



# 20 YEARS MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL TECHNICAL METAC ASSISTANCE CENTER

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS:

EUROPEAN UNION | FRANCE | GERMANY | NETHERLANDS | SAUDI ARABIA | SWITZERLAND

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## Regional Workshop Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt Statistics (May 19-23, 2024 | Amman, Jordan)

Reliable and timely fiscal statistics are of crucial importance for designing and monitoring fiscal policies and measuring fiscal performance. Responding to high member country demand for capacity development (CD) assistance to enhance fiscal statistics, the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) and the IMF Statistics Department launched METAC's new Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) workstream in late 2023, with the objective to help develop high-quality, timely, and comprehensive fiscal statistics that are harmonized with international standards.

METAC's inaugural GFS/PSDS regional workshop brought together 25 government officials from ten member countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen) to discuss the status of GFS/PSDS in the MENA region and identify CD needs. Mr. Imad Khanchaoui (IMF Statistics Department) and METAC Advisor Mr. Amir Hadziomeragic, introduced key concepts of the current international methodologies (GFS Manual 2014 and PSDS Guide for Compilers and Users 2011), and illustrated their practical applications using country case studies. Participants discussed key steps in developing GFS/PSDS and highlighted the importance of international standards to ensure cross-country comparability of fiscal statistic, e.g., for policy analysis and access to international capital markets. In this context, the experts also explained data submission requirements to international data bases, specifically those of the IMF and World Bank.

In productive peer exchanges, participants shared insights on their current GFS and PSDS practices, including data sources and collection methods, compilation methods, statistical capacities, and how data are presented and reported in their countries. As a result of the discussions, several countries requested METAC CD on GFS/PSDS. METAC will assist its members to strengthen their GFS/PSDS as a basis for evidence-based policy decision making and surveillance.

