

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE



PAGE 4: B.1) ABOUT YOU

Q1: COUNTRY	LESOTHO
Q2: ABOUT YOU	
Name:	Phera Clifford Lepati
Position:	Chief Economic Planner
Ministry / Organization:	Ministry of Trade and Industry
Email Address:	plepati2000@yahoo.co.uk
Phone Number:	0026622320565
Q3: CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply) :	Finance, Planning, Public Works, Lesotho Revenue Authority

PAGE 6: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q4: Do you have Aid-for-Trade priorities?	Yes
--	-----

PAGE 7: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q5: Please indicate your Aid-for-Trade priorities Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the 12 listed .(1 being the most important)

Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation	1
Trade facilitation	2
Competitiveness	3
Export diversification	4
Regional integration	5

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q6: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 8: C.2) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID FOR TRADE PRIORITIES

Q7: Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2012?

No

PAGE 9: C.2) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID FOR TRADE PRIORITIES

Q8: What are the top 3 drivers of these changes? (Please choose no more than 3 options)

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q10: Have these changes been reflected in your national development strategy?

Respondent skipped this question

Q11: Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Respondent skipped this question

Q12: Is trade facilitation reflected as a priority in your national or regional development policy?

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 10: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q13: In which existing policy document(s) can trade facilitation be found as a priority? (You may tick more than one box)

National development strategy

Q14: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 11: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q15: Is trade facilitation included in new draft policy documents currently being updated and formulated?

Yes

PAGE 12: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q16: Please indicate in which new draft policy documents, currently being updated or formulated, trade facilitation is included:

National trade strategy

Q17: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 14: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q18: How important are trade costs for the competitiveness of your exports?

Very important

Q19: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q20: Do your national policies address the issue of trade costs for exports?

Yes

PAGE 15: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q21: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for exports ?

National infrastructure strategy

Q22: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 16: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q23: How important are trade costs for access to imports?

Very important

Q24: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 17: B. TRADE COSTS

Q25: Do national policies address the issue of trade costs for imports?

Yes

PAGE 18: D.1) TRADE COSTS

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q26: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for imports?

National infrastructure strategy

Q27: Additional information.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport through Integrated Transport Infrastructure Project supported by the World Bank is addressing transport infrastructure particularly at the borders to facilitate exports and imports by amongst others modernising customs infrastructure.

PAGE 19: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q28: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of merchandise goods? (You may choose more than 1 option)

Border procedures (trade facilitation)

Q29: Additional information.

To reduce congestion at the border posts, Government is modernising customs administration by introducing computerised declarations and documentation, advanced clearance, etc.

PAGE 20: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q30: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of services? (You may choose more than 1 option)

Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms)

Q31: Additional information.

Government is effectively participating in trade in services with its partners in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to liberalise trade in services.

PAGE 21: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q32: In which regional markets to which you export merchandise goods and services do you face the highest trade costs? (Please select no more than 5 regions)

Western Europe

Q33: Indicate your home region.

Southern Africa

PAGE 22: D.1) TRADE COSTS

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q34: FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are trade costs high? (You may choose more than 1 option)

Non-Tariff Measures (including standards)

Q35: Additional information.

EU's sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements are very stringent

Q36: FOR SERVICES: For the markets which you have identified as the highest costs, why are trade costs high? (You may choose more than 1 options)

Recognition of professional qualifications,
Restrictions on movement of natural persons

Q37: Additional information.

Harmonised professional qualifications are being worked on the SADC Region.

PAGE 23: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q38: How have your trade costs evolved over the past 5 years ?

Unsure

Q39: Additional information.

No recorded trade costs evolution over the past 5 years

PAGE 24: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q40: Does your Government use any of the following sources to address the issue of trade costs? (You may choose more than 1 option)

World Bank Doing Business Index

Q41: Additional information.

The World Bank Doing Business Index is normally questionable

Q42: Do you validate the results? (You may tick more than 1 box)

No

Q43: Additional information.

Normally the World Bank Doing Business Index results are published without being validated with the Government

PAGE 26: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q44: Is your government taking national action to reduce trade costs? Yes

PAGE 27: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q45: What national action is your government is taking ?(You may tick more than 1 box) National government initiatives,
Initiatives supported by development partners

Q46: Additional information.

Lesotho Trade Portal has been established and placed at the borders and other agencies that facilitate trade like One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre.

Q47: In which areas have national actions been undertaken or are on-going? (You may tick more than one box) Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Transport infrastructure,
Access to trade finance,
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services
,
Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers

PAGE 28: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q48: Is your government engaged in regional actions to reduce trade costs? Yes

PAGE 29: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q49: Please specify (You may tick more than 1 box) Regional economic community,
Free trade agreements,
Initiatives supported by development partners

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q50: In which areas have regional actions been undertaken or are on-going? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Transport infrastructure,
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services
,
Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers

Q51: Additional information.

Customs Modernisation Programme and Lesotho Trade Portal are some the actions that have been undertaken as a result of regional trade negotiations the country is engaged in.

PAGE 30: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q52: Is external support aligned with your national and regional needs to reduce trade costs ? Yes

Q53: Additional information.

USAID and SADC Trade Hub Project is one example that assists in reducing trade costs

PAGE 31: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q54: How is external support aligned with your needs?(You may tick more than 1 box)

External support is aligned with national priorities to reduce trade costs
,
Dialogue with donors has resulted in attention to the issue of trade costs
,
Improved dialogue with regional partners has resulted in this being prioritized

Q55: Additional information.

Through support such as Enhanced Integrated Framework for trade related technical assistance

PAGE 32: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q56: Why is external support not aligned with your needs?(You may tick more than 1 box) No opinion

Q57: Additional information.

Need for more coordination of external support to ensure that it is aligned to reducing trade costs.

PAGE 34: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q58: What impact would implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have on the evolution of your trade costs? Between 0-10% reduction

Q59: Additional information.

I'm not quite sure about this one but hopefully there will be reductions in trade costs as a result of full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

PAGE 35: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q60: In which regions would the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have the biggest impact on the trade costs you face ? (Please choose no more than 5 options) Western Europe

Q61: Additional information.

Currently Western Europe is the region where trade costs are highest

PAGE 36: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q62: Do you plan to seek Aid-for-Trade support to help implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted ? Yes, support already being sought

Q63: Have you undertaken a Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment? Yes

PAGE 37: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q64: Please specify the organization(s) involved in and year(s) of each needs assessment.

Other 2007
(please specify)
EIF

PAGE 38: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q65: Do you plan to request a new Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment or an update of an existing assessment? Yes

Q66: Please specify why.

Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment was done way back in 2010 in the form Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and needs to be updated.

PAGE 39: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q67: Where might you need support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted? (You may tick more than 1 box) To align support with on-going national reform programmes

PAGE 40: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q68: What difficulties do you face, or do you expect to face, in securing Aid-for-Trade support to help implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted ? (You may tick more than 1 box) National coordination and demonstration of political will for TFA reform

PAGE 41: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q69: Which disciplines of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, will prove the hardest to implement and where Aid-for-Trade support should be focused?(You may tick more than 1 box) Establishment and/or continued operation of national committee

Q70: Additional information.

There needs to be coordination with other stakeholders so that Trade Facilitation Agenda should not be perceived as the Ministry of Trade issue alone.

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

PAGE 43: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q71: What have been the key factors in achieving successful reductions in trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Commitment of regional partners to goal

Q72: Additional information.

External trade depends on commitment of regional partners in the agreements that have been concluded to reduce trade costs.

PAGE 44: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q73: What outputs have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Updated customs legislation,
Greater transparency,
Updated customs working practices,
Improved cooperation between border agencies,
Creation of electronic single windows

Q74: Additional information.

Customs Modernisation Programme earlier alluded to in the questionnaire is a testimony to actions taken to reduce trade costs.

PAGE 45: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q75: What outcomes have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Reduction in border clearance times,
Increase in customs revenue,
Reduction in informal payments,
Increase in export volumes,
Increase in import volumes

Q76: Additional information.

Reduced congestion at the border posts

PAGE 46: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q77: What impacts have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Higher revenues for exporters,
Higher revenues for importers,
Rise in employment,
Increase in foreign direct investment,
Increase in domestic private sector investment

Q78: Additional information.

New investments coming up and employment creation increased.

PAGE 47: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q79: Which types of actions have achieved the most positive results in reducing trade costs for goods and services? (Please choose no more than 7 options)

Customs reform, Other border agency reforms,
Upgrading transport infrastructure,
Upgrading network infrastructure,
Working with trade partners to recognize professional qualifications
,
Working with trade partners to remove restrictions on movement of natural persons

Q80: Additional information.

Easy and quick customs clearance procedures have drastically contributed to reducing trade costs.

PAGE 48: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q81: What contribution can reducing trade costs make to the target of inclusive, sustainable growth? (Please choose no more than 7 options)

Increase in exports, Rise in employment,
Diversification in export markets,
Foreign direct investment,
Domestic private sector investment,
Increase in imports, Reduction in poverty

Q82: Additional information.

Reducing trade costs has positive employment creation and poverty reduction as more investments will be realised that will create employment especially for women.

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

PAGE 50: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q83: Has the alignment of Aid-for-Trade support to your national needs and priorities changed since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in 2005? Improved

PAGE 51: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q84: If it has improved, please specify why.(You may tick more than one box) Better dialogue with donors,
Better dialogue with the private sector,
Better dialogue with regional partners

PAGE 52: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q85: Why has the alignment declined?(You may tick more than 1 box) Other (please specify)
Alignment has improved because Aid for Trade has been included in the national development strategy

Q86: Additional information.

Trade is one of the top priorities in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) that will contribute to economic growth.

PAGE 53: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q87: What impact has the Aid-for-Trade Initiative had since it was launched in 2005?(You may tick more than 1 box) Increase in resources available for trade development
,
More attention to trade issues in development ,
More priority given by national authorities to trade issues in national development planning
,
More priority given by regional authorities to trade issues in development planning
,
More priority given by donors to trade issues in national development planning

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q88: Additional information.

SADC Aid for Trade Strategy has been developed to address regional trade related needs of member countries.

PAGE 54: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q89: What potential future contribution could the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs make to the post-2015 development agenda? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Mainstreaming of trade issues in national policy ,
Engaging the private sector in national trade and development policy planning
,
Catalyst for Aid-for-Trade flows ,
Women's economic empowerment

Q90: Additional information.

Agro-activities in which women participate the most are encouraged such as mushroom farming, poultry and piggery.

Q91: What potential future contribution could the Aid-for-Trade Initiative make to the post-2015 development agenda? (Please choose a maximum of 5 options)

Ensuring continued attention to trade issues in development
,
Engaging the private sector in development issues
,
Making a contribution to economic growth and poverty eradication through inclusive, sustainable development
,
Helping to address issues of inequality,
Positive impacts on women's economic empowerment

Q92: Additional information.

Aid for Trade is already showing positive results as more least developed countries are being assisted to meaningfully participate in the multi-lateral trading system.

Q93: How in your view could the Aid-for-Trade Initiative be improved?

More engagement by recipient countries with development partners on how best to use Aid for Trade resources, close monitoring and evaluation of the initiative.

PAGE 55: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q94: Additional information on "Reducing trade costs and inclusive, sustainable growth". If there is anything you would like to add on the topic of "Reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth", which you feel has not been covered in this questionnaire, please use this box.

Nothing