



## Editorial

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**A**FRISTAT activities in the first half of 2021 were dominated by four groups of actions, namely: (i) organization of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Management Committee; (ii) strengthening and development of partnerships; (iii) coordination and mobilization of resources; and (iv) continuation of ongoing support. They were conducted in a context where the health crisis related to COVID-19 continues to have a negative impact on the smooth running of activities.

With regard to the organization of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Management Committee, which was held virtually on 2 and 3 June 2021, the Executive Management prepared all the working documents for the deliberations. In addition to the traditional issues related to the approval of the progress report of the previous year, the consideration of budgetary and administrative issues, the session of

the first Management Committee of the year 2021 was very busy with several institutional issues to be considered. The latter dealt with the revision of the Treaty establishing AFRISTAT and the reflection on a new economic model for the Observatory and the adjustments to Staff Rules in view of its modernization. With regard to the strengthening and development of partnerships, AFRISTAT's Executive Management has taken many initiatives. Indeed, in terms of strengthening partnerships, it has focused on preparing the documentation required for the closure of projects that will end in 2020, monitoring ongoing projects and continuing to work with partners. With reference to the continuation of collaboration, AFRISTAT participated in the work of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, statutory and technical meetings organized by partners (PARIS21, AFRITAC, ECOWAS, ECA, INSEE, AU, etc.) or in collaboration with them. Concerning the development of new partnerships, the Executive Management has conducted negotiations with various institutions to provide support, advice and training.

These negotiations have resulted in the following:

- The signing of agreements and contracts with INSTAT in Mali, DGS in Gabon and Expertise France respectively for the preparation of regional accounts, the development of economic statistics and the evaluation of the importance of the digital economy in five AFRISTAT Member States;
- Effective participation in responding to expressions of interest jointly with Expertise France, GFA Consulting Group, Cowater International respectively at the continental level, in Benin and in Gambia.

In terms of coordination and resource mobilization, the Observatory has increased its consultations with organizations working on the same themes as it in the countries in order to minimize duplication. It has also contacted several of its Member States to fine-tune their technical assistance needs for 2021. With regard to resource mobilization, the Director General visited Benin and Gabon to strengthen advocacy.

Finally, in the area of technical support, AFRISTAT carried out several training, technical assistance and advisory activities for the benefit of Member States and DRC. The majority of its support was based on face-to-face missions. The main areas of intervention are: national accounts, price statistics, business statistics, agricultural statistics, analysis of survey data, business cycle, data quality, monitoring of SDGs, database and website management.

AFRISTAT's Executive Management is preparing for the celebration of the institution's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the organization of statutory meetings in the second half of 2021. The outcome of several reform elements initiated earlier will be followed with great interest in the coming weeks.

*Paul-Henri NGUEMA MEYE*  
 AFRISTAT Director General

## CURRENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN AFRISTAT MEMBER STATES

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African countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, have experienced rapid and sustained population growth since independence. Sub-Saharan Africa has maintained the fastest growth rate in the world since 2000, with an annual growth rate of 2.7% compared to 0.3% and 1.8% elsewhere (D. Tabutin and B. Schoumaker, 2020).

This population growth is the result of a very high but declining fertility rate and high mortality, especially among children under five years of age, which is clearly decreasing in all its components. The demographic dynamics of Sub-Saharan Africa are at the heart of the many present and future development challenges in this part of the world. Indeed, Africa's population was 1.3 billion in 2019 compared to 630 million in 1990, a doubling in the space of 30 years, and estimates predict that it will double by 2050.

Although remarkable progress has been made in terms of access to health and education and in terms of economic growth since the early 2000s, Sub-Saharan African countries face countless challenges. These include the persistence of poverty, the growth of social inequalities between individuals and between different regions within countries, the growth of the informal sector which hinders initiatives to structure the formal sector, etc.

Our objective is to present the major demographic changes that have occurred in AFRISTAT Member States over the last 20 years. The demographic indicators presented are: population size and specific populations and indicators of population dynamics.

### 1. RAPID AND SUSTAINED HIGH POPULATION GROWTH FOR DECADES AND ITS IMPACTS ON SOCIAL DEMAND

AFRISTAT Member States show high population growth, which in some countries has been declining slightly for about 20 years. The annual natural population growth rate in AFRISTAT member countries reached 3% in 2015-2020 in Niger (3.8%), Equatorial Guinea (3.7%), Burundi (3.1%), Mali (3.0%) and Chad (3.0%) and remained below 2% in Cape Verde (1.2%), Central African Republic (1.4%), Djibouti (1.6%) and Sao Tome and Principe (1.9%). Of the 22 member countries, 15 have a natural population growth rate of over 2.5% per year.

Figure 1 compares the annual natural growth rates over the periods 2000-2005 and 2015-2020 in the different countries. The natural growth rate declined in 14

countries, with the largest declines observed in the Central African Republic, Cape Verde, and Chad. On the other hand, it increased in seven countries, particularly in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. There is a relative homogeneity of country situations. Three situations can be identified:

- Countries with annual rates of less than +10% and more than -10% over the two periods, considered to be in a stable situation: there are 11 countries in this group, including Benin (-9.4%), Burundi (+9.4%) and Gabon (+7.6%), which are on the borderline of the range;
- Countries with a growth rate increase of more than 10% between 2002 and 2017: there are 4 countries in this group (Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau);
- Countries with a slight slowdown in their growth rate between 2002 and 2017 of less than 10%: there are 7

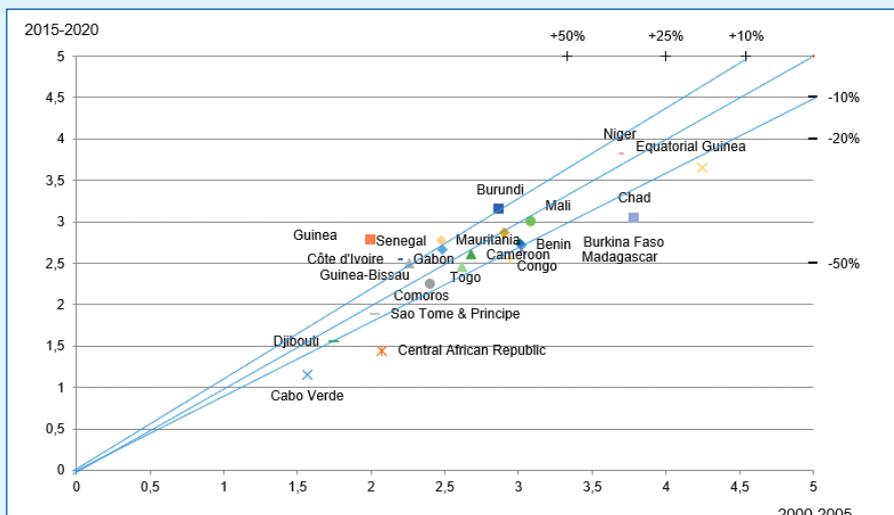
countries with a more marked decline in the Central African Republic (-30.4%), Cape Verde (-26.1%) and Chad (-19.7%).

These high overall growth rates, although declining in some countries, have led to a significant increase in the number of people in all countries over the past thirty years. In 30 years, the population of most countries has more than doubled, with the exception of Cape Verde, Djibouti, Central African Republic and Sao Tome and Principe. The largest increases were observed in Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Chad. In fact, the population in these countries has increased in 30 years from 419188 to 1 402985 in Equatorial Guinea (a 235% increase), from 8.0 to 24.2 million in Niger (202%) and from 6.0 to 16.4 million in Chad (175%).

In 2020, the most populous countries with more than 25 million inhabitants are: Madagascar (27.7 million inhabitants), Cameroon (26.5 million inhabitants) and Côte d'Ivoire (26.4 million inhabitants). In relation to the country's surface area, the most densely populated countries in 2020 are: Comoros (467.3 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), Burundi (463.0 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), Sao Tome and Principe (228.3 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), Togo (152.2 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>) and Cape Verde (138.0 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>).

The high population growth has an impact on social demand (education, health, energy, employment, etc.) The school-age population, according to the legislation in force in each of the AFRISTAT member countries, will represent between 10%

**Figure 1: Trends in annual natural population growth rates (%) from 2000-2005 to 2015-2020 in AFRISTAT Member States**



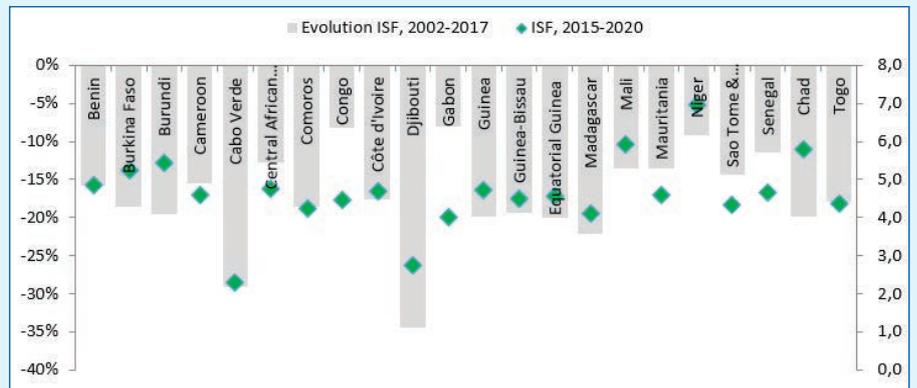
and 18% of the total population in 2020, thus posing a challenge for the education system. Although declining in most countries since 2000, the proportion of children of school age in primary school remains high.

In 2020, more than 4 million children of primary school age were counted in Cameroon, Niger and Côte d'Ivoire. The supply of education, which refers to institutional capacities, human and material resources available and their quantitative and qualitative distribution over the national territory and the different social groups, remains low in all countries. From 2000 to 2020, the primary school age population in all member countries increased by 73% from 23.2 to 40.1 million children. The most notable increases are in Niger (133.3%), Equatorial Guinea (119.2%), Mali (97.3%), and Chad (94.7%). During this period, a decline in the primary school age population was noted in Cape Verde (-17.8%) and Djibouti (-0.6%).

One consequence of the rapid and sustained population growth in these countries is the massive influx of labour into the labour market. This can be a source of growth for the country, provided that the country's economy offers sufficient job opportunities. In 2020, six countries will have more than 10 million people of working age (15-64): Madagascar (15.7 million), Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon (14.7 million), Niger (11.6 million), Burkina Faso (11.1 million) and Mali (10.2 million). The working age population (15-64 years) in all member countries increased from 72.1 to 133.3 million between 2000 and 2020, an increase of 85%. In 20 years, the population of working age has more than doubled in four countries: Equatorial Guinea (152.7% increase in the population aged 15-64 between 2000 and 2020), Chad (107.7%), Sao Tome and Principe (106.9%) and Burundi (105.8%).

Population growth in AFRISTAT Member States in particular, and in Sub-Saharan African countries in general, creates significant needs for countries. Energy demand for lighting and cooking is increasing while non-renewable energy production is not growing fast. From 2000 to 2014, energy consumption increased by 45% while in 2017 renewable energy accounted for about 20% of net installed capacity in Africa (Rim Berahab, 2019). In almost all AFRISTAT member countries,

**Figure 2: Changes in the total fertility rate in AFRISTAT Member States in 2002 and 2017**



the total dependency ratio has been declining, but remains high, since 2000 with the exception of Niger where it increased from 102.9% to 109.5% between 2000 and 2020. The decline in the dependency ratio reflects a slower increase in the working-age population compared to the dependent population (population aged 0-14 and 65 years or older).

## 2. ...SUPPORTED BY DECLINING BUT STILL HIGH FERTILITY AND INCREASING LIFE EXPECTANCY...

The decline in fertility in Sub-Saharan African countries began well before our reference period (2000), and in particular in AFRISTAT member countries, although the decline was modest and varied by region and country. Changes in fertility in AFRISTAT Member States occurred at different rates as shown in the following graph. During the period 2015-2020, five countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Niger and Chad) have a total fertility rate above 5 children per woman and the lowest levels, below 3 children per woman, are observed in Cape Verde (2.3 children/woman) and Djibouti (2.8 children/woman).

Over the past 20 years, fertility has declined by about one child for all AFRISTAT member countries. The decline in fertility over the last 20 years has been more than 20% in Djibouti (34.5%), Cape Verde (29.2%) and Madagascar (22.2%). In contrast, the decline has remained small (less than 10% decline in the TFR between the periods 2000-2005 and 2015-2020) in Niger, Congo, and Gabon.

With a total fertility rate above 6 children per woman in 2000-2005, Niger, Chad, Mali, Burundi, and Burkina Faso had the highest TFRs in the world.

With a total fertility rate above 6 children per woman in 2000-2005, Niger, Chad,

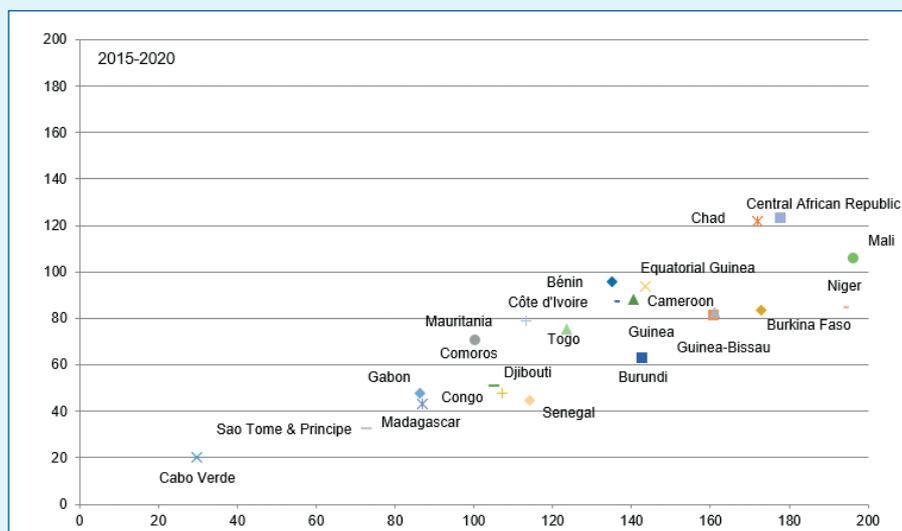
Mali, Burundi and Burkina Faso have experienced different rates of decline over the years. In Chad, Burundi and Burkina Faso, the decline was more significant (+20%) with a decrease of more than 1.2 children per woman. In contrast, in Niger and Mali, the decline was moderate with a decrease of less than 1 child per woman.

Fertility is early in all countries, but there is a change in the fertility pattern. The adolescent fertility rate (15-19 years) provides an indication of how early fertility is occurring in the countries. The fertility rate is above 100 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in the majority of countries with higher levels in Niger (186.5‰), Mali (169.1‰), Chad (161.1‰) and Equatorial Guinea (155.6‰). Djibouti (18.8‰) and Burundi (55.6‰) have the lowest level of adolescent fertility. (Figure 2.)

Since 2000, the adolescent fertility rate has declined in all member countries at different rates. Adolescent fertility has declined by more than 25% in Djibouti (-39.1%), Cameroon (-29.5%), Comoros (-29.1%), Senegal (-27.5%), Madagascar (-26.7%), Gabon (-25.8%), Benin (-25.6%) and Burundi (-25.4%). In Niger and Mali, despite the high level of adolescent fertility, the decline is moderate over the period. Despite the significant decline in adolescent fertility in most countries, the level remains relatively high.

The net reproduction rate is the average number of girls born per woman and is a measure of the conditions under which generations are being replaced. If the net reproduction rate is greater than 1, then the replacement of generations is assured in this country. In 2015-2020, we can say that the replacement of generations is assured in all countries. The net reproduction rate is close to 1 in Cape Verde (1.1%) and Djibouti (1.2%). In contrast, it is higher than 2.5% in Chad (2.6%), Niger (2.7%) and Mali (2.9%).

**Figure 3: Changes in under-five mortality quotients (%) in Member States from 2000-2005 to 2015-2020**



Two indicators are used to assess the improvement in the health status of the population: the mortality quotient for children aged 0-5 years and life expectancy at birth. Significant progress has been made in terms of under-five mortality, although inequalities still exist between different segments of the population and between different regions of the same country. The health progress that has underpinned the reduction in under-five mortality and overall mortality has led to an increase in life expectancy at birth.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, child mortality is considered one of the best indicators for assessing social development and health inequalities. Figure 3 presents the rates of decline in the mortality quotient for children aged 0-5 years between 2000-2005 and 2015-2020 in AFRISTAT Member

States. In general, we observe a decline in all countries, but a diversity of progress over 20 years. Progress in reducing child mortality is significant in most countries, with a decline of between 29% and 50% in 14 of the 22 AFRISTAT member countries. Eight countries have reduced child mortality by more than 50% between 2000-2005 and 2015-2020: Senegal (-60.9%), Niger (-56.4%), Burundi (-56.3%), Sao Tome and Principe (-55.8%), Congo (-55.7%), Djibouti (-51.8%), Burkina Faso (-51.6%) and Madagascar (-50.2%).

Despite the performance achieved, mortality risk in some countries remains high over 100‰ during 2015-2020 (Chad (122.9‰), Central African Republic (121.9‰), and Mali (105.4‰)) or more than one in ten children dying before their

fifth birthday and low in some countries such as Cape Verde (20.4‰), Sao Tome and Principe (32.3‰), Madagascar (43.2‰), Senegal (44.6‰), Congo (47.5‰) and Gabon (47.9‰). (Figure 3.)

The improvement in the health status of the population is reflected in an increase in life expectancy at birth. Over the period 2000-2005 and 2015-2020, life expectancy at birth increased by an average of 7.3 years in all member countries, with varying performances. A gain of more than 10 years in Niger and Congo compared to less than 5 years in Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Cape Verde. In 2000-2005, 13 out of 22 countries had a life expectancy at birth of less than 55 years; 15 years later, only two countries (Central African Republic and Chad) have a life expectancy at birth of less than 55 years. In 2015-2020, life expectancy is around 70 years in Cape Verde (72.7 years), Sao Tome and Principe (70.0 years) and Senegal (67.5 years), more than 15 years ahead of the Central African Republic (52.7 years) and Chad (53.8 years).

Life expectancy at birth for women is better than for men in all AFRISTAT member countries and over the two periods, with an average advantage of 2.8 years over the 2000-2005 period and 3.2 years over the 2015-2020 period. In most countries, the advantage of women over men increased between 2000-2005 and 2015-2020, particularly in the Central African Republic, Gabon, Djibouti and Guinea, due to progress in reducing maternal mortality and excess female mortality between the ages of 1 and 5.

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# AFRISTAT NEWS

## Visits

*During the first half of 2021, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Director General of AFRISTAT, made visits in two Member States.*

### ■ BENIN

The Director General of AFRISTAT visited the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) from 8 to 15 February 2021. The purpose of this visit was to collect specific technical assistance needs for Benin in 2021. During his stay, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye exchanged views with the directorate of INSAE on the activities of the Regional Statistical Program (RSP) 2015-2020 to be carried out in 2021 and the support envisaged in other areas.

The Director General of AFRISTAT was also received in audience by Mr. Abdoulaye Bio Tchane, Minister of State in charge of Planning and Economic Development of Benin to whom he submitted the report on the implementation of the Observatory's 2020 activities. AFRISTAT's operating constraints and the actions underway to revise the Treaty establishing the institution were explained.



### ■ GABON

Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Director General of AFRISTAT, visited Libreville from 25 to 28 February 2021 to collect the technical assistance needs of the Gabonese statistical system for 2021 and to advocate with the authorities for the mobilization of contributions to the AFRISTAT 2016-2025 fund and the solicitation of support for the measures that will result from the ongoing reflections on the revision of the Treaty establishing the Observatory. In this regard, working sessions were held with Mr. Prosper Ebang Ebang, Director General of Statistics, along with his main collaborators.

At the end of his stay in Gabon, Mr. Nguema Meye had the opportunity to exchange with Mrs. Nicole Janine Lydie Roboty Mbou, Minister of Economy and Recovery. The latter assured of her country's support in the reform undertaken for an efficient functioning of AFRISTAT and committed herself to paying as soon as possible the arrears of contributions of Gabon.

## Arrivals



Mr. Bougouna Coulibaly

■ **Mr. Bougouna Coulibaly**, a Malian national, started working at AFRISTAT on 1 February 2021, as a data collection and entry support officer for the AFRISTAT-DATABASE multisectoral platform called "Super Jupiter". Trained in Mali in the local Statistics training center, Mr. Coulibaly worked on the Super Jupiter project as an intern.

■ The Observatory welcomed from 3 May to 19 July 2021, **Mr. Ousmane Diarra**, a student statistician

and economist engineer (ISE/ENSAE) from Dakar, for a professional internship. He worked in the Strategic Support and Dissemination Department on the theme: "Dynamics of the labour market in WAEMU capital cities between 2008 and 2018" based on data from the main household expenditure survey 2008-2009 and the integrated regional survey on employment and the informal sector conducted in 2017 in WAEMU countries.

## Departures

*AFRISTAT's Executive Management recorded one departure during the period under review*

■ **Mr. Nathanaël Yahannon**, statistician-economist, served from March 2019 to January 2021 as technical coordinator of the project to support the Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (SODDA) within AFRISTAT. Mr. Yahannon has contributed to improving the quality of statistics and promo-

ting best practices adopted by the statistical community in Francophone African countries on the SDGs. He also accompanied AFRISTAT in its efforts to strengthen its institutional capacities and visibility in the region. The Management wishes him every success in his new position.



# Activities of the Directorate General

## 42<sup>st</sup> Management Committee Meeting

The AFRISTAT Management Committee held its 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 2 and 3 June 2021 by videoconference under the chairmanship of Mr. Blaise Bienvenu Ali, Director General of the Central African Institute of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies, current Chairman of the Committee. The work focused on the implementation

of the 2020 action plan and the execution of the related budget.

The Committee also examined the status of Member States' contributions to the AFRISTAT 2006-2015 and 2016-2025 Funds.

Furthermore, the Committee continued the selection process for the Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT with the organization

of interviews of candidates.

It provided guidance on specific issues relating to the study on the revision of the AFRISTAT Treaty and proposal of an economic model, the revision of the staff regulations and the draft strategic orientations of the AFRISTAT Strategic Work Program for the period 2022-2025.

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

*During the first half of 2021, two virtual seminars were held:*

■ A webinar on the economic situation in the first half of 2021 and macroeconomic forecasts for 2021-2024 in WAEMU Member States, Guinea, Mauritania and Cabo Verde was held from 26 to 28 May 2021, at the initiative of the WAEMU Commission, AFRISTAT and AFRITAC West. All WAEMU Member States, as well as Cabo Verde, Guinea and Mauritania were represented. Executives from BCEAO and the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) also took part in the proceedings. The seminar provided an opportunity to: (i) take stock of the recent economic situation and macroeconomic forecasts for 2021-2024 in the countries; (ii) exchange

views and discuss the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of the countries; (iii) share the experience of each of the Member States and regional institutions, as well as best practices in the context of the pandemic.

■ A Webinar on the economic situation in the first half of 2021 and short-term macroeconomic forecasts in CEMAC Member States, DR Congo, Burundi, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti, and Madagascar, jointly organized by the CEMAC Commission, AFRISTAT, and AFRITAC Center, was held from 8 to 11 June 2021.

Four CEMAC Member States as well as DR Congo and Djibouti were represented. The United Nations Economic Commission for Central Africa also took part in the proceedings. This seminar made it possible to:

(i) present the economic situation in the first half of 2021 and the forecasts for the period 2021-2022 of the States; (ii) share the experience of each of the Member States and regional institutions, as well as best practices in the context of the pandemic; (iii) have methodological discussions on the COVID-19 tools for evaluating and simulating the macroeconomic impact of the pandemic.

## Workshop to disseminate the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for AFRISTAT Member States and the DRC

AFRISTAT organized a videoconference meeting on 20 May 2021 to disseminate the note on the development of the CPI in the Member States and the DRC. The main objective of this workshop was to present and disseminate the note on the development of the CPI in the AFRISTAT Member States and DRC.

Specifically, it was about:

- Presenting the data collection and processing methods;
- Presenting the framework for the publication of the note;
- Presenting the pitfalls in the production of the note;
- Gathering observations from country

price experts with a view to improving the note.

The workshop brought together more than 50 participants from AFRISTAT Member States and the DRC, as well as executives from the WAEMU Commission, BCEAO and AFRISTAT.

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

*The WAEMU Commission granted an extension of the RSP-WAEMU project until December 2021. A rider signed between AFRISTAT and each of the WAEMU Member States allowed the activities to continue.*

The effective start of the RSP-WAEMU activities in 2021 was preceded by the adoption of the countries' rephased budgets for all the national accounts, business statistics and household survey components.

### Business Statistics Component

Mr. Roland Frédéric Ngampana, AFRISTAT expert in charge of business statistics, conducted a support mission in Benin from 21 June to 2 July 2021 with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis

(INSAE) to finalize the implementation of an appropriate and transparent mechanism for producing business indicators for the reference years.

Specifically, the questionnaires for the surveys to monitor the quarterly production of business indicators have been drawn up, the needs of the annual and quarterly national accounts in the calculation of indicators have been taken into account and a strategy for taking informal activities into account in the calculation of indicators has been defined.

### Survey component

In the second quarter of 2021, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo and AFRISTAT received approval to continue the project.

Applications from the other countries are under review. In the meantime, INSEED Togo has sent and received AFRISTAT's comments on five of the seven papers being prepared.

AFRISTAT's comments are pending on the three papers prepared by INE Guinea-Bissau.

## Capacity building project in Chad

*During the period under review, a webinar with partner institutions was organized and statisticians from INSEED were hosted for a study tour at AFRISTAT.*

■ AFRISTAT, in collaboration with its partner institutions, coordinated a webinar to assess the results of the base year change and migration to Chad's 2008 SNA from 9 to 11 February 2021.

Partners participating in the webinar included AFRISTAT, the IMF's Regional Technical Assistance Center for Central Africa (AFRITAC Center), the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), CEMAC Commission, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The countries represented as peers are: Benin, Gabon, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

The webinar provided an opportunity to: (i) analyse the degree to which the recommendations of the 2008 SNA have been taken into account; (ii) examine the level of coverage of the data sources used to compile the national accounts for the new base year; (iii) examine the methods used to calculate the various aggregates; and (iv) formulate operational recommendations, following the review of the results.



In addition, the experts and the INSEED technical team agreed on the need to implement general and technical recommendations in order to finalize the results obtained.

### ■ Study Tour for INSEED Chad Statisticians

As part of the continuation of work related to the NHCPI in Chad, three INSEED executives from Chad conducted a capacity building study tour from 29 March to 2 April 2021 at AFRISTAT in Bamako, Mali.

At the end of this mission, the following results were achieved:

- The managers were trained on the updating of the points of sale and the configuration for the printing of the notebooks in the Phoenix application;
- They were also trained on the methods of data reconciliation and the management of control sheets in the Phoenix application;
- A sharing of experiences was carried out with colleagues from INSTAT in Mali.

As a result of this study tour, it is expected that INSEED will formalize the new 2018 base index.

## Project to identify SDG indicators for Djibouti

*A letter of agreement concerning the implementation of a project of identification of the SDG indicators for Djibouti was signed between AFRISTAT and the UNDP of Djibouti.*

■ The agreement signed has the following objectives: (i) to take stock of the SDGs in Djibouti, including the institutional framework, available indicators and their monitoring and evaluation framework; (ii) to determine the gaps to be filled in terms of available national capacities; and (iii) to assess the relevance of certain indicators for the Djiboutian context. This activity takes place in a context marked by the

development of the National Development Plan "DJIBOUTI ICI" covering the period 2020-2024.

■ From 22 February to 4 March 2021, Djabar Dine Adéchi, expert in socio demographic statistics and Nathanaël Yahannon, International Consultant, conducted a mission to analyse the institutional framework for implementing the

SDGs in Djibouti, and to meet with sectoral ministries and partners who support the country in statistical production. The mission also aimed to prioritize the SDG targets and indicators to be monitored at the national level.

The provisional results of the sectoral consultations for the prioritization of targets and indicators were presented on 4 March 2021.

## Collaboration AFRISTAT/ECA/INSEE/PARIS21

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

During the semester under review, two virtual meetings were organized. The first one was organized on 10 and 11 March 2021 and was on the theme: "Food security in times of COVID-19: what challenges for measurement? This webinar was moderated by six panelists from FAO, HCP of Morocco, CIRAD, CPS Agriculture of Mali and AFRISTAT. The theoretical and practi-

cal aspects of developing a food balance sheet were reviewed.

The second workshop took place on 8 June 2021 and was entitled "Dialogue between the media and official statistics producers: how and why" and benefited from the contribution of ONS-UK.

Its objective was to share experiences on the different strategies developed by offi-

cial statistics producers, mainly the National Statistical Institutes, to engage with the media and journalists and to better understand the benefits of such engagement.

The webinar was moderated by four panelists from AFRISTAT, NSI of Tunisia, INSEE, ECA and a representative of the media and journalists.

# Other AFRISTAT activities

## Support missions by AFRISTAT experts

*Member countries received in situ or remote technical support during the first half of 2021:*

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

■ Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Director General of AFRISTAT, provided support on quality at ICASEES in Bangui from 20 June to 3 July 2021.

The mission made it possible to propose a provisional version of the quality assurance and control manual for statistical production and to make recommendations for the gradual consolidation of a quality assurance and control system for statistical production in CAR.

### GABON

■ A mission led by Mr. Ibrahima Sory, AFRISTAT's national accounts Expert, took place from 19 to 22 January 2021 in Libreville, Gabon, as part of an evaluation and diagnosis of the national accounts.

The mission's work made it possible to:

- (i) analyse the institutional and organizational set-up in relation to the national accounts;
- (ii) describe the work resources of the national accounts department;
- (iii) analyse the current state of production of the national accounts;
- (iv) take stock of the data sources used to compile the national accounts;
- (v) propose a roadmap for the preparation of the national accounts according to the 2008 SNA.

### GUINEA

■ The AFRISTAT expert in charge of business statistics, Mr. Roland Frédéric Ngampana, assisted the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG) remotely in April and May 2021 to finalize the process of developing a turnover index for the banking and insurance sectors. This support allowed for the processing of newly available bank and insurance company data from the BCRG's Banking and

Insurance Supervision Departments and the calculation of quarterly CIAs for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

### MALI

■ Mr. Serge Jean Edi, Senior Economist, participated in an online support to the National Directorate of Development Planning (DNP) of Mali in collaboration with AFRITAC West for the realization of the macroeconomic framework from 8 to 19 February 2021. This support allowed the DNP team to correct the MME DNP macroeconomic model, to update the data, to carry out the macroeconomic framework with partial results of the forecasted accounts for the years 2020 and 2021 and a chronogram of the tasks to be accomplished until June 2021.

■ Mr. Roland Frédéric Ngampana and Mr. Ibrahima Sory, respectively an Expert in business statistics and an Expert in national accounting, took part from 24 March to 4 April 2021 in the work of developing technical tools for the enumeration phase of the General Census of Economic Units (GCEU) organized in Koulikoro (Mali) by the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT).

The support provided to INSTAT staff made it possible to:

- (i) develop the general questionnaire that will be used to enumerate economic units;
- (ii) develop questionnaires for specific surveys of market and non-market production units for the purposes of the national accounts, as well as short-term questionnaires for the regular production of short-term activity indicators.

■ Mr. Ibrahima Sory, an Expert in national accounting, conducted a remote mis-

sion from 6 to 9 April 2021, as part of a support to the development of regional accounts. The work took place in a workshop for the members of the INSTAT regional accounts development team.

The overall objective of this workshop was to identify, for each indicator relevant to the elaboration of regional accounts, the available data sources, as well as those still to be collected in each of the three test regions of the project.

The mission made it possible to:

- (i) identify all the relevant indicators for the preparation of regional accounts for each branch of activity;
- (ii) identify the data sources needed to produce each indicator;
- (iii) take stock of the available and unavailable data for each indicator;
- (iv) list all the data to be collected for each indicator;
- (v) update the strategy for collecting and transmitting data from the regions to the national level.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

■ The Expert in charge of processing survey and census data, Mr. Sansan Honkounne Kambou, stayed in Kinshasa (DRC) from 17 June to 2 July 2021, as part of the auditing and processing of data from the SDG-indicator cluster survey (ICS-SDG):

The mission made it possible to:

- Clear the data from the consumer expenditure modules;
- Process the expenditure data and calculate the welfare aggregate (annual household consumption expenditure);
- Calculate the poverty line and produce initial results on poverty from the survey data; and produce poverty indicators based on the international poverty line of US\$1.9 in purchasing power parity (PPP).

# International activities

*AFRISTAT took part in international meetings organized by its partners during the first half of 2021.*

N°	Events	Period	Location	Organizers
1.	Regional e-learning seminar on alternative CPI data collection methods	25 January to 4 February 2021	Virtual	ECA/ Insee/ ONS-UK
2.	International Conference on National Accounts and their Implications for Public Life	3 to 4 February 2021	Virtual	AFRISTAT
3.	Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the WAMA Technical Committee	10 to 12 February 2021	Virtual	AMAO
4.	Technical Meeting on the Quality of the Harmonized Consumer Prices Index	1 to 2 March 2021	Virtual	UEMOA/AFRISTAT
5.	AFRITAC West Regional Virtual Seminar on Macroeconomic and Budget Analysis	1 to 5 March 2021	Virtual	AFRITAC West
6.	52 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission	1 to 3 and 5 March 2021	Virtual	United Nations Statistical Commission
7.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Webinar on Partner Coordination Strategy	12 March 2021	Virtual	PARIS21
8.	Virtual Meeting on the Compilation of Quarterly National Accounts for Francophone Countries of the African Union	16 to 17 March 2021	Virtual	CUA
9.	53 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	17 to 23 March 2021	Virtual & Addis-Abeba (Ethiopia)	CUA
10.	Regional Webinar on Real Sector Statistics	12 to 14 April 2021	Virtual	AFRITAC West
11.	Virtual meeting of the Working Group for the revision of statistical standards on informality	7 to 20 and 27 April 2021 and 14 to 15 April 2021	Virtual	Working Group for the revision of statistical standards on informality
12.	Virtual meeting for consultation and exchange between AFRISTAT, WAMI and WAMA on the harmonization of statistics in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ)	12 April 2021	Virtual	AFRISTAT, IMAO et AMAO
13.	Meeting to present the NADABAS application	14 to 15 April 2021	Virtual	CUA
14.	ECOWAS Regional Committee Meeting	3 to 5 May 2021	Accra (Ghana)	ECOWAS
15.	47 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the IFORD Governing Board	27 to 28 April 2021	Yaoundé (Cameroun)	IFORD
16.	Sub-regional workshop of the LiptakoGourma States	13 to 14 May 2021	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)	Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako-Gourma States
17.	Annual meeting of CEMAC public debt management experts	17 to 18 May 2021	Virtual	CEMAC
18.	Technical exchange meeting on the macroeconomic framework	18 to 20 May 2021	Virtual	UEMOA
19.	Virtual meeting of the Washington group on disability statistics	26 May 2021	Virtual	Washington Group on Disability Statistics
20.	23 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the steering committee of AFRITAC Centre	1 June 2021	Virtual	AFRITAC center
21.	1 <sup>st</sup> Virtual Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Disaster Statistics	25 to 26 May 2021	Virtual	Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Disaster Statistics
22.	Technical meeting to review, validate and finalize the harmonized regional frameworks and technical documents of the ECOWAS database (ECOBASE)	24 May to 4 June 2021	Niamey (Niger)	ECOWAS
23.	Meeting of the HCPI Working Group of the WAEMU Regional Statistical Committee (RSC)	31 May to 4 June 2021	Virtual	AFRISTAT
24.	Workshop on the implementation of the computer application for estimating quarterly GDP from annual national accounts	7 to 11 June 2021	Niamey (Niger)	ECOWAS
25.	Sub-regional virtual conference on regional accounts	9 to 10 June 2021	Virtual	AFRISTAT, Swiss cooperation, INSTAT of Mali and UCLG-Africa
26.	Regional webinar on the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) update program	17 June 2021	Virtual	ECA/ DSNU
27.	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ISCO-08 revision Working group	28 to 30 June 2021	Virtual	Technical Working Group for the revision of ISCO-08

# Echoes from National Statistical Institutes

*The first half of 2021 was marked by several activities in the national statistical systems.*

## BENIN

[www.insae-bj.org](http://www.insae-bj.org)

■ On 6 January 2021, Mr. Jules Daga was appointed Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE).

■ The Director General of AFRISTAT went on a mission to INSAE from 8 to 15 February 2021. During this mission, the Director General collected the specific technical assistance needs of the country in 2021 and was also received in audience by Mr. Abdoulaye Bio Tchane, Minister of State for Planning and Development of Benin.

■ Since 25 May 2021, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis has experienced two major changes. Formerly under the Ministry of Planning and Development, it is now an Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. In addition, its name has changed to the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD).

■ As a prelude to the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the 5<sup>th</sup> General population and housing census scheduled for 2023, the INSD organized, with the support of UNFPA, two preparatory workshops in June 2021.

■ Benin's economic growth is set at 3.8% in 2020.

## CAMEROON

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

■ The National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cameroon organized on 21 January 2021 a workshop on the appropriation of new performance management instruments.

■ From 23 to 26 February 2021, a workshop was held in Douala to take into account gender issues in the third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics covering the period 2021-2030 (NSDS30).

■ In the first quarter of 2021, AFRITAC CENTER supported the INS in the preparation of financial accounts for the new 2016 base year of the national accounts.

■ In the second quarter of 2021, the INS launched the third Employment and Informal Sector Survey (EISS 3).

■ The INS and the FAO signed a memorandum of understanding in April 2021 to support the satisfactory implementation of the study to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food systems and food and nutrition security in Cameroon.

■ The INS and BEAC launched the Composite Economic Activity Index (CEAI) project on 23 June 2021 in Douala, and in Yaoundé on 29 June 2021. This project is part of the improvement of the cyclical monitoring of economic activity in the CEMAC zone. Cameroon is the pilot country.

■ On 15 April 2021, the second Extraordinary Session of the National Statistics Council (NSC) was held in Yaoundé under the direction of its statutory Chairman.

■ The National Statistical Information System (SNIS), under the impetus of the INS, has been working since 2020 on the development of the third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics covering the period 2021-2030 (SNDS30).

## CONGO

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

■ As part of the development of its National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS 2021-2025), the NSO has:

- organized a Strategic Planning training workshop from 12 to 16 April 2021.
- produced a diagnostic report on the National Statistical System in May 2021.

■ In preparation for the general population and housing census (RGPH-5), the INS has:

- analysed census mapping data;
- improved the technical tools for enumeration.

■ Organized a workshop to process data from economic units collected during the general census of enterprises in Congo.

■ Conducted a telephone survey on the

socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus.

■ From 28 March to 2 April 2021, 15 documents were published and are available on the website. They are:

- Congo 2018 Statistical Yearbook;
- twelve (12) Departmental Statistical Yearbooks of 2018.

■ The 2018 Statistical Yearbooks of the mining and geology and post, telecommunications and digital economy sectors.

■ The foreign trade statistics bulletin for the first quarter of 2021 was published in May 2021.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

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

■ Equatorial Guinea's National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) document for the period 2021-2024 was approved on 24 February 2021 by the authorized body.

■ On 26 January, the National Institute of Statistics of Equatorial Guinea (INEGE) reported that, The average annual inflation rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 2020 was 5.1, higher than that recorded in the same period of 2019, which was 1.2.

## MADAGASCAR

[www.instat.mg](http://www.instat.mg)

■ According to the results of the RGPH-3, the resident population of Madagascar enumerated in May - June 2018 is 25,674,196 inhabitants.

## MALI

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

■ The National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), under the aegis of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, organized a roundtable of partners for the financing of the country's fifth General Population and Housing Census, which is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021.

■ In preparation for a follow-up survey for the evaluation of the Women's

Empowerment and Demographic Dividend in the Sahel (SWEDD) project, INSTAT organized a training session for data collectors from 10 to 19 March 2021.

- A training workshop for trainers of the general census of economic units was held from 28 May to 11 June 2021.

- A meeting organized by INSTAT with the financial support of the Swedish Cooperation was held from 22 to 23 May 2021, bringing together the heads of the sectoral statistical services, INSTAT and Swedish partners to discuss coordination and good management of the national statistical system.

#### MAURITANIA

[www.ansade.mr](http://www.ansade.mr)

- Mauritania has embarked on a reform of its statistical system in the first quarter of 2021 to strengthen the statistical function and better inform public debate. The former National Statistics Office and the former Mauritanian Center for Policy Analysis were merged to become the National Agency for Statistics and Demographic and Economic Analysis (ANSADE) on 25 February 2021.

#### SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

[www.ine.st](http://www.ine.st)

- The main events that took place at INE during the period under review were:
  - The validation of the Multiple Indicator

- Cluster Survey (MICS 6 2019);
- The survey on the impact of Covid-19 on the economy of Sao Tome and Principe 2021 (second phase);
- The survey on Agro-livestock 2021.

- Survey on the Vaccination of Covid-19 in Sao Tome and Principe 2021.

#### SENEGAL

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

- Joint "Geoportal of Senegal" and "SDG Geospatial Platform" Projects - ANSD and ANAT Receive Special Achievement in GIS Award at ESRI2020 International User Conference.

- The new project "Economic and Environmental Accounting for Evidence-based Policy in Senegal" is a collaborative effort between ANSD and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). It aims to removing technical and institutional barriers to the development of economic and environmental accounts at the national level.

- The National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis (ENSAE) was officially named Pierre Ndiaye, after the former Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, who died on 23 December 2020.

#### TOGO

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

- The session of the sectoral committees

of the national statistical system was held on 10 March 2021 as a prelude to the Tenth Ordinary Session of the National Statistics Council (NSC).

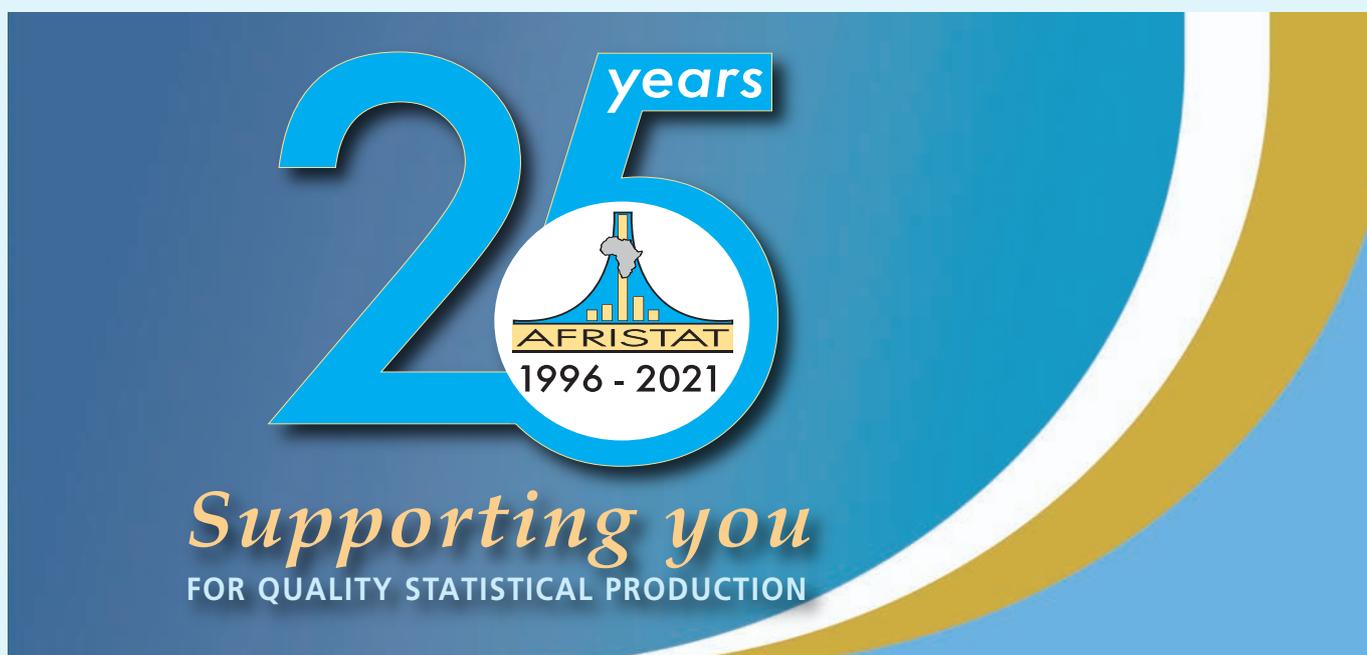
- The periodic bipartite meeting between INSEED and UNFPA on the follow-up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Population and Housing Census (RGPH-5) roadmap was held on 2 March 2021.

- On 26 February 2021, INSEED launched the permanent survey on international trade in services (EPCIS 2020), the third one after two others it had conducted in the past, notably in 2018 and 2019.

- On 15 April 2021, the Government of Togo and UNFPA, the lead Technical and Financial Partner for the RGPH-5, organized a roundtable by videoconference to raise funds to finance the gap for the implementation of RGPH-5 activities during the period 2021-2023.

- On 29 May 2021, on behalf of the Togolese Head of State, Mrs. Sandra Johnson, Minister, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Togolese Republic, proceeded to the national launch of the West Africa Statistics Harmonization and Improvement Project (PHASAO).

- On 3 June 2021, the actors of the national statistical system validated the National Statistical Yearbook covering the period 2014-2019.



# Meetings, workshops and seminars

**2 July 2021**

Online conference « Who benefits from economic growth and recovery plans? Entering a new era of inequality data »

**27-30 September 2021**

8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

**5 July 2021**

Young African Statisticians Meeting

**Bern, 3-6 October 2021**

UN World Data Forum 2021

**6 July 2021**

Virtual conference « Resilience, challenges and opportunities for official statistics in the context of the health crisis »

**12-13 October 2021**

Training of Trainers on the new generation of NSDS 3.0 integrating SHaSA 2

**7 July 2021**

31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the West AFRITAC Steering Committee

**8-10 November 2021**

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

**Lomé, 28-31 July 2021**

Meeting of the WAEMU Regional Statistical Committee

**Abu Dhabi, 10-11 November 2021**

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative « Arabstat »

**Lomé, 2-4 August 2021**

Steering Committee of the Program for the Harmonization and Modernization of Household Living Conditions Surveys in the WAEMU

**9-12, November 2021**

Workshop on the recent economic situation and short-term macroeconomic forecasts 2021-2022 of Central Africa country members

**24 August 2021**

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

**Ouagadougou, 22-26 November 2021**

Workshop on the recent economic situation and medium-term macroeconomic forecasts 2021-2024 of West Africa country members

**21 September 2021**

General Assembly of the Association CESD Statisticians for Development

**Paris, 26 November 2021**

Conference of the National Accounting Association

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