


Opening remarks

Neil Cole, Executive Secretary, CABRI

- In 2019, CABRI embarked on a pilot project to undertake a series of PFM capabilities assessments. These assessments aim to create a collaborative platform where ministries of finance, budget and planning get an opportunity to probe the capabilities in their PFM system that are key to improve fiscal performance.
- While there are overlaps with other commonly used assessment frameworks such as PEFA, the CABRI PFM-Capabilities Assessment is unique in the sense that it focuses on a specific PFM functional area identified by country officials, using a capabilities lens to examine performance. This makes the assessments more targeted and less prone to assessment fatigue as the process is largely driven by the needs and desires of country officials.
- What also makes the assessment unique is its approach: it combines assessment of organizational and system-level performance with in-depth analysis of personnel capabilities – a dimension of PFM performance and reform that is often neglected.
- The assessment fits in CABRI's mission to help African countries build capabilities for functional PFM systems. These have been closely tied to the BPFC programme - an action-learning programme where CABRI supports teams of officials to tackle complex public finance problems. The assessment provides the teams with further tools to assess capability gaps in key PFM areas.
- To date, CABRI has undertaken three capability assessments, which will be the focus of today's event:
 - The first pilot assessment was conducted in CAR in 2019 - focusing on the challenges of budget credibility the country had been facing for several years. The CAR assessment also gave us an opportunity to look at the challenges of PFM reform in a post-conflict and fragile environment.
 - The second assessment was on Benin - focusing on capabilities for fiscal decentralization and intergovernmental fiscal relations. This was an exercise that enabled us to cover many parts of Benin through fieldwork on 17 municipalities.
 - The third assessment was on Ethiopia, focusing on programme planning and M&E capabilities. This was conducted in the context of ongoing reforms including the planned roll out of programmed-based budgeting at the subnational level.
- Currently, we are finalizing two more assessments in Nigeria and Ghana, which will be made available on a dedicated section of our PFM knowledge Hub. The section will be officially launched at the end of today's programme.

Launch of CABRI's PFM Capabilities Assessment Report

4 August 2021

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- A decorative graphic at the top of the slide features a network of grey lines connecting various icons. The icons include a group of people, a circular arrow, puzzle pieces, a hand pointing to a network, and a bar chart with an upward arrow. There are also several colored dots (blue, orange, green) scattered throughout the network.
- Today's event is also an opportunity for CABRI to gather feedback on the assessment. We will keep revisiting and refining the assessment frameworks to include the lessons from the first pilot countries so that we are better able to respond to the needs of our member-countries
 - We look forward to very fruitful discussions.