

Statistics

Technical Assistance in Fiscal Year 2019

Djibouti (August 26 – September 6)

METAC assisted the Directorate of Statistics and Demographic Studies (DISED) of Djibouti in restoring and developing further the national accounts. The mission focused on strengthening the sources and procedures for quick GDP estimates, thus improving the timeliness of national accounts data, with a view to support economic analysis and the government economic policy formulation. The mission also assisted the DISED in disseminating the 2013-2017 GDP series, a milestone for end September 2018 and helped the staff in updating the methodological description of sources and methods for national accounts compilation.

Iraq (August 26-30, September 30 – October 4)

METAC conducted an off-site mission in Amman, Jordan to assist the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Iraq in updating the national accounts compilation system, on annual and quarterly bases. The mission assessed the coverage, data sources and estimation procedures, particularly for oil sector activities and conflict-affected areas, and provided recommendations for further improvements. The following topics were discussed, and training provided to six participants from the CSO: enhancing the data sources and the compilation framework; introducing a new base/benchmark year; implementing basic concepts and definitions of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA); rebasing and reconciling annual and quarterly time series.

In response to a request from the Central Organization of Statistics and Information Technologies of Iraq, a METAC off-site mission was held in Amman, Jordan to assist in the development of index compilation of the consumer price index (CPI) and the producer price index (PPI). The mission reviewed the status of the CPI and the PPI in Iraq and provided recommendations to achieve reliable price statistics that are in line with the international recommendations and standards. The mission was organized in coordination with the fragile states module of the Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative project funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development.

Jordan (July 8-12, 2018)

A METAC mission assisted the Department of Statistics in finalizing the 2013 Supply and Use Tables (SUT) and integrating the SUT framework in the national accounts compilation system, thus improving the quality of GDP and related national accounts aggregates. The mission reviewed and assessed the ongoing compilation process, and helped the staff to balance the differences between resources and uses by product, and output and input by activity. The mission also provided training on the use of automatic procedures to remove small unbalances. The approaches to integrate the 2013 SUT results with the existing annual account series were

discussed, and recommendations provided. It is expected the 2013 SUT will be completed by end September 2018.

Tunisia (September 17 – 21)

METAC assisted the National Statistics Institute of Tunisia in developing a full set of financial accounts. This was the first follow-up mission following the two scoping missions that were held earlier this year. Based on the existing data sources, the mission helped the authorities finetune the data input system and reviewed and amended the stocks data for the main sub-sectors of the financial sector.

West Bank and Gaza (June 24-28, July 28 - August 2, 2018)

A METAC mission assisted the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to upgrade the compilation framework for annual and quarterly volume estimates of GDP and its components at the previous year prices and their chain linking in time series. The mission worked closely with the staff and tested the chain-linking procedures applied to the quarters of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, re-referenced to the 2015 base year. The exercise will continue further with the actual data for the second and third quarter of 2018 to ensure smooth implementation of these statistical techniques. The mission also helped the staff in expanding the sources for quarterly national accounts, particularly in evaluating possibilities for using value-added tax records at the Palestinian Tax Administration, with a view to establish a set of indicators for estimating GDP components by production and expenditure approach.

METAC provided assistance to the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to enhance the coverage and quality of external sector statistics. The mission worked with its counterparts on improving the consistency between balance of payments (BP) and international investment position statistics (IIP), as well as between the coordinated portfolio investment surveys and the IIP. Assistance was also provided to improve data coverage of both BP and IIP statistics. The mission reviewed the initial results of the FDI survey conducted last April and advised on ways to improve the coverage and estimates of non-responding enterprises.