Netherlands Intervention TFA committee dedicated session – 22 Oct 2020

* With a strong position in world trade, The Netherlands favours an open, rules-based global trade and investment system. A system where all countries should be able to benefit equally from trade. We are therefore a strong supporter of trade facilitation and among the major supporters of Aid for Trade.
* The Netherlands has programs with the International Trade Centre (ITC), Trade-Mark East Africa (TMEA), Trade Facilitation West-Africa, the World Bank, UNCTAD and our Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI/RVO.nl). We also have multiple bilateral programs via our Embassies.
* Today is dedicated to experience sharing on assistance and capacity building. I would like to focus our intervention on Covid-19 and the importance of trade continuity in this difficult time. The health and economic impact of Covid-19 is unprecedented.
* The Netherlands Covid-19 response to developing countries is along two lines: 1) an immediate support package in the short run (USD 100 mln), 2) an agenda for Building Back Better for the long run.
* Trade support is a key element in both lines of work. First of all because trade is crucial in access to food and essential medical goods and services. Second of all, trade is the way out of the economic crisis.
* As part of the immediate response package the Netherlands supports the Trade Mark East Africa Safe Trade program together with donors like EU, UK, CANADA, USAID, Ireland, Finland, Denmark.
* Safe Trade is being implemented in all TMEA countries of operations. It aims to:

1. Make ports, borders, and critical supply chains safe for trade.
2. Ensure food security and access to critically-required medicines.
3. Support measures to prevent job and income losses and make the region more resilient to future crisis.

* TMEA acted quickly and start immediately due to its existing national structures and strong partnerships, but also based on newly established emergency procurement procedures for fast and effective implementation.
* The program is highly demand-driven, embedded in local context and building on ongoing TMEA activities, like Electronic Tracking System.
* TMEA cooperates at all levels: global (WB, WHO), regional (EAC) and local (governments, border networks, NOCs). And engagement with the private sector.
* It focusses on 7 key thematic areas:

1. Emergency Personal **Protective Equipment**. For example:
   1. TMEA partnered with WFP to deliver Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitation goods for border agency officials for their protection in the discharge of their duties.
   2. 1800 drivers were tested (with IOM); TMEA is working with MOH Kenya to prepare three locations for testing
2. Trade **Technology** Interventions: TMEA developed a tracking app for drivers to record the history of their trips and identify individuals interacted with during journeys from origin to destination. App collects medical condition info to include: temperature, blood pressure etc which is shared at border points and takes privacy concerns into account.
3. Trade Policy Interventions, like tariff schedules to facilitate medical supply in response to COVID 19
4. Supply Chain Support in Essential Goods and Exports
5. Standards and SPS Projects
6. Advocacy Interventions
7. Gender Inclusion, Women in Trade and Safe Trade Zones with clear procedures to ensure safety for traders, buyers and users of various border markets

* To summarize: Trade continuity is crucial, but it also needs to be safe. The combination of health and trade is therefore a key factor for success, now and for future economic resilience.
* Thank you.