Statistics South Africa, the government department mandated by parliament to collect and disseminate official statistics, is preparing a programme of events and activities to raise awareness of the importance of official statistics. With the 2011 Census being conducted in October 2011, all activities related to World Statistics Day will include an element of Census advocacy.

Activities include:

1) The official launch of the Census 2011 countdown on 10 October 2010.
2) A presentation to Parliament, highlighting the achievement of official statistics in South Africa, starting with the 1996 Census and looking at the role Stats SA has played in Africa and the world.
3) Provincial census launches conducted by the nine provincial offices, targeted at key stakeholders, which will highlight World Statistics Day, the upcoming census, as well as key issues relevant to that province.
4) A press release which will be translated into vernacular languages and sent to various major and community newspapers, via provincial and district offices.
5) A link from StatsOnline (Stats SA website) to the UN website.
6) Intensifying our current work on the ISIbalo programs which include
   a. Maths4Stats
   b. Soccer4Stats
   c. Young Statisticians development.

South Africa, 8 October 2010