



IMF Regional Capacity Development Centers (RCDCs)

Building capacities for better policies, financial stability and economic growth

SECO supports the IMF's capacity development centers in Africa, the Middle East as well as in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Mongolia. RCDCs help member countries formulate and implement their own growth-oriented, poverty-reducing policies and, in doing so, advance towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rationale

Sound macroeconomic policies and strong economic and fiscal institutions are crucial for economic development. The IMF's efforts to provide capacity development aimed at enhancing countries' economic policies and institutions are based on this understanding. The RCDCs facilitate the implementation of these efforts by addressing members' needs at the forefront. They allow for rapid responses to emerging technical assistance needs, tailoring work to region-specific issues and ensuring close coordination with other stakeholders on the ground

In light of the relevance of RCDCs work, SECO has been a major donor since 2002. Over nearly two decades, Switzerland has contributed around USD 35 million to RCDCs; predominantly in Africa and the Middle East as well as, more recently, in the Caucasus region and Central Asia.

Objective and scope

The overall objective of the RCDCs is to assist the implementation progress of the long-term development objectives of beneficiaries as articulated in their development and poverty reduction strategies through building institutional and human capacity. The centers deliver technical assistance and capacity building in five broad areas of the IMF's expertise: i) public financial management, ii) revenue administration, iii) monetary operations and debt management, iv) banking and financial sector supervision, v) statistics, covering macroeconomic, public finance and central bank statistics.

The RCDCs are part of the IMF's overall technical assistance program. Operating since 1993, when the first center opened, the RCDCs were designed as a decentralized and regional approach with the objective to strengthen the IMF's ability to deliver technical assistance that would be more responsive to local needs and promote greater country ownership and regional expertise. To date there are 16 RCDCs in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Region, and more recently, China and South Asia. Covering a regional gap the latest center in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia region is scheduled to open in May 2021.

Country/region

Africa, Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia and Mongolia

Executing agency

International Monetary Fund

Partners

Australia, China, EIB
EU, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom

Duration

2016-2026

SECO contribution

USD 18'500'000



RCDCs currently supported by Switzerland		
Center	Partners / donors	Recipient / member countries
AFRITAC Central	China, European Investment Bank, European Union, France, China, Germany, The Netherlands	Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon , and São Tomé and Príncipe
AFRITAC East	European Investment Bank, European Union, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom	Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
AFRITAC West	China, European Investment Bank, European Union, France, Germany, Luxembourg	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire , Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo
AFRITAC West II	China, European Investment Bank, European Union, Germany, United Kingdom	Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana , Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone
AFRITAC South	Australia, China, European Investment Bank, European Union, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius , Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
METAC	European Union, France, Germany, The Netherlands	Afghanistan, Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon , Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen
CCAMTAC <i>Scheduled to open in May 2021</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan , the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan

Note: Host countries are indicated in bold.

Governance Structure

Each RCDC is a multi-donor initiative supported by donors and member countries. It is governed by a Steering Committee comprising said supporters as well as regional stakeholders as observers. Each center is headed by a coordinator. Resident advisors deliver technical assistance within their thematic responsibilities. The resident advisors are supported by the IMF Headquarters and a pool of short-term experts who carry out specific assignments.

Results so far

Independent external evaluations concluded that RCDCs represent an efficient and effective mode of delivering assistance. They achieve tangible and sustainable results through medium term projects but are also able to respond to short-term needs of the member countries. The evaluations stressed that the support is fundamental to the recipient countries in implementing their poverty reduction strategies. Among others, the RCDCs have contributed to the following selected results:

- Strengthened public financial legislation
- Stronger financial markets including improved financial market supervision, restructuring of banks and introduction of Basel II and III requirements
- Improved public debt management
- Better key financial management statistics

How to get involved

The RCDCs follow a demand-driven approach developing annual work plans in consultation with beneficiaries based on their development strategies.

Further information and contact details

Website: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2017/06/14/imf-regional-capacity-development-initiatives>

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