

NEWSLETTER

GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PLATFORM NEWSLETTER

Driving Development Through Data



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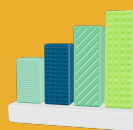
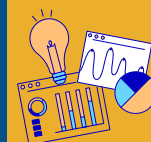
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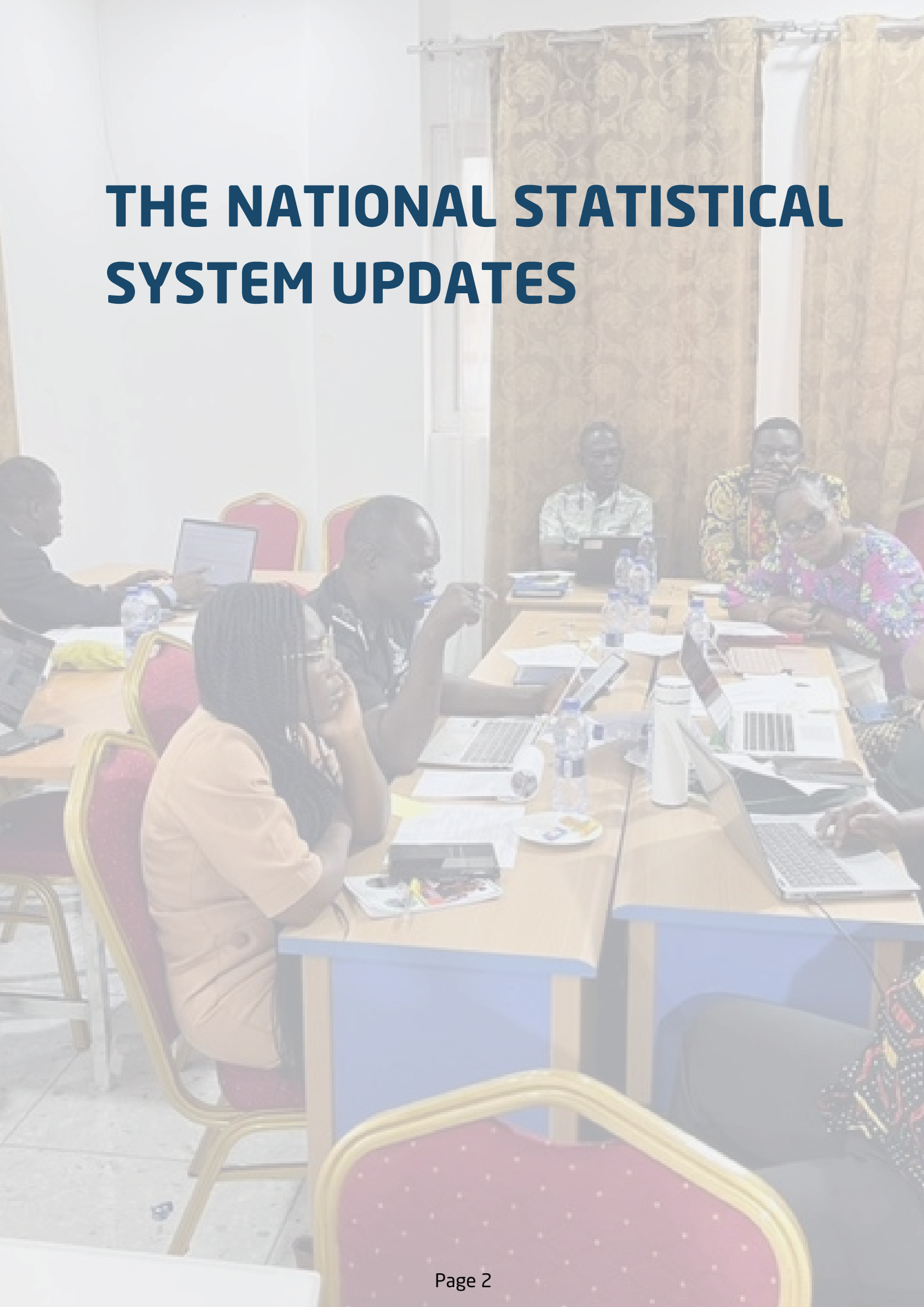
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ISSUE 12

JANUARY - MARCH 2026



THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES



THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES

The Quarter in Numbers: January to March 2026

The first three months of 2026 brought a steady stream of economic data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), providing fresh insights into consumer and producer prices, economic activity, and movements in building costs.

- **Consumer inflation continued to ease**

Ghana's year-on-year consumer inflation maintained its downward trajectory during the first quarter of 2026. Inflation fell from **3.8 percent in January to 3.3 percent** in February, before declining further to **3.2 percent in March**. The figures extended the sustained decline in headline inflation and pointed to a significant easing of consumer price pressures compared with the considerably higher rates recorded a year earlier.

CPI: January 3.8% | February 3.3% | March 3.2%

- **Producer price pressures remained subdued**

Producer price inflation also remained relatively low during the quarter. The year-on-year rate stood at **1.6 percent in January**, declined to **1.4 percent in February**, and edged up slightly to **1.5 percent in March**. The figures showed that price pressures at the producer level remained contained over the three-month period, although trends varied across sectors of industry.

PPI: January 1.6% | February 1.4% | March 1.5%

- **Economic activity recorded sustained growth**

The Monthly Indicator of Economic Growth (MIEG) pointed to continued expansion in economic activity during the first quarter. Year-on-year economic growth was **6.1 percent in January**, accelerated to **7.7 percent in February**, and recorded **5.4 percent in March**. Together, the monthly estimates provided an early indication of the direction of economic activity during the quarter and complemented the broader quarterly national accounts.

MIEG: January 6.1% | February 7.7% | March 5.4%

- **Building costs showed easing price pressures**

The Prime Building Cost Index (PBCI), which tracks changes in the prices of inputs used in construction, also provided insight into building cost movements during the quarter. The releases pointed to relatively moderate building inflation, including an easing in materials inflation from **3.5 percent in January to 2.4 percent in February**, while overall building inflation stood at **2.2 percent in March**. GSS' regular economic releases provide policymakers, businesses, investors and the public with timely information on changes taking place across the economy. From the prices households pay and producers receive to economic growth and construction costs, the January to March releases offer different but complementary perspectives on Ghana's economic performance at the start of 2026.

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES

GSS Engaged Standard Chartered Ghana and Investors on Economic Statistics



Group photo of Standard Chartered Ghana and GSS members. © GSS

Officials from Standard Chartered Ghana, together with investor clients, engaged GSS on official statistics relating to Ghana's economic performance.

Discussions focused on key economic indicators, including factors driving the country's disinflation process, regional variations in prices,

and the ongoing rebasing of Gross Domestic Product and the Consumer Price Index. GSS also addressed technical questions on statistical compilation and methodology, including the coverage of the informal sector in GDP estimates.

The engagement provided an opportunity to deepen investors' understanding of Ghana's official economic statistics and reinforced the importance of credible data in supporting sound investment analysis and decision-making.

IMF Mission Engaged GSS on Public Sector Debt Statistics

The International Monetary Fund Public Sector Debt Statistics Data Quality Assessment mission team, led by Mr. David Bailey and Mr. Barend De La Beer, met with GSS as part of an assessment of Ghana's public sector debt statistics compilation and dissemination. Staff from the Ministry of Finance also participated in the engagement.



Government Statistician with delegation from IMF. © GSS

While the operational responsibility for compiling public debt statistics rests with the Ministry of Finance, GSS expressed its readiness to support efforts to improve data quality through statistical capacity building and alignment with international standards.

The Service reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Ghana and other relevant institutions to support the production of quality debt statistics for national development.

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES

Ghana Contributes to Global Dialogue on the Future of Official Statistics

The Ghana Statistical Service strengthened Ghana's voice in global statistical discussions at the 57th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), held from 27 February to 6 March 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme "Better Data, Better Lives."

Led by Government Statistician Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, the Ghanaian delegation participated in plenary sessions and 16 side events. These events focused on artificial intelligence, sustainable financing, administrative data, inclusive statistics, the 2030 Round of Census, and measuring development beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ghana made significant contributions to the discussions. Dr. Iddrisu presented the Africa Group position on governance statistics and, as Co-Chair of the UNSC Task Force on Demographic and Health Statistics, advocated for sustainable national statistical systems supported by domestic financing, integrated statistical planning, and strengthened civil registration.

The session also provided an opportunity for Ghana to advance key initiatives, including participation in Phase 2 of the "Make Inclusive Data the Norm" initiative and preparations for a national Beyond-GDP workshop. Discussions were also initiated with the United Nations Population Fund regarding support for Ghana's 2030 Population and Housing Census, with an emphasis on digital technologies, geospatial tools, administrative data, and emerging technologies. Ghana's partnership with Statistics Denmark was also highlighted, showcasing achievements such as the automation of 261 multidimensional poverty reports, the launch of the online Statistics Data Bank, the development of a customs-based trade data pipeline, and strengthened parliamentary engagement on statistics.

Ghana's participation in the Commission demonstrated its growing contribution to the global statistical community while providing valuable lessons for strengthening the country's National Statistical System. The engagements reinforced the importance of national ownership, sustainable financing, innovation, and strategic partnerships in ensuring that official statistics remain trusted, relevant, and responsive to Ghana's development needs.



Government Statistician, Director of Economy Directorate, and advisor to the office of the Government Statistician with other delegates. © GSS

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES

From Data Silos to a Connected National Statistical System



Signing of MoU with Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations © GSS

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has taken a significant step towards strengthening administrative data sharing across government institutions, with 22 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) under an initiative involving 25 institutions. The agreements establish a framework for the systematic sharing and use of administrative data, marking an important milestone in strengthening coordination within Ghana's National Statistical System (NSS).

The participating institutions manage administrative data across key sectors, including education, health, social protection, economic transformation, creative arts, natural resources, public safety, infrastructure, and technology. Through the agreements, GSS and its partners will work together to improve access to, and use of, administrative data for statistical production and evidence-based decision-making.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Government Statistician Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu described the agreements as a major step towards a more connected and collaborative national data ecosystem. He noted that the initiative represents a shift from fragmented data systems and institutional silos towards stronger collaboration and the strategic use of data to inform national development decisions.

The agreements are anchored in the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003), and guided by key frameworks, including the Data Quality Assurance Framework, the Code of Ethics and Practice for the National Statistical System, and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics III (NSDS III).

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM UPDATES

From Data Silos to a Connected National Statistical System. Continued

Implementation will begin immediately, with GSS and partner institutions working to finalize data-sharing policies and technical standards to facilitate the systematic exchange of administrative data. This phase is expected to translate the commitments made into practical arrangements that enhance data accessibility, quality, and coordination.

The ceremony brought together senior government officials, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, and members of the GSS Governing Board. For GSS, the signing marks the start of a broader implementation process aimed at strengthening institutional collaboration and increasing the use of administrative data to produce quality statistics that support national planning and policymaking.



Group photo of all MDAs present. © GSS

EMPOWERING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



Office for
National Statistics



FLOWMINDER.ORG



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Accra



UKaid
from the British people



Global
Partnership
for Sustainable
Development Data



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

KOICA
Korea International
Cooperation Agency



Gobierno de
Colombia



Implemented by:
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway



UNITED NATIONS
GHANA



ECA



UNFPA



IOM
UN MIGRATION



World Food
Programme



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



World Health
Organization
Ghana



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



unicef

EMPOWERING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

GSS and WFP launch the mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (mVAM) Report on Food Insecurity in Ghana.
Supported by WFP with support from through KOICA



Stakeholders and partners, including the WFP Ghana Country Director and Representative, the Government Statistician and the KOICA Country Director, mark the release of the mVAM Food Insecurity Vulnerability Report during its official launch in Ghana. © WFP/ Daniel Kwayisi

On the 23rd of April in Accra, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) launched the Mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (mVAM) Survey- Food Insecurity Report on Ghana. mVAM is an innovative approach to food security monitoring that uses mobile phone surveys to collect near real-time information from households. In a context where global market and climate shocks, along with rising prices, are affecting households more frequently—and where large national surveys are increasingly costly and difficult to conduct on a regular basis—mVAM offers a more agile and cost-effective way to generate evidence. By producing high-frequency data, it enables stakeholders to detect changes earlier, track trends between survey rounds, and move beyond one-off snapshots toward a more dynamic understanding of vulnerability.

The publication of the mVAM report in Ghana marks an important milestone in strengthening timely, nationally owned data systems. mVAM reflects strong collaboration between WFP and GSS, with national institutions leading the collection, processing, and analysis of data.

The findings from the report present a mixed picture; while the majority of households maintain acceptable levels of food consumption, they are doing so at a cost, with widespread use of coping strategies signaling growing pressure on household resilience.

Food insecurity is highly regional, concentrated and persistent in specific parts of the country. As Ghana enters the lean season, the timely publication and use of these findings will be critical. mVAM is made possible through the generous support from the Republic of Korea through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).



presentations during the launch of the mVAM Food Insecurity Report © WFP/ Daniel Kwayisi

EMPOWERING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Data for Evidence-Based Development

Supported by UNFPA Ghana



Group Photo of participants at workshop © GSS

Key national stakeholders from the Government, CSOs, academia, and research institutes came together for a training on the Disability Data Framework, jointly organized by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The training marked an important milestone in Ghana's ongoing efforts to strengthen its national data ecosystem and advance disability-inclusive development through inclusive planning, effective service delivery, and the monitoring of national development priorities. While Ghana has made commendable progress in strengthening its statistical systems, challenges remain in ensuring that disability data is generated, analyzed, and applied consistently across sectors. The Disability Data Framework responds directly to this gap by providing a standardized and coherent approach to disability data collection, analysis, and dissemination, ensuring data quality, comparability, and policy relevance across government institutions, civil society, and research organizations.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Wilfred Ochan, UNFPA Ghana Representative, underscored that the training was more than a capacity-building exercise. He described it as a strategic investment in systems, institutions, and people who shape how disability data is produced and used in Ghana. He emphasized that disability inclusion is firmly embedded in the global development agenda, which calls for reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive social, economic, and political opportunities for all, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. As Ghana continues to advance its national development agenda, strengthening disability data governance remains a critical priority. Through the leadership of GSS and the continued partnership of UNFPA and UNDP, this training represents an important step toward more inclusive, data-driven policies and programmes that ensure no one is left behind.

EMPOWERING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Ghana and World Bank Advance GLSS8 Poverty Measurement

Supported by World Bank Poverty and Equity Team.



Participants of the GLSS8 Welfare Aggregation Workshop in Accra, jointly organized by GSS and the World Bank, February 2026. Photo credit: GSS/World Bank workshop team © World Bank

From February 7 to 18, 2026, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the World Bank convened an intensive poverty measurement workshop in Accra to support the update of Ghana's official poverty statistics using the latest Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 8 (GLSS8) data. The work is central to producing Ghana's first major poverty update since GLSS7 2016/17.

The workshop brought together 28 GSS technical staff from national accounts, survey, social and demographics, big data, and processing teams. Participants worked hands-on through the welfare aggregation process, including consumption-based welfare measurement, cost-of-basic-needs poverty lines, food and non-food components, calorie requirements, durable goods, imputed rents, own production, price adjustments, and reproducibility checks.

The mission also enabled the signing of a Non-Disclosure Agreement granting the World Bank poverty team access to the full-sample GLSS8 dataset for technical support and quality assurance. GSS and the World Bank agreed on a concrete workplan to finalize poverty estimates, documentation, and dissemination by end-June 2026.

In his closing remarks, Government Statistician Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu emphasized that the teams were not merely running code or cleaning data, but "building Ghana's official measure of poverty" - statistics that will guide social protection, budget allocation, development policy, and public debate. He commended GSS staff for their rigor and thanked the World Bank team for its technical collaboration.

EMPOWERING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Workshop on Enhancing Data Pipelines at Ghana Statistical Service

Supported by Embassy of Denmark in Ghana and Statistics Denmark



Group photo with partners in Accra. © Cathrine Pallesen, Embassy of Denmark

In February, Statistics Denmark facilitated a five-day technical workshop to support the migration of the GSS's trade data pipeline from manual handling to a centralized, database-driven solution. The workshop brought together experts from Statistics Denmark and GSS's IT and Trade Statistics teams, to jointly advance this transition through hands-on collaboration.

The workshop began with GSS's Trade Statistics team presenting their current data pipelines and systems, creating a shared understanding of existing processes and opportunities for improvement. The remainder of the week focused on hands-on work to migrate the trade data pipelines to a centralized database solution, which was successfully completed.

Overall, the transition marks an important step in GSS's ongoing digital development. While the process is still evolving, it lays the foundation for more efficient statistical production and improved data quality by reducing the risk of data loss and inconsistencies, while making data more accessible across the organisation.



Groupwork photo with partners in Accra. © Cathrine Pallesen, Embassy of Denmark

FOCUS FOR QUARTER TWO

APRIL - JUNE 2026



WFP

- » Continued mVAM data collection and reporting

World Bank

- » By early April 2026: GSS to complete remaining processing steps and run the full estimation package on the full-sample GLSS8 dataset.
- » April 2026: GSS to produce preliminary 2025 poverty estimates and standard outputs for technical review.
- » April-May 2026: World Bank team to provide targeted remote technical support, including code, diagnostics, and reproducibility checks.
- » May-June 2026: GSS and World Bank to finalize the methodology documentation, welfare aggregation manual, code repository, and dissemination package.
- » By end-June 2026: Disseminate GLSS8-based poverty results, subject to completion of internal validation and quality assurance.

Watch Out for Relevant and Useful Links in Upcoming Editions

