Coping COVID – 19 through trade facilitation

ITC’s experience and continuing technical assistance

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COVID-19: a health crisis that challenges economy…

1. Shutdown impacts
2. Supply chain disruption
3. Demand depression
4. Recovery
... and cross-border operations

Lives & Livelihoods

While adhering to social distances principles, speed up clearance without compromising safety issues and controls

Border coordination
Simplification of procedures
Automation and digitalization

Trade Policy is part of solution and...

Trade Facilitation is more important than ever
ITC’s response to COVID-19 challenge

Think

1. Analysis and insights from businesses
2. Advice for business competitiveness

Act

3. Adapt TRTA delivery modalities
4. Implement digitally enabled TF reforms
Analysis and insights from businesses (1)
• More than **60%** of MSEs are strongly affected by COVID-19, compared to **43%** of large firms.
Analysis and insights from businesses (3)

- African exporters may lose more than $2.4 billion in global industrial supply chain exports

- ~20% of SMEs are at risk of shutting down permanently

- COVID-19 strongly affected 64% of women-led firms, compared with 52% of men-led companies

- 21% of small businesses were agile in their response to the crisis, compared to just 16% of larger firms
Advice for business competitiveness (2)

Businesses

- Adapt business processes by applying common-sense and restructuring operations
- Optimize cash management
- Re-orient activities to ensure business continuity
- Build business models that foster resilience
- Foster relationships with partners and employees
Advice for business competitiveness (3)

• Channel trusted information

• Coordinate collective actions by MSMEs

• Use digital platforms to enhance the competitiveness

• Enable MSMEs to thrive within a digital, global economy

• Be both global and local to inform and reduce the risks
Advice for business competitiveness (4)

Governments

- Resist protectionism
- Expand and facilitate access to trade finance
- Streamline cross-border trade in goods and services
- Spur the digitalization of trade documents and procedures
- Prepare to operate in digital, global economy
ITC adapts technical assistance services to the “new normal” (1)

- Invest more in national resources and capacity
- Boost investment in e-learning facilities
- Adapt implementation modalities
- Leverage bilateral and regional online consultations
E-learning courses from ITC SME Trade Academy are in huge demand (2)

- 100 e-learning courses free of charge

- More than 110,000 enrolments so far in 2020 (55% women)

- 16,000 unique visitors in a single day

Number of platform users grew by 5 times over confinement period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th># Users</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid April 2020</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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Digitalization is the biggest enabler of TF reforms

ITC kept the reform momentum high for the past 8 months (1)
How ITC assists private sector in adapting to COVID-19 challenges (2) (January 2020 up to now)

- **E-curriculum**: More than 20,000 participants from 180 countries to online courses on trade facilitation, logistics, quality and export management.

- **On-the job Coaching**: 20 businesses coached in 6 countries on import/export management practices by local trainers trained by ITC.

- **Advocacy**: 6 BSOs and 10 CCIs (continuously) trained in 6 countries on advocating and for sectoral and policy reforms. More than 200 businesses trained on how to advocate for trade facilitation reforms.

- **Training for women traders**: Development of training programme for women-led businesses on cross border trade.
Thank you for your attention