

*The Contribution of the Ghana Statistical Service
towards the Development of Standardized Indicators*

Prepared by

Ghana Statistical Service

The contribution of the Ghana Statistical Service towards the development of standardized indicators

Compendium of Statistical Standards, Variables and Concepts

One major setback to the production of statistics by the National Statistical System (NSS) is that the definition, variables and classifications used in the data production from the various data collection sources (censuses, surveys and administrative data) tend to vary. This introduces inconsistencies into data production, reporting and interpretation, making trend analysis difficult. For the NSS to be efficient and effective, producers of official statistics should be able to come together and resolve the inconsistencies in data production, reporting and interpretation.

As the leader in the production of official statistics and coordinating body of the National Statistical System in Ghana, the Ghana Statistical Service took the initiative to coordinate the development of a compendium of statistical standards, variables and concepts for Ghana that aimed at harmonizing the definitions and concepts used in statistical production in the country which is currently being used by all the major producers of statistics in the country.

GhanaInfo/CensusInfo

The Ghana Statistical Service has established two indicator-based dissemination tools: the GhanaInfo and the CensusInfo. GhanaInfo is a comprehensive national demographic and socio-economic database system used for monitoring the MDGs; it also serves as the repository for all quantitative data generated by the Service. The main purpose of the CensusInfo database, on the other hand, is to help disseminate the country's Population and Housing Census data. The two databases have thus been established to help disseminate national-level data on a wide range of socio-economic indicators in a user-friendly manner to enhance their use and assist in the monitoring and evaluation of Ghana's socio-economic development processes.

A metadata handbook has also been prepared for most of the indicators to guide users of the databases.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (CRVS)

In a bid to reverse the poor state of the functioning of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system and improve the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorce, causes of death and compilation of vital statistics in Ghana, a comprehensive assessment of the system was carried out in the last quarter of 2014. The comprehensive assessment sought to examine the scope of work, geographic coverage and linkages among the institutions involved in recording, registering, compiling and disseminating vital statistics from the civil registration system in the country.

This assessment is expected to result in the development of a strategic plan that will help strengthen the CRVS system and improve the generation of vital statistics at the national, regional, district and community levels to facilitate the computation of demographic indices and promote the understanding of factors that influence demographic dynamics and health status of the population in the country.