

DMFAS Programme News

December 2013



Season's greetings



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Launching of the new DMFAS web portal

The DMFAS Programme has revamped its website and the new DMFAS portal was launched at the 9th DMFAS Advisory Group meeting in November. The new web portal, developed with the support of UNCTAD's Information Technology Section, includes many new features to better inform the public on the Programme's work and better serve DMFAS clients.



The new DMFAS portal offers a more relevant, modern, accessible and interactive website with new functionalities and interactive content. It will, in particular, improve the timeliness and availability of new information, improve its communications with DMFAS stakeholders, and offer new services through a secure area. The content of the DMFAS website has been entirely changed to be more attractive and provide more useful information.

It contains 5 sections:

- **Who we are** presenting the Programme, its mandate, its client and donors;
- **What we do** presenting the products and service of the DMFAS Programme;
- **News and events** containing the e-newsletters and calendar of DMFAS events
- **Resource center** compiling links and material about debt management
- **Client area** offering exclusive content for DMFAS users including functional and technical documentation, capacity-building material and self-training quizzes.

Come and visit the new DMFAS web portal at www.unctad.org/dmfas!



9th DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting



Main conclusions of the 9th DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting

- High relevance of the DMFAS Programme for developing countries, partners and donors
- Appreciation of the very positive conclusions of the independent Mid-term Review of the DMFAS Programme
- Endorsement of the MTR recommendation to extend the current Strategic plan for one year
- Agreement with the Programme's strategic priorities, in particular DMFAS 6 implementation, capacity building, coordination and communication
- Exploring multi-annual borrowing plans area
- DMFAS 6: incorporation of new/improved module
- Relevance of the new capacity development framework
- Interfaces with other systems
- Strong coordination with other partners
- Interest for regional centres
- Appreciation of the improved communication and new DMFAS website
- Good support and quality of services provided by the DMFAS Programme
- Good quality of the helpdesk

The DMFAS Advisory Group met in Geneva on 14-15 November 2013 in Geneva back-to-back with the 9th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference. More than 170 participants from current and potential beneficiary countries, donors and partners attended the meeting.

The Advisory Group Meeting provided the opportunity for donors, beneficiaries and development partners of UNCTAD's DMFAS Programme to examine the Programme's capacity building activities in debt management, the technical and functional features of its debt management and financial analysis system (DMFAS), and the future direction of the Programme. The 2 areas of focus were the results of the independent evaluation of the DMFAS Programme and the implementation of the DMFAS Programme's four-year Strategic Plan (progress and work plans).

The Advisory Group appreciated that the Programme continues to be highly relevant for developing countries, bilateral donors and other organizations, that there is a high level of satisfaction among users of its products and services, and that users consider that DMFAS provides a cost-effective solution for their needs. The main conclusions are summarized in the box and detailed conclusions are available on the DMFAS website: <http://unctad.org/dmfas>.



DMFAS donors' meeting

The donors of the DMFAS Programme met as part of the 9th DMFAS Advisory Group meeting on 14 November 2013. Representatives from the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland participated in the meeting.

It was the occasion for the donors to discuss more in depth the results of the MTR and the DMFAS responses to the MTR recommendations as well as review the financial situation of the Programme. During the meeting, the donors expressed their satisfaction with the excellent quality of the MTR report and pointed out that [the donors' community] "confirms the relevance and quality of job the DMFAS team is doing, while pointing out some important areas of improvement to which the DMFAS team has responded very well". Donors also appreciated the positive implementation of the financial reform mechanisms of the Strategic Plan and agreed with the conduct of a Business Model study in 2014.

Donors congratulated the Programme for the excellent results achieved, particularly given the limited resources available. They encouraged DMFAS to continue to deliver what is essentially an international public good – that is, high quality debt management software and technical assistance.

9th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference

The 9th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference took place from 11 to 13 November 2013 in Geneva. The Conference was opened by Dr. Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary General and gathered together 307 participants from 87 countries. High level participation shows the great interest of countries in the topics discussed.

Main topics covered during the conference included:

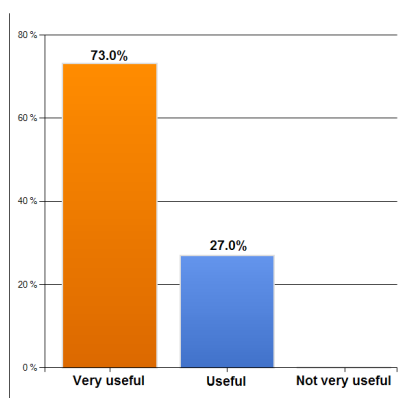
- External shocks, financial stability and debt (including debt restructuring mechanisms and debt sustainability: after the HIPC Initiative and the global crisis)
- Debt crisis prevention and debt strategies (including contingent liabilities and debt portfolio)
- Managing the debt: transparency in debt management

Presentations are available at : www.unctad.info/DMC2013

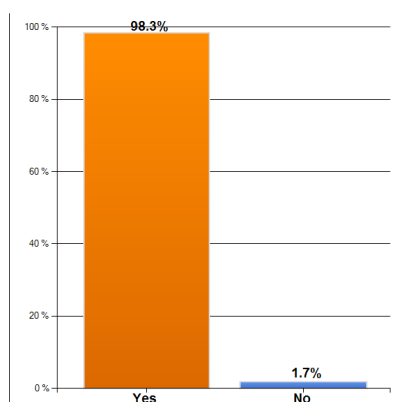
Main Debt Management Conference evaluation results

Over 90% of the respondents rated the agenda, speakers and organization of the conference as excellent or good. All respondents declared that the conference was very useful (73%) or useful (27%), and all of them considered that the conference provided an opportunity to exchange of views/experiences with other participants and speakers. For 79% of the respondents, the debt management conference is an extremely unique or very unique event.

Usefulness of the conference



The conference as an opportunity to exchange views/experiences



DMFAS 6 Update: Release 18.8

At the beginning of December 2013, the DMFAS Programme introduced release 18.8 of DMFAS 6. This release contains corrections and enhancements to some existing features.

Enhancements implemented are related to:

- General Information
- Commissions
- Mobilization
- Debt Service (buyback)
- Reports
- Analysis
- Grants
- Auditing
- Control panels
- Utilities
- On-line Help: the latest update has been incorporated.



Debt statistics improvements in Viet Nam

Publication of the first bulletin on public debt

In 2013, Viet Nam has extended the scope of its debt data statistics by publishing its first Public Debt Bulletin.

Building on the experience and improved quality of the available data on both domestic and external debt, Viet Nam published the first edition of a statistical bulletin on Public Debt at the beginning of 2013. This bulletin incorporates some data on the country's domestic issuance and provides additional information on the country's total public debt in accordance with the country's public debt management legal framework. This new publication complements the existing statistical debt bulletin on External Debt which was launched in 2007.

The Government of Viet Nam and UNCTAD's DMFAS Programme have collaborated in the area of public debt management since 1995 with the installation of the DMFAS software (version 5.0) and capacity-building in public debt management at the Ministry of Finance's Debt Management External Finance Department (DMEFD). The institution used the software and its successive versions to manage and to report on Viet Nam's external debt.

Building on the success of previous projects with the DMEFD, the latest project, implemented in 2011-2012, included the installation of DMFAS 5.3 at the Vietnamese State Treasury (VST) which is in charge of managing domestic debt issuances. As a result, the domestic debt database was created and VST staff now use the system to follow-up and report on debt issuances. Support was also provided by DMFAS to the Vietnamese IT team to develop the interface between the Ministry of Finance's Treasury Accounting System and DMFAS.



Cover of the 1st Public Debt Bulletin of Vietnam

Data validation in the province of Buenos Aires

In the framework of the technical assistance Project "Strengthening public debt management capacity" signed with the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, a debt data validation workshop was organized in May in La Plata, Argentina.



Participants at the data validation workshop for the Province of Buenos Aires and DMFAS User Representative

The technical assistance Project with the Province was signed in 2008 and this activity is the last of a series of capacity building activities for the Provincial Direction of the Debt and Public Credit (Dirección Provincial de Deuda y Crédito Público) of the Ministry of Economy of the Province of Buenos Aires. It's the first time that the DMFAS Programme implements this type of capacity-building at a subnational level and the workshop resulted in the elaboration of a draft debt data validation calendar.

In 2011, DMFAS 6 was installed in the Province of Buenos Aires which became the first institution at provincial level to use the new version of the DMFAS software. During the different stages of the project implementation, officials from the debt office received capacity building in database administration, basic and advanced functionalities as well as on analytical features of the system in addition to training and seminars organized jointly between the Ministry of Economy and UNCTAD. DMFAS 6 replaces an Excel platform for the recording and the administration of debt instruments (loans and securities), allowing a better and more comprehensive recording of provincial debt data to respond more efficiently to the external and internal requirements of the institution.



Season greetings!



The DMFAS Programme team wishes you a happy holiday season and a prosperous year!

DMFAS team with Dr. Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary General and Ms. Yuefen Li, Head of DDFB



Selected current and upcoming events

The list of forthcoming activities is also available at:
<http://unctad.org/dmfas>.

Debt statistics workshop, Gabon, January

Workshop and assistance in the elaboration of procedure manual, Gabon, January

Conceptual design of interface, El Salvador, January

Technical support mission, Egypt, January

DMFAS 6 Advanced functional training, Dominican Republic, February

Debt Portfolio Analysis, El Salvador, February

Mid-Term evaluation, Nicaragua, February

DMFAS 6 Advanced functional training and data validation training, Panama February,

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