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**Q1**

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

OTHER (please specify):

**International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)**, on behalf of Islamic Development Bank's (IsDB) Group

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**Q2**

About you

Name	<b>Lassaad Ben Hassine</b>
Position	<b>Senior Expert / Trade Development</b>
Ministry/Institution	<b>International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)</b>
Email Address	<b>lbenhassine@itfc-idb.org</b>
Phone Number	<b>00966559110707</b>

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

## 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):

Since its establishment in 1975, the Islamic Development Bank's (IsDB) has promotion and enhancement of intra-trade and trade cooperation among Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member Countries (MCs) as one of the main objectives in order to support economic development and integration of its 57 Member Countries (MCs). This pursuit led to the recent establishment of an autonomous international trade finance and development entity within IsDB Group in 2008 in order to effectively deal with trade and to supplement the efforts in this regard of the IsDB Group. This specialized entity is called: The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC). The ITFC delivers these objectives through two parallel lines of approach: trade finance operations and trade development. It supports economic development of its 57 MCs through promoting and enhancing intra-trade and trade cooperation among OIC MCs. In this regard, it should be noted, that the IsDB 10 Year Strategy 2016-2025 has as a strategic objective promoting connectivity and as a pillar cooperation among member countries. The IsDB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy/Policy relies on four Pillars: (i) enhancing cross-border connectivity; (ii) improving investment climate and trade competitiveness; (iii) mainstreaming trade and Islamic finance; and (iv) facilitating cooperation to provide Regional Public Goods (RPGs). In addition to ITFC & IsDB, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), member of the IsDB Group, where trade development is not at in center core mandate, the Board-approved 3 year business plan of the organization includes several financing, investment and technical assistance programs that directly and indirectly contributes to aid for trade priorities. For example, ICD envisions to finance infrastructure projects (such as ports, transportation, energy etc.) to foster the private sector development, which also helps in reducing the trade costs. Similarly, ICD organizes investment forums/events to connect the private sector entities in different member countries. Along with ITFC and ICD, the mission of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (member of IsDB Group), is to increase trade and investment security between MCs and the world through Shari'ah-compliant risk mitigation tools. Its vision is to be recognized as the preferred enabler of trade and investment for sustainable economic development in MCs. Supporting trade is part and parcel of the ICIEC development strategy. ICIEC assigns a sizeable portion of its yearly Business Insured target in the Annual Business Plan to reinforce the trade and export in ICIEC Member States. ICIEC supports trade and investment flows in the



**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	<b>1</b>
Connecting to value chains	<b>2</b>
E-commerce	<b>3</b>
Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy	<b>4</b>
MSMEs growth and development	<b>5</b>

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

- Since 2005, the Aid for Trade (Aft) initiative has taken off in most of the world's developing regions, with a phenomenal increase in aid for trade flows, technical assistance and capacity support, as reported by OECD. However, the Arab region (22 states) has remained largely on the sidelines. Nonetheless, these countries share the same challenges as many developing countries from other regions in the world.

- To address this situation, ITFC, on behalf of the IsDB Group, has offered its full support to prepare and launch the Aid for Trade Program in the Arab Region, where the level of the intra-Arab trade is the lowest in the world. The 1st Phase of the Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States (AfTIAS) Program was designed and implemented between 2014 and 2018 by implementing 28 projects in 19 Arab countries.

- At the end of this phase in 2018, ITFC has commissioned an independent evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the program and to draw lessons learned from its implementation. In this context, the last AfTIAS Board meeting held in January 2019, expressed its satisfaction on the outcomes of the Program's evaluation and welcomed also the decision of the Arab Economic Summit held in Beirut (20/01/2019), calling upon ITFC to prepare the 2nd Phase of AfTIAS in cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS) and all the Arab countries (22).

- Based on this decision, the design for AfTIAS 2.0 Program was undertaken from July 2019 to February 2020 and then updated in March 2020 to take into account the new requirements arising from the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the economies of the region.

- AfTIAS 2.0 is designed as a five-year program. It was launched officially on 26 October 2022. Its development objective is to "enhance the environment for international trade in the Arab region by making it more efficient and inclusive, thereby creating opportunities for employment and contributing to sustainable development".

- More specifically, AfTIAS 2.0 Program aims at (1) increasing intra-regional trade through the removal of market access barriers, (2) increasing the role of Arab states in global value chains, and (3) ensuring that the benefits of trade are shared more inclusively across all population groups, including, in particular, vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, and others. In this regard, it is also important to highlight that ICIEC's strategy is aligned with the IsDB Group 10 years strategy. One of the core pillars of the IsDB is to contribute to greater connectivity among its Mcs. ICIEC has a major contribution in increasing intra-regional trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) for its member countries.

WEBLINKS: - IsDB 10 Year Strategy  
<https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020->

[10/IsDB%20Policy%20Compendium%20English.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-10/RCI_Strategy_LR_Bookmarked.pdf) - The Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy  
[https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-10/RCI\\_Strategy\\_LR\\_Bookmarked.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/IsDB_RCI_Policy.pdf) - The Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy/Policy  
[https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/IsDB\\_RCI\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/Women%26%23039%3Bs%20Empowerment%20Policy_0.pdf) - The Women's Empowerment Policy -  
[https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/Women%26%23039%3Bs%20Empowerment%20Policy\\_0.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/Women%26%23039%3Bs%20Empowerment%20Policy_0.pdf) - The Youth Development Strategy -  
<https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/The%20IsDB%20Youth%20Development%20Strategy.pdf> - The OIC 10 year Action Plan <https://www.oic-oci.org/upload/documents/POA/en/The%20OIC%20-2025%20POA%20Implementation%20Plan%202016-2025%20%28E%29.pdf>

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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).: In another development, the ICIEC is considering that the challenges and hardships unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic have made access to concessional finance through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) even more important for member countries. In this regard, ICIEC has played a major role in soliciting trade and attracting foreign investments to its member countries to support and develop the healthcare, transport, and renewable energy sectors. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with flooding, has caused a serious supply chain disturbance and economic distress in many OIC Member Countries, especially those ranked as low income or least developed countries (LIC/LDC). The ICIEC ISFD Covid-19 Emergency Response Initiative (ICERI) has eased the financial burden on transactions for selective Member Countries by structuring a concessional all-in pricing mechanism, including up to USD 400 million in grant funding from ISFD to support trade flows to import-dependent Member Countries.

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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).

**2030 Sustainable Development Goals,**

**Economic and trade impact of COVID-19 pandemic,**

**Continental or regional policy instruments (e.g. AfCFTA)**

,

**E-commerce development (and digital transformation)**

,

**MSMEs growth and development objectives,**

Additional information on the top 5 drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities since 2019, including in relation to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on your economy.:

The ICIEC since the start of the pandemic galvanized efforts at the regional and international level to combat Covid19. At the organization level, ICIEC contributed USD 770 million in insurance coverage towards the implementation of the IsDB Group's US\$2.3 billion Covid mitigation Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP), guided by the 3 Rs (Respond, Restore, Restart) ethos. ICIEC and IsDB jointly also launched the US\$2 billion COVID-19 Guarantee Facility (CGF), which is specifically aimed at supporting the private sector, in particular, COVID hit industries in member countries and to attract cross-border investments. It has also created a fast-track approach to handle COVID-19 related transactions. In addition, ICIEC put more focus on the health sector followed by food and energy.

Q7

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

**More,**

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

- To be relevant in consideration of the massive impacts which COVID-19 has in the Arab region, the AfTIAS 2.0 Program, indicated above, will consider how it can support the Arab region's response to the pandemic. Although as a trade development program it has inherent limitations in responding to the crisis, it can play an important role especially in the medium- (the "Recover" stage in the IsDB's Response Strategy) and long-term (the "Restart" stage) response to the crisis. - Although AfTIAS 2.0 can have little impact on the current phase of the pandemic, this Programme Document shows how AfTIAS 2.0 will support the recovery phase once the critical current phase of the pandemic has abated. The design of AfTIAS 2.0 as a program under which specific interventions will be designed and implemented in the five different program facilities (indicated above) provides the flexibility to swiftly respond to changing requirements. This is helpful in the current state where specific plans cannot be developed simply because not information is available to prepare an evidence based response for Recover and Restart interventions. - In the Program design, AfTIAS 2.0's contribution to a comprehensive response in particular to the economic medium- and long-term effects are framed in a horizontal manner. Each and every facility of the programme will be used as an element in the COVID-19 response strategy. In addition to AfTIAS Program, it is also worth mentioning that ICD remains dedicated to promoting the private sector in our MCs and continue to build the productive capacity and improve the infrastructure, which directly and indirectly contribute to aid for trade objectives. For ICIEC, the challenges and hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have made access to finance more critical for member countries. Restoring international trade and investment to its pre-COVID levels is essential to ICIEC. For IsDB , the launching meeting of the Regional Cooperation Integration (RCI) Strategy had involved many partners including, Regional Cooperation Organizations, UN Organizations, MDBs and OIC institutions. We extended our network of partners to include key regional players leading strategic regional initiatives



**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.:

The launching meeting of IsDB's RCI Strategy had involved many partners including, Regional Cooperation Organizations, UN Organizations, MDBs and OIC institutions. We extended our network of partners to include key regional players leading strategic regional initiatives.

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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):

COVID 19: Strategic Preparedness and Response Package (SPRP): In 2020, the IsDB Group acted swiftly to launch a 'Strategic Preparedness and Response Package (SPRP) to support MCs to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Response Package of US\$4.6 billion adopts a holistic approach focusing on short, medium, and long-term needs. The Response Package is designed under the "3Rs" Framework: "Respond, Restore, and Restart" Tracks. 1) Respond Track (R1) provided immediate support by focusing on strengthening health systems and dealing with emergency needs; building capacity in production of testing kits and vaccines; and building Pandemic Preparedness Capacity. 2) Restore Track (R2) focuses on medium-term actions through financing trade and SMEs, to sustain activity in core strategic value chains, and ensure continuity of the necessary supplies, mainly to health and food sectors and other essential commodities. 3) Restart Track (R3) will deliver long-term support to build resilient economies on solid foundations and catalyze private investment by supporting economic recovery and growth. ITFC, as part of the IsDB Group 3Rs Response Initiative, rapidly allocated in 2020, US\$300 million in emergency financing in the first phase of its intervention, to mitigate the socio-economic obstacles faced by OIC MCs. However, due to the severity of the crisis, it was observed that the needs of the MCs extended beyond just medical supplies to include food and other essential commodities. To this end, the intervention was scaled up with a total allocation of US\$604.7 million under the R1 (Respond) initiative, which included both new and repurposed facilities to fund the purchase of medical supplies, food items and other essential commodities. Furthermore, as part of its Recovery Response Initiative, ITFC has allocated an additional US\$550 million to support strategic sectors over the next two years, as part of the IsDB Group US\$2.3 billion 3Rs (Respond, Restore, Restart) Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP) for COVID-19 pandemic. As of 01 October 2021, under R2 (Restore) initiative, ITFC has allocated US\$557 million to regional and local banks and financial institutions for the recovery of SMEs and the private sector clients from the negative impact of the pandemic, as well as for the purchase of vaccine. In 2020, the ICD decided to allocate \$250 Million resources to help its MCs in their fight against COVID19, which will be directed towards the following activities: 1) Line of Finance: To provide line of finance to eligible Financial Institutions with the aim of supporting the private sector businesses affected by COVID-19 pandemic. 2) Term Financing /Infrastructure: To provide financing for

eligible healthcare, energy and agribusiness sector projects 3) Equity Investment and Collaboration with/through ICD investee companies & other financial institutions in ICD network: ICD has developed a plan to support its investee companies as well as other eligible financial institutions . As regard to ICIEC, it contributed USD 770 million in insurance coverage towards the implementation of the IsDB Group's US\$2.3 billion Covid mitigation Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP), guided by the 3 Rs (Respond, Restore, Restart) ethos. ICIEC and IsDB jointly also launched the US\$2 billion COVID-19 Guarantee Facility (CGF), which is specifically aimed at supporting the private sector, in particular, COVID hit industries in member countries and to attract cross-border investments. It has also created a fast-track approach to handle COVID-19 related transactions. In addition, ICIEC put more focus on the health sector followed by food and energy.

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**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**

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**Building productive capacity,**

**Digital connectivity and transformation,**

**E-commerce,**

**Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy**

,

**Job creation,**

**Industrial sector support,**

**MSME support,**

**Poverty reduction objectives,**

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

**Trade in health products (PPE, vaccines, etc.),**

**Trade facilitation,**

**Trade finance,**

**Women's economic empowerment and gender equality**

,

**Youth economic empowerment,**

Additional information on your strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic.:

ICIEC's response to the pandemic has been guided by the IsDB Group's "3 R's": Respond, Restore, Restart. It is ICIEC's goal to provide the necessary support for our member countries as a transition from R1 into R2 and R3, ensuring that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) region emerges from this pandemic stronger and more sustainable than ever before. A number of strategic projects have already been supported through ICERI Program. So far, USD 276 million worth of trade transactions has been supported by the ICERI program in the food and other essential commodities sectors. ICIEC has insured a number of telecom equipment transactions in our member countries (e.g. Indonesia and Uzbekistan) which supports digital connectivity.

**Q11**

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

- 1) IsDB 10 Year Strategy <https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-10/IsDB%20Policy%20Compendium%20English.pdf>
- 2) The Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy [https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-10/RCI\\_Strategy\\_LR\\_Bookmarked.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-10/RCI_Strategy_LR_Bookmarked.pdf)
- 3) The Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy/Policy [https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/IsDB\\_RCI\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/IsDB_RCI_Policy.pdf)
- 4) The Women's Empowerment Policy
- 5) [https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/Women%26%23039%3Bs%20Empowerment%20Policy\\_0.pdf](https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/Women%26%23039%3Bs%20Empowerment%20Policy_0.pdf)
- 6) The Youth Development Strategy
- 7) <https://www.isdb.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2020-02/The%20IsDB%20Youth%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>
- 8) The OIC 10 Year Action Plan <https://www.oic-oci.org/upload/documents/POA/en/The%20OIC%20-2025%20POA%20Implementation%20Plan%202016-2025%20%28E%29.pdf>
- 9) <https://iciec.isdb.org>
- 10) <https://www.isdb.org>

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**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):

In its recently updated Development Effectiveness Policy, ICD is committed to carrying out its operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. In assessing the Environmental and Social Impact dimension, DED pays special attention to the SDGs of "SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy", "SDG 13 Climate Action", "SDG 1 No Poverty", "SDG 4 Quality Education", and "SDG 5 Gender Equality". ICIEC is committed to assisting each Member Country in its development goals. An essential part of this assistance is to help mitigate and adapt to climate change's threats for its Member Countries. ICIEC understands that failure to mitigate and adapt to the effects of a warming planet and increasingly extreme weather patterns could undermine gains made to alleviate poverty, improve health, promote education, and boost prosperity across the Member Countries.

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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,**
- Trade development strategy, policy or plan,**
- Export development strategy, policy or plan,**
- Environmentally sustainable economy strategy (or green growth), policy or plan**
- ’**
- Sustainable trade strategy, policy or plan,**
- Strategy, policy or plan for COVID-19 recovery,**
- Other (please specify),**

Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) in which sustainable development is reflected.:

- Development Effectiveness Policy

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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).

- Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7),**
- Sustainable Production and Consumption (SDG 12),**
- Climate Action (SDG 13)**

**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).:

The strategic framework of ITFC in the coming years will focus on several objectives including building partnerships to create sustainable development impact through providing integrated trade finance and trade development solutions to Member Countries. Furthermore, as an active player on the global front, ITFC remains committed to efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs. ITFC will continuously make efforts to develop customized Shariah compliant trade solutions programs, facilitate knowledge & experience transfer between Member Countries, diversify ITFC’s trade finance, and support OIC trade development and cooperation initiatives. Finally, ITFC is pleased to note the confidence reposed by the Member Countries and its development partners in the attainment of its vision and mission. For ICIEC, it supports the growth of exports from MCs by providing risk mitigation instruments that Increase Intra-OIC trade through ICIEC Intervention and facilitate exports and increase the capacity of national ECAs.

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**Q16****Yes**

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

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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.:

The AfTIAS 2.0 Program (indicated above), which was designed by ITFC, on behalf of the IsDB Group, was initiated based on an extensive consultation process, between July 2019 & April 2020, through several meetings including all the Ministries of Trade of the Arab Countries. These Ministries have designated AfTIAS Focal to express their countries needs and priorities.

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**Q18****Yes**

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

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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,****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.:

- Infrastructure - SMEs

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**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,****Mining,****Industry,****Services,**

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

- Infrastructure - SMEs

**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**

,

**Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,****Existing transport infrastructure,****Gender inequality,****High trade costs,****Lack of data to support decision-making,****Lack of political will,****Limited agricultural processing capacity,****Other (please specify),**

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).:

- MSMEs

**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,****Business climate,****Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services**

,

**Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,****Existing transport infrastructure,****Gender inequality,****Lack of political will,****Limited economic and export diversification,****Low productivity of agricultural sector**



**Q23**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information on your circular economy strategy, policy, plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: ITFC conducted a strategy review in Q2 2020. The results indicated that the ITFC Corporate Strategy remains sound, however adjustments to the business model are required to take advantage of opportunities in the 'new-normal' market. Through prudent strategic planning, ITFC has been able to pursue an innovative direction with a five-year medium-term Strategy 2.0 plan to address the growth opportunities stemming from the COVID19 associated crisis. The following five strategic vectors have been prioritized as part of the plan to enhance the ITFC 10-year strategic direction and ITFC business model: 1. Sovereign Market Strategy 2. Diversification Strategy 3. New Profit Formula Strategy 4. Funding Strategy 5. Enhanced Organizational Capacity Strategy

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**Q24**

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

**Agriculture,  
Mining,  
Industry,  
Services**

**Q25**

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

**Yes**

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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.: IsDB Group is supporting enterprise innovation and technological readiness to encourage the introduction of new digital technologies to reconfigure existing manufacturing processes of MCs firms to allow them to become effective and competitive players in nationally important value chains. ICIEC is monitoring closely all digitalization activities that would have a positive impact on trade and investments. ICIEC is also exploring how it can benefit from blockchain technology to develop its operations and connectivity with clients all over the world.

**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).:

For E-commerce, ITFC is collaborating with international organization (UNCTAD), to improved, in 1st step, the national readiness to engage in e-commerce and enhance capacity to formulate supportive public policies. These interventions are focusing on 7 key policy areas of particular relevance to e-commerce development: 1) E-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation 2) ICT infrastructure and services 3) Trade logistics and trade facilitation 4) Payment solutions 5) Legal and regulatory frameworks 6) E-commerce skills development 7) Access to financing In this regard, it worth mentioning that ICIEC provides supports to the Digital Connectivity in Member Countries as it is among the key priority sectors that helped Member Countries carry their economic activities online during COVID-related lock-down periods.

**Q28**

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

**Agriculture,**

**Industry,**

**Services,**

**Other (please specify),**

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).:

- MSMEs - Financial Innovation

**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,**

**Real-time navigation,**

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

Digitisation and taxation: For example, the Arab states have concerns about the impact on their tax regimes of digital commerce which can impact upon both their direct and indirect taxation systems. It is clear that global international income tax rules are not 'fit for purpose' in the modern digital global economy. AfTIAS 2.0 Program, will utilise the Research & Surveys Facility to extend the knowledge base on the taxing rights on income generated from cross-border activities and how this should be allocated among countries and on the fundamental aspects of the international tax system ("profit allocation" and "nexus" rules).

**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,**

Additional information on the impact of the pandemic on the uptake of the digital economy.:

The lack of reliable internet has been especially challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic with the need for populations to conduct everyday activities online. ICIEC has insured a number of telecom equipment transactions in member countries (e.g. Indonesia and Uzbekistan) which supports digital connectivity. The project are supporting the government's effort to accelerate internet and telecommunication infrastructure development within the country. ICIEC's intervention contributes multiple benefits to citizens of the Member Country, including reducing inequalities with regard to internet access and, in turn, increasing access to digital education and remote employment opportunities.

**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,**
- Trade facilitation and logistics issues,**

Additional information on the areas where the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed shortcomings in relation to digital connectivity. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

1-ICT infrastructure and services Affordable and reliable ICT infrastructure is of paramount importance to e-commerce. In particular, universal coverage of high-speed broadband, regular upgrading of infrastructures and reduced artificial regulatory barriers should be pursued. 2- Trade logistics and trade facilitation An effective and competitive national and international trade environment is vital for achieving effective e-commerce. Effective trade logistics and cross-border facilitation measures are key for the fulfillment of goods-related e-commerce.

Page 25: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

**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,**
- Mining,**
- Industry,**
- Services**

**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 facilitation,**

**Regional trade agreements (RTAs),**

**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)**

,

**(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).

**Afghanistan,**  
**Albania,**  
**Algeria,**  
**Bangladesh,**  
**Benin,**  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina,**  
**Burkina Faso,**  
**Chad,**  
**Comoros,**  
**Côte d'Ivoire,**  
**Djibouti,**  
**Egypt,**  
**Ethiopia,**  
**Gabon,**  
**Ghana,**  
**Guinea,**  
**Guinea-Bissau,**  
**Guyana,**  
**Indonesia,**  
**Iran,**  
**Iraq,**  
**Jordan,**  
**Kyrgyz Republic,**  
**Lebanon,**  
**Liberia,**  
**Malaysia,**  
**Mali,**  
**Mauritania,**  
**Morocco,**  
**Mozambique,**  
**Niger,**  
**Nigeria,**  
**Pakistan,**  
**Somalia,**  
**Suriname,**  
**Syrian Arab Republic,**  
**Tajikistan,**  
**The Gambia,**  
**Togo,**

**Tunisia,**  
**Turkey,**  
**Turkmenistan,**  
**Uganda,**  
**West Bank and Gaza Strip,**  
**Yemen,**

Additional information on the partners to which you provide Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

ICIEC serves 47 Member Countries spanning from Suriname in Latin America to Indonesia in East Asia. Since its inception in 1994, ICIEC has been committed to supporting the development of its Member Countries. As the official export credit and investment insurance arm of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDBG), ICIEC has strived to reduce the risk of doing business for prospective trade partners, businesses and investors looking to expand into its Member Countries. ICIEC brings the exports of its Member Countries to the world and brings leading international companies to its Member Countries by having an unparalleled understanding of the risks of doing business in them.

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**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).

**Algeria,**  
**Egypt,**  
**Indonesia,**  
**Lybia,**  
**Kuwait,**  
**Turkey,**  
**Tunisia,**  
**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,**  
**Qatar,**  
**United Arab Emirates**

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**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?

Respondent skipped this question

**Q38****Yes**

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?

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**Q39****Yes**

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

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**Q40****Respondent skipped this question**

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

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Page 29: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**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 IsDB Group has made significant advancements to mainstream women's empowerment and development in all of its operations and have committed to giving targeted support to address the specific needs of women and girls within the Bank's Strategic Preparedness Response Program to alleviate the impact from COVID-19 in its Member Countries. Moreover, the Bank will further advance its ability to address the needs of women in its Member Countries through the implementation of its Women's Empowerment Policy and Action Plan. The Bank through its Women's Empowerment Policy and Action Plan invests in facilitating women's and girls' access to services and resources in high impact sectors, with a focus on supporting the conditions necessary for women-owned and women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, women entrepreneurs, farmers, traders and those in the informal sector.

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Page 30: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



**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).

**Export strategy, policy or plan,**  
**Gender equality strategy, policy or plan,**  
**Trade development strategy, policy or plan,**  
**Trade development strategy,**  
**Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan**

**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**

Page 31: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Q44**

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

**Yes**

**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,**  
**Difficult working conditions,**  
**Discriminatory practices,**  
**High trade barriers,**  
**Lack of access to digital services,**  
**Informal employment,**  
**Smaller sized business**

**Q46**

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

**Yes**

Page 32: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Q47**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information on whether you have requested Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment in 2015-2020, including reasons as to why or why not.:

The IsDB has partnered with the ITFC and the the International Trade Centre (ITC) for the implementation of "She Trades" initiatives in Egypt and Morocco to increase the participation of women-owned SMEs in export-oriented value chains by enhancing their competitiveness and their capacity to penetrate both local and regional markets, thereby increasing their resources and income to sustain and grow their businesses. Moreover, recognizing the role that SMEs play in fragile settings and the fact that local firms are essential in times of fragility, the Bank is also working with its private sector arm the International Cooperation for Development (ICD) to provide the needed assistance to SMEs in fragile situations through matching grant and capacity building activities which include a 25% target for women owned SMEs in Yemen, under its flagship Program known as BRAVE (Business Resilience Assistance for Value added Enterprises). This is further strengthened with the WeFi funding to focus only on women-owned and led enterprises in fragile situations, namely Yemen, Burkina Faso and Nigeria BRAVE Women, which is currently under implementation.

Page 33: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**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 **07 projects**

Duration in years (1, 2 or more than 3) **03 years**

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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,**

**Increasing women's participation in services sectors,**

**Facilitating access to trade finance,**

**Supporting women's entrepreneurship,**

**Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export**

**Q50** **Yes**

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

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**Q51** **Yes**

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

---

**Q52** **Yes**

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

---

**Q53** **Yes**

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

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Page 35: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Q54** **Yes**

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies?

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**Q55** **Difficulty obtaining proof of identification necessary to access internet services**

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

**'**

**High cost of device (e.g., mobile phone),**

**High usage costs,**

**Inadequate network infrastructure,**

**Poor IT literacy and/or skills**

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Page 36: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**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,****Industry,****Services,**

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

It is mandatory to mainstream women's empowerment and a gender equality perspective in Aid for Trade Programs, also to mandate increased gender-disaggregated data collection and increased trade and gender research (understanding what a "gender lens" is in trade, including on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women. It is also worth comprehending and highlighting women's unpaid care and domestic work; therefore, strengthening women's economic rights provides an essential framework for achieving economic growth.

**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).

**(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)**

,

**(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)**

,

**(f) Other trade related needs**

**Q58**

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

Respondent skipped this question

Page 37: END OF SURVEY

**Q59**

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

Respondent skipped this question