Final meeting of the ESCWA DA project
“Strengthening the statistical capacity of ESCWA member countries in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth”
Beirut-11-15 Dec 2017

Overview of the Implementation of the ESCWA Project on Short-Term Statistics

Fathia ABDEL FADIL; Project Manager
Background:

A need for high quality data on short term statistics has substantially increased after the last global financial and economic crises.

To respond to:

▪ At global level:
  - three international conferences have been organized at the global level (2009 & 2011).
  - A template of 12 Sets of short-term statistics with around 67 indicators has been identified.

▪ At regional level:
  - ESCWA has prepared a desk study on Short-Term Economic Indicators for the Arab Region, 2013 *
  - ESCWA acquired funds to implement a project on strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to produce and disseminate the short term statistics.

The Objective of the project is to strengthen the statistical capacity of the governments in ESCWA member countries to produce and disseminate priority short-term statistics in order to support decision makers’ ability to anticipate, design, and implement policies necessary to ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.”
Three main issues included in the strategy:

➢ **A. Reviewing** the status of the compilation methodologies and production of STEI.

➢ **B. Identifying and adopting** a core set of a relatively common high priority indicators for the region.

➢ **C. Developing** a capacity building program.
Project Activities

- Evaluation and Sustainability
- Building Capacity Programme
- Producing a guidance publication & Developing IT tool kit
- Expert Group Meeting
- Needs Assessment Review

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A. Needs Assessment Review

...carried out in 3 stages

1. Questionnaires

2. Missions

3. National Assessment Reports

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# 1. Questionnaires

**ESCWA SHORT TERM ECONOMIC INDICATOR CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT, 2014 -xxxxx**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country contact person information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position in organisation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small address:</td>
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## Part A. Short term economic indicator specific questions

| Set# | Set | Indicators | Dissemination periodicity | Length of time series available | Level of disaggregation of output | Method of computation | estimation methodologies used (specify) | Standards and recommendations used (Specify seasonal adjustment, classification) | List dissemination platform(s) used | Please provide link for the data | describe what specific capacity building needs | Link for metadata or describe how to get the data |
|------|-----|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1  | National Accounts | Quarterly national accounts: Flash GDP estimate | Quarterly | 1995-2013 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2  | National Accounts | Quarterly national accounts: GDP full release | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.21 | National Accounts | by expenditure | | | | | | | | | |

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## 2. Missions

### (Country name: xxxxx) summary of the questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 1: National account</th>
<th>Flash GDP estimate</th>
<th>GDP full release</th>
<th>Quarterly sector accounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by expenditure</td>
<td>by income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSO Q Tier 1</td>
<td>NSO Q Tier 2</td>
<td>NSO Q Tier 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 2: Production and turnover</th>
<th>Turnover index for industry by major division</th>
<th>Turnover index for major ISIC division (for those that work on order)</th>
<th>New orders index for construction (building permits or housing starts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSO M Tier 2</td>
<td>NSO M Tier 3</td>
<td>NSO M Tier 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity production (as relevant at country level data on commodity productions and other indicators of economic activity)</th>
<th>New commercial vehicle registrations/sales</th>
<th>Agricultural products</th>
<th>Minerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSO M Tier 3</td>
<td>NSO Q Tier 2</td>
<td>NSO Q Tier 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 6: Financial sector indicators</th>
<th>Central Bank net foreign assets</th>
<th>Central Bank domestic lending</th>
<th>Central Bank reserve money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depository corporations net foreign assets</th>
<th>Depository corporations domestic lending</th>
<th>Depository corporations broad money</th>
<th>Other financial corporations balance sheet, assets and liabilities by sector.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
<td>CB M Tier 1</td>
<td>CB M Tier 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial corporate profits</th>
<th>Financial corporate debt</th>
<th>Others as relevant: nonperforming loans of depository corporations, capital adequacy ratios, other financial stability indicators, etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB G Tier 2</td>
<td>CB M Tier 2</td>
<td>CB M Tier 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 7: General government</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MoF M Tier 1</td>
<td>MoF M Tier 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net operating balance (= Revenue – Expenditure)</th>
<th>Net lending/net borrowing (= Revenue - Expenditure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MoF Q Tier 2</td>
<td>MoF Q Tier 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Tables for Discussion:
Set 1: National accounts
1.2.1. GDP by expenditure

Current periodicity vs recommended
التوافر الحالي مقابل الموصلي عليه
Data source(s)

Human, financial and IT resources
الموارد البشرية والمالية وتكنولوجيا المعلومات

Methodologies used and relevant international standards
and recommendations applied
المنهجيات المستخدمة والمعايير والتوصيات الدولية ذات الصلة المتبعة/المتاحة

Validation, data editing techniques and estimation
methodologies
تحقق من صحة وتقنيات تحرير البيانات ومنهجيات التقدير

Summary and/or detailed metadata currently available
(English/Arabic)
ملخص و/أو بيانات التعريف المفصصة المتوفرة حاليا باللغة العربية أو الإنجليزية
Seasonal adjustment
التعديل الموسمي

Institutional arrangements related to the production and
dissemination of this indicator, including:
الترتيبات المؤسسية المتعلقة بإنتاج ونشر هذا المؤشر، بما في ذلك

a. Key statistical agencies in the National Statistical
أ/وكالات الإحصائية الرئيسية في النظام الإحصائي الوطني

B. Legal and regulatory environment

C. Coordination and data sharing between different parties
participating in the producing and disseminating of STEI
ج. تنسيق وتبادل البيانات بين مختلف الأطراف المشاركة في إنتاج ونشر STEI

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Un-available indicators:
Reasons related to not producing or disseminating of this indicator

Difficulties in identifying data source(s)-
صعوبات في تحديد مصادر البيانات

Difficulties related to compilation
صعوبات تتعلق بجميع البيانات

Insufficient Human, financial and IT resources
الموارد البشرية والمالية وتكنولوجيا المعلومات غير كافية

Methodological issues
قضايا تتعلق بالمتجهات

Available but not disseminated due to data quality issues;
متوفر ولكن لا ينشر لاسباب تتعلق بالجودة

Is not priority
ليس من الأولويات

initiatives/ plans to be produced in the future;
توجه مبادرات/ خطط لانتشار هذا المؤشر في المستقبل
3. National Assessment Reports

➢ Prior assessment mission national consultant has been Commissioned;

➢ During the assessment mission national consultant attended the meetings conducted with the national intuitions involved in the compilation and production of STEI;

➢ National consultant continued the meetings with the national institution to fill the gaps of missing information.

➢ National assessment reports summarized by the project team for the use of the capacity building program.

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The main purpose of the EGM was, to:

➢ Present, discuss and adopt the core set of the priority STEI identified by the countries during the assessment missions

➢ Present and discuss the first draft of the publication entitled “Regional Guidelines on Short-term Statistics Based on Selected ESCWA Member countries”, that prepared based on the assessment reports as well as information collected from other sources
C. Producing a guidance publication & Developing IT tool kit

The guidance publication

- The Guidance was published in October 2016. It is available in the below link:
  https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/149477/resources

- The main objective of the publication is to provide a guide that supports all countries in the Arab Region to produce and disseminate a small set of priority short-term statistics (STEIs) identified by a group of seven pilot countries from the region; (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, and Tunisia).
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive summary</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION A. BACKGROUND</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION B. REGIONAL GUIDELINES OBJECTIVES</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Regional Guidelines outline</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Development methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION C. SCOPE OF SHORT-TERM STATISTICS COVERED IN REGIONAL GUIDELINES</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION D. WHAT ARE KEY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS?</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. What are key economic indicators</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Importance of key macroeconomic indicators</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART I REVIEW OF SHORT-TERM STATISTICS IN PILOT COUNTRIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION E. AVAILABILITY OF SHORT-TERM STATISTICS IN THE PILOT COUNTRIES</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION F. FREQUENCY OF STSs V. RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION G. TIMELINESS OF STSs V. RECOMMENDED TIMELINESS</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION H. RELEVANT STSs INTERNATIONAL STANDARD V. STANDARD ACTUALLY USED BY PILOT COUNTRY</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION I. VALIDATION METHODS USED BY PILOT COUNTRIES</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Validation techniques used</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use of a quality assessment framework</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION J. AVAILABILITY OF STSs METADATA BY PILOT COUNTRIES</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION K. MAIN DATA QUALITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR SHORT-TERM STATISTICS IN PILOT COUNTRIES</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Egypt</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tunisia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Palestine</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Qatar</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Oman</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Jordan</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Lebanon</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART II PRIORITY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS IN PILOT COUNTRIES

SECTION L. IDENTIFICATION OF STS PRIORITIES IN PILOT COUNTRIES .............................................. 44

SECTION M. DEFINITION OF PRIORITY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS ......................................................... 47

SECTION N. POLICY RELEVANCE OF THE PRIORITY STATISTICS AND THEIR STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK .................................................................................................................. 50

SECTION O. DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR PRIORITY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS IDENTIFIED BY PILOT COUNTRIES ........................................................................................................... 54

1. Global initiatives ......................................................... 54
2. Ideal data requirements for the compilation of quarterly national accounts ........................................ 55
3. Development needs identified by pilot countries for priority short-term statistics ................................ 57

SECTION P. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIORITY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS ........................................... 69

SECTION Q. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PRIORITY SHORT-TERM STATISTICS ................................................................. 71

1. Statistical infrastructure recommendations .................................................................................................... 71
   A. Adoption of a quality assessment framework .................................................................................................. 71
   B. Development of a metadata repositories ........................................................................................................... 74
   C. Improvement of key IT infrastructures ............................................................................................................ 76

2. Key statistical recommendations ..................................................................................................................... 76
   A. Key concepts and processes ............................................................................................................................ 78
   B. Production index for industry by major division ............................................................................................... 79
   C. Production index for construction .................................................................................................................. 81
   D. Turnover index of industry by major division .................................................................................................. 83
   E. Turnover index for retail trade by major division ............................................................................................. 84
   F. Producer price index ....................................................................................................................................... 86
   G. Import and export price indices ........................................................................................................................ 87
   H. Residential property price index ...................................................................................................................... 88
   I. Employment by activity .................................................................................................................................... 91
   J. Household debt ................................................................................................................................................ 95

3. Institutional recommendations – resource implications .................................................................................. 97
PART III EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

SECTION R. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS
1. Data Template and Metadata for Short-term Statistics ............................................. 102
2. Handbook on Rapid Estimates .................................................................................. 103
3. Handbook on Economic Tendency Surveys ............................................................... 104
4. Handbook on Cyclical Composite Indicators ............................................................ 104

SECTION S. FLASH ESTIMATES
1. What are flash estimates ............................................................................................ 105
2. Flash estimates concepts ......................................................................................... 105
3. Background .............................................................................................................. 107
4. Relevance of flash estimates for policy formulation ................................................. 108
5. UNSD recommendations/options with regard to flash estimate compilation techniques ................................................................. 108
   A. Rapid Estimates based on factor models ............................................................. 109
   B. Rapid estimates based on regression models ....................................................... 109
   C. Rapid Estimates Based on Multivariate time series models ................................ 109
   D. Rapid estimates models based on data available at different frequencies .......... 110
   E. Rapid Estimates based on available survey data ............................................... 110
6. Flash estimates compiled by countries in other regions ......................................... 110

SECTION T. ECONOMIC TENDENCY SURVEYS
1. What are economic tendency surveys ................................................................. 112
2. Relevance of economic confidence indicators for policy formulation .................. 114
3. Key elements of UNSD recommendations for economic tendency surveys ............ 115
   A. Consumer tendency surveys (CTS) ................................................................. 115
   B. Business tendency surveys (BTS) .................................................................... 116
4. Economic tendency surveys conducted by the pilot countries and by countries in other regions ................................................................. 117
   A. Economic tendency surveys conducted by pilot countries ............................... 117
   B. Harmonised European Confidence Indicators ............................................... 120

SECTION U. COMPOSITE BUSINESS CYCLE INDICATORS
1. What are composite business cycle indicators ...................................................... 121
2. Relevance of composite business cycle indicators for policy formulation ............. 122
3. Key elements of international recommendations for composite business cycle indicators ................................................................. 122
4. Composite business cycle indicators compiled by countries in other regions .......... 124

SECTION V. REFERENCES ......................................................................................... 127
The IT tool was developed on the production of Export/Import price index- Unit Value approach.

Three main steps considered:
- Identifying the base year and the basket of the commodities;
- Data editing for the UV of basket;
- Index calculation.

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Data required for the Application:

✓ SITC file

✓ HS file

✓ Trade Transaction file by HS level - the most detailed level; that include values-quantities
D. Building Capacity Program

The program included:

➢ Training Workshops;

➢ Technical Assistance Mission;

➢ Study Tours.

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Training Workshops:

4 training workshops covered various indicators, including: IIP, TOIs, QGDP, RPPI, XMPIs- UV; ETSs-Consumer Confidence index- Business confidence index, construction material price index; index of production in construction.

- First workshop; 14-17 Nov 2016, Tunisia Participants: 22 participants (63% male and 37% female).
- Second workshop, 6-9 March 2017; Egypt Participants: 29 participants (72% male and 28% female).
D. Building Capacity Program (cont’d)

Training Workshops:

- **Third workshop; 22-24 May 2017, Oman.** Participants: 28 participants (53% male and 47% female).

- **Fourth workshop; 14-18 August 2017; Tunisia.** Participants: 20 participants (70% male and 30% female).
Several technical assistance missions were carried out to the pilot countries to assist NSOs with the methodologies to develop and produce priority short term statistics including XMPIs, IIP; ETSs, CMI IPC.

Most of TAs conducted through 2 visits.

5 countries benefitted from the TAs missions and more than 150 officials have been trained.
D. Building Capacity Program (cont’d)

Study Tours:

… in and outside the region.

- covered various indicators: Production of Leading, Composite and Sentiment Indicators; Rapid Estimates, Economic Tendency Surveys, export and import indices.

- 13 participants; from 5 countries benefited.

- 5 countries benefitted from the TAs missions and more than 150 officials have been trained.
E. Achievements

- **Implemented all planned activities.**

- **Exceeded in some activities, namely:**
  - *the training workshops.* (planned 3, implemented 4).
  - *Study tours:* planned 10 officials. Implemented 13 officials.
  - *Production of the Glossary of terms that is not one the project activities.*
Maintain Sustainability, through:

- The training materials prepared by ESCWA secretariat based on the training sessions of the workshops and the TAs missions. The material will be posted in the project page in ESCWA website soon in both language A and E.

- Glossary of terms.

- Regional Guidelines on Short-term Statistics Based on Selected ESCWA Member countries.

- The IT tool application on the production of XMPI-UV approach.

- Enhancement of the network among national; regional and international experts in the area of STEI (list of participants of all the training will available in the project webpage in ESCWA website).

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Thank You

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