

Editorial

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

1

**ASSESSMENT BY PEERS
AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
OF THE RESULTS OF BASE YEAR
CHANGE AND MIGRATION
TO THE 2008 SNA OF AFRISTAT
MEMBER STATES**

2

AFRISTAT NEWS

4

ACTIVITIES OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL

6

OTHERS AFRISTAT ACTIVITIES

8

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

9

ECHOES FROM NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTES

9

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

12



AFRISTAT

BP E 1600

Bamako, Mali

Telephone

(223) 20 21 55 00

20 21 55 80/20 21 60 71

Fax (223) 20 21 11 40

afristat@afristat.org

www.afristat.org



The second half of the year 2020 has been contrasted at AFRISTAT with a first part characterized by a slowdown in activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic-related containment and an acceleration of activities during the second part following the relaxation of travel restrictions.

During the period under review, five types of activities attracted the attention of the Observatory. These included the organization of statutory meetings, resource mobilization, training and technical assistance, the development and strengthening of partnerships, and the visibility of the institution.

In view of the unprecedented health situation, AFRISTAT organized its statutory meetings by videoconference for the first time. The 25th meeting of the Scientific Council and the 41st session of the Management Committee were held in September 2020 and examined the status of implementation of the Observatory's 2020 Action Plan as of 30 June, the draft AFRISTAT Action Plan for 2021 and its budgetary equivalent. The latest methodological documents produced were presented. In addition, in view of the exceptional context, and in addition to the institutional and organizational issues submitted to it, the Committee examined and adopted the 2019 AFRISTAT Progress Report. With regard to resource mobilization, a series of sensitization missions were conducted in several countries to make up for delays in the collection of contributions.

As regards training and technical assistance, these consisted mainly of the organization of sub-regional workshops on the economic situation and technical support missions in the areas of business statistics, price statistics, analysis of survey data and national accounts.

The partnerships involved monitoring the implementation of on-going projects, particularly those supported by the WAEMU Commission, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the Governments of Mali and Chad. There was also discussion on: (i) establishing new collaboration mechanisms with INSEE; and (ii) formalizing, for the coming years, the cooperation with GENES in the framework of the organization of common entrance examinations in African statistical schools. A letter of understanding was signed between AFRISTAT and the United Nations System Coordination in Djibouti with a view to establishing the status of the availability of SDG indicators. In addition, technical collaboration continued during the second half of 2020 on migration statistics and communication with STATAFRIC, ECA, INSEE and PARIS21.

Concerning visibility, the Observatory has taken an active part in several international events. For example, one of its members presented a paper at the 9th Forum on Statistical Development in Africa and at the celebration of the African Statistics Day 2020 in Djibouti and Mali. Furthermore, the "Young Statisticians Program" initiative was launched with the hosting at AFRISTAT of four young graduates from statistical and demographic schools and several methodological documents produced were widely disseminated.

On the social front, the institution recorded the retirement of its most senior employee. Mrs Niaré Haïcha Drabo joined AFRISTAT at the start of its operational activities in 1996 as an Executive Assistant. All the staff expressed their admiration for her exemplary work.

For 2021, AFRISTAT intends to carry out the unfinished activities of 2020 which are still relevant, and to upgrade its institutional framework to better adapt it to current realities. It is planned to put more effort into resource mobilization, partnership diversification and internal capacity building.

Finally, the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa wishes all its partners and readers of this Newsletter a Happy New Year in 2021.

Paul-Henri NGUEMA MEYE
AFRISTAT Director General

ASSESSMENT BY PEERS AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS OF THE RESULTS OF BASE YEAR CHANGE AND MIGRATION TO THE 2008 SNA OF AFRISTAT MEMBER STATES

A TOOL FOR THE CONSOLIDATION AND VALUATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Ibrahima SORY, National Accounting Expert

By definition, peer review occurs when entities (countries, companies, institutions or others) commit themselves to exchanging experiences or the results of their specific work and to identifying agreed principles, shared values and best practices. Clearly, it is a systematic assessment of a country's performance by other countries (peer reviewers), by authorized institutions (partners), or by a combination of both.

In general, the ultimate goal of peer review is to assist countries to better develop their policies, adopt best practices, and meet existing standards, principles, established codes, and other commitments made at the international, continental or regional levels.

The objective of this paper is to present the foundations of peer review and its approach to national accounting as advocated by AFRISTAT, and to draw initial lessons from exercises conducted in a few countries.

FOUNDATIONS

The peer review exercise has been conducted for many years by countries and institutions at the international, continental and regional levels.

Peer review at the international level

Several international institutions use peer review mechanisms such as the IMF Surveillance Mechanism, the World Trade Organization's Trade Policy Review Mechanism, the European Commission's Economic Evaluation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Evaluation Mechanism, etc.

To date, the OECD Mechanism remains the best known and most cited peer review mechanism, as it deals with so-called thematic reviews and covers several areas related to the economic and social field.

Peer review at the African level

At the continental level, several instruments have been put in place to carry out this type of exercise in several areas, particularly in the context of harmonizing statistics in Africa. In this regard, we can mention:

■ The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), established in 2003, which is a voluntary process that asks African governments and their citizens to analyse systemic governance problems, assess progress towards improvement, and identify suggestions for effective reform;

■ In the area of statistics, the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, SHaSA 2, which covers the period 2017-2026, has as a major strategic objective the organization of peer reviews;

It should be noted that the peer review in the field of statistics in Africa was placed under the responsibility of:

- The Statistical Commission for Africa to promote: "exchange of experience, peer learning, technical cooperation and data exchange between countries and institutions in Africa";
- The Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Institutes (NSIs) to: "establish and monitor a Statistical Peer Review Mechanism";
- The AU Commission to work towards the full

implementation of the NSS Peer Review Mechanism currently led by PARIS21.

Peer review on a specific topic: National accounting

The National Accounting System (SNA) is a statistical framework that defines in detail a set of macroeconomic accounts that governments, businesses and international organizations can use for analysis, research, and decision support.

Thus, in February 2009, a new version of the SNA was unanimously adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission as the international statistical standard for the compilation of national accounts. As such, countries were encouraged to compile and disseminate their national accounts based on the new system, the 2008 SNA.

Furthermore, at the international level, the United Nations Statistical Commission has put in place an evaluation framework to monitor the progress of the implementation of the 2008 SNA by countries. This framework, which complements the peer review instruments, is based on three (3) aspects: (i) the steps and minimum required sets of revised data and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) General Data Dissemination System and Special Data Dissemination Standard for assessing the coverage and accuracy of national accounts; (ii) a set of questions to monitor compliance with the SNA concepts; and (iii) the IMF Evaluation Framework of data quality to monitor data quality.

OBJECTIVES OF THE JOINT MISSION TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The general objective of the joint mission is to assess the results of the change of base year and migration to the 2008 SNA of AFRISTAT Member States, and to make operational recommendations for better compliance with the new national accounting standards.

Specifically, the assessment of the results of national accounts obtained by the countries consists of:

- Analysing the degree of compliance of the national accounts produced with the recommendations of the 2008 SNA;
- Reviewing the level of coverage of the data

sources used during the national accounts compilation process;

- Reviewing the methods used to calculate the various aggregates;
- Issuing opinions on the adequacy of the resources mobilized with the expected results; and
- Making operational recommendations for improving the quality of the proposed national accounts.

INITIATION AND PREPARATION OF THE JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION

Submission to a peer review is a voluntary act by countries. The desire to be assessed is left at the initiative of the countries and is expressed in a letter from the authorities to AFRISTAT. After this phase, the next steps are:

- AFRISTAT and the country applying for the peer review agree on a date for the mission;
- AFRISTAT contacts the partners and some countries¹ to collect their availability and interest in being part of the peer review;
- A mission agenda proposed by AFRISTAT is reviewed and adopted by the reviewers;
- The adopted agenda is shared with the country to be assessed. The country is asked to provide the peers in advance with relevant documentation on the national accounts to be assessed.

CONDUCT OF THE JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION

The joint mission has three main steps:

■ Step 1: An introductory meeting of the mission with the national authorities of the country in order to introduce the different members of the delegation and to re-specify the objectives as well as the working method;

■ Step 2: The organization of technical sessions on the points included in the established work program. The first of these sessions is the one during which the national team presents to the mission the process of rebasing and migration to the 2008 SNA, the data sources used, the methodologies implemented, the main difficulties encountered, and the results obtained. The following sessions are devoted to clarifications, best practice sharing, formulation of advice and recommendations for improving working methods and the quality of results.

¹ Among those who have already changed their base year and migrated to the 2008 SNA.

■ Step 3: A debriefing meeting on the last day of the work where the mission shares its observations and recommendations with the authorities.

CONTENT OF THE WORK TO BE DONE

The preferred working methodology is the active participation of the managers in charge of the preparation of national accounts in the activities in order to facilitate exchanges. The topics to be discussed can range from very general questions to very detailed technical considerations that may sometimes require the examination of the contents of working files. As an example, for the accounts of the new base year prepared according to the 2008 NAS, the experts' assessment work will focus on the following aspects:

■ Review of the data sources used to provide information on all the economic activities carried out in the country. Particular attention is paid to the sectoral coverage and completeness of the active economic units;

■ The main recommendations of the 2008 SNA implemented by the country, including:

- The inclusion of Research and Development (R&D) and arms expenditure in Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF);
- Refining the method for calculating Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) and its distribution;
- Clarification of central bank output and its inclusion;
- Improving the recording of the output of non-life insurance services;

■ Reviewing the main results obtained, including a comparative analysis between the two systems (1993 SNA and 2008 SNA) in order to better understand the changes that have occurred:

- presentation of the results according to the three (3) perspectives of GDP;
- analysis of the impacts of the renewal of the national accounts, in relation to the revisions of statistical sources, estimation methods, NAS concepts, nomenclatures, corrections of past errors, as well as the inclusion of various economic phenomena (informal sector, cross-border trade, fraud, drugs, etc., depending on their importance in the economy).

For the current first year's accounts, the review of results looks at both the data sources used and the methods for the compilation of national accounts at constant prices.

CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE

The experts participating in the assessment exercise are expected to observe the strictest confidentiality regarding the information provided by the country being assessed. All documents submitted to the joint mission by the country are confidential and shall not be made public until the results have been officially validated and disseminated. This clause is a guarantee of the success of the assessment exercise on the very first results obtained, and is relevant as the national managers should continue the work after the mission in a serene manner.

COMPOSITION OF THE JOINT REVIEW MISSION

The team of experts for the peer review includes representatives of partner institutions and countries. The institutions that have participated in this exercise at least once alongside AFRISTAT are AFRITAC West of the IMF, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Central Bank of West African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission.

Other partners such as the ECOWAS Commission and INSEE of France were also invited to participate in the assessment, and preferred to rely on the actors present and the conclusions of the joint mission.

The peer reviewers to date have come from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia.

Several countries have agreed to conduct the assessment exercise, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Togo. In addition, at the domestic level, countries have the flexibility to involve in the assessment those domestic stakeholders that they consider important as providers of source data and/or users of national accounts aggregates.

FUNDING OF THE JOINT MISSION

As far as financing is concerned, the partner institutions pay for their experts.

AFRISTAT funds its participation and that of the peer reviewers from the countries with its own resources or with projects it manages.

The assessed countries are responsible for the practical organization of the technical work in the form of workshops.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW

The work of the joint assessment mission is accompanied by an aide-mémoire co-signed by the various stakeholders. This aide-mémoire covers the following main aspects:

- The objectives of the joint mission;
- The conduct of the joint mission;
- The process of rebasing accounts;
- The migration to the 2008 SNA;
- The main conclusions of the mission;
- The main recommendations of the mission:
 - General recommendations;
 - Technical recommendations;
- The follow-up and implementation of mission recommendations (if necessary, prior agreement between the country and the experts for assistance missions to be scheduled to accompany the managers in the implementation of the recommendations, through either remote follow-up or a face-to-face mission).

LESSONS LEARNT

During the country assessments and through discussions with national managers, several lessons were learnt, both about the process of changing the base year and migrating to the 2008 SNA, and about the exercise itself.

Regarding the lessons learnt from the 2008 SNA implementation work, it was noted that the factors that have worked in favour of the countries that have achieved good results included:

- A strong political will of the country's authorities;
- The support of the hierarchy at the level of the NSI to supervise the technical team;
- The development of a strategy and action plan for the implementation of the 2008 SNA, as an advocacy document to raise awareness among partners and mobilize funding;
- The dissemination of the results of the new accounts after the development of a base year and at least one current year, in order to ensure the overall consistency of the system;
- A sufficient, stable, competent, dynamic and motivated team, in order to perpetuate the system and consolidate its achievements;
- The availability of financial and material resources adapted to the needs, in order to collect source data, recruit personnel and support the work through workshops/retreats, etc.

Regarding the lessons learnt from the peer review exercise, some aspects were also collected, namely:

- A better coordination of interventions in the countries, through exchanges between experts from institutions accompanying the same countries on the same themes;
- A better implementation of the recommendations made, particularly those addressed to the authorities for the benefit of the technical team;
- Intensive exchanges of best practices and sharing of experiences between national managers and experts;
- The best way to harmonize national accounting aggregates on the continent, and a major challenge for achieving the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.
- Intense capacity building of managers through exchanges. In this regard, some countries have requested to conduct the exercise several times, on the base year, on the current years and the retropolation work;
- A joint mission and a work acceleration strategy. In this regard, exchanges have also led to the organization of joint technical assistance missions in the countries, which have allowed the achievement of results over fairly short periods.

AFRISTAT NEWS

Visits

During the second half of 2020, Mr Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, AFRISTAT Director General, made a series of visits to a number of Member States. The end of the year saw intense protocol activity due to the desire to catch up on the implementation of activities that could not be carried out over a great part of 2020. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic-related containment. The introduction to the authorities as the new AFRISTAT Director General for the period 2020-2023, resource mobilization and the identification of the technical assistance needs of NSIs of Member States in 2021 were the main points discussed at each stage.

■ Central African Republic

The Director General of AFRISTAT was in Bangui from 23 to 29 October 2020. He met with Mr Félix Moloua, Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation.

In addition to the Director General of ICASEES (NSI of the Central African Republic), the Chairman of the NSI Board of Directors was also met, as well as local representatives of the World Bank, the AfDB and the European Union. The authorities were informed that Mr Bienvenu Ali, Director General of ICASEES, has been appointed by his peers to serve as Chairman of the Management Committee for the period 2021-2022.

■ Chad

During his stay in N'Djamena from 29 October to 3 November 2020, the AFRISTAT Director General held technical working sessions with the Directors General of the INSEED and the National Fund for Statistical Development (FNDS). He was received by Dr Issa Doubragne, Minister of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation. The Chadian authorities were particularly keen to receive intensive technical assistance on the modernization of national accounts.

■ Burkina Faso

From 10 to 14 November 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT stayed in Ouagadougou where he was received in turn by Mr Bouréima Ouedraogo, Director General of INSD, Mrs Pauline Zouré, and Deputy Minister for Land Use Planning at the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry. During this visit, the AFRISTAT delegation received support from Burkina Faso for the institutional reforms underway at the Observatory and guidance on the statistics to be developed.

The mission leveraged its presence in Ouagadougou to meet with the WAEMU Commissioner in charge of the Department of Economic Policies and Internal Taxation to discuss mainly the follow-up of the RSP-WAEMU and the promotion of the PHOENIX-WAEMU software package.

■ Djibouti

On 19 November 2020, AFRISTAT's Director General was received by Mr Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, Minister of Economy and Finance, in charge of Industry. In addition to the traditional topics mentioned above, the training of Djibouti's statisticians and the support AFRISTAT can make for the implementation of the World Bank-supported statistical capacity building project was given special attention.

Mr Nguema Meye also met with Mr Ide Souleiman Abdi Hadi, Chief of staff of the Minister of Budget and also held discussions with Mrs Barbara Manzi and Mr Boubacar-Sid Barry, respectively Coordinator of the United Nations System and Resident Representative of the World Bank in Djibouti.

■ Senegal

From 23 to 28 November 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT paid a courtesy and working visit to Senegal where he presented to Mr Amadou HOTT, Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, current Chairman of the AFRISTAT Council of Ministers, the status of implementation of the Observatory's activities in light of the current global health crisis.

The technical assistance needs of the ANSD in 2021 were also discussed, with a focus on the rebasing of national accounts and strengthening the implementation of the quality approach.

■ Togo

From 1 to 4 December 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT paid a courtesy and working visit to Togo. He was received in turn at the Office of Mr Simféitchéou Pré, Minister at the Presidency of the Republic who was assisted by Mr Anumu Edem Ketoglo, Economic Advisor, as well as by Mr Pèguédouwè Paneto, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Development Planning.

The nature of the expectations expressed converged towards improving the production of short-term statistics and the repopulation of national accounts in order to have long series of data.

■ Gabon

The Director General of AFRISTAT stayed in Libreville from 6 to 9 December 2020 where he had the opportunity to meet with Mr Pierre Claver Mfouba and Mr Thierry Minko, respectively Chief of Staff of the Minister of Economy and Recovery and Economic and Financial Advisor to the Minister of Budget and Public Accounts. The concerns expressed on these occasions related to the urgent need to resolve the difficulties in calculating consumer price indexes and the renewal of national accounts.

■ Congo

From 9 to 12 December 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT travelled to Brazzaville where Mr Gabriel Batsanga, Director General of INS, introduced him to the authorities. It is in this context that Mr Nguema Meye met with Mrs Ingrid Olga Ghislaine Ebouka Babackas, Minister of Transport, Civil Aviation and Merchant Marine, Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration and Mr Ludovic Ngatsé, Deputy Minister to the Minister of Finance and Budget. The finalization of work on the modernization of national accounts and the refinement of short-term activity indicators appeared, along with statistical training, to be the priority issues to address.

■ Cameroon

From 12 to 16 December 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT had several meetings with Mr Joseph Tedou, Director General of the NSI in the presence of his deputy Mr Guy She Etoundi. The latter facilitated the meeting of the Director General of the Observatory with Mr Jean Tchoffo, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development. During these meetings, AFRISTAT's potential support to Cameroonian NSS structures was examined and the possibility of strengthening the sharing of experiences in Cameroon in statistical areas where progress has been made was discussed. The popularization of the quality approach is one of the areas where Cameroonian managers could be solicited.

Arrivals

During the second half of 2020, AFRISTAT hosted three statisticians and one demographer for a period of four months as part of its recruitment program for "Young Statisticians". This first class of the program worked on themes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It included:

■ **Mrs Edvira Malliedje Fokam**, a Cameroonian national, graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA) in Abidjan;

■ **Mrs Soda Mbodj**, a Senegalese national, graduated from the École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (ENSAE) in Dakar;

■ **Mr Crescens Gbongbonbo Kamtha**, a Chadian national, graduated from the Institut Sous-Régional de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ISSEA) in Yaoundé ;

■ **Mr Mohamed Abdoulaye Maiga**, a Malian national, graduated from the Institut de Formation et de Recherches Démographiques (IFORD) in Yaoundé.

■ Five other young statisticians were followed remotely over a shorter period. They are: Mr Koua Paterne Anicet (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr Djossaba Adjimon Marcel (Benin), Mr Aklobessi Kodjo (Togo), Mrs Nono Djomgang Claudia (Cameroon) and Mrs Bombiri Edith (Burkina Faso).

The work with young statisticians or demographers from African schools of statistics and demography will help strengthen synergies between AFRISTAT and these schools. In addition, this is an opportunity for the laureates to build their capacities through contact with AFRISTAT experts.

The Observatory will also strive to capitalize on the work carried out by young statisticians in order to improve the technical assistance offered to countries.



■ During the same period, the Observatory also welcomed Miss Oumou Traoré and Mr Soungalo Traoré, students (ATS) of the Centre de Formation et de Perfectionnement en Statistique (CFP-STAT)

of Mali, for a practical training. They worked on the collection of short-term data to feed the AFRISTAT Database platform, called Super Jupiter.

Departures

AFRISTAT's Executive Management recorded three departures during the year 2020:

■ **Mr Yankhoba Jacques Badji**, Long-Term Consultant in Price Statistics, left AFRISTAT on 30 June 2020 after loyal and brilliant service to the Observatory, in Member States and beyond. MrBadji took up his post on 16 May 2017 under the AfDB Statistical Capacity Building Program (SCBP 4.2). He contributed significantly to the implementation of the International Comparison Program for Africa 2017 (ICP-Africa 2017). He also contributed his expertise to the development and implementation of methodological documents such as the Agricultural Producer Price Index (APPI) and the Construction Cost Index (CCI). He was a very active member of the editorial board of the AFRISTAT Newsletter.

■ **Mr Ibrahima Dioro Cissé**, Accountant of the Statistical Capacity Building Program (SCBP - AfDB/AFRISTAT) and the International Comparison Program (ICP 2017) since 17 April 2017, left AFRISTAT on 30 September 2020. Responsible for keeping the accounts of the two Programs within AFRISTAT, centralization and monthly reporting of the accounts from the National Statistics Institutes (NSIs) of the beneficiary countries, budget monitoring and preparation of financial statements. Mr Cissé has previously had successive contracts covering the period from October 2009 to December 2015 at AFRISTAT.

■ **Mrs Niaré Haicha Drabo**, Assistant to the Director General since April 1996, retired on 31 December 2020 after a long and loyal service to AFRISTAT. Commonly known as Mrs Drabo, the dean Haicha has served the Observatory since its creation.

Dedicated to her work, Mrs Drabo has managed the Secretariat of AFRISTAT's Executive Management with professionalism during her 25 years and under four General Directors. AFRISTAT's Executive Management and its entire staff wish all these valiant collaborators every success for the future.

Appointments

■ **Mr Allé Nar Diop** was appointed Director General of the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) on 18 November 2020.



■ Since 9 December 2020, **Mr Prosper Ebang Ebang** is the new Director General of the Direction générale de la Statistique (DGS) of Gabon.

Activities of the Directorate General

41st Management Committee Meeting

The AFRISTAT Management Committee held its 41st meeting on 24 and 25 September 2020 by videoconference.

The Committee approved the 2019 AFRISTAT Progress Report. It also took note of the 2020 progress report as of 30 June and encouraged the Executive Management to effectively pursue the implementation of the remaining activities of its 2020 Action Plan.

The Committee also adopted AFRISTAT's 2021

Action Plan and invited the Observatory to revise the 2021 Budget so as to take into account the uncertainties regarding the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regard to contributions to AFRISTAT funds, the Committee reiterated its request to the Directors General to continue to advocate with their authorities so that countries pay their contributions.

The Committee postponed the interviews of the

candidates for the position of Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT for the period 2021-2024. However, it provided guidance to the Executive Management for the continuation of the nomination process.

Finally, the Committee paid a well-deserved tribute to Mr Cosme Vodounou, Director General of AFRISTAT from 2012 to 2019, for his dedicated work at the head of this institution.

25th Scientific Council Meeting

The AFRISTAT Scientific Council held its 25th meeting on 21 September 2020 by videoconference. The Council expressed its satisfaction with the level of implementation of activities evaluated at 41.1% as at 30 June 2020.

It recommended to the Executive Management to include new technologies as an approach in its

interventions and support to Member States.

The Council also expressed its satisfaction with the content of the 2021 Action Plan.

The Council noted the financial constraints that AFRISTAT may face in 2021, in view of the uncertainties related to the health crisis. It recommended that the Executive Management takes into

account activities arising from the context of the health crisis, in particular the quarterly accounts, cyclical data, and national statistical development strategies taking greater account of the needs of the sectors.

Virtual seminars on the economic situation in the second half of 2020 and short and medium-term forecasts in AFRISTAT's West and Central African Member States

During the second half of 2020, two seminars were held:

■ A webinar on the economic situation in the second half of 2020 and short-term macroeconomic forecasts in CEMAC Member States, DR Congo, Burundi, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti, and Madagascar jointly organized by the CEMAC Commission, AFRISTAT and the AFRITAC Center, was held from 17 to 20 November 2020.

Seven countries were represented. The AfDB and BEAC also took part in the proceedings. This seminar made it possible to: (i) present the economic situation in the second half of 2020 and the

forecasts for the period 2020-2021 of the States; (ii) share the experience of each of the Member States and regional institutions, as well as best practices in the pandemic context; (iii) capacity building and methodological discussions on the use of MIDAS (Mixed Data Sampling) for business cycle analysis and forecasting.

■ A webinar on the economic situation in the second half of 2020 and macroeconomic forecasts for 2020-2023 in WAEMU Member States, Guinea and Mauritania was held from 8 to 10

December 2020. This webinar was organized by the WAEMU Commission, AFRISTAT and AFRITAC West. All WAEMU Member States, as well as Guinea and Mauritania, were represented. Executives from BCEAO, ECASRO-WA, AFRISTAT, AFRITAC West, the ECOWAS Commission and the WAEMU Commission also took part in the proceedings.

The seminar provided an opportunity to review the recent economic situation and macroeconomic forecasts for 2020-2023 in the States, with discussions on the effects of the pandemic.

Agreement for the implementation of the statistical work of the RSP-WAEMU 2015-2020

The second half of 2020 was marked by the continuation of activities on the business statistics, national accounts, survey and coordination components.

Business Statistics Component

Mr Roland Frédéric Ngampana, AFRISTAT expert in charge of business statistics, provided technical support in two countries:

■ In Burkina Faso

In August and September 2020, two missions were undertaken to the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) for the publication of the Industrial Production Price Index (IPPI) and the revision of the Industrial Production Index (IPI) in accordance with new international recommendations. The provisional revised IPPI and IPI for the new base year 2015 and the reference years 2016 to 2019 have been published.

In addition, remote support and face-to-face coaching by an expert associated with INSD managers has enabled the calculation of provisional

quarterly turnover indices for the base year 2015 and the reference years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

■ In Côte d'Ivoire

From 3 to 16 December 2020, the technical support mission to Abidjan allowed the finalization of the calculation of final short-term activity indicators (IPPI, IPI, ICA in industry, construction, trade and services) according to the new international recommendations. For these indicators, the mission also made it possible to: (i) adopt schedules for the regular monitoring survey system; (ii) define a strategy for the production and publication of results; (iii) take into account the needs of the annual and quarterly national accounts; and (iv) develop the questionnaires for the monitoring surveys.

National account component

The AFRISTAT National Accounts Expert, with the support of some associate experts working under his supervision, provided technical and management support to several countries between August and December 2020.

■ At the technical level

Guinea-Bissau was assisted in the preparation of their final 2017 accounts and in exploring the feasibility of producing provisional 2018 and 2019 accounts.

In Mali, a series of missions were conducted to: (i) finalize the 2015 base year accounts according to the 2008 SNA methodology by taking into account the results of the mapping of the last general census of economic units and additional information; (ii) achieve the retropolation of the

national accounts; and (iii) promote the widespread use of activity and product classifications by the stakeholders of the National Statistical System; and (iv) prepare the data sources for the first current year 2016.

In addition, at the request of the Malian authorities, AFRISTAT coordinated a webinar to assess the results of the change of base year and migration to the 2008 NAS by partner institutions and peers. The webinar was held with the participation of the following partners: AFRISTAT, AFRI-TAC West, the World Bank, AfDB, ECA, and the WAEMU Commission. The countries represented as peers are: Benin, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

■ On the management plan

The Observatory has supported the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal in the rephasing of their budgets. This step is important because without the acceptance of the rephased budget by the WAEMU Commission, no expenditure can be incurred in view of the extension of the project supporting these actions

Survey component

The second half of the year was devoted to in-depth analysis of data from the Integrated Regional Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (ERI-ESI):

■ This in-depth analysis work began with the virtual meeting organized by AFRISTAT and which brought together the experts from the NSIs in charge of coordinating the work and the lecturer-researchers from the African Schools of Statistics (ENEAM-Cotonou, ENSAE-Dakar, ENSEA-Abidjan and ISSEA-Yaoundé). This meeting was an opportunity for AFRISTAT experts to share the framework for the organization of the work and the model for the presentation of articles in order to ensure harmonization.

■ Collaboration between AFRISTAT and the research faculty of the African Schools of Statistics (ENSEA, ENSAE, ISSEA and ENEAM) will promote the use of data from all countries to produce articles in the framework of the thematic studies of the ERI-ESI.

During the period under review, Mr Madior Fall, Mr Djabar Adéchian and Mr Sansan Honkounne Kambou, respectively Expert in Agricultural Statistics and Climate Change, Expert in Socio-Demographic Statistics and Expert in Survey Data Processing, have conducted technical assistance missions and participated in working sessions with the teams in charge of drafting thematic studies in the NSIs and the ASSS.

Within this framework, the experts discussed with:

- INSTAT staff in Mali who are working on four articles covering topics related to employ-

ment and household living conditions;

- Analysts from Burkina Faso, who are writing 15 articles on employment, corruption, insecurity, the informal sector and living conditions;
- Colleagues from Guinea-Bissau who have committed to writing 3 articles covering the themes of employment and corruption.

At the regional level, data processing work is underway in collaboration with lecturer-researchers from ENSEA, ENSAE and ISSEA on the following themes: (i) Inequalities in access to employment and wages at the occupational level according to gender; (ii) Fiscal potential of the informal sector in urban centres of WAEMU Member States; (iii) Incidence of corruption; (iv) Determinants of insecurity in WAEMU Member States; (v) Overview of migration in the WAEMU space.

As part of this collaboration, two ISSEA lecturer-researchers conducted a mission to AFRISTAT in December 2020.

In the same month, a mission team to support the development of regional papers went to Dakar to work with ENSAE faculty. The progress of the two regional papers to be produced in collaboration was reviewed.

These articles are on "Incidence of corruption in WAEMU Member States" and "Gender wage gaps in WAEMU Member States".

Capacity building project in Chad

During the period under review, several national accounting support missions were carried out.

In this regard, two technical support missions were conducted in Chad.

The first one, which took place from 12 to 24 October 2020, provided a new assessment of the

GDP of the base year 2017 and to start the work of the accounts campaign of the first current year 2018.

The second one, which covered the period 23

November-11 December 2020, provided an opportunity to assess the GDP of the current year 2018 at current and constant prices and to develop analytical notes on the results obtained.

Project to support the monitoring Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (SMSDGA)

The SMSDGA project is funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and implemented by AFRISTAT and Expertise France, with technical support from INSEE. During the second half of 2020, the SMSDGA project organized a meeting of the regional working group on the SDGs, via videoconference. It also supported the AFRISTAT initiative on the "Young Statisticians" Program. Other achievements have involved the organization of training in computer graphics and communication, support to national statistical institutes for the development of information brochures on the SDGs, the organization of awareness days for the monitoring of the SDGs and support for the development of food balance sheets.

Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the SDGs

On 10 July 2020, a meeting of the Regional Working Group for the monitoring of the SDGs was held by videoconference.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss the proposal for a minimum list of indicators made by AFRISTAT for the monitoring of the two Agendas 2030 and 2063.

In addition to AFRISTAT experts, this meeting was attended by representatives of the African Schools of Statistics (ASSS), Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Togo and Chad, and representatives of Expertise France and INSEE.

Recruitment of young statisticians to work on SDG-related topics

The project also provided support to AFRISTAT for the recruitment of the first class of the "Young

Statisticians" Program. The selected candidates are working on themes related to the SDGs.

Computer graphics training workshop

AFRISTAT, in collaboration with Expertise France, organized a computer graphics training workshop from 10 November to 10 December 2020, by videoconference.

The training was conducted by two professionals recruited for this purpose. The participants in this training came from AFRISTAT, ENSAE in Dakar, ISSEA, IFORD, and the national statistical institutes of Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo.

Support for the development of a brochure on the SDGs

The project supported the INSEED in Chad and ISTEEDU in Burundi in the development of infor-

mation brochures on the SDGs. The mission to Burundi was carried out from 28 November to 4 December 2020 by a team of two, consisting of an associate expert and a young graduate of AFRISTAT's "Young Statisticians" Program. In Chad, the support was implemented from 7 to 11 December 2020 by two AFRISTAT experts.

Organization of sensitization days in ASSS

Support was provided to ENSAE in Dakar and ENSEA in Abidjan for the organization of the second edition of awareness days for the follow-up of the SDGs.

At ENSAE Dakar, the event took place on 22 December 2020 under the theme "Data revolution and monitoring of the SDGs".

At ENSEA Abidjan, the event was held on 29 December 2020 and the theme was: "Methodological challenges and contribution of

African statistical schools in the definition of targets and monitoring of the SDGs".

In both schools, prizes were awarded to the students who made the best presentations.

Food Balance Sheet Development

Support was provided to Mali and Guinea for the development of food balance sheets from 2015

to 2018 for Mali and from 2016 to 2018 for Guinea.

The consultants also had to calculate and analyse four indicators, including two SDG indicators: the prevalence of undernourishment and food losses. Food self-sufficiency and import dependency rates were also calculated and analysed.

Recruitment of young statisticians

Nine young statisticians and demographers from three African Schools of Statistics and the Institute of Demographic Training and Research were recruited to work under the supervision of AFRISTAT experts on themes related to the SDGs.

AFRISTAT / ECA / INSEE / PARIS21 Collaboration

In order to compensate for the lack of technical assistance activities usually carried out in the framework of cooperation, AFRISTAT, INSEE and PARIS21, in collaboration with the ECA, have agreed to organize a series of audio-visual conferences in French to promote the exchange of experiences. These meetings will deal with current operational and methodological issues related to COVID-19.

As part of the series of conferences announced, the semester under review recorded the organization of four virtual meetings. The first one was organized on 28 and 29 July 2020 and was on the theme: "Telephone surveys in response to COVID-19: challenges and prospects". It aimed to shed light on the conduct of telephone surveys, particularly on the bias introduced by non-responses, the length of the interview, the selection of the sample, the volume and adaptation of the questionnaire, the processing and dissemination

of data, etc. The second session was held on 3 September 2020 and was entitled: "How the quality approach to statistics would have helped mitigate the inconvenience of COVID-19". The objective was to provide information on: (i) the prerequisites and investment required to adopt a comprehensive quality approach to statistics; and (ii) the benefits of this initiative, especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19.

The third conference was held on 8 October 2020 on the theme: "Communicating statistics in times

of crisis: the role of the NSI in countering misinformation" and was moderated by four panellists from the NSI (Senegal, Algeria, Niger) and INSEE. The fourth conference was held on 2 and 3 December 2020 and focused on the theme: "Sampling methods for telephone surveys in the context of COVID-19: opportunities and trade-offs". This webinar was moderated by seven panellists from NSI (Tunisia and Morocco), ENSAE Dakar, BCEAO, ARIACOV-Senegal and INSEE.

Other AFRISTAT activities

Support missions by AFRISTAT experts

Member countries have benefited from in situ or remote technical support during the second half of 2020.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

■ Mr Issoufou Meïté, an AFRISTAT computer expert, supported the Central African Institute of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (ICA-SEES) from 9 to 14 October 2020, in the installation and configuration of the collection tablets. He also trained the managers of the prices department on the CAPI module attached to the application.

■ Mr Ibrahim Sory, an AFRISTAT national accounts expert, conducted a mission in Bangui from 16 to 18 November 2020 to assess the actual start-up of work on changing the base year of the national accounts and migrating.

GABON

■ AFRISTAT received, from 17 to 24 November 2020, a study mission from the General Directorate of Statistics (DGS) of Gabon composed of three price statisticians and one computer specialist. The mission worked on the migration of Gabon's Phoenix database from version 1 to version 2 and benefited from the experience of INSTAT in Mali on the collection, processing and dissemination of HICP data as well as on monthly publications based on specific products and related to the COVID-19.

■ Mr Tchadéléki Biabalo Bahaze-Dao and Mr Issoufou Meïté, respectively an expert in Price Statistics and a computer expert, assisted the DGS, from 6 to 16 December 2020, in the migration of Gabon's Phoenix database from version 1 to version 2. To this end, they trained the staff in the process of replacing points of sale and basic products in order to empower them in these various tasks.

GUINEA

■ The AFRISTAT expert in charge of business statistics, Mr Roland Frédéric Ngampama, conducted a mission to support the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG) in the implementation of the Industrial Production Index (IPI) and the improvement of the business survey system in industry, construction, trade and services. During this mission, the expert trained seven managers of the BCRG on the production and publication system of the IPI. He also set up the provisional sample of enterprises and industrial establishments and prepared the questionnaire that will be used to collect the IPI data.

International activities

AFRISTAT took part in international meetings organized by its partners during the second half of 2020.

N°	Events	Period	Location	Organizers
1.	Virtual Meeting on the NSIs' Response to COVID-19	6-7 July 2020	Virtual	AUC
2.	Virtual Meeting on Macroeconomic Aggregate Methodology	18 August 2020	Virtual	AUC
3.	Technical Exchange Webinar on the WAEMU Macroeconomic Framework	19 August 2020	Virtual	WAEMU
4.	56 th Meeting of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks of ECOWAS	10 September 2020	Virtual	ECOWAS
5.	Webinar on Census of Population in Africa: Making the Digital Transition Work	15 September 2020	Virtual	AFRISTAT/GEOSYSTEMS
6.	Webinar on Disability Statistics	22-24 September 2020	Virtual	Washington Group
7.	AUC Webinar on the Draft Methodology for Better Harmonized Foreign Trade Indices for Africa	31 August-1 September 2020	Virtual	AUC
8.	CESD Annual General Meeting	29 September 2020	Virtual	CESD-Statisticians
9.	33 rd Session of the Conference of ASS Heads (CODESA)	30 September 2020	Virtual	CODESA
10.	1 st Extraordinary Session of the IFORD Board of Directors	6 October 2020	Virtual	IFORD
11.	2 nd Extraordinary Session of the IFORD Board of Directors	22 December 2020	Virtual	IFORD
12.	23 rd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts	26-27 November 2020	Virtual	ECAWA
13.	9 th Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FAS Dev IX)	14 December 2020	Virtual	ECA

Echoes from National Statistical Institutes

The second half of the year 2020 was marked by statistical events at the global level and particularly in Africa. The world statistical community commemorated the Third World Statistics Day (WSD) on 23 October 2020, under the theme "Connecting the world with reliable data". In addition, the African statistical community celebrated as usual, the African Statistics Day (ASD) on 18 November 2020 under the theme "Modernizing national statistical systems to provide data and statistics to support peace and sustainable development in Africa". AFRISTAT Member States braved the COVID-19 pandemic to celebrate these two events, through panels, conference-debates and exhibitions to better inform the public on NSS activities.

CAMEROON

www.statistics-cameroon.org

■ Promulgation of the new statistical law setting out the basic principles for the production of official statistics, the rules of ethics, the institutional framework for statistical production and the modalities for coordinating statistical activity.

■ Carrying out data collection operations for the Survey on the availability of modern contraceptive methods and maternal health services with the financial support of UNFPA, from 1 to 30 September 2020.

■ Carrying out the survey on the evaluation of the effects of COVID-19 on the Decentralized Territorial Communities (CTD), from 29 June to 9 September 2020.

■ Beginning of the process of developing the 3rd National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS3) with the holding of workshops for the definition of priority demand indicators for official statistics and data collection.

■ Holding of a workshop for the production of national and regional reports, 2020 edition, in order to establish the status of the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from 31 August to 1 September, with the participation of the central and regional structures of the NSI.

■ Official inauguration ceremony of the new headquarters building of the National Statistics Institute (NSI), under the presidency of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, on Tuesday 29 December 2020.



■ The 19th Session of the National Statistics Council was held on 18 November 2020, under the chairmanship of MrAlamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, and Chairman of the Council. The Council validated the summary of the results of the final evaluation of the 2015-2020 NSDS, the report on the impact of COVID-19 on the statistical activities of the SNIS and made recommendations for: (i) the finalization of work on the develop-

ment of the 2021-2030 NSDS; (ii) the continued implementation of Statistical Information Systems in the sectoral administrations; as well as (iii) the finalization of the draft application texts of the new statistical law.

- Workshop to present the results of the study on SME mapping in Cameroon, 9 December 2020. The workshop participants recommended the production of a policy brief for the proper use of the study results by public policymakers.

- Workshop to validate the technical documents of the National Energy Access Survey (ENACE), 24-28 November 2020. The objective of the survey will be to assess the energy access landscape and the state of satisfaction of household and industrial water needs in order to effectively and efficiently guide government action.

COTE D'IVOIRE

www.ins.ci

- Continuation of the reform of the National Statistical System (NSS) with the adoption by the National Assembly on 21 July 2020 and by the Senate on 8 September 2020 of the law revising the organization of the NSS.

- Technical meetings between the INS and the IMF mission as part of the 7th and 8th Reviews of the Financial Economic Program (FEP) 2016-2020, on 16 and 18 September 2020, during which several activities were discussed, including the rebasing of the national accounts and the implementation of the 2008 NAS, the 2020 General Census of Population and Housing (RP 2020) and the implementation of the 2017-2021 NSDS.

- Preparation for the 2020 Population Census (RP): UNFPA handed over a batch of about 40,000 tablets, acquired with funding from the AfDB Group, to the Permanent Technical Bureau of the Census (BTPR) on 25 August 2020, as part of the fifth General Census of Population and Housing (RP2020).

- Conducting an enumeration pre-test, from 1 to 21 September 2020, to test data collection with the new tablets that will actually be used during the major phase and other operational aspects, including implementation challenges, data collection mode and technique, quality control, data transfer and centralization.

- Economic Census of Industrial Enterprises and Establishments of Côte d'Ivoire (REEIE-CI): the NSI organized, from 13 to 20 September 2020, a workshop to carry out the work of drafting the overall report of the REEIE-CI 2018.

- Holding of the second meeting of the Technical Committee of the 2020 Population Census (RP2020), on 10 December 2020, under the chairmanship of Mr Yeo Nahoua,

Chief of staff of the Ministry of Planning and Development and Chairman of the said Committee. The Committee examined the progress report of the Permanent Technical Bureau of the Census (BTPR) and made recommendations on the dates of collection and enumeration.

- Preparation of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS-continuous) in Côte d'Ivoire: organization of a videoconference with the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal and ICF International on 26 November 2020, to share their experiences in conducting DHS-continuous surveys.

- Preparation of the 2015 and 2016 Integrated Economic Accounts Tables (IEAT) and the 2020 Third Quarter National Accounts during a workshop on 15-30 December 2020.

GABON

www.stat-gabon.org

- Development of the roadmap for the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) with the participation of sectoral departments.

- Launch of the pilot phase of the first General Census of Enterprises (RGE), in mid-December 2020, in order to test the different tools and the skills of the field agents and the receptivity of the production units to the collection teams.

- The DGS continued to update the HICP production database with the technical support of AFRISTAT experts and Mr Claude TCHAMDA.

- Validation of basic statistics for the production of the 2014-2018 Statistical Yearbook with the participation of producers and sectoral users of statistics.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

www.inege.gq

- Presentation of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Quarterly Gross Domestic Product Results: During the month of July 2020, the INEGE published the results of the second quarter CPI and the first quarter 2020 GDP. The annual average inflation rate recorded in the second quarter of 2020 was 3.0%. Year-on-year, GDP grew by 3.1%, driven by growth in oil GDP (+5.5%) and improvement in non-oil GDP (-0.1%) compared to -4.6% in the previous quarter.

- Launch of the validation process of the 2020 Statistical Yearbook, through the validation of data from different sources, on 28 August 2020.

- Holding of the first meeting of the National Statistics Council, on 6 August 2020, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr César Augusto Mba Abogo, Chairman of the said

Council and the effective participation of several ministers.

- Organization of a meeting to validate the technical documents of the first business census, on 31 July 2020 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Planning and Chairman of the said Commission.

- Holding of a meeting of the Technical Committee of the first business census, on 24 July 2020, in order to validate the documents of the said census at the technical level.

- First Meeting of the Statistical Programs Committee held on 22 July 2020. It approved the creation of sectoral statistical subcommittees and validated several reports and documents including the report on the level of implementation of the activities of the National Strategy for Statistical Development (NSDS) 2016-2020, the strategy of statistical awareness; the report on the status of work of the second household survey and the business census and the status of preparation of the new NSDS 2021-2024.

- Holding of the seventh INEGE Board of Directors Meeting on 13 July 2020, with the following items on the agenda: (i) reading and approval of the minutes of the last Board of Directors; (ii) validation of the 2019 progress report, execution of the 2019 budget; (iii) adoption of the 2021 Action Plan; (iv) study and approval of the Budget for 2021; (v) payment of staff seniority rights or triennials.

- Presentation of inflation and Consumer Price Index (CPI) results for the 3rd quarter of 2020. The annual average inflation rate recorded in the third quarter of the year 2020 is 5.0%.

- Ceremony of dissemination of the Statistical Yearbook of Equatorial Guinea 2020, 2 December 2020, under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, Zenón Obiang AVOMO.

- Statistical review of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea with the collaboration of INE of Spain. This review covers data over the period 1935-1980.

The process of republishing the Statistical Review consisted of :

- Request for authorization from the INE of Spain to disseminate the document in question;
- Digitization, design and assembly of the document preserving the original format.

- Promulgation of the Law No 3/2020 of 16 October 2020, regulating the statistical activity in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. This new law meets the current needs of the country's national statistical system and is aligned with the African Charter on Statistics.

- Holding of a consultative meeting between INEGE and the United Nations agencies to consolidate links on statistical issues on 28 October 2020. The Director General of INEGE took the opportunity to inform the UN agencies on the preparation of the new National Strategy for Statistical Development (NSDS) 2021-2024.

MALI

www.instat-gov.ml

- Signing of a five-year partnership agreement for the promotion of research on statistics in Mali, on 9 September 2020, between the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) and the Institute of Human Sciences (ISH).

- Workshop to validate the draft report of the human resources review held on 3 and 4 September 2020.

- Promotion of the use of statistical data through the organization of a day of popularization of the results of the Modular and Permanent Household Survey (EMOP) 2019/2020.

- Third statutory meeting of the National Statistics Council (NSC) held on 16 November 2020. The Council reviewed the status of implementation of the Master Plan for Statistics (SDS) 2015-2019 and the SDS 2020-2024 and its Action Plan.

- Safeguarding of civil status information within the NSS: INSTAT in collaboration with Statistics Sweden trained support agents in the use of the second part of the declaration of civil status events (birth, marriage and death), from 26 to 30 October 2020.

SENEGAL

www.ansd.sn

- Monitoring of the economic situation: The ANSD is improving its indices within the framework of the Regional Statistical Program (RSP 2015-2019) implementation agreement. Launch, with technical assistance from AFRISTAT, of the process of redesigning the Industrial Production Price Index (IPPI) and the Harmonized Industrial Production Index (HIPI) in accordance with the new international recommendations, as well as the implementation of turnover indices (ICA) in the industry, construction, trade and services sectors.

- Implementation of the quarterly Survey on Employment, Remuneration and Working Hours (SEHR), with financial support from the World Bank and technical support from Statistics Canada, to obtain reliable labour market statistics.

- Beginning of the implementation of the pedagogical renovation of the training programs for statistical engineers at the National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis

(ENSAE) in Dakar, which includes the introduction of new training programs and curricula.

- Holding a workshop to share the provisional results of the 2019 Continuous Demographic and Health Survey (EDS-C) and the Continuous Health Care Services Delivery Survey (ECPSS) on 28 July 2020.

- Presentation of the results of the survey for the profiling of international immigrants residing in the Department of Dakar, on 13 August 2020. The survey was conducted in 2019 in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

- Production and dissemination of short-term publications on quarterly GDP, consumer prices, industrial production, industrial output prices, foreign trade and economic statistics.

- Taking into account gender aspects in entrepreneurship policies: The National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) is undertaking a study within the framework of the UN Women's Count Program in order to evaluate the contribution of entrepreneurship to value added according to the gender approach.

- Reference situation of the Social and Solidarity Economy: The ANSD organized, from 7 to 10 December 2020, a workshop to develop tools for collecting a national survey of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) structures (cooperatives, mutual and mutualistic organizations, EIGs, NGOs, associations, foundations, etc.).

- 82.7% of the workers and individual service providers used by companies in Senegal are paid in cash, 38.4% by bank transfer, 14.0% by checks, 3.6% by money transfer and 2.2% by mobile money. In addition, workers and managers positively appreciate the reliability, security and confidentiality of digitalization, as well as the productivity gains it generates. These are the results of the national survey on the impact of the digitization of payments for workers and individual service providers in the private sector conducted by the ANSD as part of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) "Mobile Money for Poor (MM4P)" project aimed at promoting the digitization of payment flows.

- Women's empowerment in Senegal: The ANSD organized a webinar on 16 December 2020 on the results of the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI). This is an instrument for monitoring the SDG5 which relates to "Gender equality and women's empowerment". The closer the WEI is to 1, the higher the country's level of gender equality promotion. The WEI is 0.6 for the national level.

TOGO

www.togostat.org

- Presentation of the results of the rebasing of GDP and national accounts for 2016, 2017

and 2018 prepared under the National Accounting System (NAS) 2008 with the year 2016 as the base. This shows a 36.5% revaluation of 2016 GDP through the switch from SNA93 to SNA2008. The 2017 GDP in real terms amounts to CFAF 729.8 billion, corresponding to a growth rate of 4.3% between 2016 and 2017.

- Presentation of the results of the survey on the perception and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Togolese households on 9 July 2020. This is a nationwide survey conducted by telephone from 26 May to 10 June 2020, with the support of the World Bank.

- Contact meeting of Mr Emmanuel Ngwe, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the 5th RGPH, with the members of the BCR, on 14 September 2020. Mr Ngwe is in charge of supporting the INSEED in the planning, organization, and execution of all the activities foreseen in the RGPH-5 roadmap.

- Training of about 30 media professionals from different media outlets (print, radio, TV and online) on the relay of statistical information, from 10 to 14 August 2020.

- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS II): Stakeholders of the National Statistical System (NSS) reviewed the NSDS-II summary document on 21 August 2020.

- 5th General Population and Housing Census in Togo: The Government of Togo and UNFPA, lead Technical and Financial Partner, signed the project document for the 5th General Population and Housing Census (RGPH5) on 15 December 2020.

In addition, the INSEED has trained about thirty cartographers to collect data for the pilot census.

- State of poverty in Togo: The INSEED organized a seminar on 29 October 2020 to present the results of the Harmonized Survey on Living Conditions of Households (HSLCH) 2018-2019.

The poverty line is estimated at CFAF 273,628.3 per person per year. Based on this threshold, the incidence of poverty is 45.5% at the national level.

- Togo Malaria Indicator Survey (TIMSS): The INSEED, in collaboration with the National Institute of Hygiene (INH), launched the TIMSS-2020 on 18 November 2020.

The aim of the Togo 2020-IPT is to measure at the national level, the essential indicators of the program to assess the endemicity of malaria and the progress made in the implementation of interventions in order to better orient the national policy of malaria control.

Meetings, workshops and seminars

3-4 February 2021

International Conference on National Accounting

10-11 March 2021

6th Conference on Food Security in Times of COVID 19:
What Challenges for Measurement?

8-12 February 2021

Validation Workshop of the Questionnaire
of the 2nd Harmonized Survey on Living Conditions of Households

15 March 2021

SHaSA 2 Virtual Management Committee Meeting

10-15 February 2021

WAMA Year-end 2020 Statutory Meetings

15 March 2021

CAPI Online Training Course
Using CSPRO's Android and Survey Solutions

18 February 2021

Virtual Consultation to Prepare the Report
on the Status of NSDS and SRDS in Africa

15 March - 23 April 2021

Online Training on Foreign Trade Statistics

1-3 March 2021

52st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

16-17 March 2021

Online Workshop
on the Compilation of Quarterly National Accounts

8-12 March 2021

Survey-Solutions Training Workshop and Adaptation
of the EHCVM2 Country CAPI Questionnaires

29-31 March 2021

Annual meetings 2021 of PARIS21

9-11 March 2021

Eurostat's Online Conference
on New Techniques and Technologies (NTTS)

12-16 April 2021

Regional Webinar on Real Sector Statistics

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Director of publication: Paul-Henri NGUEMA MEYE

Editor in chief: Paul-Henri NGUEMA MEYE

Drafting committee: Madior FALL, Serge Jean EDI, Sansan Honkounne KAMBOU, Djabar Dine ADECHIAN, Ibrahim SORY, Fatima BOUKENEM

Model Print:
IMPRIM COLOR Bamako
ISSN 1561-3739