The COVID-19 Project


As a key player in business and trade, Customs administrations are strongly urged to facilitate and expedite the movement of relief and essential goods and to ensure the stability and continuity of global supply chains, thus minimizing the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economies and societies.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) quickly reacted to the challenges faced by its Members and sprang into action. With the financial support of the Government of Japan, it launched the WCO COVID-19 Project in July 2020.

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Objectives

The project aims to improve the ability of Customs administrations in Developing and Least Developed Countries to deal with the impact of unpredictable and disruptive scenarios such as those stemming from COVID-19, other infectious diseases and natural disasters.

Capacity building

The project will focus on Customs administrations’ capacity building at national, sub-regional and regional levels. In delivering support to its Members, the WCO intends to cooperate closely with other partner International Organizations and agencies involved in the field of humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

Guidelines

The Project is entrusted with developing Guidelines allowing Customs administrations faced with various disruptive scenarios, such as COVID-19, to facilitate and expedite the movement of emergency relief goods and to ensure global supply chain continuity together with improved protection for Customs officers to reduce the risks of infection.

Technical support

The project will deliver technical support and IT solutions for the sharing of information and expertise to improve the capacity of beneficiary Customs administrations in response to emergency situations such as COVID-19.