

DMFAS Programme News

May 2011

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Armenia chooses DMFAS 6

In April 2011, Armenia became the latest (and 69th historical) country to choose the DMFAS system. The DMFAS project with the government of Armenia foresees implementation of DMFAS 6 in the Ministry of Finance, with the installation of DMFAS 6 to take place this month. The system will be a key asset to the Government in strengthening its overall ability to manage and analyse its external and domestic debt. The project also includes the translation of standard reports produced with the DMFAS system into Armenian. It is financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

DMFAS and the Lao People's Democratic Republic

2011 has also seen a first-time DMFAS project with the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), signed in January. A landlocked, low income country, the Lao PDR's debt is mostly composed of concessional external debt amounting to USD 3.1 billion and represents 55% of its GDP (end 2009 WB and IMF estimates). The project, financed by the World Bank, aims to strengthen the country's ability to manage its external borrowing and reporting obligations. As well as basic and advanced training in the DMFAS system, the project includes activities in defining and implementing validation procedures to ensure that the Laotian debt database is complete, accurate and consistent. Such an activity is essential for the production of reliable statistics and for carrying out debt analysis that will help the country design its own borrowing strategy.



Continued multi-year Programme support from donors

The European Commission has joined the donor community supporting the DMFAS Programme. At the start of the year, the EC confirmed its commitment to contribute to the multi-year financing of the Programme. The Government of Norway, the longest-standing donor to DMFAS, has also very recently renewed its support by confirming its commitment to provide multi-year funding for the Programme's new 4-year Strategic Plan. We take this opportunity to thank the European Commission as well as all of the DMFAS donors for their continued support of the Programme's work in supporting countries strengthen their debt management capacity. The current donors of the Programme are the European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.

Oman: Strengthening debt management at the Ministry of Finance

Another new client of the DMFAS Programme is the Government of Oman, which signed a technical assistance project document with UNCTAD in June 2010 for installation of the DMFAS 5.3 software (Arabic language) and debt management training at the Ministry of Finance. This project, which will strengthen Oman's public debt recording and reporting capability, is part of the government's strong commitment to building the capacity of its institutions in producing accurate data. Such data will facilitate preparation of the country's five-year development plans and help monitor progress towards achieving national development goals. The components of the TA project include: 1) improving IT capacity in debt management through installation of the DMFAS software and technical training for the database administrators, 2) strengthening debt recording and reporting capacities of the loan specialists through functional training, and 3) enhancing data validation procedures and developing capacity in generating debt statistics that meet international standards.



DMFAS 6 update: Egypt

The Central Bank of Egypt, mandated with recording public external debt, has completed installation of DMFAS 6 and software related technical and functional training. The Ministry of Finance, which is mandated with managing domestic debt and onlent loans, will begin conversion of its DMFAS 5.3 database to DMFAS 6 in June, followed by functional training. As such, both Egyptian institutions tasked with public debt management will be using the web-based DMFAS 6 this year. DMFAS 6 will facilitate intra-institutional data-sharing, a historically important activity for managing the Egyptian public debt, previously achieved through paper transfer of debt statistics. The UNCTAD technical assistance project that facilitates this advance in holistic debt management in Egypt has been made possible through funding provided by the Government of Switzerland.

DMFAS Training for Trainers

DMFAS ability to provide the best training services possible to our clients means also having a solid, continuously up-to-date roster of certified consultants. To this end the Programme tries to identify good potential consultants from the debt offices themselves, who would become certified to train others. These debt officers are invited to participate in DMFAS Training for Trainers workshops. At the latest such workshop, organized 14-25 February 2011, participants comprised

potential consultants from debt offices in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.



They were joined by some of the Programme's experienced independent consultants, as well as by representatives from the IMF and from the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI). The training, given by members of the Programme's central staff, focused on DMFAS 6 and on the Programme's capacity-building modules in debt statistics and debt portfolio analysis. The workshop also included presentations by the IMF representative on latest developments in debt statistics.



Training for Trainers, Geneva, 14-25 February 2011



Transregional Programme for Public Debt Management Audit 2008-2011

Audit Review Meeting

Lusaka, Zambia 2 – 9 March 2011

Debt Management for Auditors

The DMFAS Programme is actively working with the International Development Initiative (IDI) of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) in assisting IDI implement a transregional capacity-building programme for the auditing of public debt management. The project, which started in 2007 and ends this year, has included the development of an e-learning programme and guidelines, as well as advice in producing and implementing debt management audit plans. In March and April, three regional meetings were organized under this initiative. Held in Morocco, the Philippines and Zambia, participants to the meetings received detailed peer and expert feedback on their draft audit reports. Implementation of audits plans in individual SAs were also discussed, as were the public debt audit guidelines, expected to be finalized by the end of 2011. Additionally, participants at the Morocco and Zambian workshops received training in DMFAS 6.

MTDS regional workshop, Jakarta

As a technical partner to the Debt Management Facility (DMF) framework, UNCTAD recently coordinated the organization of a joint World Bank-IMF-UNCTAD regional workshop on Medium-term Debt Management Strategies (MTDS), in Jakarta, Indonesia, 28 March to 1 April 2011. The workshop was attended by 28 representatives from 15 countries (of which 21 institutions). Countries included Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao P.D.R., Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.



Selected current and Upcoming Events

Debt Portfolio Analysis workshop, Ministry of Finance,
Nicaragua, May

MTDS National workshop, Kyrgyz Republic, May

DMFAS 6 functional training, Ministry of Finance,
Guatemala, May

DMFAS 6 installation and functional training, Ministry
of Finance, Armenia, May

DMFAS 6 conversion, installation and functional
training, Ministry of Finance, Dominican Republic,
May - June

Debt Portfolio Analysis workshop, Ministry of Finance,
Nicaragua, June

DMFAS 6 installation and functional training, Ministry
of Finance, Egypt, June - July

DMFAS 6 conversion, installation and functional
training, Bureau of the Treasury, Philippines, July -
August

8th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference &
DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting,
14 to 18 November, Geneva

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