

Press release

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UNOPS hands over 24 vehicles to The Gambia Bureau of Statistics for improved data collection

The vehicles will contribute to improved mobility for data collection in the national population and housing census scheduled in April 2024.



Representatives from The Gambia Bureau of Statistics, including the Deputy Statistician General Mr Alieu Saho, and UNOPS representatives, at the handover ceremony

- 24 vehicles were procured and delivered to the GBoS by UNOPS as part of the World Bank-funded HISWACA project
- The vehicles will support the capacity of the GBoS to collect quality data to inform development policies and interventions

- The handover was attended by UNOPS and GBoS representatives and is part of a broader regional programme for statistical capacity building funded by the World Bank

A handover ceremony between the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) took place on February 29th, 2024. The ceremony officialised the delivery from UNOPS to the GBoS of a total of 24 vehicles, including 17 Land Cruiser Hardtop 76 4.2l 5-door 10-seater and 7 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado Station Wagon 150 TXL (Automatic).

The vehicles procured will expand the fleet capacity of the GBoS and improve its mobility across the country to collect high-quality and harmonized data that will support the Government in shaping economic and social policies for future growth and development. The vehicles will be particularly crucial as the GBoS prepares for the upcoming National Population and Housing Census across The Gambia.

The procurement and delivery of the vehicles were funded by the World Bank as part of a larger initiative called HISWACA (Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa). HISWACA aims to strengthen the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies by harmonizing, producing, disseminating, and enhancing the use of core economic and social statistics. Good data are essential to address socio-economic development challenges, inform decision-making processes, efficiently allocate resources and assess the effectiveness of policies and initiatives.

Alieu Saho, Deputy Statistician General of The Gambia Bureau of Statistics, expressed satisfaction for the results and stated:

"The Gambia Bureau of Statistics has never had such solid and quality vehicles in our operations. We thank the HISWACA project, the Government for facilitating the project and UNOPS for the timely procurement and delivery of the vehicles. We hope to take good care of the vehicles to ease mobility for the upcoming census and other statistics activities in the next 5 years".

"The entire process is transparent- including contracting, implementation and delivery. The quarterly reports by the UNOPS team provided important updates on progress in the execution of the agreement and the utilization of the funds – including whether savings were made. The UNOPS team was diligent in the entire process and overall a fantastic team to work with" said **Sering Touray, Economist and Task Team Leader for the HISWACA project.**


Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, UNOPS Ghana Multi-Country Office Director and Representative, expressed gratitude for the successful completion of the project and wished for continued cooperation with The World Bank and the government of The Gambia. She stated:

"UNOPS is delighted to partner with the World Bank in The Gambia to support The Gambia Bureau of Statistics in strengthening its mobility for improved data collection in the national population and housing census. The availability of quality data is crucial for any effective development planning and we are pleased to be part of this all-important national exercise. We extend our appreciation to the World Bank and the government of The Gambia for their trust to deliver this important project for the people of The Gambia and we look forward to a continued partnership with them."



Vehicle keys and ownership certificates are handed over from UNOPS Gambia to The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

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A blue graphic element consisting of a square with a triangle cut out of its top-right corner, pointing towards the right.

Notes to the editors:

Press contact details:

Bruno Kessler (brunoke@unops.org)

About UNOPS

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