



**REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF HARD TO TAX AREAS (ONLINE WEBINAR) IN
TAX ADMINISTRATIONS ORGANISED FOR HEADS OF COMPLIANCE, TAX
POLICY, INTERNATIONAL TAX & SPECIAL TAX INVESTIGATION FUNCTIONS
OF MEMBER COUNTRIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOUTH CENTRE**

03RD - 6TH NOVEMBER, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The training program organised by WATAF in collaboration with the South Centre commenced on the 03rd November 2020, with an opening ceremony by the Executive Secretary, WATAF, where he applauded the South Centre for their cooperation in making the training a reality. Most importantly, as knowledge sharing opportunity, and, charged participants to take the training seriously and stressed the imperativeness of tax administrators to look “outside the box” to tackle the challenges of the dwindling revenues caused by the menace of COVID 19 pandemic. This was followed by opening remarks said by Dr Carlos Correa, the Executive Director South Centre. He commenced by thanking WATAF for giving the South Centre the rare opportunity to partake in the training exercise. He further gave a short insight to the making of South Centre as an Intergovernmental Organisation that provides policy oriented analyses on tax issues as a major component of their various activities. He further gave four reasons as to why the training was important to the South Centre.

Firstly, he recognised and appreciated the numerous contributions of WATAF in delivering tax related initiatives in the West African Region over the last 10 years; and reiterated his delight to collaborate with WATAF in this regard. He further hoped that this collaboration was just the starting point for more engagements.

Secondly, the fact that most physical trainings across the globe had been cancelled, due to the menace of COVID 19 pandemic. Therefore, this zoom meeting was considered very key in capacity building of member countries, especially the developing ones.

Next, the reason why South Centre partnered in this training was the “Theme” High Networth Individuals (HNIs) was a crucial issue for African Countries and other developing Countries; considering that over \$7 trillion was reportedly hidden in private wealth havens, representing about 10% of the total world GDP. The issue of taxing the “Informal Sector” has also been so challenging, coupled with the fact that the formal economy had been badly hit by the COVID 19 pandemic; it has become necessary for strategic thinking in order for tax administrations to be more effective. Other reasons were social considerations to be considered in taxing the informal sector.

Lastly, the training was based on the South- South cooperation, which was viewed as a DNA for the South Centre. Especially from the point of view that the participants from developing countries of West Africa would be sharing ideas with counterparts from other Regions.

The training commenced with the announcement that there would be 5 facilitators Mr. Abdul Muheet Chowdhary, Senior Programme Officer South Centre; Ms. Jahanzeb Akhtar Indian Revenue Service Principal Commissioner of Income Tax Government of India; Mr. Ricardo Augusto de Sousa Franco Head of Individual Taxpayers Unit, Brasil Tax Authority; Mr. Daniel Uribe, Programme Officer South Centre; and, Mr. Anthony Mwanda Tax Administration Adviser, Kampala Uganda. Thereafter Mr. Anthony was asked to anchor the training session, where he made the introduction and the overview of the training outline.

Day 1, 03rd November, 2020

The training had in attendance about 97 participants from 9 member States, where they were taken through the topics of discussion for the workshop categorised into two key areas (Profiling targets and International cooperation for taxing HNIs and Instruments).

Participants were taken through the key areas of how to profile targets, which are:

1. Introductions and overview of workshop;
2. Identifying targets for compliance action;
3. Assessing information requirements, developing risk profiles and identifying high risk players.
4. Identify indicators of HNI's
5. Matching legacy data to identify HNI's; and,
6. Develop intelligence models to capture HNI's

Day 2, 04th November, 2020

The second day of the training workshop commenced at about 10:00 am WAT, with presentations on (International cooperation for taxing HNIs and Instruments) delivered by Mr Chowdhary and Mr Uribe both from the South Centre. Participants were taken through the following areas:

1. What countries can do to establish jurisdictions over offences linked to tax evasion and avoidance
2. Issues relating to the extradition of offenders
3. Measures that can be undertaken to freeze, confiscate and seize assets that are obtained through unlawful means and located in another country
4. How to repatriate the stolen assets to the country of origin
5. Mutual legal assistance between countries to facilitate cooperation for taxing the
6. HNIs International convention for the suppression of terrorism financing
7. FATF recommendations

Day 3, 05th November, 2020

The third day of the training workshop commenced at about 10:00 am WAT, with further presentations on (International cooperation for taxing HNIs and Instruments) by Mr Chowdhary Mr Ricardo Franco (Brazil) and Ms Jahanzeb Akhtar (India). Participants were taken through the following areas:

International cooperation for taxing HNIs and Instruments

1. Convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters
2. Sharing of country experience by tax officials on exchange of information
3. Sharing of country experience by tax officials on exchange of information

Group work; presentation of various scenarios.

At the end of the presentations from the facilitators on the International cooperation for taxing HNIs and Instruments, which signalled the beginning of the break out session. Participants were broken into 6 groups, taking three key areas as shown below.

1. Profiling HNI players
2. Identify players who are outside the formal tax bracket
3. Presentation of audit plans and indicators of risk

The break out groups comprised of three Francophone and three Anglophone, on each of the subjects.

Day 4, 06th November, 2020

The last day of the workshop focused on a review of what was covered and presentations by the participants.

1. Recap of day 3
2. Presentation of various scenarios

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The target participants were:

- i. Heads of Compliance functions;
- ii. Heads of Tax Policy functions;
- iii. Heads of International Tax functions; and,
- iv. Heads of Special Tax Investigation functions.

The deliverable for the session included recap of the Day 1 presentation (concept of tax harmonisation, tax competition, sovereignty and other related concepts) and presentation on the OECD BEPS Action Report.

Again, the presentation was interactive as the presenter paused for questions to which he provided answers and discussion amongst the participants with him acting as moderator in the course of the session.

The summary of attendance for the three days is as presented below:

DAY	Population
1	97
2	89
3	84
5	81

TRAINING EVALUATION

On the last day of the training, evaluation forms were handed all the participants, and 13 responses were received. Below is the analytics of participants' response.

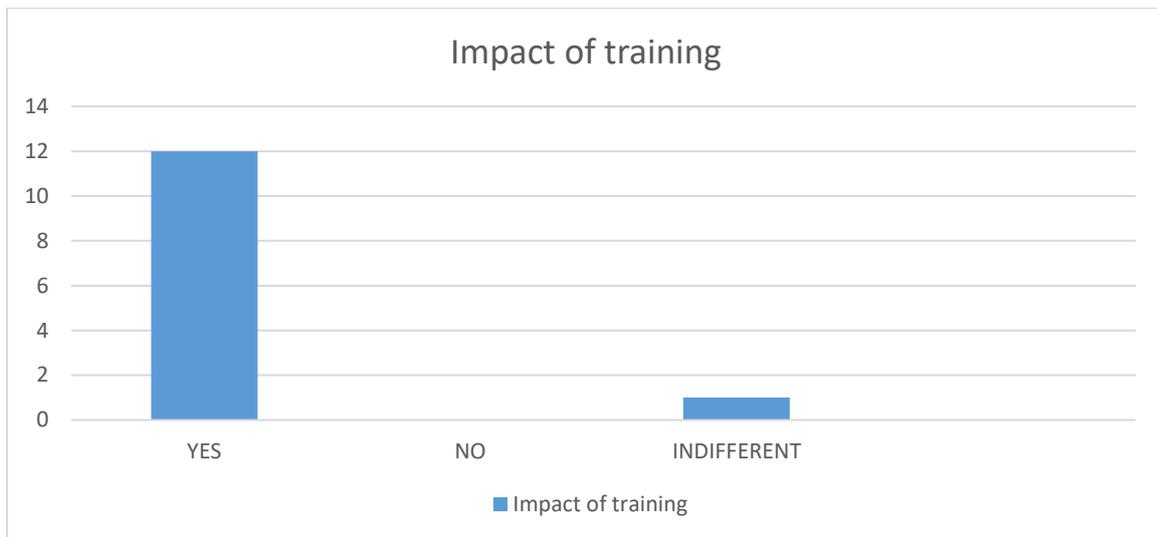
1. Quality of Training



From the above, 92 % of participants gave a rating of good (and above) to the quality of the training.

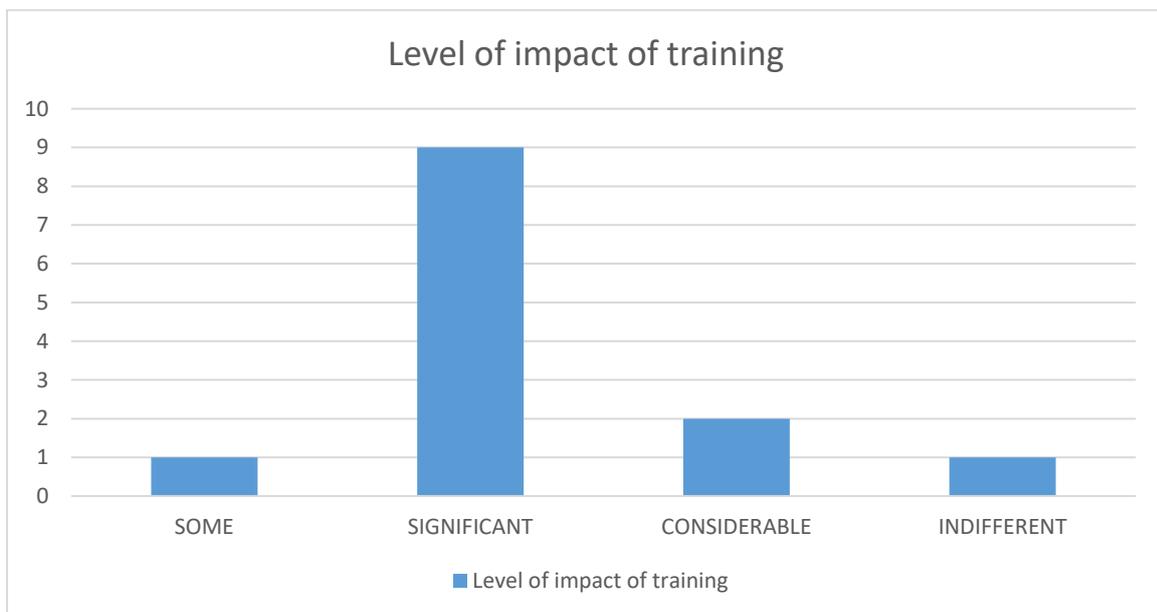
2. Impact of training

92% of the population answered the question of whether the training would have any impact on their performance in the affirmative, while 0% were of a contrary opinion. 8% % did not respond.



3. Level of Impact of training

To the question of the level of the impact of what was learnt on performance, 8% said some, 69% said significant and 15% said considerable. However, 8% of the population did not respond.



NEXT STEPS

As a follow up to the training the following have been identified as next steps.

1. Commence an online training curriculum on Taxing the Hard to tax: the HNIs and the informal Sector as a vehicle for the expansion of the revenue base of member states.

2. Pursue initiatives that would facilitate the harmonisation of tax administration in West Africa.