African Statistics Day 2024

Press Release

20th December 2024

Juba, South Sudan

African Statistics Day is an annual event. This event is celebrated on 18th November each year. This Day was established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in its Conference of Ministers responsible for Planning and Economic Development in May 1990. South Sudan could not celebrate this year's ASD as planned due to other competing priorities.

This Year's ASD theme is "Supporting education by modernizing production of fit for purpose statistics". This is aligned with the African Union theme of: "Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century". The theme calls for modernizing data ecosystems in the continent for production and utilization of high-quality official Statistics, improving learning opportunities and quality for all children.

The purpose of the ASD is to "increase public awareness about the important role statistics plays in all aspects of social and economic life" in African societies. Therefore, this year's theme raises awareness among decision-makers, investors, data producers and users, civil society originations, academia, researchers/think-tanks, and the public about the importance of data and statistics to fostering evidence-based decision-making to ensure economic growth and socioeconomic development in Africa. In South Sudan, this Statistics Day is intended to ignite public debate aimed at building a culture of evidence-based decision-making, especially in education. This improves educational skills and learning opportunities for all.

Improving educational skills demands modernizing our statistical system. This involves utilizing technology to leverage big data and non-traditional sources, conduct digital surveys, and harmonize data acquisition and storage systems, enabling timely decision-making for educators, policymakers, and political leaders. The modernized data ecosystems help South Sudan better understand its performance with respect to various aspects of education, including enrolment, attendance, completion, quality of learning, access, equity, and resources required for a purposive learning.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) leads the modernization of the data ecosystems, working closely with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to produce and disseminate quality education statistics. The Bureau recognizes the importance of compiling social statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 (the Africa we want), Revised National Development Strategy, and sectoral plans.

As we celebrate the year's ASD, our national statistical system (NSS) remains challenged. This is marked by limited resources, lack of statistics units across various institutions, poor record keeping, inadequate infrastructure, and limited human resources capacity. To close these gaps, the Bureau has partnered with UNFPA, UNDP, ILO, World Bank, UNFAO, and the national Ministry of Finance and Planning to promote evidence-based decision-making that impacts educational reforms and fosters data-driven development planning in South Sudan.

Thank you all.