• Theme 3 – Quality		
		• Theme 4 – Statistical processes		
		• Theme 5 – Dissemination		
	16:00 – 17:00	Meeting with representatives of the GBoS staff		
05 August 2025		Meeting with the producers of official statistics in ministries:		
2023	00:00 10:20	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs		
	09:00 - 10:30	• Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)		
		Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security		
	10:30 - 12:00	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources		
		Ministry of fisheries and water resources		
		Ministry of Trade, Industry & Employment		
	14:00 - 16:00	• Ministry of Interior		
	14.00 - 10.00	• Chamber of commerce		
		Gambia Investment and Export Agency (GIEPA)		
06 August		Ministry of Lands, Regional Government & Religious Affairs		
2025		• Ministry of Health		
		Ministry of Tourism		
	10:30 - 11:30	Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education		
		Ministry of Higher Education		
	11:30 - 12:30	Further meetings with other producers of official statistics, if necessary		
		Meetings with providers of administrative data		
	14:00 - 15:00	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)		
		Communication companies: GAMTEL/GAMCEL, AFRICEL, COMIUM, QCELL		
	15:00 - 16:00	Meetings with other providers of administrative data—Cont.  • Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA)		
07 August		Meetings with data users (media, academia, private sector)		
2025		Users of statistics for research and education, University of The Gambia,		
	09:00 - 10:00	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare		
		Representatives of the Ministry of Information, media (Gambia Radio & Television Services and		
	10:00 - 11:00	any other		
	11:00 - 12:00	<ul> <li>Representatives of international development agencies (World Bank, UNDP, IMF, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, etc.),</li> </ul>		
	14:00 - 15:00	Member(s) of parliament: commissions		
	15:00 - 16:30	Drafting of the preliminary findings and recommendations		
08 August	09:00 - 11:00	Final drafting of the preliminary findings and recommendations		
2025	11:00 - 12:00	Presentation of the findings and conclusions to GBoS leadership		
	14:00 - 15:00	Meeting with Ministry of Finance (or high-level representative of Minister/ministry		



# ANNEX 2: List of Part

# **List of Participants of the Peer Review Meetings**

## **AUGUST 4, 2025**

**Meeting with GBoS Senior Management** 

N°	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
01	Nyakassi M B Sanyang	GBoS	Statistician-General
02	Sanna Manjang	GBoS	Director of Coordination, Statistical Methods, Quality Assurance & Dissemination
03	Muhammed Bittaye	GBoS	Principal Statistician, Enterprise Surveys
04	Ebrima Jow	GBoS	Director of Administration and Human Resources
05	Ebrima W Manneh	GBoS	Senior GIS Officer
06	Lamin Kanteh	GBoS	Principal Statistician, Directorate of Social Statistics
07	Omar C F Kebbeh	GBoS	Senior Statistician, Population and Demography
80	Mustapha Touray	GBoS	Statistician, Health
09	Awa Nagib	GBoS	Senior Statistician, CPI
10	Ramatoulie Bojang	GBoS	Statistician, Trade Statistics
11	Mama Jarju	GBoS	Director of Economic Statistics
12	Lamin L Dibba	GBoS	Principal Statistician, Principal Statistician for Planning, Monitoring, Coordination, and User Needs Analysis

#### **AUGUST 5, 2025**

Meeting with producers of official statistics in ministries

S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	DESIGNATION	
01	Rohey Jobe	MoFEA	Economist	
02	Bintou Sanyang	MoFEA	Cadet Economist	
03	Macodou N Njie	CBG	Statistician	
04	Alagie B Sowe	CBG	Economist	
05	Malick M Jallow	GCCI	Senior Technical Officer	
06	Sabina K Mendy	Ministry of Agriculture	Principal Statistician	
07	Nfamara N Jobarteh	Mol	Statistician	
08	Abdou Touray	MoTIE	Planner	
09	Ousman G Jasseh	GIEPA	M&E Manager	

#### Meeting with GBoS staff

IVICC	Meeting with GBoS staff			
N°	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION	
01	Sheriff Njie	GBoS	Senior Admin HRDO	
02	Abdou Sanyang	GBoS	Statistician	
03	Lamin Ceesay	GBoS	Auditor	
04	Nyara Jammeh	GBoS	Statistician	
05	Sainabou Jobe	GBoS	Statistician	
06	Fatou Secka	GBoS	Statistical Technician	
07	Jatou Manjang	GBoS	Statistical Technician	
08	Sainabou Mbenga	GBoS	Statistical Technician	
09	Alagie Nasiru Deen Macauley	GBoS	Statistician	
10	Ebrima Keita	GBoS	Cadet Statistician	
11	Mansoor B Joof	GBoS	Senior Statistician	
12	Nancy Jow	GBoS	Librarian	
13	Omar Mbye	GBoS	Statistician	
14	Baba Jasseh	GBoS	Programmer	
15	Sainey Jallow	GBoS	Cadet Statistician	
16	Buba Jadama	GBoS	Snr Statistician	
17	Bubacarr Camara	GBoS	Database/ Programmer	
18	Alasana Badjie	GBoS	Publication Officer	
19	Ansu Singhateh	GBoS	GIS Officer	
20	Cherno Faal	GBoS	Cadet Statistician	



## **AUGUST 6, 2025**

Meeting with producers of official statistics in ministries

N°	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
01	Modou Sowe	MoBSE	Education Officer (EMIS)
02	Ebrima Solo Nasso	MoH DPI	IT/Data Manager
03	Lamin Kenjo Cham	MoHERST	Snr Higher Education Officer
04	Ousainou Konateh	MoLRG	Planner

## **AUGUST 7, 2025**

Meeting with producers of official statistics in ministries

	N°	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION	
	05	Ebrima Sankareh	MolCl	Principal Asst. Secretary	
	06	Ebrima AK Sanyang	GT Board	Snr. Research & Development Officer	
Meeting with the Ministry of Finance					
	01	Nyakassi MB Sanyang	GBoS	Statistician General	
	02	Baboucarr Jobe	Ministry of Finance	Permanent secretary	
	03	Ebrima Jow	GBoS	Director Admin/HR	

#### **AUGUST 8, 2025**

Presentation of the findings and recommendations to GBoS leadership

N°	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
01	Nyakassi MB Sanyang	GBoS	Statistician General
02	Ebrima W Manneh	GBoS	Pr. GIS/Cartography Officer
03	Lamin Kanteh	GBoS	Pr. Statistician
04	Mama Jarju	GBoS	Director Economic Stats
05	Ebrima Jow	GBoS	Director Admin/HR
06	Sanna Manjang	GBoS	Director of CSMQAD

Further information about African Statistics and statistical publications by the African Union Statistics Division may be obtained from the:

#### STATAFRIC

Al Karama Holding Building, 2nd floor Rue du lac d'Annecy, Les Berges du Lac 1, 1053, Tunis -Tunisia

#### **Contact:**

statafric@africa-union.org Website: <u>https://statafric.au.int</u> or <u>www.au.int</u>

