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Q1

Country location of Regional Economic Community or Transport Corridor

WEAMU

(Headquartered in Burkina Faso)

Q2

About you

Name	WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
Position	REGIONAL INTEGRATION ORGANIZATION
Organization	SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
Email Address	commission@uemoa.int
Phone Number	226 25 31 88 73/74/75/76

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Q3

Does your regional or transport corridor 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):

In a context marked by a triple challenge, economic, security and health, the WAEMU Commission has adopted a Framework of Priority Actions for the period 2021-2025 (CAP 2025) which sets structuring priorities, strategic objectives and concrete results to be achieved by 2025, both with regard to the missions assigned by the amended Treaty, the orientations of the high authorities of WAEMU and in the light of the current or emerging issues and challenges facing the Commission and the Member States of the Union. The key actions retained in the CAP 2025, in connection (direct or indirect) with trade are: • the establishment of the regime of free practice within WAEMU; • promoting trade; • strengthening the operational capacities of the structures for implementing competition rules; • the development of efficient transport and transit infrastructure; • the promotion of multimodal transport; • support for secure border management in the WAEMU area; • contribution to the establishment of industrial competitiveness clusters; • the development of energy poles; • the development of the digital services offer; • promotion of sustainable agriculture; • strengthening the resilience of populations in the face of hazards and climate change; • promotion of cross-border cooperation; • the operationalization of the mechanism for the promotion of cultural and creative enterprises and industries; • the establishment of an intervention mechanism for the prevention and management of epidemics within the WAEMU space; • the establishment of a stabilization fund within the Union; • the production and promotion of regional statistics;

Q4

If yes, please indicate 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 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)

E-commerce	4
Export diversification	5
Regional integration	1
Trade facilitation	2
Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port)	3
Additional information and weblink(s) to the relevant strategy(ies), polic(ies) or plan(s) in which your Aid-for-Trade priorities are included.	www.uemoa.int

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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).: The new priority area from the 2019 responses is export diversification. This will include, among other things, the development of export development strategies and the promotion of local or originating products.

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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).

Continental or regional policy instruments (e.g. AfCFTA)	1
E-commerce development (and digital transformation)	1
Industrialization objectives	1
New regional development or integration strategy, policy or plan	1
Poverty reduction objectives	1

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Q7

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

Yes,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important to your institution than in the past.:
Aid for Trade has become more important because it makes it possible to support several categories of financing, in this case: - the promotion of exports and local products; - the development of regional value chains; - e-commerce and dematerialization; - the promotion of intra-community trade; - capacity building in policy and regulation (Including: training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, assistance to national stakeholders to articulate trade interests and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements, adaptation to rules and standards and compliance with them); - public health and public procurement; - Intellectual Property Rights relating to Trade; - the renegotiation of tariff concessions. - trade in services - commercial policy and administrative management; - trade facilitation; - regional trade agreements (RTA); - multilateral trade negotiations; - education/training in the field of commerce; - transport and storage infrastructure; - energy production and supply infrastructure; - the development of trade; - the services of business support; - strengthening production capacity; - agriculture; - industry; - trade-related adjustment (In particular: helping developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that enable them to take advantage of trade liberalisation); - additional information on the category(ies) of Aid for Trade funding in which your region or transport corridor is receiving support for economic diversification ; - support for the development of SOUTH-SOUTH cooperation - capacity building for the consideration of cross-cutting themes such as gender, youth, climate change in programs and activities

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.:

All the areas of prioritization of aid for trade specified are taken into account in the development of the Union's programmes, namely: - the program for the construction of the common market and free movement in particular through between other trade promotion activities, competition, free movement, customs union and cooperation frameworks with technical and financial partners; - the Human Development Program; - the energy, mining and hydrocarbons development programme; - the industry and crafts programme; - the digital economy development program; - the program of convergence of economic policies; - the transport program; - the community land use planning program ; - the environment program; All the areas of prioritization of aid for trade specified are taken into account in the mechanisms for consultation and cooperation with technical and financial partners, in this case round tables, bilateral meetings, requests, etc. The Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025), which is a reference framework for the implementation of these programs, was presented on November 25, 2021 to all development partners in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

Q9

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

Yes,

Additional information on the specific regional strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

Within the WAEMU area, the economic growth rate in 2020 stood at 1.9%, after 5.7% in 2019. This slowdown in growth is explained by the negative impact of the health crisis on all sectors of the economy and the persistence of the security crisis. It comes after a period of sustained economic growth within the Union, which averaged 6.6% from 2015 to 2019. For 2021, the economic growth rate within the Union is projected at 5.7%, assuming in particular a global economic recovery and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. All sectors of activity would contribute to this development. In this context, the revival of national economies badly affected by the Covid-19 health crisis, compatible with the requirements of the Union's Convergence, Stability, Growth and Solidarity Pact which was suspended on April 27, 2020 by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Union, remains one of the main economic challenges identified in the Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025) which is the instrument for planning and steering the interventions of the Commission over the period 2021-2025. The implementation of CAP 2025 should contribute to meeting this challenge of economic recovery, in particular by: - strengthening the resilience of Member States' economies against exogenous shocks; - mobilization of financial resources to preserve debt sustainability; - the diversification of economies to strengthen the creation of wealth; - the restructuring of the private sector faced with many challenges (the high cost of factors of production and credit; difficulties in accessing financing; low labor productivity and the lack of qualified manpower; business environment unfavorable to the creation and development of businesses; non-availability and poor quality of energy; weak structuring of the community private sector; low quality of products placed on the market); - continued promotion of sustainable industrialization; - making use of the potentialities of the Member States in terms of culture. Furthermore, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) first took urgent measures to limit its spread, and then developed response and economic recovery plans. Financial support measures for economic recovery concern, in particular: (i) the strengthening of funds already available for SMEs; (ii) the establishment of new support funds for formal enterprises and informal; (iii) easing the conditions for access to public procurement; (iv) the systematization of payments to SMEs of start-up advances for public contracts; (v) extension of maturities; (vi) support and support for agricultural production; (vii) support for consumption

agricultural production; (vii) support for consumption, production and safeguarding employment; (viii) price control to contain inflation; (ix) support for businesses through subsidies and/or deferrals of tax deadlines, or the adoption of more flexible payment methods for certain taxes and duties. Community institutions in particular, the UEMOA Commission, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the UEMOA Commission, the Regional Savings Council Public and Financial Markets (CREPMF) and the Regional Consular Chamber (CCR) have variously contributed to the implementation of these national plans. With regard to the WAEMU Commission, in addition to its contribution of CFAF 15 billion to the BOAD interest rate subsidy, it has made available to Member States the sum of CFAF 10 billion. This aid has enabled the acquisition of masks for healthcare personnel and the general public as well as the granting of financial support of 500 million FCFA to each Member State. In addition, to allow the consultation of the actors of the Member States as regards the reopening of the borders, the Commission organized a meeting of the Ministers of Transport on May 28, 2020. At the end of the meeting, on the basis of a protocol relating under the conditions for reopening the borders of the Member States proposed by the Commission, the air borders are, since August 1, 2020, all open again. Finally, with regard to strengthening the capacities of health systems for the management of epidemics, the Commission has drawn up a regional plan for the prevention and response to epidemics over the period 2021-2025, with a focus on prevention and response to cross-border health risks. This plan, awaiting validation by the various stakeholders, is estimated at 105 billion. Regarding the BCEAO, it has taken a series of measures to fight, alongside the Member States, against the spread of the pandemic and limit its negative effects on the economies of the area. These measures impact banks, companies, States as well as users of digital means of payment. In addition, to strengthen the access of companies in the Union to bank loans, the BCEAO has agreed with the BOAD, the establishment of a system allowing banks to obtain medium-term resource in return for loans granted to companies affected by the crisis. Furthermore, the BCEAO and the Agence UMOA-Titres have taken steps to support member states in mobilizing low-cost financial resources on the regional financial market. The States were thus able to issue Treasury bonds called "Bons-Covid" which made it possible to raise resources for a total amount of 2,790.5 billion. For the banks, the measures taken consisted of increasing the Central Bank's liquidity supply at low cost. In this sense, the minimum rate of submission to liquidity injection operations has increased from 2.50% to 2.00% and the rate of the marginal lending window has been reduced from 4.50% to 4.00%, from June 24, 2020. This measure

had the impact of a sharp increase in the volume of refinancing to hedge the deterioration of bank cash and an easing of rates on the money market. Indeed, the total outstanding amount of refinancing granted to banks increased by 1,429.1 billion, from 4,488.9 billion at March 17, 2020 to 5,918 billion at the end of December 2020, i.e. an increase of 31.8%. The BCEAO also participated with the WAEMU Commission in the bonus fund of the West African Development Bank (BOAD) to the tune of 25 billion and 15 billion, respectively, i.e. a total of 40 billion, in order to allow the to grant 120 billion in concessional loans to States (15 billion per State). As for BOAD, it granted 120 billion in concessional loans (duration of 18 years including 05 deferred with an exit rate of 2.75% and a bonus of 2.80%) disbursed immediately, i.e. 15 billion per State. These loans are subsidized thanks to a contribution from the subsidy mechanism of an amount of 40 billion (25 billion for the BCEAO and 15 billion for the WAEMU Commission). In addition, BOAD granted Member States concessional loans for an amount of 80 billion (duration of 10 years including 03 deferred with an exit rate of 2.80% and a bonus of 2.80%) fully disbursed at end of December 2020. In addition to the measures taken to support the States following the health crisis, to consolidate its support for the private sector, BOAD has defined a program of 100 billion lines of refinancing, approved by its Board of Directors during its session of June 24, 2020, for the benefit of commercial banks. Finally, the CREPMF has put in place a new framework for the issuance of Public Securities by syndication which establishes the registration of issuance programs and reduces the time required to carry out the issuances. operations. This framework has enabled States to increase the level of resources raised on the market in 2020 to 1,745 billion, i.e. more than 25% compared to the volume of sovereign borrowings in previous years. In addition, the Board revised the conditions for registering bond issues through private placement, which contributed to improving the attractiveness of the private sector for bond financing, by allowing the increase in the volume raised by companies. The CREPMF has published a guide on green, social and sustainable type bond issues in line with international standards, in particular the standards of the ICMA (International Capital Markets Association) aimed at providing a rapid response to the financing needs of the public and private sectors, through diversified investment products (Infrastructure bonds , pandemic leaps), and impacting the social progress of populations. (CAP 2025 and WAEMU June 2021 Multilateral Surveillance Report). (www.uemoa.int).

Q10

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

Agricultural sector, food production and supply chain support

,

Building productive capacity,

Digital connectivity and transformation,

E-commerce,

Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy

,

Job creation ,

Industrial sector support,

MSME support,

Poverty reduction objectives,

Preparedness, recovery and resilience,

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

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

Trade facilitation ,

Trade finance,

Trade policy, modernization and upgrading,

Women's economic empowerment and gender equality

,

Youth economic empowerment,

Other (please specify) ,

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

The others do Main areas covered are: - the dematerialization of customs procedures and formalities related to foreign trade; - the promotion of exports in general and the promotion of local products in particular.

Q11

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

The names of guidance documents related to Aid for Trade are:

- Framework of Priority Actions of the WAEMU Commission 2021-2025;
- Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO);
- West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP);
- Corridor Development Master Plan for the Growth Ring in West Africa (CACAO);
- Community program for the construction of Juxtaposed Checkpoints (PCJ) at the borders between WAEMU Member States
- Common Market and Free Movement Program;
- Economic convergence (multilateral surveillance, Economic statistics, harmonization of the legislations of the Member States);
- Common market promotion policies (Customs Union, movement of goods and services, people, right of establishment, trade and competition);
- Social and Cultural Development Policies (higher education, scientific research; vocational training; culture, arts and leisure; gender and development, health);
- Community Spatial Planning Policy;
- Transport policy (transport infrastructure and transport and transit services);
- Telecommunications and ICT policy;
- Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment;
- Agricultural Policy of the Union;
- Common Energy Policy;
- Common Industrial Policy;
- Common Mining Policy;
- Common Tourism Policy;
- Common Craft Policy;
- WAEMU Strategic Plan 2011-2020;
- Regional Trade Facilitation (PRFE);
- Regional Trade Development Program (PRDEC);
- Regional Program for the Implementation of Instruments for Building the Common Market (PRMIEM);
- Community Action Program for Infrastructure and Road Transport (PACITR);
- Regional Air Transport Development Program (PRDTA);
- Regional Program for Industrial Development and Promotion of the Private Sector;
- Regional Energy Development Program (PRDE);
- Program for the Development of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (PRODERE I & II);
- Regional program to reduce the vulnerability of populations to food insecurity;
- Regional support program for the institutionalization of gender and the empowerment of women in the UEMOA space.

Q12

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

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your regional policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: The foundations of the WAEMU treaty establish the coordination of national sectoral policies, through the implementation of common actions and possibly common policies, particularly in the following areas: human resources, regional planning, transport and telecommunications, environment, agriculture, energy, industry and mining. As such, issues relating to the environment and sustainable development are taken into account across the board in the various Union Programs and specifically in an Environment Program. With regard to the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources, the Commission has carried out, among other things, actions to adapt populations to the effects of climate change by improving agricultural production capacity, the management of coastal areas in West Africa West in support of actions to protect the West African coast and the fight against the silting up of the Niger River. By way of illustration, two actions of the Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025) are the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the strengthening of the resilience of populations in the face of hazards and climate change.

Q13

If yes, please indicate in which of your regional strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) sustainable development is reflected:(You may tick more than 1 box).

Regional development strategy, policy or plan,

Regional trade development strategy, policy or plan,

Regional export strategy, policy or plan,

Other, (please specify),

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

Regional strategy, policy or plan for gender equality
 specific policy or plan for women's economic empowerment
 Aid for Trade strategy, policy or plan
 The names of the policy documents related to Aid for Trade are:
 - UEMOA Commission Priority Action Framework 2021-2025;
 - Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO);
 - West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP);
 - Corridor Development Master Plan for the Growth Ring in West Africa (CACAO);
 - Community program for the construction of Juxtaposed Checkpoints (PCJ) at the borders between WAEMU Member States - Common Market and Free Movement Program;
 - Economic convergence (multilateral surveillance, Economic statistics, harmonization of the legislations of the Member States);
 - Common market promotion policies (Customs Union, movement of goods and services, people, right of establishment, trade and competition);
 - Social and Cultural Development Policies (higher education, scientific research; vocational training; culture, arts and leisure; gender and development, health);
 - Community Spatial Planning Policy;
 - Transport policy (transport infrastructure and transport and transit services);
 - Telecommunications and ICT policy;
 - Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment;
 - Agricultural Policy of the Union;
 - Common Energy Policy;
 - Common Industrial Policy;
 - Common Mining Policy;
 - Common Tourism Policy;
 - Common Craft Policy;
 - WAEMU Strategic Plan 2011-2020;
 - Regional Trade Facilitation (PRFE);
 - Regional Trade Development Program (PRDEC);
 - Regional Program for the Implementation of Instruments Building the Common Market (PRMIEM);
 - Community Action Program for Infrastructure and Road Transport (PACITR);
 - Regional Air Transport Development Program (PRDTA);
 - Regional Program for Industrial Development and Promotion of the Private Sector;
 - Regional Energy Development Program (PRDE);
 - Program for the Development of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (PRODERE I & II);
 - Regional program to reduce the vulnerability of populations to food insecurity;
 - Regional support program for the institutionalization of gender and the empowerment of women in the UEMOA space.

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Q14

Does your Regional 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),

Life Below Water (SDG 14),

Life on Land (SDG 15),

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 Regional development strategy, policy or plan.:

One of the three strategic objectives of the Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025) is to consolidate structuring sectoral actions for a viable economic space. As such, the promotion of sustainable agriculture; the development of energy poles; strengthening food and nutrition security; strengthening the resilience of populations in the face of hazards and climate change are some of the key actions that should contribute to achieving this strategic objective. In terms of results, UEMOA has made achievements in the field of renewable energy, sustainable production and consumption, climate change, aquatic life, etc.

Furthermore, one of the objectives set in terms of energy policy is to achieve 82% of the energy produced in the Member States being renewable and green energy by 2030. In the energy sector, the Energy Development Fund (FDE) of IRED financed, to the tune of 244.93 billion FCFA, thirteen (13) projects of the Emergency Program, including in particular the construction of : (i) power stations and (ii) transformer stations and power lines. The Regional Program for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency has enabled the installation of mini-solar power stations with distribution networks, solar street lights, solar kits and drinking water supply systems by solar pumping in several Member States. With regard to the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources, the Commission has conducted actions to adapt by populations to the effects of climate change by improving agricultural production capacity, the management of West African coastal zones in support of actions to protect the West African coast and the fight against silting of the Niger River In terms of agricultural development and the promotion of food security, the Commission has contributed to the access of the populations of the Union to drinking water with more than 3,420 boreholes built. It has worked to harmonize regulations on agricultural inputs, sanitary and phytosanitary safety, fisheries and aquaculture management. The Commission has supported priority agricultural sectors, set up infrastructure for irrigated production (2,174 ha), storage and marketing of produce (250,000 tonnes). Finally, the Commission's achievements

in the management of animal diseases, the management of organisms harmful to plants and the management of the Community market for veterinary medicinal products have been consolidated and strengthened.

Q15

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

Yes,

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

One of the objectives of the amended WAEMU Treaty is to create a common market between member states based on the free movement of persons, goods, services, capital and the right of establishment for persons exercising an activity. self-employed or salaried, as well as on a common external tariff and a common commercial policy. Based on this objective, the Commission has opted to focus its actions on the period 2021-2025, among other things, on the free movement of goods, trade policy, competition rules and the free movement of persons, services and capital. . This is why one of the strategic objectives of the Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025) is to accelerate economic convergence and deepen the common market so as to encourage the real emergence of a competitive regional private sector for the benefit populations. The Commission intends, among other things: - To promote trade - To put in place the system of free practice within WAEMU - To strengthen the operational capacities of the structures for implementing competition rules; - Set up a stabilization fund within the Union; - Produce and promote regional statistics; - Develop efficient transport and transit infrastructure; - Promote multimodal transport; - Support secure border management in the WAEMU area. Concerning the promotion of commercial exchanges, it will be a question, among other things, of developing and adopting texts on the dematerialization of commercial operations and of setting up tools favorable to the increase of intra-Community commercial exchanges. It will also be a question of combating the factors which undermine the development of intra-Community trade, in particular the persistence of non-tariff barriers between States of the Union in terms of the free movement of goods, the absence of synergy between Member States to develop regional value chains in the processing of agricultural products, extroverted consumption patterns, insufficient transport infrastructure and the persistence of anti-competitive practices. The aim is to increase the rate of intra-Community trade from 11.5% in 2019 to 20-25% by 2025. At the same time, by coordinating the management of the common commercial policy, leads initiatives which participate in building the capacities of Member States so that they derive maximum benefit from intra-African trade, within the framework of the implementation of the AfCFTA, and international trade, within the framework of the trading system multilateral. Since February 2017, the Member States of the Union have been contributing at the global level to the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on trade facilitation. This

Organization (WTO) agreement on trade facilitation. This important agreement aims to boost global trade by expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

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Q16 **Yes**

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

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Q17 **Respondent skipped this question**

Does your institution have a dedicated committee (or has a coordination or dialogues with ministries of trade and agencies dealing with trade-related affairs) on sustainable development?

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Q18 **Respondent skipped this question**

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

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Q19 **Agriculture,**
Industry,
Services,
Fisheries,
Forestry,
Mining

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)

Q20 **Respondent skipped this question**

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)

Q21

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

- Access to finance,**
- Business climate,**
- Domestic political challenges (e.g., security and stability)**
- ,
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Existing transport infrastructure,**
- Gender inequality,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,
- High trade costs,**
- Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment**
- ,
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Lack of human resource capability,**
- Limited agricultural processing capacity,**
- Low productivity of agricultural sector,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,**
- Lack of technology transfer (including sharing of know-how)**
- ,

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

The Regional Monitoring Report of National Development Plans or Poverty Reduction Strategies focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals identified the main constraints to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Union: • A weak social protection system (health insurance, social safety nets, vulnerable groups, micro-credits, empowerment); • Persistence of socio-cultural constraints, non-availability of the single register of vulnerable people; • Food and nutritional insecurity in terms of availability, accessibility, stability and use; • Limited human resources and difficult geographical access to social services; • A business climate that is not conducive to the development of the private sector and the preponderance of the informal sector; • Insufficiency and high cost of sustainable infrastructure to support growth (energy, water, ICT, transport); • Vulnerability to external shocks such as climatic hazards; • Low capacity for economic

transformation; • Unequal access of women and other vulnerable groups (small rural farmers and the disabled) to natural resources; • Poor integrated management of the living environment and its sanitation; • Sub-regional socio-political instability and security crisis; • A weakness in the protection and promotion of human rights; • Weak administrative, economic and local governance. Beyond these bottlenecks, several challenges have been met and relate mainly to the effective and constant coordination of the development of the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of development policies and strategies. Furthermore, the availability of quality and reliable data remains a major challenge. The statistics for monitoring the SDGs for the targets prioritized by the States of the Union are not yet all available. The SDGs related to climate, environmental management and governance are not easy to follow, given the lack of statistics. Some disaggregations are still not as available for existing indicators.

Q22

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

Business climate,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Domestic political challenges (e.g., security and stability)

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

Gender inequality,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

,

High trade costs,

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Access to finance,

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

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Q23

No

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

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Q24

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q25**Respondent skipped this question**

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

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Q26

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

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

The foundations of the WAEMU treaty establish coordination of national sectoral policies, through the implementation of common actions and possibly common policies, particularly in the field of telecommunications. As such, issues relating to the digital economy are taken into account across the board in the various Union Programs and specifically in the Digital Economy Development Program and the Common Market and Free Movement Programme. In the case of the Common Market and Free Movement Programme, this involves the development and adoption of texts on the dematerialization of commercial and customs operations. This support should enable countries to seize the many opportunities offered by digital technology, particularly in the context of trade, and to take full advantage of them. In this context, the WAEMU Commission has launched a study intended to lay the foundations for the realization of the dematerialization process. The objective of this study was to develop a community framework regulating the dematerialization of customs and commercial procedures and formalities and to organize the transition from physical paper support for documents to digital/electronic support in community trade. This study was validated in December 2019 by the Member States and includes a draft regulation which is submitted to the Union authorities for adoption. The effective implementation of the reform proposed by the Commission should improve the efficiency of control services while ensuring the security of data transmissions and logistical flows. Optimization of costs and limitation of physical checks carried out by administrations on documents and/or goods is also expected. In the case of the digital economy development program, this involves, among other things, adopting community texts relating to the digital economy and mobilizing resources for the construction of missing links and inter-state fiber relief optical.

Q27

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

Yes,

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

- Priority Action Framework (CAP 2025) - Partnership document for accelerating digital transformation within the community area Furthermore, in terms of results in the field of the digital economy, the main achievements concern in particular : - The identification of twenty (20) Priority Digital Public Services (SPNP) to be offered to citizens and businesses of the Union; - the identification of two (2) missing inter-state fiber optic links and seven (7) inter-state fiber optic backup links to be built to secure the regional network and promote traffic; - the creation of the website (<https://crtel.uemoa.int>) of the Committee of National Regulators of UEMOA Telecommunications (CRTEL) online, including the Regional Telecommunications Observatory

Q28

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

Agriculture,

Industry,

Services,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

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).:

Also, trade (e-commerce), customs procedures, financial sector, logistics and transport, public administration sector, cooperation between member states.

Q29

Please identify which issues where digital connectivity would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development in your region?(You may tick more than 1 box)

- E-civil service,**
 - E-commerce,**
 - E-government,**
 - E-healthcare,**
 - E-learning,**
 - E-logistics,**
 - Home energy management,**
 - Innovation and technology for gender equality,**
 - Real-time navigation,**
 - 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?

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):

Further information on Aid for Trade projects supporting digital connectivity for sustainable development, environmentally sustainable growth or circular economy that you would like to present as an example of best practice (Please indicate websites, if applicable.):

The UEMOA Commission, through the Department of Enterprise Development, Mines, Energy and Digital Economy, leads the Regional Program for the Development of the Digital Economy to contribute to the increase of the use of digital services in economic and social activities in the WAEMU space. The specific objectives of this program are: 1. Strengthen the governance of the digital economy sector; 2. Improve user access to digital services; 3. Increase the supply of digital services 4. Develop innovation, research and build capacity

The main expected results are: 1.1 - A legislative and regulatory framework adapted to technological developments is implemented 1.2 - The effectiveness of mechanisms regulation of the digital economy sector is improved 1.3 – Population confidence in the use of digital technology is strengthened 2.1 - The economic accessibility of digital services is improved 2.2 - The coverage and availability of infrastructure are improved 3.1 - The provision of digital services is increased 3.2 – Mechanisms for the promotion of Digital Service Providers are implemented 4.1 - The capacities of professionals in the creation, distribution and promotion of digital content are strengthened 4.2 - Technical cooperation between training institutes on Telecommunications/ICT is strengthened.

The Regional Program for the Development of the Digital Economy, which is being implemented, has made it possible to obtain the following results:

- A draft legislative and regulatory framework is available and under discussion in the Member States
- Twenty (20) Priority Digital Public Services (SPNP) have been chosen to be provided by the Member States within a period of twelve to eighteen months
- Five draft community texts aimed at promoting digital uses are in the process of being adopted
- Technical support Member States to digitize three SPNPs
- Financial support for Member States to implement “digital box” pilot projects to fight against the digital divide
- Definition of main and emergency inter-state fiber optic links

Q31

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

Yes,

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

For illustration, the study of the impact of COVID 19 on Small Cross-Border Traders (PCT) carried out within the framework of the Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO) has shown that the health crisis has led to a disruption in cross-border trade activities. This disruption resulted in a drop in demand, difficulties in accessing points of sale (market), supply difficulties, scarcity of inputs/products, etc. because of the measures taken by States to stem the pandemic, in particular the closing of borders; containment of populations; curfews, movement restrictions, quarantines of entire cities and regions. This disruption affected the profitability of PCT activities which resulted in lower revenues. The reduction in financial resources has led to difficulties in accessing and paying suppliers. Beyond commercial activities, it is the living conditions of households in these PCTs that have been under pressure, commercial activities being the main source of income. Majority of PCTs with declining income and household size are eligible for the cash transfer program but, due to lack of awareness or targeting criteria, have had difficulty accessing benefits financial resources and credits granted, in particular through transfer programs. In response to the drop in income, Small Cross-Border Traders had to diversify their source of income to be resilient to this shock to their main activity. In the event of such a crisis, the possibilities of remote transactions would be an alternative for traders. Openness to digital services could facilitate activities by improving business opportunities and facilitating payment transactions.

Q32

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

- Digital gender divide,**
- Digital payment issues,**
- Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity**
- ,**
- Insufficient or uneven coverage,**
- Lack of access to trade finance,**
- Regional digital connectivity strategy needs to be developed/updated**
- ,**
- Regional 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 to your region should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives?(You may tick more than one box).

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

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).

(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)

,

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Trade education/training,

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

,

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

(d) Building productive capacity,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

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

,

(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)

Q35

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

- Denmark,
- European Union,
- France,
- Germany,
- Japan,
- The Netherlands,
- United States,
- African Development Bank (AfDB),
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
- ,
- Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF),
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO),
- Inter-America Development Bank (IDB),
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- ,
- International Monetary Fund (IMF),
- International Trade Centre (ITC),
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- ,
- UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
- 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?

- Yes,
- Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade financing that you have received as part of triangular co-operation projects.:
- West Africa Regional Trade Facilitation Program (FEAO)
- West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP)

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?

Program No. 1: Project to strengthen the effectiveness of systems and mechanisms for the sustainable management of pastoral and fishery resources

The WAEMU Commission, through its Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment, is leading the Project to Strengthen the Effectiveness of Devices and Mechanisms for the Sustainable Management of Pastoral and Fisheries Resources.

The contribution of livestock and fisheries to food security and macroeconomic indicators (GDP) is currently compromised by multiple constraints, including (i) social and environmental constraints related to nomadic livestock, the effects of climate change and the poor literacy of breeders, (ii) the watering/feeding constraints marked by a diet based largely on natural pastures and watering very dependent on wells, deep boreholes and cistern wells with traditional dewatering techniques and (iii) the constraints linked to the overexploitation of fishery resources, the causes of which lie in the weakness of the systems for regulating access to fishery resources and the control and monitoring capacities of fishing operations. These constraints are exacerbated by the ineffectiveness of systems and mechanisms for the sustainable management of pastoral and fishery resources. This situation will ultimately lead to a depletion of pastoral and fishery resources, and consequently of the productive base, if significant recovery actions are not carried out.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen the effectiveness of systems and mechanisms for the sustainable management of pastoral and fishery resources. Specifically, these are:

- Strengthen mechanisms for consultation and negotiation of management agreements;
- Harmonize and apply legislation on fishing and aquaculture;
- Strengthen monitoring, control and monitoring capacities and cooperation in fisheries management;
- Strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks on pastoral resources;
- Disseminate technologies for the valorization of agro-industrial by-products (SPAI) and fodder varieties (FV);
- Strengthen national and regional capacities in the assessment and sustainable management of food;
- Strengthen national and regional capacities and systems for collecting, analyzing and sharing data on pastoral and fishery resources.

The results already obtained as part of the implementation of this project are:

- Harmonization of fisheries and aquaculture legislation as a prerequisite for ensuring a sustainable balance between available resources and their level of exploitation;
- Strengthening monitoring, control and follow-up capacities to deal with unregulated and undeclared illegal fishing in WAEMU member states;
- Strengthening of cooperation between Member States for better management of cross-border transhumance;
- Establishment of cross-border livestock markets to improve trade between countries Sahelian and coastal areas of WAEMU;
- Strengthening of State cooperation for the exploitation of fish stocks is strengthened;
- Strengthening national and regional capacities and systems for the collection, analysis and sharing of data and information on fisheries resources.

Program No. 2: Program for the harmonization of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation within WAEMU

The WAEMU Commission, through its Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment, leads the Program for the Harmonization of Veterinary Pharmaceutical Legislation within WAEMU.

The liberalization of African economies has been accompanied within the framework of structural adjustment programmes, the

State withdrawal from various sectors of the economy. The veterinary drug sector has not escaped this change. Its main

State withdrawal from various sectors of the economy. The veterinary drug sector has not escaped this change. Its main consequence has been the multiplication of operators, the diversification of the sometimes dubious origins of the products and, more generally, a drop in the quality of the products made available to breeders.

In general, 50 to 70% of veterinary products consumed in Africa do not pass through authorized channels. In the UEMOA zone, the turnover of the illegal market would be equivalent to 35% of the market for veterinary drugs in this sub-region. According to studies carried out by the Inter-State School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine of Dakar, 21% to 67% of veterinary drugs marketed in Sub-Saharan Africa did not meet quality standards (TEKO-AGBO, 2013).

Faced with this situation, and taking into account the weak capacities of the States taken individually (weak national systems of regulation, certification and quality control, etc.), a regional approach appears to be the best option and to undertake the necessary reforms in the field of veterinary medicinal products.

This is why the WAEMU Commission, within the framework of the implementation of the Agricultural Policy of the Union (PAU), undertook in relation with the Member States and all the actors concerned by veterinary pharmacy, a vast program for the harmonization of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation within the WAEMU space. This reform benefited from the technical support of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) through the National Agency for Veterinary Medicine (ANMV) of France. It became operational in March 2006 with the adoption of regulatory texts establishing four (4) major regional mechanisms. These are: (i) regulatory system, represented by the WAEMU Veterinary Committee, an advisory body responsible for coordinating regulatory action (Regulation No. 01/2006/CM/UEMOA of March 23, 2006); (ii) centralized authorization mechanism for the marketing of veterinary medicinal products (Regulation No. 02/2006/CM/UEMOA of March 23, 2006); (iii) regional mechanism for the quality control of veterinary drugs (Regulation No. 04/2006/CM/UEMOA of March 23, 2006) and (iv) surveillance mechanism for veterinary drugs (pharmaceutical inspection and veterinary pharmacovigilance (Regulation No. 02 /2006/CM/UEMOA of March 23, 2006).

These various complementary systems aim to improve the quality of veterinary medicinal products in order to preserve animal health and public health.

As part of the implementation of this program, it is mainly a question of contributing to the improvement of animal health and the health of the populations of the Union. Specifically, these are:

- Improve the institutional and regulatory framework governing the quality of veterinary drugs;
- Strengthen the capacities of veterinary services in terms of monitoring the veterinary drug market;
- Strengthen the quality control of veterinary drugs;
- Improve the access of national administrations to information and knowledge on veterinary medicinal products. The results already obtained as part of the implementation of this program are:
 - Harmonized regulatory and legislative texts on veterinary medicinal products;
 - Implementation of a unified system for marketing authorization (MA) for veterinary medicinal products based on a Scientific Committee called the Regional Committee for Veterinary Medicines (CRMV) for the evaluation of MA application files. This system has enabled the WAEMU Commission to issue four hundred and forty-two (442) community marketing authorizations for veterinary medicinal products to pharmaceutical industries;
 - Establishment of a network of laboratories and capacity building in terms of equipment, analytical materials and training for the quality control of veterinary drugs;
 - Establishment of a regional system with direct support to Member States to strengthen the fight against the sale of illegal medicines on Community territory.

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Q39

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).: Framework of Priority Actions (CAP 2025).

Q40

Yes

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

Q41

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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Q42

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

Yes,

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

The promotion of gender equality is present in all the development plans of the States of the Union and the integration of gender in all projects and programs is almost automatic. There is a battery of legal acts that tend to protect girls and women from discrimination. However, the application of these acts is not easy because of the cultural, economic and legal heritages which disadvantage them, particularly in terms of access to and control of resources and heritage. Women are also victims of sexual violence. The participation of women in the political life of the Union is marginal, even if significant progress has been observed, especially in Senegal. In 2015, in all of the Union's national representations, about 12.3% of women sat, compared to 5.5% in 1990¹⁴. The question of gender remains more topical than ever. The WAEMU Commission will pursue the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the Union in general through its institutionalization in the Member States and in the Organs, and through specific initiatives.

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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)

Regional development strategy, policy or plan,

Regional export strategy, policy or plan,

Regional gender equality, strategy or plan,

Regional trade development strategy, policy or plan,

Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan

,

Aid-for-Trade strategy, policy or plan,

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

The names of the policy documents related to Aid for Trade are: - UEMOA Commission Priority Action Framework 2021-2025; - Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO); - West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP); - Corridor Development Master Plan for the Growth Ring in West Africa (CACAO); - Community program for the construction of Juxtaposed Checkpoints (PCJ) at the borders between WAEMU Member States - Common Market and Free Movement Program; - Economic convergence (multilateral surveillance, Economic statistics, harmonization of the legislations of the Member States); - Common market promotion policies (Customs Union, movement of goods and services, people, right of establishment, trade and competition); - Social and Cultural Development Policies (higher education, scientific research; vocational training; culture, arts and leisure; gender and development, health); - Community Spatial Planning Policy; - Transport policy (transport infrastructure and transport and transit services); - Telecommunications and ICT policy; - Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment; - Agricultural Policy of the Union; - Common Energy Policy; - Policy I Common Industrial; - Common Mining Policy; - Common Tourism Policy; - Common Craft Policy; - WAEMU Strategic Plan 2011-2020; - Regional Trade Facilitation (PRFE); - Regional Trade Development Program (PRDEC); - Regional Program for the Implementation of Instruments for Building the Common Market (PRMIEM); - Community Action Program for Infrastructure and Road Transport (PACITR); - Regional Air Transport Development Program (PRDTA); - Regional Program for Industrial Development and Promotion of the Private Sector; - Regional Energy Development Program (PRDE); - Program for the Development of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (PRODERE I & II); - Regional program to reduce the vulnerability of populations to food insecurity; - Regional support program for the institutionalization of gender and the empowerment of women in the UEMOA space.

Q44

Yes

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)?

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Q45

Does your region or transport corridor 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):

- Study of the impact of COVID 19 on small-scale traders as part of the Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO) - Data collection from the Observatories of Abnormal Practices (OPA) of WAEMU

Q46

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

- Difficulties accessing financial services,**
 - Difficult working conditions,**
 - Discriminatory practices,**
 - Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements**
 - ,**
 - Other (please specify),**
 - Exclusion from male-dominated distribution networks**
 - ,**
 - Gender pay gap,**
 - Harassment, security and safety issues,**
 - Lack of access to digital services,**
 - Informal employment ,**
 - Occupational segregation,**
 - Poor access to information ,**
 - Poor access to professional bodies (e.g., chambers of commerce)**
 - ,**
 - Seasonal employment,**
 - Smaller sized business,**
 - Unpaid and domestic work,**
 - Unpaid employment,**
- Additional information on the trade and development constrains faced by women in your region.:
- Study of the impact of COVID 19 on small-scale traders as part of the West Africa Regional Trade Facilitation Program (FEAO)

Q47

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

Yes

Q48

Have you requested Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment in your region 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 West Africa Trade Facilitation Program (WATFP)
 Brief description: The WTPAP is an initiative led by multiple development partners which aims to improve existing trade facilitation measures in West Africa. The program aims to reduce trade times and costs borne by the private sector, in particular by improving the movement of goods along certain corridors and by supporting small traders - including women and other key stakeholders. - with trade facilitation reforms and programs. The FEAO program brings together key development partners, including the European Union, USAID, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, to help countries in the region and regional bodies (the ECOWAS and UEMOA commissions) to implement a combination of interventions and targeted measures. The FEAO program is managed by the World Bank Group and the German Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) - the s program implementing partners - under the strategic supervision of a steering committee chaired by the ECOWAS Commission and assisted by the WAEMU Commission. Program Objective The WATF Program aims to improve the free and efficient movement of goods within the region and internationally by reducing trade-related delays and costs borne by the private sector in West Africa, and by building capacity commercial networks in the region to take advantage of these improvements. More specifically, the program aims to achieve this objective: - By improving trade facilitation measures in West Africa by implementing them more effectively; - By improving the movement of goods along the selected corridors; - By Reducing the obstacles faced by small traders and other key actors, in particular women, through reforms and trade facilitation programs
 The FEAO Program will be implemented over a period of five years (September 2018 - June 2023) and has total funding of \$75 million. Governance: The FEAO Program is managed by the World Bank Group and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) - the implementing partners of the program - under the supervision and guidance provided by a Steering Committee chaired by the ECOWAS Commission and supported by the WAEMU Commission as Vice-Chair. In 2019, the program financed the first major field survey conducted among 3,000 traders, carriers, intermediaries, customs agents, from 9 countries. The study revealed that more than 90% of traders are unfamiliar with trade regulations and that most are subject to cumbersome procedures that lengthen customs clearance times

procedures that lengthen customs clearance times, increase costs, and encourage abusive practices. Almost all merchants have limited access to formal financial services. Respondents, especially women, are worried about their safety and are dissatisfied with infrastructure at markets and borders. In view of the needs highlighted by the survey, the program has now made it a priority to simplify customs clearance procedures and documentary formalities. It will also work to strengthen trade associations by training their members on trade regulations and facilitating access to safe and affordable transport. At the same time, the program will organize financial education campaigns by training to improve access to financing and build capacity to defend the rights of small traders. Furthermore, given the important role played by women in regional trade, training is also planned on gender issues and their consideration in the definition of trade policies. The program helps make trade faster, easier, cheaper and safer for merchants while promoting inclusive growth and new economic opportunities. In addition to the PFEAO, other programs can be mentioned:

- Regional Trade Development Program - Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO) - West Africa Competitiveness Program - Community program for the construction of Juxtaposed Checkpoints (PCJ) at the borders between WAEMU Member States

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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 regional 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).

- Facilitating access to trade finance,
- Facilitating access to trade-related information,
- Facilitating women's traders' inclusions in Global Value Chains (GVC)
- ,
- Facilitating women traders' inclusion in regional trade
- ,
- Gender sensitive awareness initiatives for trade stakeholders (e.g., border officials regarding safety issues)
- ,
- Supporting women entrepreneurship,
- Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export,
- Supporting women's representation in trade policy and design of trade/Aid-for-Trade initiatives
- ,
- 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

Q51

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

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q55

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

Yes,

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

Study of the impact of COVID 19 on small-scale traders within the framework of the Regional Trade Facilitation Program in West Africa (FEAO): - access to smartphones; - reluctance to engage in commerce without physical contact;

Q56

Please identify the top 5 barriers that prevent women from accessing digital technology in your region. (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 electricity infrastructure ,

Inadequate network infrastructure,

Additional information on the top 5 barriers preventing women from accessing digital technology in your region. (Please provide information in no more than 300 words including references and weblinks).:

Insufficient access to public facilities where internet is available , Limited internet connectivity, Weak computer skills 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 focused. (You may tick more than one box)

Agriculture,

Industry,

Services,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining

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,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs),
- Multilateral trade negotiations,
- Trade education/training,
- Transport and storage infrastructure,
- Communications infrastructure,
- Energy supply and generation infrastructure,
- (d) Building productive capacity,
- Business and other services,
- Banking and financial services,
- Building productive capacity,
- Agriculture,
- Forestry,
- Fishing,
- Industry,
- Mineral resources and mining,
- Travel and tourism,
- Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
- ,
- Other trade related needs,
- (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)
- ,
- (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)

Q59

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

- Access to appropriate financing mechanisms
 - Taking gender into account in trade facilitation programs;
 - Establishment of a framework for listening to, informing and raising awareness among women
 - Improved access to foreign markets;
 - Improved service delivery;
 - Improvement of the flow of goods at the border (facilitation of trade);
 - Support for the growth and economic development of women;
 - Taking women into account in the development of regional value chains
-

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Q60

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

- Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment, (UEMOA Commission); Department of Enterprise Development, Mines, Energy and Digital Economy (DEMEN)
-