



African Population and
Health Research Center

Compendium of Gates Data System Project Case Studies:

*Empowering African Communities
through Youth Employment*



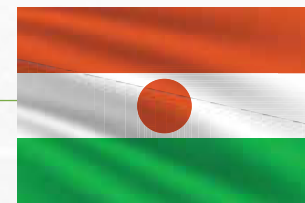
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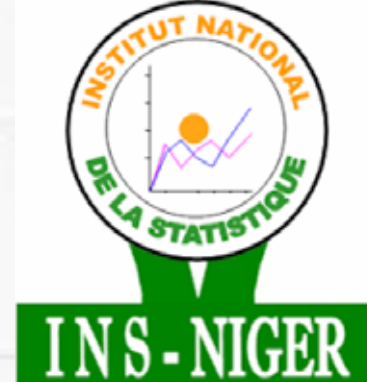
Local Implementing Partners (LIPS)



Burkina Faso



Niger



Senegal



Uganda





Forward

Since 2020, APHRC with funding from Gates Foundation, and in collaboration with Local Implementing Partners in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, and Uganda, has been strengthening national and sub-national data systems through the Gates Data System project. The project aims to fill evident gaps in national data ecosystems through the implementation of catalytic micro-examples to strengthen subnational data systems in these countries and create opportunities for youth employment and Africa-led growth.

Since its inception, the project's implementing partners have prioritized engaging young graduates of data science related science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses from local universities as interns who have supported this project. They have used the data that has been curated as tools to improve their own livelihoods and those of their peers.

Furthermore, local administrative units hosting this project have put in place sustainable plans of absorbing these young people into their civil services as data analysts and planning officers, which will further strengthen the data value chain.

Drawing on the invaluable impact created by the Project, these case studies encompass a range testimonials from the beneficiaries. Enjoy the read!



Burkina Faso Case Studies



Kabore T Prisca

Age: 26 Years

I hold a bachelor's degree in computer statistics and am currently pursuing a master's degree in demography.

I graduated in 2020 and was to start a master's degree in 2021. However, this didn't happen due to illness forcing me to postpone the enrolment. Instead, I decided to participate in research and take short courses as I gave my body enough time to recover.

Even so, getting an internship in my field was challenging. I did get an internship, but I only learned a little. It was when I joined the Gates Data Systems project team that I blossomed and acquired valuable skills.

I learned digital archiving, data cleansing, calculating vital statistics indicators, and creating statistical dashboards. Thanks to this experience, I'm now a data manager in an NGO.

Financially, this program has enabled me to meet my housing, food, and clothing needs. I was also able to support my family by contributing to living expenses. I was able to finance the first year of my Master's degree.

I recommend extending this project to other areas. Reinforcing storage systems is crucial in every area where data is stored to guarantee the preservation of information, even in the event of physical data loss.

Given the climate change we're experiencing, transporting documents over long distances worsens the situation. Therefore, protecting our data in the best possible way while preserving the environment in which we live is an imperative necessity.



Zongo Gedéon Guetawendé

Age: 24 Years

I graduated with a Bachelor's in Statistics from the Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population of the University of Ouagadougou in 2021.

In my country, internships or employment opportunities are minimal. Securing an internship was very complicated. Before joining the Gates Data System employment program, my life was a bit difficult, but I remained determined.

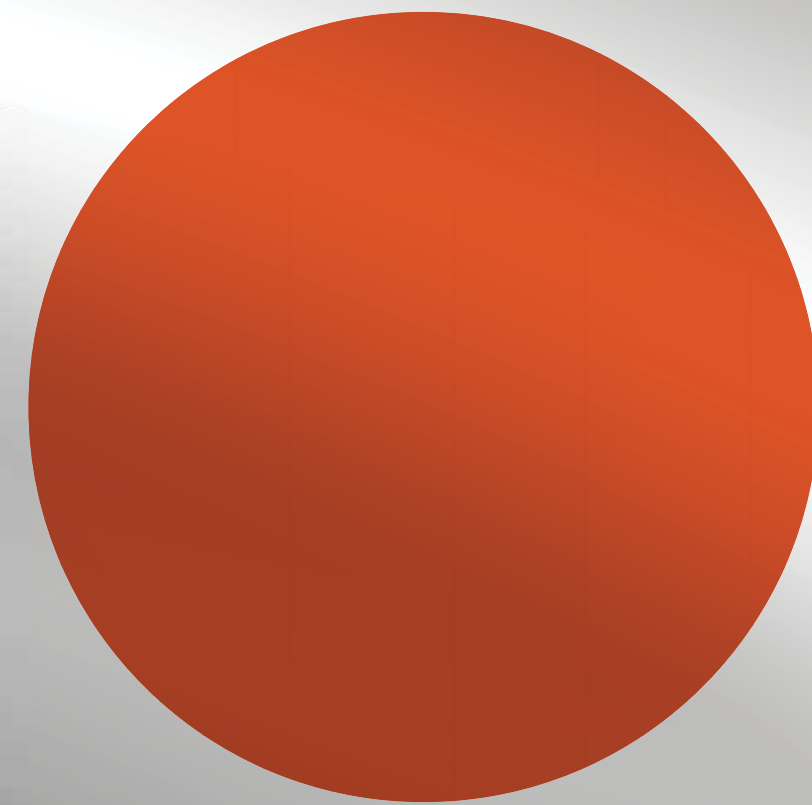
Passionate about statistics and wanting to strengthen my knowledge and skills, I went to several institutions to submit my applications for an internship or a job, but to no avail. In fact, as a new student, getting an internship or a job was the burning desire that I had to fulfill. I also wanted to apply the knowledge and skills I'd acquired throughout my university career. I also had a family to support. I had to support my family,

who had a modest income and could not provide for all the family's needs.

The job opportunity from Gates Data System enabled me to gain experience in data collection, processing, and analysis.

I've gained skills in data processing software. I had the chance to work with and under the leadership of statistics professionals, which added value to my skills. Thanks to the money I earned, I was also able to meet my basic needs. I was also able to enroll in training courses and pay off the balance of my schooling and that of my younger brothers and sisters.

I would like to see this approach extended to other areas. This initiative will help create jobs for students, giving them opportunities to apply and deepen their skills.



Niger Case Studies



Rhamar Akare Ousmane

Age: 33 Years

After my Baccalaureate, I trained in Corporate Communications, obtaining a Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT) on October 18, 2017.

Before joining the Gates Data System project employment program as an intern, life was complicated for me. Every day, I would set out to find employment opportunities, but to no avail. My multiple searches remained fruitless, marked by unsuccessful applications.

A young person like me can find it very difficult to find a job in my country. We face several problems in finding a job, including the lack of job opportunities in the region, the fact that recruitment is often carried out centrally, the low capacity to take on trainees and employees in the region's various public and private services, and the limited entrepreneurial opportunities.

Starting in this challenging situation, I didn't hesitate when I saw the opportunity to join the Gate Data System project. This program was a way of putting into practice the knowledge I had acquired during my studies and providing for my basic social needs and those of my family with the little I would earn.

I also saw that I could support the regional department of the Institut National de la Statistique (INS) within the value chain project so that it could carry out its duties properly. I said to myself that I would be able to contribute to the development of the country in general and my region in particular.

During my tenure at the Gates Data System program, I learned how to collect and enter data from other departments, exploit the data, and integrate it into the DHIS2 platform.

I participated in various meetings organized by the DR/INS/AZ on the value chains project. As a member of the DR/INS/AZ, I attended a training session on using the regional DHIS2 multi-sector platform of the APHRC-UAM project to strengthen subnational data value chains.

The internship on the value chain project enabled me to meet several agents and managers in the region. My participation in meetings helped me to make professional contacts in the sector.

The incentives of participating in the various activities have enabled me to cover the cost of transport from home to work and, above all, to meet a few family needs.

I recommend extending this program into higher education, which is already producing high-caliber graduates, and into vocational training, which will enable young graduates in the sector to set up their own businesses.

I suggest that this program be applied to other areas to provide multi-sector indicators, such as data on hydraulics, transport, and trade, all of which could facilitate the integration of young graduates.



Ms. Nasser Rahinatou Issaka

Age: 29 Years

After obtaining my Baccalaureate diploma, I completed a training course as a Technical Assistant in Statistics. Then, I studied for a degree in Information Management.

I joined the Gates Data System Project employment program as an intern to put into practice the knowledge acquired during my training and higher education. It was also an opportunity to open up prospects for entering the world of work.

As a young woman, joining the program was also a way of earning a little money to meet my social needs. By the way, I got married after joining the program and have children to care for.

The program has not only met but exceeded all my expectations. It has been a journey of personal growth and empowerment, allowing me to apply the knowledge I've gained and accumulate a wealth of experience in the research field. The professional relationships I've built through this program have been invaluable.

I strongly endorse this program because it provides crucial support for young people, guiding them professionally and creating real opportunities. The Gates Data System program is a key player in the integration of young people into the world of work, and we believe it should be extended to higher education to provide reassurance and confidence to young graduates in their pursuit of experience.



Mahaman Bachir Elh
Oumarou Moussa

Age: 30 Years

I am a Computer Science Fundamentals and Applications (IFA) graduate. I defended my Master's thesis in Fundamental and Applied Computer Science on June 20, 2024.

Before enrolling in the Gates Data System Project employment program, I researched and took other online training courses.

This program has enabled me to master data collection and entry techniques, which I am applying to support the project work of strengthening value chains in sub-Saharan Africa using the DHIS2 platform.

I joined this program out of my passion for research and to apply the knowledge and skills I had acquired at the University. I also wanted to contribute to the success of this important project.

This project has enabled me to forge many relationships with INS staff and others and strengthened my relationships with my teachers.

I'd like to see this project renewed, as it will enable us to recruit a lot of young people and also reduce the rate of unemployment in the Agadez region of Niger.



**Abdourahamane Mahamadou
Abdoulmananou**

Age: 29 Years

I am a master's degree in computer science student at the Faculty of Science and Technology (FAST), Abdou Moumouni University (UAM) in Niamey. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science in 2019.

Before joining the Gates Data System Project employment program as an intern, I found it difficult to get an internship, let alone a job. First, the state and private organizations only organize a few competitive examinations or recruitment processes. Secondly, even if the state and private organizations have launched a competition, many people will apply, and both (state and private organizations) do not take many people. They also require experience, for example, two years or three years. As a result, all those who do not have experience like me, for example, will never find a job. They'll always be unemployed and need the means to set up their businesses.

I took up the internship to apply my acquired knowledge and skills in computing and help my parents.

The internship program was very beneficial to me, especially during data entry as part of the project to strengthen subnational data value chains in sub-Saharan Africa. I worked as a data entry agent using the DHIS2 platforms in Tahoua and Agadez, which was the first data entry platform I used.

This platform has helped me deepen my computer skills. I was able to master data entry and validation in the aforementioned platform. DHIS2 is a platform that has it all.

Through this project, I've worked well with our teachers, my friend who works on the DHIS2 platform in Agadez, and the DHIS2 platform's online agents.

Finally, with this project, I've found a source of income through which I've invested in the advancement of my education. Then, I helped and facilitated my parents by telling them not to invest in my education, which I can manage independently.

I'd like to see this project renewed so that the DHIS2 platform can be extended into :

- Scientific research: for collecting and analyzing experimental data and managing research databases.
- Healthcare: patient data collection, electronic medical record management, and clinical trials.
- Higher education: registration management, student performance monitoring, and exam administration.
- Human resources: managing job applications, monitoring employee performance, and payroll management.
- Logistics and transport: shipment tracking, inventory management, and route planning, among others.

By using the DHIS2 platform in the above-mentioned sectors, we'll create many jobs for young people and contribute to the country's development.



Uganda Case Studies



Nalwanga Pauline

Age: 30 Years

I hold a bachelor's in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management and a certificate in Software Engineering.

Before joining the Gates Data System project employment program, I volunteered at an NGO in Kasangati. While the project focused on maternal patient healthcare, it was an on-and-off program with limited job security. This experience instilled valuable data collection skills and exposed me to the structured project work environment. However, I was increasingly drawn to data analysis, wanting to go beyond collecting data points.

The internship opportunity with Development Initiatives under the Gates Data System project employment program, supporting two districts, perfectly aligned with my aspirations. Even though my NGO experience wasn't directly related to data management, it provided a foundation for research and working with projects within districts. This and my growing interest in data analysis made me eager to contribute to the project's work. The Gates Data

System project's focus on Strengthening subnational data ecosystems interested me because I was anxious to see how we could solve the challenges of an entire district with a significant data source. This internship was a chance to dive deeper into data analytics within the tech field and move toward my goal of becoming a data scientist.

Through this internship, I have been able to meet so many people and network with them, including different district staff who are pivotal to my understanding of local government challenges, government policymakers, software developers, and data analysts. It has also helped me pay for my rent and basic needs like food and clothing, and I am very grateful for this.

I recommend scaling up this program as so many students after university need a training ground that will help them reconcile their learnings with the real-world environment. It will also help them understand their career paths as it opens them to a diverse network of work.



Musiimenta Onesmus

Age: 31 Years

I hold a Bachelor of Economics and Statistics from Kyambogo University, which I attained in December 2018.

Since graduating, securing a job has been challenging due to stiff competition in the job market. A year after graduation, COVID-19 happened, threatening our lives and dwindling my hope of employment due to the lockdown in travel and physical interactions. Life was complicated, with no work and no source of income for basic needs.

I have done several interviews in different institutions. However, there was still feedback after the interviews when I interviewed at Kayunga District Local Government for the planner position in 2022. Unfortunately, I didn't go through. Later, I was called for an internship offer in 2023 under the Gates Data Systems Project, which I welcomed with great love for work since I wanted to practice what I learned at the university.

The passion to practice and apply my skills from school triggered me to search for employment. More so, the need to help my sibling, who had completed O levels in 2022, drove me to seek employment.

From the internship, I have learned how to work with others, including teamwork, problem-solving,

critical thinking, communication, collaboration, time management and completion of assignments in a stipulated time given. I have experienced practical hands-on experience, which has helped me apply classroom learning to real-world work settings.

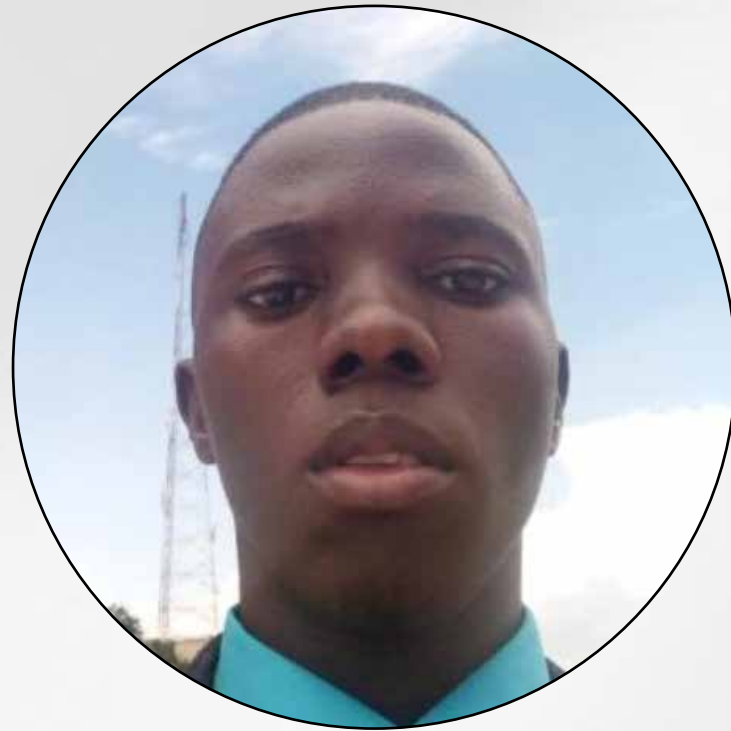
Through the internship, I have made new friends, especially with the district staff and organization staff, with some from Kenya and Niger.

Through the incentives provided by the project, I have been able to afford all the basic needs of life. I have also been able to sponsor my sister's education at Ahmed Seguya Institute. She will complete her studies this December 2024.

Also, my child has been able to access his basic needs, including education.

Lastly, the program has helped me discover the need for more education and next year; I will be joining the Uganda Management Institute for a postgraduate degree in Monitoring and Evaluation.

I recommend scaling up this project in other areas, especially in the planning department, where data is centralized in one place using the Next Cloud software. This will ease the planning process and reporting. Also, the data visualization dashboard will help with reporting and data accessibility.



Atugonza Kenneth

Age: 28 Years

I have been a student at the University of Kyambogo since 2019.

My passion for implementing the knowledge and skills gained in school motivated me to look for and take up the internship opportunity with the Gates Data System Project.

Through the internship, I gained data analysis skills, i.e., the ability to collect, analyze, interpret, and present data and work with statistical software. It has also offered me an opportunity to connect with others.

I recommend scaling this approach to other areas because it has created employment opportunities and improved the skills and standard of living of the interns.



Senegal Case Studies



Ousmane Diop

Age: 26 Years

After graduating with a Higher Technician Diploma and Advanced Technician's Certificate in Accounting and Management, I did two internships with a construction company in Dakar and a peanut buying and selling company in Kounghel, Senegal. Thereafter, I was employed by another company in Dakar in the Purchasing and Payroll Department. Unfortunately, I lost my job a year later because of the Coronavirus epidemic.

After a period of unemployment, I was fortunate to secure the role of Local Economic Development Coordinator for the Boulel commune. This opportunity was made possible through the partnership between Institut De La Gouvernance Territoriale Et

Du Développement Local (IGT) and the Commune, specifically the Gates Data System project. This role allowed me to apply my skills in a new context and make a meaningful contribution to the community.

This program is very beneficial to me. It has enabled me to create links and make contacts in my professional life. I have gained much knowledge and skills in different areas through the program.

Through this employment, I have been able to support my family financially as well as start a business.

I recommend the scale up of this program to other areas, such as the census of Koranic schools and land tenure.



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