



AFGHANISTAN	EGYPT
IRAQ	JORDAN
LEBANON	LIBYA
SUDAN	SYRIA
WBG	YEMEN

Survey on Foreign Direct Investment in Sudan

Mr. Jean Galand, METAC Statistics Resident Advisor, visited the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS), during January 22–27, 2012, to follow up on the preparatory steps towards the implementation of a survey on foreign direct investment (FDI). The survey questionnaire that had been prepared by the CBOS in cooperation with the Ministry of Investment (MOI) was finalized during the mission. Given its experience in the conduct of surveys, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) will then be asked to estimate the cost of the implementation of the FDI survey. If the CBS cannot conduct the survey on its own budget, external resources will need to be sought for the successful completion of this important project.

Government securities market mission in West Bank and Gaza

In response to a request from the Ministry of Finance (MOF) of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Ms. Nelly Batchoun, METAC Debt Management Resident Advisor, and short-term expert, Mr. Ismail Okour, visited Ramallah, West Bank and Gaza, from January 15–26, 2012, to help the authorities develop the government securities market. The mission was a follow up on previous TA that looked at the conditions and the pre-requisites for the successful issuance of government securities.

The mission focused on building local capacity through the delivery of a specialized training course on money and capital market instruments, their issuance procedures, pricing, evaluation and their trading in the secondary market. The mission also helped in the establishment of appropriate rules, regulations and procedures for government issuance of securities and in defining the role of each institution in the issuing of government securities.

Banking Supervision missions in Jordan

METAC conducted two recent technical assistance (TA) missions as part of two projects with the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Resident Advisor, and short-term expert, Mr. Rebel Cole, visited the CBJ during December 4–8, 2011 where they assessed the current banking database and the system of offsite supervision at the CBJ. The mission provided some recommendations on the data needed for the Early Warning System (EWS) project and agreed with the CBJ on an action plan to move this project forward.

The objective of the second TA was to assist the CBJ in drafting a manual for licensing credit bureaus. This comes after a new law and bylaws were issued allowing the establishment of Private Credit Bureaus (PCBs) under the authority and supervision of the CBJ. Mr. Rachid Awad, and short term expert, Mr. Robin Watson, visited the CBJ during December 18–22, 2011 where they discussed the requirements of the law and bylaws with the CBJ staff and provided some guidelines to help in the licensing of PCBs. METAC short term expert is currently working on preparing a detailed draft licensing manual to be submitted to the CBJ.

Tax Administration reforms in Afghanistan

Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Resident Advisor, joined a Headquarters mission to Kabul from January 14–18, 2012 to follow up on tax administration reforms with a particular focus on IT preparations. The mission reviewed progress made by the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD) in implementing the Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System (SIGTAS) and provided advice on needed measures to ensure a smooth migration to the new system.

