



Trade Facilitation Support Program

Zambia: Donor partners witness trade improvements

OVERVIEW

The Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP) was launched in June 2014 and receives support from nine development partners – Australia, Canada, EU, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden UK, USA. The TFSP provides implementation support for countries seeking assistance in aligning their trade practices with the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA), which entered into force in February 2017. Over 60 countries have requested assistance from the TFSP and implementation support has so far been provided to 47 countries. The largest share of countries supported come from Sub-Saharan Africa (26%).



OUR WORK IN ZAMBIA

The TFSP has supported the Government of Zambia for a number of years in improving trade facilitation and border management procedures to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods.



“The World Bank Group was instrumental in helping identify gaps in trade facilitation. The TFA gave us an opportunity to begin the reform of the whole trade agenda,” said Ms. Kayula Siame, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry.

Some of the TFSP supported measures in Zambia include: the enactment of the Border Management Bill 2018 (reduced the time to import/export by 57%), a time release study to better understand bottlenecks, the integration of risk management into border inspections (reduced mandatory processing time from 48 to 12 hours for border agencies, which has led to an increase in ZRA revenue by 41%), the launch of a single payment point (enabling the ZRA to collect on behalf of other agencies such as Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency, Zambia Metrology Agency, Zambia Road Traffic and Safety Agency), the launch of a trade information portal (made it easier for importers to comply but also for the ZRA to enforce standards), and the implementation of a single window (increased non-tax revenue collection due to improved compliance).

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DONOR PARTNERS WITNESS IMPROVEMENTS

From April 2-4, 2019, donor partners from Canada, the EU, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK visited Zambia to witness the work of the TFSP first-hand and interact with key stakeholders. The mission was jointly organized by the TFSP and Zambia's National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), which coordinates the country's trade reform agenda and is comprised of both the public and private sectors.

In Lusaka, a series of information sessions were held with high-level government stakeholders, including the Chair of the NTFC, the Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of National Development Planning, and the Commissioner of Modernization at the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA). The aim was to increase the understanding of the impact of TFSP support and better understand the government's future needs and commitments.



“Reform is a process and you have to keep at it. The issue of ownership is a key factor for success,” said Mr. Mushuma Mulenga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Development Planning, highlighting the need for long-term commitment and local ownership of trade reforms.

The donor partners also travelled to the Chirundu border between Zambia and Zimbabwe to witness the recent progress made with the establishment of a one-stop border post (launched in 2009) and additional trade reforms supported by the TFSP.

The visit to the border post was well received by the donor participants. One partner stated that ***“the visit to the border was very interesting and really helped with understanding how support worked in practice.”***



The Trade Facilitation Support Program is delivered in partnership with:



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