



## Revised Consumer Price Index (CPI) Launching in Afghanistan



On June 10, 2012, the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan launched in an official ceremony the new CPI prepared with the assistance of METAC. Previously, the CSO published a CPI for the capital city, and a national CPI that included five other major cities. The new CPI now covers ten provinces using updated market basket weights based on the 2007/2008 National Risk Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) data for all provinces. The old and the new index are chain linked to ensure availability of a consistent time-series and to avoid revisions to recent CPI data. The new CPI has a base period of March 2011 and the first new index refers to the first month of the Afghan year 1391, or April 2012.

## METAC in Sudan

### Public Financial Management

In response to a request from the authorities, a joint Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) and METAC mission visited Khartoum, Sudan this month. The mission advised the authorities on priority reform measures, in particular to strengthen the methodology and processes associated with fiscal and budgetary frameworks, expenditure control and fiscal reporting. The mission provided specific recommendations that could be implemented during the next one/two years.

### Debt Management

A METAC mission visited the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) to follow up on the implementation of the action plan prepared during a previous mission for the development of an interbank market. The mission discussed with the CBOS the recommendations, and prepared a note showing the next steps to help in the successful implementation of the action plan and the training required at the CBOS and the banks. The mission also met with the Khartoum Stock Exchange (KSE) and the Sudan Financial Services Company (SFSC) regarding their role in the development of the interbank market.



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## METAC WORKSHOPS

### Organizational Trends in Tax Administration



In partnership with USAID, METAC organized a regional workshop on “*Organizational Trends in Tax Administration*” during April 28-30, 2012 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Gathering more than 45 senior officials from METAC and non-METAC countries, the workshop provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange related to building modern organizational structures and management schemes. It highlighted best practices and challenges in designing and implementing effective organizational arrangements for tax administrations. The event was a great opportunity to share experiences amongst participants; several presentations were delivered by representatives of tax administrations, and dynamic discussions and debates characterized the sessions.

### Consistency of Macroeconomic Statistics

Following a request of the Banque du Liban (BDL), a workshop on “*Consistency of Macroeconomic Statistics*” was organized in Beirut, during May 14-18, 2012. Among the participants were staff from BDL Statistics and Economic Research Department, the Central Administration of Statistics, the Ministry of Finance, Kafalat, and the Central Bank of Turkey. Mr. Michel Dessart, METAC short-term expert presented the global macroeconomic framework of an economy in general, highlighting the connections between the various sectors of the economy. Turning to Lebanon, he then presented the data available for the different economic sectors, over the period 2008-2010, evidencing inconsistencies in some areas. The last part of the workshop was devoted to projections for the year 2011, to illustrate the use of statistics in the decision-making process for the conduct of economic policy.

