



Vision and Policy Intent

The Kiribati Government is currently working on developing its National Strategy for Development of Statistics.

The Government in its KV20 [2020–2023 implementation plan](#) specified several strategic goals and policies relating to data and statistics:

- use evidence to guide a way forward for education plans and services such as strengthening the Kiribati Education Management Information System as a powerful data collection tool, to inform policymaking,
- use data-driven interventions to monitor and promote equity across all levels of education,
- provide updated and reliable visitor arrival data and tourism business record,
- ensure availability of quality and reliable data to enable policy formulation and evidence-based decision-making, and
- develop and update the national standard database (page 80, KV20 2020–2023 implementation plan).

Part of Kiribati’s vision is to enhance sustainable economic growth and financial stability for the welfare of the Kiribati people through the provision of accurate and quality national statistical information.



National Statistical System

The [Kiribati National Statistics Office \(KNSO\)](#) established under the Kiribati Statistics Act of 1997 (CAP.97), led by the Government Statistician, is responsible for producing official statistics.

The KNSO reports to the [Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning \(MFEP\)](#), at the highest administrative level.

Operating under the Statistics Act CAP 96 as a division of the MFEP, the KNSO is responsible for economic and social statistics, including the Census of Population and Housing.

Under the Census Act CAP 8, when national censuses are on, KNSO is responsible for collecting, compiling, analysing, abstracting and publishing statistical information.

Other agencies engaged in data collection include:

- taxation and customs authorities,
- Kiribati Provident Fund, and
- Ministries of Health, Education, Fisheries, who produce statistics in their respective areas of responsibility.



Key Features

The KNSO, governed by the Statistics Act 1997 (CAP.96), is responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating statistics.

[United Nations Statistics Division \(UNSD\)](#) highlighted that the Kiribati Statistics Act currently under review will allow more power to collect data from administrative records for timely production and publication.

Data collection – most recent population census and survey: [Kiribati 2020 Census report](#), [Kiribati Census Atlas 2022](#), [Kiribati 2019–2020 HIES report](#).

Dissemination – Data is disseminated via paper, website, online databases, and databanks.

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – KNSO has developed its own website with support from SPC.

The [Kiribati Development Hub](#) hosts information from Kiribati government agencies, development partners and researchers on key sectors.



Coordination

The KNSO coordinates state agencies in the collection and compilation of data, analysis, dissemination and publication of statistics.

Agencies involved in economic statistics include **KNSO, Customs and Finance**.

Kiribati has a semi-centralised statistical system ([Kiribati National Summary](#)) in coordination of statistical activities:

- clearly defined responsibilities for agencies involved in the production of the core set, and
- plans currently being implemented to improve coordination of production of economic statistics.

[Advisory Bodies, UNSD](#) noted that:

- no regular consultations in place,
- need for closer collaboration with data users and other key stakeholders, and
- frequent contacts required at working level to promote timely production of statistics.



Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting KNSO as outlined in the [review of the NSS](#):

- **small KNSO human resource** at 14 staff,
- **statistics staff salary scale not favourable** in line with other professionals,
- **Government policy of zero increase** in organisational structure,
- **pressure on KNSO on data demands** from SDGs and Kiribati’s new vision of KV20, and
- **emerging demands increased rapidly without plans** (different statistics, surveys, statistical advice and other statistical related issues).

Key priorities and lessons learned as outlined in the [review of the NSS](#):

- review of Kiribati NSS is essential before the development of NSDS,
- consultation/advocacy is needed to promote ownership of NSDS, and
- Kiribati is ready to develop a new NSDS.