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METAC Annual Steering Committee Meeting

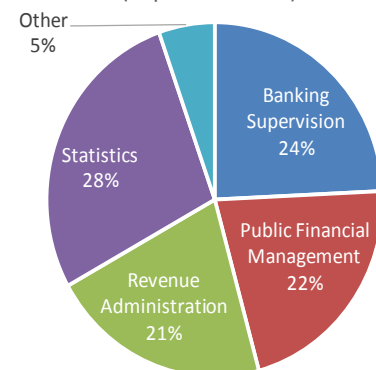
METAC’s Steering Committee met in Amman, Jordan on May 4, 2017, to assess the Center’s operations for FY 2017 and discuss forward-looking plans. The Center Coordinator thanked donor partners and member countries for their generous contributions to METAC, and welcomed the Netherlands and Switzerland as METAC’s newest partners. She also highlighted the Center’s achievements since the start of the current phase in May 2016, including:

- Helping prepare for the introduction of a value-added tax (VAT) in Egypt;
- Promoting effective monitoring, controlling, and managing public spending in Jordan;
- Bolstering Bank Al-Maghrib’s supervision framework to support Morocco’s transition to a more flexible exchange rate; and
- Strengthening the collateral framework of the Central Bank of Tunisia.

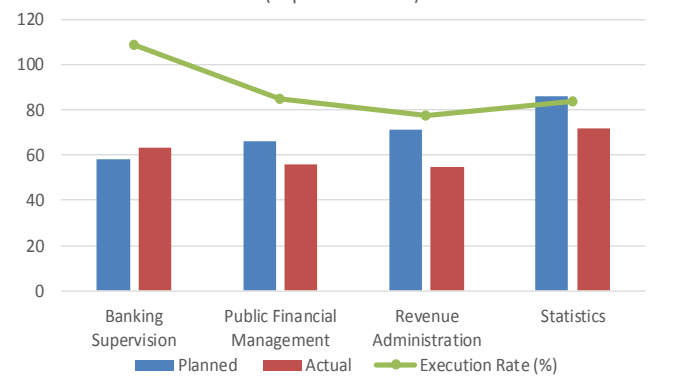


The Committee discussed METAC’s relevance and responsiveness. Members greatly appreciated the range of work and sustained support delivered by the Center over the past year, despite complex political dynamics and difficult security situations in most countries. The Center’s flexibility supported fast and effective responses to shifting circumstances and priorities, and off-site missions helped to continue working with conflict-affected countries, essential to protect institutional capacity during a precarious period. METAC’s successful engagement with the newest member countries — Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco, and Tunisia — was also commended. The Steering Committee welcomed the planned expansion in the Center’s work program for this year by 25 percent, to respond to the increased needs during this exceptional period in the history of the region.

METAC: FY 2017 Allocation of Resources by TA Area (in person weeks)



METAC: FY 2017 Planned vs. Actual Activities by TA Area (in person weeks)



Technical Assistance (TA) Missions

Public Financial Management (PFM)

Djibouti

Djibouti is expanding its infrastructure to leverage its strategic location and foster growth. Consequently, public debt has risen from 50 to 85 percent of GDP between 2014 and 2016. In this context, a joint Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD)-METAC mission assessed the ability of the PFM system to finance the budget in an efficient and transparent way, as well as the framework to manage fiscal risks arising from public enterprises and key institutions of the public investment management framework. The mission included four mini-seminars aiming at sharing international experiences and IMF analytical work with representatives of institutions involved in PFM. METAC will follow up on the mission’s major recommendations to support their implementation.

Jordan

Using the IMF’s new Public Investment Management Assessment framework, a joint FAD-METAC mission evaluated the strength of the Jordan’s public investment management practices. The mission assessed the efficiency of Jordan’s public investment, outlined its relative institutional strengths and weaknesses, and provided practical recommendations to enhance its efficiency and impact.

Revenue Administration

Afghanistan

METAC organized an off-site mission in Amman, Jordan to work with the Afghanistan Customs Department (ACD) on developing multi-criteria risk profiles to effectively identify and prioritize high-risk traders and shipments for physical examination and post-release verification. It also conducted a workshop on the risks facing the ACD and to identify selectivity criteria. The new national risk management policy was reviewed and advice was given on how to establish, test, and implement multi-criteria risk profiles in all border crossing points and inland custom depots of Afghanistan.

Jordan

A METAC mission supported the development and introduction of an enhanced risk management structure in the income and sales tax department (ISTD). The mission advised on the organizational structure, governance arrangements, roles, methodologies, and key



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functions for sound compliance and institutional risk management, as a basis for compliance improvement, effective resource deployment, and institutional security. Together with the authorities, it also defined an action plan to roll out the risk management function across the ISTD in line with international good practice. The mission introduced to ISTD the internationally recognized risk “likelihood and consequence” matrix used to assess and prioritize risks across a variety of disciplines, including taxation, and developed a charter for the newly formed Risk Register Committee.

West Bank and Gaza

A METAC mission reviewed the development of the Tax Revenue Management System (RMS) and its potential interface with the Customs ASYCUDA system, and recommended enhancements to enable more effective information exchange between these systems, to support risk management and post clearance audit in the Customs and Excise Directorate. It also reviewed progress on previous recommendations, and identified obstacles to implementation and critical outstanding activities. A plan was prepared to ensure that the RMS and ASYCUDA are being optimized to support the functions and structure of risk management and intelligence across the Department of Customs, particularly on cargo processing and audit.

Egypt

A METAC mission worked closely with the Egyptian Tax Authority (ETA) to review progress made by the ETA since METAC’s previous mission in September/October 2016, in implementing compliance and institutional risk management as a basis for compliance improvement, effective resource deployment, and institutional security. The mission recommended further improvements to roll out the risk management function across the ETA in line with international good practice. It also participated in risk assessment and strategy development activities for two risks identified by senior officials.

Statistics

West Bank and Gaza

A METAC mission assisted the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on measuring GDP volumes at prices of previous year, and their chain-linking in time series at chosen reference year. The mission worked closely with the authorities on assessing the experimental results with the data for 2012-2014, organizing the data sources for annual and quarterly estimates, and linking them to the established standard templates for regular compilation procedures. The implementation of the procedures is considered for the first quarter of 2018.

TA Reports

The following TA report was uploaded on METAC’s website during April 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
Statistics	External Sector Statistics

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 online courses include:

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 Course conducted online
Apply online by June 7, 2017
- **Macroeconometric Forecasting (MFx)**
 Language: English, June 14, 2017-August 16, 2017 (9 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by June 7, 2017
- **Macroeconomic Diagnostics (MDSx)**
 Language: English, June 28, 2017-August 9, 2017 (6 Weeks)
 Course conducted online
Apply online by June 21, 2017