



**REGIONAL OFFICE  
IN RIYADH**

# Initiatives for Strengthening Statistical Capacities - Real Sector and Government Finance Statistics

## FY25 Achievements and Plan for FY26

Real Sector Statistics Advisors

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt  
Statistics Advisor

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# Overview

Real Sector Statistics

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt  
Statistics

FY26 workplan and priorities

# IMF's Capacity Development (CD)

- **Capacity development**, surveillance, and lending are the three IMF pillars
- Strengthening the capacity of institutions, including statistical agencies, results in more **effective policies** and greater **economic stability** and inclusion.
- Three key principles of the IMF's CD:
  - ▶ CD activities are **driven by demand** from member countries
  - ▶ CD activities are **integrated with surveillance** and lending
  - ▶ **Avoid duplication** and enhance complementarity with other CD providers

# IMF's Support to the Compilation of Real Sector and Government Finance Statistics in the Arab Countries

- TA missions from **headquarters' (HQ) staff** and short-term experts
- Training events organized by the Middle East Center for Economics and Finance in Kuwait (**CEF**)
- A Real Sector Statistics Advisor (RSSA) and a Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt Statistics Resident Advisor based at the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (**METAC**)
- From October 1, 2025, STA also has a RSSA based in the **IMF's Regional Office in Riyadh** (ROR) to provide CD to the six GCC countries
- **20 countries covered by three resident advisors**

# Benefits from Resident Advisors

- **Continuous engagement** and communication with country authorities
- **More CD** (TA missions and training)
- CD more **tailored** to countries' needs
- Enhanced **integration** of CD with surveillance
- More timely, **flexible** and innovative CD

# RSSA Strategic Goals and Stages of CD

- Support policymaking and IMF surveillance, and promote data transparency and international comparability by:
  - ▶ Enhancing the **quality and availability** of macroeconomic statistics
  - ▶ Improving adherence to **harmonized** definitions, classifications and methods of compilation
  - ▶ Fostering the **dissemination** of macroeconomic statistics
- Three critical stages of CD
  - ▶ **Assessing** statistical practices and needs
  - ▶ **Developing/updating action plans** for improvement
  - ▶ **Providing hands-on technical advice and training** to assist with the implementation of the action plans, and to address urgent matters

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# ROR RSSA Initial Steps

- Start to **engage** with country authorities
- Agree on time and topics of the first TA mission (that will include a **diagnostic module**)
  - ▶ One mission to Qatar on SUT conducted in November 2025
  - ▶ One mission planned to Saudi Arabia in January 2026 on capital stock
- Collect inputs on requested **topics for training** activities
- The RSSA will develop a **work program** to establish **priorities for CD activities** in each country
  - ▶ Work program consistent with inputs from **member countries, IMF's country desks, and IMF's Statistics Department**



# METAC RSSA FY25 Highlights

Supply and use and  
input-output tables  
**Egypt, Libya**

Annual and quarterly  
national accounts  
**WBG, Jordan, Egypt,  
Tunisia, Yemen**

Price statistics  
**Iraq (PPI),  
Jordan (RPPI),  
Lebanon (CCI),  
Libya (CPI, PPI)**

CCI: Construction cost index  
CPI: Consumer price index  
PPI: Producer price index

RPPI: Residential property price index,  
under Data for Decision (D4D) IMF Project

# METAC real sector statistics ongoing projects



## Ongoing multi-year projects

- Egypt (Ministry of Planning)
- Egypt (CAPMAS)
- Iraq (Central Statistics Organization)
- Jordan (Department of Statistics)

## New projects

- Tunisia (Institut National de la Statistique)
- West Bank and Gaza (PCBS)

## Training and TA

- Yemen (Central Statistics Organization – Aden)
- Syria (Central Bureau of Statistics) <sup>Statistics</sup>

## Regional Training

- METAC, CEF, AITRS <sup>s)</sup>

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# METAC activities for GFS/PSDS









- Different level of development of PSDS and GFS among 14 member countries; ample room for improvement
- **Main objectives** are:
  - Strengthen and restart **regular compilation**
    - A few countries have some experience in GFS/PSDS compilation
  - **Extend coverage** of PSDS and GFS
    - Delineation of the Central government sector and expansion toward the General Government Sector, gradually also include Public Corporations
  - Harmonize with **international standards**
  - Reporting to **international databases** (IMF/WB)
  - Provide **reliable data** for policy-making and fiscal monitoring

# New workstream for fiscal statistics: Government finance (GFS) and Public Debt Statistics (PSDS)

- Started 2 years ago, multi-year capacity development program supported by several donor partners
- IMF is the key provider of technical assistance related to PSDS throughout the region
- Very positive feedback and growing demand from member countries
- Implementation rate is high despite challenging circumstances in the region, with notable progress for:
  - [Egypt](#): expansion of general government sector by inclusion of Economic authorities
  - [Yemen](#): public debt time series (2020- 2025) prepared for the first time
- Important contribution of other specialized fund: Data for Decision (D4D)

# GFS/PSDS: Further expansion of work in FY 26

- additional countries to be included in the CD activities
- follow-up on previous activities (multi-year work programs)
- 2 multi-country training events for knowledge sharing (including GCC countries)
- Adaptive approach in TA delivery (Hybrid and off-site missions)

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# Why increased demand for fiscal statistics

- Need to monitor fiscal performance and design effective fiscal policies
  - Increased fiscal deficits and growing public debt
- Countries either implement or intend to have programs with the IMF
- Countries want to enhance their fiscal risk analysis
- Countries seek to produce and publish internationally comparable statistics
- Key building block in the relationship between countries and IMF (and other IFIs)
- Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) is the cornerstone of Public Debt Transparency
- The PSDS provides guidelines on compiling comprehensive data which can be used in analytical exercises (the Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA), the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS), etc.).

# International standards provide necessary harmonization

- Definition of the government sector (this varies significantly across countries and needs to be harmonized for sound cross-country analysis)
- Structure of debt (types of instruments, their valuation, and recording, guarantees...)
- Calculation of the fiscal deficit
- Treatment and integration of State-owned enterprises
- .....and many other concepts and standards
- Updating of international standards (GFSM) is currently underway (till 2027)



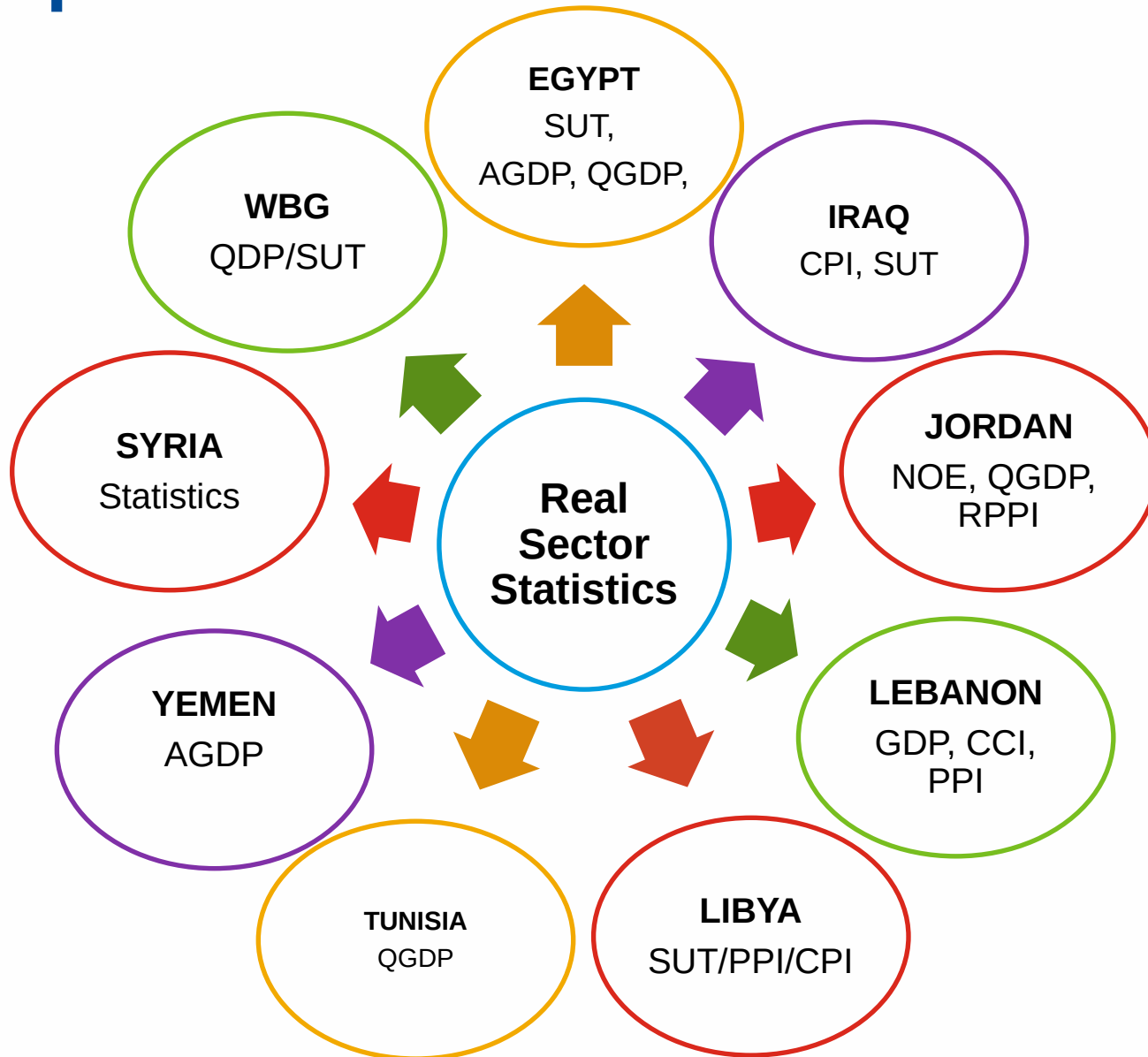
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# METAC real sector statistics work program and priorities



## Country Projects

- **Egypt:** Supply and use tables 2021/22, new GDP benchmarks
- **Iraq:** CPI, supply and use tables
- **Jordan:** Non-observed economy, improvement of quarterly GDP
- **Lebanon:** PPI, CCI, national accounts
- **Libya:** Supply and use tables, CPI, PPI
- **Tunisia:** Quarterly GDP
- **Yemen:** Annual GDP
- **Syria:** Re-engagement on statistics
- **WBG:** Benchmarking/supply use

## Regional workshop

- **National accounts:** rebasing, 2025 SNA

# METAC and IMF HQ will continue with CD delivery in GFS/PSDS

- A lot of pressure on compilers to deliver comprehensive and timely fiscal data
- Behind-the-scenes preparation often takes longer than many understand
  - ▶ Applying all concepts and institutional cooperation
- CD within institutions is irreplaceable, as there are not off-the-shelf solutions
- Well-trained personnel and IT infrastructure are key for success
- Need to increase quality and coverage of GFS and PSDS in the region and publish more data