



BULLETIN 13 | 15 DECEMBER 2021

Dear reader,

In reflecting on the past year, we are encouraged that despite the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our region has remained steadfast and committed to improving audit impact. While travel was still severely restricted in 2021, we were nevertheless able to resume with limited in-person engagements and interventions. Through these initiatives as well as an extremely busy year of online meetings, workshops and conferences, we were able to achieve most of our targets for the year.

As we continue to navigate through these challenging times, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this strong community that supports each other to accomplish great things. It is the power of this community that will propel us through this, to better times.

Please note that the AFROSAI-E Secretariat offices will close on 15 December 2021 and reopen on 10 January 2022. We wish all our members, partners, donors and stakeholders a peaceful festive season and a prosperous new year.

Malawi joins ranks of SAIs trained on PFM Reporting Tool Framework



In partnership with the GIZ GFG in Africa Programme, we continue to roll out the Public Financial Management Reporting Framework (PFM RF). So far, we have rolled it out in 14 countries, and Malawi has now become the 15th country to join the ranks. In November 2021, we held a joint workshop with the GIZ to train a team of auditors from SAI Malawi on the application of the tool.

The PFM RF is a diagnostic excel based assessment tool that allows auditors to audit the entire PFM system along the budget cycle. It enables SAIs to make a meaningful contribution towards realising the SDGs as well as ensuring the resilience of a country's PFM system for disasters.

In addition to training SAI Malawi staff on the PFM RF and its implementation, we also briefed stakeholders, such as core PFM institutions (Ministry of Finance, Malawi Revenue Authority and Parliament) and selected Ministries on the tool. The stakeholders welcomed the initiative of Malawi NAO to implement the PFM RF, as a significant value addition to the country's PFM system. These activities were implemented in close liaison with and continuous support from the bilateral GIZ Programme "Strengthening Public Financial and Economic Management (PFEM)" in Malawi

Learn more about the PFM Reporting Tool Framework here: <https://pfmreporting-tool.com/>

Successful hybrid annual HR Workshop held in Kenya

We successfully held our annual Regional HR Workshop as a hybrid event this year. 23 Participants from 11 SAIs attended in person and more than 40 HR practitioners joined virtually. The workshop was hosted by SAI Kenya in Mombasa from 8 to 12 November 2021. Marianna van Niekerk from the AFROSAI-E Secretariat led the impressive line-up of presenters that included HR experts and SAI leaders from across the region as well as the IDI.

Ms Nancy Gathungu, Auditor-General of SAI Kenya opened the workshop. She shared a powerful message on the importance of HR and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HR and SAIs. She also emphasised that HR is an integral component that supports SAIs to meet their organisational goals.

Staff wellness featured prominently on the agenda and participants used the platform to share their ideas and experiences on how to effectively enhance the welfare of staff. The HR function was lauded for its pivotal role in helping employees cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and formulating solutions to ensure business continuity.

During the workshop, participants deliberated the challenges around HR / SAI Strategy implementation, with SAI Ghana sharing the lessons they learned in implementing their HR Strategy. Later in the week the group reflected on their Training and Professional Development Programmes with presentations from SAI Mozambique and SAI Somalia. The group also had lively discussions around the topics of staff recognition and gender equality. Rounding off the week was valuable experience sharing by SAI Kenya and SAI the Gambia on administering the HR Assessment tools for their recruitment initiatives.

Another highlight of the workshop was a presentation by Cobus Botes from SAI South Africa, Chair of the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee (CBC). The CBC has released an occasional paper on the topic, the future relevant, value-adding auditor and Cobus presented the paper and led participants in a discussion on the contents.

We want to extend our gratitude to the AG, Ms Gathungu and the SAI Kenya team for hosting the workshop and the excellent logistical and administrative support - Asante Sana!



Training SAIs to become social media savvy

Our three-day annual Communication and Stakeholder Relations workshop was held online in November, and focused on the fitting theme - social media and digital communication.

Over 30 participants from across the region took part in the interactive training, held in cooperation with the GIZ Good Financial Governance in Africa programme. The presentations included current global media trends, updated best practices and a review of the continent's use of specific social media platforms. Where possible, the learning included practical exercises to embed the knowledge. These practical exercises were designed to help the communicators take back the learning into their SAIs.

Social media is an intersection of publishing, marketing, information and personal sharing and it is one of the busiest spaces on the internet. Indeed, many regard the interaction of social media as the fourth mass publishing space after radio, television, and print.

Participants also had the opportunity for peer-to-peer learning during a knowledge and experience exchange session on their challenges and achievements of the past year.

I was impressed by the delivery; it was a virtual meeting, but the facilitators made it as interactive and involving as much as was possible - participant



Exciting opportunity for secondment to IDI's Bilateral Support team



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IDI provides bilateral support to selected SAIs operating in a challenging context. This effort is inspired by the UN ambition of "leave no one behind", and the importance of SAIs for better governance and accountability in low-income countries.

IDI has an exciting and challenging vacant secondment contract for an employee from a Supreme Audit Institution. The secondee will be part of a team who is dedicated to strengthening the most challenged SAIs. The individual will play a key role in supporting the federal Office of the Auditor General of Somalia in their endeavours to improve their strategic management and audit practices. There will also be possibilities to work with other English-speaking SAIs.

[Click here to view the full advertisement and apply for the position.](#)

[Click here to view Bulletin 13 of 2021 online](#)



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