

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS: European Union | France | Germany | Switzerland | The Netherlands

MEMBERS - CONTRIBUTORS: Algeria | Egypt | Iraq | Lebanon | Sudan

MEMBERS: Afghanistan | Djibouti | Jordan | Libya | Morocco | Syria | Tunisia | West Bank & Gaza | Yemen

Technical Assistance (TA) and Training Missions

Banking Supervision



Iraq



METAC continued to support the Central Bank of Iraq's (CBI) efforts to enhance their prudential regulatory framework. The Center organized an off-site mission in Beirut, Lebanon during the period of February 05-09, 2018 to facilitate the implementation of four draft prudential regulations on Licensing and Change of Control Requirements; Market Risk Management; Operational Risk Management; and Interest Rate Risk in the Banking Book, which were drafted with METAC's assistance in June 2017. The mission also reviewed the comments provided by operating banks in Iraq on other draft prudential regulations that were circulated by the CBI for comments.

Statistics



Egypt

METAC assisted the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) in finalizing the 2014/15 Supply and Use Tables. The updated 2014/15 SUT framework helped CAPMAS staff in ensuring full consistency between non-market output and government consumption expenditure. The mission reviewed the balancing procedures and provided recommendations to finalize the tables by end March 2018.



Tunisia

METAC organized a follow-up mission on the elaboration of financial accounts and balance sheets by institutional sectors in national accounts statistics. The mission focused on (re-)establishing contacts with key data providers and defining a roadmap to develop the Tunisian financial accounts. The roadmap was elaborated in agreement with the beneficiaries.

Regional Workshops

Public Corporations and Fiscal Risk



While public corporations play a major role in all METAC member-countries, they often lag behind private firms in terms of financial, economic, and operational performance. In addition, many state-owned banks show signs of vulnerabilities, such as weak balance sheets and low capitalization, poor underlying profitability, and high levels of non-performing loans compared to private banks. As a result, public corporations create large and persistent fiscal risks. Against this background, METAC gathered 20 officials who oversee public corporations and manage the related financial and fiscal risks, to share international and regional experiences and discuss

methodological guidance to monitor and mitigate fiscal risks related to public corporations. The discussions illustrated countries' exposure to a wide-range of fiscal risks related to public corporations, the challenges to identify and mitigate them, and the need to improve fiscal transparency practices within the region. Participants expressed strong interest in follow-up technical assistance from METAC to strengthen their fiscal risk management framework and in further peer-to-peer experience sharing.

Budget Transparency



Launched in 2006 by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the Open Budget Survey (OBS) measures whether central governments provide adequate public access to national budget information and opportunities to participate in the budget process. It also examines the role and effectiveness of legislators and auditors in the budget process. Released on January 31, 2018, the OBS 2017 shows that since the 2015 survey progress has been limited in the MENA region. On 10 countries assessed, only Jordan is above the score of 61, which is considered by the IBP as the benchmark for sufficient budget transparency. In this context, METAC and the IBP co-organized a workshop and gathered representatives of finance ministries and civil society from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia, as well as international experts in public finance. The event highlighted how effectively governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations can work together to

implement actions or reforms that increase transparency and strengthen institutions aiming at improving governance, tackling corruption, and ensuring responsibility for inclusive policies – a key objective of the Marrakesh “Call for Action”.

Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT)



METAC and the Middle East Center for Economics and Finance organized jointly a regional workshop on “Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT)”, in Kuwait City, Kuwait. TADAT has been designed to deliver an objective and standardized assessment of the key outcomes of any country’s system of tax administration. Twenty-nine senior representatives of tax authorities and finance ministries from 13 countries (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, Oman and Somalia) attended the workshop.

Given the comprehensive nature of TADAT, a series of three workshops have been planned during 2017-18. This workshop was the last in the series. It provided participants with an initial awareness session on the TADAT process, followed by detailed discussions on the internationally recognized good practices espoused in the TADAT methodology on the effective tax dispute resolution, efficient revenue management, as well as accountability and transparency. The workshop included country presentations on the achievements and main challenges that country authorities are facing. Participants provided very favorable feedback. Comments focused on the good practices that they would like to see in their own tax administrations. Accordingly, discussions covered the practical implementation aspects of the presented good practices. METAC will continue to provide support on TADAT assessments throughout the region, in partnership with other development partners.

The following TA report was uploaded on METAC's website during February 2018. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who have signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF may access the reports @ www.imfmetac.org

	Egypt
Revenue Administration	Approaching Roll-Out of the On-Time Filing and Payment Improvement Project

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:

- Energy Subsidy Reform (ESRx)**
 Language: English, March 28 – April 25, 2018 (4 Weeks)
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by March 21, 2018
- Macroeconomic Management in Resource-Rich Countries (MRCx)**
 Language: English, April 4 – May 23, 2018 (7 Weeks)
 Course Conducted online
Apply online by March 28, 2018
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis (FPP.1x)**
 Language: Arabic, April 11 – May 23, 2018 (6 Weeks)
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 4, 2018
- Macroeconomic Diagnostics (MDSx)**
 Language: English, May 2 – June 13, 2018 (6 Weeks)
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 25, 2018
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis (FPP.1x)**
 Language: English, May 9 – June 20, 2018
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by May 2, 2018
- Public Financial Management (PFMx)**
 Language: English, May 9 – July 4, 2018
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by May 2, 2018

METAC planned missions for March 2018 are:

Country	Topics	Resident Advisor	Short-Term Expert	Dates
Banking Supervision				
Djibouti	Improve Regulatory Framework	-	Raymond Bernard Shehzad Tarique	04-16
Regional Workshop	Stress Testing	Ahmad El Radi	Michael Lau Marijn Otte	26-30
Public Financial Management				
Iraq	Treasury Single Account and Cash Management	Xavier Rame	Mike Williams	06-09
Statistics				
Afghanistan	External Sector Statistics	-	Tamara Razin Renato Perez	12-22
Algeria	National Accounts	-	Francien Berry	18-22
Djibouti	National Accounts	-	Ibrahima Sory	18-29
Egypt	Price Statistics	-	Brian Graf	04-15
Iraq	External Sector Statistics	-	Emanuel Kumah	18-29
Regional Workshop	National Accounts	Todor Todorov	Artashes Shaboyan	05-08