



What have statistics to do with our daily life? A baby is born. We want the best health care for him. Medical doctors and nurses have been trained, universities and hospitals have provided their education. The government or donors or private investors have allocated funds to build hospitals, universities, training centers. Teachers have been contracted. This has been done long time before this baby was born.

Statistical methods anticipated the need for the whole infrastructure for this special day, when a baby needs our care. Statistics cannot predict the future, but they help us to plan and to do the best with our resources. Statistics are applied in each part of our daily life. Before investing millions in infrastructure projects, like power plants, sewerage systems, streets we need to know the needs. Statistics help governments to develop their policies to reach best results and improve the living conditions for their people.

But there are short-comings, mismanagement and lack of awareness to apply statistical methods and make best use of data. Here the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2 provides crucial support to each Member State of the African Union to develop their statistical system and build the foundation for a prosperous future - for the Africa we want.

# Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

2017 - 2026



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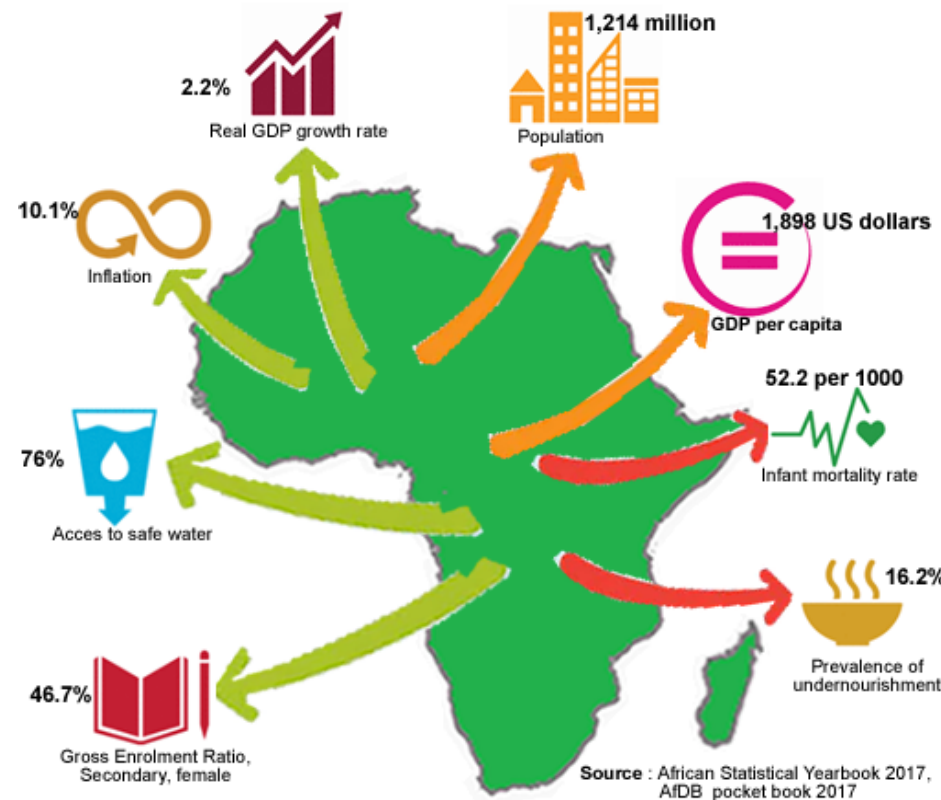




## WHAT IS “STATISTICS”?

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Babies are born every day. Their number is statistics. We already know today how many schoolchildren there will be in six years, how many teachers we will need and whether our schools will have enough room for our children. We know how many of them will start to work and how many will go to universities in the next 15 to 20 years, and we know this thanks to statistics. It is based on collecting data and using mathematical formulas to describe what is and what will be.



## What each Member State of the African Union needs to provide?

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Governments shall have the primary responsibility to provide adequate and stable resources to enable the Statistics Authorities to meet statistics needs at national, regional and continental levels, including for AU Member States to allocate 0.15% of their National budgets to finance statistics - AU's Heads of State and Government decision. Enhanced partnership with private sector, foundations, civil society both inside and outside the African continent can contribute to the financing of statistics.

## What SHaSA aims to achieve: THE VISION

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The vision of the African Statistical System is to establish “an efficient statistical system that generates reliable, harmonized and timely statistical information covering all dimensions of political, economic, social, environmental and cultural development and integration of Africa.”

### How to put the vision into concrete activities?

The SHaSA was introduced with a detailed analysis of strengths and weaknesses, followed by the formulation of four strategic themes, which are:

1. To produce quality statistics for Africa
2. To coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa
3. To build sustainable institutional capacity in the African Statistical System
4. To promote a culture of quality policymaking and decision-making

Each strategic theme has several strategic objectives, which will guide specific activities.

## WHO NEEDS STATISTICS?

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Governments need statistics to produce well-designed programs and development policies. For example, while planning a road system, metrics on vehicles numbers are required. Moreover, citizens need statistics to examine authorities' decisions and to exert democratic control.

Businesses need statistics to know what customers want and to decide what and where to produce and sell and in what quantities. Statistics is needed for African integration, international donors need reliable statistics to understand where and how their support is needed. In short, everybody needs statistics.

## WHAT IS SHaSA-2

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SHaSA is a continental Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Africa adopted by African leaders for the period 2017 to 2026. The Strategy will enable the African Statistical System (ASS) to generate timely, reliable and harmonized statistical information which covers all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa.

## What is the political background?

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Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want” adopted by African leaders in 2015 sets out the path that will lead to the emergence of a new Africa – one that is prosperous, integrated and peaceful in the next 50 years. Its core principles are espoused in the African Development Bank's (AfDB's) High Five Transformational Agenda for Africa for 2015-2025 and in the United Nations' “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” that are implemented through regional and national development plans. This requires reliable and harmonized statistics and information in all areas to support the African integration agenda and enhance coordination and collaboration between National Statistical Offices (NSOs), regional and continental statistical organizations and development partners.

## WHY harmonization of statistics is important?

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Harmonization of statistics is needed for comparison, convergence, and speaking the same statistical language. Harmonized data are necessary for monitoring African integration and ensuring that AU Member States are moving together to the right direction.

## WHO stands behind SHaSA-2?

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SHaSA is the fruit of collective efforts of the entire African Statistical System with the support of the four pan-African organizations – the African Union Commission (AUC), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

## Who is implementing the activities?

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A framework of governance structures has been developed for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SHaSA, and for regular reporting on its progress.

The implementation involves all actors of the African Statistical System including Member States and partners at national, regional, and international level.

## What needs to be done?

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Implementation of SHaSA-2 calls for profound behavior change across the African Statistical System, most notably among statisticians themselves, particularly at the national level. Statisticians have to begin to see their role as integral to the functioning of country economies and societies.

At regional and at continental level all actors must continue to regard statistical development and harmonization as matters of highest priority.



African Union Commission



African Development Bank



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



Africa Capacity Building Foundation