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Q1

AUSTRALIA

Respondent (Donor country or headquarters location in the case of Organizations)

Q2

About you

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Q3

Does your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan include trade priorities (i.e., Aid-for-Trade priorities)?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade (or Aid-for-Trade priorities) included in your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan (or other trade-related policy document):

Australia's Aid-for-Trade priorities are reflected in our new development policy, Partnerships for Recovery (PfR): Australia's COVID-19 Development Response (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) through its economic recovery pillar. The PfR recognises trade as a key driver of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying it as an essential mechanism for economic recovery. It prioritises support to partner governments on pathways to economic recovery, including revitalising export markets, accessing finance for trade and investment, and helping re-establish markets and global value chains. PfR is the Australian Government's overarching framework for delivering timely, responsive, and effective support on health security, stability, and economic recovery in our near neighbourhood – the Pacific, and Southeast Asia. PfR supports policy-making that promotes economic response and recovery efforts, private sector resilience, open markets and supply chains, improved livelihoods, and inclusive growth. Investing in gender equality and women's economic empowerment remains a cross-cutting priority, especially given women are shouldering much of the economic burden of the impacts of COVID-19. Australia's support under the PfR also helps partner governments to enhance human capital and job creation. Our support features initiatives that facilitate responsible business models, low carbon development, and greater value chain diversification. In order to do this, and as an essential partner in economic recovery, the PfR encourages engagement of the private sector in aid investments, both in Australia and our region. Our work in each country under the PfR is guided by COVID-19 Development Response Plans (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/covid-19-development-response-plans>), which also reflect Aid-for-Trade priorities. These plans take into account the unique context and joint interests of our partners. They reflect how existing programs are responding to COVID-19. For example, the Papua New Guinea COVID-19 Development Response Plan and the Australia-Indonesia COVID-19 Response Plan (refer below). The Papua New Guinea COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/covid-response-plan-papua-new-guinea.pdf>) focuses on supporting PNG's economic recovery, including improving productive capacity and infrastructure development through: - road maintenance to create jobs and ensure roads remain open to export markets; - supporting women business owners with skills training and access to finance; - strengthening

linkages between farmers and markets, to improve export opportunities; - assistance to improve the business enabling environment to encourage new investment, including in the resources sector; - concessional financing for electrification projects, to reduce power costs for business; - enhanced technical vocational education and training, to better position PNG workers to find employment overseas (trade in services) including participating in the Seasonal Workers Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme (see separate contribution for these areas); and - providing subsidies to PNG's main airline, Air Niugini, to ensure essential travel corridors remain open for business and other travel, including the movement of goods. New bilateral or regional trade and economic cooperation arrangements are also being used to support resilience and recovery, and achieve Aid-for-Trade objectives. For example, the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/iacepa/Pages/indonesia-australia-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement>), complements the Indonesia COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/indonesia-covid-19-development-response-plan>), including Aid-for-Trade related provisions that support shared economic recovery through increased bilateral trade and investment. Increased Australian investment in Indonesia will help create jobs and generate local economic activity and government revenue for recovery. The IA-CEPA Economic Cooperation Program (Katalis) is providing technical advice and other assistance to enable Indonesia to fully realise the mutual benefits of the partnership. The Australian Government also aligns its regional Aid-for-Trade programming with partner priorities. For example, Australia and PIF members endorsed the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-25 (PAfTS; <https://www.forumsec.org/aid-for-trade-strategy/>) to improve coordination of resources and donors, and to ensure Pacific ownership of the strategy. PAfTS is built around four key priorities: the services sector; e-commerce; connectivity; and deepening markets. Aid-for-Trade is an important mechanism to support the delivery of this work. Refer also: Economic recovery in Papua New Guinea (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/development-assistance/economic-recovery-in-png>) Papua New Guinea – Australia Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/papua-new-guinea-australia-comprehensive-strategic-and-economic-partnership-signed.pdf>) Samoa COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/samoa-covid-19-development-response-plan>) Tonga COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/tonga->

covid-19-development-response-plan) Economic recovery in South Asia (Regional Program;
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/south-west-asia/development-assistance/economic-recovery-in-south-asia>)

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Q4

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

Building productive capacity	3
Network and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature	1
Regional integration	4
Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port)	2
Women's economic empowerment (please specify in the box below: rural women, women-owned businesses, women-led businesses, female workers, etc.)	5

Additional information and weblink(s) to the relevant strategy(ies), polic(ies) or plan(s) in which your Aid-for-Trade priorities are included.

The priority areas ranked above reflect where our funding has been directed in our programs. Specific country and regional approaches to delivering our development assistance, including Aid-for-Trade, are captured in tailored response plans to support economic resilience and recovery in the context of the challenges presented by COVID-19. Refer: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/covid-19-development-response-plans>

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Q5

Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2019?

Yes,

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Australia's Partnerships for Recovery (PfR; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) development framework, released in May 2020, shifted the focus of our development programs to COVID-related assistance and recovery. PfR is structured around three pillars, one of which is economic recovery. Trade is an important feature of this PfR pillar, which highlights the important role trade can play in economic recovery from COVID-19 in developing countries. "Australia will support policy-making that promotes economic response and recovery efforts, private sector resilience, open markets and supply chains, improved livelihoods and inclusive growth. (Partnerships for Recovery, May 2020, pg12)" PfR does not include an explicit Aid-for-Trade target (or any other thematic targets), and it has superseded our 2015 Aid-for-Trade strategy. However, Aid-for-Trade priorities feature in Australia's specific regional and bilateral COVID-19 Response Plans (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/covid-19-development-response-plans>) under the PfR, and many of Australia's bilateral and regional programs have a strengthened focus on providing targeted Aid-for-Trade support in response to COVID-19. Priorities include: - economic infrastructure (e.g. roads, energy, maritime, telecommunications); building productive sectors (e.g. agriculture, business and other services, industry, fisheries, tourism); - trade policy and regulations (e.g. trade facilitation, regional FTA and WTO negotiation support); - an ongoing focus on women's economic empowerment, including women's participation in regional and global value chains; - enhanced focus on supporting Pacific biosecurity and broader standards-related capabilities; - e-commerce development and digitisation initiatives which promote inclusive development; and - competition and consumer protection issues. Examples of Aid-for-Trade investments include: • The Australia-New Zealand funded Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus Program (PHAMA Plus; <https://phamaplus.com.au/>). Agriculture will be a key source of economic growth and recovery for Pacific households. PHAMA Plus helps strengthen biosecurity and sanitary and phytosanitary compliance in Pacific countries (Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati and Niue) to facilitate existing and/or new exports of agricultural exports. As a result, for example, Samoan taro exporters will have more export opportunities to Australia, as will Tongan watermelon exporters to New Zealand. PHAMA Plus also helped 28 SMEs across six Pacific nations to maintain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)

accreditation through a remote technology-based audit process during COVID-19. This has helped to prevent business losses and expand new markets. • In Solomon Islands, the tourism sector, a major job creator for 700,000 people, is on hold due to COVID-19. With Australian support the sector is building on existing projects and undergoing key upgrades in enabling infrastructure, so it is ready to welcome tourists and help diversify the economy, including for the Pacific Games in 2023, when the sector is able to re-commence operations. • Australian funding supported the Pacific Trade and Invest Freight Assistance Package (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/trade-investment/business-envoy/november-2021/doing-business-pacific#freight-assistance>), launched in late 2020, providing immediate support to Pacific SMEs to continue to export, as they struggled with rising and uncertain costs. • In Timor-Leste, Australia supported the coffee sector during COVID-19 related import and transportation restrictions. COVID-19 related restrictions left many Timorese farmers unable to sell their crops or forced to sell them for lower prices. Through Australia's Market Development Facility (MDF; <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/>) and in partnership with the Timor-Leste Government, a suite of initiatives to support Timorese farmers was created, including alternative stockpiling solutions with a storage and transport firm. MDF also supported one business to install 'cocoon' for coffee collection, enabling it to continue buying from farmers (and storing) despite the short-term drop in demand. • Australia's Pacific Labour Mobility Scheme (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/engagement/pacific-labour-mobility>) is a vital source of remittances to the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The scheme brings Pacific and Timor-Leste workers to Australia to address labour shortages in the agriculture sector brought on by COVID-19. New COVID-19 safe arrangements and related support were in put in place, bringing to Australia more than 12,500 Pacific workers since September 2020. • The South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (SARTFP; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/south-west-asia/development-assistance/economic-recovery-in-south-asia#south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>) supports increased and inclusive trade, infrastructure investment, connectivity and integration in the South Asia region. SARTFP activities have been pivoted to help provide immediate COVID-19 related support. SARTFP is placing more emphasis on supporting economic recovery by addressing issues such as constraints that prevent or slow the movement of goods across borders and supporting displaced workers and urban-rural migrants. Refer also answers to questions 3 and 4.

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Q6

If yes, please identify the top drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities from the list below: (Please select no more than 5 options from the areas listed below).

- Economic and trade impact of COVID-19 pandemic,**
 - New Aid-for-Trade of development strategy, policy or plan**
 - ,
 - New regional development or integration strategy, policy or plan**
 - ,
 - New trade capacity needs,**
 - Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)**
-

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Q7

Has Aid for Trade become a more or less important part of your development policy since 2019?

Same,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important than in the past.:

Addressing COVID-19 impacts and recovery are now the main drivers for Australia's approach to Aid-for-Trade in the Indo-Pacific. Although Australia no longer has an Aid-for-Trade target, Aid-for-Trade remains a key component of Australia's COVID-19 development response under the economic recovery pillar of our Partnerships for Recovery (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) policy. In particular, Australia continues to prioritise efforts to help build trade capacity and address supply side constraints in our region through Aid-for-Trade investments. This is reflected in our ongoing commitment to ensuring Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developing countries can engage effectively in and benefit from free and open trade, underpinned by a rules-based system. This is not only vital to promoting recovery and building resilience to COVID-19 and future global or regional disruptions, it is also essential in supporting their longer-term growth and prosperity. For example, Australia supports strongly Timor-Leste's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is working with Timor-Leste to build capacity and provide technical assistance in support of its accession. Australia also helps the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to maintain its representative office at the WTO in Geneva (AUD8.6 million, 2016-23). PIFS' presence at the WTO supports enhanced global and regional trade integration of all Forum Island Countries (FICs), their engagement in the international trade arena, and strengthens their trade capacity. It enables FIC WTO members to better participate in and influence WTO negotiations. Australia's ongoing commitment to Aid-for-Trade is also reflected in Australia's Free Trade Agreements, a number of which include economic development chapters and corresponding economic cooperation programs and funding, the latest of these being the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) and the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA). The entry into force of the regional trade and development agreement PACER Plus (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/pacific-agreement-on-closer-economic-relations-plus>) in December 2020, offers a new forum for policy dialogue and decision making about Aid-for-Trade priorities. A new development program, the PACER Plus Development & Economic Cooperation Work Program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/development-assistance>) (AUD25 million, 2021-25) and Implementation Unit (<https://pacerplus.org/>) have been established to help implement PACER Plus and deliver priority regional Aid-for-Trade activities. A

regional Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy (<https://www.forumsec.org/aid-for-trade-strategy/>) coordinated by the PIFS, and a PACER Plus Needs Assessment undertaken in 2021, are also helping to inform and shape our regional Aid-for-Trade approach and activities in the Pacific. IA-CEPA (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/iacepa/Pages/indonesia-australia-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement>) entered into force on 5 July 2020. It includes a new Economic Cooperation Program (ECP) known as Katalis (<https://www.iacepa-katalis.org/>), which aims to maximise the mutual benefits of IA-CEPA, support two-way trade and investment, improve market access, and promote inclusive economic growth in Indonesia. In particular, Katalis will support IA-CEPA implementation in the agrifood and advanced manufacturing and services (including skills) sectors.

Q8

Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Yes,

Additional information on how changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities may have been reflected in your dialogue with development partners.:
Regular coordination and dialogue are standard practice in Australia's bilateral and regional relationships, including in our development programs. This is elaborated on in Q. 17.

Q9

Do you have a specific development or aid strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes,

Additional information on your development or aid strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:
Refer answers to questions 3 and 4.

Q10

If yes, please indicate whether your strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic addresses any of the following areas: (You may tick more than one box).

Agricultural sector, food production and supply chain support

,

Building productive capacity,

Digital connectivity and transformation,

E-commerce,

Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy

,

Job creation,

MSME support,

Poverty reduction objectives,

Preparedness, recovery and resilience,

Services sector support (e.g., tourism),

Trade facilitation,

Trade finance,

Trade policy modernization and upgrading,

Women's economic empowerment and gender equality

Q11

Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to your Aid-for-Trade activities and action.

Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Response (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>)

Examples of bilateral Aid-for-Trade activities:

Papua New Guinea

Transport Sector Support Program (<https://www.pngtssp.com/>). In 2019, 1,768 kilometres of PNG national priority roads were maintained. This support helps to ensure that goods can reach export markets.

Samoa

Enhancing Road Access Project (<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P145545>). Sound road networks support trade and promote commercial activity by facilitating the movement of goods and services. Australia's AUD13 million contribution to the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure assets and construction of new economic enabling infrastructure has helped improve Samoa's network of roads, which is vital to country's economy and development. The project was based on a vulnerability study conducted by the Land and Transport Authority. Degrading critical infrastructure project sites (East Coast Road & Vaitele Road and bridges Maliolio, Moamoa, Maagao, Leone, Nuusuatia and Aia) were chosen for their importance in providing access to hospitals, schools, places of employment, tourist infrastructure, port facilities, power plants and airports.

Samoa Submarine Cable Project (<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/sam-47320-001-pcr>). Australia provided a AUD2.8 million contribution to co-finance with Asia Development Bank (ADB) the implementation of the second submarine cable between Samoa and Fiji. The project provides universal access to reliable and affordable broadband internet services for the people and businesses of Samoa. It was completed in 2018. More than 90 per cent of the population now has access to 4G bandwidth internet. The wholesale price of internet bandwidth is now USD54–USD160Mbps/month compared to USD150Mbps/month prior to the project.

Vanuatu

Governance for Growth (GfG) Program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/vanuatu-governance-for-growth-phase-3-design>). In partnership with the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australia has supported a local business (with over 40,000 plantations) to gain HAACP certification in food safety to help gain access to international export markets for passionfruit. GfG has also supported business coaching for MSMEs /SMEs with a particular focus on women founded and led businesses. Coaching has been particularly impactful during COVID-19. GfG is also supporting the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency to develop its first National Investment Policy which aims to increase and improve investment that promotes sustainable development and economic recovery. Another key action supported by GfG, and which has been discussed and showcased at the WTO Aid-for-Trade Stocktake, is the National Electronic Single Window Project (<https://singlewindow.gov.vu/>). The project is a first for the Pacific region, making trade faster, easier and more reliable by digitising paper-based processes and allowing connection to inter-operable systems such as customs and biosecurity. This has allowed Vanuatu to better connect to global markets and is helping drive local business growth.

Tonga

With Australian support, Tonga is constructing an agricultural goods packhouse that will help Tonga's export marketing pathways for root crops and cucurbit. It will provide jobs and income opportunities for women and youth who are heavily involved in the export processing stage. The packhouse will be climate resilient and fully equipped to meet international standards in handling and biosecurity. In addition, Australia is supporting Tonga's horticulture sector by expanding the scope of agricultural extension activities what will help growers to upgrade their operations and enter export markets through the packhouse.

Examples of regional Aid-for-Trade activities:

The PHAMA Plus (<https://phamaplus.com.au/>) Program focuses on improving market access for Pacific island countries' (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) key export industries and promoting industry coordination through the establishment of industry working groups. In 2018, the program transitioned to a third phase focusing on cocoa, coffee, high-value coconut products and fisheries, and finding export markets for them.

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The Market Development Facility (MDF; <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/>) currently focuses on five market systems in the Indo-Pacific - Fiji, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, and Pakistan. It supports the agribusiness sector in these countries to improve quality, achieve certification for export commodities, and connect with international markets. MDF has benefitted 97,000 people and leveraged USD14.2 million in private sector investment.

The Pacific Flights Program and Humanitarian and Essentials Services Corridor (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/australia-stepping-up-to-address-covid-19-in-the-pacific>) support subsidies to Pacific airlines, and the Pacific's efforts to maintain connectivity, ensure supply chains remain open and facilitate business continuity. Australia has funded point-of-departure COVID-19 testing for travelers and facilitated movement of essential cargo and people.

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (<https://pacificwomen.org/our-work>) is Australia's flagship gender program in the Pacific, supporting the economic empowerment of women. It works with Pacific governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and multilateral, regional and United Nations agencies to support the transition of women into the formal economy. It supports activities that look at how regulations, policies, services, and social norms affect how women gain from and influence the formal and informal economies.

The Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP; <https://www.aifffp.gov.au/>) includes up to AUD400 million in financing to upgrade ports in PNG, enabling them to take larger ships, improving trade and connectivity between PNG and its trading partners.

Refer also:

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/pacific-agreement-on-closer-economic-relations-plus>)

Pacific regional – economic growth and private sector development (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/development-assistance/economic-growth-and-private-sector-development>)

Pacific Step-up (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific>)

South Asia Regional Infrastructure Connectivity (SARIC) Framework (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/south-asia-regional-infrastructure-connectivity-saric-framework>)

South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/south-asia-regional-integration/brief/south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>)

Competition Law Implementation Program (<https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/international-relations/competition-law-implementation-program-clip>)

Consumer Affairs Program (<https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/international-relations/consumer-affairs-program-cap>)

Indonesia COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/indonesia-covid-19-development-response-plan>)

Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/iacepa/Pages/indonesia-australia-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement>)

Blueprint for Trade and Investment with Indonesia (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/trade-and-investment/blueprint-trade-and-investment-indonesia>)

Australia-Indonesia Joint Statement on Cooperation on the Green Economy and Energy Transition | Prime Minister of Australia (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-indonesia-joint-statement-cooperation-green-economy-and-energy-transition-0>)

IA-CEPA Economic Cooperation Program - Katalis (<https://www.iacepa-katalis.org/about-katalis/#about-katalis>)

Indonesia Australia Partnership for Infrastructure (KIAT) - Design and Implementation (<https://www.cardno.com/projects/indonesia-australia-partnership-for-infrastructure-kiat-design-and-implementation/>)

Sustainable Infrastructure Assistance Program Phase II (SIAP2) | Asian Development Bank (<https://www.adb.org/projects/52152-001/main>)

Development Partnership in Indonesia (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/indonesia/development-assistance/economic-recovery-in-indonesia>)

Q12

Is the environmental dimension of sustainable development reflected in your development or aid policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your development or aid policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

The Indo-Pacific region contains ten of the fifteen countries considered most at risk of natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Disasters and extreme weather events could compound the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and undermine efforts to build prosperous and stable nations. This is recognised in Australia's Partnerships for Recovery (PfR; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) framework (refer pg. 10) under its stability pillar, which recognizes the importance of sustainable development and support for resilience to threats such as climate change (refer pg. 11). DFAT's Climate Change Action Strategy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/climate-change-action-strategy>) commits to integrate climate change action across Australia's development assistance program. This includes in the infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, health, and education sectors. The Strategy has a private sector engagement focus. The Australian Government announced at COP26 an increased commitment to AUD2 billion in climate finance (2020-2025) – a doubling of the Government's previous five-year commitment of AUD1 billion (2015 to 2020). In 2019, the Australian Government pledged AUD500 million over five years from 2020 (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/stepping-climate-resilience-pacific>) to help Pacific nations invest in renewable energy, and climate change and disaster resilience, exceeding its previous four-year AUD300 million pledge (2016–2020) by over 65 per cent. Our investments include dedicated climate change and disaster resilience programs and integrated resilience across our Pacific aid investments. This approach supports the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (http://tep-a.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FRDP_2016_finalResilient_Dev_pacific.pdf), endorsed by Leaders in 2016 as an integrated and coordinated approach to addressing climate change and disaster risk management in the Pacific. Refer also: Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fiji/fiji-australia-vuvale-partnership>) Papua New Guinea – Australia Climate Change Action Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/png-australia-climate-change-action-plan>) Papua New Guinea-Australia Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/papua-new-guinea-australia-comprehensive-strategic-and-economic-partnership>)

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Q13

If yes, please indicate in which of your strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) sustainable development is reflected:(You may tick more than one box).

Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan, Strategy, policy or plan for COVID-19 recovery,

Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) in which sustainable development is reflected.:
Refer: Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Guidance Note (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-guidance-note>) Investing in nature-based solutions (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change/investing-nature-based-solutions>) Supporting the Indo-Pacific to tackle climate change (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change>) Improving food and water security (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change/safeguarding-food-and-water-security>) Strengthening trade and investments (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/trade-and-investment-reduce-emissions>) Supporting climate action in the Indo-Pacific (<https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/australias-climate-change-strategies/supporting-climate-action-in-the-indo-pacific-region>)

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Q14

Does your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan explicitly target any of the following environment-specific goals? (You may tick more than one box).

Additional information on the environment-specific goals and approaches such as financing, sharing of know-how, technology transfer (including sharing of know-how), promotion of value chain integration targeted by your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan.:

While Australia's Partnerships for Recovery (PfR; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) development framework does not explicitly refer to the above goals, it recognises the pandemic poses profound challenges to economic development and human wellbeing as they relate to these goals. It also acknowledges the impacts of the pandemic are likely to be most acute across the developing world, threatening to jeopardise progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Australia's country specific development programs continue to support progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/2030-agenda/Pages/default>). For example, Australia is a key partner in the Solomon Island's Tina River Hydropower project (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/providing-affordable-clean-energy-in-solomon-islands>), a major renewables venture. This public private partnership is attracting investment of USD240 million from a range of financiers, including the Green Climate Fund. Tina River Hydro will provide affordable, reliable clean energy and power the electricity needs of Honiara. This large scale, transformative project will meet 100 per cent of Solomon Islands' international commitment for emissions reduction under the Paris Agreement. It will also build resilience in communities and businesses by catalysing growth and development of livelihoods and productive enterprises. A further example of Australian Government activity consistent with achieving environment-specific SDGs is Australia's high-integrity Carbon Offset Scheme (IPCOS) for the Indo-Pacific (<https://www.industry.gov.au/news/design-principles-to-guide-the-indo-pacific-carbon-offsets-scheme>), which complements Australia's PfR stability and resilience pillar objectives, acknowledging the deleterious impacts of natural disasters and climate change to sustainable development. At COP26, PNG was one of the first countries to sign up to the scheme. IPCOS will help PNG to protect natural carbon sinks (e.g. rainforests and mangroves), adopt low-emissions technologies, and provide access to an established market for offset credits. Under a new MoU, PNG and Australian agencies will work together to develop a national carbon market strategy for PNG, new policies and regulations needed for participation in carbon markets, and practical and credible demonstration offset projects in PNG's priority sectors (including forestry preservation). Refer also: Empowering Women's Economic Development in Solomon Islands ([15 / 49](https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-</p>
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us/publications/Pages/empowering-womens-economic-development-in-solomon-islands) Increasing Resilience in Tonga with Renewable Energy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/increasing-resilience-in-tonga-with-renewable-energy>) Solar mills increase rural resilience in Vanuatu (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solar-mills-increase-rural-resilience-in-vanuatu>) Australia-Indonesia Plastics Innovation Hub – Ending Plastic Waste (<https://research.csiro.au/ending-plastic-waste/australia-indonesia-plastics-innovation-hub/>) New cool chain is a key to scaling up safe vegetables value chain in Son La (<https://research.csiro.au/aus4innovation/new-cool-chain-is-a-key-to-scaling-up-safe-vegetables-value-chain-in-son-la/>)

Q15

Does your sustainable development strategy, policy, or plan include trade objectives?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy policy, or plan that includes sustainable development. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:

Australia's Partnerships for Recovery (PfR; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) policy commits to ensuring climate change and environmental sustainability are embedded in our support for economic recovery, including trade. PfR gives attention to facilitating responsible business models, low carbon development, and greater value chain diversification to help boost economic resilience and protect against future shocks. In turn, Australia's Climate Change Action Strategy (2020-2025; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/climate-change-action-strategy>) complements PfR priorities, including by informing development assistance policy, increasing targeted climate investments, and integrating climate considerations in existing and planned investments. It also sets out how Australia can harness the expertise of aid implementation partners, enhance partnerships, and promote innovative approaches to addressing climate change. A significant focus will be on enabling greater private sector investment in climate mitigation and adaptation and partnering with developing countries to create enabling environments, including for carbon markets and green economy agreements. In the Pacific, the inextricable links between trade, development, and the environment continue to shape our Aid-for-Trade and support sustainable economic development. In the fisheries sector Australia is working with Pacific countries, regional organisations, and multilateral development banks to ensure the sustainability of fisheries stocks, with the aim of ensuring long-term income streams and improving market access. Australia supports the fisheries sector primarily through partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Increases in GDP, government revenues and export volumes have all been achieved. Onshore investments in fisheries are increasing, as are exports to international markets. Our support also helps underpin scientific monitoring and assessments needed to ensure the future sustainability of valuable offshore fish stocks. Support to the inshore sector advances community-based fisheries management, essential for food security and livelihoods at the local level. A further example is the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP; <https://www.aifffp.gov.au/>), which was established to provide grants and loans for vital infrastructure projects in Timor-Leste and the Pacific. The AIFFP invests in the future of the region, through high-quality projects in telecommunications, energy, transport, water and other priority infrastructure. The facility forms an important part

of Australia's COVID-19 recovery efforts in the region by funding climate resilient infrastructure projects that support sustainable economic growth and local employment. Refer also: Pacific regional – fisheries assistance
(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/development-assistance/fisheries-assistance>) PACER Plus
(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/pacific-agreement-on-closer-economic-relations-plus>) Pacific regional – economic growth and private sector development
(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/development-assistance/economic-growth-and-private-sector-development>) PHAMA Plus
(<https://phamaplus.com.au/about-us/>) Pacific Step-up
(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/engagement/stepping-up-australias-pacific-engagement>)

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Q16

If yes, do the trade objectives address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the environmental dimension of sustainable development is reflected in your development policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:
Refer answer to question 15. Ensuring sustainable development and climate resilient approaches are part of Australia's development support forms part of the economic recovery pillar of the PfR, which includes trade.

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Q17

As a donor, do you have coordination or dialogues with developing countries' national committees, ministries of trade and agencies on sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Ministry of Trade is represented in your coordination or dialogue held with developing countries' national committee committees, ministries of trade and agencies on sustainable development.:

Australia engages with partner countries at multiple levels across relevant ministries, including on trade and sustainable development issues. Australia's Foreign Minister and Trade, Investment and Tourism Minister, as well as the Minister for International Development and the Pacific and Minister for Regional Health, meet regularly with counterparts to discuss these and other issues. Senior officials also hold regular dialogues. For example, Australia's Prime Minister and Indonesia's President, have undertaken that annual Australia-Indonesia Economic, Trade and Investment Ministers' Meetings, Australia-Indonesia Energy Ministers' Meetings and other regular bilateral mechanisms will also support progress on a green economy and energy transition agenda (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-indonesia-joint-statement-cooperation-green-economy-and-energy-transition>). Australia and PNG have an annual Trade and Investment Working Group, Economic Cooperation Dialogue, and other Senior Officials Meetings. Sustainable development and climate change are also discussed regularly at the annual Australia-PNG Climate Change Dialogue. Discussions with the Solomon Islands on sustainable development take place on an ongoing basis in partner-level dialogues on development programming. For example, sustainable development is considered in the Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP) and other private sector program decision-making and procurement processes.

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Q18

If yes, do these dialogues address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the committee, ministries of trade or agencies addresses the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

Refer response to question 17.

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Q19

Please identify the economic sector(s) in your developing and least-developed partner countries that would gain the most in terms of economic and export diversification as a result of the move to sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Additional information on the economic sector(s) that would gain the most in terms of economic and export diversification as a result of the move to sustainable development.:

Australia's developing and LDC partners each have their own particular circumstances and needs. As such, the economic sectors that would gain the most as a result of the move to sustainable development vary from country to country and region to region. Feedback from partner countries indicates all of the above sectors would benefit.

Q20

Please identify the economic sectors that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development. (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Additional information on the economic sectors that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development.:

Refer answer to Q.20.

Q21

In your view, what challenges constitute the main obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development in developing and least-developed partner countries?(You may tick more than 1 box).

- Access to finance,**
- Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services**
- ,
- Domestic political challenges (e.g., security and stability)**
- ,
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Existing transport infrastructure,**
- Gender inequality,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,
- High trade costs,**
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Lack of human resource capability,**
- Lack of political will,**
- Limited economic and export diversification,**
- Low productive capacity in manufacturing,**
- Low productivity of agricultural sector,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,**
- Social pressures (poverty, population growth),**
- Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment**
- ,
- Lack of technology transfer (including know-how),**

Additional information on the challenges most likely to constitute obstacles towards sustainable trade, sustainable consumption and production patterns (i.e., circular economy). (Please provide examples as applicable).:

Obstacles to a transition towards sustainable development among Australia's developing and LDC partners vary according to particular circumstances and needs. Highlighted obstacles reflect our experience across a range of development partners.

Q22

Please highlight the main challenges that Aid for Trade should address to support a transition to sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Access to finance,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

Gender inequality,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

,

High trade costs,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of technology transfer (including sharing of know-how)

,

Additional information on the main challenges that Aid for Trade should address to support a transition to sustainable development. (Please provide examples as applicable):

Challenges to a transition towards sustainable development among Australia's developing and LDC partners vary according to particular circumstances and needs. Highlighted challenges reflect our experience across a range of development partners. Australia's approach to supporting our development partners to address these challenges is demand driven and informed by their specific needs and circumstances.

Q23

Do your Aid-for-Trade or development strategies include a circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives?

No,

Additional information on your circular economy strategy, policy, plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable): While Australia's current development strategy does not include an explicit circular economy strategy or plan, we have a number of active programs and initiatives in the Pacific that support similar objectives and are showing good results. The Pacific region faces serious land and marine waste challenges, including long distances to recycling markets, limited land for waste management and small, dispersed populations, resulting in a low critical mass of waste. The impacts of climate change and severe weather events amplify these challenges. Australia is helping to address poor waste management coordinated through a multi-donor initiative, the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF; <https://www.theprif.org/>). The PRIF initiative works on a concept of a regional resource circulation and recycling network, identifying and quantifying the opportunities to improve the resource recovery of 15 common commodities present in the solid waste stream in 15 Pacific island countries. The first phase of the study conducted a material flow analysis of imports and exports, estimated the available materials for recovery and quantified the expected increase in commodities based on various policy interventions. The results were compiled and published as Pacific Island Country and Territory Profiles (https://www.theprif.org/sites/default/files/documents/prif_waste_book_web_0.pdf) in the solid waste and recycling sector. The study found that material flows are too small to be processed feasibly in each country. It recommended processing on a regional scale in the Pacific. Many of the Pacific island countries have proposed, drafted or adopted a combination of solid waste and environmental management legislation to stimulate circular economy approaches. Between 2019 and 2021, the PRIF and other agencies used the PRIF standard Waste Audit Methodology to conduct waste audits in 14 Pacific countries and have continued meetings to ensure synergies are maintained, particularly during COVID-19. Three waste audits have been completed and other waste audits are expected to be completed soon. The Pacific regional recycling network and pre-feasibility assessment are expected to involve extensive work. They will use the 14 country waste audit results to determine total volumes and types of recyclable materials, investment waste management, and recycling facilities in each Pacific country. PRIF is also working on options for a Pacific regional recycling network. The recycling network is expected to include local processing centre(s), trans-shipment and recycling facilities and cater for all or some recycling materials in one or more locations in the Pacific region. This work will include all PRIF member countries. The work will include undertaking a demand analysis for recycled wastes and potential markets and identifying

possible solutions. Thereafter a pre-feasibility assessment will be undertaken for the most favourable option for a regional recycling facility based on technical, environmental, social, financial, and economic assessments.

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Q24

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which economic sectors does the circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives cover?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Q25

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, does the circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives include trade goals?

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Q26

Is digital connectivity reflected as a priority in your sustainable development strategy, policy, or plan?

Yes,

Additional information on how digital connectivity is reflected in your sustainable development strategy, policy or plan.:

Digital connectivity is highlighted to varying degrees and according to partner circumstances and needs in Australia's regional and bilateral COVID-19 Development Response Plans

(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/covid-19-development-response-plans>).

Q27

Do you have an Aid-for-Trade strategy, policy or plan for digital connectivity (including digital economy, e-commerce, etc.)?

Yes,

Additional information on your Aid-for-Trade policy documents for digital connectivity. (Please include weblinks of the source used).:

Digital connectivity is not directly mentioned in the Partnerships for Recovery

(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) policy. However, digital connectivity, digital trade, e-commerce and digital economy more broadly are directly addressed in various regional and bilateral COVID-19 Development Response Plans

(<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/covid-19-development-response-plans>) under the PfR.

Investments in digital connectivity support PfR objectives by creating new avenues for trade, including access to global value chains. They can help to accelerate economic recovery and resilience and to promote inclusive development. Australia is working with partner governments, the private sector and other development partners on a range of capacity building activities in this area. In the Indo-Pacific, e-commerce is emerging as a new avenue for businesses to access new trade opportunities, especially for small businesses and women traders. Australia believes digital connectivity delivered through Aid-for-Trade programs can play a valuable role in helping countries to address priority constraints such as weak infrastructure; low levels of inclusive access to ICT and finance; lack of policy and regulatory frameworks; lack of skills and safe and reliable e-payment platforms; and inefficient trade facilitation and logistics. Therefore Australia's E-commerce Aid-for-Trade Fund (AUD5.5 million, 2018-2022) provided support to the private sector, governments, academia and think tanks to help build e-commerce capabilities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, with a view to promoting the participation of SMEs/MSMEs and women. One of the four key thematic priority areas of the PIFS' Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy (PAFTS) is e-commerce. Australia supported the development of an important regional initiative, the Pacific E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap (<https://www.forumsec.org/2021/10/29/pacific-regional-e-commerce-strategy-and-roadmap-approved/>), and provided funding for implementation of priority activities. Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu have benefitted from Australian support to strengthen e-commerce related policy settings and regulatory frameworks. This complements Australia's digital connectivity investment in undersea cables in the region, which provide faster, more affordable, and reliable communications, essential to conducting and promoting trade. Through Australia's Market for Development Facility (MDF), Fiji is building its Outsourcing Services industry, estimated to be worth AUD65 million annually. As part of its support under the regional trade and development agreement PACER Plus, Australia is also supporting the

roll out of ASYCUDA World (<https://asycuda.org/en/>) in six Pacific island countries, which helps facilitate efficient cross-border e-commerce for goods. The MoU between Australia and PNG on cooperation in Information and Communications Technology (<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-centre/australia-and-png-working-together-improve-digital-connectivity>) is also an example of Australia's support for regional connectivity. The MoU commits Australia and PNG to work collaboratively to enable the digital economy, ensure digital safety and build capacity for the ICT sector in PNG. Australia has also provided support to the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA; <https://www.eria.org/>) to improve ASEAN regional economic integration, with the goal of sustainable and inclusive economic growth in ASEAN. Through this program, Australia has supported officials' participation in an SME Digital Economy Summit and supported online training modules for officials on the basics of e-commerce, including modules on the ASEAN e-commerce agreement and RCEP provisions on e-commerce. Australia's AUD13.5 million Partnership with the United Nations Development Program in Cambodia is accelerating e-commerce uptake by MSMEs. Through phase two of our ASEAN Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP II; <http://aadcp2.org/>) we are also funding the development of a work plan for the implementation of the ASEAN e-commerce agreement. Refer also: ASEAN and Southeast Asia Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/asean-and-southeast-asia-regional-covid-19-development-response-plan>)

Q28

In which sectors could digital connectivity best support the transition to sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Additional information on the sector(s) in which digital connectivity can best support a transition to sustainable trade and the circular economy. (Please include weblinks of the source used):

Sectors where digital connectivity could best support the transition to sustainable development will vary according to a development partner's specific circumstances and needs. Refer to Q.27 response for examples relevant to trade in goods and services.

Q29

Please identify which issues where digital connectivity would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development?(You may tick more than one box).

Digital contents,

E-commerce,

E-government,

E-healthcare,

E-learning,

E-logistics,

Innovation and technology for gender equality,

Smart energy grids,

Additional information on the issues where digital connectivity that would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development.:

Service delivery, economic transactions, logistics and energy use can involve relatively large carbon footprints. Therefore, moving to digital approaches could promote better accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability.

Q30

Is there an existing Aid-for-Trade project for digital connectivity towards sustainable development and/or environmentally sustainable growth (or circular economy) that you want to showcase as an example of best practice?

No

Q31

Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your developing and least developed partner countries?

Yes

Q32

In which areas has the COVID-19 pandemic exposed shortcomings in digital connectivity?(You may tick more than one box).

- Digital gender divide,**
- Digital payments issues,**
- Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity**
- ,
- Insufficient or uneven internet coverage,**
- Lack of access to trade finance,**
- Digital connectivity strategy needs to be developed/updated**
- ,
- E-commerce development strategy needs to be developed/updated**
- ,
- Poor access to internet services,**
- Poor digital skills and IT literacy,**
- Rules relating to e-commerce need updating,**
- Slow, expensive or unreliable internet services,**
- Trade facilitation and logistics issues**

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Q33

Looking ahead, in which sectors do you think future Aid-for-Trade support should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives? (You may tick more than 1 box).

- Agriculture,**
 - Fisheries,**
 - Forestry,**
 - Mining,**
 - Industry,**
 - Services,**
- Additional information on the sectors in which you think future Aid-for-Trade support should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives.:
- Developing countries and LDCs each have their own particular circumstances and needs. As such, the economic sectors on which future Aid-for-Trade support should focus will vary from country to country and region to region. All of the sectors indicated would benefit from Aid-for-Trade support to varying degrees depending on the partner/region.

Q34

Looking ahead, in which categories of Aid for Trade do you think support should be focused so as to advance the environmental dimension of sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Trade education/training,

(b) 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)

,

(d) Building productive capacity,

(a) 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)

,

(c) Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

Q35

To which developing and least-developed partner countries do you provide Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development ? (You may tick more than one box).(You may tick more than 1 box).

Bangladesh,
Cambodia,
Cook Islands,
Fiji,
Indonesia,
Kiribati,
Lao People's Democratic Republic,
Maldives,
Marshall Islands,
Mauritius,
Micronesia,
Nauru,
Nepal,
Niue,
Palau,
Papua New Guinea,
Samoa,
Solomon Islands,
Sri Lanka,
Timor-Leste,
Tonga,
Vanuatu,
Viet Nam

Q36

Please identify the South-South and Triangular cooperation partners you work with in order to provide financing for sustainable development.(You may tick more than 1 box).

Respondent skipped this question

Q37

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme for sustainable trade or development, green growth or circular economy that you want to showcase as an example of best practice?

The impacts of climate change, including severe cyclones, flooding and storm surge, are threatening the integrity of infrastructure across the Pacific islands. Australia is taking a proactive, evidence-based approach to managing the risks posed by climate change in construction projects in the Pacific, including with reference to current climate projections developed under Australia's Pacific climate science and information services.

Australian support for the redevelopment of the Gizo Market (AUD3.5 million, 2016-2019; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/empowering-womens-economic-development-in-solomon-islands>) in the Solomon Islands is designed to withstand wind speeds of a Category 5 cyclone and resist sea level rises. It includes a sea wall to protect the market and reinforced beams to withstand high wind speeds. The market site is raised to take account of 2055 sea level rise projections.

The facility is also now more secure for women traders to sell their market products, helping them to engage in the formal economy, and improve their livelihoods and the health of their families. Women producers were consulted closely in the redevelopment, and the architects were instructed to ensure the design met women's needs and provided disability access. The design includes a sustainable water supply and sanitation facilities, ramps for disability access and an affordable, secure clean energy supply.

Even in the face of a disaster, Gizo Market is equipped to enable women producers to get back on their feet quickly and re-engage in their livelihoods. The market is a good practice example of how to design and construct facilities in the Pacific to help transform climate change and natural disaster resilience.

The Indonesia-Australia – Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Economic Cooperation Program Katalis (<https://www.iacepa-katalis.org/about-katalis/>) is a unique, five-year (2021-25) government-backed business development program that supports the economic partnership between Australia and Indonesia and aims to enhance trade and sustainable development outcomes. It complements existing Australian development program activities with a commercially oriented approach, that prioritises gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in all activities. Katalis provides market insights, education, technical advice, policy reform, and workplace skills exchange.

Katalis is bringing together the complementary strengths of Australia's green technology with Indonesia's ambition to manufacture electric vehicles. A study commissioned by Katalis into Electric Vehicle manufacturing is evaluating the opportunity for collaboration between Australia's resource and green tech industries and Indonesia's automotive sector, including commercial partnership opportunities in minerals supply and processing, battery and vehicle manufacturing, technology platforms, and charging infrastructure. This approach matches Indonesian car manufacturing capabilities, inputs, and vision with Australian inputs, skills, and connections to drive a mutually beneficial bilateral commercial partnership.

Refer also:

Increasing Resilience in Tonga with Renewable Energy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/increasing-resilience-in-tonga-with-renewable-energy>)

Solar mills increase rural resilience in Vanuatu (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solar-mills-increase-rural-resilience-in-vanuatu>)

Q38

Do you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development and that also support progress on gender equality and/or women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on whether you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development while also supporting progress on gender equality /women empowerment. You may also provide information on your intention to draft such policies in the future. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

Australia's Partnerships for Recovery policy recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to exacerbate the inequalities and hardships faced by already vulnerable groups. Women are shouldering much of the economic burden of COVID-19. They are more vulnerable to economic insecurity during crises due to an increase in unpaid domestic labour. They often hold less-stable jobs, rely on the informal economy for their livelihoods, and may not be part of policy-making processes. The core action areas of the PfR, including the economic recovery pillar, are underpinned by a strong emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. Complementing PfR, Australia's Investing in Women program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/investing-in-women-initiative-fact-sheet>) is helping countries in our region to respond to the economic impacts on women of the COVID-19 crisis. For example, under the program, funds are being redirected to an emergency relief and resilience facility to support women's small and medium-sized enterprises in Southeast Asia. Australia is also supporting a group of female market vendors in Fiji with a taxi delivery service for their fruit boxes, to help them sustain their small businesses until social gathering restrictions are lifted and major fruit and vegetable markets re-open. Refer: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy 2016 (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-strategy.pdf>) Partnerships for Recovery and gender equality (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/topics/investment-priorities/gender-equality-empowering-women-girls/partnerships-for-recovery-and-gender-equality>) Pacific regional – empowering women and girls (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/development-assistance/empowering-women-and-girls>) Climate Change Action Strategy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/climate-change-action-strategy>)

Q39

Do you implement Aid-for-Trade projects that combine the objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmentally sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade projects which combine the twin objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmental environmentally sustainable development. Please indicate the number of projects, the sector concerned (agriculture, fisheries, sustainable tourism, circular economy, etc.). (Please include weblinks as applicable):.

Australia has a range of regional and bilateral Aid-for-Trade activities that combine both women's economic empowerment and environmentally sustainable objectives – please find examples below: In the Solomon Islands, one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, the Gender Inequality of Risk Program implemented by UN Women and UNDRR is integrating climate change risks within its community-based disaster risk management. It is helping ensure women's rights are properly considered during disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The Tina River Hydropower project (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/providing-affordable-clean-energy-in-solomon-islands>), co-funded by Australia, will provide secure, affordable power for businesses and households in Honiara - meeting 100 per cent of Solomon Islands' emissions reduction target under the Paris Agreement. The Strongim Bisnis program (<https://strongimbisnis.com.sb/>), an Australian Government initiative working with the Solomon Islands Government and the private sector, has supported inclusive growth and resilience in the cocoa, coconut and tourism sectors, as well as women's participation and empowerment. It actively identifies commercial opportunities to promote improved environmental and social outcomes. PHAMA Plus (<https://phamaplus.com.au/>) is supporting the development of climate change resilient farming practices for root crop farmers, including women farmers, in the Solomon Islands (e.g. water conservation, resilient varieties). See response to Q.5 for further information. The Australian-funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific Phase 2 (COSPPac; <https://www.pacificmet.net/project/climate-and-oceans-support-programme-pacific-phase-2>) supports the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service to provide climate and ocean monitoring and prediction services. These services can help farmers, including women, to plan for planting and harvesting and prepare for disasters such as droughts and tropical cyclones, providing vital information (tide, currents, wind and waves) to support fishing, tourism, and shipping. Another example is the Australian Climate Finance Partnership (ACFP; <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/funds/australian-climate-finance-partnership>), an Australian Government initiative managed by the Asian Development Bank. The ACFP

provides up to AUD140 million to accelerate private sector investment in low emission, climate-resilient solutions for Pacific island countries and Southeast Asia. The support enables the provision of concessional, equity, guarantees, and local currency solutions to bring private sector finance into high demonstration impact projects that would not otherwise have occurred. The Fund aims to partially offset the incremental costs associated with climate proofing infrastructure and agricultural systems. In addition to climate outcomes, ACFP will catalyse much needed private investment in support of COVID-19 economic recovery across the region. Projects will also promote gender equality and better economic opportunities for women and girls. Australia's South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/south-west-asia/development-assistance/economic-recovery-in-south-asia>) is co-funding with the World Bank a project on the Buddhist Circuit that focuses on addressing women's economic empowerment and environmental degradation in the tourism sector. South Asia's Buddhist destinations cut across some of the region's poorest areas — one quarter of the local population lives below the poverty line and lacks access to basic services, mobility and alternative sources of income. About 85 per cent of the wealth generated by foreign tourists visiting Buddhist destinations in South Asia remains abroad or ends up leaving the region. Women are disproportionately affected, including because of the negligible female labour participation rates at Buddhist sites. The rapid unplanned growth of Buddhist destinations in the past 10 years has led to significant environmental challenges. For sites like Sarnath, there has been a loss of 60 per cent of green coverage, and a reduction in 80 per cent of the catchment area of its water bodies. This has resulted in a shift in the ratio of green to built areas from 80:20 to 50:50. These challenging social, physical, and environmental conditions, along with the competing use of already strained local services by tourists, are leading to resentment among residents and a degradation of visitors' experiences. The Buddhist Circuit project is developing a framework for public and private sector investment underpinned by sustainable urban planning, and with the aim of supporting inclusive development that helps create jobs for local women, supports local goods and service providers, promotes environmental preservation, cultural heritage, and religious value, and encourages higher-spending tourists.

Q40

Any other information you wish to share? (e.g., where support for sustainable trade or development is needed).

Sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, along with prosperous trade, requires investing in gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and sustainable development. Systemic and structural inequalities, along with barriers to women's full and equal engagement in all aspects of trade, are impediments to economic prosperity and sustainable development. Accordingly, gender mainstreaming and gender equality goals are necessary for efficient, effective, and equitable Aid-for-Trade.

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Q41

Is women's economic empowerment included as an objective in your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is included as an objective in your Aid-for-Trade strategy(ies) policy(ies) or plan(s).:

The economic impact of COVID-19 has left many countries in the region in economic crisis. Women have faced greater economic insecurity and are more likely than men to engage in sectors experiencing job losses because of the pandemic. They are also more likely to be unpaid family workers or to work in the informal sector. The Australian Government's international development response to COVID-19, Partnerships for Recovery (PfR; <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>), identifies gender equality as a cross-cutting objective and seeks to better target the needs of women and girls in the Indo-Pacific. Australia has been working closely with partners in the Indo-Pacific to focus on women's economic empowerment along with other major aspects of gender equality. Under PfR, Australia has pivoted its existing development programs to respond to the needs of women and girls in the Indo-Pacific. This has included, for example, Australia's Investing in Women program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/investing-in-women-initiative-fact-sheet>) redirecting funds to support women's SMEs in Southeast Asia to adapt their businesses to manage the impacts of COVID-19, ensuring their continued operation and contributing to the trade and economic resilience of local economies. Women's Economic Empowerment also features in Australia's Pacific Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan. In the Pacific, Australia partners with UN Women on the Markets for Change program (<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/02/markets-for-change>) in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to make markets safer, healthier and more accessible. During COVID-19, the program adapted to include hygiene measures to ensure markets remained open and COVID-safe. Australian funding for Women's World Banking (<https://www.womensworldbanking.org/>) enabled adaptation of activities in South-East Asia to support women's resilience and continued participation in the economy during the COVID pandemic, particularly through digital banking. For example, women's access to government social protection payments in Indonesia was ensured, and these accounts are being used to improve women's financial capability. Women's economic empowerment is also one of the goals of Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-strategy>), which focuses on women's access to the use and control of resources, decent work, and entrepreneurship. It also emphasises women's

decision-making and leadership in business, aims to ensure better integration of gender equality in trade and investment, including trade agreement negotiations, and engagement with the private sector.

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Q42

If yes, please indicate the strategy, policy, or plan in which women's economic empowerment is included: (You may tick more than one box).

Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan,
Gender equality strategy, policy or plan,
Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan

,
Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that include women's economic empowerment. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) Pacific Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/pacific-regional-covid-19-development-response-plan>) South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/south-asia-regional-integration/brief/south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>) Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (<https://pacificwomen.org/>) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/gender-equality>)

Q43

Do the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identified seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation (including through the provision of flexible work arrangements)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identify seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

The Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-strategy>) is designed to support initiatives that eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including in relation to employment. Aligning with the strategy, Australia's Investing in Women program (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/investing-in-women-initiative-fact-sheet>) is helping to promote policies, practices and culture around work and workplaces to be more conducive to women's safety, incomes, and career advancement in the Indo-Pacific. Further examples include: • Australia's Market Development Facility (MDF; <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/fiji/>) program in Fiji has positively impacted women's empowerment, not only increasing economic opportunities for women, but also addressing the complex issues of agency and, in some cases, the frequently overlooked constraint that women in Fiji face – time poverty. Addressing this directly through interventions designed to reduce workloads has allowed women to use their saved time to rest more, help children with education, and manage other crops. Through thoughtful design, MDF has also developed community-based models with Fijian companies that ensure women's efforts are amply rewarded. As they have continued to earn income, they have contributed to sustained high quality services for tourists, increased investment in the well-being of their families, and increased contributions to their community obligations. • Australia's investment in the ILO-IFC Better Work Programme (<https://betterwork.org/>), which helps improve labour standards and reduce gender discrimination in garment factories in developing countries, in partnership with the private sector. Australia's contribution currently focusses on Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam, and helps to extend and deepen the focus on gender equality issues in the workplace, such as sexual harassment, the gender wage gap, and women's leadership and meaningful participation in decision-making. Refer further details in answer to question 49.

Q44

Does your government collect/institution data on women's economic empowerment in relation to trade and development?

Yes,

Additional information on the data on women's economic empowerment that your government/institution collects. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

Monitoring, reporting and accountability requirements of Australia's overseas development assistance require the provision of quantitative data and qualitative information on activities undertaken, participation, and results. We continually monitor our aid program investments (including Aid-for-Trade investments) to ensure they effectively integrate gender provisions through our monitoring performance framework. For example, of Australia's Aid-for-Trade investments in the 2019-2020 financial year, 78 per cent effectively addressed gender, performing on par with the entire aid program. (Refer: Presentation by Australia's Australian Gender Equality Ambassador to WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender, 16 July 2021;

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/womenandtrade_e/16july21/item_3.2.a._presentation_by_australia.pdf)

Q45

In your view, what trade and development constraints do women face the most?(You may tick more than one box).

Difficulties accessing financial services,

Discriminatory practices,

Gender pay gap,

Harassment, security and safety issues,

Lack of access to digital services,

Informal employment,

Occupational segregation,

Smaller sized business,

Time and mobility constraints,

Unpaid care and domestic work,

Unpaid employment,

Additional information on the trade and development constraints faced by women.:

Broader systemic changes are needed to counter constraints faced by women attempting to engage in trade, including: • legislative reform to remove barriers that directly or indirectly limit women's access to employment opportunities, or contribute to discriminatory pay and conditions; • workplace policies that provide flexible work arrangements and improve safety at work; and • policies and practices that promote the shifting of societal attitudes towards the value of care and gendered stereotypes about who is responsible for delivering care.

Q46

Can Aid for Trade play a role in addressing these constraints?

Yes,

Additional information on the role that Aid for Trade can play in addressing these constraints.:

By mainstreaming gender, being participatory and inclusive in design, and having gender equality objectives adequately resourced, Aid-for-Trade initiatives can help address the gender inequalities, discrimination, and other barriers faced by women. For example, as a result of activities under the Australian supported World Bank South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (SARTFP; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/south-asia-regional-integration/brief/south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>), various South Asian government programs covering transport connectivity through to livelihood development are being supported to adopt a gender-inclusive approach. SARTFP is financing economic research and analysis to identify trade corridors and specific value chains to make them more accessible to women-traders and micro / small entrepreneurs. It has also supported the World Bank gender platform to increase gender inclusion in World Bank operations across South Asia through the Gender Innovation Lab (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/world-bank-south-asia-region-gender-innovation-lab>) for promoting women's entrepreneurship. The Bank cites SARTFP gender analysis as having influenced the design of 24 World Bank Investments (totaling USD594 billion) relating to trade, such as regional value chain development. In the Pacific, Australia is supporting regional Aid-for-Trade initiatives that seek to address constraints faced by women through the following programs: Pacific Trade Invest (<https://pacifictradeinvest.com/>), the Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative IV (<https://www.adb.org/projects/53072-001/main>), Pacific RISE (<https://www.pacificrise.org/about/>), and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program (<http://www.pfip.org/>). These programs are helping to address constraints by providing support to:

- women-led small and medium-sized enterprises to facilitate their financial stability and growth and entry into new markets;
- increase access for training opportunities which open up new employment avenues for women; and
- new avenues, such as green energy and digital trade, where there are skills gaps, helping to create new opportunities for women's participation.

In PNG, the Coffee Industry Support Project (<https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/markets/coffee-industry-support-project/>) is supporting coffee industry stakeholders to mainstream gender equity in their policies, practices, and approaches. Increasing women's access to extension services and improving farming families' business management allows women and men to benefit from coffee production and income. In July-December 2020, the project supported 16 village savings and loans associations, benefiting 113 women and 97 men. In addition, establishing a Women's Business Resource

Centre (<https://www.pngwbrc.com/>) in Port Moresby has benefited 4,400 women through technical training, workshops, and helping women start and successfully manage their own businesses. Work is also being undertaken to partner with four local universities to incorporate entrepreneurship into their curriculums and to develop stronger policy engagement in lobbying for women's economic empowerment. Other support includes assisting cultural industries to reach export markets. For example, Australian support for the establishment of the Bilum Export and Promotion Authority (<https://www.facebook.com/bilumpng/>), Pacific Trade Invest sponsorship of the Goroka Bilum Festival (<https://www.facebook.com/BilumFestival/>), and Australian sponsorship of PNG Fashion and Design Week (<https://www.facebook.com/pngfdw/td/>). Australia also partnered with REAL Impact (<https://www.realsocialimpact.com/>) to develop cultural industries for the international handicraft market. In addition, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP; <https://www.aiffp.gov.au/>), Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I; <https://www.partnershipsforinfrastructure.org/>) and our bilateral programs, Australia is committing to the preparation and delivery of strategic, long-term investments in economic infrastructure like energy, roads, and ports, which provide economic and leadership opportunities for women. The AIFFP Gender Equality and Social Inclusion policy (<https://www.aiffp.gov.au/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion>) promotes gender equality by requiring that projects take actions to identify and address constraints for women to participate in and benefit equally with men. For example, by:

- responding to women's infrastructure needs, in particular to reduce women's time poverty and unpaid work burden;
- strengthening women's leadership and participation in infrastructure decision-making in affected communities, in partner organisations, and in project delivery teams;
- promoting women's economic empowerment, in particular equal access to procurement opportunities, entrepreneurship and decent employment; and
- ending all forms of violence against women and girls, in particular through jobs and services that are free from sexual harassment.

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Q47

Yes

Have you provided Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment during the period 2015-2020?

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Q48

If yes, please provide further information on the countries in which you have provided Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment.

Number of total projects implemented in the period 2015-2020 **See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.**

Duration in years (1, 2 or more than 3) **See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.**

Percentage of projects that included women's economic empowerment as their sole/main objective (please include the % sign in your response) **See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.**

Percentage of projects that also included other objectives (please specify which in the box below and include the % sign in your response) **See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.**

Additional information on the developing country and the South-South or triangular cooperation partners you have worked with to provide your Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment. You may list other objectives of the projects where women's economic empowerment was not the sole/main focus and provide additional information on the partners with which you have worked. (Please include weblinks as applicable). **See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.**

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Q49

Please specify the areas that your Aid-for-Trade projects for women's economic empowerment sought to address:(You may tick more than one box).

- Developing training programmes,**
- Developing Access to trade related infrastructure,**
- Capacity-strengthening initiatives,**
- Increasing women's participation in services sectors,**
- Facilitating access to digital technologies and e-commerce platforms**
- ,
- Facilitating access to trade finance,**
- Facilitating access to trade-related information,**
- Facilitating women's traders' inclusion in Global Value Chains (GVC)**
- ,
- Facilitating women traders' inclusion in regional trade.**
- ,
- Gender sensitive awareness initiatives for trade stakeholders (e.g., border officials regarding safety issues);**
- ,
- Supporting women's entrepreneurship,**
- Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export,**
- Supporting women's representation in trade policy and design of trade/Aid-for-Trade initiatives**
- ,

Additional information on the areas that the Aid-for-Trade projects for women's economic empowerment sought to address. Please describe your project(s) in no more than 300 words per box. (You may include references and weblinks and add information on results achieved as applicable, i.e. figures, case stories):

See separate table and explanatory text sent separately.

Q50

Have you used public-private partnerships to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment?

Yes,
 Additional information on the public-private partnerships used to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment. Please include reasons as to why or why not. Kindly provide a list of your private sector partners, the number of projects run, and the sectors concerned. You may also describe each project and their impacts in no more than 300 words per project. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):
 Refer answers to Questions 47.

Q51

Does Aid for Trade help to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment, including the reasons as to why or why not.:
Aid-for-Trade can be a very effective mechanism to mobilise funds for women's economic empowerment. A specific example is the Australian funded PacificRISE (<https://www.pacificrise.org/>), a social impact initiative, which ended in July 2021. PacificRISE supported a social enterprise in the Solomon Islands, Kaleko Steifree (<https://www.facebook.com/Kalekosteifree17/>), a Pacific producer of reusable menstrual hygiene products for women and girls. This was done through a regional Trade Finance Vehicle (TFV), which helped to address financing and supply chain challenges, especially during COVID-19. The TFV made capital available, provided connections to intermediaries, facilitated payment transaction from seller to buyer through a supply contract, and enabled scaling up in production to meet demand for bulk orders. This led to more jobs for women, addressed school absenteeism, and promoted good health and sustainable practices.

Q52

Are your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework?

Yes,

Additional information on how your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment are underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework.:
Australia's Aid-for-Trade investments require monitoring and evaluation of women's economic empowerment objectives in order to align with Australia's priority regarding gender equality, as set out in Partnerships for Recovery (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/aid/partnerships-recovery-australias-covid-19-development-response>) development policy framework.

Q53

Does the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment that you provide align with your partners' trade priorities and objectives?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment you provide aligns with your partner's trade priorities and objectives.:
Australia's Aid-for-Trade investments are developed in cooperation with partner countries in order to ensure strong country ownership and relevance. Australia monitors this as a part of our program performance assessments.

Q54

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies?

Yes,

Additional information on the particular difficulties faced by women in accessing digital technology, including your data sources. (Please provide information in no more than 300 words including references and weblinks).:

Australia's research and development assistance programs/projects, as well as information reported by women and girls, indicate there is a gender digital divide. Women and girls have less or restricted access to digital technologies due to socio-cultural norms that influence education, resource and employment decisions, and other opportunities. For example, in PNG of the women surveyed, only 16 per cent owned a SIM card or handset. In addition, analysis of Facebook data (a strong proxy for mobile internet access) in 2018, showed that of the approximately 750,000 people active on Facebook in PNG, just 39 per cent were women. Studies have further found that: • 96 per cent of women without a mobile phone cited affordability as a reason they did not own one; • less than two out of three women were comfortable making a phone call, with less than half comfortable sending an SMS; and • low levels of digital and financial literacy limit women's perceptions of the usefulness of mobile technology, and a corresponding willingness to invest in it. GSMA | Digital Transformation - The Role of Mobile Technology in Papua New Guinea | Mobile for Development

(<https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/resources/digital-transformation-the-role-of-mobile-technology-in-papua-new-guinea/>) Do Mobile Phones Reduce or Reinforce Existing Gender Divides in PNG?

(<https://www.ictworks.org/mobile-phones-gender-divide-png/>) Bridging the Digital Divide: Everyday Use of Mobile Phones Among Market Sellers in Papua New Guinea (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-45471-9_5)

Q55

Please identify the top 5 barriers that prevent women from accessing digital technology:(You may tick a maximum of 5 boxes).

Difficulty obtaining proof of identification necessary to access internet services

,

High usage costs,

Lack of access to public facilities where the internet is available

,

Poor IT literacy and/or skills,

Privacy, safety and harassment concerns

Q56

Looking ahead, in which trade sectors do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,**Fisheries,****Forestry,****Mining,****Industry,****Services,**

Additional information on the sectors in which future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed.:

Women are engaged predominantly in the formal and informal services sector, including tourism, but also form the majority of subsistence agriculture workers. With environmental issues intimately connected with livelihoods, the fisheries, forestry and mining sectors are also important. In terms of industry, decent work, decision-making, supportive legislation, and the elimination of discrimination are all relevant to women's economic empowerment and should be considered in Aid-for-Trade program design. E-commerce and the digital economy more broadly also present significant opportunities for directly promoting women's economic empowerment. Considering contemporary and ongoing challenges and opportunities, future Aid-for-Trade support should be focused on: - enhancing business literacy, vocational skills, and access to technology; - increasing productive capacity, especially access to markets and participation in regional and global value chains; - improving understanding of gender impacts of trade policies and agreements and implementation of complimentary policies; - addressing barriers faced by women entrepreneurs/traders, including access to finance, trade facilitation; - identifying resources and innovations to improve agricultural productivity and income; - improving the business and legal environment for women entrepreneurs/workers; and - targeting infrastructure investments to support women's access to economic opportunities and trade. Refer also: Women and Business in the Pacific (<https://www.adb.org/publications/women-business-pacific>)

Q57

Looking ahead, in which Aid-for-Trade categories do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Trade education/training,

(b) 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)

,

(d) Building productive capacity,

(a) 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)

,

(c) Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

,

Additional information on the categories of Aid-for-Trade in which you think support should be focused so as to advance sustainable development.:

Women's economic empowerment should be mainstreamed across all Aid-for-Trade categories

mainstreamed across all Aid-for-Trade categories.

Q58

You may use the box below to elaborate on how you think that Aid for Trade can advance women's economic empowerment.

Effective examples of Aid-for-Trade that can support women's economic empowerment are those that fully integrate and prioritise women's economic empowerment as a cross-cutting priority. Important elements of how Aid-for-Trade can advance women's economic empowerment include:

- incorporating gender in consultations with partner countries from the very beginning of program design, which includes aligning with partner countries' priorities identified in national development strategies, diagnostic trade integration studies, and sector strategies;
- developing practical tools and guidance on how to promote women's economic empowerment and advance gender equality, to ensure robust M&E that measures outcomes and builds the evidence base;
- investing in gender and trade expertise in order to provide the required, in-depth analysis of the constraints, opportunities, and risks, and to strengthen the capacity of partners to conduct this analysis;
- obtaining sex and gender-disaggregated data to create a baseline and to inform indicators so that progress can be monitored, interventions adapted, and outcomes evaluated;
- implementing specific policies which help women maximise the benefits of trade such as removing trade barriers that prevent access to markets; and
- conducting inclusive stakeholder consultations that inform innovation, design, implementation, outcomes and sharing lessons learnt for future programming.

As an example, South Asia has one of the lowest rates of economic participation by women, and only approximately 18 per cent of formal businesses are women-owned. According to the IMF, South Asia could increase its income by up to 25 per cent if women had equal job/entrepreneurship opportunities. Regional trade has enormous potential to boost women's economic empowerment with the support of Aid-for-Trade. As one of the least integrated regions and with high trade costs, Aid-for-Trade can play a valuable role in promoting regional integration, connectivity, and trade to directly benefit women as traders, producers, workers, entrepreneurs, and consumers. Through the Australian funded SARTFP (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/south-asia-regional-integration/brief/south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>), Australia has been partnering with the World Bank to:

- strengthen sectors where women's participation is prevalent with the potential for intra-regional trade;
- support women's integration and transition into value chains;
- facilitate female entrepreneurs' access to productive resources and finance; and
- support provision of infrastructure (with suitable facilities) including digital technology and cross-border markets, together with increasing women's access to business support services, information, training, transportation, and trade networks

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Q59

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

A range of ministries/agencies were consulted in the preparation of this response, with specific input received from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).
