

# REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA



## Quarterly Bulletin: November 2023 - January 2024

AFRITAC South ([AFS](#)) is part of the IMF's global network of Regional Capacity Development Centers. This quarterly bulletin highlights the support provided to member countries over the period **November 2023 - January 2024**.

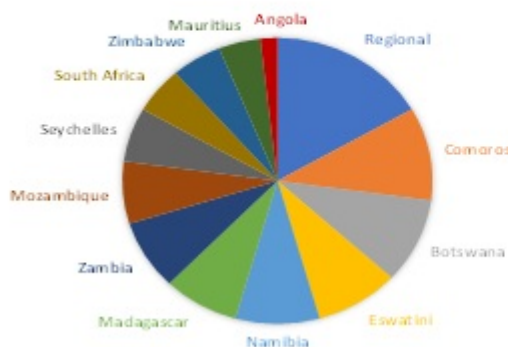


### Highlights by Sukhwinder Singh AFS Center Director

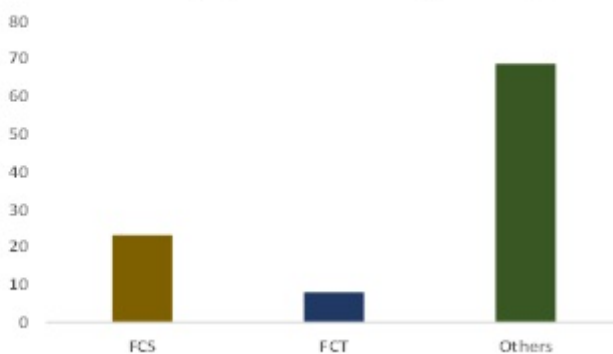
**AFS convened a mid-year [Steering Committee Meeting](#)** in December 2023 under the Chairmanship of the Central Bank of Lesotho, and reviewed the execution of the FY2024 (May 1, 2023—April 30, 2024) workplan over the first six months and discussed adjustments to the plan for the second half of the year. Feedback from member countries and development partners through a mid-year discussion helps assess progress, resolve bottlenecks, and allow flexibility via changes to the workplan to deal with pressing new priority demands.

**Engagement with AFS members** remained strong during this quarter with 28 technical assistance (TA) missions, seven regional workshops, and one professional attachment—bringing the execution of the annual workplan to 63 percent with Comoros topping the list of CD recipients (Figure 1). **CD support from other funding vehicles and IMF HQ** continued to assist AFS members on debt management, AML/CFT, governance and anti-corruption and on other priority workstreams. The CD interventions largely supported member countries to expedite the implementation of pending TA recommendations and to achieve structural benchmarks and/or targets agreed under different IMF programs and with development partners and regional organizations. AFS also continued to deploy significant resources to meet the CD needs of **fragile and conflict affected states (FCS) and fragile countries in transition (FCT)** (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. Distribution of CD Activities by Country**  
(May 1, 2023—January 30, 2024)



**Figure 2. Distribution of CD Activities by Country Groups**  
(May 1, 2023—January 30, 2024)



**Regional workshops and in-country training sessions** focused on building capacity of officials from the region in multiple areas closely associated to the reform agendas of members and in familiarizing officials with the use of analytical tools developed by IMF’s CD Departments –cash forecasting and analysis tool, fiscal risk toolkit, IMF WB medium-term debt management analytical tool, and annual borrowing plan analytical tool. The Center continued to partner with the Africa Training Institute (ATI) and other AFRITACs to deliver most regional workshops, including to different regional groupings as the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The Center notes over **60 percent increase in participants from FCS** to regional training events funded during FY24Q1-Q3.

Starting this year and as agreed by the Steering Committee, the AFS is **further diversifying the existing pool of resident experts** with the inclusion of government finance statistics (GFS) and public sector debt statistics (PSDS) in its portfolio. Recent reviews strongly support CD to countries in the region to, inter-alia, support national statistical agencies on migrating to the latest GFS manual to better align to SNA 2008 and BOPM6, address data inconsistencies and poor coverage, and to improve fiscal reporting. The support to member countries on GFS and PSDS will significantly contribute towards improving debt management, reporting on fiscal risks arising from state-owned enterprises, and forecasting and policy analysis. **AFS team welcomes Mr. Xavier Deville** to the team as resident advisor on GFS and PSDS.

Xavier Deville will be joining AFS as GFS and PSDS advisor. He is a Belgian national and has over 10 years’ experience in these areas and other macroeconomic statistics. He worked as a compiler at the National Bank of Belgium and short-term expert (STX) for the IMF. Between 2017 and 2020, he was a staff economist in the IMF Statistics Department’s Government Finance Division. In that capacity, he backstoped the GFS regional advisors in AFRITAC West and AFRITAC Central. As an STX and as IMF staff, Xavier has conducted CD missions in various countries. He holds a master’s degree in economics from the University of Namur, Belgium.



This newsletter summarizes the CD services provided through FY24Q3, provides selected examples of milestones achieved by members and feedback from officials participating in AFS training events. It also provides an updated **plan for the rest of FY2024** and the list of TA reports transmitted to authorities during this quarter.

## CD SUPPORT TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

- [Customs Administration](#)
- [Tax Administration](#)

- [Public Financial Management](#)
- [Real Sector Statistics](#)
- [Banking Regulation and Supervision](#)
- [Financial Market Infrastructure and Fintech](#)
- [CCCDI-Funded Debt Management Projects for AFS Countries](#)
- [Legal-Governance and Anti-Corruption](#)
- [Thematic AML/CFT Funded CD in the AFS Region](#)
- [Institute of Capacity Development \(ICD\) Courses](#)
- [Feedback From Participants](#)
- [IMF Online Learning](#)

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS PRODUCED BY THE CENTER

- [FY24Q4 \(February-April 2024\) CD Plan](#)
- [TA Reports Produced by the Center](#)



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The Regional Technical Assistance Center for Southern Africa (**AFRITAC South – AFS**) is a collaborative effort between the International Monetary Fund (IMF), beneficiary countries, and external development partners aimed at providing technical assistance (TA) and cooperation in core macroeconomic and financial management areas to countries in the Southern Africa and West Indian Ocean region. The center provides TA and training to Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

#### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

AFS Phase 2



## MEMBER COUNTRIES



Angola



Botswana



Comoros



Eswatini



Lesotho



Madagascar



Mauritius



Mozambique



Namibia



Seychelles



South Africa



Zambia



Zimbabwe