

# Trade Facilitation Support Program

Making trade faster and  
more affordable



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

## The Program

The Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP) was launched in June 2014 to assist developing countries in aligning their trade practices with the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA). The TFSP is designed to provide practical and demand-driven assistance, and supports client countries with:

- Identifying existing constraints and bottlenecks to cross-border trade;
- Designing and planning for the implementation of reforms; and
- Increasing the predictability, transparency, and harmonization of systems and procedures in line with international standards covering import, export, and transit activities.



## Areas of Assistance

- Undertake WTO TFA gap assessments and implementation of reform action plans
- Support in establishing and strengthening of National Trade Facilitation Committees
- Assist in designing risk-based approaches for border clearance
- Prepare for single window implementation
- Support in ratification and notification of the WTO TFA
- Facilitate knowledge sharing
- Leverage global and regional partnerships to ensure optimal delivery of support





Recognizing the important roles of both the public and private sectors in trade facilitation, the World Bank Group implements the TFSP by drawing on the unique expertise of both the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

We work closely with global and regional partners in delivering joint initiatives and activities to ensure a coordinated rollout of technical assistance.





## TFSP Metrics

Since inception, the TFSP has provided TFA implementation support to 47 countries, most of which are Least Developed Countries. The largest share of countries receiving support are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Support is also provided to fragile and conflict affected countries.

TFSP has helped countries significantly improve their alignment with the WTO TFA. As of the end of April 2019, the overall WTO TFA alignment scores of TFSP client countries had risen from 45 % to 53 % <sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Through the development of the TFA Tracking Tool, the TFSP is able to demonstrate improvement of countries' alignment with the WTO TFA. Measurement takes a whole of government approach and covers (i) legal/policy, (ii) implementation, and (iii) operational dimensions.



## Regional Breakdown of the Active Trade Facilitation Support Program Portfolio<sup>2</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa 27 %

Europe and Central Asia 23 %

East Asia Pacific 21 %

Latin America and Caribbean 21 %

South Asia 6 %

Middle East and North Africa 2 %

<sup>2</sup> As of April 2019.

## Find out more

[www.worldbank.org/tfsp](http://www.worldbank.org/tfsp)

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