



Enhanced Integrated Framework

Trade for LDC development



2022
Annual Report

Fostering inclusive
trade in the least
developed countries

The Enhanced Integrated Framework brings together partners and resources to support the least developed countries in using trade for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

EIF Partner Agencies

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

World Bank Group (WB)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

EIF Trust Fund Manager

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

EIF Trust Fund Donors



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Foreword from the Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)



For nearly 15 years, the Enhanced Integrated Framework has been a trusted mechanism supporting least developed countries (LDCs) to build capacity and engage more effectively in the global trading system. Guided by its vision of "Inclusive trade for better lives," the EIF has empowered LDCs to use trade to drive socioeconomic inclusion and tangible improvements in people's lives and livelihoods.

The task ahead remains immense. Even as COVID-19 recedes, the economic shocks from the pandemic and the impacts of the war in Ukraine on food and fuel prices have dealt a severe blow to many developing economies, and the LDCs were most vulnerable of all. Following a decade of positive export growth which saw LDCs' share of global non-oil exports double to a still-modest 1.1% in 2021, preliminary WTO estimates indicate that this fell back to 0.8% in 2022.

After declining for decades, poverty, hunger, and income gaps between poor and rich countries are rising again. The attainment of our shared Sustainable Development Goals face additional threats in an age of polycrisis - overlapping, mutually

reinforcing crises from climate change to challenges of health, security, and growth-sapping debt and financial instability. Against this backdrop, supporting resilience in LDCs is more important than ever. Recognising the unique challenges faced by LDCs the international community came together to chart the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs, which sets several trade related objectives ranging from better market access to support for trade capacity building and the implementation of WTO agreements and flexibilities.

The ongoing push for deeper and more diversified supply chains presents important opportunities for LDCs in a position to attract export-oriented investment. Through effective reforms at home, complemented by support from the global community, LDCs can walk the path towards re-globalization. EIF-supported projects are already helping them do so. In Togo for instance, soy production has increased ten-fold between 2015 and 2022, generating exports to countries from India to Vietnam. The sector now provides income for over 700,000 people.

With continued support for embedding inclusive trade within national planning documents, the EIF is helping LDCs ensure that women, youth and micro-small and medium enterprises are not left behind.

Digital trade is another potential driver for growth, albeit one where LDCs have been struggling: even as world exports of digitally-delivered services expanded by an average of 8.6% between 2015 and 2022, LDC exports of such services lagged behind, growing by only 4.0% per year. The EIF is working with LDCs to help them tap into international market opportunities, as well as to deliver digital solutions to facilitate trade and investment. For instance, Bhutan has digitized investment facilitation, with an online portal spelling out regulatory procedures for domestic and foreign investors. By setting up a digital single window for trade-related paperwork, Vanuatu has made customs and e-commerce support more efficient.

The EIF is also acting to help LDCs cope with climate change and other environmental risks. The new loss and damage fund agreed last

year at the United Nations climate conference, COP 27, in Sharm El Sheikh will complement work being done through the EIF to connect trade and climate change priorities. For instance, in Haiti, the EIF has been working to help coastal ecosystems adapt to climate change while at the same time growing sustainable livelihoods for local fisherfolk.

Despite the varied challenges that LDCs are confronting, Aid for Trade flows to the group have fallen for the third year in a row. With official development assistance resources

becoming increasingly scarce, the EIF is helping to anchor priority trade projects into national budgets and increasing the capacity of trade ministries to help secure high quality and bankable projects from donors, the private sector and national budgets.

Given the needs of LDCs to better integrate into global value chains and take advantage of new opportunities to boost growth and development, I urge members of this partnership to prioritize a renewed vision for dedicated trade capacity support for LDCs.

I would like to thank each of the key partners in the EIF - the donors to the Trust Fund and in-country projects for their generosity, our Partner Agencies for the effective collaboration, and above all the LDCs for their strong dedication and commitment. We must continue to work together to ensure that no LDC is left behind.

Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,
Director-General of the WTO

Message from the EIF Steering Committee Chair



Overall, 2022 was a remarkably hectic year. We finally saw the COVID-19 pandemic come to a gradual end. However, as we were all moving back towards some kind of “normal”, the next crisis hit us with the outbreak of a war in Europe involving two of the major exporters of sunflower meal, oil, and seeds, as well as corn, wheat, and fertilizers, triggering fears of a looming food crisis. Concerns

deepened further when an energy crisis and severe inflation were added shortly thereafter.

On a positive note, despite these multiple crises – or, perhaps, because of them – WTO Members were able to agree on a package of outcomes at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference in June, providing good news for multilateral cooperation when we needed it the most. At the end of July, the WTO hosted the Global Review of Aid for Trade 2022, an event particularly important for the EIF, as the programme is approaching the end of its second phase, and partner countries are now looking toward the future of a possible third phase of the programme. As I write these lines, I am uncertain about the future of the EIF. However, I have heard much positive feedback –

particularly from my LDC colleagues – about the impacts of EIF projects. I hope that this positive view of the EIF will be a guiding star for the years to come.

As for myself, I will rotate from my position in Geneva in August 2023 and, consequently, will leave the EIF Steering Committee. My time as Chair has been immensely rewarding and I would like to address a special thanks to all the LDCs, contributing countries and other stakeholders for the past two years.

H.E. Mr Mikael Anzén,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO

Message from the EIF Board Chair



The year 2022 was an intensive year for the EIF partnership between the LDCs, donors, and international agencies. Together, we concluded the evaluation of the EIF, which provided helpful evidence of impacts and lessons learned. Building on the findings of the EIF evaluation, the EIF Board has increased the frequency of

its meetings, with enhanced dialogue and engagement.

The EIF's strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment continued to bear fruit in 2022, with women now representing 61% of all beneficiaries. Moreover, the number of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that have been supported by the EIF has grown over the year to 19,385, up from 16,878. With a focus on women and these small businesses, EIF investments are inclusive and focused on those most in need. The EIF continues to champion the mainstreaming of trade into policy, a process facilitated by the evidence generated through catalytic changes in productive capacity.

I would like to thank the Members of the EIF Board, and their respective countries and entities, for their dedication and commitment. Thank you also to the Executive Secretariat for the EIF (ES) and the EIF Trust Fund Manager (TFM), who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the projects and processes implemented through the initiative continue to deliver results in the LDCs. 2023 will be key for the closure of the current phase of the programme and, likewise, for discussions on the future of Aid for Trade support to the LDCs.

H.E. Mr Yackoley Kokou Johnson
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Togolese Republic to the WTO

Message from the Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the EIF



Despite significant headwinds faced by the LDCs on multiple fronts in 2022, the EIF met or exceeded 80% of its milestones for the year and significantly exceeded programme targets in a number of cases.

In this report, we have tried to elaborate how the EIF has managed to leverage partnerships by blending them together with country ownership to move the needle in the areas of trade mainstreaming, resource mobilization for project implementation, institutional and productive capacity-building and the integration of the LDCs into global and regional trade.

For the first time, we have also included an overview of the EIF's contribution towards food security, while also continuing to highlight support for women's economic empowerment, bridging the digital

divide and moving toward a greener world. In the penultimate year of operations of EIF Phase Two, the timely closure of ongoing projects and a sharper focus on results have been of paramount significance.

I would like to express my gratitude to the EIF Donors for their generous support, as well as to our partners and teams in the countries who have worked ceaselessly with the team at the ES and TFM to deliver results and impact.

Ratnakar Adhikari,
Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the EIF at the WTO

Governance

EIF Steering Committee

The EIF Steering Committee (EIFSC) brings together all stakeholders from across the EIF partnership: LDCs, partner agencies and donors. It serves as a forum for transparency and information exchange, providing updates on the implementation and effectiveness of the EIF programme and its overall goals.

In 2022, two EIFSC meetings brought together a wide range of participants on 6 July and 1 December. During these meetings, which were chaired by H.E. Mr Mikael Anzén, participants reiterated the important role that the EIF held in the establishment

of sustainable institutional structures to coordinate AfT and broader mainstreaming of trade. These investments are critical for generating sustainable results and for catalysing further support well beyond initial EIF funding. The LDCs shared experiences and lessons learned from sectors in their countries that have benefitted from EIF support, such as investment promotion, climate finance, e-commerce and tourism. Through these engaging exchanges, participants from across the partnership were exposed to the wide range of tailored support that the EIF provides.

“It is very valuable for partners of the EIF to learn more about concrete examples of EIF impact on the ground and the sustainability of these efforts. To gather this positive feedback, as well as to reflect on areas to improve further, is an important part of the Steering Committee meetings.

– **H.E. Mr Mikael Anzén**, Chair of the EIFSC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO

EIF Board

The EIF Board guides the overall implementation of the EIF and consists of representatives of the LDCs, the EIF Donors and the EIF Partner Agencies. In 2022, two formal EIF Board meetings were held in June (Lusaka, Zambia) and November (Geneva, Switzerland). The EIF Board also held a retreat in April to consider the recently concluded evaluation of the EIF and held two further informal meetings

in June and September. EIF Board decisions included processes relating to the effective closure of Phase Two (2016-2024) of the EIF; adopting the Management Response to the EIF evaluation; establishing a process to develop an Options Paper for the future of trade-related technical assistance to the LDCs; and endorsing a mechanism for the utilization of the remaining balance of EIF Phase Two funds.

Tribute to Ambassador Samba



September 2022 sadly marked the passing of one of the major figures in the EIF programme, H.E. Mr Léopold-Ismaël Samba. Ambassador Samba had served as Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic (CAR) to the WTO since 2007 and as Coordinator of the WTO LDC Group in 2018. In September 2021, he assumed the role of Chair of the EIF Board, where he further bolstered his reputation as a champion for the empowerment of the LDCs to participate more effectively in the global trading system.

Ambassador Samba will be remembered for his enormous contributions to the strategic and programmatic direction of the EIF at particularly crucial times and to the improvement of the programme itself to adapt to the rapidly changing trade realities in the LDCs. His great wisdom and advocacy in support of the interests of African countries and the LDCs more broadly will be sorely missed.

EIF in 2022 Snapshot



“ The EIF’s strong emphasis on women’s economic empowerment continued to bear fruit in 2022, with women now representing 61% of all beneficiaries.

– H.E. Mr Yackoley Kokou Johnson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Togolese Republic to the WTO

“ In the face of a polycrisis... supporting resilience in the LDCs is more important than ever.

– Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO



1

4 new national trade policies and strategies developed (56 to date) in addition to AfCFTA-specific country strategies, contributing towards expanded LDC participation in global and regional trade.

Stronger and more integrated EIF National Implementation Units (NIUs), with for example Lao PDR’s NIU overseeing USD 75 million in multi-year projects in 2022.



3

Improved human and institutional capacity, with a project developed by the NIU in Senegal securing USD 3 million from the national budget, while in Vanuatu revenues have increased by 400% in the 6 years to 2022 with customs modernization.

5 new national development plans (NDPs) in 2022 integrated trade priorities through EIF support including support, towards the creation of the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan in The Gambia (48 EIF Countries have trade in their NDP).





5

19 actions across EIF projects in support of a greener world, including fostering a more sustainable artisanal fisheries sector in Haiti.

25 e-commerce initiatives undertaken in EIF projects, including in Nepal, where the EIF supported new e-commerce legislation and the integration of 380+ MSMEs onto a new e-commerce platform.



6



7

24 actions in support of improved awareness on gender and trade, including the graduation of the first set of participants of the EIF-backed Women's School of Leadership in Timor-Leste at an event presided over the country's President.

Increased production and exports, where EIF support for instance catalysed a 10-fold increase in the volume of soya produced in Togo in the last seven years with an estimated addition of 120,000+ jobs created in 2022.



8



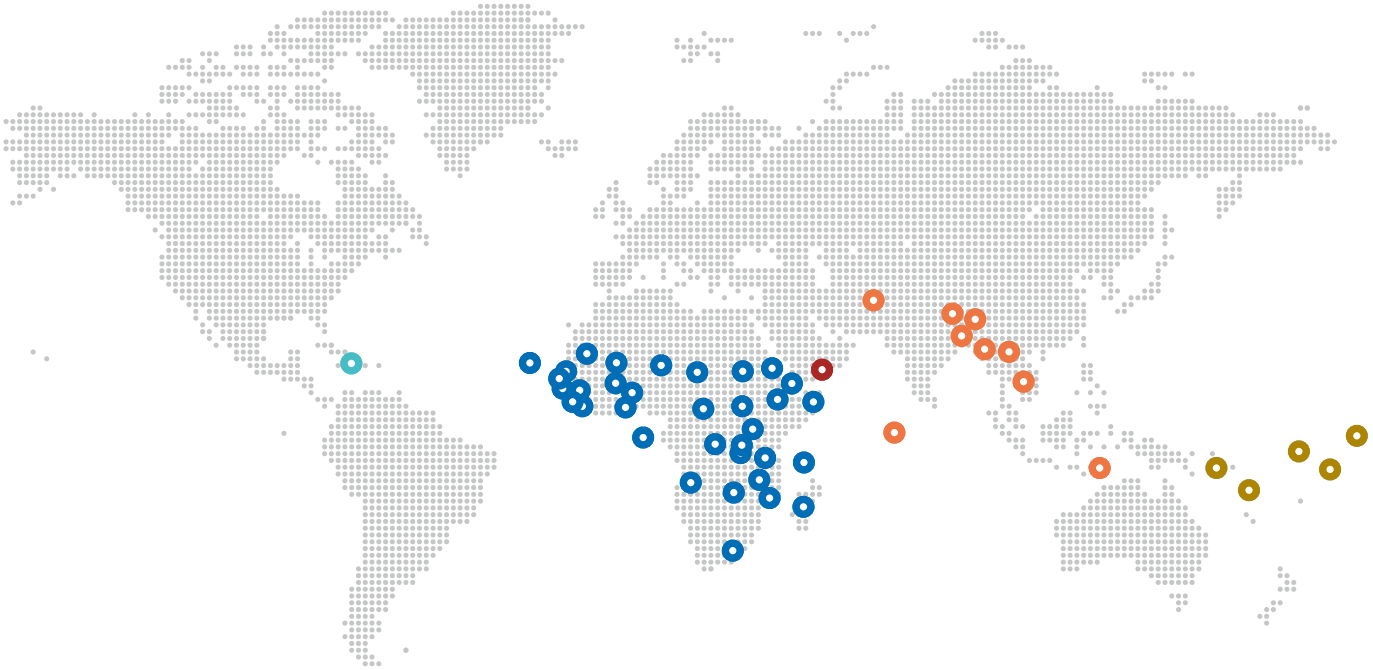
9

115 projects implemented across 44 countries over the year supported by innovations in programme management, including a visual phase closure dashboard in the EIF Management Information System.

“The EIF met or exceeded 80% of its milestones for the year and significantly exceeded programme targets in a number of cases.

– **Ratnakar Adhikari**, Executive Director, ES

Where we work



AMERICAS

Haiti

AFRICA

Angola
 Benin
 Burkina Faso
 Burundi
*Cabo Verde**
 Central African Republic
 Chad
 Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
 Djibouti
 Equatorial Guinea*
Eritrea
 Ethiopia
 The Gambia
 Guinea
 Guinea-Bissau
 Lesotho
 Liberia

Madagascar
 Malawi
 Mali
 Mauritania
 Mozambique
 Niger
 Rwanda
 São Tomé and Príncipe
 Senegal
 Sierra Leone
 Somalia
 South Sudan
 Sudan
 Tanzania
 Togo
 Uganda
 Zambia

MIDDLE EAST

Yemen

ASIA

Afghanistan
 Bangladesh
 Bhutan
 Cambodia
 Lao PDR
*Maldives**
 Myanmar
 Nepal
 Timor-Leste

PACIFIC

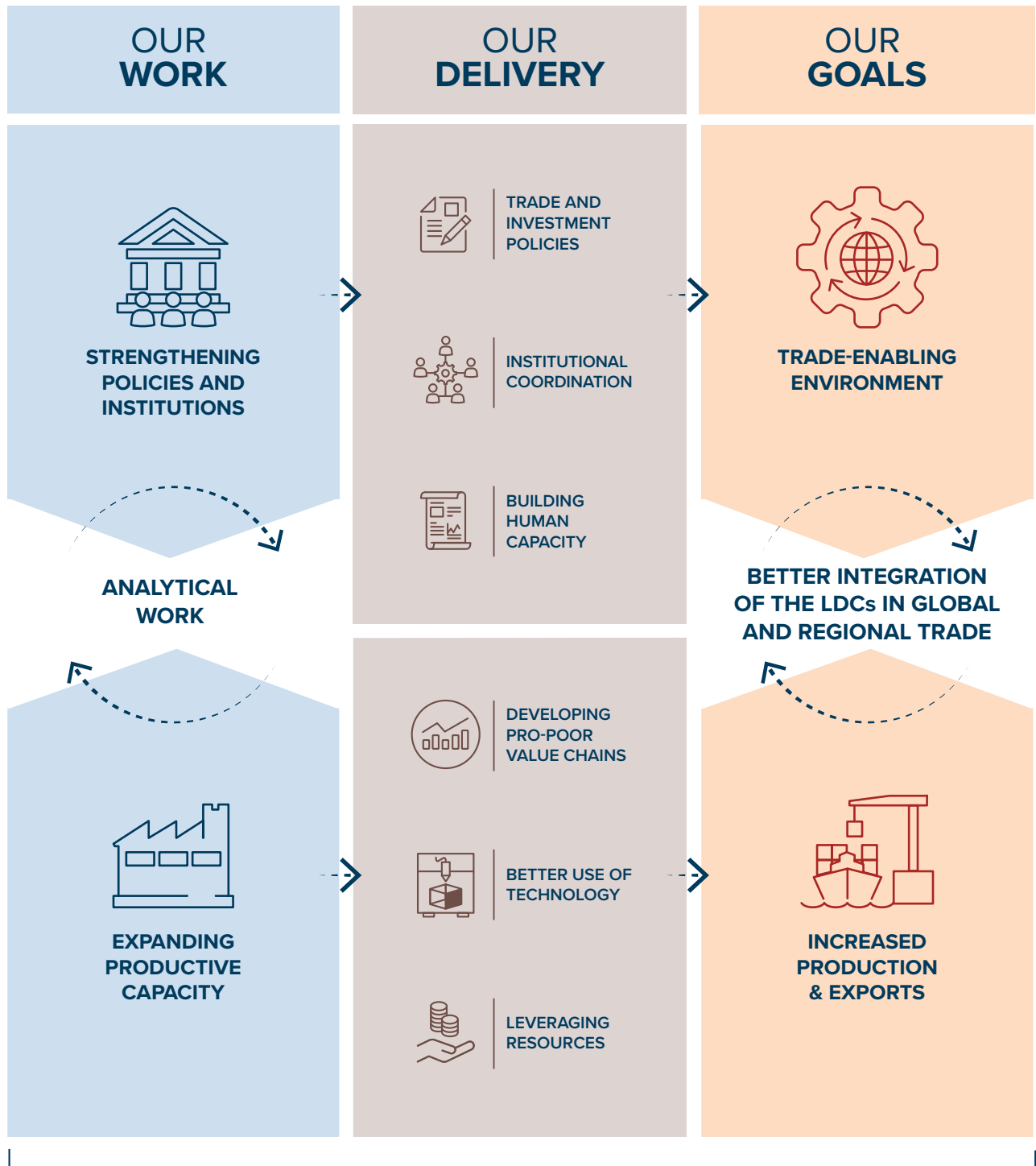
Kiribati
*Samoa**
 Solomon Islands
 Tuvalu
 Vanuatu*

Countries listed in grey and italics did not have active EIF projects in 2022 (Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Maldives, Samoa and Yemen).

* Graduated countries.

How we work

INCLUSIVE TRADE FOR BETTER LIVES



NATIONALLY DRIVEN

GLOBAL & LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS



1 Expanded LDC participation in global and regional trade

“The LDCs are empowered to use trade and investment to integrate into global trade for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

– EIF Mission Statement

Preliminary estimates from the WTO indicate a mixed picture for the LDCs. Total LDC exports have increased by 30%, contributing to a slight increase of the LDC share of total merchandise trade from 1.09% in 2021 to 1.15% in 2022. However, with a significant amount of this trade consisting of oil products, the LDC share of non-oil exports is anticipated to have fallen for the first time in more than a decade, thus emphasizing the importance to generate trade with inclusive benefits.

Boosting LDC participation in multilateral and regional trade is at the core of the EIF's mission to use trade as an engine for development and

poverty reduction. In 2022, the EIF provided a wide range of tailored support to the LDCs on their journey toward expanded trade integration. Contributing to the EIF's strategic outcome of improved environments of inclusive and sustainable growth on the multilateral trade front, some countries moved ever-closer to WTO accession, while others significantly boosted their capacity to more fully engage with the WTO and its processes. Meanwhile, EIF work on regional trade integration led to an uptick in LDC participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and expanded regional trade opportunities in the Pacific, including the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. This Section provides an overview of select 2022 highlights on multilateral and regional trade integration.



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59 actions through EIF projects in global and regional trade in 2022.

Progress on LDC multilateral trade integration



“The EIF plays an important role in Timor-Leste’s accession to the WTO... This support has allowed Timor-Leste to engage with other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

– H.E. Mr Joaquim Amaral,
Trade Minister, Timor-Leste

Article related to
Timor-Leste graduation:
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Accelerated progress towards LDC WTO accession

EIF support helped move WTO accession in the LDCs forward in 2022. **Timor-Leste** reached significant milestones in 2022, made possible through the EIF’s support of the effective functioning of the country’s Accession Working Group and the Inter-Ministerial Commission, as well as its support for the establishment of the National Secretariat for the Accession to the WTO in 2022. The EIF’s work in 2022 also supported Timor-Leste’s accession process in other ways, such as through policy consultations, nationally and internationally, to accelerate the accession process; raising awareness at the municipal level; and translating legislation. Additionally, EIF support facilitated development partner meetings in Dili and Geneva, which resulted in meaningful progress on technical assistance towards accession.

In **Comoros**, EIF work supported the finalization of the Market Access offer for goods and services and an update to the law on foreign trade to help advance the accession process. In **Somalia**, the EIF helped equip officials with increased skills and knowledge on the accession process. Meanwhile, trade reforms aimed at supporting **Ethiopia’s** accession to the WTO saw moderate progress in 2022. While the formal WTO accession process was stalled due to the internal conflict, a peace agreement was signed in November 2022. Prior to the recent conflict, the EIF supported the Ethiopian Government through the first four rounds of WTO accession negotiations, and the EIF team was preparing for further support in 2023. In **Sudan**, the EIF financed an impact assessment and a series of national dialogues on key accession-related matters, including on agriculture issues.

“ EIF funding complements World Bank investments in Somalia, scaling up human capacity for trade-led integration and WTO accession.

– Pierre Sauv , Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank

Working with the World Bank to support Somalia’s WTO accession process

Somalia is the most recent EIF Country to start benefiting from EIF resources – made possible through the partnership with the World Bank (WB). Working together with the Trade Policy Training Centre

in Africa (TRAPCA), a core group of around 30 government officials received training in 2022 around key areas related to WTO accession. In collaboration with the Government of Sweden, a sub-set of the officials are enrolled in advanced courses in international trade policy and trade law offered by TRAPCA in conjunction with Lund University.

Supporting trade policies in Central African Republic and Haiti

In 2022, the EIF played an instrumental role in finalizing trade policy documents in the **Central African Republic (CAR), Haiti, S o Tom  and Pr ncipe, Togo** and **Tuvalu**. While the culmination of CAR’s policy had previously been placed on hold due to COVID-19-related disruptions, EIF support helped bring this comprehensive policy document across the finish line. The policy

document will provide key inputs to CAR’s upcoming Trade Policy Review at the WTO (scheduled for September 2023) and underscores the country’s regional trade aspirations.

Despite significant domestic security challenges in 2022, **Haiti** finalized its trade policy document, which was developed with EIF support. Complementing the policy is the development of a compendium on all legal instruments related to investment and trade. A draft law of the Ministry of Trade and Industry

was also prepared to support the institutional management of Haiti’s engagement in the WTO, the Caribbean Community and the Economic Partnership Agreement. The EIF also supported the operationalization of the WTO Reference Centre, including training for officials in supporting increased knowledge of trade issues. Likewise, a regulation was drafted for the integration of Haiti’s NIU as a technical unit of the Ministry (see dedicated section on NIUs below).

Working with the WTO to tackle trade finance constraints in the LDCs and support a smooth transition for graduation from LDC status

In addition to hosting the ES and supporting the ongoing operations and meetings of the EIF, the WTO has partnered in a variety of initiatives, ranging from analyses of LDC graduation to linkages on climate

adaptation and trade. One example focuses on technical reviews and inputs into the EIF’s Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs) and aspects related to trade finance. Of the DTISs underway or completed in 2022, the WTO Secretariat provided input into those of **Bhutan, Lao PDR, South Sudan** and **Uganda** (upcoming countries include **CAR** and **Zambia**).



EIF initiatives led to **15 actions** in support of improved participation in regional trade in 2022 (127 to date).

Technical training and support for improved multilateral engagement

Throughout the year, the EIF helped equip public officials in **The Gambia** with the technical capacity needed to better engage in the WTO system. Through the process of training 118 officials (of which 83 were women), eight formal notifications were submitted to the WTO. EIF support also helped **Mozambique** ramp up efforts on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) by updating the country's TFA National Action Plan. Work has also begun on the development of the National Export Strategy, a Guide to Trade Negotiations and a Toolkit on Access to Markets, as well as the development of a database of International Trade Statistics. In **Senegal**, the EIF

supported the development and operationalization of an e-commerce strategy through an E-Commerce Strategy Steering Committee and Working Group. These efforts have enabled a cross-ministry dialogue around Senegal's participation in the WTO's joint initiative negotiations on e-commerce. Supporting the implementation of the WTO's TFA, the EIF complemented existing support from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the training of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) members on the use of the Trade Facilitation Reforms Tracker, awareness creation activities on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), including the development and distribution of educational materials on NTBs. Together, these are anticipated to help resolve NTBs for business.



Expanded regional trade engagement

Strengthened capacity for AfCFTA engagement

Partnering with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Islamic Development Bank and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the EIF made progress in 2022 in strengthening the capacity in select African LDCs to effectively engage in the AfCFTA.

Officially launched in March 2022, this tailored support has already yielded results. For example, support

provided to **Togo** through the initiative resulted in the submission of services commitments in five priority sectors: financial, communication, transport, professional services and tourism. More broadly, however, these capacity-building efforts have been focused on national trade facilitation stakeholders. In 2022, a total of 500 public trade sector officials (e.g., customs officials and trade officers) and 600 private sector actors and civil society representatives were trained in **Burkina Faso**, **Guinea**, **Niger**, **Senegal** and **Togo** on

relevant themes. This has been supported by the development of AfCFTA sensitization manuals, sector strategies, impact evaluation studies, communications strategies and studies related to trade facilitation.

In separate projects, the EIF worked with other countries, such as in the **CAR**, **Rwanda**, and **Tanzania**, in the creation of an AfCFTA implementation strategy, and supported the launch of a new AfDB funded one-stop border post between Malawi and Zambia.

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Progress on trade facilitation in West Africa

With the support of EIF Partner Agency UNCTAD, the EIF worked to promote the implementation of the WTO's TFA in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger** and **Togo**. These efforts included assessing WTO notifications and working with NTFCs and partners to identify priority TFA articles for implementation. As the implementation of Single Windows continues to progress in the beneficiary countries, the EIF is supporting a strategy for coordinated

implementation of interconnected Single Windows based on standardized processes. Additionally, a bilateral and sub-regional working group has been established for sharing information on practical experiences and obstacles to the implementation of interstate road transit. EIF support for the development of the 2022 study entitled "Transport and Transit Facilitation Systems: Lessons from Regional Transport and Transit Systems in Africa" addressed this challenging trade facilitation issue.



Progress towards a comprehensive trade ecosystem for Tuvalu

EIF support for **Tuvalu** contributed to the country's accession to several international agreements. For example, Tuvalu's accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific – a UN treaty aimed at accelerating the implementation of digital trade facilitation measures for trade and development – followed a readiness assessment supported

by the EIF and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). Additionally, the EIF supported Tuvalu's accession to the Electronic Communications Convention, which aims to enhance legal certainty and commercial predictability where electronic communications are used in international contracts. Other successes in Tuvalu supported by the EIF include the achievement of observer status to the European Union-Pacific States Interim Economic Partnership Agreement; the development and launch of

a National Trade Development Strategy; the launch of a Sustainable Tourism Policy; and additional financing for the development of a National e-Commerce Strategy.

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Advancement of LDC integration into ASEAN

Cambodia and **Lao PDR** undertook policy dialogues, needs assessments and training initiatives with support of EIF Partner Agency UNCTAD and EIF funding. The initiative leveraged the expertise of, and linkages with,

the National University of Singapore and the Asian Development Bank. The project sought additional support to scale up these interventions, with the intention to support the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, e-commerce challenges, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)

issues and LDC graduation. The EIF has also supported the delivery of an Extended Cumulation Proposal to the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK); a Rules of Origin Proposal on Japan's Generalized System of Preferences; and an ASEAN FTA Handbook related to market access issues.

LDC Graduation: Stories of smooth transition

Sixteen LDCs are at various stages of graduation and are in need of international support measures to ensure a smooth transition to achieve sustainable and irreversible graduation.

The EIF, which guarantees support to graduated LDCs for a five-year period after their graduation, has been working with the LDCs on many fronts, including on analytical work, such as DTISs with a special focus on graduation; studies on trade impacts on LDC graduation in 17 LDCs; and a study on textiles and clothing in graduating Asian LDCs published jointly with ITC, UNCTAD and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2022.

What is even more important is to build productive capacity and help the LDCs enhance their competitiveness, which is reflected in country-specific support to the LDCs as varied as **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Lao PDR, Senegal, Solomon Islands** and **Zambia**. Besides, reducing trade costs to help the LDCs overcome the impacts of preference erosion mobilizing private investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), has been the major focus of the EIF interventions in most graduating and recently graduated countries, such as **Vanuatu**.

Examples include the ongoing support to four Asian graduating

LDCs to help them implement the Framework Agreement on Cross-border Paperless Trade in partnership with UN-ESCAP; and support to all graduating LDCs on investment promotion in partnership with WAIPA and UN agencies such as the International Labour Organization, UNCTAD, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Other country-specific examples are included below.

Cambodia's Expanding Trade Agreements

Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy – Phase IV, which is a part of the National Strategic Development Plan, 2019-2023, envisions the conclusion of a free trade agreement with various trading partners to ensure market access post-LDC graduation.

Accordingly, Cambodia ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2022. To this end, EIF institutional support was utilized for the translation of the legal text of the Agreement to facilitate the domestic procedure for ratification.

Bilateral free trade agreements signed with China and South Korea came

into force in January and December 2022, respectively. During the year, EIF assistance was also utilized to contract an advisor to support in the negotiation of the Cambodia-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, to be concluded in 2023.

Investment Facilitation in Bhutan

With EIF support and in collaboration with UNCTAD, **Bhutan** developed and launched an e-regulation portal – an online portal containing trade-, investment- and construction-related information and procedures. The portal – which is accessible in

100 languages – is also featured on the websites of Bhutanese missions and embassies abroad.

Between the launch of the portal during the time of the pandemic (November 2020) and August 2022, the Division of Foreign Investment within the Department of Industry was able to swiftly approve 104 domestic

and FDI investment projects worth BTN 30.2 billion (USD 365 million). The person in charge of managing the portal having received training through the above-mentioned EIF-WAIPA programme on investment promotion also contributed to a better understanding of the requirements of the investors and tailored the portal to their needs and priorities.



Bangladesh's Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and Occupational Safety

Bangladesh has a clear strategy to diversify the garment sector and move up the value chain ladder in the face of preference erosion. On 18 November 2022, the

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association launched its Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and Occupational Safety with support from the EIF and other partners.

The Centre will act as a knowledge hub for advanced technology, including industry 4.0, global best

business practices in the apparel sector and the latest trends of the global fashion industry, to help its member enterprises embrace digital technology, enhance competitiveness and efficiency, reduce trade costs and improve compliance with social/environmental norms.

Expanded Functionality of Vanuatu's National Single Window

In terms of reducing trade time and cost, the Electronic Single Window System established with the support of the EIF and partners, including Australia, delivered significant results. The initiative contributed to reducing processing times for the issuance of biosecurity certificates from four to six days to as little as 10 minutes.

In 2022, additional modules for stronger environmental controls were also developed for this system, such as modules for Ozone Depleting Substances; Energy Efficient Appliances; and a Humanitarian Supplies module. Additional resources through the Government of Australia are continuing to invest into the system through the development of an Automated System for Relief Emergency Consignments.

At the same time, Vanuatu's Department of Customs and Inland Revenue reported an impressive increase in annual revenue collection from around USD 33 million in 2016 to a current value of USD 134 million since the implementation of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window system. Impressed with the success of the initiative, Vanuatu's Parliament recently approved the budget for the continuity of the project into the next phase.

2

Strengthened NIU integration in 2022

“The scaling up of catalytic funding through the EIF has been the result of the mobilization of efforts. The NIU has been able to raise funding from other development partners, including the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation.

– Zahata Dahalani, NIU Coordinator in the Comoros

NIUs saw expanded and deeper integration into LDC trade ministries in 2022. NIUs are technical teams established by LDC trade ministries to support governments through the implementation of their EIF objectives. This support includes coordinating and implementing AfT projects for trade ministries, supporting the trade mainstreaming agenda and servicing key multi-stakeholder coordination bodies.

By the end of 2022, 46 NIUs had been established in EIF participating countries, of which 42 now meet the EIF’s criteria for having been integrated into the trade ministries’ ongoing functions. The strength of this integration has improved in 2022, with at least three trade ministries (Djibouti, Sudan and Zambia) passing a formal government decision integrating the functions of the NIUs into their ongoing structures.



NIU models and examples of successes

In 2022, NIUs helped link trade into national planning documents; implement EIF and other partner projects; and, importantly, secure additional resources for trade from LDC governments, development partners and the private sector. The integration of NIUs generally follows one of three main forms: those composed entirely of government officials; hybrid units composed of government officials and project staff; and project-financed structures.

The NIU in **CAR**, which had led efforts to mainstream trade into CAR's National Development Plan (NDP), credits this process to contributing

towards a 16.7% increase in the budget allocated to the Department of Trade between 2018 and the end of 2022.

In 2022, **Djibouti's** Council of Ministers agreed to make its NIU an integral part of the Trade Ministry's organogram and created legislation to make it responsible for all trade projects. All NIU staff in Djibouti are project staff with a special contractual agreement stipulating that the Ministry of Trade will take full responsibility for them at the end of the project and that they will be integrated into the government system. Similarly, both **Sudan** and **Zambia** passed Ministerial

decisions for the integration of the NIUs. Likewise, in **Ethiopia**, the NIU received a mandate to implement other projects in the Ministry of Trade and now oversees four new projects financed by other development partners.



trust fund through to access to finance and regional integration support. In a similar manner, in 2022, the fully government-staff NIU in **Cambodia** (Department for International Cooperation) implemented projects with a value of more than USD 60 million.

The EIF's NIU in **Rwanda** is a unit entirely made up of project-financed staff as part of the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU). Established by a government-wide mandated instruction, the staff costs are shared between contributing projects. In addition to EIF projects, in 2022, the SPIU oversaw the WB-supported Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project; the African Development Bank-funded Meat Value Chain Trade Competitiveness Project; the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) support to the AfCFTA Secretariat; GIZ support

to the Promotion of Economy and Employment; UN Development Programme (UNDP) support to a cross-border project between the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and Rwanda, and a "Made in Rwanda" initiative funded by the Government of Rwanda itself. In 2022, the NIU Coordinator was appointed as the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Commerce. The Government of Rwanda recognized the effectiveness of the SPIU/NIU model and mandated that all other line ministries adopt the same model to effectively implement development assistance. The NIU in **Mali** implements the government's annual investments into the trade sector. In **Vanuatu**, the demonstration of success in 2022 contributed to the Ministry of Trade making a request to the Public Service Commission to significantly increase the number of staff in the Vanuatu Aid for Trade Management Unit.

Lao PDR, which follows the hybrid NIU model, was established with support from the EIF in conjunction with partners funding a national multi-donor trust fund for the implementation of trade priorities identified through the DTIS. The Lao PDR NIU is formally responsible for the development and implementation of AfT support and private sector development. In 2022, the NIU was responsible for overseeing 14 different projects with a combined value of around USD 75 million, ranging from a flagship multi-donor

Partners leveraging NIUs for project implementation

“STDF has benefitted from using those effective in-country structures that the EIF has established, the NIUs, for STDF project implementation. It makes sense. It’s a way for STDF projects to be really country-led in terms of implementation.

– **Marlyne Hopper**, Deputy Head and Lead for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at the STDF

In 2022, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) – which works to strengthen food safety and animal and plant health capacity in developing countries – successfully channelled the preparation and implementation of a USD 544,402 project through **Burkina Faso’s** NIU. With experience and capacity built in project formulation and management,

the NIU led work with the public and private sector to improve the quality and safety of maize for exportability. The interventions have now been replicated in the sesame sector. NIUs in other countries, such as in **Uganda** and **Zambia**, have also helped implement and complement other STDF projects.



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EIF COLLABORATION WITH STDF TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

STDF projects led by the EIF National Implementation Units in 2022



Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports from Zambia (2018-2022)

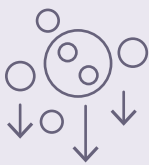
Key results

- **Maintained market access** for blueberries to South Africa and avocados to the EU
- **Development of an action plan** for legislative change, a strategy to guide the future operations of Zambia's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), and a regional plant quarantine pest surveillance programme
- **Improved skills of NPPO staff** in export phytosanitary regulatory systems

“This assistance has shortened processing times and travel costs, bolstered inspection capacity and opened new markets for horticultural and floricultural products.

– **Francis Chama**, Manager at the project beneficiary York Farms

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Reduction of aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso (2019-2022)

Key results

- **25% increase** in quantity of maize exports
- Aflatoxin contamination **reduced by over 77%**
- **Strong public-private dialogue** and cooperation on trainings and awareness-raising

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Mainstreaming SPS investments into the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme and other Frameworks in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (2018-2022)

Key results

- **Use of the Prioritizing SPS Investments** for Market Access (P-IMA) evidence-based framework in four LDCs (Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda) and Kenya
- **Over 60 investment options identified** across diverse value chains, estimated to generate returns of USD 6 billion annually (for a cost of USD 165 million)
- **Integration of P-IMA results** into COMESA's regional trade facilitation programme
- **Commitment from regional partners**, including TradeMark Africa and the EU, to support implementation
- **Strengthened public-private dialogue** around SPS priorities

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3 Building human and institutional capacity

“The EIF's contribution is two-fold: firstly, building the capacity of government institutions to engage effectively in trade facilitation and regional integration, and secondly strengthening export competitiveness through enhancing the competencies of key actors.

– H.E. Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of Cambodia

In the EIF's mission to support development in the LDCs through better integration into regional and global trading systems, sustainability of all investments is always top of mind. Sustainable capacity-building does not simply mean providing training and expertise in strategic areas. It is equally important to employ an inclusive process of deep ownership and involvement of national stakeholders in the process. The EIF's unique approach ensures full ownership by the beneficiary country, with most projects being co-financed by the countries themselves. Examples of the ways in which the EIF helped support this goal in 2022 are outlined in this section.



35,000+ people trained in trade-related areas in 2022, contributing to the development of 17 policies and regulations.



4 new trade policies (56 in total).



Increased skills help access national budgetary resources in Senegal

On 25 March 2022, the Ministry of Commerce in **Senegal** officially launched a three-year project aimed at increasing cashew production and

boosting export supplies of quality processed products. With technical capacity in project development and implementation, the NIU in Senegal managed to secure USD 3.1 million for the project from the Ministry of Finance. Out of more than 200 projects submitted by various

ministries, the project developed by the NIU was ranked amongst the top five – a clear demonstration of how the EIF's efforts can help build capacity in project development and secure national budget for the implementation of trade-related priorities.

Bhutan's Trade Negotiations Capacity

In 2022, **Bhutan** made strides in its ability to negotiate trade agreements, with positive movement emerging from discussions with **Bangladesh** and Thailand. Following extensive capacity-building activities provided by

the EIF, officials of Bhutan's Ministry of Economic Affairs were able to engage the Government of Bangladesh on the negotiation of the Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol. This Agreement was recently signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Likewise, a new trade agreement with Thailand is also under exploration, which is a first for Bhutan that is outside of its immediate South Asian region. The project supported the negotiations towards duty-free quota-free access for both agricultural and non-agricultural products of Bhutan.





Countries sharing lessons and experiences at the EIF regional workshop in Lomé, Togo.

How EIF Countries are learning from each other

The first large-scale face-to-face EIF events since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic took place in the third quarter of 2022. Three regional workshops brought together 141 participants from 40 countries to provide the EIF Countries and

project implementation partners with a unique opportunity to meet and share experiences, challenges and lessons learned. A key aspect of the workshops was the time devoted to country presentations to share best practices and lessons on topics ranging from effective project closure, sustainability of results, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), to communications,

among others. External experts also provided their insights on evaluation processes and resource mobilization with a focus on sustainability of national mechanisms. Feedback from participants underscored the value of these workshops, and workshop assessments found that participants' knowledge had increased by an average of 11% over the three events.

“The EIF regional workshop in Addis Ababa provided us with a shared understanding of best implementation practices and the impacts achieved in different country settings... In the wake of the workshop, Malawi has already embraced the Ugandan Tourism project's approach, where key public stakeholders were involved, which resulted in the development of a project proposal.

– **Cuthbert Wadonda Chirwa**,
Chief Economist, Head of Monitoring
& Evaluation Section,
Ministry of Trade of Malawi



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“My time at the Executive Secretariat for the EIF was useful. It was the best time in my professional life when I learned to work in synergy, in a team spirit, in open collaboration and in cultural diversity.

– **Elie Fenengai**, M&E Officer –
CAR (EIF Secondee 2022)

How the EIF’s monitoring, evaluation and learning secondment programme made a difference in 2022

The EIF secondment programme was launched in 2020 and was aimed at strengthening the capacity of M&E officers working on trade-related projects in the EIF Countries. The initiative has focused on intensive development of a limited number of M&E officials through secondment to the ES in Geneva. In 2022, two

secondees (from CAR and Lesotho) participated in the initiative. Currently, the secondees are closely engaged in developing a sustainability review toolkit for autonomous use by the EIF Countries, building on the successful reviews undertaken in Senegal and Tanzania. Notably, a prior secondee from Niger was recently promoted to be the NIU Coordinator and has in the meantime implemented a new digital solution for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL).

“The secondment met my expectations, as I learned new M&E skills to use in my country on different projects. The exchange of ideas and skills played a good role in developing my teamwork skills. With the experience and skills acquired, I will help my country colleagues by organizing workshops and trainings to share these skills.

– **Tello Edward Mosiuoa**, M&E Officer, Lesotho (EIF Secondee 2022)



4

Mainstreaming trade

“Ethiopia has become a member of the regional AfCFTA and started implementing the Agreement. It is also exerting its maximum effort to speed up the WTO accession process. Meanwhile, Ethiopia is also working to join COMESA. In all these efforts, the support of the EIF was critical and we are grateful to the EIF Secretariat for its continued support.

H.E. Mr Kassahun Gofe Balami,
State Minister, Ministry of Trade and
Regional Integration of Ethiopia

In order for the LDCs to fully reap the benefits of trade, they must adopt approaches aimed at mainstreaming trade into their NDPs and key sector strategies. Trade has many cross-cutting economic impacts and linkages to other sectors. This is why the EIF ensures that trade is not seen simply as an isolated approach towards economic development but, rather, as a crucial tool to achieving poverty reduction among all stakeholders. A wide range of successes were achieved in this regard in 2022. Trade inputs have been provided into new NDPs in Niger, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo and Zambia.



5 new NDPs
mainstreaming
trade in 2022.



1 more country with sector
strategies (47 in total).



2 more countries with
trade coordination
mechanisms (48 in total).



The Gambia's Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan

The **Gambia** is taking a holistic approach to integrating climate and trade policy and practice, with the EIF supporting the creation of the country's new Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027. The new NDP with its focus on

recovery from the triple development challenges of COVID-19, climate change and debt distress, integrates key findings from the EIF diagnostic work, including ensuring that the digital economy is a priority thematic area. Linked to the overarching plan, the NIU is working with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy to ensure that the activities from the Action Matrix are mainstreamed into the Ministry's 2023 annual and

subsequent work plans. In addition to specific trade objectives, the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan has mainstreamed trade and private sector development in all seven pillars of the NDP, including agriculture, fisheries, natural resources, environment and climate change and energy, infrastructure and connectivity.

Togo launches a new National Trade Policy

With support from the EIF, **Togo** developed a new National Trade Development Policy, which guides Togo's engagement in the AfCFTA and sets out a roadmap for a

post-COVID-19 economic recovery, trade mainstreaming into the agriculture, industry and services sectors. More generally, the Policy will help guide implementation of trade dimensions into the government's 2020-2025 Roadmap.





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Mainstreaming tourism as a driver of inclusive growth in Sierra Leone

Time Magazine recently named the Freetown Peninsula of **Sierra Leone** one of the world's greatest places to visit. The EIF has been a pioneer in promoting sustainable tourism in the country, from the development of the Sustainable Tourism Policy through to

catylasing investments into tourism and training facilities. The year 2022 saw substantial progress with the rehabilitation of the Hotel and Tourism Training Centre at the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology and advanced progress on the Small Grants Programme to develop the ecotourism sites on Banana Island, Wara Wara and Tiwai Island, all in close collaboration

with the local communities. This also involved linking ministry officials and community developers to learn from existing successful ecotourism destinations at home and abroad. The updated Tourism Act is now ready for validation to be followed by Parliamentary approval.

Bhutan's Trade Integration and National Export Strategies to be mainstreamed into its NDP for a post-LDC graduation period

Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029) and the Long-term Perspective Plan (2024-2034) are being developed, and progress was made in 2022 in this regard. Trade is a key pillar in both documents to achieve the national objective of transitioning out of the LDC status after 2023 and becoming

a developed nation by 2034. The country's National Export Strategy and the Trade Integration Strategy, elaborated through the DTIS Update project and supported by the EIF, are being mainstreamed into both Plans, with a strong focus being put on the development of trade-related infrastructure, market expansion, trade diversification, enhanced exports of niche agricultural products, and increase of trade in services and access to new sources of growth from digital economy and tourism to investments.

“The support from the EIF has been instrumental in identifying the necessary strategies and in integrating trade into the national development plans in pursuit of becoming a developed nation in the next ten years.

– **Sonam Tenzin**, Director-General, Department of Trade, Bhutan

Kiribati's new e-commerce policy

The EIF is working to strengthen the environment for trade in **Kiribati**, with significant investments in improved trade-related policy and regulations. In 2022, an e-commerce policy was prepared and is expected to be validated by the Government in 2023. Likewise, the EIF supported the development of a National Cooperatives Policy following a review of relevant legislation. EIF resources have also been provided to support the development of national metrology regulations and a review of the Mauri mark standards.



Mozambique's institutional trade committee facilitates trade improvements

In **Mozambique**, the NIU helped re-establish a key inter-ministerial trade committee in 2022, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Bringing together multiple partners, the Committee began processes for the development of an external trade directory; a national export strategy; the WTO's TFA Implementation Plan; a guide to trade negotiations; a toolkit on access to markets; and a database on international trade statistics.



5

Environment and climate

“We have to stay committed to our goal of achieving climate neutrality. At the same time, we have to make sure that climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in our trade relationships do not leave the most vulnerable economies behind.

– **Dirk Meyer**, Director-General, Global Health, Employment, Transformation of the Economy, Digital Technologies, Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, at the Global Review of Aid for Trade

Environmental sustainability and climate resilience are top priorities for the EIF. The LDCs are disproportionately impacted by the effects of environmental challenges, including climate change, which can severely impact trade-related industries, such as agriculture and tourism. As such, the EIF uses the latest research, insights and knowledge to inform its work. In 2022, the EIF organized climate-related dialogues, ensured climate financing was informed by trade and helped address environmental challenges affecting ecotourism, fisheries and honey production.



19 actions through EIF projects in support of the environment in 2022 (86 to date).



Incorporating climate considerations into existing work

“The dialogue has enhanced the relevant knowledge capacity in climate change financing-related issues. It has also helped in bringing close collaborations between the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment on climate-related issues. The event is the first step in realizing The Gambia’s commitment in accessing trade-related climate change financing.

– **Lamin Dampha**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade in The Gambia, at the multi-partner dialogue on linking climate finance and trade priorities

In 2022, the EIF increased its capacity to better incorporate environmental analyses into the most recent generation of DTISs. For example, the ongoing DTIS in **Zambia** will now include a dedicated chapter on trade and climate change. The EIF presented the findings of the EIF-funded project entitled “Aligning trade and climate policy for LDCs and Graduates” to the WTO’s Trade and Environment Structured Discussions and co-organized a Women and Green Trade event on International Women’s Day. The year 2022 also brought a unique opportunity for the EIF to bring forward climate change considerations for the LDCs to a larger audience by engaging

with partners through the Global Review of Aid for Trade held at the WTO in July. The EIF contributed to the Review by collaborating with the WB and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to organize a high-level dialogue on how the LDCs can harness the opportunities from the transition toward a net carbon zero world. In this vein, the EIF, for example, together with the NIU in **The Gambia**, pioneered an initiative that brought together major partners, including the WB and the WTO, for a dialogue to help facilitate stronger linkages between trade and climate change financing mechanisms.



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Improved environmental practices leading to more sustainable agriculture and tourism

“In recognition of the vital services of bees, and following recommendations of the project, many farming communities adopted non-chemical ways of weed and pest control and abandoned the application of powerful agro-chemicals that are deadly to bees and other insects.

– **Workneh Ayalew**, Coordinator, MOre Young Entrepreneurs in Silk and Honey Programme; ICIPE

The EIF was engaged in the honey sector in **Ethiopia** by supporting the planting of 2.6 million saplings of bee foraging plants across 902 hectares (ha). EIF support also included training on safe pesticide application and their effect on bee pollination services. Feedback post-training revealed that some members are now using hand weeding instead of agrochemicals to control weeds. In the context of sustainable shea production in **Mali**, the EIF has been supporting the implementation

of local conventions for the management of forest resources, including the transplantation and natural regeneration of shea trees. In **Sierra Leone**, the National Tourist Board conducted seminars on environmental, social and health impact assessments’ and trainings on tree planting, leading to greater awareness amongst ecotourism communities of environmental issues in the upgrading of tourism sites.



Sustainable fishing in Haiti

“In the past, only salting was used as a technique for preserving our fish products, but with the intervention of the project we have the capacity to keep them fresh.

– **Wilguens Sinor**, project beneficiary in Haiti

In **Haiti**, the EIF has been focusing on improving the sustainable management and utilization of maritime fishing and sea salt harvesting, which constitute the main sources of income of the targeted coastal communities. In 2022, the EIF supported the establishment and formalization of 11 new fishery and salt producer associations and provided training and coaching to enhance the cooperative management practices of three existing fishery and salt producer cooperatives. Fisherfolks also received fishing equipment to strengthen their capacities and

modernize production techniques. Additionally, EIF support contributed to the construction of five units for the transformation and conservation of fish products. With a view to protecting the coastal ecosystem, over 200 fisherfolks have been trained in sustainable fishery techniques, and the EIF supported the installation of two mangrove nurseries at Pointe des Mangles and Môle-Saint-Nicolas and the production of approximately 5,000 red mangrove seedlings in the Pointe des Mangles unit, waiting to be transplanted.



6 Leveraging digital solutions for the LDCs

“With the EIF’s rapid response to the country’s needs, Cambodia has moved quickly to grasp the opportunities of the digital economy, with the EIF’s support to develop a national e-commerce strategy and to set up a national e-commerce platform [...].

– **Samheng Bora**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Trade of Cambodia

The rapid emergence of e-commerce as a dominant force in the global economy has been remarkable. The global pandemic caused this burgeoning technology to quickly proliferate, and it is now clear that all countries must have a comprehensive e-commerce sector to fully engage in the global economy. However, the level of e-commerce in the LDCs is the lowest in the world. That is why the EIF worked to help ensure that the EIF Countries can benefit from the same opportunities that e-commerce affords the rest of the world.



25 actions through EIF projects in support of e-commerce development in 2022 (105 in total).



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Sorting potatoes to be sold through the EIF-established electronic auction centre at Bhutan’s border with India.

How e-commerce is levelling the playing field for women



In 2022, **1,267 MSMEs**, of which **212 women-led** MSMEs in **5 LDCs** (**Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo** and **Uganda**), have received support related to e-commerce or digital marketing. Training included support on registering to e-commerce platforms, using e-commerce platforms and digital marketing techniques.

In 2022, EIF support to the shea sector in **Benin** helped establish a marketplace on CoinAfrique, providing training to women-led MSMEs and developing an e-commerce knowledge-sharing group for project beneficiaries. Likewise, in **Burkina Faso**, training on e-commerce was provided to shea butter producers, many of whom were women. The International

Telecommunication Union also carried out e-commerce training with a focus on women-run businesses in **Burundi, Ethiopia** and **Haiti**. Working with UN-ESCAP, over 2,000 women entrepreneurs have been trained on e-commerce and digital marketing, including how to register and link their businesses to an e-commerce platform to expand their exports.



Developing national e-commerce policies and strategies in Africa



Boutik 221 | Plate-forme nationale d'e-commerce du Sénégal

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The Gambia prepared an assessment of the country's e-commerce readiness and is subsequently developing two bankable projects to support e-commerce implementation. **Tanzania** has been using EIF resources to formulate an e-commerce strategy, while in **Zambia**, EIF support facilitated a consultative virtual meeting, including the members of the EIF National Steering Committee, to review the draft e-commerce strategy.

Madagascar is in the process of upgrading a digital platform for local MSMEs.



Senegal has developed and continues to strengthen its new e-commerce platform, Boutik221, with 655 businesses across the country having registered on the platform as of the end of 2022. In **Rwanda**, an e-commerce policy has been developed alongside a review of the Competition and Consumer Protection Policy. Seven ministerial orders related to the Intellectual

Property Law were also decreed, and an e-commerce data collection and reporting tool was developed to monitor and support digital trade development in the country. Together, these initiatives will enable Rwanda to harness opportunities offered by the AfCFTA, including in the ongoing negotiations of the Protocol on Digital Trade.

“E-commerce has the potential to enable our country to create opportunities for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises led by women and youth who want to participate in emerging markets like the Africa Continental Free Trade Area... It will play a central role in connecting our producers to regional and global value chains.

– **Hon. Kuol Athian Mawien**, Minister for Trade and Industry, South Sudan

Working with UNDP to scale-up e-commerce in South Sudan

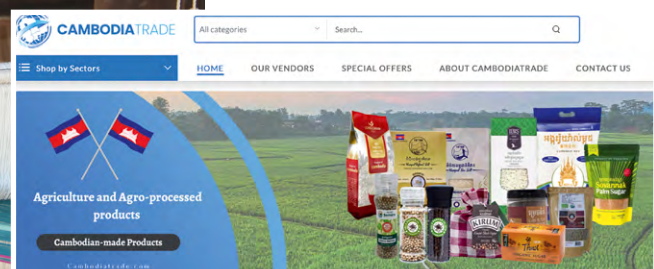
Building on the assessment of trade and peace conducted in **South Sudan**, UNDP has leveraged additional resources from the Netherlands and the African Development Bank to scale up the

e-commerce interventions envisaged in the EIF project. Supporting the implementation of the Revised National Development Strategy 2021-2024, the initiative includes South Sudan's first-ever online marketplace platform, Dukaanye. It aims to expand the hub in five states through the creation of active Innovation Hubs.

Establishing e-commerce platforms for MSMEs in Asia



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Cambodia's e-commerce platform CambodiaTrade was officially launched in March 2022, connecting 132 registered MSMEs with consumers worldwide. This group of MSMEs collectively employ over 4,000 people, over half of whom are women. The platform has been fully integrated with logistics services

providers, such as Cambodia Post and DHL Express (Cambodia) Ltd., and with a variety of payment services providers. A sub-group of around 150 MSMEs is receiving dedicated training to build their digital capacity, and efforts are being undertaken to map and share information on opportunities to

access venture capital. Linking to similar work in **Vanuatu**, the EIF has partnered with the Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation and Swisscontact to electronically connect Cambodia's postal and customs authorities to facilitate the rapid clearance of small packages.

Nepal has formulated a national e-commerce bill in a highly consultative process by including the private sector, experts, young entrepreneurs and the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal. Nepal's e-commerce platform, established with EIF support, now has some 387 MSMEs and 1,382 products registered.

in domestic and foreign investment have been facilitated through prior EIF investments into the development of an e-regulations portal for investment. Developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with the Government of the Netherlands and UNCTAD, the portal provides a step-by-step guide on investment procedures, thus increasing transparency and efficiency of administrative procedures, and it is available in more than 100 languages.



300+ MSMEs onboarded.



1,000+ products registered.

In a model for investment facilitation in **Bhutan**, more than USD 360 million

Boosting digital trade capacity in the Pacific

“Tuvalu is now facing many challenges, the severe and ongoing drought, the outbreak of COVID-19 and the most important being climate change, but despite all these challenges, we are proving that Tuvalu is resilient and is adaptable to any situation. We are now adapting to new normal, and recognize that digital/eTrade is the way of the future.

– **Loloma Kakala**, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Trade, Tuvalu

In **Vanuatu**, customs are now starting to receive advance postal declarations through the Customs Declaration System, after the interface was established with EIF support in 2022. This advanced information assists Customs and other border agencies to process postal items prior to their arrival or departure from Vanuatu, thus facilitating customs risk management and improving the processing and delivery of postal items. Overall, the level of communications between Customs and the postal authorities has improved. Likewise, building directly on this EIF project, the Universal Postal Union will be implementing a new three-year project. As a first pilot of this approach in the LDCs, neighbouring countries are now considering a similar system, including

Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the **Solomon Islands**. With EIF support, working together with UN-ESCAP, **Tuvalu** has now established a national e-commerce committee and has completed its accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts through linked collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. A Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment Study has been conducted, which identified priorities. Funding was secured through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for the development of Tuvalu’s national e-commerce strategy.



A global digital shea platform

“The year 2022 was one of strong wins for the Alliance, although marked with significant challenges, including a slow global economy, supply chain disruptions and high inflation impacting cost of living. We remained intentional about our efforts in building a resilient industry. Strategically, we focused on expansion into new markets, shoring up demand for shea and its derivatives, attracting increased private and donor investment and leveraging policies to amplify trading activities in producing and destination countries.

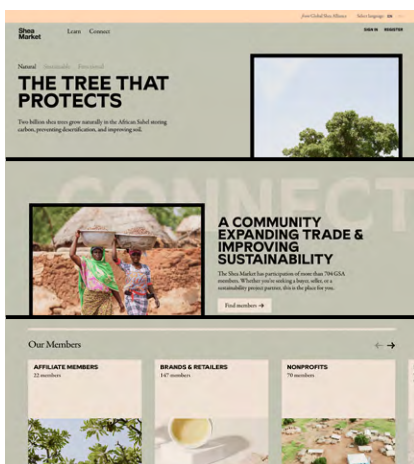
– Simballa Sylla, President, Global Shea Alliance

The development of a digital platform for shea stakeholders is one part of the EIF's ongoing project with the Global Shea Alliance (GSA). In 2022, the GSA facilitated the registration of 72 additional organizations and added more features to the platform. As a result, 367 members composed of producer associations, suppliers, international brands and retailers, affiliate members, non-profits and women groups now have their profiles on the website, which registered more than 26,000 views in 2022 (compared to 14,000 views the previous year) and more than 14,000 engagements

amongst users (compared to 7,000 the previous year). In addition to connecting producers, suppliers and brands/retailers around different shea products displayed on the platform, the platform also connects members to other shea-related services, such as product certification, conservation innovation, traceability and management information systems, transport and logistics and tree planting. In 2023, the GSA will explore partnerships with trade agencies in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo**, the four countries that use the platform.



To date, **34,000 women have been trained** and **50 cooperatives established**, each around new warehouses built through the project. Overall, project beneficiaries have secured USD 41 million in exports.



» [Click/scan here for more](#)



7 Gender and trade

“ We're running out of excuses for not having more women in technology.

– Doreen Bogdan-Martin,
ITU Secretary-General

In 2022, the EIF continued to increase its focus on women, both through projects under the EIF Empower Women, Power Trade initiative and increased mainstreaming of gender priorities into all programming. The EIF has also begun a study to learn how gender dimensions have been included in DTISs and, likewise, how identified action priorities have been implemented.



22,029 more women reached in 2022, accounting for **61%** of EIF beneficiaries in the year.



24 dedicated activities in support of gender and trade in 2022 (**114** to date).



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An overview of 2022 highlights on gender and trade

In 2022, with support from the International Telecommunications Union, **Burundi** validated the gender component of its National Policy on E-Waste. On the sidelines of International Women's Day celebrations at the UN headquarters in March 2023, ITU, jointly with the EIF, launched the Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in Digital Policy, which was under development throughout 2022. The joint project also led country assessments on mainstreaming gender into digital policies in **Burundi**, **Ethiopia** and **Haiti**, which resulted in many recommendations on deepening mainstreaming.

Meanwhile, in **Burkina Faso**, work was undertaken in conjunction with UNCTAD to ensure that women traders' voices were well integrated

into the National Trade Facilitation Committee's activities. Also, in collaboration with the WB, efforts were undertaken in Burkina Faso to improve conditions for women cross-border traders. **Tuvalu** worked closely with the National Council of Women and the Women on Funafuti Association on a number of project activities, including support towards a handicraft centre. In 2022, the EIF's Empower Women, Power Trade project in **Ethiopia** with Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand worked to increase gender awareness in the cut flower sector through radio programmes and dedicated initiatives with flower companies. Feedback indicates that there is an increased community understanding and appreciation of aspects related to gender. The project also provided training for gender committee leads

in local farms. These efforts aimed to further develop the knowledge of gender committees on issues related to gender equality, gender-based violence and sexual harassment.



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Supporting the Women's School of Leadership in Timor-Leste

In **Timor-Leste**, President José Ramos Horta participated in the first graduation ceremony organized by the Women's School of Leadership – an initiative of the EIF, together with the support of Australia and implementation through Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand. The School equips women with increased knowledge and skills in business management, human and women's rights, public speaking, self-confidence, communications

skills, management of conflicts and on how to become gender equality ambassadors in their communities. One of these graduates, Madalena Da Costa, is a coffee farmer who lives in Leolima, a remote village in Timor-Leste. Following the course, she put her entrepreneurial skills into practice and became a leader where she helps other women take ownership of a new income generation project. More broadly, the project has contributed towards the export of 16 containers of coffee and created links to new markets in Canada, Japan and the United States of America.

ITC: Supporting women through SheTrades

The EIF worked closely with ITC across a variety of projects, including by delivering tangible benefits to women traders through the SheTrades initiative in **Rwanda, The Gambia and Zambia**. This work included a strong focus on facilitating access to finance, with the development of a practical guide to “Gender Lens Funding in Zambia” (in partnership with the Bank of Zambia and Absa Bank Zambia). Prior EIF support resulted in gender dimensions being included in the Public Procurement Bill, and, in May 2022, the regulations for implementation were launched. In addition to providing catalytic finance, the EIF helped anchor the initiatives and results into ongoing national systems.

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Enhanced Integrated Framework @EIF4LDCs


Aji Fatou Bobb is a true entrepreneurial spirit who's making waves in the food processing business in **#Gambia** 🇬🇲

With the help of [@ITCnews](#) [#SheTrades](#) Gambia project, she managed to improve product quality, expand to new markets & make an impact on the Gambian economy 🇬🇲 [@ITC_Gambia](#)



11:47 AM · 22 févr. 2023 · 1496 vues

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Enhanced Integrated Framework @EIF4LDCs

Just 3 years ago, Ya Wuday Sowe started Wudsin Creation & with the help of [#SheTrades](#) [#Gambia](#), her fashion business has bloomed!

Now with 4 employees, she's making an impact on the Gambia's economy & job creation. Passion turned to success!

[@ITC_Gambia](#) [@ITCnews](#) [@FMBengaJallow](#)



11:22 AM · 15 févr. 2023 · 1510 vues

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Working with UNCTAD for increased knowledge and training on gender and trade

Amongst other areas, including around e-commerce, trade facilitation, trade policy, investment and customs projects, UNCTAD has been working with the EIF to build skills and knowledge on the gender dimensions of trade in the LDCs. By the end of 2022, more than 200 stakeholders

across 34 LDCs had undertaken an LDC-specific course on gender and trade, prepared with EIF support. Around 93% of participants in 2022 indicated that they felt confident or better prepared to undertake policy-relevant research on trade and gender, and 95% indicated that they felt ready or more able to be involved in gender-sensitive trade policymaking in their own countries.

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Enhanced Integrated Framework
@EIF4LDCs

Women in LDCs face significant challenges accessing resources & security, hindering their participation in trade. @UNCTAD in collab with EIF trains policymakers, academicians & civil society reps on gender-equitable policies to empower 🙌 & promote their leadership in trade 🙌

UNCTAD, the UN trade & development body @UNCTAD · 12 mars
Training helps more women in least developed countries benefit from trade.

@UNCTAD's online courses equip participants to design and implement policies to bridge gender gaps in trade. trade.unctad.org/news/training-...

9:33 AM · 16 mars 2023 · 449 vues

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Tourism and women economic empowerment in Timor-Leste with the World Tourism Organization

Through the EIF's Empower Women, Power Trade Initiative, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is upskilling tourism and hospitality providers in **Timor-Leste** and working

to support an effective post-COVID-19 recovery of the sector. In 2022, the Women Empowerment and Tourism Recovery project included preparing a curriculum in key training areas and equipping trainers with the resources needed for maximizing impact, such as High Impact Tourism Training methods.



8

Food security, agriculture and trade

“The Vanuatu Bureau of Standards would not exist were it not for EIF support to the NTDC.

– Ruth Amos, Head of the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards

Over half of the EIF's investments into the LDCs relate to improved trade for agriculture and the blue economy. Highlights of the EIF's contributions to food security and agriculture in 2022 include stronger standards of food laboratories in Togo; the building of a processing facility for cassava exports in the Solomon Islands (which doubled exports of high-quality cassava to Australia during 2022); and the development of a Blue Economy Policy in São Tomé and Príncipe.



27,000+ people trained in value chain-related areas (67% women) in 2022, contributing towards 65,000+ metric tonnes (MT) in production and USD 130 million+ worth of exports in 2022.

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Advancements in food safety and animal and plant health standards

“Enhancing sustainable economic diversification and pursuing an export-led growth will be critical to sustain the momentum of Bhutan's graduation from the LDC category and move towards becoming a developed nation. The EIF has been a steadfast partner in Bhutan's development journey and a continued partnership will be instrumental in getting over the finish line.

– **Sonam Dorji**, Chief Trade Officer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan

The EIF makes significant investments into support systems, such as improved SPS processes, and in the development of quality infrastructure. In **Togo**, for example, an EIF project ensured that agri-food analysis laboratories met the quality requirements of sector markets. Also, in **Mali**, women-owned MSMEs were trained in quality management systems, food safety and agri-food certification standards. In **Guinea**, the EIF invested in capacity-building for the National Office of Quality Control in order to increase the quality of food for improved public health and increase exports. Likewise, in **Vanuatu**, EIF mechanisms provided the groundwork for a national standards body and more efficient and effective SPS - related customs clearance processes.



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Bhutan's innovative "Bhutan Store"

In 2022, the EIF supported the establishment of an innovative "Bhutan Store" in Perth, Australia. Launched in December 2022, the outlet will promote Bhutanese products, particularly high-value niche products. It will also encourage small domestic businesses to add value to their products. The store will serve as a one-stop centre for all "Made in Bhutan" and "Grown in Bhutan" products in Australia.

The outlet is the first of its kind for Bhutan and will help in the marketing of high-quality products from **Bhutan** and enhance exports internationally. A second outlet in a developed country is expected to be established in 2023. To further support the access of Bhutan's niche products to international markets, in 2022, the EIF helped establish a quinoa processing plant in the southern town of Phuentsholing. This enabled well-packaged and vacuum-sealed quinoa to be available for both domestic consumers and for export.

“The project allowed our 250 members to improve their lives. With the extra money, they were able to visit a doctor and buy medication. They could send their children to school and afford to buy them supplies. Some of them made improvements to their homes, making them more robust and comfortable.

– **Samedi Letromo**, President of the Mboko- Landja Maize Cooperative

Food security in a post-conflict CAR

In **CAR**, by focusing on the three vital sectors of maize, sesame and palm oil, an EIF-funded project contributed significantly to poverty reduction, women’s economic empowerment, youth employment and increased levels of income. These factors are especially important in the context of the national disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration scheme, with trade and agriculture providing alternatives to war. The project aims to boost production by supporting a range of initiatives, including organizing sector actors into cooperatives and associations; delivering direct support to smallholder farmers; and providing technical assistance and training on improved production

techniques. The project’s activities also include the construction of four storage facilities in Mboko-Landja, Vodambala, Mbaki and Subi. As a result of these efforts, EIF support directly contributed to increases in cultivated areas in the three sectors and the production of 278 MT of sesame, 521 MT of maize and 8,890 MT of palm oil in 2022. Through the distribution of high-yield inputs and the introduction of improved farming techniques, the yield increased between 2020 and 2022 from 177.4 kg/ha to 350 kg/ha for maize; from 161.23 kg/ha to 187.04 kg/ha for sesame; and from 8 MT/ha to 17.5 MT/ha for palm oil. In addition, since its launch, the project has contributed to the creation of over 11,000 jobs, of which 4,900 were held by women and 3,400 by youth.





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Increasing Mali's agricultural exports

The shea sector in **Mali** is of paramount importance for the country. With support from the EIF, the quality of shea products has steadily improved, as producers obtained key certifications, including for HACCP and ISO 22000, organic and GLOBAL GAP. This has contributed to an increase in exports and export prices of shea products (nuts and butter). The average price of shea

butter, for instance, increased from around USD 1,724 per MT in 2021 to USD 2,586 per MT in 2022. For the more than 3 million women in Mali, this contributed to increased incomes and improved standards of living. In 2022 as well, in a country where 60% of the total surface area is either arid or semi-arid, the EIF continued to work with the government, including through planting more trees, as part of the regional "Great Green Wall of Africa" initiative.

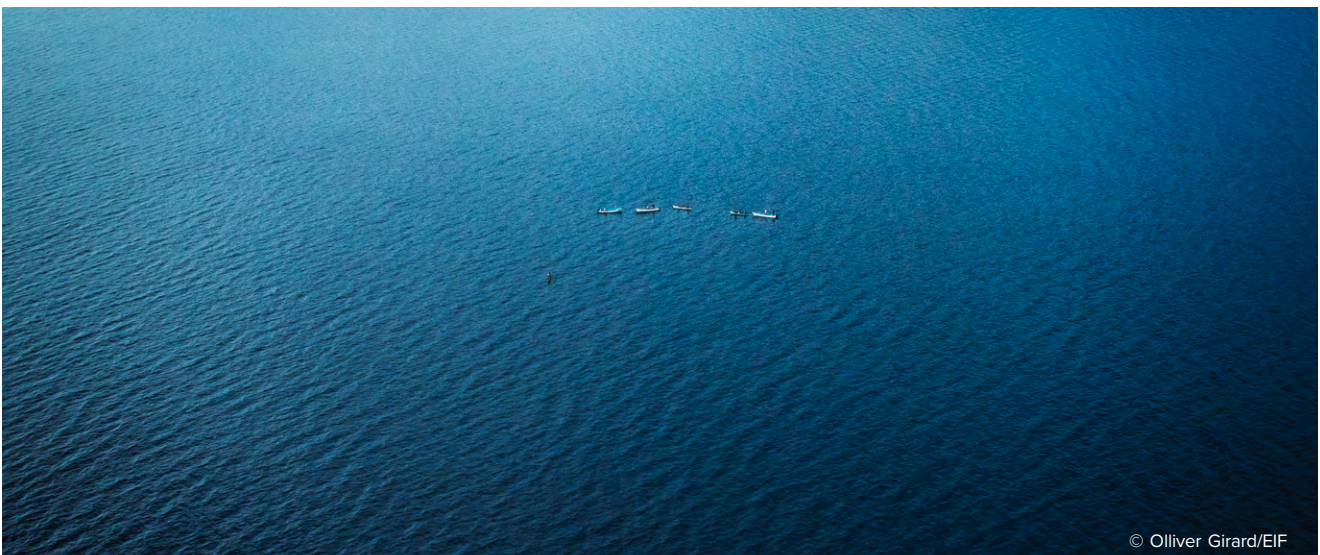


© UNIDO

Investing in the blue economy with the UN Industrial Development Organization

Working with the EIF in **Guinea-Bissau**, UNIDO is investing in the blue economy. It is in this context that EIF support strives to strengthen the competitiveness of the national artisanal fisheries value chain in order to improve socio-economic conditions of more than 300 fisherfolks. Women, who are traditionally responsible for the processing and marketing of fish within the associations, are a core component of EIF support in the

country and are provided with training on market access and exports and technical equipment to improve the drying and salting of fish. Additionally, project activities include the establishment of a market information system and mobile sales points so that women traders can obtain real-time information on supply, demand and prices. An environmental and social management plan is in development to ensure that the project management and investments are well aligned with the environmental requirements in the artisanal fisheries sector.



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Establishing a digital market platform for horticulture in The Gambia

access opportunities and enhancing productive capacity techniques, including through training, for women producers. The platform was developed in 2022 by a Gambian IT company, based on outputs from the EIF-funded assessment of The Gambian digital economy. The initiative is anchored within the private sector with a sustainable business model to ensure that the platform will endure after the end of the project. Strategic partnerships with other international organizations are also a critical component of the project to ensure sustainability and dissemination of knowledge and to create synergies.

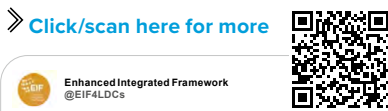
“I will share the knowledge with more women farmers in our region.

– Fatoumatta Gassama, project beneficiary in The Gambia

“We are using the money we made to pay for our children's clothing and schooling.

– Isatou Drammeh, project beneficiary in The Gambia

The horticultural sector is one of the backbones of **The Gambia's** economy, but the COVID-19 crisis has taken a toll on producers and processors, especially women. In response, the EIF – in partnership with ITC – provided support that has led to the establishment of the Jokkalante digital market platform. Jokkalante aims to improve coordination and market linkages in the horticultural value chain by linking producers, buyers and other actors, thereby improving market



Enhanced Integrated Framework @EIF4LDCs

Empowering female farmers in the #Gambia through market-led horticultural production! 🌱

50 gardens & over 500 women trained, resulting in successful shifts in production, income growth & food security 🌱

#Jokkalante @MoTIEBanjul @ITCnews @peterdonelan @ITC_Gambia

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12:07 PM · 8 févr. 2023 · 1665 vues

9 Retweets 20 J'aime





Adding value to coconut products in Kiribati

On 21 December 2022, a virgin coconut oil centre was launched on Tab-South Island in **Kiribati** as part of the EIF's efforts to help the Pacific Island nation implement trade policies that support poverty reduction, inclusive economic growth, equitable sustainable development and a stronger economy. The initiative, launched in partnership with UNDP, aims to specialize in value-added coconut products, such as virgin coconut oil, coconut sap sugar and coconut soap and will assist in disseminating knowledge on coconut value addition, processing

and marketing to producers in the capital and outer islands. The construction and equipping of the processing centre targeted producer cooperatives trained in the production of value-added coconut products, with a particular focus on assisting women and youth on the Tab-South Island to take advantage of the skills gained in the production of coconut value-added products. The government also mobilized support from the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum towards the development of the Coconut Sector Development Strategy and the strengthening of the development of coconut value-added products through UNDP.

Togo's soya production takes off

Togo's soybean sector has evolved into one of the agricultural sectors with the greatest potential for generating added value and employment in the country. The sector was identified by the government in its DTIS as key to its ambition to diversify the country's economy. Building on an initial start by the GIZ, the EIF provided early support to catalyse the growth of the sector through a project that started in 2015 to better organize farmers into cooperatives, teach good farming and harvesting practices and secure organic certification. One example is the Interprofessional Council for the Soybean Sector in Togo, which supports over 24,000 producers, including 9,000 women. EIF support led to more than 112 MT of improved seeds being distributed to more

than 200 cooperatives between 2015 and 2018, resulting in a 73% increase in soybean production over the same period. As of 2022, an annual production of 250,000 MT of soybeans was recorded (up from 25,000 in 2015), and it is estimated that over 700,000 jobs have been generated in the sector, with an additional 121,000 jobs in 2022 alone. In line with the government's ambition, soybeans have indeed become an important strategic export product. The beans have also reached key markets in India, the Netherlands, the United States of America and Vietnam. Although the EIF project ended in 2019, the government's close involvement in the sector, including through regular meetings with key industry bodies and the establishment of a committee, is ensuring the sustainability of the progress achieved.



9 EIF operations: Providing adaptive and impactful programming

“In our experience, the EIF has been useful [in challenging/fragile contexts] to bring focus and attention to an agenda that is not necessarily a big focus of donors. So it has been useful in raising the priority and creating the space for the discussion on trade and economic policies in contexts where this may not be prioritized by different stakeholders.

– **Luisa Bernal**, Policy Specialist,
Trade and Human
Development Unit, UNDP

The EIF provides the most adaptive, flexible and impactful programming possible, with a commitment to value for money (VfM) and fiscal responsibility. By ensuring that initiatives are supported by robust communications strategies and execution, the EIF can maximize participation and publicly document approaches and outcomes that can inspire change far beyond the intended beneficiary. Moreover, the EIF’s rigorous approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning

ensures that programming is constantly evolving in a way that improves outcomes and delivers VfM. Recent years have also underscored the need for programming to be flexible and adaptive in order to respond to unexpected challenges. While the global pandemic continued to present challenges in the ability of the EIF to deliver its programming for most of 2022, much had already been learned from previous years, leaving EIF operations better equipped to adapt to unforeseen challenges.



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Cashew nuts growing as part of an EIF project in The Gambia.

Working together: How EIF partnerships make a difference



At its heart, the EIF is a framework focused on bringing partners together. In the pursuit of building productive capacity and addressing supply-side constraints to eventually enhance exports and diversify traditional markets, the EIF has helped strengthen partnerships with donors, in-country institutions and

partner agencies. By leveraging local expertise and effectively channelling inputs from donors and partner agencies, the EIF brings together governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to work together to make trade work for the LDCs.

Ensuring EIF Donors have the knowledge they need to support the EIF's work

An important part of the EIF's mission to enhance partnerships in the LDCs is fostering strong engagement with the EIF Donors. Throughout 2022, and despite the position of Head of Partnerships, Outreach and Resource Mobilization having been vacant for much of the year, the EIF engaged with EIF Donor partners by convening a wide range of meetings between

the ES and EIF Donor representatives. These meetings provided the EIF with the crucial opportunity to communicate results of activities to the EIF Donors and provided a platform for all participants to highlight their evolving priorities. Additionally, two EIF Steering Committee meetings and partner visits were held in 2022, which provided a valuable opportunity for the EIF Donors to engage more directly with LDC representatives to better understand the impact and scope of the EIF's

work. The EIF works with a broad set of global and in-country partners to implement initiatives. At the heart of the partnership are the EIF's eight Core and Observer Agencies: the International Monetary Fund, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, the UN World Tourism Organization, the WB and the WTO. A snapshot of just some of the highlights of these partnerships are featured in the various sections of this report.

Witnessing the change in person - EIF partners visit Cambodia and Lao PDR

In October 2022, the EIF organized a visit to **Cambodia** and **Lao PDR** to provide partners with a first-hand look at the results, lessons and challenges of implementing an EIF project. The visiting delegation, which was composed of 14 EIF Donor and LDC representatives from both capital and in-country offices, engaged in discussions with the NIUs and the private sector in Cambodia and Lao

PDR. In-country stakeholders and beneficiaries of EIF projects told the delegation how EIF investments had contributed to institutional strengthening, improved marketability of potential export products and facilitated an increased dialogue between the public and the private sectors. The insights contributed by LDC participants during the sessions also provided participants with a more balanced understanding of the LDC perspective and common issues across differing national trade environments.

“The visit was an excellent opportunity to explore what the EIF, together with different stakeholders and partners, has been and is doing on the ground.

– **Anna Rautvuori**, First Secretary, Finland Mission to the WTO

Communicating lessons and results to stakeholders



A **seven-part** series on trade and climate in the LDCs was published around COP27.



More than **40 stories** and op-eds and **5 news** releases were published and reached an audience of more than **2 million people**.



The EIF website was visited by **158,641 new users**, and the EIF gained **1,233 new followers** on social media.

Communications

Communications activities play an essential part in the EIF's work, as it serves to strengthen, showcase, disseminate and emphasize the EIF's collaboration with the LDCs and other partners. The EIF employs this strategy by providing communications-related support to staff within the LDCs and by utilizing the communications channels managed by the ES in Geneva. The collective impact of these initiatives has amplified the visibility and reach of results of the EIF partnership and challenges that are particularly salient for the LDCs.

With many LDCs being on the frontlines of feeling the impacts from the climate crisis, the EIF saw the Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in November 2022 as an opportunity to shed light on the issue and how trade can contribute to a transition towards a more sustainable future for the LDCs. As such, the EIF published a seven-part series on Trade for Development News that delved into key themes such as climate adaptation, climate-resilient

economies and trade policies that are sensitive to climate change, looking specifically at the LDCs.

In 2022, the EIF also provided a platform for the LDCs to tell their stories and reach a wider audience through country Take Over Days on the EIF's social media channels. These initiatives have contributed to enhancing the visibility and increasing awareness of the work carried out in various LDCs, resulting in greater exposure and attention to the implications on the ground. In addition, throughout the year, six opinion pieces were published in global knowledge and media outlets from the World Economic Forum to the Development Matters blog of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Focusing on impact, between September and October 2022, the EIF also launched the #LDCsAddValue social media campaign, highlighting how the partnership had assisted the LDCs in generating employment opportunities, increasing income and enhancing export values through product processing and transformation.

EIF seven-part series
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#LDCsAddValue
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“Building resilience and adaptation will become even more critical as the frequency of climate change-related events occurs. Gearing Aid for Trade to focus on addressing some of these challenges will be increasingly important.

– **Mona Haddad**, World Bank Global Director for Trade, Investment and Competitiveness, at the Global Review of Aid for Trade

Events

To stimulate better dialogue, the EIF collaborated with various partners in 2022 through the organization and support of 21 digital and in-person events focused on pertinent subjects for the LDCs, including digital trade, women empowerment and trade, and climate change. These events helped ensure that issues relevant to the LDCs and their voices were heard in global and regional fora and contributed towards documenting and sharing lessons. For instance,

the Empowering Women to Trade Green event during International Women’s Day, in collaboration with the WTO, aimed to empower women to drive sustainable change and environmentally sensitive economic growth. Also, a joint event with the Commonwealth Secretariat on Maximising the Gains from Digital Trade and the sessions during the UNCTAD eCommerce Week in 2022 aimed to ensure that the LDCs could meet the challenges and harness the benefits of digital trade.

Empowering Women to Trade Green
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Maximising the Gains from Digital Trade
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Monitoring, evaluating and learning



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Monitoring

Monitoring has been focused on a risk-based manner towards programme closure. In addition to ongoing support to EIF projects, a total of 59 missions were jointly undertaken by the ES and the TFM, i.e., 26 field missions and 33 virtual missions, to support project implementation and closure. During these missions, the ES Coordinators and the TFM's Regional Portfolio Managers worked with project implementation teams advising the latter on recommendations to improve and adapt project delivery, including overcoming bottlenecks

and escalating issues where necessary. In 2022, there was an increased focus on the use of sustainability and project closure checklists. A series of monthly joint portfolio reviews was organized to review project progress and address challenges. As part of the review process, the ES and the TFM assessed the fiduciary and implementation risks of each project to adapt the monitoring frequency and interventions, and agree on actions to move forward. The EIF's Management Information System was equipped with a new dashboard for the EIF Board Members to track key closure-related metrics.



“The evaluation was a very inclusive and consultative process, involving the wider stakeholders within the constituencies and in Capitals.


– **Billy Malijani**, Chair of the Evaluation Sub-Committee and First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia in Geneva

Evaluating

The programme evaluation of the EIF concluded in early 2022 with the Evaluation Sub-Committee accepting the final report. Continuing the inclusive process in the oversight of the evaluation, the Sub-Committee developed the draft Management Response to the Immediate Recommendations of the evaluation, which was then discussed and adopted by the EIF Board. Implementation of the Management Response has been underway and aligned with that of the Interim Closure Plan. Separately, work also commenced on developing impact and sustainability review guidelines, harnessing the learnings from the sustainability review process to create a product for all countries. Support was provided to 20+ project evaluations over the course of the year.

Learning

Learning activities included the preparation of a review of the integration of NIUs and consolidation of lessons shared by countries at the EIF regional workshops around themes of communications, evaluations, learning processes, monitoring, resource mobilization, risk management and VfM. Studies were commissioned to better learn from the processes of gender and environmental dimensions and follow-up to DTISs. With a focus on ongoing learning, a review of 23 project-level evaluations in the preceding year was conducted and presented to the EIF Board. Findings indicated that evaluations were increasingly used as part of learning processes at the country level and identified areas for further attention.

Final report 
 » [Click/scan here for more](#)

Value for money

The EIF is committed to delivering strong VfM, focusing on effectiveness, efficiency, economy and equity throughout the programme. With respect to effectiveness, 80% of the programme milestones were met or exceeded in 2022. On efficiency, by 31 December 2022, the total disbursement of EIF Phase Two funds was USD 118.6 million (86.97% of the total allocation). Regarding economy,

the ES continued to optimize and reshuffle existing staff to fill vacant positions. That resulted in a savings of some USD 520,000 (approximately 13% of the 2022 ES budget). For the TFM, the savings during 2022 were USD 270,000 (approximately 11% of the TFM 2022 budget). The overhead rate of the ES and the TFM represented 11.94% of the EIF Donor commitments to the EIF Trust

Fund (below the threshold of 13%). On equity, there was an intensified effort to ensure that no LDC was left behind, with intensified support to new countries to the EIF. Likewise, the EIF maintained a strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment, with women now representing 61% of all beneficiaries. All targets in the EIF VfM matrix for 2022 were met.

Adapting to risks



80% of milestones met or exceeded.



Economy: **USD 700,000+** in cost savings.



Monthly portfolio reviews monitoring project risks.

Risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2022, though they diminished as the year progressed. There continued to be a degree of impact with travel and meeting restrictions in place in some countries up until September 2022. Additional risks related to geopolitical crises, inflation and conflict situations emerged in some LDCs, requiring adjustments to programming and project engagements. Risks arising from armed conflicts were escalated to the EIF Board and managed to reduce the exposure to the programme and funds utilization. The principal operational risks have been those related to the timely completion of ongoing projects and risks for

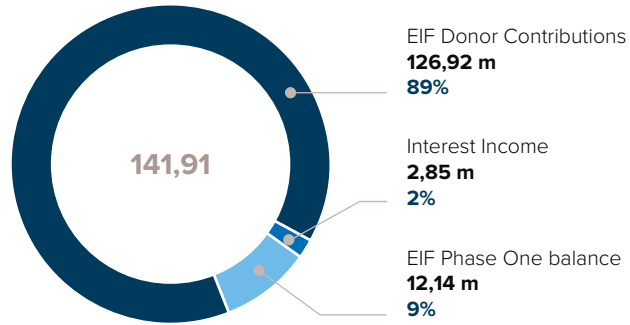
sustainability of results, given that all EIF projects have to be closed in 2023. Mitigation measures included increased risk-based monitoring and more frequent and proactive adaptations of projects, as well as development and roll-out of tools to support assessments of sustainability. With a focus on closure, project-level risks were monitored and updated at minimum on a monthly basis, with programme-level risks monitored through the dedicated joint ES/TFM Risks and Issues Management Task Force. In 2022, the Task Force developed a formal risk management policy for the EIF and established an online risk management system for programme-level risks.

Fiduciary update

EIF Trust Fund at a glance

The contributions from 16 EIF Donors were accepted and managed by the TFM (United Nations Office for Project Services - UNOPS) as a trustee of the EIF Trust Fund. From the 2015 EIF Pledging Conference to 31 December 2022, EIF Donor commitments for EIF Phase Two (including transfer of EIF Phase One balance and interest earned) amounted to USD 149.61 million (out of which USD 141.91 million was received). Total funds received up to the end of 2022 represented 94.83% of the total committed amount.

Trust Fund Sources



EIF Donor Contributions Received – as of 31 December 2022 (USD millions)

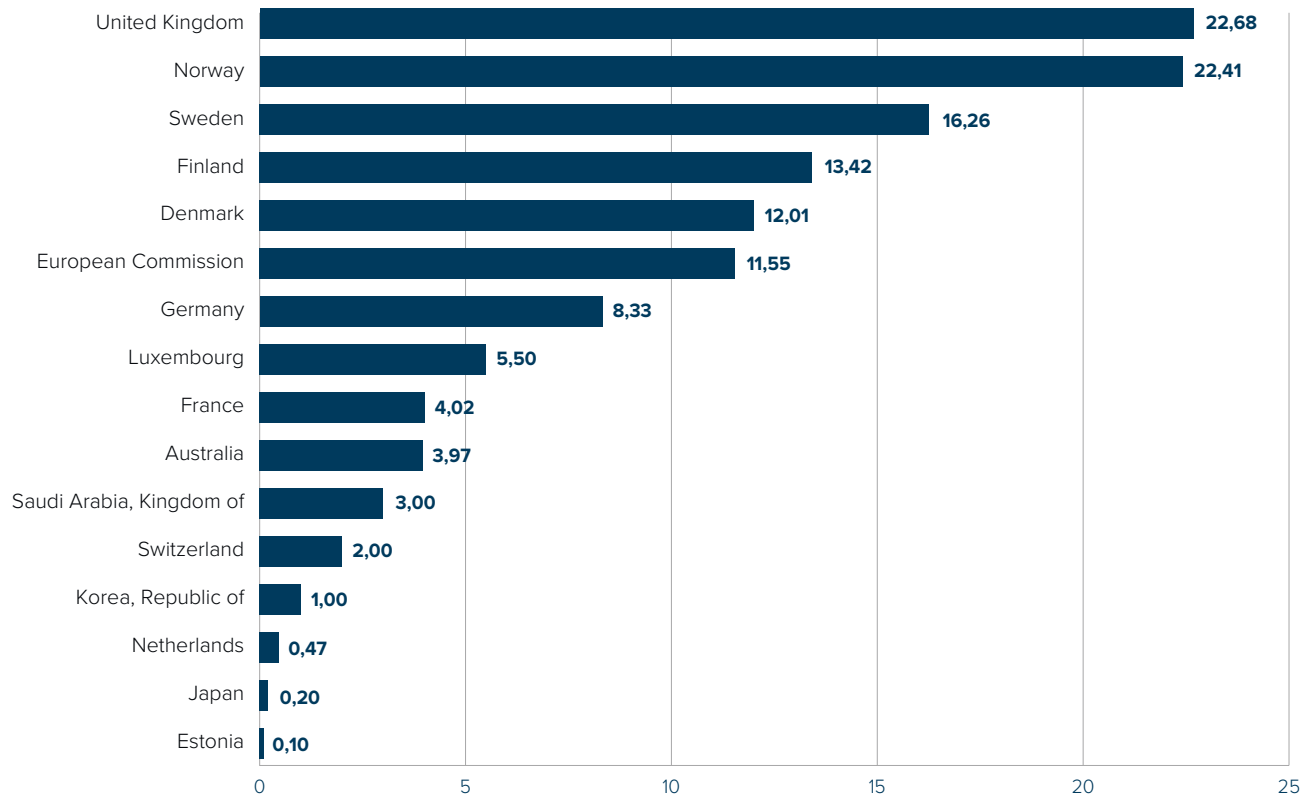


Table 1. Changes during the year 2022 only (in USD)

Report category	EIF Donor	Commitments	Receipts
EIF Donor contribution	Finland		1,116,071
	Luxembourg	388,450	388,434
	Norway		1,743,780
	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of		500,000
	Sweden		1,442,585
	United Kingdom		1,701,571
EIF Donor contributions total		388,450	6,892,441
EIF Phase One balance	EIF Phase One balance		61,762
EIF Phase One balance total			61,762
Interest earned	Interest income - Allocated	116,227	116,226
	Interest income - Refund by Main Implementing Entities (MIEs)	6,035	6,035
Interest earned total		122,262	122,261
Grand total		510,712	7,076,464

Table 2. Status of overall contributions (in USD)

Report category	EIF Donor	Commitments	Receipts	Balance
EIF Donor contributions	Australia	3,965,521	3,965,521	-
	Denmark	12,009,573	12,009,573	-
	Estonia	101,539	101,539	-
	European Commission	11,550,748	11,550,748	-
	Finland	13,424,320	13,424,320	-
	France	4,018,307	4,018,307	-
	Germany	8,332,890	8,332,890	-
	Japan	197,321	197,321	-
	Korea, Republic of	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
	Luxembourg	5,495,219	5,495,219	-
	Netherlands	472,255	472,255	-
	Norway	22,414,346	22,414,346	-
	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	4,000,000	3,000,000	1,000,000

Table 2. Status of overall contributions (in USD)				
Report category	EIF Donor	Commitments	Receipts	Balance
EIF Donor contributions	Sweden	16,259,461	16,259,461	-
	Switzerland	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
	United Kingdom	29,375,669	22,678,464	6,697,205*
EIF Donor contributions total		134,617,169	126,919,964	7,697,205
EIF Phase One balance		12,140,593	12,140,593	-
EIF Phase One balance total		12,140,593	12,140,593	-
Interest earned	Interest income - Allocated	2,789,012	2,789,012	-
	Interest income - Refund by MIEs	60,563	60,563	-
Interest earned total		2,849,575	2,849,575	-
Grand total		149,607,337	141,910,132	7,697,205

*Contribution was cancelled.

EIF Trust Fund allocations for EIF Phase Two

As of 31 December 2022, allocations made for EIF Phase Two activities totalled USD 135.36 million, including USD 91.25 million for projects and USD 23.44 million for ES technical support and global activities, such as the MIEs' capacity-building workshops, outreach, partnership

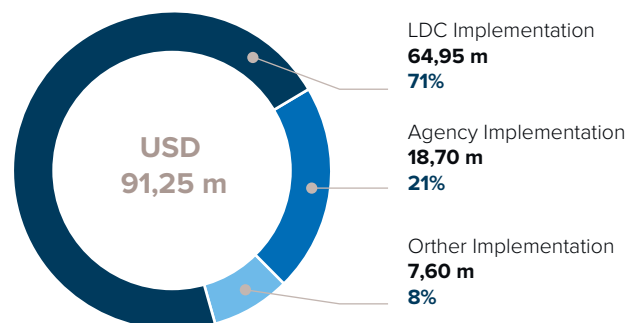
resource mobilization, logistics for EIF Board meetings, strengthening of M&E systems, EIF Management Information System and EIF Knowledge Hub, global platforms and EIF evaluations.

Table 3. Allocations for EIF activities		
Report category	Type	EIF Phase Two
LDC implementation	Tier 1	20,601,565
	Tier 2	37,492,534
	Combined	6,858,277
LDC implementation total		64,952,376
Other implementation	Tier 2	1,610,618
	Regional	5,988,259
Other implementation total		7,598,876

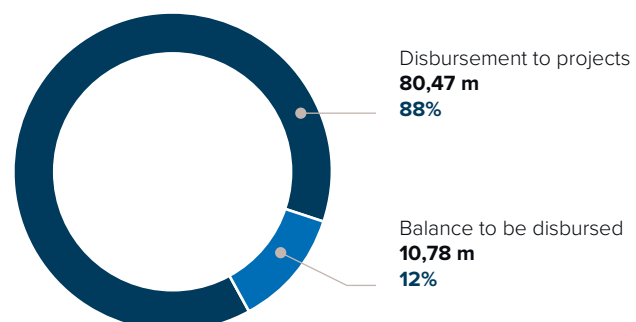
Table 3. Allocations for EIF activities		
Report category	Type	EIF Phase Two
Agency implementation	Tier 1	6,522,274
	Tier 2	4,800,334
	Regional	5,275,527
	Combined	2,100,000
Agency implementation total		18,698,135
ES technical support and global activities		23,442,278
ES administrative component		8,035,152
TFM		12,627,567
Total		135,354,385
UNOPS transaction fee (0.75%)		1,015,158
Grand total		136,369,543

The total allocation for LDC project-implementation (government implementation) was USD 64.95 million (71.18% of total project allocations), while the Agency share of direct implementation was USD 18.67 million (20.49%). The balance of USD 7.6 million (8.33%) represented allocations implemented by various other entities, such as non-governmental organizations and other international organizations.

Allocation to projects per MIE Category



Disbursement to projects



Disbursements and delivery

During 2022, a total of USD 22.38 million was disbursed for the programme. The total disbursement of EIF Phase Two up to 31 December 2022 was USD 118.6 million, which represented 86.97% of the total allocations for EIF Phase Two.

Annual Report category	2016-2021	2022	Grand Total
LDC implementation	47,03	10,30	57,33
Agency implementation	12,59	4,17	16,76
Other implementation	4,94	1,44	6,38
Global activities and ES technical support	3,25	0,65	3,90
ES administrative support	19,54	3,56	23,10
TFM	8,15	2,09	10,25
EIF Trust Fund management transaction fee 0.75%	0,72	0,17	0,88
	96,22	22,38	118,60

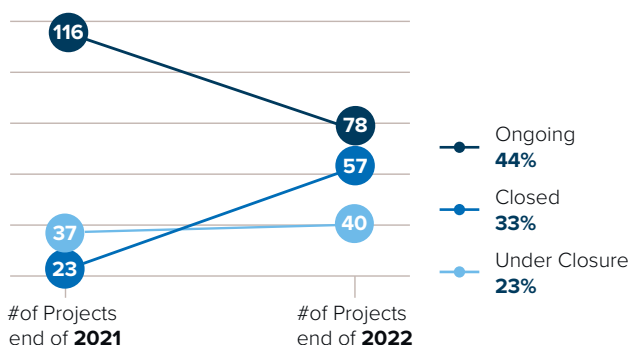
EIF portfolio overview as of 31 December 2022

As of 31 December 2022, 78 projects remained under implementation and three under closure. During the year, 34 projects were closed, changing the number of closed projects from 23 to 57. During 2022, six projects received additional funding under the EIF funds balance

mechanism, approved by the EIF Board, for a total budget of USD 1.12 million. Burkina Faso received additional funding of USD 0.39 million, which was exceptionally approved by the EIF Board meeting during its June 2022 meeting.

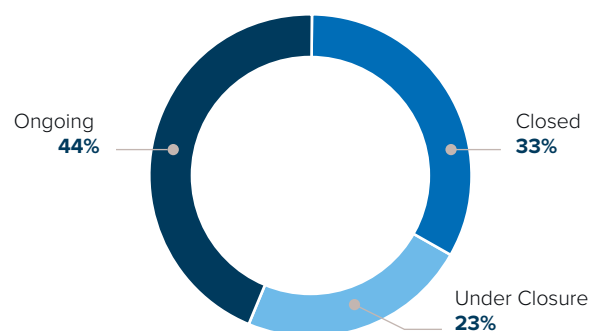
Progress during 2022

(No of projects in implementation phases)



Progress during 2022

(No of projects in implementation phases)



Increased transparency, accountability and oversight over EIF funds

In 2022, the TFM completed the funds transfer to the recipients' main implementing partners, including national MIEs, organizations and agencies. The TFM managed risks during and after the funds transfer by operationalizing

its risk management tools; reviewing MIE reports; and developing new functionalities of the EIF Knowledge Hub for database management.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Funds received and disbursed in accordance with UNOPS Financial Rules and Regulations.

Ensuring that the reporting from MIEs is accurate and completed in a timely manner.

Providing accurate regular and ad-hoc reports as requested by the partners.



PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND CLOSURE from an operational and fiduciary perspective

Safeguard and oversight tools were implemented virtually and in person in 2022. Project monitoring tailored to the risk level.

Risk mitigations applied to ensure a proper use of the funds, while ensuring an understanding of current country-level priorities and challenges.



QUALITY ASSURANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Legal agreements with EIF Donors and MIEs in place covering the full duration of EIF Phase Two and projects. Compliance to UNOPS Rules and Regulations.

Projects were implemented and closed in line with EIF Fiduciary and Programmatic Guidelines.

Contributing to effective coordination and governance (including EIF Board and key partners).



CAPACITY-BUILDING

Continued support to the NIUs in project and financial management.

Replicating best practices towards sustainability of impact from a fiduciary and financial perspective.

Applying flexible tools.



EIF ACCOUNTABILITY PERFORMANCE

Mainstreamed for country ownership, partnership, demand-driven and participatory approaches; and international financial and fiduciary principles (accountability, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness).



DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

The EIF Knowledge Hub continued to serve as the underpinning source of information for the EIF in the year and to feed information on fiduciary aspects into the MIS and the EIF website. As in the prior year, the Hub was continuously improved and adapted to respond to the evolving needs of the programme.



OPTIMIZING THE EIF TRUST FUND'S RESOURCES UTILIZATION

Funds allocation and management continued to align with the EIF's Value for Money principles and Action Matrix.

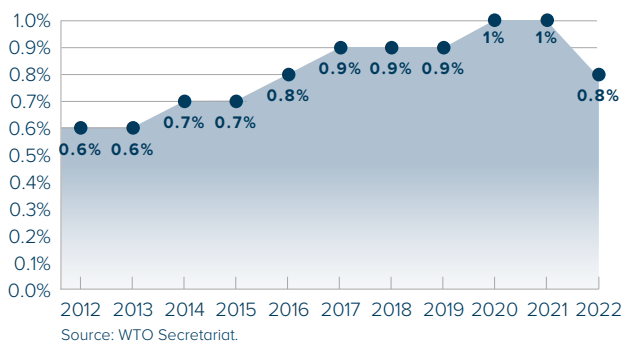
The related indicators continued to be applied across projects' life cycles to ensure that funds were used for the intended outcomes.

10 Annexes

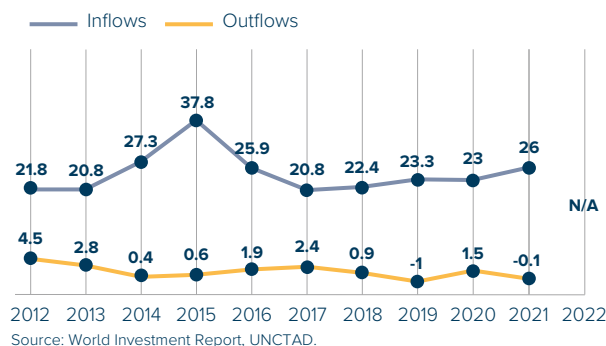
Results by indicator

Impact-Level Indicators

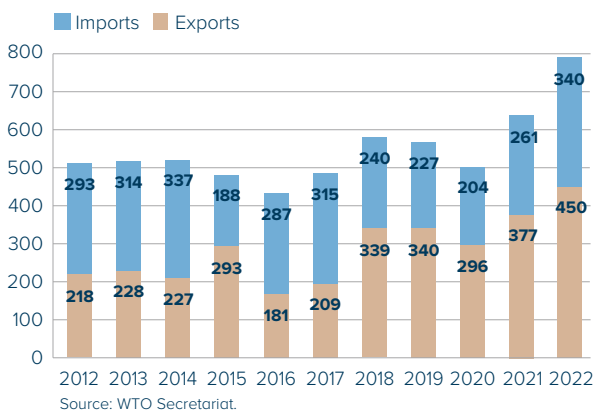
A – LDC share of non-oil exports (%)



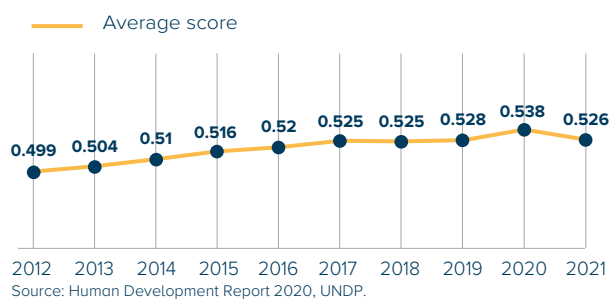
D – Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the LDCs (USD billion)



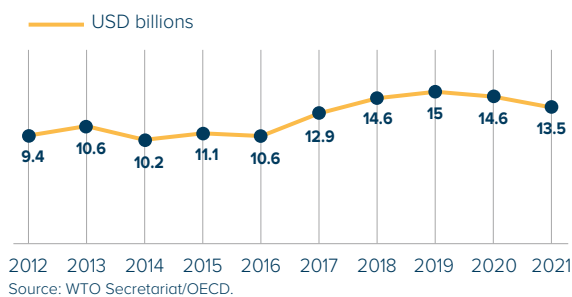
B – Value of trade from the LDCs (USD billion)



E – Human Development Index (HDI) in the LDCs

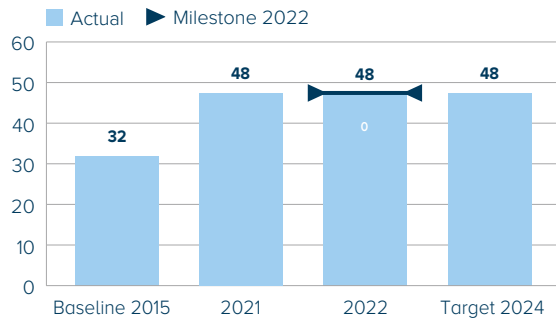


C – Aid for Trade (Aft) flows to the LDCs

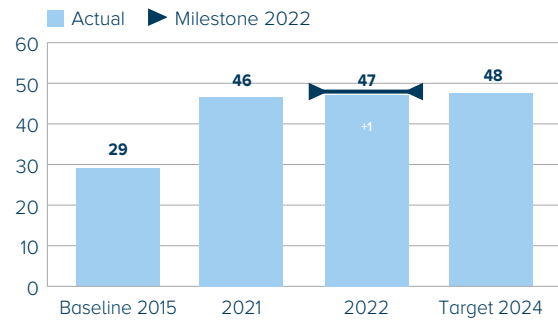


Outcome 1 – Improved trade environment conducive for inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs

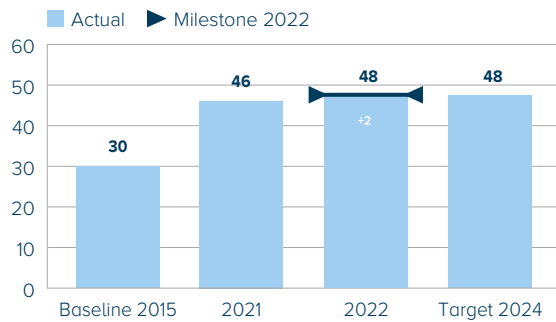
1.a. – Number of EIF Countries with trade integrated into their National Development Plan



1.c. – Number of EIF Countries with sector-specific strategies integrating trade

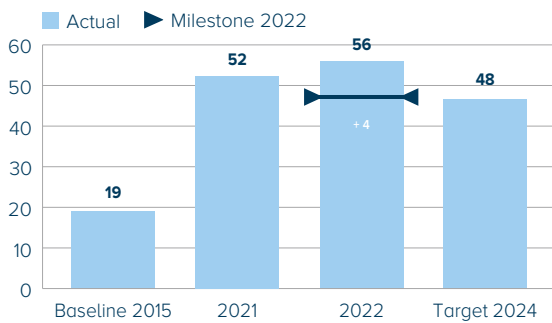


1.b. – Number of EIF Countries with effective trade coordination mechanisms

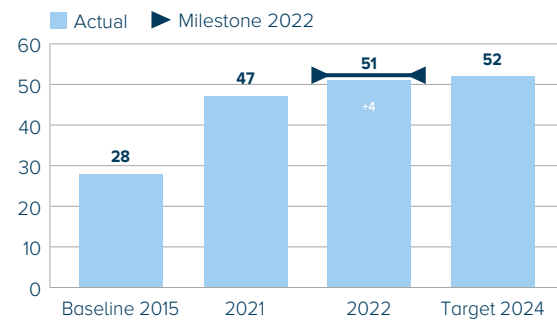


Output 1 – Improved evidence-based policy and regulatory frameworks for trade and investment

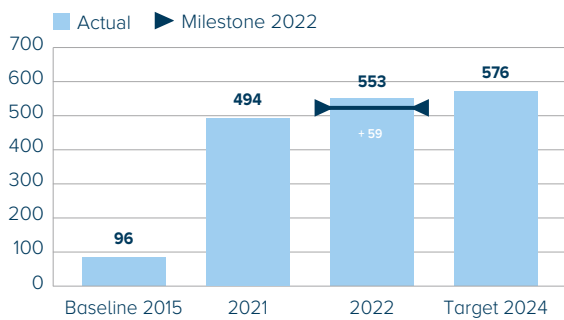
1.1.a. – Number of quality trade policies formulated and updated with support from the EIF



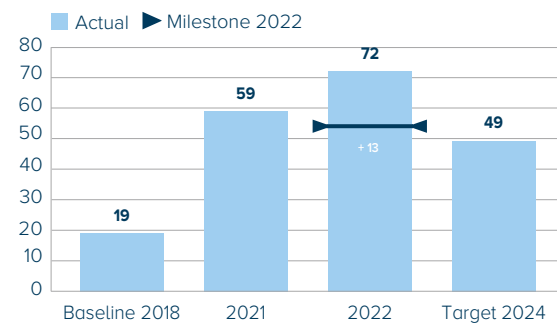
1.1.c. – Number of DTISs developed through EIF support



1.1.b. – Number of actions undertaken for improved legislation and participation in trade-related fora

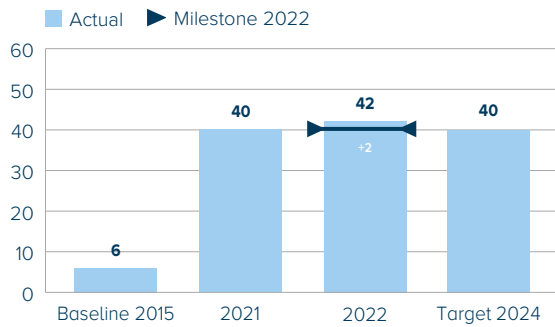


1.1.d. – Number of trade- and investment-related regulations adopted

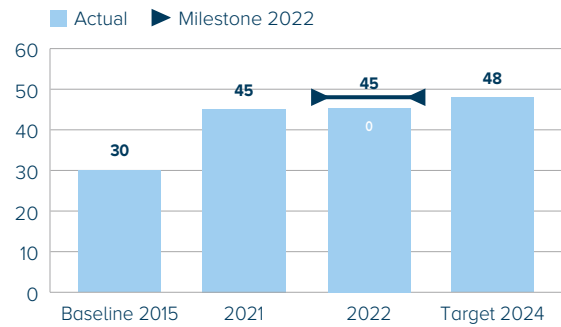


Output 2 – Strengthened institutional coordination for trade development and investment

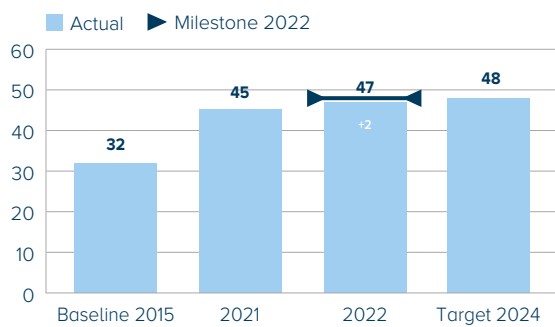
1.2.a. – Number of EIF Countries with National Implementation Units integrated into the government system



1.2.c. – Number of EIF Countries with quality government-donor dialogue mechanisms on trade- and investment-related matters

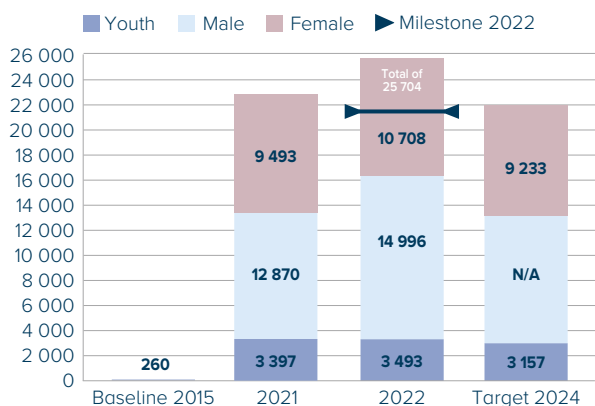


1.2.b. – Number of EIF Countries with quality functioning public-private coordination mechanisms

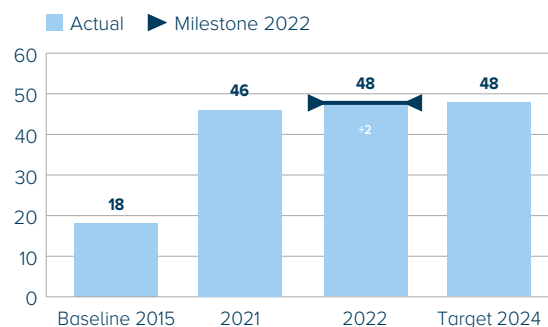


Output 3 – Enhanced capacities for policy formulation and implementation

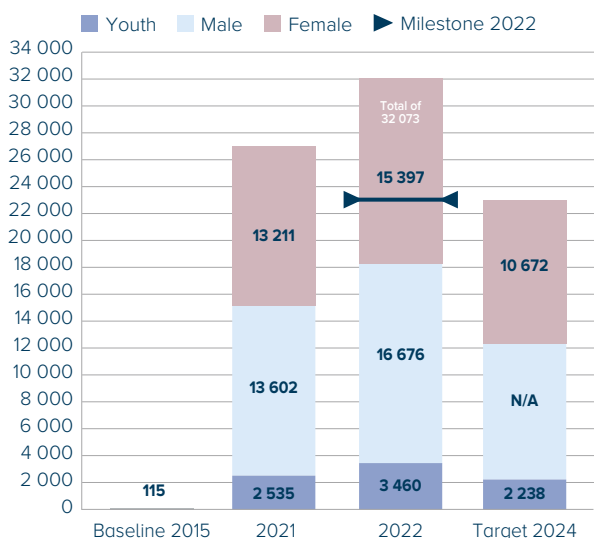
1.3.a. – Number of public officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas



1.3.c. – Number of EIF countries with investment and trade-related information dissemination tools for different stakeholders

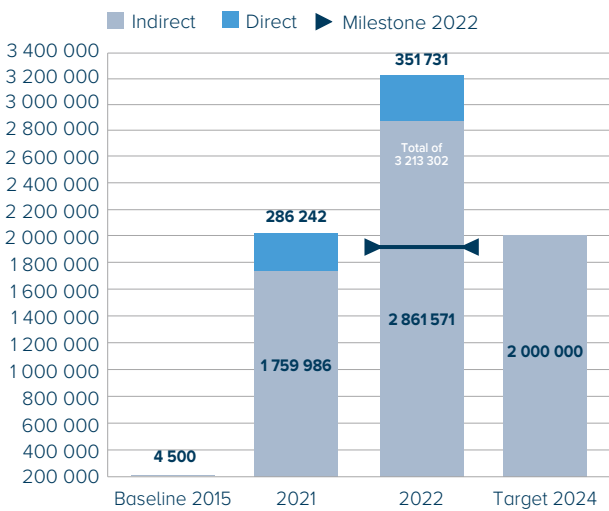


1.3.b. – Number of private sector and civil society representatives (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas to participate in the national trade agenda

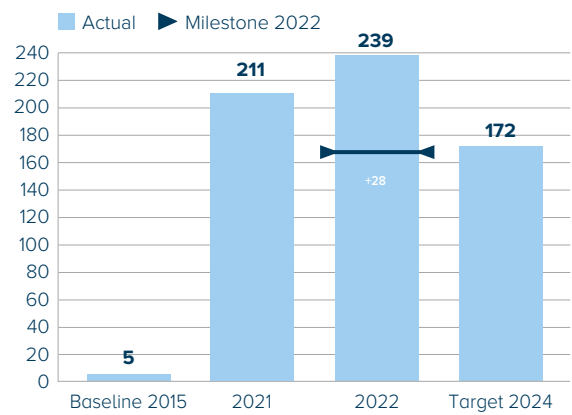


Outcome 2 – Increased exports and access to international markets for the LDCs

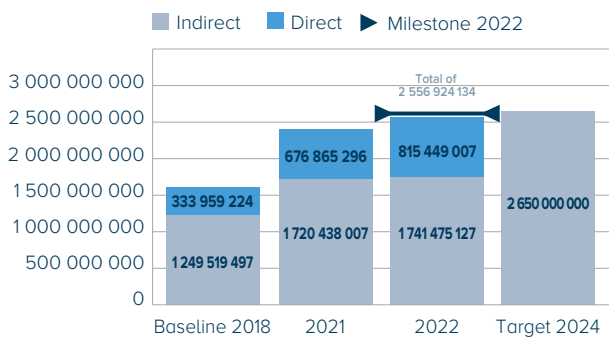
2.a. – Volume of production generated through EIF interventions (tonnes)



2.c. – Number of new international markets accessed with support from the EIF

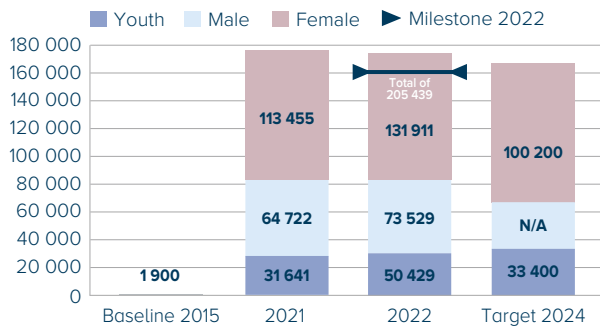


2.b. – Value of exports generated through EIF interventions (in USD)

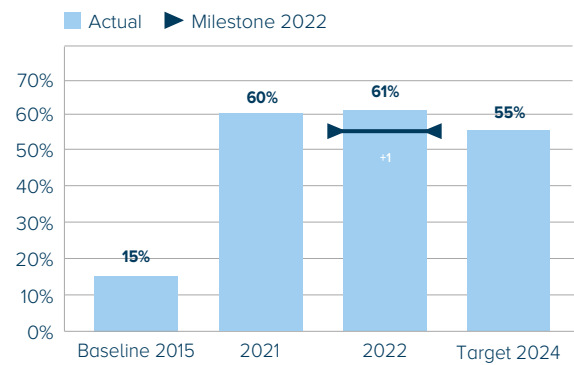


Output 1 – Improved participation of the EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets

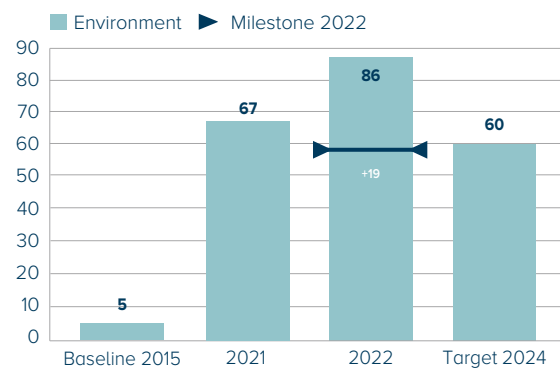
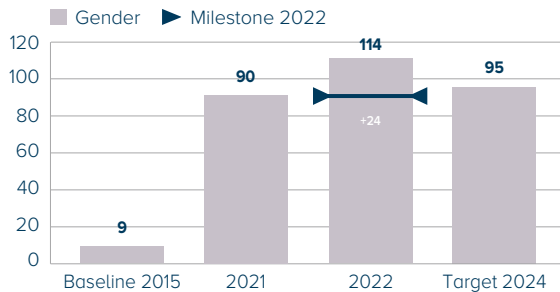
2.1.a. – Total number of people trained in value chain practices (disaggregated by gender and age) through participation in EIF capacity-building initiatives



2.1.c. – Percentage of women directly benefitting from EIF-funded productive sector projects

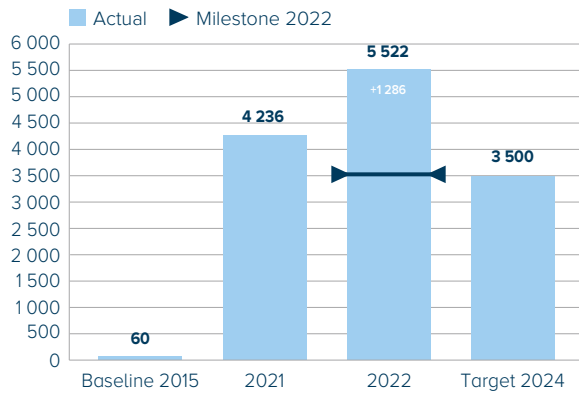


2.1.b. – Number of awareness-raising activities conducted on gender and the environment

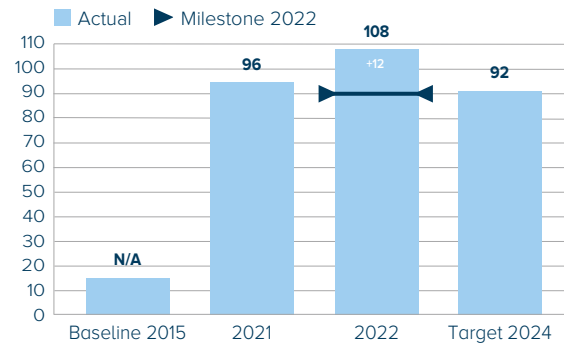


Output 1 – Improved participation of the EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets

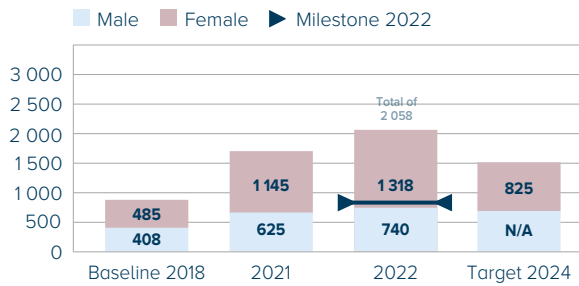
2.1.d. – Number of producer associations trained in value chain practices



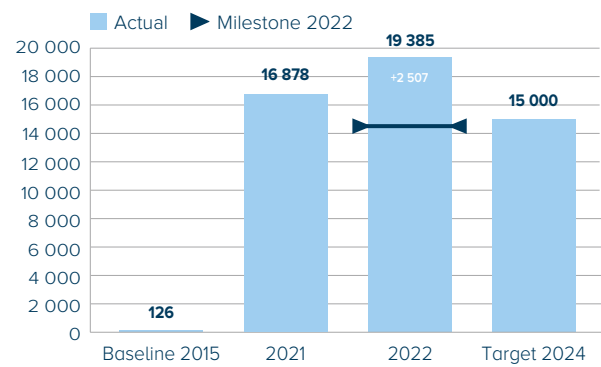
2.1.f. – Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support



2.1.e. – Number of people (disaggregated by gender) participating in trade fairs related to market connectivity

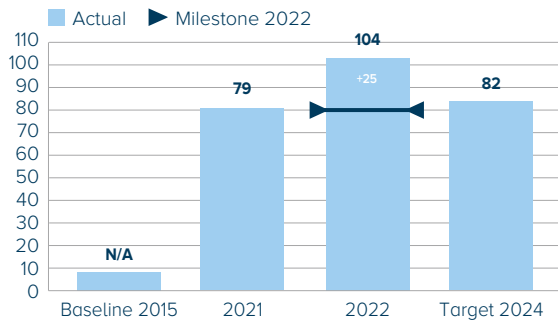


2.1.g. – Number of MSMEs supported by EIF projects

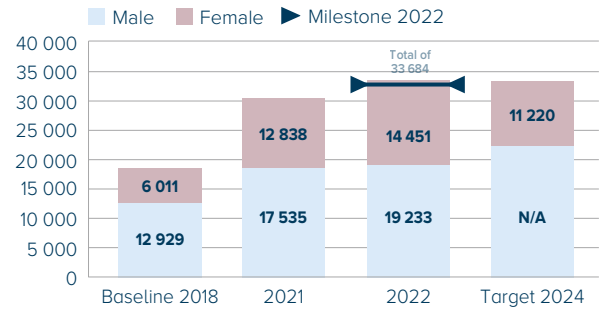


Output 2 – Improved technology use in production and services in selected value chains

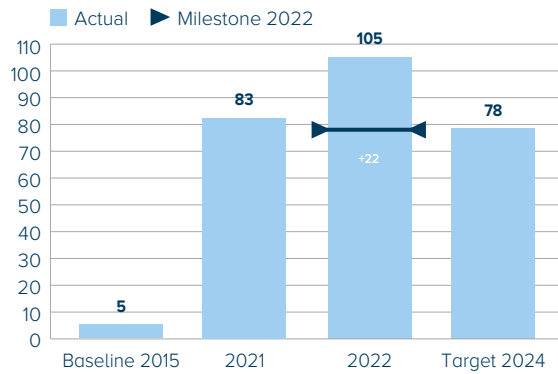
2.2.a. – Number of e-commerce initiatives undertaken



2.2.c. – Number of people (disaggregated by gender) adopting new technology through EIF capacity-building initiatives

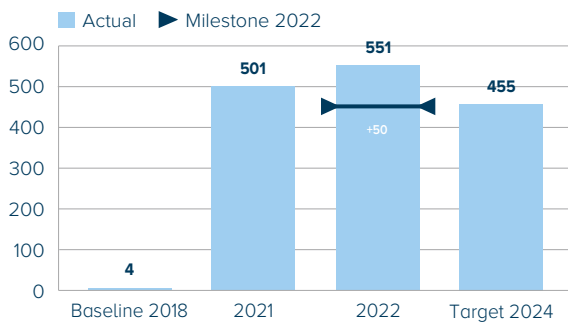


2.2.b. – Number of new technologies adopted through EIF support

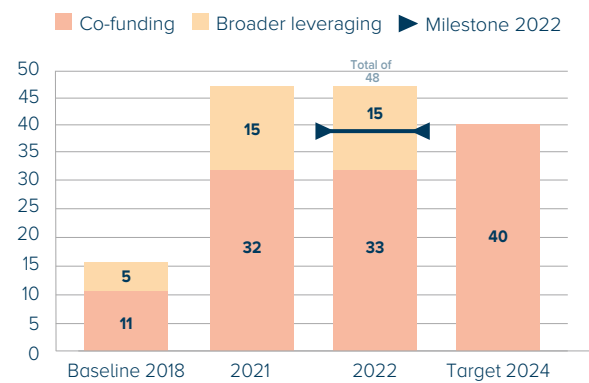


Output 3 – Support to the EIF Countries to leverage (directly and indirectly) additional resources

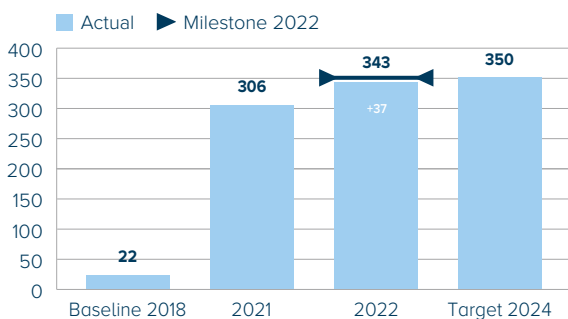
2.3.a. – Number of actions undertaken by EIF partners (Agencies/Main Implementing Entities) in support of leveraging finance and expertise



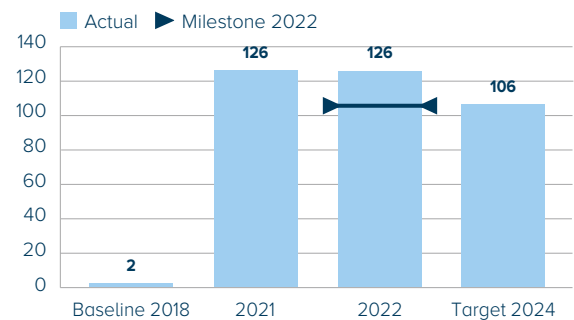
2.3.c. – Number of EIF projects leveraging private sector resources



2.3.b. – Number of projects funded by development partners (Donors/Agencies/development banks) related to the Action Matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study



2.3.d. – Number of EIF projects receiving additional funding from governments and development partners



List of projects in EIF Phase One and Two



As of 31 December 2022

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Afghanistan	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS)	Completion	400,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
	DTIS Update	Termination	1,713
	EIF National Implementation Arrangements (NIA) Support (Tier 1 Phase 1)	Termination	12,560
	Support to NIA (Repackaged)	Termination	62,440
Afghanistan Total			526,713
Angola	DTIS Update	Implementation	300,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Implementation	150,000
Angola Total			450,000
Bangladesh	DTIS Update (Repackaged)	Implementation	200,000
	Export Competitiveness Development Project	Implementation	856,528
	DTIS	Completion	460,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	300,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1 - Years 2 and 3	Completion	600,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
Bangladesh Total			2,466,528
Benin	Shea Value Chain Development	Implementation	1,500,000
	National Export Strategy	Implementation	200,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	196,353
	Feasibility Study for Cross-Border Trade Facility	Completion	118,377
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,499,991
	Strengthening of Productive and Marketing Capacities	Completion	2,955,805
	Sustainability Support	Completion	291,417
Benin Total			1,500,000
Bhutan	Export Diversification - Brand Bhutan	Implementation	1,500,000
	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	DTIS	Completion	400,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	200,000
	E-Infrastructure (E4T)	Completion	1,482,270
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,053
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	600,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
Bhutan Total			5,207,323

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Burkina Faso	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Shea Butter Industry (PACFI-K)	Implementation	1,888,230
	DTIS Update	Completion	191,322
	Mainstreaming	Completion	70,621
	Mango and Cashew	Completion	2,999,089
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,465,002
	Shea Butter - Feasibility Study	Completion	196,094
	Strengthening the Productive and Commercial Capacities of the Sesame Sector	Completion	2,666,884
	Sustainability Support	Completion	286,764
Burkina Faso Total			9,463,792
Burundi	Agribusiness Sanitary and Phytosanitary Support	Completion	2,503,277
	Export Support Mechanisms	Completion	606,274
	DTIS Update	Completion	198,268
	DTIS Update Second	Completion	249,470
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,499,476
	Sustainability Support	Completion	296,592
Burundi Total			5,353,358
Cabo Verde	DTIS Update	Completion	200,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	594,344
Cabo Verde Total			1,694,344
Cambodia	Go4eCAM	Implementation	1,499,344
	Cambodia Export Diversification and Expansion Program (CEDEP) I - Evaluation	Completion	220,661
	CEDEP I - Rice	Completion	1,112,847
	CEDEP I - Silk	Completion	974,980
	CEDEP II - Academy of Culinary Arts	Completion	950,000
	CEDEP II - Cassava	Completion	993,955
	CEDEP II - Evaluation	Completion	339,952
	CEDEP II - Marine Fishery	Completion	988,953
	DTIS Update	Completion	194,355
	DTIS Update - Second	Completion	185,756
	E-Commerce Strategy Formulation	Completion	116,917
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,288,392
	Sustainability Support	Completion	201,192
Cambodia Total			9,067,305

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Central African Republic	DTIS Update - Second	Implementation	150,000
	Sesame, Corn and Palm Oil	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	29,455
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	564,186
Central African Republic Total			3,143,641
Chad	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	367,000
	Feasibility Study to Support the Date, Natron and Sesame Sectors	Completion	147,235
	Gum Arabic - International Trade Advisor (ITA) Support	Completion	375,180
	Gum Arabic (PRCCGAT)	Completion	2,492,036
	Hides and Skins (PRCCFPCT)	Completion	1,500,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,500,000
	NIA Support through ITA	Completion	730,541
	Sustainability Support	Completion	297,028
Chad Total			7,484,020
Comoros	Eco-Tourism	Implementation	1,500,000
	WTO Accession Support	Implementation	100,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	256,791
	Export Competitiveness	Completion	3,503,237
	Mainstreaming Support	Completion	199,933
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	599,650
	Sustainability Support	Completion	299,543
Comoros Total			7,359,154
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Palm Oil	Completion	2,647,745
	DTIS	Completion	400,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	198,810
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,500,159
	NIA Support through ITA - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	252,520
	NIA Support through ITA - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	75,193
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	49,841
	Sustainability Support	Completion	150,000
Congo, Democratic Republic of the Total			5,274,268

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Djibouti	Improving the Business Environment and Developing Entrepreneurship	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	196,529
	National Trade and E-Commerce Strategy Development	Completion	120,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,381,375
	NIA Support through ITA	Completion	642,592
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
	Tourism Development and Promotion	Completion	1,469,088
Djibouti Total			5,609,584
Equatorial Guinea	DTIS	Completion	285,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	898,560
Equatorial Guinea Total			1,233,560
Ethiopia	Sustainability Support	Implementation	160,534
	DTIS Update	Completion	390,058
	Honey Quality Production and Fair Trade (International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology)	Completion	1,484,978
	NIA Support - Phase 1	Completion	625,000
	NIA Support - Phase 2	Completion	490,000
	NIA Support through ITA	Completion	49,963
Ethiopia Total			3,200,533
Gambia, The	COVID-19 Recovery - Market Access for Women Horticulture Producers	Implementation	200,000
	Trade and Digital Economy Assessment	Implementation	99,715
	Trade Mainstreaming and Value Chain Enhancement – Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme (Pilot Project)	Completion	50,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	193,559
	Mainstreaming	Completion	89,409
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,498,986
	Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification Project (SCEDP)	Completion	2,340,528
	SheTrades Gambia	Completion	285,607
	Sustainability Support	Completion	297,500
	Trade Facilitation (Airport)	Completion	2,494,200
Gambia, The Total			7,624,505

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Guinea	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Reverse Linkage on Enhancing the Value Chain	Implementation	348,090
	Strengthening the Operational Capacity of the National Office of Quality Control	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	278,476
	Mango (PRODEFIMA)	Completion	2,998,148
	National Trade Development Strategy	Completion	200,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,500,000
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
Guinea Total			7,199,714
Guinea-Bissau	Development of the Artisanal Fisheries (DESPAR-GB)	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	199,435
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,500,000
	NIA Support through ITA	Completion	205,610
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
Guinea-Bissau Total			3,705,045
Haiti	Fisheries and Sea Salt	Implementation	1,500,000
	Sustainability Support	Implementation	300,000
	DTIS	Completion	294,953
	Feasibility Study - Agriculture Sector	Completion	174,424
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	591,545
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
Haiti Total			3,810,922
Kiribati	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Implementation	600,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1 - Years 1 and 2	Completion	600,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1 - Year 3	Completion	279,183
	Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	60,106
Kiribati Total			1,539,289
Lao PDR	Combined - Promotion of Export Competitiveness and Sustainability Support	Implementation	1,940,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	390,484
	DTIS Update - Second	Completion	179,455
	Mainstreaming	Completion	198,496
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,446,260
	Quality and Statistics	Completion	2,488,411
Lao PDR Total			6,643,106

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Lesotho	Agricultural Productivity	Completion	2,705,214
	DTIS Update	Completion	160,000
	National Export Strategy Roadmap	Completion	97,186
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,296,857
	Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	54,409
	Sustainability Support	Completion	299,754
	Trade Mainstreaming - National Trade Policy	Completion	170,277
Lesotho Total			4,783,697
Liberia	DTIS Update	Completion	199,640
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	49,204
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,499,900
	Surf Tourism	Completion	500,000
	Sustainability Support	Completion	150,000
	Tourism and Furniture Feasibility Studies	Completion	199,433
Liberia Total			2,598,176
Madagascar	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Implementation	1,348,285
	DTIS Update	Completion	223,840
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	49,677
Madagascar Total			1,621,802
Malawi	Project Preparation Grand (PPG) - Flagship National Export Strategy II	Implementation	100,000
	Sustainability Support Project	Implementation	300,000
	Cotton By-Products	Completion	50,168
	DTIS Update	Completion	199,080
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	59,757
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	899,250
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	593,173
	Smallholder Linkages to Agro-Processing (NASFAM)	Completion	1,648,750
	Study on Special Activity Economic Zone (MITC-SEZ)	Completion	200,000
	Support to Agro-Processing (MITC) - EIF Phase One Part	Completion	1,146,299
	Support to Agro-Processing (MITC) - EIF Phase Two Part	Completion	204,378
Malawi Total			5,400,854
Maldives	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,495,522
	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Trade Facilitation	Completion	1,557,502
Maldives Total			3,053,024

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Mali	Gum Arabic - EIF Phase Two Part	Implementation	798,051
	Project for the Development of the Shea Butter Industry (PRODEFIKA)	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	200,000
	Gum Arabic - EIF Part One Part	Completion	2,825,340
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,412,863
	Sustainability Support	Completion	299,643
Mali Total			7,035,897
Mauritania	Eco-Tourism (PNBA)	Implementation	1,500,000
	Trade-Related Institutional Capacity-Building	Implementation	600,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	400,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	890,216
Mauritania Total			3,390,216
Mozambique	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2 - Repackaged	Implementation	300,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	195,755
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	597,472
	NIA Support through ITA	Completion	184,150
Mozambique Total			1,277,377
Myanmar	Combined - Services Trade Enhancement (M-STEP) and NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	1,119,377
	DTIS	Completion	340,050
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1 - Years 1 and 2	Completion	600,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1 - Year 3	Completion	293,613
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
Myanmar Total			2,403,039
Nepal	Sustainability Support	Implementation	200,000
	Sustainable Tea Exports (NISTE)	Implementation	1,495,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	86,448
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	44,274
	Ginger Competitiveness	Completion	700,642
	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants - EIF Phase One Part	Completion	3,580,000
	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants - EIF Phase Two Part	Completion	125,639
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	941,687
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2 - Repackaged	Completion	311,865
	Pashmina (PETS)	Completion	1,861,603
Nepal Total			9,347,159

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Niger	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Development of the Sesame Sector	Completion	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	193,144
	Leather (Hides and Skins)	Completion	2,271,070
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,492,140
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
Niger Total			5,831,353
Rwanda	Export Growth Initiatives	Implementation	1,488,250
	Kickstarting of the AfCTA in Rwanda - Post Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Trade Competitiveness through E-Commerce	Implementation	500,000
	Cross-Border Capacity Development	Completion	3,324,948
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,634,400
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
Rwanda Total			7,322,598
Samoa	DTIS Update	Completion	156,469
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	42,347
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	898,682
	Trade Sector Support Programme (TSSP) - EIF Phase Two Part	Completion	539,378
	TSSP - EIF Phase One Part	Completion	2,364,849
Samoa Total			4,001,725
Sao Tome and Principe	NIA Support Tier 1 Phase 1	Implementation	900,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	173,705
Sao Tome and Principe Total			1,073,705
Senegal	Establishment of the E-Commerce National Platform	Implementation	200,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	195,734
	Mango Competitiveness - EIF Phase One Part	Completion	2,877,541
	Mango Competitiveness - EIF Phase Two Part	Completion	112,002
	Metrology	Completion	1,500,000
	NIA Support - Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Phase 2	Completion	600,000
	Sustainability Support	Completion	300,000
	Trade mainstreaming	Completion	200,000
Senegal Total			6,885,277

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Sierra Leone	Sustainable Tourism (STDPP) - Repackaged	Implementation	1,699,990
	DTIS Update	Completion	199,873
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,392,393
	Sustainability Support	Completion	166,466
	Sustainable Tourism (STDPP)	Completion	811,074
Sierra Leone Total			4,269,796
Solomon Islands	Enhancing Capacities for Agriculture Trade (ECAT)	Implementation	1,500,000
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	46,460
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2 - Year 5	Completion	150,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2 - Years 1 to 4	Completion	1,200,000
	Tourism (SI-TIDE)	Completion	1,500,000
Solomon Islands Total			4,396,460
Somalia	Institutional Capacity-Building for Somalia's WTO Accession and Trade Integration	Implementation	200,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,875
Somalia Total			250,875
South Sudan	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Implementation	1,050,000
	DTIS	Completion	398,456
	DTIS Update	Completion	200,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
	Trade Mainstreaming	Completion	115,365
South Sudan Total			1,813,821
Sudan	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1- Repackaged	Implementation	616,020
	DTIS Update	Completion	197,759
Sudan Total			813,779
Tanzania	Combined - MSMEs Capacity and Tier 1 Phase 2	Implementation	2,100,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	340,466
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
Tanzania Total			3,340,466
Timor-Leste	Capacity-Building for WTO Accession and Trade Integration	Implementation	300,000
	Women Empowerment and Tourism Recovery	Implementation	149,640
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	43,515
Timor-Leste Total			493,155

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Togo	Combined - Sustainability Support - Cashew and Shea (PRODAK)	Implementation	1,800,000
	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	Cotton By-Products	Completion	50,168
	DTIS	Completion	400,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	200,000
	National Trade Development Policy Update	Completion	100,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,500,000
	Pre-DTIS	Completion	50,000
	Soya	Completion	2,991,216
Togo Total			7,166,384
Tuvalu	Sustainability Support	Implementation	85,000
	Trade and Integrated Private Sector Development	Implementation	1,500,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	156,445
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	59,938
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	502,027
Tuvalu Total			3,203,410
Uganda	Handicraft and Souvenir Development (HSDP)	Implementation	1,700,400
	Post-Sustainability Support	Implementation	75,000
	District Commercial Services (DICOSS)	Completion	2,987,089
	DTIS Update	Completion	192,592
	DTIS Update - Second	Completion	194,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phases 1 and 2	Completion	1,495,932
	Sustainability Support	Completion	262,685
Uganda Total			6,907,698
Vanuatu	Automated System for Customs Data and Universal Postal Union Customs Declaration System	Completion	200,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	174,782
	Electronic Single Window System	Completion	1,293,158
	eTrade Readiness Assessment	Completion	48,233
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	900,000
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	426,940
	Smooth Transition Graduation	Completion	81,427
	Sustainability Support	Completion	142,933
	Tourism Infrastructure	Completion	2,967,654
Vanuatu Total			6,235,127

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Yemen	Center for Bee Disease and Pest Management (CBDP)	Completion	1,086,837
	DTIS Update	Completion	237,010
	Honey Productivity and Quality (IHPQ)	Completion	1,060,154
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	931,000
Yemen Total			3,315,001
Zambia	Combined - Cooperatives Development and Sustainability Support	Implementation	1,998,900
	DTIS Update - 2021	Implementation	180,000
	SheTrades Zambia (C081)	Implementation	150,000
	DTIS Update	Completion	397,570
	Honey (TIPEC-ZAS)	Completion	2,469,930
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 1	Completion	898,928
	NIA Support - Tier 1 Phase 2	Completion	587,406
	Phytosanitary Capacity Strengthening	Completion	200,000
	SheTrades Zambia (B785)	Completion	200,000
Zambia Total			7,082,734
Regional	Capacity-Building Investment Promotion - World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)	Implementation	378,000
	Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion Agencies - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Implementation	208,049
	E-Commerce Capacity-Building for Women-Led Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	Implementation	498,300
	Enhancing Capacity for Sustainable Cross-Border Trade Digitalization Through Application of Emerging Technologies - UNESCAP	Implementation	297,353
	Enhancing Investment Promotion Capacities in Francophone LDCs - WAIPA	Implementation	200,000
	Enhancing the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Skills for the Economic Empowerment of Women in the LDCs - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Implementation	798,104
	Exploring the Benefit of E-Commerce for Women - UNCTAD	Implementation	97,370
	Gender-Sensitive Market Access - Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand	Implementation	400,000
	Inclusive Commercial Development of the Shea Sector (PRADCIFK) - Global Shea Alliance	Implementation	2,506,240
	Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)	Implementation	1,500,000
	Promoting Gender-Responsive Trade Policy in the LDCs - UNCTAD	Implementation	308,588
	Regional Consultations on UN LDC5 - World Trade Organization	Implementation	320,000

Country Name	Project	Project Phase	EIF Funding
Regional	Support to the Operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - UNECA	Implementation	400,000
	Trade Facilitation in West Africa - UNCTAD	Implementation	1,500,000
	Trade Policy and Strategy for ASEAN LDCs on Market Access - UNCTAD	Implementation	199,983
	Women - Shea Butter Value Chains - East African Women in Business Platform	Implementation	450,115
	Agricultural technology - Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Completion	172,898
	Aligning Climate and Trade Policy for LDCs and Graduates - ODI	Completion	88,952
	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	Completion	207,400
	Cross-Border Paperless Trade - UNESCAP	Completion	197,963
	LDC Graduation Assistance - WTO	Completion	306,340
	PPG - Quality Infrastructure in the Pacific - PIFS	Completion	84,654
	Technology Transfer for Cotton - WTO	Completion	143,477
Regional Total			11,263,786
Grand Total			231,772,252

Glossary

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfT	Aid for Trade
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAR	Central African Republic
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
ES	Executive Secretariat for the EIF
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GSA	Global Shea Alliance
HA	Hectare
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least developed country
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIE	Main Implementing Entity
MSMEs	Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
MT	Metric tonne
NDP	National development plan
NIU	EIF National Implementation Unit
SPIU	Single Project Implementation Unit, Rwanda
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TFM	EIF Trust Fund Manager
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UK	United Kingdom
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VfM	Value for Money
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization

List of project stories featured in the Annual Report 2022

	Green	Women	Digital	Other
Accelerated progress towards LDC WTO accession				X
Working with the World Bank to support Somalia's WTO accession process				X
Supporting trade policies in Central African Republic and Haiti				X
Working with the WTO to tackle trade finance constraints in the LDCs and support a smooth transition for graduation from LDC status	X			X
Technical training and support for improved multilateral engagement			X	
Strengthened capacity for AfCFTA engagement				X
Progress on trade facilitation in West Africa				X
Progress towards a comprehensive trade ecosystem for Tuvalu			X	
Advancement of LDC integration into ASEAN				X
Bangladesh's Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and Occupational Safety			X	
Investment Facilitation in Bhutan			X	
Cambodia's Expanding Trade Agreements				X
Expanded Functionality of Vanuatu's National Single Window			X	
Increased skills help access national budgetary resources in Senegal				X
Bhutan's Trade Negotiations Capacity				X
The Gambia's Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan	X		X	
Togo launches a new National Trade Policy				X
Mainstreaming tourism as a driver of inclusive growth in Sierra Leone	X			
Bhutan's Trade Integration and National Export Strategies to be mainstreamed into its NDP for a post-LDC graduation period			X	
Kiribati's new e-commerce policy			X	
Mozambique's institutional trade committee facilitates trade improvements				X
Sustainable fishing in Haiti	X			
Working with UNDP to scale-up e-commerce in South Sudan			X	
Supporting the Women's School of Leadership in Timor-Leste		X		
ITC: Supporting women through SheTrades		X		
Working with UNCTAD for increased knowledge and training on gender and trade		X		
Tourism and women economic empowerment in Timor-Leste with the World Tourism Organization		X		
Bhutan's innovative "Bhutan Store"				X
Food security in a post-conflict CAR		X		
Increasing Mali's agricultural exports		X		
Investing in the blue economy with UNIDO	X	X	X	
Establishing a digital market platform for horticulture in The Gambia		X	X	
Adding value to coconut products in Kiribati		X		
Togo's soya production takes off		X		

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