

DMFAS Programme News

April 2016

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Gabon strengthens its technical skills: a new DMFAS Oracle/SQL course

In the framework of the project "Strengthening analysis capacities and modernization to IT tools" signed between UNCTAD and Gabon, **a new course for DMFAS database administrators has been designed to strengthen the IT capacities in the administration of the DMFAS database using Oracle and SQL language.** This training also responds to the recommendation of the 2015 DMFAS Advisory Group meeting to develop technical training on SQL language.



Signature of the Aide-mémoire between Ms. Avomo Ntolo and Mr. Gerry Teeling

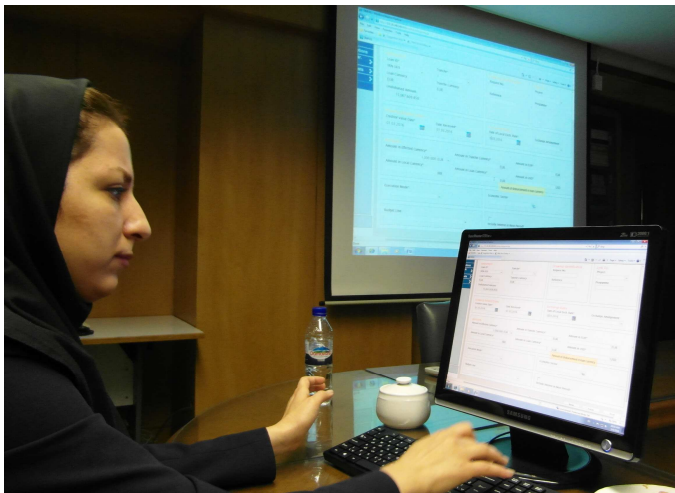
A full curriculum was tailor-made to specifically target DMFAS database operators. It covered:

- Oracle training on DMFAS database administration, including installation, creation of a database, configuration of network, Oracle 11g architecture and database structure, Oracle parameters set up and backup procedures.
- training on DMFAS database structure, including naming conventions, tables, and user environment.
- an SQL and PLSQL specific training: general concepts applied to the DMFAS database.

This specialized workshop was organized in DMFAS headquarters from 22 February to 4 March 2016 and 3 IT staff from the *Direction Générale de la Dette* of Gabon were trained. At the end of the workshop, an Aide-mémoire was signed between Carine Avomo Ntolo, Director of the IT department of the *Direction Générale de la Dette*, and Gerry Teeling, Chief of the DMFAS Programme summarizing the achievements and future actions.

If you are interested on this new specialized SQL/PLSQL and Oracle course for DMFAS software, please contact the DMFAS Programme at:
dmfas@unctad.org.

Successful implementation of DMFAS 6 in the Islamic Republic of Iran



Advanced functional training at the CBI

The project "Implementation of DMFAS 6" at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CBI) successfully achieved its objectives according to the findings of the final evaluation mission.

The staff of the Foreign Debt Department (FDD) is now fully equipped to face new challenges and to use DMFAS 6 in its daily tasks.

Signed in December 2014, the project between the CBI and UNCTAD DMFAS Programme has come to its end. In February and March 2016, the last two activities, namely the advance functional training and the data validation, were conducted in Tehran and were followed by the final evaluation mission.

Through the implementation of a series of technical, functional and capacity-building activities, the following results were achieved at the end of the project:

- DMFAS 6 is fully functional at the FFD (end of parallel run planned for June 2016);
- Staff of the FDD is trained in data entry, debt reporting and use of analytical tools of DMFAS 6;
- The external debt database is complete and updated and contains all external debt instruments;
- The link with the Financing and Cash payment Reports (FCR) tool, a locally developed reporting tool, is compatible with DMFAS 6;
- The CBI reports effectively to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System and publishes external debt statistics in the CBI Annual Review and in the Economic trends issues (quarterly) which are available in the CBI website: <http://www.cbi.ir/page/1429.aspx>.

A key strength of the FDD is the stability in the staffing with limited turnover. The training received during the project, combined with internal on-the-job training of new staff by more experienced DMFAS users, has contributed to building strong foundations in the back office. The CBI is a DMFAS user since 1997.

With the signature of the Iran Nuclear Deal Framework and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the prospective lifting of sanctions is expected to have a significant impact on the economy of the country and access to the global market, and Iran will face new challenges and opportunities. The CBI is now equipped with modern tools that will enhance its capacity to respond to new debt management needs.



Participants of the advanced functional training at the CBI

Annual TFFS meeting

Task Force on Finance Statistics

The UNCTAD DMFAS Programme participated in the yearly meeting of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (TFFS) which was held in Washington, DC on March 17-18, 2016.

The main theme discussed at this year's meeting was to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to improve the availability and quality of external and public sector debt data. The meeting, which was hosted by the IMF, brought together representatives from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec), the European Central Bank (ECB), Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Bank.

While focusing on enhancing inter-agency collaboration, including capacity building efforts to improve the availability of external and public sector debt data for analysis and policy making, particular attention was also directed to lowering the data reporting burden for countries. The World Bank also presented its recently-released public sector debt database (<http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/quarterly-public-sector-debt>) matrix approach to improve comparability of data across countries. The participants noted the important progress made in countries' reporting to the quarterly external debt statistics (QEDS) database (<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/qeds>) — including with respect to analytical tables on currency composition, debt service payments schedule, and net external debt—in line with the new international methodological standards. The participants agreed on a medium-term strategy to improve external and public sector debt statistics to address data gaps, with the aim to improve data coverage and reduce countries' reporting burdens. The participants also discussed how to further enhance the datasets by covering fiscal risks, including contingent liabilities and net debt.

The DMFAS Programme presented its on-going work on integrating nominal value calculations into the DMFAS version 6 as well as on measures undertaken to improve data quality. Like the other participating agencies, the DMFAS Programme also presented the occasional paper reporting on its work in the area of debt statistics. Finally, the DMFAS Programme assured that it will continue working in cooperation with the other TFFS members in implementing the TFFS work program defined until the next meeting scheduled for March 2017 and to be hosted by the ECB.

What is the TFFS

The Task Force on Finance Statistics (TFFS) (<http://www.tffs.org/>) sets methodological standards for statistics on external debt and public sector debt; promotes data availability on financial stocks, particularly external and public sector debt; encourages internationally accepted statistical practices to enhance data quality; and fosters inter-agency collaboration in statistical capacity building. The TFFS is chaired by the IMF Statistics Department and meets annually.

Reference documents:

- Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual 6 (BPM6): <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf>
- External Debt Statistics: Guide for compilers and users., 2013: <http://www.tffs.org/pdf/edsg/ft2014.pdf>



TFFS meeting participants

It's in the online help

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- Welcome
- Auctions
- Loans
- On-lent Loans
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- Private Non-guaranteed External Debt
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- Grants
- General Agreements
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- PNED Drawings
- Debt Service Operations
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- Guides in PDF**
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Guides in PDF

The following guides are available in PDF format:

BASICS

- [DMFAS 6 User's Guide](#)
- [DMFAS 6 Utilities](#)

DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTS

- [DMFAS 6 Analysis](#)
- [DMFAS 6 Auctions](#)
- [DMFAS 6 Calculation Methods](#)
- [DMFAS 6 Reports](#)
- [DMFAS 6 Reorganization](#)
- [Private Non-guaranteed External Debt](#)
- [Short-term Debt](#)

Related Topics

Templates

The following are Excel templates that you can use to import data into two modules:

- [Private Non-guaranteed External Debt](#)
- [Short-term External Debt](#)

You can record data in these templates and then import them into DMFAS.

For instructions on the template for PNED, click [here](#).
For instructions on the template for STED, click [here](#).

Related Topics

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- Index
- Search
- Glossary

If you are a DMFAS 6 user, you have probably seen the online help which is the system's user assistance tool. If you have already consulted the online help, then you are no doubt aware that it provides detailed and comprehensive information on all the features and modules of DMFAS 6.

However, you may not know that the online help offers a whole lot more than just descriptions of features.

Let's have a look at some of its lesser known but potentially useful resources:

- A complete set of manuals in PDF. You can find all the latest user guides and documentation supplements directly in the online help where you can download them directly to your computer.
- Excel templates for importing data into two DMFAS modules: Private Non-guaranteed External Debt (PNED) and Short-term External Debt (STED). These predefined templates already contain data given as an example. You can then make a back-up of these templates and begin entering your own data for subsequent import.
- Extensive information and instructions regarding the 18 data validation queries available in DMFAS 6. Data validation queries are used during the data checks of the debt database.
- Coverage of all the standard reports in DMFAS 6 used to produce statistical bulletins. Over 61 reports are available in the software's statistical bulletin library and the online help contains full details on every one of them.

Finally, the online help is a convenient and fast way to locate product information. While the order of topics in the help window mirrors the DMFAS 6 interface itself, you can also navigate the online help via the index or through a search by keywords.

Remember, it's all in the online help and it's all so quick and simple to find.

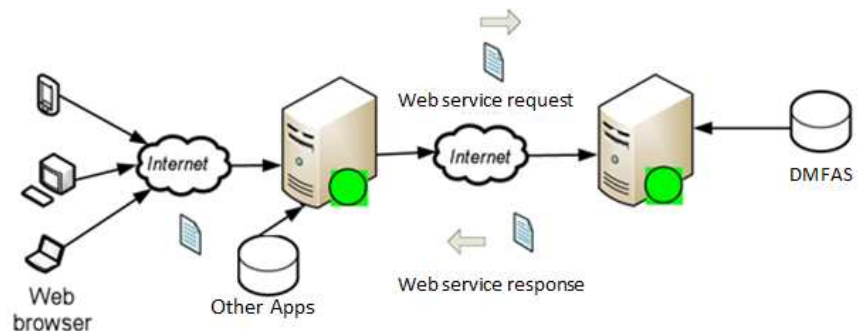


Implementation of web services in DMFAS 6.1.1.

Starting with the release 6.1.1 the DMFAS Application is providing a set of web services as part of the new features to support and facilitate the integration with other applications.

The term "Web-services" refers to the technology enabling two applications to communicate using Internet protocols. In other words a Web service is a programmatic interface which allows developers to include references to a source system into a program. It is aimed at avoiding having to program complex algorithms to obtain or store information into the source system and reducing maintenance costs (on the client side) for interfacing programs. Another advantage of using web services in the DMFAS system is that using open standard protocols (in this case SOAP2) allows the portability of platforms in a transparent manner. Hence, a Web service written on one platform (using Java programs for instance) can call another Web service written on another platform and programming language by using a simple call, without having to write complicated integration algorithms.

This diagram shows a simplified schema of the implementation of web services, in which an application (used on the Internet) requests, through a web service using the Internet protocol, information from the DMFAS system and shares this information with its users. This is done in a transparent manner for the user, who does not know about the complexities to obtain the information from other systems.



The boxes show the list of existing services, classified on whether they are providing information from the DMFAS system or sending information into the DMFAS system. These web services are being enhanced and increased and will be fully operational with the release of DMFAS 6.2.

Services extracting information from the DMFAS

The following is the list of services providing information from the DMFAS system:

1. Reference data
 - a. Exchange rates.
 - b. Participants register
 - c. Bank Accounts
2. Debt service projections (in local currency, tranche currency and USD) by periods in standard periodicities (monthly, quarterly, yearly)
 - a. By list of instruments
 - b. By currencies
 - c. By Creditor/Debtor
3. Disbursements projections (in local currency, tranche currency and USD) by periods in standard periodicities (monthly, quarterly, yearly)
 - a. By list of instruments
 - b. By currencies
 - c. By Creditor/Debtor
4. Auction information
 - a. Auction details
 - b. Accepted bids by Auction/Bidder
 - c. Not accepted bids by Auction/Bidder

Services sending information into DMFAS

The following is the list of web services, sending information into the DMFAS system:

1. Reference data
 - a. Exchange rates.
 - b. Bank Accounts
 - c. Interest rates
2. Debt service operations
3. Disbursements
4. Loan information
5. Tranche information
6. Auction information
 - a. Auction details
 - b. Accepted bids by Auction/Bidder
 - c. Not accepted bids by Auction/Bidder

Selected Current and upcoming Events

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

Data validation workshop, Angola, April-May 2016

Installation and maintenance training, Republic of Moldova, May 2016

DMFAS 6 advanced functional training, La Rioja, Argentina, May 2016

DMFAS 6 basic functional training, Bank Indonesia, May 2016

Database conversion, Albania, May 2016

Debt Management Facility Stakeholders Forum (partner coordination), Zambia, May 2016

DMFAS 6 basic functional training, Albania, May-June 2016

Data validation workshop, Philippines, June 2016

DMFAS 6 advanced functional, Republic of Moldova, July 2016

DMFAS 6 basic functional training (domestic debt), Albania, July 2016

Database conversion, Sudan, July-August 2016



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