

The Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance: the role of donors

Programme

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague, 28-29 April 2003

The objective of the workshop is to widen and deepen donor engagement in the IF and thereby to enhance its success and impact.

The workshop has three specific goals:

1. To bring together relevant actors of the main donors in the IF (country desks, thematic desks such as private sector development, trade development, enabling environment etc, PRSP-staff, where possible field staff of IF Facilitators);
2. To inform participants on the IF and facilitate a discussion on the importance of trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building for development and poverty reduction;
3. To analyse the IF as it is implemented in various countries and identify the gaps and 'missing links' in the IF process i.e. where donor interventions are lacking, could be improved etc., with a *special focus on the follow-up to the DTIS*. Formulate solutions and best practices and practical ways to realise them.

Approach:

- Combine informative sessions (information and discussion) with sessions focussing on the functioning of the IF (country cases, exchange of experience, identification of bottlenecks and mechanisms for improvement);
- Workshop sessions are brief, with short introductions by experts and donor staff who have primarily a practical and not theoretical perspective;
- Anticipate on participants' perspective and their possible skepticism regarding the beneficial impact of trade on poverty; make use of experiences of donors who did already organise similar seminars;
- Try to work towards concrete outcomes: a step-by step IF manual for donors, a donor network, synergies with existing programs, a newsletter etc.

Participants:

- relevant staff from: Norway, Sweden, Danmark, Germany, France, UK, Canada, Switzerland, European Commission, USA, the Netherlands
- Field staff of Facilitators and active donors in 4-5 IF countries
- ITC, World Bank (trade experts added to Africa Region staff), WTO, OECD/DAC , UNDP, UNCTAD, IMF

28 April 2003: The IF, trade capacity-building and its relevance for poverty reduction

- 9.00- 9.15 *Opening*
by Ms Agnes Van Ardenne, Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation: The importance of trade capacity building for development and of meeting commitments in the Doha Declaration,
- 9.15-10.30 *The IF, what it is and how it works; Links between trade, development and pro-poor-growth*
- characteristics of the IF: History, intergovernmental/agency, structure, objectives, brief overview of the IF process.
 - Trade promotes economic growth; how to achieve pro poor economic growth. Importance of a trade integration strategy that fosters pro-poor economic growth.
- Ms Yvonne Tsikata, World Bank: The IF
Mr Jan Bade (Netherlands MoFA): Links between Trade-Growth –Poverty Reduction
- 10.30 -11.00 Coffee/tea break
- 11.00-12.30 *Integrating the trade integration strategy in the PRSP*
- Explain why trade integration needs to be embedded in development strategies: trade integration is an incentive for LLDCs to reform their economies; this entails a substantive behind-the border-reform agenda both to tackle supply-side constraints and to build-up a wide range of necessary institutions. The country can only deal with this agenda by setting priorities against other poverty reduction priorities.
- Introduction: Mr Jan Bade (senior trade and development adviser, Netherlands MoFA)
- Examples of how this is done in the IF:
What are the concrete experiences with integrating trade development strategies in the PRSP process and what lessons can be learnt;
How can donors support the political commitment and institutional capacity-building required to facilitate the trade integration process;
What is the role of implementing WTO Agreements within the selected priorities;
- Kick-off:
- Trade, Growth and the PRSP in Bolivia, by Mr Marten de Boer, PRSP Coordinator Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - How to support the private sector in its role as promotor of trade development, Ms Barbara Joziassse (Center for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries) and Mr Francesco Geoffroy, (International Trade Centre)

- The role of donors in supporting integration of the IF in the PRSP, Mr Andrea Nicolaj, European Commission

12.30-13.30

Lunch

13.30-14.30

What is a DTIS (Diagnostic Trade Integration Study)?

Structure and content of a typical DTIS and examples of different countries. With special emphasis on the poverty analysis in a DTIS.

Introduction: Mr Sarath Rajapatirana, Team Leader in Ethiopia

Poverty analysis in the DTIS:

Input by Mr Jan Bade on the impact of trade liberalisation on the poor, adjustment strategies by the poor and policy measures in a pro-poor trade integration strategy. This session will highlight examples of *policy measures and their impact on the poor*, in particular instruments to improve access to markets for the poor and instruments to mitigate adverse impacts of liberalisation

14.30-15.30

Trade-capacity building activities by donors and their role in the IF

Donors are active in a wide range of TRTA activities, including projects for private sector development as well as policy dialogue in the context of the sectoral approach.

How to link these activities to the trade integration strategies in the IF?

How to coordinate or harmonise donor activities? How could the OECD-WTO database on TRTA be used?

Introduction: DFID

15.30-16.00

Coffee/tea break

16.00- 17.30

Plenary session on the state of play in IF countries: A one and a half hour session to go through the status of the IF in several countries and facilitate engagement of interested donors.

Facilitators will give a brief review of IF in the following countries:

Cambodia: UNDP

Ethiopia: European Commission

Mauritania: European Commission

Senegal: European Commission

Madagascar: World Bank

Yemen: Netherlands Mission

Lesotho: DFID

Mali: USAID

Burundi: France, dree

Malawi: Norad

29 April 2003: Improving the role of donors in the IF

9.00-10.00

The IF step-by step: Guidelines on the IF Process

This presentation gives a systematic overview of each step in the IF process, making participants familiar with the IF while at the same time highlighting gaps and bottlenecks to be discussed in the workshop.

Introduction: Leen Solleveld, Advisor at the World Bank

At the end of this session participants agree on the main topics for discussion

10.00-11.30

Discussion on gaps and bottlenecks

e.g.:

- Donors lack information on the IF;
- It is difficult for donors to actively follow the IF process once it has started;
- It is difficult to engage the ministries of finance in the IF process;
- How to involve the private sector and civil society;
- Timing: donor decision-making procedures do not synchronise with the IF process;
- Coordination: donors have different approaches and procedures and levels of financial decision-making;
- Variance in donor presence in IF countries;
- Potential role of the WTO/OECD Database;
- How to ensure that all areas are covered by donors (relatively little donor interest in institution-building activities compared to e.g. private sector development);
- What is the best way to prepare the national workshop;
- Organising the follow-up to the national workshop;
- Best approaches for the follow-up: supporting the process of project formulation while at the same time ensuring that financing will be available for short-term needs

11.30-12.00

Coffee/Tea break

12.00-13.00

Plenary, reporting and formulating recommendations

Wrap-up and Conclusions by the Chairperson

13.00-14.30

Lunch

14.30

End of workshop