

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that the African Development Bank is launching this maiden edition of the African Statistical Journal (ASJ). It is being published by the Development Research Department of the African Development Bank Group with the support of eminent statisticians on the continent and elsewhere.

The Journal is coming out at a time when African countries and their development partners are putting great stress on development effectiveness, on achieving measurable results on the ground, and on putting mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating development results. Even under the best conditions, tracing the links between policies, development programs, and changing economic and social conditions on the ground presents a formidable challenge for the Bank, its regional member countries and their development partners. On our continent, this is further compounded by the dearth of reliable and timely statistics.

It is our hope that the ASJ, together with the various programs that the African Development Bank has launched to build statistical capacity on the continent, will enable African countries to address this critical issue. In this regard, it is essential to have a continuous professional dialogue among all stakeholders to learn lessons from the past and to advance innovative ideas and programs so that these in turn become, as quickly as possible, available for implementation by policymakers. This is the over-riding aim of the African Statistical Journal.

I encourage all interested in the development of statistics in Africa and in the results-based development agenda to actively participate in the Journal and the work it reports on. The Journal is meant to be a forum not only for exchanging ideas on statistics but, as importantly, for supporting and advancing the cause of sustainable and equitable development in Africa. The African Development Bank stands ready to play its part.



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