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| **DCC REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION WORKING GROUP**  **Activities and Rusults Matrix**   1. **Background and Challenges**  * Tajikistan is a land-locked country, 93% of TAJ territory constitute mountains; * Though much progress in construction/rehabilitation of roads achieved, still Tajikistan’s transport network is weak, limiting access to markets and services, increasing transport costs. No transit roads developed, no logistic centers established across the borders. * The movement of goods across the borders is very slow, customs clearance of goods takes much time at the borders, number of documents for customs operations remain huge, bureaucratic burden remains, as Single Window is not yet operational. Existing barriers—administrative, legal, organizational, regulatory—slow down cross-border transport, reducing efficiency, increasing costs, and impeding regional and international trade. * Export potential is weak; export items need to be diversified. High growth and rise of imports; * Unfavorable business environment (high tax burden, regulatory framework, complicated administration procedures, poor infrastructure etc.) * Free Economic Zones are at the initial stage of development (weak management potential, poor infrastructure). * Poor border control and customs management lead to loss of customs revenue and increase smuggling; * Lack of capacity, particularly in the area of marketing, logistics, sales management, etc.  1. **DCC Activities** | | | | |
| **Objective 1**  Regional trade, economic integration and cooperation improved | | | | |
| **Activities** | **Expected outputs** | **Implementation Status as of July 2015** | **Timeline** | **Development partner** |
| Improvement of Border Crossing Points (BCPs) | Regional Improvement of Border Services Project Phase 1 covers upgrading (construction and equipping) BCP “Guliston”: 1.Contracts for works and goods awarded by December 2013,  Goods procured by December 2015  2.Civil works completed by March 2016  3. Inspection and acceptance of BCP facilities by December 2016.  construction of shed to inspect vehicles, two checkpoints and barracks for Border Guard Service, two lift gates, disinfection barrier, rooms for phyto nurses and veterinarians, water supply, toilets, sewage septic tank, and landscaping; and (ii) provision of telecommunications equipment, office equipment, equipment for radiation monitoring/control, inspection and technical verification equipment, and X-ray equipment. | Tender process finished. The contract for construction of BCP “Guliston” was awarded to company Umed on 30 June 2015. Contract signed, works started. | December 2016 | ADB |
| Construction of cross border markets | **Tem Cross-Border Market**  1. Enhanced trade: The market will provide the population of GBAO of Tajikistan with a new outlet for their goods, and accommodate larger volumes of goods.  2.Improved access to goods and services for the isolated communities of Afghanistan’s Shugnan district.  3.Creation of approximately 70 jobs on Tajik side as more space will be available for new retailers to open up their shops.  4.Improved platform for cultural exchange: the new market will provide a more conducive environment for communities to interact. | Completed | July 2015 | AKDN |
|  | **Shurabad Cross Border Market**  The Shurabad Bridge Market will provide the isolated communities of Afghan’s Khohon province with access to goods and services. The market that will be located 5 km far from province will be the first and nearest market in the area.  The market provides population of Khatlon Region of Tajikistan with new outlet for their goods.  As a platform for dialogue this market will play a magnificent role in cultural interaction between the population of Khatlon Region of Tajikistan and Khohon province in Afghanistan and contribute to stability of the border area which is considered one of the most problematic in Tajikistan.  When completed the markets will create around 150 jobs on both sides of the border.  By providing new opportunities to the Khohon population the market will have a positive impact on drug smuggling and change to the better the stability of the region. | Completed | July 2015 | AKDN |
| Vanj Market Development | The overall objective of the proposed project is to improve infrastructure to create an effective enabling environment for enhanced trade and conducting social and cultural events in order to contribute to regional stability and improve the quality of life of communities living in the border areas of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Expected Results:  • Construction of space for summer months to improve market conditions for trade during the various cold and warmer seasons and expand the current capacity of Vanj Market to accommodate greater numbers of traders. The construction process and the new market infrastructure provide opportunity for creation of new jobs.  • Construction of a sitting area pergola, small teahouses for men and women and a community cultural interaction space to serve as a forum for cultural dialogue.  • Provision of water and electricity supplies will improve the sanitation conditions of market facilities. | Tender process finished and the selected construction company started the construction activities. | April 2016 | AKDN |
| Support to Regional Transit Development | Transit Agreement between Afghanistan, Pakistan and TAJ to be negotiated and adopted – PATTTA  Support for ratification of Afghanistan’s accession to the CAREC CBTA-5 protocol to be ratified by Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan | Negotiations are ongoing  Efforts are concentrating in Kyrgyzstan to encourage ratification of the protocol – once this is achieved, Tajikistan will ratify the protocol | 2014-2015  2014-2015 | MEDT  Customs  Min. of Transport  ABBAT AIATT  TCCI  USAID-ATAR  USAID-ATAR |
| Support to Regional Transport Logistics sector | Fostering dialogue and understanding of the regional transport commitments, and promoting B2B contracts to enable cross-regional-border transportation | 2-day seminar with participation of govt. officials and private sector from Central and South Asia | Bishkek – November 2015 | AIRTO (KYR) USAID-ATAR OSCE  ADB |
| Support to Central Asia regional trade facilitation dialogue | Fostering dialogue and understanding of the WTO TFA and country-specific status reports | 2-day workshop with participation of govt. officials and private sector of TAJ, KYR, UZB, KAZ. | Issyk-kul – June 2015 | GIZ  USAID-ATAR UNCTAD UNECE |
| Support to Central Asia regional transport and logistics dialogue | Facilitate regional dialogue in transport and logistics issues and prioritization of measures to mitigate non-tariff barriers | 2-day Workshop with participation of private sector of TAJ, KYR, UZB, KAZ  Regional WG created  Workshop with participation of private sector of TAJ, KGZ, UZB, KAZ  Round table inder V- Central Asia Forum “Transport and logistics: new approach for development trade in CA”  Regional working plan developed | Almaty -  May 2015  Tashkent –September 2015  Almaty –November 2015 | GIZ  USAID-REC |
| Support to Central Asia & Afghanistan regional Customs, SPS and TBT development programs | The program works to further the goals of the New Silk Road initiative, as well as the U.S.-Central Asia Trade and Investment Framework (TIFA) Agreement. CLDP will continue to support approximately two meetings of the Working Groups per year, to continue the dialogue and capacity-building efforts, focusing on the themes most relevant to the countries. | Customs WG (risk management and valuation)  SPS and TBT working groups  Customs WG (integrated border cooperation) | Bishkek - ~September 2014  Istanbul - November 2014  Tashkent – June 2015 | US Dept. of Commerce -  Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP)  Govt. officials of AFG, KAZ, KYR, TAJ, UZB, TKM |
| Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation | The impact of the RIBS Project will be accelerated trade growth within the CAREC region and with the rest of the world. The efficient movement of goods and people will allow CAREC countries to participate more fully in the international production chain for trade-led economic growth. The reduced cost of complying with trade procedures nationally and regionally will increase transit traffic. This will help integrate CAREC countries further into the global economy and lead to sustained economic growth and improved living standards. The outcome will be faster, more predictable, and cost efficient cross-border transport and trade activities. | Contract for SW component is awarded to Crown Agents company from UK, at the stage of signing. | till June 30, 2018 | ADB |
| ICT customs modernization and data exchange | The NSW development component of the RIBS Project will streamline data submission to regulators of international trade, and ensure conformity of submitted data with the requirements of business processes in different stages of trade and transport in the international supply chain. | Contract with “Crown Agents” at the stage of signing | 34 months from the moment of the beginning of works, till April – May 2018 | ADB |
| Support to Customs-to-Customs Electronic data exchange (C2C EDI) | Developing electronic solutions for transmission of Customs declaration data, to empower the provisions of information sharing as stipulated within Mutual Assistance Agreements between Tajikistan and Afghanistan Customs administrations | Memorandum of understanding are adopted for cooperation, and agreement of technical matters  Software is developed, tested and ready for implementation | 2014-2015 | Customs-TJK  Customs-AFG  USAID-ATAR  UNECE |
|  | Support to modernization of Customs electronic system in order to create possibility for integration within TJ and with other countries in region | In preparation | 2016 | GIZ |
| Support to regional cooperation on standardization and conformity assessment | Creation of two regional platforms on standardization and conformity assessment | Regional RT on standardization  Regional RT on conformity assessment  Conduct trainings on regional level (ISO 9001, ISO 22000, ISO 14000, OHSAS 18001, ISO 17065) | Bishkek December 2014  Astana  2015  In all countries KG,KZ.UZ and TJ  From September to October 2015 | GIZ |
|  | Support to regional standard E- sale platform  Regional workshops on standardization and conformity assessment, capacity building | In preparation | 2016 | GIZ |
| Risk management and post-entry audit | Customs officials’ capacity on risk management improved thru trainings | ADB conducted four days training workshop on risk management for TAJ customs officials in April 2015 | 2015 | ADB |
| Joint Customs Control |  |  |  |  |
| Support to Customs risk management | Customs officials’ capacity on risk management improved with mentoring by expert advisor, and with deployment of technical guidelines for effective management of risk, and development of information collation databases. | STTA expert deployed for 7 weeks | 2014-2015 | Customs  USAID-ATAR |
| Support to Customs post-clearance audit | Customs officials’ capacity on post clearance audit improved through trainings, and mentoring with utilization of expert advisors, and with deployment of technical manuals, institutional guidelines for effective targeting for audit, ands proposals for outreach awareness of private sector requirements for compliance with audit request | STTA experts deployed for 9 weeks  5-day training specific to PCA and facilitation of Customs-trader awareness session for PCA requirements will be convened in September 2015 | 2014-2015 | Customs  Private sector  USAID-ATAR |
| Support to Customs to achieve compliance with the revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) | Review and consolidation of status of Customs’ code and regulations. | Development of action plan to achieve compliance. | August 2015 - 2016 | MEDT  Customs  GIZ  USAID-ATAR |
| Support to border agencies in border coordination development | Review and improve current status of coordination mechanism within One-Stop-Shop concept | Conducting Review and development of recommendations  Introduction border Risk management in Veterinary (legal and technical support)  Organization of study tour to Georgia on border integration development and risk management at the border | November 2014 – November 2015  June 2015  August 2015 | Customs  GIZ  USAID-ATAR  Ministry of Agriculture  GIZ  USAID-ATAR  GIZ TJK, KAZ, KYR, UZB |
|  | Support to Time Release Study/TRS | Conduct research in TJ and KG |  |  |
| Support to Improvement of Customs practices | Providing technical advice and best-practice examples proposals for consideration by the Customs in respect of advance rulings; voluntary compliance; client service standards; publication of trader-relevant materials | Proposals in development | October 2015 | Customs  USAID-ATAR |
| Support to Customs Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program | Customs officials’ understanding on the concept for, benefits of, and examples of AEO programs implemented by Customs administrations | Draft concept in development  Awareness and conformation of concept roundtables to be facilitated by expert | August 2015 | Customs  MEDT  Private sector  USAID-ATAR |
|  | Providing support on regional assessment of customs procedures  for further development of launched initiatives as Single Window, AEO, Risks Management and Cross border cooperation (include analyze existing legal framework for regional interchange of E-messages and E-docs) | International company (KGH) hired and work started | October – December 2015 | GIZ |
| Regional Transit Development | Transit Agreement between Afghanistan, Pakistan and TAJ signed | Negotiations is ongoing | 2015 | MEDT, MOT |
| Trade Facilitation | WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement ratified | Ratification process completed, ratification instruments submitted to the WTO Secretariat | May 2015 | USAID REC |
|  | Support to TFA implementation on regional level | In preparation | 2015- 2016 | GIZ |
| Collaboration with AKDN / MSDSP on connecting Shurabad Cross-Border market to electricity supply | * Shurabad cross-borer market connected to electricity supply (infra project design, obtain / approve technical conditions, bidding, construction works) | * Bidding process, selection of contractor; * Construction works to start in Sep 2015; * Construction works to be completed in Dec 2015 | September - December 2015 | UNDP, LITACA Project |
| Introduction of One Village One Product in Tajikistan (cross-border areas with Afghanistan - potentially in Jilikul, Kumsangir, Farkhor, Shurabad districts) | * OVOP initiative is introduced * Products made from locally available resources (demanded on the local and international markets) are identified. | * OVOP feasibility study is completed in Afghanistan (Kunduz, Takhor Provinces); * OVOP feasibility study is ongoing in Tajikistan. | January 2015 – March 2017 | UNDP, LITACA Project |
| Conduct Tajik- Afghan International trade fair and business forum in Khatlon Province | * Products that are produced from locally available resources are presented at international trade fair; * Number of purchasing contracts made as the result of trade fair * Issues related to cross-border economic cooperation and trade are discussed during business forum | * Decree of the Chair of Khatlon Province to be issued; * Concept note on Trade Fair and Business forum is in design stage | July 2015 – October 2016 | UNDP, LITACA Project |
| Number of priorities from WTO post-accession plan supported | * Law “On Trade and Consumer Services of the Republic of Tajikistan” is being adjusted. Working Group (WG) is established. Three (3) meetings of the WG are conducted. Action Plan (AP) on implementation of the Law is adopted. | * Three (3) priorities from the AP requested by WG are supported | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of priorities from WTO post-accession plan supported | * Law on “Free Economic Zones” is being adjusted. WG on Law established. One WG meeting conducted. By the request from the ministry, the two (2) local consultants for adjustment of Law hired. | * Study tour for government officials and head of administrations of Tajik FEZ’s to the Turkey concudcted 11-14 May 2015. * Technical support provided | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of priorities from WTO post-accession plan supported | * Inter-ministerial expanded Working Group on coordination of activities of government agencies and international organizations on WTO issues established. First meeting of WG conducted on April 10 with more than 60 participants from state agencies and international donors. | * Monthly WG meetings are scheduled. * Technical support provided | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of priorities from WTO post-accession plan supported | * Priority № 3 on “Increase of qualification of public officials on disciplines in the field of trade policy and the WTO rules” is supported. | * Study tour for eight government officials to the Turkey on WTO topics SPS, TBT, GATS and RTA is scheduled for 4-8 May 2015. * Study tour for eight government officials to three Free Economic Zones in Turkey is scheduled for 11-14 May 2015. | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Trade related strategic documents at national and oblast level elaborated | * Trade Development Programme (TDP) for Khatlon regions is under development. Two local consultants and one international are hired. Four meetings of the WG on TDP development conducted | Recommendations from WG are collected. Structure of TDP is formulated.  Technical support provided | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Elaboration of National Strategic documents by the host government supported | * Supported NDS elaboration 2016-2030 | Technical support provided | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Trade Road Map elaborated | * Technical support in elaboration of “State programme on export promotion and increasing competitiveness in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020” provided. | Technical support provided. | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of SMEs/entrepreneurs served by National and Oblasts TPCs | * More than 80 entrepreneurs enhanced their knowledge on how to do business with Turkey on two special seminars on business doing with Turkey conducted jointly with the Turkish Embassy in RT. | * 33 entrepreneurs (33% are female) enhanced their knowledge and skills on financial accounting issues under the Trade Capacity Building programme   Awareness raising of business communities, international and local organizations about established under CCI of RT TPC enhanced through conducting of press-café. | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of recommendations on improving business climate elaborated and submitted by Business Associations to government and PPD platforms. | * Call for Grant proposals for Business associations announced.. | * It is expected that implementation of recommended projects will start in Q II | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| Number of SMEs having participated at regional and international exhibitions increased their export turnover in percentage. | * 6 (six) SMEs participated at 22nd International exhibition “ProdExpo -2015” in Moscow in February 2015. As a main results, Tajik goods promoted and direct contracts and MOUs on supplying of Tajik goods signed for the over 1 mln. USD | * The products of 2 Tajik companies “Intermyod” and “Euroasia” recognized as the “Best Product – 2015” and were awarded by Diploma and Medals - “Intermyod” by Gold medal and “Euroasia” by Silver medal. | 01 may 2014- 30 April 2018 | UNDP- AfT |
| **Objective 2**  Commitments taken after accession WTO fully implemented by Government | | | | |
| **Activities** | **Expected outputs** | **Implementation Status as of July 2015** | **Timeline** | **Development partner** |
| TA 8380 “Strengthening TAJ’s Trade and Investment Regime” | Recommendations on reforming “Tajikstandart” prepared | Done. Report with recommendations is with Gov. | June 2015 | ADB |
|  | International Trade and Investment Conference conducted | Conducted on 1 June 2015 |  | ADB |
| Modernization of SPS measures | Conduct assessment of SPS measures and prepare report on SPS measures improvement. | ADB conducted: (i) regulatory assessment (ii) laboratory assessment (iii) SPS border services management assessment in CAREC countries. Report with conclusions and recommendations prepared and sent to CAREC countries governments for comments. | 2015 | ADB |
| Improve capacity of SQAM, SPS and TBT bodies and the regulatory infrastructure | The National Notification Authority (NNA) and the National Enquiry Points (NEPs) for TBT and SPS are fully operational and fulfil their obligations under the WTO Agreements on TBT and SPS | NNA, NEPs and NSB are operational.  *ITC provided TA in establishing the NNA on TBT and SPS in MEDT, NEP on SPS in the Ministry of Agriculture, NEP on TBT in Tajikstandart, the National Service Bureau (NSB) under Tajik Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).* | 2012-2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Development of the National Food Safety Strategy (NFSS) |  | Submitted a final draft of the NFSS by the MEDT to the National Food Safety Council under the Government of Tajikistan for further review and approval by the Government.  *ITC supported the MoEDT to prepare the final draft version of the National Food Safety Strategy (NFSS) with the Action Plan and submitted it to the MoEDT.* | 2014-2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Establishing the National Trade Facilitation Committee |  | Prepared, consulted and circulated among the stakeholders Report on the “Establishing the National Trade Facilitation Committee in Tajikistan”.    *ITC (i) conducted a validation workshop on establishing the NTFC; (ii) prepared and publicly discussed the report on “Establishing the National Trade Facilitation Committee in Tajikistan”. The Report provides information about the NTFC role, objectives and functions, TOR, Governance, Accountability, Membership, Secretariat, Funding Mechanism, and Implementation Framework.* | 2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Technical Assistance (TA) to the Government of Tajikistan in granting the status of GSP+ with the EU and PNTR with the USA ( removal of the Jackson-Vanik amendment) |  | *Provided TA by ITC to speed up the process of acquiring GSP+.* | 2014-2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Business awareness of the WTO Agreements, rules and provisions | Raised awareness and understanding by the private sector (Tajik Chamber of Commerce, selected local business associations and SMEs) of the relevant WTO Agreements | Enhanced private sector awareness on the WTO rules and regulations, as well as Tajikistan commitments under the WTO and their impact to country’s economic sectors.  *ITC TA:*  *- Conducted several workshops;*  *- Prepared and disseminated the brief notes on international trade rules and principles, as well as on on-going trade-related policy and reforms among the private sector representatives* | 2012-2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Policy Advice and Capacity Building | Technical and Human Resource capacities of the WTO Affairs Division of MEDT and line ministries are enhanced | Organized study tours for MEDT and MOA staff on WTO-related topics, The MEDT WTO division was supplied with the office equipment | 2012-2014 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Media campaigns, including radio and TV programs on WTO-related issues |  | Organized several press cafes, special radio and TV programmes on WTO-related topics on the national TV channels and radios | 2012-2015 | ITC (funded by Swiss Government) |
| Modernization of the food safety control system | Feasibility study on the possibility to establish a single authority responsible for the food safety | Feasibility study prepared and the round table discussion organize to discuss the results | July 2015 | USAID REC |
| Government Procurement | Application for accession to the WTO GPA Agreement submitted | Initial offer submitted, negotiations ongoing | 2015 | USAID REC |
| Trade Remedies (antidumping, countervailing, safeguards) | Model regulation on trade remedies | Completed, translation underway, to be followed by discussion among relevant ministries/agencies | 2015 | USAID REC |
| **Objective 3**  Interagency cooperation improved supported by fully operational Single Window System | | | | |
| **Activities** | **Expected outputs** | **Implementation Status as of July 2015** | **Timeline** | **Development partner** |
| Support to the establishment of a Single Window for Export, Import and Transit procedures | The project is aiming at the establishment of SW for export, import and transit procedures. It is expected that the Contractor will design and develop the SW software. The contractor will implement the SW system and put it into operation in the SUE “Single Window Centre”, under the Customs Service and in approximately 15 other key organizations involved, including Government agencies and Business Intermediary Organizations. The Contractor will be equally responsible for the training of the personnel of the State Unitary Enterprise “Single Window Centre” and the other key organizations. It will also draft the specification of the Single Window hardware to enable the EU Delegation to Tajikistan to launch the supply tender. | Completed | Final report expected in April 2015 | EU |
| Implementation of SW Component of Regional Improvement of Border Services Project | Legal framework review and recommendations support supporting Single Window interoperability and information and data exchange with major trading partners completed by December 2015  The scope of the Project will include (i) development of single window software, trade portal software, certificate of origin system, license track and trace system, and enhancement and integration of unified automated information system (UAIS) of the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CST) to the single window system; (ii) provision of single window backup system and hardware, regional centers and trade portal hardware; (iii) operational assistance to the single window governance and working groups. | Contract for SW component is awarded to Crown Agents company from UK, at the stage of signing. Pilot operation of NSW facilities conducted by October 2017 | June 30, 2018 | ADB |
| business process analysis and re-engineering (for up to 10 government agencies); legal and regulatory framework review; and stakeholder engagement and public awareness activities |  |  |  |
| Inspection and acceptance of NSW facilities by December 2017 |  |  |  |
| Support the SW implementation | Mapping of data elements (one data element name, a common definition, common code, and standard messaging) which reconciled with the WCO Data Model standard and offer the harmonized list of national trade data for all stakeholders. | Local expert developed harmonized list of national trade data. Doc submitted to the state Agencies | 2015 | GIZ |
|  | Review existing possibilities at TJ commertional banks and payment infrastructures providers on opportunity to integrated with SWIS agencies internal systems for state payment service processing. | International expert developed Report with proposals. Doc submitted to the MEDT and banks | 2015 | GIZ |
|  | Support the SUE on conducting regional trainings on SW | Trainings conducted | 2015 | GIZ |
| **Objective 4**  Free economic zones made more effective | | | | |
| **Activities** | **Expected outputs** | **Implementation Status as of July 2015** | **Timeline** | **Development partner** |
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| **Objective 5**  Public Awareness/Education |  |  |  |  |
| **Activities** | **Expected outputs** | **Implementation Status as of July 2015** | **Timeline** | **Development partner** |
| Public awareness of trade facilitation issues | Glossary of Trade Facilitation (trilingual – English, Russian, Tajik) | In print | End of July, 2015 | USAID REC |
| Translation and publication of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement | Booklet containing translation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement into Tajik | In print | End of July, 2015 | USAID REC |
| Post WTO Accession Action Plan | Booklet containing translation of the Post WTO Accession Action Plan into English | In print | End of July, 2015 | USAID REC |
| Press café | Discussion on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and presentation of the Glossary of Trade Facilitation | In preparation | September 2015 | USAID REC |