

Statistics Denmark will contribute to strengthening the National Statistical Systems in Ghana, Morocco and Vietnam

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Statistics Denmark will start cooperation with the National Statistical Institutes in Ghana, Morocco and Vietnam on developing and modernizing their statistical production. The cooperation is a part of the Strategic Sector Cooperation program of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Access to better data will increase citizens' opportunities to hold their government accountable, strengthen businesses and improve national planning.

How many babies are born every year? How many foreign goods are imported? Is economic equality increasing or decreasing with economic growth? In Denmark, it is relatively easy to find information to answer such questions. However, in other countries it might be more difficult.

The National Statistical Institutes in Ghana, Morocco and Vietnam have turned to Denmark in order to start a cooperation with the aim of strengthening their statistical production.

“At Statistics Denmark we have a long tradition in using administrative data. Administrative data is collected by other government agencies as part of their normal mandate. We can turn this data into statistical products thereby avoiding expensive and time consuming surveys”, says Silja Emmel, Statistics Denmark's project leader of the project in Ghana.

Statistics based on administrative data sources is a major focus point in Ghana. The approximately 29 million inhabitants are only counted every 10 years when the population census takes place. The lack of exact and up to date knowledge on the composition of Ghana's population makes it difficult for policy makers to make informed decisions on e.g. large construction projects where the building of new schools and hospitals need to match the composition of the population now and in the future.

“Ghana is in the process of implementing a unique personal identification number. The new Ghana ID will provide coherent information about the population. Statistics Denmark has a lot of experience in turning such information into statistics, which is interesting to the Ghana Statistical Service”, says Silja Emmel.

“In Morocco, the High Commission for Planning has embarked on a project of digitalization and modernization. They would for example like to develop an online dissemination system similar to Statistics Denmark's www.statbank.dk. Such a system will allow users to access information much easier”, says Charlotte Juul Hansen, Statistics Denmark's project leader of the project in Morocco.

She continues: “like in Ghana, Morocco is conducting a large number of surveys. In this area, we can contribute with knowledge on using administrative data and how best to digitalize surveys used for collecting data from businesses.”

During April 2019, the General Statistical Office of Vietnam is carrying out the population census, which they do every 10 years. The census requires that interviewers visit every household and dwelling in Vietnam to record information about the persons living there. The General Statistical Office and the Vietnamese government hopes that this traditional population census will be the last one. The ambition is to use administrative data sources for the population census in 2029.

Education statistics is also on the agenda in Vietnam. Using the Danish educational statistical production system as a role model, the ambition is to be able to generate statistics on all levels in education from entering pre-school to completing university or vocational education. The Danish Ministry of Education is also involved in a Strategic Sector Cooperation project aimed at increasing the quality and availability of professional and vocational education in Vietnam.

About the Strategic Sector Cooperation program

Strategic Sector Cooperation is a program run by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2015. Working closely with the Danish Embassy in the partner country, Danish government agencies enter into partnerships with sister agencies.

Ghana, Morocco and Vietnam are the first countries Statistics Denmark is partnering with under the Strategic Sector Cooperation modality working directly with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies.

To read the press release in Danish, please visit:

<https://www.dst.dk/da/presse/Pressemeddelelser/2019/2019-04-15-Danmarks-statistik-skal-bidrage-til-at-styrke-statistikken-i-ghana-marokko-og-vietnam>