



Technical Assistance and Training

Banking Supervision

TUNISIA

METAC continued its support to the Central Bank of Tunisia in developing a consolidated supervision framework, including finalizing the scope of the framework and the consolidation methods to be used, and the regulation to implement it. This included updating the capital adequacy rules, defining the process to perform consolidated supervision quantitative impact study, provisions for related-party transactions within consolidated groups, large exposures limits, liquidity requirements, internal control, risk management, and corporate governance and external audit.

Public Financial Management

LEBANON

Parliaments contribute to shaping the priorities of the budget. They are also a key component of the checks and balances that ensure accountability and integrity in the use of public resources. In collaboration with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, METAC delivered a two-day awareness training on public financial management (PFM) to the Research and Studies Division of the Lebanese Parliament. Participants were introduced to key PFM topics and their importance for budget scrutiny and oversight. It aimed at developing the capacity of the research group to support members of parliament at each step of the budget process,

from its formulation to the review of its implementation. Staff of the research group staff can complement this training by taking the IMF online PFM course, available at: <https://www.edx.org/course/public-financial-management-2>. METAC and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy stand ready to organize further awareness sessions on PFM topics.

Revenue Administration

EGYPT

METAC's revenue administration advisor joined an IMF Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) mission to Egypt to advise on the revenue administration component of Egypt's Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS). The mission held discussions with senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and key operational staff of the Egyptian Tax Authority (ETA), to identify strategic issues in designing and implementing the MTRS. Discussions were also held with private sector stakeholders on the challenges in revenue administration reforms.

In another activity, METAC provided the ETA with support in improving compliance risk management—part of an ongoing project in strengthening revenue administration and governance arrangements. The activity included: providing practical workshops on the compliance risk management process—identifying risk, assessing and prioritizing risk, and developing a risk register and treatment strategies—; reviewing ETA's current risk

management structure and governance; and providing guidance on how to set up a unit and steering committee dedicated to compliance risk management.

MOROCCO

METAC assisted the General Directorate of Taxes (DGT) in strengthening the integrity of the taxpayers register. This was a follow up to the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool conducted by FAD in November 2018. The expert reviewed the organization and processes related to the register, and provided recommendations for their improvement, including: high-level mapping of the process for the temporary deactivation of inactive taxpayers, and key elements for cleaning the register and treatment of non-filers. The expert also assisted DGT in developing measures for detecting unregistered taxpayers and an implementation plan for strengthening the integrity of the registry.

Statistics

AFGHANISTAN

METAC assisted the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) in improving the quality of the balance of payments and international investment position statistic by filling data gaps. It also delivered several lectures and hands-on training to DAB officials to enhance their knowledge in this area.

METAC also provided training to the National Statistics and Information Authority on concepts and methods for building producer price index: determining scope and coverage; identifying data sources; and producing a roadmap to guide staff in completing this project.

JORDAN

METAC assisted Jordan in developing supply and use tables for 2016. These tables will be used to provide a benchmark GDP estimate and to produce input-output tables for economic modelling purposes. This is key milestone in Jordan's progress in modernizing the compilation of its national accounts to produce more accurate GDP figures.

LEBANON

METAC conducted a workshop to the Central Administration (CAS) of Statistics, to help it assess the methodology used in compiling the national accounts. CAS is converting the current compilation framework from annual to quarterly (a key milestone in improving the timeliness of national accounts data). The workshop concluded that the framework is generally sound, within the limitations of available data.

Regional Workshops

Performance Management in Tax Administration

This workshop emphasized the Importance of central control over field operations to ensure that national strategic and operational plans and performance standards are met, and programs and policies are delivered uniformly. In particular, the importance of the role of headquarters was highlighted, including in strategic and operational planning, managing of reforms, and governance. Several quantitative and qualitative measures and indicators to monitor performance against operational targets and standards were presented and discussed. Participants shared their experiences in performance management and

challenges they face in improving this function.

This workshop was held jointly with the IMF Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) in Kuwait City, and was attended by 28 senior representatives of tax authorities and finance ministries from 14 countries.



International Financial Reporting Standard 9 Implementation and Key Supervisory Issues

Held jointly with the CEF, this workshop included individual and group case studies to enhance understanding of IFRS 9 and its implementation challenges, and participants' practical knowledge. It was attended by 38 banking supervisors from 12 countries.



Analytical Corner

The IMF published recently an update of its paper series “Understanding Revenue Administration”. It covers analysis of data provided by 135 tax administrations across the globe, through the International Survey on Revenue Administration (ISORA), for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years. The survey is the product of a partnership involving the IMF, CIAT, IOTA and the OECD. The paper analyzes data for three country groups: small states (population 1.5 million or less),

low-income and high-income countries. As expected, both size and the income level influence the administrative and operational practices of tax administrations. Tax administrations that participate in the survey can access country-level data, which is useful for their own benchmarking—for example, according to regional factors, institutional arrangements, human resources, etc. The results from the ISORA 2018 survey, which comprises data provided by 159 countries for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years, will be published in June 2019.

The ISORA website can be accessed at <http://data.rafit.org>, and the paper can be downloaded from the IMF website at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2019/03/07/ISORA-2016-Understanding-Revenue-Administration-46337>.

IMF Online Courses

General information is available at: <https://www.edx.org/school/imfx>.

Registration for online courses, available to government officials and, in some cases, to the public can be accessed at: <http://imf.smartcatalogiq.com>.

Current and forthcoming courses include:

Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts and Analysis (FPP.1x)

Language: Arabic, May 1 – October 31, 2019
Apply online by October 17, 2019

Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design (FPP.2x)

Language: French, May 22 – July 10, 2019
Apply online by May 15, 2019

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