

## **I. Feature Stories: Debt Management Reforms in Programmatic Approach in Madagascar**

Madagascar’s external risk of debt distress deteriorated along with the global COVID pandemic and shifted from low to moderate in 2020.

Then, Madagascar’s Government started to engage in a series of the debt management reforms. Starting in 2023, these reform initiatives also benefited from strong support by Debt Management Facility III Technical Assistance and Training Programs.

Firstly, a Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA), led by the World Bank, was conducted in February 2023 to identify strengths and areas for improvement in debt management practices. While there has been some progress, the DeMPA identified challenges in many debt management areas. Some of those challenges include the fragmentation of the DMO structure, limited disclosure of debt reports, non-reporting of SOEs’ debt, and the absence of a Fiscal Risk Management Framework.

After the DeMPA, a Reform Plan formulation technical assistance took place during July-August 2023, which identified three main axes of reforms: (i) debt management governance; (ii) legal and institutional framework and monitoring of fiscal risks, in particular for debt-related contingent liabilities; and (iii) domestic market development and cash management.

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*Antananarivo city, Madagascar*

*Photo: Mesfin Bezawagaw*

The authorities envisaged reforms to follow sound international practices. The Government then approved the debt management Reform Plan in November 2023.

Thirdly, a follow-up Reform Plan implementation review and Fiscal Risk management advisory technical assistance was provided in March 2024. Significant advances have been achieved within just four months of the government’s adoption of the reform plan, with a notable improvement in the areas of governance and fiscal risk management.

- The Government has completed a logical framework (Log frame) for debt management reforms spanning over 2024-2026, outlining priority reforms, technical assistance supports, and the expected outcomes/ outputs. The Log frame was presented to the donors' community with the objective of aligning technical assistance support programs and establishing a timeline for the Reform Plan actions and outputs/ outcomes. The Ministry of Economy and Finances led the workshop which helped to bring together technical and financial partners and all concerned government entities.
- The Government Council has approved a Decree for the organization of the DMO in the Front-Middle-Back Office, with the services and departments set to be installed by July 2024.
- The Ministry of Economy and Finance is currently reviewing the finalized draft law on active cash management, which should lead to the establishing of a formal cash management committee/Treasury Committee.
- The legal and institutional framework for managing Fiscal Risk was established and operationalized in March 2024, which consists of (i) the Credit Risk Analysis Committee (CRAC) responsible for assessing credit risk and (ii) the Fiscal Risk Committee (FRC) in charge of coordinating and finalizing the Fiscal Risk Statement.

Finally, the first-year assessment of the Reform Plan's progress will occur in December 2024. This evaluation will take stock of progress and challenges encountered during the implementation the Reform Plan, while also setting the objectives for the CY25 reform plans. In addition, the DMF program is expected to support capacity building on the MTDS/ABP tool for the Middle Office of the DMO. This will be achieved through the creation/ operationalization of a MTDS/ABP working group involving the Central Bank and other departments at the MEF. The objective is to inform the government cash plan and issuance calendars, feeding into the 2025 Budget.

## II. Regional Training: Debt-Related Fiscal Risk training Joint JICA|World Bank

The World Bank (WB) has been collaborating for several years with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in delivering debt management training for low- and middle-income countries. These training include workshops on developing a Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy, and more recently (since 2019) on assessing and managing debt-related fiscal risks – with a focus on guarantees and on-lending. The collaboration has been taking place under an arrangement where JICA invites participants from candidate countries to participate in workshops in Tokyo, lectured by World Bank debt management experts.

The workshops are commonly part of an extended training program in which participants have the opportunity to learn from World Bank experts but also from Japanese government officials involved in the relevant areas of the trainings. In the most recent fiscal risks' management training delivered in February 2024, for example, participants have had the opportunity to learn from international experts and Japanese government experts in natural disasters risk management, which also represent a relevant source of fiscal risks in many of the participating countries. The participation of a wide variety of countries creates an excellent environment for experience sharing and follow-up technical assistance.



*Representatives and participants at the JICA, in Tokyo*

### III. Technical Assistance and Training

#### Technical Assistance

Enhancing Strategy and Policy			
TYPE	MTDS	MTDS	MTDS Hybrid
COUNTRY	Bolivia, January 8–12, 2024	Sao Tome and Principe, January 16–24, 2024	Burundi, January 29–February 2, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank/IMF	IMF	World Bank
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to provide capacity building on the development and update of the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy - MTDS. The technical assistance is a follow-up of the Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA) carried out in the country in October 2022.	The objective of the mission was to deliver a TA on the application of the medium-term debt management strategy (MTDS) framework and the interpretation of the Analytical Tool (AT) results for officials from the Central bank and different departments at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Blue Economy, including Planning, Budget, and Treasury.	The objective of the mission was to support and accompany the DDP in the design of Burundi' first debt management strategy (DMS) and Annual Borrowing Plan (ABP). The mission was preceded by preparatory sessions spread over November 21, 2023-January 26, 2024 to review the MTDS conceptual framework, the MTDS-AT tool and prepare the inputs required to run it.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission provided capacity building for the authorities to use the MTDS. The mission team has helped the authorities designing four illustrative strategies with different objectives and discussed the results and their interpretation. Government officials participating on the mission sessions have presented the results and their preliminary advice for the Director of Public Credit Directorate of MEF.	The mission provided an overview of the MTDS framework, including linkages with the fiscal framework and addressed the authorities' knowledge gaps in MTDS design. The mission trained the participants on data preparation for use in the MTDS-AT and on debt portfolio risk analysis. The participants, guided by the mission, identified vulnerabilities in their existing debt portfolio and assessed alternative financing strategies to mitigate them.	The results of the MTDS analysis underscored that a strategy maximizing concessional funding and a strategy entailing a redistribution of the domestic portfolio, currently dominated by Tbills with a gradual shift toward longer-maturity obligations seems sound. That will require the MFBEP to be proactive in diversifying its sources of external financing and a strategy to develop the Domestic Debt Market including an effective investor relations program.

continued

Enhancing Strategy and Policy			
TYPE	MTDS	ABP Capacity Building	MTDS
COUNTRY	Bangladesh, February 17–29, 2024	Cameroon, February 19–23, 2024	Nigeria, February 26–March 6, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank/IMF	IMF	World Bank/IMF
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to provide capacity building on the development of the MTDS and support the authorities updating the debt management strategy.	The mission aimed to strengthen the capacities of officials from the General Directorates of the Treasury, the Financial Cooperation and Cameroon Sinking Fund in developing an annual borrowing plan and issuance calendar that aligns with the debt management strategy. This would ensure an optimal execution of government securities issuance operations integrated into the cash flow plan. It also helped enable Treasury teams to master the techniques for analyzing and programming securities repurchase operations recently introduced on the regional CEMAC government securities regional market.	The mission aimed to provide technical assistance in developing and updating the country's Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS). The support aimed at providing capacity building for the authorities to design a DMS considering the tradeoffs between costs and risks.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission provided capacity building for the authorities to use the WB-IMF MTDS analytical tool. The mission team supported the authorities simulating alternatives debt strategies for the period covering fiscal years 2025 to 2027. The DMS analysis includes only debt contracted directly by the government. Liabilities arising from retirement benefits for government employees through the General Provident Fund (GPF) were not included.	The mission (i) took stock of the state of implementation of the recommendations of the AFC mission of February 2023; (ii) discussed with the authorities their practices regarding the process of developing the issuance calendar and its integration into the debt management strategy and the State cash flow plan; (iii) provided participants with practical training on the use of the analytical tool of the annual borrowing plan of the IMF/World Bank for the development of the issuance plan and (iv) presented the regulatory framework which governs the repurchase operations of public securities on the CEMAC market with practical cases applied to the repurchases of government securities.	The mission identified key finding to improve debt management in Nigeria and provided recommendation on action that needs to be implemented in the near-term, medium term and long term together with suggested priority.

Improving Governance and Institutions	
TYPE	Institutional Structure of the DMO
COUNTRY	Nepal, January 8–19, 2024
ORGANIZERS	IMF
OBJECTIVE	The technical assistance mission visited Nepal to assist the authorities in strengthening functional operations of the recently established PDMO in MOF.
HIGHLIGHTS	This IMF TA mission is a follow up activity of an earlier IMF virtual TA mission in 2020 that recommended on strengthening public debt management operations in Nepal, including through legal and institutional reforms. In the context of the envisaged role of the PDMO, the mission identified the key issues regarding the current operating framework for public debt management, the legal framework and institutional arrangements, the organizational structure and operations of the PDMO, and staff capacity within the PDMO. Based on its findings, the mission helped develop a reform plan for strengthening the PDMO over the medium-term and manage the transition for transfer of responsibilities from the NRB to the PDMO.

Enhance Strategy and Policy		
TYPE	Cash Management	Cash Management
COUNTRY	Zambia, January 17–24, 2024	Haiti, March 13–16, 2024
ORGANIZERS	IMF	IMF
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was rationalizing government banking arrangement and improving cash flow forecasting.	The objective of the mission was to assess the operation of the TSA in the Central bank, as part of the FIN FSR of the latter, following recent cyberattacks.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission developed an action plan and made recommendations on strengthening the TSA, improving institutional arrangements and capacity for the cash flow forecasting. It also introduced the IMF FAD’s Cash Forecasting and Analysis Tool (CFAT) and provided hands-on training to 20 officials from MoFNP and the Zambia Revenue Agency. Authorities have shown interest in adopting the tool.	The mission identified several weaknesses in the legal and conventional frameworks of the TSA as well as in its collection and disbursement operations, which led to the following recommendations: (i) Finalize the revision of the MoF- Central bank and submit the protocol between the Central bank and commercial banks for formal approval by the MoF; (ii) Automate all collection and disbursement procedures and generalize the payment method by bank transfer; (iii) Send daily TSA debit and credit notices to the MoF, establish a new internal control system for operations, and automate all procedures for transmitting statements and notices, including for donor accounts.

Boosting Debt Transparency—Contingent Liability and Fiscal Risks	
TYPE	PPP Related Fiscal Risk
COUNTRY	Guinea, January 16–24, 2024
ORGANIZERS	IMF
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to appraise the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) institutional and reporting framework in Guinea and advise the authorities on how to improve the management of the associated fiscal risks. Provide hands-on capacity building on the use of the PPP Fiscal Risk Assessment Model (PFRAM).
HIGHLIGHTS	This main bottlenecks that have hampered the effectiveness of the PPP governance framework in Guinea were discussed and the MoF staff sensitized on the need to consider fiscal costs and contingent liabilities generated by PPPs. Several tools, including a template for PPP fiscal risk declaration and a proposal to structure the PPP strategy, were provided and recommendations were made to improve fiscal risk management related to PPP.

Boosting Debt Transparency—Contingent Liability and Fiscal Risks		
TYPE	Fiscal Risk Report (Virtual)	Fiscal Risk and Follow-up Reform Plan Mission
COUNTRY	Tuvalu, January 17–24, 2024	Madagascar, March 19–April 2, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank	World Bank
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to (i) understand implementation of the 2023 Ministerial Order and the functioning of the Fiscal Risks Technical Working Group; (ii) assess data requirements and institutional capacity for preparing the first fiscal report; and (iii) discuss and support analysis for the first fiscal risk report (FRR).	The objectives of the mission were to: (i) deliver a workshop on Credit Risk Assessment to relevant stakeholders including the members of the Fiscal Risk Committee and the Credit Risk Committee; (ii) operationalize and provide technical assistance to the newly created Fiscal Risk Committee and the Credit Risk Committee (iii) provide Technical Assistance for Fiscal Risk Statement (FRS), (iv) discuss options for FY25 PPAs, and ; (v) operationalize the FY24-25 Reform Plan log frame, including establishing/developing collaboration with the donor community.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission delivered presentations, shared excel templates on assessment of risks, relevant country FRR examples. The mission also revealed a set of challenges towards the preparation of the first phase of the fiscal risk report in Tuvalu.	A series of workshop took place with the members of the CREC and FRC to: (i) provide technical assistance on the World Bank Credit Rating Analytical Tool for SOEs; (ii) adopt the procedures and the coordination mechanisms involved in the CREC and the FRC operations, and ; (iii) review in detail the Fiscal Risk Statement template/content and decide on the scope of the fiscal risks to be covered in the 2025 Fiscal Risk Statement. The mission also discussed the operationalization of the FY24-25 Reform Plan log frame.

Developing Debt Markets		
TYPE	Primary Market Pricing	Domestic Market Development
COUNTRY	Tajikistan, January 25–February 2, 2024	Bolivia, February 27–March 1, 2024
ORGANIZERS	IMF	IMF
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to support the authorities in developing the government debt market through market-based issuance.	The objective of the mission was to deliver a virtual seminar to the Bolivian authorities. About twenty officials (broadly evenly split between male and female) from both the central bank (BCB) and the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance (MEFP) attended the event.
HIGHLIGHTS	Despite a moderate level of public debt in Tajikistan, the risk of external debt distress is relatively high, which requires decisive actions to diversify funding sources for the government by developing a local currency government securities (GS) market. The authorities have initiated a series of reforms to develop the debt market to mitigate refinancing risks and reduce its reliance on external debt. In January 2024, the Ministry of Finance issued its inaugural 6-, 12-, and 24-month government securities (State Treasury Bills) with interest rates closely aligned to market rates.	The webinar trained staff from these institutions on yield curve estimation methodologies and analysis. Discussions focused on theory and practice with examples to be applied in the case of Bolivia. Participants provided a broad view on the status and recent developments of the money and bond markets in Bolivia and were very active during the discussions.

Improving Governance and Institutions	
TYPE	Reform Plan, Legal and Institutional Advisory
COUNTRY	Somalia, February 20–23, 2024
ORGANIZERS	IMF
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to assess the current regulatory and institutional frameworks for public debt management and provide recommendations to address key gaps to bring it in line with international practice.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission recommended strengthening the regulatory framework for public debt management, particularly in relation to debt objectives, strategy, and guarantees. Regarding institutional arrangement, the mission recommended delineating the tasks of the current staff in line with good practice along front, middle and back office, while waiting for new staff to be recruited. It also suggested establishing a debt reconciliation framework and integrating debt recording with budget planning and cash forecasting systems. An operational procedures manual should be created to clarify responsibilities within the Ministry and facilitate communication with the central bank and line ministries.

## Improving Governance and Institutions

TYPE	Reform Plan and Debt Reporting Follow up
COUNTRY	DRC, February 5–9, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank
OBJECTIVE	The objectives of the mission were to: (i) assist the DGDP in the launching and the operationalization of the Debt management Reform Plan, following its adoption in November 2023; (ii) undertake a stock-taking of back-office operations, specifically debt recording, monitoring and reporting practices in debt management, including the scope of reporting and how these are published and provide a detailed and sequenced proposal for improving recording and debt reporting capabilities.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission builds on a programmatic approach that started with the DeMPA mission in September 2022, followed by the Reform Plan in June 2023 that issued recommendations and identified actions in order to improve debt management practices in DRC. The mission helped operationalizing the Reform Plan Log Frame and provided a draft Debt Reporting TA report with Government for internally processing.

## Boosting Debt Transparency

TYPE	Debt Transparency (Virtual)
COUNTRY	Tonga, February 12–13 and March 12–14, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to support the MoF in producing quarterly and annual debt bulletins and discuss other areas for improvements to managing debt records, debt reporting and debt transparency.
HIGHLIGHTS	The mission identifies key weakness in the system and recommended enhancement in the areas of debt bulletins, debt recording, institutional coordination, and domestic debt.

## Debt Management Performance Assessments (DeMPA)

TYPE	DeMPA
COUNTRY	Vietnam, February 20–29, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to undertake a comprehensive assessment of debt management functions and practices of Vietnam based on the 2021 Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA) methodology. As part of the assessment, the mission took stock of developments since the last DeMPA mission undertaken in 2011 as well and worked closely with DMEF (the main counterpart at the MoF) and met with relevant entities participating in debt management.

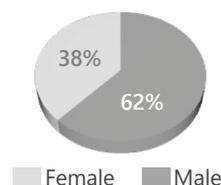
## Training

9 Training Opportunities

263 Training Participants



Gender Tag



Enhancing Strategies and Policy			
TYPE	Regional- MTDS/ABP	Parliaments Role in Public Debt Management	Regional MTDS
COUNTRY	Kenya, January 29–February 9, 2024	Ghana, February 5–9, 2024	Nigeria, March 4–8, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank, IMF & AFRITAC South	World Bank & WAIFEM	World Bank, IMF & WAIFEM
OBJECTIVE	The workshop aimed at building capacity in developing and implementing a sound DMS, through designing an annual borrowing plan. Participants were trained on the use of the joint IMF-WB MTDS analytical tool to identify the risk exposure embedded in the government’s existing debt portfolio and on assessing the cost-risk trade-offs of different DM strategies.	The objectives of the workshop were to leverage regional exchange of practices and experiences as a catalyst for jurisdictions to identify country-level strategies and reforms to strengthen the institutional relationship between debt managers and parliament, and to gather lessons and information on how the World Bank can engage with parliaments in public debt management.	The workshop aimed at building capacity in developing and implementing a sound DMS, through designing an annual borrowing plan. Participants were trained on the use of the joint IMF-WB MTDS analytical tool to identify the risk exposure embedded in the government’s existing debt portfolio and on assessing the cost-risk trade-offs of different DM strategies.
PARTICIPANTS	45 participants from 19 countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) attended the workshop.	30 members of Parliaments, staff from debt related committees in parliaments, and staff from debt management offices from the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone attended the meeting.	32 officials from WAIFEM countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) attended the workshop.

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Enhancing Strategies and Policy		
TYPE	Regional MTDS	Regional MTDS
COUNTRY	Senegal, March 18–22, 2024	St. Kitts & Nevis, March 18–22, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank and AUT	World Bank, IMF and ComSec
OBJECTIVE	The workshop aimed at building capacity in developing and implementing a sound DMS, through designing an annual borrowing plan. Participants were trained on the use of the joint IMF-WB MTDS analytical tool to identify the risk exposure embedded in the government’s existing debt portfolio and on assessing the cost-risk trade-offs of different DM strategies.	The workshop aimed at building capacity in developing and implementing a sound DMS, through designing an annual borrowing plan. Participants were trained on the use of the joint IMF-WB MTDS analytical tool to identify the risk exposure embedded in the government’s existing debt portfolio and on assessing the cost-risk trade-offs of different DM strategies.
PARTICIPANTS	12 participants from 7 WAEMU countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, and Togo) attended the workshop.	30 participants from 14 countries (Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica) as well as participants from Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and Caribbean Development Bank participated in the workshop.

Boosting Debt Transparency	
TYPE	Regional Workshop on Public Debt Transparency: Compilation, Reporting and Monitoring
COUNTRY	Malawi, February 19–23, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank, AFRITAC East/South, MEFMI
OBJECTIVE	The workshop objective was to build capacity on issues such as debt recording, reporting, and monitoring, and explored the connections between debt recording and reporting, with focus on enhancing transparency. Participants had the opportunity to work on hands-on exercises aiming to develop technical capacity to organize debt data and extract reliable information such as the elaboration of Cost risk analysis, Cash flow tables, calculation of debt instrument payments.
PARTICIPANTS	31 officials from MEFMI countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, South Sudan, and Tanzania) attended the workshop.

## Boosting Debt Transparency— Contingent Liability and Fiscal Risks

TYPE	Framework for Managing Government Guarantees and Assessment of Credit Risk of the Guarantees' Portfolio	Regional - Debt-Related Fiscal Risk
COUNTRY	Regional JVI, February 5–9, 2024	Japan, February 19–28, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank	World Bank/JICA
OBJECTIVE	The objective of the mission was to provide virtual training on the formulation of a comprehensive framework for managing government guarantees and analysis of credit risk of the guarantees' portfolio. Participants were familiarized with the framework for managing government guarantees, including core legal and institutional settings required for prudent management of risks associated with government guarantees. Participants from Uganda, Kenya and Georgia presented fiscal risk management practices from their respective countries.	The objectives of the workshop were to help participants to identify and classify the key types of debt-related fiscal risks countries are exposed to and the key characteristics of a government's exposure to these risks. In addition to providing participants with a framework for managing these risks, the training focused on assessing and managing credit risk from the debt of public sector entities, with a focus on government guarantees and on-lending.
PARTICIPANTS	26 participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan attended the workshop.	32 representatives from Ministries of Finance and Central Banks from 26 countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Lao, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tonga, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, and Zambia) attended the training.

## Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries (LIC-DSF)

TYPE	Regional JVI
COUNTRY	Austria, February 26–March 1, 2024
ORGANIZERS	World Bank/IMF
OBJECTIVE	The main objective of the workshop was to familiarize the participants with the LIC DSF, approved by the Boards of the World Bank and IMF in September 2017. The workshop aims to introduce participants to (i) the standardized forward-looking analysis of the debt and debt service dynamics under a baseline scenario and in the face of plausible shocks; (ii) the tailored stress tests and realism tools; (iii) the assessment of debt sustainability in relation to indicative country-specific debt burden thresholds; and (iv) the use of judgment to arrive at the final assessment of the risk of debt distress.
PARTICIPANTS	23 participants from Ministries of Finance officials from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Somalia, South Sudan, Bangladesh, and Nepal participated the training.

### III. Future Debt Events

#### Upcoming Technical Assistance Missions, April–June, 2024

COUNTRY	ACTIVITY	NAME	DATES
Central Africa Republic	National	MTDS and ABP	April 2024
Sri Lanka	National	Domestic Market	April 2024
Congo, Republic	National	Fiscal Risk Regulations	April 2024
Uganda	National	DeMPA	April 2024
Chad	National	Debt Portfolio Fundamentals	April 2024
Congo, Republic	National	Debt Reporting and Monitoring	June 2024
Kyrgyz Rep	National	MTDS	June 2024
Lesotho	National	MTDS/ABP	June 2024

#### Upcoming Training, April–June, 2024

COUNTRY	ACTIVITY	NAME	DATES
Barbados	Regional	LIC DSA	June 2024
JVI	Regional	Fiscal Risk	April 2024
Mozambique	Regional	LIC DSA	April 2024
Liberia	Regional	LIC DSA	May 2024
Kazakhstan	Regional	LCBM	May 2024
Africa-WAIFEM	Regional	ABP	June 2024
Africa-Francophone	Regional	ABP	June 2024
Africa – MEFMI	Regional	MTDS design	June 2024
JVI	Regional	SRDSF	June 2024

## IV. Debt Management Network Webinars and Publications

### WEBINAR

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#### *Role of Parliament in Public Debt Management*

The Revised Guidelines for Public Debt Management describe a relatively narrow role for parliaments in debt management. The narrow framing does not limit parliament's potential to contribute to debt management more broadly, though. The clear intersection between debt management and fiscal policy and parliament's formal fiscal policy and oversight responsibilities means legislatures already possess a clear mandate for broader engagement in debt management front. The pressing question is what this engagement could entail and whether parliaments should incorporate this additional policy element into their routine budgetary governance functions. The World Bank, in collaboration with Westminster Foundation of Democracy, MEFMI, and WAIFEM, have undertaken two Roundtables on the role of parliament in public debt management, with participation of members of parliament, technical staff from parliaments, and debt managers. The Roundtables have allowed a discussion of various ways to discuss and explore various ways of engagement between the involved parties. This webinar is focused on the role of parliament in public debt management with theme of 'A Checklist for Making your Life with Parliamentarians Easier'. The webinar recording is available [here](#).

### BLOG

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#### *Urgent Need to Address Liquidity Pressures in Developing Countries*

The world's poorest countries face ballooning debt service payments, record high refinancing costs, limited access to markets, and severely reduced capital inflows. Without action, 2024 will see a further rise in debt vulnerability—potentially leading to reversals in development outcomes.

In this context, the current global debt relief architecture has focused mostly on countries with solvency problems, including under the Common Framework, and that indeed remains critical. However, less attention has been placed to a particular group of countries: low income and lower middle-income countries that are likely to experience temporary liquidity pressures in 2024 and 2025 in the context of a very high level of external debt repayments. These countries do not yet have solvency problems, and thus are not candidates for the Common Framework or for full-fledged debt restructuring. But they need urgent liquidity support in 2024-25 to mitigate the significant external debt roll-over risks they face. While this is a subset of a larger problem in terms of debt vulnerabilities, without help, liquidity issues may turn into solvency problems. This, in turn, would exacerbate risk perceptions for this type of countries further limiting capital inflows and accelerating outflows. Moreover, it would expand the large number of countries already under debt distress and increase solvency problems. More details are [here](#).

### BLOG

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#### *A Silent Debt Crisis is Engulfing Developing Economies with Weak Credit Ratings*

Some developing economies are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Global inflation is receding, and global interest rates appear to have peaked, prompting a bond-issuance rush by these economies to refinance their debt before the opportunity vanishes. In early January, Mexico, Indonesia, and several other developing economies easily raised more than \$50 billion from bond investors.

Yet 28 developing economies—those with the weakest credit ratings—remain stuck in a debt trap with no hope of escape anytime soon. Their average debt-to-GDP ratio was nearly 75 percent at the end of 2023—20 points greater than the typical developing economy. They account for a quarter of all developing economies with credit ratings and 16 percent of the global population. However their collective economic activity constitutes a mere 5 percent of global output, which makes it easy for the rest of the world to ignore their predicament. Their debt crisis, as a result, is silent—and it could intensify. More details [here](#).

## DMF III Donors

African Development Bank (AfDB)
Austria - Federal Finance Ministry
Canada Global Affairs
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France - Ministry of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery
Germany - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Japan - Ministry of Finance
The Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Switzerland - State Secretariat for Economic Affairs - SECO
United States of America - Department of the Treasury

Newsletter, January–April 2024

The DMF Newsletter is published quarterly by the DMF Secretariat. The newsletter is distributed to debt management practitioners from developing countries, donors, DMF implementing partners, civil society organizations and private sector firms. The newsletter aims to share DMF work plans, lessons learned, and news and developments related to debt management.



### DEBT MANAGEMENT FACILITY

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