



## RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

### Improve Cash Management in Sudan

A mission comprising Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC public financial management advisor, and Mr. Per Olof Jonsson short-term expert, visited Khartoum from November 4 to 14, 2013 to assist the Ministry of Finance and National Economy (MOFNE) with its efforts to improve the cash management procedures and the Treasury Single Account System (TSA).

The mission conducted a workshop on cash management issues together with representatives from the Cash Management unit of the Turkish Treasury. One of the findings of the workshop was that, due to the involvement of commercial banks in the revenue collection and in payments, achievement of a TSA will be more difficult than envisaged by the authorities.

The mission also analyzed the current banking arrangements in order to provide a better foundation for reforms in this area; and worked together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team preparing for a staff-monitored program (SMP) and provided recommendations on the feasibility of the proposed structural benchmarks related to budget execution.

### Workshop for Parliamentarians from Arab Countries

Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC coordinator, participated in a regional workshop which was held in Kuwait jointly between the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department and the IMF's Center for Economics and Finance from November 26 to 27, 2013 for parliamentarians from Arab countries. The focus of the workshop, which was attended by 22 parliamentarians from different Arab countries as well as senior IMF staff, was to familiarize the participants with the IMF's work and provide a forum to exchange views on socio-economic developments in the region. Mr. Elhage delivered lectures on the role of the IMF and how it is helping member countries, and discussed the outlook for the global economy and examined the current situation and outlook for the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop was an opportunity for the IMF to discuss concerns and suggestions by the parliamentarians and it also provided a platform for the exchange of opinions regarding the right economic policies to address the challenges facing the region.

### Strengthening LTO Operations in Lebanon

A mission, comprising Ms. Manal Assir, METAC revenue administration advisor and Mr. Rod Ettridge, FAD and METAC short-term expert, took place in Beirut from November 11 to 22, 2013. The mission's main objectives were to review the operations of the Large Taxpayer Office (LTO) – with particular focus on organizational arrangements and compliance/enforcement schemes. The mission took stock of progress in implementing the recommendations arising from previous technical assistance missions, and identified a number of issues and gaps that need to be addressed to improve LTO operations.

The mission worked with the authorities on developing appropriate measures to deploy in the next stage to strengthen the overall operational effectiveness of the LTO.

### Strengthen Customs Operations in Afghanistan

In response to a request from the Afghan Customs Department (ACD) for technical assistance, a METAC mission comprising Mr. Darryn Jenkins, member of the IMF short-term expert panel, visited Kabul from November 2 to 20, 2013 to assist ACD with strengthening customs operations. The mission assessed current approaches to risk management and post-clearance audit, and provided guidance on developing approaches to recruitment and training of a new professional customs officer cadre, along with management information needs. The mission also followed up on progress in implementing previous recommendations on valuation and exemptions, and provided guidance on appropriate measures to deploy in the near term.

