



**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

The views expressed in the presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the IMF, its Executive Board, or IMF management.

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) (Statistics)

Regional Training

- METAC, CEF, AITRS

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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)

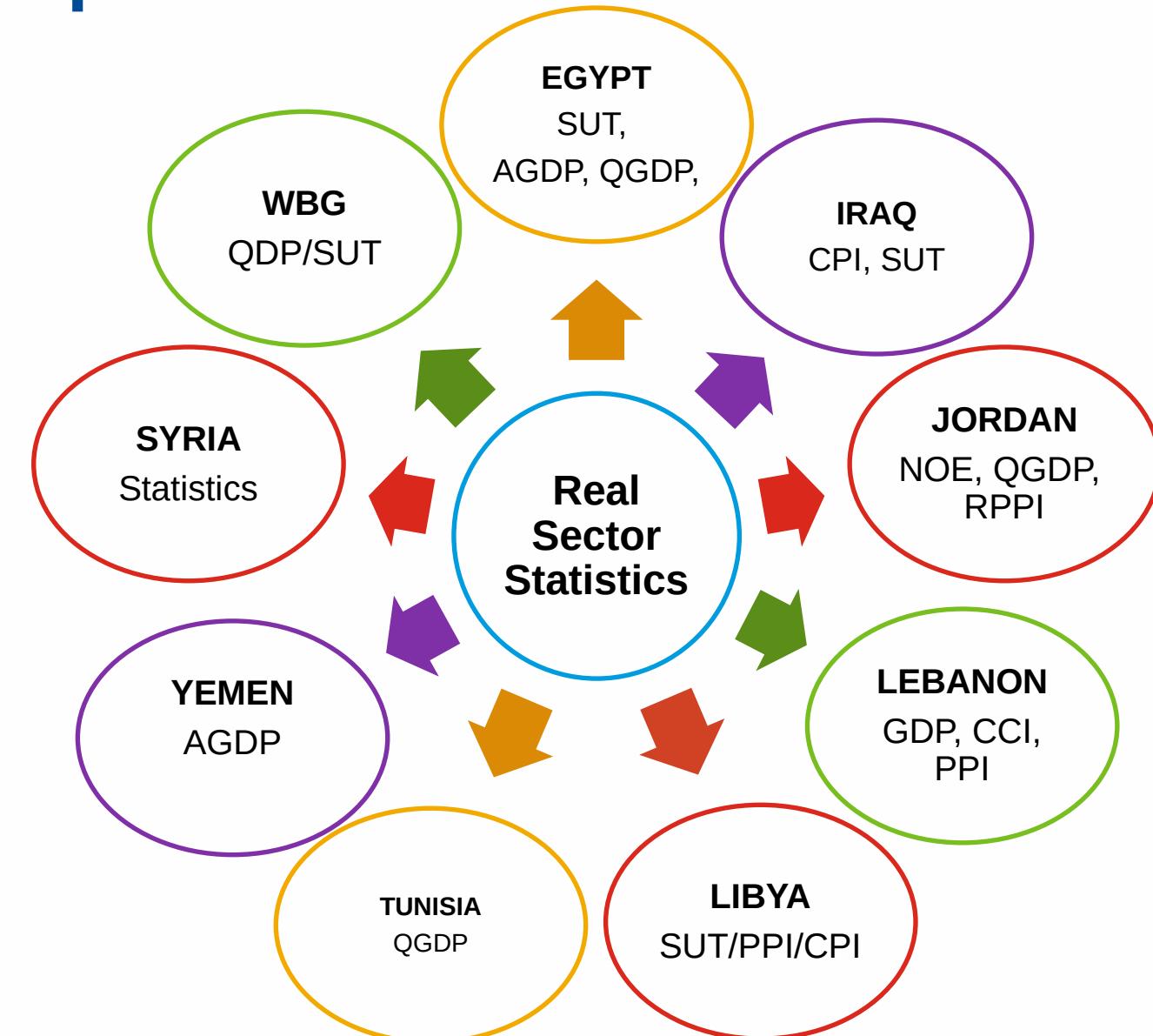
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METAC real sector statistics work program and priorities



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