



COUNTRIES-DONORS: ALGERIA | EGYPT | JORDAN | LEBANON | LIBYA
COUNTRIES: AFGHANISTAN | DJIBOUTI | IRAQ | MOROCCO | SUDAN | SYRIA | TUNISIA | WEST BANK & GAZA | YEMEN

Technical Assistance Missions

Banking Supervision

Sudan

In response to a request from the Credit Information and Scoring Agency (CIASA), owned by the Central Bank of Sudan, a mission visited Khartoum to follow up on the progress made by the authorities in implementing METAC’s recommendations from the February and March 2016 missions related to credit registry. The mission also determined the status of installation and effectiveness of the CIASA credit scoring system and advised on some key technical components related to credit scoring. This assistance is expected to strengthen the capacity of the Sudanese authorities in monitoring credit risk concentration and in detecting non-performing loans at an early stage.

Public Financial Management

Jordan

The Jordanian authorities are promoting fiscal transparency through effective monitoring, controlling, and managing the trust accounts maintained by government units covered by the Treasury Single Account (TSA). As the authorities have started integrating part of the trust accounts into the TSA, a METAC mission advised on the appropriate accounting treatment of these accounts, and assisted with the implementation of the end-February 2017 structural benchmark on trust accounts, which is included in the IMF’s Extended Fund Facility.

Lebanon



As part of its efforts to strengthen public financial management and increase transparency, the Lebanese Ministry of Finance (MoF) is seeking to issue Financial Statements based on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). In this context, following a workshop organized by the World Bank in 2015, it established a working group to prepare an action plan for the adoption of IPSAS. The working group needed to create sensitization and awareness of IPSAS among the MoF senior staff and to have a clear understanding of the requirements of IPSAS and pronouncements. METAC provided the needed training; assessed where MoF stands in terms of meeting the requirements of cash-basis IPSAS; shared experiences and lessons from countries that have adopted IPSAS; and recommended actions for adopting the cash-basis IPSAS.

Revenue Administration

Algeria

METAC’s advisor participated in a technical assistance (TA) mission of the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department to Algiers. The mission reviewed the status of implementation of the strategic plan for 2015-19 of the General Directorate of Taxes,

recommended mitigation measures, and provided technical advice to improve tax administration core processes, including to modernize filing and payment procedures, develop risk-based audit programs, and collect arrears. Attention was also given to value-added tax administration, including registration, filing, audit and refunds. The mission also introduced METAC’s new resident revenue advisor to the authorities and discussed areas where METAC would support the authorities.

Jordan

METAC revenue resident advisor, Mr. Patrick De Mets, visited Amman to confirm with the authorities the focus and scope of future METAC TA in selected priority areas, and to discuss the regional workshop on revenue administration that METAC will organize in Amman during March 20-23, 2017. Meetings were held with senior directors of the Jordanian Income and Sales Tax Department (ISTD) and representatives from the USAID and the European Delegation. A roadmap for further TA was discussed with ISTD, and METAC’s future TA was coordinated with USAID and the European delegation.

Statistics

Afghanistan

A METAC mission visited Amman to assist the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan in improving price statistics. The mission assessed the last updates of the consumer price index (CPI) based on the 2011/12 living conditions survey of and provided recommendations to enhance further the compilation system, in particular by: treating missing prices; and improving the item sample and collection of rent data. The mission also assisted with drafting a revised Enhanced General Data Dissemination System metadata for the Afghan CPI.



Egypt

A METAC mission assisted the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in further improving data sources and compilation procedures for the CPI and the producer price index (PPI). In particular, the mission assisted the authorities in addressing on-going problems with collecting rent data and improving the weighting structure used to compile the PPI. It also established a work program for further development of price statistics in Egypt.

Regional Workshop on Price Index Compilation Issues



METAC and the IMF’s Statistics Department held a workshop on “Price Index Compilation Issues” in Amman, Jordan during November 27–December 1, 2016. The workshop addressed specific price statistics compilation issues of participating countries. International standards and best practices were discussed with regard to the compilation and dissemination of price indexes. The interactive workshop facilitated extensive discussions and included practical exercises. In a final wrap-up session, the participants from 11 countries attending the workshop were given the opportunity to identify potential areas for future METAC TA support in their countries.

Farewell to METAC’s Public Financial Management Advisor

It is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC’s resident advisor in public financial management, who will join IMF Headquarters next month.

While we are sad to see Jacques leaving METAC, we are also very happy to see him advancing in his career, which is a testimony of his hard work and success in METAC. We want to take this opportunity to thank Jacques for his numerous contributions to METAC and its membership over the last five years and wish him success in this new phase of his professional career.

Season’s Greetings

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Holiday season, and a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year.



Technical Assistance Reports

The following TA reports were uploaded on METAC’s website during December 2016. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who have signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF can access the reports on our website.

	Egypt
Revenue Administration	Customs Investigation and File Preparation
Statistics	Report on National accounts - Supply and Use tables

METAC PLANNED MISSIONS

METAC planned missions for January 2017 can be found @ www.imfmetac.org

