



## Editorial

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The Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa experienced a disrupted first half of the year 2020 in terms of activities and organization due to the renewal of the institution's management and the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, in the first days of January 2020, the new Director General, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, began his term of office, which will run for the next four years. At the same time, Mr. Amadou Hott, the Senegalese Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, who is also Chairman of the AFRISTAT Council of Ministers for the period 2020-2021, was briefed on the Observatory's pressing issues.

After these institutional arrangements, the actions carried out focused on internal organizational capacity building, partnership building, resource mobilization, visibility, technical assistance and management of the growing health crisis.

With regard to internal organizational capacity building, the Director General held several explanatory meetings with all staff members to recall AFRISTAT's vision and the working methods he recommends to achieve it. He particularly stressed the values of competence, professionalism and results culture to which all staff members should be committed.

With regard to strengthening partnerships and visibility, meetings were organized with the Observatory's main technical and financial partners. With the AfDB, the ECA, INSEE, PARIS21, the World Bank, the IMF, Expertise France and FAO, as well as the Commissions of the AU, WAEMU, CAEMC, ECOWAS, exchanges were held to discuss ongoing and future cooperation. Specifically in terms of visibility, substantial work was carried out on the new AFRISTAT website and the Super-Jupiter multisectoral database. In addition, several issues of the AFRISTAT Newsletter, some of them in English, were published and widely disseminated through various channels. AFRISTAT participated in the work of the 51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020.

In the context of mobilization of AFRISTAT's own resources, the Executive Management prompted the reactivation of the Ministerial Committee for the mobilization of AFRISTAT's own resources. Its technical body thus provided all Member States with the recent financial situation of the Observatory which called for acceleration of statutory contributions in the institution's accounts.

As regards technical assistance, it was carried out in a normal manner in January and February 2020. From March 2020, requests for face-to-face technical assistance became rare. This is a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the main manifestation of which was the generalized containment of countries. Faced with this situation, AFRISTAT Executive Management immediately implemented barrier measures in the workplace, offered teleworking opportunities and upgraded its use of videoconferencing platforms. In addition, AFRISTAT has also established an effective presence of the Observatory on continental and international exchange forums on ways to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the regularity and quality of statistical production. The effort to upgrade technology has made it possible to carry out some activities despite the restrictions on movements required. Thus, AFRISTAT was able to carry out the mid-term evaluation of the AFRISTAT 2017-2021 statistical work program.

In view of limited travel possibilities, experts were encouraged to produce methodological documents and provide remote assistance to national officials upon request.

For the coming weeks, the Observatory will continue to work in a rational manner by transforming into opportunities the inconveniences imposed by the current health context. At the same time, the experts must be ready to be deployed in the field as soon as possible.

*Paul-Henri NGUEMA MEYE*  
AFRISTAT Director General



## Visits

*During the first half of 2020, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Director General of AFRISTAT, paid courtesy and working visits to Member States and some partners of the Observatory. He also welcomed an ECOWAS delegation to Bamako.*

### ■ MALI

\* On 13 January 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT was received in audience by Mr. Adama Tiémoko Diarra, Mali's Minister of Land Management and Population. The objective of the meeting was to present to the political authority the ambitions of the new Director General at the head of the institution, inform the Minister that his mandate as Chairman of the Ministerial Committee in charge of replenishing AFRISTAT's own resources was reactivated during the last Council of Ministers and outline actions likely to be taken within this framework. The meeting was attended by the Director General of INSTAT and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Land Management and Population.



\* The French Ambassador to Mali, Mr. Joël Meyer, granted audience to the Director General of AFRISTAT on 30 January 2020. The discussions, which took place in the presence of the Head of the Cooperation and Cultural Action Department at the Embassy and the expert on agricultural statistics and climate change at AFRISTAT, focused on cooperation between the Observatory and French institutions. Ideas were put forward with a view to revitalizing statistical cooperation between France, the Observatory

Operations at Expertise France, was received in audience on 29 January 2020 in Bamako by the Director General of AFRISTAT. Discussions during this meeting focused on the monitoring and evaluation of the SMSDGA project that AFRISTAT and Expertise France are implementing jointly with INSEE. Prospects for strengthening cooperation between the two institutions were also on the agenda with a review of possible areas of intervention in AFRISTAT Member States and beyond.

Research and Statistics and Statistical Harmonization Program Officer, was

received at AFRISTAT on 16 and 17 March 2020. This meeting enabled mutual exchanges on the statistical programs of each agency and their coordination mechanisms.

At the end of the discussions, the ECOWAS delegation expressed interest in the future initiation of a project to develop and make available common methodologies for the production of harmonized and comparable statistical data. The main areas targeted would be national accounts, price statistics, business statistics, etc.

and AFRISTAT Member States.

\* Mr Hervé Conan, Director of

\* A mission of the ECOWAS Commission composed of Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya and Mr. Madji Gaspard, respectively Director of

### ■ SENEGAL

From 14 to 16 January 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT paid a courtesy and working visit to Dakar to introduce himself to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of AFRISTAT for the period 2020-2021 Mr. Amadou HOTT, Senegalese Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation. The two personalities reviewed the main issues on the Observatory namely: resource mobilization,

organization of upcoming statutory meetings and treaty revision. On all these issues, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers gave guidelines to the Director General for the effective conduct of the necessary actions. The Director General of ANSD and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation participated in these exchanges of views.





## ■ CÔTE D'IVOIRE

On 5 February 2020, AFRISTAT's Director General held a working session with Mr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, Director of the Statistics Department and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management of the AfDB. Discussions focused on the status of projects under implementation and ways to improve their expected outcomes. As regards the prospects for AFRISTAT-AfDB cooperation in the coming years, all parties expressed their interest in its continuation and strengthening. Division Heads Louis Koua Kouakou and Ben Paul Munguereza took part in these discussions.



## ■ ETHIOPIA

In February 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT undertook a series of working meetings with representatives of several institutions.

\* Thus, on behalf of the African Union, Mr. Nguema Meye met in turn with Mrs. Leila Ben Ali Kraiem, Head of Division and Coordinator of STATAFRIC, Mrs. Simone Abala, Director of Protocol Services and Prof. Victor Harison, Commissioner for Economic Affairs. With all these interlocutors, the issue of improving the coordination of statistical activities in Africa around SHaSA was the main topic. The development of bilateral cooperation between the two institutions was also discussed as well as the call for support to AFRISTAT's application for accreditation as a member of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government.

\* As regards the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, only the Director of the African Statistical Centre (ASC) Mr. Oliver Chinganya granted a meeting to the Director General of AFRISTAT. The meeting which took place on 11 February 2020 enabled the two parties to take stock of the areas of action they have in common and reflect on the possibilities of pooling their resources to increase technical support to countries. Mr. Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo, Head of Statistical Development Section at the African Centre for Statistics participated in this work. Given the many points of conver

gence, AFRISTAT and ACS agreed to pursue their discussions with a view to establishing a formal framework for cooperation.



## ■ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On 27 February 2020, the Director General of AFRISTAT visited Washington D.C. for contacts at the Bretton Woods Institutions.

\* At the World Bank, exchanges took place first with Mrs. Haishan Fu, Director of the Data Development Group and with her team. This revealed the possibilities of cooperation in the

field of statistical surveys and training in the use of data processing software. The Director General then introduced AFRISTAT to Mr. Alphonse Bi Kouakou, Alternate Administrator of the Africa II Group. He received some advice from the latter to increase AFRISTAT's visibility.

\* At the IMF level, Mr. Nguema Meye was able to exchange views with Mr. Facinet Sylla,

Alternate Executive Director of the Africa II Group. He advised AFRISTAT to take part in the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, which are conducive frameworks for awareness raising and advocacy for the mobilization of own resources. It was concluded that AFRISTAT should apply for accreditation to participate in the Annual Meetings.

## New AFRISTAT Director General takes office

The Council of Ministers of AFRISTAT at its 29th Ordinary Session held on 27 March 2019 in Niamey, appointed Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, of Gabonese nationality, as Director General of AFRISTAT for a four-year term starting on 1 January 2020.

Previously Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT (2013-2019), Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye took up his new position on January 6, 2020.

Mr. Nguema Meye is a graduate of the Institut

Africain et Mauricien de Statistiques et d'Economie Appliquée (IAMSEA) in Kigali (Rwanda) in 1989. He is also a laureate of the Institut de l'Economie et des Finances at Libreville (1991-1993), which has become a regional training centre of CAEMC.

In 1993, he was recruited at the General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabon where he successively held the positions of Director of National Accounting (1995-2000) and Deputy Director General (2000-2009).

In 2009, he was promoted Economic and Financial Advisor to the Minister in charge of Agriculture (2009-2010), then Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister (2010-2012).

In the latter position, he was responsible for creating and leading the joint coordination framework for relations between the Gabonese Government and its technical and financial partners.

# Activities of the Directorate General

## Virtual seminars on the economic situation in the first half of 2020 and short-term macroeconomic forecasts

*During the first half of 2020, two seminars were organized:*

■ A Webinar on the economic situation in the first half of 2020 and short-term macroeconomic forecasts in WAEMU countries, Guinea and Mauritania was held from 10 to 11 June 2020. This Webinar was organized by AFRISTAT, the WAEMU Commission and West AFRITAC. All the States concerned were represented by participants in charge of economic analysis and macroeconomic forecasting respectively. The Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG), the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the West Africa Sub-Regional Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA-WESA SRO), the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), AFRISTAT, West AFRITAC, the WAEMU Commission and the ECOWAS Commission were also represented.

This seminar, which brought together thirty-three (33) participants, made it possible to: (i) present the recent economic situation and forecasts for the period 2020-2021 of the States, with a view to facilitating the follow-up work of the WAEMU Commission, AFRISTAT, West AFRITAC, BCEAO and other sub-regional and regional institutions; (ii) share the experience and best practices of each of the Member States and regional institutions, in the context of the COVID-19 related pandemic.

■ A Webinar on the situation in the first half of 2020 and short-term macroeconomic forecasts in CAEMC Member States, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti and Madagascar was held from 24 to 26 June

2020. This virtual seminar was jointly organized by the CAEMC Commission, AFRISTAT and Central AFRITAC. All the States concerned were represented by participants respectively in charge of economic analysis and macroeconomic forecasting, with the exception of Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe which did not take part in the proceedings. This seminar, which brought together thirty (30) participants, made it possible to: (i) present the recent economic situation and macroeconomic forecasts for the period 2020-2021 of the States, with a view to facilitating the follow-up work of the CAEMC Commission, AFRISTAT and Central AFRITAC; (ii) share the experience and best practices of each of the Member States and regional institutions, in the context of the prevailing health crisis.

## Implementation Agreement for the execution of WAEMURSP 2015-2020 statistical work

*The first half of 2020 was marked by the continuation of face-to-face support in Mali for business statistics and national accounts, while virtual support for other countries was carried out in addition to the development of country activity programs for the survey component.*

### Business Statistics Component

The first half of 2020 was marked by the continuation of direct support in Mali. A support mission to INSTAT took place from 15 to 26 June 2020, to process data and calculate indicators for the qualitative opinion survey of industrial companies.

This support made it possible to set up a small representative sample of the industrial fabric for the purposes of the qualitative opinion survey, to calculate the provisional weightings of product ranges and companies based on turnover, to develop the data processing model and to calculate the provisional qualitative opinion indicators.

### National accounting component

■ AFRISTAT coordinated a joint mission to assess the results of the change of base year and migration to the 2008 SNA carried out by partner institutions and peers in Togo. The mission took place from 27 to 31 January 2020 in Lomé. The partners who participated in this joint mission were AFRISTAT, West AFRITAC, the World Bank, AfDB, ECA, BCEAO, and the WAEMU Commission.

AFRISTAT was represented during this mission by Mr. Ibrahima Sory, national accounts expert, and three associate national accounts experts mobilized by AFRISTAT as peers.

The overall objective of this joint mission was to assess the results of the change of base year and migration of Togo's national accounts to SNA2008. This mission made it possible to: (i) analyze the extent to which the recommendations of the SNA 2008 have been taken into account; (ii) examine the level of coverage of data sources used to compile national accounts for the new base year; (iii) review the methods used to calculate the various aggregates; and (iv) formulate operational recommendations.

■ Mr. Ibrahima Sory carried out a support mission to the INSTAT of Mali from 30 March to 10 April 2020.

The general objective of this support was to finalize the results for the new base year 2015 according to the methodology of the SNA2008. The work of the mission allowed to: (i) match the data from the General Census of Economic Units (GCEU) with those from the statistical and fiscal declarations (SFD) of companies in order to avoid duplication; (ii) reconcile the list of industries covered by the ERI-ESI

survey with those covered by the GCEU in order to refine the results; (iii) target the variables in the GCEU database needed to extrapolate those of companies for the national accounts; (iv) establish a basis for extrapolating companies that can be used for the national accounts.

### Survey Component

■ The activities of this component concerned the drafting of the terms of reference and the technical note of the thematic studies to be carried out from the ERI-ESI data. The regional review to be produced is entitled "Labour Market, Informal Sector and Household Living Conditions in WAEMU Member States".

■ Also discussed about the development of the countries' program of activities and the technical note for the anonymization of ERI-ESI data to facilitate the dissemination of micro-data. The revised activity programs and associated budgets of the RSP for Togo, Burkina Faso and Mali were finalized and submitted to the WAEMU Commission. Remote exchanges are continuing between AFRISTAT and the country teams of Niger, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau for finalization of their programs of activities and budgets.

## Capacity Building Project in Chad

*During the period under review, one national accounting support mission and two virtual coordination meetings were held.*

Concerning the technical support mission, it was carried out by an associate expert in national accounting, who stayed in N'Djamena from 20 February to 5 March 2020. The work of the mission allowed to: (i) finalize the analysis of the preliminary consistency of data sources initiated by the team; (ii) carry out resource-use balances of products at the end level of the national accounts classification.

Regarding virtual meetings, the first one was

organized between AFRISTAT and INSEED Chad on Thursday, 14 May 2020. It brought together the Directors General of AFRISTAT and INSEED Chad. They were assisted by their staff and experts in charge of the areas covered by the project. It provided an opportunity to take stock of activities already carried out in the areas of national accounts and business statistics and to exchange views on prospects for cooperation beyond the two themes already covered.

The second meeting was organized on Thursday 21 May 2020 between staff of the Economic Statistics Directorate of INSEED Chad and experts from the Economic Studies and Syntheses Department (DESE) of AFRISTAT. It provided an opportunity to discuss future activities under the project and new support needs, particularly in price statistics, the business directory and survey, economic monitoring and the social accounting matrix.

## International Comparison Program for Africa 2017 (ICP-Africa 2017)

*During the first half of 2020, AFRISTAT conducted ICP-Africa 2017 monitoring activities in the area under its supervision. They mainly covered the administrative and financial aspects of the program.*

On the technical side, there were no activities during the six months under review. The participating countries are awaiting the publication of the results on purchasing power parities (PPP) by the African Development Bank (AfDB) after the publication of the global report.

It should also be noted that preparations are under way at the level of this institution for the launching of the activities of ICP-Africa Round 2021. To this end, exchanges between AFRISTAT and the AfDB are underway for the

conduct of joint missions in some countries. The process is suspended until further notice following the spread of COVID-19 in the world.

Under the administrative aspects, countries continue to submit supporting documents for expenditures made under the Program. ICP-Africa 2017 annual progress reports for 2019 and the first quarter of 2020 are being prepared. The technical and financial progress report for the closing of the program as of 30 June 2020 is being prepared.

AFRISTAT has launched the Notice of Expression of Interest (NOI) for the accounting and financial audits of the Multi-country Statistical Capacity Building Program for Managing for Development Results (MCSP 4.2) and the International Comparison Program (ICP-Africa 2017) for fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 including the closing audits.

## Project to Support the Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (SMSDGA)

*The SMSDGA project is a project funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and implemented by AFRISTAT and Expertise France with technical support from INSEE. During the first quarter of 2020, the project has continued its support to schools through the organization of an awareness day for the monitoring of SDGs for the benefit of ISSEA and IFORD students. In the second quarter, the work program was adjusted following the Steering Committee meeting held by videoconference on 25 June 2020, to take into account the constraints on the implementation of activities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. A meeting of the Steering Committee was held, by videoconference, on 25 June 2020, for the validation of the redesigned work program.*

### Organization of a sensitization day for the monitoring of SDGs in Yaoundé-Cameroon

The organization of sensitization days for the monitoring of SDGs is part of the training of students from four African schools of statistics and demographic research in the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs. Thus, the project provided technical and financial support to ISSEA and IFORD for the co-organization of an awareness day for the monitoring of SDGs. This event was held on 30 January 2020 in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

The theme of the day was "The role of the statistician and the demographer in the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs". This day made it possible to inform the students of these schools as well as other interested stakeholders on the usefulness of monitoring progress in the achievement of SDGs and to accompany the training of these students in the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs.

About 250 people participated in the event which was sponsored by the CAEMC representative.

It should be recalled that the project had already supported two other schools in the network of African statistical schools (ENSEA in Abidjan and ENSAE in Dakar) to organize similar days.

### Holding of the 4th meeting of the steering committee

The 4th meeting of the Steering Committee of the project was held by videoconference on 25 June 2020 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Assistant Director of Development at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. In addition to representatives of the project implementing partners, representatives of the National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis (ENSAE) of Dakar, the Sub-regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics of Yaoundé (ISSEA) and the Institute of Demographic Training and Research (IFORD) of Yaoundé participated in the meeting. AFRISTAT was represented by its Director General Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye as well as Mr. Madior Fall and Mr. Nathanaël Yahannon, respectively Expert in Agricultural and Environmental Statistics and Project Coordinator. This meeting was held in a

context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project team (Expertise France, AFRISTAT and INSEE) presented the assessment of activities implemented over the period July 2019 to June 2020, the difficulties encountered, the solutions adopted and the financial situation of the project. Discussions made it possible to examine the difficulties raised and to propose solutions. During this meeting, the activities planned for the second half of 2020 were also presented and validated for the most part.

Thus, the project will continue its support to countries for the development of food balance sheets. Young statisticians will be recruited to carry out work on themes related to SDGs. Support will be given to schools for the organization of a second edition of awareness days for the monitoring of SDGs. A training workshop in computer graphics and communication will be organized for the executives of the six pilot countries involved in the design and dissemination of statistical documents related to SDGs.



# Other AFRISTAT Activities

## AFRISTAT expert support missions

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

### ■ CAMEROON

The NSO received support from 24 February to 6 March 2020 for the implementation of a construction cost index (CCI). This mission enabled the following results to be achieved:

- The definition of the coverage of the index with 10 regions;
- The development of the terms of reference for the recruitment of the consultant in charge of the preparation of the quantitative estimates;
- The establishment of a classification of goods and services;
- The development of a provisional list of goods and services;
- The development of a roadmap for the continuation of the work;
- The production of a methodological guide and updated manuals in relation to the realities of the country;
- The sensitization of the administrations involved on the expectations of the NSO regarding the implementation of the CCI.

### ■ DJIBOUTI

AFRISTAT was in Djibouti from 23 February to 5 March 2020, as part of support to national accounts of NSO. The overall objective of this mission was to finalize the national accounts for 2013, following the inclusion of revised and complementary data sources.

The work of the mission allowed to: (i) integrate at the most detailed level possible the new information obtained on ports, freight forwarders, free zone companies, as well as foreign trade statistics; (ii) resume the resource and use balance, employment and branch accounts in order to obtain a new supply and use table (TRE) for 2013; (iii) update the model of the quick accounts based on the new information; (iv) continue the work of analysis and publication of results.

### ■ GABON

The Executive Management of NSO (DGS) in Libreville received technical support from 3 to 14 February 2020. This assistance participated in the renovation of the Harmonized Consumer Prices Index (HCPI) in Gabon. At the end of this work, the following results were obtained:

- DGS executives are trained in the analysis of indicators relating to price trends;
- The file of secondary classification is compiled and their weights are deducted for publication purposes;
- The tools and manuals that should accompany the validation meeting for the new HCPI production system in Gabon are validated;
- The basic prices of homogeneous varieties as well as those of heterogeneous series calculated by the DGS for the year 2018 are validated;
- The connection coefficients calculated by the DGS are validated;
- An audit of the computerized production system is carried out;

- The practice of replacement of the outlets, suppression of elementary products and reallocation of elementary products is tested.

### ■ GUINEA

AFRISTAT carried out a support mission to the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG) in Conakry from 10 to 21 February 2020, to finalize work on the implementation of the turnover index (TI) in industry, construction, trade and services. This support made it possible to process the available data from company data collections, calculate provisional weights, and validate models for calculating the turnover index in industry, construction, trade and services. In the end, the provisional quarterly TI for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were calculated. In addition, the mission developed the follow-up questionnaires for the regular production of the TI.

Within the framework of monitoring cooperation between AFRISTAT and BCRG, a videoconference meeting was held on 19 May 2020 to take stock of technical support provided by the Observatory. The implementation of the following activities was discussed during the meeting:

- The implementation of the turnover index in industry, construction, trade and services;
- The implementation of the turnover index in the financial sector (banks and insurance companies);
- The improvement of the qualitative survey of opinions in industry, construction, trade and services and also in banking and insurance;
- The development of an industrial production index (IPI) for the specific needs of the BCRG.

At the end of this meeting, it was recommended to develop a roadmap for the improvement of the business survey mechanism in industry, construction, trade and services and also for the establishment of an industrial production index (IPI) for the specific needs of the BCRG.

### ■ TOGO

A technical support mission took place from 27 February to 6 March 2020 in Kpalimé. Its main objective was to strengthen the capacities of the staff in charge of the production of the National Harmonized Consumer Prices Index (NHCP). The topics covered during the sessions were: Introduction and basic concepts of the NHCP; Collection system; Organization of the NHCP production; NHCP methodology; the Phoenix-WAEMU tool; Change of price base, connection and reinterpolation, nesting of divisions within the National Accounting and Economic Studies Department.

Central African Republic

The Director General of AFRISTAT had a phone meeting with the Director General of the Central African Institute for Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (ICASEES) on 21 May 2020 to continue discussions on priority support to be provided by the Observatory in the Central African Republic. The two parties agreed to rapidly

launch support in the area of price statistics and to ensure that all the conditions are met before the start of technical support on the development of a national quality insurance framework in the Central African Republic.

AFRISTAT also conducted a videoconferencing training course for managers of the ICASEES price service from 1 to 12 June 2020. The objective of this training was to build the capacity of the Institute's managers on the CAPI system attached to the Phoenix application. A total of four (4) statistical and computer managers were trained in the installation and use of the computerized collection module. The price statisticians are trained in the parameterization and initialization of the price index production system called Phoenix.

A validated version of the computerized collection module for the Phoenix system has been made available to ICASEES.

### ■ EQUATORIAL GUINEA

INEGE exchanged with AFRISTAT on the possible consequences of COVID-19 on the 1-2-3 survey on which work has been initiated. These include anticipating possible biases on the levels and structure of survey data collected on the food basket, weights for the consumer price index and on employment.

Will COVID-19 impact the food basket? If so, how can its effects be adjusted to provide stable weights? How can the employment effects of COVID-19 be corrected?

Discussions between AFRISTAT and INEGE focused on:

- Changes in household consumption patterns and impacts on price index weights;
- the effect of social distancing rules introduced as preventive measures on the use of public spaces (restaurants, cafés and bars, places of worship, etc.) and public transport (commercial flights, intercity passenger transport, etc.) leading de facto to the loss of employment of workers in these sectors;
- Change of data collection tools and methods to limit the effect of the pandemic on the quality of data collected.

AFRISTAT has provided leads for the correction of biases likely to arise from COVID-19 on food basket weights and employment statistics. It also recommended to the INEGE team (i) the continuation of preparatory work for the 1-2-3 survey and (ii) the completion of the main collection after the economy has effectively recovered. At the end of the discussions, AFRISTAT Management reaffirmed its readiness to support INEGE in the implementation of this operation.

# INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## AFRISTAT took part in international meetings organized during 2019

N°	Events	Period	Location	Organizers
1.	Participation in the workshop to finalize the poverty and well-being indicators	13 to 24 January 2020	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso	WAEMU Commission
2.	Thirty-sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Technical Committee of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)	6 to 13 February 2020	Freetown Sierra Leone	West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)
3.	4th Consultative Meeting with Regional Economic Communities (RECs)	20 February 2020	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	African Union
4.	Regional capacity building workshop for experts from WAEMU Member States in the production and dissemination of employment and vocational training indicators	25 to 28 February 2020	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso	WAEMU Commission
5.	51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission	3 to 6 March 2020	New-York USA	United Nations Statistical Commission
6.	Meeting of the Franc Zone Convergence Committee	13 March 2020	Visioconference	Franc Zone Convergence Committee
7.	Meeting of the PARIS21 2020 Board	7 April 2020	Visioconference	PARIS21
8.	Virtual conference on the review of the impact of COVID-19 on African national statistical systems	9 April 2020	Visioconference	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
9.	Extraordinary Meeting of the African Statistical Coordination Committee	16 April 2020	Visioconference	African Union Commission
10.	Virtual workshop by videoconference for French-speaking countries on the problems encountered in the production of the consumer price index and the solutions envisaged	7 May 2020	Visioconference	African Union Commission (AUC) and AFRISTAT
11.	Virtual workshop on first semester economic situation and macroeconomic forecast 2020-2021 for WAEMU member states, Guinea and Mauritania	10 to 11 June 2020	Visioconference	AFRISTAT, WestAFRITAC and WAEMU Commission
12.	Virtual workshop on first semester economic situation and macroeconomic forecast 2020-2021 for CAEMC member states, DR Congo, Burundi, Comoros, Sao Tome Principe, Djibouti and Madagascar	24 to 26 June 2020	Visioconference	AFRISTAT, Central AFRITAC and CAEMC Commission
13.	Meeting on NSDS	26 May 2020	Visioconference	for Africa (UNECA)
14.	Regional webinar on data collection for the compilation of the CPI in the fight against COVID-19	18 to 28 May 2020	Visioconference	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
15.	Extraordinary Sessions of the Steering Committee of the Program for the Harmonisation and Modernization of Living Conditions Surveys (PHMECV) in WAEMU Member States	27 May and 15 June 2020	Visioconference	WAEMU Commission
16.	Webinar on the "blue economy"	26 June 2020	Visioconference	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)
17.	Webinar on "Population Statistics and Vital Statistics: What's New for NSIs?"	29 to 30 June 2020	Visioconference	INSEE, AFRISTAT and PARIS21

# Echoes from National Statistical Institutes

## BURUNDI

[www.isteebu.org](http://www.isteebu.org)

- Launch of operations to collect the Integrated Survey on the Living Conditions of Households in Burundi 2019-2020 (EICVMB 2019-2020) with the support of the World Bank through the Institutional Capacity Building Project for Government Effectiveness (PRCIEG).

- Validation of the Country Report on Support to Statistics, 2020 Edition, commonly known as the "Country Report on Support to Statistics-CRESS", during the workshop held on 5 March 2020.

## CAMEROON

[www.statistics-cameroon.org](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org)

- Launch in January 2020 of the study on the mapping of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Cameroon, with the support of the European Development Fund (EDF).

- Holding of the annual meeting of the heads of central and decentralized services of the NSI from 23 to 24 January 2020 in Yaoundé on the theme: "Statistics, decentralization and local development: challenges and prospects".

- Organization in Yaoundé, on 29 and 30 January 2020, of a methodological colloquium on the monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 2030.

- Sharing of NSI experiences on the implementation of the National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) within the SNIS, on the sidelines of the 51st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in New York in March 2020. The development of Cameroon's National Quality Assurance Framework benefited from technical support from AFRISTAT and Statistics Canada.

- Conducting, in the second quarter of 2020, of a survey to assess the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 with financial support from UNDP.

- Launching of a study to assess the effects of COVID-19 on the activities of the National Statistical System and identify new needs driven by this pandemic.

- Data collection in March 2020 for the production of the Compendium and metadata of Environment Statistics.

- Organization of two workshops, in the second quarter of 2020, for the validation of the report of the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the NSDS 2015-2020 and the

development of three (03) "policy briefs" in the framework of the implementation of the MEWGC Program supported by UN Women. The policy briefs focused on (1) Gender and dynamics of health indicators (2) Financial inclusion, gender and poverty reduction and (3) Entrepreneurship and gender in Cameroon

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

[www.ins.ci](http://www.ins.ci)

- Signature, on 24 February 2020 of a partnership agreement between the Permanent Technical Bureau of the Census (BTPR) and the Youth Employment Agency (AEJ) for the recruitment of 37,500 census takers for the 2020 General Population Census (GPC).

- Re-evaluation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2015 (base year) under the 2008 SNA to CFA F 27 086 billion against CFA F 19 595 billion under the 1993 SNA, a variation of 38.2%. The work of rebasing the annual accounts has benefited from the support of the following institutions and countries: AFRISTAT, AFRITAC West, ECA, World Bank, AfDB, Senegal and Togo.

- Organization in March 2020 of a workshop to calculate the weightings of databases and production of analytical tables for the National Employment Survey in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019.

- Validation of the NSI Procedures Manual during a workshop held from 04 to 06 March 2020 in Jacqueville.

- Postponement of EDS-MICS 2020 data collection in March 2021 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Reporting on the results of the evaluation study of the impact of COVID-19 on the activities of companies in the modern formal sector and production units in the informal sector as well as on the living conditions of households, during a ceremony held on 29 May 2020 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning and Development.

- Organization of a working session on 19 June 2020 in Abidjan, with a view to relaunching the Economic Census of Industrial Enterprises and Establishments in Côte d'Ivoire (REEIE-CI). The first two stages relating to (1) preparatory work and (2) data collection and consolidation will be carried out between November 2018 and May 2020. The third stage consisting of (3) processing, analysis, dissemination and archiving remains to be carried out.

## GABON

[www.statgabon.ga](http://www.statgabon.ga)

- Drawing a roadmap, with technical support from the AfDB, for the preparation of Gabon's 2nd National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS-II). This roadmap includes the organizational framework of the selected activities, the budget, a synoptic table of activities and the schedule.

- Preparation of a note on the impact of COVID-19 on prices in Gabon in the HICPI issues of April and May 2020.

- Organization, in collaboration with the World Bank, of a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on business activities and the living conditions of households. This survey will be conducted by telephone on a monthly basis from May to December 2020.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

[www.ineg.gq](http://www.ineg.gq)

- Preparatory work for the implementation of the second National Household Survey (NHS2) in 2020.

- The NHS2 will serve as a reference for the monitoring of the new Development Plan, the national accounts and the updating of the Consumer Price Index shopping basket and the weights for the calculation of the Index.

## MALI

[www.instat-gov.ml](http://www.instat-gov.ml)

- The first meeting of the National Census Commission on the progress of the 5th General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH5) was held on 13 January 2020 in Bamako, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Land Use Planning and Population.

- Launch of the INSTAT Intranet site, on 10 February 2020. The process of setting up the intranet has benefited from the technical and financial support of Statistics Sweden.

- Start of the second phase of the RGPH 5 mapping work, on 1 April 2020, with the deployment of around 343 staff in regions where insecurity is rife.

- Training of around thirty data entry officers for the processing of data for the second phase of the RGPH 5 mapping work, from 2 to 6 June 2020 in Bamako.

- Start of collection work for the Post Census Survey (PCS) on 10 April 2020, in accordance with the implementation schedule.



## SENEGAL

[www.ansd.sn](http://www.ansd.sn)

- Technical compliance of the statistical surveys carried out in Senegal: the system for issuing the statistical visa is set up through a ministerial order signed on 4 March 2020.

- Technical assistance mission of AFRITAC West, from 20 to 31 January 2020, to ANSD with a view to building the capacity of the Senegalese national accountants' team on the preparation of financial accounts, to review the processing of data sources collected and to assist in the identification of complementary sources needed to prepare the said accounts.

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

- Launching, on 18 May 2020, of a survey called "Enquête COVID-19 Industrie (ECI)" with the aim of measuring the induced effects of the pandemic on the industrial sector in Senegal.

- Launching of training and data collection activities on 27 May 2020, in the framework of a monthly survey of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households in Senegal, in partnership with the World Bank.

- Production of a series of briefing notes on household living conditions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Senegal. The following notes have been produced:

- Access to electricity and telecommunications;
- Evolution of COVID-19 in Senegal and chronic diseases;
- Access to water and hand washing: what is the situation in Senegal;
- Household housing conditions: lighting elements in times of COVID-19 pandemic.

- Processing of data from the Harmonized Survey on Household Living Conditions (HLCS

2018-19), carried out in 2018 in collaboration with the WAEMU Commission and the World Bank with the aim of producing updated indicators of well-being and other socio-economic indicators that are comparable between the countries of the Union.

- Processing of data from the Experimental Survey for Capturing the Demographic Dividend in a Dakar commune in collaboration with UNFPA.

- Carrying out tests of the AgriData project's web platform "for agricultural data accessible to all" developed in partnership between ANSD and the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR). This platform will allow the various users to access more easily and quickly to all the agricultural statistical information produced by the players or stakeholders and all on the same web platform.

- Access to disaggregated data in the regions: PARIS21 supports Senegal through the "PARIS21 2020 Trust Initiative".

- Production and dissemination of cyclical publications on quarterly GDP, consumer prices, industrial production, industrial producer prices, foreign trade, economic statistics, during the second quarter of 2020.

## TOGO

[www.togostat.org](http://www.togostat.org)

- A national workshop was held in Lomé on 11 March for the presentation and consideration of the diagnostic report drawn up in the framework of the national logical framework in relation to the development of the national strategy for the development of statistics 2020-2024 (NSDS II).

- Analysis, reformulation and rehousing of activities in the national logical framework in connection with the development of the national statistical development strategy 2020-2024 during a workshop that took place from 13 to 17 April 2020.

- Organization of the Eighth Ordinary Session of the INSEED Board of Directors on 27 February 2020.

- Holding of the partnership mobilization conference for the financing of the RGPH-5 on 16 January 2020 in Lomé, with a view to getting TFPs to adhere to the financing process of the operation and to obtain from them a commitment and a positioning in relation to the budget of the 2020 census.

- Carrying out missions to update the directory of localities in Togo for the 5th RGPH in collaboration with the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Government, from 13 to 28 January 2020. Harmonized, updated and validated village file for all the regions of Togo.

- Finalization of the different applications of the census mapping and the specifications document of the variables of the data collection questionnaire during a workshop held from 27 May to 6 June 2020 in Tsévié. These activities are part of the preparatory work for the 5th RGPH-5.

- On-line publication of the results of the rebasing of Togo's national accounts according to the 2008 SNA on 31 March 2020. Re-evaluation in 2016 (base year) of GDP at current prices at CFA F 3 713.6 billion according to the 2008 SNA against CFA F 2 618.1 billion according to the 1993 SNA, i.e. a re-evaluation of 36.5%.

- Holding of a workshop to finalize the practical guide for project and study management at INSEED, from 17 to 23 May 2020 in Tsévié.

- Organization of a workshop to draft the generic report of the first series of the Harmonized Household Living Conditions Survey (HLCS), from 6 to 16 May 2020.



# Meetings, workshops and seminars

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## **Bangkok, 26-28 August 2020**

7th Session of the Statistics Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

## **15 September 2020**

Webinar on : "Population census in Africa : succed the digital transition"

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## **31 August-2 September 2020**

Sixth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics

## **October 2020**

International Conference on National Accounts and its Implications in Public Life

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## **31 August-10 September 2020**

WAMA 2020 Virtual mid-year meetings

## **Bern, October 18-21, 2020**

Third UN Data Forum

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## **3 September 2020**

Webinar on the theme: "How a quality approach to statistics would have helped to reduce the inconvenience caused by COVID-19"

## **Abu Dhabi, November 11-12, 2020**

7th meeting of the Technical Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative « Arabstat »

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changes that have taken place:

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

For the first year accounts, the consideration of the results looks at both the data sources used and the methods used to compile the national accounts at constant prices.

#### 6. Confidentiality Clause

The experts participating in the assessment exercise are called upon to observe the strictest confidentiality with regard to the information provided by the country being evaluated. All documents submitted by the country in the context of the joint mission are confidential and cannot be made public until the results have been officially validated and disseminated.

#### 7. Composition of the joint mission for the review

The expert team for the peer review includes representatives of partner institutions and countries.

The institutions that participated in this exercise at least once alongside AFRISTAT are: AFRITAC West, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Central Bank of West African States and the Commission of the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union.

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



#### 8. Funding of the joint mission

As far as financing is concerned, the partner institutions bear the cost of their experts.

AFRISTAT finances its participation and that of peer reviewers from countries using its own resources or those of projects under its management.

The evaluated countries are responsible for the practical organisation of the technical work in the form of workshops.

#### 9. 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 outlines the following key points:

- Introduction
- Objectives of the joint mission
- Conduct of the joint mission
- Account Rebasement Process
- Migration to the 2008 SNA
- Main findings of the mission
- Main recommendations of the mission
  - General recommendations
  - Technical recommendations
- Annexes.

#### Partner Institutions



Imprim Color Bamako



## 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*



#### THE MAIN LINES OF THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

##### 1. Overview

Since its adoption in 2008 by the United Nations Statistical Commission as the new international standard for the production and dissemination of national accounts, the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) represents a new challenge for the harmonization of macroeconomic statistics for Africa in general, and AFRISTAT member States in particular.

To date, all 22 Member States are engaged in the process of implementing the 2008 SNA and several of them already have concrete results.

Thus, with a view to consolidating the achievements of their relining and migration work towards the 2008 SNA, AFRISTAT recommends that Member States submit the results obtained to a peer review mechanism.

This mechanism, which the Observatory conducts with its partners, provides a framework for exchanging experiences, good practices and building the capacities of national executives through constructive dialogue.

This dialogue is established through a joint mission with experts from partner institutions and country experts as peers.

##### 2. Objectives of the joint performance assessment mission

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

Specifically, the assessment of the results obtained consists in:

- analysing the degree of compliance of national product accounts with the recommendations of the 2008 SNA;

- examine the level of coverage of the data sources used in the process of compiling national accounts;
- explore the methods used to calculate the various aggregates;
- give opinions on the adequacy of the means mobilised in relation to the expected results;
- make operational recommendations for improving the quality of the proposed national accounts.

##### 3. Initiation and preparation of the joint mission

To submit to a peer review is a voluntary act by countries. The wish to be evaluated is at the initiative of countries and is materialized by a letter from the authorities to AFRISTAT. After this phase, the next steps are:

- AFRISTAT and the candidate country for peer review shall agree on a date for the conduct of the mission;
- AFRISTAT contacts partners and some countries<sup>1</sup> for collecting their availability and interest in being part of the peers;
- A mission program proposed by AFRISTAT is examined and adopted by the evaluators;
- The adopted program is shared with the country to be evaluated. It is requested to provide peers in advance with relevant documentation on the National Accounts to be assessed.

##### 4. Conduct of the joint mission

The joint mission has three main steps:

**Step 1:** Introductory meeting of the mission with the national authorities of the country in order to introduce the different members of the delegation and to specify again the objectives and the working method.

**Step 2:** Organisation of technical sessions on the items on the pre-established work program. The first of the 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 development methods implemented, the main difficulties encountered, and the results obtained.

The following sessions are devoted to clarifications, sharing of good practices, advice and recommendations for improving working methods and the quality of results.

<sup>1</sup> Among those who have already changed the base year and migrated to the 2008 SNA.



**Step 3:** Briefing meeting on the last day of the work during where the mission shares its observations and recommendations with the authorities.

##### 5. Content of the work to be carried out

The working methodology favours the active participation of the managers in charge of compiling national accounts in the activities with a view to facilitating exchanges. Topics of discussion can range from very general questions to very fine technical considerations that may sometimes lead to the review of working files.

As an example, the accounts of the new base year prepared according to the 2008 SNA, the experts' assessment work will focus on the following aspects:

- Review of the data sources used to inform all economic activities carried out in the country. A 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 armament expenditure in gross fixed capital formation (GFCF);
  - the refinement of the method for calculating financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) and its allocation;
  - the clarification of the central bank's output and its consideration;
  - improving the recording of output of non-life insurance services;
- A review of the main results achieved, including a comparative analysis between the two systems (1993 SNA and 2008 SNA) in order to better understand the





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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, Yankhoba Jacques BADJI, Fatima BOUKENEM

**Model Print:**  
 IMPRIM COLOR Bamako  
 ISSN 1561-3739