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Technical Assistance (TA) Missions

Banking Supervision

Djibouti

A METAC mission visited Djibouti to assist the “Banque Centrale de Djibouti” (BCD) in improving their prudential regulations on capital adequacy, loan classification and provisioning, and related parties. The mission also trained the banking supervision staff on the implementation of these regulations. The proposed instructions aimed at strengthening banks’ financial soundness and prompting the BCD to adopt an effective regulatory framework.

Lebanon

In response to a request from the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon (BCCL), METAC held a mission in Beirut, Lebanon to develop the skills of the BCCL supervisors on the techniques and implementation of stress tests as an essential tool to assess the resilience of individual banks against economic and financial shocks, in a forward-looking perspective.

Public Financial Management

Iraq

In response to a request from the Ministry of Finance of Iraq, a joint IMF Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD)/METAC mission visited Amman, Jordan to review progress in cash management and implementing commitment controls. The mission reviewed and discussed with the authorities the implementation of previous recommendations regarding commitment controls and cash management, and discussed options for introducing a treasury single account. Three presentations, on the abovementioned topics, were provided and discussed with the authorities.

Revenue Administration



Iraq

METAC’s revenue advisor participated in an FAD tax policy mission held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The purpose of the mission was to discuss with an Iraqi delegation of senior tax officials policy options for increasing non-oil tax revenue, and to identify some pressing needs for customs and tax administration that could be supported by METAC. The establishment of a Large Taxpayer Unit was identified as an important initiative for which METAC could provide appropriate support in the short term.

Lebanon

METAC organized a mission to Beirut, Lebanon to assist the Lebanese VAT Directorate in strengthening the refund management of the value-added tax (VAT), by advising on further improvement strategies to detect and prevent VAT refund fraud.

Afghanistan

METAC’s revenue advisor participated in an FAD tax policy mission in Dubai, United Arab Emirates to discuss with a delegation of senior tax and customs officials of Afghanistan options for short-term revenue mobilization.

Statistics

Afghanistan

A METAC mission visited Amman, Jordan to assist Da Afghanistan Bank in strengthening the quality of External Sector Statistics. Important progress was achieved since the last mission, including submitting revised balance of payments data in the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, sixth edition (BPM6) format to the IMF’s Statistics Department, the preparation of International Investment Position (IIP) data in BPM6 format, the reconciliation of balance of payments and IIP data, and the comparison of partner country trade data. The mission assisted in addressing the data gaps in the IIP, which are related to the direct investment assets, direct investment liabilities, other assets and liabilities of the private sector, and trade credits. To this end, it developed a detailed work plan for conducting an enterprise survey, finalized the survey form, and provided hands-on training on how to complete the survey form and train the enterprises that will take part in the survey.

Morocco

A METAC mission visited the Statistics Directorate of High Planning Commission of Morocco (HPC) in Rabat, Morocco to assess the current status of national accounts compilation system and the coherence with other macroeconomic statistics. The mission defined areas in which METAC support would be required, in particular to help the authorities develop a compilation framework for financial balance sheets by institutional sectors, based on the 2008 System of National Accounts, and quarterly institutional sector accounts (non-financial, financial, and balance sheets). This would enable the authorities to respond to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard-Plus requirements. Opportunities for exchanging the HPC experience in compiling the national accounts statistics with other METAC countries were also discussed.



METAC Coordinator Visits Jordan

METAC's Center Coordinator participated in a workshop with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) organized by the IMF, where she made a presentation on how the IMF capacity development helps build stronger institutions and skills in the region, and chaired a session on jobs and employment. The workshop was an opportunity to strengthen the IMF's engagement with CSOs, and covered topics ranging from IMF arrangements to corruption and transparency. It included more than 20 CSOs from the Middle East and North Africa, such as Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

METAC Planned Missions

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

Country	Mission	Resident advisor	ST expert	Date
Banking Supervision				
Iraq	Upgrade the Central Bank of Iraq prudential regulations	–	Sherif Ashour	03/05-12
Morocco	Market Risk		Thierry Bangratz	03/06-17
Algeria	Training on ICCAP	Ahmad El Radi	Francois Gomez	03/12-16
Sudan	Upgrade the CBO inspection manual	–	Joel Shapiro	03/12-16
Revenue Administration				
Egypt	Assess opportunities to support VAT in the post implementation phase	–	Paul Martens	03/19-23
Iraq	Advise on establishment of LTO	Patrick De Mets	John Middleton	03/19-23
Regional Workshop	Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT)	Patrick De Mets	Paul Martens	03/27-30
Statistics				
Lebanon	National Accounts	–	Simon Humphries	03/06-17
Regional Workshop	National Accounts	Todor Todorov	Artashes Shaboyan	03/13-16
WBG	National Accounts	Todor Todorov		03/26-04/06

Technical Assistance Reports

The following TA reports were uploaded on METAC's website during February 2017. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who have signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF can access the reports @ www.imfmetac.org

	Afghanistan
Banking Supervision	Enhancement of On-site Examination Procedures
Statistics	Producer Price Index Mission

IMF Online Courses

Available to government officials and, in some cases, to the general public through www.imf.org/institute-online and <https://www.edx.org/school/imfx>. Current and forthcoming courses include:

- Energy Subsidy Reform (ESRx)**
 Language: English, March 29, 2017 -April 26, 2017 (4 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by March 22, 2017
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis (FPP.1x)**
 Language: Arabic, April 26, 2017-June 7, 2017 (6 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by April 19, 2017
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design (FPP.2x)**
 Language: French, May 3, 2017-June 21, 2017 (7 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by April 26, 2017
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis (FPP.1x)**
 Language: English, May 10, 2017-June 21, 2017 (6 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by May 3, 2017
- Macroeconomic Diagnostics (MDSx)**
 Language: English, May 24, 2017-July 5, 2017 (6 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by May 17, 2017