



Technical Assistance and Training Activities

Banking Supervision

AFGHANISTAN

METAC assisted the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) in enhancing the capacity of their supervisors in assessing weak banks, including their contingency and recovery plans. A hands-on training was organized, focusing on sharing lessons learned from the experience of other countries and best practices. This capacity development activity is expected to increase the knowledge, skills and expertise of banking supervisors, and hence reduce the risks that weak banks pose to the financial system.

LEBANON

METAC assisted the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon (BCCL), Risk Assessment Department, in selecting and preparing the data to be used in undertaking solvency and liquidity stress testing and setting up the groundwork for building a stress test model. This assistance, when completed and the stress test model is set-up, is expected to increase BCCL's capacity in assessing individual bank vulnerabilities as well as that of the banking sector.

Public Financial Management

ALGERIA

A new organic budget law, published in September 2018, foresees the adoption of a medium-term expenditure framework and the development of a program-based budget framework by 2023.

Against this background, a joint METAC mission with the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department supported the preparation of a roadmap for an effective implementation of the new legal framework. METAC focused on helping the authorities develop the medium-term budget framework.

LEBANON

Lebanon is developing a framework to manage fiscal risks, to mitigate the budgetary and financial consequences of a volatile economic, social, and geopolitical environment. In 2017, with METAC's support, the Macroeconomic Analysis and Studies Department (MASD) of the Ministry of Finance prepared a draft Fiscal Risk Statement (FRS). In this context, METAC organized a workshop with the MASD to review the 2018 FRS and compare it with international standards and other countries' practices. It worked with the MASD team to meet their objective of increasing the coverage of the FRS and further enhancing its analytical content. Key actions to ensure its integration with the overall budget process have been identified. At the end of the mission, the MASD presented an updated 2018 FRS to the General Director of the Ministry of Finance.

Revenue Administration

AFGHANISTAN



METAC assisted the Single Large Taxpayer Office of the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD) in establishing a VAT refund system. The objective is to refund legitimate claims and implement safeguards to prevent payment of fraudulent claims. This activity is part of an ongoing project to strengthen core tax administration functions, in particular VAT refund claim payments, and audit and verification. Specifically, METAC advised the ARD on: (i) identifying risks associated with implementing a VAT refund system and project governance, (ii) broader issues associated with better refund management practices, such as internal controls to prevent fraud and the importance of connected IT systems to use third-party data. A detailed project plan to implement effectively the VAT refund system was developed and discussed with ARD officials.

JORDAN

METAC assisted the Income and Sales Tax Department (ISTD) in developing a Compliance Improvement Plan. This activity is part of an ongoing project in revenue administration supported by METAC to establish an effective risk management function, where identified tax compliance risks are addressed through appropriate mitigation strategies. Specifically, METAC advised the ISTD on: (i) adopting improved governance arrangements where progress in compliance strategies is reported, and

(ii) operational improvements, including training, and assessing and communicating priorities within the ISTD. A detailed plan to continuously improve development and refinement of compliance was provided. During the visit the METAC expert held a workshop on the key elements and approaches to measuring compliance, which was attended by twenty-nine officers from various ISTD directorates.

Statistics

EGYPT

METAC assisted the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in improving the consumer price index (CPI) and the producer price index (PPI). METAC's experts assessed and updated work plans established in previous missions, noting that significant progress has been made in the last year. They also trained officials on selecting, weighting, and aggregating transactions for PPIs, on methods for calculating PPIs for the construction sector, and on imputation for temporarily missing items in both CPI and PPI.

Regional Workshop



The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) and METAC concluded a workshop on “National Accounts Compilation Issues: Price and Volume Measures.” Thirty-four participants from 15 countries attended. The workshop covered international standards and best practices regarding common and

country-specific issues in compiling annual and quarterly gross domestic product and its components in volume terms. It facilitated extensive peer-to-peer discussions of countries' practices, challenges and solutions, and included practical exercises. During the wrap-up session, participants identified potential areas for further technical training and assistance from METAC to improve the quality of their national accounts, which is key to effective macroeconomic management.

Technical Assistance Reports

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Banking Supervision | Sudan |
| | Review of the Central Bank of Sudan On-Site Supervision Manual |
| | West Bank and Gaza |
| | Enhancing IFRS 9 Implementation: Hedge Accounting and Derivatives |
| Revenue Administration | Iraq |
| | Development of an Implementation Plan for the New Sales and Excise Tax |
| | Sudan |
| | Compliance Risk Management Structure |
| Public Financial Management | Egypt |
| | Fiscal Risks Identification and Disclosures |
| Statistics | West Bank and Gaza |
| | External Sector Statistics |

IMF Online Courses

Available to government officials and, in some cases, to the general public through <http://imf.smartcatalogiq.com> and <https://www.edx.org/school/imfx>

Current and forthcoming online courses include:

- **Energy Subsidy Reform (ESRx)**
Language: English, January 15, 2019 – April 30, 2019
Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 16, 2019
- **Financial Market Analysis (FMAx)**
Language: English, January 15, 2019 – April 30, 2019
Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 16, 2019
- **Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts and Analysis (FPP.1x)**
Language: French, January 15, 2019 – April 30, 2019
Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 16, 2019
- **Macroeconomic Management in Resource-Rich Countries (MRCx)**
Language: English, January 15, 2019 – April 30, 2019
Course Conducted Online
Apply online by April 16, 2019
- **Macroeconometric Forecasting (MFx)**
Language: English, January 15, 2019 – May 15, 2019
Course Conducted Online
Apply online by May 1, 2019

METAC Planned Activities in February 2019

| Country | Topics | Resident Advisor | Short-Term Expert | Dates |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Banking Supervision | | | | |
| Lebanon | Training on Stress Testing | - | Michael Lau | 18-22 |
| Tunisia | TA on ICAAP | - | Thierry Bangratz | 4-8 |
| Public Financial Management | | | | |
| Sudan | Treasury Single Account and Cash Management | - | Merle Wilkinson | 3-11 |
| | Fiscal Risk Management | - | Gerhard Steger | 3-12 |
| West Bank and Gaza | Development of the Macro Fiscal Unit's Capacities | - | Harry Snoek | 17-28 |
| METAC Countries | Gender Responsive Budgeting | Xavier Rame | Johann Seiwald | 12-14 |
| Revenue Administration | | | | |
| Egypt | Follow-up on how to identify, assess and rank compliance and institutional risks and how to develop a compliance improvement program to mitigate risks | Stoyan Markov | to be confirmed | to be confirmed |
| Statistics | | | | |
| Jordan | Annual national accounts and non-observed economy | Issam Alsammak | Michael Davies | 24-28 |
| Sudan | Prices: Household budget survey effect on the CPI and further recommendations for the development of the compilation system | - | Muhanad Sammar | 3-7 |
| | Incorporate new data on household spending in the national accounts estimates | Issam Alsammak | - | 17-21 |
| Tunisia | Review method and data related to rent prices for the CPI | - | Patrick Kelly | 18-22 |
| | Follow-up on compilation of sectoral financial accounts and balance sheets | - | Geert Langenus | 18-22 |
| West Bank and Gaza | National accounts: Compilation methods and sources for the supply and use tables | - | to be confirmed | 10-14 |

Development Partners



Members - Contributors



Other Members



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