

CALL FOR AID-FOR-TRADE CASE STORIES

I. Overview and objective

1. This communication launches a call for Aid-for-Trade case stories.¹ The objective of the call is to probe deeper into Aid-for-Trade objectives, challenges and processes to acquire better knowledge about outcomes and impacts of Aid-for-Trade through the submission of case stories. Case stories are well suited to offer a large group of stakeholders an opportunity to share experiences about what is working (or not) at the national and regional level, why it is working (or not) and what improvements are needed.

2. Case stories submitted will provide an important source of information for the next Aid for Trade at a Glance publication and Third Global Review of Aid for Trade – the focus of which will be on outcomes and impacts. Case stories complement the joint OECD/WTO questionnaire. A separate call for the submission of completed questionnaires will be circulated in the final quarter of 2010.

II. Who can submit case stories?

3. Case stories can be submitted by WTO Members, Observers, international financial institutions, multilateral and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other interested parties. Case stories which are the result of collaborations between different respondents (e.g. groups of Members, Observers, Observer Organizations, etc and collaborations between these groups) are particularly encouraged.

4. Respondents may submit more than one case story. There is no limitation to how many case stories can be submitted. Case stories must however focus on issues which fall within the scope of the definition of Aid for Trade given by the Aid-for-Trade Task Force (hereafter "Task Force"). The Task Force defined the scope of Aid for Trade: "*in a way that is both broad enough to reflect the diverse trade needs identified by countries, and clear enough to establish a border between Aid for Trade and other development assistance of which it is a part. Projects and programmes should be considered as Aid for Trade if these activities have been identified as trade-related development priorities in the recipient country's national development strategies*"².

III. Why submit a case story?

5. Case stories provide respondents with an opportunity to highlight their work, their successes and lessons learned. Furthermore, respondents can increase visibility of the problems and challenges they face.

6. Case stories are potentially a very useful tool in facilitating dialogue between ministries, stakeholders, partners and donors about what works and what does not work.

7. The case stories also give respondents the chance to focus on an issue that is important to them, in a way that is not possible through the questionnaire process. Moreover by relating local and regional experiences to the debate, it enriches the global discussion on how to improve the effectiveness of aid for trade.

¹ The Call for Case Stories was first circulated as document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/22 on 27 July 2010.

² Document WT/AFT/1.

IV. What should be submitted as a case story?

8. What to submit is the decision of the respondent. When selecting the subject, respondent should keep in mind that the objective of the exercise is to understand better the outcomes and impacts of Aid-for-Trade activities and approaches. Allowing respondents to address all the issues they consider relevant is coherent with the guiding principle of ownership that underlies the Initiative. Furthermore, it will encourage a broad variety of assessments of the different components of the Initiative.

9. It is envisaged that case stories on impacts and outcomes may cover, *inter alia*, the following categories: approaches, processes and projects/programmes

10. Assessing the impact and outcomes of aid projects, including aid for trade projects is methodologically challenging. Work is on-going in the Aid-for-Trade community to overcome these practical difficulties. The use of case stories is an interim step which should build a body of evidence and help spur this process. In this context, suggestions on how to take evaluation forward, good practices that members are currently using, and examples of projects and programmes that might be considered for further evaluation work could be discussed. For example case stories may be submitted which consider experiences of approaches to identify binding constraints, articulate results chains, select indicators used to measure results, econometric studies, etc.

11. Case stories on processes may consider the extent to which national and regional Aid-for-Trade processes are working effectively and, in particular, the challenges partners are facing in articulating a "demand" for Aid for Trade, donors in formulating a "response" and matching the two at local and regional level. For example, the Task Force highlighted the following challenges:

- How is trade mainstreamed in national development strategies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)?
- What role is the Enhanced Integrated Framework playing in strengthening the demand side (for least-developed countries (LDCs))?
- How is the private sector involved in the design of the national trade strategy?
- How do donors respond to trade priorities identified at the national and regional levels?
- How do donors coordinate their response and is this response coherent?
- Are Aid-for-Trade resources sufficient?
- South-South (e.g., how is the expertise of the South being used to deliver Aid-for-Trade programmes, including through triangular schemes of cooperation)?
- How are trade-related country policies and donor activities monitored and evaluated? Are baselines established, targets being set, indicators selected to measure results?

12. Case stories about the impact of Aid-for-Trade projects and programmes should be drawn from all types of activities identified by the Task Force:

- trade-related technical assistance (i.e. trade policy and regulation);
- trade development;
- trade-related infrastructure (i.e. transport and storage, communications, energy supply and generation);
- building trade capacity (i.e. business, banking, agriculture, forestry, fishing, industry, mining, and tourism);
- trade-related adjustment; and
- other trade-related programmes (see Annex II for a more detailed outline).

13. Outcome and impacts can be described at the level of individual projects or programmes. Alternatively, or in tandem, impacts at the macro-level of the impact of an individual project or programme or the combined effect of (several or all) projects or programmes can be elaborated. For instance, case stories could tell whether Aid-for-Trade projects and programmes work at the national level (e.g., the links between Aid for Trade and export performance in country A), at the sector level (e.g., Aid for Trade and agricultural exports in country B), at the sub-sector level (e.g., Aid for Trade and horticulture exports in country C), and at the product level (e.g., Aid for Trade for mangos in country D).

V. What time period should case stories cover?

14. Ideally, case stories should be used which come from the period since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in December 2005. However, aid-for-trade projects predate the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative. Furthermore, given the nature of some type of aid-for-trade projects, e.g. infrastructure projects, it may be necessary to examine projects which commenced earlier than the start of the Initiative to ensure that results are available. As a general rule, however, projects completed earlier than 2002 should not be submitted as case stories.

VI. How should success or failure be assessed?

15. Success or failure should be assessed against the specific project/programme's aims and the objectives defined for the Initiative by the Recommendations of the Director-General's Task Force on Aid for Trade.³ These objectives are:

- Trade-related adjustment; and
- Enabling developing countries to use trade more effectively to promote growth, development and poverty reduction and to achieve development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- Helping developing countries to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure in order to facilitate access to markets and increase exports;
- To facilitate, implement and adjust to trade reform and liberalization;
- To assist regional integration;
- To assist smooth integration into the world trading system; and
- To assist in the implementation of trade agreements.

16. Furthermore, there is particular interest to focus more in detail on issues that have gained prominence in the Aid-for-Trade debate such as, *inter alia*, the impacts of trade on poverty, gender and sustainable development.

³ Document WT/AFT/1

VII. What support is available to respondents?

17. Financial support will not be offered for the completion of case stories. The case story format has been chosen so as to facilitate responses from all members of the Aid-for-Trade partnership.⁴

18. Respondents with questions on the process are encouraged to consult the dedicated web page for this exercise on the OECD website. This web page will provide guidance to potential respondents. The web page can be consulted at the following address: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/casestories>

19. Advice on how to complete the case stories and the topics that may be covered is also directly available from the OECD and WTO Secretariats. Questions should be addressed electronically to the following addresses:

aft.monitoring@oecd.org

and

aft.monitoring@wto.org

20. The World Bank, regional development banks, the UN regional commissions and other relevant organizations are requested to provide guidance to respondents. Members are encouraged to work collaboratively and to provide assistance to each other in completing case stories.

VIII. How should case stories be submitted?

21. Case stories should be drafted in one of the working languages of the WTO: English, French or Spanish.

22. Stories should be submitted in line with the standard template reproduced in Annex I. The use of a standard template will allow for comparability between case stories.

23. Case stories should be submitted electronically to both the WTO and OECD at the following e-mail addresses:

aft.monitoring@oecd.org

and

aft.monitoring@wto.org

IX. What is the deadline for submission of case stories?

24. The deadline for the submission of case stories is **31 January 2011**.

25. Case stories submitted after this date will be included on the dedicated website, but will not be used for the analysis which will inform the Aid for Trade at a Glance publication.

⁴ A case story provides a concise but comprehensive narrative treatment of an issue. Ideally, case stories should not exceed 6 pages in length. Case stories differ from case studies in that the latter are typically based on an in-depth investigation. The reason to request case stories, not case studies, is to generate substantive information, without the cost or burden of in-depth academic research.

X. What will happen to the case stories?

26. The OECD and WTO will publish case stories received on a dedicated website: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/casestories>.⁵ The case stories will be published in the language in which they are submitted. They will not be translated in other working languages of the OECD and WTO.

27. The case stories received will be used, along with the replies to questionnaires, as the basis for the narrative in the 2011 Aid for Trade at a Glance publication. This publication will be prepared under the responsibility of the OECD and WTO Secretariats and without prejudice to the positions of Members and their rights and obligations.

XI. How will a representative sample of case stories be ensured?

28. The process is driven by respondents. Engagement will provide for a balanced coverage of the different groups of countries (*e.g.*, low-income, middle-income, land-locked, small and vulnerable economies, etc.), different development actors (*e.g.*, bilateral, multilateral, South-South) and different objectives, challenges and programmes. Engagement by respondents is essential to ensure a representative sample of case stories.

29. Response to the call for case stories will be tracked by both the OECD and WTO secretariats in close consultation with the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD). Respondents are encouraged to signal to the Secretariats their intention to respond to the call.

30. It is also stressed that the aim of the case story process is not just to draw lessons on good practice from success stories, but also to draw the lessons from failures.

⁵ The OECD and WTO reserve the right not to publish material which they deem incompatible with their rights and obligations as international organizations.

ANNEX I

CASE STORY TEMPLATE

TITLE

Date of submission:

Region:

Country:

Type: approach/process/project or programme

Author:

Contact Details: address, phone, e-mail

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Executive Summary

1. Issues Addressed
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Annexes and/or References

ANNEX II

AID-FOR-TRADE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES; CRS CODES

AID-FOR-TRADE PROGRAMMES		
CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	CRS CODES
Trade Policy and Regulations	Trade policy and administrative management	33110
	Trade facilitation	33120
	Regional trade agreements (RTAs)	33130
	Multilateral trade negotiations	33140
	Trade education/training	33181
Economic infrastructure	Transport and storage	21010 to 21081
	Communications	22010 to 22040
	Energy supply and generation	23010 to 23082
Building productive capacities	Business and other services	25010
	Banking and financial services	24010 to 24081
	Agriculture	31110 to 31195
	Forestry	31210 to 31291
	Fishing	31310 to 31391
	Industry	32110 to 32182
	Mineral resources and mining	32210 to 32268
Tourism	33210	
Trade-related adjustment		33150
Other trade related needs		