

## Activities under the World Bank Trust Fund for Capacity Building (WBTFCB)

### i) Review of the Continuous Multi-Household Survey design

Statistics Mauritius recruited a Consultant to review the design of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) which is the main source of quarterly labour force statistics. The objective of the consultancy services was to assess the CMPHS methodology with a view to improve the quarterly labour force estimates and also to build capacity of SM staff in making further improvements in the design as and when required. The Consultant conducted two missions, in August and October 2019.

At the end of the project, SM organized a half day workshop with users of Labour Market statistics. The Consultant, Mr. Pete Brodie, former Chief Methodology Advisor to the Office for National Statistics, presented his findings and recommendations. He also led a group exercise to gather users' requirements on Labour Market statistics.

### ii) Analysis and dissemination of Living Conditions Survey and Celebration of African Statistics Day (ASD) – 20 November 2019

Every year, on 18 November 2019, the African Statistical Community celebrates the African Statistics Day (ASD) with the objective of raising public awareness about the importance of statistics in the economic and social development of the continent.

This year, Statistics Mauritius organized a workshop on the theme 'Quality of Life Statistics'. It presented the first results of the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) conducted from October 2018 to September 2019 with the assistance of a Consultant recruited under the WBTFCB. Views of stakeholders were gathered on themes that matter most to Mauritians to build appropriate dimensions and indicators of Quality of Life Statistics (QoL) for the country.

### iii) Data cataloguing and anonymization, and training in R Statistical Language

SM staff were trained on data cataloguing and anonymization using data from censuses, surveys and administrative sources and on R programming under the WBTFCB project.

The training in R language was run by the University of Mauritius under the MOU signed between SM and UoM. The training spanned over 10 days, with some 40 staff in the grade of SSO and above trained on data entry, programming, visualization, sampling, and survey and time series analysis.

Metadata for some 25 datasets are already available on NADA and 3 additional will be posted shortly together with 3 anonymised datasets.

## Housing and Population Census 2021

Preparations are on for the conduct of the 19th Housing and Population Census of the Republic of Mauritius in 2021.

This census will be the first one to use CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) technology for data collection. To build capacity on this aspect and better assess its implication for a nationwide census, SM has been undertaking various endeavours, namely:

- Training of 1 Census Statistician and 1 SSO on CSPro Android – Data Collection using Handheld Devices in South Africa in June 2019;
- Study tour by the Deputy Director responsible for the census project together with 1 Census Statistician and 1 Systems Analyst to Malawi in August 2019 to learn from their successful CAPI census conducted in 2018;
- Received a UNFPA mission in November 2019 to assess our capacity to undertake a CAPI census and recommend how best to do so;
- Preparing an MOU with US Census Bureau for strengthening our capacity on CAPI application development, census data processing and dissemination.

In addition, an online field staff enlistment is ongoing to ensure an adequate workforce of some 6000 Enumerators and 1,000 Chief Enumerators. Communication and publicity activities to promote the census are also being initiated.

Indeed, Census preparation has begun... to leave no one behind.

## Implementation of the recommendations of the IMF Mission on National Accounts

Implementation of the recommendations of the IMF mission on National Accounts conducted during 17- 21 June 2019 has started. As recommended, SM has reduced the frequency of the publication of the "Economic and Social Indicators on Annual National Accounts Estimates" from four times to twice a year, namely in June and December, to create space for the improvement and development of new economic statistics, including the annual supply and use rebalancing.

The next IMF mission on National Accounts will be conducted from 27 April to 8 May 2020. The main objective of the mission will be to:

- i) address the discrepancies in nominal and real GDP by including the estimate of Global Business Companies into exports on the expenditure side of GDP; and
- ii) improve the Supply and Use Table to address the estimate for Global Business Companies, both in nominal and real terms.

## End-of-year gathering of staff

SM held its end of year gathering on 26 December 2019 in Chamarel. It was a great opportunity to share the festive moments with our fellow workers. Some ex colleagues who have retired or have embraced new career challenges happily joined us. A shield was also presented to our retired colleagues in recognition for their contribution to SM.