

## World Bank Trust Fund for Capacity Building

Statistics Mauritius is benefiting from assistance from the World Bank under the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) to the tune of USD 350,100. The grant has been approved to fund the services of seven consultants and purchase 100 tablets to be used for data collection.

The project started in July 2017 and will end in December 2019.

During the past two years, the office has taken advantage of the trust fund to acquire tablets and four consultancy missions have been fielded:

- Poverty Mapping

The aim of the TA is to produce Poverty Maps by disaggregated geographical region, based on Small Area Estimation Technique. Following the training, a Poverty Map has been worked out based on 2011 Housing and Population Census, as well as the 2012 and 2017 Household Budget Survey data.

- Survey-to-Survey Imputation

Survey to Survey Imputation technique can be used to produce more frequent poverty indicators by applying consumption model of the 5-yearly Household Budget Survey (HBS) on the Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (CMPHS) data. Poverty indicators for 2012 and 2016 have been produced and will be further updated using latest CMPHS and HBS data.

- Piloting use of CAPI using Survey Solution

Following the training, Survey Solution is currently being used in the Living Condition Survey undertaken as from October 2018

- Data anonymization

Staff have been trained on statistical disclosure control techniques and anonymization of microdata.

During the remaining six months, the office is planning to have three additional TA's on:

- (i) Analysis and dissemination of Living Conditions Survey
- (ii) Data cataloguing & dissemination and
- (iii) The review of CMPHS design

## SM aims to take dissemination to another level

SM attended a workshop on 'Dissemination of Statistical Products' in South Africa in December 2018. The meeting was attended by staff in charge of dissemination and communication from National statistical offices of 15 Anglophone AU member states.

The workshop shed light on methods and techniques of dissemination with modern day technology, on ways to promoting accessibility to statistical products and official statistics, and on challenges in statistical dissemination.

Impressed by the prominence granted to dissemination in the statistical process and the largeness of innovative dissemination tools being used by fellow African countries, SM decided to take statistical dissemination to another level.

We came up with an action plan on dissemination to boost existing efforts to inform our users.

The Plan is to be implemented by staff in various divisions of the office.

Broadly, it aims at connecting the Mauritian layman to its socio-economic environment and making him/her statistically literate and informed. We shall be working on

- data stories that make statistics more easily understandable,
- the use of infographics that make statistics more visually appealing,
- revamping our website to be more accessible and
- increasing its visibility to keep users abreast of the vast collection of statistics in its repository.

## Peer Review of the National Statistical System

A peer review of the National Statistical System (NSS) of Mauritius was carried out in May 2018 by a team comprising the Statistician General of Statistics South Africa, the Deputy Director for Statistics at Morocco and ex-Director of Statistics Iceland.

This exercise was part of the Pan-African Statistics (PAS) Peer Reviews organised by the African Union Commission. The peer review noted that Mauritius has a relatively well developed and operating system for official statistics, with the good cooperation among the main producers as well as the main data providers and where official statistics produced and disseminated largely comply with the UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. The Peer Review arrived at nineteen recommendations to address the challenges faced by official statistics in Mauritius. These included, inter alia, clarification of demarcation of responsibilities between the Director of Statistics and the Statistics Board; the setting up of automated and secure data exchange within the NSS; an ICT system independent from the central government; implementation of a Generic Statistical Business Process Model, implementation of a systematic quality management framework, and human resources.

Some of the recommendations are being addressed while others recommendations are being taken up in the National Strategy for Official Statistics, currently under preparation.

The full report is available on our website at:

[http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/AboutUs/Documents/PeerReview\\_MAURITIUS\\_May18.pdf](http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/AboutUs/Documents/PeerReview_MAURITIUS_May18.pdf)

## Statistical Development in Rodrigues

In 2017, the Statistics Board took stock of bottlenecks in the production of reliable economic and social statistics for Rodrigues. In this context, a professional Statistician with extensive experience in official statistics was recruited in March 2019 for a period of six months to lead the statistical development in Rodrigues.

The Consultant is expected to carry out a data needs analysis, and plan and organize the development, maintenance and improvement of a system of economic, social and environmental statistics in Rodrigues. In the process, he will build capacity of staff in the statistical unit in Rodrigues.