



Page 5: ABOUT YOU

Q1 Donor Country (or headquarters location in the case of Organizations) **AUSTRALIA**

Q2 About you

Name	Aid for Trade Section
Position	Multilateral Trade Policy Branch
Ministry or Organization	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Email Address	aidfortrade@dfat.gov.au

Page 7: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES (YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES)

Q3 Do you have an Aid-for-trade strategy? **Yes**

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Q4 If yes, please indicate your Aid-for-Trade priorities: Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)

Connecting to value chains	5
E-commerce	3
Network and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature	4
Trade facilitation	1
Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation	2
Please specify further the priorities that you selected above as well as the main problems/obstacles encountered in furthering them and provide a weblink to the relevant strategy.	<p>The Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments articulates how aid for trade supports the aid program's key objectives of reducing poverty and lifting living standards through sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>It encourages innovation, including by partnering with the private sector and promoting market-based solutions. Australia's aid for trade priorities, listed in the strategy, include: trade and investment policy; trade facilitation; global value chains; private sector development; services; economic empowerment of women; knowledge and skills development; infrastructure; and agriculture.</p> <p>An evaluation of trade facilitation investments by the Australian Office of Development Effectiveness found they have been effective in building capacity and improving the lives of the poor. Areas for further work include further incorporating disadvantaged groups, such as women and SMEs into aid for trade investments, and further coordination of bilateral, regional and global programs.</p> <p>The Australian Government has set a target for aid for trade investments to be 20 per cent of the aid budget by 2020. The target was achieved in 2016-17, when aid for trade reached 23.3 per cent, and again in 2017-18. Labour mobility is also a priority for the aid program. Australia's aid for trade strategy can be found at: https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/strategy-for-australias-aid-for-trade-investments.aspx</p>

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Q5 If no or unsure, does your development policy include trade priorities? **Yes**

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Q6 If yes, please indicate the trade priorities in your development policy. Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q7 Has your Aid-for-Trade strategy, or trade priorities in your development policy, changed since 2016?

No,

Please specify further and include a weblink to the relevant development strategy.:

The 2017 Australian Foreign Policy White Paper reaffirmed that Australia will continue to use aid for trade to catalyse sustained and inclusive economic growth to help reduce poverty.

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Q8 If yes, please rank the top 3 drivers of these changes :(Please choose no more than 3 options)

Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with partner countries and development institutions?

Respondent skipped this question

Q10 Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade in your country.

Foreign Policy White Paper:
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>

Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments: <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/strategy-for-australias-aid-for-trade-investments.aspx>

Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability: <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australian-aid-promoting-prosperity-reducing-poverty-enhancing-stability.aspx>

Aid for Trade Fact Sheet: <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/aid-fact-sheet-aid-for-trade.pdf>

Gearing Up for Trade: <https://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/other-work/Pages/gearing-up-for-trade.aspx>

Page 14: SECTION 2: AID FOR TRADE IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Q11 Is economic diversification a priority in your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information about this strategy (including as to how economic diversification is defined and measured):

One of the three objectives of the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments is structural transformation through improving the regulatory environment. Improving regulatory settings through aid for trade is essential to creating a competitive and market-based environment in developing countries.

The right regulatory environment involves clear and transparent rules that apply to everyone in an equal manner, and are consistent with international trade rules. Predictability in the rule-making process is also crucial. Reforms in policy and regulations should be focussed in the priority areas of trade and investment policy and facilitation, global value chains and the economic empowerment of women.

Also crucial is development assistance that encourages the right investment policies, which can help build international investor confidence, retain foreign investments in the longer term, engender a better range of productive investments, and extend and link those investments to the benefit of local businesses.

Q12 What are the main constraints to economic diversification identified that your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy seek to address?(You may tick more than 1 box)

- ☐ **High input costs**
- ☐ **High trade costs**
- ☐ **Limited access to trade finance**
- ☐ **Limited agricultural production capacity**
- ☐ **Limited customs and other border agency capacity**
- ☐ **Limited e-trade readiness,**
- ☐ **Limited inward foreign direct investment**
- ☐ **Low levels of training and skills**
- ☐ **Poor international competitiveness,**
- ☐ **Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port)**

Additional information on the main constraints to economic diversification as identified in your Aid-for-Trade strategy.:

Poor infrastructure, including roads, ports and information and communications technology; lack of private sector capability, including limited access to finance and distribution channels, and a lack of a skilled workforce; and weak public sector institutions, including in formulating economic policy and regulations and negotiating trade-related agreements.

Q13 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing you provide aid- for- trade support for economic diversification.(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Fishing,

Additional information on which categories of aid-for-trade financing you provide aid-for- trade-support for economic diversification.:

In 2016-17, 55.4 per cent of Australia's aid for trade was directed to building productive capacity; 40.3 per cent was directed to economic infrastructure; and 4.3 per cent was directed to trade policy and regulations.

Q14 Does the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification align with partners' priorities as established in their national or regional trade and development strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification aligns with the priorities established in partners national or regional trade and development strategy(ies).:

Aid for trade investments are developed in partnership with partner countries, on the basis of needs identified in their national development strategies.

Q15 Has the aid-for-trade support you provide in economic diversification recorded progress in partner countries since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006?

Yes,

Additional information on whether the aid-for-trade support for economic diversification you provide recorded progress.:

In 2016-17, aid for trade investments in infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness were assessed as being 85 per cent effective and 89 per cent sustainable. All new aid investments explored innovative ways to either promote private sector growth or engage the private sector in achieving development outcomes.

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Q16 If yes please specify, in which area(s):(You may tick more than 1 box)

Export ,
diversification

Structural transformation,

Other, (please ,
specify)

Additional information on the progress that your government has recorded in economic diversification since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006.:

Supporting labour mobility is an important component of Australia's aid for trade. Remittances, especially for the Pacific region, are an important source of investment. In the period 2012-2017, Australia's Pacific Seasonal Worker Programme delivered over \$144 million in net income gains to Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste. Typically, a worker under the Seasonal Worker Programme sends home over \$8,850.

Q17 If yes, please also indicate in which sector(s):(You may tick more than 1 box)

Agriculture,
Services

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Q18 In which category(ies) of Aid for Trade is the support you provide impactful for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Fishing,

Additional information on which category(ies) of Aid for Trade the support you provide is impactful for economic diversification, including information on which your answer is based.:

In 2016-17, aid for trade investments in infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness were assessed as being 85 per cent effective and 89 per cent sustainable. All new aid investments explored innovative ways to either promote private sector growth or engage the private sector in achieving development outcomes. Please see the Performance of Australian aid:

[https://dfat.gov.au/about-](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/performance-of-australian-aid-2016-17.aspx)

[us/publications/Pages/performance-of-australian-aid-2016-17.aspx](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/performance-of-australian-aid-2016-17.aspx)

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Q19 What factors contribute to the success of the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities

,

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

,

Good digital and ICT connectivity

,

Institutional capacity to implement projects

,

Services capacity

Q20 What factors may limit the success of the aid-for-trade support that you provide for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors.)

Diverging priorities between partner and donor

,

Lack of country ownership

,

Limited financing for the private sector

,

Poor alignment of aid-for-trade received with national/regional priorities

,

Weak institutional capacity

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Q21 Does the Aid for Trade you provide help mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification in partner countries (i.e. non-concessional financing, foreign direct investment, remittances, trade finance, etc.).

Yes,

Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification.:

Remittances, especially for the Pacific region, are an important form of development finance for economic diversification in partner countries. In the period 2012-2017, Australia's Pacific Seasonal Worker Programme delivered over \$144 million in net income gains to Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste. Typically, a worker under the Seasonal Worker Programme sends home over \$8,850.

Q22 To which partner country(ies) or territory(ies) do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Bangladesh,
Cambodia,
Fiji,
Indonesia,
Kiribati,
Lao People's Democratic Republic,
Myanmar,
Nepal,
Nauru,
Pakistan,
Papua New Guinea,
Philippines,
Samoa,
Solomon Islands,
Sri Lanka,
Timor-Leste,
Tonga,
Vanuatu,
Viet Nam,

Additional information on the partner country(ies), territory(ies) or regional programmes in which you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification.:

The primary geographical focus of the Australian aid program is the Indo-Pacific region.

Q23 Through which channels do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Bilateral programmes,
Multilateral institutions,
Regional programmes

Q24 With which South-South partner(s) do you partner to offer financing for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box or leave all boxes unticked if you do not partner with any)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q25 Looking ahead, in which sectors do you anticipate future support for economic diversification to be required? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Agriculture,
Industry,
Services

Q26 Looking ahead, in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing do you anticipate that you will continue to provide aid-for-trade support for economic diversification. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Fishing

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Q27 Is there any Aid for Trade project or programme for economic diversification that you would like to showcase as an example of best practice? (Please provide additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus Readiness Package:

The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) is a regional development-centred trade agreement. PACER Plus opened for signature on 14 June 2017, and has been signed by Australia, New Zealand and nine Pacific island countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

PACER Plus is an important part of Australia's engagement in the Pacific helping to foster a secure, stable and prosperous region, including commercial opportunities for exporters, importers, and investors across a range of sectors. Dedicated development assistance is being provided as part of PACER Plus to assist Pacific island signatories first ratify the Agreement and then fully implement it after it enters into force. Aid for trade support provided under the PACER Plus will help address supply-side constraints

and build Pacific island countries' capacity to trade. This support will enable Pacific island countries to leverage regional integration and cooperation to accelerate economic diversification and increase their participation in global trade.

Customs modernisation and harmonisation, trade transparency and facilitation, and trade-related adjustment support are key aspects of the PACER Plus Readiness Package, which is being delivered by regional and/or global partners, including UNCTAD, the Oceania Customs Organisation and the Pacific Financial and Technical Advisory Centre.

Priority issues, such as the adoption of the latest harmonized system (HS) codes for the classification of products, capacity building on modernised rules of origin and flexible product specific rules, the development of regional value chains and trade portals, women's economic empowerment and support for MSMEs, are being addressed through PACER Plus.

Once in force, PACER Plus also will support demand-led economic diversification and trade-related empowerment, including trade in services.

Link: <https://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/not-yet-in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/Pages/pacer-plus-at-a-glance.aspx>

Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (Phase 2): The Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program Phase 2 (CAVAC II) is delivering irrigation infrastructure and knowledge to smallholder farmers to improve productivity and encourage crop diversification with the aim of improving household incomes. In 2017-18, 4,121 households gained access to irrigation, assisting farmers to produce up to three crops a year where they could only produce one crop under rain-fed methods. CAVAC II estimates this resulted in an additional 28,769 tonnes of paddy rice production - which is 99 per cent of the annual performance benchmark. Case studies found that CAVAC II's irrigation development also promoted positive social attitudes towards women as leaders in FWUCs (Farmer Water Users Communities) set up to operate and maintain irrigation schemes.

CAVAC II is playing an important role to help address acute and growing labour shortage in rural areas. This is being done by stimulating markets for mechanised farming equipment, which in turn is supporting social stability and the viability of locally-owned smallholder plots. For example, CAVAC II is helping to create a market for Eli Seed Planters. This highly-innovative, Cambodia-invented technology saves labour, reduces the rice seeding rate from 300kg to 100 kg per hectare, and improves germination vigour and yield. CAVAC II's promotion of this technology contributed to the design winning a prestigious Patents for Humanity award.

CAVAC II is playing a critical convening role to help Cambodia maintain access to the European Union (EU) rice market, which accounts for about 48 per cent of total rice exports. The program is providing technical assistance and brokering high-level discussions to respond to an EU ban on a fungicide residue widely used in Cambodia —ensuring the economic resilience of the rice sector and the diversity of export markets for Cambodian farmers.

CAVAC II also established 19 new partnership agreements to boost trade and smallholder farmer income through private sector engagement in agriculture, exceeding our target. For example, CAVAC II assisted Camfood (a local chilli sauce processor) to obtain a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points certification, enabling the company to export its products overseas, especially to the EU market.

<https://dfat.gov.au/geo/cambodia/development-assistance/Pages/increasing-agriculture-productivity-cambodia.aspx> & <https://cavackh.org/>

Philippines Game Changers Program: Australia in partnership with the World Bank has been supporting the Philippines Government in economic diversification and regulatory reform through the Game Changers Program. The program focuses on "game changing" economic reforms that seek to address decades-long constraints to private sector growth. It includes:

- i. upgrading the institutional capacity of the customs bureau and conduct of customs diagnostics to assess their effectiveness and compliance with international standards and accepted good practice;
- ii. supporting the Philippines Competition Commission to enforce, foster and advocate the newly established competition law;
- iii. strengthening support services to micro, small and medium sized enterprises in rural and underserved areas in the Philippines through capacity building; and
- iv. advisory and technical support to the finance department to craft reform policies and programs.

iv. advisory and technical support to the finance department to craft reform policies and programs.

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Q28 Is economic empowerment a priority in your aid-for-trade and development strategy?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information on how economic empowerment is prioritized in your aid-for-trade and development strategy.:

Women's economic empowerment is explicitly included as a priority in the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments. The strategy states that empowerment of women should be incorporated in every investment. Aid for trade can empower women by helping them to participate fully and effectively in goods trades in sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, as well as in services. Women's economic empowerment is also one of three priorities in Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy. Private sector development is also a priority in the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments, with a specific focus on small and medium enterprises. The strategy states that aid for trade that addresses global value chains needs to focus on SMEs, who face barriers ranging from inefficient customs procedures and inappropriate regulation to low industry standards, and from lack of understanding of foreign markets to lack of access to finance. In addressing agriculture, the strategy states that investments focusing on market and infrastructure constraints can help small-scale farmers integrate into global value chains, providing access to higher commodity prices and improved technology.

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Q29 For which groups does your aid-for-trade strategy seek to promote economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Women's economic empowerment ,

Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises ,

Other (please specify) ,

Additional information on the groups for which your aid-for-trade strategy is seeking to promote economic empowerment.:

Consistent with SDG2, Australia's aid in the agriculture sector primarily seeks to benefit small-scale farmers.

Q30 Does your aid-for-trade or development strategy propose any indicators to track economic empowerment or include any targets to achieve?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information the indicators or targets on economic empowerment included in your aid-for-trade strategy.:

Eighty per cent of all aid investments, including aid for trade investments, will effectively address gender in implementation.

Q31 Does your aid-for-trade or development strategy link economic empowerment in partner countries to their participation in international trade?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information on how your aid-for-trade or development strategy links economic empowerment to participation in international trade.:

For women, SMEs and small scale farmers, the link is explicit in the strategy though participation in global value chains. Participation in global value chains can contribute to better working conditions and increased productivity, help improve standards of production, facilitate the take up of new technology and innovative processes, as well as increase demand for individuals with technical skills. Aid for trade that addresses global value chains should focus on small and medium enterprises. In addition to problems associated with scale, SMEs face barriers ranging from inefficient customs procedures and inappropriate regulation to low quality or industry standards, and from lack of understanding of foreign markets to lack of access to finance. Aid for trade that focuses on market and infrastructure constraints can help small-scale farmers integrate into global value chains, providing access to higher commodity prices and improved technology. Aid for trade can empower women by helping them participate in goods trades in sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, as well as in services.

Q32 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing you provide support for Aid for Trade for economic empowerment. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture

Q33 Does the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic empowerment align with the empowerment priorities established in partner countries national or regional trade and development strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the aid-for-trade support you provide for economic empowerment aligns with the empowerment priorities established in partner countries national or regional trade and development strategy(ies):
Aid for trade investments are developed in partnership with partner countries, on the basis of needs identified in their national development strategies. For example, in the Philippines, Australia delivers targeted advice and technical assistance that aims to enhance foundations for inclusive economic growth. These programs aim to have a catalytic effect on the Philippine Government's reform efforts and capacity development. Investments are targeted and leverage the Philippine Government's own resources and are based on the Philippines' own commitments in the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022). For example, the Plan includes a commitment to implementing programs that encourage women to participate in the labour market. In line with this objective, Australia's Investing in Women Initiative works with the private sector to increase the number of businesses achieving gender equity in their workplaces, increase impact investment in women's MSMEs, and remove barriers to women's economic empowerment, through national policy and regulatory change, and positively influencing public attitudes.

Q34 Is women's economic empowerment a priority in your development or aid-for-trade strategy?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is prioritized in your development aid-for-trade strategy:
Women's economic empowerment is explicitly included as a priority in the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments. The strategy states that empowerment of women should be incorporated in every investment. Aid for trade can empower women by helping them to participate fully and effectively in goods trades in sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, as well as in services. Women's economic empowerment is also one of three priorities in Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy.

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Q35 In your view, how best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to women's economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Improving access to information ,

Improving access to foreign markets ,

Improving access to global value chains ,

Improving digital ,

connectivity**Improving the provision of services****Improving the flow of goods at borders (Trade Facilitation)****Providing access to finance****Supporting the growth and economic development of women****Supporting the elaboration of gender-sensitive policies**

Additional information or examples of projects and programmes on how Aid for Trade can make a contribution to women's economic empowerment.:

In Myanmar, Australia supports the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), which promotes resilient and inclusive growth by enabling poor women and men to 'step up' into commercial value chains; 'step out' of marginalised farming into more profitable off-farm jobs; and 'hang in' by using agriculture as an affordable safety net. LIFT is supporting women who have migrated to Yangon from rural areas to find safe employment as skilled workers in the garment sector. LIFT's Industry Solutions for Safe Employment has established a garment skills training centre formal accreditation standards, and links with private sector garment factories and job placement services. Employment of the women graduates as paid skilled workers in garment factories sees them earning around double the salaries they would have earned without training. Australia's Women Trading Globally program is training women entrepreneurs in developing countries on how to make their businesses 'export ready'. The program is a two-week intensive training course provided by the Export Council of Australia, which also includes networking events to link the women to Australian women counterparts, as well as ongoing mentoring. . Australia partners with the International Labour Organization's Better Work Program to improve conditions for workers in garment factories in South Asia and South East Asia. The program supports about 2.0 million workers across 1,400 factories, about 80 per cent of whom are women. It improves workplace standards, including wages, working hours, maternity leave and labour relations. The program has improved productivity in participating factories by up to 25 per cent, and profitability by up to 22 per cent.

Q36 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support women's economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).

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Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

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Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture

Q37 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting women's economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

Institutional capacity to implement projects

Services capacity,

Additional information on the factors that contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting women's economic empowerment.:

Other factors contributing to success include: integrating women's economic empowerment in aid for trade, economic diplomacy and trade efforts; advocating for women's economic empowerment in multilateral and regional fora, in multilateral development banks and economic policy fora; ensuring trade work advances gender equality objectives.

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Q38 In your view, how best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the economic empowerment of MSMEs. (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Providing access to finance

Upgrading ICT skills

Improving access to information

Improving access to global value chains

Improving digital connectivity

Additional information or examples of projects and programmes on how Aid for Trade can make a contribution to the economic empowerment of MSMEs.:

Australia partners with the Asian Development Bank's Trade Finance Program to improve the provision of finance to SMEs who are looking to engage in international trade. The program improves the prudential and governance practices of banks, so that they can offer trade finance products with the support and backing of the ADB. In 2017, the program supported about \$4.5 billion in transactions by more than 2,800 SMEs, without default or loss.

Q39 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support the economic empowerment of MSMEs? (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)

Q40 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting the economic empowerment of MSMEs? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities

,

Country ownership,

Good digital and ICT connectivity

,

Good trade-related infrastructure

,

Leveraging of foreign direct investment

,

Additional information on factors that contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting the economic empowerment of MSMEs.:

Factors contributing to the success of aid for trade in promoting economic empowerment of MSMEs include integrating MSME empowerment in aid for trade, economic diplomacy and trade efforts; advocate for MSMEs in multilateral and regional fora, in multilateral development banks and economic policy fora; and ensuring trade work advances MSME objectives.

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Q41 In your view, how best can Aid for Trade contribute to Youth economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Upgrading ICT skills

,

Improving access to information

,

Improving access to global value chains

,

Improving digital connectivity

,

Improving the provision of services

Q42 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support Youth economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)

Q43 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting Youth economic empowerment? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities

,

Country ownership,

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

,

Good digital and ICT connectivity

,

Leveraging of foreign direct investment

,

Additional information on the factors that contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting Youth economic empowerment.:

Factors contributing to the success of aid for trade in promoting economic empowerment of youth include integrating youth empowerment in aid for trade, economic diplomacy and trade efforts; advocate for youth empowerment in multilateral and regional fora, in multilateral development banks and economic policy fora; and ensuring trade work advances youth empowerment objectives.

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Q44 In your view, can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda ?

Yes,

Please provide a weblink to the relevant national strategy or policy document in which SDGs are referred to.:

<https://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/2030-agenda/Documents/sdg-voluntary-national-review.pdf>

Q45 If yes, please specify which Sustainable Development Goal or Goals (SDGs) Aid for Trade can help to achieve. (You may tick more than 1 box) Sustainable Development Goals:

- 1. No ,
poverty
- 2. Zero hunger,
- 5. Gender ,
equality
- 7. Affordable and clean ,
energy
- 8. Decent work and economic ,
growth
- 9. Industry, innovation and ,
infrastructure
- 10. Reduce ,
inequalities
- 13. Climate ,
action
- 14. Life below ,
water
- 15. Life on ,
land
- 17. Partnership for the
goals

Q46 Which partner country(ies) or custom territory(ies) are the main recipients of the aid-for-trade financing you provide for economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Bangladesh,
Cambodia,
Fiji,
Indonesia,
Lao People's Democratic Republic,
Myanmar,
Pakistan,
Papua New Guinea,
Philippines,
Samoa,
Solomon Islands,
Timor-Leste,
Tonga,
Viet Nam,

Additional information on the country(ies) or custom territory(ies) that are the main recipients of the aid-for-trade financing you provide for economic empowerment.:

The primary geographical focus of the Australian aid program is the Indo-Pacific region.

Q47 Through which channels do you provide aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Bilateral programmes,
Multilateral institutions,
Regional programmes

Q48 With which South-South partner(s) do you partner with to provide aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box or leave all boxes unticked if you do not partner with any))

Respondent skipped this question

Q49 Looking ahead, in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing do you anticipate that you will continue to provide aid-for-trade support for economic empowerment. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards).

,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) ,

Multilateral trade negotiations ,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development.)

Q50 Is there any Aid for Trade project or programme for economic empowerment you would like to showcase as particularly important or as an example of best practice?(Please provide any relevant additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

Investing in Women (IW) is a multi-country Australian Government initiative in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar) that works with the private sector to improve women's economic participation as employees (through supporting Business Coalitions for women's empowerment) and as entrepreneurs (through encouraging increased impact investment into women owned and led small and medium Enterprises (WSMEs)), and influence the enabling environment to promote Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). Since it began in 2016, IW has made significant progress using innovative approaches to aid delivery driven by the private sector. Business Coalitions (BC) encompass 29 companies across the four countries, together employing almost 500,000 people. 70 per cent of the BC companies have achieved the internationally-recognized Economic Dividends for Gender Equality (EDGE) certification. In two years our impact investing partners have closed 14 deals into WSMEs worth a total of AUD5.3m and leveraged additional private sector capital worth AUD5.7m. This compares to the 8 deals into WSMEs in the IW target countries between 2007-17 reported in the 2018 GIIN report The Landscape for Impact Investing in Southeast Asia.

Pacific labour mobility: The Pacific Labour Scheme commenced on 1 July 2018 following a successful pilot program in northern Australia and building on the success of Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme. Workers from Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are currently able to apply for low and semi-skilled employment in Australia under the Scheme. Uncapping the Scheme and expanding it to more Pacific island countries is helping to provide economic empowerment to more Pacific workers as well as fill shortages in rural and regional Australia.

For example, Retati Tekaa is working in Australia to achieve her dreams in her home country of Kiribati. Retati is the eldest of six children. As the main source of income for her family, she is responsible for caring for her parents and ensuring her younger siblings are able to access education.

To achieve this she has sought out opportunities to improve her own education and skills. Retati studied hospitality at the Australia-Pacific Technical College in Fiji, and has continued to develop her skills by participating in the Australian Government's Pacific labour mobility program. Through the program, Retati is working on Hayman Island to restore the resort after it was devastated by Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

In the short time that she has been on the island, her employers have recognised her skills and potential, promoting her to front-of-house in the workers' accommodation. Retati is also using her enthusiasm to encourage other Pacific workers on the island to be more confident in their roles.

Retati is most proud of the impact her work in Australia is having on her family and community back in Kiribati.

Thanks to pastoral support in Australia, Retati developed a seven-point plan for her future. Not only is she supporting her family, she is also contributing to her community. When she returns home, she mentors her old boss in best practice for managing a hotel, and passes on her Australian hospitality training to the hotel staff.

To ensure financial security, Retati has used her budget planning training provided by the Program to embark on a savings program, in addition to the remittances she regularly sends home. She has recently bought a car in Kiribati and is renting it out through the hotel. She continues to work towards her ultimate goal of running an event planning business in Kiribati.

Retati dreams of improving her family's circumstances. By working hard in Australia to learn new skills and financially plan for the future, she is able to take steps to making a real difference to their lives.

Q51 Please provide any additional information.(Please reference in the form or weblinks, document symbols, including to evaluations of projects or programmes)

Respondent skipped this question

Q52 CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply):

Respondent skipped this question
