

# RAPID RESPONSE AT A GLANCE



**BURUNDI**



AFRICAN TAX  
ADMINISTRATION FORUM  
FORUM SUR  
L'ADMINISTRATION  
FISCALE AFRICAINE

## 1. WHAT IS RAPID RESPONSE?

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)'s mandate is to serve the higher purpose of enabling and assisting African Governments to mobilize their own domestic resources through taxation in order to build democratic states that foster economic growth and social development in the interest and well-being of all their citizens.

One of the key points of this mandate is technical assistance delivered to African tax administrations. The technical assistance covers:

- long term capacity building support also known as country programme
- Immediate needs to support ongoing operations.

The Rapid Response Unit is a dedicated unit to address members' immediate needs considered as pain points since protracted and long-term needs are addressed by country programme unit.



## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE RAPID RESPONSE UNIT

The key objective of the ATAF Rapid Response Unit is to address tax administration issues that need to be tackled in real-time. More specifically, Rapid Response will directly speak to the former-unblocks complex situations/needs by:

- (a) plugging gaps in policy and administration needs by tax administrations and
- (b) directly resolving operational obstacles.





### 3. SCOPE

The Unit will address urgent tax policy design, and actual operational needs of tax administrations to either eliminate identified obstacles or attain quick results in an agile manner. Key areas of the Rapid Response intervention may include but aren't limited to:

- Tax treaties' drafting and negotiation;
- Advanced Price Agreement (APA) negotiation;
- Tax Policy and administration reforms/design;
- Data extraction and analysis; and
- Tax Audit including specific sectors audit (mining sector, banking and insurance sectors, telecommunication sector etc) and transfer pricing audit;

### 4. WHEN IS RAPID RESPONSE GENERATED?

Rapid Response technical assistance can be generated either from member countries based on an urgent need, or it can be as a result of a direct recommendation from ATAF experts running long-term country programmes, to take advantage of low-hanging fruits such as concluding tax legislation drafting, or an audit that could yield immediate collections.

#### **i. Rapid Response generated from member requests**

Rapid response can be generated directly from member requests regarding their short-term needs. The request will be sent to the ATAF Secretariat with a clear indication of this urgency and addressed to the Executive Secretary.

#### **ii. Rapid Response generated by country programme**

Rapid Response may be generated through a country programme.

In the course of the delivery of long-term country programmes, a need for immediate support to unblock a situation such as data extraction and analysis to enable effective exchange of information to support tax audit teams, treaty drafting and negotiation, or the conclusion of an outstanding tax audit, may be identified. In this case, the Rapid Response expert joins the country programme experts to address the specific issue and withdraws when the necessary advice has been provided to the tax administration.

Countries, in both instances, need only address a request to ATAF secretariat and Rapid Response Unit will get in touch to support them, draw a work plan and bring the expertise for swift and immediate assistance.

## 5. WHO MAY ACCESS RAPID RESPONSE?

Rapid Response technical assistance falls under ATAF's mandate to serve the higher purpose of enabling and assisting African Governments to mobilize their own domestic resources that foster economic growth and social development in the interest and wellbeing of all their citizens. Therefore, all member countries and other countries qualify to get Rapid Response support from ATAF.

## 6. SOME HIGHLIGHT OF RAPID RESPONSE OUTCOMES

Before the creation of a dedicated unit, Rapid Response technical assistance delivered to countries contributes to improving tax policy and collecting more revenue.

### i. Policy Support

- over 20 new tax laws and regulations relating to transfer pricing and international tax have been enacted by different countries: Transfer Pricing Regulations, Transfer Pricing Documentation Regulations, Interest Deductibility legislation, Commodity Pricing Provisions and Permanent Establishment Legislation.

### ii. Tax Audit

- Over USD2 billion was assessed and USD852 million collected from 2019 to 2022

