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Q1

PAKISTAN

Respondent (Country or Customs Territory)

Q2

About you

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

Q3

Does your national 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 national development strategy, policy or plan (or other trade-related policy document).: Aid for Trade has been prioritized in several trade and plans in Pakistan: • E-commerce policy 2019 • Small and Medium Enterprises Policy 2021 • Compliance of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement • Agricultural reforms and Research and Development in Agriculture • WTO Compliance in general

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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).

Connecting to value chains	5
E-commerce	1
Export diversification	2
Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy	4
Women's economic empowerment (please specify in the box below: rural women, women-owned businesses, women-led businesses, female workers, etc.)	3

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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).:

- Integration into the global value chains
- Skills development

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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).

Environmental sustainability (or green) growth, including circular economy

Digital or ICT-related strategy, policy or plan,

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.:

Due to the pandemic, class gap in the country has seen an adverse shift with economic gaps widening. This has shrunk the purchasing power of the large segment of the society which eventually has a debilitating effect on productions as well. State intends to revitalize the MSME sector in parallel with digital and ICT capacities to encourage self-sufficiency at micro economic levels.

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Q7

Has Aid for Trade become more or less important to your government since 2019?

More,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important to your government than in the past.:
Owing to the budgetary constraints induced by the Covid19 pandemic, the fiscal space of the State has considerably contracted. Hence, Pakistan would welcome substantial Aid-for-Trade

Q8

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

Yes

Q9

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

Yes,

Additional information on the specific national strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Plan for post Covid19 pandemic recovery is available at the following link: <https://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Final-STPF-2020-25-1.pdf>

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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

,

Building productive capacity,

Digital connectivity and transformation,

E-commerce,

Job creation,

MSME support,

Poverty reduction objectives,

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

Trade facilitation,

Trade policy modernization and upgrading,

Youth economic empowerment

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Q11

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

11th Five-year plan as approved by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives:

<https://www.pc.gov.pk/web/yearplan>

Annual Plan for year 2021-22 of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives:

<https://www.pc.gov.pk/web/annualplan>

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Q12

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

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable):
Some policies reflecting the environmental dimension of sustainable development are: • Alternate Renewable Energy Policy – 2019 • Electric Vehicle Policy – 2020

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Q13

National development strategy, policy or plan

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

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Q14

Does your national 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),

Climate Action (SDG 13)

Q15

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

Yes

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Q16

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

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change has embarked on determining the 'Nationally Determined Contributions' which aims at understanding and quantifying the sectors (inclusive of trade) that affect the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

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Q17

Does your government have a national committee (or has coordination or dialogues across ministries and agencies) on sustainable development that includes the Ministry of Trade?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Ministry of Trade is represented in your national committee on sustainable development.: A specific wing within the Pakistan's prime planning Ministry (Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives) is dedicated for SDGs focused activities. It is headed by Chief (SDG) and regularly holds inter-ministerial meetings in which Ministry of Commerce is also represented for matters that concern trade.

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Q18

If yes, does that national committee address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes

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Q19

Please identify 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? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Fisheries,

Mining

Q20

Please identify the sector(s) of your economy that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development. (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Industry,

Services

Q21

In your view, what challenges constitute the main obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Social pressures (poverty, population growth)

Q22

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

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

,

High trade costs,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

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

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Q23

No

Do you have a circular economy strategy, policy, plan?

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Q24

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q25

Respondent skipped this question

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

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Q26

Is digital connectivity reflected as a priority in your national sustainable development strategy(ies), policy(ies), or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how digital connectivity is reflected in your national sustainable development strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s).:

E-commerce policy of Pakistan 2019

[https://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/e-](https://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/e-commerce_policy_of_Pakistan_Web.pdf)

[Commerce_Policy_of_Pakistan_Web.pdf](https://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/e-commerce_policy_of_Pakistan_Web.pdf)

Q27

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

Yes,

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

E-commerce policy of Pakistan 2019

Q28

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

Agriculture,

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).:

Weather forecasting is shared with farmers on their cellular devices. Market and price information are also provided using same channel.

https://pitb.gov.pk/kissan_card

Q29

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

E-civil service,**E-commerce,****E-government,****E-healthcare,****E-learning,****E-logistics,****Smart energy grids,****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 Digital Youth Summit 2019 under the World Bank in KPK province drew around 10,000 youth in the conference and had companies like Facebook and civil society groups such as 'Media Matters for Democracy' and the 'Digital Rights Foundation' in attendance. It has pivoted Pakistan's digital industry to KPK province.

Q31

Yes

Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your country ?

Q32

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

Digital payments issues,
Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity
 ,
Insufficient or uneven internet coverage,
Poor digital skills and IT literacy,
Trade facilitation and logistics issues

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Q33

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

Agriculture,
Industry,
Services,
Other (please specify),
 Additional information on the sectors in which you think future Aid-for-Trade support should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives.:
 - Logistics and infrastructure -Green technologies

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),
Multilateral trade negotiations

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Q35

Which donor(s) are the most important for Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development in your country? (You may tick more than 1 box).

European Union,
 Germany,
 Japan,
 United Kingdom,
 United States,
 Asian Development Bank (AsDB),
 Climate Investment Funds (CIF),
 EU Institutions,
 Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO),
 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB),
 International Trade Centre (ITC),
 World Bank,
 World Trade Organization (WTO)

Q36

Which South-South partner(s) are the most important source of Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Respondent skipped this question

Q37

Have you received Aid-for-Trade financing as part of triangular co-operation projects?

No

Q38

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

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Q39

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

Unsure

Q40

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

Yes,

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

ITC GRASP Project

Q41

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

The government's vision of 'Clean and green' development requires shift from linear model of industry to circular model. Pakistan needs technical and financial aid in making this transition.

Additionally, inclusion of all genders and class strata in domestic (regulated and formal) trade is an area where aid is also required.

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Q42

Is women's economic empowerment included as an objective in any of your national strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is included as an objective in your national policy documents.:

- e-commerce policy envisions empowerment of women in this newly evolving trade dimension.
- The Benazir Income Support Program in Pakistan (BISP) is a dynamic national socio-economic registry/ database which identifies the least empowered women in the society (beneficiaries of the program) and engages in conditional and unconditional cash transfers for their economic empowerment. Same database is used for programs like of Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship, Ehsaas Nashonoma Program (Nutrition Program under Life Cycle Approach), Waseela Taleem Program (Education for the beneficiaries). Women beneficiaries are chosen after nation-wide survey and collection of data against a 67 question questionnaire on which PMT (Proxy Means Test) is run to objectively identify beneficiaries all over the country.

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Q43

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).:

Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF- 2021) has Gender Mainstreaming as a specific goal
<https://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Final-STPF-2020-25-1.pdf>

Q44

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

Yes,

Additional information on how the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identify seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation. (Please include weblinks as applicable).: Legal steps have been taken to ensure non- discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation: • Formation of Woman Ombudsman • Workplace Harassment Act • Protection of Women Against Violence Act

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Q45

Does your government collect 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 collects. (Please include weblinks as applicable).: • Benazir Income Support Program through the National Socio- Economic Registry • National Council for Social Welfare

Q46

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

Difficulties accessing financial services,
Difficult working conditions,
Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements
 ,
Harassment, security and safety issues,
Lack of access to digital services,
Informal employment,
Poor access to information,
Unpaid care and domestic work

Q47

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

Yes

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Q48

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

Yes

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Q49

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, please provide further information on the donors, South-South or triangular cooperation partners that have supported your Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment.

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Q50

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).

Capacity-strengthening initiatives,
Increasing women's participation in services sectors,
Facilitating access to digital technologies and e-commerce platforms
 ,
Facilitating women's traders' inclusion in Global Value Chains (GVC)

Q51

Have public-private partnerships been used 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).:
 • GRASP • World bank (BISP) • World Bank (Ehsaas Program)

Q52

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

Yes**Q53**

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

Yes**Q54**

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

Yes,
 Additional information on how the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment you receive aligns with your trade priorities and objectives.:
 Alignment with trade priorities and objectives is proven by incorporation of gender balances and empowerment in national plans such as STPF, e-commerce policy, SME policy among others.

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Q55

Yes

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies in your country?

Q56

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

High cost of device (e.g., mobile phone),
Inadequate network infrastructure,
Lack of awareness of opportunities offered by digital technologies
 ,
Limited internet connectivity,
Poor IT literacy and/or skills

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Q57

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,
Other (please specify),
 Additional information on the sectors in which future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed.:
 • e-commerce • digital services leading to freelancing • skill development

Q58

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,
Trade education/training,
Business and other services,
Agriculture,
Fishing

Q59

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

Aid for Trade can work as a catalyst for policies development. Pakistan has over the recent years developed policy provisions (in legal, economic, political realms) to allow for a better inclusion of gender and economic empowerment.

The Government is cognizant of the fact that gender needs to be understood in its non-binary sense and the current and forthcoming policies will remain sensitive to this fact.

Aid for Trade is viewed as a variable that has immense significance in integrating women within the current market structure and also opening them (especially young women) to newer segments of economy (such as e-commerce etc.) where the gains can be more and result in better social upward mobility for the impoverished gender(s).

Pakistan believes that this will result in a better political empowerment, access to information, economic inclusion and access to justice.

Aid for Trade can fill-in for the technical or knowledge shortfalls a developing country may have in realizing true economic potential of the women population in the country.

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Q60

Respondent skipped this question

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