

Form Name: TFAF Grant Program- Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
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Introduction

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

Currently, the Dominican Republic has TFA implementation requirements designated under category C that we have not yet identified development partners assistance for. These requirements were circulated in a TFAF grant expression of interest, but none of the donors or development partners indicated that they were ready and able to assist with implementation on the remaining items. Assistance in the form of a TFAF project preparation grant will enable the Dominican Republic to frame our remaining unmet needs by including all relevant technical details in a format that can be used to communicate with development partners to seek their assistance including from a TFAF project implementation grant. Assistance in further communicating with development partners in Santo Domingo to better understand the assistance available, their relevant programmes and time available for assistance would also help the NTFC to plan its future implementation activities.

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. 7.4 - Risk Management

We need technical and financial assistance to establish a risk management system at customs and other institutions that carry out border inspections. We need software, hardware, and training. We have made several attempts to establish a risk management system, but have not been able to implement it. We started the conversation with the UAE, who helped us plan the project, but it has not yet materialized.

Customs Canada has assisted us with training and risk criteria.

Art. 7.9 - Perishable Goods

We have started lifting the treatment of perishable goods. We have nothing ready. We need expert support to develop a coordination platform for agencies at the border.

Art. 10.4 - One-stop shop

We are in the development phase of the one-stop shop and need financial assistance to roll out the missing steps and conclude with full implementation. We have the Plan and the programming, only the financial assistance is missing.

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

Relevant issues and priorities

The Dominican Republic underwent a TFA needs assessment in 2008, which was updated by WCO diagnostic missions in 2017 and 2018. The needs expressed in this request are consistent with those identified in these earlier studies.

Highlight main linkages

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The Dominican Republic's National development Strategy for 2030 identifies two specific objectives that relate to the needs identified in this implementation:

2.4.3 To promote the sustainable development of the border area;

3.5.2 To create the infrastructure (physical and institutional) for standardization, metrology, technical regulation and accreditation, which guarantees compliance with the requirements of global markets and a commitment to excellence.

All these problems together mean that access to information for traders is not as simple and direct as it could be, therefore excluding some traders, limiting economic growth and employment.

The Dominican Republic's border procedures could be simplified if the above problems were addressed, and therefore cross-border goods traffic would take less time and have lower associated costs. These time and cost savings could bring additional goods and traders into the market resulting in economic growth and employment growth.

Kindly elaborate on the above

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The Dominican Republic's 2017 - 2021 Strategic Institutional Plan for Customs places trade facilitation as its number one specific objective . It also places this plan in the context of the national development strategy and identifies the following specific objectives, which are directly related to the needs identified in this application:

Objective (Specific) 1.1 To simplify the processes involved in the flow of goods;

Objective (Specific) 1.2 To increase the efficiency of customs operations and services;.

Objective (Specific) 1.3 To create inter-institutional alliances that allow a more agile flow of goods;

Objective (Specific) 1.4 To strengthen the relationship and communication between companies and the Dominican Customs.

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?

The Dominican Republic's national development strategy for 2030 identifies two specific objectives that relate to the needs identified in this implementation: 2.4.3 To promote the sustainable development of the border area.3.5.2 To create the infrastructure (physical and institutional) for standardization, metrology, technical regulation and accreditation, which guarantees compliance with the requirements of global markets and a commitment to excellence. All these problems together mean that access to information for traders is not as simple and direct as it could be, therefore excluding some traders, limiting economic growth and employment. The Dominican Republic's border procedures could be simplified if the above problems were addressed, and therefore cross-border goods traffic would take less time and have lower associated costs. These time and cost savings could bring additional goods and traders into the market resulting in economic growth and employment growth.

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

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

The implementation needs of the Dominican Republic's TFA, as expressed in response to previous questions, should be further explored to ensure that they are fully identified and explained so that any implementation solution can be comprehensive. This report should be presented locally to representatives of donors and development partners to understand how they could assist in its implementation. For any unmet needs remaining after discussions with donors and development partners, an application for a project implementation grant (PG) should be completed. In order to mitigate the immediate health-related consequences, the implementation of this project will have to be carried out remotely, using technological solutions to enable meetings and interviews to be conducted. In addition, the contractor must include a section in the project report with a mitigation strategy for this and other identified risks.

3 - Budget

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

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

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