

KEY FACTS

- **The Trade Facilitation West Africa (TFWA) Program** is an initiative driven by multiple development partners to improve trade facilitation in West Africa.
- Trade facilitation plays an important role in development, enhancing countries' competitiveness and decreasing the transaction costs of goods and services.
- Free and efficient trade also contributes to inclusive economic growth, increased employment, and food security.
- The TFWA Program is supporting West African countries and two regional bodies – the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, each composed of West African member countries – to implement a combination of targeted trade facilitation interventions.
- The TFWA Program includes a special focus on improving the position of women, especially small-scale women traders.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The TFWA Program is a five-year initiative (September 2018 – June 2023) and benefits from a total of \$75 million in funding. The TFWA Program 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.

Specifically, the program aims to achieve this objective by:



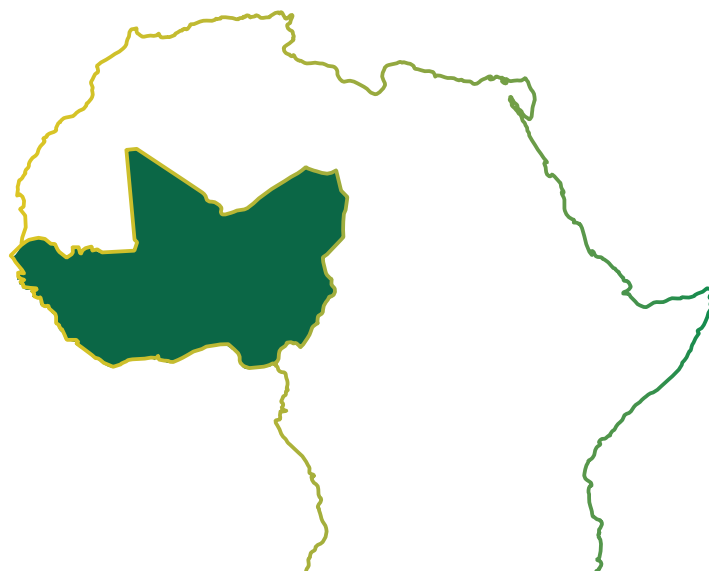
Improving trade facilitation measures in West Africa and implementing them more efficiently



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



GOVERNANCE

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.

PROGRAM SCOPE

The TFWA Program is a five-year initiative (September 2018 – June 2023) and benefits from a total of \$75 million in funding.

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PROGRAM COMPONENTS & ACTIVITIES

Component 1



Trade facilitation measures improved and more efficiently implemented

The TFWA Program's first component focuses on **improving trade facilitation measures across the region**. To this end, Component 1 includes capacity building to strengthen the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions' ability to effectively carry out regional policy dialogue, design regional trade facilitation policies, and monitor these policies at both the national and regional levels.

Expected Outcomes:

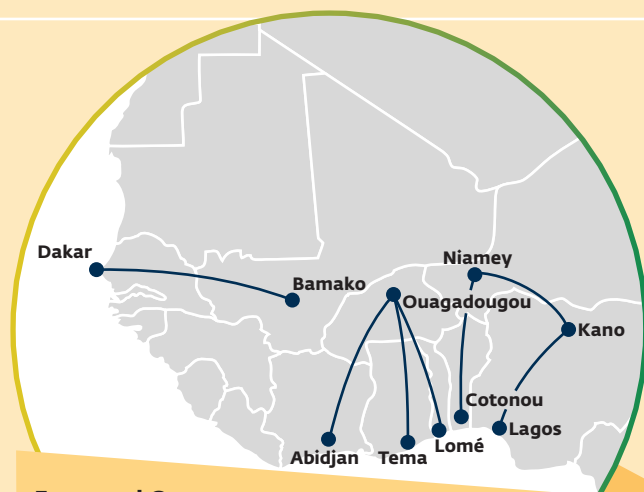
- Regional trade facilitation policies and instruments developed
- Trade facilitation monitoring and implementation capacities improved
- ECOWAS Common External Tariff implemented
- ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS) improved and ECOWAS Customs Code implemented
- World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement implemented

Component 2



More efficient movement of goods along selected corridors

The TFWA Program's second component focuses on the **efficient movement of goods**, improving regional transit along target corridors. This component aims to create an enabling environment for trade in the legal, regulatory, and procedural areas. To this end, Component 2 will address how laws, policies, procedures, capacity building, technology, and consultations can make these trade corridors more efficient.



Expected Outcomes:

- Customs and border regulations and procedures simplified along priority corridors
- Customs connectivity established and regional transit improved along priority corridors

Component 3



Barriers for small-scale traders reduced with an emphasis on improving conditions for women traders

The TFWA Program's third component **supports small-scale traders, with a focus on women traders**. At the same time, Component 3 aims to institute a regional and national advocacy and sensitization system, increase logistics and transport operator professionalization, and promote private sector associations and civil society organizations to be more effective stakeholders and partners in trade facilitation policy making.

Expected Outcomes:

- Border crossing for small-scale traders, including women, made more efficient, reducing costs and delays
- Private sector and civil society's role in regional and national trade facilitation dialogues strengthened
- Transport and logistics professionalized, increasing efficiency and reducing costs

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

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