

**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

### *Public Financial Management*



#### **Jordan**

The 2017 Public Investment Management Assessment highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity to identify and manage fiscal risks arising from public private partnerships (PPPs) contracts. In this context, a METAC expert joined an IMF Fiscal Affairs Department mission to assess the exposure to PPPs contracts and propose measures to improve the management of related fiscal risks. The expert identified the PPP contracts that might result in fiscal risks and proposed a full stock-take to identify and quantify specific risks within each contract. In addition, he proposed a framework for better oversight of proposed PPP projects at an early stage together with institutional responsibilities. Finally, he advised a number of ongoing monitoring and reporting measures with a view to improve the sustainability and management of fiscal risks from Jordan's substantial PPPs program.

### *Revenue Administration*



#### **Egypt**

METAC supported the Egyptian Tax Authority in developing and implementing improved filing and payment compliance management procedures, based on international good practice. The expert also discussed with the authorities the design of a Program Management Office and governance framework to support further tax administration reforms. He also provided further assistance on defining the necessary preparations for the national rollout of the new procedures, including finalization of the detailed and time-bound implementation action plan.



#### **Iraq**

METAC provided support to the General Commission for Taxes (GCT) on the establishment and functioning of a modern Large Taxpayer Directorate (LTD). The mission outlined the requirements for the establishment and functioning of a modern LTD, which would administer all national-level taxes and focus on high yield activity. It reviewed progress towards the establishment of the LTD, including the intended large taxpayers' portfolio, and supported the GCT in designing the criteria to select large taxpayers. The mission also developed and discussed with the authorities a plan for short- and medium-term actions to facilitate the LTD implementation, which include: definition of the large taxpayer portfolio; staffing of LTD; operating procedures, case management and reporting tools needed to support a risk-based compliance management.

### *Statistics*



#### **Iraq**

In cooperation with IMF, Statistics Department, METAC organized an off-site mission in Amman to assist the Central Bank of Iraq's efforts to improve the quality of the balance of payments (BoP) statistics. The mission focused on the treatment of production sharing agreements between the Government and foreign-owned oil extraction companies, arrears, and recording of foreign direct investment in kind. To refine further the records related to the oil sector activity, in addition to BoP compilers from the Central Bank of Iraq, key representatives from the Ministry of Oil participated in the mission.



METAC The Steering Committee met on May 3, 2018, in Beirut, Lebanon to review the center's activities over the last year, and discuss its work program for the following 12 months. Officials from 10 of the 14 members attended the meeting, together with development partners that support the Center - the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland - and IMF staff.

Mr. Mounir Rachid, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Finance of Lebanon, chaired the meeting. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the increasingly critical role METAC has been playing in the region, by supporting many countries as they address their macroeconomic challenges. He commended METAC for implementing 97 percent of its work program, despite difficult regional circumstances, and for maintaining a high standard that is reflected in the appreciation of member countries' officials.

Ms. Taline Koranchelian, the Center Coordinator, thanked partners and member countries for their generous contributions to METAC. She discussed the main highlights of METAC's work in FY18 and plans going forward. She reported that the Center increased its activities by 20 percent to support the achievement of 88 milestones by members towards stronger economic institutions. For instance, Djibouti and Iraq strengthened their regulatory framework, Egypt adopted guidelines for managing government guarantees to state-owned enterprises, Sudan Customs Authority is rolling out risk management procedures in several ports, and Afghanistan rebased and expanded its consumer price index.

The Steering Committee members greatly appreciated the range of work delivered by the Center over the past year, despite the complex political transformation and difficult security situation in many countries.

They were particularly pleased with the Center's flexibility to address changes in circumstances and countries' priorities, and welcomed the focus on combining technical assistance with hands-on training and peer learning.

They also lauded the Center's increased support to conflict-affected countries through off-site missions, which they viewed as essential to protect the institutional capacity during a precarious period.

The Steering Committee was pleased with the plan to continue to expand METAC's work this year by another 10 percent, as higher assistance was needed to strengthen further the region's institutions at this critical juncture. The Committee agreed that a joint action from countries, partners, and METAC was needed to mitigate the implementation risks related to the political and security conditions in several countries; countries' commitment to implement the technical assistance recommendations; and the institutional capacity to absorb and implement technical assistance recommendations.

### TA Reports

The following TA reports were uploaded on METAC's website during May 2018. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who have signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF may access the reports @ [www.imfmetac.org](http://www.imfmetac.org)

<b>Banking Supervision</b>	<b>West Bank and Gaza</b>
	Enhancing International Financial Reporting Standard 9 Implementation
<b>Public Financial Management</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>
	Aide à la mise en place d'une convention de trésorerie et suivi de la feuille de route de septembre 2017

### IMF Online Courses

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

- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design (FPP.2x)**  
 Language: French, May 23 – July 11, 2018  
 Course Conducted Online  
**Apply online by May 16, 2018**
- Financial Market Analysis (FMAx)**  
 Language: English, May 30 – July 18, 2018  
 Course Conducted Online  
**Apply online by May 23, 2018**
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design (FPP.2x)**  
 Language: English, August 29 – October 17, 2018  
 Course Conducted Online  
**Apply online by August 22, 2018**

## METAC Planned Missions

METAC planned missions for June 2018 are:

Country	Topics	Resident Advisor	Short-Term Expert	Dates
<b>Banking Supervision</b>				
Egypt	Capacity Development on IFRS 9	Ahmad El Radi	Gerald Edwards	06/24-28
Sudan	Improving Credit Registry Functioning	-	Jim Aziz	06/24-28
<b>Public Financial Management</b>				
Lebanon	Public Investment Management Assessment	Xavier Rame	-	06/21-07/06
<b>Statistics</b>				
Jordan	National Accounts	-	Kotb Salem	06/24-28
WBG	National accounts	Todor Todorov	-	06/24-28