

Public Financial Management

National Workshops in Fiscal Year 2016

Lebanon (September 28 – October 6)

METAC reviewed the accounting procedures of the Public Account Directorate (PAD) and provided guidance to (i) strengthen the data quality, (ii) consolidate budget execution quarter reports, and (iii) streamline the work related to accounting between the relevant departments and avoid duplication of work.

METAC assisted the macro fiscal department at the MoF in improving the medium-term fiscal revenue and expenditure projections, as well as in assessing the accuracy of the fiscal projections. A series of training sessions were delivered comprising presentations and hands-on training focused on the main concepts and commonly used methods for forecasting and analyzing trends of fiscal variables.

METAC also provided follow-up guidance on how to assess the fiscal impact of the Syrian refugees' crisis on the budget.

Sudan (August 22 - 31)

METAC long-term resident advisor and short-term experts participated in an FAD led mission. The mission reviewed progress and recommended next steps in five areas: (i) TSA; (ii) government cash flow forecasting; (iii) budget preparation; (iv) fiscal reporting; and (v) information technology (IT)-based information systems. The mission also conducted a number of training workshops for the staff of the MoF and Economic Planning and line ministries. The mission's findings and recommendations were well received by the authorities and they asked for further support from METAC to implement the mission's recommendations in three areas: (i) building the capacity of the fiscal policy unit (FPU) in relation to the MTFF; (ii) developing cash flow forecasting techniques and advice on designing centralized payment modules; and (iii) improving fiscal reporting. In collaboration with the METAC PFM advisor, a work plan for follow-up TA from METAC was discussed and agreed on with the authorities.

METAC assisted the FPU in developing a MTFF to strengthen the capacity of the budget sector. The mission delivered a series of training sessions and formal presentations to assist the FPU staff in fully applying the MTFF and utilizing it for policy analysis, particularly in (a) regular revisions of in-year budget forecasts, (b) setting out the strategic phase that guides in preparation of a new year's budget—through its role in setting and anchoring overall fiscal policy objectives and debt targets—and (c) integrating the MTFF into the country's Five-year National Economic Reform Plan.