



Meeting of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

ECB Headquarters, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

March 21–22, 2017

Occasional Paper on Activities Related to Debt Statistics

Prepared by the World Bank



World Bank Occasional Report on Activities Related to Debt Statistics

I. Data and Publications

International Debt Statistics 2017. The *International Debt Statistics 2017* country and summary data were disseminated through the World Bank *Open Data* in December 2016. The report covers external debt stocks and flows, major economic aggregates, and key debt ratios as well as average terms of new commitments, currency composition of long-term debt, debt restructuring, and scheduled debt service projections for 123 countries that report debt under the World Bank Debtor Reporting System. The online database presents historical time series indicators (country-level) from 1970 to 2015 and can be accessed under the new World Bank debt portal site which serves a central hub for information and access to debt statistics, launched in December 2013.

The site is available at <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/home>. The IDS 2017 book was also published in December 2016.

Quarterly External Debt Database. The Quarterly External Debt (QEDS) database has been in existence since November 2004 and was jointly developed by the World Bank's Development Data Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Statistics Department. The QEDS database brings together detailed external debt data of countries that subscribe to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and a selected number of countries that participate in the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). The external debt data is disaggregated by institutional sectors, original maturity, and debt instruments, and for some of these economies, disaggregated by currency and remaining maturity. GDDS/QEDS participants report a simplified quarterly set of data focusing on the external debt of the public and publicly guaranteed sectors. Since October 2014, external debt data is being published on a 2013 *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users* (2013 *EDS Guide*) and *Sixth Edition of Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (BPM6) basis. As of end January 2017, 75 countries plus the Euro Area (out of 76 reporters) reported under the QEDS/SDDS database for the period ending 2016Q3. Of these, a total 9 countries continued to report data on a 2003 *EDS Guide/BPM5* basis for which conversion to a 2013 *EDS Guide/BPM6* basis was undertaken by the World Bank. For countries reporting under the QEDS/GDDS database, a total of 33 countries (out of 47 reporters) reported data for the period ending 2016Q3 with 28 countries also providing data for Table 1 under the QEDS/SDDS database. A total of 25 countries reported data on a 2013 *EDS Guide/BPM6* basis, 8 countries had their data converted and a total of 14 countries did not reported data for period ending 2016Q3.

The QEDS database can be accessed through the World Bank's QEDS Debt Data portal at <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/home>. Access to the QEDS database is also provided through the World Bank Open Data site at <http://databank.worldbank.org/> under "[Quarterly External Debt Statistics/SDDS \(New\)](#)" and "[Quarterly External Debt Statistics/GDDS \(New\)](#)."

Joint External Debt Hub. The World Bank has actively contributed to the development and maintenance of the Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH). The JEDH provides a one-stop source of comprehensive external debt statistics compiled from international creditor/market sources and national debtor sources, namely QEDS (see above). In 2014, the JEDH website was streamlined to ensure a more user friendly experience. The updates included direct links to the QEDS website and JEDH database, and a simplified data release calendar. In 2015, the JEDH creditor/market table was rearranged so indicators with higher frequency and more data appear in the main table. In 2016, the World Bank started the process of revamping the hub web after bilateral discussions with BIS/IMF/OECD and presented the mock-up pages at TFFS meeting in Washington DC, 2016.

With the cooperation of partner organizations, the World Bank released data publication schedule with each indicators' update frequency.

The JEDH uses the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standards, which the World Bank has been involved in advancing, and the World Bank's latest generation of web service, the Development Data Platform.

The JEDH can be accessed at: <http://www.jedh.org> or through the debt data portal at: <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/>, and JEDH data is also available through the World Bank's Open Data platform at: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>.

Quarterly Public Sector Debt Data. As part of the World Bank [Open Data Initiative](#), in December 2010 The World Bank launched for the first time an online, quarterly, [Public Sector Debt database](#) (www.worldbank.org/qpsd), developed in partnership with the IMF, which allows researchers and policymakers to explore questions about the recent development in the public sector debt. The PSD database, with the endorsement of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (TFFS), was initially focused on developing/emerging market countries and now in partnership with OECD and Eurostat has been expanded to the advanced economies. The launch of the database is one of the recommendations in the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative.¹ PSD database facilitates timely dissemination in standard formats of external debt data. By bringing such data and metadata together in one central location, the database supports macroeconomic analysis and cross-country comparison.

¹ Please see <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/102909.pdf>. The Public Sector Debt Database is recommendation number 18 in the Data Gaps Initiative Report.

The database is organized into five sets of tables on the following sectors: General government; o/w Central government; o/w Budgetary central government; Nonfinancial public corporations and Financial public corporations and is structured by instruments, maturity and by creditors as the presentation format articulated in the table 4.3 in *the IMF Public Sector Debt Guide*. While central government is identified as the area where there is the most important key of macroeconomic analysis, the public sector debt database provides data on other levels of public sector, valuation methods and debt instruments, and clearly defined tiers of debt where appropriate for central, state and local government as well as extra-budgetary agencies and funds. As of end February 2017, a total of 74 economies, out of which 36 developing and emerging and 38 developed, provided data for the Q3 2016.

The QPSD database can be accessed through the World Bank's QPSD Debt Data portal at: <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/qpsd> and through the World Bank Open Data site at: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=quarterly-public-sector-debt>

Online Quarterly Bulletin on Debt Statistics

The World Bank published the fourth edition of the Online Quarterly Bulletin on debt statistics. The objective of the Bulletin is to showcase the debt statistics data and highlight the availability of quarterly data on external and domestic debt. The Bulletin serves as a vehicle for providing users with regular updates on trends in external and public sector borrowing by developing and high income countries and for showcasing innovations in data capture and presentation. The Online Quarterly Bulletin is divided into three sections. The first section features a story that highlights a topical aspect of monitoring and managing debt statistics; and the second section provides analysis and trends of the debt statistics, using graphs to highlight the main messages. The third section is used to provide information on key activities related to debt statistics. This edition, the bulletin familiarizes users with (1) the links between the categories of external debt data reported to QEDS and that collected through the DRS and published in the IDS and (2) external debt trends in low- and middle-income countries as well as in high income countries during the first half 2016. The Online Quarterly Bulletin is available at <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/debt/QuarterlyBulletin-January2017> .

II. Ongoing Initiatives

The Debt Management Facility (DMF) for LICs, established in January 2009 as a World Bank administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), aims to strengthen Public Debt Management (PDM) capacity and institutions in LICs. DMF activities form part of a programmatic approach to support government authorities in building capacity for managing debt more effectively and efficiently, and comprise of following key elements. In 2014 the

WB, IMF and the DMF donors launched the second phase of the program to pursue further strengthening of debt management capacities.

A. Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA) methodology, updated by the WB in 2015, evaluates strengths and weaknesses in public debt management through a comprehensive set of performance indicators, covering five core areas of public debt management. A DeMPA evaluation helps to guide the design of actionable reform programs, facilitate monitoring of performance over time, and enhance donor harmonization based on a common understanding of reform priorities.

One hundred and eight DeMPA missions took place in seventy-six countries and seventeen in sub-nationals by end-FY 2016. Of all, thirty-three are 2nd or 3rd DeMPA missions. The follow-up activities have resulted in (i) fifty-one reform plan missions in forty-four countries and six in subnationals and (ii) eighty-one for ‘Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS)’ missions in forty-eight countries.

The results from the assessments helped to identify reform priorities across countries. The results from 76 assessments² summarized in chart 1 indicate deficiencies across countries regarding the quality of debt management strategies, conduct of performance audits of debt-management policies and functions, policies and procedures for external borrowings, operational risk management and cash balance management.

Given the rapid growth in sub-national debt markets in developing countries to finance infrastructure and economic growth, owing to worldwide decentralization a need for a more focused tool for sub-nationals was expressed. A subnational DeMPA tool was developed and is been updated in FY16 in order to align it with revised sovereign DeMPA methodological provisions.

More information about the DeMPA tool and methodology can be accessed through the World Bank’s website at: <http://go.worldbank.org/4VX651FHB0>.

² Among 108 DeMPAs completed by end-FY16 which reports have been finalized, thirty-three are follow-up DeMPAs. In case of more than one report for one country, the most recent results are incorporated in the chart.

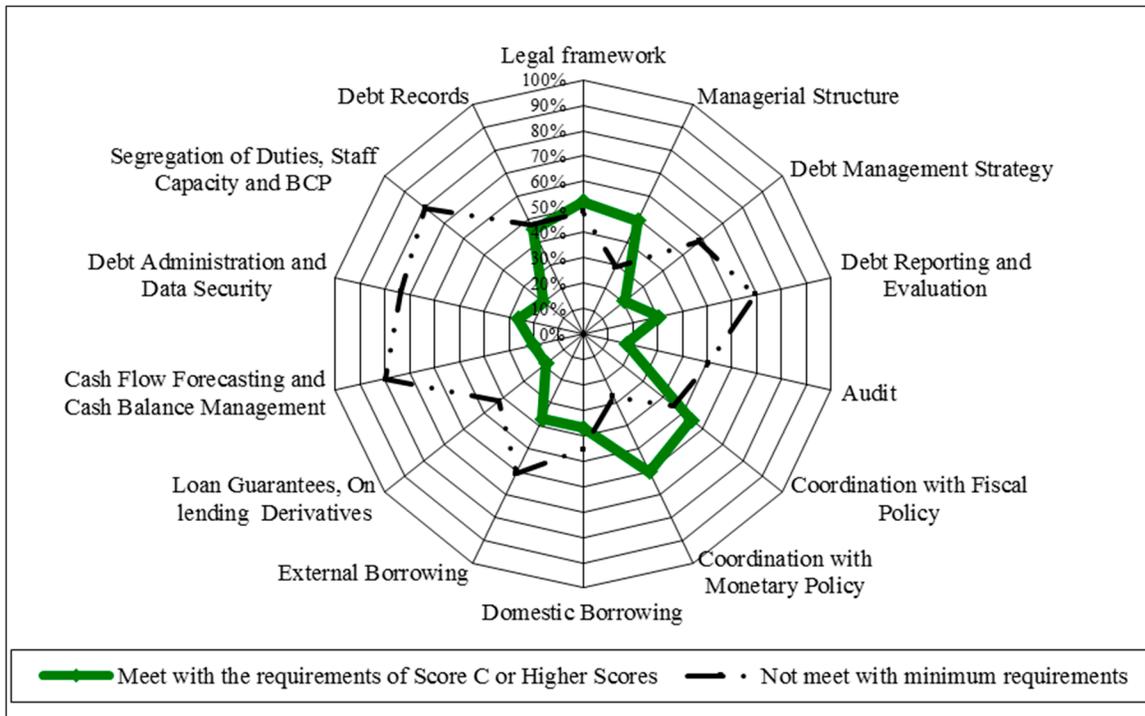


Chart 1: Results from the DeMPA Exercise³

B. The diagnostic has also been followed up with technical assistance (TA) to develop detailed and sequenced reform plans. The reform plan aims to alleviate the weaknesses identified and analyzed by the DeMPA or through other assessments. It details expected outputs and outcomes, actions, sequencing and milestones. It also provides an estimate of budget and resources required to implement the plan..

³ The green line represents the percentage of dimensions of the indicator across countries that meet the DeMPA minimum requirements while the black line represents the percentage of dimensions that do not.

Chart 2: DeMPA and Reform Plan Missions to Date Fiscal-Year-Wise

DeMPA Implementation: 125 Missions							
FY07 (5) Pilots	FY09 (15)	FY10 (15)	FY11 (17)	FY12 (13)	FY13 (13)	FY14 (11)	FY16 (15)
The Gambia	Burundi	Pakistan	Kazakhstan	Nicaragua (2nd)	Lesotho	Bangladesh	Antigua and Barbuda
Malawi	Uganda	Nepal	Togo (2nd)	CAR (2nd)	Bolivia	Armenia	Cape Verde
Albania	St. Kitts & Nevis	Samoa	Yemen	Zimbabwe	Madagascar	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Congo, Dem. Rep.
Guyana	Solomon Islands	The Gambia (2nd)	Albania (2nd)	Vietnam	Pakistan (SN)	Ecuador (SN)	Grenada
Nicaragua	Cabo Verde	Cambodia	Papua New Guinea	Mali (2nd)	Chad	Bosnia & Herzegovina (SN)	India (SN)
FY08 (12)	Cameroon	Maldives	Mongolia (2nd)	Ghana (2nd)	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Honduras	India (SN)
Burkina Faso	Congo, Rep	Malawi (2nd)	Bhutan	Sudan	Ethiopia	Nigeria (SN)	Kyrgyz Republic
CAR	Guinea	Liberia	Zambia (2nd)	Niger	Georgia	Fiji	Liberia
Ghana	Nigeria	Guinea-Bissau	Comoros	Nigeria	Nigeria (SN)	Bhutan	Nigeria (SN)
Mali	Rwanda	Senegal	Nigeria (SN)	Burundi (2nd)	Uganda (SN)	Haiti	Pakistan (SN)
Mozambique	Congo, DRC	Sierra Leone	Burkina Faso (2nd)	Gabon	Peru (SN)	Gambia, The	Papua New Guinea
Togo	Cote D'Ivoire	Djibouti	Swaziland (2nd)	Kosovo	Equatorial Guinea	FY15 (9)	Rwanda
Sao Tome & Principe	Grenada	Tanzania	Brazil (SN)	Indonesia (SN)	Kosovo	Angola	Tajikistan
Swaziland	Antigua	Mauritania	Tajikistan	Maldives (2nd)		Cote d'Ivoire	Togo
Bangladesh	Zambia	Benin	Belarus			Kenya	Zimbabwe
Honduras			Sao Tome & Principe			Nepal	
Moldova			Afghanistan			Nigeria (SN)	
Mongolia						Tanzania	
						Vanuatu	
						Vietnam (SN)	
						Zimbabwe	

Debt Management Reform Plans Implementation: 57 Missions						
FY08 (2)	FY10 (6)	FY11 (5)	FY12 (11)	FY13 (10)	FY14 (12)	FY15 (6)
Albania	Congo, Rep	Congo, Brazaville	Zimbabwe	Burundi	Niger	Bosnia and Herzegovina (SN)
India (SN)	Bangladesh	Maldives	Sao Tome & Principe	Samoa	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Burkina-Faso
	Solomon Islands	Moldova	Bhutan	Tonga	Bosnia & Herzegovina (SN)	Georgia
FY09 (1)	Cameroon	The Gambia	Liberia	Zambia	Ethiopia	Honduras
Ghana	Sierra Leone	Malawi	DRC	CAR	Timor Leste	Kyrgyz Republic
	India (SN)		Cameroon	Gambia	Madagascar	Sudan
			Tajikistan	Sudan	Guinea	FY16 (4)
			Tanzania	Cabo Verde	Togo	Bosnia and Herzegovina (SN)
			Comoros	Ghana	Samoa	Uganda
			Mauritania	Pakistan (SN)	Myanmar	Nicaragua
			Vietnam		Pakistan	Cabo Verde
					Jamaica	

In a number of countries, DeMPA and the Reform Plan have been the catalytic impact to enhance the debt management functions and institutions. Reforms or corrective actions have been undertaken or planned to address the identified weaknesses. More information on the Reform Plan can be accessed through the World Bank's website at:

<http://go.worldbank.org/CFPMWGNZ70>.

C. Joint Bank-Fund Medium Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) toolkit provides a framework for formulating and implementing a debt management strategy for the medium term. It is focused on determining the appropriate composition of the debt portfolio, taking into account macroeconomic and market indicators, as well as the institutional environment.

An MTDS is useful for illustrating government's cost and risk trade-off that may be associated with alternative debt management strategies and helps managing the risk exposure embedded

in a debt portfolio, in particular the potential variation in debt servicing costs and its budgetary impact. The MTDS toolkit includes a guidance note on the process of designing and implementing a debt management strategy in a LIC context, a template for strategy documentation, and a tool for cost-risk analysis with an associated handbook. The MTDS missions completed by end-FY16 are listed in Chart 3.

Chart 3: MTDS Missions to Date Fiscal-Year-wise

MTDS Implementation: 81 Missions

FY08 (4) Pilots	FY11 (7)	FY13 (12)	FY14 (11)	FY15 (12)	FY16 (11)
Bangladesh	Malawi	Cameroon	Liberia	Angola	Benin
Ghana	Ghana	Cote D'Ivoire	Djibouti	Bosnia and Herzegovina (2)	Cote d'Ivoire
Cameroon	Bangladesh	Burkina Faso	Azerbaijan	Cameroon	Fiji
Nicaragua	Paraguay	Ethiopia	Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Kenya
FY09 (3)	Tanzania	Sierra Leone	Sao Tome & Principe	Gambia	Kyrgyz Republic
Moldova	Senegal	Honduras	Cabo Verde	Ghana	Maldives
Kenya	Kyrgyz Republic	Malawi	Liberia	Grenada	Nigeria
Jamaica	FY12 (12)	Djibouti	Tanzania	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Botswana	Cabo Verde	Lesotho	Pakistan	Mozambique	Uganda
FY10 (9)	Rwanda	Mongolia	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Tonga	Vietnam
Cabo Verde	Mozambique	Uganda	Vietnam	Zambia	Zambia
Samoa	Mongolia	Bolivia		Tonga	
Moldova	Cameroon				
Tanzania	Nigeria				
Nigeria	Armenia				
Kenya	Gambia				
Nicaragua	Tajikistan				
Mozambique	Mauritania				
Jamaica	Paraguay				
	Belarus				

The MTDS missions and trainings have raised awareness of the importance of debt management strategy and strengthened the analytical capacities in the area. Following the MTDS missions, several countries have published or were about to publish their formal debt management documents.

More information on the MTDS can be accessed through the World Bank's website at: <http://go.worldbank.org/T7SB6VFEL0>.

D. The development of domestic debt markets has been included in the list of DMF services since the second phase of the trust fund was launched in 2014. Deeper and more liquid domestic markets can shield LICs from volatilities stemming from international markets. In addition, LICs increasingly expand their external portfolio by issuing bonds on international capital markets in addition to concessional financing. In order to cope with these new developments, the DMF has been offering both assistance and training for debt managers in deepening domestic and tapping into international markets in an effective and sustainable manner.