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Page 5: ABOUT YOU

**Q1**

**UNITED KINGDOM**

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

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**Q2**

About you

Name	<b>Kathleen Divers</b>
Position	<b>Trade and Development, UK Mission to UN &amp; WTO</b>
Ministry/Institution	<b>United Kingdom, Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office</b>
Email Address	<b>kathleen.divers@fcdo.gov.uk</b>
Phone Number	<b>+44 9 3505 4151</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):

The UK's upcoming International Development Strategy (which will be launched in Spring 2022) will include a specific Trade for Development and Aid for Trade set of objectives. Aid for Trade programmes help break down barriers to trade internationally and allow developing countries to properly harness the market access we provide through our EPAs and preferences scheme. The forthcoming International Development Strategy will be consolidating this programming offer through our new UK Trade Expertise, which will be a more streamlined, One HMG offer to provide tailored-demand-led technical assistance to developing countries. The International Development Strategy will make the case for continued UK development leadership and set out the links between development and deliver on the priorities of the Integrated Review.

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**Q4**

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

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Building productive capacity  | <b>4</b> |
| Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy   | <b>3</b> |
| Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation  | <b>1</b> |
| Women's economic empowerment (please specify in the box below: rural women, women-owned businesses, women-led businesses, female workers, etc.) | <b>2</b> |
| WTO accession   | <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.

**As previously mentioned, the UK's International Development Strategy will be launched in Spring 2022. The UK will circulate this Strategy with the membership once published.**

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**Q5**

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

**No,**

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Our key Aid-for-Trade priority has always been to ensure developing and least developed countries are able to participate and benefit from the multilateral trading system. This has not changed since 2019. Whilst some programmes and initiatives have not been able to progress due to ODA reductions made due to pressure caused by COVID, we have maintained a strong commitment to various Aid-for-Trade programmes, as well as an advocate for AFT policy. Whilst this has not changed since 2019, there have been some budgetary pressures (due to COVID health response being prioritised) which have impacted the availability of ODA for AFT at the WTO.

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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).

**Respondent skipped this question**

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**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.: Our key Aid-for-Trade priority has always been to ensure developing and least developed countries are able to participate and benefit from the multilateral trading system. This has not changed since 2019. Whilst some programmes and initiatives have not been able to progress due to ODA reductions made due to pressure caused by COVID, we have maintained a strong commitment to various Aid-for-Trade programmes, as well as an advocate for AFT policy. That being said, the world's development needs are changing: despite important progress, the SDGs are off track and C19 has set back progress. The drivers of poverty – fragility, conflict and climate change - are more complex, increasingly interconnected and pose a challenge to the UK's long-term security, prosperity and resilience. The UK must adapt to these changes with a more forward thinking and geostrategic offer that brings to bear all of our international strengths (in security, diplomacy, defence, trade and science and tech) and focuses on where we can have the greatest long-term development impact.

**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.:

Yes, we have communicated this with our partners. For example, through the departmental merger which saw our development and foreign affairs departments merged, we discussed this with our partners and outlined the benefits. The creation of the FCDO presents a unique opportunity to leverage the full strength of our development and diplomatic expertise and our global network in support of our development and wider international objectives.

**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).:

Our International Development Strategy, which will be launched in the Spring, will focus on recovering from COVID; which is the new prism of international work. As above, the world's development needs are changing: despite important progress, the SDGs are off track and C19 has set back progress. The drivers of poverty – fragility, conflict and climate change - are more complex, increasingly interconnected and pose a challenge to the UK's long-term security, prosperity and resilience.

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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).

**Digital connectivity and transformation,**

**E-commerce,**

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

,

**MSME support,**

**Poverty reduction objectives,**

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

,

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

STANDARDS: Reduce non-tariff barriers and supporting developing countries to use and meet standards and regulatory measures. This includes capacity building for customs systems to reduce red tape, time, and increase transparency for honest and reliable systems; and capacity building for developing countries to meet regulatory standards for goods and services trade.

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**Q11**

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

The UK's International Development Strategy will be launched in Spring 2022, which will be extremely relevant for our Aid-for-Trade activities. Other relevant documents include our Integrated Review: Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>) as well as a recent speech given by our Secretary of State at Chatham House regarding the UK building a 'network of liberty' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretary-liz-truss-building-the-network-of-liberty>).

Also relevant to our Aid for Trade activities is the launch of British Investment International (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-revamps-british-development-finance-institution-to-deliver-jobs-and-clean-growth>). BII will prioritise sustainable infrastructure investment to provide a clean, honest and reliable financing and avoid low and middle income countries being left with bad and unsustainable debt. It builds on the Prime Minister's commitments at COP26 to help developing countries take advantage of clean technology and grow their economies sustainably, with the BII delivering billions in climate financing for projects like solar power, sustainable transport and disaster-resilient infrastructure over the next 5 years.

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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):

As per the information provided, the UK has a number of sustainable development objectives across several facets of our foreign and development policy. The launch of British Investment International (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-revamps-british-development-finance-institution-to-deliver-jobs-and-clean-growth>) will prioritise sustainable infrastructure investment to provide a clean, honest and reliable financing and avoid low and middle income countries being left with bad and unsustainable debt. It builds on the Prime Minister's commitments at COP26 to help developing countries take advantage of clean technology and grow their economies sustainably, with the BII delivering billions in climate financing for projects like solar power, sustainable transport and disaster-resilient infrastructure over the next 5 years. The environmental dimension is also reflected in our foreign and development policy through our commitments to B3W (Build Back Better World). The forthcoming Digital Development Strategy will outline how FCDO's priorities for 'doing development in a digital world' will accelerate partner countries' progress towards their social and economic development goals by implementing digital transformation in an inclusive, responsible and sustainable way, while also forming a key lever of the UK's integrated approach to addressing global opportunities and challenges. The way the FCDO administers development programmes is also improving and will also reflect the sustainable development dimension. In collaboration with DIT and HMRC, the Trade Centre of Excellence (COE) will provide a more rounded and streamlined offer on trade expertise, to aid poverty reduction and bring benefits to UK businesses and consumers. Expertise will focus on tackling trade-related challenges and strengthening the capability of developing countries to trade with the UK and participate effectively in the wider multilateral trading system. For partner countries, this will support economic growth, support their ability to move out of a dependency on aid and assist poverty reduction. UK businesses and consumers will benefit through more resilient and quality supply chains, new business to business linkages, and a wider range of sustainable and competitively priced goods.

**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**

,

**Environmentally sustainable growth strategy, policy or plan**

,

**Sustainable trade strategy, policy or plan,**

**Strategy, policy or plan for COVID-19 recovery,**

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

As before, please see Integrated Review (link already provided).

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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),**

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

The UK's Integrated Review of Foreign, Development and Defence Policy ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/975077/Global\\_Britain\\_in\\_a\\_Competitive\\_Age\\_the\\_Integrated\\_Review\\_of\\_Security\\_Defence\\_Development\\_and\\_Foreign\\_Policy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/975077/Global_Britain_in_a_Competitive_Age_the_Integrated_Review_of_Security_Defence_Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf)) explicitly mentions SDG 7, 12 and 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).:

Yes; our Integrated Review has specific Trade objectives. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/975077/Global\\_Britain\\_in\\_a\\_Competitive\\_Age\\_the\\_Integrated\\_Review\\_of\\_Security\\_Defence\\_Development\\_and\\_Foreign\\_Policy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/975077/Global_Britain_in_a_Competitive_Age_the_Integrated_Review_of_Security_Defence_Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf)

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**Q16**

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

**Yes,**

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

As well as our Integrated Review, the forthcoming International Development Strategy notes our ambition in harnessing UK capital markets to deliver transparent, responsible and environmentally sound capital investment into low and middle income nations, working alongside partner countries and the private sector to deliver development finance at scale, creating new opportunities at home whilst helping economies to avoid unsustainable debt.

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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 UK Government has representation in country in most developing countries, with one of the largest overseas diplomatic networks in the world. Through this network, we engage with Ministries of Trade on all subject matters, including sustainable development. Moreover, We have several specific Trade for Development Policy Advisors across the world in different regions such as Fiji, Pakistan, Kenya, Ghana and the Caribbean.

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**Q18**

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

**Unsure**

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**Q19**

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

**Agriculture,**

**Fisheries,**

**Industry,**

**Services**



**Q20**

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

**Agriculture,**  
**Fisheries,**  
**Industry,**  
**Services**

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**Q21**

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

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

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**Q22**

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

- Access to finance,**
- Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services**
- ,
- Developing countries' political challenges (e.g., security and stability)**
- ,
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Gender inequality,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Lack of human resource capability,**
- Limited economic and export diversification,**
- Low productive capacity in manufacturing,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,**
- Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment**

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**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).: Our Integrated Review of Defence, Development & Diplomacy includes a specific circular economy objective: To promote green trade as part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss. The UK will remain at the centre of WTO discussions on trade and the environment, exploring opportunities to liberalise environmental goods and services, mitigate carbon emissions, set standards and make progress towards a circular economy. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>)

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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).

- Industry,**
- Services**

**Q25**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information on the trade objectives included in the circular economy strategy policy, or plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:

As above, To promote green trade as part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss. The UK will remain at the centre of WTO discussions on trade and the environment, exploring opportunities to liberalise environmental goods and services, mitigate carbon emissions, set standards and make progress towards a circular economy.

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**Q26**

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

**Yes,**

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

Digital connectivity is indeed mentioned in our Integrated Review and forthcoming International Development Strategy. We acknowledge that progress must be made in this area first before unlocking other potential.

**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).:

We do not have a specific strategy for this, but rather every programme has a digital/ connectivity objective. Much like gender, where we mainstream women's economic empowerment through all programmes and not one specific programme. All programme teams must make take a view of the digital impact of their programme and monitor this throughout implementation. In addition to this, several programmes across FCDO are specifically aimed at increasing digital connectivity (through improved infrastructure) and supporting e-commerce platforms for those in developing and least developed countries.

**Q28**

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

**Agriculture,**

**Fisheries,**

**Industry,**

**Services**

**Q29**

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

- Digital contents,**
- E-civil service,**
- E-commerce,**
- E-government,**
- E-healthcare,**
- E-learning,**
- E-logistics,**
- Home energy management systems,**
- Innovation and technology for gender equality,**
- Smart energy grids,**
- Smart work,**
- Telepresence,**
- Transport information systems**

**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?

**Yes,**  
Additional information on Aid-for-Trade projects for digital connectivity towards sustainable development, environmentally sustainable growth or circular economy that you want to showcase as an example of best practice. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):  
The FCDO's Growth Gateway is a single access point for businesses to the UK government's offer on trade, finance, and investment. The Growth Gateway is a business support service that brings together what the UK government offers for trade, finance, and investment between the UK and African countries.  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/growth-gateway-supporting-two-way-trade-and-investment-between-the-uk-and-africa/growth-gateway-uk-government-support-for-businesses-trading-and-investing-between-uk-and-african-markets>)

**Q31**

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

**Yes**

**Q32**

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

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

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**Q33**

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

- Agriculture,**
- Fisheries,**
- 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 policy and administrative management,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Trade education/training,

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

,

(d) Building productive capacity,

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

,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Fishing,

Travel and tourism

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**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).

Unsure

**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).

Unsure

**Q37**

Respondent skipped this question

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?

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**Q38**

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

**Yes,**

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

Whilst we do not have any specific programmes currently that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development and that also support progress on gender equality, all of our programmes cover different aspects of these. We currently have projects in early stages of development which will look to tackle these issues in a more coordinated way. For example our forthcoming Standards Partnership programme (launch TBC), which will include a green trade element to the redesign of this programme, which may include solutions to navigate environmental regulations and improving partner countries' abilities to measure emissions in production chains in order to be able to export to more regulated markets.

**Q39****No**

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

**Q40**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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).: Gender equality and women's economic empowerment is absolutely integral to our forthcoming International Development Strategy. The UK has long been a champion for women's economic empowerment, indeed gender is mainstreamed throughout our programme approval process. Our new International Development Strategy will set out how we intend to Practice Multidisciplinary Change for more sustainable and inclusive outcomes: integrating environmental, political and social outcomes into our approach for building markets and trade to ensure changes are more robust, resilient and durable. For example, setting standards for clean and green technologies that accelerate development outcomes or building gender analysis into the core of our approach to investment.

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**Q42**

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

**Other (please specify),**

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

Women's economic empowerment & gender equality is explicitly mentioned in the UK's Integrated Review of Development, Diplomacy and Defence, which outlines our ambition "to promote gender equality, working with women's rights organisations to tackle the discrimination, violence and inequality that hold women back. We will use our aid spending and diplomacy to pursue the goal of getting 40 million more girls into school in low- and middle-income countries by 2025, starting with the Global Partnership for Education summit in 2021. We will also promote women's economic empowerment at the WTO, G7, OECD, the UN and World Bank, and in free trade agreements (FTAs)." The Integrated Review has directly informed the forthcoming International Development Strategy, where our commitment to women's economic empowerment will be reiterated.

**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**



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**Q44**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information on the data on women's economic empowerment that your government/institution collects.

(Please include weblinks as applicable):

The UK funds SheTrades Outlook, which is the first tool of its kind to make trade possible for women by promoting a more inclusive policy ecosystem. It provides comprehensive data and analysis on trade and women's economic empowerment, and shares experiences from around the world.

**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,**

**Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements**

,

**Exclusion from male-dominated distribution networks**

,

**Gender pay gap,**

**Harassment, security and safety issues,**

**High trade barriers,**

**Lack of access to digital services,**

**Lack of access to redress options,**

**Informal employment,**

**Occupational segregation,**

**Poor access to information,**

**Poor access to professional bodies (e.g., chambers of commerce)**

,

**Restricted access to markets,**

**Seasonal employment,**

**Time and mobility constraints,**

**Unpaid care and domestic work,**

**Unpaid employment**

**Q46**

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

**Yes**

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**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 UK's SheTrades Commonwealth programme supported economic growth and job creation in Commonwealth countries through the increased participation of women-owned businesses (WOBs) in trade with a specific focus on Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. It provided a lifeline to WOBS impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, delivering training in crisis management, resilience and digital delivery and leveraging local Business Support Organisations (BSOs) to ensure WOBS were supported. Our current commitment to SheTrades Outlook encourages global evidence-based policy making by mapping the current trade policy and domestic business environments, identifying gaps and recommending high impact policy measures to support women entrepreneurs in developing and developed countries. Women's Economic Empowerment remains a key priority for FCDO and DIT. By training and mentoring WOBS, improving their local support network by working with BSOs and the private sector and building a more inclusive policy environment through the SheTrades Outlook tool, SheTrades Commonwealth aims to increase the long-term participation of women in trade and create a sustainable trading environment

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**Q48**

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

Number of total projects implemented in the period 2015-2020

**14**

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

**Between 3 and 7 years.**

Percentage of projects that included women's economic empowerment as their sole/main objective (please include the % sign in your response)

**Approx 15%**

Percentage of projects that also included other objectives (please specify which in the box below and include the % sign in your response)

**Approx 85%**

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

**All our other programmes have a gender element, for example our Trade Facilitation support programme, which funded the WEF's Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. The Global Alliance's tool, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) through a gender lens, provides development practitioners and implementors with an in-depth analysis of the TFA Section I Articles from a gender perspective. It shows how the TFA, regardless of its supposed gender-blind drafting, provides an opportunity to tackle gendered barriers to international trade.**

Page 34: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Q49**

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

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

**Q50**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information on the public-private partnerships used to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment. Please include reasons as to why or why not. Kindly provide a list of your private sector partners, the number of projects run, and the sectors concerned. You may also describe each project and their impacts in no more than 300 words per project. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: As has been outlined already, the UK funded the WEF's GATF between 2016 and 2020: which is a public-private partnership for Trade Facilitation. The GATF launched their "The TFA through a gender lens" guide. Women traders are often at a disadvantage to meet the high cost and time demands of complex trading requirements. Gender-based discrimination may also discourage women from trading internationally or make trade more costly.

**Q51**

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

Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment, including the reasons as to why or why not.:

Aid for Trade absolutely helps mobilise funds for women's economic empowerment. From the UK's perspective, all AFT funds must have at least a gender consideration, which means even if they are not entirely focused on women's economic empowerment (which some are), they must at least complement women's economic empowerment activities. For example, our Trade Advocacy Fund programme, which as part of it's many activities, helps developing countries to include gender equality and social inclusion in their trade policy strategy and demonstrating that linking trade with gender equality and social inclusion is necessary in order to revive the legitimacy of a rules-based multilateral trade system that contributes to development and the well-being of societies.

**Q52**

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

**Yes****Q53**

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

**Yes**

**Q54**

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies?

**Yes,**

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

Over the past decade the world has become increasingly interconnected, with access to digital technologies like mobile phones and the Internet an integral part of daily life and our default way of communicating, learning, and doing business. However, almost half of the global population (3.7 billion, ITU 2020) still does not have access to the Internet, including 93% of households in the least developed countries. Despite rapid economic growth, also emerging markets still display significant digital divides - a symptom of persistent inequalities that remain a major barrier to poverty reduction. Vulnerable and excluded groups are especially affected: the gender digital divide is still significant, with women 15% less likely than men to access mobile internet in LMICs (GSMA 2021). The UK's forthcoming Digital Development Strategy will outline how FCDO's priorities for 'doing development in a digital world' will accelerate partner countries' progress towards their social and economic development goals by implementing digital transformation in an inclusive, responsible and sustainable way, while also forming a key lever of the UK's integrated approach to addressing global opportunities and challenges.

**Q55**

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

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

,

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

**High usage costs,**

**Inadequate network infrastructure,**

**Lack of access to public facilities where the internet is available**

,

**Lack of awareness of opportunities offered by digital technologies**

,

**Limited internet connectivity**

**Q56**

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

**Agriculture,**  
**Fisheries,**  
**Industry,**  
**Services**

**Q57**

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

**Trade policy and administrative management,**  
**Trade facilitation,**  
**Regional trade agreements (RTAs),**  
**Multilateral trade negotiations,**  
**Trade education/training,**  
**(b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)**  
 ,  
**(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)**  
 ,  
**Business and other services,**  
**Banking and financial services,**  
**Building productive capacity,**  
**Agriculture,**  
**Fishing,**  
**Travel and tourism,**  
**(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)**  
 ,  
**(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.

Increased trade can be a tremendous force for providing new opportunities for women. Women-owned businesses that export are on average more than 3.5 times more productive than those that do not. However, improving women's access to the benefits of trade remains a global challenge. In 2018 the UK committed to intending 'to establish a fully gender-responsive trade policy'. This is something we are still striving towards, aided by the tools we have such as the analysis from SheTrades Outlook and our engagement with the Informal Working Group of Trade and Gender.

There is more to be done on how Aid for Trade can advance women's economic empowerment. Part of the work of the Informal Working Group's workplan is to apply a gender lens to WTO agreements; this will be vital to ensuring women's economic empowerment can be realised at the WTO; and essential to inform how we as donors should formulate our AFT packages. For example, analysis might inform us that there is more to be done with regards to trade agreements to address those barriers to trade faced by all but which may be disproportionately experienced by women, for example women-owned SMEs.

The importance of gender-disaggregated data is also as critical as ever. The impact of gender mainstreaming on women and trade will only become apparent over time. To know if we're achieving our goals, we must be able to monitor them.

Continued investment in AFT and women's economic empowerment will also be vital, but we must go beyond what we have done before. This means being more innovative and coordinated as we look to enable women to benefit equitably from the opportunities of trade, whether as workers, business-owners or entrepreneurs.

The UK stands ready to engage with the AFT initiative and the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender to support and promote the efforts to promote womens economic empowerment.

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**Q59**

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

FCDO, DIT & HMRC.

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