

Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt

Capacity Development Activities in Fiscal Year 2024

Lebanon

November 14-December 12, 2023: The remote joint mission with the IMF Statistics Department (STA) supported the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to strengthen budget reporting. The mission assessed the feasibility to enhance the Public Finance Monitor report with critical reporting elements (arrears; reporting on budget advances and treasury advances; payables; and commitments), while ensuring timely issuance in the current context of staffing constraints and long information backlogs. The concept has been validated in the mission and further METAC and STA assistance will be required to define operational details within a timebound plan.

Yemen

November 13-December 8, 2023: The mission developed a draft institutional table for the Yemen public sector with two levels of government: central government (budgetary central government and extrabudgetary units) and local governments. The mission and authorities worked on domestic and external debt data and discussed the treatment of the different domestic debt instruments and their classification according to international standards. Regarding external debt, the Yemeni authorities have advanced on gathering data sources and have introduced most of the external loans, so preliminary data series for external debt are prepared. Finally, the mission and the Yemeni officials worked on the GFS and PSDS compilation work plan and defined the needs and dates for the forthcoming technical assistance meetings.

February 3-8, 2024: An in-person workshop with hands-on training for Yemen was held in Amman to strengthen the authorities' understanding of government finance statistics (GFS) main concepts and framework as well as public sector debt statistics (PSDS). Remote TA through seven virtual meetings followed between February and April. The participants were from the central bank, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Several aspects of GFS compilation in Yemen were discussed and coupled with related recommendations including: (i) institutional sectorization (ii) quality of data sources (iii) development of preliminary detailed bridge tables, which will be crucial for future GFS compilation (iv) analysis of national budget presentation; (v) preliminary above and below-the-line consistency. The workshop was very well received by the participants with significant improvement in knowledge on GFS and PSDS based on the pre- and post-course assessment.