

Web Box 3.6

Recent independent external evaluations of Regional Technical Assistance Centers

The IMF's technical assistance is evaluated regularly to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the membership and is efficient and effective. Recent independent external evaluations were conducted for the IMF's Regional Technical Assistance Centers in Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the Pacific.¹

The evaluations rated the overall performance of the RTACs' TA as "good." Their TA was found to be "relevant" (meeting recipient countries' and donors' priority needs), "effective" (with timely and high-quality outputs), "efficient" (cost-effective compared to other TA providers), and "sustainable" (producing tangible and lasting results). The RTACs got particularly high marks for "relevance," and the evaluations found that they were country-owned and responsive and benefited from good-quality backstopping from headquarters. Recommendations for improvement included providing more support for the implementation of TA advice to strengthen sustainability, greater emphasis on results-focused management (RFM) to further enhance TA effectiveness, and more granular financial reporting to facilitate a more rigorous assessment of efficiency. These and other recommendations are currently being addressed, including through improved information exchange with donors, development of an operational RFM framework for the RTACs, and the move to a new costing model.

¹The full text of the evaluations can be found at www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/afritac.htm.