



NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Government of Malawi,
National Statistical Office,
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New NSS Coordinator



Hector Kankuwe in office
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Mr. Hector Kankuwe is now the new NSS Coordinator. He is Assistant Commissioner of Statistics responsible for NSO Regional Office (Centre) in Lilongwe. Mr. Kankuwe is experienced in economics statistics and heads National Accounts and Balance of Payments (NABOP) section since 2014. He has coordinated several projects including Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy (SAVVY) and Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR), and holds a Bachelor's degree (Stats), Honors degree (Applied Stats) and Master's degree (Biostats) from University of Fort Hare in RSA.

Listen to Malawi Survey (L2MS) Findings Disseminated

The findings of Listening to Malawi Survey (L2MS) were disseminated on 11th August, 2017 at Sogecoa Golden Peacock Hotel in Lilongwe. The L2MS was implemented by NSO in collaboration with World Bank to experiment the methodology of collecting rapid, high-frequency and high-quality data on socio-economic conditions of the country through phone calls. The survey was conducted in two phases: Baseline survey (face to face) interviews and mobile phone interviews via a Call Centre. L2MS was made up of several modules: Financial Inclusion, Education, Impact of Recent Floods, Electricity, Transport, Malawi Labour, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nutrition and Food Security and Non Communicable Diseases; Governance, Social Cohesion, Migration, Business Information Survey, and Exit Module. The results can be obtained from NSO website.



L2MS Team during dissemination

26 September 2017: UNECA Fact-Finding Mission on Statistical Institutional Environment and Statistical Production Processes

NSO hosted this mission in which consultations with NSS Actors were made to understand about statistical infrastructure and the statistical environment under which official statistics are produced and disseminated.

27-29 September 2017: Sub-regional workshop on "Data Disaggregation"

The emphasis in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on leaving no one behind and reaching the most vulnerable presents the statistical community with challenges as well as opportunities. Participants discussed various issues and challenges with regard to data disaggregation including coverage of specific groups (in particular, migrants, people with disability, ethnic groups, other vulnerable groups) as well as geographic location, which will feed into guidelines on data disaggregation being prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). It was emphasized that data disaggregation is essential to understand whether or not the fruits of development are benefitting the full spectrum of the society including the most vulnerable and the furthest behind. The workshop was held at Sogecoa Golden Peacock Hotel in Lilongwe.



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Statistical Association of Malawi hosts SUSAN 2017 conference

The Statistical Association of Malawi (SAM) in conjunction with the IBS Malawi Region hosted the SUSAN 2017 conference. The conference took place from 22nd–24th August 2017 at the Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe. The Sub-Sahara Africa Network (SUSAN) is a network of national groups (societies) of the International Biometric Society within Sub-Sahara Africa. The network promotes the advancement of life sciences through development, application and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical methods to its members and collaborating partners. This includes applications in agriculture, medical and health research, infectious diseases, environment and ecology, climate, and other applied sciences such as the areas of statistical genetics and bioinformatics.



Group photograph: SUSAN 2017 conference, BICC, Lilongwe, Malawi

The opening of the conference was presided over by the Commissioner of Statistics, Mrs. Mercy Kanyuka. At the same function, Dr. Jupiter Simbeye, who is the current president of SAM and IBS Malawi Region was elected next SUSAN coordinator taking after Prof. Ntonghanwah Forchew of University of Botswana. Dr. Simbeye's term of office runs from 2017-2019.

2018 Pilot Population and Housing Census

The National Statistical Office conducted a Pilot Population and Housing Census (PHC) between 25th September and 14th October 2017 in 10 districts in preparation for the 2018 main census. In each selected district, 2 Traditional Authorities (TAs) were selected with 5 Enumeration Areas (EAs) per TA. To conduct the pilot, a total of 100 enumerators and 20 supervisors were recruited.



Participants during Training of Trainers at Chilema

The pilot census is a 'dry run' for the main census. It evaluated all aspects of the census operation including the concepts and definitions, the adequacy of the questionnaires, the training of field enumerators and supervisory staff, field organization, census methodology, data processing and data tabulation and most importantly the newly introduced CAPI system of data collection. NSO has taken a bold step to abandon the use of Paper Assisted Personal Interview (PAPI) which was used in previous censuses and has adopted the use of CAPI to conduct the 2018 Population and Housing Census.

All possible scenarios which are likely to be encountered in the main census were mirrored in the pilot census. The pilot covered the divergent situations existing in the country such as urban-rural divide including selection of remote areas, regional disparities and distances from the head office and language differentials. In this regard, apart from English, the pilot census questionnaire was translated into three local languages namely: Chichewa, Tumbuka and Yao.