



RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

- |             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| AFGHANISTAN | LIBYA |
| EGYPT       | SUDAN |
| IRAQ        | SYRIA |
| JORDAN      | WBG   |
| LEBANON     | YEMEN |

Regional Workshop in Statistics in Lebanon



METAC held a workshop on “compilation of financial account and external sector position statistics” in Beirut, from October 21–23, 2014. The event was attended mainly by officials from central banks involved in the compilation of balance of payments and international investment position (IIP) statistics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In total, 25 participants from 11 countries attended. The countries represented included: Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and West Bank and Gaza.

The workshop discussed in depth the compilation of financial account and external sector position statistics and focused on the use of the balance sheets to compile the external sector statistics, with emphasis on compilation of the quarterly IIP, Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS), Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS), Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS), and Reserves Template. It also addressed data consistency issues across external sector datasets, as well as with related datasets.

The discussions were highly active involving case studies and country presentations. Discussions focused on data consistency, sources, and the issues and challenges in the compiling economies represented.

Revenue Administration Mission to Jordan

Mr. Charles Jenkins, METAC revenue administration advisor, visited Amman from September 29–October 2, 2014 to assess how METAC can provide a program of ongoing support to the Income and Sales Tax Department (ISTD) and Jordan Customs, in coordination with other donor agencies, particularly the US Agency for International Development, and the US Treasury Department. Arising from this visit, short-term expert missions in both tax and customs are planned before the end of 2014.

Develop Stress Test Regulations and a Framework for Islamic Banking for Yemen

Due to security constraints in some of METAC member countries some missions are held offsite. To that end, and in response to a request from the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY), a TA mission was held in Beirut, from October 21–25, 2014, to assist the CBY in developing guidelines and regulations on stress testing. The mission comprised Mr. Ahmad El Radi, METAC banking supervision advisor and Mr. Rebel Cole, METAC short-term expert.

Another mission for the CBY took place in Beirut from October 27–31, 2014 to assist the CBY in developing supervisory and regulatory frameworks for Islamic banks. In addition to Mr. El Radi’s interventions, Mr. Jamshaid Anwar, METAC short-term was part of this mission.

METAC Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2014

METAC’s Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 (May 2013 to April 2014) was published this month. The report describes METAC’s TA and training activities, key achievements, outreach activities; the log frame based on results- based management framework (RBM) and the work plan for FY 2015. The report is available on our website at [www.imfmetac.org](http://www.imfmetac.org)

Upcoming Regional Workshop

METAC is organizing a four-day regional workshop on medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) in Beirut, from December 16–19, 2014.

The workshop will aim at deepening participants’ understanding of issues related to the development of MTEFs and their relationship with macro-fiscal forecasting, national development planning and wider issues of budgeting and public financial management.

