



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION



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Page 2: ABOUT YOU

**Q1**

Respondent

Australia

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**Q2**

About you

Name	<b>Shannon White</b>
Position	<b>Director, Multilateral Economic Cooperation Section, Free Trade Agreements and Stakeholder Engagement Division</b>
Organization	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</b>
Email Address	<b>shannon.white@dfat.gov.au</b>
Phone Number	<b>+61 6261 2077</b>

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Page 3: SECTION A: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

**Q3**

**Yes**

Do you have development cooperation strategy(ies) or  
policy(ies)?

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Page 4: SECTION A: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

## Q4

If yes, does your development cooperation strategy(ies) or policy(ies) include trade priorities? Explanatory notes: For example, the UK's policy paper on international development published in May 2022 states that the UK will support countries to increase their exports, increase trade with the UK, build sustainable and resilient global supply chains that benefit all, and tackle market distorting practices and economic policies. The policy paper outlines various ways in which these trade priorities will be advanced.

Yes,

If yes, please provide further details including hyperlinks to relevant documents containing trade priorities.: Australia's International Development Policy, released on 8 August 2023, reflects a whole-of-country approach to development, including trade. For example, the policy commits Australia to: • support the endeavours of Pacific nations to unlock new avenues to prosperity, including as they empower women and girls, enhance digital connectivity, and diversify trade on global markets (pg. 20); • work with Australia's Southeast Asian partners to sustain and protect hard-won development gains, including by jointly investing in reforms. Economic productivity and investment in decent jobs, innovation and the clean energy transition are critical to the region's future (pg. 22); • continue to support the productive and sustainable use of Indian Ocean resources. Australia is connected to many South Asian countries by the Indian Ocean (pg. 23); • strengthen trade and business ties with the region, including through Australian banks and superannuation funds (pg. 29); • promote and support our regions' priorities. We will continue our strong work with multilateral partners across the United Nations system and with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), thematic funds, and multilateral development banks (pg. 34); • continue working with partner countries to find new avenues for growth and manage debt burdens, including advocating for countries in our region to attract finance from the private sector, multilateral development banks and philanthropies. We will also do more to leverage Australian funding by developing innovative financing solutions (pg. 35); • work with international financial institutions to address partner needs, particularly around climate change, infrastructure and debt sustainability (pg. 43); • support reforms that ensure these institutions can meet contemporary challenges, including demand for innovative forms of finance and delivery of high quality, climate-resilient infrastructure that maximises local opportunities (pg. 43); • continue to shape the creation of norms to optimise technological interoperability and interconnectivity to help bridge the digital divide and ensure we can all benefit from the continued growth of the digital economy (pg. 43); • support partners to benefit from global rules-based trade—as they integrate into the multilateral trading system through the WTO, implement their free trade agreement commitments, strengthen their economies through Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), and increase their participation in the green and digital economies (pg. 43); • build partnerships to support regional economic resilience, including through supply chains, debt sustainability and sustainable foreign investment (pg. 43); and • ensure our support is

investment (pg. 40), and ensure our support is transparent and demand driven, designed to improve business environments and regional economic integration (pg. 43). Australia's International Development Policy assesses performance with a 3-tier indicator framework. Tier 2 results assess Australia's contribution to development through annual results directly attributable to Australian development efforts. One of these indicators is trade, which is measured by the increased capacity of our partner countries to participate effectively in rules-based trade and economic architecture, and by the number of countries supported to engage productively with the multilateral trading system. In addition, regional and bilateral programs provide country and regional level development plans, which include trade and development priorities, guided by the International Development Policy. These will align with the International Development Policy and are currently under development. Australia also has thematic strategies and policies which guide the achievement of trade and development indicators in our International Development Policy, including in digital trade, services, gender equality and women's empowerment, and Indigenous engagement. New strategies due for release in 2024 include an International Gender Equality Strategy and an International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy. These strategies will also guide the achievement of trade and development priorities under the International Development Policy. Links: General - Australia's International Development Policy <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/international-development-policy.pdf> Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf> Country and regional development plans (currently being updated) <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/countries-economies-and-regions> Thematic strategies - Digital Trade Strategy <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/services-and-digital-trade/e-commerce-and-digital-trade/digital-trade-strategy> Indigenous peoples <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/indigenous-peoples> Strategies under development - A new International Gender Equality Strategy <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/gender-equality/new-international-gender-equality-strategy> Disability Equity and Rights <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/global-themes/international-relations/disability-equity-and-rights>

**Q5**

**Yes**

Does your development cooperation strategy(ies) or policy(ies) have a thematic focus?

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Page 6: SECTION A: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

**Q6**

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list of thematic options of key strategic objectives below. (If an objective(s) do not appear in the drop-down list, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick all relevant boxes.)

**Economic diversification,**  
**Enhancing exports in non-traditional sectors,**  
**Export diversification,**  
**Expansion of the agriculture sector,**  
**Expansion of the fisheries sector,**  
**Expansion of the manufacturing sector,**  
**Expansion of the services sector,**  
**Expansion of the digital economy,**  
**Infrastructure development,**  
**Innovation and technological development,**  
**Expansion of the formal economy,**  
**Expansion of the MSME sector,**  
**Expansion of public-private partnerships,**  
**Human capital development (e.g. education through skills, training and health)**  
 ,  
**Higher labour productivity,**  
**Trade integration,**  
**Employment creation,**  
**Women's economic empowerment and gender equality**  
 ,  
**Inclusive growth, including (historically) disadvantaged groups (e.g. including people with disabilities).**  
 ,  
**Institutional strengthening (e.g. good governance, transparency and accountability)**  
 ,  
**Social protection,**  
**Promotion of peace/security and development,**  
**Climate change adaptation,**  
**Protection of biodiversity,**  
**Environmental protection,**  
**Sustainable resource management,**  
**Improved environmental governance,**  
**Oceans and blue economy,**  
**Other, (please specify),**  
**Food security,**  
**Climate change mitigation,**  
 Additional information on thematic issues::

Other key strategic objectives identified in Australia's International Development Policy include economic policy and management, leadership, labour mobility, maritime security, regional architecture, multilateral engagement and emergency assistance (refer to Tier 2 indicators, p. 7: Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework). \*Note: Although not all highlighted thematic economic objectives are identified in the new International Development Policy, these are still areas in which Australia provides demand driven support. In areas such as the fisheries sector, support is based on sustainable development of the sector, rather than only expansion. Links: Australia's International Development Policy

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/international-development-policy.pdf> Australia's International

Development Performance and Delivery Framework

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf>

## Q7

Do the trade priorities found in your development plan or strategy include partner country specific development objectives or targets? Explanatory notes: For example, the International Trade Centre's Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025 contains several targets, including: to support 75,000 micro, small and medium sized enterprises, 1,200 business support organizations and develop at least 400 trade-related policies, strategies and regulations (depending on the level of funding received).

Other (please specify):

The trade priorities articulated in Australia's International Development Policy include measurable objectives, as well as targets for investments to drive meaningful change. Three objectives are highlighted: 1. Trade: the increased capacity of our partner countries to participate effectively in rules-based trade and economic architecture and ii) the number of countries supported to engage productively with the multilateral trading system; 2. Inclusive development: 80 per cent of all development investments will address gender equality effectively, and all new projects with a value of \$3 million or more must have a targeted gender equality objective; and 3. Sustainable development: at least half of all new bilateral and regional investments valued at more than \$3 million will have a climate change objective from Australia's financial year 2024/25, with a goal of increasing this to 80 per cent in financial year 2028/29. The trade priorities in Australia's bilateral and regional development partnership plans and thematic strategies contain country-specific development objectives. For example, the Australia-Vietnam Enhanced Economic Engagement Strategy aims to boost trade and double two-way investment, and commits Australia to deliver trade-related technical assistance to increase capacity in a range of areas to support inclusive economic growth. These areas include agriculture (including meeting standards), digital trade, manufacturing, customs, economic infrastructure, and services (including tourism). Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/australia-vietnam/eees/en/implementation-plan/overview.html>. Another example is the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership, which underpins Australia's bilateral relationship with Fiji. This partnership includes supporting market access for Fijian products in regional and international markets. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fiji/fiji-australia-vuvale-partnership>. An example of specific targets can be found in Australia's Pacific regional trade and investment promotion program delivered through Pacific Trade Invest (PTI Australia). PTI is part of the trade and investment promotion network of one of Australia's key regional partners, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). It works to improve the livelihoods of Pacific people by enabling decent work and economic growth in the Blue Pacific by developing and promoting businesses from the Pacific region through trade, investment, and tourism facilitation. PTI Australia's strategic plan for 2023-26 cites the following four targets for Forum Island Countries (FICs): contribute to AUD 135 million of new exports from FIC to Australia & related markets by December 2026; eEnable 300 FIC businesses to increase export revenue each year (50 per cent women-owned or led); contribute AUD 25 million of new investment in FIC by December 2026; and contribute to an improved business-enabling

2026, and contribute to an improved business enabling environment in at least 5 FICs by December 2026. Links: Pacific Trade Invest - <https://pacifictradeinvest.com/>; Pacific Island Forum - <https://www.forumsec.org/>; PTI's Strategic Plan for 2023-26 - <https://pacifictradeinvest.com/media/dioff51o/pti-australia-strategic-plan-2023-2036-final.pdf>

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**Q8** **Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, choose options from the non-exhaustive list of options of key strategic objectives found in your development strategies/plans. (If an objective(s) or target\* do not appear in the list below, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick relevant boxes).

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Page 9: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES



Q9

Do you have a separate trade and development policy or strategy (e.g. an Aid for Trade strategy) ? Explanatory notes: For example, the European Union published an updated Aid-for-Trade strategy in 2017 and has published annual progress reports on the strategy's implementation.

No,

Additional information on the presence of a separate trade and development policy or strategy, such as an Aid for Trade strategy: If yes, please provide further details, including dates the strategy covers and hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another development cooperation strategy or policy that includes trade targets (e.g. a multiyear strategic plan issued by a development finance institution):

Australia has reflected core Aid-for-Trade principles in our new International Development Policy, which recognises the importance of i) facilitating market access (including capacity building to negotiate and implement trade agreements); ii) addressing economic infrastructure constraints; and iii) building productive capacity to take advantage of global trading opportunities as essential to ensuring poverty reduction, sustainable and resilient economic growth, and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our partner countries.

Australia's Aid-for-Trade programs and investments are guided by the International Development Policy and its trade specific indicators. Under the policy, Australia will measure the increased capacity of partner countries to participate effectively in rules-based trade and economic architecture, and the number of countries supported to engage productively with the multilateral trading system (refer Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework, p.17). In addition, cross-cutting thematic strategies (some of which are currently being updated) will guide and be guided by our approach to Aid-for-Trade. Links: Australia's International Development Policy

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/international-development-policy.pdf> Australia's International Development Performance and Delivery Framework

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf> Australia's ongoing commitment, and specific approach, to Aid-for-Trade is demonstrated through a range of demand-driven bilateral, regional, multilateral and other economic cooperation programs, which address the priority needs of partner countries and span all categories of Aid-for-Trade. Examples of these programs are highlighted below. Bilateral program example

The primary strategy that guides Australia's development cooperation with Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the PNG-Australia Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership (2020). Link:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/papua-new-guinea/papua-new-guinea-australia-comprehensive-strategic-and-economic-partnership#pillar5> Consistent with our International Development Policy, Australia is partnering with the PNG Government to finance an AUD 621.4 million investment to upgrade and refurbish selected PNG ports (AUD 521.4 million of this is a loan AUD 100 million is a grant) More

million of this is a loan, A\$B 100 million is a grant. More than 90 per cent of internationally traded goods are shipped to and from ports in PNG. The regional ports were identified as part of the PNG Ports Infrastructure 30 Year Master Plan. The investment will include an upgrade of the Lae Port to be the key deep water port servicing PNG's Highlands, and the premier transshipment hub for the Pacific. As PNG's largest port, it will be able to accommodate dedicated container ships that operate major trade routes in the Indo-Pacific to make direct calls to PNG. This will benefit PNG and the wider Pacific region. Local communities will also benefit from the investment. Coastal shipping is often the most affordable transport option for local communities, which they rely on for food, transport to services, such as healthcare and education, and access to imported goods and trade. The investment will also create local jobs and supply chains, providing a boost to PNG's economic recovery. Regional programs A considerable proportion of Australia's Aid-for-Trade is directed through regional programs in the Pacific, which are designed to address common regional challenges. Three examples follow. Australia's support for implementation of the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy (PAFTS, 2020-25) coordinated by the PIFS, enables PIFS to undertake effective coordination, and build regional capacity in priorities areas such as e-commerce, data collection and analysis, and trade regulations and rule-making. Link: <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pacific-Aid-for-Trade-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf> Australia (and New Zealand) fund the PHAMA Plus Program, which aims to improve economic growth and rural livelihoods for Pacific peoples by working with agribusinesses and public agencies to maintain and improve market access for agricultural products from the region. PHAMA Plus strengthens biosecurity and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) compliance by Pacific countries to better facilitate exports. For example, in Samoa, PHAMA Plus has been supporting efforts to resume exports of fresh taro by piloting a hot water treatment that will enable produce to meet Australian import requirements. This will open more export opportunities for local taro exporters and commercial taro growers. Link: <https://phamaplus.com.au/> Australia funds the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative IV (PSDI). PSDI works with the ADB's 14 Pacific developing member countries to reduce constraints to doing business and support inclusive, private sector-led economic growth. PSDI aims to: modernize business laws; develop better financial markets and services; increase access to finance; reform state-owned enterprises and pursue public-private partnerships; establish effective competition and consumer protection frameworks; advance the economic empowerment of women; and support tourism. Link: <https://www.pacificpsdi.org/> Multilateral Programs

Australia has a portfolio of multilateral and multi-regional Aid-for-Trade programs that successfully support our developing country and Least Developed Country (LDC) partners to participate in and benefit from the global rules-based trading system, and to use trade and investment as a tool for inclusive and sustainable development. These investments promote economic integration, resilience, and prosperity. Based on program reporting, they have resulted in the creation of 2.8 million local jobs and supported over 700,000 micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to engage more in trade or benefit from reduced barriers to trade. Our programs specifically promote global rules and norms, enabling partner countries to access and benefit from international trade. They include partnerships with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF, Phase 2); the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF); the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP), WIPO Funds in Trust (FIT), and the Advisory Centre for WTO Law (ACWL). We also collaborate with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) on the Better Work Program. Link: <https://betterwork.org/> This program partners with governments, the private sector, unions and workers to help improve labour standards, reduce gender discrimination, and boost the competitiveness of the garment industry in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam. This program has a strong gender focus, which Australia supported by funding the Better Work five-year Gender Strategy. According to the ILO, Better Work has supported over 2.3 million workers in over 1,500 factories. Activities in Vietnam have improved implementation of a new Labour Code, reduced abusive practices and helped address the gender pay gap. They have increased productivity by 22 per cent, particularly among female supervisors, and factories have experienced a rise in profitability due to program participation. Free Trade Agreements and Economic Partnerships Australia views free trade agreements (FTAs) as including opportunities to provide targeted and tailored trade development support for partner countries to participate in negotiations, support ratification, and effectively implement commitments upon entry into force. PACER Plus is a development-focused trade agreement, designed to support Pacific island countries to become more active in regional and global trade. It is an important part of Australia's engagement in the Pacific and provides an avenue to help foster a secure, stable and prosperous region. The PACER Plus Implementation Unit (funded by Australia and New Zealand) provides support to PACER Plus Parties to implement their commitments under the agreement, including in the areas of e-commerce, customs, trade facilitation, and SPS standards. Trade-related adjustment support is also provided to help prepare for revenue-related impacts of tariff reform under

prepare for revenue-related impacts of tariff reform under the Agreement. Link:  
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/pacific-agreement-on-closer-economic-relations-plus> Australia's Regional Trade for Development (RT4D) initiative supports ASEAN developing and LDC member states to realise the full benefits of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP). In line with Australia's gender equality requirements for ODA investments, one of RT4D's objectives is to ensure that Australian assistance to ASEAN and FTA Parties, particularly LDCs, facilitates FTA implementation to support inclusive development outcomes. To help achieve this objective, RT4D has a gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) lead to support GEDSI mainstreaming throughout activity implementation and strategic design. RT4D also has a Trade and Gender Equality Incubator to test innovative ideas to enhance gender equality in trade over five years (2023-2028). Link:  
<https://intdev.tetratetechasiapacific.com/projects/the-australian-regional-trade-for-development-facility-laos/> Australia also funds the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Fund for Technical Assistance and Economic Cooperation (IFTAEC). IPEF is a contemporary regional economic partnership between 14 of the region's most dynamic and fastest-growing economies. IFTAEC seeks to assist ODA-eligible IPEF members (Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) to implement IPEF's high standards and commitments, deepening regional economic integration and driving trade and investment flows in the Indo-Pacific. Four IFTAEC targets that have relevance for trade and development are to: • move the dial on clean economy and clean energy cooperation by mobilising public and private sustainable finance and facilitating greater interoperability to help unlock private investment; • empower IPEF partners to better understand supply chain risks and integrate supply chain resilience considerations in their policy making; • provide technical assistance to ODA-eligible IPEF members to align regional standards on the digital economy, thereby reducing trade costs and maximising efficiencies; and • accelerate regional implementation of anti-corruption and tax standards to improve governance, transparency and accountability, thereby improving the Indo-Pacific's investment environment. Link:  
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/organisations/wto-g20-oecd-apec/indo-pacific-economic-framework>

**Q10**

Do the priorities, themes and sectoral objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade programming align with the trade priorities found in your development strategy(ies)?

**Yes, in full,**

Additional information on the alignment between the priorities, themes, and sectoral objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade programming and the trade priorities in your development strategy(ies)::

Australia's Aid-for-Trade programming aligns with the trade priorities in our International Development Policy. Australia's Aid-for-Trade activities seek to: i) help partner countries to engage in the multilateral trading system and regional initiatives; ii) boost trade and investment flows; iii) encourage diversification in trade activities; and iv) improve economic integration on a regional and global basis. For example, in Sri Lanka, in line with the International Development Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals, Australia's development cooperation program aims to: • support governance and economic reform agendas to foster inclusive economic growth; • improve livelihoods, including through employment opportunities for disadvantaged Sri Lankans; • provide humanitarian assistance in response to food insecurity, health, and protection issues; and • support education and training through Australia Awards scholarships. To achieve these aims, Sri Lankan development programming includes a partnership with the World Bank for 'Eliminating Barriers to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Sri Lanka'. This program supports institutional reform to establish a new agency to promote efficiency-seeking investments to improve Sri Lanka's access to international markets and diversified export earnings. Other relevant trade and development activities with Sri Lanka occur through Australia's Market Development Facility and Skills for Inclusive Growth programs. Australia has also signed a renewed Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) with Sri Lanka. The TIFA promotes stronger trade and investment relations between Australia and Sri Lanka across a range of sectors, including education, tourism, agriculture, and mining. It will contribute to Sri Lanka's economic stabilisation by boosting cooperation in these areas, improving market access, and exploring emerging sectors such as clean energy, critical minerals, and services. Links: Sri Lanka COVID-19 Development Response Plan - <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/australias-development-program/covid-19-development-response-plans/sri-lanka-covid-19-development-response-plan> Eliminating Barriers to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Sri Lanka Program - <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/document-reports/documentdetail/165931530278295044/eliminating-barriers-to-the-inclusive-and-sustainable-growth-sri-lanka> Market Development Facility - An Australian Multi-Country Initiative – <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/> Skills for Inclusive Growth Program -

Inclusive Growth Program

<https://inclusivegrowth.com.lk/> Australia-Sri Lanka Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement - <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-country-brief> The economic cooperation program under Australia's FTA with Indonesia (IA-CEPA) seeks to maximise the benefits of this Agreement. This program is known as Katalis. Link: <https://iacepa-katalis.org/> Consistent with Australia's International Development Policy, Katalis is designed to support trade and investment, improve market access, and promote inclusive growth focusing on target sectors of agrifood, advanced manufacturing, and services (including, health, education, energy, finance, infrastructure, mining, transport, tourism, and communications). After 18 months of implementation, positive results are emerging whereby business led activities are linked to trade and development outcomes in Indonesia, including in emerging areas such as the green technology industry.

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Page 11: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES

**Q11**

Does your development cooperation policy or Aid-for-Trade strategy include objectives or targets for partner countries?

Other (please specify: e.g. strategy expired, new strategy under discussion, etc.):

See below.

**Q12**

If yes, please tick relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate in the text box under the question choices whether there is another trade and development cooperation strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets.

**Increased competitiveness,**

**Expansion of agricultural exports,**

**Expansion of manufactured exports,**

**Expansion of services exports,**

**Expansion of e-commerce and/or digitally delivered services exports**

,

**Expansion of MSME sector exports,**

**Protection of intellectual property,**

**Growth in the number of export markets reached,**

**Improvements in trade facilitation,**

**Climate change related objectives (e.g. reduction in emissions associated with trade)**

,

**Other (please specify),**

**Better export performance,**

Additional information on objectives or targets for partner countries included in your development cooperation policy or Aid-for-Trade strategy. Please include hyperlinks to relevant documents::

Australia's International Development Policy does not have country-specific objectives or targets, and we do not have a current Aid-for-Trade strategy. Rather Australia's International Development Policy includes program level objectives and investment targets. The new policy has a 3-tier performance indicator framework. Link: [www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf](http://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf). Tier 1: Indo-Pacific development context – includes tracking economic growth and poverty reduction indicators which are central to achieving sustainable development outcomes for the Indo-Pacific and are the outcome of collective efforts by developing countries and their partners, including Australia. Tier 2: Australia's contribution to development – these are annual results directly attributable to Australian development efforts, organised against the four focus areas of the development policy: 1. building effective and accountable states; 2. enhancing state and community resilience; 3. connecting partners with Australian and regional architecture; and 4. generating collective action on global challenges. Tier 3: How we work – these are selected measures of DFAT's operational approach to delivering Australia's development program. Examples of indicators include effectiveness, transparency, use of local actors, and programs that are partnerships based. Australia has individual country and regional development plans, which contain objectives and specific programs which may include targets. Australia is in the process of developing new Development Partnership Plans with each country and region in line with

Partnership Plans with each country and region in line with our new International Development Policy. Existing country and regional development plans and progress reports can be found at the following two links:  
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/countries-economies-and-regions>;  
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/development-program-progress-reports>.

**Q13**

Do you have targets in other development strategies that may have trade priorities or influence your Aid-for-Trade financing? Explanatory notes: For example, USAID's climate strategy for the period 2022-2030 includes six targets that have relevance for overall trade cooperation and development policy. These targets include: mitigating 6 billion tons of CO2 equivalent; conserving, restoring or managing 100 million hectares of natural ecosystems; enabling improved climate resilience for 500 billion people; mobilizing USD 150 billion in public and private climate finance; supporting 80 countries; increasing equitable engagement with 40 country partnerships.

**Yes,**

Additional information on whether you have targets in other development strategies that may have trade priorities or influence your Aid-for-Trade financing: Australia's International Development Policy contains objectives and targets for investments, which influence our overall Aid-for-Trade financing. These targets can be found on p.18 of the Performance and Delivery Framework. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf> These objectives and targets address the following: Effectiveness: at least 85 per cent of investments are assessed as satisfactory on both the effectiveness and efficiency criteria in the Investment Monitoring Reporting process (weighting 40 per cent); at least 80 per cent of investments are effective in addressing gender equality (weighting 40 per cent); at least 70 per cent of completed investments are assessed as satisfactory against both effectiveness and efficiency criteria in the Final Investment Monitoring Reporting process (weighting 20 per cent). Inclusivity: 80 per cent of all development investments will address gender equality effectively, and all new investments over \$3 million will include gender equality objectives. Climate change: from financial year 2024/25, at least half of all new bilateral and regional investments that are valued at more than \$3 million will have a climate change objective, with a goal of this rising to 80 per cent in financial year 2028/29. Local participation: By 2026, 80 per cent of bilateral investment designs and evaluations include local participation.



**Q14****Yes**

Does your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy include sectoral objectives? Explanatory notes: For example, one sectoral focus of Korea's International Cooperation Agency development cooperation strategy is promoting the mainstreaming of science, technology and innovation in ODA projects by establishing its Science, Technology and Innovation Mid-Term Strategy (2021-2025). The goal to support inclusive growth based on science and technology by improving the innovation system of partner countries. Korea's strategy also focuses on education, health, governance, agriculture and rural development, energy, water, transportation, climate change and gender equality.

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Page 13: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

**Q15**

If yes, please tick relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another development cooperation strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets. (Please tick relevant boxes.)

- Agriculture,**
- Fisheries,**
- Renewable energy,**
- Manufacturing sector,**
- MSME sector development,**
- Services (general),**
- Banking and financial services,**
- Business and professional services,**
- Communication services, including ICT,**
- Education services,**
- Energy services,**
- Environment services,**
- Science, technology and innovation,**
- Recreation and sport,**
- Tourism,**
- Transport services (air, land and maritime),**
- Cross-sectoral e-commerce and digital trade,**

Additional information on sectoral objectives included in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy::

Australia's Digital Trade Strategy is an example of Australia's commitment to providing support to bridge digital divides across the Indo-Pacific and encourage innovative uses of digital technologies to support sustainable and inclusive development. This strategy includes development assistance and capacity building projects to help developing country partners to implement digital trade rules and standards, to help lower barriers to trade, improve trade efficiencies and productivity and facilitate access to markets, creating new trade possibilities. It recognises the potential of digital trade to help level the playing field and promote inclusive growth for MSMEs, women-run businesses, and others who may not otherwise have had access to global value chains in the past. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/services-and-digital-trade/e-commerce-and-digital-trade/digital-trade-strategy>

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**Page 14: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES**
**Q16****Yes**

Does your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy include regional objectives? Explanatory notes: For example, the New Zealand's Aid Programme has a particular focus on the Pacific Islands region.

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**Q17**

If yes, please identify the relevant economic community(ies):(Please tick relevant boxes.)

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),**  
**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

,

**Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**

,

**Other (please specify),**

Additional information on relevant economic communities::

Australia's Aid-for-Trade also supports the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), PACER Plus Countries, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Initiative (BBIN), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The following example relates to ASEAN. Australia's Partnerships for Infrastructure Program (P4I) supports ASEAN's priorities in transport connectivity, energy transition, and digitalisation. This program works with ASEAN transport ministries to address structural constraints to regional shipping container networks and processing procedures by providing technical assistance and capacity building. It also assists energy utilities to develop and implement strategies and assess the potential of renewable energy options, such as battery and pumped hydro energy storage, clean hydrogen, and green bumper ports. Link: <https://www.partnershipsforinfrastructure.org/>

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**Q18**

**Yes**

Do you have priority areas in which you provide Aid-for-Trade support?

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**Q19**

If yes, please identify the priority areas of Aid for Trade in which you are actively providing support\*. (Please tick relevant boxes.)--\* If you would like to indicate climate change related priorities, please tick related boxes below (e.g. energy supply and generation infrastructure) and add relevant notes in the text box. Likewise for gender equality, please tick the relevant boxes (e.g. trade development) and add a note in the comment box.

**TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)**

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**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)**

,

**TRADE-RELATED ADJUSTMENT (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)**

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**TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)**

,

Additional information on the priority areas of Aid for Trade in which you are actively providing support::

In 2022, over 45 per cent of Australia's Aid-for-Trade was directed toward building productive capacity (particularly in the agriculture sector), followed by economic infrastructure (in transport and storage). Inclusivity, gender equality, climate change, and local participation are key targets under Australia's new International Development Policy (refer to Australia's response to question 12).

**Q20**

Which financing instruments do you use to implement your trade and development cooperation (i.e. Aid-for-Trade) priorities? For example, the Swiss economic development cooperation strategy for 2021-24 promotes innovative private-sector initiatives and the mobilisation of private resources. In this regard, the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) is a central instrument and focuses on four business lines: access to finance (including fintech, MSMEs and gender), infrastructure financing, integration in value chains and corporate social responsibility. For example, Development Alliance Korea (DAK) is Korea's first and largest innovation Public-Private Partnership platform joined by government, the private sector, civil society, and academia, with aim of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please provide information in the box below:

Australia uses a combination of financing instruments to implement our trade and development cooperation. This is delivered through bilateral, regional, and multilateral channels.

For example, Australia provides some of its development cooperation in the form of loans, via the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP). Link: <https://www.aiffp.gov.au/>

The AIFFP is supporting critical climate resilient infrastructure development to support sustainable economic growth in the Pacific. Australia's lending complements our ODA grants. The AIFFP covers the design and financing of high-impact, energy, water, transport, port, telecommunications, and other key infrastructure projects. Each investment focuses on robust social and environmental safeguards to maximise development outcomes. For example, integrating climate change and disaster risk data into the design to increase infrastructure resilience, prioritising environmental protection, mainstreaming equality approaches for gender, disability and social inclusion, local job creation, and upskilling workers. The construction and delivery of these investments is enabled through loans and grants. Financing is tailored to support each country's debt sustainability needs. The complementary provision of grants enables flexible financing for sovereign borrowers and allows the AIFFP to operate in countries where loans are not suitable due to debt concerns.

Australia is a recognised global leader in gender lens investing, which promotes women's economic empowerment. For example, blended finance approaches are used by the Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund (EMIIF), the Investing in Women program, and the Women's Livelihood Bond. Links: <https://emiif.fund/>; <https://investinginwomen.asia/> and <https://wlb.iixglobal.com/>

These programs have successfully attracted finance from private and philanthropic investors to support this objective. EMIIF has demonstrated an ability to mobilise private sector financing for gender lens investments, with evidence suggesting a private sector finance mobilisation ratio of 1:5, including with impact investors and philanthropic organisations. It is expected that the next phase of the Investing in Women program will use EMIIF, in part reflecting its ability to accept and deploy investment returns, thereby growing the pool of investments over time.

Our response to the next question elaborates on Australia's approach to blended finance.

**Q21**

Is there a form of aid, finance or other financial assistance for trade that you are seeking to expand? If so, is there an accompanying strategy to leverage this source of finance? For example, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is the newest U.S. government agency, launched in December 2019 with a mandate to partner with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world while advancing America's foreign policy goals abroad. The DFC offers loans, loan guarantees, equity investments, political risk insurance, technical assistance, and feasibility studies to drive significant amounts of private capital into challenging developing markets to address local needs.

**Yes,**

Additional information on forms of aid, finance, or other financial assistance for trade that you are seeking to expand, and on accompanying strategies to leverage finance::

Australia has been building a portfolio of blended finance mechanisms in response to the need to mobilise more private finance for development in our region. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/who-we-work-with/private-sector-partnerships/private-finance-for-development> Recognising the effectiveness of this approach, the Australian Government endorsed the recent Development Finance Review's recommendation to scale up Australia's blended finance portfolio to drive greater mobilisation of private finance towards development, climate, and gender equality outcomes – all with implications for trade and development impacts in the region. Link:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/australias-development-finance-review> The Government's decision to increase the existing blended finance portfolio of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is based on a 10-year track record of performance. The portfolio has effectively demonstrated how blended finance can drive Australia's climate and development objectives in the region. For example, Australian Development Investments (ADI) amount to AUD 250 million. ADI expands the Australian Government's capacity to mobilise private sector investment into small and medium-sized enterprises in the region and create climate and gender outcomes. ADI provides early stage and concessional investment to impact investment funds, which in turn gives critical early-stage finance to businesses in the Indo-Pacific. By blending ODA and private finance, ADI sends a powerful signal to the finance sector about the opportunities to generate financial returns and development impact in our region. Link:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/australian-development-investments-factsheet.pdf> The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) is an infrastructure project development and investment group. Established in 2012, PIDG has a strong record of mobilising private investment in sustainable and inclusive infrastructure. PIDG uses public finance to address early-stage project risks resulting from development, currency, commercial, and safeguards to attract private finance. Australia's contributions to PIDG help drive its expansion into Southeast Asia, providing Australia and its partners with the full range of financing instruments to de-risk other financing, and enable project proposals to attract commercial financing. Link: <https://www.pidg.org/> The Australian Climate Finance Partnership (ACFP) is Australia's AUD 140 million concessional financing facility managed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The

managed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ACFP helps mobilise private sector investment into low emission, climate-resilient solutions for developing countries in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Link: <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/funds/australian-climate-finance-partnership> Australia's new 3-year partnership with Convergence provides DFAT and its partners (including other government partners and private financing partners) with access to Convergence's analytical, technical support, and training capabilities. This partnership will play an increasingly significant role in supporting Australia's capacity to scale its blended finance response to climate and development needs in the region. Convergence manages the world's most comprehensive database of blended finance transactions. This includes historical data, as well as current and prospective deals. It also hosts the largest blended finance match-making platform – connecting project proponents with potential financiers both public and private. Link: Convergence (The Global Network for Blended Finance) - <https://www.convergence.finance/> The Business Partnerships Platform (BPP) has catalysed more than AUD 25 million in private sector finance and resources to date, with current active partnerships set to catalyse a further AUD 19.6 million. These partnerships support scalable business models to help drive transition to a greener, more inclusive economy. Since 2016, BPP has created 57 partnerships across 137 organisations, representing 10 sectors and industries operating in 19 countries. The Phase 2 partnerships will catalyse more than AUD 20.1 million in private sector finance and resources to support scalable business models and help drive transition to a greener, more resilient, and inclusive economy. BPP partnerships are making significant contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Since 2021, improving climate resilience and addressing environmental challenges has been a key selection criterion for new partnerships. Through the BPP, businesses are testing and scaling innovative green solutions, delivering affordable and clean infrastructure, reducing water use, and supporting climate resilience and the preservation of natural capital. The BPP incorporates a gender lens in selection and engagement with partnerships. It works with partners to strengthen their approach to women's economic empowerment and support women to succeed as leaders, employees, and as consumers and suppliers in key value chains. Link: <https://thebpp.com.au/>

**Q22**

What difficulties do you face in mobilizing financing to implement your Aid for Trade and development cooperation (i.e. Aid-for-Trade) objectives? (Please tick relevant boxes.)

**Domestic oversight constraints,**  
**Limited ability to develop "bankable" projects,**  
**Lack of coordination between development partners**

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**Q23**

Are you providing an increasing share of Aid for Trade in the form of loans and a declining share of grants?

**No**

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**Q24**

If yes, does this situation present a challenge for your partner countries?

**Respondent skipped this question**

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**Q25**

Do you plan to stop providing Aid for Trade? Has a date been set to achieve this objective ? (e.g. a date to stop providing foreign aid?)

**No**

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Page 24: SECTION E: ALIGNMENT OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

**Q26**

How well aligned is the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the trade priorities of partner countries and regional organizations?

**Mostly aligned,**  
Please specify if this is an official perspective or the personal opinion of the respondent::  
This is an official perspective. Under Australia's International Development Policy, Australia prioritises alignment of development programs with partners' Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. Our country and regional plans are being finalised under new Development Partnership Plans together with our partner countries.



**Q27**

What challenges do you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the sectoral financing needs of partner countries and regional organizations? (Please tick relevant boxes.)

**Lack of donor coordination,**

**Conditions required by development partners to access support**

,

**Length of project/programme funding cycles,**

**Human capacity constraints to developing bankable projects**

,

**Lack of partner country ownership,**

**Weak institutional capacity (e.g. lack of coordination at domestic level)**

,

Additional information on the challenges you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the sectoral financing needs of partner countries and regional organizations::

Specific challenges include changes in trade priorities resulting from changes in partner governments. A lack of continuity and uniformity of policies can result in funding gaps for the implementation of best practices in areas such as trade facilitation and promotion. In the Pacific, scarce human resources is a major constraint. Pacific Islands Forum Countries (FICs) have limited capacity to engage on some programs. Pacific officials are often stretched thinly across many programs/projects. Often capacity building is required before a program/project can get off the ground. Donor coordination remains an ongoing key challenge.

**Q28**

Does your development cooperation strategy include a monitoring or results framework?

**Yes, for the development cooperation strategy,**

Additional information on whether your development cooperation strategy includes a monitoring or results framework::

Australia's International Development Policy is underpinned by a performance and delivery framework which will drive key reforms and improve the transparency and accountability of our development program. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/performance-delivery-framework.pdf> In addition, DFAT produces development program Progress Reports for countries and regions to which Australia provides international development assistance. These reports provide a summary of program achievements and progress against performance indicators. Reports are available for 2022-23 and preceding financial years. Link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/development-program-progress-reports>

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**Q29**

Do you align your monitoring and evaluations activities with the monitoring or results framework of partner countries?

**Yes, with partners' development strategies,**

Additional information on whether you align your monitoring and evaluation activities with the monitoring or results framework of partner countries::  
Australia engages closely with partner governments when developing program-level monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Australia also delivers its development programs through partner agencies. Where delivery is through partners, Australia insists on the inclusion of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks that meet DFAT's requirements to measure outcomes and impact, including incorporation of GEDSI (gender equality, disability and social inclusion). Investment performance reporting, which includes Aid-for-Trade activities, is completed annually for all ODA investments that are valued at AUD 3 million and over. The aim of this reporting is to assess progress in achieving outputs and outcomes and to identify management actions to address any performance issues over the upcoming 12 months. Through Investment Monitoring Reports (IMRs), each investment is rated as performing satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily on a six-point scale against four quality criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, gender equality, and disability equity. To ensure performance assessments in IMRs are robust and contestable, they are subject to moderation by experienced staff. Investment monitoring reports prepared in the final year of implementation assess the extent to which end-of-program outcomes were achieved. The ratings in final investment monitoring reports are independently validated. The performance of key ODA delivery partners (commercial suppliers, NGOs, and multilateral organisations) is also assessed annually through Partner Performance Assessments.

**Q30****Yes**

Do you measure the impacts of the Aid-for-Trade support you provide?

**Q31**

If yes, where is Aid for Trade having a measurable impact in your opinion?(Please select relevant boxes.)

**TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)**

**TRADE RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)**

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

**TRADE RELATED ADJUSTMENT (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)**

Additional information where Aid for Trade is having a measurable impact::

Research suggests that Aid-for-Trade activities are supporting increased trade capacity and flows, reducing trade costs, and enhancing economic diversification. However, greater effort is required globally to ensure such support is resulting in inclusive and sustainable outcomes. Australia's Aid-for-Trade activities are diverse and respond to the priority needs of partner countries. Based on our experience, we have seen success in programs that have a combination of the following elements: - the investment is prioritised by partner countries and based on evidence; - there is strong local ownership and buy-in; - activities complement partner country policies and programs, which reinforce positive outcomes and address other related constraints; - program design and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) integrate an inclusive approach from the beginning; - effective partner country and donor dialogue and coordination; and - robust and mutually agreed approach to MEL. Building productivity is a core part of Australia's Aid-for-Trade, and our inclusive, development focused, public-private partnerships are delivering considerable impact in this regard. For example, the Market Development Facility (MDF), a multi-country initiative designed to stimulate the private sector in strategic economic areas, is achieving significant outcomes. The MDF aims to achieve sustainable economic growth with a

focus on moving people out of poverty and adapting to climate change. In its second phase, the MDF is supporting investments across a range of sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, tourism, services, ICT and finance. Link: <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/> The MDF uses economic and market analysis to identify how markets can work better to create economic opportunity for poor people and women in particular. The Facility then negotiates partnerships with strategically-positioned private and public sector organisations to identify and grow profitable and scalable commercial opportunities. Each partnership comprises a tailor-made package of activities that enables the partner to innovate, invest, or undertake reforms. Examples of key program results for 2022 include:

- 444,510 (women accounting for 43 per cent of total beneficiaries) were positively impacted through the generation of USD 159 million in additional income and USD 205 million of additional revenue for businesses through exports, and creation of 449 new jobs in 2022, of which 221 were filled by women;
- for every dollar invested by MDF, the private sector invested 2.5 dollars. As of December 2022, MDF had generated a cumulative USD 25 million in private sector investment, a 3.6 per cent year-on-year increase.

Examples of MDF country level results in PNG, Fiji and Timor-Leste are outlined below.

**PNG:** MDF's support to expand cocoa processing led to a 250 per cent increase in the export value of cocoa mass and powder to Australia and New Zealand. MDF worked with four coffee exporters to de-risk the establishment of revolving funds for their supply chains, helping to overcome the lack of trust between market players. These funds enabled exporters to on-lend to their aggregators, increasing the volume of certified coffee procured during the season. The exporters were able to turn the funds over between 2 and 6.9 times and source an additional 5,426 bags of specialty coffee green beans from their supply chains, supporting over 2000 farmers.

**Fiji:** MDF support resulted in growth of exports in fresh and chilled agricultural products, from AUD 69 million to AUD 86 million in 2020, surpassing sugar exports for the first time. This growth was due mainly to a small but growing volume of high-quality niche agricultural commodities, including certified ginger products, fresh turmeric, and kava. In the Outsourcing Services sector, the OS market system contributed AUD 2,098,163 in additional income (70 per cent of the increase in MDF Fiji's additional income results) and AUD 6,131,851 to value-added market transactions (72 per cent of the increase in additional market transactions for MDF Fiji). This also led to increased government budgetary support to the industry with prioritised efforts to attract further foreign direct investment.

**Timor-Leste:** Through MDF support, coffee processors have invested more than AUD 165,000 in improving coffee quality, generating additional

market transactions of over AUD 6 million as of the end of 2022. MDF's interventions have generated an additional AUD 10 million worth of exports, which is close to 7 per cent of the total coffee value exports in Timor-Leste over 2017–2021. MDF interventions have benefitted 7,788 farmers and created an additional 127 permanent and seasonal jobs, generating an additional income of over AUD 1.2 million for farmers and employees. Additional information can be found in the Market Development Facility 2022 Annual Report. Link: <https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/2022-annual-report/>

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## Q32

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme that you would like to highlight as an example of best practice?

Yes,

Additional information on Aid-for-Trade projects or programmes that you would like to highlight as examples of best practice::

Australia highlights three programs: Pacific Trade Invest, Australia; the Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program; and the South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program. Pacific Trade Invest (PTI), Australia The PTI Network is the Pacific region's lead trade and investment promotion agency, tasked by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders to facilitate trade and investment deals between the economies of the 16 Forum Member countries of the Blue Pacific and the rest of the world. As the Australian office of the Network, PTI Australia supports businesses of the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, to strengthen connections in the Australian market. PTI Australia exists to "improve the livelihoods of Pacific people by enabling decent work and economic growth in the Blue Pacific." In 2022, PTI facilitated a record breaking AUD 49.5 million in exports from the Pacific through its capacity building, market research, freight relief assistance, and trade promotion activities. Nine hundred and seventeen businesses were supported, including 259 that were women-led. The Pacific has been one of the regions most adversely affected by COVID-19. It has also experienced numerous natural disasters in recent years. PTI support has been critical in areas such as tourism, digital trade, short-term labour mobility, key export products (e.g. kava, bilum, coffee, vanilla, natural beauty products), and investment, all of which have helped to promote economic recovery and resilience, and supported local jobs, sustainability and women's economic empowerment. Link: <https://pacifictradeinvest.com/en/about-us/pti-australia/> Trade Finance Australia partners with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to deliver the Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TFSCP). This program focuses on closing the global trade finance gap by improving access to trade and supply chain finance in 21 developing countries across Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. It does so by facilitating more transactions and changing perceptions of risks, through a combination of transactions (guarantees and loans) and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The program's focus is on closing market gaps for trade finance to support economic growth, jobs, and development that come from trade. It also has a mandate to make global trade and supply chains green, resilient, inclusive, transparent, and socially responsible. The program has won several international trade and finance awards. Australia's investment has supported TFSCP's expansion across Asia and the Pacific with new

TFSCP's expansion across Asia and the Pacific with new banks added for the first time. Australian funds have also supported TFSCP's Gender Initiative, Sustainability Initiative, and Transparency & Anti-Money Laundering Initiative. Since 2009, the TSCFP has supported USD 57 billion in trade across 45,510 transactions (60 per cent SME-related). In 2022 alone, TFSCP supported USD 7.7 billion worth of transactions with USD 5.2 billion provided in co-financing and 6,307 SME transactions supported, including most recently in food security, agriculture, and medical supplies. Link: <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/trade-supply-chain-finance-program>

Women's economic empowerment, trade, and integration The South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program (SARTFP) supports economic growth and women's economic empowerment through trade, integration and connectivity, primarily along the Eastern Corridor of South Asia (comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal - BBIN). This is one of the least integrated regions in the world, facing significant trade costs. It has some of the most marginalised communities in the region and the lowest indicators for women's economic empowerment. Although trade between the BBIN countries grew six-fold between 2005 and 2019, the untapped potential remains massive, with Bangladesh missing out on access to an estimated 93 per cent of sub-regional trade, India on 50 per cent, and Nepal on 76 per cent. With a focus on MSMEs, SARTFP funds analysis and technical assistance to improve cross-border trade and enhance activities of women-owned enterprises. The program fosters inclusive development of roads, rail, and inland waterway infrastructure that connects local communities to regional markets. SARTFP is considered pioneering in its approach. It has led the way in supporting the uptake, and deepening the application, of a gender lens to largely gender-blind issues, such as trade facilitation, trade-related infrastructure, connectivity and entrepreneurship. There is evidence that the gender focus of SARTFP is providing resources that do not exist elsewhere for innovators and early adopters to demonstrate how gender equality can be integrated into all projects. For example, the SARTFP-supported World Bank gender platform has helped to inform and deepen approaches to gender inclusion in World Bank operations across South Asia. Through SARTFP, women's co-operatives were empowered to source cardamom from local farmers to produce spice and cardamom-based fibres. Rather than limiting their role to traditional harvesting of cardamom, the women produced value-added spice and fibre products, which were of higher value. This allowed them to move up the supply chain and be involved in production and marketing. It allowed them to earn more than a daily wage and helped expand trade. SARTFP has also influenced government policies and programs in the region to integrate the needs of women, for example in major



infrastructure projects. SARTFP's Regional Integration of Western Bangladesh activity provided critical inputs to the design of the World Bank's Western Economic Corridor and Regional Enhancement (WeCARE) Program, which is upgrading 260km of roads to improve connectivity between Western Bangladesh and Eastern India. The program is expected to benefit over 20 million people. SARTFP's vulnerability assessments are helping Bangladeshi decision makers to understand the implications of establishing this corridor, and ongoing gender assessments and action plans are intended to promote women's economic empowerment, voice, and agency in the context of transport and logistics interventions. Other SARTFP studies are assessing human trafficking risks at the Indo-Bangladesh border and informing better road safety design, including through a safe demonstration corridor. SARTFP has supported the development of a market prioritisation methodology that incorporates women's trading and transportation needs. It will be applied to the WeCARE program to inform the selection of roads and markets. In addition, as a result of the mainstreaming of gender, the program design and implementation includes gender assessments based on primary data collection (targeted household surveys, intercept surveys along roads and at markets, surveys of farmers), secondary data, and action plans. The action plans focus on women as transport users, transport's role in strengthening women's economic empowerment, and mitigating negative impacts that enhanced transportation can have on women and girls (e.g. human trafficking). As at 2022, SARTFP gender analysis influenced the design of 24 World Bank Investments (totaling USD 5.94 billion). It has also influenced other donor programs and approaches. Links:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/south-asia-regional-integration/brief/south-asia-regional-trade-facilitation-program>

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P169880>

**Q33**

Do you foresee a continued need to provide Aid-for-Trade financing ?

**Yes, to address all development priorities linked to trade**

,  
Additional information on whether you foresee a continuing need to provide for Aid-for-Trade financing::

Australia expects there will be an ongoing need for Aid-for-Trade financing for the foreseeable future, especially to support LDCs. Numerous challenges remain, especially regarding inclusive trade outcomes and access to and adoption of new technologies in the context of trade.

There is also a need for more holistic consideration of the linkages between trade, environment, and climate change, and related actions to accelerate climate change adaptation and mitigation. Given the ongoing needs, more consideration globally should be given to better leveraging additional resources, including through public-private cooperation and partnerships, linking up with climate financing, and enhanced cooperation and coordination to maximise available resources.

**Q34**

If yes, please identify the categories of Aid-for-Trade support in which you foresee future needs. (Please select relevant boxes.)

**TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)**

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**TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)**

,

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

,

**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 support in which you foresee future needs::

In Australia's experience, the Aid-for-Trade needs and priorities of partner countries continue to evolve – as they should to address contemporary needs and challenges. Australia therefore remains committed to having an agile, adaptable, effective, and demand-driven development assistance program. For example, through regional integration initiatives in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia we support our partners through activities that promote trade facilitation, digitisation and digital trade, connectivity, economic corridors, and regional approaches. This support helps our partners to address these contemporary trade and development challenges, encourages inclusive trade, and enhances opportunities for regional and global economic integration.

**Q35****Yes**

Do you foresee future need for Aid for Trade to support the achievement of trade-related aspects of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda ?Explanatory notes: For example, the Government of Canada works with partners and stakeholders to advance the 2030 Agenda through concrete actions on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Page 31: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q36**

If yes, please indicate which SDGs are referenced in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy. (Please select relevant boxes.)

**GOAL 1: No Poverty,****GOAL 2: Zero Hunger,****GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being,****GOAL 4: Quality Education,****GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation,****GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy,****GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth,****GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure,****GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality,****GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities,****GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production,****GOAL 13: Climate Action,****GOAL 14: Life Below Water,****GOAL 15: Life on Land,****GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions,****GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal,****GOAL 5: Gender Equality,**

Additional information on SDGs referenced in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy::

In its International Development Policy published in August 2023, Australia reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the globally agreed framework for international development. Australia's three-tier set of performance indicators under this policy are aligned with the SDGs.

## Page 32: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q37**

Do you foresee future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support the trade-related aspects of climate change ?

**Yes,**

Additional information on whether you anticipate future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support trade-related aspects of climate change::

Australia's International Development Policy emphasises the vital role of official development assistance in addressing climate change. Climate action is a key objective of the policy, which highlights that climate change is "the greatest shared threat to all countries". The policy commits Australia to strengthening climate resilience across the development program by: • considering climate risk in our development partnership plans; • aligning our bilateral programs with partners' Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans; and • ensuring that from financial year 2024-25, at least half of all new country and regional investments valued over AUD 3 million will have a climate change objective – rising to 80 per cent in financial year 2028–29. Australia has also strengthened its previous AUD 2 billion climate finance commitment and expects to deliver AUD 3 billion in climate finance over the period 2020 to 2025. The Australian Government has also committed to increasing official development assistance to the Indo-Pacific by AUD 1.7 billion in new spending over 5 years, and to long-term growth of the development program, which will include Aid-for-Trade. Australia will also step up its work with the private sector and explore new forms of development finance to achieve impact at scale in the Indo-Pacific region, and to support the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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