IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION FOR NIGERIA

This Case Story is an update on the 2011 case story that outlined the strategic action plan for trade facilitation which illustrated how dividends, synergy and donor programme alignment could arise from the interplay of local and strategic stakeholder partnership approach with “bottom up”, open, transparent and inclusive process of needs assessment, design and programme development planning.

In 2011 Nigeria reported the fact that despite the huge wealth of human and material resource endowment of Nigeria, the slow pace of trade liberalization has not gathered enough momentum to improve trade performance. Progress has however been made on various areas with an improved outlook informed by the signing of the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which when implemented will reduce costs and therefore improve trade performance.

BACKGROUND

Nigeria recently emerged as the largest economy in Africa. On the international trade scene Nigeria showed a strong commitment and played an active role in the negotiations of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) and is deeply committed to its implementation. To this end, and with the aid of Development Partners Nigeria has submitted category A commitments. At continental level Nigeria has been a key participant in the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Boosting IntraAfrica Trade Initiative (BIAT). At the regional level Nigeria is actively involved in Borderless Alliance initiative and assumed a leadership position in the formation of a high level task force on trade facilitation with representatives of ECOWAS member countries. At national level with the rebasing of the GDP Nigeria has emerged as the largest African economy and is consolidating on Trade facilitation initiatives to further position the economy. The TFTF is more active and in line with the new developments has articulated and revised the action plan submitted in 2011.

ISSUES ADDRESSED.

The issues addressed in 2011 case story remains valid for this present one and is about a comprehensive and integrated planning approach that helps in articulating clearer ‘demand driven’ Aid for Trade process within the framework of the WTO and National Needs Assessment. The programme is synergized with Development Partners Technical Assistance and Support Programme at National and Regional levels. Additional challenges faced related to:- Proper engagement of the organized private sector in trade policy formulation, project and programme design, implementation and monitoring. - Ensuring interaction with development partners in ways that ensure greater DP co-ordination of their activities; better alignment of their resources and developmental assistance: more harmonization of procedures and practices and in delegating co-
operation to enable country programme staff more flexibility; more result oriented programming and ensuring ‘country ownership’ and effective leadership of the development policies, strategies and actions consistent with the Paris Declaration on Principles of Aid Effectiveness. - Address “Sufficiency” of Aid for Trade resources through realizing synergy from tighter programming and early identification and release of national budgetary resources for counterpart funding.

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

i) To proactively direct and link wider DP programme of support to short, medium and longer term national action plan in accordance with Paris Declaration and ACCRA Accord on Aid Effectiveness. On this item progress has been fairly achieved with deeper involvement of GIZ, EU and USAID

ii) To ensure more compliance with Nigeria’s obligations under the Multi-lateral trading system, deepening of ECOWAS regional economic integration.

The specific objectives include;

• To increase the visibility of trade facilitation measures and sensitize stakeholders and the general public.
• To consolidate and publicise existing work on the identification and prioritization of Trade Facilitation bottlenecks in Nigeria
• To link the Trade Facilitation Action plan to a wider programme for support from the Development Partners, and align it with regional and international best practices.
• To use the Trade Facilitation Action Plan to develop and disseminate measurable performance targets in key areas.
• To monitor the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Action Plan and progress on measurable performance targets.
• To provide a forum for discussion, and as appropriate, formulating recommendations in relation to international negotiations on trade facilitation; To help build private sector capacity in Trade Facilitation and logistics

KEY TARGET:
Due to outstanding milestones key targets of the present case story would be to ensure that by end of 2017, over the life of validated action plan, Nigeria would improve the ranking on ease of doing business and achieve its target of 48 hours clearance time for imports

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION: Task Force on Trade Facilitation

An inter-ministerial stakeholder Task Force on Trade facilitation comprising of 23 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and members of the Organised private sector as well as industry associations was reinaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Olusegun Aganga. The main aim was to reinvigorate the TFTF and reposition it towards the achievement of its objectives

The re-constituted and re-inaugurated the Task Force on Trade Facilitation (TFTF) which was approved by the Federal Executive Council has the following membership: Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment; Federal Ministry of Finance; National Planning Commission; Federal Ministry of Transport; Nigerian Customs Service (NCS); Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS); Nigeria Shippers Council (NSC); Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA); National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC); Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON); National Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS); Federal Produce Inspection Service (FPIS); Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC); Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); NEXIM Bank; National Association of Clearing & Forwarding Agent (NAC&FA); Nigeria Police Force (NPA); Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN); Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC); Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA); Raw Material Research & Development Council (RMR&DC); and Council for Regulation of Freight Forwarders (CRFF) While members of the organized private sector include:- National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); Association of Nigerian Exporters (ANE) and Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN).

The Chairman of the Task Force is now Mr. Felix Asikpata the Director of trade as the former chairman Mr David Adejuwon, is now Nigeria’s Ambassador to WTO. The TFTF has an ongoing consultation with other TF initiatives led by Development Partners at the National and ECOWAS Regional levels. Thus the TFTF is the focal point of Trade Facilitation activities and provides a coordinating role.
focal point of Trade Facilitation activities and provides a co-ordination role. While DfID sponsored the development of the short, medium and long term strategic Action Plan of the TFTF, the current plan that builds on the strategic action plan was developed by the TFTF members and was presented and reviewed at a workshop organised in collaboration with GIZ and supported by the EU. The platform of the new TFTF was used to achieve the categorization of Nigeria's Trade Facilitation implementation Commitments. The category A commitments was approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2014 and the process of categorization was actualised with the support of development partners which include GIZ, USAID NEXTT, ITC, UNCTAD and the WTO. This builds on what was achieved in 2011 with the support of DfID, that offered a short term consultancy support that helped the initial needs assessment, outreach visits to sea ports, airports, Seme border and the regional transit corridor; development of the action plan; followed by identification of proposals for support and contributing to a wider and longer term framework on which Development Partners can build their medium to longer term programme of support in a much more aligned and co-ordinated fashion. Accordingly various development partners such as GIZ, USAID NEXTT, UNCTAD/ITC have keyed into the identified trade facilitation needs and supported workshops among other consultative processes.

In 2011 we reported that the revised comprehensive integrated TF Action Plan had to go to the Federal Executive Council for approval and then consolidated into the vision 20:2020 master plan as it makes its way to budgetary expression in the 2011/12 budget round to secure national counterpart funding but given outstanding milestones this is now targeted for 2016/2017

OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

In 2011 the Minister of Industry Trade and Investment emphasized the need to ensure that the Trade Facilitation Action Plan has a strategic ECOWAS regional focus and builds on the regional trade architecture particularly linked to the Lagos – Abidjan Transit Corridor which accounts for over 70% of the regional economic trading activities and which is a recipient of substantial Donor funding (US$258 million from the World Bank; €418 million of EU 10th EDF etc).

The Strategic Action plan, which drafting was supported by DfID, focused on extensive sensitization, dissemination and awareness campaign in the Lagos Sea ports at Apapa and TinCan Island, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, SEME border with the Rep of Benin (along the ECOWAS Lagos-Abidjan Transit Corridor). It also involves key activities along the transit corridor such as mandatory reduction to 3 official check-points, one-stop border/ports agency to support Joint Border Post initiative. The Medium to Long Term Action Plan involved cascading the Short term actions in Lagos to other parts of the country and include alignment of medium to long term Development Partners comprehensive programmes of support to trade facilitation. These actions are ongoing and a whole lot has been achieved especially with the support received from the 10th EDF by Nigeria to support Competitiveness. The fund is managed and implemented by GIZ and UNIDO.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

In 2011, the first problem encountered was inadequate funding and lack of budgetary provision for the task force programme of activities planned for the first 6 months (June ‘10 to Dec ‘10). Donor commitment to short term programme support was only agreed in Dec 2010, thus pushing back the programme to Jan 2011, by 3 months but this has however improved with funding received from GIZ and supported by EU through the competitiveness fund.

Consultation with the Development Partners secured short consultancy from DfID to enable support to TFTF in sensitization visit to Apapa port, Tin Can Island port, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Seme Border (Nigeria/Rep. of Benin) and the Lagos-Seme Transit Corridor and production of short, medium and long term Action Plan. Drawing up the Action Plan required wider consultation with stakeholders and Development Partners and ECOWAS than expected to capture the Trade Facilitation programmes and input. Also, further visits were made to Okerete border town to look at Trans-Border market initiative at Okerete Border post between Nigeria and Republic of Benin (ECOWAS North-West Transit Corridor). All this contributed to the new outlook of trade facilitation in Nigeria captured in the new action plan for TFTF.

FACTORS FOR SUCCESS
With a new action plan in place which is based on the WTO Trade facilitation Agreement as well as the submission of category A commitments at the WTO the integrated partnership approach with the inclusion of most stakeholders and the organized private sector and the close interaction with the Development partners which permitted closer alignment of their programme of support is a key factor for success.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The key results are in the setting up of an effective and inclusive TFTF partnership structure that embedded dialogue between stakeholders and interaction with DPs, nurtured by an open, transparent and inclusive process that resulted in successful categorization of Nigeria's trade facilitation implementation commitments.

LESSON LEARNED

One of the lessons is the power and value of joint working, the synergy and strategic benefits that flow from holistic, inclusive, integrated and co-ordinated approach to Trade Facilitation Action Planning and Capacity Development. Group learning and information sharing of the best practices is evident in the conduct of affairs of the Task Force on Trade Facilitation, clearly helping build trust in partners and promote better understanding of national priorities. An inclusive but strong partnership approach, supported by open and transparent process has now laid a solid foundation for developing clear agenda and programme of Action to mainstreaming trade in other areas of development policies such as Agriculture, Promote growth and MDG, Poverty reduction, Banking finance, Health, Education, Creative and cultural industries etc.

CONCLUSION

Effective leadership is at the heart of design, development, planning, implementation and monitoring of very complex array of development programmes aimed at tackling multi-dimensional challenges around Trade-facilitation at national, regional and international levels. This is even more challenging considering the range of state and non-state stakeholders involved. The imperatives of strategic fitness to national and regional policy objectives and priorities while delivering obligations under the multi-lateral trading systems requires a high level of co-ordinated action, through stakeholder partnership framework and an bottom-up, open, transparent and inclusive process that engages the development partners in ways that permit closer programme alignment and co-ordination.

Annex I: New Action Plan for TFTF
Annex II Action Plan for Regional Cross Border Trade Facilitation

Q4: Please add here web links to project/programme materials.  
Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 5: C.2) ABOUT THE CASE STORY

Q5: YOUR CONTACT DETAILS
Name:                FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TRADE AND INVESTMENT
Ministry/Institution/Organization:     FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TRADE AND INVESTMENT
Country:                Nigeria
Email Address:    directortradeng@yahoo.co.uk

Q6: FUNCTION  
Public sector
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q7: FUNDING PARTNER Tick the appropriate box(es)</th>
<th>Bilateral donor, Multilateral organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q8: Additional information</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q9: START DATE OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10: STATUS OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11: DURATION OR, IF ON-GOING, EXPECTED DURATION OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q12: COST OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q13: Additional information</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q14: TYPE OF FUNDING FOR PROJECT/PROGRAMME</td>
<td>Respondent skipped this question</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PAGE 6: C.2) ABOUT THE CASE STORY**

| Q15: PROJECT/PROGRAMME TYPE                    | Single country / customs territory       |

**PAGE 7: C.2) ABOUT THE CASE STORY**

| Q16: SINGLE COUNTRY/CUSTOMS TERRITORY         | NIGERIA                                  |

**PAGE 8: C.2) ABOUT THE CASE STORY**

| Q17: REGION(If the region does not appear in the drop down menu, please enter manually.) | Respondent skipped this question         |

**PAGE 9: C.2) ABOUT THE CASE STORY**

| Q18: MULTI-COUNTRY(Enter all countries or customs territories) | Respondent skipped this question         |
Q19: CASE STORY FOCUS
Tick the appropriate box(es)
- REDUCING TRADE COSTS FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS
- REDUCING TRADE COSTS FOR SERVICES

Q20: HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME
Tick the appropriate box(es)
- On-going project

Q21: WHAT WERE THE OUTPUTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME
Tick the appropriate box(es)
- Other (please specify) See below

Q22: Additional information (maximum 300 words)

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• To provide a forum for discussion, and as appropriate, formulating recommendations in relation to international negotiations on trade facilitation; To help build private sector capacity in Trade Facilitation and logistics
Q23: WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF YOUR PROJECT/PROGRAMMETick the appropriate box(es)
  - Reduction in customs clearance time
  - Other (please specify)
  - Improve WB ease of doing business ranking

Q24: Additional information(maximum 300 words)
Due to outstanding milestones key targets of the present case story would be to ensure that by 2017, over the life of validated action plan, Nigeria would improve the ranking on ease of doing business and achieve its target of 48 hours clearance time for imports.

Q25: WHAT WERE THE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMMETick the appropriate box(es)
  - Other (please specify)
  - On-going; too early to assess

Q26: Additional information(maximum 300 words)  
Respondent skipped this question

Q27: LESSONS LEARNT Tick the appropriate box(es)
  - Importance of alignment with national priorities
  - Importance of agreed accountability frameworks
  - Importance of political will and commitment by project partner
  - Other (please specify) See below

Q28: Additional information(maximum 300 words)
One of the lessons is the power and value of joint working, the synergy and strategic benefits that flow from holistic, inclusive, integrated and co-ordinated approach to Trade Facilitation Action Planning and Capacity Development. Group learning and information sharing of the best practices is evident in the conduct of affairs of the Task Force on Trade Facilitation, clearly helping build trust in partners and promote better understanding of national priorities. An inclusive but strong partnership approach, supported by open and transparent process has now laid a solid foundation for developing clear agenda and programme of Action to mainstreaming trade in other areas of development policies such as Agriculture, Promote growth and MDG, Poverty reduction, Banking finance, Health, Education, Creative and cultural industries etc.

Q29: PROJECT OR PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK Tick the appropriate box(es)
  - No monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework used