GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TRADE FACILITATION

Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

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Overview

- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
- Alliance In-Country Projects

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The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

- In 2013, World Trade Organization (WTO) members concluded landmark negotiations on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that came into force in February 2017: a global deal aimed at improving trade efficiency worldwide by cutting red tape at borders, increasing transparency and taking advantage of new technologies
- The TFA implementation is expected to benefit companies' operations and have **a greater impact on international trade than the elimination of all the world's remaining tariffs**
- Research by the World Economic Forum suggests that TFA implementation could **trigger a 60% to 80% increase in cross-border sales for small and medium-sized companies (SMEs),** which are especially hurt by border inefficiencies and complex customs rules
- The business community is widely recognized to have an important role to play in the implementation of the TFA, ensuring that TFA reforms deliver **tangible improvements in trading across borders**

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- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation is a **public-private platform to leverage business expertise, leadership and resources to support effective trade facilitation (i.e. customs/border rules and procedures related) reforms** to foster broad-based opportunity and economic growth in both developing and least developed countries

- The Alliance benefits from the financial support of the governmental donors from the US, Australia, UK, Canada and Germany. Its starting budget of around 60 million dollars over a period of 7 years makes it the **largest pool of resources dedicated to the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement**

- The Alliance's niche is its capacity to engage the corporate sector more effectively and directly in national and regional trade facilitation efforts - to identify and implement meaningful reforms based on priority business needs, and measurable by real business benefits

- The Alliance collaborates with the private sector to (1) identify trade facilitation bottlenecks in select countries and (2) deliver targeted and pragmatic on-the-ground projects to address them. Companies engaged with the Alliance include ***Wal-Mart, A.P. Moller-Mærsk, DHL, FedEx, Agility, UPS, Cisco, Diageo, FiatChrysler and Brambles*, among others**

Structure of the Alliance

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Identified countries for Alliance projects

Pilot countries – identified in August 2016
New countries – identified in May 2017

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How to Get Engaged NOW!

- **All Alliance Inquiries or General Requests to be Added to the Information Distribution List**

  - Get further information about the Alliance and its country-level projects or request to be added to the Alliance's distribution list for regular Alliance updates by contacting Katarina Hruba at khr@weforum.org