ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Template for the collection of case studies on AI for official statistics

DASH Team on AI for Official Statistics

Introduction

The DASH Team on AI for Official Statistics was established with a mandate to document regional experiences, including approaches, challenges, and lessons learned. This priority is set out in the DASH team's Terms of Reference, which identify the compilation of country experiences as a core output alongside the organisation of Stats Cafés and the development of a regional Playbook or Stats Brief.

While various global initiatives already document examples of AI in official statistics, these collections have a predominantly European focus and do not yet reflect the diversity of contexts, capacities, and use cases emerging in the Asia–Pacific region.

At the in-person DASH Team meeting in November 2025, it was agreed that these experiences should be collected using a dedicated template developed for the Region. DASH team members noted several reasons for this approach:

- **Supporting peer learning:** Countries are experimenting with a broad range of AI applications. A common structure will make it easier to compare approaches, spot common challenges, and learn from one another.
- **Reflecting regional needs:** Members noted the importance of capturing factors particularly relevant for Asia–Pacific NSOs, such as diverse data ecosystems, varying digital maturity, and whole-of-government partnerships.
- **Ensuring responsible and ethical use:** Governance considerations, including data privacy, bias, accountability, and transparency, are increasingly important for AI. Documenting these systematically can support better practice across the region.
- **Clarifying the investment case for AI:** Many NSOs are still at the exploratory stage. Documenting the rationale, costs, benefits, feasibility, and skills required can help senior leadership understand what is involved and where returns are strongest.
- **Capturing successes and challenges:** Members emphasised the importance of documenting not only successful initiatives but also ones that did not progress as expected, to support realistic learning.

At the same time, it was noted that designing the template to align with existing ones, where feasible, will help ensure that contributions from Asia-Pacific countries can also feed into global repositories without an extra reporting burden.

It was also agreed that there should be two complementary templates:

- A **short-form** version to quickly document and share as many initiatives as possible.
- A **long-form** version to capture deeper detail for flagship or mature initiatives, suitable for inclusion in the Playbook/Stats Brief, training materials, and Stats Cafés.

Members identified common dimensions that should appear in both formats (Context, Application, Outcomes, Governance, Lessons Learned), to support comparability and ease of analysis across the region.

It was further agreed that information collected through the short-form template should be disseminated through a **regional repository,** which can be filtered by domain, GSBPM phase, type of AI, or maturity level. This repository should not be a one-off publication. Instead, it should be possible to evolve as new examples emerge, methodologies mature, and members update their contributions.

Submit the responses online at

Case Study Submission (https://forms.office.com/e/XrnS4Nwp5B)

Short-form template

Section A – Submission metadata

1. Is this a new case study or an update to an existing one?
Choice (single)

- New case study
- Update to an existing case study

If "Update":
2. Case ID or title of existing case (if known)
Short text

3. Permissions for use and sharing
Choice (single)

- I agree that extracts may be included in the ESCAP/DASH regional repository and shared with global partners for inclusion in their repositories.
- I agree that this case study may be included only in the ESCAP/DASH regional repository.
- I prefer that this case study be used only internally within the DASH Team/ESCAP.

Section B – Identification and context

4. Initiative name - title for this case study
Short text (required)

5. Year(s) during which the initiative was active
(Please select all years in which the initiative was active (or present, if ongoing)
Choice (multi-select + "Other")

- 2026
- 2025
- 2024
- 2023
- Earlier (please specify)

6. Lead organisation for case study
Short text (required)

7. Type of organisation
Choice (single)

- National Statistical Office
- Other government agency
- Central bank
- International/regional organisation
- Academia / research institution
- Private sector partner
- Other (please specify)

8. Lead contact person

- Name (short text, required)
- Email (short text, required)

9. Which statistical domain(s) does this initiative cover? *(Please select all applicable options)*
Choice (multi-select)

- Population and social statistics
- Economic statistics
- Business/enterprise statistics
- Labour and employment
- Price statistics
- Agriculture & environment
- Geospatial / Earth observation
- SDG indicators
- Data dissemination / communication
- Internal operations / workflow
- Other (please specify)

10. Please list any SDG(s) or SDG indicator(s) linked to this use case (See the list of indicators here: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list) *(Asked only if SDG indicators selected under previous question)*
(Free text, optional)

11. GSBPM phase(s) where AI is applied within this initiative (Please select the GSBPM phase(s) where AI techniques are used, rather than the broader programme context. Information about GSBPM: Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) version 5.2: https://unece.org/statistics/gsbpm-v5.2)
Choice (multi-select)

1. Specify needs - Identify user needs and define the purpose of the statistics
2. Design - Design outputs, methods, data collection, and processing workflows
3. Build - Develop and test tools, systems, and workflows for production
4. Collect - Gather data from all sources using the designed collection systems
5. Process - Clean, integrate, classify, validate, and transform data
6. Analyse - Produce, interpret, validate, and finalize statistical outputs
7. Disseminate - Release and promote statistical products and support users
8. Evaluate - Review the process and outputs to identify improvements
9. Unsure/unknown

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Section C – Quick classification of the AI initiative

12. Type(s) of AI used
Choice (multi-select)

- Machine learning
- Deep learning
- Natural language processing (non-generative)
- Generative AI / LLMs
- Computer vision AI
- Other (please specify)
- Not sure / not specified

13. Models or algorithms used (if known)
Short or long text (optional)
Examples: BERT, GPT-type model, random forest, CNN, etc.

14. Main purpose of the AI initiative
This refers to the functional role AI plays (e.g. classification, forecasting, chatbots), which may differ from the GSBPM phase in which it is applied.
Choice (multi-select up to 3)

- Classification / coding
- Editing / validation / imputation
- Record linkage / matching
- Text extraction / summarisation
- Anomaly detection / quality assurance
- Data exploration / analysis
- Modelling / forecasting / nowcasting
- Dissemination / communication
- Chatbots / virtual assistants
- Workflow optimisation / internal support
- Other (please specify)

15. Implementation approach
Choice (multi-select – ensure it's multiple choice)

- In-house development
- With support from other government partner
- With academic/research partner
- With private sector partner/vendor

16. Types of tools used: (multi-select)

- Uses open-source tools
- Uses commercial free tools
- Uses commercial paid tools
- Not sure / not specified

17. Current maturity / implementation status
Please select the status that best reflects the current stage of the initiative. Future plans may be described in the narrative.
Choice (single)

- Idea / planned *(The use case has been identified and scoped, but no AI model or system has yet been developed or tested)*
- Prototype/proof-of-concept *(An initial model or workflow has been developed and tested on limited or historical data, primarily to assess technical feasibility)*
- Pilot (limited use) *(The AI application has been tested using real data in a controlled or limited operational setting, but is not yet part of regular production processes)*
- Production (operational) *(The AI application is integrated into routine statistical operations and is used on a regular basis to support official statistics)*
- Retired/discontinued *(The AI application was previously developed, but has since been discontinued or withdrawn from use (e.g., due to technical, organisational, legal, or cost-related reasons)*

Section D – Short narrative

*(Aim: 50–100 words per question) *

18. What is the business need or problem being addressed through this initiative?
Long text (required)

19. Briefly describe how AI is being used to address this need
Long text (required)

20. Key benefits observed so far (if any) *(E.g., reduction in processing time or costs; improvements in accuracy or consistency; reduced response burden; improved timeliness; new analytical insights.)*
Long text (optional)
Encourage simple metrics where available.

21. Main challenges or risks encountered *(E.g., bias or representativeness issues; explainability; model drift; reproducibility; data limitations; skills or infrastructure constraints).*
Long text (optional)

Section E – Governance and Ethics

22. Does this AI initiative involve the use of any personal or sensitive data?
Choice (single)
- No personal or sensitive data
- Personal data (including identifiable individuals)
- Other sensitive/confidential data
- Both personal and other sensitive/confidential data
- Not sure / not applicable

23. What governance or ethical measures have been applied?
Choice (multi-select – ensure it's multiple choice) (Optional)
- Data protection / confidentiality procedures
- Risk or ethics assessment
- Ethics committee
- Human-in-the-loop oversight
- Documentation of model and limitations
- No specific measures beyond usual practice

- Other (please specify)

24. Brief note on ethics, bias or accountability (if relevant)
Long text (optional, 1–2 sentences encouraged)

Section F – Resources and follow-up

25. Please provide links to related resources and further information and context, where available
Long text (optional)
Initiative website, publications, GitHub, code, blog posts, Government policy documents, legislation, strategic statements, etc.
If you have any documentation related to this use case that is not published online but is shareable with ESCAP, please indicate here, and the Secretariat will follow up directly.

26. Are you able to further support the work of the DASH team at this point through additional sharing?
Choice (multi-select)
- Yes – I can share a more detailed description of this case study using the long-form template
- Yes – I can present this work in a Stats Café
- Yes – I can share technical documentation/code
- No further engagement planned for now