



## RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

## Budget Execution and Cash Management Workshop - Lebanon

METAC organized a regional workshop on “Budget Execution and Cash Management” from July 2 to 4, in Beirut, Lebanon gathering 27 senior officials from METAC countries. The dynamic discussions and debates that characterized the sessions proved that this event was a great opportunity to share experiences and best practices pertaining to cash forecasting and management. The workshop was led by Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC public financial management advisor, and Mr. Mike Williams, METAC short-term expert.



## Assessment of Credit Information and Reporting Agency – Sudan

METAC has been assisting the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) in various areas to enhance banking supervision and financial stability. One of the main projects METAC has been involved in is the expansion of the CBOS credit registry which has become now the Credit Information and Scoring Agency (CIASA). The mission which took place during June 22 to July 4, was led by Mr. Jim Aziz, METAC short-term credit registry expert, and supported by Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor. The mission is a part of a series of peripatetic missions to help the CBOS enhance their credit registry through expanding its coverage and installing new software with additional functionalities. As a result of this project, CIASA was established and assumed the credit registry function. Mr. Jim Aziz is assisting the authorities in aligning the CIASA work with international practices.

## Strengthening Customs Risk Management and Valuation System – Lebanon

A METAC mission visited Beirut from July 3 to 13, to strengthen risk management and valuation systems at customs. It was undertaken by Mr. Brian Brimble, METAC short-term expert, and supported by Ms. Manal Assir, METAC revenue administration advisor. The mission’s main objectives were to review and provide advice on how to strengthen current risk management, valuation and post-clearance audit practices (PCA) in customs. A one day workshop was held for key managers on integrity and ethics in customs to provide insights into international best practices, including codes of conduct and conformity with the World Customs Organization Arusha Declaration. The mission built on the foundation established in 2011 and 2012 and provided practical measures that can be taken soon to move modernization forward with respect to valuation, risk management, PCA and increasing the level of integrity in customs.

## Strengthening VAT Refund Management – Lebanon

A METAC mission, comprising Manal Assir METAC revenue administration advisor and Mr. Cedric Andrew, METAC short-term expert, took place in Beirut from July 22 to 31, to assist the tax administration with reinforcing the refund management of the Value Added Tax (VAT). The purpose of the mission was to strengthen the capacity of the tax administration in managing VAT refunds and applying appropriate schemes to prevent abusive activities and fraudulent claims. The mission reviewed the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations arising from the previous METAC TA mission to improve the overall efficiency of management of VAT refunds, and advised on appropriate measures to deploy in the next stage to detect and prevent VAT fraud.

## External Sector Statistics - Sudan

METAC statistics Advisor, Mr. Jean Galand, undertook a mission to Sudan, from July 16 to 18, to discuss the possibility of implementing a direct investment survey through cooperation between CBOS, the Ministry of Investment, and the Central Bureau of Statistics, as the three institutions have offices in all the states and may be able to conduct the survey with their own staff. If a decision is made to follow this approach, a Memorandum of Understanding should be signed by these institutions to formalize their collaboration and respective responsibilities.

