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Introduction

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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, Jamiaca has designated Article 6.2 under category C and have not yet identified development partners to assist with its full implementation. Theis need was circulated in an expression of interest for a TFAF grant, but no donors or development partners signalled that they were ready and able to assist at this time. Assistance in the form of a project preparation grant from TFAF will support Jamaica by framing our remaining unmet needs 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 to further communicate with development partners in Kingston 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

With support from the World Bank Group which ended in December 2019, Jamaica has been working to develop a policy on TFA Art. 6.2 - Specific disciplines on fees and charges. Working with WBG a methodology has been developed, but requires further cost/benefit analysis, on which basis a policy can be developed.

? Review fees and the fees and charges imposed by border regulatory agencies, in particular the Jamaica Customs Agency, Veterinary Service Division, Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, National Compliance and Regulatory Authority and the Trade Board Limited with the objective to reduce their numbers and their complexity and provide recommendations/policy advisory note.

? Review penalty disciplines and efficiency of procedures of appeal in border regulatory agencies and provide recommendations/policy advisory note.

? Review international legislation and related domestic policy, legislation and regulations which relate to fees, charges, penalty disciplines and appeal procedures for international trade.

A transparent, equitable and predictable policy on fees and charges will ensure access to all traders is possible on an unbiased and predictable basis, bringing more traders into the market and increasing the volume of existing trade with a positive consequence for economic growth and employment.

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

Relevant issues and priorities

In 2008 and 2014, Jamaica undertook TFA self-assessments to evaluate its level of compliance with each of the provisions of the agreement. Based on these exercises, Jamaica officially reported full compliance with 6 measures to the WTO 4, which implicitly suggests that the country's procedures and policies are partially or are not compliant with the remaining 30 measures of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Also, in August 2015, the World Bank conducted an assessment of the country's needs for technical assistance in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and strengthening of border regulatory agencies. It consolidates the recommendations formulated by the Government of Jamaica, the Trade Facilitation Task Force and other key international trade stakeholders.

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/3646063/84380350/591094941/Vision2030JamaicaNDP.pdf>

Highlight main linkages

Without a fully developed and implemented policy on fees and charges means that accessing information and accurately predicting costs for traders is not as simple and straightforward as it could be, therefore some potential traders are excluded limiting economic growth and employment growth. Jamaica's border procedures would be simplified with a transparent and predictable policy on fees and charges and cross-border goods traffic could therefore, increase in volume, take less time and have lower costs associated. These time and cost savings could bring additional goods and traders into the market resulting in economic growth and employment growth

Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030 identifies 15 national outcomes for the plan, of which number 8 is an enabling business environment. Strengthening trade facilitation is included as an explicit national strategy to achieve this outcome. Improvements in bureaucratic processes are also identified as a necessary step to boosting trade performance. A review of fees and charges in the context of the TFA can therefore be seen as being squarely in line with Jamaica's national development plan.

Summary of who has been consulted/ supports the PPG application

A letter is proposed demonstrating the buy in of the following supportive stakeholders

- ? Office of the Cabinet;
 - ? Jamaica Customs Agency;
 - ? Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade;
 - ? Ministry of Finance and the Public Service;
 - ? Attorney General's Office;
 - ? PSOJ;
 - ? JEMA; and
 - ? Ministry of Health and Wellness.
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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/3646063/84380354/591094941/JamaicaNationalAidforTradeStrategy.pdf>

Kindly elaborate on the above

Jamaica's National Aid for Trade Strategy, "Partnerships towards Sustained Economic Growth and Development through Trade", articulates the country's trade-related priorities and proposes a tool for seeking aid and investment. This ensures focused access to and utilisation of prospective resources by identifying key technical assistance gaps, including activities which complement similar regional initiatives, which will increase the return from available and potential resources.

Trade facilitation is identified as an essential contributing factor to Jamaica's competitiveness. As such the needs identified in this application are clearly articulated in Jamaica's aid for trade strategy and through this approach, can ensure that any activities proposed in this regard can be carried out in full alignment and complementarity with Jamaica's related aid for trade activities with its development partners.

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?

Jamaica's National Policy for Gender Equality identifies that disproportionate gender breakdown in employment in the trade sector, has a negative impact upon Jamaica's trade performance, any activities proposed in this Project Preparation Grant should be designed in the context of this action policy and should identify positive contributions to it where possible.

A transparent and equitable policy on fees and charges will further enable access for all traders regardless of gender.

Jamaica's Climate Change Policy Framework identifies the possible negative impacts of climate change upon Jamaica's economy. As a driver of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, trade can mitigate some of these negative impacts. Furthermore, equitable and predictable fees and charges will simplify the process at the border, saving time and fuel costs which can have positive impacts on the environment and on Jamaica's contribution to fighting climate change, any activities proposed in this Project Preparation Grant should be designed in the context of this action plan and should identify positive contributions to it where possible.

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:

- Jamaica's Article 6.2 needs should be further explored, building on the work already carried out by the World Bank Group 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
- 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 Jamaica's national trade facilitation committee to ensure that it is fully understood and reflects the local context, drawing on the various documents and reports cited in this application as well as other relevant strategic documents as proposed by Jamaica's NTFC.
- 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.
- The biggest risks to the project are consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to mitigate the immediate health-related consequences, the delivery of this project will have to be undertaken remotely, using technological solutions to allow meetings and interviews to take place. In addition, the contractor must include a section in the project report with a mitigating strategy for this and other risks identified.

3 - Budget
