

## Statistics

### Technical Assistance in Fiscal Year 2018

#### **Afghanistan** (March 12-22)

The IMF Statistics Department and METAC organized an off-site mission to help Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) in improving the quality of the balance of payments (BoP) and international investment position (IIP). The mission focused on filling data gaps, by developing new estimation methods based on existing and possible new data sources. It assessed the coverage, source data availability, and compilation techniques for compiling BoP and IIP statistics, suggested improvements in the statistical techniques, and promoted the use of adequate source data for compiling and disseminating BoP and IIP in line with Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, sixth edition (BPM6). To enhance interagency coordination on external sector statistics, the mission included staff from the DAB, Central Statistics Organization, Ministry of Finance, and Customs Department.



#### **Algeria** (January 15-26, March 18-22)

METAC assisted BA in improving the sources and compilation techniques of ESS (i.e., BoP and IIP), focusing on direct reporting. The mission helped the compilers to improve the accuracy of the private sector direct investment position data, including the treatment of middle-and long-term construction projects in the country. It advised on the steps to organize a direct investment survey, based on an updated register of private non-financial enterprises. The mission also assessed the possibility of developing quarterly BoP estimates. To this end, it reviewed the availability of frequent indicators and discussed the possibility of collecting more frequent data that could support compilation of quarterly estimates.

Another mission assisted the Office National des Statistiques in developing a system of annual financial accounts and balance-sheet statistics by institutional sector. The mission assessed the source data and technical capacity available to develop the financial accounts, in accordance with the milestones set up in the METAC log-frame. It advised developing new data sources and establishing procedures for the compilation of financial accounts and balance sheets in line with the 2008 SNA. Institutional arrangements and responsibilities for developing the accounts were discussed and recommendations provided to strengthen cooperation between relevant data providing agencies.

#### **Djibouti** (January 14-25, March 18-29)

In cooperation with AFRISTAT, METAC assisted the Directorate of Statistics and Demographic Studies (DISED) in restoring and developing the national accounts compilation system, based to the

extent possible on the methodological framework of the 2008 SNA. To this end, it conducted two missions:

- The first mission provided hands-on training to DISED staff and assisted them in compiling the 2014 GDP based on the newly established system. It also agreed with the authorities on mid-term objectives to fully operationalize the national accounts team at DISED so that they can autonomously produce the national accounts statistics. These objectives will be jointly supported by METAC and AFRISTAT. In addition, METAC agreed to organize a mission in March 2018, to help the national accounts team in producing and disseminating preliminary GDP estimates in accordance to the IMF General Data Dissemination System dissemination requirements.
- The second mission focused on the available sources and short-term indicators for establishing a compilation system for preliminary GDP estimates by activity and by final expenditure components. The mission provided hands-on training on designing and testing the compilation framework based on the available source data. Preliminary GDP estimates for 2015 and 2016 were produced, the framework for the 2017 GDP estimates was updated, and recommendations were provided to finalize the estimates by July 2018.

**Egypt** (July 9-20, October 29 – November 11, December 18-22, February 4-8, March 4-15)

METAC continued its assistance to the CAPMAS and the Ministry of Planning (MoP) on national accounts statistics. To this end, it organized three missions during FY18:

- The first mission focused on improving the consolidation of sources and the compilation of procedures for consistent measurement of GDP in the annual and quarterly accounts (in the MoP), and SUT in the CAPMAS. Special attention was paid to the treatment of VAT (introduced in September 2016), and the procedures for measuring product taxes and subsidies in volume terms. The mission assisted the national compilers in CAPMAS in compiling the 2014/15 SUT, to be finalized in October-November 2017.
- The second mission clarified the methodological issues in assessing and organizing the source data into the compilation framework of 2014/15 SUT. The mission worked with the SUT team to update the classifications, assess the data sources and procedures for the estimates at detailed product and activity levels. The improvements made in the SUT framework will increase the consistencies between resources and uses by products and between output and input by activity. For the first time the trade and transport margins were calculated by using own data sources, instead of previously applied margin rates from other economies. Further enhancement is expected for the 2017/18 SUT, with the integration of the results from the planned economic census in 2018.
- The third mission finalized the 2014/15 Supply and Use Tables (SUT). The updated 2014/15 SUT framework helped CAPMAS ensure consistency between non-market output and government consumption expenditures. The mission reviewed the balancing procedures and provided recommendations to finalize the tables, including on improving the accounts for agricultural products; the treatment of some government EAs; valuation of the output of extraction activities; and ensuring a comprehensive coverage of financial intermediaries. CAPMAS published the 2014/15 SUT by end-March 2018.

METAC also assisted CAPMAS in updating the PPI weights and expanding its coverage to include exports. To this end, it organized two missions in FY18:

- The first mission noted several methodological improvements that needed to be addressed, such as expanding the coverage of the PPI to include exports and construction; developing detailed item and transaction weights; and revising the price reference period to account for the seasonality of agricultural products. Although not the primary focus, the mission also addressed consumer price index compilation issues raised by the authorities.
- The second mission clarified and confirmed data sources for updating PPI, based on 2016/17 economic census; advised on procedures for developing detailed PPI weights; and determined expenditure data for updating CPI weights. It also discussed with the authorities a program for expanding further the PPI coverage to include construction. In addition, the mission provided hands-on training and recommendations on improving the statistical techniques for the treatment of missing prices in both CPI and PPI.

#### **Iraq** (August 27-31)

An off-site mission assisted the Iraqi Central Organization of Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) in improving the source data and compilation framework, and integrating the product balances into the core national accounts compilation system. The mission focused on: (i) applying a standard format for all type of goods and services, allowing compilation in quantity and value terms, and specifying the valuation elements from basic to purchaser prices; and (ii) expanding the scope of the product balances by including some important products and activities as well as market and non-market services.

#### **Jordan** (July 23-27, November 19-30)

METAC continued to assist the Department of Statistics (DOS) of Jordan on the compilation of the 2013 supply and use table (SUT), and integration of the results into the regular national accounts compilation system. In this context, two missions were organized in FY18:

The first mission covered the compilation of the SUT, focusing on source data and procedures for the valuation of the resources of goods and services at purchaser prices, and their proper allocation to user categories. Hands-on training was provided to the staff on the allocation of output, associated fees, and incidental market sales of non-market producers in the frame of SUTs. Further technical assistance is scheduled in the following months to before the end of 2017.

The second mission supported the authorities in completing the 2013 SUT and integrating the SUT framework into the national accounts compilation system. The mission worked with the national account compilers to obtain the correct valuation of the flows of goods and services, analyze the reasons of the existing imbalances between resources and uses of goods and services, and assist the staff in balancing the SUT. It is expected that the SUT will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2018, thereby improving the quality of GDP and other national accounts estimates. Recommendations were also provided for reconciling of quarterly GDP series in consistency with the annual estimates rebased to 2010. The reconciled annual and quarterly GDP series will be disseminated at the end of April 2018.

#### **Lebanon** (September 18-29, October 16-27)

METAC continued its assistance to the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) of Lebanon on re-establishing the rest of the world (ROW) account as a part of the integrated economic accounts for

Lebanon, in consistency with the external sector statistics. The mission assessed and organized the data sources to reconcile the data used in the balance of payments (BOP) and the ROW account in national account statistics. It coordinated the work with the BOP compilers at the Banque du Liban (BDL), building on the good cooperation established during the previous mission in March 2017. In discussion with both CAS and BDL, the mission helped to establish of a common set of adjustments to reconciling the raw merchandise trade data in national accounts with the BOP of imports and exports of goods. It also provided a number of recommendations to supplement the International Transactions Reporting System (ITRS) with alternative sources of information to further improve the national accounts/balance of payments estimates of trade in services, including travel spending.

METAC also helped the Central Administration of Statistics of Lebanon to continue to improve the consumer price index (CPI). To this end, a mission addressed the treatment of missing prices in the calculation of the index; data collection issues, including the management of field work; the collection of prices for electronic goods and select services; the treatment of promotions and sales in the index; and the lack of detailed metadata on CPI methods. It advised enhancing the analysis in the monthly CPI press release, by better describing key contributions to the overall change in the CPI. The mission also discussed and agreed with the authorities on a program to develop a Producer Price Index, by focusing on the elaboration of weights and a sample frame of establishments.

#### **Morocco** (February 19-23, April 30 – May 11)

METAC supported the extension of the coverage of Morocco's GFS to the general government. To this end, it organized two missions, which focused on: (i) assessing the institutional arrangements for the compilation of the fiscal statistics, including the new GFS committee; (ii) identifying existing source data for the compilation of sub-sectors of the general government other than budgetary central government and to identify data gaps; and (iii) initiating procedures to collect source data for the rest of the general government sector. The second mission assessed progress made with the implementation of the past missions' recommendations.

#### **Sudan** (January 21-25)

METAC assisted the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in improving the annual national accounts, based on an updated benchmark compilation framework. The mission worked with the CBS staff to assess and organize the relevant information from the 2014 household survey and the 2012-2014 economic survey, which will then be integrated in the new benchmark GDP estimates. Attention was paid to the administrative data (including companies' income statements, balance sheets and value-added tax and customs declarations) as an important supplementary source of information for national accounts estimates. The mission also visited the Tax Chamber office and discussed possibilities for using the tax data bases as a source for the national accounts and economic statistics.

#### **Tunisia** (January 15-19, February 19-23, April 16-27)

METAC mission assisted the NIS in strengthening the sectoral financial accounts and introducing sectoral financial balance sheets. To this end, it organized three missions in FY18:

The first mission reviewed and assessed the sources and procedures currently applied in compiling the sequence of sectoral financial accounts and integrated economic accounts. It also developed a reconciliation framework of the stocks and flows of financial assets and respective liabilities between the institutional sectors. A new integrated Excel-based tool has been adopted for data entry that

ensures consistency between assets and liabilities and between flows and stocks. The national accounts compilers could master this new framework and have started working on stocks tables.

The second mission focused on reestablishing contacts with key data providers (CBT, MoF and the Comité Général des Assurances) and defining a roadmap to strengthen the Tunisian financial accounts. According to the established timeframe, the NIS will be ready to publish a full set of sectoral financial accounts and balance sheets by February 2020. The program includes milestones at crucial times in the compilation process: to set up formal agreements with the key data providers [by May 2018]; elaborate the compilation framework and experimental accounts for 2014 and 2015 [March 2019], integrate revised transaction tables in assets and liabilities [September 2019], and publish the results and technical documentation [February 2020].

The third mission assessed the consistency between the national accounts and ESS. The mission worked closely with compilers from CBT and NIS on reconciling trade in goods data in national accounts and BoP. It clarified the differences between trade in services published in the two datasets and recommended ways to close the gap.

#### **West Bank and Gaza (May 7-11, December 17-21)**

A METAC continued its assistance to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in Ramallah to implement the 2008 SNA requirement for measuring volumes at prices of previous year, and their chain-linking in time series at chosen reference year. To this end, it organized three missions during FY18:

- The first mission worked closely with the PCBS staff to assess the experimental results using the 2012-2014 data, organize the data sources for annual and quarterly estimates, and establish standard templates for regular compilation procedures. The mission agreed with the authorities on further preparatory actions, to consider implementation of the procedures during the first quarter of 2018. These actions include: continuing with the experimental calculations for 2015 and 2016; recalculating series at previous year prices; compiling quarterly production GDP at current prices; and integrating 2013 SUT.
- The second mission assisted PCBS in adopting a compilation framework for measuring volumes of GDP and its components at previous year prices and their chain-linking to 2015—the new base year for national accounts. The mission tested the chain-linking procedures with actual data for the first three quarters of 2017. The tests will continue with the fourth quarter of 2017 and the first two quarters of 2018. The mission advised adopting the chain-linking procedures in December 2018 once the annual 2017 GDP data are completed.