UK-WCO capacity building initiatives to support TFA implementation

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Introduction

• World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implementation – UK priority
• Funding made available to support implementation
• Increased trade facilitation focus in HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) – new team created in 2014
• Two new capacity building initiatives:
  • HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD WTO TFA Capacity Building Programme - HMRC
  • SARS-WCO Cooperation to Strengthen Customs Systems in the East and Southern Africa Region – Department for International Development (DfID)
HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD WTO TFA Capacity Building Programme

- £3 million made available over the next 3 years
- Partnership between HMRC, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the United Nations Committee for Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- WCO - preferred partner for customs-related TFA capacity building
- Delivery through the WCO’s Mercator Programme
- Parallel focus on increasing the pool of WCO Accredited Experts to support and deliver capacity building
- UNCTAD - contributions to needs analyses and establishing/supporting National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs)
Principles

TFA-related
- Capacity building directly related to TFA implementation
- Encourage TFA implementation and notifications through NTFCs

Sustainability
- Multi-year programmes of activity
- Clear objectives and outcomes
- Measurable impact

Delivery
- In-country capacity building
- Delivered by WCO Accredited Experts
Scope

Recipient countries
- Developing and least-developed countries
- Countries experiencing or emerging from conflict

Close partnership with recipient countries
- Actively engage with recipient countries to undertake needs analyses
- Activity programmes agreed with recipient countries

Other stakeholders
- Close coordination and cooperation
- Minimise duplication and optimise outcomes
SARS-WCO Cooperation to Strengthen Customs Systems in the East and Southern Africa Region

• DfID-funded partnership between the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the WCO to provide capacity building support for customs administrations in East and Southern Africa (ESA)
• Recipient countries include: Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya and Angola
• Three areas of activity:
  • Customs reform and modernisation
  • Compliance
  • WTO TFA
Thank you

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