



PAGE 4: B.1) YOUR CASE STORY: TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

Q1: TITLE OF CASE STORY

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON TRADE FACILITATION LESOTHO

Q2: CASE STORY ABSTRACT

The key objective of this program is to strengthen the linkages and integration with regional economy especially with South Africa as our main trading partner and transit country. This objective is achieved by implementing programs aimed at reducing the cost of doing business through simplifying customs procedures and developing systems that would help importers and exporters to find necessary information regarding doing business in Lesotho.

Q3: LONG DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE STORY

5TH GLOBAL AID FOR TRADE REVIEW

CASE STORY: -TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON TRADE FACILITATION IN LESOTHO

During the period June 2013 to December 2014 Lesotho received aids from World Bank, IMF and SIDA/SACU-WCO with the aim of reducing trade transaction costs at the border.

World Bank

The World Bank supported Lesotho in the development of several projects through Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) Customs Modernization Program aimed at simplifying the processes and reducing the cost of doing business at the border. The funding has been through the Trade Facilitation Facility, which is a trust fund administered by the World Bank with contributions from the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada. Through this fund LRA was furnished with \$1.5m on the following projects:-

1. Lesotho Trade Information Portal

The World Bank provided funding for expertise and program development of the Lesotho Trade Information Portal, as a component of the Lesotho - South Africa Customs Collaboration Project (LRA/SARS project). A trade portal is a single online authoritative source of all laws, regulations, and procedures for traders and government agencies involved in the import and export of goods. Trade portals also bring greater transparency and predictability to trade transactions, and reduce the time and cost of obtaining information conducting transactions.

This project has been realized through the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the leadership of the LRA and the goodwill of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos, which has shared its experience and knowledge through a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries. On Wednesday March 26 2014, with World Bank support, the Lesotho Trade Information Portal was officially launched and can be viewed at: (<http://www.lesothotradeportal.org.ls>).

2. Piloting of Preferred Trader Scheme

The World Bank also provided for the piloting of Preferred Trader Scheme. LRA embarked on implementation of Preferred Trader Scheme as a tool towards trade facilitation, in line with LRA-SARS project, the Customs Modernization program and SACU/WCO development program activities that are being coordinated through the SACU regional trade partnership project.

Following the successful pilot of the Preferred Trader Scheme, where currently there are two traders registered. the LRA will be expanding the scheme to more traders. offering high levels of facilitation for

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compliant businesses.

3. Introduction of Compact Mobile Scanners

The World Bank funded in the acquisition of scanning equipment to speed up the inspection process at the borders.

4. Development of common border management strategy agreed by all operational border agencies.

World Bank further supported in the development of border management strategy to simplify and, above all, harmonize border procedures. The strategy was agreed by all operational border agencies.

5. Supported by the World Bank, the Customs Modernization Program delivered an extensive communications, training and education program towards developing a more professional staff and increasing Customs knowledge in the business community.

6. World Bank also funded the establishment of Business Partnership forum and training by SARS in capacitating enforcement staff.

IMF

IMF provided expertise to assist in the development of audit particularly Post Clearance Audit and Risk Management.

SIDA-SACU/WCO Programme

The SACU-WCO Customs Development Programme contributes to the development of a sustainable and improved economic environment in SACU with regard to trade. The programme aims to assist the SACU member states to comply with international customs standards and modernize their respective customs administrations. The programme is implemented with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The programme covered five areas emanating from the WCO Diagnostic Assessments of member states done in 2006. These are;

I. IT Connectivity

II. Risk Management

III. Trade Partnerships

IV. Standard Operating Procedures

V. Legislative Review

All these are run as projects under the Customs Modernization Programme.

Lesotho Government

Customs Modernization Programme with the support of Lesotho Government, UNCTAD, and World Bank introduced simplified Customs border procedures supported by modern computerized system ASYCUDA World. The system was piloted at Maputsoe Bridge in August.

CMP Programme

All the projects under CMP programme was delivered and managed by local team with the assistance of experts funded by World Bank.

Q4: Please add here web links to project/programme materials.

<http://www.lesothotradeportal.org.ls>

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Q5: YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

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Q6: FUNCTION

Public sector

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Q7: FUNDING PARTNER Tick the appropriate box(es)	Bilateral donor
Q8: Additional information	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>
Q9: START DATE OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME	October 2013
Q10: STATUS OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME	On-going
Q11: DURATION OR, IF ON-GOING, EXPECTED DURATION OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME	1-3 years
Q12: COST OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME	Between US\$1 million and US\$5 million
Q13: Additional information	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>
Q14: TYPE OF FUNDING FOR PROJECT/PROGRAMME	Grant

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Q15: PROJECT/PROGRAMME TYPE	Single country / customs territory
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Q16: SINGLE COUNTRY/CUSTOMS TERRITORY	LESOTHO
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Q17: REGION (If the region does not appear in the drop down menu, please enter manually.)	Southern Africa
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Q18: MULTI-COUNTRY (Enter all countries or customs territories) South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia
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<p>Q19: CASE STORY FOCUS Tick the appropriate box(es)</p>	<p>REDUCING TRADE COSTS FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS</p> <p>,</p> <p>Customs reform, Other border agency reforms, Tariff reform,</p> <p>Upgrading network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms)</p> <p>,</p> <p>Working with trade partners to recognize professional qualifications</p> <p>,</p> <p>Working with trade partners to remove restrictions on movement of natural persons</p>
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<p>Q20: HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME Tick the appropriate box(es)</p>	<p>Successful</p>
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<p>Q21: WHAT WERE THE OUTPUTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME Tick the appropriate box(es)</p>	<p>Officials trained,</p> <p>Customs laws amended or updated,</p> <p>Other border agency law updated,</p> <p>New customs procedures,</p> <p>New other border agency procedure,</p> <p>New border equipment (e.g. scanner),</p> <p>New or updated one-stop border post,</p> <p>New or updated electronic single window</p>
<p>Q22: Additional information(maximum 300 words)</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>

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Q23: WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF YOUR PROJECT/PROGRAMME Tick the appropriate box(es)	Reduction in customs clearance time, Reduction in other border agency clearance time , Reduction in cost of customs clearance , Increase in broadband coverage , Reduction in broadband cost
Q24: Additional information(maximum 300 words)	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>

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Q25: WHAT WERE THE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME Tick the appropriate box(es)	Increase in domestic investment, Increase in foreign investment, Increase in employment, Increase in remittances
Q26: Additional information(maximum 300 words)	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>

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Q27: LESSONS LEARNT Tick the appropriate box(es)	Importance of good project design, Importance of alignment with national priorities , Importance of alignment between different development partners in programming , Importance of agreeing clear project implementation responsibilities , Importance of agreeing clear project monitoring and evaluation process and procedures , Importance of attention to long-term sustainability
Q28: Additional information(maximum 300 words)	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>
Q29: PROJECT OR PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK Tick the appropriate box(es)	M&E framework used, Project baselines set, Ex post evaluation