

1. Celebration of the 2023 African Statistics Day on 20 November 2023

November 18 is the African Statistics Day (ASD) and this day was adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to be celebrated by the African Communities. Each year, the celebration revolves around raising awareness amongst decision-makers, development partners, data producers and users, academia, researchers, and the public on the importance of statistics on a specific theme.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Modernizing data ecosystems to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): the role of official statistics and big data in the economic transformation and sustainable development of Africa".

To celebrate this special day, Statistics Mauritius hosted a workshop on Monday 20 November 2023 at the Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava. There were much discussions on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is a flagship project of Agenda 2063 aiming at creating a single African market for goods and services facilitated by free movement of persons, capital, investment to deepen economic integration, promote and attain sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality, industrialisation, agricultural development, food security and structural transformation.

2. UNESCO 3-day preparatory capacity building workshop on Culture 2030 Indicators for Indian Ocean Region, 11 -13 December 2023

Statistics Mauritius (SM) participated in a capacity building workshop on UNESCO's Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda (UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators) which is a conceptual framework to measure and monitor the progress of culture. Participants from Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda attended the workshop. Mauritius hosted the workshop and SM was represented by Mr D. Chinnee.

The workshop objective was to introduce participants to the implementation modality and draw upon the experience of the first phase. In this context the UNESCO expert, Mrs Naima Lahbil from Morocco who was also the resource woman for the workshop stated that the first phase has already been implemented in her country. She stated that all stakeholders must understand the principles of measuring culture, share best practices in the collection of cultural statistics and highlight challenges in data collection.

3. Enhancement of the Statistical Business Register of SM under the EU-funded PAS2 projects



Visit of SBR Experts from Statistics Finland to the Mauritius Revenue Authority

Mr. Timo Koskimäki, Director of International Affairs and Ms. Outi Ahti-Miettinen, Quality Manager, both experts in Business Register (SBR) from Statistics Finland, fielded a mission at SM, under the EU-funded PAS2 projects for the African National Statistical Offices, from 23 to 27 October 2023 to give technical assistance to enhance its Statistical Business Register (SBR) in line with European standards.

The two experts took stock of the various sources of data used by SM to populate and update the SBR currently maintained by the office. In that context, visits were organised at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Corporate Business Registration Department (CBRD) when the European experience regarding sharing of administrative data to statistical officers were discussed. To note that these two institutions are the main sources of data used by SM for its SBR.

4. Development of Modern Statistics Web Platform (MauStats) under the E-Business Project

Statistics Mauritius (SM) is in the process to develop and implement a Modern Statistics Web Platform (MauStats) to enhance its business operations in line with the Government of Mauritius Digital Transformation Strategy. The platform will help to automate and integrate data lifecycle from acquisition to dissemination using Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) framework with a view to support, amongst others:

- ◆ evidence-based planning and development across different departments and ministries;
- ◆ enhancing and strengthening data ecosystems at sub-national level;
- ◆ support data sharing across ministries and departments; and
- ◆ support dissemination of data widely.

UNDP Mauritius is a key development partner supporting SM in this endeavour under the E-Business Plan 2021-2024 Project. I-Tech Mission Private Limited (iTM) – a New Delhi based IT company has been contracted to develop the platform using a phased approach and targeted to gradually automate all SM units. In Phase 1 of this project, the modules for Housing & Population Census (HPC), Statistical Business Register (SBR) and Survey of Employment & Earnings (SEE) have been developed and the development of the modules for Demography and Trade are work in progress.

Online and Onsite technical meetings and discussions are conducted by iTM and SM units under the guidance of SM Management. SM units have been actively participating in these meetings to provide their process automation requirements and the expected results. In the month of October 2023, iTM presented a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) of MauStats Platform which is well accepted by SM. Staffs of SM were also engaged to participate in the User Acceptance Test (UAT) online sessions to review and report issues in their MauStats modules. Capacity building training workshops were conducted from 4th to 12th Dec 2023 at various levels by the iTM team covering modules on IT, Admin and User. The response and result of the trainings were positive. The interactive sessions of the training helped the trainers to short list candidates for a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop to be organised around March 2024.

Furthermore, an Advance Lab Workshop is also planned to be conducted in the month of February and March 2024. The Advance Lab Workshop will be conducted in the iTM Lab facility and is expected to provide opportunity for the SM units to interact and work with the iTM team during the brain storming sessions to improve and enhance the features and usability of the platform.



Participants of the MauStats Admin and User Training

(5-12 Dec 2023)