

Implementing Macroeconomic Data Warehouse for the Central Bank of the Gambia

Background

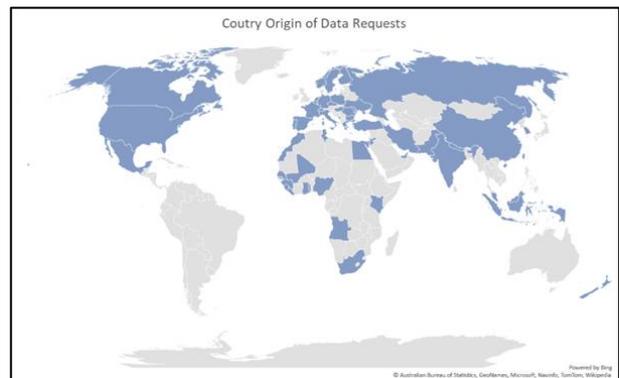
The Central Bank of the Gambia (CBG) is a government entity responsible for achieving price and exchange rate stability, and regulation of the banking sector in the Republic of the Gambia. In 2017, the Bank endeavoured on modernizing its core technological, analytical and forecasting infrastructure supporting its policies. The modernization of how the Bank stores and manages its data was one of the corner-stone projects and an important building stone for the introduction of advanced economic analytics and reporting.

Visit and Scoping

DataWarehousePro's team visited Banjul to meet the CBG team in person, assess the local situation and to scope a way forward. The team identified numerous opportunities for strengthening the existing data storage infrastructure, data production and quality assurance, data management, copyright, and data dissemination practices. One of the key observations were that data was scattered across different owners and data spreadsheets, outdated organizational processes and unnecessary amount of manual data handling. The organization lacked a central data repository, transparent data production and management processes – that resulted in delays in data collection, validation and dissemination. The staff also manually handled data requests, which heavily limited their capacity to conduct policy-relevant analytical work.



The main building of the Central Bank of Gambia in Banjul.



Data usage quickly skyrocketed: over 19,000 requests per quarter, 205 every day, from 60 countries.



Reporting on the development process and positive user experience with DataWarehousePro.

The Complete Package

Over the course of six months, the DataWarehousePro team delivered a package of software-processes-training solutions, including:

- deploying the DataWarehousePro as the central data repository and one-stop-shop with user-administrator-specific interface;
- migrating existing data to the new on-cloud platform;
- compiling meta-data database and the Data Catalogue;
- helping improve data quality validation protocols by establishing Data Production and Data Release Calendars;
- helping integrate the data warehouse to the CBG official website;
- training CBG staff, database managers, IT staff, and management;
- helping advertise the new CBG Macroeconomic Data Warehouse with the public;
- providing continuous off-site support via videoconferencing from New Zealand.

All solutions were designed and developed jointly with the local CBG project team and management, to maximize the knowledge transfer, capacity growth and to assure the CBG's ownership.

The Result

The CBG now owns a modern data warehouse that serves its community:

- data users can access the Gambian data anytime, anywhere, and in real time from common devices and also via an API features;
- data usership skyrocketed – the data warehouse automatically daily services hundreds of data requests from Gambian and the world;
- data requests made over the phone or email dropped to zero, freeing valuable staff time for policy-relevant analytical work;
- data are securely stored on the cloud, regularly backed up, and kept up-to-date;
- administrators have a secure control from the comfort of their desktops;
- CBG's Statistics unit is well trained and works as a team.

Testimonials

"I found the support provided by DataWarehousePro's team excellent and was very happy with the end result. This has tremendously helped cut down on the volume of data requests our bank receives."

Sheriff Touray, Deputy Director, CBG

SUMMARY

Objective:

Modernize macroeconomic database and data management.

Solution:

Implement DataWarehousePro software, re-organize data management processes, and train staff.

Benefits:

A total solution package including:

- Design and engineering support.
- Project management support.
- Supply of all software and cloud solution.
- Training of local teams.
- On-going technical and software support.