

1. Workshop on Food Security by COMESA and Statistics Norway

The COMESA Secretariat, in collaboration with its partner Statistics Norway (SSB), has, since 2020, been implementing a project, primarily aimed at enhancing capacity for producing Food Security Statistics across COMESA Member States. This project is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



The objective of the project is to improve the food security situation in low and middle-income countries. This is to be achieved through the generation of more comprehensive statistics derived from household consumption and expenditure surveys (HCES), which in turn can contribute to the formulation of more effective policies and subsequently the implementation of concrete projects.

Mauritius is the latest Member State to join the project. COMESA and Statistics Norway recently organized a workshop for Statistics Mauritius from 1st to 5th July 2024, at Westin and Turtle Bay Hotel Mauritius. Five participants from the Statistics Mauritius attended the workshop,

together with a representative of the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2017 data was used and the participants were able to assess the food security and nutrition issues, use the Nutrient Conversion Table, calculate dietary energy for each item reported during HBS 2017, and subsequently produce Food security Indicators.

A factsheet showing preliminary results was formulated and will be published on Statistics Mauritius' website soon.

2. Fire Safety Awareness Session at SM

A two-hour Fire Safety Awareness theoretical and practical session was conducted on the 11th, 16th and 18th July 2024 respectively by the representative of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service whereby around 25 staff of SM participated. The aim of this training was to educate all on the preventive measures that will eliminate/ minimize causes of fire or fire hazards at the workplace as well as show them on the proper emergency and evacuation procedures in the event of a fire, while ensuring the best way to deal with vulnerable individuals. The theoretical session was followed by practical which consisted of a live demonstration on the proper use of fire extinguishers (Dry Powder and Carbon Dioxide).

3. Study Visit of Students from Loretto Rose-Hill College

A group of around 25 Grade 12 students from Loretto Rose-Hill College who had taken Mathematics as main subject were on an educational visit at SM on 17 July 2024. The main

objective of this visit was to enrich the students' knowledge and prepare them for their upcoming module on Statistics.

Dedicated officers from the CPI, National Accounts, LCS, and CA delivered concise presentations on the key indicators compiled within their units. They explained the concepts and definitions of these indicators, as well as their practical applications in everyday life. To conclude the visit, the group visited the Census of Agriculture and Dissemination units.



4. Capacity Building Workshop on Utilising Big Earth Data for SDGs in SIDS

Mauritius benefited from a training on Big Data in September 2024, co-organised by the UN agencies and Chinese institutions, in particular United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the national capacities of SIDS in computing and analysing SDG indicators using the Big Data, which is aligned with priorities of the 4th International Conference of SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda, May 2024. Big Earth Data and Open Data Science Program are used to monitor the SDGs in a variety of areas, including environmental monitoring, urbanisation studies and vessel tracking.

SIDS participants also had the opportunity to attend the 4th International Forum on Big Data Forum for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS 2024), where experts stressed on the need to harness the power of big data and open data science in driving progress across the SDGs, facilitating multidimensional analysis, identifying key barriers to sustainable development, fostering innovative solutions and clarifying the direction for future development. Big data is not merely a tool; it is the lifeblood of informed decision making.

5. Get-Together for retirees of SM

A Get-Together was organised by the Management of SM on Monday 02 September 2024 for former officers who have retired between June 2023 to September 2024. The Ag. Director of SM, welcomed the retirees and thanked them for their support, commitment and dedication to SM over their years of service. He pondered upon the hard work of these officers which have contributed significantly in making SM an indispensable stakeholder in the production and dissemination of official statistics. The office extends its gratitude and thanks to the retirees for their wonderful work and wishes them a happy retirement!

