

Strengthening public financial management (PFM) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA): lessons learnt from recent initiatives, medium-term outlook, and the role of analytical tools (July 7-9, 2019)

Financial Accountability (PEFA) Secretariat concluded this regional workshop in Amman, where delegations from 10 countries (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia), along with representatives from the European Commission, UK's Department for International Development, Canada, USAID, and civil society organizations, gathered to work together to: (1) better understand the impact of the political, social, and economic transformation over the last 10 years on PFM systems in the MENA; (2) share experiences of using key tools available to define and support the development of more resilient and inclusive PFM systems; (3) identify challenges and opportunities, and related capacity development needs. Mr. Xavier Rame, METAC PFM Advisor, concluded the workshop by highlighting that, overall and despite noteworthy progress in some countries, the alignment with international standards and practices for resource allocation, budget implementation, and accountability remains too often limited in the MENA region. In a context of limited fiscal space and heightened social expectations, fiscal institutions should be further strengthened to effectively support the design of sustainable policies, shed light on the full cost of public policy choices, enhance accountability, and address populations' needs – especially the most vulnerable.

