The postal network can allow MSMEs to participate in e-commerce by giving them an affordable and direct means to ship merchandise to customers.

With the growth of e-commerce and the resulting “parcelization of trade”, a tsunami of packages is being sent across borders, and Posts and customs administrations need to come up with new methods to facilitate trade, especially for MSMEs.
The fast-growing volumes of cross-border B2C and C2C e-commerce shipments present challenges:

- ensuring rapid release and clearance
- safety and security risks
- efficient revenue collection and statistical analysis
- illicit trade and illicit financial flows
- IPR infringement, counterfeiting, piracy
The provision of electronic advance data (EAD) to customs administrations and relevant border agencies can help:

- EAD combats risk of delays at Customs.
- EAD helps to counter the transport of counterfeit and prohibited objects, drugs, and other similar dangerous goods in the global supply chain.
- EAD is needed to meet certain legal requirements by 2020/2021
In 2021, the EIF and the UPU, in cooperation with UNCTAD and the Government of Vanuatu, launched a project to facilitate the efficient Post–Customs clearance of postal packages through the exchange of pre-arrival/ pre-departure information.
The overall objective is to strengthen the ability of Vanuatu to participate in and benefit from e-commerce, increase border efficiency, reduce red tape and friction in the cross-border shipment of postal items.

Duration 12 months (March 2021 to March 2022)

Total project amount USD 441,570

USD 200,000 (EIF); USD 241,570 (UPU)
Outputs:

1. Detailed assessment of the customs clearance process at Vanuatu Post and development of interface prototype.

2. Completed testing environment for the integrated customs and post processes.

3. Enhanced human capacity and broadened skills base of customs and post staff.

4. Automated customs clearance process at Vanuatu Post piloted in Port Vila and rolled out in Santo.
National Partners;

The Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR) and The Vanuatu Post Limited (VPL).

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)
Beneficiaries:

- MSMEs (in LDCs);
- E-shoppers (in LDCs);
- Private sector stakeholders
- Domestic Posts and customs administrations

The potential to replicate the project’s approach and components is high given the number of LDCs meeting the criteria and facing the same situation.
The UPU and UNCTAD have identified the 23 LDCs in which the national interfaces between UPU’s CDS and UNCTAD’s ASYCUDA can be established quickly to address the urgent need for posts and customs to exchange EAD.

Projects started in Vanuatu and Cambodia with support of the EIF and UPU.

If interested in learning more, please reach out to UPU on;

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Thank you

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is the only multilateral partnership dedicated exclusively to assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in their use of trade as an engine for growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

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