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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Trade and Accession Facilitation for Afghanistan (TAFa)

OVERVIEW

The TAFa project generates economic growth, trade, and investment by improving the conditions for international trade and transit. The project helps the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and the private-sector to capitalize on greater regional and global trade linkages and export-oriented business development through assistance in four categories: trade-policy liberalization, customs reform, trade facilitation, and public outreach on trade-related issues. On regional issues, the project coordinates with a USAID trade project in Pakistan.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Develop GIROA capacity to prepare for, negotiate, and implement trade agreements such as the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement
- Assist GIROA to launch the process of accession to the World Trade Organization
- Reform customs laws and procedures, revenue collection, information management, budget, organizational structure, and human resource policy, including training in new trade agreements, laws and other reform measures
- Reduce time and expense of customs clearance, transport, transshipment, and other border crossing operations for exports and imports, and reduce opportunities for corruption
- Improve GIROA capacity to collect and analyze trade-related data to inform policy decisions
- Work to improve Afghanistan's ranking on the trading across borders indicator of the annual World Bank *Doing Business* survey
- Improve export market opportunities through the development and adoption of international standards, quality control for export products, and linkages to export promotion assistance
- Support trade facilitation mechanisms
- Improve the business community's knowledge of trade policies and opportunities, and involvement in trade policy development

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted GIROA to resolve key policy and technical bottlenecks and ratify the historic Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, in legal effect as of June 12, 2011
- Assisted GIROA to ratify the South Asia Free Trade Agreement, lowering tariffs on many Afghan exports to India and Pakistan immediately on entry into effect August 7, 2011
- Developed a new border management model that is aimed at streamlining processes at the borders
- Reduced the customs processing time at Kabul International Airport by 45 percent through the introduction of streamlined procedures
- Worked with the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan to establish a "One Stop Shop for Exports," bringing all the agencies involved in exporting under one roof in Kabul
- Assisted the Afghan National Standards Authority to develop and adopt a five-year strategy for development of international product and safety standards and quality control for exports
- Prepared the Afghan delegation to participate in its first WTO working party meeting in January 2011