

The 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative (ARABSTAT)

Bridging Data Gaps in Arab Countries

November 19-20, 2025
Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates

Wednesday, November 19, 2025	
Registration and Coffee	8:00 – 8:30
Opening and Welcoming Remarks	8:30 – 09:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mokhtar Benlamine, Director of the Surveillance and Financing Department, Arab Monetary Fund • H.E. Dr. Fahad M. Alturki, Director General Chairman of the Board, Arab Monetary Fund • Chairman of the 12th ARABSTAT Meeting • Dr. Jamel Jouini, Manager of the Regional Surveillance and Research Division, Arab Monetary Fund 	
Session 1: Understanding and Addressing Data Gaps in Arab Countries: Challenges and Opportunities	9:00 – 11:30
<p>Objective: This session aims to examine the current landscape of data availability in Arab countries, highlighting existing data gaps and the underlying challenges. Through an interactive dialogue between member countries and international institutions, the session will explore practical opportunities for improving data systems, enhancing collaboration, and fostering evidence-based policymaking across the Arab region.</p>	
Current Status of Data Gaps in Arab Countries	Arab Monetary Fund
Identifying Key Priority Areas for Data Improvement	International Monetary Fund
The Role of Informal Sector Surveys in Bridging Data Gaps	Member Country
Bridging Data Gaps: Key Challenges and Opportunities	Interactive Discussion
Coffee Break	11:30 – 12:00
Session 2: Leveraging Innovations and Technology to Bridge Data Gaps	12:00 – 14:30
<p>Objective: This session aims to explore cutting-edge innovations and emerging technologies that can help bridge data gaps in Arab countries. It will focus on the role of modern tools, Artificial Intelligence, and alternative data sources in enhancing data collection, analysis, and accessibility for more informed decision-making.</p>	
AI governance and implementation.	BIS- IFC
Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Alternative Data Sources to Bridge Data Gaps	Arab Monetary Fund Member Country

Mobile Phone Surveys and Real-Time Data Collection: Learned Lessons and Best Practices	International Monetary Fund
Leveraging Technology for Data Collection in Price, Trade, Household Expenditure, and Tourism: Insights from Scanner and Mobility Data	Member country
The Productivity and Growth Assessment Framework (PGAF): A Tool for Measuring Economic Performance	Arab Monetary Fund
Lunch Break	14:30 – 15:30

Thursday, November 20, 2025	
Session 3: Enhancing Statistical Capacities: Building Human and Institutional Strength for Reliable Data	8:30 – 10:30
Objective: This session aims to highlight strategies and initiatives for strengthening both human and institutional statistical capacities in Arab countries. It will focus on enhancing the quality, timeliness, and reliability of data, while emphasizing the vital role of regional platforms and partnerships in supporting sustainable capacity development across the region.	
Initiatives for Strengthening Statistical Capacities	GCC
IFC Knowledge Centre and associated initiatives.	BIS- IFC
Regional Platforms for Enhancing Statistical Capacities and Leveraging Big Data Techniques (e.g., UN Regional Platform in the UAE)	UAE-FCSC
Coffee Break	10:30 – 11:00
Session 4: Strategic Priorities and Recommendations for Bridging Data Gaps in Arab Countries	11:00 – 13:00
Objective: This session aims to identify and prioritize actionable recommendations for bridging data gaps in Arab countries. Building on insights from an interactive survey conducted during the session, the discussion will engage member countries and international institutions to gather feedback and promote collaborative approaches to addressing the most critical data challenges in the Arab region.	
Key Priorities and Recommendations for Bridging Data Gaps in Arab Countries	Arab Monetary Fund
Interactive Discussion: Engaging Countries and International Institutions	Interactive Discussion
Closing Session	13:00 – 14:00
Key Recommendations and Concluding Remarks	Arab Monetary Fund
Advancing the ArabStat Initiative: Opportunities and Next Steps	Arab Monetary Fund
Looking Ahead: Work Program for the 13 th Meeting in 2026	Arab Monetary Fund
Lunch Break	14:00 – 15:00