



Measuring TFA Implementation Impact Beyond Notifications



WORLD BANK GROUP

January 28 2026

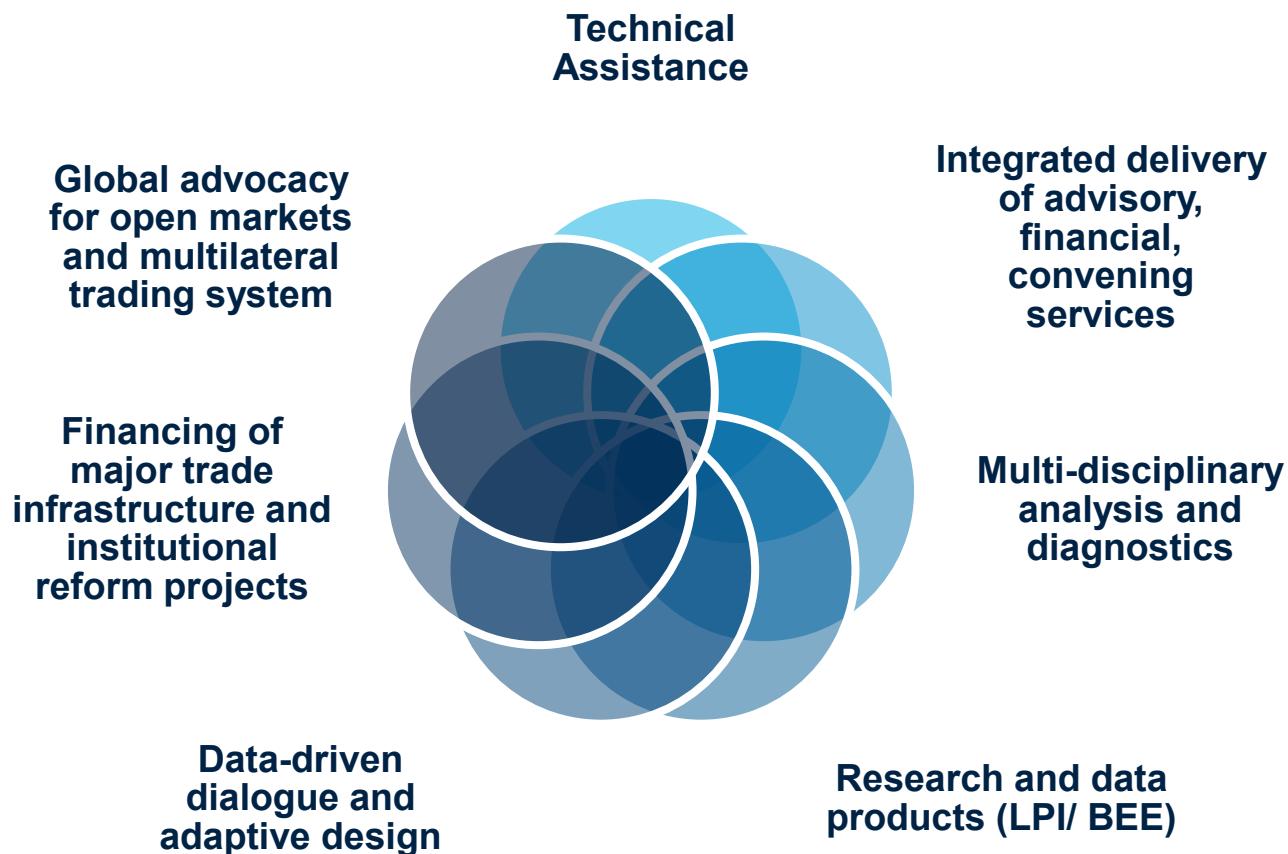
Bill Gain
**Global Lead, Trade Facilitation,
Customs Reform & Border
Management**

World Bank Group Support on Trade Facilitation



WBG is a Major Provider of Trade-Related Assistance

The WBG has implemented more than **200** customs, border management, and trade facilitation projects over the past 20 years that have resulted in major improvements in terms of reduced time to import and export, as well as better transparency, predictability, and reduced transaction costs for traders.



Flagship Program: Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP)

TFSP assists developing countries in reforming and aligning their trade facilitation laws, procedures, processes, and systems to enable implementation of the WTO TFA requirements

- Launched in 2014
- Hosted by the WBG - draws on the expertise of both the **World Bank** and the **International Finance Corporation**
- Designed to provide **practical** and **demand-driven** assistance
- Focuses on supporting the **full** and **effective implementation** of the WTO TFA and related trade facilitation reforms
- Helps client countries identify constraints, plan reforms implementation, and align procedures with international standards covering import, export, and transit activities
- Supported by:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Two main components:

1. **Provision of technical assistance** in developing countries where the WBG helps reform trade facilitation laws, procedures, processes, systems, and consultative mechanisms within the context of the provisions of the WTO TFA
2. **Facilitation of knowledge sharing**, peer-to-peer learning, and the measurement of progress and results.

WBG TFA Supported Work in 50+ countries over 10 years

- 30 countries towards improvements in **risk management** practices through the establishment of risk management frameworks
- 15 countries for the completion of **TRSSs**
- 12 countries in the design of **AO/AEO** schemes
- 11 countries in the establishment and design - or has assisted in the implementation of - **TIPs**
- 10 countries in preparation for implementation of **Single Windows**
(among other areas in other countries)

Measuring Impact of TFA Implementation



Using Indicators to track reform progress

A couple of principles.....

1. Clustering indicators and measurement
2. Estimating: *What difference does a day make ?*
3. *Measuring success & alignment*

Where to Start.....

Impact Measurement Components

Baseline (TRS)

Analytics, diagnostics, validation

Change management

Implement reforms

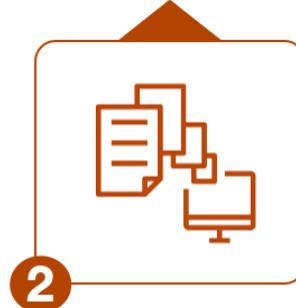
Measure Alignment with TFA

Communicate to the private sector

WCO Time Release Study (example)

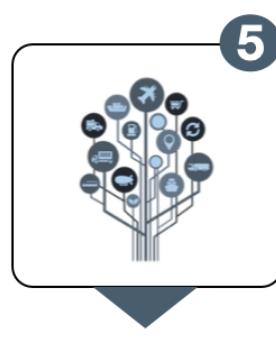
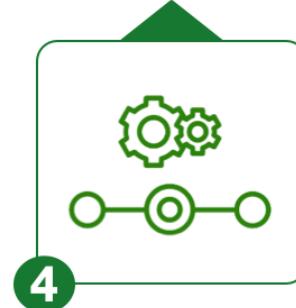
Digitalisation

- Identifies impact
- Measures benefits



Streamlining

- Bottlenecks in end-to end process
- Supports prioritisation of activities



TRS Methodology

- Structured & systematic approach used globally
- 'Whole of border' measurement

Pre-Arrival Processing

- Enables update to be independently monitored

Standardised Data

- Connectivity & inter-operability

MEASURABLE PROGRESS

The [TFA Tracking Tool](#) monitors a country's progress towards aligning with the 30+ measures covered in the WTO TFA.

This tool goes beyond traditional reporting by measuring not only commitments but also the full implementation of trade facilitation measures:

- legal frameworks
- operational procedures
- real-world practices



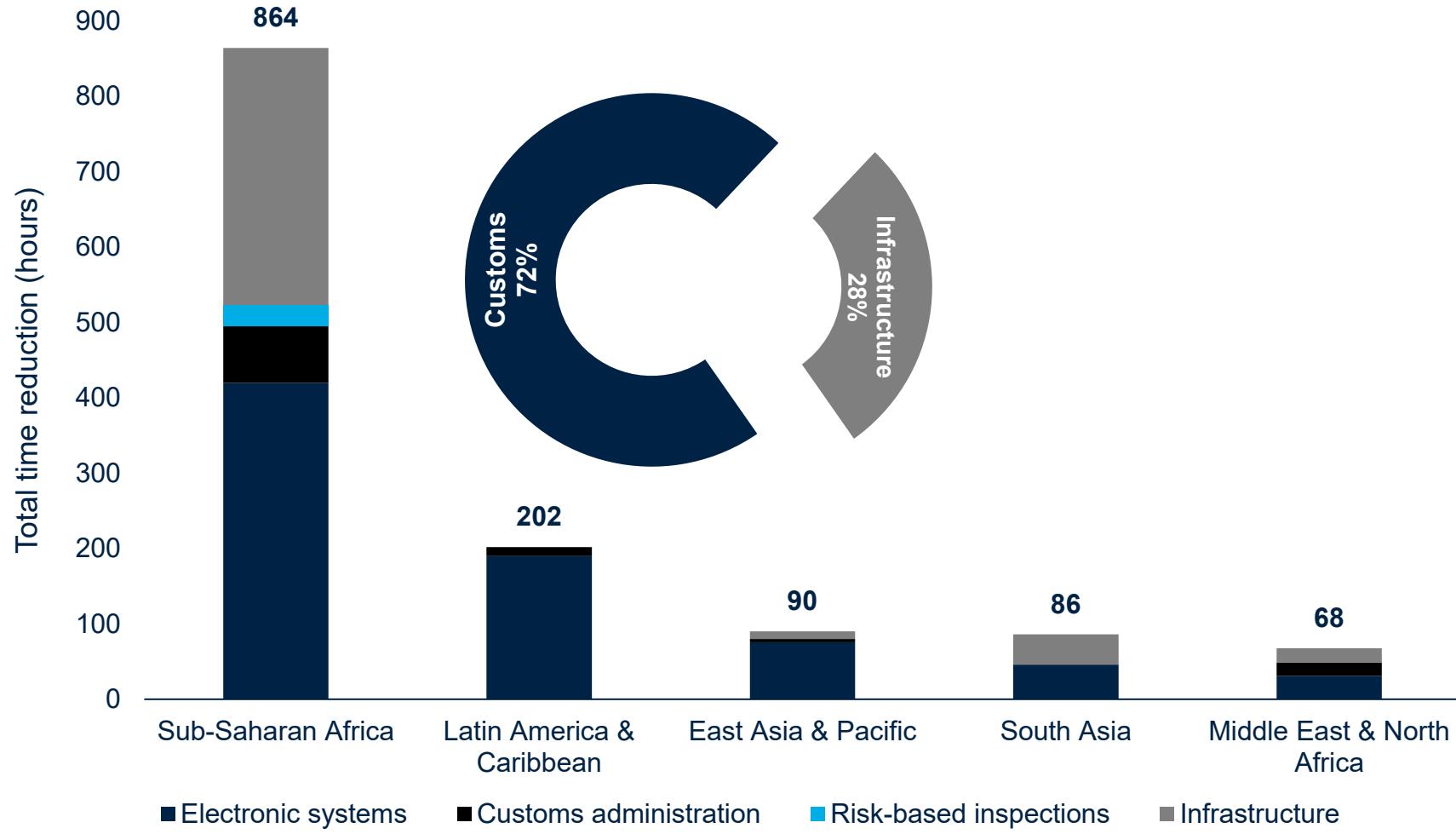
55%

As of June 2025

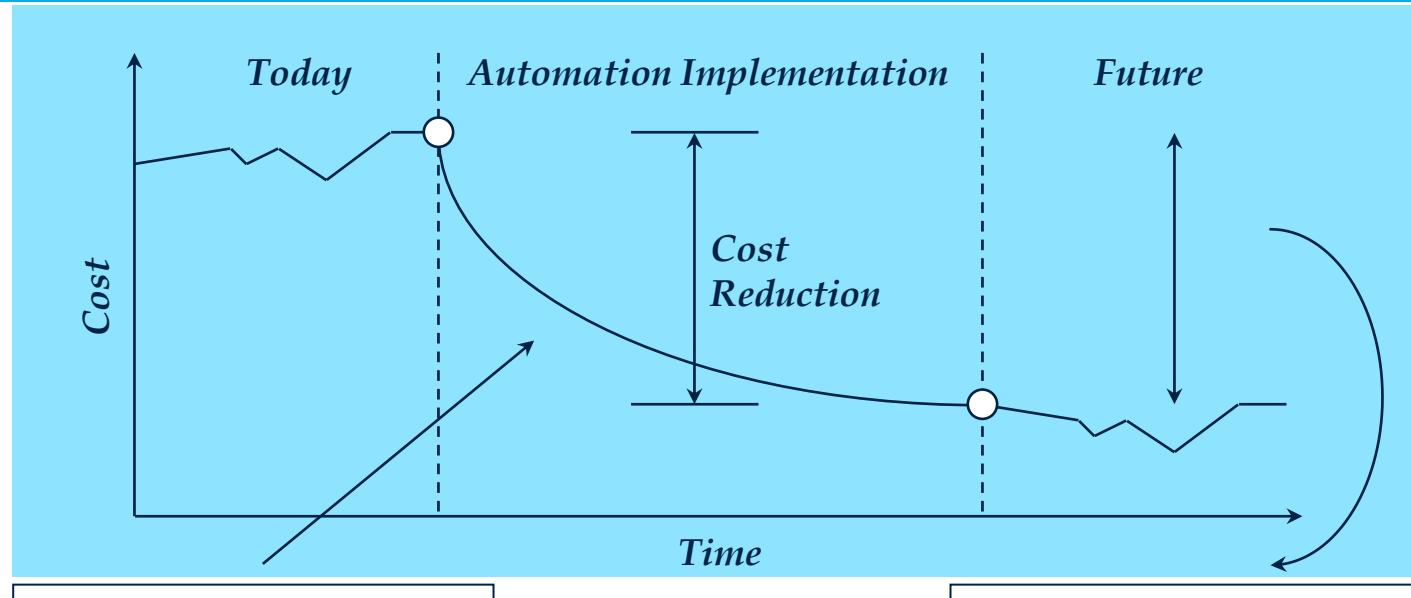
The overall WTO TFA alignment score of TFSP countries has risen to from 41 to 55 percent.



Reforms Time Savings Across Regions In 2016/17 through Digitalization



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One Time Benefit

- Mauritius trade net clearance time reduction 4 hours to 15 minutes
- Tunisia Trade Net reduced trade document processing time from 18 to 7 days
- WBG – NSW Implementation expected to accrue 20 – 50% reduction in trade costs

On-Going Benefit

- Swedish Custom Information System led to a decrease of 20-50 percent in compliance costs for the private sector
- Time savings in GDP translate into 1 percent of GDP per year.

Source: World Bank

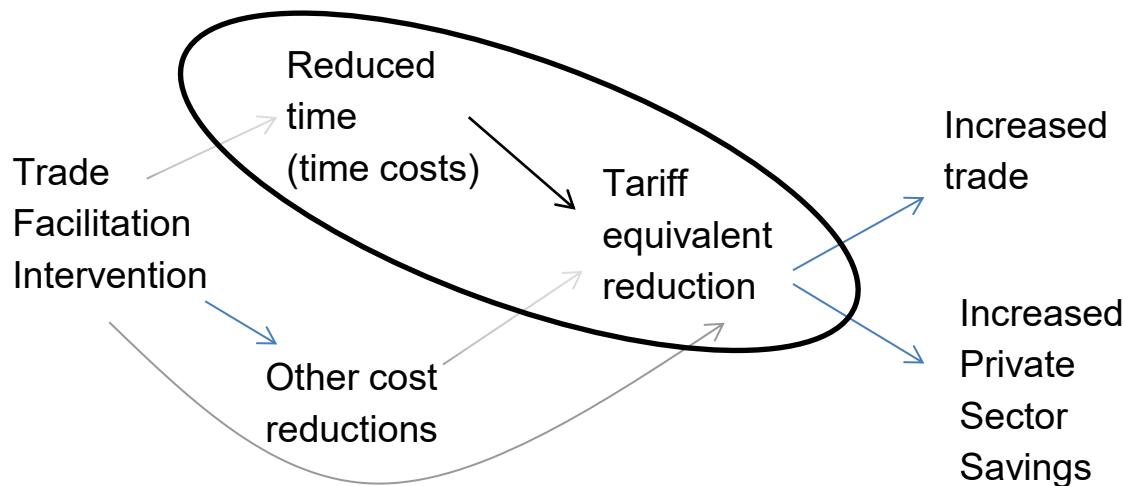
PRIVATE SECTOR SAVINGS

The PSS methodology estimates the benefit accrued to the private sector from increased efficiency in the cargo clearance process as a result of trade facilitation reforms.

Since 2014, an estimated **USD 110 million** has been achieved in savings for businesses through reduced fees, streamlined procedures, and faster cargo clearance.



Private Sector Savings Methodology: Estimated Willingness-to-Pay for Time Reductions – \$210B P.A.

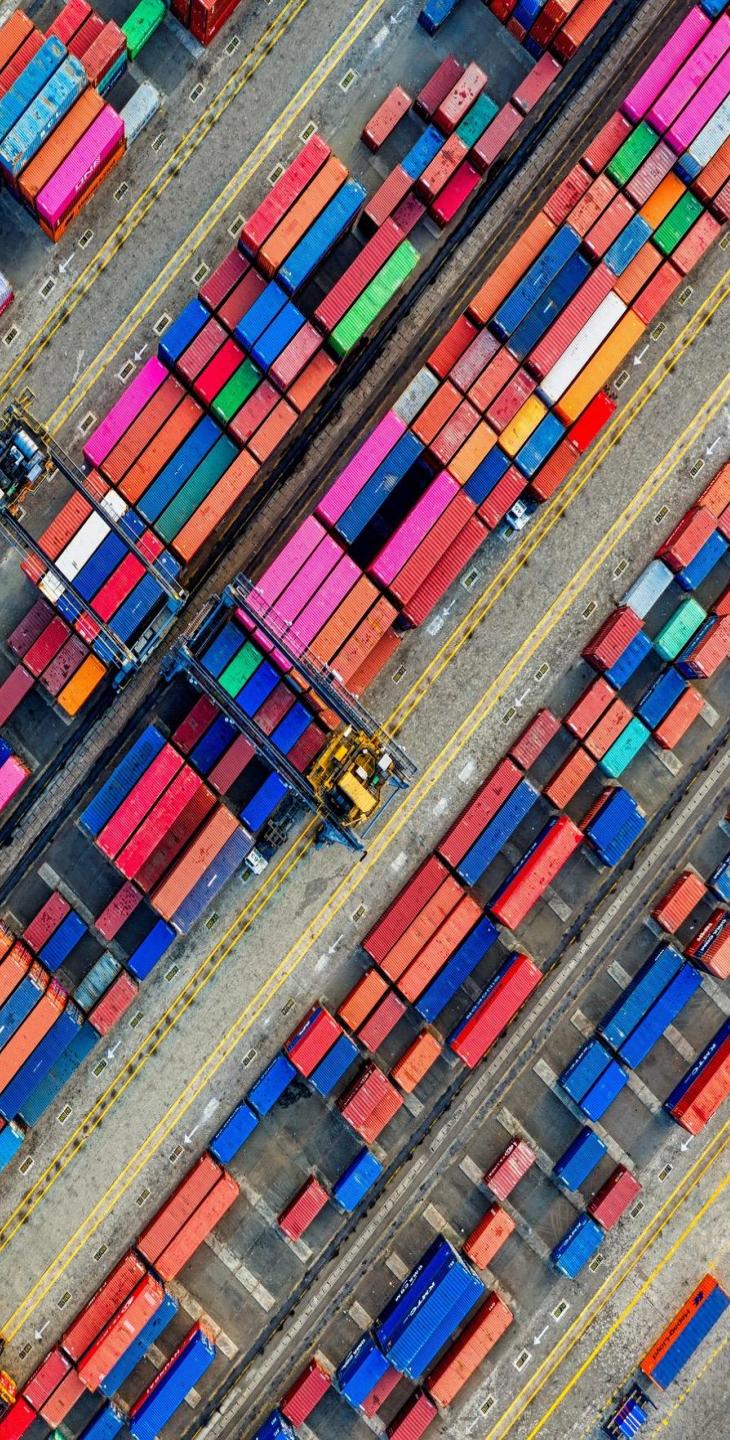


Every day saved reduces the cost of traded goods by roughly 1% (0.6 percent if the conservative estimate, which we use). The model suggests that **traders could pay between .6 and 2.1 percent ad valorem on average for each day of time.**

The methodology can be expressed through this formula:



STORIES OF CHANGE.....





TONGA: STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Fast-track clearance procedures reduced vaccine release times **from 3 days to 3 hours** during COVID-19 and subsequent disasters.

GUATEMALA & HONDURAS: FASTER CROSS-BORDER TRADE

A new customs union initiative, including efforts to integrate trade procedures and implement a QR-code-enabled single online customs instrument between the two countries, cut border crossing times **from 10 hours to just 15 minutes** by eliminating duplicate customs procedures and paperwork—a game-changer for businesses.





EGYPT: IMPLEMENTED INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT FOR BORDER CLEARANCE

Integrated Risk Management Framework for customs & other agencies helped reduce physical inspection at ports by 27% (TRS)



SOUTH AFRICA / ESWATINI: BILATERAL COORDINATION REDUCED TIME TO CLEAR

Times had reduced from over 3 hours to 20 mins (TRS) through risk-based operations and bilateral coordination



MALAWI: SMARTER RISK MANAGEMENT, FASTER BORDER CLEARANCE



A reformed risk management process allowed containerized goods to be cleared at the border. As a result, physical inspections of imports fell from 80% in 2019 to 52% in 2024, and 94% of imports are now cleared at the border instead of at an inland examination center—lowering costs, reducing delays, and improving efficiency.

MOBILIZED FINANCING

- Activities supported by TFSP in our latest cycle contributed to **850 million** leveraged to scale up trade facilitation reforms through lending instruments in 20+ countries
- TFSP-supported or initiated activities either directly informed World Bank lending and IFC operations or complemented ongoing operations through support for the trade facilitation components of larger lending and advisory projects to build **Digital tools** and infrastructure.



Looking Ahead



Cementing Impact

Scaling Up Impact

- Accelerate TFA implementation
- Build upon successful reforms and continue to implement activities that lead to real results for both the public and private sectors
- Foster leadership and ownership
- Leverage digital tools to automate data collection

Building Resilience

- Continue to climate and pandemics
- Leverage the TFA to embed mechanisms to keep trade flowing.

KM & Learning

- Continue peer-to-peer learning and broader knowledge sharing
- Continue to collect gender-disaggregated data

Visit the TFSP webpage at

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/trade-facilitation-support-program>



LEARN MORE

Thank You Bill Gain

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