

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

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

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

Technical Assistance and Training Missions

Banking Supervision



Egypt



To assist the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) in implementing Basel III requirements, METAC delivered a training to its supervisors on the “Revised Standardized Approach for Credit Risk” published by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in December 2017. The training included explanation and discussion of this approach and the necessity to exercise due diligence by supervisors for individual exposures in addition to the recognition of external ratings. The training also presented in an excel sheet analysis of the impact of the new credit risk measurement framework on banks’ profit, and accordingly on their capital adequacy ratio.



Iraq



METAC delivered a training in Amman, Jordan to a team of supervisors from the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) on early identification of banks risks and how to

deal with weak banks. The training included early intervention of supervisors, corrective actions and their enforcement, banking crisis management and the supervisor’s role, and techniques of liquidating unviable banks. Case studies of how weak banks were dealt with in some countries were provided as practical examples.



Tunisia

METAC continued its assistance to the Central Bank of Tunisia in the implementation of consolidated supervision. It assisted in drafting regulatory guidelines defining the scope and boundaries of prudential consolidation, the methods for determining the entities to be consolidated, and the type of control (exclusive or significant influence). The training also covered methods to distinguish financial entities from non-financial entities.

Public Financial Management



Afghanistan



METAC organized a five-day workshop aiming at augmenting the capacity of the Afghan Ministry of Finance to identify and analyze key fiscal costs and risks, using the new version of the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Fiscal Risk Assessment Model (PFRAM). The workshop included outlining good practices in assessing fiscal costs of PPPs, discussions of specific fiscal risks related to PPPs, and hands-on training on the PFRAM.

 **Tunisia**

In the context of METAC's medium-term support to strengthen institutional and organizational arrangements related to cash management, an expert visit reviewed progress toward the consolidation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), the establishment of the Treasury Committee, the agreement formalizing the relationship between the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank for the management of the TSA, and cash forecast's processes and tools. This activity also updated the September 2017 roadmap for reinforcing cash management institutions and practices.

 **West Bank and Gaza**

The third expert visit under the METAC TA program to strengthen the capacity of the Macro-Fiscal Unit (MFU) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning of the Palestinian Authority completed a comprehensive review of the fiscal tables produced by the Accounts Department that underpin the work of the MFU. The proposed new set of tables would fill important data gaps, bring the tables more in line with international practices, and address some misclassifications. The expert also provided feedback on the latest MFU's draft report and supported the finalization of the training and database manual, including procedures for managing and protecting the database.

Revenue Administration

 **Morocco**

METAC resident revenue advisor participated in a joint IMF Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD)-METAC assessment of the tax administration, using the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT). The assessment identified strengths and weaknesses in all relevant issues pertaining to the collection of major taxes, created a baseline for measuring reform progress over time, and provided the authorities with input for determining future technical assistance (TA) needs. METAC will provide a follow-up to this activity in the current fiscal year to support the realization of some outcomes of the assessment.

 **Sudan**

METAC continued supporting Sudan Customs Administration (SCA) in rolling out risk management function. A METAC expert visit during November 4-15 found that the first stage of this rollout, involving mainly the sea ports, was completed; the second stage, dealing with dry ports, is planned to commence in December 2018. This will proceed in parallel with two pilot projects to extend risk management to other SCA functions, such as excise and tariff administration. The visit provided further advice on assessing and ranking compliance risks, developing a compliance improvement program to mitigate identified risks, and rolling out risk management across other taxes. In line with earlier METAC recommendations, a High-Level Committee on Risk Management has been formed and the intelligence function has been expanded and improved over the last few months.

Statistics

 **Lebanon**

METAC assisted the Lebanese Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) in improving the consumer price index (CPI) and discussed a way forward on possible improvements to the producer price index (PPI). The Improvement to the CPI included areas such as data collection methods, updating and augmenting the CPI outlet sample, pricing of rent; online collection of prices for the CPI and treatment of missing CPI prices.

Regional Workshops



MENA countries are developing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to address their infrastructure needs. The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance and METAC organized a four-day training seminar on "Understanding and Assessing Fiscal Risk from PPPs", based on the new version of the PPP Fiscal Risk Assessment Model, in Kuwait City, Kuwait during October 29 – November 1. The seminar's main objective was to

provide officials from the region responsible for managing public investment, with the tools to evaluate the sustainability of their PPPs and develop a holistic view on their fiscal impacts.

Outreach Activities

Budget Transparency



METAC's Public Financial Management advisor, Mr. Xavier Rame, participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES) and the Office of the IMF in Egypt. The event raised awareness on recent international and national developments related to fiscal and budget transparency, especially amongst parliamentarians. Mr. Rame's contribution included a presentation of international standards, good practices, and lessons learnt from other countries. The IMF Senior Resident Representative to Egypt, Mr. Reza Baqir, stressed the importance of the topic in the context of the Egyptian reform agenda, while Mr. Ahmed Kouchouk, Egyptian Vice Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policies, presented Egypt's experience and achievements, including the recently created Fiscal Transparency Unit. This event was moderated by Dr. Abla Abdel Latif, Executive Director and Director of Research, ECES.

15th Technical Conference of the Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries (ATAIC)

METAC resident revenue advisor, Mr. Stoyan Markov, participated in the 15th Technical Conference of the ATAIC held in Nouakchott, Mauritania during November 12-15. The advisor took part in the work of the Conference and presented on good international practices in effective risk management, which are part of the TADAT methodology of assessing tax administrations.

METAC New Coordinator

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Mario Mansour as METAC new Coordinator as of November 15. Prior to joining METAC, Mario was Deputy Chief of the Tax Policy Division at the IMF, where he coordinated the provision of technical assistance



advice in tax policy to IMF member countries and contributed to the IMF analytical agenda. Mario has over 25 years of experience, has advised on taxation in over 40 countries of all income levels, and has published on a wide range of tax issues. Before joining the IMF in 2004, Mario worked as a tax analyst at the Canadian Department of Finance, and with a private Canadian consultancy where he led technical assistance projects in the Middle East and the Eastern Caribbean. We welcome Mario to METAC and look forward to working with him.

TA Reports

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

Revenue Administration	Egypt
	On-Time Filing and Payment Improvement Project: Starting the Roll-Out
	Jordan
Statistics	Compliance Risk Management Progressing Implementation of a Binding Rulings System
	Iraq
	External Sector Statistics
	Djibouti
	National Accounts Statistics
	National Accounts Statistics

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:

- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts and Analysis (FPP.1x)**
 Language: French, January 1, 2019 – April 30, 2019
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by December 25, 2018
- Macroeconometric Forecasting (MFx)**
 Language: English, January 1, 2019 – April 30, 2019
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by December 25, 2018
- Energy Subsidy Reform (ESRx)**
 Language: Arabic, January 16, 2019 – February 27, 2019
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by January 9, 2019
- Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design (FPP.2x)**
 Language: English, March 6, 2019 – April 24, 2019
 Course Conducted Online
Apply online by February 27, 2019

Country	Topics	Resident Advisor	Short-Term Expert	Dates
Banking Supervision				
METAC & CEF Countries	Regional Workshop on Islamic Finance: Strengthening Regulations and Supervision	Ahmad El Radi	Harizal Alias	12/17-20
Public Financial Management				
Afghanistan	Cash Management	Xavier Rame	Mike Williams	12/3-7
Revenue Administration				
Egypt	Improved Filing and Payment Compliance Management Procedures	-	Keith Cartwright	12/9-20
METAC Countries	Regional Workshop for Customs on Risk Management	Stoyan Markov	Paul Stow	12/10-13
Statistics				
Egypt	Estimating Private Investment and Informal, Non-Observed Activities	Issam Alsammak	-	12/9-20
Tunisia	Assess the Updates of CPI for Measuring Rents, including owner occupied housing	-	Baba Ndiaye	12/10-21
METAC Countries	Regional Workshop on International Trade in Goods and Services	-	Paul Austin and Giovanni Giuseppe Ortolani	12/16-20