



GLOBAL ALLIANCE
FOR TRADE FACILITATION

GHANA

Introducing a risk-based pre-arrival customs process

Strengthening Ghana's position as an important hub for regional and international business



Ghana is already one of the largest economies in West Africa and an important hub for regional and international business. Yet without an effective risk-based pre-arrival process, customs have to physically inspect 100% of shipments while clearance times and requirements are unpredictable for traders.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

We are working with the government and the private sector to introduce fully-automated, paperless processing. Our project involves:

- assessing the supply chain in Ghana and analysing the import process
- identifying best practices for pre-arrival and related processes
- developing a target model for pre-arrival processing
- reviewing the legal and regulatory framework required to implement the project
- developing a risk process map and a detailed process description for pre-arrival processing
- developing a training and HR development plan
- training customs and other government officials, as well as private sector stakeholders
- testing and piloting the risk management system and pre-arrival process

BENEFITS

The introduction of risk-based pre-arrival processing will:

- expedite clearance and release of goods
- increase predictability and reduce costs
- improve risk assessment allowing customs to facilitate low-risk shipments and focus its resources on high risks
- increase the balance between ensuring compliance and minimising disruption and cost to legitimate trade and the public
- increase staff awareness of risk management

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We are monitoring and evaluating the project throughout its duration. Key indicators of success will include:

- percentage of all "green channel" shipments which are released upon arrival without inspection
- percentage of shipments processed through upgraded IT system
- percentage of importers that are satisfied with the upgraded IT system for pre-arrival of manifest and declaration
- percentage of surveyed importers that are satisfied with the e-payment system

MEETING GHANA'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Pre-arrival processing is a core objective of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The project will help Ghana to meet its commitments under:

Article 7.1 (Pre-Arrival Processing)

Article 7.2 (Electronic Payment)

Article 7.3 (Separation of Release before Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges)

Article 7.4 (Risk Management)

TIMELINE

The project will be implemented in three phases over 17 months.

HOW CAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR GET INVOLVED?

Successful trade facilitation is only possible when the private sector plays an active part. After all, it is businesses who know best where the barriers to trade lie. We are looking for business to get involved in a wide range of activities including:

- advising on risk processes, best practice, legal and regulatory reforms
- providing training and capacity building
- supporting project management development and roll-out
- supporting stakeholder sensitisation



WHAT IS A RISK-BASED PRE-ARRIVAL CUSTOMS PROCESS?

A risk-based pre-arrival process requires traders to supply customs authorities with advance information on goods brought in or out of the customs territory. On the basis of this information, customs systematically applies procedures and practices to identify, analyse, prioritise, and address risks.

| PREVIOUS APPROACH | RISK-BASED APPROACH |
|---|---|
| 100% physical examinations | 75% of low risk movements released without physical inspections |
| Limited automation combined with habits, rules and laws requiring hard copies | Fully automated and paperless processing for 100% of low-risk movements |
| Fragmented approach to risk management | Strategic and coordinated approach |
| Limited knowledge and distrust of risk management | Risk management embedded within organisational culture |

WHO WE ARE



The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation is a public-private partnership for trade-led growth. We believe that international trade should be simpler, faster and more cost-effective, creating new business opportunities, enabling greater economic and social development and reducing poverty. Working with governments and businesses from the ground up, Alliance projects identify and deliver common sense trade reforms in developing and least developed countries. Our work is designed to help governments implement the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To get involved or for more information, please contact us at info@tradefacilitation.org
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