

Newsletter: January 2024

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AFW2 Member Countries





























HIGHLIGHTS



support and planning for the next phase.

AFW2 Activities by Work Area (November 2023 - January 2024) Number of Activities RW PA TA CUS FSR MON PFM RSS TAX

AFW2 Director, Eva Jenkner, met with country authorities and development partners on an outreach visit to Nigeria.

In November 2023, she was delighted to meet new and old counterparts and to understand better Nigeria's capacity development (CD) priorities based on the incoming administration's macroeconomic strategy. The mission also met with the EU Delegation to Abuja to discuss current

CD workplan delivery continued strongly in the third quarter (Q3) of fiscal year (FY)

2024. Experts delivered 35 activities (27 TA missions, 5 regional workshops, and 3 professional attachments) to member countries. In collaboration with regional and international partners, workshops and peer attachments focused on leveraging regional

expertise and experiences in strengthening institutional capacity.



AFW2 released two key publications highlighting CD execution and impact, as well as planning for future support to the region. The FY 2024 Mid-Year Report details AFW2 activities and country achievements for the period May – October 2023 and plans for the rest of FY 2024. In preparation for the next financing phase, the Program Document for Phase III (2024 – 2029) takes stock of the current phase of AFW2 CD so far,

and develops strategic objectives for the next 5-year period. Specifically, the report details CD priorities by country, potential additions to workstreams and modes of delivery, and financing.

FEATURE: GOING TOGETHER – PEER LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CD)

The sustainability of CD interventions and expansion of regional expertise are key objectives of AFW2's work. As TA and training is delivered through various activities, it is important to ensure continuity and traction of recommendations through widespread knowledge-sharing. Professional attachments are one of three major modalities employed in AFW2 CD, in addition to TA missions and regional workshops. In FY 2024 so far, 5 professional attachments were organized in the areas of public finance management, monetary operations, and real sector statistics.

The benefits of peer learning CD activities cannot be overstated. While regional workshops also offer a one-stop shop for peer-exchange, professional attachments are more targeted in terms of topic area and allow for hands-on observation, learning, and practice. Such experiential learning has proved motivating in key reform initiatives. Counterparts in similar or aligned institutions are also able to form stronger networks for support outside of AFW2 missions. It is common practice for participants from both attending and host countries to sustain communication and collaboration after the program has ended.

In one example, the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), Central Bank of the Gambia (CBG), and the Bank of Ghana (BoG) benefited from recent professional attachments in the area of monetary operations. During the first attachment in November 2023, CBG hosted BSL to help the BSL to enhance its monetary policy analytical and forecasting capabilities by learning directly from the CBG's November 2023 forecasting round and Forecasting and Policy Analysis System (FPAS). The following attachment was organized in January 2024 on the topic of Foreign Exchange (FX) Bureaus and FinTech. BoG hosted CBG officials to learn from BoG's operationalization of its FinTech and Innovation Office as well as its FX bureaus regulation and supervision. Similar experiences have been realized in peer visits from the Sierra Leone Ministry of Finance to the National Treasury Kenya on the monitoring of SOE fiscal risks and the Sierra Leone Ministry of Planning and Economic Development to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Uganda on public investment management. In all cases, the significant value of collaboration was highlighted in participants' evaluations of the programs, apart from the pertinent technical takeaways.

Given the varied levels of expertise across the region, all institutions stand the chance to both contribute to and benefit from regional expertise. The BoG's study tour to the Central

Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on regulating and supervising financial holding companies was a typical example where BOG learned about the considerations for developing and implementing a financial holding company supervision framework from the host country, while the CBN received suggestions from the guest country regarding future policy enhancements based on country experience. In that sense, both parties were appreciative of the benefits derived from this visit.

Key lessons from successful peer-learning activities include the need to link visits to impending policy reforms and to ensure accountability. The framework for planning visits should first establish the relevance of the activities by linking them to concrete reforms planned or ongoing in the sending countries and create the basis for the right staff to be selected from both host and visiting institutions. Post-visit reports will encourage accountability, as well as further knowledge transfer upon return to the sending country and enhance lasting impacts.

The future of CD can benefit from a comprehensive toolbox of delivery modalities that can be applied within country-specific contexts. Since the return to in-person engagement in 2022, AFW2 has seen an increase in interest by beneficiary institutions in study tours and attachments, and there are plans to continue to leverage the collaborative benefits of professional attachments in FY 2024 (see Annex) and in the next phase (see Program Document) to further enhance CD outcomes.

CD HIGHLIGHTS BY WORK AREA (NOVEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024)

TAX ADMINISTRATION



Henry Gaperi Tax Regional Advisor

AFW2 tax experts continued to provide advice and support to AFW2 member countries' revenue administrations to mobilize domestic revenue, improve taxpayer compliance

and reduce
compliance cost.
This included
deepening

implementation of

reform and transformation strategies to improve core tax functions and finding ways to close area of revenue leakage. In the area of strengthening revenue administration management and governance arrangements, **Ghana** was supported to

At least three of the six AFW2
member countries have
experienced changes in the top
management of their
revenue/tax administrations.
Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone
have new leadership and the
changes are trickling down to
other levels.

develop and commence implementation of its digital transformation strategy. Ghana revenue authority (GRA) now has a clear roadmap to implementation of its various digital solutions. In addition, GRA is consolidating risk management to improve compliance and human capital risk management by (i) strengthening oversight by the audit and risk management committee of the board. The objective is to improve both governance and operational efficiency of GRA; and (ii) enhance deepening and coordination of risk management function in the entire institution. In this regard, a GRA team comprising members of the senior management and risk management committee of the GRA board of directors were facilitated to conduct a peer-to-peer-learning and benchmarking visit to Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). With AFW2 and FAD/HQ support,



TRA official demonstrating to the GRA Delegation on the impact of ICT on compliance.

Liberia has intensified capacity of development in all areas and stages of audit. This improvement in audit, risk management and implementation of digital solutions has enhanced both the availability and quality of data and increased taxpayer compliance. Nigeria tax administration operational efficiency has remarkably improved. The improvement is largely due to a combination of capacity developed in compliance risk management, data analytics, and implementation of digital transformation and taxpayer services delivery

strategies. To consolidate performance, a team of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) senior officials were assisted to conduct a benchmarking and hands-on experience in Uganda Revenue Authority.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION



David Smith
Customs Regional Advisor

The primary focus of the quarter was on training delivery. Courses were delivered in The Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone on border and inland control, risk management and general customs induction. All of these continue to support the instruments previously developed, including the standard operating procedures. In addition, work was initiated to review all training delivered in the region on customs matters since the return to in-country missions in 2022. The newly appointed

Commissioner General of Sierra Leone's National Revenue Authority (NRA), Ibrahim Swaray, and



Senior Directors of Modernization and HR attended and opened the inaugural Customs Induction Training event at the NRA Training Centre in Freetown (pictured).

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND MACRO-FISCAL POLICY



Kubai Khasiani PFM Regional Advisor



Phyllis Makau PFM Regional Advisor

PFM missions trained officials of Ministries of Finance in Ghana and Sierra Leone, on the use of tools developed for cash and SOE management, respectively.

An AFW2 mission to Ghana in October provided hands on training to officials from the Public Expenditure Management Unit (PEMU) in the MoF and its major stakeholders on cash forecasting issues and Cash Forecasting and Analysis Tool (CFAT).

The mission further developed a customized CFAT template for the use by the authorities. The capacity building enabled implementation of a framework that prioritizes budget execution objectives over cash flow forecasting, and provision of realistic outflow projections.

During December 2023, the FAD SOE Regional Advisor jointly with AFW2 provided training on fiscal risk management. The training included 25 officials from various divisions of the Ministry of Finance in Sierra Leone, including Fiscal Risk Management (FRMD), Macro Fiscal Policy, Debt Management, Private Sector, Research, the Budget Bureau and the National Commission on Privatization. At the end, the officials were able to use the SOE Health Check Tool (SOE HCT) and the Debt Guarantee and Loans Assessment Tool (DGLAT) to analyze fiscal risks emanating from SOEs. In addition, the officials understood how SOE HCT and DGLAT tools contribute to integrated SOE reporting, whose output is an essential input to the annual SOE Financial Analysis Reports (FAR) and the Fiscal Risk Statements (FRS).

In Nigeria, training was delivered on fiscal risk assessment and reporting, as well as the analysis of medium-term frameworks and reports. AFW2 trained 27 officials from

stakeholder departments¹ on the assessment and reporting of fiscal risks emanating from Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). The training covered PPP fiscal risk sources, identification, analysis, and the generation of a PPP fiscal risk matrix. Participants were further trained on screening projects to determine their suitability for procurement as PPPs; the analysis of fiscal risks using Public Private Partnerships Fiscal Risk Assessment Model (P-FRAM); PPP financing models and the institutional framework for managing fiscal risks arising from PPPs. Participants also worked on practical country case studies on fiscal risk management for their group work. AFW2 further built capacity of 25 officials from the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC), the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), and the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning to analyze the Federal Government Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF) and budget implementation reports. The training improved the ability of the officials to analyze the fiscal policies contained in the (MTEF), the Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP), and quarterly budget implementation documents. Participants, noted that the training provided them with critical skills, and requested additional training for the other line industries.

MONETARY POLICY & FX OPERATIONS AND PAYMENT SYSTEMS (MONOPS)



Gani Gerguri MONOPS Regional Advisor

CD delivery during the period November 2023 – January 2024 focused on developing a forecasting and policy analysis system (FPAS) and improving of the oversight and risk management framework for financial market infrastructures (FMIs)/payment. In total, 4 technical assistance missions were delivered (2 hybrid/virtual), with 2 hybrid workshops delivered jointly by AFW2, AFRITAC South (AFS) and AFRITAC East (AFE) and 2 peer-to-peer engagements between central banks in the region.

There was tangible progress on oversight and risk management framework for Financial Market Infrastructures (FMIs) at Banco de Cabo Verde (BCV),

¹ PPP (PPPD),Tax Policy Divisions and the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF) of the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), the Planning Department (PD), Macro-Economic Analysis Department (MEAD) and the Budget Office of the Federation (BOF) in the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP); the Infrastructure Concessions and Regulatory Commission (ICRC); the Debt Management Office (DMO); the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE); and the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC)

Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and BSL. A virtual AFW2 CD mission helped **BCV** in reviewing its first draft report on oversight assessment of the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system against the CPSS-IOSCO Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI). The mission also guided the BCV in developing an action plan to fill identified gaps and make the necessary enhancements in documentations, processes, and regulation to comply with the international recommendations.



The CD mission to the **CBL** (i) reviewed the CBL's Oversight Policy Framework for FMIs; (ii) provided guidance on upgrading the oversight function, as well as on implementing the oversight policy framework for the FMIs, including setting up a comprehensive reporting system to enhance FMIs monitoring and implementing the oversight policy; and (iii) provided training to the Payment Systems Department (PSD) on CPSS-IOSCO PFMI and on Cyber resilience for FMIs. The AFW2 CD mission to **BSL** (i) advised on the organizational aspects of the oversight and risk management framework for FMIs, (ii) provided guidance on drafting Oversight Policy Framework for FMIs, (iii) provided guidance on incident reporting, drafting and publishing reports/reviews on payment systems as well as developing the National Payment System Strategy and operationalizing the National Payment System Committee, and (iv) delivered a workshop/training on the key oversight activities, tools, and how to prepare for the self-assessment of FMIs against CPSS-IOSCO PFMI in the future. A hybrid mission to the **CBG** assisted with technical development and training of the CBG's and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MOFEA)'s experts. The mission assisted in production of a medium-term macroeconomic projection and its presentation to the CBG's Governors.

FINANCIAL SECTOR SUPERVISION AND REGULATION



Vitus Ukwuoma Financial Sector Supervision Regional Advisor

Building on the previous quarters' progress, capacity development strengthened banks' regulation and supervision frameworks. AFW2 assisted the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation to develop a forward-looking baseline model for assessing and "challenging" expected credit loss (ECL) provisioning by regulated banks. The mission included a ten-day data-intensive workshop using two local banks for hands-on knowledge and

incorporating macroeconomic data (GDP, FX, Unemployment, etc.) that may have correlation with probability of credit default. The resulting model, when implemented, will help deepen supervisory efficiency and continue to bridge the wide gap between the banks ECL provisioning and the prudential provisioning while enhancing a more transparent financial system reporting.



Director of the Banking Supervision Department, Ms. Halima S. Jagne (backing the camera), and staff during a TA mission to support the implementation of the Basel Capital Framework in The Gambia.

A mission to Banjul trained the supervisory staff of the Central Bank of **The Gambia** in support of its plans to adopt the Basel Capital Frameworks to improve the assessment of capital requirement for banks, with the initial focus on the implementation of Pillar 1 of Basel II. Areas of coverage included capital definitions, components, calculation of capital charges for credit risk (including the use of credit risk mitigation techniques), market and operational risks, and practical exercises and

case studies on calculating capital adequacy ratio.

Notably, AFW2 hired an STX from a regional central bank for this mission, as repeatedly requested by AFW2 member countries. The STX seamlessly related local examples and the feedback from Gambian counterparts on his performance was very positive.

REAL SECTOR STATISTICS



Pamela Audi Statistics Regional Advisor

Most capacity development (CD) activities focused on supporting countries to implement GDP rebasing activities and to progress development of quarterly GDP by expenditure.

Support in price statistics included updating consumer price index (CPI) weights and developing producer price indices (PPI). These activities were delivered through 7 technical assistance (TA) missions, and a regional workshop. **Cabo Verde** was assisted to compile 2021 GDP and SUT to improve timeliness. Both **Gambia** and **Ghana** were supported with the preparations for the next GDP

rebasing, to advance QGDP-E development, and to assess CPI data sources and compilation methods. The **Liberian** Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) continued to make very good progress developing the PPI and was assisted with developing a producer price index (PPI) and improving consumer price index (CPI) compilation methods. Data for the period January 2023–January 2024 reviewed and finalized for dissemination. **Sierra Leone** continues to receive help to improve accuracy of GDP data and was supported with the compilation of the 2018 SUT. In price statistics, updating and expanding scope of PPI and addressing compilation issues are prioritized. CD activity assisted to finalize updated sample of enterprises and provided training to the price team on compiling the initiation questionnaires. Questionnaires for identifying product varieties and detailed product weights were reviewed and finalize.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL ATTACHMENTS



Ghana Revenue Administration team with officials from the Tanzania Revenue Authority, during the professional attachment

Two professional attachments in revenue administration were conducted. Teams from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and FIRS, Nigeria, visited Tanzania and Uganda respectively. Both attachments focused on consolidating and deepening risk management in the respective institutions.

Regional Workshop on Budget Execution Reforms, December 4 – 8, Accra, Ghana



21 participants from Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, attended a regional workshop focused on improving fiscal and financial reporting. Participants discussed the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) framework requirements and their respective governments' fiscal reporting status. Common and specific issues in accounting for fixed assets, revenue, and expenditure arrears were discussed. It highlighted the need for improved practices, such as establishing a Fixed

Asset Register and improving audit qualifications. The issue of revenue being accounted for only

on a cash basis and the lack of comprehensive reporting of expenditure arrears were also highlighted. Country road maps presented during the workshop suggest that implementing IPSAS accruals would take approximately ten years to complete. While this is not uncommon in terms of international practice, efforts and measures are required to ensure that momentum is maintained. This may include a reform to the Public Financial Management legal framework and sustained capacity building initiatives.



Hybrid Interregional Workshop on Coherent approach to assess feasibility of CBDC, November 6-10, Arusha, Tanzania.

The workshop was organized jointly by AFW2, AFE, and AFS, in collaboration with the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Legal Department, Information Technology Department and the Bank of Tanzania. The workshop provided participants with key considerations regarding the process and implications of assessing the feasibility of central bank digital currencies (CBDC) such as understanding of CBDC project management, the implications for monetary policy transmission, financial stability, the legal and regulatory considerations to support CBDC acceptance and adoption, risks to financial integrity, cybersecurity risk and the



opportunities to enhance financial inclusion and digitalization. The mix of lectures, panel sessions and robust exchange of knowledge and the sharing of peer-to-peer experiences between the country representatives contributed to the success of the workshop. In total, 100 participants (46 – in person

and 54 online) from 27 central banks of the three regions attended the workshop.

Hybrid Interregional Workshop on Observance of CPSS-IOSCO PFMI and Cyber resilience of FMIs, January 29 – February 2, Accra, Ghana.



The workshop was organized jointly by AFW2, AFE, and AFS, in collaboration with the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department and the Bank of Ghana. The workshop supported the central banks of the region in strengthening their oversight and risk management framework for

FMIs through detailed elaboration on CPSS-IOSCO PFMI, disclosure framework and assessment methodology, and Guidance note on cyber security and resilience for FMIs. It also provided a forum to exchange country experiences on observance with the PFMI, the challenges facing the authorities, and the strategies to improve observance with PFMI and cybersecurity resilience of FMI. In total, 88 participants (48 in-person and 40 online) from 26 central banks of the three regions participated actively in the workshop. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Ms. Eva Jenkner (AFW2 Director). On behalf of Governor of Bank of Ghana (Dr. Ernest Addison), Mr. Stephen Opata (Advisor to the Governor) delivered opening remarks, whereas Mr. Tommaso Griffoli Mancini (Division Chief at IMF/MCM) delivered closing remarks. Participants were highly engaged.

Professional Attachment on FPAS, November 20 – 24, Banjul, The Gambia



Mrs. Isatu Kargbo and Mr. Emerson Jackson (BSL) with the Macroeconomic Forecasting Unit of the CBG.

Two officials from BSL completed a professional attachment on FPAS hosted by the CBG, in Banjul, during November 20 – 24, 2023. The overall objective of the attachment was to help the BSL to enhance its monetary policy analytical and forecasting capabilities, by learning directly from the CBG's November 2023 forecasting round. The CBG shared its experience regarding organizational setup for monetary policy

analysis and forecasting, macroeconomic databank, near-term forecasting tools, quarterly projection model, and forecasting round and production of forecast report for the Monetary Policy Committee meeting. Apart from technical takeaways, BSL staff have also highlighted the importance of competency-based selection, collaboration with staff of Economic Policy and Research Department at Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, and support of forecasting team by senior management and Monetary Policy Committee members.

Professional Attachment on Fintech and Foreign Exchange Bureaus, January 15 – 19, Accra Ghana

Two officials from the CBG were hosted by the BOG in Accra. The BOG shared its experience in the organization of a FinTech and Innovation Office, focusing on regulatory sandbox as a mechanism for testing and validating FinTech innovations, cybersecurity measures employed in the FinTech ecosystem, challenges and strategies associated with data privacy in FinTech, and the role of FinTech initiatives in promoting financial inclusion. On foreign exchange bureaus, the CBG staff learned about the regulatory environment governing foreign exchange bureaus, including compliance requirements, licensing processes, and adherence to anti-money laundering and know-your-customer regulations.

"A sincere gratitude to the entire team at AFRITAC West 2 for sponsoring our attachment at Bank of Ghana. The study tour was very beneficial to us as individuals and our newly created department on FinTech and Foreign Exchange Bureau Supervision."

Ousman Saidykhan, Central Bank of The Gambia

Hybrid High-Level Regional Workshop on Consolidated and Cross Border Supervision, November 20 – 21, Abuja, Nigeria



A cross-section of CBSWCA members collaborating on a casestudy to deepen their understating of consolidated and crossborder supervision. In collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria, AFW2 participated in a high-level hybrid workshop on consolidated and cross borders supervision for the Committee of Banking Supervisors of West and Central Africa (CBSWCA). AFW2 covered international experience with consolidated and cross border supervision, notably of banks that are part of financial conglomerates, and provided some tools to the supervisors in the

CBSWCA to enable their cooperation and strengthen their approach to cross border and consolidated supervision.

Regional Workshop on National Accounts, November 13 – 17, Accra, Ghana



Officials of statistical services in the AFW2 region present at the workshop on national accounts.

experiences across countries.

AFW2 conducted a regional workshop to promote best practices and international standards for GDP rebasing, and to strengthen participants' knowledge on using the Supply and Use Tables (SUT) framework as an integral compilation framework. The regional GDP rebasing workshop was attended by both experienced and new national accounts compilers, which gave everyone an opportunity to share



OUTREACH AND PARTNER COOPERATION



AFW2 Director with Heads of the FIRS, Customs Service, Statistical Service and Office of the Accountant General in Nigeria

AFW2 Director met with country authorities and development partners on an outreach visit to Nigeria. In November 2023, the AFW2 team—Director, Eva Jenkner, AFW2 economist, Pokuaa Adu, PFM regional advisor, Kubai Khasiani—, and IMF resident advisor for Tax, Berlin

Msiska was delighted to meet new and old counterparts in the various beneficiary institutions to gain feedback on AFW2 TA and understand Nigeria's CD priorities to align AFW2 offerings with the incoming administration's reform agenda. Institutions visited included the Central Bank of Nigeria, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigeria Customs Service, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Budget and



National Planning of Nigeria, the Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Office of the Accountant General, and the Debt Management Office. The mission also met with the European Commission's Delegation to Abuja to discuss the current partnership, planning for the next phase and any additional opportunities for collaboration.



The AFW2 Director participated in the 2023 IMF Regional Capacity Development Centers (RCDC) Retreat in Washington, DC. Including all 19 RCDC Directors and key counterparts from HQ, the gathering discussed strategic and operational CD priorities and shared experiences to enhance regional CD delivery and traction. The proceedings were opened by the IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva.

Collaboration at the work area level with regional and international partners included:

Tax Administration

Experts coordinated with Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Office
(FDCO), UK to optimize capacity
development support provided to
Ghana, and participated in the Ghana
Revenue Authority development partners
meeting.

Customs Administration

Experts worked closely with the WCO and World Bank in relation to capacity development in Nigeria. This came at the request of the new CGC in Nigeria to assist him in his reform program. As a result, a joint approach has been developed for further support on post clearance audit.

Public Finance Management

The PFM team held consultations with the EU team in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia on CD provision. Further discussions were held with US Treasury team advising the Ministry of Finance in The Gambia on the delivery of CD on program Based Budgeting.

FSR

Experts collaborated with the Central Bank of Nigeria to train members of the Committee of Banking Supervisors of West and Central Africa on international best practices in consolidated and cross border supervision.