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NEWS



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Highlights

AFRITAC West II pays outreach visits for Nigeria and Gambia in November and December of 2019.

MONOPs expert, Mr. Zsolt Ersek, departs AFRITAC West II in December 2019

Work highlights include:

Strengthening of audit capacity for the telecom sector in Liberia and Nigeria.

In Cabo Verde, a risk management committee was established to implement RM strategy and the related M& E framework.

Risk management and budget forecasting capabilities were improved in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra



Fiscal Risk Management for PPP, Ministry of Finance, Ghana

Capacity built in Liberia on supervising problem banks.

Significant progress in developing national accounts in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone

AFRITAC West II Outreach Visits



L – R: Mr. Leonard Chumo, IMF Bank Supervision and Regulation Advisor, Mr. Amine Mati, IMF Senior Res. Rep.; Mrs. Aishah N. Ahmad, Deputy Governor of Financial Systems Stability; Mr. Vitus Ukwuoma, AFW2 Regional Advisor for Banking Supervision; Mr. Oral H. Williams, AFW2 Director; and Pokuaa Adu, Economist (AFW2)

Dr. Moses Tule, Director of Monetary Policy Department; Mr. Oral H. Williams, AFW2 Director; and Pokuaa Adu, Economist (AFW2)

AFRITAC West 2 (AFW2) Center Director, Mr. Oral Williams, and Economist, Ms. Pokuaa Adu, embarked on an outreach visit to Abuja, Nigeria. Meetings with country authorities at the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Nigeria (pictured) were aimed at strengthening awareness of AFW2 capacity development activities in Nigeria, understanding of the government's specific CD needs and channels for continuous coordination between the center and the authorities. The Center Director, Mr. Oral Williams was present at the opening of regional workshop on Strengthening Fiscal and Financial Reporting, as part of an outreach visit to the Gambia.

Summary of Work Plan Execution and Key Achievements

Tax Administration

Work in tax administration supported the strengthening of audit capacity for the telecom sector in Liberia and Nigeria. An HQ mission followed on revenue administration reform in Nigeria, based on recommendations of the previously conducted TADAT. Sierra Leone also benefited from TA to build excise duties management capacity and improve data analysis

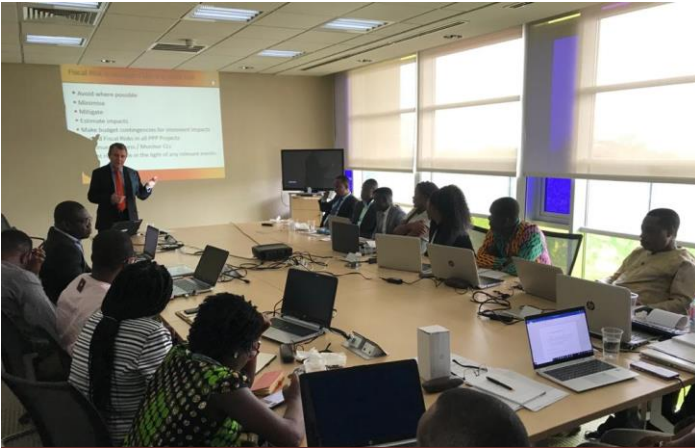
using third party data matching to support risk-based compliance management.

Customs

In Customs, CD continued to focus on developing customs integrity framework in line with ECOWAS guidelines (Cabo Verde and The Gambia), risk management and exemptions (Cabo Verde) and stakeholder engagement strategies (Gambia, Sierra Leone). In Cabo Verde,

a risk management committee was established to implement RM strategy and the related M& E framework. The resident customs advisor also participated at a regional IMF workshop in Benin, including a presentation on post clearance audit controls.

Public Financial Management (PFM)



PFM workshop on Fiscal Risk Management for PPP Projects for the Ministry of Finance in Accra Ghana

CD was undertaken towards improving transparency through improved financial reporting in Cabo Verde, focusing on measures needed to comply with cash based international accounting standards and to assist in the development of a roadmap for transitioning to accrual based International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Risk management and budget forecasting capabilities were improved in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra, through the delivery of TA in PPP risk management, budget performance monitoring and cash flow forecasting. Sierra Leone received CD in the use of excel-based forecasting models and review of the Sierra Leone Integrated Macroeconomic Model (SLIMM).

Banking Sector Supervision & Regulation

Capacity development in the financial sector regulation and supervision continued to focus on enhancing the effectiveness of regulatory and supervisory practices for AFW2-member central banks. Work intensified in the areas of strengthening risk-based supervision processes in the Gambia and Ghana. An emergency training was delivered to senior supervisory staff of the Central Bank of Liberia on dealing with weak banks.

Statistics

CD work in statistics continued to support member countries in developing national accounts.

In Ghana, progress was made with the balancing of Supply and Use Tables (base year 2013). This enabled to the production of preliminary figures for the rebased annual and quarterly GDP, time-series of years 2013-2018, and for backcasting series to 2006. The final estimates are expected to be released in April 2020.

In Liberia, the second phase of national accounts rebasing has been completed and data from the National Accounts Annual Survey has been processed and administrative sources for data not covered by the NAAS have been provided. Progress has been made on the compilation of preliminary results.

Finally, Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL) has completed the fieldwork of the Annual Economic Survey of Enterprises (AESE) 2019. Further progress was achieved in the data processing and analyses of the 2019 AESE and 2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) results. Both surveys are very important for rebasing of GDP by the production and expenditures approach.

Regional Workshops

Regional Workshop on Strengthening Fiscal and Financial Reporting, December 2- 6, Banjul



AFRITAC West 2 hosted a regional workshop on Strengthening Fiscal and Financial Reporting in the Gambia. Senior officials from ministries of finance in all member countries made country presentations on international best practices and country experiences in fiscal reporting. Participants were exposed to the latest developments in applicable reporting standards (both GFMS and IPSAS) and best practices for financial and fiscal reporting. The workshop was highly interactive and facilitated knowledge sharing through presentations on country experiences with fiscal reporting in PFM and other related issues.

Regional Workshop on Cross Border Supervision, November 17 – 22, Abuja



Staff of central banks in AFW2 countries and Guinea were hosted at the Central Bank of Nigeria's International Training Institute (ITI) for a regional workshop on Cross-Border Supervision in Abuja. The workshop activities included instruction by the AFW2 regional advisor and short-term experts from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as well as breakout groups to facilitate peer-to-peer learning. Participants at the recently-held Cross Border Supervision Workshop worked in groups on case studies to share experiences and exchange ideas for effective banking supervision.

Upcoming Activities

Tax

Strengthen Compliance and data matching, <i>Liberia, Feb 17 – 28</i>	Strengthen capacity to audit the telecom sector, <i>Sierra Leone, Feb 24 – Mar 6</i>
Strengthen Compliance and data matching, <i>Ghana Mar 19 – April 8</i>	

Customs

Development of Systems and Procedures for Risks Review and Update, <i>Cabo Verde, Mar 2 –13</i>	Support for the Implementation of the Customs Reform Strategy, <i>Nigeria, Feb 6 – 19</i>
Training on Stakeholder Engagement, <i>Gambia, Mar 23 – Apr 3</i>	Development of a Customs Integrity Framework (ECOWAS), <i>Nigeria, Mar 9 – 13</i>
Development of Customs Integrity Framework (ECOWAS), <i>Ghana Mar 23 –7</i>	Training on Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, <i>Sierra Leone, Mar 2 – 13</i>
Integrity Training for Customs, <i>Liberia, Mar 9 –20</i>	Professional Attachment for NRA Risk Management Unit to Mauritius Customs, <i>Sierra Leone, Mar 16 – 27</i>

Public Financial Management

Assessing the institutional performance of the new legal framework for Public Financial Management and designing an action plan, <i>Cabo Verde, April 23 – May 6</i>	Review of PPP Manual PPP Procurement Guide PPP Primer, <i>Nigeria, Feb 20 – Mar 5</i>
Q3 Support to MDI Trainers to Implement IFRS Training Program for SOEs, <i>Gambia, Mar 30 – Apr 3</i>	Scoping Mission on Gender Responsive Budgeting, <i>Nigeria, Mar 9 – 13</i>
Training of Officials from MDA in Public Investment Management, <i>Liberia, Mar 23 – Apr 3</i>	Establishing a framework for Monitoring SOE Budget Performance, <i>Nigeria April 27- May 8</i>
Technical support in applying cash basis IPSAS, <i>Liberia, April 7-20</i>	Follow up support in implementing commitment control measures, <i>Sierra Leone, March 20-April 3</i>

Banking Supervision and Regulation

Follow-up on Basel II/III Implementations, <i>Ghana, Mar 30 – Apr 3</i>	Developing Conceptual Understanding of Basel II/III, <i>Sierra Leone, Mar 16 – 27</i>
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Real Sector Statistics

National Accounts: Rebasing of GDP, <i>Cabo Verde, Apr 6-17</i>	National accounts - Rebasing of GDP, <i>Nigeria, Mar 2 – Apr 10</i>
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP, <i>Liberia, Mar 9 - 20</i>	National accounts - Rebasing of GDP, <i>Sierra Leone, Mar 30 – Apr 10</i>

Staff Changes



In December 2019 AFW2 said goodbye to **Mr. Zsolt Érsek** (regional advisor for monetary operations and payment systems) after four and a half years at the Center. We wish him success in his new role as at IMF Headquarters and look forward to opportunities to work together in the future.



We also welcome **Ms. Eugenia K. Bamfo**, who joined the Center in January 2020 as a staff assistant. She has over 6 years of working experience as an Administrative Assistant. Before her appointment to AFRITAC West 2, she worked in a similar capacity for United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Gulf Marine & Logistics Ltd.

AFRITAC WEST 2 STAFF

Center Director	Oral H. Williams
Resident Advisors	
Revenue	
Administration	
Tax	Henry Gaperi
Customs	David Smith
Public Financial Management	Naresh Jha Kubai Khasiani
Monetary Operations and Payment Systems	(Recruiting)
Financial Supervision and Regulation	Vitus C. Ukwuoma
Real Sector Statistics	Elirjeta Pepaj
Results-Based Management Officer	Elorm Darkey
Economist	Pokuaa Adu
Office Manager	Janice Norman
Administrative Support	
Admin/IT Officer	Selase Kofi Dusi
Administrative Assistant	Maria Adam
Staff Assistant	Eugenia K. Bamfo
Driver	Peter Nii Laryea

AFW2 Member Countries



AFW2 Development Partners



Completed Technical Assistance Reports¹ in FY 2020

Title of Report	Country	Date Sent to Authorities
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (TAX)		
Follow-up to Finalize Compliance Improvement Plan	Ghana	5/15/2019
VAT Compliance and Data Matching Follow up	Ghana	5/15/2019
Audit Capacity Building Follow-Up	Cabo Verde	5/30/2019
Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compliance and Data Matching Follow-up	Sierra Leone	6/26/2019
Follow-up to Strengthen Tax Audit Capacity of the Telecommunication Sector	Gambia, The	7/5/2019
Excise Control and Structure Review	Liberia	7/5/2019
AW2:Review and Assist to Complete Preparing the LRA Audit Manual	Liberia	8/7/2019
Build and maintain integrity of taxpayer ledger	Gambia	8/22/2019
Strengthen Intelligence and Criminal Investigation Capacity	Cabo Verde	9/17/2019
Strengthen VAT Compliance and data matching capacity	Nigeria	10/2/2019
Strengthen capacity to audit telecom sector	Gambia	10/10/2019
Strengthen excise duties management capacity	Liberia	10/28/2019
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (CUSTOMS)		
Post Clearance Audit Training and Mentoring Support	Ghana	6/3/2019
Provision of Mentoring Support to Intelligence and Investigation Units (Phase 2)	Ghana	6/3/2019
Valuation and Classification Training and Mentoring Support (Phase 2)	Liberia	6/12/2019
Review of Customs Exemptions Procedures	Gambia, The	6/26/2019
Implementation of Risk Management Strategy	Liberia	6/28/2019
Completion of Business Process Mapping and Development of Customs Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	Cabo Verde	7/4/2019
Integrity Strategy and Implementation of Action Plan	Ghana	7/16/2019
Development and Implementation of Direcção Nacional de Receitas do Estado Integrity Strategy	Cabo Verde	7/18/2019
Development of Post Clearance Audit SOPs and Guidelines	Liberia	9/10/2019
Development of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Gambia, The	9/11/2019

¹ Includes Technical Memos/Reports and Aide Memoires sent to country authorities during FY 2020. Contains some reports for missions conducted in FY 2019.

Title of Report	Country	Date Sent to Authorities
AW2: Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Gambia, The	9/11/2019
Completion of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) for Valuation and Classification Training and Preparation of Training Module	Sierra Leone	9/11/2019
Development of Post Clearance Audit SOPs and Guidelines	Ghana	9/12/2019
Delivery of Customs Induction Training Module (Phase 4)	Gambia, The	9/13/2019
Strengthen intelligence and criminal investigation capacity	Cabo Verde	9/17/2019
Professional Attachment on Development of Integrity Strategy Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Nigeria	9/25/2019
AW2: Development and Implementation of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Nigeria	10/3/2019
Implementation of Post Clearance Audit Procedures (Phase 3)	Nigeria	10/3/2019
AW2: Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework (Phase 1)	Sierra Leone	10/3/2019
Development of Controls for ECOWAS Customs Integrity Framework	Cabo Verde	10/24/2019
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT		
Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) Excel-Based Tool Training to the Public Investment and Assets Division	Ghana	5/16/2019
Developing a Methodology for Analyzing SOE Fiscal Risks	Liberia	5/27/2019
AW2: Review and Reorganization of the Functions of the CAG	Ghana	8/15/2019
AW2: Support the Development of GFS 2014 Based CoA and their Use in Preparing Budget	Gambia, The	8/19/2019
Follow up Mission Supporting the Upgrade of COA Aligned with GFSM 2014 and their Implementation	Sierra Leone	8/29/2019
Taking Stock of the Preparedness to Implement Performance Contracting	Gambia, The	9/24/2019
Enhancing Cash Forecasting and Planning in FGN	Nigeria	9/24/2019
Strengthening the Strategic Approach to Planning and Costing the Medium-Term Expenditure Budget	Ghana	11/7/2019
Reviewing and Refining the Structure and Efficiency of Chart of Accounts	Ghana	11/8/2019
Monetary Operations and Payment Systems		
Improving Monetary Policy Analysis	Liberia	7/4/2019
Developing Monetary and Macroeconomic Analysis and Liquidity Management	Liberia	7/4/2019

Title of Report	Country	Date Sent to Authorities
Improving Monetary Operations and Payment Systems Oversight	Liberia	7/18/2019
Payment Systems Oversight and Foreign Exchange Operations	Gambia, The	8/13/2019
AW2: Developing Forward Looking Monetary Analysis	Nigeria	11/1/2019
Improving Monetary Policy Analysis and Follow-up on Monetary Operations	Sierra Leone	1/30/2020
Forecasting and Policy Analysis System	Ghana	1/30/2020
Improving monetary Operations and Monetary Policy	Liberia	1/30/2020
Banking Supervision and Regulation		
Progressing Basel II/III	Gambia, The	5/16/2019
Enhancing Risk Based Supervision	Ghana	5/31/2019
Reviewing Progress of Risk Based Supervision Implementation	Gambia, The	6/26/2019
Progress on Basel II/III Implementation	Liberia	10/15/2019
Progress on Basel II/III Implementation	Ghana	10/30/2019
RBS: Cybersecurity Workshop	Nigeria	10/30/2019
Progress on Basel II/III Implementation	Liberia	1/9/2020
Developing On-Site Inspection Manual	Sierra Leone	1/30/2020
Real Sector Statistics		
National Accounts	Gambia, The	6/13/2019
Consumer Price Index	Cabo Verde	6/19/2019
National Accounts	Nigeria	7/2/2019
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP	Gambia, The	8/23/2019
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP	Liberia	10/3/2019
Price statistics- Rebasing of Consumer Price Index	Gambia, The	10/15/2019
National Accounts	Cabo Verde	11/27/2019
National Accounts	Nigeria	11/27/2019
National Accounts	Gambia, The	12/13/2019
National accounts - Rebasing of GDP and development of Quarterly GDP by expenditures approach	Ghana	1/8/2020
National Accounts	Liberia	1/30/2020