



SHaSA 2
Consolidated Activity Report 2022
Final Report

September 2023

LIST OF CONTENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
I. INTRODUCTION	7
II. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.....	10
III. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT	13
IV. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY	14
V. ASSESSMENT TO PROGRESS OF THE SHASA OBJECTIVES	16
STRATEGIC THEME 1: PRODUCE QUALITY STATISTICS FOR AFRICA.....	16
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.1. Expand the Statistical Information base	17
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.2. Transform existing statistics for comparability – Progress made by the AUMS	39
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.3. Harmonization methods and codes for data production	42
STRATEGIC THEME 2: COORDINATE THE PRODUCTION OF QUALITY STATISTICS FOR AFRICA	43
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.1: Establish effective coordinate and collaboration mechanisms.....	44
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.2. Define statistical priorities for the implementation of integration and development agendas	54
STRATEGIC THEME 3: DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM	56
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: Reform and enhance National Statistical System.....	56
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.2. Reform and enhance regional and continental statistical system	62
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.3. Develop sustainable statistical capacity	64
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.4. Establish an effective technological environment	72
STRATEGIC THEME 4: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF QUALITY POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING	75
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4.1: Drive evidence based decisions through the increased use of statistics decision-making.....	76
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical information.....	83
VI. FINAL CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATION	87
VII. SCHEDULE AND PRODUCTS.....	89
VIII. ANNEX.....	90

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES MEMBERS BY CLUSTERS	12
FIGURE 2. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES MEMBERS THAT RESPOND THE QUESTIONNAIRE	13
FIGURE 3. APPROACH METHODOLOGY	14

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES MEMBERS BY CLUSTERS (1 AND 2).....	10
TABLE 2. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES MEMBERS BY CLUSTERS (3 AND 4).....	11
TABLE 3. REGIONAL, PAN-AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN SHASA IMPLEMENTATION	12
TABLE 4. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	17
TABLE 5. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATION IN PHC ROUND IN 2020	18
TABLE 6. COUNTRIES THAT ORGANIZED PC SINCE SHASA 2	19
TABLE 7. COUNTRIES THAT CONDUCTED AGRICULTURAL CENSUS: ROUND 2020.....	21
TABLE 8. COUNTRIES THAT PLAN TO CONDUCT AND PUBLISH THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS ROUND 2020	22
TABLE 9. COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONDUCTED ECONOMIC CENSUS	27
TABLE 10. PROGRESS OF ECONOMIC SURVEY.....	28
TABLE 11. PROGRESS OF GPS - STRATEGIC INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION.....	32
TABLE 12. PROGRESSION OF ACTIVITIES FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE- IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS.....	36
TABLE 13. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION BY ACTIVITY	44
TABLE 14. STATUS OF ACTIVITY IMPLEMENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1.4.....	46
TABLE 15. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1.4.....	47
TABLE 16. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1.7 BY RECs.....	53
TABLE 17. SCHEDULES AND PRODUCTS	89

LIST OF GRAPHICS

GRAPHIC 1. STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURE SURVEY	25
GRAPHIC 2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVE 1.3.3	43
GRAPHIC 3. STATUS OF ACTIVITY IMPLEMENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1.4	46
GRAPHIC 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE 2.1.6	50
GRAPHIC 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2.1.7	52
GRAPHIC 6. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY 2.1.7.3.....	53
GRAPHIC 7. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 3.1.6 ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRIES (№).....	60
GRAPHIC 8. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 3.1.7 ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRIES (№).....	61
GRAPHIC 9. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 3.3.1.	66
GRAPHIC 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 3.3.3.....	69
GRAPHIC 11. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4.1.1.....	78
GRAPHIC 12. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4.1.2.....	80
GRAPHIC 13. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4.1.3.....	82
GRAPHIC 14. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4.2.1.....	85
GRAPHIC 15. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4.2.2.....	86

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to review the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHASA2) throughout the year 2022.

SHASA2, building upon the success of SHASA1, stands as a pivotal instrument aimed at shaping a unified statistical framework for the African continent. It was ratified in 2017, covering the years 2017-2026. This comprehensive strategy is complemented by both an action plan and a financing strategy tailored to its timeline.

SHASA2 retains the vision, themes, and strategic goals outlined in its predecessor, SHASA1. The strategic matrix of SHASA2 incorporates recommendations derived from the evaluation of SHASA1, ensuring continuity and adaptability to evolving circumstances.

Challenges in African Statistics: Africa faces various statistical challenges affecting data collection, accuracy, and analysis. These challenges, which vary across countries and regions, include data availability and quality, data infrastructure, capacity and expertise, inadequate funding, political interference, conflicts and instability, language and cultural diversity, rural and remote areas, data harmonization, outdated methods, lack of awareness, data privacy and ethics, and migration and mobility.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving investment in data infrastructure, capacity-building, funding, technology adoption, collaboration, and ensuring the independence and integrity of statistical agencies.

Executing planned activities presents challenges for some African nations due to resource constraints, including financial limitations and a scarcity of human resources. Additionally, a clear political will in African countries remains a challenge, affecting the establishment of clearly defined national strategies for statistics.

Implementation and Progress: This report covers activities up to the year 2022, based on questionnaires completed by African Statistical Systems (ASS) at the country level and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), totaling responses from 49 ASS and 6 RECs. The analysis categorizes activities as "complete," "in progress," or "pending."

Overall, significant progress has been made, indicating a growing statistical culture in African countries. Reliable and disseminable statistical data demand political engagement, prioritization, planning, and financial and human resources, posing a challenge. Cultural diversity across African nations must also be considered in the statistical harmonization process.

Challenges in 2022:

The year 2022 presented significant challenges, including the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts in Europe, which impacted resource prioritization, diverting focus from statistical production.

Strategic Themes and Objectives:

Of all the planned indicators for Strategic Theme 1 - "Produce Quality Statistics for Africa" and its Strategic Objectives (S.O) 1.1: "Expand the Statistical Information Base" and Strategic Objective 1.2: "Transform Existing Statistics for Comparability," we highlight positive achievements in implementing S.O. 1.1. However, some work needs to be done to improve the indicators for the remaining two S.Os

in order to achieve harmonization and comparability of statistical data, which facilitate the analysis, planning, and evaluation of policies and programs at national and international levels.

In Strategic Theme 2, which centers around the coordination of high-quality statistics production for Africa, the absence of responses to particular initiatives underscores the requirement for enhanced coordination mechanisms. It's important to highlight that only 20 African countries have designated an SHASA coordinator. This institutional commitment, reinforced by a coordinator at the national level, can serve as a crucial factor in various aspects, such as policy and political advocacy, illuminating local intricacies, mobilizing resources, and coordinating among countries.

In Strategic Theme 3, which is focused on the development of sustainable institutional capacities, the emphasis is on the significance of capacity building and a reevaluation of strategies to guarantee the durability and efficiency of statistical systems. African countries must demonstrate their commitment, for instance, by implementing the African Charter on Statistics (ACS). It's noteworthy that only 35 countries have signed it so far. Additionally, they should move forward in integrating the ACS with the legal instruments of individual countries and regional economic communities (such as laws, National Statistical Development Strategies (NSDS), Regional Statistical Development Strategies (RSDS), etc.).

In Strategic Theme 4: Promoting a culture of quality policy and decision-making promoting with Strategic Objective, Strategic objective 4.1: Make evidence-based decisions through increased use of statistics and Strategic Objective 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical it becomes evident that certain indicators necessitate a comprehensive monitoring system for reporting. It is crucial to strike a balance between the cost associated with monitoring and the relevance of establishing specific indicators. This balance should take into account the resources available to National Statistical Institutions.

The next three years offer an opportunity for capacity development within the African Statistical System, including awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, data quality enhancements, and advocacy for evidence-based policymaking.

A midterm assessment of SHASA2 is imperative, encompassing impact assessment and analysis of other aspects.

Achievements and Partnerships:

Notable achievements include the establishment of key institutions and the significant role played by international partners such as the World Bank and United Nations agencies.

Conclusion:

SHASA2 represents a commitment to harmonizing statistics across Africa. While progress has been made, challenges persist. Continued implementation of the strategy, in collaboration with partners, remains vital to achieving its objectives and promoting data-driven development across the continent.

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

Africa has committed itself to several major agendas to ensure political and socioeconomic transformation and the integration of the continent. The three principal ones being “Agenda 2063” of the African Union (AU), the “Ten-Year Strategy 2013–2022” of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and “Agenda 2030” of the United Nations with its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals.

The elaboration of these three development agendas followed a participatory consultative process at all levels, taking into account the aspirations of different components of African society. These agendas converge at several points, particularly in their objectives to foster inclusive and sustainable development, reduce poverty, and improve the lives of African populations across the continent. Numerous efforts are being made to integrate the priorities of these agendas within national and regional development plans in order to guarantee their coherent and coordinated implementation. Statistics play a major role in this integration and transformative program. All initiatives call for reliable, objective, coherent, harmonized, and comparable statistic data in time and space. To achieve the aimed transformation for Africa, all the different players as the Policy decision makers, National Institutions, Regional and international Organizations, Civil Society, Private Enterprises needs to support initiatives in statistic information produced in an effective manner and at regular intervals. Statistics promote not only necessary for policy and decision making, accountability and transparency for good governance and use of data for policies and decision-making but also, when available those data are important for other actors and users of statistics as research institution, civil society, media and general public.

SHaSA 2- Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa – SHaSA 2’s overarching objective is to enable the African Statistical System to generate quality and harmonized statistics that are available in a timely manner and accessible to users in order to assist in the designing, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learn of integration policies for inclusive development. Despite some progress, the African Statistical System (ASS) has, in past 40 years, experiencing institutional and organizational shortcomings as Institutional weaknesses; Low level of appreciation of the value and importance of statistics by the society at large; Insufficient political support for statistics; Inadequate financing for statistics, Inadequate coordination, collaboration, networking and information sharing; and Insufficient use of data for policies and decision-making.

In line with the request of the Committee of Directors-General of National Institutes of Statistics (CoDGs) held in November 2015 in Libreville Gabon, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) led successfully the process of the review of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2), for the period 2017-2026, its Action Plan, its Financing Plan and its Resource Mobilization Strategy. SHaSA 2 considers Agenda 2063 of the African Union, AfDB 10-Year Strategy 2013-2022 and its Five High Priorities (High 5s), Agenda 2030 of the United Nations, and emerging issues such as Data Revolution and Big Data. The process was inclusive and participatory which had involved all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Civil Society Organizations.

During the 30th African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa from 28-29 January 2018, the Executive Council had adopted SHaSA 2 with its Action Plan, Financing Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy as the Continental Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Africa for the next 10 years and called upon Member States to implement it.

Implementation of SHaSA 2 involves statistical actors, policy-makers, the private sector, and all stakeholders interested in statistics in Africa. It is carried out through the activities of continental organizations and through regional and national statistical systems. This approach involves the establishment of a coherent pyramid scheme that enables the African Statistical System (AfSS) to meet the need for reliable statistics harmonized at national, regional, continental, and international levels.

For effective implementation of SHaSA 2, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting was considered as a priority. This last activity is one of the key elements of governance, which materializes transparency through sharing of information on the execution of the strategy by all AfSS' stakeholders and partners.

The SHaSA 2 has defined eight specific objectives and two transversal ones (Coordination in one hand, and monitoring and evaluation in the other hand). These eight specific objectives are ranged under four strategic themes as described below:

Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa - with three objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1.1: Expand the statistical information base: expand the statistical base
- Strategic Objective 1.2: Transform existing statistics for comparability
- Strategic Objective 1.3: Harmonize the standards and methods of statistical production

Strategic Theme 2: Coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa – which contains initiatives for the development of an improved coordination of the African Statistical System

- Strategic objective 2.1: Establish effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms
- Strategic objective 2.2: Define statistical priorities for the implementation of integration and development agendas

Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System

- Strategic objective 3.1: Reform and enhance National Statistical Systems
- Strategic objective 3.2: Reform and enhance regional and continental statistical systems (partially reported in the country questionnaire).

- Strategic Objective 3.3: Develop sustainable statistical capacities
- Strategic Objective 3.4: Establish an effective technological environment (partially reported in the country questionnaire).

Strategic Theme 4: Promote a culture of quality policy - and decision making

- Strategic objective 4.1: Drive evidence-based decisions through the increased use of statistic
- Strategic Objective 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical information

STATAFRIC is a reputable organization that is responsible for the annual Consolidated Activity Report of all African Union members (table 1) countries and regions (table 2) on statistical harmonization. As the name implies, the organization's primary objective is to promote the use of statistical methods and tools to harmonize data across Africa. STATAFRIC collects and analyzes data from various sources, including member countries' national statistical offices and regional organizations, to develop a comprehensive report that reflects the activities and progress made in statistical harmonization. The report covers a wide range of topics, including the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistical data, as well as the development and implementation of statistical frameworks and standards. Through its annual Consolidated Activity Report, STATAFRIC plays a critical role in ensuring that Africa's statistical landscape is harmonized, transparent, and reliable, which is essential for effective planning and decision-making at all levels.

The annual Consolidated Activity Report which must be (i) reviewed by the SHaSA 2 Executive Committee (EC) and the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) and validated by the CoDG which will submit it to the Conference of Ministers with statistical draft resolutions. The Conference of Ministers after consideration and adoption of the resolutions will transmit them to the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government.

In December 2020, with the support of the EU funded PAS-I Project, the SHaSA 2 Implementation Report 2020 was prepared and presented to the CoDG meeting. In line with the SHaSA 2 reporting mechanism, this document is the Consolidated Annual Draft Report (CAR) for 2022 coordinated by STATAFRIC.

This Report is composed of six chapters. Following the executive summary in Chapter I Introduction, begins by describing the background of SHaSA2. Next, in Chapter II, there is a listing of countries by cluster and the organizations that responded to the country's questionnaire. The third chapter is dedicated to describing the objectives of the assignment, followed by an explanation of the methodology outlining the approach for the preparation of the CRA 2022 Report. Chapter V is the most important in this report as it is where the results of the assessment of SHaSA2 objectives are described by theme, and recommendations are provided at the end of each theme. The final chapter of the report presents the concluding remarks. Annexes include the log frame constructed for SHaSa2 by theme.

II. AFRICAN UNION COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

African Union member countries are displayed on Table 1, organized into four clusters with an indication of whether they responded to the annual country questionnaire conducted by the organization. Cluster 1 includes 15 countries, with all of them having responded to the country questionnaire except for Tanzania. Cluster 2 consists of 9 countries, with Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar being the only ones not to have responded.

Table 1. African Union countries members by clusters (1 and 2)

Nº	Countries	Cluster	Questionnaires
1	Algeria	Cluster 1	Yes
2	Angola		Yes
3	Chad		Yes
4	Congo, Dem.Rep.		Yes
5	Egypt		Yes
6	Ethiopia		Yes
7	Kenya		Yes
8	Mali		Yes
9	Morocco		Yes
10	Mozambique		Yes
11	Niger		Yes
12	Nigeria		Yes
13	South Africa		Yes
14	Sudan		Yes
15	Tanzania		No
1	Burkina Faso	Cluster 2	Yes
2	Cameroon		Yes
3	Côte d'Ivoire		NO
4	Ghana		Yes
5	Libya		Yes
6	Madagascar		No
7	South Sudan		Yes
8	Uganda		Yes
9	Zambia		Yes
10	Zimbabwe		Yes

Cluster 3 comprises 10 countries, with all of them having responded to the country questionnaire. Finally, Cluster 4 includes 20 countries, with Eritrea and Comoros being the only ones that did not respond to the country questionnaire. The annual country questionnaire is crucial to the African Union's efforts towards statistical harmonization, and the responses of member countries are instrumental in shaping the organization's policies and activities.

Table 2. African Union countries members by clusters (3 and 4)

Nº	Countries	Cluster	Questionnaires
1	Botswana	Cluster 3	Yes
2	Central African Republic		Yes
3	Congo		Yes
4	Guinea		Yes
5	Malawi		Yes
6	Mauritania		Yes
7	Namibia		Yes
8	Senegal		Yes
9	Somalia		Yes
10	Tunisia		Yes
1	Benin	Cluster 4	Yes
2	Burundi		Yes
3	Cabo Verde		Yes
4	Comoros		No
5	Djibouti		Yes
6	Equatorial Guinea		Yes
7	Eritrea		No
8	Gabon		Yes
9	Gambia		Yes
10	Guinea-Bissau		Yes
11	Lesotho		Yes
12	Liberia		Yes
13	Mauritius		Yes
14	Rwanda		Yes
15	Sao Tome and Principe		Yes
16	Seychelles		Yes
17	Sierra Leone		Yes
18	Eswatini		Yes
19	Togo		Yes

The African Union is composed of various regional organizations, which work together to promote economic and political development across the continent. One of the key activities of these regional organizations is the collection and harmonization of statistical data on a range of economic and social indicators. All of these six regions, as well as 49 countries have responded to the annual country questionnaire on statistical harmonization conducted by STATAFRIC, the organization responsible for consolidating this data into an annual report.

The table below shows the regions (RECs) along with their status with regards to the annual questionnaire.

Table 3. Regional, Pan-African organizations involved in SHaSA implementation

Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Name	Sigla	Questionnaire
Economic Community of Central African States	ECCAS	Yes
Community of Sahel-Saharan States	CEN-SAD	Yes
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	COMESA	oo
East African Community	EAC	oo
Economic Community of West African States	ECOWAS	oo
Inter-Governmental Authority for Development	IGAD	Yes
Southern African Development Community	SADC	oo
Arab Maghreb Union	UMA	Yes

Other Organizations

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	UNECA	Yes
African Development Bank	AfDB	Yes

In essence, active participation from all regions in the annual country questionnaire is crucial to guarantee a comprehensive and precise dataset encompassing economic and social indicators throughout the continent. This dataset can then be leveraged to shape policy decisions and advance sustainable development across Africa.

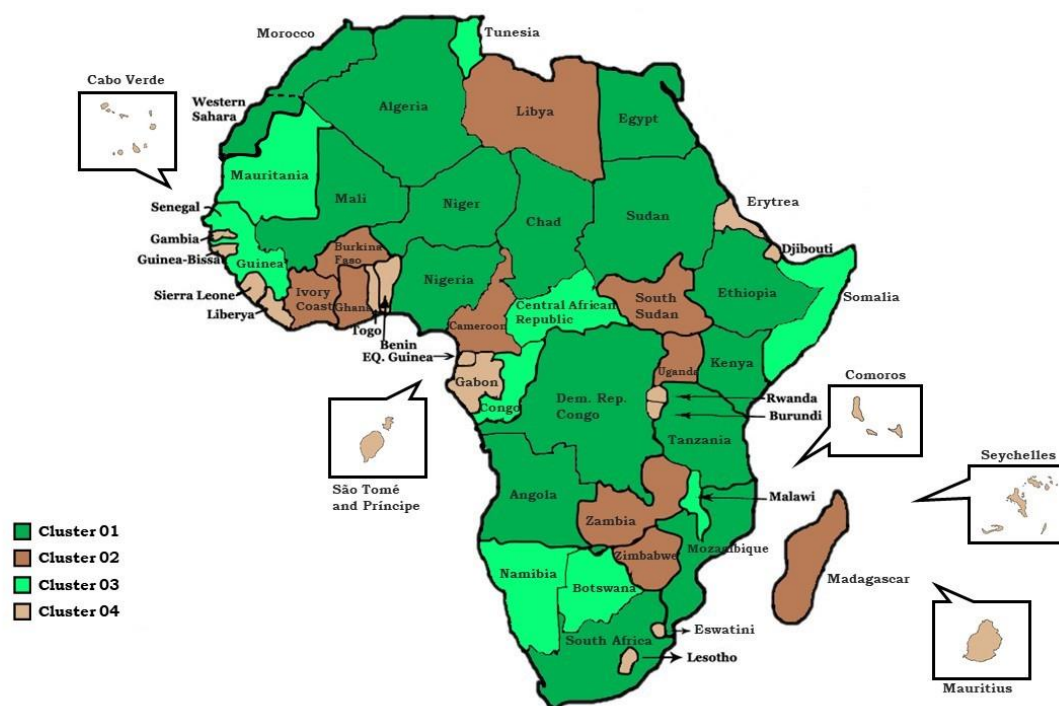


Figure 1. African Union countries members by clusters

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

The objective of this report is to assist the Executive committee of the SHaSA 2 in fulfilling its mandate, which consists, but not limited to the following:

- monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SHaSA2 at national, regional and continental levels;
- Prepare a consolidated activities report on progress made in the implementation of SHaSA 2 on the continent inclusive of recommendations to address challenges and obstacles and the way forward on how best to ensure successful implementation of SHaSA 2;
- Report to the CoDG on progress in the implementation of SHaSA 2;
- Provide advice to the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) (CoDG) on statistical matters related to the implementation of SHaSA 2 on the continent.

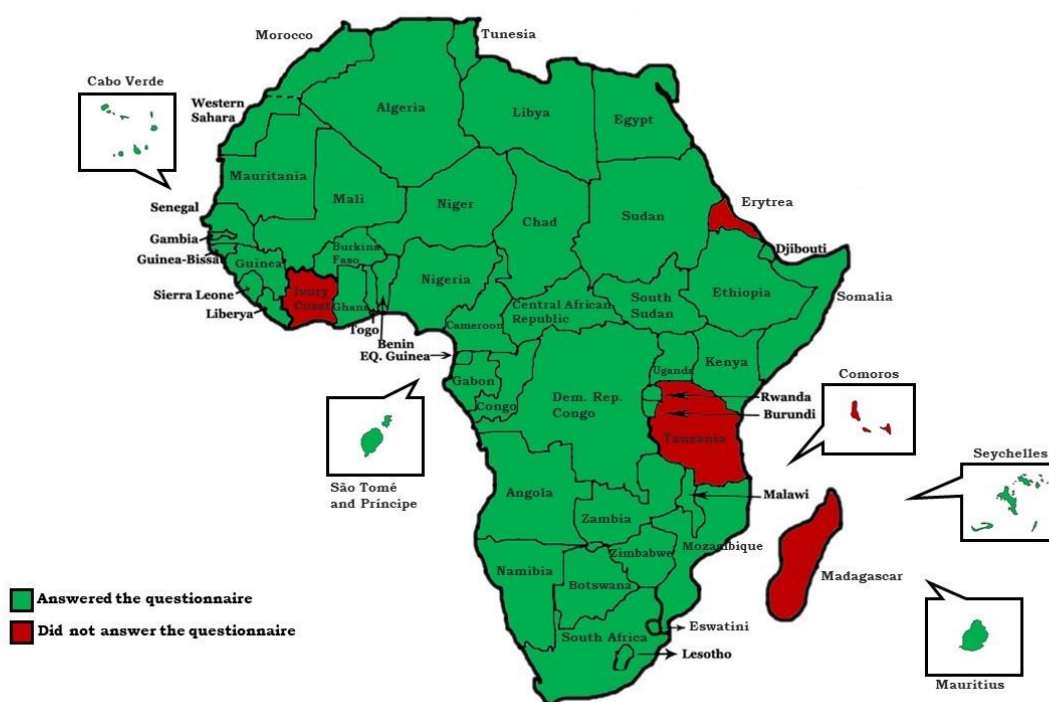


Figure 2. African Union countries members that respond the questionnaire

IV. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for the preparation of this report, is a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques and approaches, which are integrated to achieve the objectives of measuring the contribution of the project to the changes verified in the beneficiaries.

Thus, the Methodology and Work Plan used comply with three phases: the development of the inception report and desk review, followed by data compilation and preparation of the first draft of the CAR Report, and finally, supporting STATAFRIC in preparing the final CAR 2022 Report (Figure 3)."



Figure 3. Approach methodology

First Phase: Inception Report

The focus of the first phase of the assignment was the elaboration of the inception report, containing a description of the methodological approach.

Second Phase: Preparation of First Draft CAR Report

To prepare the CAR report a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods was adopted to generate information that, when triangulated, will allow a complete and comprehensive analysis and consistent results.

Quantitative method

The quantitative method was used to compile data from questionnaires answered by AU member countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the Pan-African organizations (PAOs).

constitute the main data source. The data from the questionnaires was treated statistically by descriptive methods and indicators was calculated aggregated and disaggregated, by country, by RECs, and PAOs, analyzed through descriptive and comparative analyses.

Qualitative method

Secondary qualitative information from the questionnaire has supplemented with information provided in the AU Member States and RECs' annual reports and collected on international organizations website.

Document and qualitative data analysis

A detailed analysis of all documents and reports provided by the Client was carried out. All relevant strategic documents were analyzed, including National Strategic Plans and documents from international organizations that fit into the assignment to which it contributes.

Data analysis was carried out aware of the potential biases that may occur and that represent a threat to the reliability of the results. In order to limit the potential risks of bias, careful management of data collection and rigorous triangulation was carried out, using the comparative method of information, to validate them. Basically, three types of triangulations will be carried out so that consistent conclusions can be drawn in the report.

- Triangulation of methods: different methods were used to collect complementary information on the same subject, as described above;
- Triangulation of information sources: different information sources were involved to provide data regardless of the methods used;
- Triangulation of information and data: data collected in the questionnaire, documents and websites was triangulated with each other.

V. ASSESSMENT TO PROGRESS OF THE SHaSA OBJECTIVES

In the pursuit of enhancing statistical capabilities across the African continent, the SHaSA program has emerged as a beacon of transformative change. As we delve into this chapter, it is crucial to recall the four strategic themes that underpin the program's mission. Each of these themes serves as a pillar, supporting the overarching goal of strengthening statistical systems across Africa.

Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa: within this theme, three pivotal objectives lay the foundation for robust statistical frameworks and data systems. These objectives are not mere aspirations but rather guiding stars, illuminating the path towards a data-rich future.

Strategic Theme 2: Coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa: in the collaborative spirit that defines the SHaSA program, coordination emerges as a cornerstone. This theme seeks to unite efforts, ensuring that the statistical outputs are not only accurate but also harmonized across the African landscape.

Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System: sustainability is the bedrock upon which long-lasting progress is built. Strengthening the African Statistical System means nurturing institutions that can endure, adapt, and thrive in an ever-evolving data ecosystem.

Strategic Theme 4: Promote a culture of quality policy: Information without action is but potential unrealized. Herein lies the essence of this theme: to foster a culture where data fuels informed policy and decision-making processes, ultimately driving progress and prosperity.

As we venture further into this chapter, our focus turns towards the tangible outcomes of these strategic themes. We will analyze the data derived from the questionnaire responses provided by countries and regional entities. Through this analysis, we aim to gauge the extent of progress and the performance of SHaSA implementation. These insights will not only serve as a testament to the program's efficacy but also illuminate the path forward, ensuring that the SHaSA program remains a catalyst for change across the African statistical landscape.

STRATEGIC THEME 1: PRODUCE QUALITY STATISTICS FOR AFRICA

Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa

- *Strategic Objective 1.1: Expand the statistical information base.*
- *Strategic Objective 1.2: Transform existing statistics for comparability.*
- *Strategic Objective 1.3: Harmonize the standards and methods of statistical production.*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.1. Expand the Statistical Information base

This Strategic objective consists on the organization of regular censuses (population and housing, agriculture, and economics), surveys (household, agriculture, and economics that take into account the informal part), data collection on Governance, peace and security, socio-economic data, and finally civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The table below list the Strategic Initiatives previewed to achieve the Strategic Objective 1.1

Table 4. Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Objective 1.1: Expand the statistical information base									
Organization of Population and Housing censuses	Organization of household surveys	Organization of agricultural censuses	Organization of annual agricultural surveys	organization of economic censuses	Organization of economic Surveys	Surveys on informal sector	Regular data collection on governance, peace and security (surveys and administrative sources)	Development and organization of the collection of socio-economic information from administrative sources	Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems

1.1.1 Organization of Population and Housing Census

Census rounds are typically conducted at regular intervals, often spanning 5 or 10 years. On June 10, 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted Resolution 2015/10, outlining the ambitious 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, which extends from 2015 to 2024.

The anticipated outcome of this activity encompasses several key objectives: the comprehensive updating of census maps, the enhancement of statistical data pertaining to population (including composition, distribution, size, growth, migration, etc.), employment, education, social and economic sectors, health, housing and living conditions, poverty, gender dynamics, and population projections, among others.

The target for this initiative was set at 30 countries by the year 2020, with an even more ambitious goal of involving 55 countries by 2024 in organizing Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) and subsequently publishing their results.

Notably, a significant achievement was recorded in Africa, where a total of 20 countries successfully carried out their Population Censuses between 2015 and 2022.

Table 4 provides a comprehensive overview of the participation of various countries in the Population and Housing Census (PHC) round in the year 2020. This data is essential for understanding the timing and frequency of population and housing censuses data collection efforts across different nations. It highlights both achievements in maintaining up-to-date data and potential challenges, emphasizing

the importance of accurate demographic information for informed decision-making and development planning.

Table 5. Countries participation in PHC round in 2020

Nº	Country	Last Census Year
1	Algeria	2022
2	Egypt	2017
3	Kenya	2019
4	Mozambique	2017
5	South Africa	2022
6	Burkina Faso	2019
7	Côte d'Ivoire	2021
8	Ghana	2021
9	Madagascar	2018
10	Zambia	2022
11	Zimbabwe	2022
12	Botswana	2022
13	Malawi	2018
14	Cabo Verde	2021
15	Comoros	2017
16	Equatorial Guinea	2015
17	Lesotho	2016
18	Rwanda	2022
19	Sierra Leone	2021
20	Eswatini	2017

Source: Country Questionnaires and FNUAP web page

The table reveals a wide range of last census years among the listed countries, spanning from as early as 2015 (Equatorial Guinea), 2019 (Kenya) to as recent as Algeria, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana undertook their censuses in 2022. This indicates a concerted effort to ensure up-to-date demographic and housing data for policy and planning purposes.

The data also showcases regional patterns. For example, a group of West African countries, including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana, had their last censuses in 2019 or 2021, indicating a regional commitment to timely data collection.

The table underscores the variability in the frequency of population censuses across countries. While some nations conduct censuses every few years to maintain up-to-date information, others have longer intervals between their census rounds.

Table 6, below, provides a comprehensive overview of the countries that have conducted population censuses since the establishment of SHaSA 2 in 2017. It highlights both achievements in maintaining

up-to-date data and potential challenges, emphasizing the importance of accurate demographic information for informed decision-making and development planning in Africa.

Table 6. Countries that organized PC since SHaSA 2

Nº	Country	Last Census Year
1	Algeria	2022
2	Egypt	2017
3	Kenya	2019
4	Mozambique	2017
5	South Africa	2022
6	Burkina Faso	2019
7	Côte d'Ivoire	2021
8	Ghana	2021
9	Madagascar	2018
10	Zambia	2022
11	Zimbabwe	2022
12	Botswana	2022
13	Malawi	2018
14	Cabo Verde	2021
15	Comoros	2017
16	Rwanda	2022
17	Sierra Leone	2021
18	Eswatini	2017

Source: AU Country Questionnaires/FAO website

18 African countries that have conducted population censuses since the establishment of SHaSA 2 in 2017, which indicates a commitment to regularly updating demographic and housing data for policy and planning purposes. Among the listed countries, the last census years vary widely, spanning from as early as 2017 (Egypt, Comoros, Eswatini) to as recent as 2022 (Algeria, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Rwanda).

Several countries conducted their most recent censuses shortly before or during the SHaSA 2 period, emphasizing the importance of up-to-date demographic information. For example, Egypt, Mozambique, and Comoros conducted censuses in 2017, while Kenya and Burkina Faso completed theirs in 2019. The data reveals regional patterns, with clusters of countries from different regions conducting censuses around the same time. For instance, West African nations like Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Sierra Leone conducted censuses in 2019-2021.

In terms of results, Tables 5 and 6 demonstrate a noteworthy achievement rate of 67% for the activity spanning from 2015 to 2024. It is worth highlighting that the period between 2023 and 2026 holds paramount significance. These final three years of Sasha2 implementation are strategically designed to offer guidance and support to other nations in their pursuit of attaining the milestones outlined in

the Strategic Matrix of the SASHA2 Strategic Plan, accessible via this link: [Insert Link]. This period marks a crucial phase in the project's trajectory.

It is important to emphasize that: i. the source of the data, mentioned as "Country Questionnaires and FNUAP web page," raises questions about data reliability. Ensuring the accuracy and comparability of data across countries is crucial for making meaningful cross-country analyses; potential data gaps, i. e., countries with older census data may face challenges in accurately assessing population dynamics, urbanization trends, and housing conditions. These gaps could hinder effective policy development and resource allocation.

1.1.2. Organization of Household Survey

The survey aims to gather data on various aspects of households, including demographics, socio-economic conditions, living standards, health, education, employment, and other relevant indicators.

Different surveys were conducted on topics/theme sectors as new technologies, employment, migration, nutrition or specific health issues as Malaria, multi-indicators.

Based on the data collected from questionnaires, a total of 41 countries have successfully completed all three stages of activities for this indicator. This achievement represents a remarkable 103% of the target for the year 2020. The upcoming three years of SHaSA implementation will play a pivotal role in attaining the set goal of having 54 countries successfully organize and publish the outcomes of their Household Population and Housing Censuses (HPC).

1.1.3 Regular Organization of Agricultural Censuses

The primary objective of conducting an agricultural census is to gather essential data concerning the agricultural sector's structure. This encompasses vital aspects such as land holdings size, land utilization, land ownership, and other factors that not change quickly over time. It is imperative to view the agricultural census as part of an integrated and comprehensive agricultural statistics system.

The anticipated outcomes of this endeavor encompass the availability of agricultural and rural statistics, the accessibility of food security statistics, and the establishment of a robust framework for monitoring the agricultural sector's status. These outcomes are critical for informed decision-making and sustainable development.

To gauge the progress and participation in this global initiative, the following indicator was established: the number of countries actively participating in the World Program for the Census of Agriculture 2020 during the period of 2016 to 2025, which aims to reach 35 participating countries.

Based on data obtained from questionnaires and the FAO website, it is worth noting that a total of 13 countries or 37% have successfully conducted and published the results of their Agricultural Census (AC) as part of the global round for 2020, conducted within the time frame of 2016 to 2025.

Table 7. Countries that conducted Agricultural Census: Round 2020

Nº	Country	Last Agricultural Census
1	Algeria	2022
2	Angola	2019/2020
3	Benin	2021
4	Botswana	2018
5	Burkina Faso	2019
6	Ghana	2020
7	Gabon	2019/2020
8	Guinea	CM 2020 & SMs 2022
9	Kenya	AM in PHC 2019
10	Lesotho	2019/2020
11	Mozambique	2017
12	South Africa	2017/2022
13	Tanzania	2019/2020

Source: AU Country Questionnaires/FAO website

Table 7 provides valuable information about the status of Agricultural Census (AC) rounds conducted by various countries as part of the 2020 global initiative. This table sheds light on the frequency of ACs and their respective years, offering insights into the commitment and progress made by these nations in collecting essential agricultural data.

Countries can be divided into two groups: those that conducted their most recent AC in 2020 or later and those that conducted it before 2020.

Group 1: Countries with Agricultural Census in 2020 or later:

1. Algeria (Last AC: 2022)
2. Ghana (Last AC: 2020)
3. Guinea (Last AC: CM 2020 & SMs 2022)
4. South Africa (Last AC: 2017/2022)
5. Tanzania (Last AC: 2019/2020)

This group can be characterized as countries that are committed to collecting comprehensive data to keep their agricultural statistics current and to inform policy and planning.

Group 2: Countries with Agricultural Census before 2020:

1. Angola (Last AC: 2019/2020)

2. Benin (Last AC: 2021)
3. Botswana (Last AC: 2018)
4. Burkina Faso (Last AC: 2019)
5. Gabon (Last AC: 2019/2020)
6. Kenya (Last AC: AM in PHC 2019)
7. Lesotho (Last AC: 2019/2020)
8. Mozambique (Last AC: 2017)

These countries have data that is slightly older compared to Group 1, which may be less reflective of the current agricultural situation. Some of these countries could benefit from conducting ACs more frequently to ensure that their agricultural data remains up to date.

In addition to these two groups, it's worth noting that Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, and South Africa have adopted a phased data collection approach, conducted supplementary modules or incorporated the agricultural module into other censuses. This approach allows for more detailed and timely data collection.

Overall, the analysis of these countries' AC rounds indicates varying levels of commitment to collecting agricultural data and keeping it up to date. Countries in Group 1 stand out for their recent data collection efforts, while those in Group 2 may need to consider more frequent updates to ensure the relevance of their agricultural statistics for decision-making.

Countries has planned to conduct agricultural Census according to the table 8, below. Based on the data provided in the table data, we can divide the countries into three groups: those with planned ACs in 2021-2022, those with planned ACs in 2023-2024, and those with planned ACs in 2025.

Table 8. Countries that plan to conduct and publish the Agricultural Census round 2020

Nº	Country	Planned Year for AC
1	Cabo Verde	2025
2	Cameroon	2023/2025
3	Chad	2023/2024
4	Comoros	2023/2024
5	Congo	SMs 2021
6	Cote d'Ivoire	2021
7	D.R of the Congo	2022-2024
8	Equatorial Guinea	2025
9	Eritrea	2022
10	Eswatini	2022/2023
11	Gabon	SMs 2022
12	Gambia	2024/2025
13	Guinea	SMs2022
13	Guinee Bissau	2024
13	Kenya	2024/2025
13	Madagascar	2022/2023

13	Malawi	2021
13	Morocco	2016
13	Namibia	2024/2025
13	Niger	2023/24(CM in PHC)
13	Nigeria	2022/2023
13	São Tomé e Príncipe	2022
13	Senegal	CM in PHC 2023
13	Seychelles	2023/2024
13	Togo	2022-2025
13	Uganda	2024/2025

Source: FAO Website.

CM= Core Module; Sms =Supplementary Module.

Group 1: Countries with planned Agricultural Census in 2021- 2022:

1. Congo (SMs 2021)
2. Cote d'Ivoire (2021)
3. Eritrea (2022)
4. Madagascar (2022/2023)
5. Malawi (2021)
6. Morocco (2016)
7. Sao Tome e Principe (2022)
8. Senegal (CM in PHC 2023)

This group consists of countries that have either already conducted their ACs or have them planned for 2021-2022. Notably, Morocco conducted its AC in 2016, indicating that it may have more recent data compared to others in this group. The inclusion of a Core Module (CM) in Senegal's Population and Housing Census (PHC) in 2023 suggests an integrated data collection approach.

Group 2: Countries with planned Agricultural Census in 2023- 2024:

1. Cameroon (2023/2025)
2. Chad (2023/2024)
3. Comoros (2023/2024)
4. D.R of the Congo (2022-2024)
5. Seychelles (2023/2024)
6. Togo (2022-2025)

Some of the countries of this group like the D.R of the Congo, have a multi-year timeframe for their Agricultural Census, indicating a thorough data collection process. Others, like Cameroon, may have a longer time span for implementation, possibly for comprehensive data gathering.

Group 3: Countries with planned Agricultural Census in 2025:

1. Cabo Verde (2025)
2. Equatorial Guinea (2025)
3. Gambia (2024/2025)
4. Guinea Bissau (2024)
5. Kenya (2024/2025)
6. Namibia (2024/2025)
7. Niger (2023/24 - CM in PHC)
8. Nigeria (2022/2023)
9. Uganda (2024/2025)

This group comprises countries with the most forward-looking group in terms of data collection. Kenya and Nigeria have planned ACs spanning 2022-2025 and 2022/2023, respectively, possibly indicating a phased data collection approach. The inclusion of a Core Module (CM) in Niger's Population and Housing Census (PHC) in 2023/24 suggests an integrated data collection strategy.

To attain the intended goal of this strategic initiative, it is crucial to make concerted efforts to encourage a greater number of African countries to carry out Agricultural censuses. The upcoming years hold significant importance for implementing national, regional, and international strategies aimed at assisting countries in reaching this objective.

As Agriculture sector is a relevant key for a sustainable development it's important to African countries and partners to have data on agriculture updated for relevant planning and decision.

Foster collaboration and partnership between government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, and local communities. Involving a diverse range of stakeholders will lead to comprehensive data collection and better insights into agricultural practices.

Engage in targeted advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among political leaders about the importance of an accurate and up-to-date census. Highlight the benefits of census data for evidence-based policymaking, resource allocation, and development planning.

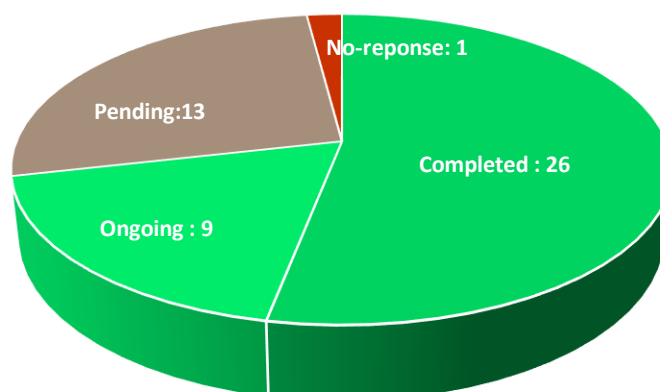
1.1.3.b. Regular organization of annual agricultural survey

Annual Agriculture Surveys is an important tool to enable countries in access to agricultural statistics, generating a regular flow of relevant and up to date agricultural statistics in response to national needs and priorities. The availability and use of these data provide a strong base for designing, monitoring and evaluating any agricultural and rural policy or investment, support decision makers better shaping agriculture policies and programs and allows the identification of challenges in production, productivity and resilience, and assists in monitoring progress towards the SDGs and other goals.

The target of this Strategic Initiative was to have 45 countries conduct annual agricultural surveys and publish the resulting data. Based on the responses gathered from questionnaires, a total of 26 countries, including Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco,

Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia, have reported successful completion of all the tasks outlined in this Strategic Initiative. This achievement corresponds to 58% of the target set in the Strategic Matrix for Harmonized Quality Statistics/Sasha 2.

The graph 1 below provides a visual representation of the current implementation status of these countries according to their respective progress levels.



Graphic 1. Stage of Implementation of Agriculture Survey

The graph above provides valuable insights into the progress of data collection efforts regarding the Agricultural Census across the continent. In addition to the 26 countries above that have been successfully completed, nine ongoing Agricultural Censuses suggest that several African countries are actively engaged in data collection efforts. These countries are in the process of gathering comprehensive agricultural data. While ongoing censuses may not yet have published results, they signify a commitment to maintaining accurate and current information on the agricultural sector.

It is an encouraging sign. Completed censuses are crucial for policymakers, researchers, and agricultural planners as they provide up-to-date information on the agricultural sector, enabling evidence-based decision-making.

The presence of 13 pending Agricultural Censuses highlights that there are still numerous countries in Africa yet to conduct this vital data collection exercise. These pending censuses represent a potential area for improvement, as up-to-date agricultural statistics are essential for informed policy formulation and effective resource allocation. The single instance of "no-response" may indicate a lack of data or information about the status of the Agricultural Census in one particular country.

The data reveals a mixed landscape in Africa regarding the status of Agricultural Censuses. While a substantial number of countries have successfully completed or are actively conducting censuses, there are still several with pending or unreported efforts. Ensuring that all African nations have up-

to-date agricultural data is vital for promoting sustainable agricultural practices, food security, and informed policy decisions across the continent.

African nations have the opportunity to benefit and leverage from initiatives such as 50x2030¹, which aims to strengthen country-level data by establishing robust and nationally representative survey programs. Notably, countries like Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda are currently engaged in different stages of this initiative, encompassing activity implementation, program planning, or the initiation of formal partnerships. Encouraging the sharing of knowledge and the exchange of experiences among National Statistical Systems (NSS) can further enhance the initiative's effectiveness.

1.1.4. a. Regular organization of economic censuses

These censuses aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the structure and characteristics of the economy, including information about businesses, establishments, industries, employment, production, and various other economic indicators. The primary objectives of economic censuses encompass the collection of data on economic units, industry classification, employment and workforce, production and output, geographic distribution of economic activity, and business characteristics and structure.

The expected outcome for this initiative includes the availability of industrial statistics (such as production, prices, value added, and the number of enterprises by economic division), economic statistics (including national accounts on a quarterly and annual basis), Household Consumer Price statistics, statistics on distribution (domestic trade), and border trade. Additionally, this initiative aims to provide insights into investor perceptions and statistical information related to innovation, research and development, infrastructure, transport, communications, energy, natural resources, environment, climate change, tourism, and cultural property, among others.

The goal of this initiative is for 40 countries to conduct economic censuses and publish their results in 2020, with a subsequent target of 54 countries conducting economic censuses and publishing results by 2026.

According to the data gathered on the questionnaire, described on the table 9, below, 16 African countries have successfully completed the Economic Census, while an additional 17 countries are presently in the preparation stage for this undertaking. This reflects an execution rate of 40% for this indicator.

¹ 50x2030 Initiative will support 50 low- and lower-middle income countries from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the Middle East and North in Africa (MENA); East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) in gathering foundational agricultural and rural data from 2019 to 2030.

Table 9. Countries that have conducted Economic Census

Country	Stage
Argelia	Economic Census in 2011
Botswana	Provisional figures are revised post-enumeration for both social and economic statistics. Last Stats update was conducted in 2020/21 and the results were published
Cameroon	2016 completed. RGE3 will be carried out in 2023
Congo	Completed in 2020 the General Enterprise census
Gabon	General Enterprise Census is currently being analyzed
Ghana	Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES I) in 2016. Economic Census is far advanced to enable data collection to be done in the first quarter of 2023.
Kenya	Completed, 2017 Census of Establishments, 2019 Census of industrial Production
Malawi	Report produced, disseminated and posted on the NSO website
Mauritius	Completed in 2018. 5 years rhythm. Next on 2023
Mozambique	Post-Enumeration Completed
Nigeria	Post-Enumeration Completed
Rwanda	Completed Establishment Census. Three-year rhythm and the results are published on NISR's website.
Sierra Leone	Post-Enumeration
South Africa	Economic censuses per industry are conducted every three to five
Togo	General Enterprises Census completed in 2020
Uganda	Updates are being made for the register before release the 2019 Censes of Business and Establishments (COBE)

Source: Countries questionnaire

Recommendation:

- Demonstrating/showcasing success stories can be instrumental in gaining political support for the census.
- Cultivate collaboration and partnerships among government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, and local communities. Involving a diverse array of stakeholders will result in more comprehensive data collection and deeper insights into enterprise practices.

1.1.4. Regular organization of economic surveys

The objective of conducting an annual economic survey is to systematically gather comprehensive and current data pertaining to various facets of the economy within a specific region or country on an annual basis. These surveys are designed to offer a thorough insight into the economic landscape, encompassing vital economic indicators, trends, changes over time and longitudinal shifts.

As for the key performance indicator associated with this Strategic Initiative, the target is for 54 countries to execute economic surveys and release their findings in both 2020 and 2026. Presently, 37 countries have successfully conducted economic surveys, achieving 69% of the overall target. Furthermore, an additional 7 countries are actively engaged in implementing at least one of the three activities outlined in this strategic initiative (table 10).

Table 10. Progress of Economic Survey

Nº	Country	Stage
1	Algeria	Completed
2	Angola	Completed
3	Benin	Completed
4	Botswana	Completed
5	Burkina Faso	Completed
6	Burundi	Completed
7	Cabo Verde	Completed
8	Cameroon	Completed
9	Central African Republic	Completed
10	Congo	Completed
11	Djibouti	Completed
12	Egypt	Completed
13	Equatorial Guinea	Completed
14	Eswatini	Completed
15	Ethiopia	Completed
16	Gambia	Completed
17	Ghana	Completed
18	Guinea	Completed
19	Guinea-Bissau	Completed
20	Kenya	Completed
21	Lesotho	Completed
22	Malawi	Completed
23	Mali	Completed
24	Mauritania	Completed
25	Mauritius	Completed
26	Morocco	Completed
27	Mozambique	Completed
28	Niger	Completed
29	Rwanda	Completed
30	Sao Tome and Principe	Completed
31	Sierra Leone	Completed
32	Somalia	Completed
33	South Africa	Completed
34	Sudan	Completed
35	Togo	Completed
36	Tunisia	Completed
37	Uganda	Completed
1	Gabon	On-Going
2	Liberia	On-Going
3	Libya	On-Going
4	Nigeria	On-Going
5	Senegal	On-Going
6	Zambia	On-Going
7	Zimbabwe	On-Going

Source: country Questionnaires

Recommendations: Involve relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, industry associations, and local communities, in both the planning and execution phases of the annual economic survey. Leveraging their insights and collaboration can streamline processes, improve data accuracy and expedite the survey's successful implementation.

1.1.5. Surveys on informal sector

The 15th International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) resolution recognized that establishment surveys could serve as a valuable source for collecting data on informal sector units. The choice of using such surveys depends on several factors, including the specific measurement objectives, the intended purposes of the statistics, the national statistical system's calendar and structure, and the availability of sampling frames and resources (ILO, 1993a, paragraph 23). These surveys can be effectively conducted in conjunction with establishment censuses (ILO, 1993a, paragraph 24). Furthermore, the resolution emphasizes the preference for encompassing all relevant types of economic activities within a single informal sector enterprise survey (ILO, 1993a, paragraph 24(4)).

Conducting surveys of the informal sector in Africa is of paramount importance for several reasons. The informal sector, often characterized by small-scale and unregistered economic activities, plays a significant role in many African economies. Surveys on the informal sector are essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the economy, informing policy development, promoting formalization, improving data accuracy, facilitating economic planning, and supporting sustainable development.

Furthermore, by conducting these surveys, countries can effectively address the unique challenges and harness the potential of the informal sector for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The aim of those survey is for Understanding Economic Contribution; Informing Policy Development; Promoting Formalization; Enhancing Data Accuracy; Facilitating Economic Planning; Supporting Sustainable Development. More specifically surveys in this sector may provide important information on:

1. Economic significance - Size of the informal sector: The informal sector can account for a substantial portion of a country's economy in Africa. Measuring its size and contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is essential for gaining an accurate picture of the overall economic landscape.
2. Employment and livelihoods:
 - Job creation: the informal sector is a major source of employment, particularly for vulnerable and low-skilled workers. Surveying this sector helps policymakers understand employment patterns, including job creation and income generation.
 - Social welfare: insights into informal sector activities help in assessing the well-being and livelihoods of individuals and families who rely on such employment.
3. Informal business dynamics
 - Sectoral Breakdown: surveys can reveal which industries dominate the informal sector, shedding light on the types of businesses that thrive informally.

- growth and Resilience: assessing how informal businesses evolve and adapt to economic changes provides valuable information for economic planning.
- 4. Taxation and Regulation:
 - Tax Revenues: understanding the informal sector's economic activities assists governments in evaluating potential sources of tax revenue.
 - Regulatory framework: policymakers can use survey data to shape policies and regulations that foster the formalization of informal businesses.
- 5. Economic Vulnerability:
 - Income disparity: informal sector surveys can identify income disparities and vulnerabilities, helping policymakers target interventions to support the most disadvantaged populations.
 - Financial inclusion: insights into informal financial practices can inform efforts to promote financial inclusion and access to banking services.
- 6. Policy formulation
 - Evidence-based Decision making: policymakers can use data from informal sector surveys to formulate evidence-based policies that address the specific needs and challenges faced by informal workers and businesses.
 - Poverty alleviation: effective poverty reduction strategies can be developed based on a better understanding of the informal sector's dynamics and the economic vulnerabilities it presents.

7 International Collaboration

- Global Comparisons: surveys provide international organizations with data for cross-country comparisons and benchmarking, facilitating a deeper understanding of global economic trends.
- Development Assistance: international organizations can tailor development programs and assistance based on the unique economic circumstances of African countries, as revealed by informal sector surveys.

Conducting surveys of the informal sector in Africa is essential for policymakers and international organizations. These surveys offer insights into the economic, social, and regulatory aspects of informal economic activities, enabling informed decision-making, targeted policy interventions, and improved economic development strategies. By understanding and harnessing the potential of the informal sector, African nations can work toward more inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

For this particular Strategic Initiative, the anticipated outcome is the availability of statistical information concerning the informal sector. This outcome is assessed through two key indicators: the number of countries organizing informal sector surveys and the periodicity of these surveys. The target set is ambitious, with the aim of having 20 countries conduct surveys of the informal sector (IS) and publish their results in 2020, followed by a more extensive target of 45 countries conducting IS surveys and publishing results in 2026.

Analyzing the responses from the questionnaires, it is noteworthy that 24 countries reported successfully conducting regular surveys on the informal economy. This impressive accomplishment surpasses the 2020 target by 120%. Conversely, 19 countries did not initiate any activities related to this Strategic Initiative.

The substantial variation in the size of the informal sector across African countries and regions underscores the importance of conducting these surveys. Given the significant role that the informal sector plays in many African economies, it becomes crucial to accurately assess its size and contribution in each country. These surveys serve as indispensable tools for governments, policymakers, researchers and international organization, providing valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of the informal economy. With a more comprehensive understanding of this sector, tailored strategies can be developed to effectively support and regulate it, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth and development across the continent.

1.1.6. Regular data collection on governance, peace and security/GPS (surveys and administrative sources)

Collecting data through surveys or administrative means is of paramount importance in the context of governance, peace, and security in African countries. These efforts serve several crucial objectives and yield valuable outcomes that contribute to stability and development on the continent. It empowers governments to make informed decisions, prevent conflicts, allocate resources effectively, and improve the overall well-being of their populations. As African nations continue to harness the power of data, they are better equipped to address the complex challenges they face and work toward a more peaceful and prosperous future. More specifically these data provide:

- **Informed decision-making and governance:** data collection enables governments and policymakers to make informed decisions. Understanding the social, economic, and political dynamics within a country is essential for crafting effective policies that promote good governance and peace.
- **Conflict prevention and resolution:** timely and accurate data can identify potential sources of conflict, helping authorities address issues before they escalate into violence. By monitoring and analyzing data, governments can respond proactively to emerging challenges, as collecting data on conflict dynamics, such as the root causes, actors, and affected populations, helps develop strategies for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Data-driven policies and interventions can reduce conflict, enhance social cohesion, and contribute to long-term peace and stability in African countries.
- **Resources allocation:** informs the allocation of resources to areas where they are most needed. Effective governance involves equitable distribution of resources to reduce disparities, mitigate grievances, and foster stability. Data informs security planning and strategies, allowing authorities to allocate resources and personnel effectively to address security threats. Informed resource allocation leads to improved service delivery, infrastructure development, and poverty reduction

- **Governance and accountability:** data helps measure the effectiveness of governance institutions, promoting transparency, accountability, and trust in government. Collection and dissemination of data promotes transparency and accountability in governance, reducing corruption and fostering trust in public institutions.
- **Protection of vulnerable population and human rights protection:** monitoring human rights violations and abuses through data collection is crucial for upholding human rights standards and ensuring accountability for perpetrators. Furthermore, data helps identify and protect vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and marginalized communities as well as data collection supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling evidence-based planning and monitoring progress toward development targets.

In this context, regular data collection on Governance, Peace, and Security (GPS) not only plays a crucial role in advancing key African initiatives but also serves as a vital source for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). It represents a potent tool for tracking SDG Goal 16's aim to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. Simultaneously, it contributes to and enriches significant international and continent-wide discussions about GPS measurement.

The responsibility for institutionalizing the production of GPS data should primarily rest with official National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Their expertise in statistical standards and procedures significantly bolsters the reliability of the data collected. Furthermore, NSOs possess the official legitimacy necessary for the collection of such data. Ultimately, these data should be considered a public good, akin to other official statistics, to ensure their accessibility and utility for all stakeholders.

For this Strategic Initiative, the desired Outcome is the availability of statistical information pertaining to governance, peace, and security. The Indicator used to assess progress is the number of countries conducting surveys and/or utilizing administrative sources for data collection in these areas. The Target, as established in the Strategic Matrix for Harmonized Quality Statistics, aims for 25 countries to organize annual surveys and/or utilize administrative sources to gather data on governance, peace, and security and publish the results starting from 2018. This target is set to increase to 35 countries by 2020 and ultimately reach 54 countries by 2026.

The table below presents the data reported by countries regarding the advancement of this Strategic Initiative's implementation. Currently, the accomplishment rate stands at 60%, with 21 countries having successfully conducted annual surveys and/or employed administrative sources to collect information on governance, peace, and security, subsequently publishing the resulting insights.

Table 11. Progress of GPS - Strategic Initiative implementation

Country	Stage	Comments
Argelia	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Angola	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Benin	on-going	Governance, Paix et Security Module is included in Harmonized Survey on the Living Conditions of Households

Botswana	Completed	Governance, Peace and Security statistical information is being produced from administrative data collected by Botswana Police, Administration of Justice and Department of Civil and National Registration (DCNR).
Burkina Faso	Completed	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Burundi	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Cabo Verde	Completed	2013 and 2016 survey completed
Chad	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Cameroon	Completed	2016 survey completed
Congo	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Djibouti	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
D.R of Congo	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Egypt	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Equatorial Guinee	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Eswatini	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Ethiopia	on-going	pilot survey conducted in 2022
Gabon	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Ghana	Completed	The Ghana Statistical Service published the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS7) Report in 2019, which included modules on Governance, Peace, and Security (GPS). Currently, preparations for the next survey, GLSS8, have commenced. Data collection for GLSS8 is scheduled to begin in 2023 and will span one year.
Guinee-Bissau	Completed	No information reported on questionnaire
Guinea	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Kenya	Completed	Administrative data on annual basis
Lesotho	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Liberia	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Lydia	Pending	No information reported on questionnaire
Malawi	Completed	Done under the Democracy Consolidation Project in conjunction with Ministry of Justice
Mali	Completed	The fourth passage of the Modular and Permanent Household Survey (EMOP) includes a module on Governance, Peace and Security.
Mauritania	Pending	These are areas with little coverage by statistics, but it is planned to strengthen the use of administrative sources in this area.
Mauritius	Completed	The statistics on crime, justice and security are disseminated through an issue of Economic and Social Indicator once a year and in an annual report.
Morocco	Completed	No information reported on questionnaire
Mozambique	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Namibia	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Niger	Completed	Governance, Peace and Security Investigations and Judicial Corruption Survey conducted and disseminate by the NSO
Nigeria	Completed	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Rwanda	Completed	No additional information reported on questionnaire
São Tomé e Príncipe	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Senegal	Completed	Harmonized Survey on the Living Conditions of Households 2 data processing with a peace, security and governance module
Seychelles	on-going	pending the data processing, analysis, and dissemination
Sierra Leoni	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Somalia	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
South Africa	Completed	Annual survey on Governance, Peace, Safety and Justice household survey conducted by Stats SA
South Sudan	Completed	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Sudan	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
The Gambia	Completed	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Togo	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Tunisia	Completed	The third survey conducted in 2021

Uganda	Completed	National Governance, Peace and Security (NGPS) Survey dissemination occurred in 2017
Zambia	Pending	No additional information reported on questionnaire
Zimbabwe	Pending	Data on governance, peace and security not available within the Agency

Source: Country Questionnaire

1.1.7. Development and organization of the collection of the socio-economic information from administrative sources

The aim of Development and organization of the collection of socio-economic information from administrative sources is to establish and improve the process of gathering socio-economic data from administrative records and sources. This multifaceted endeavor involves developing efficient and systematic procedures to collect relevant information from various government agencies, institutions, and organizations that routinely collect data as part of their administrative functions.

The overarching goal is to harness the potential of administrative data sources to complement and fortify traditional survey-based data collection methods. Through this synergy, SHaSA aim to enhance and enrich the accessibility and quality of socio-economic information, encompassing critical facets such as demographic data, employment statistics, income levels, educational achievements, and other pertinent indicators.

The expected outcomes of this strategic initiative are fourfold:

1. Improved coverage of data source: comprehensive network of data sources will be established and expanded, ensuring a broader spectrum of data is collected to inform policymaking and decision-making processes.
2. Cost reduction in Data Collection: by leveraging existing administrative mechanisms, curtailing the financial burden associated with data collection, thereby optimizing resource allocation and utilization.
3. Enhanced data Quality: the meticulous organization and management of administrative data will elevate the quality of statistical information, setting higher standards for the criteria of economic convergence.
4. Establishment and Operation of Business registers and Directories: a crucial facet of this initiative is the development and maintenance of business registers and directories, offering vital insights into economic activities.

A diverse array of activities has been undertaken in the pursuit of these objectives. Notably, certain countries have underscored the pivotal role of their National Statistical Departments in providing technical support to enhance the quality of administrative data collection records and forms within Ministries. These efforts are yielding significant results, contributing to the success of this initiative.

Socio-economic data is gathered across various domains, including Business Registers, taxation, international trade, and social security. These data points are compiled and disseminated through annual, sectoral, regional, and national statistical yearbooks.

To assess progress the indicator, the number of countries actively collecting socioeconomic information from administrative sources, was established for this activity. The target set for 2018 aimed for 55 countries to publish socioeconomic information derived from administrative sources. Based on questionnaire responses, 35 countries were found to have successfully achieved this strategic initiative, recording 65% progress towards the 2018 target.

To continue advancing this crucial initiative, we propose the following recommendations:

- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Collaborate closely with national statistical offices, relevant ministries, and international organizations to establish effective partnerships. Engage in knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and resource pooling to further extend data source coverage, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of statistical information.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in comprehensive training programs and workshops for data collectors, analysts, and stakeholders engaged in economic convergence criteria assessment. Building technical expertise and enhancing data collection skills will contribute significantly to the successful achievement of desired outcomes, ensuring the continued success of this endeavor.

1.1.8. Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics system

The aim of improving civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems is to establish efficient and effective systems for registering vital events such as births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and adoptions, and to generate accurate and timely vital statistics. The improvement of CRVS systems holds crucial significance for various reasons, encompassing:

Legal Identity and Individual Rights: CRVS systems are fundamental in establishing legal identities and safeguarding individual rights.

- **Population Monitoring and Planning:** accurate demographic data derived from CRVS systems play a pivotal role in population monitoring and strategic planning.
- **Health and Epidemiological Analysis:** CRVS data provide invaluable insights for health-related research and epidemiological analysis, aiding in understanding disease patterns and healthcare needs.
- **Evidence-Based Decision-Making:** Access to reliable vital statistics empowers evidence-based policymaking, facilitating informed choices and resource allocation.
- **Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting:** CRVS systems are essential for monitoring and reporting on human rights issues, particularly concerning vulnerable populations.

- **Administrative Efficiency and Service Delivery:** Streamlined CRVS systems enhance administrative efficiency and service delivery, ensuring citizens receive entitled support and benefits.

In Africa, significant efforts have been made to advance this agenda, with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) playing a pivotal role. African Member States passed a resolution in support of a decade of civil registration and vital statistics from 2017 to 2026, with the goal of "leaving no child out" and "leaving no country behind." The Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of CRVS (APAI-CRVS) emerged as a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders committed to enhancing civil registration and vital statistics. The process was guided by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and significant contributions were made by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC). Numerous international actors, such as WHO, UNICEF, UNECA, and the World Bank, are actively engaged in driving acceleration on the global stage.

The ultimate outcome envisioned for this Strategic Initiative is the establishment of comprehensive civil registration systems and databases - Civil registration systems and databases are in place. The indicator established measures the number of countries with effective civil registry systems, setting the target at 30 countries with effective CRVS systems in 2020 and an ambitious goal of 54 countries with effective CRVS systems by 2026.

The analysis of the questionnaire responses reveals diverse approaches to aligning with national priorities and addressing challenges. Many countries are proactively crafting strategies to overcome these obstacles, emphasizing the crucial need for close coordination between National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and sectoral stakeholders. Encouragingly, only five countries² reported no activities undertaken to advance this Strategic Initiative.

Analysis of questionnaire data from AU member countries showed that 44 countries are either in the process of completing the required activities (20) or currently making progress (24) – table 12. This indicates that crucial stages, such as status assessment, strategic plan development, plan implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, are either established or actively underway. These dynamic efforts signify a collective commitment to realizing the objectives of strengthened CRVS systems, marking a significant step toward inclusive and sustainable development in the African context.

Table 12. Progression of activities for Strategic Initiative- Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems

Country	Status assessment	Development of strategic plan	Implementation of the plan	Monitoring and Evaluation	Comments
Algeria	YES	YES	YES	YES	Annual data collection o civil state by NSS

² Congo; Guinea; Liberia ; Mauritania ; Somalia

Angola	YES	NO	NO	NO	A new department for vital statistics and civil registration is created within the country's technical group. Civil registration officials are responsible for recording birth, marriage, death, and stillbirth data, following specific instructions. These records are sent to the National Institute of Statistics. Additionally, civil registry offices complete extra birth and death records, forwarding them with declaration notices to the Civil Registrar's office.
Benin	YES	YES	YES	YES	Existence of a National Civil Status Policy and regular awareness-raising of the various actors in the production chain of vital statistics. A periodic implementation report is regularly prepared.
Botswana	YES	YES	YES	YES	CRVS Statistics being collected and shared with Statistics Botswana
Burkina Faso	YES	NO	NO	NO	Status assessment. since 2014, there is a continuous production of vital statistics (births, marriages and deaths) through a pilot operation in the Eastern Region over a period of 6 months financed by the European Union.
Burundi	YES	NO	NO	NO	In 2019 the Ministry in charge of Public Health carried out an assessment on civil registration (births and deaths)
Cabo Verde	YES	YES	YES	YES	In place a program of free registration in hospitals. The digitalization and informatization of the civil registration department allow the access and actualization of data not only in country but also in diplomatic Missions. Within the National Institute of Statistics, a vital statistical service collects, processes, analyses and disseminates statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces. In addition, the National Institute of Statistics has annual databases on these events and series that date back to the 1940s.
Cameroon	YES	YES	-	-	Civil registration systems are still at an early stage of development
Central African Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Chad	YES	NO	NO	NO	Pilot civil registration data collection scheme in the capital N'Djamena
Congo	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Congo, Dem. Rep.	YES	NO	NO	NO	Focus mainly on birth rates and national population figures. Civil status data submitted to the Ministry of the Interior are collected and aggregated regularly for internal use. Ministry experts compile these data in working papers and make regular comparisons with international survey data, such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) or Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).
Djibouti	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Egypt	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Equatorial Guinea	NO	YES	NO	NO	Development of strategic plan with UNICEF Support. Preliminary work has been carried out by the Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with UNICEF, on the implementation of a Civil Registration System. But it is not yet operational.
Eswatini	YES	YES	YES	YES	The Central Statistics Office currently holds responsibility on establishing vital statistics
Ethiopia	YES	YES	YES	NO	The Central Statistical Agency is part of the Vital Events Board of Management and responsible for the establishment of vital statistics.
Gabon	YES	YES	NO	NO	Directorate-General of Statistics does not publish vital statistics
Gambia	YES	YES	NO	NO	Implementation of plan not completed
Ghana	YES	YES	NO	NO	Strategic plan and assessment in progress. .
Guinea	NO	NO	NO	NO	Vital statistics are only produced using indirect methods based on censuses and surveys.
Guinea-Bissau	YES	YES	YES	YES	Vital statistics (including mortality) have not been handled by the national statistical services, nor are statistics produced and published.
Kenya	NO	YES	YES	YES	Data from 109 offices nationwide is submitted monthly to the Department of Civil Registration Services headquarters, which compiles monthly statistics. Additionally, a team of stakeholders, including the National Statistical Office (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics), collaborates annually to create the Annual Vital Statistics Report, and the latter office is in charge of disseminating official statistics

Lesotho	YES	NO	NO	NO	Data produced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and published by the Bureau of Statistics.
Liberia	NO	NO	NO	NO	The registration process is offline. Data processing by the national statistics agency is residual.
Libya	YES	NO	NO	NO	**
Malawi	YES	YES	YES	YES	In place strategies to enhanced institutional collaboration to make strides
Mali	YES	YES	YES	YES	Collection, entry and processing of civil status components at the country's civil status centers. INSTAT has set up a functional system for exploiting civil status components (marriage, birth, death) that the National Directorate of Civil Status has been sending it regularly since 2013.
Mauritania	NO	NO	NO	NO	The Mauritania National Statistical Office (ONS) is responsible for the implementation of an integrated national system for the collection of economic, demographic and social statistics, using exhaustive censuses or sample surveys, or administrative sources either from the public or private sector. The National Statistics Agency is in discussions for the establishment of a protocol for the exchange of information with the Civil Status Agency. The National Statistics Agency is in discussions for the establishment of a protocol for the exchange of information with the Civil Status Agency.
Mauritius	YES	NO	NO	NO	The latest vital statistics are released in semesterly Economic and Social Indicators on Population and Vital Statistics and more detailed data are published in our Digest of Demographic Statistics.
Morocco	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Mozambique	YES	YES	YES	YES	Civil Registry and Vital Statistics Electronic System (e-RCEV) in progress of implementation
Namibia	YES	YES	YES	NO	Strategic plan SP implementation period 2015/16 – 2020/21 . Monitoring and Evaluation not done yet. Some CRVS are processed on an annual basis at the Namibia Statistics Agency.
Niger	YES	YES	YES	YES	The National Civil Status Policy was developed in 2019 Computerization of the civil registration system Creation of a Directorate of Training, Monitoring and Evaluation
Nigeria	YES	YES	YES	-	
Rwanda	YES	YES	YES	YES	Vital events are registered at the sector level through a CRVS web-based application, and the National Institute of Statistics is immediately served with data from all local registration offices in the country.
Sao Tome and Principe	YES	YES	YES	YES	Data on natality and mortality are shared monthly with the National Institute of Statistics, which is responsible for data processing.
Senegal	YES	NO	NO	NO	Study on improving civil registration in progress
Seychelles	YES	-	-	-	**
Sierra Leone	YES	YES	YES	YES	National Office of Births and Deaths publishes deaths statistics annually.
Somalia	NO	NO	NO	NO	**
South Africa	YES	YES	YES	YES	Administrative data are sent by the Dep. Of home Affairs to Statistics South Africa.
South Sudan	YES	YES	NO	NO	Assessment of the legal frameworks
Sudan	NO	NO	YES	NO	There is a joint networking project civil registration authorities
Togo	YES	YES	YES	NO	The National Institute for Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) coordinates the national statistical system and the production of official statistics and has the responsibility to produce vital statistics. Production of vital statistics at regional and national levels
Tunisia	YES	YES	YES	YES	**
Uganda	YES	YES	YES	YES	Compilation of the 1st annual - Uganda civil registration and vital statistics report is ongoing.
Zambia	YES	YES	YES	NO	Implementation plan in on-going phase
Zimbabwe	YES	-	-	NO	Plan developed through partnerships with key stakeholders. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) is responsible for vital statistics;

Source: Country questionnaire

The United Nations recognizes the civil registration system as the most reliable source of vital statistics, needed by Governments for accurate and timely planning, resource allocation and for overall good governance. Notwithstanding this unanimous recognition, civil registration systems are largely incomplete in most African countries.

Recommendations: Strengthen Digitalization and Interconnectivity: prioritize the development and implementation of digital tools and networks to streamline civil registration procedures. Launch user-friendly online registration platforms that enable citizens to easily record births, marriages, and deaths. Ensure universal accessibility and provide multilingual options to cater to diverse communities. Additionally, foster collaboration among various government bodies, including health facilities, immigration authorities, and statistical organizations, to facilitate the seamless exchange of vital information. Embracing technology and connectivity can result in improved data accuracy, operational efficiency, and reduced data redundancy.

Engage Key Donors, Stakeholders, and Partners: develop and advocate for a comprehensive plan, ensuring a clearly defined budget that covers essential resources. Proactively communicate and garner support from aligned donors to establish an effective CRVS system. Foster close collaboration with critical stakeholders, including international organizations, government entities, and civil society, to ensure coordinated efforts, address funding gaps, and successfully realize the CRVS plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.2: Transform existing statistics for comparability – Progress made by the AUMS

According to the Strategy document adopted for SASHA2, this strategic objective necessitates the adoption of reprocessing and adjustment methodologies, as well as the production and validation of comparable data. This undertaking is pivotal in fostering the comparability of statistical data, thereby facilitating sound decision-making in support of development programs and integration efforts. The realization of this objective will be accomplished through the implementation of two key initiatives:

1.2.1. Adoption of Reprocessing and Adjustment Methodologies

The primary objective behind the adoption of reprocessing and adjustment methodologies in statistics is to elevate the accuracy, reliability, and comparability of statistical data. These methodologies serve as essential tools for rectifying and refining initial data collected from surveys or administrative sources, addressing errors, biases, and other issues that may otherwise compromise data quality.

As per information provided by various states, it is evident that countries are actively taking measures to align their methodologies with international standards and develop manuals tailored to meet the needs of national users. Some nations have already successfully achieved this alignment, demonstrating a commitment to international best practices.

The envisioned activities for this strategic initiative encompass three key components:

- (i) Assessment of existing manuals per statistical domain: this involves a comprehensive evaluation of manuals specific to each statistical domain, ensuring their alignment with international standards.
- (ii) Development of guidelines for Manual Implementation: creation of guidelines to assist in the effective implementation of manuals on data reprocessing and adjustment methodologies.
- (iii) Development of manuals on reprocessing and adjustment methodologies: formulation of detailed manuals outlining reprocessing and adjustment methodologies tailored to the specific needs of each statistical domain.

The anticipated outcome of this strategic initiative is the availability of technical manuals on reprocessing and adjustment methodologies, categorized by statistical domains: Technical manuals on reprocessing and adjustment methodologies are available by statistical domains. This development will greatly contribute to the harmonization of methodologies, fostering consistency and comparability in statistical data.

The indicator used to gauge progress in this endeavor is the number of manuals with harmonized methodologies for the continent, starting from the year 2018.

Based on the data gathered from questionnaires, a commendable total of 21 countries, including Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, and Uganda, have successfully formulated comprehensive manuals detailing reprocessing and adjustment methodologies.

However, it is worth noting that a separate group of five countries did not provide any information regarding their engagement in the activities outlined within this Strategic Initiative. Additionally, 20 countries responded that they have not implemented any actions related to this initiative. Further collaboration and engagement with these countries may be necessary to ensure broader adoption of these essential methodologies, thereby enhancing the overall quality and comparability of statistical data across the continent.

Recommendation: Investigate the reasons for non-participation: delve into the factors contributing to the non-participation of these countries in the outlined activities, particularly when their practices already align with international standards. Understanding these reasons can help tailor engagement strategies and ensure a broader adoption of beneficial methodologies.

Promote the adoption of contextual measures and knowledge sharing: encourage the implementation of measures that facilitate the customization of technology and methodologies to align with the unique context of the African continent. In this regard, SASHA2, as the implementing agency, can facilitate online meetings with National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to foster the exchange of knowledge, share experiences, and promote collaborative efforts. This platform can serve as a

valuable resource for enhancing data practices and promoting consistency in statistical methodologies across the continent.

1.2.2. Production and validation of comparable data

The activities previewed for this initiative are: (I) Consolidation of data (ii) Processing, analysis of data in accordance to the manuals (ilia) Publication of data in accordance to the manuals.

The outcome for this strategic Initiative is: Comparable data are published and available and the Indicator is: Number of statistical areas with comparable data.

Within the scope of this initiative, three key activities have been outlined to achieve our objectives:

- i. Data consolidation: the first activity involves consolidating data from various sources.
- ii. Data processing and analysis: data will undergo meticulous processing and analysis in strict adherence to established manuals.
- iii. Publication of data: the processed data will be published, following the guidelines outlined in the manuals.

The ultimate outcome sought through this strategic initiative is the availability of comparable data that are ready for publication - Comparable data are published and available.

The effectiveness of this initiative will be assessed by the number of statistical areas in which comparable data have been successfully generated - Number of statistical areas with comparable data.

By streamlining these processes and ensuring the availability of comparable data, it is aimed to bolster the foundation for informed decision-making and evidence-based policies across various statistical domains.

Based on questionnaire data, specifically regarding the activities related to the processing and analysis of data in accordance with the manuals, 17 countries have successfully completed these tasks.

Recommendation: In the context of African countries, it is imperative to prioritize specific key domains for generating consistent and comparable statistical data across diverse sectors. Noteworthy spheres include agriculture and food security, healthcare, education, economic indicators, trade and industry, as well as gender equality. By channeling efforts into these pivotal areas and establishing robust frameworks for data collection, analysis, and dissemination, African nations can lay a solid foundation for producing uniform statistical information. This data, in turn, will support sustainable development, promote regional integration, and facilitate informed decision-making across a wide spectrum of sectors.

Regional Workshops and Collaborations: Organize workshops, seminars, and collaborative initiatives among member states to share best practices, discuss challenges, and learn from each other's experiences in achieving comparable statistical data.

Engage Stakeholders: Involve relevant stakeholders, including academia, civil society, and private sector representatives, in the data collection and analysis process. Their inputs can contribute to more comprehensive and accurate statistical data.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.3. Harmonization methods and codes for data production

The strategic initiatives 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 are not covered in this report due to the unavailability of the annual reports from the specialized technical groups (STGs).

1.3.3. Development of a quality assurance framework (quality kit) and consistency of national data between sectors

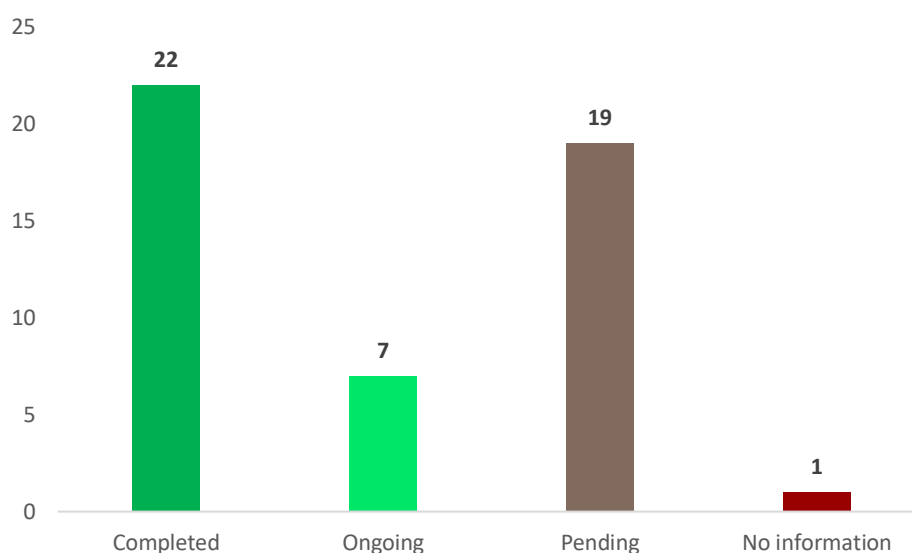
A quality assurance framework represents a systematic and well-structured approach employed to ensure and enhance the quality, reliability, and accuracy of processes, products, or services within an organization or project. It serves as a comprehensive set of guidelines, standards, and practices that govern the planning, execution, and evaluation of activities, with the overarching goal of ensuring they meet predetermined quality criteria and objectives.

To realize this objective, two pivotal activities have been outlined:

- i. Development of quality assurance frameworks: this involves the creation of frameworks that lay the groundwork for quality assurance processes.
- ii. Implementation of data quality frameworks: the second activity pertains to the practical implementation of data quality frameworks to ensure data accuracy and reliability.

The specified outcome, as defined in the ShaSA2 Strategy plan, is the availability of validated and certified quality data - Quality data validated and certified are available. The target set is that 54 countries will have established quality assurance frameworks by 2020.

Based on the data collected through the questionnaire, described on graph 2, below, a combined total of 22 countries have effectively executed the activities outlined within this Strategic Initiative. Additionally, another seven nations are presently in the process of implementation. However, it's worth noting that 19 countries did not undertake any of the anticipated activities, and one country did not provide a response to this specific section of the questionnaire.



Graphic 2. Number of Countries and stage of Implementation of initiative 1.3.3.

Furthermore, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has reported its support for RMCS (regional member countries) in complying with international reporting frameworks and adopting/domesticating international data quality frameworks. IGAD has also initiated the development of a quality assurance framework, and as of now, a draft is under development. Once finalized, it will be presented to the Member States for further input. Additionally, UNECA is organizing a workshop on the implementation of the National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) from December 6th to 9th in Addis Ababa, which will involve around 15 African countries.

By embracing quality assurance frameworks, countries can fortify their data processes, ensure data integrity, and ultimately contribute to informed decision-making and the achievement of their predetermined quality objectives

Recommendations: Establish a culture of continuous improvement within the framework by conducting regular assessments, evaluations, and updates of quality assurance processes. This practice ensures the framework's adaptability to changing challenges, technological advancements, and evolving data requirements. Stakeholder input is leveraged to consistently enhance and fine-tune the framework over time.

Data requirements can evolve over time due to shifts in priorities, policy adjustments and changes, or emerging trends. The framework should demonstrate agility, allowing it to adapt to evolving data needs, thus ensuring that the collected data remains pertinent and aligned with current objectives.

STRATEGIC THEME 2: COORDINATE THE PRODUCTION OF QUALITY STATISTICS FOR AFRICA

Strategic Theme 2: Coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa

- Strategic objective 2.1: Establish effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms.
- Strategic objective 2.2: Define statistical priorities for the implementation of integration and development agendas.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.1: Establish effective coordinate and collaboration mechanisms

The strategic objective 2.1. envision to establish robust coordination and collaboration mechanisms that facilitate the seamless production of high-quality statistical data across African nations. This strategic endeavor aims to enhance harmonization efforts, promote synergies among statistical agencies, and optimize resource utilization, ultimately advancing the collective capacity of African countries to generate accurate and reliable statistics for informed decision-making and sustainable development on the continent.

Within the framework of this strategic objective, there are five initiatives reported in the questionnaires:

- 2.1.3. Enhancement of coordination at the regional level
- 2.1.4. Development and implementation of NSDSs anchored to SHaSA 2;
- 2.1.5. Appointment of SHaSA 2 National, Regional and Continental Coordinators;
- 2.1.6. Enhancement of the South–South cooperation;
- 2.1.7. Building strong partnerships with foundations, civil society, partners, users, etc., in the continent and outside the continent.

2.1.3. Enhancement coordination at the regional level

Within the scope of this strategic initiative, the focus lies in strengthening coordination at the regional level. The anticipated outcomes for this Strategic Initiative encompass:

- i. Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) aligned to SHaSA 2 and
- ii. Regional coordination meetings of RSDS.

These outcomes are geared towards reinforcing coordination at the regional level and facilitating the effective implementation of SHaSA 2 through the execution of the RSDS.

The effectiveness of this initiative will be measured by the number of regions with RSDS anchored to SHaSA, with a target of 6 regions by 2018 and 8 regions by 2020.

Table 13. Status of implementation by activity

Country	Revision of RSDSs in line with SHaSA 2	Development of RSDS in line with SHaSA 2	Implementation of RSDS
ADFC-PAOS	-	-	-
AMU-RECS	No	Yes	No
CEN SAD CERS	No	No	No
ECCAS CERS	No	No	Yes
IGAD	-	Yes	Yes
UNECA PAOS	-	-	-

Source: Country Questionnaire

The table 13, above, show that progress has been achieved in various regional bodies:

- A Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) has been developed, validated, and finalized by **Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)**. Plans to mobilize resources for its operationalization are actively underway. The implementation of RSDS has already commenced, with a focus on statistical domains such as Migration Statistics (including data harmonization) and National Accounts. Notably, dedicated Regional Technical Working Groups have been established for both Migration Data/Statistics and National Accounts.
- The implementation of RSDS is well underway in the region of **Economic Community of Central African States -ECCAS-CERS**, complemented by effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) instruments.
- The development of RSDS in alignment with SHaSA 2 has been successfully accomplished, signifying an expressive step toward enhancing statistical capacities in the region of **Arab Maghreb Union- Regional Economic Communities (AMU-RECS)**.

2.1.4. **Development and implementation of NSDSs/national Strategy for the development of statistic/ anchored to SHaSA2³**

Within the scope of this strategic initiative, the anticipated outcomes encompass the following:

- NSDS aligned to SHaSA 2 are available.
- Implementation reports for NSDS are available.

The set targets for this initiative are as follows:

- By the year 2020, 40 countries should have either designed or updated their NSDSs anchored to SHaSA 2.
- By the year 2024, this number is expected to increase to 54 countries.

Additionally:

- In 2020, 40 countries should have commenced the implementation of their NSDSs.
- By 2024, this implementation should extend to 54 countries.

The indicators for measuring the progress of this Strategic Initiative encompass:

- Number of countries that have developed updated NSDS anchored to SHaSA 2.
- Number of countries involved in the implementation of NSDSs.

³ Only the English version of the questionnaires includes all activities for this Strategic Initiative. The first activity Development of SNDS linked to SHaSA 2 is missing in the French questionnaires.

These targets and indicators signify commitment to strengthening statistical systems and ensuring that NSDSs align with the goals of SHaSA 2, ultimately contributing to enhanced data capabilities and informed decision-making.

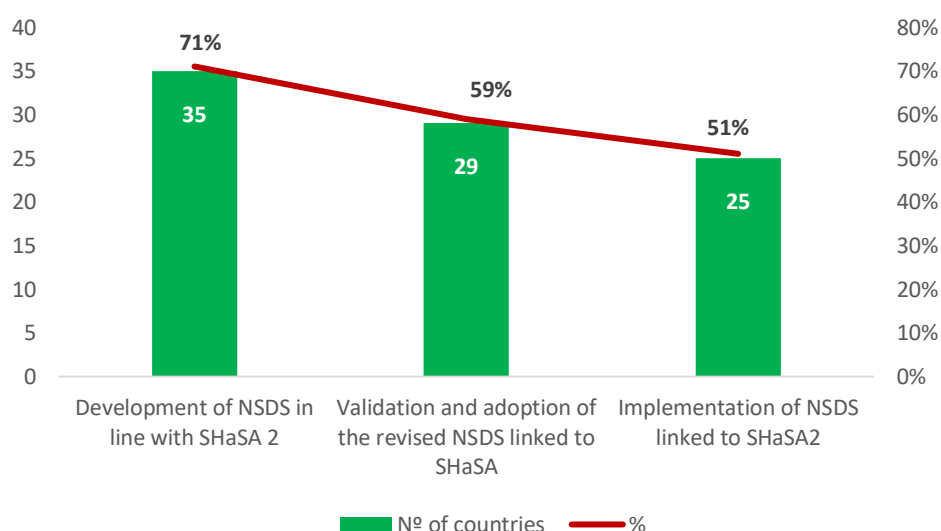
Table 14. Status of activity Implement for Strategic Initiative 2.1.4

Activity	Nº of countries	%
Development of NSDS in line with SHaSA 2	35	71
Validation and adoption of the revised NSDS linked to SHaSA	29	59
Implementation of NSDS linked to SHaSA2	25	51

Source: Country questionnaire

The table 14, above, provides an overview of the status of activities related to Strategic Initiative 2.1.4. The initiative primarily focuses on the development, validation, adoption, and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) aligned with the second phase of the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2).

As per the data presented, in the table, and in the graph 3, below, it is evident that a significant number of countries have made substantial progress in aligning their NSDS with SHaSA 2. Specifically, 35 countries (representing 71%) have actively engaged in the development of NSDSs in accordance with SHaSA 2.



Graphic 3. Status of activity Implement for Strategic Initiative 2.1.4

Furthermore, 29 countries (accounting for 59%) have taken steps to validate and adopt revised NSDSs linked to SHaSA, signifying their commitment to ensuring that statistical strategies are in alignment with regional objectives.

The implementation of NSDSs linked to SHaSA 2 is also underway in 25 countries, with a 51% implementation rate. This indicates that over half of the countries are actively working to put their statistical strategies into action to meet the objectives set forth in SHaSA 2.

Table 15, below shows the level of compliance of activities country by country and reflects a substantial level of engagement and commitment among African countries to harmonize their statistical efforts in line with SHaSA 2, thereby improving quality and effectiveness of statistical systems across the continent.

Table 15. Status of Implementation of activities for Strategic Initiative 2.1.4

Country	Activities		
	Development of NSDS in line with SHaSA 2	Validation and adoption of the revised NSDS linked to SHaSA 2	Implementation of NSDS linked to SHaSA 2
Algeria	Yes	Yes	-
Angola	No	No	No
Benin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burkina Faso	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burundi	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cabo Verde	-	-	-
Cameroon	-	-	-
Central African Republic	Yes	No	No
Chad	Yes	Yes	No
Congo	Yes	No	Yes
Congo, Dem.Rep.	No	No	No
Djibouti	Yes	Yes	Yes
Egypt	Yes	Yes	No
Equatorial Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eswatini	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gabon	No	No	No
Gambia	Yes	-	-
Ghana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guinea-Bissau	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lesotho	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liberia	Yes	No	No
Libya	No	No	No
Malawi	No	Yes	No
Mali	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	No	No	No
Mauritius	No	No	No
Morocco	No	No	No
Mozambique	Yes	Yes	Yes
Namibia	Yes	No	No

Niger	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nigeria	No	No	No
Rwanda	Yes	Yes	Yes
São Tomé and Príncipe	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senegal	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seychelles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sierra Leone	Yes	Yes	Yes
Somalia	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Africa	No	No	No
South Sudan	Yes	No	No
Sudan	No	No	No
Togo	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	No	No
Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes	Yes	No
Zimbabwe	No	No	No

The table above was elaborated based on the questionnaire responses, demonstrating that a total of 28 countries have effectively met the criteria for two crucial activities. These activities involve the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in alignment with SHaSA 2, as well as the endorsement and adoption of revised NSDSs associated with SHaSA 2. These achievements are represented by the first indicator.

Furthermore, 25 nations have officially confirmed the successful completion of NSDS implementation in conjunction with SHaSA 2, thereby accomplishing the second indicator. Notably, these achievements correspond to success rates of 70% and 63%, respectively.

2.1.5. Appointment of SHaSA2 National, Regional and Continental Coordinators

This Strategic Initiative is driven by the aim to enhance and improve the coordination of SHaSA 2 implementation across 54 countries, 8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs), 3 pan-African institutions, AFRISTAT, and 8 Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) through the appointment of dedicated coordinators.

The envisioned outcome of this strategic initiative is the operationalization of the institutional framework of SHaSA 2 - The institutional framework of SHaSA 2 is operational.

To measure progress, the indicator focuses on the number of appointed coordinators, with a target of ensuring that all 54 countries, 8 RECs, 3 pan-African institutions, AFRISTAT, and 8 STCs have coordinators in place by 2017.

Since the launch of SHaSA 2, 20 countries have successfully designated coordinators to oversee its implementation. These countries include Angola, Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone,

Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Notably, 23 countries have not provided responses in the questionnaire, rendering it challenging to gather comprehensive data on this aspect.

The persistent challenge of appointing coordinators for the SHaSA 2 program continues to pose a significant obstacle to enhancing the overall coordination of SHaSA 2 implementation efforts.

2.1.6. Enhancement of the South-South Cooperation

The overarching aim of this Strategic Initiative is to bolster statistical capacities in the realm of statistical cooperation, with a particular focus on South–South cooperation. The anticipated outcome is a notable improvement in statistical capacities pertaining to statistical cooperation. The milestone set for this initiative is to have all countries committed to South–South cooperation from the year 2017 onwards.

The activities outlined for this Strategic Initiative encompass the following:

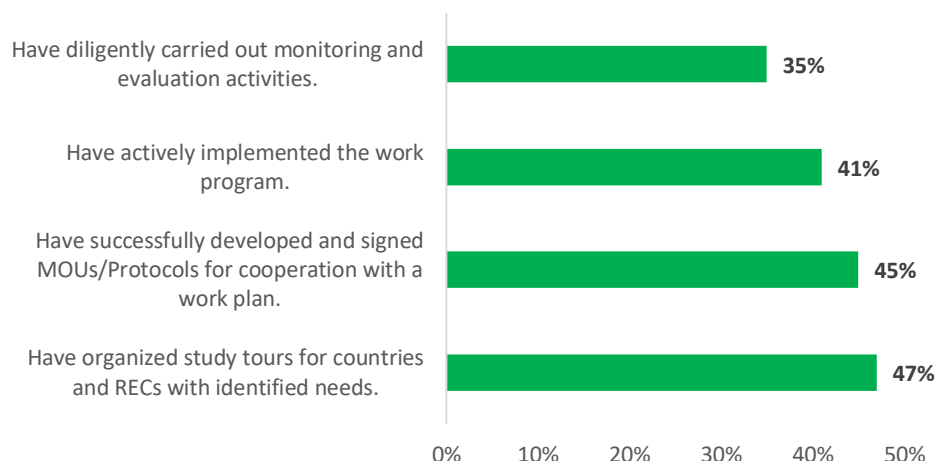
1. Statistical capacity assessment of countries and RECs⁴: this involves evaluating the statistical capabilities of individual countries and RECs to identify strengths and areas in need of improvement
2. Organization of study tours for countries and RECs with identified needs: facilitating knowledge exchange and learning through study tours for countries and RECs with specific areas of improvement identified.
3. Development and signing of MOU/Protocols for cooperation with a work plan: Formalizing collaborative efforts with the development and signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or Protocols, accompanied by a detailed work plan.
4. Implementation of the work program: translating agreed-upon plans into action to further cooperation and development, putting them into action.
5. Implementation of the work program: to continuously track and ng and evaluation of progress to ensure the effectiveness of activities and assess their impacts.

The measure of success lies in ensuring that all countries are committed to South–South cooperation from the year 2017 onwards. The indicator quantifies this commitment by counting the number of countries that have organized activities to promote South–South cooperation. As of now, this number stands at 23⁵ countries. Additionally, based on responses from questionnaires provided by these countries, it has come to our attention that 8⁶ more nations are actively engaged in experience exchange, even though this wasn't explicitly reported. In total, this signifies the participation of 31 countries, equating to 57% of the target set for the year 2017. It's important to note that 15 countries did not implement this activity during the reporting period.

⁴ This activity was not reported on Questionnaires

⁵ Angola; Benin; Burkina Faso; Central African Republic; Congo; Egypt; Eswatini; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco ; Niger; Rwanda ; São Tome and Principe; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; Togo.

⁶ Botswana; Gambia; Lesotho; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Tunisia Zimbabwe



Graphic 4. Implementation of the initiative 2.1.6

The graph 4, reflect countries responses to the questionnaire, it demonstrates that a total of 13 countries⁷ have proficiently completed all activities proposed within this strategic initiative. In a more detailed analysis of the planned activities, the graph shows that:

- 47% of countries have organized study tours for countries and RECs with identified needs.
- 45% have successfully developed and signed MOUs/Protocols for cooperation with a work plan.
- 41% have actively implemented the work program.
- 35% have diligently carried out monitoring and evaluation activities.

It's worth noting that the African Development Bank (AfDB) played a significant role in facilitating a virtual peer review of Uganda's quarterly GDP expenditure approach by Namibia and South Africa, demonstrating a commitment to cooperation and knowledge exchange. Additionally, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) CERS have reported organizing study tours for countries and RECs with identified needs and successfully implementing the work program, further promoting cooperation in the region.

Recommendations: In pursuit of elevating the expertise of statisticians across African nations, it is proposing a multifaceted approach to enhance statistical skills and knowledge sharing, including:

- Capacity building workshops and training sessions: we advocate for the organization of comprehensive capacity-building workshops and training sessions. These events should encompass a wide array of critical topics, including advanced statistical techniques, effective data visualization strategies, and staying abreast of emerging trends in statistical methodologies. Such initiatives aim to equip statisticians with the tools and knowledge needed to excel in their field.

⁷ Egypt; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Rwanda; São Tome and Principe; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa

- Peer review mechanisms: establishing peer review mechanisms between countries is imperative. This mechanism enables nations to collaboratively assess and offer constructive feedback on each other's statistical methods and processes. This iterative feedback loop promotes continuous improvement and fosters knowledge exchange among participating countries.
- Knowledge transfer initiatives: encourage countries possessing advanced statistical capabilities to actively share their expertise with neighboring nations. This knowledge-sharing process can take various forms, including workshops, seminars, and mentoring programs. This collaborative approach promotes a more equitable distribution of statistical expertise across the continent.
- Professional exchange programs: implement professional exchange programs, where statisticians can rotate between statistical institutes for periods of 3, 6, or 12 months. This 'on-the-job' knowledge dissemination strategy allows professionals to learn from each other's experiences and best practices, ultimately enriching their skill sets.
- Trainee programs: develop structured trainee programs in statistics wherein advanced countries host and mentor young professionals from less developed nations. This immersive experience provides trainees with current knowledge and advanced statistical methodologies, fostering a new generation of skilled statisticians.

By adopting these strategic initiatives, it is possible to create a more interconnected and proficient community of statisticians across Africa, ultimately contributing to the advancement of statistical practices and data-driven decision-making on the continent.

2.1.7. Building strong partnership with foundations, civil society, partners, users, etc. in the continent and outside the continent.

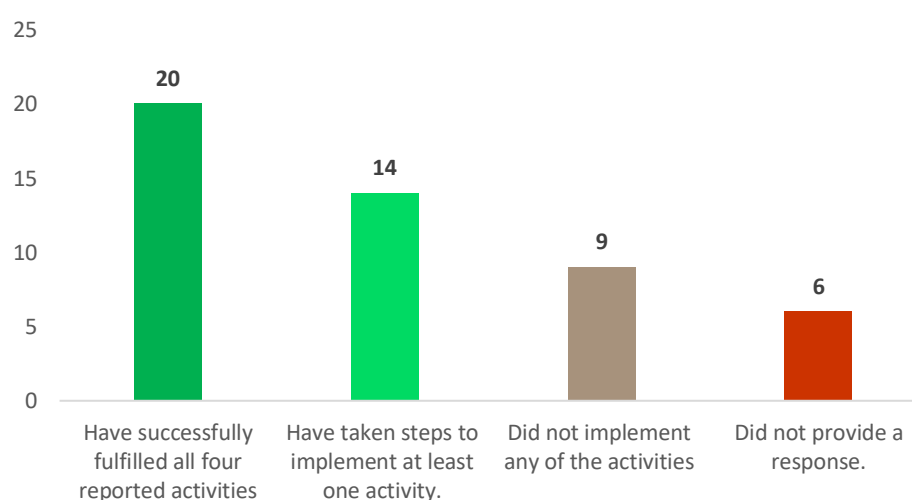
The envisioned outcome of this strategic initiative is to engage stakeholders and secure financial and technical support for the advancement of African statistics - Actors and financial and technical partners are involved in the development of African statistics. As of 2018, countries have cultivated robust partnerships with various stakeholders in the African Statistical System (ASS), both within and beyond the continent.

The key indicator for assessing progress of this strategic initiative is the number of partnerships established with foundations, civil society organizations, collaborators within the continent, as well as those beyond its borders.

To achieve the objectives of this strategic objective, the following activities have been outlined:

- A Statistical capacity assessment of countries and RECs⁸: a comprehensive assessment of the statistical capacities of countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will be conducted. This assessment forms the foundation for identifying specific needs and areas for improvement.
- Stakeholders' exchanges: facilitate dialogue and information exchange among partners, the African Union (AU), and RECs to identify and address their support requirements effectively.
- Development and signing of MOU/Protocols together with a work program for fostering cooperation: collaboratively develop and formalize Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Protocols, including a detailed work program that outlines the strategies and actions for enhancing cooperation.
- Implementation of the work program: execute the agreed-upon work program to foster cooperation, ensuring that the planned activities are carried out efficiently and effectively.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to continuously assess progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments to achieve the strategic goals effectively.

The aim of pursuing these activities is to strengthen partnerships, enhance statistical capacities, and promote collaboration both within and outside the African continent, ultimately advancing the development of African statistics.



Graphic 5. Implementation of the strategic initiative 2.1.7

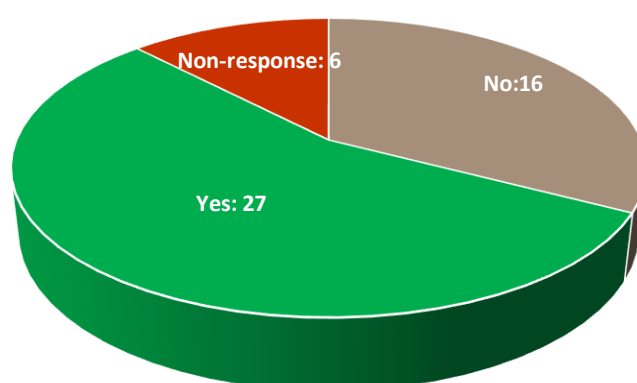
The outcomes of implementing this strategic initiative are depicted in Graph 5, illustrating significant progress. Specifically:

- A cumulative total of 20 countries have demonstrated their commitment by successfully completing all four reported activities, showcasing their dedication to the initiative's goals.
- Additionally, 14 countries have taken the initial steps to implement at least one of the activities, indicating a widespread engagement in the initiative's objectives.

⁸ This particular activity was not included in the questionnaires received from ASS. Only part of UNECA/PAOS questionnaires.

- Regrettably, 9 countries did not undertake any of the activities, and 6 countries did not respond to this specific Strategic Initiative, highlighting the need for more comprehensive participation.

Zooming in on the activity involving the development and signing of MOUs/Protocols with a work program for fostering cooperation, the data shows on graph 6, below, that an impressive 27 countries have effectively executed this crucial step. On the other hand, 16 countries are yet to embark on this activity, highlighting the potential for further progress in this area, and 6 countries did not provide a response regarding this activity.



Graphic 6. Status of implementation activity 2.1.7.3

This achievement represents 50% of the target set for the year 2018, demonstrating substantial strides in fostering cooperation and partnership development. Table 16 show the status implementation by RECs.

Table 16. Status of implementation of Strategic Initiative 2.1.7 by RECs

REC	Actions reported
ADFC-PAOS	SCB5/ Statistical Capacity Building implementation through COMESA/Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
AMU-RECS	
CEN SAD CERS	
ECCAS CERS	The TOR for activity 2.1.7.2 were developed but due to lack of funding, the activity was not carried out.
IGAD	Started cooperation exchange with STATAFRIC/AUC, ACS/UNECA, Statistics Sweden, IOM, ILO and COMESA. Ongoing cooperation with AUC and Statistics Sweden on Migration Statistics. GIZ is also currently supporting IGAD on strengthening of migration data platform and key activities are also complementing the AUC/SCB project on migration statistics. STATAFRIC supported IGAD in establishment of the TWG on National Accounts

UNECA PAOS

ACS conducted consultations with key institutions and selected countries to assess the African statistical system in the framework of the development of the Road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa. GIS – Technical assistance to develop country specific action plans on the IGIF: countries of focus include Cameroon, Eswatini, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia. This was done with AUC, AfDB, EAC SADC, and COMESA in the framework of the Road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa and during the preparation of FASBEV-X meeting. Implementing decisions of the cooperation arrangements with other national statistics offices. With Eurostat to support SDG monitoring in Africa

Source: Countries questionnaire

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.2. Define statistical priorities for the implementation of integration and development agendas

This strategic objective, centered on the identification of statistical priorities, plays a pivotal role in steering the direction of data collection, analysis, and dissemination efforts. It equips African nations with the tools needed to make well-informed decisions, track progress effectively, and underscore their commitment to sustainable development and regional integration.

The strategic initiatives proposed to fulfill this objective are as follows:

- 2.2.1. Identification of statistical priorities: this initiative focuses on the crucial task of pinpointing the most pressing statistical priorities. It sets the stage for allocating resources and attention to areas that have the greatest impact on informed decision-making and sustainable development.
- 2.2.2. Selection and definition of statistical indicators: this initiative complements the first by delving into the specifics of selecting and defining statistical indicators. It ensures that the chosen metrics accurately reflect the identified priorities and facilitate comprehensive data analysis and reporting.

Together, these initiatives provide the foundation for robust statistical frameworks that enable African countries to chart their paths toward sustainable development and regional integration with precision and accountability.

2.2.1. Identification of statistical priorities

The overarching goal of this initiative is to establish a harmonized statistical work program aligned with the main priorities of Agenda 2063, the AfDB's 2013–2022 Strategy, and its five key areas, as well as the Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The expected outcome is to encompass all statistical sectors within the 10-year Action Plan quantified by the indicator - "Number of statistical sectors covered". The proposed activities for this strategic initiative are structured as follows:

- Identification of statistical priorities the initial step involves identifying the critical statistical priorities that align with the broader development agendas. This forms the foundation for focused data collection and analysis efforts.
- Preparation of work programs: once the priorities are identified, detailed work programs are crafted to guide the systematic collection and interpretation of data within these sectors.
- Implementation of work programs the execution phase entails carrying out the work programs diligently, ensuring that the data collection and analysis efforts align with the established priorities.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: a robust monitoring and evaluation framework is set up
- to track progress, assess the effectiveness of the initiatives, and make necessary adjustments for continuous improvement.

The sectors outlined in the SHaSA2 Strategic Plan for 2017-2026 encompass a wide range of critical areas:

- Governance, Peace, and Security
- External Sector, External Trade, and Balance of Payments
- Money and Finance
- National Accounts and Price Statistics
- Infrastructure
- Industries & Tourism
- Public Finance
- Private Sector and Investment
- Science, Technology & Education
- Demography, Migration
- Health
- Human Development
- Social Protection & Gender
- Agriculture
- Environment, Natural Resources, & Climate Change
- Statistical Training and Capacity Building
- Labor and Informal Sector Statistics
- Classification
- Statistics on Civil Registration
- Sustainable Development
- ICT for Statistical Production
- Emerging Statistical Issues

While data from questionnaires⁹ reveals that no region has fully completed all activities outlined for this initiative, it's important to highlight significant efforts. The AfDB has conducted Country assessments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CDAAP) for Agricultural and rural statistics. Additionally, the AfDB has undertaken the Agricultural Statistics

⁹ Information regarding this S.I is exclusively available through REC questionnaires.

Capacity indicator assessment, and the Statistical Capacity Building Project (SCB5) has been initiated. Furthermore, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Pan-African Statistical Office (PAOS) has taken proactive steps to identify statistical priorities through a roadmap aimed at transforming and modernizing official statistics in Africa. These initiatives collectively represent important strides towards achieving the harmonized statistical work program envisioned.

2.2.2. Selection of statistical indicators

The desired impact of this effort is the harmonization of the African statistical system to align with the key priorities of Agenda 2063, the AfDB's 2013-2022 strategy and its five strategic focus areas, and the Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The anticipated outcome is the availability and annual update of statistical indicators, along with their definitions, formulas, and computational methodologies. This outcome is quantified by the "Number of statistical indicators produced and published."

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has made noteworthy progress in achieving this goal. They have successfully validated indicators and established computation techniques, resulting in the publication and widespread dissemination of these crucial statistical metrics. These achievements have been realized through initiatives such as the Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP) and the Africa Information Highway (AIH).

STRATEGIC THEME 3: DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System

- Strategic objective 3.1: Reform and enhance National Statistical Systems.
- Strategic objective 3.2: Reform and enhance regional and continental statistical systems.
- Strategic Objective 3.3: Develop sustainable statistical capacities.
- Strategic Objective 3.4: Establish an effective technological environment.

This strategic objective is geared towards implementing far-reaching reforms and improvements within the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of African countries. The primary goal is to bolster the capacity, efficacy, and efficiency of these NSS, equipping them to generate accurate, timely, and high-quality statistical data. This, in turn, facilitates data-driven decision-making, fosters sustainable development, and advances the cause of regional integration in Africa.

The intended outcome involves ensuring that instruments of ratification are readily available and that the African Charter on Statistics seamlessly integrates into the legal framework and instruments of the participating nations - Instruments of ratification are available; The African Charter on Statistics is integrated into the legal instruments.

3.1.1. Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics (ACS)

The objective of implementing the ACS under the SHaSA2 program is to strengthen the statistical infrastructure of African countries, align it with international best practices, and enable the production and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical information that contributes to the continent's development and integration goals.

The planned activities for this Strategic Initiative encompass a range of crucial steps:

1. Pursue advocacy for AU MS to ratify African charter on Statistics: this involves active efforts to encourage African Union Member States to formally ratify the African Charter on Statistics (ACS).
2. Promotion and popularization of the Charter: an essential part of this initiative is promoting and raising awareness about the ACS, making it more widely known and understood among stakeholders.
3. Mainstreaming of the Charter into national and legal instruments: this involves integrating the ACS into the national legal frameworks and instruments of individual countries, ensuring its effective implementation.
4. Implementation of the Charter: carrying out the provisions and principles outlined in the ACS to put it into practical effect.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation: continuously assessing progress and outcomes to gauge the effectiveness of the initiative.

The ultimate goal of these activities is to establish a solid legal and regulatory framework for the African Statistical System (ASS). ASS has a legal and regulatory framework.

As of February 2016, there were promising developments, with 32 countries having signed the ACS, and 17 of them had completed the formal ratification process by depositing their instruments with the African Union Commission (AUC).

According to the questionnaires the 30 countries have Pursue advocacy for AU MS to ratify African charter on Statistics and 27 countries Mainstreaming of the Charter into national and legal instruments.

latest information available as of April 20, 2023, on the African Union web site¹⁰, updated on 20/04/2023, out of the 55 total African countries, 35 have signed the AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS (ACS) agreement, while 25 have ratified it and deposited their instruments, indicating continued progress.

¹⁰ https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36412-sl-AFRICAN_CHARTER_ON_STATISTICS.pdf

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has actively contributed to this effort by mainstreaming the ACS into national and legal instruments. Additionally, Burundi, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), CEN-SAD CERS have reported full completion of the activities planned under this initiative.

ECCAS-CERS and UNECA PAOS have taken tangible implementation actions, including organizing workshops, to promote and mainstream the ACS into legal instruments, showcasing their commitment to its implementation. In the case of IGAD, discussions on the ratification of the ACS were initiated during the Regional Technical Working Group on Migration Statistics, indicating ongoing efforts to engage IGAD Member States in this important initiative.

3.1.4. Establishment of sustainable financing for statistical activities and pooling of resources

This strategic initiative aims to create a stable and sustainable financial framework for supporting statistical activities across African countries. This includes establishing mechanisms for the efficient allocation and pooling of financial resources, both domestically and through international cooperation. The goal is to ensure that National Statistical Systems (NSS) have the necessary funding to carry out their functions effectively, enhance data quality, and meet the growing demand for high-quality statistical information. This, in turn, contributes to evidence-based decision-making, informed policy formulation, and sustainable development in the region.

The expected outcome of this strategic initiative is, African Statistics Fund is operational, and both National and Regional Statistical Funds are functioning effectively. To achieve this outcome, a series of strategic activities have been outlined:

1. Advocacy for the establishment of the different Funds (national and continental: this entails advocating for the establishment of various funds, both at the national and continental levels, to support statistical activities.
2. Creation of Funds: the creation of these funds is a pivotal step, ensuring that they are formally established and legally recognized entities.
3. Mobilization of resources for the Funds: to sustain these funds, resources need to be mobilized. This includes securing funding from internal sources as well as forging partnerships with external stakeholders.
4. Funds Management: effective management of the funds is critical, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and transparently to support statistical initiatives.
5. Monitoring and evaluation of the management of the Funds: regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to assess the management and impact of these funds, ensuring they meet their intended goals.

At the national level, significant progress has been made, with 12 countries, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Togo, having established National Statistical Funds. These funds are sustained through various

funding sources, both internal and external, reflecting a commitment to strengthening statistical systems.

Furthermore, in the context of the HISWA project (Harmonization and Improvement of Statistics in West Africa), Ghana has taken the lead by creating a fund in collaboration with six other West African countries, fostering regional cooperation and resource pooling.

Regional organizations, such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), are also actively engaged in these initiatives. AfDB is supporting the development of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in Congo, which includes activities related to statistical funds. IGAD has developed concept notes and memos to mobilize resources and technical support from various development partners and pan-African institutions, further enhancing the regional dimension of these efforts.

3.1.6. Creation and/or empowerment of NSO with management autonomy and professional independence

To establish or strengthen National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in African countries, granting them enhanced management autonomy and professional independence. This strategic initiative aims to ensure that NSOs have the authority, resources, and professional freedom required to conduct statistical operations effectively, produce high-quality data, and serve as credible and independent sources of statistical information. By doing so, this initiative contributes to building the capacity for robust, reliable, and impartial data production and analysis within African countries, promoting evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and sustainable development.

The expected outcome for this strategic initiative is **“National Statistical Office (NSOs) are autonomous and professionally independent”**, and the target is to have 30 NSOs operating autonomously and professionally independent by 2018, with the aim of reaching 55 NSOs by 2024. This achievement will result in a more efficient allocation of resources to meet the demands of statistical production, ultimately leading to a marked improvement in the quality of statistical products.

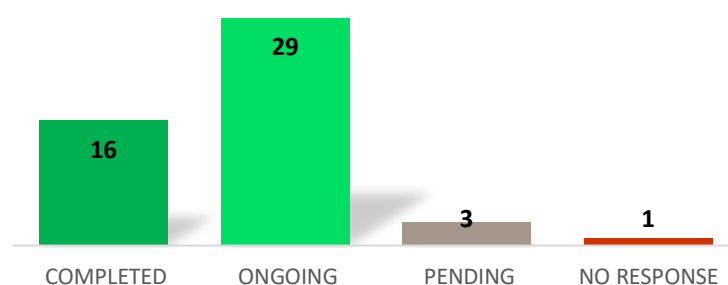
To attain this goal, the following five activities have been proposed under this Strategic Initiative:

- **Advocacy for the implementation of the Charter:** promoting and advocating for the full implementation of the Charter, which serves as a foundational document for empowering NSOs with autonomy and professional independence.
- **Enhancement of the leadership skills:** strengthening the leadership skills of the management teams within National Statistical Systems (NSS), including Councils, Boards, NSO Management, and related entities. Effective leadership is crucial for achieving autonomy and independence.

- **Provision of adequate resources for the NSS:** ensuring that NSSs have access to sufficient and appropriate resources, including financial, human, and material resources, to carry out their statistical functions effectively.
- **Promotion of good governance:** promoting good governance practices in the management of statistical resources, encompassing financial, human, and material aspects. Good governance enhances transparency, accountability, and efficiency.
- **Implementation of the Statutes for African Statisticians:** implementing the Statutes designed to guide the conduct and professionalism of African statisticians. These statutes contribute to the overall professional development and independence of statisticians.

As of the latest update reflected on graph 7, significant progress has been made, with 16 countries¹¹ successfully executing all four activities, demonstrating their commitment to achieving autonomy and professional independence for their NSOs. Additionally, 29 countries have completed at least one of the five activities, indicating ongoing efforts in this regard.

While progress is evident, it's important to note that 3 countries have yet to undertake any of these activities, and one country did not provide a response to this indicator. The continued implementation of these activities will be vital in reaching the ambitious target of 55 autonomous and professionally independent NSOs by 2024.



Graphic 7. Status of Implementation of 3.1.6 activities by countries (Nº)

3.1.7. Establishment of governance structure to promote statistical production

To create a robust and effective governance framework that fosters and supports the production of statistical data. This initiative aims to establish governance structures within National Statistical Systems (NSS) that promote the systematic and high-quality production of statistics, ensure coordination among stakeholders, enhance data reliability, and align statistical activities with national and regional development priorities. The overarching goal is to strengthen the capacity of NSS to provide accurate and timely statistical information for evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and sustainable development in African countries.

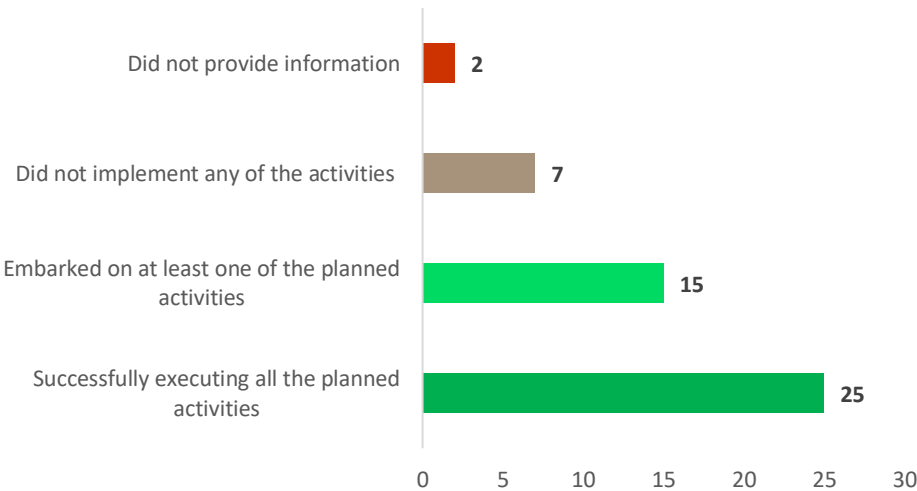
¹¹ Activity 3.1.6.5, which involves the implementation of the Statutes for African Statisticians, is not included in the questionnaire received from ASS

For this Strategic Initiative the Outcome is “Functional Statistics Councils, Committees, or Associations have been created”. The target is for 55 countries to create these functional governance structures by the year 2020. The progress is measured using the indicator, "Number of countries with functioning statistical councils/boards/committees/associations."

To attain this outcome, a series of strategic activities have been proposed:

- **Establishment of governance structures:** the foundational step involves creating governance structures specifically designed to oversee and promote statistical activities.
- **Development of work programs:** once these governance structures are in place, the development of comprehensive work programs ensures that statistical activities are well-coordinated and aligned with national and regional development objectives.
- **The activities proposed are:** Establishment of governance structures; Development of work programs; Implementation of work programs; Monitoring and Evaluation.
- **Implementation of work programs:** the execution phase involves carrying out the planned work programs, ensuring that statistical activities progress according to the established framework.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** a robust monitoring and evaluation system tracks progress and evaluates the effectiveness of the governance structures in promoting statistical production.

Based on questionnaire data significant strides have been made. According to graph 8, below, 25 countries—including Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda—successfully executed all the planned activities. This achievement corresponds to 45% of the target set for 2020. Conversely, 15 countries have embarked on at least one of the planned activities, while 7 countries have yet to initiate any. Additionally, 2 countries did not provide information related to this indicator.



Graphic 8. Status of Implementation of 3.1.7 activities by countries (Nº)

Notably, AMU RECS has successfully completed all activities, ECCAS CRES has completed the initial activity of establishing governance structures, and IGAD has established the IGAD Statistics Committee - comprising the Heads of NSOs in IGAD Member States - with its Terms of Reference in effect, showcasing regional progress in this endeavor.

Recommendations:

Advocate for Engagement: Establish proactive engagement with government officials, policymakers, and key stakeholders to underscore the pivotal role of robust statistical governance in facilitating well-informed decision-making and promoting sustainable development.

Prioritize NSO Empowerment: Place a high priority on Strengthening National Statistical Offices (NSOs), ensuring they possess both managerial autonomy and professional independence. This enhancement will create an enabling environment conducive to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate data, ultimately bolstering the quality of policy formulation.

Commit to the African Charter on Statistics: Swiftly implement the provisions of the African Charter on Statistics (ACS) to institutionalize statistical excellence across the continent. By adhering to the ACS, countries pledge to uphold international standards, enhance statistical production, and ensure the availability of reliable and timely data for informed decision-making.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.2. Reform and enhance regional and continental statistical system

Reforming and enhancing regional and continental statistical systems stand as a pivotal imperative for African nations to unlock the potential of data-driven decision-making. Such endeavors not only serve to catalyze development initiatives but also empower these nations to make substantial contributions to the advancement of the region and establish a prominent global presence.

To effectively realize this Strategic Objective, two specific Strategic Initiatives are outlined in the SASHA2 Strategic Plan: 3.2.1. Creation of Statistical Units within RECs where it doesn't exist yet (CEN-SAD, IGAD) and 3.2.2. Operationalization of the Statistical Institute of the African Union. These strategic actions, as delineated in the SASHA2 Strategic Plan, underscore the significance of transforming and fortifying regional and continental statistical systems with a clear and consistent focus on advancing data-driven progress in Africa.

3.2.1. Creation of Statistical Units within RECs where it doesn't exist yet (CEN-SAD, IGAD)

This initiative addresses the need to create dedicated Statistical Units within Regional Economic Communities (RECs) where they do not presently exist, with a focus on the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This

strategic action will facilitate the harmonization of statistical efforts within these RECs and enhance their capacity to generate and utilize data for decision-making.

The anticipated outcome of this initiative is to have in place and functioning Statistical entities within Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Specifically, the target was to ensure that both IGAD and CEN-SAD had functional statistical institutions in place by the end of 2020.

To achieve this goal, the following activities were envisioned:

- Assessment of RECs' statistical needs: initial step involved assessing the specific statistical requirements of the RECs.
- Development of work programs: subsequently, comprehensive work programs were devised to address these identified needs.
- Implementation of work programs: these programs were then put into action to create the desired statistical entities.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were established to track progress and ensure alignment with objectives.

As of the latest update, the progress towards this goal stands at 50%, as outlined below:

- IGAD: Statistical Unit has been established within the IGAD Secretariat. Additionally, concept notes and memos has been formulated aimed at securing necessary resources and technical assistance from a range of development partners and pan-African institutions. This initiative is currently in progress.
- CEN-SAD: the establishment of the statistical institution within CEN-SAD has been successfully completed.

These developments represent relevant steps toward strengthening the statistical landscape within the respective RECs, with ongoing efforts to further advance this crucial initiative

3.2.2. Operationalization of the statistical Institute of the African Union

The operationalization of this institution represents a critical step toward bolstering the continental statistical system. This initiative will elevate the African Union's ability to coordinate, standardize, and disseminate statistical information across member states, fostering a more cohesive and robust statistical framework for the entire continent.

he operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics, referred to as STATAFRIC, represents a pivotal milestone in fortifying the continental statistical system. This strategic initiative will significantly enhance the African Union's capacity to effectively coordinate, standardize, and disseminate statistical information across its member states. The ultimate aim is to foster a more unified and robust statistical framework that spans the entire African continent.

Establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics: STATAFRIC was formally established during the January 2013, African Union Summit of Heads of States and Government, which convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its overarching strategic vision is to become the premier center for the production of high-quality statistical data pertaining to Africa. STATAFRIC's core mission is to consistently deliver timely, reliable, and current statistics precisely when they are needed. This endeavor, in turn, reinforces the African integration agenda by providing well-substantiated evidence for informed decision-making, thereby contributing significantly to the comprehensive realization of the African Union's visionary goals.

For this initiative, the expected outcome is the establishment of a fully functional African Union Institute for Statistics, with annual activities outlined in the Action Plan set to be implemented from 2017 to 2026. This timeline underscores the commitment to ensuring STATAFRIC's sustained

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.3. Develop sustainable statistical capacity

This strategic objective focuses on building robust institutional frameworks, fostering a culture of continuous learning, and providing the necessary resources and support to empower statistical agencies across the continent. The ultimate goal is to create self-reliant and resilient statistical systems that can consistently produce high-quality data, adapt to evolving needs, and contribute effectively to evidence-based decision-making, thereby promoting sustainable development in Africa.

3.3.1. Creation of training centers in NSOs or strengthening of existing centers

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to establish specialized training centers within National Statistical Offices (NSOs) or enhance existing ones. These centers are designed to serve as hubs of excellence for statistical capacity development. The initiative aims to provide NSOs with the necessary tools, resources, and expertise to develop and sustain a highly skilled workforce in the field of statistics.

The initiative plays a pivotal role in building the human resource capacity within NSOs and the broader African Statistical System. By establishing or reinforcing training centers, it facilitates the development of a skilled workforce capable of producing accurate and reliable statistical data.

These centers serve as platforms for knowledge transfer, where experienced statisticians can mentor and train the next generation of statisticians. This fosters continuity and sustainability in statistical expertise.

Strengthening or creating training centers contributes to the improvement of statistical practices and quality improvement. Well-trained statisticians are better equipped to uphold high-quality standards in data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Ultimately, the initiative supports the overarching goal of sustainable development by ensuring that African countries have the statistical capacity needed to make informed decisions, monitor progress, and formulate evidence-based policies.

By establishing or enhancing these training centers, Strategic Initiative 3.3.1 significantly contributes to the development of sustainable statistical capacity in Africa, aligning with the broader objectives of the SHaSA 2 program.

In the context of this strategic initiative, the specified outcome entails the establishment and **Strengthening** of statistical training centers. The set targets for achievement by 2020 encompass the creation or enhancement of 10 such training centers, with a more ambitious goal for 2026, aiming for a total of 20 training centers established or strengthened. As outlined in the SASHA2 strategic plan, several countries have already made significant progress in this regard by establishing their training centers.

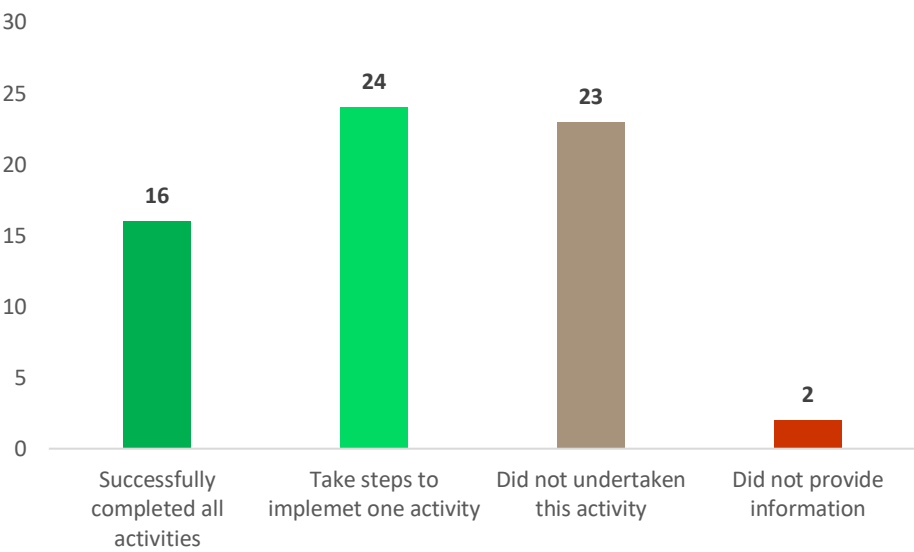
The planned activities for this initiative include:

- **Assessment of training needs:** conducting comprehensive assessments of the training requirements within National Statistical Systems (NSSs) to identify specific areas of focus.
- **Development of training programs and modules:** creating tailored training programs and modules that address the identified needs and align with international best practices.
- **Creation or strengthening of existing training centers:** establishing new training centers or enhancing the capabilities of existing ones to serve as hubs for statistical capacity development.
- **Implementation of the work program:** executing the planned activities in a systematic manner, ensuring that training programs are effectively delivered and centers are established or strengthened as per the set targets.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** continuously monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of the initiative to ensure alignment with objectives and targets.

Graph 9, below, reflected the on information gathered from questionnaires and it shows that 16 countries (including Benin, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda) have successfully completed all the activities outlined for this Strategic Initiative.

24 countries have reported positively on conducting the specific activity of creating or strengthening existing training centers, demonstrating their commitment to capacity development in statistics. However, it's noteworthy that 23 countries have indicated that they have not undertaken this activity.

Additionally, 2 countries did not provide a response to this indicator, warranting further exploration of their progress in this context.



Graphic 9. Status of implementation of activities of strategic initiative 3.3.1.

This information underscores the diverse progress made by participating countries in advancing statistical capacity building, contributing to the overarching goals of the program.

3.3.2. Enhancement in the capacity of schools and centers for statistical demographic training

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to strengthen and expand the capacity of schools and centers dedicated to statistical demographic training. This initiative aims to equip these institutions with the resources, expertise, and infrastructure needed to provide high-quality training and education in the fields of statistics and demographics.

This initiative plays a vital role in building the human resource capacity in the critical areas of statistics and demographics. By enhancing the capabilities of training schools and centers, it ensures that students and professionals receive comprehensive and up-to-date education in these domains.

By providing resources and support for schools and centers, the initiative contributes to the improvement of the quality of statistical and demographic education. This, in turn, enhances the skills of graduates and professionals, resulting in more accurate and reliable data collection and analysis.

These enhanced training institutions serve as knowledge hubs, disseminating expertise and best practices in statistical and demographic disciplines. This knowledge sharing fosters a broader culture of excellence in these critical areas.

Ultimately, the initiative aligns with the overarching goal of sustainable development by ensuring that African countries have a steady influx of well-trained statisticians and demographers. These professionals are essential for evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and monitoring progress toward development goals.

By enhancing the capacity of schools and centers dedicated to statistical demographic training, Strategic Initiative 3.3.2 significantly contributes to building sustainable statistical capacity within Africa, in line with the broader objectives of the SHaSA 2 program.

In the scope of this strategic initiative, the specified outcome is the transformation of statistical and demographic training centers into Centers of Excellence for statistical education. The target is to elevate the capacity of these institutions, with the aim of strengthening a total of 2 schools and training centers by 2020 and expanding this number to 5 by 2026.

The indicator for tracking progress in this initiative is the "Number of schools and training centers that have benefited from capacity strengthening." The activities outlined for this initiative include:

- Assessment of capacity building needs: conducting comprehensive assessments to identify the specific capacity building requirements within National Statistical Systems (NSSs).
- Development of capacity building programs and modules: designing tailored capacity building programs and modules that address the identified needs and align with international best practices in statistical and demographic education.
- Implementation of capacity building programs: executing the planned capacity building programs to enhance the capabilities of the targeted schools and training centers, ensuring they become Centers of Excellence.
- Monitoring and evaluation: continuously monitoring the progress of capacity strengthening initiatives and evaluating their impact to ensure that objectives are met.

According to the SASHA2 strategic plan, there are currently a total of 8 statistical schools in existence. However, no specific data regarding the progress of this initiative has been provided in the questionnaires.

This initiative aims to bolster the quality and capacity of statistical and demographic training institutions, ultimately advancing the capabilities of the African statistical workforce and supporting sustainable development in the region.

3.3.3. Participation in international statistical training programs

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to enhance the capacity of African statistical agencies and professionals through active participation in international statistical training programs. This initiative seeks to facilitate exposure to best practices, methodologies, and advanced techniques in statistics on a global scale.

This Strategic Initiative plays a critical role in building and strengthening the statistical capacity of African nations by promoting participation in international statistical training programs. This not only enhances the skills and knowledge of statisticians but also aligns African statistical practices with global standards, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of the continent.

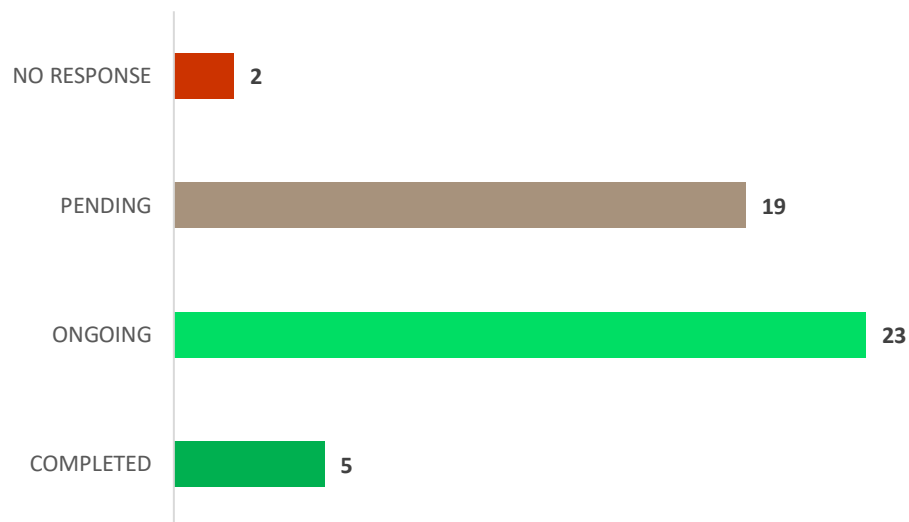
By participating in international statistical training programs, African statisticians and statistical agencies can acquire advanced skills and knowledge, thereby enhancing their proficiency in data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Besides, it encourages networking and collaboration with statistical experts and organizations worldwide. This fosters the exchange of ideas, collaboration on research projects, and the establishment of valuable partnerships.

Exposure to international training programs allows participants to familiarize themselves with global best practices and the latest developments in the field of statistics. This helps in aligning African statistical practices with international standards in one hand. On the other hand it contributes to building a sustainable statistical capacity within African countries. Statisticians and agencies equipped with advanced skills are better positioned to contribute to evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development in their respective nations. Furthermore, it often opens doors to resources, funding opportunities, and technical assistance from international organizations, further supporting the development and sustainability of statistical capacity.

In the context of this Strategic Initiative, the desired outcome is to ensure that statisticians receive comprehensive training through participation in international statistical programs- “Statisticians are trained in international statistical programs”. The targeted goal is to train 200 statisticians annually. The planned activities for achieving this outcome include:

- Assessment of external training needs: conducting a thorough assessment to identify the specific external training needs of statisticians within the participating countries.
- Development of a 10-year international training program: designing a comprehensive 10-year program that encompasses a wide range of international statistical training opportunities tailored to address the identified needs.
- Implementation of the training program: actively executing the training program to facilitate the participation of statisticians in international training initiatives.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: continuously monitoring and evaluating the progress and effectiveness of the training program to ensure alignment with objectives and to make any necessary improvements.

Currently, according to graph 10, below, 5 countries have successfully executed all the planned activities, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the skills and knowledge of their statisticians. In contrast, 23 countries have initiated at least one of the projected activities, indicating their intent to engage in international statistical training efforts. However, it's noteworthy that 19 countries have not yet embarked on any of the planned activities, suggesting the need for additional support and encouragement to promote participation in these crucial training initiatives.



Graphic 10. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 3.3.3.

The questionnaires' data did not allow for an assessment of the current number of trained statisticians to report on the indicator.

This initiative aims to build a strong foundation of statistical expertise by providing opportunities for statisticians to acquire international training, ultimately contributing to better data quality and informed decision-making across the participating countries.

3.3.4. Capacity building for young African statisticians (coaching and mentoring)

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to cultivate and strengthen the capabilities of young African statisticians through targeted coaching and mentoring initiatives. This initiative intent to empower the emerging generation of statisticians with the requisite skills, knowledge, and guidance to excel in the field of statistics and contribute significantly to the sustained development of their nations.

This initiative serves as a critical platform for transferring essential statistical knowledge and expertise from experienced statisticians to young professionals. It plays a pivotal role in enhancing the skill set of emerging statisticians, bridging the knowledge gap, and ensuring a seamless transition of expertise within the field.

Coaching and mentoring programs are instrumental in facilitating the career advancement of young statisticians. They receive personalized guidance on career pathways, professional growth opportunities, and networking, which are essential for their long-term success. It also plays a vital role in nurturing leadership qualities among emerging statisticians. They are provided with opportunities to develop leadership skills, make informed decisions, and actively contribute to the advancement of their respective statistical institutions.

By investing in the capacity building of young statisticians, the initiative contributes significantly to the maintenance and enhancement of the overall quality of statistical work. Young professionals trained in best practices are well-equipped to uphold rigorous standards in data collection, analysis, and reporting.

This initiative will foster sustainable statistical capacity building by ensuring that the young generation of statisticians is adequately prepared to carry forward the mission of producing accurate and reliable statistics in their respective countries. This sustained investment in human resources strengthens the future of the African statistical system and aligns with the broader goals of sustainable development on the continent.

As outlined in the SHaSA 2 strategic document, Strategic Initiative 3.3.4 underscores the importance of coaching and mentoring young African statisticians, positioning them as a critical resource for the future of statistics in Africa and the realization of sustainable development objectives.

In the context of this Strategic Initiative, the anticipated outcome is to ensure that young statisticians receive comprehensive exposure to the practical aspects of the profession and benefit from effective supervision - Young statisticians are better introduced to the practice of the profession and are well supervised. The specific target is to provide mentorship for 100 young statisticians annually.

Regrettably, there is no data available in the questionnaires regarding the progress or implementation of this initiative.

3.3.5. Operationalization of the Pan-African statistical center – PANSTAT

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to establish and operationalize the Pan-African Statistical Center, known as PANSTAT. The initiative seeks to create a dedicated and centralized hub for statistical expertise, research, and collaboration at the continental level that will enhance the qualitative and quantitative improvement of the skills and competencies of African statisticians. PANSTAT serves as a focal point for consolidating statistical expertise, knowledge, and best practices from across Africa. It becomes a centralized resource for statistical capacity development, research, and technical support.

The initiative encourages research and innovation in the field of statistics by providing a platform for collaborative projects, data analysis, and the development of new statistical methodologies. This fosters advancements in statistical practices.

PANSTAT plays a critical role in capacity building by offering training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of statisticians across the continent. It contributes to the development of a highly skilled statistical workforce. The center can serve, as well, as a catalyst for resource mobilization, attracting funding, technical assistance, and partnerships from international organizations and donors to support statistical development initiatives in Africa.

PANSTAT facilitates data harmonization efforts across African countries by promoting standardized data collection, analysis, and reporting practices. This ensures the comparability and reliability of statistics generated in the region. Besides the entity contributes to building a sustainable statistical capacity by fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and research that strengthens the African statistical system as a whole.

As outlined in the SHaSA 2 strategic document, Strategic Initiative 3.3.5 underscores the significance of establishing PANSTAT as a pivotal institution to advance statistical capacity, research, and cooperation across Africa, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development on the continent.

In the context of this Strategic Initiative, the envisioned outcome is the establishment of specialized postgraduate programs, continuous education opportunities, and comprehensive training programs tailored for non-statisticians. The specific targets are as follows:

- The objective is to set up three postgraduate programs by the year 2020 and expand this number to five by 2026. These programs will focus on advanced statistical education and research.
- The target is to provide training for 100 statisticians each year across various statistical fields. This initiative aims to enhance the expertise and skills of statisticians to meet the evolving needs of data-driven decision-making.
- The goal is to provide training for 20 non-statistical managers annually. This specialized training equips non-statisticians with a foundational understanding of statistics, enabling them to effectively use statistical insights in their roles.

Unfortunately, there is limited data available from the questionnaires, and comprehensive information is scarce on AU websites regarding the progress or implementation status of this initiative. Further efforts may be required to gather data and monitor the achievement of these targets, which are essential for strengthening statistical capacity and promoting evidence-based decision-making in the region.

Recommendations:

Strengthen Institutional Collaboration: to facilitate the successful operationalization of PANSTAT, it is crucial to foster robust collaboration among national statistical agencies, academic institutions, and international partners. This collaboration should be characterized by:

- **Knowledge exchange:** encourage the sharing of best practices, methodologies, and experiences among stakeholders. Facilitate platforms for statisticians and experts to exchange insights and innovations in statistics.
- **Share resource:** promote the pooling of resources, both financial and human, to support the activities and goals of PANSTAT. Collaborative resource-sharing can enhance the center's effectiveness.

- Expertise sharing: leverage the expertise of international partners and academic institutions to provide guidance, training, and technical assistance to PANSTAT and national statistical agencies.
- Strong statistical community building: promote a sense of community and a collaborative spirit within the African statistical ecosystem to collectively advance the field.

Continuous training: African countries should prioritize the implementation of continuous training programs for their statisticians. These programs should encompass a wide range of subjects, including technical skills, data analysis, modern statistical methods, and data management. The emphasis should be on:

- Regular training: establish a culture of continuous learning and skill development among statisticians. Regular training sessions and workshops will keep professionals updated on evolving methodologies and technologies.
- Customized training: tailor training programs to address the specific needs and challenges faced by statisticians in different countries and regions.
- Certification: offer certification programs to formally recognize and validate the skills and competencies of statisticians.

Continuous partners support: African Union (AU) partners have a pivotal role in supporting the development of sustainable statistical capacity in African countries. To effectively harness this support, African nations should:

- Leverage technical expertise: seek technical expertise from AU partners in areas such as data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Knowledge sharing: collaborate with partners to facilitate knowledge sharing and the transfer of best practices in statistics.
- Support for institutional reforms: engage partners in driving institutional reforms within national statistical agencies to align with international standards and best practices.
- Technology transfer: encourage technology transfer initiatives where partners can provide access to advanced statistical tools and platforms to enhance data collection and analysis capabilities.

African countries can foster a collaborative environment, invest in the professional development of statisticians, and leverage the support of AU partners to advance the operationalization and effectiveness of PANSTAT, ultimately strengthening the African statistical community and its capacity for data-driven decision-making by following these recommendations.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.4. Establish an effective technological environment

This strategic objective aims to create and maintain a robust technological environment that empowers the African Statistical System (ASS) with state-of-the-art tools, systems, and infrastructure needed to meet the data challenges of the 21st century. This includes harnessing the power of

technology to support data-driven decision-making, evidence-based policymaking, and sustainable development across the African continent.

The Strategic Objective 3.4 serves as a driving force for advancing the technological capabilities of the African Statistical System. It facilitates the adoption of modern technologies, software, and hardware to streamline statistical processes, and plays a pivotal role in enabling the efficient management and integration of data from various sources, ensuring data quality, consistency, and accessibility by encouraging interoperability of data systems at national, regional, and continental levels, ensuring that data can flow seamlessly across different platforms and organizations. As well as promoting the development of user-friendly interfaces and platforms to make statistical data and information accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and the public.

Besides it emphasizes the implementation of robust data security measures to safeguard sensitive information, maintaining trust in data systems and protecting privacy. And, fosters a culture of innovation by exploring emerging technologies and methodologies to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities by supporting capacity building efforts and by providing training and resources to statisticians and data professionals in the effective use of technology for statistical purposes.

Strategic Objective 3.4 aligns with the broader goals of SHaSA 2 by promoting the sustainable development of institutional capacities within the African Statistical System. It recognizes the critical role of technology in achieving these goals.

3.4.1. development of an integrated information system with links at national , regional and continental levels

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to design, implement, and maintain an integrated information system that operates seamlessly at national, regional, and continental levels. This system is intended to facilitate the efficient collection, management, analysis, and dissemination of statistical data across Africa. Through the implementation of this strategic initiative, African nations could enhance the efficiency of their data management and distribution systems, thereby enhancing the formulation of national development policies and strategies.

By pursuing this Strategic Initiative 3.4.1, AU/STATAFRICA aims to transform the African statistical landscape by establishing a cohesive, efficient, and secure integrated information system that enhances data availability, quality, and accessibility, ultimately contributing to informed decision-making and sustainable development in Africa as:

This initiative plays a central role in the development of an integrated data ecosystem that connects national, regional, and continental statistical entities. It fosters cohesion and interoperability among various data systems and promotes data harmonization efforts by establishing common data standards, classifications, and methodologies. This ensures that data from different sources and levels are compatible and can be used for comparative analysis.

The initiative facilitates the efficient flow of data across geographic and administrative boundaries. It streamlines the process of data collection, validation, and transmission, reducing duplication of efforts and will encourages cross-border data sharing and collaboration, enabling neighboring countries to exchange data and insights for regional development planning and decision-making.

It will make statistical data and information accessible to a wide range of users, including policymakers, researchers, and the public. It aims to create user-friendly interfaces and platforms for data access as well as will ensure the security and confidentiality of data is a core element of this initiative. It establishes robust data security measures to protect sensitive information and maintain trust in data systems.

The strategic initiative 3.4.1 aligns with the broader goals of SHaSA 2 by strengthening the technological environment within the African Statistical System. It recognizes that an integrated information system is essential for modernizing and advancing statistical capabilities across the continent.

The SHaSA2 Strategic Plan envisions significant impacts, including enhanced data storage practices and improved accessibility to national data. The ultimate outcome is the establishment of robust, dependable, interconnected, and integrated information subsystems within the African Statistical System (ASS) framework. Measuring success will involve tracking the number of entities equipped with accessible integrated systems and the breadth of domains covered. The overarching target is to achieve this level of accessibility for integrated systems and subsystems in all 54 African countries, aligning with the set objective.

It's worth noting that the African Development Bank (AfDB) has already developed the Africa Information Highway (AIH), a comprehensive network of live open data platforms (ODPs) that electronically link all African countries and 16 regional organizations – "<https://dataportal.opendataforafrica.org/>". This initiative creates an open data system that enables access to information from diverse countries and sectors. This system benefits not only the general public but also private entities and academic institutions, providing them with the capability to access pertinent statistics.

It's important to highlight that the specific information related to AIH and its capabilities is not covered in the questionnaires, indicating the need for further exploration and understanding of the existing resources and initiatives that can complement and support the goals of Strategic Initiative 3.4.1.

Recommendation: Building upon the existing Africa Information Highway (AIH) initiative developed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) is a commendable approach for the implementation of Strategic Initiative 3.4.1: Development of an Integrated Information System with Links at National, Regional, and Continental Levels. To further enhance the success of this initiative within the SHaSA 2 framework, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Collaboration and integration: African nations should actively collaborate with AfDB and regional organizations to ensure seamless integration of national, regional, and continental data systems. This collaboration should extend to data sharing protocols, standards, and interoperability frameworks.
- Capacity building: invest in capacity building efforts to equip national statistical offices and relevant institutions with the skills and knowledge required to manage integrated information systems effectively. Training programs and workshops can facilitate this capacity development.
- Data security and privacy: emphasize robust data security and privacy measures to safeguard sensitive information within integrated systems. Adherence to international data protection standards is essential to foster trust and encourage data sharing.
- User accessibility: ensure that the integrated information systems are designed with user-friendly interfaces, making data access easy for the public, private entities, and academic institutions. User training and support mechanisms can also enhance accessibility.
- Monitoring and evaluation: implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness and impact of integrated systems. Regular assessments should track the coverage of domains, the number of entities equipped with accessible systems, and the quality of data.
- Awareness and promotion: raise awareness about the benefits of integrated data systems among stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and the public. Highlight the potential for evidence-based decision-making, research, and development.
- Alignment with SHaSA2: ensure that the development of integrated information systems aligns with the broader goals of the SHaSA 2 program, particularly in advancing statistical capacity, evidence-based policymaking, and sustainable development across the African continent.

By adhering to these recommendations and leveraging the existing AIH initiative, African nations can significantly enhance their data management capabilities and contribute to the realization of the SHaSA 2 objectives. This integrated approach fosters a culture of data sharing and transparency, which is pivotal for informed decision-making and sustainable development in Africa.

STRATEGIC THEME 4: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF QUALITY POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

Strategic Theme 4: Promote a culture of quality policy

- Strategic objective 4.1: Drive evidence-based decisions through the increased use of statistics.
- Strategic Objective 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical information.

The lack of a "statistics culture" in Africa has been identified as a significant hindrance to the advancement of statistics in the region. Both decision-makers and the public lack adequate awareness of the vital role that statistics can play in fostering socio-economic development.

The primary objective of Strategic Theme 4 is to cultivate a culture of appreciation and reliance on high-quality statistical information in Africa. It aims to address the existing gap where both decision-makers and the public may lack awareness of the indispensable role that statistics play in driving informed policies and actions. Ultimately, it seeks to foster a culture where high-quality statistical information is not only valued but also consistently utilized to drive socio-economic development and improve the quality of life for all in Africa.

Strategic theme 4 seeks to address this issue by: i. Make evidence-based decisions through increased use of statistics and; ii. Improving the communication of statistical information.

1. Promoting evidence-based decision-making: strategic Theme 4 is dedicated to promoting evidence-based decision-making through the increased utilization of statistical data and insights. This involves advocating for the integration of statistical information into policymaking processes.
2. Improving the communication of statistical information: the theme also emphasizes the need to enhance the communication of statistical information. This includes improving the accessibility, clarity, and comprehensibility of statistical data to ensure it is effectively communicated to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4.1: Drive evidence based decisions through the increased use of statistics decision-making

The primary objective of Strategic Objective 4.1 is to champion and facilitate the adoption of evidence-based decision-making practices across Africa. It aims to promote the utilization of statistical data and insights as the foundation for policymaking and decision-making processes.

Strategic Objective 4.1 serves as a catalyst for advocacy efforts aimed at encouraging decision-makers, policymakers, and government institutions to base their decisions on statistical evidence. It emphasizes the crucial role that data and statistics play in shaping effective policies. It plays a central role in advocating for the integration of statistical insights into policymaking processes at all levels of government. This includes local, national, regional, and continental decision-making bodies. And promotes a shift toward data-driven governance by highlighting the importance of informed decision-making grounded in high-quality statistical data.

Strategic Objective 4.1 supports capacity building initiatives to equip decision-makers with the skills and knowledge required to effectively use statistical information in their policy and decision-making roles. This includes training programs and workshops. It encourages the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of evidence-based decisions. This involves tracking the use of statistics in policymaking and measuring the outcomes of such decisions, that .

Foster best practices in evidence-based decision-making, drawing from global standards and successful case studies. It aims to showcase the positive outcomes that result from data-informed policies.

This strategic objective anticipates the following outcomes:

- **Enhanced Policy and Decision Quality:** The utilization of statistics as a foundational basis for policymaking and decision-making processes is expected to lead to a notable enhancement in the quality of policies and decisions.
- **Positive Economic and Social Impacts:** The improved quality of policies and decisions, grounded in statistical evidence, is projected to result in positive impacts at both economic and social levels, contributing to sustainable development and societal well-being.

4.1.1: Dialogue between ASS and decision-makers and legislators do that their speeches are based on statistics

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to foster constructive dialogue and collaboration between the African Statistical System (ASS) and decision-makers, including legislators. It aims to facilitate a deeper understanding and utilization of statistical data in speeches and interventions by policymakers, ultimately promoting evidence-based decision-making.

The implementation of this strategic initiative holds the potential to significantly enhance the quality of decisions made by African policymakers, with positive socio-economic impacts. The expected outcomes encompass the widespread integration of statistical insights into speeches, interventions, and high-impact decision-making processes, specifically:

- **Evidence-based speeches:** the primary expected outcome is the integration of statistical data and insights into the speeches and interventions of decision-makers and legislators. This ensures that their communication is grounded in reliable statistical evidence.
- **Informed policymaking:** using statistics, decision-makers are better equipped to formulate policies and strategies that are grounded in data, leading to more effective governance.

The target of this initiative is to encourage a substantial number of decision-makers and legislators to incorporate statistical insights into their speeches and interventions. The ultimate aim is to create a culture where evidence-based decision-making is the norm.

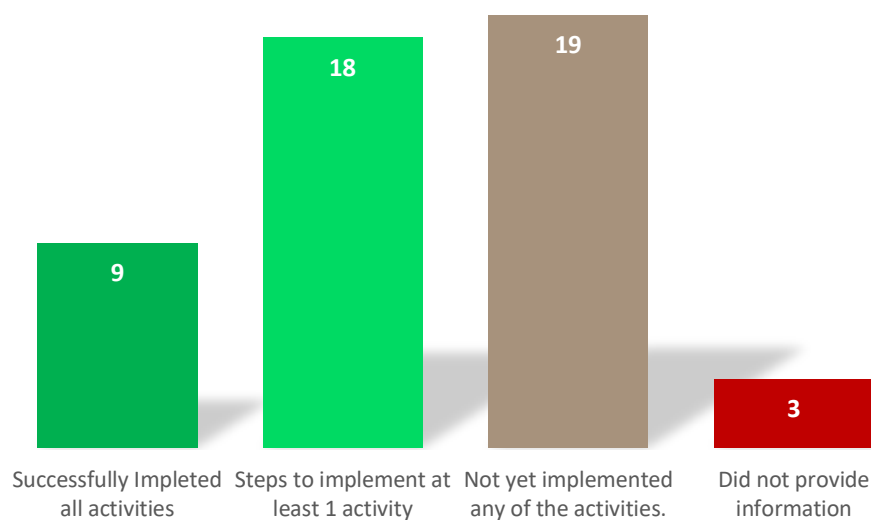
To gauge progress, specific measurable indicators and targets were established, including:

- The number of meetings organized by the African Statistical System (ASS) dedicated to promoting statistical use in decision-making.
- The number of decision-makers applying statistical insights in their policy and decision-making roles.
- The frequency of statistics being employed in parliamentary debates.

Through the planned activities, Strategic Initiative 4.1.1 aims to create a conducive environment where evidence-based decision-making becomes ingrained in the practices of decision-makers and legislators across Africa.

Activities envisaged for Strategic Initiative 4.1.1 are:

- Comprehensive assessment of statistical utilization: the initiative commences with an in-depth assessment aimed at evaluating how various actors across different sectors are currently utilizing statistical data. This assessment provides a baseline understanding of existing practices.
- Development of a Robust work program: subsequently, a comprehensive work program is meticulously crafted. This program is designed to facilitate and promote constructive dialogues among decision-makers and legislators. Its core objective is to educate and encourage the effective utilization of statistical insights in their speeches, interventions, and policymaking
- Implementation of the work program: with the work program in place, the initiative progresses to its implementation phase. This phase involves organizing and facilitating dialogues, workshops, and capacity-building sessions, fostering an environment where decision-makers and legislators are empowered to leverage statistical data effectively.
- Implementation of work program to ensure the initiative's effectiveness, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework is established. This framework is vital for tracking progress, measuring the impact of the program, and providing valuable insights for refinement and improvement.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established to track progress, assess the impact of the initiative, and ensure alignment with strategic objectives.



Graphic 11. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 4.1.1.

The data collected from questionnaire forms are depicted in Graph 11 above, providing a concise summary of the progress in implementation:

- Nine countries, including Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Tunisia, have successfully implemented all proposed activities.
- Eighteen countries, such as Algeria, Benin, Botswana, and Nigeria, have taken steps to implement at least one of the envisioned activities.
- Nineteen countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Liberia, and Senegal, have not yet implemented any of the activities.
- Three countries did not provide specific answers related to this activity.

At the regional level, several key stakeholders have undertaken actions in alignment with this Strategic Initiative. Notable examples include:

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) conducted assessments to understand how statistics are employed by different stakeholders as part of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) process.
- ECCAS CERS conducted an assessment of statistical utilization by various actors.
- UNECA initiated a work program aimed at fostering dialogue among decision-makers and legislators on statistical use. Additionally, they established outreach programs to enhance the visibility of their initiatives, covering areas such as spatial data, big data demystification, and data and statistical system modernization.

These collaborative efforts at both national and regional levels are essential in advancing the culture of evidence-based decision-making and driving socio-economic development across Africa.

4.1.2: Advocacy for the use of statistics

By championing the advocacy for the use of statistics, African countries aim to create a culture of data-driven decision-making that supports sustainable development, effective governance, and evidence-based policy implementation. Thus, this strategic initiative is to advocate for and promote the widespread use of statistics in policy and decision-making processes across African countries. It aims to create awareness and highlight the pivotal role of statistics in driving informed and evidence-based policies.

This strategic objective represents a pivotal milestone in the pursuit of enhanced statistical harmonization and developmental progress throughout the African continent. The envisioned outcome for this strategic initiative is the establishment of an Advocacy Strategy, accompanied by the production of annual reports documenting engagements with governments, parliaments, civil society, and the private sector. The ultimate goal is to have Advocacy Strategies finalized and implemented in all 54 African countries by 2018.

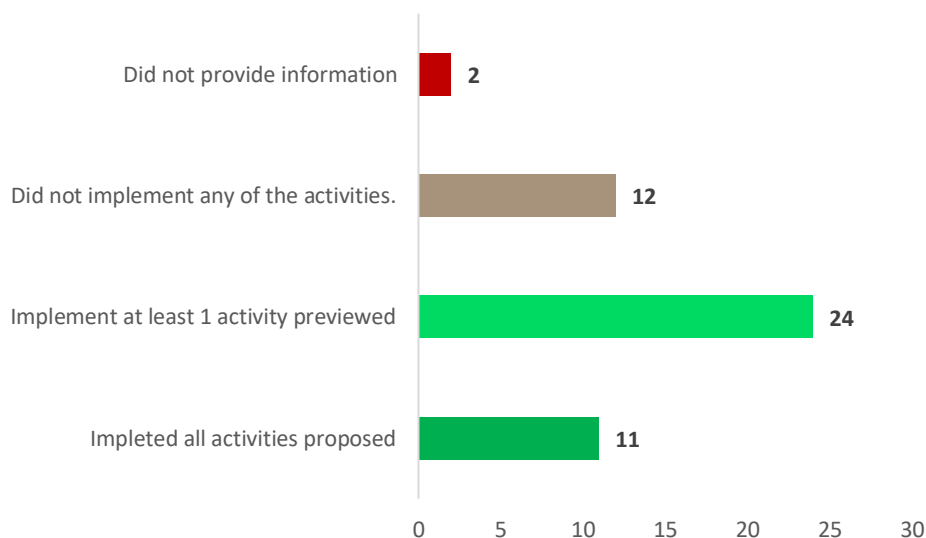
Given the limited presence of Advocacy Strategies in several countries, the ramifications of this S.I encompass the enhancement of decision-making quality and the overall improvement of economic

and social outcomes across the African nations. The activities intended to realize this Strategic Initiative include:

1. Conducting an assessment of statistical utilization by various stakeholders.
2. Developing a comprehensive work program aimed at fostering dialogue among governments, parliaments, civil society, and the private sector.
3. Executing the devised work program with precision.
4. Continuous monitoring and evaluation to gauge progress and impact.

The data gathered on questionnaire forms are presented in Graph 12 below, providing a concise summary of the progress in implementation:

- ✓ A total of 11 countries- Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, São Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia - has implemented all activities proposed.
- ✓ A total of 24 Countries- Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe. - has implemented at least one of the previewed activities.
- ✓ A total of 12 Countries - Angola, Botswana, Central African Republic, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Togo, Zambia - did not implement any activity
- ✓ A total of 2 Countries did not provide answer to this specific activity.



Graphic 12. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 4.1.2.

At the regional level, both AfDB and UNECA have successfully undertaken a minimum of one activity. Within the framework of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) process and the Africa Statistics Day Commemoration, AfDB has conducted an assessment focusing on the

utilization of statistics across various stakeholders. Additionally, UNECA has established the ECA Price Watch Centre as One-Stop-Shop providing information on price levels across African Countries. It aims to provide decision-makers with a unique view of price variations in countries, Regional Economic Communities and at Africa level. In a proactive approach, UNECA engaged key figures such as finance ministers and media representatives, addressing the utilization of Consumer Price Index (CPI) data. Moreover, UNECA demonstrated the application of data in the context of crises, exemplified by their use of data during the Ukraine crisis.

4.1.3: Integrating of statistics into national and regional development plans

Integrating statistics into national and regional development plans empowers African countries to make informed decisions, monitor progress effectively, target interventions where they are needed, and optimize resource allocation.

This strategic initiative facilitates the seamless integration of statistical data and insights into both national and regional development plans. It aims to ensure that decisions made at these levels are well-informed and evidence-based, leveraging the power of statistics to drive more effective policy formulation and development strategies. This data-driven approach enhances development outcomes, supports evidence-based policies, and ultimately contributes to the sustainable growth and well-being of African nations.

Within the context of SHaSA2, this strategic initiative plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between data collection and policy implementation. It involves coordinating efforts to embed statistical information and analysis directly into the planning and decision-making processes of governments and regional bodies. Key responsibilities include:

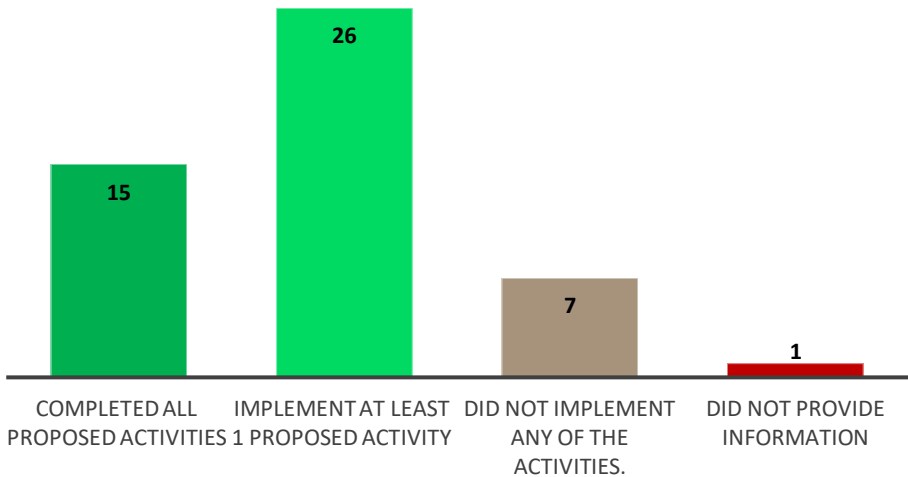
- Data integration: ensuring that statistical data generated by various sources are harmonized, relevant, and readily available for use in planning and policymaking.
- Capacity building: strengthening the statistical capacity of government institutions and regional organizations to collect, analyze, and utilize data effectively.
- Advocacy: promoting the value of evidence-based decision-making and statistical literacy among policymakers, emphasizing the role of statistics in achieving development goals.
- Collaboration: facilitating collaboration between statisticians, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders to ensure that statistical insights are translated into actionable policy recommendations.
- Monitoring and evaluation: continuously assessing the impact of statistical integration in development plans to refine strategies and improve outcomes.

By implementing this strategic initiative, SHaSA2 aims to foster a culture where statistics serve as a cornerstone for informed decision-making at both national and regional levels, ultimately contributing to more effective and sustainable development in the participating countries and regions.

Within this Strategic Objective, the envisioned outcome is the integration of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) as pivotal components within both national and regional development strategies. The objective is to have 20 countries incorporate the NSDS and RSDS as core pillars of their national and regional development plans by the year 2018, with the goal of expanding this integration to all 54 countries by 2026. Additionally, the aim is to involve 8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with the RSDS serving as the central focus of their development plans by the year 2020.

The data gathered on questionnaire forms are presented in Graph 13 below, providing a concise summary of the progress in implementation:

Among the participating countries, the following fifteen nations have successfully completed all designated activities: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Tunisia, and Uganda.



Graphic 13. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 4.1.3.

Additionally, twenty-six (26) countries have made progress by completing at least one of the proposed activities. These countries include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

However, seven countries have not yet implemented any of the activities. These countries are Burundi, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, and Togo. Additionally, Cabo Verde did not provide the required information.

Regarding regional actions, the analysis of questionnaire data reveals the following:

- ECCAS and CERS have incorporated the integration of statistics into national and regional development plans into their annual work plans. However, due to budget constraints, the implementation of this activity has been delayed.
- IGAD is actively supporting its member states in strengthening or establishing technical working groups for migration data within their respective countries, utilizing the existing institutional framework."

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical information

Improving the communication of statistical information in African countries is critical for promoting effective governance, transparency, evidence-based policies, investment, and sustainable development. It empowers governments and citizens alike to make informed choices and collectively work toward achieving common goals.

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to enhance the communication and dissemination of statistical information to various stakeholders effectively. It aims to improve the accessibility, relevance, and usability of statistical data and insights to support informed decision-making, foster transparency, and strengthen public trust in official statistics.

By implementing this strategic objective, SHaSA2 aims to bridge the gap between statistical producers and data users, ensuring that statistical information is not only accurate but also readily accessible and comprehensible. This contributes to more informed policy and decision-making processes and strengthens the overall culture of quality policy and decision-making within the participating countries and regions.

To improve the communication of statistical information it necessitates the formulation of a data dissemination strategy and a comprehensive communication plan. The successful implementation of these measures will lead to a greater utilization of statistics and an enhancement in the quality of policies and decisions, ultimately resulting in significant economic and social benefits.

To achieve this Strategic Objective, two strategic initiatives have been outlined in the SHaSA 2 Strategic Plan:

- **4.2.1. Development of a strategy for the dissemination of data:** This initiative focuses on the development of a comprehensive strategy for the effective dissemination of statistical data.
- **4.2.2. Development of a national, regional and continental communication plan:** This initiative aims to create coordinated communication plans at the national, regional, and continental levels to ensure efficient information dissemination.

4.2.1. Development of a strategy for the dissemination of data

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to formulate a comprehensive Data Dissemination Strategy that serves as a structured framework for the effective and efficient sharing of statistical information. This strategy aims to enhance the accessibility, relevance, and utility of statistical data to support evidence-based decision-making and improve stakeholder engagement.

The establishment of a data dissemination strategy results in heightened understanding of existing statistics and enhanced data accessibility, thereby providing stakeholders with improved resources for informed decision-making and more efficient utilization of information.

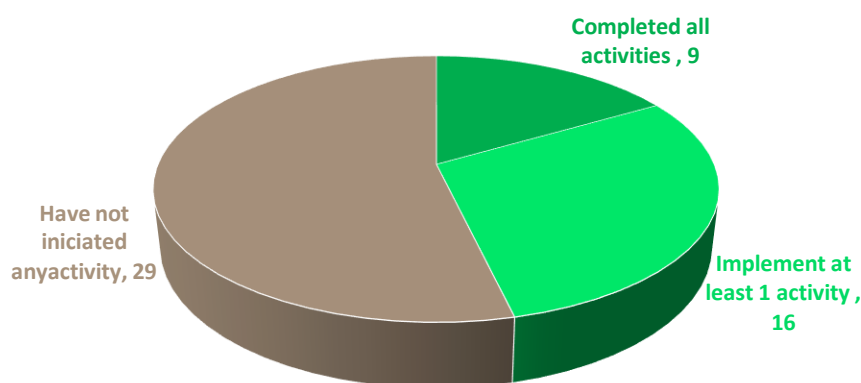
By implementing this strategic initiative, SHaSA2 aims to create a culture where statistical information is readily accessible, user-friendly, and tailored to meet the diverse needs of its audience. This will contribute to more informed policy and decision-making processes, fostering transparency, and strengthening public trust in official statistics within the participating countries and regions.

Under this Strategic Initiative, the envisioned outcome is the execution of approved plans and communication strategies for SHaSA 2, the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), and the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS). The objective is to achieve a yearly increase of 10% in website visitors by 2020 and to conduct a bi-annual user satisfaction survey, with the first survey completed by the end of 2018. The activities planned for this initiative include:

- Assessment of existing communication strategy: evaluating the effectiveness of the current communication strategy.
- Development of dissemination plan: formulating comprehensive plans, strategies, and guidelines for the dissemination of statistical information.
- Implementation of the strategy/plan: executing the developed strategy and dissemination plan.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: continuously monitoring and assessing the impact and effectiveness of the strategy and plan.

Regarding the implementation status of these activities, as depicted in Graph 14, below, which was constructed based on the responses received from the questionnaires:

- Sixteen countries have successfully completed all the designated activities.
- Twenty-three countries have finished at least one of the specified activities.
- Ten countries have not yet initiated any of the designated activities.



Graphic 14. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 4.2.1.

This progress signifies the commitment of participating countries to enhance their statistical communication efforts and improve the accessibility and utility of statistical information.

4.2.2. Development of a national, regional and continental communication plan

The primary objective of this strategic initiative is to create and implement comprehensive communication plans at the national, regional, and continental levels. These plans aim to enhance the dissemination and accessibility of statistical information, foster collaboration, and strengthen the visibility of statistical agencies and their contributions to informed decision-making.

By implementing this strategic initiative, SHaSA2 aims to create a culture where statistical information is communicated comprehensively and consistently across all levels, from national to continental. This will contribute to more informed policy and decision-making processes, enhance stakeholder engagement, and strengthen the appreciation of statistics as a vital tool for evidence-based decision-making within the participating countries and regions.

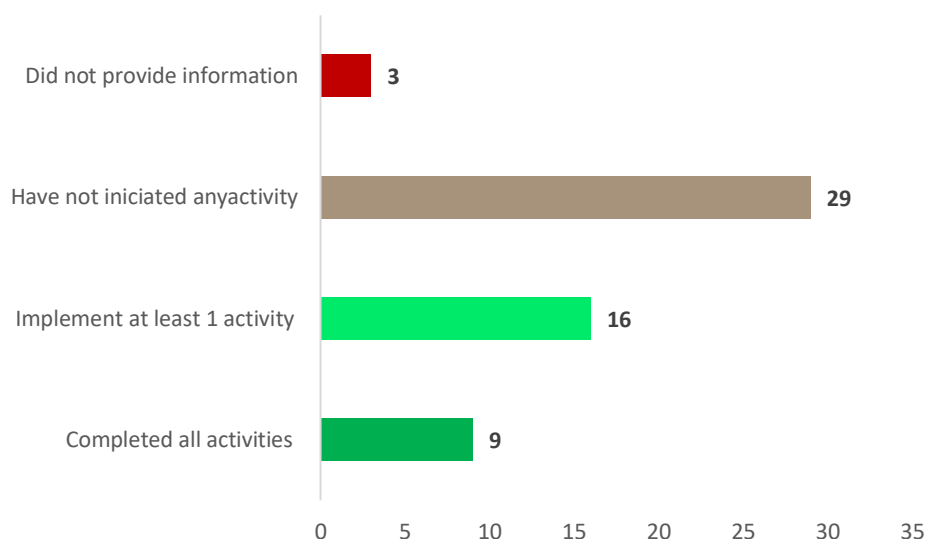
In pursuit of the goal to enhance the utilization of statistics and foster a deeper understanding and implementation of SHaSA2, the establishment of this strategic initiative became imperative. The envisioned outcome of this initiative is the availability of approved plans and a communication strategy for SHaSA 2, RSDS, and NSDS. The set target is to achieve an annual increase of 10% in website visitors starting from 2018, along with the commencement of biannual user satisfaction surveys in the same year.

To achieve this outcome, the following activities have been meticulously designed:

- Assessment of existing communication strategy : a comprehensive evaluation of the current communication strategy to identify areas for improvement.
- Development of dissemination plan, : the formulation of comprehensive plans, along with strategies and guidelines, for the dissemination of statistical information.
- Implementation of the strategy/plan: the execution of the developed strategy and dissemination plan to effectively communicate statistical insights.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** ongoing monitoring and assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the strategy and plan, with adjustments made as necessary.

By executing these activities, the strategic initiative aims to cultivate a culture where statistical information is readily accessible, comprehensible, and effectively communicated. This, in turn, will contribute to more informed decision-making processes, foster greater stakeholder engagement, and reinforce the significance of statistics as a cornerstone for evidence-based decision-making within the participating countries and regions.



Graphic 15. Status of implementation of activities strategic initiative 4.2.2.

Regarding the execution of the specified activities, the graph 15, above, build based on the responses gathered from the questionnaires demonstrated that:

- Nine countries have successfully completed all the designated activities.
- Sixteen countries have accomplished at least one of the specified activities.
- Twenty-one countries have not initiated any of the designated activities, and three did not provide responses to this question.

It is important to highlight that a collective of nineteen nations, specifically Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, Tunisia, and Uganda, have developed dissemination plans, strategies, and guidelines for the dissemination of statistical information.

While many African countries maintain websites for their statistical departments, we do not have access to specific data regarding the exact number of African countries with statistics department websites.

VI. FINAL CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2) is designed to facilitate the implementation of a wide array of continental, regional, and national development initiatives. It plays a pivotal role in enhancing statistical coordination and collaboration, aiming to create synergy among national statistical institutes, regional and continental organizations, and development partners.

In line with the recommendations of the Executive Council, African countries are strongly encouraged to allocate 0.15% of their national budgets to fund statistical endeavors. Recognizing the crucial importance of this financial commitment for the effectiveness of statistical activities, it serves as a cornerstone. However, statistical authorities often encounter challenges in mobilizing the necessary resources, prompting the exploration of innovative approaches to address these challenges.

Planned for implementation until 2026, it is prudent to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in SHaSA 2 and align future targets with the evolving context. Notably, unforeseen constraints, including the COVID-19 pandemic, socio-political turbulence in certain African nations, and conflicts in regions like Ukraine, have posed significant obstacles to advancements.

In light of these circumstances, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive assessment of SHaSA 2's implementation status, involving African Statistical Authorities and regional and international partners. Given the achievements and challenges encountered thus far in this ongoing statistical harmonization program, initially slated from 2017 to 2026, strategic recommendations for improvement become crucial:

- **Review and Revise Strategy:** initiate a comprehensive review of the program's strategy and objectives. Scrutinize the factors contributing to limited progress, identify gaps and deficiencies in the initial planning, and revise the strategy with pragmatic and achievable milestones.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** engage critical stakeholders, including governments, statistical agencies, international organizations, and experts. Collaboratively address challenges and seek effective solutions to enhance commitment and participation.
- **Leadership and Ownership:** strengthen leadership and ownership of the program at national and regional levels. Encourage countries to take responsibility for their progress and actively contribute to the overall success of the harmonization endeavor.
- **Gradual Implementation:** adopt a phased implementation approach, prioritizing attainable short-term goals to build momentum and demonstrate progress. This approach can restore stakeholders' confidence and commitment.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** establish a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating progress. This framework should promptly identify challenges and allow for strategic adjustments as needed.

- **Peer Learning and Experience Sharing:** promote peer learning and experience sharing among participating countries. Showcase success stories from nations that have achieved harmonization, highlighting the tangible benefits gained.
- **Policy Advocacy:** advocate for unwavering political commitment to statistical harmonization at both national and regional levels. Emphasize the positive impact of harmonized statistics on evidence-based policy formulation and development planning.
- **Communication and Awareness:** amplify awareness of the program's significance among stakeholders, governments, and the public. Effectively communicate the advantages of harmonized statistics in informed decision-making and regional progress.

VII. SCHEDULE AND PRODUCTS

Table 17. Schedules and products

Deliverables	Schedule
Inception report	5 days
Submit first draft of the CAR 2022	20 days after approval of inception report
Integrate EC's remarks and comments to the report before its submission to the ASCC	10 days after receive comments
Present the amended CAR 2022 to the CoDG	TBD by the Client
Integrate remarks and comments of Director Generals	10 days after receive comments
Submit the final CAR 2022 in line with the SHaSA 2 reporting mechanisms	TBD by the Client

VIII. ANNEX

1. Log frame Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa

Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa objective 1.1: Expand the statistical information base			Strategic	Baseline	Milestones/Target				Achieved	% execution
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
1.1.1. Conduct regular Population and Housing Censuses (PHC)	Census maps are updated; greater availability of statistical information on population (composition, distribution, size and growth, migration.), employment, education, social and economic sectors, health, housing/living conditions, poverty, gender, projections, etc.	Number of countries that organized PHCs between 2015-2024 and published the results		0	54	30	N/A	N/A	20	67%
1.1.2. Regular organization of household surveys	Statistical information on population (composition, distribution, size and growth, migration, etc.), employment, education, social and economic sectors, health, housing/living conditions, poverty, gender, etc. Are updated and available	Number of countries that have organized household surveys in the decade 2015–2024 and published the result	About 92% of African countries conducted at least two national household surveys between 2005 and 2014	0	54	40	N/A	N/A	41	103%
1.1.3. Regular organization of agricultural censuses and annual surveys on agriculture	Agricultural and rural statistics are available Food security statistics are available Performance and information for monitoring the state of the agricultural sector are put in place	Number of countries participating in the World Program for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (2016–2025)		0	N/A	35	N/A	N/A	13	37%
		Number of countries that organize regular agricultural surveys		0	N/A	45	N/A	N/A	26	58%
1.1.4. Regular organization of economic censuses and surveys	Industrial statistics (production, prices, value added, number of enterprises by economic division, etc.) are available Economic statistics (national accounts quarterly and	Number of countries that organize economic censuses (e.g. census of enterprises) during the period 2017–2026		54		40			16	40%

	annual), Household Consumer Price statistics, statistics on distribution (domestic trade) and border trade are available Investor perception is known Statistical information on innovation; research and development, infrastructure, transport, communications, energy, natural resources, environment, climate change, tourism and cultural property, etc. Are available	Number of countries that regularly organize economic surveys		54		54			37	69%
1.1.5 Informal sector surveys	Statistical information on the informal sector is available	Number of countries organizing informal sector surveys		45		20			24	120%
1.1.6.-Regular collection of data on governance, peace and security (surveys and administrative sources)	Statistical information on governance, peace and security is available	Number of countries conducting surveys and/or using administrative sources for data collection on governance, peace, & security		54		35	25		21	60%
1.1.7.Development and organization of the collection of socio economic information from administrative sources	The coverage of data sources is improved, Costs associated with data collection are reduced; Quality of data and statistical information on the criteria for economic convergence are enhanced Business registers and business directories are set up and operated	Number of countries that collect socioeconomic information from administrative sources					54		35	65%
1.1.8. Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems	Civil registration systems and databases are in place	Number of countries with an effective civil registry system		54		30			20	67%

Strategic Theme 1: Produce quality statistics for Africa			Baseline	Milestones/Target					Achieved	% execution
Strategic Objective 1.3: Harmonize the standards and methods of statistical production										
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	Baseline-Y2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
1.3.1 Operationalization of specialized technical groups (STGs)	Work programs are available for each STG	Number of meetings								
		Number of manuals								

1.3.2 Implementation of standards and methods adopted by the STGs	Manuals on common standards and methods are available	Number of harmonized statistical areas		55		55				
1.3.3. Development of a quality assurance framework [quality kit] and consistency of national data between sectors	Quality data validated and certified are available	Number of countries with a functional quality assurance framework		0		54			22	41%

2. Log frame Strategic Theme 2: Coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa

Strategic Theme 2: Coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa Strategic objective 2.1: Establish effective coordination and collaboration mechanism			Baseline	Milestones/Target					Achieved	% execution
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	Baseline- Y2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
2.1.1. Development of a protocol defining the roles and responsibilities of ASS actors in the implementation of the SHaSA 2	The strategy or protocol is developed and in place	Number of actors applying the protocol						All actors in the ASS implement the protocol and play their role correctly from 2017		
2.1.2. Enhancement of the activities of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)	Common annual programs of ASS activities are available	Number of meetings and events						Implementation of the Common Annual Statistical Program from 2017		
	Calendar of meetings and events is available									
2.1.3. Enhancement of coordination at the regional level	Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) aligned to SHaSA 2 is available	Number of regions with RSDS anchored to SHaSA				8	6			
	Regional coordination meetings of RSDS are held Number of regions with RSDS anchored to SHaSA									
2.1.4 Development and implementation of National Strategy for the Development of	NSDS aligned to SHaSA 2 are available	Number of countries that have developed/updated NSDS anchored to SHaSA 2		54		40			28	70%

Statistics/NSDSs anchored to SHaSA 2	Implementation reports for NSDS are available	Number of countries involved in the implementation of NSDSs		54		40			25	63%
2.1.5. Appointment of SHaSA 2 national, regional, and continental coordinators institutions, AFRISTAT, 8 STCs have coordinators in 2017	The institutional framework of SHaSA 2 is operational	Number of appointed coordinators	No coordinator was appointed for SASHA1					54 countries	20	37%
								8 RECs		
								Afristat		
								3 pan-African institutions		
2.1.6. Enhancement of the South–South cooperation	Statistical capacities in the areas of statistical cooperation are improved	Number of countries involved in cooperation	Few countries are engaged in South-South cooperation	All countries are committed to South–South cooperation from 2017				54	31	57%
2.1.7. Building strong partnerships with foundations, civil society, partners, users, etc. in the continent and outside the continent	Actors and financial and technical partners are involved in the development of African statistics	Number of partnerships established	Few countries have built partnership with foundations, civil society, partners, users, etc., in the continent and outside the continent				54		27	50%

3. Log frame Strategic Theme 3: : Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System

Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System Strategic objective: Reform and enhance National Statistical Systems			Baseline	Milestones/Target					Achieved	% execution
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
3.1.1. Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics (ACS)	Instruments of ratification are available; The African Charter on Statistics is integrated into the legal instruments of the countries and the RECs (law, NSDS, RSDS, etc.)	Number of countries that have signed and/or ratified the ACS and taken it into account in their legal instruments	55		55				35	64%
3.1.2. Updating the ACS to include emerging issues (big data, data revolution, open data, etc.)	The process of revising the ACS has started	Number of countries that have taken into account the revised ACS in their legal instruments	55							
3.1.3. Development of a Code of Ethics for the African statistician and a system for the protection of the profession of African statistician	A Code of Ethics for African statisticians is available. Professional body for African statisticians is established. The Statute of African Statisticians is available and recognized	Number of countries applying the Code of Ethics for African statisticians	55							
		-Number of countries recognizing the status of African statisticians	Statutes for African statisticians are adopted by end of 2020							
3.1.4. Establishment of sustainable financing for statistical activities and a pooling of resources	The African Statistics Fund is available and functional	African Fund plus regional and national funds Other financing arrangements Sustainability of funding sources	African Statistics Fund established in 2018.				1			

	National Statistical Funds are functional		National Statistical Funds created in 2020			25			12	48%
	Number of Regional Statistical Funds established		Regional Statistics Fund established by 2020			8				
3.1.5. Organization of peer reviews	Reports of peer reviews on NSS are available	Number of countries evaluated	55			35				
3.1.6. Creation of independently managed and professionally independent NSOs	NSOs are autonomous and professionally independent	Number of autonomous and professionally independent NSOs			54		30			
3.1.7. Establishment of governance structures to promote statistical production	The governing bodies of SHaSA 2 are set up and functioning (councils / committees / associations)	Number of countries with functioning statistical councils/committees/associations.	Existence of AfSA; National Association of Statisticians; All countries have national statistical committees/councils/boards.			55			25	45%

Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System Strategic objective 3.2: Reform and strengthen regional and continental statistical systems				Baseline	Milestones/Target				Achieved	% execution
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
3.2.1. Creation of Statistical Units within RECs where it doesn't exist yet (CEN-SAD, IGAD)	The statistical entities of RECs are functional	Number of functional statistical entities created	CENSAD and IGAD have no statistical entities		0	2			1	50%

3.2.2. Operationalization of the Statistical Institute of the African Union	The AU Institute of Statistics is functional	Programs of activities Reports Action plan 2017–2026	Draft Host agreement Existence of technical documents of the Institute	Implementation of the annual activities of the Action Plan from 2017-2026		
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Strategic Theme 3: Develop sustainable institutional capacities of the African Statistical System				Baseline	Milestones/Target					Achieved	% execution
Strategic objective 3.3: Develop sustainable statistical capacity											
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022	
3.3.1. Creation of training centers in NSOs or strengthening of existing centers	Training centers created;	Number of centers created	Many countries have training centers	20		10					
	Existing training centers are strengthened	Number of centers reinforced									
3.3.2. Enhancement in the capacity of schools and centers for statistical and demographic training	Schools and statistical training centers have become Centers of Excellence in statistical training	Number of schools and centers benefiting from capacity building	8 statistical schools	5		2					
3.3.3. Participation in international statistical training programs	Statisticians are trained in international programs	Number of African statisticians participating in international statistical training programs	Uncoordinated participation in the international training programs	200 (per Y)							
3.3.4. Capacity building for Young African Statisticians (coaching and mentoring)	Young statisticians are better introduced to the practice of the profession and are well supervised	Number of young statisticians mentored	Existence of Young African Statisticians program	100 per Y							
3.3.5. Operationalization of the Pan-African Statistical Training Center (PANSTAT)	Specialized postgraduate programs, continuig education and training of no statisticians are in place	Number of PHD programs put in place		5		3					
		Number of managers trained (100 statisticians and 20 non statisticians’ managers)		120 per Y							

4. Log frame Strategic Theme 4: Promoting a culture of quality policy and decision-making Strategic objective

STRATEGIC THEME 4: Promoting a culture of quality policy and decision-making Strategic objective 4.1: Make evidence-based decisions through increased use of statistics				Baseline	Milestones/Target				Achieved	% execution
Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
4.1.1. Dialogue between African Statistical System(ASS) and decision-makers and legislators so that their speeches are based on statistics	Statistics are used in speeches and interventions and for quality decisions	Number of meetings organized by the ASS Number of decisionmakers applying statistics in decision-making Use of statistics in debates in parliament	Meetings with decision-makers and parliamentarians at the national, regional, and continental levels from 2018							
4.1.2. Advocacy for the use of statistics	The Advocacy Strategy, the annual reports on the dialogue with governments, parliaments, civil society and the private sector are available	Number of countries with an Advocacy Strategy	Few countries have Advocacy Strategies				54			
4.1.3. Integration of statistics into national and regional development plans	The NSDS and the RSDS are integrated as strategic axes of national and regional development plans	Number of countries that have integrated the NSDS as a strategic focus of their development plans		54			20		15	75%
		Number of RECs that have integrated the RSDS as a strategic focus of their development strategies	Some RECs have integrated statistics in their regional development plans			8				

STRATEGIC THEME 4: Promoting a culture of quality policy and decision-making Strategic Objective 4.2: Improve the communication of statistical information	Baseline	Milestones/Target	Achieved	% execution

Strategic Initiative	Outcome / Output	Performance Indicators	2017	2026	2024	2020	2018	2017	2022	2022
4.2.1. Development of a strategy for the dissemination of data	The Data Dissemination Plans /Strategies / Guidelines are available	Number of countries with a Data Dissemination Strategy		54			20			
4.2.2. Development of a national, regional and continental communication plan	Approved Plans and Communication Strategy on SHaSA 2, RSDS and NSDS are available	Number of countries with communication plans;	National communication plans, Regional Communication plans SHaSA 2 communication plan							
		Number of countries with websites;								
		Use of Websites/Increase in website traffic					10%			
		User perceptions/User satisfaction surveys		2	2	2	2			