



DONORS



EIB



EU



France



GIZ



Kuwait



Oman



RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

Public Financial Management

West Bank and Gaza

A technical assistance (TA) mission visited Ramallah, West Bank, from January 22 to 31, 2013 to follow up on the recommendations of the December 2011 International Monetary Fund (IMF), Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) mission. The mission comprised Mr. David Webber, METAC short-term expert, who undertook a comprehensive review of Public Financial Management (PFM) developments in all sections of the January 2012 FAD report, and prepared a revised PFM strategy framework in which recent developments and emerging needs were identified. Specific TA needs were discussed and proposed; particularly in relation to fiscal forecasting and strategy development and the understanding and use of international accounting standards.

Balance of Payments Statistics

Afghanistan

With TA successively from the IMF Statistics Department (STA), on funding from Japan, and from METAC, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) has gradually improved the compilation of balance of payments (BOP) statistics, which have reached a sufficient level of quality to be published. The first ever publication of quarterly BOP data will occur in the March 2013 edition of the IMF's International Financial Statistics, and will cover the period first quarter 2008 to first quarter 2012. Mr. Jean Galand, METAC Statistics Advisor, visited Kabul from February 16 to 20, 2013 to assist DAB in finalizing the compilation of an international investment position (IIP) for Afghanistan (i.e. the external financial balance sheet of the country), consistent with the flows of the financial account of the BOP. The first IIP statement is expected to be published in the coming months.

Taxpayers' Register

Lebanon

In response to a request from the tax authorities, a TA mission visited Beirut from February 18 to 28, 2013 to assist the tax administration with strengthening business activity classification in the central taxpayers' database. The mission was led by Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor, and comprised Mr. Nader Keyrouz, METAC short-term expert.

The mission identified the requirements for implementing the Business Activity Classification (BAC) based on the International Standard for Industrial Classification (ISIC) version 4 and provided relevant transition procedures and schemes for its mapping and customization, including a transition table in three languages (Arabic, English, and French). The mission also identified the main entities inside and outside the tax administration that will be using/sharing the BAC. As such, it developed with the authorities a cooperation plan with the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS) to adopt the same classification, and recommended proper synchronization schemes and consistency checking procedures.

Farewell to Mr. Saade Chami
METAC Coordinator

Mr. Saade Chami, METAC Coordinator for the last five years, has left Beirut to return to his post at the IMF Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

During his time at METAC, Mr. Chami has overseen the work of the Center, enhanced coordination with donors and member country officials, and led the production of a Results Based Management (RBM) framework for the Center, all with dedication and high level of professionalism. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for Mr. Chami's work during his tenure with METAC and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

