

Introduction

Aid for Trade seeks to enable developing countries, and in particular least-developed countries (LDCs), to use trade as a means of fostering economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. It promotes the integration of developing countries, especially LDCs, into the multilateral trading system and aims to galvanize support to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure in these countries to improve trade performance.

A cornerstone of the Aid for Trade Initiative is the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercise, organized by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which garners information based on responses provided by donors, recipients and others in self-assessment questionnaires on:

- how Aid for Trade priorities of both partner countries and donors are evolving;
- how trade is being integrated into sustainable development strategies;
- how development partners are mobilizing finance in support of development objectives;
- how trade performance results are tracked and the development indicators which are used.

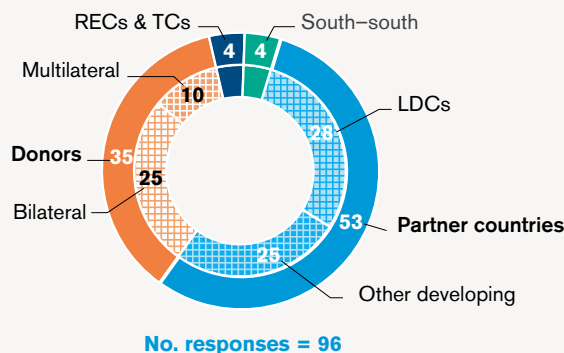
The transparency created by the M&E exercise provides incentives for both donors and recipients to advance the Aid for Trade agenda.

This publication draws on the responses provided by participants to the questionnaire of the 2022 joint OECD–WTO Aid for Trade M&E exercise, which underpins the WTO's 2022 Global Review of Aid for Trade on Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade.¹ It analyses the information collected from the following participant categories (see Figure 1):

- partner countries, which includes developing countries and LDCs;
- regional economic communities (RECs) and transport corridors (TCs);
- bilateral and multilateral donors;
- providers of south–south trade-related assistance (i.e. between developing countries).

A full list of the participants is provided in Table 1. Figure 2 shows the distribution of partner country responses, by region.

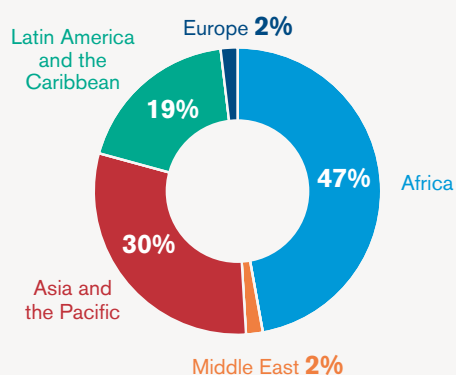
Figure 1: Responses to the questionnaire, by participant category (2022)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 1: Summary of respondents to the questionnaire

Category	Participants
Partner countries	
Africa (25)	<i>Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Zambia</i>
Asia and the Pacific (16)	<i>Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam</i>
Europe (1)	Republic of Moldova
Latin America and the Caribbean (10)	Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Middle East (1)	<i>Yemen</i>
Donors	
Bilateral (25)	Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, United Kingdom, United States of America
Multilateral (10)	African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank
Regional economic communities and transport corridors (4)	Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration (SIECA), TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
South–south partners (4)	China, Colombia, Indonesia, Türkiye

Figure 2: Partner country responses, by region

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Note: The 28 LDCs are in italics. Colombia and Indonesia each submitted two separate questionnaires to reflect their status as developing country recipients of Aid for Trade and also as providers of south–south assistance. The total number of replies received by 1 March 2022 was 96. Submissions received after the M&E exercise closed are not included in the quantitative analysis, but comments given in response to the questionnaire have been included in the chapter text and tables.

This is the eighth M&E exercise since the launch of Aid for Trade in 2006 (see Figure 3 for a breakdown of responses since 2011). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a separate M&E exercise was organized in March 2021.

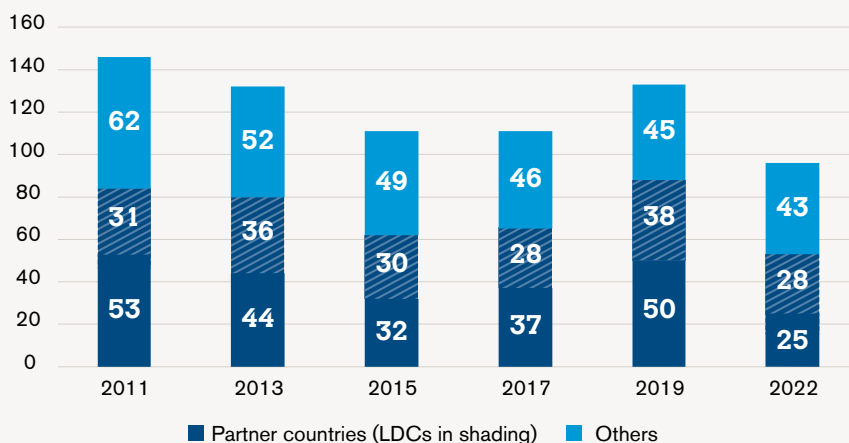
The on-going economic, development and trade impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were still being felt when the 2022 M&E exercise was launched in November 2021. Since then, the conflict in Ukraine has heightened existing supply chain challenges and increased uncertainty in food security, with significant knock-on impacts on trade. This crisis has dealt a further blow to economies recovering from the pandemic. An uneven recovery is in danger of becoming further unbalanced as new food and energy security concerns emerge.

Structure

This publication follows the structure of the 2022 M&E questionnaire and comprises four chapters:

- Chapter 1 Aid for Trade priorities: The chapter examines how priorities have evolved and how developing countries and their financing partners have reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting influence on development strategies and priorities.
- Chapter 2 Environment, trade and sustainable development: The chapter analyses how developing countries and their financing partners are integrating environment and trade concerns into their sustainable development strategies. It also looks into the opportunities and constraints they face and how development partners are mobilizing financing in support of sustainable development objectives.
- Chapter 3 Digital connectivity, e-commerce and sustainable trade: The chapter examines how the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in greater online connectivity and boosted the digital economy. It explores how financing partners are supporting digital trade and how developing countries' needs are evolving, not least in the context of the application of digital technologies for sustainable development.
- Chapter 4 Gender equality, women's economic empowerment and sustainable trade: The chapter explores how Aid for Trade contributes to the economic empowerment of women and gender equality.

Figure 3: Responses to the questionnaire, by participant category (2011-2022)



Note: Out of the 53 partner country respondents for 2022, 12 (23 per cent) are landlocked developing countries and 12 (23 per cent) are small island developing states.

Source: WTO Secretariat.



Fruit stall at the Bhutan Commodity Exchange, which is making the transition to an electronic trading system.

Endnote

1. See *2022 Global Review Launch of the Aid-for-Trade Monitoring Exercise: “Empowering Connected Sustainable Trade”*, WTO document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/88, 19 October 2021. The questionnaires submitted in the 2022 M&E exercise, as well as in previous years, are available at www.aid4trade.org under “Country Profiles”. A compilation of all responses received in the 2022 M&E exercise is provided in *Empowering Connected Sustainable Trade*, WTO document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/92, 2 May 2022.