



Committee on Trade Facilitation

TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY (TFAF)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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This report sets out the activities and outcomes of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (the Facility, or TFAF) for the calendar year 2025, as required by the Framework for the Management and Operation of the TFAF (G/TFA/3).

1 TFAF ACTIVITIES IN 2025

1.1 Grant Programme

1.1. The TFAF Grant Programme was launched in October 2018 to assist Members without assistance from other development partners to address capacity gaps for their TFA commitments by providing funding for project preparation or implementation grants.

Project Preparation Grants

1.2. In 2025, TFAF received six applications for a project preparation grant (PPG) from four Members including two LDC Members.1 One application was not eligible for TFAF funding. Of the five approved applications one has been completed in 2025, three are scheduled for execution in Q2 and Q4 2026, and one has been paused as the World Bank TFSP is discussing the integration of the request into its TACB portfolio (see Table 1 below).

1.3. In 2025, TFAF completed two PPGs; the feasibility study on Article 7.1 improvements for the NTFC of Kenya and the diagnostic study on Article 8 for the NTFC of Senegal.

1 Bolivia, Myanmar, Senegal, Tunisia.

**Table 1: Status of Project Preparation Grants (since 2024)**

Member	Measure	Approved	Status	Execution
Angola	Article 10.6	08/2024	Completed	Q4 2024
Togo	Article 7.4	09/2024	Completed	Q3-Q4 2024
Kenya	Article 7.1	01/2025	Completed	Q2 2025
Angola	Article 8	05/2025	In preparation	Q2 2026
Senegal	Article 8	01/2025	Completed	Q2-Q3 2025
Myanmar	Article 11	09/2025	In preparation	Q2 2026
Myanmar	Article 10.4	09/2025	In preparation	Q4 2026
Tunisia	Article 10.4	09/2025	Paused (WB)	

### *Project Implementation Grants*

1.4. In 2025, the TFAF Secretariat received ten new applications from eight developing and LDC Members<sup>2</sup> for project implementation grants (PGs). One application was not meeting the eligibility criteria.

1.5. TFAF submitted 13 PG applications to the Grant Selection Committee (in February 2025, and in September 2025). The GSC approved seven PGs and did not accept six applications. One of the approved PG was cancelled by the applicant Member as another development partner included the capacity-building needs in its portfolio.

**Table 2: Status of Project Implementation Grants (since 2024)**

Member	Measure	Approved	Status	Execution
Kyrgyz Republic	Article 10.1	02/2025	Contracted	2026-2027
Sri Lanka	Article 3	02/2025	On-going	2025-2026
Kenya	Article 7.1	09/2025	Contracted	2026-2027
Madagascar	Article 6	09/2025	Contracted	2026-2027
Niger	Article 7.4	09/2025	Ongoing	2026
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Article 3	09/2025	Ongoing	2026

1.6. During the review process, the TFAF Secretariat travelled to one Member to meet domestic stakeholders and their respective National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) to discuss details of their PG application and assess the level of political ownership.

## **1.2 Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building (TACB)**

1.7. Members can request TACB support which relates to the following outcomes: (i) identifying implementation assistance; (ii) ratification of the Agreement; (iii) notifications under the Agreement; and (iv) strengthening the operation of the NTFC.

1.8. In 2025, more than 80 participants from 14 developing Members, including 13 LDC Members, benefited from the TFAF TACB activities. The following TACB activities were carried out.

### *Tailor-Made track: In-Person Mission to Mauritania, Djibouti and Comoros*

1.9. Upon request from Members, TFAF organized in-person advisory missions to Comoros (January), Djibouti (November), and Mauritania (May) to help the NTFC review progress and gaps in the implementation of the TFA, to prepare notifications, and to identify and engage with

<sup>2</sup> Bolivia, Cameroon, Comoros, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

development partners. As a result of the assistance, Comoros submitted three notifications to the CTF ([G/TFA/N/COM/1-3](#)) in line with Protocol of Accession to the WTO. Djibouti revised its TF implementation roadmap and hosted a TFA Donor Roundtable attended by two government ministers, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, three Ambassadors and four development partners. The mission in Mauritania allowed the Ministry of Commerce to sensitize stakeholders again to the TFA and to review their implementation plan and take stock of the progress made by Customs. The mission also included an ITTC workshop on the ratification of the TFA and on the TFA database delivered online by WTO Secretariat colleagues.

#### *Capital-Based Officials Participating in the Committee on Trade Facilitation*

1.10. Continuing past practice, TFAF funded the participation of four capital-based officials<sup>3</sup> in the dedicated session on TACB of the meeting of the Committee on Trade Facilitation (CTF) in December 2025. They participated in the panel discussion on challenges for TACB coordination and mobilization. Twelve capital-based officials from NTFCs, including 11 from LDC Members, also participated in the meeting of the CTF in July 2025, which took place back-to-back with the training on TACB mobilization.

#### *Training on Mobilizing Assistance and Capacity Building for the TFA*

1.11. From May to September 2025, the TFAF in collaboration with ITC, OECD, UNCTAD and the World Bank and with participation of GATF and TradeMark Africa, organized the training programme for NTFCs on Mobilizing Assistance and Capacity Building for the Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Seventeen participants, including 5 funded by the WBK TFSP, from 13 Members including 11 LDC Members participating in the programme which consisted of 6 online sessions and 1 in-person workshop in Geneva. The programme allowed participants to discuss donor strategies and TACB trends, to review alignment between domestic development strategies and existing landscape of development partners, and they practiced how to engage with development partners and attunes messages to strategies and to draft a TACB mobilization strategy that complements their TFA roadmap.

#### *ALADI-TFAF 5th Regional Meeting of National Trade Facilitation Committees*

1.12. Continuing the successful collaboration between TFAF and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), TFAF contributed to the 5<sup>th</sup> Latin American Meeting of National Trade Facilitation Committees organized by ALADI with support from the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF). Trade Facilitation officials from the region gathered for 2 days to discuss trade facilitation progress in three strategic areas of risk management, advance rulings and monitoring and evaluation. TFAF funded the participation of one Geneva-based official from an ALADI Member to present the discussions and evolution of the CTF.

**Table 3: TACB Activities 2025**

Activity and date	Outcome	No. of Members/Participants
Diagnostic for the notification to the CTF and TACB mobilization, Comoros, January 2025	Notifications Identify TACB needs	1/20
In-person mission to identify the assistance gaps for category C commitments, Mauritania	Strengthen the NTFC Identify TACB needs	1/16
Participation of capital-based delegates in the CTF dedicated session, July	Strengthen the NTFC	1/12
Participation of capital-based delegates in the dedicated session on TACB, December		4/4
Workshop on Mobilizing TACB		11/12 (Plus 2/5 funded by the WB TFSP)

<sup>3</sup> The officials were from Belize, Burkina Faso, Paraguay and Zambia.

Activity and date	Outcome	No. of Members/Participants
ALADI-STDF-TFAF 5 <sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of NTFCs – Digitalization for Trade Facilitation, Uruguay, November	Strengthen the NTFC	1/1
In-person mission to identify assistance gaps for category C commitments and discuss NTFC options, Djibouti	Strengthen the NTFC Identify TACB needs	1/22

### 1.3 Engagement with Annex D and Development Partners

#### *Partnerships*

1.13. The TFAF collaborated with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for the TACB activity in Comoros with a view to integrating TFA capacity building needs into the donor coordination process managed by the EIF's National Implementation Unit (NIU). It also collaborated with the EIF NIU in Senegal for the execution of the PPG and has agreed to collaborate with the EIF NIU for the PG for Niger. The collaboration improves efficiency for the in-country execution and strengthens alignment within the Ministry of Commerce, which is often both coordinating the NTFC and the EIF.

#### *Joint Events and Coordination*

1.14. In July, TFAF with the World Bank and the WCO organized a lunch time information session on the Time Release Studies (TRS) to present the methodologies and how they can be used by Members. The Bangladesh Board of Revenue shared lessons learned from three experiences carrying out by the WCO TRS which included different implementing approaches and strategies. They highlighted ownership and domestic competency as key factors for anchoring the methodology and implementing the follow-up recommendations.

1.15. In December 2025, TFAF invited Annex D+ organizations, the GATF, and donor Members to a coordination meeting to foster coherence among, and alignment of, activities supporting Members implementing the TFA. TFAF presented findings from its study of TACB gaps in relation to TFA Articles and highlighted that filling these gaps would be of benefit to Members.

## 2 OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1. The role of the Facility is to assist developing Members and LDCs to implement the TFA. TFAF aims to assist developing and LDC Members to better access development partner support and assist development partners to better target TFA capacity-building needs in the assistance they provide.

### 2.1 Monitoring of Progress

2.2. To monitor and measure progress towards the successful achievement of its objectives, the TFAF uses a logframe with outcomes. The expected outcomes of TFAF activities are as follows:

- To locate assistance resources to help developing and LDC Members to fully implement all relevant TFA provisions;
- to ratify the TFA;
- to submit TFA Section II notifications within the deadlines agreed; and
- to enhance the operation of the NTFCs.

2.3. In May 2025, TFAF collected baseline data on TACB gaps for the TFAF through a survey from Members. With this data TFAF aims to measure the capacity of the development cooperation system to address Members' TFA assistance needs. Fifty-four Members of the 97 Members that have presented their notification of category C measures responded to the survey. The data was presented to the CTF in July and in a detailed analysis in December 2025 ([G/TFA/TFAF/13](#)).

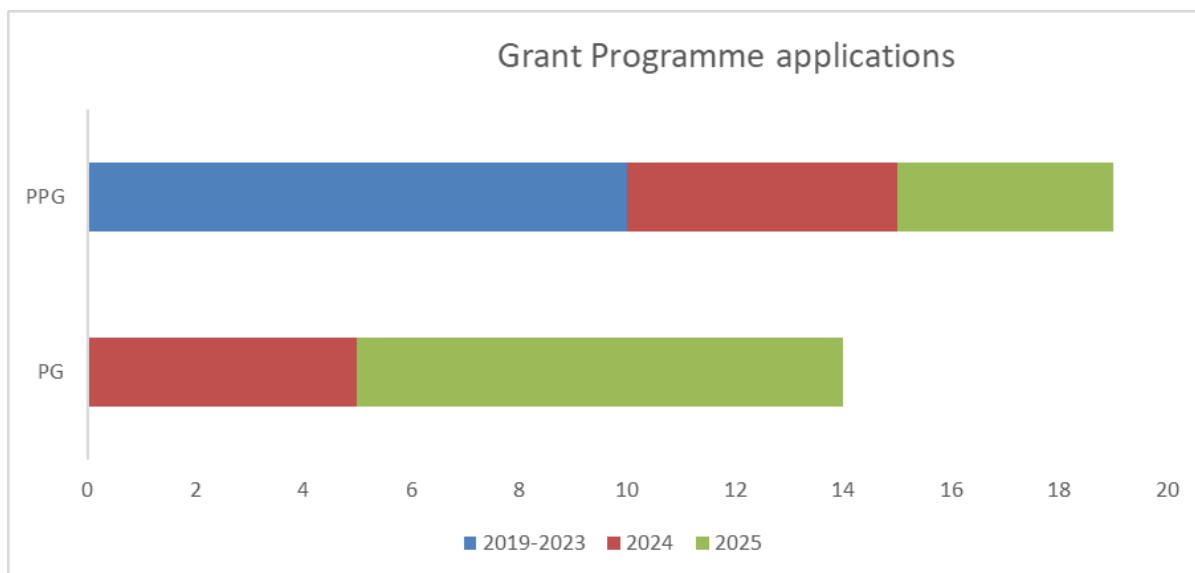
*Find assistance for the Implementation of the provisions of the TFA*

2.4. Since 2019, TFAF has assisted 51 developing Members, including 21 LDC Members, identify development partners, through sharing information on capacity-building needs or the preparation of a project document. Twelve developing Members, including two LDC Members, have found TACB partners and arrangements<sup>4</sup> for all or some of their TFA capacity-building needs through or with TFAF support.

2.5. Since 2023, there has been an increase in demand for PGs from developing Members and LDC Members that have not found targeted TACB for their capacity building needs from other development partners. In 2025, TFAF assisted 11 Members to prepare the documents needed for an application to the TFAF grant programme.

2.6. However, the increase in requests from TFAF indicates that some Members face challenges mobilizing targeted TFA support from development partners. The TFAF grant programme is not designed, nor intended, to replace development partners' TFA implementation support.

**Chart 1: PGs and PPGs received since 2019**



*Ratification of the TFA*

2.7. No activities in this area.

*Submit TFA Section II Notifications Within Agreed Deadlines*

2.8. The deadlines for the Article 16 categorization notifications have expired for both developing and LDC Members.<sup>5</sup> Members no longer request assistance from TFAF in relation to the preparation of the categorization, the identification of technical assistance needs, and the definitive dates. TFAF TACB activities commonly include a review of progress made either in building the required capacity and/or in engaging with development partners. This enables Members to submit progress notification or updates thereof or voluntary implementation notification. Three Members have submitted eight notifications as a direct result of TFAF activities.

*Enhance the Operation of the NTFCs*

2.9. Through the TACB activities and the PPGs, TFAF assists NTFCs in developing and LDC Members to better monitor TACB mobilization and implementation progress and to improve the effectiveness

<sup>4</sup> TFAF is not able to track with any certainty if the arrangements resulted in actual projects or if the desired capacity-building results were delivered.

<sup>5</sup> The deadlines were in 2018 for developing Members and in 2022 for LDC Members. Seven LDC Members had been granted an extension for the submission of the deadline until end-2023.

of the NTFCs. In this way, TFAF enabled four Members, including two LDC Members, to update their domestic TFA and/or TACB planning documents. One Member submitted an early implementation date notification using the updated information.<sup>6</sup> One Member updated the terms of reference of its NTFC taking into consideration experiences shared by three other Members during a TFAF activity.

Examples:

The **PPG for Senegal** allowed it to review the practices at road border crossings involving all government agencies. TradeMark Africa which is planning to launch its activities in Senegal participated as experts in the PPGs. This allow connections to be established between the NTFC and Customs with a new development partner.

Following the TFAF mission and supported by TFAF advice, the **NTFC in Djibouti** updated its TFA progress monitoring and drafted a TACB mobilization strategy. The NTFC in Burkina Faso also revised its TFA implementation roadmap.

2.10. Since 2018, the TFAF has funded more than 150 capital-based experts from 60 Members to participate in meetings of the CTF. This afforded capital-based officials an opportunity to better understand and engage with the CTF, to meet with relevant development partners, and to learn from the implementation experiences of other Members. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, CTF and TFAF meetings are held in hybrid format, making it easier for capital-based officials to participate. For this reason, TFAF now only funds the participation of technical experts that can actively partake in the thematic topic discussions of the CTF to share relevant lessons learned.

**Table 4: Outcome Monitoring**

Outcome	Indicator <sup>a</sup>	Results 2025	Cumulative since 2018
Find assistance for the implementation of the provisions of the TFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPGs (completed)</li> <li>• Partner/Member match</li> <li>• PGs (approved)</li> <li>• TACB arrangement progress notification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13</li> <li>• 16</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>
Ratify the TFA	Count of ratification instrument <sup>b</sup>		5
Submit TFA Section II notifications within agreed deadlines	Count of Article 16 notifications <sup>c</sup>	8	138 <sup>d</sup>
Enhance the operation of the NTFCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TFA strategy documents prepared or amended</li> <li>• Capital-based delegates participating in person in CTF</li> <li>• NTFC terms of reference drafted or amended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8</li> <li>• 16</li> <li>• 0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 172</li> <li>1</li> </ul>

a The 2018 logframe lacks measurable outcome and output indicators.

b It is difficult to directly link the ratification to a TFAF activity. Therefore, only ratifications that occur in a limited period after a TFAF activity were counted.

c Only notifications that were made in a short period following a TFAF activity were counted.

d This number also includes transparency notifications and update of notifications.

### 3 EXPENDITURES AND FUNDS

3.1. In 2025, the TFAF spent a total of **CHF 890,892**, including overheads, from an opening balance of CHF 2,558,409. In addition to the expenses recorded, TFAF committed a total of **CHF 848,935** including overheads, for grants that will be executed in 2026-2027.

3.2. The closing balance on 31 December 2025 was **CHF 1,667,517** excluding the committed funds. Taking into account committed funds the closing balance on 31 December is **CHF 818,582**.

<sup>6</sup> See [G/TFA/N/COG/1/Add.2](#).

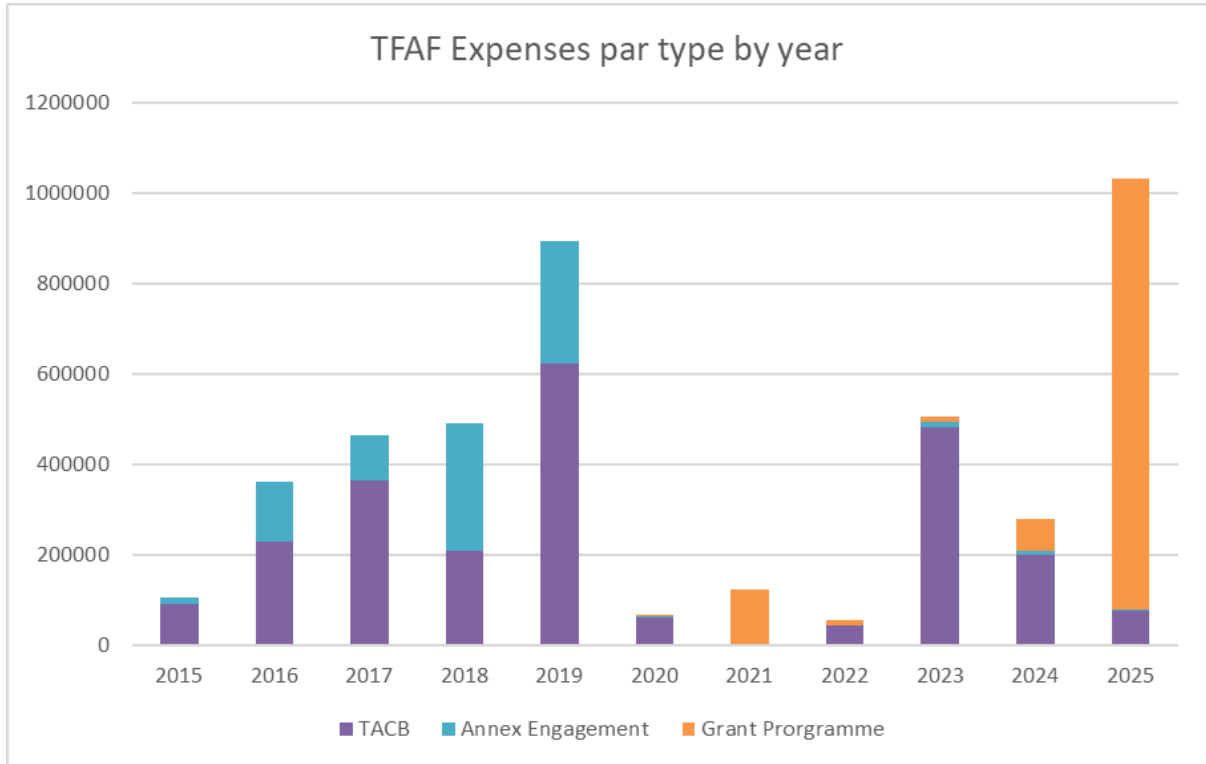
3.3. The expenses per TFAF activities, excluding overheads, are CHF 959,119 for the grant programme (including committed funds), CHF 75,831 for TACB activities, CHF 949 for engagement with development partners, CHF 2,051 for the TFAF website, CHF 502,668 for staff costs, and CHF 102,492 for overheads (see Table 5).

3.4. The 2025 expenses are in line with the estimated budget for 2025 ([G/TFA/TF AF/11/Rev.1](#), amended in June 2025). TFAF underspent on the TACB activities due to the cancellation of one event.

**Table 5: Expenses breakdown**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TFAF Work plan 2025</b>	<b>Expenditure 2025</b>
<b>Grant Programme</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>207,849</b>
Expenses for PPG and PGs, and PG application related travel	1,100,000	207,849
<i>[Committed funds for approved PPG and PG grants]</i>		<i>[751,270]</i>
<b>Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building</b>	<b>161,000</b>	<b>75,831</b>
<i>Overall track</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>56,194</i>
ALADI 5 <sup>th</sup> Regional NTFC Forum		2,482
NTFC workshop on resources mobilization (online, GVA, Djibouti)		48,292
Capital-based officials attending CTF meetings		5,420
<i>Tailor-Made track</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>19,635</i>
National NTFC and notification support (Mauritania, Comoros)		19,635
<b>Engagement with Annex D and Development Partners</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>949</b>
WCO meeting, January	0	949
<b>Operational costs</b>	<b>496,000</b>	<b>504,719</b>
TFAF website maintenance and development	6,000	2,051
Staff costs	490,000	502,668
<b>Overheads</b>	<b>228,410</b>	<b>102,492</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,985,410</b>	<b>890,881</b>
<i>[Committed plus overheads]</i>		<i>[848,935]</i>
<b>[TOTAL Expenses and Committed]</b>	<b>1,985,410</b>	<b>1,739,815</b>

3.5. Since 2021, TFAF spends more resources for the grant programme while reducing spending for the TACB activities (see Chart 2). This aligns with the shift in developing and LDC Members' needs from notification to the CTF to the implementation of their commitments. TFAF expects that demand for TFAF grant funding, including PGs, will continue to grow. An increasing number of developing and LDC Members indicate that they have not yet been able to mobilize TFA-targeted support.

**Chart 2: Expenses per TFAF pillar since 2015<sup>7</sup>**

Total expenses 2025

CHF 890,892

Total commitments

CHF 848,935

Total balance end of 2025

**CHF 818,580**

#### 4 RISKS

4.1. The TFAF Trust Fund has not received new contributions for the past four years and is not able to fund activities and grants anymore. This may negatively affect developing and LDC Members' ability to meet the definitive dates notified to the CTF and result in an increase in extension requests for additional time to implement their category C commitments.

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<sup>7</sup> Excluding operating costs.