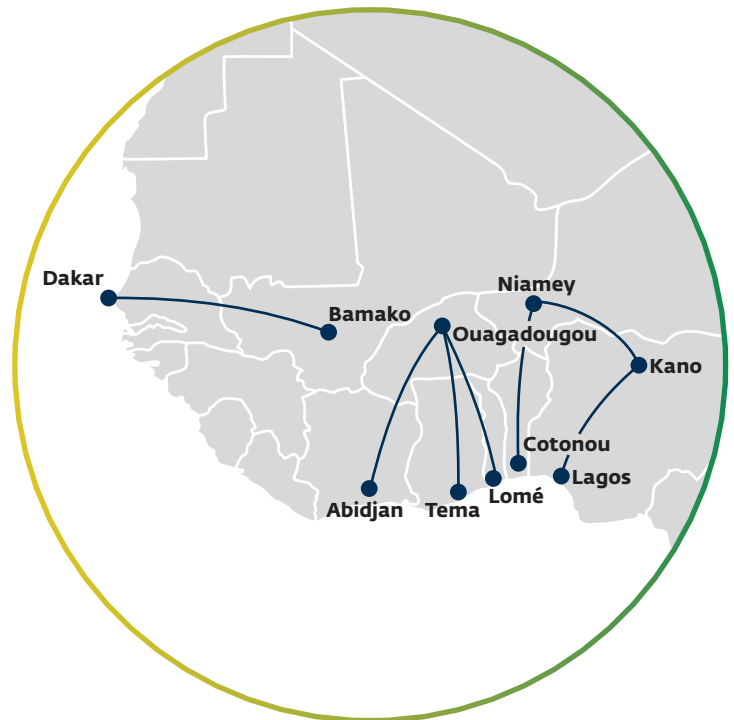


About the TFWA Program

The Trade Facilitation West Africa (TFWA) Program is a 5-year regional multi-donor trade initiative funded by the European Union, USAID, Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The TFWA Program is managed by the World Bank Group and the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) – the program's implementing partners – with strategic oversight and guidance provided by a Steering Committee, chaired by the ECOWAS Commission and supported by the UEMOA Commission as deputy chair.

TFWA aims to improve the free and efficient movement of goods in the region and internationally by reducing the time and cost of trade borne by the private sector in West Africa, and by strengthening regional trading networks' ability to take advantage of these improvements. The TFWA Program works across six priority corridors:

- **Tema-Ouagadougou**
- **Abidjan – Ouagadougou**
- **Lomé- Ouagadougou**
- **Cotonou – Niamey**
- **Dakar – Bamako**
- **Lagos – Kano – Niamey**



BURKINA FASO

Similar to most West African countries, trade costs in Burkina Faso remain exorbitantly high. While tariffs have been reduced, administrative barriers such as unnecessary documentary requirements, cumbersome clearance procedures, and system/technical delays, among other barriers, continue to raise transaction costs and negatively impact trade flows. As a landlocked country, Burkina Faso is highly dependent on the ports of neighboring countries—including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin and Togo—for the development of its foreign trade.

In response to these challenges, the TFWA program has three main objectives with a strong emphasis on gender:



Improving trade facilitation measures in West Africa and implementing them more efficiently



Improving the movement of goods along selected corridors



Reducing barriers for small-scale traders and other key stakeholders, especially women, with trade facilitation reforms and programs

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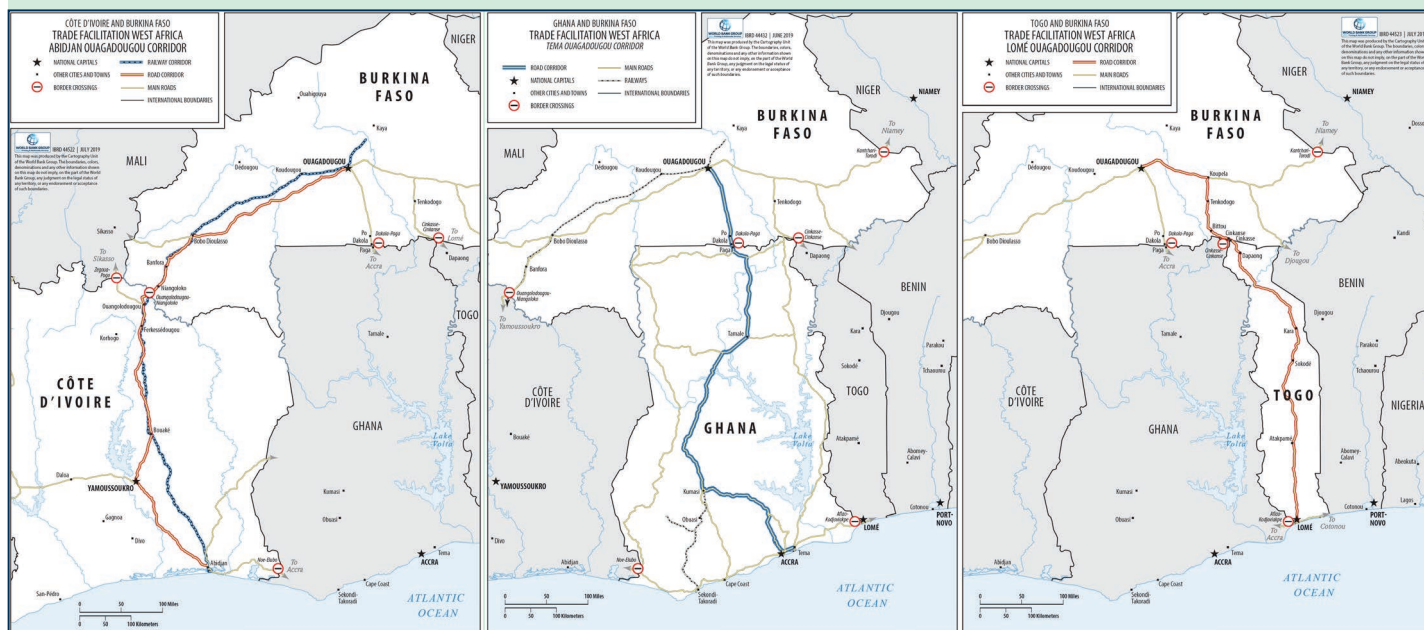
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Three of the TFWA Program's six priority corridors run through Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso thus represents a pivotal part of the reform agenda required for the program to meet its objectives.



Among other activities in Burkina Faso, the TFWA Program will work along these corridors to:

- Strengthen the gender capacity of NTFC members and mainstream gender into NTFC workings
- Support the improvement of the customs risk management system.
- Support the upgrading of the single window platform, SYLVIE, and its interconnection to the customs system (SYDONIA)
- Support the setting up of an observatoire de la célérité des opérations desédouanement (OCOD)—which is a partnership between the freight forwarders association, the exporters and importers association, and the Customs Commission—to advocate for the efficient clearing of goods.
- Develop and support the implementation of a risk management strategy specific to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) related issues affecting trade facilitation.
- Improve Border Agency Cooperation along the Tema-Ouagadougou, Abidjan-Ouagadougou, and Lomé-Ouagadougou corridors.
- Improve the effectiveness of Burkina Faso's NTFC.
- Review and support the modification of the Burkina Faso National Customs Code.
- Improve the implementation of the customs interconnectivity between Burkina and Côte d'Ivoire and extend the customs interconnection to rail transportation. The TFWA Program also seeks to support customs interconnectivity between all ECOWAS countries.
- Support the promotion of containerized transit trade in the Burkina Faso trade triangle corridors.
- Organize an awareness-raising and training campaign for small-scale cross-border traders (SSCBTs).
- Pilot a Simplified Trade Regime (STR) for SSCBTs.



For more information on the TFWA Program, please visit www.tfwa.ecowas.int or contact: info-tfwa@ecowas.int

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