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Trade can make a major contribution to productivity, growth, income and employment. It is undeniable that opening up to trade increases national incomes. Trade can also contribute to the creation of new and better jobs and to an overall improvement in working conditions. It is essential for the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills - and therefore for development. Indeed, trade is in most cases the most important external source of financing for development. Aid for Trade enables developing countries to maximize the gains from trade by helping them to analyses, implement and adapt to trade agreements, and by enabling them to build the supply capacity and infrastructure they need to compete internationally.

International trade is not a fluid process. There are frictions that generate costs. The costs of trade are influenced by various proliferation and procedures applied within borders. These include non-tariff regulatory measures, restrictions on market access, the availability and cost of trade finance and general barriers to doing business, requirements for documentation and compliance with customs procedures, lengthy administrative procedures and other delays. In addition, they apply to all stages of the international trade chain, including transport and logistics. High trade costs effectively cancel out comparative advantage by making exports less competitive

The burden of trade costs falls most heavily on LDCs, but their impact can vary from region to region. Other factors also play a role. LDCs are working to integrate the issue of trade costs into their national development policy frameworks, with the help of the Enhanced Integrated Framework and other actors, but progress in reducing trade costs varies widely. A virtuous circle of national measures supported by Aid for Trade is laying the foundations for export diversification and attracting FDI, as can be seen in some LDCs - although in many others the situation remains problematic.

Trade costs determine how firms in developing countries connect to MVCs, and their ability to benefit from their participation. The burden of trade costs falls heavily on SMEs, which, given the positive effects on employment and empowerment, are increasingly trying to stimulate inclusive and sustainable growth in this segment of the economy. Non-tariff measures pose a particular challenge for SMEs, especially in terms of connecting to value chains.

Several categories of measures that influence integration into value chains fall under the Aid for Trade initiative, in particular trade facilitation and the quality of infrastructure. The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation represents a historic opportunity to simplify border procedures and reduce trade costs. The Trade Facilitation Agreement has already achieved tangible results in this area, but implementation of the TFA requires sustained financial and technical support, particularly for LDCs and landlocked countries. It will require It also requires a coherent approach at regional and national levels, involving not only customs but also other border agencies and the private sector.

For Trade helps to reduce the costs of trade, particularly when partner governments, regional economic communities and transport corridor initiatives integrate this issue into their development strategies and when other sources of funding are mobilized to ensure medium-term sustainability. With the right sequencing and sustained commitment from governments, development partners and the private sector, rapid progress is possible. Research shows that regional initiatives to reduce the costs of trade are growing in some regions, while in others the expected efficiency gains are not materializing. These Aid for Trade flows have been maintained during the financial crisis, and other sources of development funding (i.e. new actors and new approaches) are emerging. The challenge is how to use this aid as a catalyst to mobilize other sources of development finance, bearing in mind the objective of inclusive and sustainable growth and ensuring the equitable distribution of funds, particularly for LDCs.

Achieving the inclusive and sustainable growth that is at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda will require concerted and continued action in the area of trade, including reducing the costs of trade. Aid for Trade can be used to leverage other sources of finance and as a catalyst for the sustainable transformation that is at the heart of the ODCs). Reducing the costs of trade is an area where the private sector has much to contribute - and the development community has much to learn about how to integrate the private sector into development planning frameworks.

MONITORING AID FOR TRADE

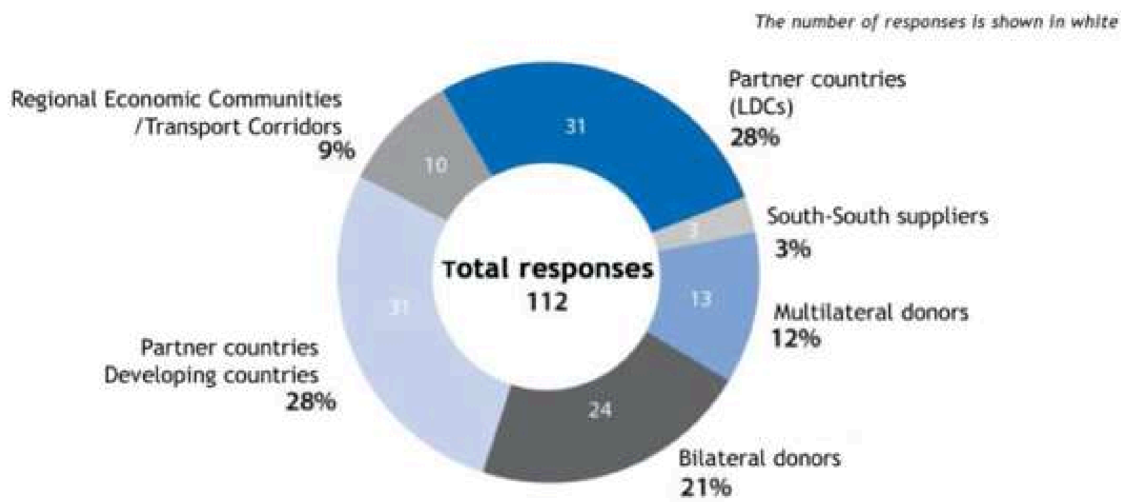
This is the fifth Aid for Trade monitoring report. It aims to link accountability at local and regional levels with a global review process to build genuine partnerships and create incentives to deliver results in terms of trade performance, economic growth and poverty reduction. The monitoring framework ensures transparency regarding the demand for Aid for Trade, based on the following parameters: the priority given to trade in development strategies, the response in terms of Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements, the results in terms of trade capacity building, and the impact in terms of trade performance and poverty reduction.

The framework comprises a qualitative and a quantitative component. The qualitative component is based on self-assessments, case studies, evaluations and empirical studies. The quantitative component tracks global Aid for Trade flows based on data from the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS), following the Aid for Trade indicators best suited to measuring Aid for Trade flows defined by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade (WT/AFT/I).

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MONITORING EXERCISE?

In 2015, 62 developing countries (half of which were LDCs) submitted an Aid for Trade self-assessment as part of the monitoring exercise. In addition, ten organizations responsible for facilitating trade through transport corridors participated in this exercise for the first time. A total of 37 donors participated in the 2015 survey, including 24 bilateral donors and 13 multilateral donors. In addition, three providers of South-South trade-related assistance (China, Chile and Indonesia) submitted a self-assessment. However, statistical data on their programs is insufficient and has to be obtained from indirect sources (see Chapter 3).

Figure 0.1: Questionnaires, by respondent

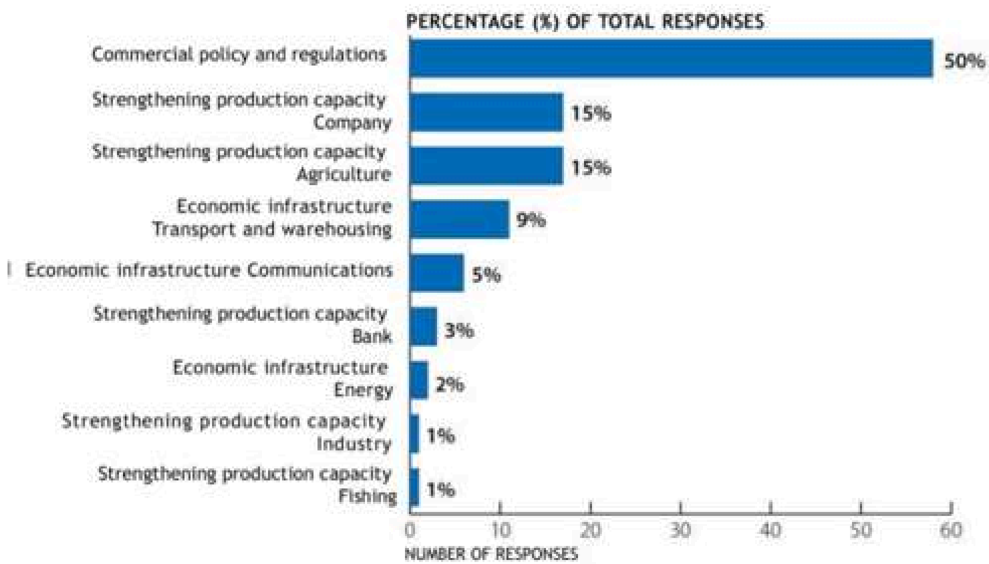


Source: Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade monitoring exercise (2015)
StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933240669

As part of the 2015 monitoring exercise, the public and private sectors were also asked to submit case studies on

Aid for Trade programs. This followed a successful invitation to submit case studies in 2011, which resulted in a joint OECD/WTO publication entitled ‘Aid for Trade in Action’ (OECD/WTO, 2013). The purpose of this invitation was to look in more depth at the objectives, challenges and processes of trade-related assistance to better understand outcomes - including what worked well in the delivery of Aid for Trade, what were the key success factors and what lessons governments and practitioners could learn from experience.

Figure 0.2 Case Studies, by sector



Source joint OECD/EMC Aid for trade monitoring exercise

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933240678

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The Aid for Trade initiative has enabled the active engagement of many organizations that are helping developing countries, and in particular the least developed among them, to build the infrastructure and supply-side capacity they need to connect to regional and global markets and to improve their trade performance. Some of these organizations have written chapters dealing with specific aspects of the issue of reducing the costs of trade for inclusive and sustainable growth that are relevant to their areas of expertise. In addition, the World Economic Forum has presented the business perspective on these issues. These chapters are published under the responsibility of the international organizations concerned.

Chapter 1, written by the World Trade Organization, examines the importance of the costs of trade for inclusive and sustainable growth. It defines the costs of trade and explains that policies are important to reduce these costs in goods and services markets. It then illustrates the magnitude of the costs of trade for many developing countries and shows that reducing these costs will lead to increased trade and potentially higher incomes, particularly in developing countries. It explains how LDC and developing country governments are using Aid for Trade to support efforts to address the high costs of trade and to integrate countries into regional and global trade networks. The analysis shows that there is good reason to believe that developing countries and their partners are taking this issue seriously and that there is a strong theoretical and practical basis for their actions in this area.

Chapter 2, written by the World Bank, draws on recent advances in trade theory and empirical studies to deduce the costs of trade from the patterns of trade and production observed in countries. These elements are then used to describe the recent evolution of trade costs, with a focus on the developing world. The data shows that developing countries, particularly low-income countries, suffer from relatively high trade costs. Some middle-income countries have been successful in reducing these costs, but low-income and sub-Saharan African countries are doing so much more slowly, and risk being left behind in the global trading economy. However, empirical research suggests that a range of measures can be effective in reducing trade costs, including those aimed at facilitating trade and improving logistics performance, connectivity and the business environment.

Chapter 3, produced by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, analyses Aid for Trade policies, priorities and flows. It shows that US$246.5 billion was disbursed in Aid for Trade between 2006 and 2013, with a further US$190 billion in trade-related Other Public Sector Assistance (OPSGA). The chapter then summarizes the findings of empirical studies, evaluations and case studies showing the impact of this traderelated support. Another section examines the trade-related priorities of partner and donor countries and whether donors are aligning their support with these priorities, including to reduce the costs of trade. The final section analyses the short-term prospects for Aid for Trade flows.

Chapter 4, written by the World Trade Organization, discusses the landmark WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). It begins with a brief explanation of the new agreement. It then analyses the needs of developing countries and, in particular, the least developed countries (LDCs), as well as the support made available by donors who provide data to the OECD CRS. CAFE provides a new framework for the significant and ongoing support provided by donors over recent years to facilitate exchanges. However, developing countries are still concerned that the specific support needed to implement Category C provisions (those that require support to implement) is not available or tailored to their implementation difficulties - a concern that led the WTO to create the Trade Facilitation Agreement Mechanism.

Chapter 5, written by the Enhanced Integrated Framework, focuses on reducing the costs of trade and LDCs. It begins by examining why trade costs are important, particularly for LDCs. It then analyses trends in LDC trade costs over the last ten years. The next section of the chapter examines the priorities of LDCs in reducing trade costs and the role of development partners. Drawing on the experience of the EIF, the chapter also looks at what works and what does not, and what improvements are needed to address the trade cost challenges faced by LDCs.

Chapter 6, written by the OECD, examines how trade costs and trade facilitation affect the ability of firms to connect to regional and global value chains (MVCs). It begins with an analysis of global and regional value chains and looks in particular at how countries participate in MVCs and what determines their participation. The chapter then provides a regional perspective on the costs of trade and, more specifically, on trade infrastructure and trade facilitation. It then examines regional Aid for Trade (and trade facilitation) initiatives and their results.

Chapter 7, written by the International Trade Centre, analyses how Aid for Trade can help reduce the burden of trade costs on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries. First, it defines SMEs and explains why the fixed costs of trade are important to them. It then discusses how trade support institutions can help reduce these and other costs, which are often related to SMEs' difficulty in finding buyers.

Chapter 8, written by the OECD, looks at how to increase private sector involvement in Aid for Trade. It first describes the changing context for public-private development cooperation, and then looks at how OECD countries are encouraging private sector involvement to foster economic growth and development. It then looks at donor support for productive capacity building and examines the results of these programs. The final section highlights some of the lessons learned from working with the private sector to achieve development results.

This chapter 9, written by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, discusses the role of trade in the post-2015 development agenda and the implications for the Aid for Trade initiative. It explains that trade is a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can help LDCs achieve them. Finally, it shows how the usefulness of Aid for Trade can be enhanced in the new development environment.

Chapter 10, written by the World Economic Forum, argues that it is important to involve the private sector in Aid for Trade planning from the outset. Ongoing dialogue between government and the private sector can help tailor reforms to users' needs and improve their impact. The chapter explains that this should not be limited to trade issues, but should also apply to investment issues. Finally, the chapter provides some examples of successful business initiatives to reach the trade tipping points.

Chapter 11, written by the OECD and the WTO, examines whether the Aid for Trade initiative is still adequate to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, build the supply capacity and trade infrastructure they need to implement and benefit from the WTO Agreements and, more generally, to expand their trade. The conclusion highlights some of the main achievements and challenges of the Initiative and suggests that a focus on reducing the costs of trade and investment could serve as a rallying point for integrated approaches to inclusive and sustainable development.

This remainder of the report contains the Aid for Trade factsheets for the countries that participated in the monitoring exercise and the statistical data on Aid for Trade used in the report. Finally, all the information used in this report, including self-assessments and case studies, is available on the OECD/WTO Aid for Trade website: www.aid4trade.org.

Table 0.1 Answers to the Question form on Aid for Trade

	Overall Total	Country Partner	PMA	Donors	Sout-South Cooperation
Answers 2015	South-South	62	31	37	3
Answers 2013	133	80	36	43	9
Answers 2011	146	84	31	43	10

Source Joint OECD/WTO Aid for monotoring exercice (2015)

Table 0.2 Partners Countries Answers to the Aid for trade question form

Region	Answers to Question form 2015	Answers to Question form 2013
Africa (28)	Benin, Botswana, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gambia,Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauricius Island, Nigeria, Ouganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sqaziland, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe	Benin, Botswana, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gambia,Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauricius Island, Nigeria, Ouganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sqaziland, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Kenya, Gabon, Mozambia, Liberia,Cabo Verde
Arab Countries and Middle East (1)	Yemen	Jordania, Oman, Yemen
Asia and Pacific (14)	Bangladesh, Bhoutan, Cambodgia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa, Papua-New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tuvalu	Bangladesh, Bhoutan, Cambodgia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa, Papua-New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tuvalu
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (1)	Afghanistan	Afghanistan, Turkey
Latine America and Caribbean (16)	Antigua -et Barbuda, Belize, Colombia, Costa-Rica, Domincan Republic, El Salvador, Grenade, Guatemala, Haïti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St-lucia, Trinité And Tobbago	Antigua -et Barbuda, Belize, Colombia, Costa-Rica, Domincan Republic, El Salvador, Grenade, Guatemala, Haïti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St-lucia, Trinité And Tobbago
PMA (31)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhoutan, Burkina-Faso, Cambodge, Comores, Gambia, Guinea, Guine-Bissau, Haïti, RDP, Lao, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Ouganda, Central Africa republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Island, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Vanuatu, Yemen	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhoutan, Burkina-Faso, Cambodge, Comores, Gambia, Guinea, Guine-Bissau, Haïti, RDP, Lao, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Ouganda, Central Africa republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Island, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia

Source Joint OECD/WTO Aid for monotoring exercice (2015)

Table 0.3 Donor country responses of the Aid for Trade Question Form

Region	Answers to Question form 2015	Answers to Question form 2013
Bilateral Donors (24)	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan,Korea, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway, UNDP, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdem, United States, Uzbékistan, Chinese Taipei, EU.	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan,Korea, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway, UNDP, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdem, United States, Uzbékistan, Chinese Taipei, EU.
Multilateral Donors (13)	BAFD, BASD, BERD, BID, BLSD, (SIFC) ITC,CNUCED,PNUD, CEA-ONU, CEE-ONU, ONUDI,CESAP, World Bank	BAFD, BASD, BERD, BID, BLSD, (SIFC) ITC,CNUCED,PNUD, CEA-ONU, CEE-ONU, ONUDI,CESAP, World Bank

Source Joint OECD/WTO Aid for monotoring exercice (2015)

Table 0.4 Answers from south south cooperation providers to the Aid for trade question form

Region	Answers to Question form 2015	Answers to Question form 2013
3	Chili, China, Indonesia	Chili, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Morocco,Indonesia, Sudan, Oman

Source Joint OECD/WTO Aid for monotoring exercice (2015)

Table 0.5 Answers to the Question form from regional economic communities/transport corridors

Answers to Question form 2015	Regional Economic Communities	Region
10	NCTTCA, OECO, Trade Mark East Africa, SIEGA, OCTA, COMESA, CARICOM SADC,FIFS, CEDEAO	Afrique (5), Amérique latine et Caraïbes (3) Asie et Pacifique (2)

Source Joint OECD/WTO Aid for monotoring exercice (2015)

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