

Statistics

Technical Assistance in Fiscal Year 2015

In the area of macroeconomic statistics, METAC continued building countries' capacity for good quality economic and financial statistics to support policy and program development, and monitoring and evaluation at the national and regional levels.

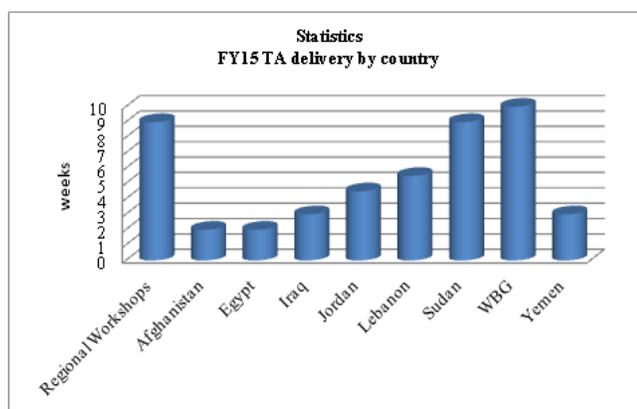
Based on the latest international standards and best practices, METAC provided TA and training to improve the coverage, accuracy, reliability and timeliness of balance of payments statistics; and on implementing the sixth edition of the *IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)*. METAC also, assisted countries to compile and disseminate the international investment position (IIP) and external debt statistics (EDS). Moreover, METAC provided TA to member countries to implement the *2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA)*, rebasing their annual GDP estimates, and disseminating quarterly GDP by economic activity at current and constant prices. In addition, TA was provided to improve, update, and revise the concepts and methods used to compile consumer and producer price indexes.

Technical Assistance Delivery

METAC completed 15 missions and three regional workshops during FY15. In particular, METAC's assistance covered the following activities:

National Accounts (NA)

- In **Jordan**, a METAC short-term expert visited the Department of Statistics (DOS) to assist with the implementation of the recommendations for improvement of NA made during the METAC November 2013 TA mission, in particular the rebasing of NA to 2010 base year. The mission identified the following



- activities that should be undertaken by the DOS: (i) updating the estimates of annual GDP at constant prices of 2010, using new price indicators, as well as according to recommendations of the mission; (ii) rebasing of the quarterly GDP to 2010 base year; and (iii) publication of new series of annual NA at constant prices of 2010.
- In **Lebanon**, METAC conducted a NA TA mission for the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS). The mission assessed the NA compilation and identified several areas that need improvement.

- In **Sudan**, a NA mission visited the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to assist with implementing the recommendations made during the April 2012 multi-sector statistics mission. The mission reviewed progress made, and worked with the authorities to implement outstanding recommendations. In addition, the mission discussed the importance of the implementation of the national economic surveys and agricultural census to develop the NA compilation and estimates.
- In **West Bank and Gaza**, METAC fielded a NA mission to assess the current methodology of NA. Compilation used by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS); and to assist the PCBS with revising the NA data based on the 2012 census of establishments and other recent survey data and to change the base year for the NA from 2004 to 2010.
- For **Yemen**, a mission for the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) was conducted in Lebanon, to continue improving the NA statistics and to assist using the results from the economic surveys to increase the accuracy, reliability, and coverage of the GDP estimates. In addition, the mission assisted in developing and improving the series of the GDP at current and constant prices.
- **Price Statistics**
 - In **Lebanon**, a METAC short-term expert visited CAS to assist the authorities in developing a producer price index (PPI). The mission provided necessary training and recommendations on how to design, develop and compile the PPI.
 - In **Sudan**, a price statistics expert visited the CBS to continue assisting with the development of a PPI. The mission reviewed the current PPI compilation methods and discussed a number of recommendations for improvement, and identified short-and medium-term goals for the project to improve the PPI.
 - In **West Bank and Gaza**, METAC fielded a TA mission to review and assess the current concepts and methods used by the PCBS to compile the consumer price index (CPI) and the PPI. An action plan was prepared for improving the PPI and the CPI compilation methodology.

External Sector Statistics

- For **Afghanistan**, an external sector statistics (ESS) mission was conducted for Afghanistan in Lebanon. The mission: (i) assessed progress made in implementing the agreed action plan that was developed during METAC's January 2014 mission; (ii) provided guidance to the DAB in addressing outstanding balance of payments issues, in particular regarding the collection of data on trade in goods, aids flows, and workers' remittances; and (iii) provided training in the methodology of the *BPM6*.
- In **Egypt**, a TA mission visited the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI). The mission assessed progress on the inward Direct Investment Survey (DI), its coverage, methodology, and its adherence to the *BPM6*. The mission validated the data edited by the GAFI for the years 2011 and 2012, and assessed the scope and quality of

data collected. In addition, the mission discussed Egypt's participation in the Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS).

- For **Iraq**, METAC conducted an ESS mission for Iraq in Jordan. The mission: (i) assessed progress made in implementing the action plan agreed during the IMF's Statistics Department's (STA) December 2013 mission; (ii) reviewed the latest balance of payments data and explored the reasons for the large errors and omissions; (iii) provided training on key compilations issues, including transactions and positions arising from oil contracts, and international services; and (iv) provided guidance to the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) in improving the coverage and timeliness of balance of payments and IIP statistics.
- In **Jordan**, an ESS mission assisted the authorities in implementing the sixth edition of the *BPM6*. Also, the mission provided needed advice on further development of balance of payments compilation system and identified gaps and areas where changes are needed to bring the ESS compilation practices fully in line with the *BPM6* and the *BPM6 Compilation Guide*.
- In **Sudan**, METAC fielded two missions in the area of the ESS. The missions assessed progress made in implementing previous missions' recommendations and reviewed the compilation of crude oil exports, external debt arrears, reserve assets, and the treatment of transactions related to oil-sharing agreements with foreign direct investors. The missions also provided guidance in compiling the reserve data template and reporting balance of payments and IIP statistics according to the *BPM6* format.
- In **West Bank and Gaza**, METAC conducted an ESS mission to review current compilation practices for balance of payments and IIP statistics and assist the authorities in improving the coverage and overall quality of these statistics. The mission also assessed progress made in addressing inconsistencies between external sector datasets and provided guidance on the collection of portfolio investment positions in connection with possible participation in the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS).