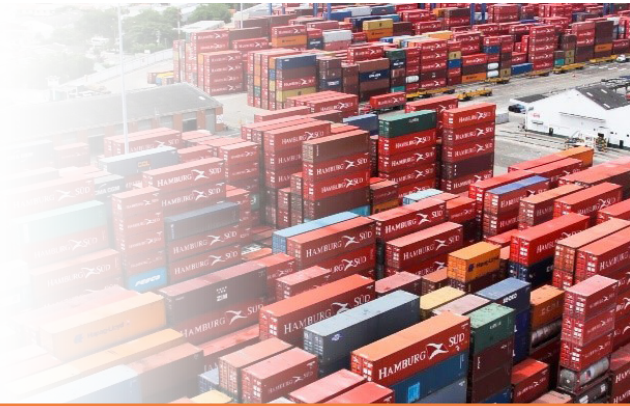


THE TRADE FACILITATION WEST AFRICA (TFWA) PROGRAM HAS CREATED MEASURABLE IMPACT ACROSS THE REGION



BELOW ARE SOME OF THE PROGRAM'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



The TFWA Program **supported the creation of the ECOWAS Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (RTFC)** to facilitate National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) coordination across West Africa.



The program **helped create five NTFC trade and gender sub-committees** - in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria - to mainstream gender into national trade agendas.



The TFWA Program **supported ECOWAS Member States in fulfilling their World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) obligations**. Adherence to the TFA will help reduce the overall cost and time required to trade across the region.

THE TFWA PROGRAM ADVANCED THE WTO TFA AGENDA BY SUPPORTING:

- **3** countries received a deadline extension, and subsequently met the new deadline.
- **1** country shifted categories.
- **3** countries submitted their definitive dates for Category B, and one for Category C.
- **5** countries are receiving ongoing assistance in preparation for an upcoming Category C deadline.
- **7** countries submitted their transparency notifications.
- **2** countries submitted all of their technical assistance requirements, including updates on arrangements and progress.
- **6** countries submitted their 22.3 notification related to donor coordination.

The TFWA Program supported the ECOWAS Commission's Trade and Customs Directorate and:

- Helped expand the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme.
- Supported the drafting and partial validation of 10 customs regulations.
- Consolidated the Customs Union and accompanying notification.
- Helped draft regional transit guarantee text that was adopted by ECOWAS Member States.
- Supported the preparation and validation of IT architecture for ECOWAS electronic certificates of origin.
- Mainstreamed internal processes and improved monitoring capacities.
- Helped the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Mutual Assistance and Customs Cooperation become operational. More recently, Regulations on Advance Rulings and on Duty Relief were adopted.
- Fostered dialogue through internal and regional fora, such as the Inter-Departmental Committee for Trade Facilitation and the RTFC.



The TFWA Program supported regional integration and customs interconnection. Key achievements include:

01

Piloting customs interconnection between Mali and Senegal.

02

Expanding the customs interconnection between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso for goods transported by rail, as well as via road.

03

Supporting the ECOWAS Community Computer Centre (CCC) in Togo to serve as a central data collection point for transit data.

The program supported small-scale traders with a focus on gender by:

- Strengthening trader (and trader association) capacity and awareness levels.
- Designing ad-hoc regimes to simplify and streamline customs clearance.
- Promoting financial inclusion.
- Helping small traders and women traders increase their access to transport.

The program established the important role of the private sector and civil society in regional and national dialogues on trade facilitation and:

- Raised three issues (ETLS simplification, digitizing maritime operations in the region, and awareness of women around trade regional regulation) for resolution in the ECOWAS decision making process.
- Identified 569 CSOs and completed a capacity needs assessment. As a next step, the program aims to strengthen CSO participation across the region.

The TFWA Program supported a gap assessment on transport and logistics in Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

The TFWA Program supported various quantitative and qualitative diagnostics and impact evaluations to build knowledge and evidence on trade and gender in West Africa (including reflecting the impacts of COVID-19):

- Workshops were hosted in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo to discuss the findings and recommendations of these diagnostics on small-scale cross-border traders and the gender dimension of trade facilitation.



HIGHLIGHTS BY CORRIDOR

ABIDJAN – OUAGADOUGOU

- Assisted in the publication of an official quarantine pest list.
- Introduced the electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto).
- Operationalized SIGMAT rail along the corridor.
- Introduced an electronic system for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto).
- Introduced electronic SPS risk management.
- Assisted the revision of the national customs cooperation strategies (in the context of the operationalization of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Customs Cooperation).

DAKAR – BAMAKO

- Developed and piloted SIGMAT in partnership with Senegal and Mali.
- Provided business management training to groups of women entrepreneurs active on the Dakar-Bamako corridor.
- Strengthened the National Committee for Improving Competitiveness along the Dakar-Bamako corridor.
- Provided support for an MoU on road transportation along the Dakar-Bamako corridor.

COTONOU – NIAMEY

- Set the coordination platform with other technical assistance programs at borders.
- Introduced information sharing on trade facilitation among NTFC members.

LAGOS – KANO – NIAMEY

- Assisted the revision of the national customs cooperation strategies (in the context of the operationalization of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Customs Cooperation).

LOME – OUAGADOUGOU

- Assisted the publication of an official quarantine pest list.
- Introduced the electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto).

TEMA – OUAGADOUGOU

- Assisted the publication of an official quarantine pest list.
- Introduced the electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto).



HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNTRY



BENIN

- Helped set the groundwork to establish Benin's NTFC.
- Helped to improve risk management within customs.
- Helped draft a revised NTFC legal text.
- Integrated the Ministry of Gender Affairs within the NTFC membership.
- Supported the development of the NTFC workplan



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Operationalized the Ivorian single window's new electronic submissions module.
- Held a program management and stakeholder mapping training for NTFC members.
- Provided assistance with WTO notifications.
- Adopted a Gender and Trade strategy for the NTFC.
- Launched a project to adopt a Voluntary Compliance Framework within Customs to support a customer-centric service to traders
- Conducted a training on mirror data at the border and macro level.
- Conducted a training on Customs Attaches.



BURKINA FASO

- Upgraded SYLVIE, the country's single window platform.
- Interconnected SYLVIE and SYDONIA, the national customs system.
- Supported the revision of the customs code.
- Established the Observatory for the Celerity of Customs Clearance Operations.
- Conducted a training on mirror data at the border and macro level.
- Assisted with the adoption of NTFC legal texts (Decree, TOR) in December 2021.
- Provided assistance with WTO notifications.



GHANA

- Reviewed the legal text establishing the NTFC.
- Supported the development of an annual work plan for Ghana's NTFC.
- Established Ghana's first-ever NTFC gender sub-committee.



MALI

- Helped to secure approval for the NTFC's new legal framework.
- Supported an NTFC self-assessment to identify key needs.
- Supported the adoption of the NTFC 2021-2022 Action Plan.
- Provided assistance with WTO notifications.
- Revitalized the Transport Observatory.
- Validated the road drivers / transporters' guide and the report on updated texts governing trade and transport in Mali.
- Procured IT equipment for Mali Customs.



HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNTRY



NIGER

- Supported the NTFC by:
 - Reviewing the NTFC legal text and ensuring the operational linkage with the AfCFTA.
 - Establishing a NTFC Secretariat.
 - Defining the NTFC's organizational structure.
 - Completing and validating an NTFC self-assessment to identify key needs.
 - Piloting information sharing on trade facilitation among NTFC members.
 - Fulfilling the WTO TFA notification obligations.
- Helped to improve risk management within customs.
- Conducted a training on mirror data at the border and macro level.



NIGERIA

- Helped update and validate the Nigerian Trade Facilitation roadmap by the NTFC.
- Supported the development of an action plan for roadmap implementation.
- Helped establish a gender working group where both the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment are represented.
- Completed an NTFC self-assessment to identify key needs.
- Conducted capacity-building training on trade facilitation, single window, risk management, and border coordination for senior and middle management within customs.



SENEGAL

- Supported customs to modernize processes and procedures.
- Supported capacity building activities for transporters and shippers focused on loading, stowing, and securing techniques for loads.
- Prepared legislative and regulatory texts related to the transportation of goods by road.
- Supported an NTFC self-assessment to identify key needs.
- Provided assistance with WTO notifications.



TOGO

- Supported an NTFC self-assessment to identify key needs.
- Helped update the Trade Facilitation roadmap by the NTFC.
- Supported the drafting of a new presidential decree on the NTFC.
- Supported operational linkage between the NTFC and the AfCFTA strategy.
- Provided assistance with WTO notifications.
- Supported the systematic integration of Quality Assurance within the OTR, Togo's Revenue Authority.
- Helped improve the risk management within Customs.
- Launched a project to adopt a Voluntary Compliance Framework within Customs to support a customer-centric service to traders

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



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