

Introduction

File

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380343/590995005/84380343_tfafgrantprogramexpressionofinterest_submission_grenada.pdf

1 - Background and Rationale

1.1 - Clearly explain how the proposed activity will improve your capacity to / facilitate access to funding to / prepare the ground to implement Category C commitments notified under the TFA

As it stands, Grenada has some TFA implementation needs, identified during the national needs assessment, validated in partnership with UNCTAD in 2013 and designated by Grenada under category C in its notification to the WTO TF Committee in 2018 that we have not yet identified development partners to assist with.

These needs were circulated in an expression of interest for a TFAF grant in late 2019, but no donors or development partners signalled that they were ready and able to assist with implementation in the highlighted articles.

Assistance in the form of a project preparation grant from TFAF will support Grenada by framing our remaining unmet needs in the context of our national development plans, including all relevant technical details in a format that can be used to communicate with development partners to seek their assistance, including as needed from a TFAF project implementation grant.

Assistance to further communicate with development partners in Saint George's to better understand the available assistance and their relevant programs and timetables for TFA-related assistance would also support the NTFC to plan its implementation activities for the future.

1.2 - Please describe the key TFA implementation barriers and/or opportunities to be addressed, including their relevance for market access and poverty reduction

Art. 1.4 - Notification

Assistance needed:

Legal/Policy

Technical expertise to develop user friendly publications.

Human Resources/Training

Training of relevant border agencies ensuring their understanding of their individual roles and responsibilities in trade facilitation.

Training will aid in the identification of appropriate materials for publication by agencies.

ICT

To develop user friendly websites where information could be easily obtained and accessed.

Art. 3 - Advance Rulings

Legal/Policy

Technical assistance to develop legislation and policies to effectively administer and implement advance rulings:

Procedures

Technical assistance to develop specific and clear guidelines on procedures to implement and undertake advance rulings.

Human Resource/Training

Training of Customs Staff, Brokers and Importers on the procedures for advance ruling and its importance as well as how it will be implemented.

Training in Tariff Classification, Rules of Origin and Valuation for Customs Officers.

ICT

Technical Assistance to integrate advance ruling into customs automated systems.

Art. 4 - Right to Appeal or Review

Legal/Policy

Technical Assistance to develop policies and procedures to be put in place for effective procedures for appeals or review.

Procedures

Assistance to develop procedures on appeals and to ensure that these procedures are known/shared with the business community.

Technical Assistance to develop Standard Operating Procedures for Customs.

Human Resource/Training

Technical assistance to develop and build capacity in key stakeholders (border agencies) to have a better understanding of procedures for review and appeal.

Training for Appeals Committee Members in customs procedures.

Infrastructure/Equipment

Office space and equipment to furnish Appeals Committee Office.

Legislation and regulation has been developed. Established Customs

Appeal Commission. Now training of members of Customs Appeal

Commission is required with development of standard operating

procedures. We need assistance with hardware and software such that the

Commission can function adequately.

Customs have developed international procedures to send matters to the Commission with the assistance of IFC.

Art. 6.1 - General Disciplines on Fees and Charges

Legal/Policy

Assistance to develop policies and laws to aid in the implementation of fees and charges to be applied by customs and other agencies at the borders.

Procedures

Technical assistance to develop fees structure and how it would be applied to importers and exporters.

Human Resource/Training

Training of Customs personnel and other agencies in the application of fees and other charges to be applied at the borders.

Research and analysis

Consultancy to conduct research and analysis into the application of the fees and implementation.

No capacity or infrastructure exists in this regard

Art. 6.2 - Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges

Legal/Policy

Assistance to develop policies and laws to aid in the implementation of fees and charges to be applied by customs and other agencies at the borders.

Procedures

Technical assistance to develop fees structure and how it would be applied to importers and exporters.

Human Resource/Training

Training of Customs personnel and other agencies in the application of fees and other charges to be applied at the borders.

Research and analysis

Consultancy to conduct research and analysis into the application of the fees and implementation.

No capacity or infrastructure exists in this regard

Art. 7.2 - Electronic Payment

Procedures

Technical assistance is needed in developing ICT Infrastructure (hardware and software).

Customs have been having exploratory consultations with the Commercial banks to facilitate electronic payments.

Art. 7.6 - Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times

Policy

Technical assistance to develop policies to implement the publication of average release times in accordance with the TFA.

Procedures

Assistance to develop procedures to be followed for the regular publication and measurement of the average release times.

Human Resource/Training

Technical assistance to conduct training of relevant staff within Customs and other border agencies.

Equipment

Updated computers and software for border agencies compatible with customs automated system.

UNCTAD is working with Customs and the other Border Agencies to have them on the ASYCUDA system so that they can publish average release times.

Art. 10.4 - Single Window

Legal/Policy

Technical Assistance to review relevant legislations from different border agencies to develop one single window to be used by all border agencies.

Technical Assistance for setting clear time scale for roll out and implementation of Single Window.

Procedures

Assistance to develop efficient and effective procedures in order to implement national single window.

Human Resource/Training

Training and capacity building for relevant border agencies. Sensitization of business community in order to implement single window.

1.3 - Has a TF-related needs assessment been carried out in your country / territory? Yes

1.4 - If yes, please upload the relevant documents here and refer to relevant issues and priorities identified in the box below

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380348/590995005/FinalDraftImplementationPlan7.docx>

Relevant issues and priorities

The needs articulated above are identified in this needs assessment.

1.5 - Please clarify linkages, if any, between the main TFA implementation issue(s) identified and national poverty reduction strategies, relevant sectoral development policies/strategies, etc. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reference should be made to relevant issues identified in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) carried out under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), if such a study exists. Please upload the relevant documents here and highlight the main linkages between them and the proposed PPG activity in the box below

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380350/590995005/NSDP20202035DraftFinalNov202019.pdf>

Highlight main linkages

Grenada's National Sustainable Development Plan identifies Goal #2 as a vibrant, dynamic, competitive economy. Outcome #5 identifies time to export and time to import as direct contributors to the achievement of Goal #2. The TFA articles identified as needs above, when implemented have a direct positive effect on time goods spend at the border, both for imports and exports.

Summary of who has been consulted/ supports the PPG application

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Co-Operatives & CARICOM Affairs was unable to get a final sign off by the Trade Facilitation Task Force on the attached documents or any supporting letters because of the present situation with the COVID-19 in Grenada, however, the members are fully aware of the technical assistance needed under the TFA.

1.7 - Please explain any linkages between the PPG and other relevant, completed, ongoing and/or planned national programs and/or donor-supported projects. This should also describe any related requests for assistance, that were not already included in the expression of interest process. Upload relevant documents below

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380354/590995005/Grenada_2019_AfT_questionnaire.pdf

Kindly elaborate on the above

Grenada's 2019 Aid for Trade questionnaire responses, place TF reforms clearly in the context of other aid for trade efforts and highlight their priority status.

1.8 - Please confirm that cross-cutting issues related to gender and the environment, including climate change are considered in this PPG application and explain how they will be addressed

Gender
The environment
Climate change

How will the above issues be addressed?

Grenada has the following strategic plans which cover the above issues:

- Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2014 - 2024
- National Climate Change Policy 2017 - 2021
- National Adaptation Plan 2017 - 2021

Implementation of the above identified TFA needs will be placed in the context of these plans and policies to ensure coherence with them.

2 - Description

2.1 - Please give a brief description of the activities, in terms of what will be studied or analysed during implementation of the PPG

In concrete terms, assistance is required to formulate project proposals which place these unmet TF needs in the context of Grenada's current, relevant national strategies and action plans to ensure coherence with and contribution to their aims and to Grenada's overall sustainable and inclusive economic development. The following plans should be taken into account:

- National Sustainable Development Plan 2020 - 2035
- National Export Strategy 2017 - 2021

In addition, since the request for a TFAF grant was launched in 2019, Grenada's trade has been severely impacted by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in an annual fall in exports (January - May figures) of 42%, while imports over the same period have fallen by just over 11%. Project proposals must take this into account and anticipate further negative impacts and how they may be mitigated through implementation of the TF needs identified.

During the implementation of the PPG, the following activities should be carried out:

- Grenada's TFA implementation needs, as expressed in response to earlier questions, should be further explored to ensure that they are fully identified and explained so that any implementation solutions can be comprehensive
- On this basis a report should be produced that fully articulates the needs in depth, including technical requirements, capacity required to implement, an estimated budget, a draft timeline for reforms and expected outcomes, risk assessment and mitigation, cross-cutting issues (gender, environment, climate change) including a clearly articulated contribution to the National Sustainable Development Plan 2020 - 2035
- This report should be presented locally to donor representatives and development partners to understand how they could assist in its implementation
- This report should be presented to Grenada's national trade facilitation committee to ensure that it is fully understood and reflects the local context
- For any remaining unmet needs following the discussions with donors and development partners, a fully developed application for a TFAF project implementation grant should be completed, for each outstanding article (bearing in mind the upper limit of \$200,000 per project implementation grant)

3 - Budget

Information relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the TFA.

Please upload any files which give some detail on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted trade and the implementation of the TFA in your territory.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/101247427/590995005/C19impactonimportsandexports.zip>

Please provide any additional details or explanation on this subject here:

Imports and exports for 2019 and 2020 attached to demonstrate impact of pandemic on Grenada's trade.
