



COUNTRIES-DONORS: EGYPT | JORDAN | LEBANON | LIBYA |
COUNTRIES: AFGHANISTAN | IRAQ | SUDAN | SYRIA | WEST BANK & GAZA | YEMEN

Regional Workshop on “Budget Preparation”

METAC held a regional workshop in the area of public financial management (PFM) on “Budget Preparation” at the Dead Sea, Jordan from October 12-15. Twenty three senior representatives of ministries of finance from the Middle East and North Africa region attended the workshop. Lectures focused on the techniques and processes required for successful preparation of annual and medium-term budgets in the context of governments’ fiscal policies and financial constraints. It also served as a platform for sharing the participating countries’ experience of improving public sector efficiency and effectiveness, and for discussion of potential alternatives to overcome fiscal pressures.



Technical Assistance Missions

Egypt

Revenue Administration:

METAC Revenue Administration Advisor joined an IMF HQ team to undertake a Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) assessment of the Egyptian Tax Authority (ETA). The immediate output of the assessment was a draft Performance Assessment Report (PAR) that was presented to the Minister of Finance and the ETA Commissioner. The PAR will be finalized by December, and early in 2016 a follow-up visit to the ETA will be held to confirm the priorities for ongoing METAC and IMF engagement and support.

Public Financial Management:

A PFM mission visited Cairo, from October 4-8 to conduct a four-day workshop on program and performance budgeting (PPB). The workshop sessions covered the main issues associated with design and implementation of PPB. This included discussing the recent experiences of other countries and, more specifically, the challenges the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is facing in the implementation of the current pilot project in the PPB area. It provided the staff of the MoF with a comprehensive overview of PPB options and requirements, including detailed suggestions for managing the pilot project that re-started in 2015.

Upcoming Regional Workshops

Revenue Administration:

METAC is organizing a regional workshop on TADAT in Lebanon, from December 7- 9, 2015. TADAT provides an objective and standardized way of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of tax administrations, based on benchmark definitions of international good practice. The output from a TADAT assessment is a report which can be used both to establish strategic development priorities, and to form the basis for development partner support agendas. After a baseline assessment has been conducted, the TADAT process can be repeated at intervals over time to assess progress in areas of identified weakness.

Statistics:

METAC is organizing a regional workshop on “National Accounts Compilation Issues” in Lebanon as part of its capacity building program in the area of Real Sector Statistics. This workshop will take place from December 14-17, 2015. The workshop will focus on common and specific issues and challenges in compiling national accounts in countries. International standards and best practices will be discussed, in particular those related to the implementation of the requirements of 2008 System of National Accounts and their impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The agenda of the workshop includes lectures and exercises on defining institutional sectors; approaches for estimating non-observed economy; data sources and procedures in measuring output and value added of specific economic activities; expenditures of goods and services for final consumption and gross capital formation; price and volume measures.

METAC PLANNED MISSIONS

METAC planned missions for November 2015 can be found on our website at www.imfmetac.org

