

UNCTAD Technical Assistance in Trade Facilitation



ASYCUDA Programme



UNCTAD - ASYCUDA



Mandate: The Geneva Consensus,
October 2025, Art 80.36
“Continue to cooperate with member
States in implementing the Automated
System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)”



**Active contributor to
standards**



- ▶ Completed standards
- ▶ Ongoing standards-development work
- ▶ CITES Convention
- ▶ Basel Convention
- ▶ Revised Kyoto Convention
- ▶ Environmental and regulatory digitalisation
- ▶ Trade facilitation and interoperability
- ▶ EU Customs digitalisation
- ▶ Humanitarian relief
- ▶ eCommerce and clearance of postal consignments

ASYCUDA CENTERS & COMMUNITY



103
Economies

- ▶ 37 LDCs
- ▶ 24 LLDCs
- ▶ 41 SIDS

➤ ASYHUB – PaP-PdP Comm. & Processing



ASYHUB is an open standardized platform for data processing and data integration between **ASYCUDAWorld** and other external systems



Albania, **Cambodia**, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Maritime Single Window)



Cambodia, Mongolia, Togo, Vanuatu, Niue



Jordan, **Cambodia**



Customs & Single Window for Trade

ASYCUDA for Single Window Systems - UNCTAD/ASYCUDA involved in 14 Single Window projects



- ▶ Building tailor-made Electronic Single Windows, now to be built on the ACF
- ▶ Business Process Reengineering of PGAs
- ▶ “Roadmap for Building a Trade Single Window” published in January 2024

14  **A Single Window**

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Barbados |  Timor-Leste |
|  Burundi |  Turkmenistan |
|  Comoros |  Uganda |
|  Jamaica |  Vanuatu |
|  Kazakhstan |  Venezuela |
|  Rwanda |  Zimbabwe |
|  Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | |
|  Sao Tome and Principe | |

ASYCUDA Transit solutions

Transit solutions deployed in ASYCUDA user countries



National and Regional Transit solutions:

- ▶ **ASYNTS (New technology) – Aligned with the CTC/EU NCTS P6 Opt-in requirements**
- ▶ ASYNTS is currently used by 3 countries for the regional transit between Georgia, Moldova and member states of Common Transit Convention (aligned with CTC/EU requirements) as well as transit between Gibraltar and EU/Spain
- ▶ ASYNTS can be adapted to be used by ASEAN ASYCUDA user countries within the context of ACTS
- ▶ The solution covers all business requirements including Transit Declaration Management, Guarantee Management, Authorisations Management, Common Reference Data, Risk Management. Cross-Border Data Exchange



Empowerment Programme for Trade Facilitation

Practical solutions to make cross-border trade simpler,
cheaper, faster and more inclusive



Empowerment programme
for trade facilitation

1



Procedure Analysis &
Simplification

Mapping and simplifying procedures

2



Trade Information Portals

Clear trade information online

3



E-Certification System

Digital trade certificates

4



Reform Tracker

Monitoring reform progress

5



Border Agency Cooperation &
Transit Coordination

Border and transit coordination

6



Inclusive Trade Facilitation

Tools for inclusive reform

7



Rapid Scan for Preparedness

Crisis readiness assessment

8



Climate-Smart Trade Facilitation

Lower-emission border procedures

9



Capacity Building &
E-learning

Training for NTFCs and stakeholders

10



Advisory Services & Legal
Assistance

Legal support and operating procedures

11



NTFC Database and
Sustainability Platform

Data on national committees

1



Procedure Analysis & Simplification

 [Link to site](#)

Seeing trade procedures through the trader’s eyes

WHY IT MATTERS

Complex procedures create unnecessary barriers

- Delays
- Administrative burden
- Higher compliance costs
- Reduced competitiveness



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

UNCTAD maps and analyzes each step in detail across key dimensions:

 Documents required	 Online or Offline process
 Agencies and offices involved	 Processing time per step
 Legal Basis	 Costs and fees per step
 Responsible officer	
 Identification of bottlenecks: delays, duplication, unnecessary steps, complex requirements, coordination gaps.	



RESULTS

More efficient trade processes

- Reduced processing time
- Lower compliance costs
- Fewer procedural steps
- Improved trader experience
- Stronger competitiveness

PARTNER VALUE: Complex procedures become simpler, faster and less costly for traders.

2



Trade Information Portals

Making trade procedures transparent online

 Link to site

1

2

3

4

5

Steps (20)

Register premises (4)

1 Pay registration fee

2 Submit application for registration and pay fees

3 On-site inspection

4 Obtain certificate of registration

Obtain test report (certificate of analysis) (3)

5 Pay testing fees

6 Submit sample(s) for testing

7 Obtain test report

Obtain export license for processed food products (optional) (3)

8 Pay export license fee

9 Submit application for export license

10 Obtain export license

Contracting a clearing agent (1)

11 Contract a clearing agent

Obtain certificate of origin for products exported to EU (2)

12 Submit application for certificate of origin

13 Obtain certificate of origin

Summary of the procedure

Institutions involved (11)

1 8

Bank of Kigali (x 2)

2 3 4

Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (x 3)

5

RRA Non Fiscal Revenue Services

6 7

Rwanda Standards Board (x 2)

9 10

Integrated Regulatory Information Management System (x 2)

11

Clearing agent

12 13 15

e-Single Window (x 3)

14

Airline

15 16 17

Kigali International Airport (x 3)

18

BANK

20

Customs Services Department - Kigali International Airport

Results (9)

4

Certificate of registration and licensing of food

7

Test report (certificate of analysis)

10

Export certificate - processed food products

11

Contract

13

EU certificate of origin

17

Airway bill (RwandAir)

Required Documents (16)

2 9

Payment receipt (x 2)

2

Application form - food premises registration

2

Application letter - medical device

2

RDB full registration certificate

2

National ID card

2

Lease contract

8

Commercial invoice

9 12 15

Packing list (x 5)

11

Test report (certificate of analysis)

11

Certificate of domestic company registration

12

Invoice

14

Export contract

Cost

RWF 641,309.52

RWF 492,500 + USD 100

RWF

Total Duration

9 days 1/2 - 26 days

	Min.	Max.
Total time (sum):	9 days 1/2	26 days
of which:		
Waiting time in queue (sum):	0 mn	2 h. 10 mn
Attention at counter:	2 h. 35 mn	6 h. 35 mn
Waiting time until next step (sum):	9 days	24 days 1/2

Laws (16)

Everything a trader needs in one place

- 1  Step-by-step procedure
Clear sequence of all required steps
- 2  Responsible agencies
All institutions and authorities involved
- 3  Required documents
Complete list of forms and documents
- 4  Results
Documents that traders should receive
- 5  Time and cost estimates
Legal basis

3



E-Certification System

Moving trade certificates from paper to digital

WHY IT MATTERS

Paper creates friction

Manual certificates delay exports, increase transaction costs and create risks of errors or fraud.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Digital certification systems

No-code tools and technical expertise for digital issuance, transmission and verification of certificates.



RESULTS

Faster, safer certificates

Faster processing, stronger traceability, less paper and greater national ownership of digital procedures.

PARTNER VALUE: Faster trade, stronger compliance, and nationally owned digital certification systems.

4



Reform Tracker

Managing reforms, workplans and roadmaps in one platform

WHY IT MATTERS

Reforms often lose momentum due to multiple agencies, changing priorities and staff turnover

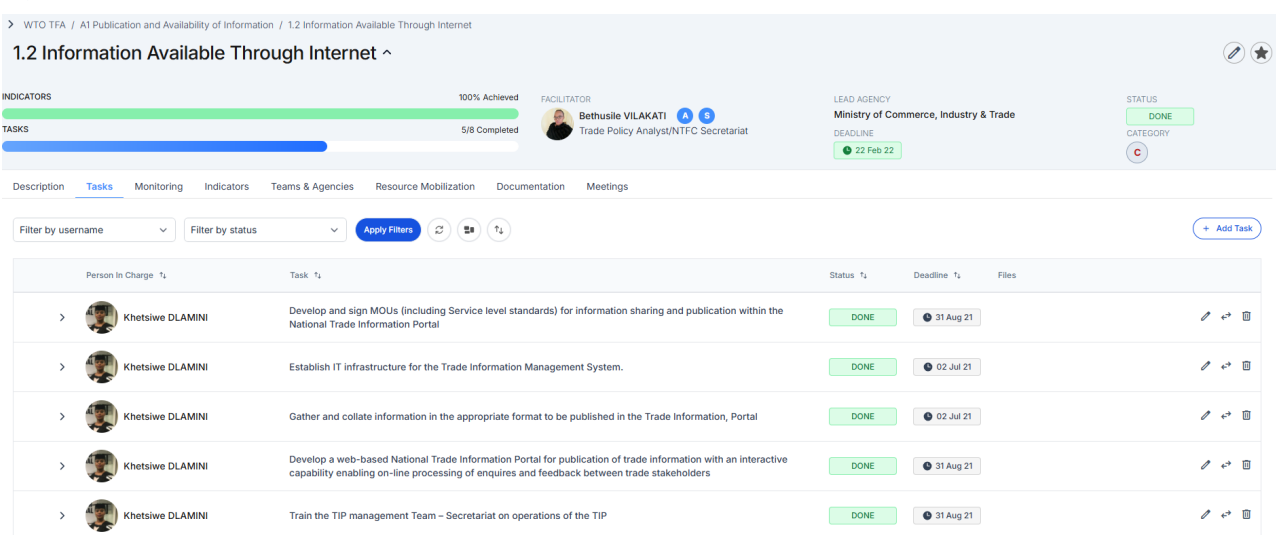
UNCTAD SOLUTION

A platform to coordinate, monitor, and report on reforms, workplans and roadmaps across institutions.

1 Individual dashboard

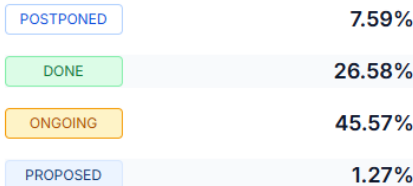


2 Reform Management

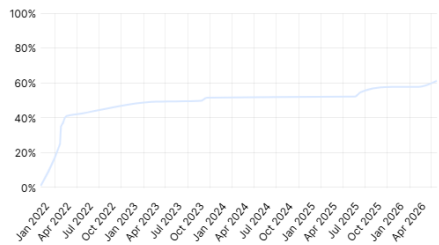


3 Performance Monitoring

Reforms By Status



Implementation Score Over Time



Key Benefits



Clear accountability



Real-time progress visibility



Improved coordination



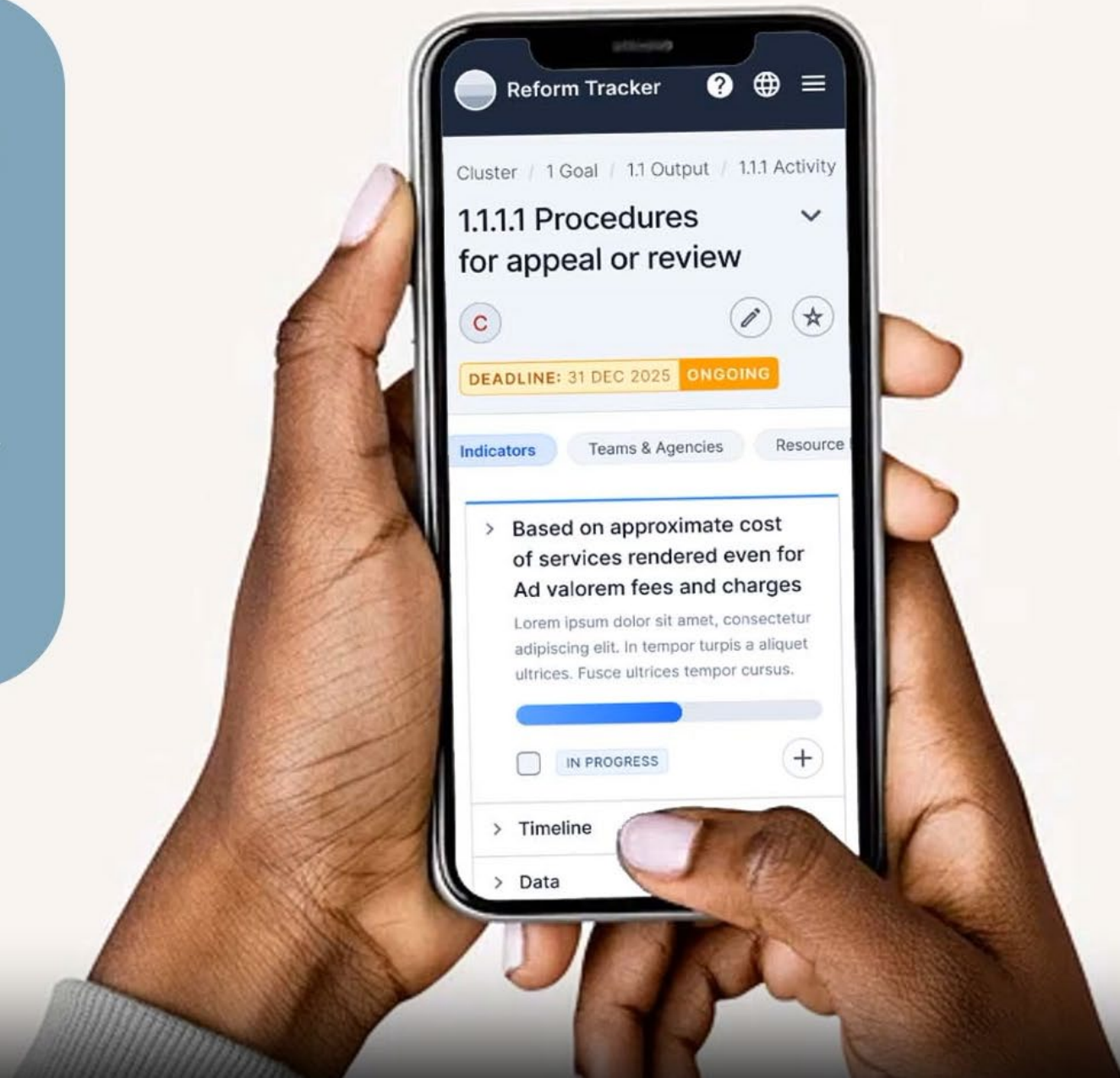
Continuity despite staff turnover



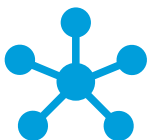
Evidence-based reporting



Imagine holding all insights of trade facilitation reforms within your country at your fingertips



5



Border Agency Cooperation & Transit Coordination

Making borders and corridors work as one system

WHY IT MATTERS

Borders remain bottlenecks

Weak coordination creates duplicate procedures, higher costs and unreliable transit flows.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Coordination support

Diagnostics, training, advisory support, transit frameworks, cooperation strategies and governance mechanisms.



WHAT IT ENABLES

Smoother movement

Faster crossings, reduced duplication, more predictable transit and stronger regional connectivity.

PARTNER VALUE: fragmented border controls become coordinated systems for smoother trade and transit.

6



Inclusive Trade Facilitation

Designing reforms that work for all traders

WHY IT MATTERS

Some traders face higher barriers

Women, youth and persons with disabilities are often excluded from reforms and trade opportunities.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Inclusive reform support

Research, gap assessments, recommendations, action plans, monitoring tools and targeted capacity-building.



WHAT IT ENABLES

Better reform design

Countries identify barriers, translate recommendations into action and monitor inclusion over time.

PARTNER VALUE: reforms are designed to work for women, youth, small traders and other groups often left behind.

7



Rapid Scan for Preparedness

Preparing trade systems for disruption

WHY IT MATTERS

Crises disrupt trade flows

Countries may lack emergency regulations, coordination mechanisms and practical continuity plans.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Rapid diagnostic

A structured review of emergency regulations, implementation gaps, bottlenecks and stakeholder inputs.



WHAT IT ENABLES

Crisis readiness

Practical recommendations and a Rapid Response Plan to keep trade moving during disruptions.

PARTNER VALUE: countries are better prepared to keep essential trade moving during crises.

8

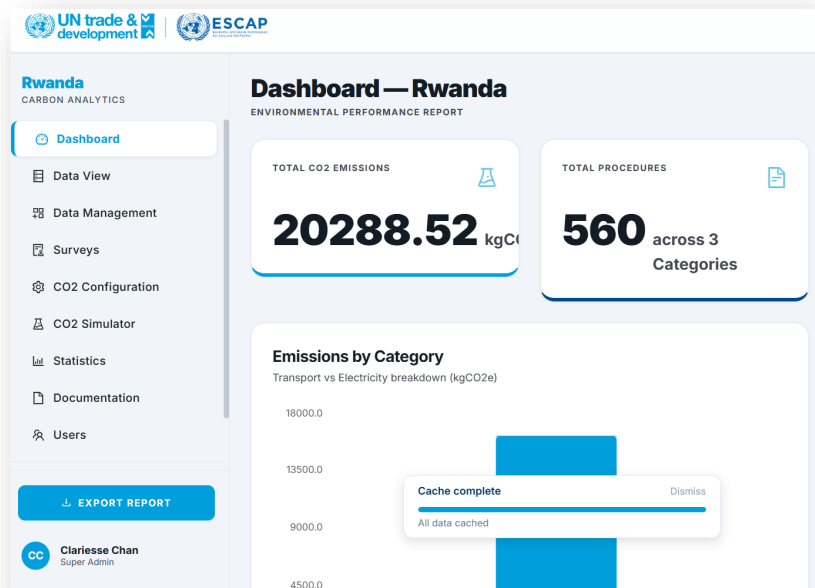


Climate-Smart Trade Facilitation



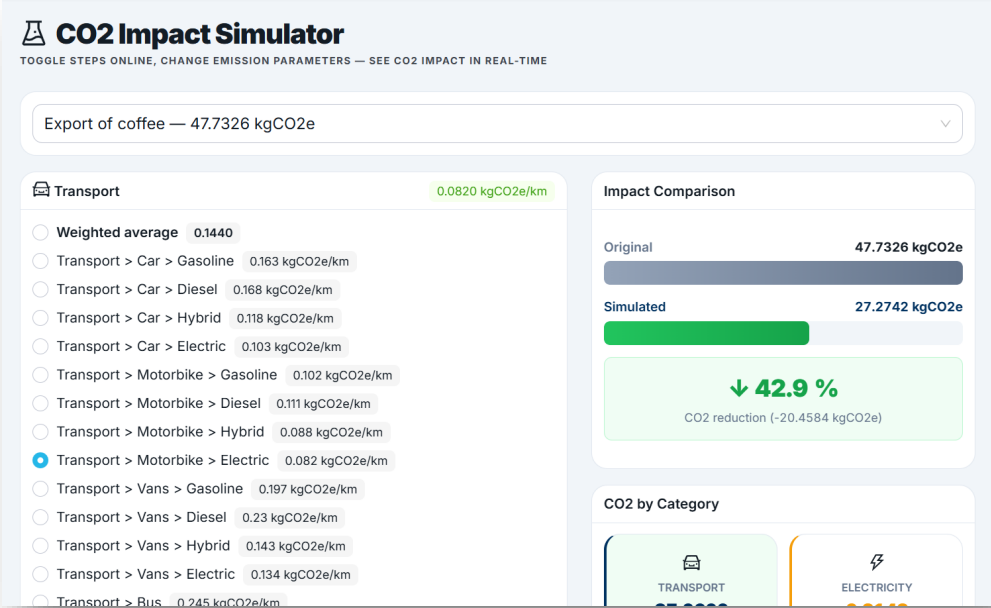
1 Dashboard & Analytics

Measure emissions and identify priority reform areas



2 Co2 Impact Simulator

Evaluate the impact of potential reforms



PARTNER VALUE: Turn trade facilitation reforms into measurable climate benefits.

9



Capacity Building & E-learning

Building skills for lasting reform

WHY IT MATTERS

Reforms need lasting capacity

Officials and stakeholders need practical skills to design, coordinate and implement reforms, while ensuring knowledge is retained.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Comprehensive training ecosystem

Combines self-paced e-learning, coaching, webinars, and in person training tailored to national reform needs.

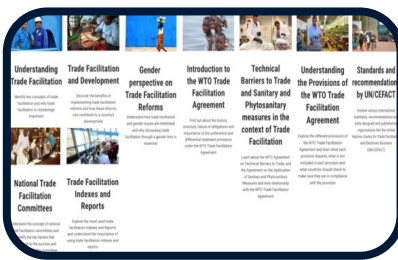


WHAT IT ENABLES

Sustained knowledge

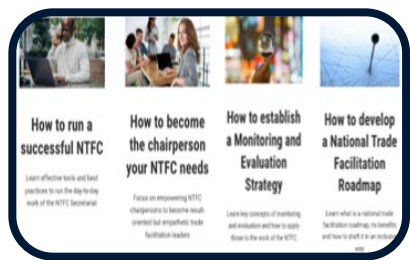
Stronger NTFC leadership, shared reform knowledge and institutional memory beyond staff turnover.

Specialized course on Trade Facilitation



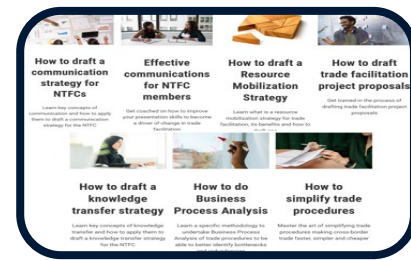
10 modules on all aspects of Trade Facilitation including WTO TFA

NTFC Secretariat training



3 day intensive course to build core competencies of NTFC Secretariat and Chair

E-coaching



M&E, Resource Mobilization, Communication, Knowledge Management Strategies and more



Stronger Institutions



Knowledge Retention



Sustained Reform Capacity



Skilled Practitioners

Emerging Topics



Climate-Smart Trade Facilitation



Blockchain for Trade Facilitation



Transit Coordination

PARTNER VALUE: Institutions retain the skills and continuity needed to keep reforms moving.



Advisory Services & Legal Assistance

Turning commitments into enforceable national systems

WHY IT MATTERS

Legal frameworks enable reform

Fragmented laws and procedures make implementation slower and less predictable.



WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES

Legal and operational support

Roadmaps, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), legal instruments and change-management support adapted to the national context.



WHAT IT ENABLES

Implementation at the border

Clearer rules, operational guidance and stronger institutional coordination.

PARTNER VALUE: commitments on paper become practical systems countries can implement and sustain.



NTFC Database and Sustainability Platform

Benchmarking and strengthening National Trade Facilitation Committees



National Trade Facilitation Committee Cambodia

Established on 2020 | Last update: 08/12/2020

NTFC Assessment Dimensions

CONTACT
INFORMATIO

OBJECTIVES
& SCOPE

INSTITUTIONAL
FRAMEWORK

COMPOSITION
& GENDER

COMMUNICAT
& OUTCOMES

SUSTAINABILIT



PARTNER VALUE: Assess, benchmark and strengthen NTFC performance

WHAT UNCTAD PROVIDES



Sustainability Score

Measures NTFC performance across key institutional dimensions. Predicts long term viability of NTFCs.



Global Benchmarking

Compare NTFCs across countries and regions.



Institutional Assessment

Identify strengths, weaknesses and priority areas for improvement.



Good Practices and Resources

Provide practical guidance and examples from peers.



Supports NTFC Strengthening

Helps countries strengthen NTFCs and sustain reform coordination.

➤ Reach and results across the portfolio

135

country profiles in the NTFC Database

65

countries reached through training in 2023

3,291

trade facilitation experts trained

30+

Reform Tracker deployments

95%

satisfaction across Trade Facilitation courses

30+

Trade Information Portals worldwide

Sources: UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for Trade Facilitation (2023 data); Reform Tracker platform data; KenTrade case study.

➤ Questions to UNCTAD on TACB Facilitation

Duration: 2-year period is the average timeline of our projects. But continuous support is provided through regular calls and e-learning sessions regularly delivered. We have just finished the specialized course on TF which is a 10-module programme.

Presence on the ground: It depends on the type of activities. For the TIP/ASYCUDA, we set up a national team. For the NTFC support, we work mainly from UNCTAD HQ but also have national consultants.

Collaboration with partners: TMA, GIZ, ITC, WB, WCO, etc.

Regional, global, or sectoral interventions to address Category C needs: UNCTAD works based on the requests from our Member States and are also the result of TFA assessments. Otherwise, without any existing assessments, we do it and decide from these assessments.

More difficult measures (Art 10.4, 7.4, 3, 5.1, 7.7, 11, 5.3, 6, and 8): In UNCTAD, we have ASYCUDA, implemented in 103 countries. Support to the TF ecosystem with a focus on Art. 8, 10.4 and 11. Funding remains an issue.

Questions to UNCTAD on TACB Facilitation

Advantages of regional approaches: Regional harmonization and coordination is increased when led by RECs. We always work and consult with RECs: EAC, SIECA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, now discussing with ASEAN.

Ensuring that Category C needs are still addressed: We do not do duplication so we respond to the needs of countries but not implement articles which are already done.

How are beneficiaries selected? As per the UN rules, we are demand-driven and respond to the Member States' official requests

Lessons learned from working with fragile least-developed countries (LDCs)? LDCs need more funding and a longer project timeline with a strong focus on soft infrastructure and support to change management led by the NTFCs. Increased coordination among development partners is also needed.

Questions to Annex D

UNCTAD on specific needs of the TFA addressed by Blockchain:

A blockchain is a shared, immutable database that facilitates the process of keeping records and tracking these records in a shared environment. Blockchain, thus, is just a technology that builds a trustworthy service in a not-necessarily-trustworthy environment.

In the context of TF, it is increasingly used, for instance, for improving the traceability of global supply chains, ensuring the trustfulness of certificates of origin (i.e. Singapore), for risk management or for authorized economic operators (ie. Lacchain for mutual recognition of AEO between several LATAM countries).

In UNCTAD we have an open access e-learning course on this topic, available in EN, ES and AR. If you are interested in learning more about this, I invite you to register for the course in our website.



COURSE STARTS 27 OCTOBER 2026

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence

For smarter trade facilitation and efficient supply chains



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Want to know more?



Contact us:
tfs@unctad.org

Trade Facilitation Section | UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)