



PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0715Ea

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239th/240th Sessions

-
24 – 27 April 2023

Brussels, 24 February 2023

ROLE OF CUSTOMS IN DISASTER RELIEF

Update on the progress of the COVID-19 Project

(Item VI on the Agenda)

("B" Item on the Agenda)

SUMMARY

Purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to provide the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) with an update on the progress achieved by the COVID-19 Project.

Actions required of the PTC

The PTC is kindly invited to:

- take note of the information provided in this document about the progress achieved by the COVID-19 Project since the Autumn 2022 PTC sessions; and,
- provide guidance on the way forward.

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I. Background

1. This document provides an update on the progress achieved by the COVID-19 Project since the last PTC sessions.

II. Intersessional developments

1. Capacity building

2. Since the 237th/238th PTC Sessions, held in October 2022, the COVID-19 Project Team has organized eight workshops as detailed below:

Activity	Region	Dates	Status
National workshop for Tonga Customs - "WCO workshop to assist Tonga Customs in improving its capacity to respond to emergency situations: Drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the clearance of relief consignments"	AP	12-16 September	Delivered (in person)
National workshop for Fiji - "WCO online workshop to assist Fiji Customs in improving its preparedness to respond to emergency situations: Drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the clearance of relief consignments"	AP	24-28 October	Delivered (virtual)
National workshop for Angola - "WCO workshop to assist Angola Revenue Administration in improving its preparedness to face natural disasters and other disruptive events: conducting SIMEX"	WCA	28-29 November	Delivered (in person)
National workshop for Comoros – "WCO national workshop to improve the ability of Comoros Customs to manage the risks stemming from natural disasters and other disruptive events"	ESA	11-12 January 2023	Delivered (virtual)
National workshop for Jamaica – "WCO workshop to assist Jamaica Customs in improving its preparedness to respond to emergency situations: Drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the clearance of	AMS	16-20 January 2023	Delivered (in person)

relief consignments”			
“World Customs Organization multi-regional workshop on the Role of Customs in disaster relief”	WCA/ESA/MENA	30 January -1 February 2023	Delivered (in person)
“WCO workshop on the Role of Customs in disaster relief”	Europe	8-10 March 2023	Delivered (in person)
National workshop for Indonesia – “WCO workshop to assist Indonesia Customs in improving its preparedness to face natural disasters and other disruptive events”	AP	13-17 January 2023	Delivered (in person)

2. Procurement of a Mobile App and IT equipment

3. The COVID-19 Project has provided a Mobile App for passenger Customs declarations and related IT equipment. In February, training was provided to Nigeria Customs on the use of the IT equipment. Egypt requested to benefit from this opportunity and has become the fifth WCO Member to receive such support.

III. Possible way forward

4. The Project is scheduled to end on 30 June 2023. In May 2023 the Project will organize a wrap-up event in a hybrid format to bring together the Project’s beneficiaries and WCO Members. It will be an opportunity to highlight the results achieved and discuss the lessons learnt stemming from the work carried out since the start of the Project. The month of June will be focused on administrative and financial reporting.

IV. Conclusion

5. The PTC is kindly invited to:
- take note of the information provided in this document about the progress made by the COVID-19 Project since the Autumn 2022 PTC sessions;
 - provide guidance on the way forward.
