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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

NAMIBIA

Report on Government Finance Statistics Mission (August 28 – September 1, 2023)

DECEMBER 2023

Prepared By

David Bailey

Authoring Department

Statistics Department

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFR IMF's African Department

BCG Budgetary Central Government

BCM Budget Control and Management Directorate, MFPE

BON Bank of Namibia

CDM Cash and Debt Management Directorate, MFPE

CG Central Government
COA Chart of Accounts

COFOG Classification of the Functions of Government

EBU Extrabudgetary Unit

EFM Expenditure and Financial Management Directorate, MFPE

EPAS Economic Policy Advisory Services Directorate, MFPE

GFS Government Finance Statistics

GFSM 2001 Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001
GFSM 2014 Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014

IFMIS Integrated Financial and Management Information System

LG Local Governments

MFPE Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises

PED Public Enterprises Directorate, MFPE

NAD Namibian Dollar

NSA Namibia Statistics Agency
NLB Net Lending / Borrowing

OAG Office of the Auditor General
PSDS Public Sector Debt Statistics

PSDSG 2013 Public Sector Debt Statistics Guide 2013

PSIT Public Sector Institutional Table

QPSD IMF / World Bank Quarterly Public Sector Debt Database

SDDS Special Data Dissemination Standard

SG State Governments

SILNAM MFPE's information technology solution provider and partner

SOE State-Owned Enterprise

STA IMF's Statistics Department

TA Technical Assistance

TSA Treasury Single Account

Summary of Mission Outcomes and Priority Recommendations

- 1. The mission to Namibia took place between August 28 – September 1, 2023 in Windhoek to assist the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises (MFPE) to improve and extend their Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The technical assistance (TA) mission was a follow up to a previous TA mission in July 2022, and was conducted by Mr. David Bailey (Senior Economist in the IMF Statistics Department). The main purpose of the mission was to assist the authorities in their compliation of consolidated general government operations (GGO) GFS for the financial year 2022-23. The mission was financed by both the Data for Decisions (D4D) multi-donor trust fund.
- 2. The mission assisted the MFPE in improving their compilation of GFS for the budgetary central government (BCG) in 2022-23, reducing the reported statistical discrepancy. Corrections to cash flow data and financing data for 2022-23 led to the statistical discrepancy (defined as the difference between transactions in revenue and expenditure and between net transactions in financial assets and liabilities) being reduced from 4.8 percent of GDP to 0.4 percent of GDP. To further improve the quality of the BCG GFS data the mission recommended a review of: (i) reported transactions in external debt to correct for any missing transactions; (ii) intra-government grants to ensure all transactions meet the definition of grants and reclassify any transactions that do not; and (iii) delegated regional expenditure to record these under the appropriate economic categories and not as intra-government grants.
- The mission supported the MFPE staff in compiling 2022–23 GFS for the State Governments (SG) sub-sector. Monthly accountability reports for the 14 regional councils, which comprise the SG sub-sector, were sourced and used to compile GFS for this sub-sector. The source data was found to be generally of good quality but it was recommended to improve the standard format of the reported revenues and capital expenditures, and to request the data in a machine-readable format (rather than as scanned pdfs) to faciliate GFS compilation.
- 4. The mission also supported the MFPE staff in compiling 2022–23 GFS for the Local Governments (LG) sub-sector. The financial year followed by LG is from July to June which introduces challenges when consolidating with BCG data which is reported based on an April to March financial year. To help address this issue by sourcing in-year LG data the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) implemented, since the last TA mission, a survey to collect final GFS data for 2021-22 and in-year GFS data for 2022–23. The survey introduced is a sample survey but the reporting units were found to cover the majority of LG revenue and expenditure (over 80 percent). Using this data GFS for the LG sub-sector was compiled. However, the mission recommended further improving the quality of LG GFS, by sourcing quarterly cash-based outturn reports from the City of Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Walvis Bay. Together these three municipalities cover around 70 percent of the financial activities of LG and a timely quarterly data source would improve the quaity of LG GFS and facilitate an alignment of the reporting years between the BCG and LG sub-sectors.
- 5. It was not possible to compile GFS for the Extrabudgetary Units (EBU) sub-sector during the mission timescale. The mission proposed a practical compilation approach to produce initial GFS estimates for this sub-sector. The proposed compilation approach uses the available financial statements for 38 EBUs and BCG grant data by individual recipients to estimate GFS for the EBU sub-sector. However, it was emphasized that to compile good quality GFS for EBUs it is necessary to collect comprehensive and timely financial data from EBUs. Currently, many EBUs do not publish financial

statements and for those that do the time lag between the end of the financial year and the publication of financial statements is too long for the compilation of GFS. Therefore, an alternative data source is required.

- 6. The mission took note of and welcomed the MFPE initiatives to introduce a new Public Financial Management (PFM) law and a new budgetary chart of accounts (CoA). Both these initiatives are expected to drive major improvements to Namibia's GFS. The new budgetary CoA is based on the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014 (GFSM 2014) and as such should resolve many existing issues with the incorrect classification of certain transactions, in particular intra-government grants. The mission emphasized the importance of delivering improved budgetary expenditure breakdowns based on the new CoA. While the new PFM law could provide a legal basis for the MFPE to collect timely and comprehensive financial data from all public units, in particular EBUs. However, the mission emphasized the importance of considering GFS needs when introducing the new CoA and PFM law, ensuring that there are sufficient GFS compilation resources to implement the changes and to ensure appropriate GFS long timeseries are maintained and/or developed.
- 7. The mission also emphasized that several key recommendations from the previous TA mission, in July 2022, were outstanding and needed to be implemented. Annex 2 provides an update on progress against the recommendations of the previous TA mission. All recommendations remain relevant and those not yet progressed should be implemented. In particular, there is an urgent need to strengthen the existing GFS compilation staff resources, expand and formalize source data requirements, and establish a list of all public sector units classified by statistical sub-sector. Table 1 provides more detail on these structural recommendations while further recommendations are included in Section A to E of the detailed technical assessment and recommendations.

Table 1. Priority Recommendations

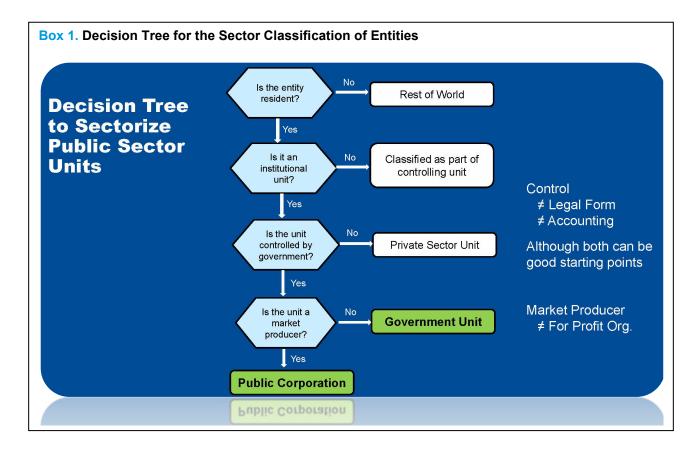
Target Date	Recommendation	Responsible Party
Dec 2023	Increase staff resources dedicated to GFS compilation from the current single member of staff to at least 3 staff. The current staffing presents a significant business continuity risk and is insufficient for the development and compilation of general government GFS.	MFPE (management)
Mar 2024	Establish and maintain a comprehensive list of public sector units which is classified by sub-sector in accordance with statistical standards. It is recommended that the cross-institutional statistical committee is responsible for this list.	MFPE, NSA, Bank of Namibia (BON)
Jun 2024	Data sharing agreements should be prepared and agreed with regional councils, largest municipalities, social security commission and EBUs. Data should be quarterly, cash-based, and supplied in electronic format.	MFPE

Detailed Technical Assessment and Recommendations

A. Sector Classification of Public Sector Units

- 8. Despite previous TA recommendations, there is no comprehensive list of general government units classified in line with the international statistical standards. Previous TA missions have emphasized the importance of applying the sector classification principles of the GFSM 2014 to produce an official public sector institutional table (PSIT). The PSIT should list all public entities by sub-sector (budgetary central government, extrabudgetary central government, social security funds, state governments, local governments, public nonfinancial corporations, and public financial corporations) and be used to define the coverage of not just GFS and PSDS, but all macroeconomic statistics.
- 9. It is particularly important to distinguish between public units which are public corporations (market producers) and those which are part of general government (nonmarket producers). Two reasons for this are, firstly that the SDDS requirements prescribe that data is compiled and disseminated for the consolidated general government sector, and secondly because the calculation of output, as used in the national accounts, differs between general government units and corporations. Namibian legal and administrative frameworks use a variety of terms to group public units outside of budgetary central government (such as commercial, non-commercial, extrabudgetary fund, agency, commission, nonprofit organization) but none of these groupings align well with the sub-sectors described in the *GFSM 2014* which follow the principles of the international statistical standards.
- 10. Around 140 public entities have been identified as needing to be assessed as to whether they are general government units or public corporations. The previous TA mission, of July 2022, recommended that the sector classification work be led by the statistical committee, which comprises representatives from the MFPE, BON, and NSA. Progress on this recommendation remains outstanding (see Annex 2) and the mission underlined the importance of carrying out this work. One change since July 2022, is that the functions of the previously separate Ministry of Public Enterprises has been merged with those of the Ministry of Finance, creating a Public Enterprises Directorate (PED) within the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises (MFPE). This has facilitated access to financial statements for public units, with financial statements now being available via a PED web portal for 58 public entities. However, there remain over 80 public entities for which no data source of recent financial statements has been identified.
- 11. The Namibian authorities have made a preliminary judgement that 100 of the 140 public entities are extrabudgetary units within general government and the other 40 are public corporations. The TA mission report of July 2022 includes a full list of these units. Although the mission did not uncover information that casts doubt on any of these preliminary classification assessments it is nonetheless important that the statistical principles of sector classification are applied to each unit. It is best practice that not only the outcome of the sector classification is documented but also the rationale for that sector classification. This greatly facilitates the ease of maintaining the PSIT as the sector classification of a public entity should only be changed in the light of new information regarding the policies and/or activities of the entity.

12. To sector classify an entity four broad questions should be asked (see Box 1), but the question of most importance in the Namibian context is the fourth question: Is the unit is a market producer? The statistical definition of a market producer is one that predominantly sells their output at economically significant prices. In practice this concept of economically significant prices is typically measured through the application of a quantitative "market test" which assesses the ratio of sales revenues to production costs, over a period of several years. This quantitative market test should be applied to the nonfinancial public entities identified in Namibia. However, a more qualitative assessment is required for those public entities whose primary purpose is to deliver financial services. For these entities it is important to look at the extent to which the unit is funded by government and/or lends to government, as well as any government quarantees with respect to the units' assets and liabilities. Further details of the GFSM 2014 approach to sector classification and the "market test" can be found in Annex 1



Recommendations:

As per the recommendations of the previous GFS mission, a comprehensive PSIT should be produced and published. Adequate documentation on the rationale for each sector classification decision should be maintained so as to facilitate updates to the PSIT and the quantitative "market test" should be used to analyze whether nonfinancial public units are market producers (public corporations) or nonmarket producers (general government units). It is recommended that the preparation of the PSIT is overseen by the technical statistical committee, which includes experts from the MFPE, BON and NSA.

В. **Compiling GFS for Budgetary Central Government**

- 13. Monthly budgetary central government (BCG) GFS is published within 30 days of the end of the month in accordance with SDDS. The automated process for compiling budgetary central government data from detailed budget execution data, developed during the previous TA mission, have been maintained and are being used to compile and disseminate monthly budgetary central government operations data on Namibia's National Summary Data Page (NSDP)
- However, the mission noted that the compiled data for 2022-23 had a large statistical discrepancy of 4.8 percent of GDP. The statistical discrepancy is a quality measure used to assess the degree of consistency between revenue and expenditure ('above-the-line') data and transactions in financial assets and liabilities ('below-the-line') data. An annual statistical discrepancy of more than one percent of GDP implies data quality issues and attempts should be made to identify and correct the cause for the discrepancy. The mission emphasized the importance of keeping the statistical discrepancy under review and investigating the causes should the statistical discrepancy rise above acceptable levels.
- 15. The statistical discrepancy for 2022-23 was reduced to 0.4 percent of GDP once appropriate corrections to the data were made. The mission found that the high statistical discrepancy was driven by two factors. The first was that the reported movements in cash stocks had been misreported. This issue was identified by reviewing the large, reported cash flows which were deemed by the mission to be implausible. The second driver of the high statistical discrepancy was incomplete 'below-the-line' data for March 2023, which was identified through a review of the monthly time series by transaction. Once these issues were corrected the statistical discrepancy was reduced to an acceptable level.
- 16. The review of the BCG source data also identified apparent anomalies in the source data for transactions in external debt. The main identified issue was that in some months, transactions were recorded in foreign currency but with no equivalent transaction in Namibian dollars reported. These apparent anomalies, if confirmed, would impact the statistical discrepancy not only for 2022-23 but also for previous years. At the request of the mission, the Debt Management Directorate of the MEFP began a careful review of the data used for transactions in external debt. The results of the review are expected to be available before the end of September 2023.
- 17. A further area of concern within the source data for the budgetary central government is the data reported by line ministries as intra-government grants. The national budget chart of accounts includes a line "043 Government Organization" which in the preparation of GFSM 2014 compliant data is bridged to "2631 Intra-government current grants". A review of the detailed data reported by line ministries under the code "043" found that while much of the data does relate to intragovernment grants there are material amounts which relate to other types of expense, such as use of goods and services, social benefits, and grants to foreign governments.
- There are likely similar smaller issues in the GFS bridging for some of the other budget 18. codes (such as in "041 Membership Fees and Subscription: International") but the issue is believed to be most material for intra-government current grants. This means that the reported intra-government grants of around 16 per cent of total budgetary central government expenditure is an over-estimate. The data source issue also presents challenges for consolidating across general government as not all the expense in current grants will be reflected in grant revenue for the other sub-sectors of the general government.

- 19. The mission recommended sourcing more detailed data on transactions recorded as intragovernment grants to allow adjustments to be made as part of the compilation process. The national budget chart of accounts does not assign codes to the transactions which when aggregated form "043 Government Organization". However, the more detailed data are available within the budget execution data along with English language descriptions of the transactions. It is recommended therefore to source this more detailed data and identify the most material transactions which are being wrongly reported as intra-government grants and appropriately adjust for these in the compilation processes for budgetary central government. For instance, payments for the public service medical aid scheme (amounting to just over 3 billion NAD in both 2021-22 and 2022-23) are being wrongly recorded as intra-government current grants and the BCG GFS data should be adjusted to instead report these as social benefits.
- 20. The more detailed data on intra-government grants by recipient will also facilitate consolidation of the GFS for general government. To ensure accurate consolidation of grant expenditure and revenue between government sub-sectors it is advisable to compare the reported grant revenues and expenditures at an entity level to ensure consistency. In the case of Namibia where the data sources for extrabudgetary units and local governments are not yet comprehensive, this detailed data on individual grant payments by recipient also allows statistical estimates to be made for that portion of the extrabudgetary government and local governments sub-sectors for which there is no direct source data.
- 21. A particular area of concern with respect to consolidation is the regional expenditure made by some ministries (most notably the Ministry of Education) under delegated functions. The mission investigated these expenditures and found that the expenditure under "delegated functions" was being recorded in the BCG data as "043 Government Organization" and "131 Government Organization", which is bridged in the GFS presentation to intra-government current and capital grants, respectively. However, the regional councils do not report the related revenue and expenditure within their core financial statements, apparently as they consider these payments to be under the control of the line ministries. Therefore, it is recommended that these payments be removed from intra-government grants and instead recorded under the relevant expense category. The mission received a consolidated breakdown of the regional expenditure by the Ministry of Education (in total amounting to 2 billion Namibian dollars) and found that over 85 percent related to payments for use of goods and services.
- 22. The mission discussed the plans of the MEFP to introduce a new *GFSM 2014* aligned chart of accounts (CoA) within the budget. Officials explained that there would be a pilot phase in 2024–25 with the aim of fully rolling out the new CoA in 2025–26. The mission welcomed the detailed nature of the new CoA and the controls that officials are planning to put in place to ensure that data reporters correctly classify their revenue and expenditure. The new CoA should address the issues raised above with respect to the misreporting of expenditure as intra-government grants. However, as part of the roll out of the new CoA, consideration will need to be given to the changes that will be required to the GFS compilation systems and how to best support user demands for a consistent long time series of GFS data.

Recommendations:

Quarterly review the statistical discrepancy of the BCG GFS to ensure it is at an acceptable level.
 If it is unacceptably high (more than 1 percent of GDP) then the reason for this should be investigated and corrected prior to publication.

- Review the time series for external debt transactions (principal disbursements and repayments) and make any necessary corrections to the published GFS.
- Source a detailed breakdown of all expenditure recorded as intra-government grants and use this information to: (i) remove non-grant expenditures and record them instead in the relevant expenditure category; (ii) record regional expenditure under delegated functions under the appropriate expenditure categories and not as grants; and (iii) compare with the data reported within the financial statements of extrabudgetary units and local governments to improve consolidation and estimates for these sub-sectors.
- Ensure that the implementation of the new GFSM 2014 CoA takes full account of GFS needs, including the automated production of monthly budgetary central government GFS and the consolidation across general government.

C. Compiling GFS for State and Local Governments

- 23. The Namibian State Governments sub-sector consists of the 14 Regional Councils and their economic activities. The previous mission identified that each Regional Council is required to send to the Ministry of Urban and Regional Development (MURD) monthly accountability statements which report on a cash basis their revenue and expenditure flows. These provide a comprehensive and timely data source for the compilation of GFS operations data for the State Governments sub-sector.
- 24. The mission requested from MURD the 2022-23 accountability statements for the Regional Councils and used these to compile GFS for the State Governments sub-sector. As a quality check of the data in the accountability statements, the aggregation of the grant revenue received by 14 Regional Councils was compared with the data that MURD separately supplied on grants paid by budgetary central government. The two figures were found to only differ by 0.1 percent, which provides confidence that the accountability statements are a reliable data source.
- 25. Although the accountability statements (see Annex 3) provide a timely and apparently accurate data source they could be improved further as a GFS data source. The mission identified two areas where the accountability statements could be improved:
 - Firstly, MURD supplies the statements to the MEFP as scanned pdf documents, which a. have to be manually typed into the GFS compilation spreadsheets. Manual data entry such as this should be avoided where possible to mitigate against the risk of errors in the data entry and to focus scarce GFS compilation staff resources on data analysis and quality assurance.
 - Secondly, although expenses are consistently recorded using the codes from the budgetary chart of accounts the reporting of revenues and capital expenditures differs between regional councils both in terms of the categories and in the level of detail. Use of a standardized template with a common set of codes facilitates the automation of GFS compilation processes and supports fiscal analysis of differences between the revenues and expenditures of regional councils.
- 26. The Namibian Local Governments sub-sector consists of 13 municipalities, 26 town councils and more than 18 village councils. There is currently no standardized or timely financial reporting from municipalities and local councils which hampers the compilation of comprehensive GFS for this sub-sector. However, it is estimated from financial statements that around 80 percent of all local

government revenue and expenditure is generated/incurred by the three largest municipalities: City of Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Walvis Bay.

- 27. To address the timeliness of local government data, the NSA have extended their annual statistical survey to include GFS data on transactions and stocks. The details of the extension to the survey were discussed during the last GFS TA mission of July 2022, and subsequently agreed with the MFPE. The first data were collected, using the extended survey, in early 2023. The data collected were actual figures for the 2021–22 financial year and projections for the 2022–23 financial year, which at the time of data collection had several months still outstanding as the financial year followed by local governments is from July to June. The survey data covered the three largest municipalities (listed above) as well as three further municipalities and three town councils.
- 28. The survey data, along with data from available financial statements, was used to compile a six-year time series of GFS data for the local governments' sub-sector. The compilation process built on that already implemented during the previous GFS TA mission of July 2022. There can be a long-time lag, often of more than 18 months, between the end of the financial year and the availability of financial statements for municipalities. Therefore, the collection and use of survey data is an important improvement to the compiled GFS for the local governments sub-sector.
- 29. In addition to continuing to collect the annual survey data, the mission encouraged the MFPE to source quarterly management reports from the three largest municipalities. The previous GFS TA mission had identified that the City of Windhoek prepared monthly management reports, known as variance reports. These reports include breakdowns of revenue and expenditure which are suitable for GFS compilation and provide timely cash-based data which will facilitate consolidation with the cash-based budgetary central government data. In addition, the availability of quarterly data will allow time series to be generated which adhere to the April to March financial years followed by the budgetary central government, regional councils, and many extrabudgetary units.
- 30. The mission contacted the City of Windhoek who confirmed that they would be willing to share the variance reports with the MFPE. It is therefore recommended that the MFPE contact Swakopmund and Walvis Bay municipalities to secure similar quarterly reports. Further, it would improve GFS compilation if the reports followed a standard template. Annex 4 presents some proposed amendments to the City of Windhoek variance reports to facilitate GFS compilation. A similar template could be requested from the other two large municipalities. As with the data from Regional Councils, it is important that the data are provide in an electronic format.

Recommendations:

- The MFPE should establish arrangements with MURD to receive quarterly regional council accountability reports for all 14 regional councils. These reports should be provided in a standardized format which is a machine-readable electronic format, such as a .csv file or Excel file. It is recommended that this arrangement is secured through a formal data sharing agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar.
- The MFPE should discuss with MURD the possibility of standardizing the recording of revenues and capital expenditures in the regional council accountability reports to follow a standardized chart of accounts.
- The MFPE should establish arrangements with the City of Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Walvis Bay municipalities to receive quarterly cash-based data. This data could be based on the

template in Annex 4. The data should be provided in a standardized format which is a machine-readable electronic format, such as a .csv file or Excel file. It is recommended that this arrangement is secured through a formal data sharing agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar.

D. **Compiling GFS for Extrabudgetary Units**

- 31. As noted in Section A, although around 100 extrabudgetary units (EBUs) have been identified this list may not be comprehensive or strictly in line with GFS principles. The authorities have produced a preliminary list of public sector units but there has been no detailed analysis of the units to ensure that market (public corporations) and nonmarket (government) public bodies are correctly classified in accordance with the statistical principles, as defined in the GFSM 2014.
- 32. The existing data source for extrabudgetary units is limited to annual financial statements, but these statements are not always timely nor are they comprehensive in coverage. The public unit responsible for overseeing public enterprises is now a department in the MFPE and this department maintains a database of financial statements received from public enterprises to which the GFS compilers have access. However, currently this database only includes 58 enterprises of which 38 are provisionally classified as EBUs and 20 as public corporations. At the time of the mission, only one of the enterprises had financial statements up to 2022–23, 17 had financial statements up to 2021–22, 10 up to 2020–21, 8 up to 2019–20 and the remaining two had not published financial statements later than 2018-19.
- 33. A further challenge for GFS compilers is that there is no standard year followed by public entities when producing their accounts. Although, the majority of financial statements for public entities reviewed by the mission were for financial years ending on March 31, there were examples of public entities with financial reporting years ending on December 31 (e.g., Namibia University of Science and Technology), January 31 (e.g., Meat Corporation of Namibia), April 30 (e.g. Windhoek Country Club & Hotel) and September 30 (e.g., Telecom Namibia). It should be noted that of the public entities identified with financial reporting years not ending on March 31, only the Namibia University of Science and Technology is provisionally classified as an EBU. There may therefore be more homogeneity of financial reporting years for EBUs than for public corporations, however, without broader coverage of financial statements for EBUs it is not possible to be sure.
- 34. The mission prepared a data template into which the flow data reported in financial statements could be entered for the compilation of GFS. The Excel template (see Annex 5) identified key items from the income statement and cash flow statement which are required in the compilation of GFS. As there is no uniform presentation of financial statements for public entities in Namibia, the Excel template necessarily only those broad aggregations of income and expenditure which were observed to be common across the financial statements of most EBUs. As the financial statements are only available as pdfs (usually scanned versions of hard copies) there is considerable burden on the GFS compilers to carefully enter the required data from the financial statements.
- The data template developed applies the quantitative "market test" to each EBU. To assist the Namibian authorities in their sector classification of public entities (see Section A and Annex 1) the Excel template developed by the mission includes the "market test" calculation based on the data reported in the financial statements. Where a public entity has 50 percent or more of its production costs met by sales revenue (consistently over a multi-year period) then it is considered a market producer (public corporation). However, even if the market test indicates that a unit should be classified as a public corporation then further analysis is required to ensure that the reported sales revenues meet the GFS

definition of sales and that the prices charged are economically significant. It should also be noted that this market test is only applicable to units engaged in nonfinancial activities.

- 36. In the short-term, to produce GFS estimates for general government operations the mission proposed a compilation process using the available EBU data and grant data from the BCG. The recommended process was to aggregate the transaction data available for the 38 EBUs for which financial statements were available. Using estimates where necessary to fill any data gaps. The BCG data includes grants by grant recipients and these data should be extracted and compared to the grant revenue recorded in the financial statements of the 38 EBUs. This comparison of the two data sources will facilitate consolidation of the grant flows from BCG to the EBUs, with attention paid to ensuring that the consolidation is applied symmetrically to the BCG and EBU sub-sectors. The detailed BCG grant data will also provide a data source of all grants paid to other EBUs, for which financial statements are not currently available. This information, alongside the profile of revenue and expenditures for the 38 EBUs, could be used to estimate data for the remaining EBUs for which financial statements are not available.
- 37. It was emphasized that the proposed compilation approach provided a pragmatic way forward for the immediate compilation of GGO data, but that it was essential that a timely and comprehensive data source for EBUs was established. The establishment of a reliable data source for EBUs is necessary for the compilation of GGO data. The mission suggested that the new PFM Law provided an opportunity to establish a legal basis for collecting the EBU data and encouraged the MFPE to investigate further the feasibility of this approach. Although the current focus is to compile annual GGO data the mission recommended that quarterly data is collected from EBUs. Quarterly data has the advantage of minimizing the challenges presented by the different financial years followed by EBUs. It was also recommended that the quarterly data collected is on a cash-basis and is provided via a standardized electronic template. The electronic template allows the automation of compilation processes and reduces the risk of compilation errors stemming from manual entry and/or processes. While the cash-based data is more achievable to collect on a quarterly basis and facilitates consolidation with the BCG data which is on a cash-basis.

Recommendations:

- Produce a comprehensive list of all EBUs as part of the wider PSIT.
- Use the proposed short-term compilation approach to estimate transactional data for the EBU sub-sector up to 2022-23.
- Look into using the new PFM law to establish a legal basis for the regular and timely collection of financial data from EBUs.
- Develop and implement a new data collection for EBUs with timely and comprehensive coverage. It is recommended that the data are collected quarterly, but initial collection could be annual with the frequency of collection increased over time.

Ε. **Central Government Debt Dissemination**

38. Namibia disseminates quarterly budgetary central government debt data via the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) but are not yet subscribers to the Joint IMF-World Bank Quarterly Public Sector Database (QPSD) statistics database. The mission highlighted that the SDDS requirements with respect to guarterly debt are closely aligned to those of the QPSD. The mission

demonstrated how to complete the QPSD data template using the available Namibian source data for debt and encouraged the MFPE to subscribe to the QPSD. The MFPE debt management officials confirmed their willingness to begin disseminating the data but explained that they would need senior managerial approval to do so.

39. There remain some differences between the external debt data published by the BON and that published by the MFPE. A comparison of the two sets of published data was shared (see Table 2). The reason for the differences was not immediately clear, with different data vintages being one explanation but it may also be that there are some compilation errors in some quarters. It is important that published debt data are consistent, or if not, then any differences are for methodological reasons and clearly explained in metadata. Therefore, the MFPE (CDM) should work with the BON compilers to identify the reasons for the differences shown in Table 2 and align the published data.

Table 2. Differences between Published BON and MFPE External Debt

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	2022/23			
External debt stock (reported by BON)	32,496	34,177	34,095	36,674
External debt stock (reported by MFPE via NSDP)	33,068	34,797	36,005	37,077
Difference	-1.76%	-1.82%	-5.60%	-1.10%
		202	1/22	
External debt stock (reported by BON)	37,869	38,946	32,488	30,714
External debt stock (reported by MFPE via NSDP)	37,965	39,233	32,846	31,100
Difference	-0.25%	-0.74%	-1.10%	-1.26%
		202	0/21	
External debt stock (reported by BON)	34,924	36,441	33,065	33,364
External debt stock (reported by MFPE via NSDP)	35,821	36,646	33,184	33,560
Difference	-2.57%	-0.56%	-0.36%	-0.59%
		201	9/20	
External debt stock (reported by BON)	31,101	32,411	30,852	36,685
External debt stock (reported by MFPE via NSDP)	31,115	32,703	30,903	36,901
Difference	-0.05%	-0.90%	-0.17%	-0.59%

- 40. The Namibian authorities use UNCTAD's DMFAS system to manage and report the debt. Although the DMFAS system is used to manage the debt the PSDS compilation uses reports prepared by the Debt Management Department and does not have direct access to the DMFAS system.
- 41. As noted in Section C, potential issues were identified with the external debt transaction data in the reports used for GFS compilation and these same issues might also have impacted the external debt stocks in some quarters. It is important therefore that when the Debt Management Department are reviewing the external debt transactions in the PSDS compilation spreadsheets that they also check the accuracy of the external debt stocks.

Recommendations:

- The Debt Management Department of the MFPE to review the external debt reports for 2016/17 onwards, used in the compilation of PSDS, to ensure their accuracy. Any errors found should be corrected in the published PSDS time series.
- Debt managers from MFPE and BON to review the differences between their published external debt statistics and identify the causes. Once identified the debt statistics should be aligned and processes put in place to ensure future consistency of published debt statistics.
- Namibia to subscribe to the Joint IMF-World Bank QPSD database by publishing quarterly loan and debt securities data for budgetary central government and central government.

F. List of Officials Met During Mission

Table 3. List of Officials Met During Mission

Name	Department / Role					
Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises						
Mr. Titus Ndove	Executive Director					
Mr. Justus Mwafongwe	Technical Advisor on Tax Policy					
Mr. Festus Nghifenwa	Director of EPAS					
Ms. Indileni Hamutengela	Chief Statistician, EPAS					
Ms. Irja Stephanus	Debt Manager, CDM					
Ms. Seloma Julius	Debt Manager, CDM					
Ms. Anchen Cloete	Debt Manager, CDM					
Ms. Frieda Nampola	Debt Manager, CDM					
Mr. Ananias Abner	Budget Manager, BCM					
Mr. Nikanor Shiwayu	Budget Manager, BCM					
Namibia Statistics Agency						
Mr. Titus Kamatuka	Statistician					

Annex 1. Approach to Sector Classification

- 42. The approach to sector classification in the GFSM 2001/2014 is fully aligned with the approach in other macroeconomic statistics. GFS and wider macroeconomic statistics define the public sector as all resident institutional units (domestic entities) that are controlled directly, or indirectly, by government units. For presentational purposes, the public sector is further split into two broad sectors: general government sector, consisting of legislative, executive, and administrative units which operate on a nonmarket basis, and the public corporations sector, consisting of those public units which operate on a market basis.
- 43. The general government sectors and public corporations' sectors can be further split into sub-sectors. These sub-sectors offer analytical value within fiscal analysis by providing a standardized approach to disaggregating the public sector. The main sub-sectors of the public sector are shown below. Further detail is provided in Figure 2.3 of the GFSM 2014.

General Government

- Central government
 - Budgetary central government
 - Extrabudgetary central government
- Social security funds
- State governments
- Local governments

Public Corporations

- Public nonfinancial corporations
- Public financial corporations
 - Central Bank
 - Public deposit-taking corporations (excluding Central Bank)
 - Other public financial corporations
- 44. When identifying and classifying public sector units four questions need to be answered. A full decision tree is provided in the GFSM 2014 Figure 2.4, but the four key questions in order of application are:
 - Is the entity a resident? If not then part of the domestic economy
 - o Is the entity an institutional unit? If not then treated as part of parent unit
 - o Is the unit controlled by government? If not then part of the public sector
 - Is the unit a market producer? If not then part of the general government sector
- In Namibia there are significant numbers of entities which are clearly public sector units 45. (defined as, controlled by government) but for which no sector classification has been conducted. There are at least 140 entities which have been identified as public units outside of the budgetary central, state, and local governments. These have been provisionally classified as either extrabudgetary units (nonmarket producers within general government) or as public corporations (market producers outside of general government). However, no careful assessment of these entities against the statistical criteria as to whether or not they are market producers has been conducted. This should be done, and the public entities classified with the resultant list of public sector institutional units published.

Box 2: Criteria to be an Institutional Unit

An institutional unit is an economic entity with four main characteristics:

- It can own and exchange goods and assets.
- It can borrow, assume other obligations or future commitments, and enter into contracts.
- It can take economic decisions and engage in economic activities for which it is held directly responsible and accountable by law.
- It must either have a complete set of financial statements (operating statement, cash flow statement, balance sheet) or it must be possible and meaningful to compile such statements.

Entities that do not meet these criteria are always part of another entity that is an institutional unit.

46. A public corporation (market producer) is one that predominantly sells their output at "economically significant prices." In practice for most nonfinancial units this may be assessed using a quantitative test, which examines whether or not the unit covers at least half of its production costs with sales (see Box 3). However, some qualitative criteria should also be examined, such as whether the unit provides its goods and/or services in competition with private producers; and where the government is a dominant customer of the unit, whether the government has selected the supplier based on price.

Box 3: Quantitative Assessment for a Market Producer (the 'market test')

The GFS only provides general guidance on what constitutes an economically significant price. However, in general, to be a market producer (and so a public corporation), it is expected that a public unit will cover at least half of its production costs with sales, over a sustained multiyear period.

Sales = Value of sales (before any tax on products are applied), excluding:

- o payments receivable from government (unless granted to all other producers undertaking the same activity)
- o production for own use

Production costs = Compensation of employees (wages, salaries, and employee benefits), plus Use of goods and services (rent, overheads, raw materials....), plus Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation / amortization), plus Other taxes on production, plus Net interest expense (interest expense less interest revenue)

47. The assessment of whether a financial entity is a market producer differs from that for nonfinancial entities. The principle that a market producer must provide most or all of its output at economically significant prices applies equally to financial and nonfinancial units. However, the "market test" used for nonfinancial units is not typically applied to financial entities due to difficulties in valuing the sales and production costs related to financial activities. Instead, the GFSM 2014 provides guidance on the sector classification of financial entities based on the type of financial unit being assessed.

Annex 2. Progress Against Recommendations of Previous TA

Priority	Action/Milestone	Target Completion Date	Progress as at August 2023
Н	The revised and corrected monthly BCG data to be uploaded to the NSDP for the period April 2016 onwards.	September 2022	Completed
Н	Secure unaudited data for the SSC for at least the period March 2021 to February 2022. Although a monthly or quarterly data source would be preferable.	September 2022	Secured 2021/22 annual data for the SSC (work though should continue to source more frequent SSC data)
н	Establish a process by which the GFS compilers regularly (ideally quarterly) receive the accountability reports of the regional councils in order to compile GFS for the state governments sub-sector.	October 2022	Regional Council accountability reports for 2022-23 were received by the mission on request. However, no process is in place for GFS compilers to regularly receive these reports.
Н	Review the current list of EBUs and public corporations to ensure that the list is comprehensive and apply the international statistical principles to conduct a preliminary sectorization (based on <i>GFSM 2014</i>).	October 2022	No sectorization of the current list of EBUs and public corporations has been carried out in accordance with statistical principles
Н	Strengthen the staff resources available for GFS compilation in the MFPE (suggest: 2 more staff) to ensure adequate resource for data sourcing, compilation, quality assurance, and reconciliation.	December 2022	MFPE remains with only one member of staff dedicated to GFS compilation
Н	Source regular data submission (monthly or quarterly) from the largest municipalities (4 to 5) based on their management reports.	December 2022	No municipality management reports have been either requested or received by the MFPE. However, the mission reached out to the City of Windhoek finance officers who confirmed their willingness to share these reports.
Н	Monthly data extracts to be extended to include the main division as a data item and the compilation processes amended to compile COFOG data based on both the vote and the main division.	December 2022	Completed
Н	Review, finalize, and publish the PSIT following the statistical sectorization principles, as guided by the <i>GFSM</i> 2014.	February 2023	No comprehensive sectorization of public entities has been carried out in accordance with statistical principles.

Priority	Action/Milestone	Target Completion Date	Progress as at August 2023
Н	Embed a process for estimating timely GFS for the local government's sub-sector using a combination of the quarterly reports from the larger municipalities, the accountability reports of the regional governments, the NSA annual survey, grant data from BCG, and the historic financial statements.	March 2023	The NSA annual survey has been introduced and used to collect data from 6 municipalities and 3 town councils. However, no process for the regular compilation of GFS for the local governments' sub-sector has been introduced.
н	Engage line ministries and through them establish a mechanism for collection of electronic financial reports from EBUs for compilation of GFS for the EBU sub-sector.	June 2023	The MFPE compiler has been given access to a web portal containing financial statements for a significant number of EBUs and public corporations. However, the available annual data are only in pdf format and often only available with long time lags.
Н	Use the information sourced from the line ministries to compile and revise GFS for the EBU sub-sector, improving the overall data for the GG sector.	September 2023	The financial statements available through the web portal facilitates compilation of annual GFS for the EBU sub-sector, but the data sources remain partial and insufficiently timely.
М	Compile quarterly central government debt, up to 2022Q2, in the QPSD format and submit to the Word Bank along with the relevant metadata.	October 2022	No quarterly central government debt data has yet been submitted to the QPSD database, but the mission demonstrated that the necessary data for loans and debt securities was available and provided guidance on how to begin dissemination.
М	Finalize the annual survey to collect GFS data from local authorities (for the previous and current years).	February 2023	Completed. The survey collected 2021/22 and 2022/23 data from 6 municipalities (including the 3 biggest) and 3 town councils.
М	Review the draft roadmap and generate a detailed plan and timeline for implementing those actions identified as priorities within the Namibian context.	March 2023	There has been no significant development or implementation of the draft roadmap developed during the 2022 TA mission.
М	Review the BCG "below-the-line" data sources with a view to identifying data gaps or duplications which are leading to statistical discrepancies.	April 2023	The compilation process for GFS for the BCG sub-sector continues to use highly aggregated below-the-line data sources.
М	Explore the possibility of leveraging the new PFM Act to support sector classification decisions, align financial years	June 2023	The new PFM Act is still in the drafting stages.

Priority	Action/Milestone	Target Completion Date	Progress as at August 2023
	across general government, and enforce more timely financial reporting outside of BCG.		
М	Document the source data required for GFS compilation along with the timetable for data submission and establish data sharing agreements with the suppliers.	June 2023	Work on the development of documentation to describe GFS data sources remains in an early stage. The mission emphasized that many of the current data sources were insufficiently timely or comprehensive and new data reports should be formally defined through data sharing agreements or memorandum of understandings.
М	Finalize the GFS compilation manual, including details on data sources, compilation processes, quality assurance methods and file locations.	October 2023	Work has begun on developing a GFS compilation manual but has been hampered by the limited staff resources assigned to GFS compilation.
М	Implementation of the alignment of the budget to the <i>GFSM</i> 2014 presentation to be carefully coordinated across MFPE departments to ensure continuity and consistency of GFS compilation and dissemination.	At time of implementation	Work is ongoing to produce <i>GFSM 2014</i> based budget execution reports. The mission was informed that the authorities plan to move to the new <i>GFSM 2014</i> Chart of Accounts in 2025/26, after a pilot period involving dual running during 2024/25.

Annex 3. Quarterly GFS Template for Regional Councils

The Regional Council monthly accountability reports provide a good source of financial information on the economic activities of regional councils. The table below replicates the format of the accountability reports but proposes (in blue) some improvements to the standardization of revenue and capital expenditure data.

The proposed template is based on the accountability reports so as to facilitate data entry for the data suppliers (Regional Councils), minimize burden, and support the extension of the existing time series. However, longer-term an alternative approach to be encouraged is the implementation of a bespoke quarterly data collection for GFS purposes.

Code	Description	GFS Code	GFS Description	Notes
	Regional taxes imposed by Regional Council	11	Taxes	Need more detail to more precisely classify these taxes
	Central Government Grants: Current	1331	Grants from Other General Government Units: Current	
	Central Government Grants: Capital	1332	Grants from Other General Government Units: Capital	
	5% Levy Paid by Municipalities	1331	Grants from Other General Government Units: Current	
	2.5% Commission from Insurance Policies	142	Sales of Goods and Services	Need more detail on this commission. Here it is assumed to be payment for a service (insurance) provided by Regional Councils
	VAT Claimable	1331	Grants from Other General Government Units: Current	Need more detail on these revenues. Here it is assumed to be a refund from the tax authority
	Property Rental (excluding land)	142	Sales of Goods and Services	
	Land Rental	1415	Rent	
	Royalties	1415	Rent	

	Interest	1411	Interest	
	Dividends	1412	Dividends	
	Income from Settlement Area (excluding taxes)	142	Sales of Goods and Services	Understood to largely be related to water and refuse services
	Other Income from Services and Goods Provided	142	Sales of Goods and Services	
	Fines and Penalties	143	Fines, Penalties, and Forfeits	
	Sale of Land	314	Disposals in Nonproduced Assets	
	Sale of Buildings	3111	Disposals in Buildings and Structures	
	Sale of Vehicles	3112	Disposals in Machinery and Equipment	
	Sale of Other Machinery, Equipment and Furniture	3112	Disposals in Machinery and Equipment	
	TOTAL INCOME			
1	Remuneration	211	Wages and Salaries	
2	Employers Contribution to the G.I.P.F.and M.P.O.O.B.P.F	212	Employers' Social Contributions	
3	Other Conditions of Service	211	Wages and Salaries	
4	Improvement of Remuneration Structure	211	Wages and Salaries	
10	PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE-SUBTOTAL			
21	Travel and Subsistence Allowance	22	Use of Goods and Services	
22	Material and Supplies Expenses	22	Use of Goods and Services	
23	Transport	22	Use of Goods and Services	
24	Utilities	22	Use of Goods and Services	
25	Maintenance Expenses	22	Use of Goods and Services	

26	Property Rental and Related Charges	22	Use of Goods and Services	
27	Other services and Expenses (excluding interest payments)	22	Use of Goods and Services	Interest paid is an important expenditure category not currently separately identified by Regional Councils
80	Interest Payments	24	Interest	Interest paid is an important expenditure category not currently separately identified by Regional Councils
30	GOODS AND OTHER SERVICES-SUBTOTAL			
41	Membership Fees and Subscriptions: International	22	Use of Goods and Services	Budget bridge table followed. May also include some subscriptions which are better classified as grants or transactions in equity.
42	Membership Fees and Subscriptions: Domestic	22	Use of Goods and Services	Budget bridge table followed. May also include some subscriptions which are better classified as transfers or transactions in equity.
43	Government Organizations	2631	Grants to Other General Government Units: Current	Budget bridge table followed. May also include some payments for services.
44	Individuals and Non-Profit Organizations	272	Social Assistance Benefits	Budget bridge table followed. May also include some other types of transfer.
45	Public and Departmental Enterprises and Private Industries	251	Subsidies to Public Corporations	Budget bridge table followed. May also include some transfers to EBUs.
80	SUBSIDIES & OTHER CURRENT TRANSFERS- SUBTOTAL			
101	Furniture and Office Equipment	3112	Acquisitions in Machinery and Equipment	
102	Vehicles	3112	Acquisitions in Machinery and Equipment	
103	Operational Equipment, Machinery and Plants	3112	Acquisitions in Machinery and Equipment	
104	Minor Capital Project			Remove item and record capital spending more in line with GFS (as below)

104	Buildings	3111	Acquisitions in Buildings and Structures	
105	Feasibility Studies, Design and Supervision	3113	Other Fixed Assets	This is a deviation from the current budget bridge table to better reflect the type of expenditure
106	Land And Intangible Assets	314	Acquisitions in Nonproduced Assets	This is a deviation from the current budget bridge table to better reflect the type of expenditure
131	Capital Transfers to Other Government Organizations	2632	Grants to Other General Government Units: Capital	
13x	Other Capital Transfers	2822	Capital Transfers Not Elsewhere Classified	
110	ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS-SUBTOTAL			
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			
	TOTAL INCOME LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE			

Annex 4. City of Windhoek Variance Report Bridge Table

The City of Windhoek monthly variance reports potentially provide a high-frequency source of financial flow information on the economic activities of the City of Windhoek which could potentially be extended to the other large municipalities (most notably, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay). The table below replicates the format of the City of Windhoek variance reports but proposes (in blue) some improvements to allow more disaggregation of certain items.

The proposed template is based on the City of Windhoek variance reports so as to facilitate data entry, minimize burden, and allow improved data collection to be implemented relatively quickly. However, longer-term an alternative approach to be encouraged is the implementation of a bespoke quarterly data collection for GFS purposes.

Item in City of Windhoek Variance Report	GFS Code	GFS Description
Revenue		
Prepayment Electricity Sales	142	Sales of goods and services
Basic Electricity Charges	142	Sales of goods and services
Electricity Consumption Charges	142	Sales of goods and services
Basic Water Charges	142	Sales of goods and services
Water Consumption Charges	142	Sales of goods and services
Sanitation	142	Sales of goods and services
Sewerage Charges	142	Sales of goods and services
Land Sales	314 Disposal	Sale of nonproduced assets
Rates and Taxes	113	Property taxes
Other Revenue		
Of which: Government current grants	1331	Current grants from other general government units
Of which: Fines and penalties	143	Fines, penalties, and forfeits
Of which: Interest	1411	Interest
Of which: Other revenue	1441 (assumption)	Current transfers not elsewhere classified
Revenue Foregone: rebates on rates	not included in GFS	

Revenue Foregone: Dep Consumption	not included in GFS	
Operational Expenditure		
Salaries Wages and Allowances	21	Compensation of employees
General Expenditure		
Of which: 5% rate payments to Regional Councils	2631	Current grants to other general government units
Of which: Other general expenditure	22	Use of goods and services
Bulk Supply - Electricity	22	Use of goods and services
Bulk Supply - Namwater	22	Use of goods and services
Bulk Supply - Wingoc	22	Use of goods and services
Repairs and Maintenance	22	Use of goods and services
Capital Charges	Uncertain	More information required
Grants and Subsidies		
Of which: Government grants	2631	Current grants to other general government units
Of which: Subsidies to corporations	25	Subsidies
Of which: Other	2821 (assumption)	Current transfers not elsewhere classified
Losses on Other Continued Ops	not included in GFS	
Provisions	not included in GFS	
Job Expenses	Uncertain	More information required
(Surplus)/ Deficit		
Capital Expenditure		
Funding Source		
Capital Ex Revenue	Uncertain	More information required
Capital Ex Hire Purchase	Uncertain	More information required

Capital Ex GRN Grants	Uncertain	More information required
Total Capital Expenditure	31	Transactions in nonfinancial assets
Of which: Land	3141	Land
Of which: Other	311 (assumption)	Fixed assets

Annex 5. Extrabudgetary Unit Bridge Table

Currently the only data source available for extrabudgetary units for the compilation of GFS are the financial statements of the individual units. It is recommended that this is addressed through the introduction of a bespoke GFS data collection template. However, in the interim the below table shows how flow information in the annual financial statements can be bridged (at a relatively high level) to GFS classifications.

	GFS Code	GFS Description
INCOME STATEMENT		
Revenue - sales	142	Sales of goods and services
Revenue - grants from government	133	Grants from other general government units
Revenue - other	142	Sales of goods and services
Cost of sales - goods and services	22	Use of goods and services
Cost of sales - other	22	Use of goods and services
Other income - government grants	133	Grants from other general government units
Other income - gains/losses	not included in GFS	
Other income - other	1441	Current transfers not elsewhere classified
Administrative expenses - employee costs	21	Compensation of employees
Administrative expenses - depreciation	23	Consumption of fixed capital
Administrative expenses - other	22	Use of goods and services
Finance income	blank	
Finance costs	blank	
Income tax	2821	Current transfers not elsewhere classified
CASH FLOW STATEMENT		
Interest paid	24	Interest payable
Interest received	1411	Interest receivable

Purchase of property, plant, and equipment - land	3141A	Land (acquisition)
Sales of property, plant, and equipment - land	3141D	Land (disposal)
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment - other	311A (assumption)	Fixed assets (acquisition)
Sales of property, plant, and equipment - other	311D (assumption)	Fixes assets (disposal)
Proceeds from borrowings	3304	Loans (issuance)
Repayments of borrowings	3304	Loans (repayment)
Finance lease payments	3304	Loans (repayment)
Finance income less interest received	142	Sales of goods and services
Finance costs less interest paid	22	Uses of goods and services