

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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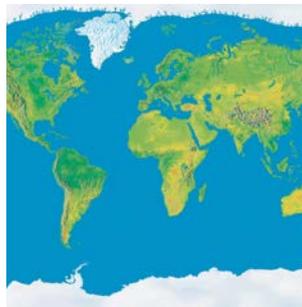
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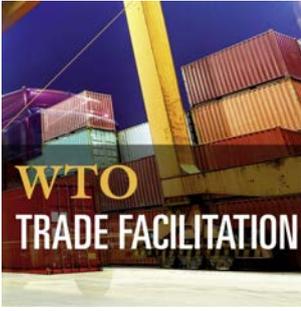
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTIVITIES

In 2018, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF or 'the Facility') directly supported **twenty-two demand-driven activities** contributing to the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA or 'the Agreement'). Training and presentations by WTO officials were delivered at these events to **over 4,400 participants**. Participant satisfaction at all events was high, with **90% of those questioned finding their expectations had been either met or exceeded**.

OUTCOMES

TFAF activities assisted WTO developing and Least Developed Country (LDC) Members to submit a total of **seventeen notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee within six weeks** of the respective event. **Two WTO Members presented their instrument of acceptance within one week** of attending a TFAF-funded activity which had presented the notification of ratification process and the current state of play as well as calling on all participants to submit their notifications in a timely fashion.

BUDGET

In 2018, the TFAF **spent a total of 690,588.82 Swiss Francs (CHF)** from an opening balance of CHF 6,582,297.39. TFAF Development partners Finland and France made contributions totalling CHF 347,200.00. The closing balance on 31 December 2018 was therefore CHF 6,227,609.13.

ADMINISTRATION

The TFAF also made progress at an administrative level, where **two new staff members** were recruited to manage the TFAF website and grant program.

GRANT PROGRAM

In October the **TFAF Grant Program** was launched at the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.



WEBSITE

The TFAF website had a total of **43,852 users** in 2018, generating 118,445 unique page views. Visitors peaked in October, which indicates a link to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee also held in that month. The top two countries with the most visits to the website were Mexico and the United States, with pages in English and Spanish receiving similar levels of attention.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Wherever possible the TFAF monitored its activities in terms of gender (measured by women's participation in events) and activities supporting Least Developed Countries (measured by LDC participation in events). Where WTO officials were invited to speak at events organized and monitored by others, this was not always possible. The results of this monitoring are included in the activity tracker annexed to this report.

INTRODUCTION



In 2018 the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement entered its first full calendar year of implementation, after entry into force in February 2017. Developing its activities to match and support this timeline, the focus of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility in 2018, was concentrated on assisting WTO developing and Least Developed Country Members with the following goals.

GOALS:

- (1) Submit their required notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee in a timely fashion, and to**
- (2) establish and reinforce their National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs). At the same time, TFAF also provided support to those Members still in the process of**
- (3) ratifying the agreement, and provided**
- (4) advice to Members seeking technical assistance and capacity building.**

These four goals are identified in the TFAF Operational Guidelines that were issued on 25 June 2015[1]. To make progress towards these goals, in 2018 the TFAF delivered coordinated activities under the four workstreams listed below.

[1] The Operational Guidelines are available on the Facility website at: <http://www.tfafacility.org/operational-guidelines>

WORKSTREAMS:

- A. Matchmaking and funding,**
- B. Ratification, notifications and implementation,**
- C. Implementation support and capacity building, and**
- D. Participation in external events.**

For the purposes of tracking progress, these are the same workstreams used in the annual work plans of the Facility and in the overall TFAF log frame. Stakeholders can therefore follow the logic of activities as they are outlined in the work plan, described in detail in the annual report, and then track their contribution to the overall goals of the Facility with reference to the log frame.

Where some activities cut across the workstreams and contribute to more than one of the goals, individual sessions, such as a specific presentation or training session given at a larger event, are detailed below under the most appropriate workstream.

At the start of the year, 126 of the 164 WTO Members had ratified the Agreement, just under 76% of the membership. Fourteen additional ratifications were received in 2018, reaching a total of 140. Over the course of the year, developing and LDC Members submitted 95 notifications related to TFA provisions on transparency, implementation and donor information.

While it is difficult to establish a direct causal relationship between the technical assistance activities organized by TFAF and an administrative process, requiring inputs from more than one government department, such as submitting a notification to a WTO committee, two ratifications (14% of the total received in 2018) and eighteen notifications (20% of the total received in 2018) were made by WTO Members in a short timescale following their participation in a TFAF-funded activity; details of these ratifications and notifications are given below under specific workstreams and activities. The TFAF therefore represented a clear and tangible contribution to the work of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee in 2018.

In 2018, two staff members were added to the team. The new website coordinator position is funded by the WTO Secretariat. The economic affairs officer responsible for managing the TFAF grant program is funded by the TFAF Facility trust fund. The team now comprises four full-time colleagues, one colleague working 50% for the TFAF, and regular interns undertaking specific projects and supporting the delivery of activities throughout the year.



TFAF ACTIVITIES IN 2018

In 2018, TFAF priorities were driven by the needs of developing and LDC Members, which focussed around the establishment and ongoing maintenance of National Trade Facilitation Committees, and the need to develop and strengthen mechanisms for Border Agency Cooperation. These priorities underpinned the activities organized in Cape Town and in Addis Ababa in November and are detailed below.

Under the direction of TFAF Development partners and based on clear messages received in the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee, a strong emphasis was placed on supporting developing and LDC Members to meet their notification commitments under the Agreement, including support to meet deadlines. This priority was reflected in all activities throughout the year but was also a major driver behind the TFAF organizing and supporting the attendance of Capital-based officials at the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee in October.



MATCHMAKING AND FUNDING

Matchmaking and funding are integrated in the TFAF's daily work

Throughout the year, WTO developing and LDC Members regularly visit WTO officials in their offices and communicate via telephone and email to pose informal questions and give updates on their TFA implementation needs. At the same time, ongoing informal communication and coordination with development partners, including international organizations as well as regional and bilateral development partners, as well as the formal updating of donor information on the TFAF website, means that WTO officials were well informed on both the supply and demand of TFA implementation support. This coordination function is an important part of the TFAF's work under goal (4), to provide advice to Members seeking technical assistance and capacity building. Matchmaking support therefore often takes the form of informal advice on which development partners and programs are active in specific regions or on specific topics.

The Facility also connects Members directly with partners who can provide the necessary implementation support and for technical assistance events to assist with TFA notifications.

In all TFAF events, information is provided on the support available, both from partners and the TFAF itself. In addition, the TFAF website provides an information page on each donor partner where more information can be found on development partners' activities. It also provides information on support provided in developing country profile pages.

In addition to this cross-cutting approach, and when appropriate, more formal, specific activities and sessions are focused on matchmaking and funding; these are described below.



TFAF GRANTS

In October 2018, at the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee meeting in Geneva, TFAF launched its grant program to an audience of all WTO Members, including 65 Capital-based officials from developing and LDCs (18), whose attendance was financed by the TFAF. Helping developing Members to gain access to implementation assistance, in the context of their commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), is a primary function of the TFAF.[1]

Any WTO developing country Member that is unable to find the assistance it needs to implement one of its notified Category C commitments can, through an Expression of Interest, request that the Facility assist in identifying donor partners on its behalf. The expression of interest will be circulated to all development partners operating in the relevant geographical area with the expertise to support the trade facilitation (TF) thematic topic in question. If the expression of interest does not identify a suitable partner, two types of funding remain available under the TFAF grant program:

Project preparation grants (PPGs), up to a maximum value of US\$30,000

Project implementation grants (PGs), up to a maximum value of US\$200,000

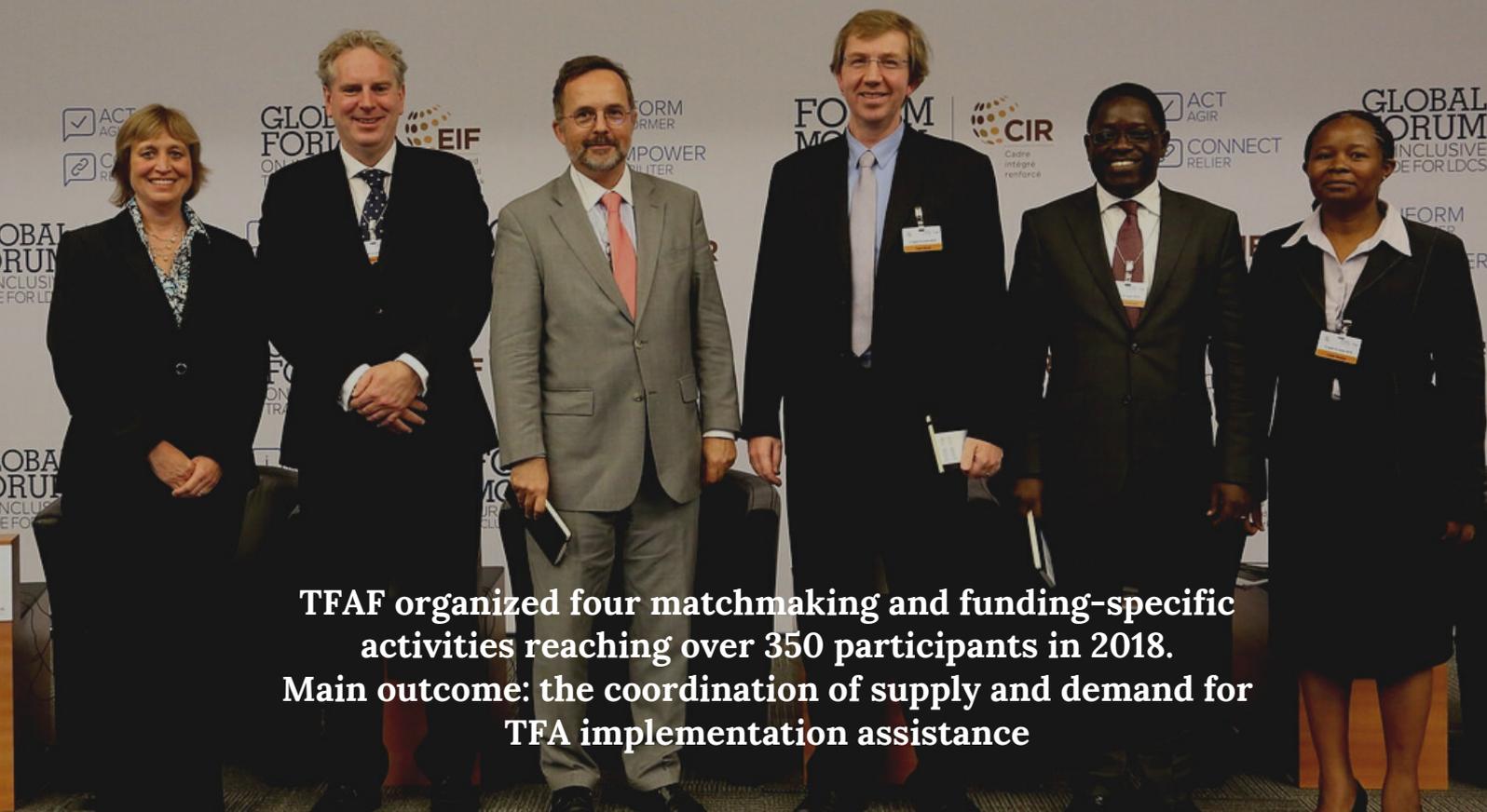
WTO observers may also submit an expression of interest, which will then be circulated to development partners to identify possible support. Observers are not eligible to apply for grant support.

[1] Implementation support programs, contact points for Partners, and additional information on the Facility can be found in the Operational Guidelines, annual work plans, and reports, available at www.TFAFacility.org.

Outcome: two TFAF Grant Applications received in 2018.

Following the launch in October, two expressions of interest for TFAF grants were received in 2018. One was returned to the applicant with a request for more detail and a second was circulated to development partners under the procedure for Observers described above and as such was not eligible to move to an application for a TFAF grant.





TFAF organized four matchmaking and funding-specific activities reaching over 350 participants in 2018. Main outcome: the coordination of supply and demand for TFA implementation assistance

Trade for Development Week

5 – 7 July, London, UK

At the invitation of the UK Department for International Development (DfID), A TFAF donor, WTO officials attended the DfID Trade for Development Week. The World Bank Group also organized a meeting of its Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP) Consultative Committee. Attending and giving updates on the activities of the Facility at both events, TFAF was able to coordinate with more than twenty development partners active in supporting the implementation of the TFA.

Outcome:

Information gathered at these two events has been invaluable in ensuring that Members' queries on implementation support are met with up-to-date relevant responses. It was also an important opportunity to contribute to the TFAF's coordinating function on TFA implementation support.



Donor support sessions

12 October, Geneva, Switzerland

Among the sessions for the 65 TFAF-funded Capital-based officials from WTO developing country Members attending the WTO TF Committee in October 2018, TFAF organized three sessions on seeking donor support:

- o How to go from Needs Assessment to Notification to Implementation
 - o Project formulation and Best Practice to Attract Development Partners
 - o Sequencing and monitoring
- Moderators and speakers from TradeMark East Africa, Zambia, Montenegro, UNCTAD, the World Bank Group and the World Customs Organization gave presentations on their experience and took questions from the audience.

Outcome:

94% of participants who completed feedback said that these three sessions had exceeded their expectations with regard to learning outcomes. Although time lags are inevitable, and cause and effect can be difficult to identify, TFAF maintains contact with participants to attempt to follow up and identify any TFA implementation projects emerging from these sessions.



World Bank Development Partners Forum,

27-30 December, Washington D.C. USA

WTO officials presented an up-to-date picture of the implementation of the TFA focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members, as well as an update on recent and planned TFAF activities to 20 development partners attending.

Outcome:
Coordination between TFAF and development partners on TFA implementation assistance.

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Session 11: Available Technical assistance and Capacity Building in Africa for the implementation of Trade Facilitation reforms,

29 November, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WTO officials facilitated and spoke on this session organized during the UNCTAD-convened African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees. Representatives of TFAF, UNCTAD, World Bank Group and the World Customs Organization gave an overview of their available technical assistance provisions on TFA implementation in African countries. 250 participants from 44 countries in Africa attended the event, of which TFAF funded 27 participants, from the following 7 countries: Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of Congo; Republic of Congo; Madagascar; Senegal; Togo; and Zimbabwe.

Outcome:
94% of 100 participants (who completed an evaluation) felt the forum exceeded their expectations. Over half found session 11 to be the most useful of the three-day event.



RATIFICATION, NOTIFICATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION

This workstream comprises national and regional activities organized on broad TFA-implementation issues

As 2018 marks the first full year of implementation of the TFA, this workstream therefore sees the bulk of activities organised by TFAF.

TFAF organized eight activities in this workstream in 2018, reaching over 560 participants

Main outcome: Directly contributed to one ratification and twelve notifications to the WTO TF Committee

Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) Trade Working Group: Facilitating Trade Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States

7-8 March, Turkey

WTO officials gave a detailed presentation on the TFA and its implementation focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to 74 participants from 28 countries.

Outcome:
Within six weeks of the activity, hosts Turkey and participants Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Morocco submitted notifications to the WTO TF Committee.

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Presentation on TFA Articles relevant to Southern African Customs Union (SACU) workshop,

28-29 March, Windhoek, Namibia

WTO officials presented a detailed introduction to the TFA provisions to five countries.

Outcome:
Within nine weeks of the workshop, the Kingdom of Lesotho had submitted a notification to the WTO TF Committee.

National Workshop on TFA

25-26 April, Kuwait

WTO officials developed and delivered a full program of six sessions on the TFA, including a detailed look at the Agreements' impact and benefits, provisions, implementation status of the TFA focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members, and National Trade Facilitation Committees.

Outcome:
40 government representatives received in-depth training on all aspects of the TFA in a WTO Member that had not completed its notifications and had not established a National Trade Facilitation Committee.

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African Union workshop on Sensitizing and supporting Regional Economic Communities/Member States on the ratification and implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (including best practices on border management)

30 July-1 August, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

WTO officials presented the TFA to high-level attendees including Ministers and Directors-General representing seventeen Western and Central African

WTO Members, including some with outstanding TFA notifications.

Outcome:
The workshop participants identified and adopted twelve highly relevant recommendations to support the full implementation of the TFA.

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1st International Forum on the TFA, Peruvian Chamber of Commerce

28 August, Lima, Peru

WTO officials delivered a presentation to over 100 participants on the TFA and its implementation focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members.

Outcome:
12 weeks after the forum, Peru submitted two notifications to the WTO TF Committee.

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Implementation of the TFA: Workshop for the Pacific Islands

11 October, Geneva, Switzerland

In the margins of the WTO TF Committee in October, the TFAF, the World Bank Group, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), collaborated to organize an activity focused on TFA-implementation needs specific to the Pacific Islands.

RATIFICATION, NOTIFICATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION CONT'D



As well as the organizers, speakers came from Australia, the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLS), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and the International Trade Centre (ITC). Eight countries from the Pacific participated and presented their TFA-related priorities, constraints and needs. TFAF funded participants from WTO Member countries and the World Bank Group funded others.

Outcome: Immediately following the Pacific Island workshop on 11 October 2018, TFAF-funded participant, Tonga, submitted two notifications to the WTO TF Committee.

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Border Agency Cooperation Seminar 14-16 November, Cape Town, South Africa

Working together with the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the World Bank Group, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the TFAF organized this seminar in Southern Africa on a topic where a clear need has been articulated in this region for some time. In addition to the organizers, speakers from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLS), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on food safety presented to 77 Participants from 13 states in Southern Africa who also presented on their national situation with regard to TFA implementation, focusing on notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members and their National Trade Facilitation Committees.

Outcome: 94% of participants said their expectations were either met or exceeded. 95% of participants would recommend the workshop to a colleague.

Participants identified three major points:

- o NTFCs need a 'whole of government' approach
- o Training or a manual for traders was required
- o Risk management coordination / training was essential

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African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees, 27-29 November, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

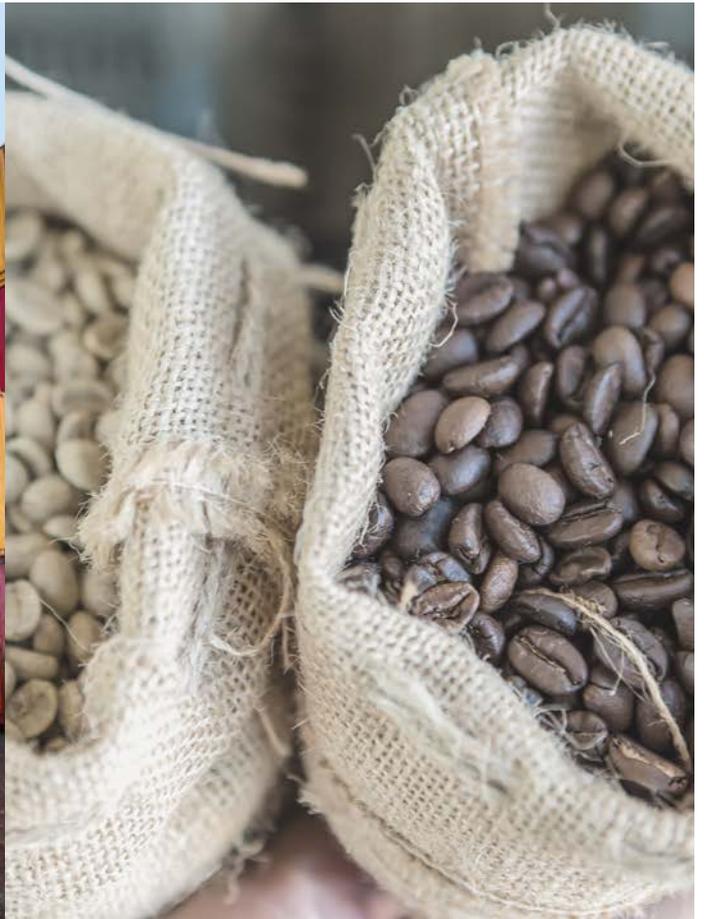
11 October, Geneva, Switzerland

At this forum, organized in cooperation with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank Group, the International Trade Centre (ITC), and the Global Alliance on Trade

Facilitation, the TFAF funded 27 participants, from 7 states, with an overall audience of 250 participants, from 44 countries. TFAF-organized sessions covered the TFA ratification and notifications processes focusing on section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members, as well as the donor support and TFAF grant program session mentioned above under workstream 'A'.

Outcome: 94% (of 100 participants who completed an evaluation) felt the forum exceeded their expectations. Over 90% agreed that their understanding of the TFA had been increased by the forum. In the week following the forum, Cameroon ratified the TFA and Liberia sent their notification for checking by the Secretariat (directly to the TFAF-speaker at the event) before formal submission to the TF Committee.





IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

This workstream comprises thematic activities organized on specific TFA-implementation issues and also covers the updating and maintenance of the TFAF website.

While many WTO Members require technical assistance relating to the Agreement as a whole, there are also those in specific circumstances, such as LDCs, which require activities more closely tailored to them.

TFAF organized six activities in this workstream in 2018, reaching over 350 participants.

AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**Main outcome:
Directly contributed to
one TFA ratification
and four notifications
to the WTO TF Committee**



3rd International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Global E-Phyto and Trade Facilitation Symposium

22-26 January, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

WTO officials gave a detailed presentation on the TFA focusing on provisions relevant to SPS agencies, its background and implementation, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 90 participants representing 36 countries.

Outcome: Important opportunity to share message with large numbers of key stakeholders that the TFA does not conflict with plant safety protocols at the border.

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Least Developed Country (LDC) Workshop on Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and LDC Issues for Trade Facilitation

11-12 April, Lausanne, Switzerland

At the request of the LDC Group, WTO officials organized and presented this event to 31 participants from 28 LDCs, representing Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lao PDR, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Yemen. This workshop reached almost 60% of all LDCs and over 70% of LDC WTO Members (2 LDC WTO Observers attended).

Outcome: Two WTO LDC Members, Rwanda and Lesotho (notification already noted and counted under event above), submitted notifications to the Committee within eight weeks of this workshop.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT & CAPACITY BUILDING



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Transit workshop

23-27 April, Geneva, Switzerland.

WTO officials supported the organization and presented during this activity to 10 government officials responsible for transit issues in Eastern and Western Africa, which was held in the context of efforts to support trade facilitation reforms in developing and least developed countries.

Outcome: Feedback from participants confirmed that the workshop had empowered national transit coordinators in the framework of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 11.17.

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International Maritime Organization (IMO) Special Event on Ports: Presentation and panel on TFA provisions to facilitate international maritime traffic

11 June, London, UK.

WTO officials delivered a presentation to representatives of 174 IMO member states on the TFA background, provisions and the implementation status of the TFA focusing on the notification requirements for developing and LDC WTO Members to benefit from section II of the TFA.

Outcome: Important opportunity to share message with large numbers of key stakeholders that the TFA does not conflict with port security protocols.

.....

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Global Forum on Inclusive Trade for LDCs,

13-14 June, Geneva, Switzerland

WTO officials organized a session and presented on the TFA with a specific focus on the needs of the Least Developed Countries. TFAF funded the attendance of speakers representing Zambia, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), TradeMark East Africa, and the private sector, and delivered their presentations to an audience of more than 100 participants representing 51 LDCs as well as development partners.

Outcome: Delivered key messages on the TFA and its implementation to large numbers of high-level representatives from the most vulnerable economies which encounter the largest capacity constraints to implement the Agreement.

Workshops for Capital-Based Officials on the margins of the WTO TF Committee Meeting

9-12 October, Geneva, Switzerland.

The TFAF supported 65 Capital-based trade facilitation experts from developing countries, including 18 LDC Members, to attend the WTO TF Committee meeting and participate in the technical discussions. In order to maximize the benefit of their attendance and to ensure the event's value, a series of technical workshops were organized around the needs articulated by the attendees and the TFAF strategic aims. Sessions covered the following:

- o A state of play on TFA implementation focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members, which emphasized the need for timely notifications.
- o The relationship between the TFA and other WTO Agreements, which emphasized border agency cooperation and the importance of National Trade Facilitation Committees.
- o The launch of the TFAF grant program to facilitate Members' access to TA, as needed.
- o Sessions on transit issues, specifically for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).
- o A specific session of the Pacific Islands, as described under Workstream 'B'.
- o A specific session focused on the needs of LDCs ratifying, notifying, and implementing the Agreement.
- o Sessions on donor support as described above under Workstream 'A'.

Outcome: Formal and informal feedback on this activity was unanimously positive. Participants and committee delegates found that the inclusion of TF experts greatly added value to the technical discussions in the committee. 89% of 50 participants said the sessions exceeded their expectations of learning outcomes and 96% would recommend them to a colleague. Within six weeks of the event, three participants whose attendance had been funded by the TFAF, El Salvador, the Philippines, and Guyana, submitted notifications to the Committee, and one TFAF-funded participant, Zimbabwe, provided their instrument of Acceptance.





**WATCH FOOTAGE FROM THE EIF GLOBAL FORUM AT
WWW.TFAFACILITY.ORG/VIDEOS**

POPE

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CIR

THE TFAF WEBSITE

continues to be a primary source of information on the TFA

Main outcome: Informal feedback from WTO Members and other TF stakeholders is extremely positive, confirming that the website is often their first and only destination for TFA-related information.

It is not yet possible to track in a meaningful way which website visits result in concrete outcomes such as ratifications, notifications, and requests for technical assistance support, but monitoring and evaluation to improve this area will be a primary focus in 2019.

For the period of 2018 there were

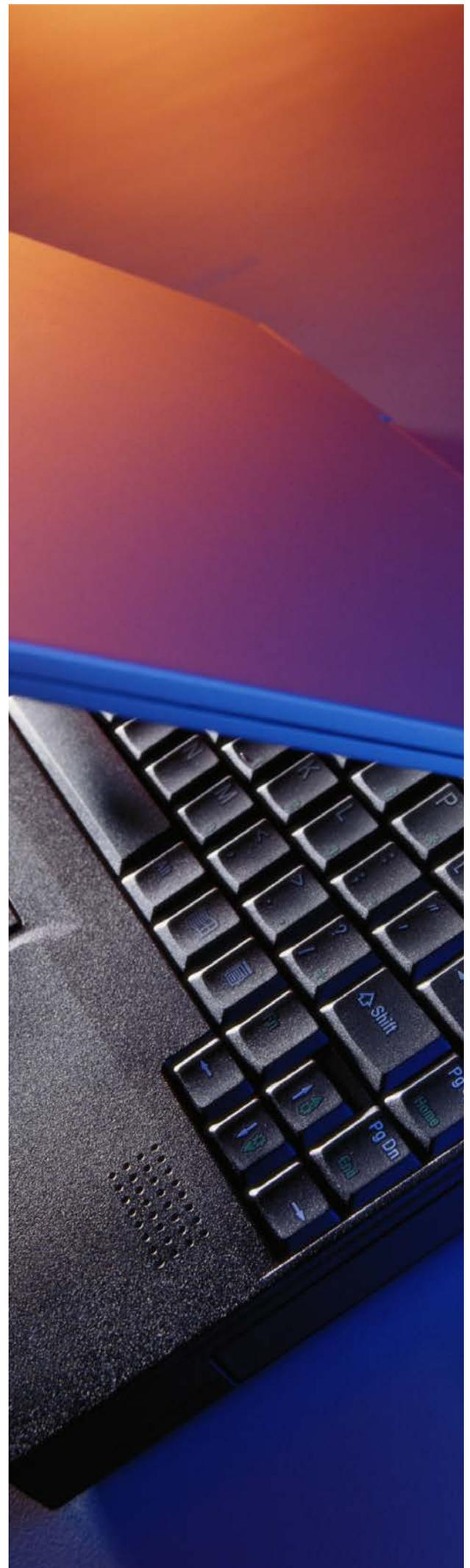
118,445

UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS

More significant than page views are the number of visitors (users) to the site. The total number of users in 2018 was

43,852

TOTAL USERS



Top 10 most visited pages were:

1. The homepage
2. Spanish version of the IATA page
<https://www.tfafacility.org/es/asociacion-internacional-de-transporte-aereo-iata>
3. The TFA Agreement page itself
4. The notifications page
5. The Spanish homepage
6. The contact points and profiles page
7. The Spanish version of the Agreement page
8. About the facility page
9. The implementation support page
10. The implementation support page



The top 10 visiting countries in 2018 were:

1. Mexico
2. United States
3. Switzerland
4. Colombia
5. Peru
6. France
7. Spain
8. India
9. Ecuador
10. United Kingdom

In comparison to 2017's statistics, both page views and user numbers are down, with page views seeing a 40% reduction and user numbers seeing a similar decrease of almost 50%. However, it is important to note that such fluctuations are normal on a year-to-year basis and depend on various factors.

For example, 2017 saw major expansions to the website, generating a large initial volume of traffic. The contact points page was expanded to include additional information on technical assistance and support for capacity building provided by the WTO and its partner organizations. In addition, information was collected and posted on the website on more than 700 technical assistance activities in over 60 countries. A large number of 2017's views can thus be attributed to visitors using the newly added features for the first time.

It is also worth noting that Russia and Ukraine, which were the two top visiting nations in 2017, comprising 33% of all visitors, are no longer on the top ten list of visitors for 2018.

The TFA Database, a useful tool associated with the website, saw 14,975 users in 2018, in contrast to the 43,852 users that visited the TFAF website. While some users might make use of the database for implementation data, the TFAF website remains the primary information point for information about the Agreement and, as such, it will continue to be expanded and improved upon in order to ensure that the information found there is regularly updated and easily accessible. A communications strategy is being created in 2019 to this effect.

Website statistics will continue to be closely monitored and analysed in order to understand the underlying causes of any unusual changes in activity, and to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our users.

The main functions of the TFAF website are to support the achievement of the four TFAF goals, primarily through distributing information on and analysis of the Agreement, and by providing support for its implementation through information-sharing and the coordination of technical assistance efforts. As such, the popularity of the website is not the first measure of its success; what is more important is to know that accurate and up-to-date TFA-related information is reaching the relevant stakeholders.



PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL EVENTS

WTO officials are often invited to speak at events organized by other TF stakeholders, including regional events, thematic events, and events hosted by international organizations on the implementation of the TFA. Such events, grouped under Workstream 'D', can provide a very cost-effective way for the TFAF to deliver its message to large numbers of participants, without the larger impact on resources that would be necessary to organize and fund a full workshop or seminar. Many more requests and invitations to speak are received throughout the year than there are TFAF representatives to attend them.

When more relevant to the mandate or functions of other organizations, or the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), for example, then such requests are passed on accordingly. Invitations to events where there is no clear link to the TFAF mandate are politely declined.

In 2018, TFAF representatives participated in seven events under this workstream, reaching over 4000 participants.

**Main outcome:
Contributed 2
notifications to the
WTO TF Committee**



World Customs Organization (WCO) Trade Facilitation Committee

15-16 February, Brussels, Belgium

WTO officials delivered a presentation on the implementation status of the TFA focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 100 participants representing WCO Members.

Outcome: This activity directly contributed to one of the TFAF's primary tasks, which is to coordinate the support from international organizations for TFA implementation.

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World Customs Organization, Council Meeting & Knowledge Academy

28 June – 3 July, Brussels, Belgium

WTO officials gave training on the implementation of the TFA, focusing on the notifications required by developing and LDC Members in order to take advantage of section II of the TFA available for LDC WTO Members; over 180 participants took part in a one-week intensive training course targeting customs and trade professionals.

Outcome: In-depth, technical training delivered to a global, TF-focused audience.

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Global Trade Development Week on Customs Compliance and Trade Facilitation

2-4 July, Shanghai, China

WTO officials gave a presentation focused on enhancing the operation of National Trade Facilitation Committees in developing and LDC WTO Members, reaching 2,000 participants.

Outcome: A presentation on one of the TFAF's primary goals was delivered to large numbers of key TFA stakeholders, notably from the private sector.

International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) World Congress on TFA

26-28 September, New Delhi, India

WTO officials gave a presentation focused on enhancing the operation of National Trade Facilitation Committees in developing and LDC WTO Members, reaching 1,200 participants.

Outcome: A presentation on one of the TFAF's primary goals was delivered to large numbers of key TFA stakeholders, notably from the private sector.

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World Customs Organization (WCO) Trade Facilitation Committee

22-23 October, Brussels, Belgium.

WTO officials delivered a presentation on the implementation status of the TFA, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 180 participants representing WCO Members.

Outcome: A direct contribution to one of the TFAF's primary tasks, namely to coordinate support from the Annex D organizations for TFA implementation.

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Asian Development Bank (ADB) Inter-sub-regional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of TFA

30-31 October, Bangkok, Thailand

WTO officials delivered a presentation on the implementation status of the TFA, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 64 participants from 26 countries, representing customs administrations, Ministries of Commerce, and trade and private sector organizations.

Outcome: Within 10 weeks of this activity, Viet Nam and Lao PDR submitted notifications to the WTO TF Committee.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Committee session on Customs and Trade Facilitation

5-8 November, Paris, France

WTO officials delivered a presentation on the implementation status of the TFA, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to participants from the private sector.

Outcome: This activity directly contributed to one of the TFAF's primary tasks, namely to coordinate support from the international organizations for TFA implementation.

In addition to these seven activities, TFAF speakers participated, on a no-cost basis, in an additional thirteen external activities listed in the 2018 Activity tracker annexed to this report.

These activities either supported speakers on a fully-funded basis or were organized in Geneva. As no budget expenditure was attributed to these activities, no specific outcomes have been measured for them, other than in terms of the overall contribution to the TFAF goals to support developing and LDC WTO Members to implement the TFA and to coordinate with international organizations active in TF implementation support.



CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND RISKS



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

At the request of development partners, the TFAF attempts to monitor its activities in terms of gender participation and impact on Least Developed Countries, as measured by the extent of participation among LDC WTO Members. It is not always possible to carry out evaluations, particularly when TFAF has not organized an event itself, but participates only as a speaker; nevertheless, in the 2018 activity tracker, annexed to this report, the number of women participants and participants representing LDCs are recorded where possible under each activity. When designing activities and inviting speakers, TFAF seeks gender balance and strong LDC representation wherever possible.

Outcome: The TFAF organized two activities in 2018 specifically focused on the needs of LDCs with regard to TFA-implementation, and three activities focused on supporting African countries, including a large percentage of LDCs. TFAF activities supported three LDCs as they prepared and submitted their TFA notifications in 2018



RISKS

A risk register was maintained for all activities in 2018 and is summarized in the 2018 activity tracker annexed to this report. The main recurrent risk facing activities organized by TFAF, is the potential disconnect between TFAF inputs and outcomes generated. To make progress towards the TFAF goals, WTO Members need to undertake actions that require inputs from different agencies, ministries, and stakeholders. This is especially the case regarding actions to implement the TFA which make demands on many different groups. Silos between and within organizations, as well as political factions and lack of political capital, can mean that even though capacity is being increased, progress towards tangible outcomes can be slow and is sometimes blocked.

For all activities, the risks involved are identified at an early stage and actions were taken to manage and mitigate them wherever possible. With regard to the recurrent risk described above, the need for tangible outputs is built into the design of TFAF organized activities, TFAF inputs include discussion points on the common barriers encountered as well as best practices to overcome them. During the evaluation of activities, participants are also encouraged to commit to delivering outcomes within a deadline. Progress and common barriers are reported back to the WTO TF Committee during regular briefings given by the TFAF. This approach is a work in progress and will continue to be developed in all future activities.



2018 FUNDS

TFAF expenditure grew from CHF586,018.44 in 2017 to CHF690,588.82 in 2018. **This represents an annual rise of CHF104,570.38, or almost 18%.** This reflects the fact that 2018 was the first full year of implementation, combined with the growth in the TFAF team and a parallel growth in the demands from developing country and LDC Members. With the launch of the TFAF grant program towards the end of 2018, expenditure in future years can be expected to grow as Members begin to successfully apply for grants, bearing in mind that, as a contingency measure for Members unable to access assistance elsewhere, TFAF grants are unlikely to be awarded in large numbers. The remaining balance in favour of development partners reflects the need to maintain sufficient funds to cover future grant awards.

The European Union is still an active contributor to the fund as they entered into a multiyear commitment totalling CHF600,000 that included the period of this annual report. However, they do not feature in the opening balance nor the balance per donor as the last payment related to their pledged amount is pending a final report.

All the figures in the following tables are in Swiss Francs (CHF).

Opening Balance as at 01 January 2018	6,582,297.39³
Australia (<i>contribution to TFAF and transfer from TTFNA</i>)	738,936.80
Austria (<i>contribution to TFAF</i>)	193,146.18
China (<i>contribution to TFAF</i>)	933,811.58
Finland (<i>contribution to TFAF</i>)	160,392.69
Norway (<i>contribution to TFAF and transfers from TTFNG and TTFNA</i>)	4,082,665.18
United Kingdom (<i>contribution to TFAF</i>)	327,966.03

Contributions Current Year	347,200.00
Finland	231,800.00
France	115,400.00

TOTAL FUNDS 2018	6,918,197.95
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	690,588.82
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	6,227,609.13

BALANCE PER DEVELOPMENT PARTNER⁴

Australia	664,074.16
Austria	173,578.30
China	839,205.93
Finland	352,508.32
France	103,807.56
Norway	3,669,045.10
United Kingdom	294,739.36

TFAF: Trust Fund for Trade Facilitation Facility

TTFNA: Trust Fund for Trade Facilitation National Needs Assessments

TTFNG: Trust Fund for participation of Capital-based Officials in the Negotiating Group Meetings

[1] Individual details on residual amounts transferred from legacy trust funds into the Trade Facilitation Facility Trust Fund totalling just over CHF 145,000 are not included in this table for the purposes of clarity. This support was provided in previous years on behalf of Ireland, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Switzerland and the United States to the TTFNA.

[1] Individual details on residual amounts transferred from legacy trust funds into the Trade Facilitation Facility Trust Fund totalling just over CHF 130,000 are not included in this table for the purposes of clarity. This support was provided in previous years on behalf of Ireland, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and the United States to the TTFNA.

TFAF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



AUSTRALIA



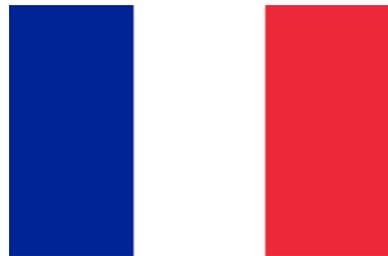
CHINA



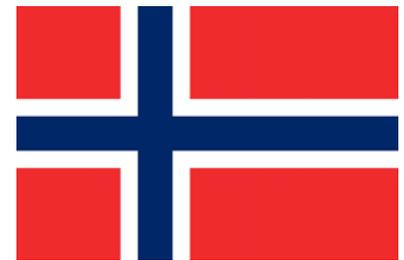
EUROPEAN COMMISSION



FINLAND



FRANCE



NORWAY



UNITED KINGDOM

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