International Trade Centre

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Trade Facilitation, Digitalization and The Netherlands Trust Fund

WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation

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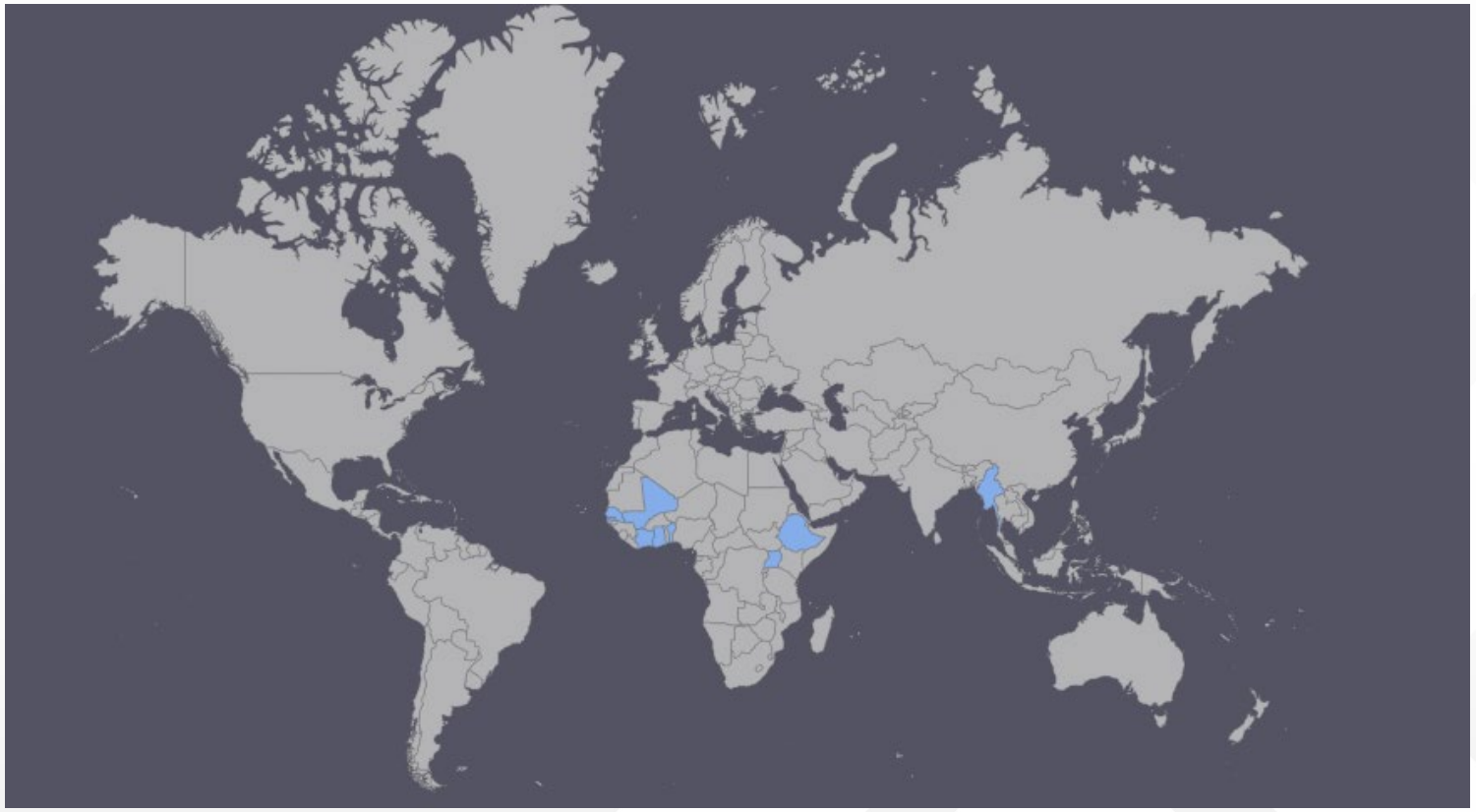
Netherlands Trust Fund V (NTF V) Quick Facts

- ✓ July 2021 – June 2025
- ✓ 15 M USD
- ✓ Contributing to building back better with a focus on digital technologies & agribusiness
- ✓ **Focus on seven African countries:**
  - Benin
  - Côte d'Ivoire
  - Ethiopia
  - Ghana
  - Mali
  - Senegal
  - Uganda
- ✓ **Builds on experiences from the NTF I - IV programmes (2005-2021)**



Aligned development priorities and approaches - facilitating trade for systemic change

- Ability to contribute to scale and lasting positive impact
- Delivery at scale through partnerships and innovation
- Good production and trade as a vehicle for decent jobs, poverty alleviation, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social development
- Empowering local multipliers and make youth change makers of the future

= Trade Facilitation is an important lever to achieve impact.

Private sector as engine of economic growth: *"The Netherlands assists companies to grow, while **facilitating better conditions for companies** to do business and deliver products to markets in a responsible manner."*

(From the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands)

Understanding services trade measures

Services trade measures (SMTs) are regulations on trade and services, which may negatively affect the international trade of services. In this context, Services Trade Barriers are STMs that have a protectionist or discriminatory intent.

To provide assistance on trade facilitation for services, the NTM team at ITC analyses the obstacles faced by ICT companies.

1. The screening of companies is done through specific questions included in the call for application of the NTF programme.

2. Selected companies are interviewed to understand the regulatory obstacles they face in their daily international operations.

3. Stakeholders' consultations will be organized to tackle those obstacles with the support of concerned institutions.

4. A report will be produced to provide a reference document for involved institutions

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TRADE IMPACT FOR GOOD

NTF IV and SheTrades on trade facilitation – to be continued under NTF V

Assessment of the business environment for women entrepreneurs, including on trade facilitation issues, through SheTrades Outlook.

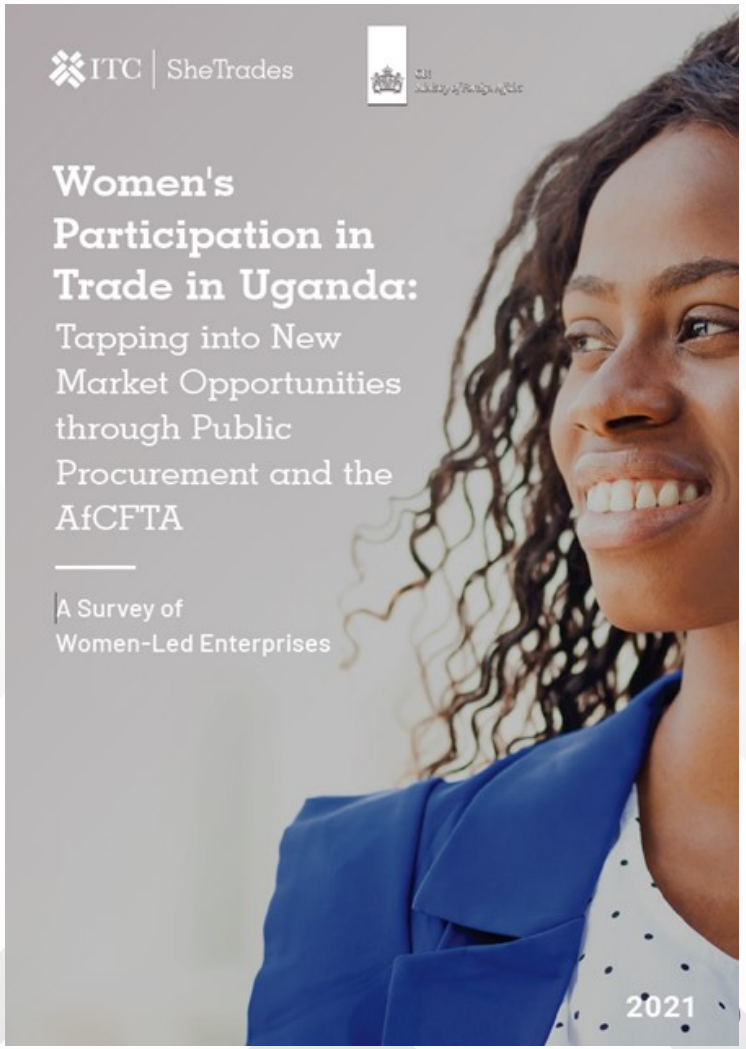
Some of the indicators to be measured include:

- availability of single-window electronic interface,
- customs having adopted the WCO gender-sensitive guidelines,
- border-level customs agents and officials receive training on gender-sensitive practices

Training for women entrepreneurs on logistics:

Goal to provide women entrepreneurs with practical skills to trade across borders and deal with trade procedures. Topics covered:

  - Introduction to International Transport and Logistics
  - Exporting SMEs: how to export (setting-up and managing export services, how to compute export prices)
  - Export financing and modalities of payments
  - Risks and export insurance, Setting up international shipping, packaging and certifications



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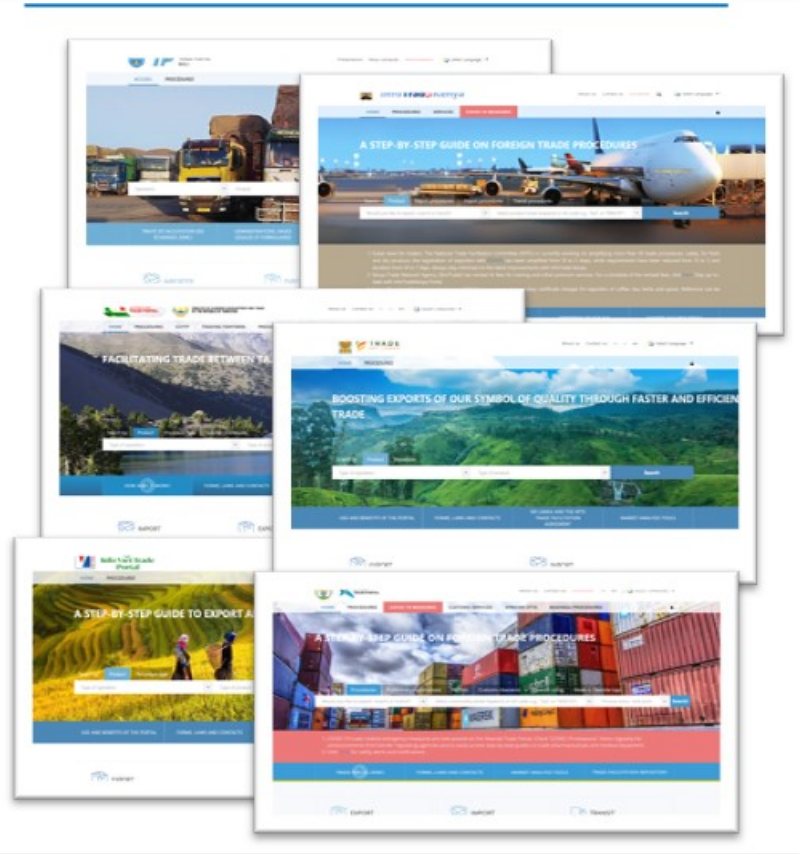
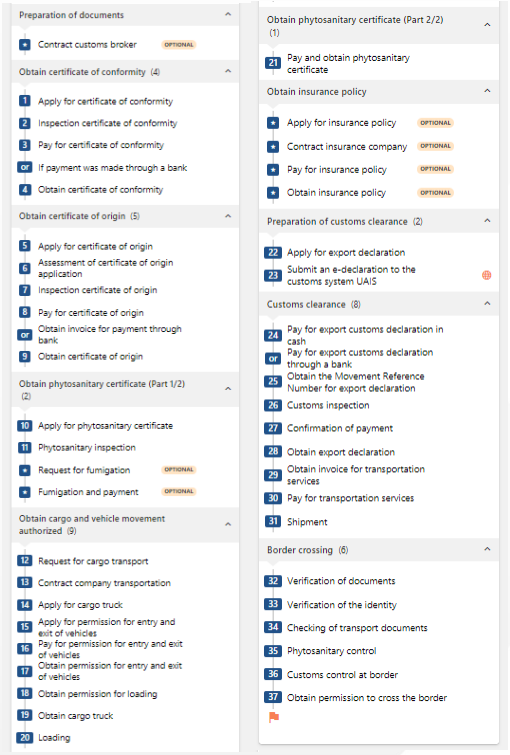
Beyond NTF - ITC leverages ICT solutions to provide access to information…

Trade Facilitation Portals



Providing practical information on cross-border formalities to traders

Steps to export



Documents required

17 Portals successfully implemented around the world – over 50,000 online visits in each country every year

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Thank you

NTF V Results and targeted SDGs

With a focus on **agribusiness, services and the digital technology sector** and an integrated **green, gender and youth lens**, the programme will create a multiplier effect:

Results

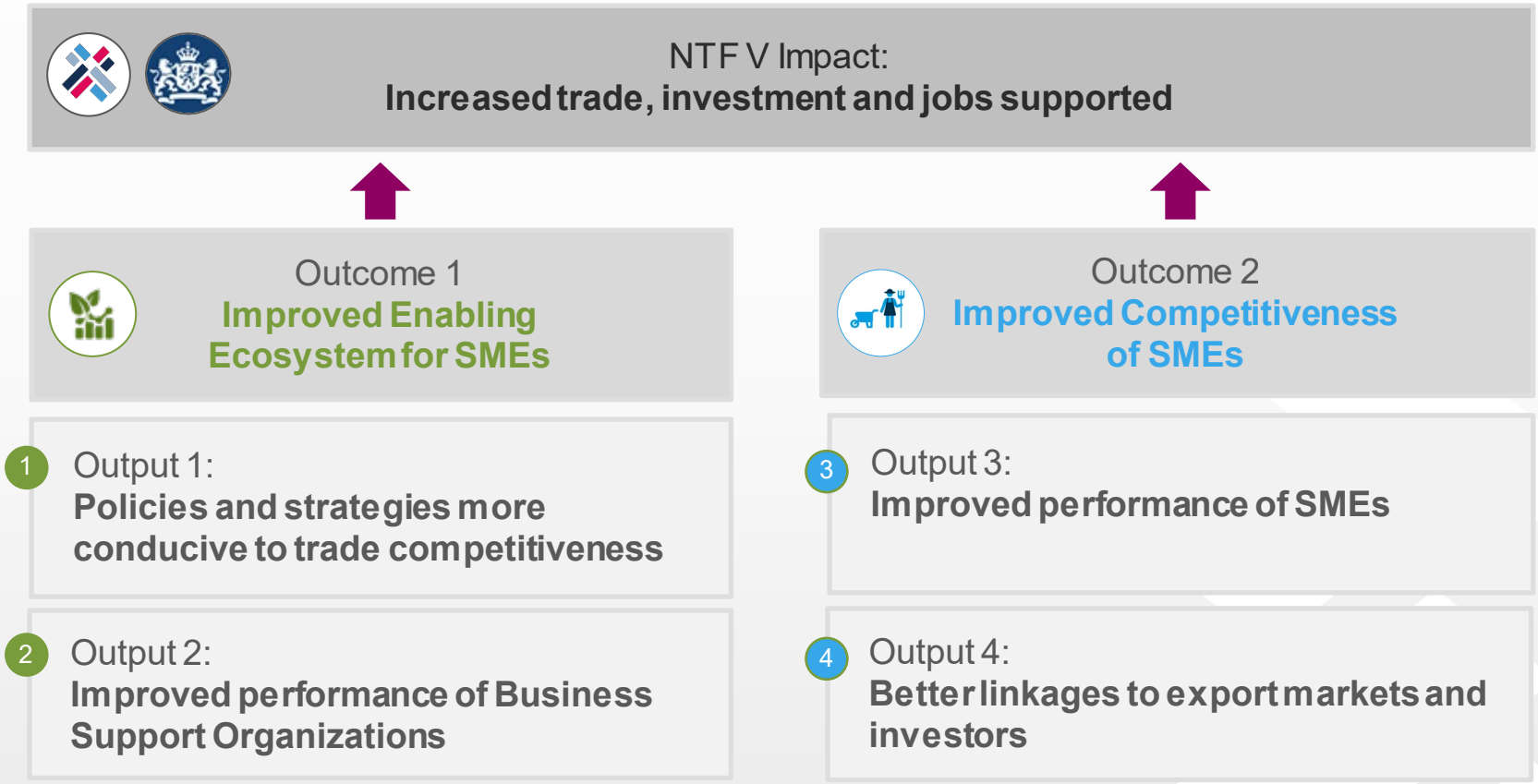
- Supporting **2,000** more competitive **SMEs** which **create more opportunities for decent work**
- Creating **$90m** sales for companies
- Unleashing **$7m** in direct investment for digital technology companies and value chain alliances
- Supporting **42,000 decent jobs**, incl. in primary production agribusinesses
- Helping **230,000 people** via improved access to digital technology and its applications

SDGs

- Targeting **7 specific SDGs:**
- 1,5,8,9,12,13 and 17

Targets are to be confirmed during inception

Indicative Results Framework of NTF V…



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TRADE IMPACT FOR GOOD

Working with partners to leverage resources, innovate, improve and deliver at scale

NTF contributed to the development and implementation of ITC methodologies from project design to results monitoring and programme governance

NTF programmes have proven the value of partnerships in the public and private sectors by:

- Creating synergies with DDE and organizations supported by the Ministry through establishment of complementary parallel sector projects and building linkages with existing initiatives

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

CBI Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

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Dutch Good Growth Fund

TRADE MARK EAST AFRICA
Growing Prosperity Through Trade

- Fostering collaboration with Dutch public sector, business support organizations and corporates

TUNGA

TU Delft

VC4A

TONY'S CHOCOLONELY

Unilever

PUMA

ORANGE CORNERS

NTF and Services Trade Barriers (STB)

Obstacles to trade in services refer to a **wide array of regulatory requirements**, **administrative procedures**, **private standards** compliance and other difficulties related to the **business environment**.

STMs
Regulations on trade and services, which may negatively affect the international trade of services.

STBs
STMs that have a 'protectionist or discriminatory intent'

Excessively strict/ complex requirements
The requirements are too strict or complex to comply with.

Procedural Obstacles
Practical challenges or administrative hurdles which make compliance to STMs difficult.

Business Environment
General operating conditions in the country that are not related to STMs but which may hinder a company's ability to trade.

Trade Obstacles

+ Private standards: other standards, which are not legally binding, however, they are requested by clients

And to digitize trade processes and documents….

Drafting of the regional legal framework for the digitalization of certificates of origin in the WAEMU region

Implementation of an automated processing system to submit and issue electronic certificates of origin in Sri Lanka

Operationalization of an online mechanism to submit customs declaration and supporting documentation prior to the arrival of the shipment in Jordan

Introduction of an electronic payment gateway for the National Plant Quarantine service in Sri Lanka

Implementation of virtual queue management systems at border crossings to reduce delays experienced by trucks