

Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)

Capacity Development Activities in Fiscal Year 2024

Bahrain

May 20-25, 2023: The AML/CFT Regional Advisor participated in the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) Plenary and Working Groups meetings, held in Manama, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, from May 20-25. The participation included contributions to discussions of AML/CFT assessment reports of Lebanon and Algeria, for which Fund staff provided external reviews and extensive comments, follow-up reports, MENAFATF governance papers, and CD coordination. During the meetings, an overview of the IMF Legal Department's CD work in the MENA region was provided, and the IMF received an award for its contributions to the MENAFATF activities.



Egypt

September 17-21, 2023: Under the Egypt CD project, a mission visited Cairo to advise on strengthening risk-based AML/CFT supervision of banks and improving the effectiveness of financial investigations and other enforcement actions. The mission met with officials from a variety of authorities, notably the Central Bank of Egypt, Egypt's financial intelligence unit, and the Public Prosecution Office. It followed a scoping mission which was conducted in March 2023 to develop a road map for the delivery of CD outputs.

Iraq

May 19-23, 2023: The AML/CFT Regional Advisor backstopped a capacity development mission for Iraq that was conducted in Amman, Jordan, during May 19–23, 2023. Officials from the Central Bank of Iraq, the Ministry of Justice, the AML/CFT Office, the Terrorist Funds Freezing Committee, and the Non-Profit Organizations Directorate participated in mission activities. The mission conducted a mock assessment of effectiveness of AML/CFT supervision in the banking, money or value transfer services, and real estate sectors and of the implementation of targeted financial sanctions in Iraq. High level findings and recommendations were discussed with the authorities.



Oman

October 22-26, 2023: A CD mission in Muscat conducted a mock assessment of Oman's effectiveness in the (i) development and use of financial intelligence for money laundering and terrorist financing investigations and (ii) implementation of targeted financial sanctions. The mission team met with officials from the financial intelligence unit, the Central Bank of Oman, other authorities responsible for AML/CFT supervision of non-bank financial institutions, virtual asset service providers, designated non-financial businesses and professions, the National Center for Financial Information, the National Committee for Combating Terrorism, and authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting ML and TF.



The purpose of the mission was to share the best practices for the collection, access, and use of financial intelligence to support ML and TF investigations, including the delivery of reliable, accurate, and up-to-date information, in addition to the best practices in the implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions in the areas of Terrorist financing and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Somalia

December 11-15, 2023 and January 2024: At the request of the Somali authorities, a CD mission led by the AML/CFT Regional Advisor was conducted in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from December 11-15, 2023. The purpose of the mission was to assist the authorities in preparing for the AML/CFT Mutual Evaluation to be conducted by the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) in 2024.

The mission included a mock assessment of the effectiveness of implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions and a discussion of the draft amendments to the AML/CFT law that the IMF recently proposed to the authorities. Officials from the National AML/CFT Committee, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Central Bank of Somalia, and other authorities responsible for AML/CFT supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, and authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting ML/TF participated in this mission.

Follow-up meetings were conducted via videoconference in January 2024 to resolve pending issues in the review of the AML/CFT legal framework. These meetings led to the finalization of the draft amendments. The authorities plan to submit the amendments to the parliament for enactment by the end of March this year.

United Arab Emirates Workshop and Capacity Development Mission to Djibouti

July 6-13, 2023: The AML/CFT Regional Advisor led a workshop on AML/CFT Risk-based Supervision in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) during July 9–13, 2023. Officials from nine MENA jurisdictions¹ that

¹ Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Somalia, Syria, West Bank & Gaza, and Yemen.

are scheduled to undergo an AML/CFT mutual evaluation or have not been yet subject to the process, participated in this workshop. Presentations focused on features and best practices for an effective risk-based AML/CFT supervision, of financial institutions (FIs) and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs).



Concurrently, at the request of the Djibouti authorities, the Regional Advisor led a capacity development mission in the same venue during July 6–11, 2023. Officials from the Central Bank of Djibouti, supervisors of FIs, DNFBPs, and officials from the financial intelligence unit and other agencies relevant to financial investigations participated in mission activities. The mission conducted a mock assessment of effectiveness of AML/CFT supervision of banks and other high-risk FIs and DNFBPs, of the use of financial intelligence, and of investigations of money laundering. High-level findings and recommendations were discussed with the authorities.



Yemen



Dec 17-21, 2023: As part of the Yemen AML/CFT CD project, the AML/CFT Regional Advisor participated in a mission in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from December 17–21, 2023. The mission discussed IMF staff's legal drafting advice recently to review the AML/CFT law and its implementing regulations. If adopted, the revised draft law and regulations should bring Yemen's AML/CFT framework further in line with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.