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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (TAGES) in the Arab region  
9-10 November 2016, Cairo, Egypt.

**PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS IN THE ARAB REGION**

**Summary**

This report highlights the progress achieved and the highlights in the priority areas in the field of economic statistics and national accounts, mainly the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, the International Comparison Program and price statistics, trade and industry statistics, short-term economic indicators, in addition to energy and environment statistics and accounts.

The Advisory Group on Economic Statistics is invited to take note of the progress achieved in those areas and provide guidance for the future action of the Committee and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the field of economic statistics.

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## **I. Introduction**

ESCWA focused since 2013 on the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)* and promoted the development of supporting economic statistics such as price statistics, short-term economic indicators, industrial statistics, international trade statistics, energy and environmental statistics.

ESCWA was also engaged in 2015-2016 in assisting countries in the assessment of national statistical systems and the national strategy for development of statistics (NSDS) in partnerships with Paris 21, ECA and the African Development Bank, reviewing within the overall strategy, the national accounts and economic related sectoral statistics and providing the current status and recommendations for improvement. The operational and normative work focused on priority areas in the field of economic statistics, mainly the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, the International Comparison Program and price statistics, trade and industry statistics, energy and environment statistics and accounts, business registers, and short-term economic indicators, maintaining a regional comparability of data and conformity to international standards, classifications and recommendations. This constituted a major cornerstone in developing comparable economic data interpreting the real developments and trends in economic growth at the national, regional and international levels, and setting the ground for an integrated economic statistics platform which is at the heart of the UN's development agenda.

ESCWA also focused its efforts towards regional integration by implementing regional projects on short-term economic indicators and on price statistics in line with the globally implemented initiatives. Regional comparability of price statistics will be further enhanced through the successful implementation of the global statistical initiative in the ESCWA region, the *International Comparison Program*, which involves 199 countries worldwide including 12 from the ESCWA region: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE and Yemen. Thus, the project produces Purchasing Power Parity estimates and price indices that are more comparable and reliable and reflect the reality of economic indicators such as growth and welfare. Such indices not only contribute to regional integration, but also have a great impact on measuring real growth and promoting equitable growth and sustainable development. Other subregional projects on energy surveys in the transport sector provided comparable indicators on energy end use.

Overall there were various accomplishments in relation to strengthening national data production and compilation, decreasing discrepancies between national and international data and enhancing coordination and data dissemination to improve data coverage for economic statistics and indicators, thereby strengthening reporting in Arab countries.

The Advisory Group on Economic Statistics is invited to take note of the progress achieved in those areas and provide guidance for the future action of the Committee and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the field of economic statistics.

## **II. National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS)**

There is an opportunity for designing national statistical strategies for development of statistics (NSDS) in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Development for the Arab Countries where only three of the 22 do have an active strategy. This will allow Arab countries to benefit from newly updated guidelines for NSDS completed under leadership of the Partnership for Statistics in 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21). Several international and national statistical offices participated in this update, including ESCWA. The new guidelines provide, among other topics, a specific guidance on the following:

- Guidelines are structured into steps required for designing the strategies;
- The new guidelines take were developed taking into account data and statistics needs of Data Revolution and the 2030 Agenda for Development;
- A specific section of the new guidelines is dedicated to the specific situation of fragile states stricken by external or internal conflicts.

It is important to keep in mind, that the statistical strategies should be designed in line with the national strategies for sustainable development, including strategies in various sectors of economy, environment and social life. Therefore, they should be accompanied by setting a relevant governance structure linking governance structures for national sustainable development with those in the areas of statistics. The statistical governance should provide for a specific leadership role of national statistical offices, national statistical councils and other technical committee and institutions involved in official statistics. In this respect the statistical strategies shall be designed taking the national development strategies as a source.

The assessments of national statistical systems undertaken in the Arab region show that institutions often work in isolation. For example, economic data are often scattered through the National Statistical Office, Ministry of Planning and the Central Bank. Sharing data across institutional boundaries and improved cooperation and coordination will enable utilizing the wealth of data in a more efficient manner, in particular to increase significantly the output of statistics and statistical analysis. For example, integrating data collected from censuses, from civil registration and from other sources would allow to expand the use of census data.

Designing national strategies for development of statistics should be preceded by comprehensive assessments of national statistical systems. Three assessments were completed or are in progress by ESCWA, PARIS21 and relevant regional partners. Similar efforts are undertaken in the GCC region by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), and one country has arranged for assessment of its national statistical system in cooperation with the European Union's statistical office (Eurostat).

### **Developing NSDS for Egypt and Reviewing NSDS for Jordan and<sup>1</sup>**

ESCWA, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century Program (PARIS21) and the African Development Bank have established a multi-organization team coordinated by PARIS21 to assist the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) carried out a technical needs assessment of the Egyptian Statistical System from 11 to 17 September 2015. The mission focused on three main areas: Institutional and legal issues; economic statistics; and social statistics and drafted conclusions and recommendations to CAPMAS senior management.

In collaboration with the PARIS21 also, ESCWA participated in reviewing the National Statistical Strategy of Jordan, during 17-21 July 2016. The advisory mission discussed with officials at the Department of Statistics (DOS) and several national stakeholders and reviewed and assessed the status of sectoral statistics and provided recommendations to be used in national dialogue for proposing new national statistical strategy during 2017-2021 by the Jordanian government to draw its policies regarding the social and economic planning and achieving sustainable development. National Accounts and 2008 SNA implementation

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescwa.org/news/assessing-national-statistical-system-egypt>.  
<https://www.unescwa.org/news/escwa-assistance-jordanian-national-statistical-strategy>.

Along with its efforts to develop and implement a regional strategic plan of action for the implementation of the SNA 2008, ESCWA focused on building capacity of national accountants in compiling supply and use tables and methodologies to measure the output of the financial sector in the compilation of National Accounts.

ESCWA contributed to a 2-week regional training course on National Accounts organized by the IMF-CEF to theoretical understanding and building and enhancing the national capacities of staff working in national accounts..<sup>1</sup>

### III. Supply and Use tables

Given the importance of compiling Supply and Use tables in macroeconomic aggregates, ESCWA developed a study on regional Guidelines for Arab countries on Supply and Use<sup>2</sup>, and provided training workshop, technical assistance missions, and facilitated the cooperation between INSEE and selected Arab statistical offices to implement a supply and use software application. [The training](#) provided hands on exercises on relevant techniques to ensure consistency and assist in estimating missing values. Both hands on training and interactive methods included methodological approaches in constructing SUTs. Improved capacity of the NSS to compile Supply and Use and enhance national capacities to compile statistics needed for both Supply and Use tables.. This will improve the accuracy of GDP estimates and support economic statistics and Improve the knowledge of national account statisticians in using relevant tools and techniques of estimation of missing data needed to build SUTs. Financial corporations and Islamic Banking

ESCWA member countries faced difficulties in dealing with financial corporations and Islamic Banking services in the compilation of national accounts according to the 2008 SNA. Therefore, in addition to several technical assistance missions, ESCWA organized ESCWA organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Financial Services and Business Registers in the context of supporting the national statistical capacities in the area of Economic Statistics in general and National Accounts in particular, during the period November 25-27, 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey<sup>3</sup>. The meeting gathered national, regional and international experts who exchanged knowledge and tackled the treatment of the different financial subsectors in the compilation of National Accounts statistics, discussed the different issues related to the financial services, and identified the most appropriate methods to be used in data compilation as well as the methodologies to measure the output of the financial sector in the compilation of National Accounts

The treatment of Islamic Banking in national accounts is an issue that is subject to different interpretations in national accounts compilation. Further work on the implementation issues related to the financial corporations sector was needed in order to find appropriate solutions to the problems facing countries regarding methods and sources for compiling the accounts for the sector according to the 2008 SNA. Many experts found that the IMF Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide (MFSMCG) provides adequate guidelines to compile the accounts for Islamic banking according to SNA2008, nevertheless they believe that this may require further modification to overcome practical issues and finding logical interpretation of the results. The second group of experts believed that the activities of Islamic banking are completely different than the conventional banks and thus they should be treated differently. ESCWA presented a paper [“Islamic Banking in SNA2008 “Proposals by various experts”](#) for the 10th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 13-15 April 2016,

### IV. Business registers

Aware of the need to modernizing and improving statistical production efficiency and quality, and following-up on the recommendation of its statistical committee in its eleventh session, the United

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the extent of 2008 SNA implementation in the Arab region. E/ESCWA/SD/Background Paper 2. <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sd/2163/21-2.pdf>

Support for Implementation Strategy for 2008 SNA and Economic Statistics in the Arab Region. <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sd/2163/21-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> E/ESCWA/SD/2014/technicalpaper.2. [Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics 2014: Guidelines for Compilation of Supply and Use Tables in the Arab Countries and Data Sources](#)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=3784E>.

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) organized a regional workshop on statistical business registers for the Arab countries in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, UN Statistics Division and UNIDO in Amman, Jordan during the period 26-29 September 2016<sup>1</sup>. The workshop aimed at assisting member states in the development of their statistical systems by establishing statistical business registers (SBRs) that are increasingly becoming pillar infrastructure, providing the statistical units frames on which different economic statistics are built. In modern statistics processes, SBRs serve as a cost-effective sample frame that reduces greatly response burden with the use of available administrative sources and the tools provided by ITC. Activities covered a number of topics such as reviewing the concepts and methods related to business registers, analysis and presentations of international guidelines. In particular, the workshop provided thorough presentations on the recently published Guidelines on statistical business register by UNECE tackling down all topics with technical presentations on the roles of the registers, their coverage, the statistical units, data sources, maintenance and updating, survey frame methodology and the quality framework.

## **V. Price Statistics**

With the successful completion of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Program (ICP), ESCWA has thus marked another success story to the region in terms of regional integration and the implementation of the largest worldwide statistical initiative. The ICP implementation allowed ESCWA to produce and release purchasing power parities (PPPs) and price indices that are used to convert countries' gross domestic product (GDP) and its components from national currency denominations into common international currency units at equal prices. The outcome of the project thus allowed real and better measurement of the relative sizes of economies in support of evidence based policy making and the effective monitoring of the economic performance of participating countries. Furthermore, internationally comparable estimates of GDP are among the fundamental indicators in analyzing poverty-reduction efforts and boosting shared prosperity; PPP estimates assist countries in measuring sustainable development and poverty reduction, designing accurate policies, and creating new development opportunities based on real indicators and statistics. The improved indicators also serve the purpose of minimizing the divergence in the socio-economic structure between the countries of the same sub-region/region; by providing a detailed and accurate measure of the size of each of the participating economies, the program is thus assisting in the optimal channeling of aid and investments into the right sector of each economy.

The ICP implementation in the ESCWA region not only helped build statistical capacity in the area of price statistics but also in the area of national accounts and thus advancing the data foundation for measuring sustainable development. The ICP entailed the cooperation of participating countries to share good practices and thus promoted partnerships between national statistical offices (NSOs) and international agencies by sharing good practices and building human capital and national partnerships. The final regional PPP results for the 2011 Round in Western Asia Region were released in February 2014 and can be found on the following link: [www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp](http://www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp).

The ICP success and the accomplishments gathered had an influential impact on ESCWA member countries and helped reroute and revive their attention to the importance of prices and price related statistics. This was concretized through the countries' attempts to develop price indices for difficult areas such as real estate and gross fixed capital formation following the ICP outcome. Additionally, and following the release of the final 2011 PPP results in February 2014, the ICP Regional Office at ESCWA devised an innovative plan to produce reliable PPP estimates for 2012 and 2013 which would place Western Asia ahead of the rest of the world as the first and only region to make such an attempt. This step was highly welcomed by the Global Office at the World Bank from one side, and enthusiastically by the participating countries which were already experiencing the benefits of the ICP from the other side. Thus, the Regional Office put the plan immediately in motion and is currently in the process of producing the final 2012-2013 estimates.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescwa.org/events/statistical-business-registers-arab-countries>

ESCWA contributed a paper on [“Synergies between CPIs and PPPs and Integration of Survey Activities”](#), to the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (CPI), which was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labor Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland on May 2-4, 2016.

## **VI. Short-term Indicators**

Short-term policy issues have become more critical for policymakers in their quest to guide the short-term direction of the economies as a result of globalization and a rapidly expanding financial sector. In the region however, due to the lack of quarterly and monthly economic data in most ESCWA member countries, policymakers are faced with difficulties in measuring and projecting the consequences of short-term economic developments. Therefore, it is crucial for the national statistical systems in the region to produce short-term indicators timely and periodically in order to measure and monitor various economic fluctuations and business cycles and respond to them scientifically and punctually.

ESCWA has been implementing a project in seven pilot countries on STS and has completed Based on technical assistance missions to each of the pilot countries to identify needs assessment, a list of core priority indicators, individual training needs and technical assistance were also identifies and accordingly international expertise has been provided to those countries mainly on export import indices, production indices. A regional guideline on STS was developed and presented and discussed in an expert group held in Amman in February 2016 in which participants from countries and regional organization presented their experience in compilation and data gaps. The EGM provided a unique platform for the exchange of experiences among countries in the region and with experts from organizations specialized in the different areas of short-term statistics. The meeting concluded with a set of recommendations addressed to the countries and to organizations on improving short-term statistics in priority areas identified by countries. <https://www.unescwa.org/news/short-term-statistics-western-asia>

## **VII. Economic Classifications and Trade and Industry Statistics**

ESCWA organized a regional workshop on implementation of the international standard industrial classification for all economic activities (ISIC rev.4) for Arab countries, together with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research (AITRS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in Amman, Jordan, from 28 September to 1 October 2014. Representatives from government entities of 13 Arab countries attended the workshop, from national statistics offices, ministries of trade and industry, in addition to participation from Jordan Chamber of Industry.

As for the statistics of international trade, ESCWA continued working with main partners from UNSD, the World Trade Organization, AMF and others to build capacity in the region in SITS. With the introduction of MSITS 2010, it became necessary for the region to implement the recommendations in view of the increasing number of revisions of related classifications and standards, and assisting in hands-on training on the compilation of SITS using the implementation guide. In that context, ESCWA-AMF-WTO-UNSD organized a meeting in Abu Dhabi 25-29 January 2015.

The impact of regional capacity building in statistics was also featured in the field of energy statistics and balance and the implementation of the newest versions of economic classifications. The capacity building project on energy statistics provided extensive training on compiling energy data for all the energy products used in production, trade, transformation and consumption, and some countries already started compiling a yearly energy balance. The impact of improvement in end use consumption in the transport sector allowed for the provision of new funds for supporting selected countries. ESCWA also continued its work on promoting the development of industrial statistics and building national capacities in the Arab region. Relevant activities, such as classifications of economic activities, were implemented mostly upon the request of member states and regional organizations and ESCWA in general is increasingly becoming the gateway for technical assistance in the work of economic statistics in the ESCWA region.



## **VIII. Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Indicators, Energy and Environment Statistics:**

### **Expert Group Meeting on the Water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Beirut, 12-13 April 2016**

ESCWA, in collaboration with the League of Arab States' Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and ACWUA, organized an *Expert Group Meeting on the Water-Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* at the UN-House in Beirut, Lebanon, from 12 to 13 April 2016. The main objectives of the meeting were as follows: a) increase the understanding of the water-related goals and targets adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; b) review the outcomes of the United Nations Statistical Commission deliberations on the global indicators framework as it relates to the water-related SDGs; c) exchange experiences, best practices and information on new technologies and institutional frameworks that can contribute to monitoring and reporting on water-related indicators at the global, regional and national levels; d) consider how the MDG+ Initiative indicators and monitoring framework can contribute to regional follow-up on the water-related SDGs; e) discuss the benefits, opportunities, challenges and constraints of adopting a common regional monitoring and reporting framework for the SDGs, and particularly for the water-related SDGs; and f) formulate recommendations on a way forward for monitoring and reporting on the water-related SDGs in the Arab region.

A number of recommendations were made during this meeting. Participants and experts called upon governments to adopt common, unified information systems for SDG monitoring and reporting and to decide on a framework for compilation; to coordinate data among different stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels; to use innovative new technologies for data collection and to consider undertaking new surveys; to establish a National Council/Committee and technical subcommittees/teams and to consider reporting according to clusters rather than goal levels. They also called upon ESCWA to ensure common definitions of targets and indicators; to build upon existing model provided, existing reports and data initiatives; to adopt constant baseline information across countries; to provide regional and subregional training; to follow LAS framework and to consider sub-regional clustering of States.

### **Energy Statistics and Balance**

Along the DA project on energy statistics and balances that was implemented by ESCWA, a series of national, regional and subregional trainings were undertaken in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the United National Statistics Division (UNSD). The training material developed by IEA and the International Guidelines developed by UNSD were translated into Arabic. E-learning courses are now on-line on a joint portal developed by The Regional Center for Renewable **Energy** and **Energy** Efficiency (**RCREEE**) and UNESCWA, called TaqaWay Sustainable Energy Network.

### **SDG readiness in the Arab region Amman, Jordan 8- 12 May 2016**

ESCWA participated at the and the five day workshop on *SDG Preparation: Data Readiness and Developing a Monitoring Matrix in the Arab region organized by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and PARIS21* in Amman, Jordan 8- 12 May 2016. Sixteen Arab countries participated. In the sessions, an overview of the SDGs was presented by UNSD and sector specific challenges in the region were addressed UN-ESCWA. UNDP also presented the Arab Development Portal and Paris21 presented ADAPT.

### **The Arab meeting on Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators", Cairo, Egypt from 12 to 16 October 2015**



In addition to capacity-building in environment statistics and accounts, ESCWA continued its cooperation with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Environment Programme in technical assistance and methodological documents on the sustainable development indicators of priority to the Arab region and the way forward for the sustainable development goals, The Arab meeting on Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators”, which was the second meeting of the working group and the after a series of workshops since 2006 on sustainable development indicators was held in Egypt, Cairo from 12 to 16 October 2015 to follow up on the compilation of indicators in the Arab countries. The meeting brought together about twenty representatives from National Statistical Institutes and intergovernmental institutions of the Arab League member states. INSEE was also invited to attend. The presentations focused on the following topics: progress with dashboards for development indicators produced by the countries in this zone; difficulties encountered in creating databases, mainly due to certain data not being available; quality of data collected; calculating the corresponding indicators. With the SDGs, all countries must prepare a national strategic plan, and a regular report must be produced. All Member States have produced National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS). A description of the production process and coordination between the different stakeholders was included in the discussions, especially the key role of the official statistical system in the process.

#### **Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016, AMMAN, Jordan, 29-30 May 2016**

ESCWA, in partnership with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), organized Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016 in Amman in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development of 2016 in Amman, Jordan. The forum was a high-level meeting and a regional platform for dialogue and coordination on mechanisms of implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the Arab region and in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution A / 70/1, and in response to the recommendations of the Executive Committee of ESCWA who requested the secretariat to convene the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, and to monitor progress in the Arab region towards achieving the goals of sustainable development, and the preparation of regional reports, as well as assist countries in the region to integrate sustainable development objectives into national development plans, support statistical systems, and conducting follow-up and review at the regional level.

#### **Publications on Sustainable Development Indicators, Energy and Environment Statistics:**

The Statistics Division in ESCWA published “Measuring Sustainable Development in the Arab Region A Review of Country Experiences and Recommendations for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Post-2015 Era” for Second Session of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development from 5 to 7 May, 2015, Kingdom of Bahrain. The report was prepared by Robert Smith. Midsummer Analytics. The report provides a concise assessment of sustainable development monitoring and evaluation in the Arab region and a discussion of the implications for the Arab region of the so-called “post-2015 agenda”. It makes recommendations intended to identify actions required in the region to prepare it to effectively undertake development monitoring and evaluation in the post-2015 era. (<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/measuring-sustainable-development-arab-region-review-country-experiences-and>).

The “Compendium of Environment Statistics in the Arab Region 2014-2015.” was published in 2015, it includes seven chapters: (i) freshwater resources; (ii) fisheries; (iii) biodiversity;(iv) air pollution and climate change; (v) energy consumption; (vi) waste management; and (vii) Goal 7 of the MDGs. In this issue also, the chapter (iv) on climate change was expanded with more detailed data on CO2 emissions by sector and index calculation for emissions. ESCWA used national sources mainly data gathered from the National Statistical Offices and related ministries of each ESCWA member country, some international agencies, and the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire 2013 on Environment Statistics for the Freshwater Resources and the Waste Management chapters (chapter 1 and chapter 6).

## **Annex 1. List of Activities in Economic Statistics: Meetings, Missions, Publications, Projects**

### **List of Meetings in Economic Statistics**

#### **2016**

1. [Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics \(TAGES\) in the Arab region 9-10 November 2016, Cairo, Egypt.](#)
2. [Regional Workshop on Statistical Business registers for The Arab Countries 26 - 28 September 2016, Amman, Jordan](#)
3. [The 2nd Regional Workshop on the 2016 PPP Production in Western Asia, 19-23 January 2016, Istanbul - Turkey](#)
4. [Expert Group Meeting on Short Term Economic Statistics in Western Asia, 16-18 February, 2016, Tunisia](#)
5. [10th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 13-15 April 2016, Paris, France , Contribution with research paper on Islamic Banking](#)
6. Contribution to [Expert Group Meeting on the Water-related Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)
7. [Workshop on Supply and Use with AITRS, 4-7 April 2016 Amman, Jordan.](#)
8. [Contribution to Workshop on SDGs Readiness with AITRS and Paris 21](#)

#### **2015**

1. Preparatory Meeting of the Arab Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators. 14-16 December 2015 Cairo, Egypt
2. [Expert Group Meeting \(EGM\) on Financial Services and Business Register 24 to 25 November, 2015 , Istanbul, Turkey](#)
3. [National Training Workshops on Production of the Sub-National Purchasing Power Parities in UAE, May 18 - 21 and September 13-17, 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)
4. [A Regional Meeting for the Harmonization of Price Statistics and the Production of biennial Purchasing Power Parities, August 11 - 13, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey](#)
5. [Final meeting for the Energy Consumption in the Transport Sector Survey Project and Result Launching 23/7 - 24/7/2015, Beirut , Lebanon](#)
6. [National Workshop on Price Statistics and Purchasing Power Parities, February 17 - 18, 2015, Khartoum and Follow up Meeting for Egypt, February 22, 2015, Cairo, Egypt](#)
7. [Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics, WTO, AMF, UNSD and UN ESCWA, 25-28 January 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.](#)
8. A Regional Workshop for launching a Regional Project on Price Statistics, December 7 - 11, 2015

#### **2014**

1. [Meeting on Energy Balance and End Use in the Transport Sector 22-23 December 2014, Amman Jordan](#)
2. [Regional meeting for the extrapolation of PPP estimates for 2012 and 2013 based on the PPP](#)

[results of the 2011 ICP round - December 8-11, 2014 - Istanbul, Turkey](#)

3. [Regional workshop on implementation of the international standard industrial classification for all economic activities \(ISIC rev.4\) for Arab countries, with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research \(AITRS\), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\), the United Nations Statistics Division \(UNSD\), 28 September to 1 October 2014, Amman, Jordan.](#)
4. [Arab meeting on Sustainable Development Indicators in collaboration with LAS, UNEP, AGEDI, 12 to 14 October 2014, Cairo](#)
5. National Workshops for launching a National Project for the Production of Sub-national Purchasing Power Parities, July 7 - 10 2014 and December 15 - 18, 2014, Abu Dhabi, UAE
6. National Training on Energy Statistics, Erbil, Iraq 6/1/2014 to 6/6/2014
7. National Training Workshop on the ICP - CPI Integration in Egypt, June 2014, Cairo
8. [Workshop on Energy Statistics and Energy Balance 27 April to 1 May, 2014 , Cairo](#)
9. [Workshop on National Accounts Statistics \(NAS\) with IMF March 23, 2014-April 3, 2014 \(2 Weeks\) Kuwait City, Kuwait.](#)
10. [TOT and Regional Meeting on Energy Statistics and Balance GCC-Stat- ESCWA- IEA - UNSD, 9 to 13 March 2014, Muscat, Oman](#)
11. [ICP meeting for launching the ICP results of the 2011 round, February 17-19 2014 EGM on Price statistics for regional integration 20 Feb, Istanbul, Turkey](#)









2013

1. [Workshop on Industrial Classifications ESCWA UNSD AIDMO and GOIC Doha Qatar 30 Sep 2 Oct 2013](#)
2. [Workshop on Environment and Energy Statistics, Amman, Jordan, 8-12 September 2013 UNSD-AITRS-ESCWA](#)
3. [National Seminar on Developing a Programme for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA and Supporting Statistics in Jordan UNSD UNESCWA and DOS 23 June 2013, Amman, Jordan](#)
4. [High Level meeting and Regional Seminar on the Implementation of 2008 SNA and Supporting Statistics in the Arab Region 24-27 June 2013 \(ESCWA-UNSD-AITRS\) Amman, Jordan](#)
5. [National Workshop on Energy Statistics 9-13 June 2013, Sudan](#)
6. Workshop on ICP-National Accounts April 29- May 3, 2013, Istanbul
7. [Workshop on Remittances with IMF 24-25 April 2013, Amman, Jordan](#)
8. **Workshop on Results of ICT indicators Survey in the Business Sector in Iraq 25-28 March 2013 ESCWA Beirut**
9. [IEA-UNESCWA Energy Statistics Training, 17-20 February, 2013, Abu Dhabi, UAE.](#)

## List of Publications in Economic Statistics

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sd/pubs/>

**2015-16**

Publication Symbol and Title	
<b>UNESCWA. SNA/M1.16/9.2.2 Islamic Banking in SNA2008 “Proposals by various experts. 10th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 13-15 April 2016, Paris, France. Agenda item: 9.2.2</b> <b>unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2016</b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015/3</b> <b><u>Compendium of Environment Statistics in the Arab Region 2014-2015</u></b> <b>مجموعة الإحصاءات البيئية في المنطقة العربية-2014-2015</b> <b>Epub: <a href="http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sd/pubs/index.asp?PubNUM=CES-2014-15">http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sd/pubs/index.asp?PubNUM=CES-2014-15</a></b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015/2</b> <b><u>Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for Arab Countries - Eighth Issue</u></b> <b>نشرة الإحصاءات الصناعية للبلدان العربية - العدد الثامن</b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015/1</b> <b><u>National accounts studies of the Arab region</u></b> <b>دراسات الحسابات القومية للمنطقة العربية</b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015/Technical</b> <b>Paper.1</b> <b><u>Measuring sustainable development in the Arab region: A review of country experiences and recommendations for monitoring and evaluation Post-2015</u></b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015/1/Manual</b> <b><u>Training manual on methodologies for data collection on energy use by the transport sector</u></b>	
<b>E/ESCWA/SD/2015//Technical Paper.2</b> <b><u>Purchasing Power Parities and the Real Size of Western Asia Economies A Comprehensive Report of the 2011 Round of the International Comparison Program in Western Asia Region</u></b>	
<b><u>Statistical Abstract of the Arab Region - Issue 34</u></b> <b>المجموعة الإحصائية لمنطقة الإسكوا - العدد 34</b>	
<b><u>Quarterly Inflation Outlook</u></b> <b>لمحة عن التضخم الربعي</b>	

<a href="#"><u>The International Comparison Program in Western Asia Region ... A Window To The Future</u></a>	
<p>برنامج المقارنات الدولية في منطقة غربي آسيا... نافذة نحو المستقبل</p>	
<p><b>E/ESCWA/SD/2014/1</b>  <a href="#"><u>External Trade Bulletin of the Arab Region Twenty-third issue</u></a>          نشرة التجارة الخارجية للمنطقة العربية العدد الثالث والعشرون</p>	
<p><b>E/ESCWA/SD/2014/PAMPHLET.1</b>  <a href="#"><u>ESCWA Country Profiles 2014 Key Energy Statistics.</u></a>          الإسكوا الملامح القطرية 2014 إحصاءات الرئيسية الطاقة</p>	
<p><b>E/ESCWA/SD/2014/technicalpaper.2</b>  <a href="#"><u>Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics 2014: Guidelines for Compilation of Supply and Use Tables in the Arab Countries and Data Sources</u></a>          دليل تركيب الجداول ومصادر البيانات جداول العرض والاستخدام في دول الإسكوا الاعضاء</p>	
<p><b>E/ESCWA/SD/2013/10</b>  <a href="#"><u>Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics: Short-Term Economic Indicators for The Arab Region</u></a>          المؤشرات الاقتصادية القصيرة الاملد</p>	

### **Parliamentary Documentation**

- [UNDESA. 2016. Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the main achievements of statistical development in the region E/CN.3/2016/17.](#)
- [UNDESA 2011. Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the main achievements of statistical development in the region E/CN.3/2011/ 20](#)
- UNESCWA 2010. "Strategic issues related to official statistics in the Western Asia Region ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/4 (Part I)
- [UNESCWA 2012. Progress achieved in the field of statistics since the ninth session of the Statistical Committee: Statistics related activities under the programme of work \(E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/5\) \(Part II\)](#)
- UNESCWA 2010. A strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA at the regional level and an accompanying architectural structure for its implementation E/ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/4(Part II)
- UNESCWA 2015. Advisory group on economic statistics in Arab region Terms of reference E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/CRP.2
- [UNESCWA 2013 Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics: Short-Term Economic Indicators for The Arab Region E/ESCWA/SD/2013/10](#)

### **Translation into Arabic in contribution to UNSD manuals**

The System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA)	نظام الحسابات القومية ٢٠٠٨
<a href="#"><u>International Recommendations for Water Statistics In Arabic</u></a>	التوصيات الدولية لإحصاءات المياه
International Recommendations for Energy Statistics In	التوصيات الدولية لإحصاءات الطاقة

Arabic	
<a href="#">System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012: Central Framework -2014 Arabic Final</a>	<a href="#">نظام المحاسبة البيئية والاقتصادية، — 2012 الإطار المركزي</a>

## Projects in 2015-2016

<b>Strengthening Statistical Capacity of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine in Producing Energy Statistics and Energy Consumption Surveys</b> Completed	مشروع مسح استهلاك الطاقة في قطاع النقل في إطار تعزيز القدرات الإحصائية الوطنية للبلدان العربية في إنتاج إحصاءات وميزان الطاقة
<b>Strengthening the statistical capacity of the countries members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth</b> Ongoing	مشروع تعزيز القدرات الإحصائية للبلدان الأعضاء في الإسكوا في إنتاج ونشر المؤشرات الاقتصادية قصيرة الأجل من أجل تحقيق النمو المستدام
<b>Regional Project on Strengthening National Capacities in Energy Statistics and Energy Indicators</b> <a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/esab/">http://www.escwa.un.org/esab/</a> Completed <a href="http://taqaway.net/unescwa">http://taqaway.net/unescwa</a> Along the DA project on energy statistics and balances that was implemented by ESCWA, a series of national, regional and subregional trainings were undertaken in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the United National Statistics Division (UNSD). The training material developed by IEA and the International Guidelines developed by UNSD were translated into Arabic. E-learning courses are now on-line on a joint portal developed by the The Regional Center for Renewable <b>Energy</b> and <b>Energy</b> Efficiency (RCREEE) and UNESCWA, called TaqaWay Sustainable Energy Network. The purpose of the E-learning and Network, is to support countries in compiling energy balances and to promote the access and better analysis of energy statistics in the Arab countries. To gain access to this course, please sign up at: <a href="http://www.taqaway.net/user/register">http://www.taqaway.net/user/register</a>	مشروع تنمية القدرات الوطنية للدول الأعضاء في الإسكوا في مجال إحصاءات الطاقة وإعداد ميزان الطاقة <a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/esab/">http://www.escwa.un.org/esab/</a>
<b>International Comparison Program - ICP</b> <a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp">http://www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp</a>	برنامج المقارنات الدولية <a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp">http://www.escwa.un.org/icp2011/index.asp</a>
Scaling up the global initiative on the implementation of the System of National Accounts and supporting statistics <a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2013/M8a-23.pdf">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2013/M8a-23.pdf</a>	



### List of Missions in Economic Statistics

REQUESTING AGENCY/BENEFICIARIES	COUNTRIES VISITED	PURPOSE OF MISSION	DURATION OF MISSION	RESULTS/RECOMMENDATIONS	FOLLOW UP
CAPMAS	Egypt	Technical Advisory Mission on Economic Survey questionnaires-	24-28 July 2016		
DOS	Jordan	<p>ESCWA Assistance for the Jordanian National Statistical Strategy  <a href="https://www.unescwa.org/news/escwa-assistance-jordanian-national-statistical-strategy">https://www.unescwa.org/news/escwa-assistance-jordanian-national-statistical-strategy</a></p> <p>ESCWA, took part in reviewing the National Statistical Strategy of Jordan, in response to a request by the Department of Statistics (DOS) and in cooperation with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris 21). The advisory mission held talks with several national stakeholders to review and assess the status of sectoral statistics and draft a national strategy that would help the Jordanian government put in place evidence-based policies, to implement economic and development goals and achieve sustainable development.</p>	16-21 July 2016		
Statistics Office Ministry of Economy	Mauritania	Development of Supply and Use Tables			
Ajman	UAE	Training on National Accounts	12 -18 March, 2016	Ajman	UAE
Ministry of Planning and Development –Statistical Office	Qatar	Supply and Use Tables	22-28 March 2016	Doha	
CAPMAS	Egypt	Balancing Supply and Use tables	6-11/12/2015		
CAPMAS	Egypt	During the 11 <sup>th</sup> session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee that was convened in Jordan in February 2015, Egypt requested ESCWA,	11-17/09/2015	Conclusions and recommendations were proposed for each of National accounts	-An EGM to discuss the mission's report with various



		OECD's Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Program (PARIS21), UN-ECA and African Development Bank to assist in the assessment of their national statistical system. The four organizations The mission of the team was set to carry out a technical assessment of the national statistical system in Egypt with focus on CAPMAS. This assessment is sought for setting the foundation for building a national strategy for Statistics in Egypt,		Foreign trade statistics Industrial Statistics Price Statistics and index numbers Energy Statistics Tourism Statistics	stakeholders - Preparing a national strategy for statistical development in the country. - ESCWA to continue working with PARIS21 and the other partners in this mission in the follow-up activities since they fall under ESCWA's mandate and where visibility is high for this work in Egypt.
Central Information Organization (CIO) - Bahrain	Kingdom of Bahrain	Building the capacities of the CIO in the fields of construction of the Supply and Use Tables (SUTs), compiling the current and accumulation accounts for the financial sector, assessing the compiled integrated accounts to provide them with recommendations on how to improve them and compiling the financial accounts for each of the institutional sectors.	12 Days (6-17 June, 2015)	The methods and data sources used for compiling the national accounts for the financial sector, general government sector and supply and use tables were assessed. Accordingly, the necessary advice and recommendations were provided to help the CIO in improving the accounts and starting the construction of SUTs. After the assessment the capacities of the technical staff at the CIO were enhanced through organizing a training workshop on the compilation methods used for compiling and deriving the estimated needed for compiling SUT, current and accumulated accounts for the financial sector and financial accounts for each of the institutional sectors. The CIO is required to compile the accounts according to the recommendations provided during this mission.	Follow-up mission by the regional advisor will be needed to assess the work to be done and provide them with advice on how to proceed forward in improving the results.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)	Jordan	Provide on-Job-training on how to compile the current and accumulation accounts for Financial Corporations Sector also on how to compile the financial accounts for other institutional sectors and demonstrating to them their relations with the financial sector accounts.	4 days (24-27 May, 2015)	Enhanced the capacities of the three senior statisticians participated in the mission on the compilation methods related to financial sector and financial accounts for other institutional sectors. At the end of mission preliminary work plan was developed for compiling the required national accounts for the financial sector and the financial accounts for other institutional sectors. The PCBS is required to compile the accounts in accordance with recommendations of this mission	
National Bureau of Statistics - UAE	United Arab Emirates	Build the capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics and the local statistical offices of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Northern Emirates in the fields of price statistics and national accounts and guide them through the process of producing sub-national price indices in the United Arab Emirates.	4 days (18 to 21 May, 2015)	Participants and NBS staff members acquired good understanding and knowledge on how to implement the different statistical price surveys and were introduced to the software kit used to compute price indicators. The national accounts experts in NBS were trained on how to obtain a detailed disaggregation of the GDP Expenditures.	TA mission by the RA will be needed to assess the compiled accounts and provide them with comments that can help in going forward
Ministry of Development Planning and statistics, Qatar	Qatar	Provide technical assistant to the training workshop on "financial statistics and data collection" and to discuss areas of cooperation that ESCWA could contribute to the development and improvement of economic statistics in Qatar.	5 days (8-12 March 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data sources were assessed to re-organize the training material to make them applicable to Qatar situation.</li> <li>- The RA participated in the training workshop in collaboration with one of the experts from (SESRIC).</li> <li>- Meeting with senior officials to evaluate the outcome of the training and to discuss the future collaboration. The Ministry would prepare and collect the additional data that were</li> </ul>	TA mission will be needed to assess the work done and to assist them in improving the accounts for the financial sector and to assist them in completing some of the tasks in work plan

				identified and try to compile the accounts for the financial sector based on what they have learned from the workshop.	
Statistical agencies of member countries	Jordan	To provide substantive inputs to the discussions to answer the questions from the delegations related to national accounts and economic statistics. Also to contribute to formulating recommendations related to ESCWA's Eleventh Session of the statistical committee meeting	2 days (4-5 February 2015)	All the questions raised by countries concerning the implementation of SNA2008 in the region were answered. Additionally, the proposed strategy for implementing SNA2008 and the programs being implemented by Statistics Division at ESCWA were presented. At the end the recommendations of the meeting especially those related to economic statistics and national account statistics were formulated.	Some countries have expressed interest and asked for technical assistance in implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts and the most important of these countries Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Libya
National Bureau of Statistics and Other Statistical offices in UAE	UAE	Provide technical assistance on Prices and national Accounts	15-19 December 2014		
Institute of Statistics	Tunisia	Assess the data availability and needs for Energy balance in Tunisia	10 November 2014	Provide further on results of survey on Energy use in transport	
National Statistical Offices and Central banks	Qatar, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan Lebanon	Missions for needs assessment on status and priorities STI in the countries	6 missions January to April 2015	Assessment to provide further guidance on compilation methodologies	
DOS	Jordan	To assess the CPI indices	25-29 May 2014	Provided recommendations how to compile other price and volume indices with new base yr probably 2010 and help DOS in compiling early warning indicators,	
Training jointly with IMF statistics department on National Accounts	Kuwait	Training on National Accounts 2008 SNA	23/3 to 3/4 March 2014	Present ESCWA's countries status of implementation of 2008 SNA	

Workshop in Amman in collaboration		AITRS in Input Output Tables	20 to 24 April 2014	Participants from all Arab countries were trained on compilation of Input-Output tables	
Egyptian ministry of planning	Egypt	To provide a technical assistance to CAPMAS on 2008 SNA implementation	(28-31 Jan 2014) and (1 to 4 Feb 2014)		

#### Other missions

1. Technical assistance to the Dubai Statistics. Center to follow up on the progress made on the producers price index, industrial production index and to help in initializing price indices for the cost of material , Dubai, 3-13 Jan. 2013
2. Technical assistance to DOS on the first steps toward the implementation of SNA in Amman, Jordan during the period 3-15 March 2013.
3. IMF/METAC/ESCWA workshop on asymmetries in bilateral remittances in Amman (24-25/4) and in the regional workshop on industrial statistics in Riyadh (29/4 to 30/4)and in the ICP workshop in Istanbul (1/5 to 3/5)
4. Technical assistance to the department of Statistics in Jordan to help in compilation of quarterly and annually indicators, Amman from 14-25 July 2013
5. Participation in the regional training workshop on industrial statistics for the Arab countries in cooperation with AIDMO, GOIC and UNSD, in Doha, Qatar from 30 September to 2 October 2013 (amended to approve advance)
6. Mission to the ministry of planning (28-31 Jan 2014) to provide a technical assistance to CAPMAS on 2008 SNA implementation (1 to 4 Feb 2014)
7. Training jointly with IMF statistics department on National Accounts and present ESCWA's countries status of implementation of 2008 SNA from 23/3 to 3/4 March 2014 in Kuwait
8. Workshop in Amman in collaboration with AITRS in Input Output Tables from 20 to 24 April 2014
9. Workshop on the upcoming Jordan Population and Housing Census 5-6 May 2014.
10. Mission to assess the CPI indices and provide recommendations how to compile other price and volume indices with new base yr probably 2010 and help DOS in compiling early warning indicators, Amman, 25-29 May 2014
11. Missions on STI to Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan January to April 2015
12. Mission to Tunisia on Energy balance 10 November 2014
13. Mission to UAE on Prices and national Accounts 15-19 December 2014