

OECD

# **Evaluation of the OECD Development Assistance Committee contributions with the Trade Committee to the WTO-led Aid for Trade Initiative**

---

**Final Report**

March 2014

Prepared by:

**SAANA CONSULTING**

## Table of contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 OECD'S WORK ON AID FOR TRADE	1
1.2 AFT – A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WTO AND OECD	2
1.3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	2
1.4 THEORY OF CHANGE	4
<b>2. FINDINGS</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 ACTIVITIES	6
2.2 OUTPUTS	7
2.3 OUTCOMES	13
2.4 IMPACT AND GOAL	15
2.5 EXTERNAL FACTORS	19
<b>3. CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	20
3.2 FINDINGS OF CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS	20
3.3 REFLECTIONS ON FUTURE WORK	22
<b>ANNEX 1: LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: LIST OF REFERENCES</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: SELECTION OF INFORMANTS FOR SURVEYS</b>	<b>27</b>
PARTNER COUNTRY SURVEY	27
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY SURVEY	27
DONOR SURVEY	27
<b>ANNEX 4: SURVEY TEMPLATES</b>	<b>28</b>

## Executive summary

### Overview

OECD's work on Aid for Trade (AfT) focuses on the production of outputs that have many characteristics of global public goods, and which are designed to help other agents deliver more and better AfT. Broadly speaking, OECD aims to influence the operationalisation of the AfT Initiative (AfTI), the interventions of agents delivering and receiving AfT at the country and regional levels, to contribute to improving the effectiveness and increasing the resources allocated to AfT ("additionality"), and to promote local accountability and global monitoring through the WTO-led Global Review. OECD does not design, implement, or finance AfT projects itself.

The OECD's work on AfT is horizontal in nature. Work has been guided by the joint meetings of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Trade Committee, with the support of their respective Secretariats, the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) and the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD). In light of this close co-operation, and while this assessment examines the DAC contribution to the WTO-led AfT Initiative, this evaluation does not separate out the relative contributions of the DAC or the Trade Committee to that deliverable.

OECD work falls into three categories: its flagship AfT monitoring publications, as well as the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database of aid flows; policy analysis; and policy dialogue. These qualitative and quantitative analyses, which feed into the WTO-led Global Reviews of Aid for Trade as well as other analytical contributions, involve a wide range of stakeholders and contribute to the overall monitoring and evaluation effort on AfT. They also contribute to deepening understanding of important AfT issues, and exploring subjects at the frontier of AfT design, implementation, and evaluation from the standpoint of an agency not directly involved in those activities in an "on the ground" sense.

### Methodology

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this assignment specifically defines the scope of the work to cover issues related to the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of OECD's work with relation to the AfTI. By agreement with OECD, this report is not a traditional impact evaluation—conducting one would suffer from significant problems in establishing causation, due to the prevalence of external forces, and the specificity of OECD's role. Rather a contribution analysis approach, which provides an alternative way of thinking about the problem of attribution to the traditional positivist approach of proving causality via a counterfactual, was decided to be more appropriate. This does not attempt to prove that one factor – a policy – 'caused' the desired outcome, but rather to explore the contribution a policy is making to observed results.

Based on this overall approach, the team developed the following results framework to guide the analysis:

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring AfT</li> <li>• Policy analysis</li> <li>• Policy dialogue</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. OECD's activities in the areas of monitoring, policy analysis, and policy dialogue are sufficient in quantity and regularity to support the underlying rationale for its contribution to the AfTI.</li> <li>2. Stakeholders are aware of OECD's activities, and participate in them or use them, as appropriate.</li> </ol>
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OECD/WTO flagship publication, "Aid for Trade at a Glance", fully transparent with underlying data available online.</li> <li>• OECD analytical and evidentiary contributions inform donors and partner countries about trade-related issues (policy analysis).</li> <li>• OECD facilitates policy dialogue in the AfT community, in particular as part of the Global Review process, and OECD AfT policy dialogues.</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good quality publications in the areas of monitoring and policy analysis are actively disseminated and used by stakeholders.</li> <li>2. The above products, in combination with specific activities, facilitate internal and external dialogue on AfT among inside and outside the AfT Community</li> <li>3. Reporting and self-assessment mechanisms are transparent, and provide incentives for more and better AfT programming/commitments by donors.</li> <li>4. OECD's contributions influence the AfTI and improve its credibility.</li> <li>5. OECD's publications and other activities increase awareness of the AfTI and raise the profile of trade issues within the development community, including donor and partner countries, and multilateral agencies.</li> </ol>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OECD member countries' policies on AfT are reflective of OECD's work</li> <li>• Improved understanding of the AfTI across the broader development community.</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring creates incentives for donor countries to honour their AfT commitments.</li> <li>2. Heightened importance of trade related issues lead to inter-ministerial cooperation and partnership in donor and partner countries.</li> <li>3. Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring of the AfTI creates incentives for partner countries to address trade needs in national development plans.</li> </ol>
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased prioritization of trade in partner country development strategies</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contribute towards securing increased AfT funding by partner countries.</li> <li>2. Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contribute towards facilitating trade-related policy change in partner countries.</li> <li>3. Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contributes towards promoting AfT effectiveness, (i.e., partner countries' ownership, harmonization and better alignment of donor and partner country priorities).</li> </ol>
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved trade performance and reduced poverty in partner countries</li> </ul>

To provide evidence for the contribution analysis, the team relied on three sources: a literature review; interviews with key informants; and online surveys of donor countries, partner countries, and regional economic commissions (RECs). Hypotheses were evaluated using this evidence on a scale running from five (very effective) to one (very ineffective).

### **Findings**

Based on a full review of the evidence, the team concluded that OECD scored either four (effective) or five (very effective) on each of the hypotheses listed in the results framework. Although the organisation does not itself engage in AfT provision or implementation of AfT projects, it is very well perceived around the world in its roles of monitoring, policy analysis, and policy dialogue. The evidence shows that partnerships with other organisations, particularly WTO, have been crucial to enabling OECD to produce high quality work, and to ensure much wider dissemination than if the organisation were working alone, when its reach would largely be limited to its membership.

Our analysis clearly shows that OECD has had a major influence on the AfTI. The Organisation has been highly effective in a number of areas, most notably monitoring. Its presentation and analysis of key data through the CRS, as well as its joint biennial publication with WTO of Aid for Trade at a Glance, have been crucial in setting up a monitoring structure around the AfTI. These products are well known and widely used in the AfT community, and have contributed to increased understanding of the constraints to trade in developing countries and prioritization of trade in development strategies through the increased importance of AfT in development discourse.

Our findings also suggest that OECD's other activities, policy analysis and dialogue, have also been effective in contributing to the implementation of the AfTI. In general, findings are stronger for the policy analysis work, which is generally recognised as being relevant and of high quality. Interviewees and survey respondents tended to be less familiar with individual outputs than was the case for the monitoring work, due to the differing profiles of the two streams, as well as the existence of more numerous outputs in the case of policy analysis. However, their overall impression was strongly positive.

OECD's policy dialogue work has also been effective in contributing to the operation of the AfTI, but the organisation's role is more challenging because of its relatively limited membership. Partnerships with other organisations, and particularly WTO, have been crucial in all areas of its AfT work. OECD has worked very well with partner organisations to extend its reach beyond its membership. However, the need to work with capital-based officials in partner countries has posed particular challenges in the case of policy dialogue, because even partner organisations like WTO have difficulty succeeding in this type of outreach activity. Given the constraints imposed by distance, government effectiveness, and inter-ministerial cooperation, the organisation has nonetheless conducted effective policy dialogue activities.

### **Relevance, Effectiveness, and Efficiency**

The three criteria for the contribution analysis are *relevance*, *effectiveness*, and *efficiency*. In terms of the first criterion, the methodology focuses on two questions:

- How did OECD's contributions inform the development and implementation of the AfTI?
- Did OECD's contributions influence the actions of Initiative partners?

The evidence strongly suggests positive responses to both questions. OECD's contributions have been central in the development and operation of the AfTI, and in shaping the ways in which other AfT agents design and implement AfT projects on the ground. OECD's work has

exercised considerable influence on all agents involved in the AfTI. However, its influence has been most strongly felt within the Geneva-Paris nexus. Outreach to capital-based representatives has been more challenging, even with effective partnerships in place with other organisations, such as WTO. Generally speaking, OECD's ability to influence the AfT agenda appears to decrease with distance from Paris and Geneva, because even some WTO delegations experience difficulties in coordinating with distant capitals in environments of relatively weak governmental institutions.

In terms of *effectiveness*, the methodology again focuses on two questions:

- Were there particular products or approaches that were more effective than others, and why?
- What general lessons can be drawn for future horizontal work involving the DAC?

The evidence tends to suggest that OECD/DAC's monitoring activities were the most effective of the three channels through which it has sought to engage with the AfTI. The combination of data availability through the CRS, and dissemination and analysis jointly with WTO through Aid for Trade at a Glance has generally been considered the most effective of the organisation's operational approaches. One reason is that these activities have strong global public good characteristics, and they are not provided by other organisations active in the AfT space. Indeed, other organisations have highlighted the importance of OECD/DAC's work by stressing its fundamental nature, and the reliance they place on it in their own operations. A second reason for the greater effectiveness of OECD/DAC's monitoring activities relative to the other two streams is that it capitalises on the organisation's strengths, and its partnership with WTO, to greatest effect.

The view of the evaluation team is that horizontal work can be extremely successful, provided that the right elements are in place. Firstly, it was broadly considered important to have tangible, clearly distinguishable products to collaborate on. This applies to both OECD's internal and external collaboration. A second issue that was identified as a deciding factor for success was communication. By definition horizontal work includes a multiplicity of stakeholders, both internal and external, and ensuring good and clear lines of ongoing discussion is imperative. To this end, the informal and working party meetings hosted between the DAC and the WPTC were reported to be extremely useful.

In terms of *efficiency*, the methodology focuses on a single question:

- Are there relationships between how the work was produced and disseminated and how the work was utilised by users?

The evidence in this case shows a number of connections. First, the extent of dissemination is a crucial determinant of the way in which OECD's work is used by other organisations. Joint publication with an organisation like WTO, which has global reach, means that OECD's work is picked up and used more readily by others. Publication exclusively on the OECD website limits the reach of otherwise high quality material, both due to access issues in some cases, and the perception in some quarters that OECD material is of relevance only to its membership.

In addition to this connection, the evidence suggests that data production and dissemination is a particularly high value activity. OECD/DAC data on AfT are held in very high regard in policy circles and among academics, and therefore are widely applied and used in various contexts. Some interviewees highlighted the fact that a useful aspect of Aid for Trade at a Glance is its treatment of data issues, and its packaging of raw data in terms of applications that can readily be used by practitioners and researchers. These factors are reflected in the high level of knowledge of OECD's monitoring products within the AfT community.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OECD's work on Aid for Trade

OECD's work on Aid for Trade (AfT) focuses on the production of outputs that have many characteristics of global public goods, and which are designed to help other agents deliver more and better AfT. Broadly speaking, OECD aims to influence the operationalisation of the AfT Initiative (AfTI), the interventions of agents delivering and receiving AfT at the country and regional levels, to contribute to improving the effectiveness and increasing the resources allocated to AfT ("additionality"), and to promote local accountability and global monitoring through the WTO-led Global Review. OECD does not design, implement, or finance AfT projects itself.

The OECD's work on AfT is horizontal in nature. Work has been guided by the joint meetings of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Trade Committee, with the support of their respective Secretariats, the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) and the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD). In light of this close co-operation, and while this assessment examines the DAC contribution to the WTO-led AfT Initiative, this evaluation does not separate out the relative contributions of the DAC or the Trade Committee to that deliverable.

#### Box 1: Conclusions from DAC evaluation of 2007

When the Evaluation Committee evaluated the DAC in 2007, the joint work on aid for examined.<sup>1</sup> The evaluation report concluded that:

"While horizontal interactions have occurred in a number of policy areas and are considered to have been to some extent enhanced by the frameworks in place, most have not been of a highly collaborative nature due to some degree to insufficient incentives to encourage Committees to embark on this sort of activity. One of the exceptions to this general observation can be found at the nexus of trade and development, particularly in the context of the project on *Aid for Trade* which is highly regarded, and where a factor of success has been that work has been developed and implemented with a high degree of horizontality in a truly collaborative way, which has included joint bureau meetings between the DAC and the Trade Committee and cross-participation of delegates in Committee sessions" (C(2007)99, p. 10).

OECD work falls into three categories: its flagship AfT monitoring publications, as well as the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database of aid flows; policy analysis; and policy dialogue. These qualitative and quantitative analyses, which feed into the WTO-led Global Reviews of Aid for Trade as well as other analytical contributions, involve a wide range of stakeholders and contribute to the overall monitoring and evaluation effort on AfT. They also contribute to deepening understanding of important AfT issues, and exploring subjects at the frontier of AfT design, implementation, and evaluation from the standpoint of an agency not directly involved in those activities in an "on the ground" sense.

## Box 2: Main OECD products in each work stream

In terms of the first channel of OECD's work, i.e. monitoring, the following products were most closely reviewed for this report:

- Aid for Trade at a Glance (2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013); jointly published with WTO.
- The CRS database (data available for 2002-2012).

For the second channel, i.e. policy analysis, the following outputs were the focus of the review:

- Aid for Trade in Action (2011, and 2013); jointly published with WTO.
- Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework (2013).

Estimating the constraints to agricultural trade of developing countries (2013)

- Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade (2011).
- Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction: How Aid for Trade can Help (2011).
- Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries (2011).
- Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth (2010).
- Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics Tools (2009).
- Trading Out of Poverty: How Aid for Trade can Help (2009).
- Aid for Trade: Making it Effective (2006).
- Trade-Related Assistance: What do Recent Evaluations Tell Us? (2006).
- Key Elements of Best Practices in Aid for Trade (2008).

The third channel, i.e. policy dialogue, focused on the following outputs:

- OECD Policy Dialogue (2013).
- Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation (2011).

## 1.2 AfT – A partnership between WTO and OECD

In the area of AfT, the OECD's partnership with WTO is vital. This fact is true both in relation to specific joint outputs, such as Aid for Trade at a Glance, and more broadly in light of WTO's leadership role in many aspects of AfT, such as the biennial Global Review. It is also the case in terms of OECD's outreach capability. As an organisation with limited membership, OECD's ability to reach the potential beneficiaries of AfT programs depends on interactions with other organisations that have global reach, and particularly the WTO. The WTO has a much broader membership base, and includes both donor and partner countries.

It is important to stress that the partnership between the two organisations works in both directions. WTO facilitates many aspects of global AfT work, but OECD provides data and analytical capacity that makes many of the activities possible. Both organisations add value in this way through their combined and complementary efforts.

## 1.3 Evaluation methodology

The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management defines "evaluation" as:

*The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to deter-*

*mine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.*<sup>1</sup>

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this assignment specifically defines the scope of the work to cover issues related to the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of OECD's work with relation to the AfTI. During the inception phase the team agreed with OECD/DCD that with the available financial resources a fully-fledged evaluation should not be attempted. Rather a contribution analysis approach, which provides an alternative way of thinking about the problem of attribution to the traditional positivist approach of proving causality via a counterfactual, was decided to be more appropriate. This does not attempt to prove that one factor – a policy – 'caused' the desired outcome, but rather to explore the contribution a policy is making to observed results.<sup>2</sup>

The contribution analysis approach entails the following six steps:

- *Setting out the attribution problem to be assessed:* The ToR set out the core evaluation questions, which were discussed and reviewed by the project team and the OECD/DCD evaluation manager.
- *Developing a Theory of Change:* Informed by the ToR, a literature review and initial discussion with OECD/DCD, the team developed a Theory of Change to model OECD's contribution to the AfTI (see 1.4 below).
- *Populating the model with existing data and evidence:* As per the assessment matrix, primary data gathering during phase 1 consisted of interviews and was supplemented with further literature review. A list of persons interviewed is available in Annex 1 and a list of references in Annex 2.
- *Assembling and assessing the 'performance story':* Analysis during phase 1 was able to identify preliminary positive results with regards to OECD's contribution, which were synthesised in the Summary report.
- *Seeking out additional evidence:* Guided by the preliminary findings and comments on the Summary report, the team prepared three survey questionnaires to be targeted at separate target groups: one for partner countries (28 responses, 33% response rate); one for donors (10 responses, 56% response rate); and one for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) (3 responses, 43% response rate). Respectively the results of the partner countries and RECs were accumulated. The overall response rate was 38%. The selection criteria for organisations invited to respond to the surveys is attached overleaf in Annex 3. Supplementary interviews were also performed during this phase.
- *Revising the 'performance story':* Based on the work undertaken in phases 3-5 above, the team revised the Theory of Change (see section 1.4 below). This revised version is used as the foundation of presenting the findings section of this report.

### **Constraints of the analysis**

As outlined above, this assessment is focused on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of OECD's work related to the AfTI. In addition, it is important to note that the mandate of the exercise, agreed between the project team and OECD/DCD, does not cover all possible performance areas. The performance of policy influencing initiatives may be measured through a combination of five performance areas<sup>3</sup>. These are:

- |                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Strategy and direction | 4. Uptake |
| 2. Management             | 5. Impact |
| 3. Outputs                |           |

<sup>1</sup> OECD (2004)

<sup>2</sup> BOND (2009), Eirich F, Morrison A

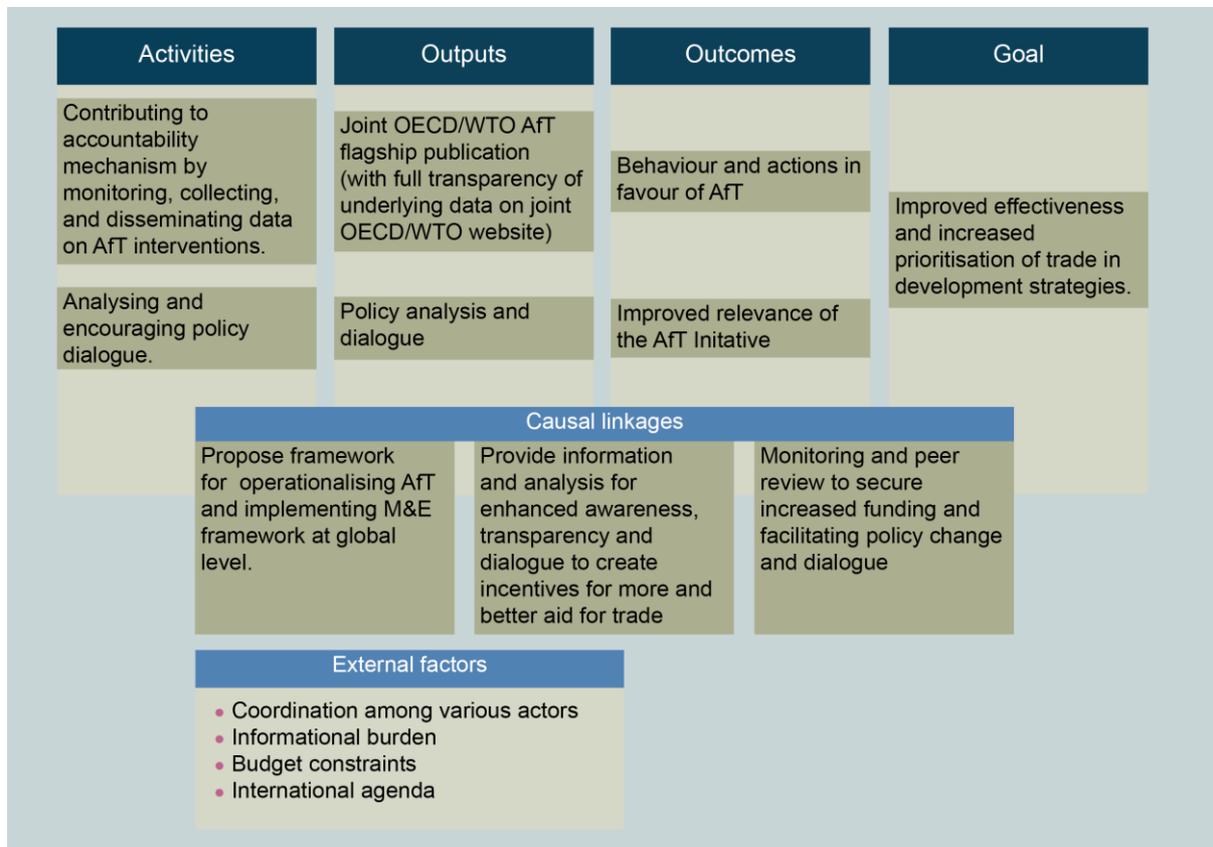
<sup>3</sup> Hovland, I (2007)

Specifically, it was agreed that this report should not address performance areas 1 and 2.

### 1.4 Theory of Change

The initial Theory of Change developed during the inception phase for the purpose of evaluating the project is provided in the diagram below.

**Figure 1: Draft Theory of Change**



As the contribution analysis exercise progressed, the team was able to have a better understanding of the ‘performance story’ of OECD’s contribution to the AFTI. Based on discussions with stakeholders, the team’s growing understanding of OECD’s role and the potential pathways of change of its interventions, the initial Theory of Change was revisited. Consequently, the results framework available overleaf was developed.

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring AfT</li> <li>Policy analysis</li> <li>Policy dialogue</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OECD's activities in the areas of monitoring, policy analysis, and policy dialogue are sufficient in quantity and regularity to support the underlying rationale for its contribution to the AfTI.</li> <li>Stakeholders are aware of OECD's activities, and participate in them or use them, as appropriate.</li> </ol>
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint OECD/WTO flagship publication, "Aid for Trade at a Glance", fully transparent with underlying data available online.</li> <li>OECD analytical and evidentiary contributions inform donors and partner countries about trade-related issues (policy analysis).</li> <li>OECD facilitates policy dialogue in the AfT community, in particular as part of the Global Review process, and OECD AfT policy dialogues.</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good quality publications in the areas of monitoring and policy analysis are actively disseminated and used by stakeholders.</li> <li>The above products, in combination with specific activities, facilitate internal and external dialogue on AfT among inside and outside the AfT Community</li> <li>Reporting and self-assessment mechanisms are transparent, and provide incentives for more and better AfT programming/commitments by donors.</li> <li>OECD's contributions influence the AfTI and improve its credibility.</li> <li>OECD's publications and other activities increase awareness of the AfTI and raise the profile of trade issues within the development community, including donor and partner countries, and multilateral agencies.</li> </ol>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OECD member countries' policies on AfT are reflective of OECD's work</li> <li>Improved understanding of the AfTI across the broader development community.</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring creates incentives for donor countries to honour their AfT commitments.</li> <li>Heightened importance of trade related issues lead to inter-ministerial cooperation and partnership in donor and partner countries.</li> <li>Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring of the AfTI creates incentives for partner countries to address trade needs in national development plans.</li> </ol>
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased prioritization of trade in partner country development strategies</li> </ul>
Hypothesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contribute towards securing increased AfT funding by partner countries.</li> <li>Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contribute towards facilitating trade-related policy change in partner countries.</li> <li>Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contributes towards promoting AfT effectiveness, (i.e., partner countries' ownership, harmonization and better alignment of donor and partner country priorities).</li> </ol>
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved trade performance and reduced poverty in partner countries</li> </ul>

## 2. FINDINGS

This section reports on the findings of the contribution analysis. These findings are based on triangulation of data from a literature review, interviews with key personnel in partner and donor organisations, and a survey of capital-based staff in donor countries, partner countries, and regional economic commissions. Results are presented by examining each causal link in the Theory of Change separately. The hypotheses discussed in this section therefore represent a synthesis of the Theory of Change and the learning about products, processes, and outcomes that took place during the evaluation process.

Like the Theory of Change, the presentation of findings adopts a “bottom up” approach. We start with an assessment of OECD’s activities, and then proceed to examine the expected outputs from those activities, the outcomes achieved, and their contribution to the overall goal underlying OECD’s work.

### Box 3: Presentation of findings and results of hypothesis tests

The presentation of findings follows the same logic as the Theory of Change.

OECD’s performance is evaluated on a sliding scale from one to five, as follows:

- 5: Very effective.
- 4: Effective.
- 3: Neutral.
- 2: Ineffective.
- 1: Very ineffective.

### 2.1 Activities

The primary activities reviewed by this contribution analysis are presented in Section 1.1, which sets out OECD’s work on Aft. That section identifies three channels, and sets of activities by which OECD contributes to the AftI: monitoring; policy analysis; and policy dialogue. This subsection discusses the extent to which OECD has engaged in each of these activities, in partnership with other organisations. As per the revised Theory of Change, we examine two hypotheses in this section:

**Table 1: Hypotheses linking Activities to Outputs**

Hypothesis	Score
OECD’s activities in the areas of monitoring, policy analysis, and policy dialogue are sufficient in quantity and regularity to support the underlying rationale for its Aft intervention.	5
Stakeholders are aware of OECD’s activities, and participate in them or use them, as appropriate.	5

The remainder of this subsection presents the evidence on which the evaluation of these two hypotheses is based. The quality of the outputs produced as part of these activities is examined in the next subsection (Outputs).

Interview recipients were generally forthcoming in relation to their assessment of the overall quantity and regularity of OECD’s activities in relation to the three main channels identified in the Theory of Change. Those assessments were overwhelmingly positive, particularly in relation to the monitoring function. OECD’s two main monitoring outputs, Aid for Trade at a Glance and the CRS, were in general well known to interviewees.

In terms of regularity, most interviewees agreed that a biennial schedule is appropriate for Aid for Trade at a Glance, and that annual updating is appropriate for the CRS data. In relation to the latter, however, some noted the difficulties caused by the time lag with which data are reported and published (one to two years; i.e., 2012 data are available as of early 2014). There was clearly a desire in some quarters for more recent data. However, this

issue is beyond OECD's control, as data supply depends on national administrations: they determine the timetable under which data can be updated, and the lag with which they can be produced. We therefore note this issue as a concern raised by some interviewees, but do not evaluate OECD negatively on this point because the circumstances are beyond the organisation's control.

In relation to the other two channels, policy analysis and policy dialogue, interviewees were often willing to provide overall assessments. They were positive in relation to OECD's activities under both channels, but more strongly so in relation to policy analysis. As discussed further below, OECD's policy analysis work has given the organisation widely recognised credibility in relation to AfT. Its policy analysis work is frequently picked up and used by other agents working with AfT, and appears to have been influential in shaping views and actions. We examine this point further in the section on outputs, below.

Some interviewees were strongly positive about OECD's participation in policy dialogue activities, both those organised by OECD itself, and those organised by other organisations but involving staff from the OECD Secretariat (DCD). Others noted that although OECD's policy dialogues were useful exercises, the organisation's ability to reach out to capital-based representatives depends on the involvement of other organisations, due to OECD's relatively restricted membership. Important partners in this regard include WTO, the World Bank, and regional development banks. Even with such partnerships, however, the ability of OECD to make its activities known at an operational (rather than political) level is somewhat constrained.

In a more general sense, OECD's partnerships with other organisations in the area of AfT, and particularly with WTO, were seen as highly effective in allowing it to undertake its monitoring, analysis, and dialogue activities more effectively. A number of interview participants noted the very productive nature of the collaboration between OECD and WTO in relation to AfT. The two organisations work well together on a day-to-day basis, and the relationship, already significant at the beginning of the AfTI, is becoming stronger over time. Indeed, some respondents indicated that they had difficulty identifying particular outputs as being written by OECD or WTO – when in fact the products were jointly produced. Although this confusion could be seen negatively in terms of OECD's branding, it speaks volumes for the close and effective nature of the collaboration between the two organisations, and tends to reinforce OECD's AfT activities.

Like interviewees, capital-based survey respondents were overwhelmingly positive about OECD's general activities in the area of AfT. Although degrees of knowledge varied according to output—more on this below—their overall assessment was that OECD's activities were relevant, of high quality, and sometimes influential in setting priorities at the national level. Based on the data, OECD's most effective and best-known work at the level of partner countries has been in the area of monitoring.

## 2.2 Outputs

The evaluation's Theory of Change identifies the following as outputs of OECD's work on AfT:

- Joint OECD/WTO flagship publication, "Aid for Trade at a Glance", fully transparent with underlying data available online.
- OECD's analytical and evidentiary contributions inform donors and partner countries about trade and development related issues.
- OECD facilitates policy dialogue in the AfT community, in particular as part of the Global Review process, and OECD AfT policy dialogues.

Assessment of OECD's contribution at this level involves three hypotheses, each of which is scored separately:

**Table 2: Hypotheses linking Outputs to Outcomes**

Hypothesis	Score
Good quality publications in the areas of monitoring and policy analysis are actively disseminated and used by stakeholders.	5
The publications, in combination with specific activities, facilitate internal and external dialogue on AfT among stakeholders.	4
Reporting and self-assessment mechanisms are transparent, and provide incentives for more and better AfT programming/commitments by donors.	4
OECD's contributions influence the AfTI and improve its credibility.	5
OECD's publications and other activities increase awareness of the AfTI and raise the profile of trade issues within the development community, including donor and partner countries, and multilateral agencies.	4

The first question we are interested in is the quality of OECD's outputs in relation to monitoring and policy analysis. As already indicated in the previous section, the general assessment of interviewees was strongly positive, particularly in relation to monitoring. In a general sense, outputs were overwhelmingly considered to be relevant, influential, and of high quality. In the case of monitoring, interview respondents were generally able to identify specific cases, such as AfT at a Glance. However, they usually had greater difficulty identifying examples of policy analysis work in precise terms. Most often, they could only recall one or two of the more recent publications, notwithstanding their general positive impressions in this area.

The data in the CRS were also highly rated, but some interviewees indicated that the lag with which data are reported (typically two years), as well as the relative difficulty of using the web interface, impeded their access to the data. The data reporting lag is, of course, outside OECD/DAC's control, and depends on the timely supply of data by reporting countries. Although OECD institutionally can perhaps examine ways of improving the QWIDS<sup>4</sup> interface through which the CRS data are accessed, that issue cannot be addressed by DCD or the DAC acting alone. Within the constraints given by these two factors, interviewees generally considered the CRS data to be useful, and of high quality.<sup>5</sup>

This impression is backed up by the experience of survey respondents. Although again very positive in relation to all three areas, they often had difficulty expressing views on specific outputs, particularly in the areas of policy analysis and dialogue. Responses of "NA", indicating a lack of sufficient knowledge to provide a detailed answer, were common. These findings indicate that although OECD is doing good quality work in monitoring, policy analysis, and policy dialogue, there is still room to improve outreach and dissemination so that its products are more widely known in the AfT community.

<sup>4</sup> Query Wizard for International Development Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> Some interviewees also questioned the definition of AfT in the CRS. However, this definition was agreed to by WTO members through a General Council decision, and is therefore beyond the purview of OECD. It is rightly taken as a given by the organisation when dealing with AfT data. The need for a standardised approach on a global level is clear, even though some individuals and organisations might find alternative definitions more appropriate for particular tasks.

**Table 3: Survey results on the quality of OECD's AfT work.**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Monitoring	4.3	25%
Policy Analysis	3.7	46%
Policy Dialogue	3.8	55%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Monitoring	4.3	15%
Policy Analysis	4.2	14%
Policy Dialogue	4.1	25%

In addition to quality, we are also interested in the extent to which OECD's work is picked up and used by others in the AfT community. Many interview respondents indicated that they used OECD monitoring outputs in their own work, which tends to indicate that the organisation scores highly in relation to hypothesis 2. Typical uses included creation of briefing materials for senior staff, application in their own research, analysis, and monitoring efforts, and inclusion in the deliberative process, giving rise to institutional positions on various AfT issues. There is thus extensive evidence from the interviews that OECD outputs are being used by those in the AfT community.

**Table 4: Number of downloads of selected products from OECD website, 2010-2013.**

Title	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum	1,445	5,231	6,630	4,295	17,601
Aid for Trade at a Glance 2011: Showing Results		843	1,939	5,346	8,128
Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains				4,891	4,891
The Development Dimension Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction: How Aid for Trade Can Help		511	205	352	1,068
The Development Dimension Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework				481	481
The Development Dimension Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade		117	160	203	480
Aid for Trade at a Glance 2007: 1st Global Review	16	42	101	258	417
Aid for Trade in Action				326	326
The Development Dimension Aid for Trade: Making it Effective	35	86	72	122	325
The Development Dimension Succeeding with Trade Reforms: The Role of Aid for Trade				310	310

Source: OECD.

This question can also be analysed using data from OECD's website. Table 4 above presents download statistics for a selection of OECD's main AfT publications. Given the specificity of the areas covered in some cases, the number of downloads can be considered

to be moderate overall across all the products. However, ease of access, which is an issue outside of OECD control, probably significantly reduces the numbers.

Notwithstanding this problem, the download figures for Aid for Trade at a Glance are impressive. Given that it is a joint publication with WTO, it is also appropriate to keep in mind that as of November 2013, the 2011 edition had been downloaded an additional 79,889 times from the WTO site, which is generally considered to have greater ease of access for such publications. The corresponding figure for the 2013 edition, which had only been released a few months earlier, was 122,333. Together with the figures in the table, these data strongly suggest that OECD's core work on AfT, particularly its monitoring work done jointly with the WTO, is being extensively used by others in the AfT community.

A second piece of information comes from a citation analysis of the joint OECD/WTO flagship publication, Aid for Trade at a Glance. Google Scholar reports over 200 results, using the exact search term "Aid for Trade at a Glance". To put this in context, a search for "Aid for Trade" produces 4,180 hits, so a conservative estimate suggests that OECD's main joint monitoring publication with WTO is referenced in at least 5% of all scholarly work on AfT. A broader search, using the text "Creditor Reporting System" and "trade" returns nearly one thousand citations, which suggests an even higher rate of use of OECD/DAC's data. OECD's work on AfT is therefore broadly used in books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and academic or policy working papers.

Although Google Scholar is a convenient reference tool, the numbers presented should be regarded as lower bounds, both due to the specificity of the search terms, and the fact that the source does not catalogue all research work in the world, regardless of source. The real numbers are likely to be higher. Even based on the lower numbers, however, it can be seen that OECD's work is contributing to external analysis of AfT, including monitoring and evaluation, as per the papers discussed below, and policy dialogue through academic and policy channels.

To see the broader influence of OECD's work outside the strictly academic and policy communities, a Google search of the exact term "Aid for Trade at a Glance" produces around 177,000 hits. Many of these results are press articles and blog entries, in addition to working papers, journal articles, evaluations, and other more formal documents. The inclusion of press articles and blog entries is important, because it is suggestive of a growing awareness of the AfTI in the broader community. The discussion of AfT in non-traditional forums, thanks in part to OECD's work, contributes to increased awareness of and transparency surrounding the Initiative.

Performing the same exercise with the text "Creditor Reporting System" and "trade" returns around 443,000 results. Again, the sources of the hits are various, but two types of sources are particularly notable: non-governmental organisations; and other international organisations. In the former case, the OECD/DAC's work is clearly contributing to increased awareness of the AfTI. In both cases, the CRS data are also facilitating monitoring and evaluation of AfT programs in-country, as well as policy dialogue among governmental and non-governmental actors.

This internet-based literature review therefore tends to indicate that OECD's work is one of a number of factors contributing to dialogue around the AfTI, and an accompanying increase in transparency, including through the facilitation of independent monitoring and evaluation initiatives. Moreover, the evidence suggests that OECD's work is facilitating policy dialogue among both traditional AfT actors (governments and governmental organisations), and new actors (non-governmental organisations and civil society).

The final aspect examined in this area relates to the incentives for more and better AfT provided by OECD's activities, particularly those related to reporting. Interview participants

were generally positive about country-level reporting on progress and results, and noted that much evaluation activity would be impossible or significantly more difficult in the absence of OECD/DAC's work. The CRS data retain a particularly important role in facilitating cross-country analysis of the impact of AfT. However, some interviewees also mentioned that although the model of self-reported case stories used for Aid for Trade in Action (2011) was appropriate as a starting point, there is now a need to encourage donors and partner countries to move towards more rigorous, quantitative evaluations. Self-reporting is subject to the perception of potential bias, in the sense that reporting countries and agencies have an incentive to only report positive experiences. More rigorous evaluation procedures, covering both successful and less successful projects, would be beneficial to donors and partner countries alike, as well as international agencies implementing AfT projects on the ground. Although OECD is not an evaluation agency, some interviewees commented that the Aid for Trade in Action model of self-reported case stories could be improved to favour more rigorous evaluation by others in the future.

Many interviewees thought that the “spotlight” effect of OECD's work, including its joint work with WTO, contributed to providing incentives for more and better AfT. Publicly available data make it possible for interested researchers or policy analysts to examine AfT policies at the global, regional, and national levels, and reach their own conclusions as to the appropriateness of current programs. This capability arguably provides an incentive to ensure that AfT remains high quality, and available in sufficient quantity going forward.

Other interview respondents were more doubtful of this incentivizing effect, however. They saw the determinants of AfT flows at the national level as reflecting a mix of social and political priorities. In a context of mixed and competing incentives, they argued that it would be difficult for an organisation like OECD to make a strong contribution to the decisive incentives facing those in the AfT community. Although these doubts were expressed, they did not rise to the level of outright scepticism as to the capacity of monitoring and data work to alter, at least at the margin, the incentives facing AfT providers and partners. Their doubts were more in relation to the difficulty of establishing a causal link in this area, due to the variety of external causes in operation, as discussed in subsection 2.5 below.

Results from the survey support the views expressed in this section as to the usefulness of OECD's work in monitoring and analysing AfT (table 5). All three channels score highly in terms of effectiveness. However, as in the case of quality, respondents from donor agencies often had difficulty identifying the impact of particular cases of policy analysis and dialogue.

**Table 5: Survey results on the usefulness of OECD's work for monitoring and analysing AfT**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Monitoring	4.5	20%
Policy Analysis	3.8	45%
Policy Dialogue	3.6	58%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Monitoring	4.3	12%
Policy Analysis	4.4	13%
Policy Dialogue	4.2	20%

Evaluations and strategy documents from donor countries frequently reflect OECD-sponsored approaches to AfT, thus indicating that OECD's contributions shape the AfTI. For

example, application of the Paris Principles is often an important part of these documents. Similarly, independent evaluations typically focus on the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. An example is a recent study of Swiss AfT programs (SECO, 2013; see further below), which explicitly adopted those criteria.

Another example of this kind of document is Finland's Action Paper on AfT for the 2012-2015 period (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2012). When dealing with AfT, the document explicitly adopts the OECD/DAC classification based on CRS categories. It also cites OECD/DAC work on the growth of AfT to put Finland's contribution in context. Finally, the document situates Finland's AfT program within its broader ODA program, which indicates a mainstreaming of trade. This type of publication provides evidence in favour of OECD's work being effective regarding hypotheses 4 and 5 above.

Another interesting example is the joint UN-WTO agency, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the largest multilateral organisation dedicated exclusively to trade-related technical assistance, and its declaration to be the "100% Aid for Trade" organisation. The ITC has clearly found the AfT framework, including the main CRS headings, to be a useful tool for laying out its case for support (see figure 2 below). Tying into the global initiative appears to be a key pillar of its communication strategy.

**Figure 2: ITC's strategic objectives**



In addition to work on the donor-side, there has also been progress on the partner country side. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is one key global structure that takes a coordinated approach to AfT interventions, focusing on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). An important activity financed by the EIF is the completion of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs) for eligible countries. To date, 47 countries have been studied, with the bulk of the work taking place between 2005 and 2012. Some DTISs have been reviewed and updated, and the process is currently underway for a number of countries.

One of the purposes of the DTIS process is to align trade policy issues with national development priorities in partner countries and for trade to be mainstreamed into the national development framework. The process is driven to a large extent by dialogue with local authorities and the private sector. In addition, extensive consultations take place with bilateral and multilateral donors, in an effort to ensure increased coordination going forward.

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, championed by OECD/DAC, and its adoption in the AfT context, is a key driving force behind the DTIS process. The existence of the DTISs and the processes surrounding them therefore provide evidence of OECD/DAC's effectiveness. Although implementation of DTIS action matrices has sometimes been patchy on the ground, the process remains useful as it provides donors and partner countries with an opportunity to come together to work on trade-related issues in the context of broader

national development strategies. The OECD/DAC's impetus in terms of the Paris Principles, and the decision to apply them in the AfT context, has been one important factor in the evolution of the DTIS process.

Interviewees generally agreed that OECD's work has substantially contributed to the areas identified in hypotheses 4 and 5 (i.e. OECD's contributions influence the AfTI and improve its credibility, and OECD's publications and other activities increase awareness of the AfTI and raise the profile of trade issues within the development community, including donor and partner countries, and multilateral agencies). OECD's actions were seen as particularly useful not only in their own right, but because they facilitated work by other AfT agents. Many interviewees were aware of some of the issues discussed in the literature review, such as the use of the Paris Principles for AfT, and found that OECD's work played an important role in bringing about those outcomes.

Results from the surveys also indicate that OECD's work has influenced the AfTI. Respondents' perceptions were particularly clear in relation to the organisation's monitoring work. They are less clear in relation to the other two streams, where significant numbers of donor respondents were unable to form a clear view as to their influence on perceptions. Taken as a whole, the survey results support the impressions given by the literature review and the interviews, to the effect that OECD has been effective in influencing the AfTI.

**Table 6: Survey results on the influence of OECD's work in shaping respondents' perceptions of the AfTI.**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Monitoring	4.1	10%
Policy Analysis	4.0	30%
Policy Dialogue	3.6	30%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Monitoring	3.9	7%
Policy Analysis	3.7	7%
Policy Dialogue	3.6	14%

As discussed in the previous sections, OECD's outputs in relation to AfT have significantly contributed to discussion around the issue of trade in development. Some interviewees mentioned that they have used OECD work as one set of inputs in the development of their own organisation's approach to AfT. To the extent that there has been a general increase in the prominence given to trade within the development community, this result was seen by some interviewees as brought about in part by OECD's work. In particular, OECD's joint work with WTO was identified as being of particular importance because of the central role it plays in the biennial Global Reviews.

## 2.3 Outcomes

The contribution analysis sets out the following as expected outcomes of OECD's work on AfT:

- OECD member countries' policies on AfT are reflective of the DAC's work
- Improved understanding of the AfT Initiative across the broader development community.

Assessment of OECD's contribution to bringing about these outcomes involves three hypotheses, as set out overleaf:

**Table 7: Hypotheses linking Outcomes to Impact**

Hypothesis	Score
Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring creates incentives for donor countries to honour their AfT commitments.	4
Heightened importance of trade related issues lead to inter-ministerial cooperation and partnership in donor and partner countries.	4
Transparent, trusted and publicly available monitoring of the AfTI creates incentives for partner countries to address trade needs in national development plans and strategies.	4

It is difficult to undertake a traditional literature review in this area, because the documents involved go beyond standard academic and policy contributions. However, a number of indicative pieces of evidence are available in relation to each of these hypotheses.

Survey responses provide a layer of detail in relation to the question of the role that OECD's activities and outputs have played. There is widespread agreement that OECD has been effective in improving the credibility and effectiveness of the AfTI, as suggested by the evidence already reviewed. There is also clear evidence that OECD has been effective in increasing the prioritization of trade in national development strategies.

**Table 8: Survey results on the effectiveness of OECD's work.**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Credibility of AfTI	4.0	10%
Effectiveness of AfTI	3.9	10%
Prioritization of Trade	3.3	30%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Credibility of AfTI	4.2	7%
Effectiveness of AfTI	4.0	7%
Prioritization of Trade	4.2	10%

Based on interactions with interviewees, a prominent example of successful OECD work in relation to hypothesis 2 relates to the G-20 pledge on Aid for Trade. In 2010, leaders agreed to a collective engagement to at least maintain AfT in the post-2011 period at the level of the 2006-2008 average. OECD/DAC was instrumental in bringing about the conditions that made that pledge a reality. It was seen by other agents as an "honest broker" in relation to AfT, and its established reputation in data collection and dissemination, as well as policy analysis, enabled it to take a leadership role in this area, in partnership with other agencies, particularly the WTO.

Monitoring is an important part of the G-20 pledge. With its established data resources (the CRS), OECD/DAC has taken the lead in this area. It produces specific outputs for the G-20, in addition to the outputs and activities described above, which enable members to assess whether or not their collective pledge is being met. CRS data are crucial for the operation of this mechanism, but the question of whether or not the pledge is being met is sometimes open to debate, due to the existence of both bilateral and multilateral channels for AfT.

Finally, evidence on hypothesis 1 is available from partner country survey responses. Although there is some degree of uncertainty due to the inability of respondents to link outcomes to particular outputs, the general impression is that OECD has been effective in facilitating inter-agency cooperation within donor and partner countries alike. These results are significant in light of the initial evidence that OECD's reach is primarily felt within its membership, or within the Paris-Geneva connection facilitated by WTO. However, Table 9 suggests that in the case of facilitating cooperation within countries, OECD/DAC is effective well outside those confines: its influence extends directly to donor and partner countries themselves.

**Table 9: Survey results on the effectiveness of OECD's work in facilitating cooperation within governments.**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Monitoring	3.6	0%
Policy Analysis	3.2	19%
Policy Dialogue	3.1	15%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Monitoring	3.8	11%
Policy Analysis	3.7	16%
Policy Dialogue	3.7	25%

## 2.4 Impact and Goal

In terms of the impact statement and the overarching goal and rationale for OECD's involvement in the AfTI, the team has revised the relevant statements from the draft Theory of Change in light of information received during the contribution analysis. Taking account of OECD's work and its effects, a more accurate impact statement would be *increased prioritization of trade in development strategies of partner countries and RECs*. This impact statement contributes to the goal or higher order objective for OECD's involvement in this area: *improved trade performance and, as a result, lower poverty rates in partner countries.*

The final linkages that connect the impact level results, and thus the key products outlined above in Box 1, to the Goal level, are often tenuous and riddled meaningless by interference from external causes. Although it is nearly impossible to attribute a specific level of increase in trade performance or reduction in levels of poverty to OECD's work, it is possible to see that all other things being equal OECD has contributed towards these changes. Significant amounts of research on the linkages between trade and poverty reduction has been done, including by the OECD. The three hypotheses set out below are calibrated to take into account the heterogeneous realities in partner countries, making explicit some of the pillars that are required for a development strategy to lead to significant change in the broader economy.

**Table 10: Hypotheses linking the Impact statement to the Goal**

Hypothesis	Score
Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contributes towards securing increased AfT funding by partner countries	5
Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contributes towards facilitating trade-related policy change in partner countries.	4
Adopting joint OECD/WTO accountability mechanisms and analysis framework contributes towards promoting AfT effectiveness, (i.e., partner countries' ownership, harmonization and better alignment of donor and partner country priorities).	4

As stated above, one of the objectives of OECD's work on AfT is to increase the effectiveness of AfT. However, it is outside the scope of this report to provide a detailed analysis of the impact of AfT programs or projects on trade and development outcomes. Nonetheless, work on effectiveness of these interventions provides necessary background to the exercise, and is briefly covered in this subsection.

A number of econometric studies using CRS data have attempted to evaluate the effectiveness of AfT based on differences in cross-country allocations of resources. The basic hypothesis is that countries receiving more AfT resources should see a larger improvement in trade outcomes than those receiving less AfT resources, after controlling for intervening causes.

One well-known study is by the Overseas Development Institute (Cali and te Welde, 2011). The authors find that at least some types of AfT are associated with improved export outcomes, but their model specification is non-standard in the trade literature. Moreover, model results vary considerably from one specification to another, and in some cases there is no discernable impact of AfT on exports. By contrast, they find more robust evidence that AfT reduces some types of trade costs. This is one mechanism through which AfT could be expected to have an effect on partner countries' trade volumes over time. The difference between the two sets of results could perhaps be explained by the greater number of external causes in operation for the model of trade flows as compared with the model of trade costs.

The World Bank has issued another such study (Helble et al., 2012). The authors' conclusion is that a one percent increase in some types of AfT is associated with an increase in global trade of around \$800m. Although these numbers are frequently cited, the evidence presented in that paper is in fact much more equivocal. The estimates presented by the authors of the impact of a one percent increase in AfT range from \$545m to \$9.5bn, depending on the exact data and model used. In addition, the paper does not attempt to establish a causal link, through the application of econometric methods that deal with the endogeneity of AfT flows.

Cadot et al. (2013) review a range of studies evaluating the impact of AfT (OECD (2011) provides a similar review and meta-analysis, but it is not addressed in detail here as it is produced by the organisation currently being evaluated). The authors highlight recurrent difficulties with econometric estimates, including establishing causation, exclusion of intervening factors, and the absence of a control group in most cases. They conclude that the econometric evidence in favour of a positive impact of AfT on trade outcomes is limited at best.

Another part of the literature uses impact evaluation techniques that in many cases involve quantitative data, but no econometric analysis. Typically, these studies are commissioned by agencies involved directly in the provision of AfT, but are conducted by independent evaluators. In some cases, the emphasis of the evaluation is on an agency's overall

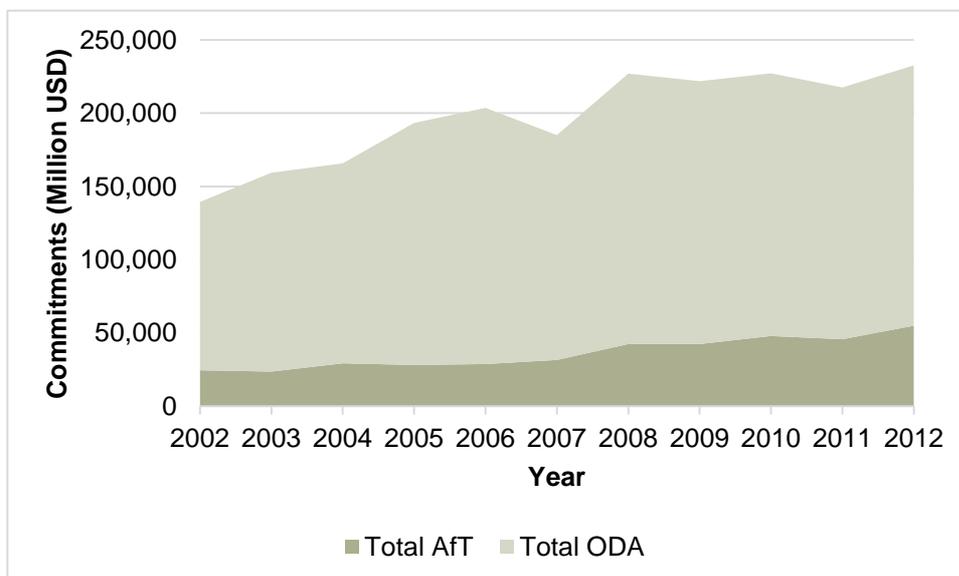
approach to AfT, assessed in terms of criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency. A recent example is SECO (2013). The report is based primarily on interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries, along with two more detailed case studies (Peru and Vietnam). WEHU, the Swiss agency in that primarily deals with AfT implementation, is rated as at least satisfactory on all four criteria. However, in the country case studies, the report recognizes that although there is evidence of positive impacts on the ground, causal attribution, particularly in terms of improved trade and development outcomes at the national level, is difficult.

Similarly, an evaluation study of Norway's AfT directed through multilateral organisations also highlights problems of identification and causal attribution (NORAD, 2011). The report shows that despite the significant amount of funding involved in AfT projects, they tend to be relatively short-lived, and difficult to assess quantitatively due to the absence of hard data and the difficulty of constructing a counterfactual. Although many projects are relevant and efficient within their own terms, it is difficult to associate them with improved trade outcomes on a national level.

The synthesis that emerges from these studies is that there is some evidence that AfT is doing good in terms of its overall goals. However, exactly how much good remains unclear: estimates are highly variable depending on the methodology and data used. In terms of the OECD's work, one implication emerges much more clearly, however: using the CRS data on AfT commitments and disbursements has definitely facilitated independent monitoring efforts, which is important in terms of the goal for OECD's own work.

In addition to evidence from the literature review, we also have results from the interviews and surveys. The preponderance of evidence in relation to the first hypothesis is strongly positive. On the one hand, Figure 3 shows that the proportion of total ODA allocated to AfT has increased from 21% to 31% over the 2002-2012 period. Most importantly, there has been steady growth in the proportion of AfT in total ODA during the crisis and post-crisis period (2008-present). To the extent that interview respondents were able to comment on causal issues, a number indicated their firm belief that OECD in partnership with other organisations, particularly WTO, has been instrumental in bringing these outcomes about. An important contribution was facilitating the inclusion of AfT within the purview of general ODA, and ensuring application of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

**Figure 3: Total AfT Commitments versus Total ODA Commitments, 2002-2012.**



Source: OECD CRS database.

The evidence on the second hypothesis is also positive. Interview respondents frequently lauded the “spotlight effect” of OECD’s monitoring efforts, primarily through Aid for Trade at a Glance (joint with the WTO), and the CRS database. These products have helped agencies responsible for AfT implementation on the ground to track commitments and performance. Interviewees also made the point that evaluation work, upon which policy change necessarily relies, would be essentially impossible in the absence of the CRS database. (This point was also reflected in the literature review, above.) OECD therefore makes important contributions to the factors identified in the second hypothesis, although the evidence is not as strong as is the case for the first hypothesis. The primary reason for the difference is that some interview respondents saw the OECD’s work as oriented primarily towards Paris- and Geneva-based delegates, and sometimes doubted the organisation’s ability, even through the WTO partnership, to reach in-country audiences.

The consensus view was that OECD’s work was highly effective at the global level in terms of bringing about attention to issues of trade-related policy change, but arguably less effective at the country-level. This conclusion in no way reflects on the quality or quantity of the OECD’s work, but is simply a function of the organisation’s limited membership, and a recognition that even the WTO, with its much larger membership, can find it difficult to bridge the gap between delegates and officials in capital. As noted in the previous section, however, survey results from donor and partner countries provide some basis to question this interpretation, and support the contention that the OECD has had some level of impact at those points too.

In relation to the third hypothesis, interview respondents often found it difficult to express a concluded view, given the pertinence of the questions raised to officials in donor and partner country capitals. To the extent that interviewees in other contexts did express an opinion, it was generally a lack of certainty that OECD’s work in cooperation with other organisations has been effective in encouraging partner countries’ ownership, harmonization, and better alignment of donor and partner country priorities. A number of interviewees highlighted the fact that OECD’s ability to influence decisions in partner country capitals is relatively limited because of the organisation’s restricted membership, even taking account of the excellent efforts that have been made to partner with global organisations such as WTO. There is stronger evidence in the case of donor countries, for example the national AfT evaluations referred to in the literature review that tend to show that ideas and concepts developed under the OECD’s umbrella have been picked up and used at the national level.

Data from the surveys indicates that OECD has also been effective in relation to the last hypothesis, namely contributing to better alignment of priorities in relation to AfT. Partner countries generally report that OECD’s work has helped them coordinate with agencies in donor countries. Evidence of inter-governmental coordination at the donor level is much more mixed, however, because many respondents indicated that they had insufficient information to express a view. Taking a general view, however, we focus on the opinions expressed, which between the various sets of respondents, are most commonly positive.

**Table 11: Survey results on the effectiveness of OECD's work in facilitating coordination between agencies.**

Channel	Average Score	% NA
<i>Donor Countries</i>		
Monitoring	3.5	25%
Policy Analysis	3.0	50%
Policy Dialogue	2.9	55%
<i>Partner Countries and RECs</i>		
Monitoring	3.8	15%
Policy Analysis	3.7	17%
Policy Dialogue	3.7	31%

## 2.5 External factors

As noted above, this report uses a contribution analysis methodology to assess the contribution made by OECD's AfT work in various areas. It is not a traditional impact evaluation, due largely to the difficulty of identifying causal links in an environment of multiple agents, programs, and organisational efforts. Although the methodologies we have adopted are useful in assessing OECD's work in relation to AfT, it is important at this stage to stress a number of the external forces in operation, so that the horizontal efforts of OECD's work can be put in an appropriate context.

First, AfT is one of many items on the international agenda, and in national budgets that are influenced by that agenda, and which in turn influence it. As a result, resources allocated to AfT in a relative sense can fluctuate over time for reasons that are particular to individual countries, or due to changes in the international environment. Against this background, it is notable that, as shown above, the percentage of ODA that is classified as AfT has been rising over recent years. This trend has been in operation despite budgetary pressures in many donor countries, and the international stresses imposed by the global financial crisis and its aftermath. Similarly, the fact that the G-20 pledged to at least maintain AfT levels in 2010 is significant: it shows that in relative terms, AfT has retained a relatively important place in the international development agenda. Indeed, its role has probably increased markedly very recently due to the signature by WTO members of a Trade Facilitation Agreement at their 2013 Ministerial Conference in Bali. That agreement requires the provision of AfT specifically targeted at trade facilitation in order to operate properly and come into fullest possible effect.

Second, OECD is one of many agents actively engaged with the AfT agenda. Others include national governments and aid agencies, regional development banks, and multilateral lenders like the World Bank. Coordination is therefore a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the AfT community, including OECD. Through its policy dialogue and policy analysis activities, OECD participates directly in facilitating coordination among AfT agents, both donors and partner countries. OECD's monitoring efforts also contribute to facilitating coordination by rendering the AfT process more transparent, and highlighting particular issues on the policy agenda around which agents and activities can coalesce. On the other hand, however, coordination difficulties can intervene between the planning and implementation of AfT activities, and reduce effectiveness. As an agent in the AfT community, OECD needs to be aware of these challenges, and take account of in its work. It is important to ensure that the OECD's outputs do not duplicate work by other organisations, but instead continue to make an original and important contribution to ongoing AfT programs. Proper coordination with bilateral and multilateral partners helps ensure that OECD activities

have the expected results, and contribute to the aims discussed above in terms of the broader AfT agenda.

Finally, linked to coordination is the issue of informational burden for agents on the ground. Due to the large number of parties involved, government and non-government actors that deliver AfT projects, and could thus benefit from OECD's work, are confronted with a large and ever growing quantity of information to absorb. In addition, they are frequently asked to respond to surveys and other instruments on effectiveness, implementation, and allocation. A key challenge for the OECD is therefore to ensure both the visibility of its outputs, and retaining the engagement of key stakeholders around the world.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

#### 3.1 General observations

The contribution analysis we have conducted—based on a literature review, interviews, and surveys—clearly shows that OECD has had a major influence on the AfTI. The Organisation has been highly effective in a number of areas, most notably monitoring. Its presentation and analysis of key data through the CRS, as well as its joint biennial publication with WTO of Aid for Trade at a Glance, have been crucial in setting up a monitoring structure around the AfTI. These products are well known and widely used in the AfT community, and have contributed to increased understanding of the constraints to trade in developing countries and prioritization of trade in development strategies through the increased importance of AfT in development discourse.

Our findings also suggest that OECD's other activities, policy analysis and dialogue, have also been effective in contributing to the implementation of the AfTI. In general, findings are stronger for the policy analysis work, which is generally recognised as being relevant and of high quality. Interviewees and survey respondents tended to be less familiar with individual outputs than was the case for the monitoring work, due to the differing profiles of the two streams, as well as the existence of more numerous outputs in the case of policy analysis. However, their overall impression was strongly positive.

OECD's policy dialogue work has also been effective in contributing to the operation of the AfTI, but the organisation's role is more challenging because of its relatively limited membership. Partnerships with other organisations, and particularly WTO, have been crucial in all areas of its AfT work. OECD has worked very well with partner organisations to extend its reach beyond its membership. However, the need to work with capital-based officials in partner countries has posed particular challenges in the case of policy dialogue, because even partner organisations like WTO have difficulty succeeding in this type of outreach activity. Given the constraints imposed by distance, government effectiveness, and inter-ministerial cooperation, the organisation has nonetheless conducted effective policy dialogue activities.

#### 3.2 Findings of contribution analysis

In response to the ToR, the contribution analysis focused on assessing OECD/DAC's AfT work in terms of three overarching criteria: relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency. This final section of the report provides more detailed commentary on each of those questions.

First, in terms of *relevance*, the methodology focuses on two questions:

- How did OECD's contributions inform the development and implementation of the AfTI?

- Did OECD's contributions influence the actions of Initiative partners?

The evidence from the literature review, interviews, and surveys strongly suggests positive responses to both questions. OECD's contributions have been central in the development and operation of the AfTI, and in shaping the ways in which other AfT agents design and implement AfT projects on the ground. OECD's work has exercised considerable influence on all agents involved in the AfTI. However, its influence has been most strongly felt within the Geneva-Paris nexus. Outreach to capital-based representatives has been more challenging, even with effective partnerships in place with other organisations, such as WTO. Generally speaking, OECD's ability to influence the AfT agenda appears to decrease with distance from Paris and Geneva, because even some WTO delegations experience difficulties in coordinating with distant capitals in environments of relatively weak governmental institutions.

In terms of *effectiveness*, the methodology again focuses on two questions:

- Were there particular products or approaches that were more effective than others, and why?
- What general lessons can be drawn for future horizontal work involving the DAC?

The evidence tends to suggest that OECD/DAC's monitoring activities were the most effective of the three channels through which it has sought to engage with the AfTI. The combination of data availability through the CRS, and dissemination and analysis jointly with WTO through Aid for Trade at a Glance has generally been considered the most effective of the organisation's operational approaches. One reason is that these activities have strong global public good characteristics, and they are not provided by other organisations active in the AfT space. Indeed, other organisations have highlighted the importance of OECD/DAC's work by stressing its fundamental nature, and the reliance they place on it in their own operations. A second reason for the greater effectiveness of OECD/DAC's monitoring activities relative to the other two streams is that it capitalizes on the organisation's strengths, and its partnership with WTO, to greatest effect. As previously noted, some interview respondents had difficulty identifying whether OECD or WTO was the agency responsible for AfT at a Glance – when in fact, the two organisations produce it jointly. The partnership in this case is therefore particularly strong, and it enables OECD's work to reach a broader audience than just the organisation's membership, which is largely limited to donor countries.

On the basis of this exercise, the view of the evaluation team is that horizontal work can be extremely successful, provided that the right elements are in place. Firstly, it was broadly considered important to have tangible, clearly distinguishable products to collaborate on. This applies to both OECD's internal and external collaboration. A second issue that was identified as a deciding factor for success was communication. By definition horizontal work includes a multiplicity of stakeholders, both internal and external, and ensuring good and clear lines of ongoing discussion is an imperative. To this end, the informal and working party meetings hosted between the DAC and the WPTC were reported to be extremely useful.

In terms of *efficiency*, the methodology focuses on a single question:

- Are there relationships between how the work was produced and disseminated and how the work was utilised by users?

The evidence in this case shows a number of connections. First, the extent of dissemination is a crucial determinant of the way in which OECD's work is used by other organisations. Joint publication with an organisation like WTO, which has global reach, means that OECD's work is picked up and used more readily by others. Publication exclusively on the OECD website limits the reach of otherwise high quality material, both due to access issues in

some cases, and the perception in some quarters that OECD material is of relevance only to its membership.

In addition to this connection, the evidence suggests that data production and dissemination is a particularly high value activity. OECD/DAC data on AfT are held in very high regard in policy circles and among academics, and therefore are widely applied and used in various contexts. Some interviewees highlighted the fact that a useful aspect of Aid for Trade at a Glance is its treatment of data issues, and its packaging of raw data in terms of applications that can readily be used by practitioners and researchers. These factors are reflected in the high level of knowledge of OECD's monitoring products within the AfT community.

### 3.3 Reflections on future work

This assessment has focused on work already undertaken by OECD, i.e. on historical results. However, participants in the analysis process have been forthcoming with positive suggestions for ways in which the Organisation could further leverage its acquired competence and profile going forward, and we take the opportunity to present three of those areas for further consideration by member countries as possible directions for future work.

First, some interviewees saw great potential for OECD to increase its involvement in the AfT through both monitoring and policy analysis and dialogue activities. A scaling up of OECD's involvement would likely involve changes in resource allocation, although this is of course a matter between the Secretariat and member countries. A number of interviewees highlighted the fact that subject to resource constraints, OECD could build on the role it has already played in fostering independent evaluations of AfT: it is an "honest broker", in the sense that it is neither the WTO (in part a negotiating forum), nor a development bank (project implementer). As has already been demonstrated, there is considerable value in developing guidelines and frameworks for conducting evaluations, and this is an area that could perhaps be built on in the future. Some interviewees suggested building on the AfT in Action model of self-reported case stories to focus on more detailed and rigorous evaluations.

Second, some interviewees also suggested that OECD engage further, to the extent possible, with partner countries, including by conducting events outside the Paris/Geneva setting. Policy dialogues, for example, take place both in Paris and elsewhere, but a number of interviewees stressed the importance of regional approaches that arguably have the potential to secure greater attendance and buy in by local officials. Representatives from two organisations active at the regional level highlighted the positive impact that the involvement and availability of OECD staff has already had on their own AfT efforts, and indicated a clear desire to increase cooperation in the future. Although resource constraints loom large in such decisions, there could indeed be substantial benefits to relevance and effectiveness if additional activities could be conducted in developing country settings.

Third, a number of interviewees from outside the OECD also highlighted the importance of maintaining strong co-operation between DCD and TAD potential for OECD's to more fully leverage their respective expertise and combine this in policy relevant ways. Such cooperation between DAC and TAD is already important for the AfT program, as evidenced by the most recent AfT at a Glance, which dealt with Global Value Chains. That work was considered to be of very high quality by interviewees, and they indicated that it was at the forefront of policy discussions in the area.

At a broader conceptual level, there is arguably scope to develop additional areas of substantive cooperation within the Organisation. As one example, Aid for Trade Facilitation is an important aspect of the broader AfT discussion under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that emerged from the Bali Ministerial. The Trade Committee has developed significant expertise, including quantitative performance measurement, on trade facilitation and DCD can track implementation through the CRS. Joint analytical and monitoring work

---

between DAC and TAD in this area could therefore be highly relevant to donors and partner countries alike. This area is relatively understudied, and there is an opportunity here for OECD to make a significant early contribution.

A number of other areas could be considered by member countries as possible areas of collaboration in relation to AfT. South-South AfT and regional AfT are related emerging areas. A challenging issue for AfT is how to engage the private sector. In this case, as is the case for all the areas interviewees suggested as possible areas in which DAC and TC could collaborate further, issues of budget, coordination and institutional direction of course need to be addressed, but they fall outside the scope of the present study.

## Annex 1: List of key informants

1. Michael Roberts, Aid for Trade Coordinator, WTO
2. John Hancock, former AfT Coordinator, WTO
3. Simon Hess, Coordinator, EIF/WTO
4. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, EIF / WTO (formerly Director of SAWTEE)
5. Matthew Wilson, Chief Advisor, ITC (formerly advisor to WTO DG on AfT)
6. Luisa Bernal, Policy Specialist, THDU / UNDP
7. Ana Maria Alvarez, Focal point for AfT, DITC / UNCTAD
8. Miguel Rodriguez, Senior Associate, ICTSD
9. Pablo Chisu, Programme Officer, ICTSD
10. Taco Stoppels, Trade Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands (Geneva)
11. Kris Easter, USAID / Permanent Mission of the US (Geneva)
12. Annette Chammas, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Germany (Geneva)
13. Ralph Osterwoldt, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Canada (Geneva)
14. Ambassador Williams, Permanent Mission of Barbados (WTO CTD Chair)
15. Elizabeth Tamale, Assistant Commissioner, Uganda Ministry of Trade
16. Ian Gillson, Senior Economist, World Bank.
17. Bernard Hoekman, Former Director, International Trade Department / World Bank.
18. Patrick Messerlin, Professor Emeritus, Sciences Po
19. Richard Newfarmer, Former Head of the Geneva Office, World Bank
20. Joaquim Tres Viladomat, Coordinator of Regional Integration Instruments, Integration and Trade Sector / IADB
21. Luciana Garcia Nores, Consultant, Integration and Trade Sector / IADB.
22. Frans Lammersen, DCD / OECD
23. William Hynes, DCD / OECD
24. Ann Gordon, DCD / OECD
25. Sabrina Traskos, PDF/OECD
26. Trudi Witbruek, Head of Development Division, TAD / OECD
27. Raed Safadi, Deputy Director, TAD / OECD
28. Jon Lomoy, Director, DCD / OECD
29. Erik Solheim, Chairman, DAC
30. Bill Nicol, Senior Counsellor, DCD / OECD
31. Dirk Dijkerman, DCD / OECD
32. Simon Scott, Head of Statistics and Development Finance Division, DCD / OECD
33. Hans Lundgren, Head of Evaluation Unit, DCD / OECD
34. Megan Kennedy, Evaluation Unit, DCD / OECD
35. Mike Plummer, ENI Professor of International Economics, SAIS Bologna
36. Nicolas Pinaud, Sherpa's office, OECD
37. Kevin Williams, SGE/EVIA / OECD
38. Stefan Kaiser, UNIDO
39. Frank Matsaert, CEO, TradeMark East Africa
40. Mark Pearson, Programme Director, TradeMark Southern Africa
41. Stephen Karingi, Director, UNECA
42. Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA
43. Alisa De Caprio, Office of Regional Economic Integration, ADB
44. Liz Turner, Principal Consultant, ITAD
45. Mohammad Razzaque, Commonwealth Secretariat

## Annex 2: List of references

- Basnett, Y. 2013. Future Directions for Aid for Trade. London: ODI
- Cadot, O., A. Fernandes, J. Gourdon, and A. Mattoo eds. 2011. Where to Spend the Next Million? Applying Impact Evaluation to Trade Assistance. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
- Cadot, O., A. Fernandes, J. Gourdon, A. Mattoo, and J. de Melo. 2013. "Evaluating Aid for Trade: A Survey of Recent Studies." Working Paper No. 75, FERDI.
- Cali, M., and D. te Welde. 2011. "Does Aid for Trade Really Improve Trade Performance?" World Development, 39(5), 725-740.
- Department for International Development. 2007. Aid for Trade: Sharing the benefits
- Eirich, F, Morrison, A, 2009. Guide 6: Contribution analysis. Social science method series. BOND
- European Commission. 2013. Aid for Trade Report 2013. Brussels: EC.
- Helble, M., C. Mann, and J. Wilson. 2012. "Aid for Trade Facilitation." Review of World Economics, 148(2), 357-376.
- Hovland, I. 2007. Making a difference: M&E of policy research, ODI, Working Paper 281, <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2426.pdf>
- Hynes, W, and Holden, P, What future for the Global Aid for Trade Initiative? Toward a fair assessment of its achievements and limitations, Institute for International Integration Study, Discussion Paper No. 421, <http://www.tcd.ie/iis/documents/discussion/abstracts/IIISDP421.php>
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. 2012. Creating Jobs through Private Sector and Trade Development. Helsinki: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
- Mizuho Information and Research Institute. 2012. Evaluation of Aid for Trade—Summary. Tokyo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- NORAD. 2011. "Norway's Trade Related Assistance through Multilateral Organisations: A Synthesis Study." Report No. 8/2011, NORAD.
- OECD DAC. 2004. Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management
- OECD. 2006a. Aid for Trade: Making it Effective
- OECD. 2006b. Aid for Trade: Funding for an Expanding Agenda
- OECD. 2007. In-depth Evaluation of the Development Assistance Committee
- OECD. 2008. In-depth Evaluation of the Trade Committee
- OECD. 2008a. Improving the Monitoring of Aid for Trade
- OECD. 2008b. Monitoring Aid for Trade: A Background Note
- OECD. 2010. In-depth Evaluation of the Trade Committee: Monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations
- OECD. 2011. Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade.
- OECD. 2011a. Aid Effectiveness 2005–2010: Progress in Implementing the Paris Declaration.
- OECD. 2011b. OECD report on division of labour: addressing cross-country fragmentation of aid [www.oecd.org/dac/aideffectiveness/49106391.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/aideffectiveness/49106391.pdf)

OECD. 2011c. DAC Report on Multilateral Aid

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/aidarchitecture/49014277.pdf>

OECD. 2013. Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/aidfortradeataglanceconnectingtovaluechains.htm>

OECD. 2013. OECD Policy dialogue on Aid for Trade 2013: Rapporteur's report

OECD/WTO. 2007. Aid for Trade at a Glance 2007

OECD/WTO. 2009. Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum

OECD/WTO. 2011. Aid for Trade at a Glance 2011: Showing Results

SECO. 2013. Independent Evaluation: Switzerland's Economic Development Cooperation in Sustainable Trade Promotion and its Contribution to Aid for Trade. Bern: SECO.

Willem te Velde, D, Razzaque, M, et al. 2013. Assessing Aid for Trade: Effectiveness, Current Issues and Future Directions. London: Commonwealth Secretariat

## **Annex 3: Selection of informants for surveys**

### **Partner country survey**

The partner country survey contact list included national organisations representing a total of 84 countries and was compiled from (i) the 2013 OECD AfT self-assessments; (ii) participants lists to OECD's AfT policy dialogue events; (iii) EIF Coordinators (provided by EIF Secretariat); and (iv) existing Saana Consulting contacts.

### **Regional economic community survey**

The REC survey contact list included a total of 7 RECs and was compiled from contact details provided by OECD and existing contacts of Saana Consulting.

### **Donor survey**

The donor survey contact list included a total of 17 DAC countries and has been compiled from the 2013 AfT self-assessments and existing contacts of Saana Consulting.

## Annex 4: Partner country survey template

The survey templates sent to donors and RECs differed only slightly from the partner country template with adopted language for specific questions.

1. Please fill in your details:

<b>Full name:</b>	
<b>Position/organisation:</b>	
<b>Country:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	

2. How long have you been aware of the Aid for Trade Initiative?

Options	Please tick box
<i>Less than one year</i>	
<i>1-2 years</i>	
<i>3-4 years</i>	
<i>5 years or more</i>	

Please feel free to provide additional comments in the field below.

3. How do you perceive the overall Aid for Trade Initiative?

Options	Please tick box
<i>Very positive perception</i>	
<i>Positive perception</i>	
<i>Neutral</i>	
<i>Negative perception</i>	
<i>Very negative perception</i>	

Please feel free to provide additional comments in the field below.

4. Do you consider it useful to monitor and analyse Aid for Trade at the global level?

Options	Please tick box
<i>Very useful</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Useful</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Neutral</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Not useful</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Serves no practical purpose</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Can't say / not applicable</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please feel free to provide additional comments in the field below.

5. Do you find the following products useful in monitoring and analysing Aid for Trade at the global level?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very useful	Useful	Neutral	Not useful	Serves no practical purpose	No knowledge of the product
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction; How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

## 6. How do you rate the quality of the following products?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very high quality	High quality	Neutral	Low quality	Very low quality	Insufficient knowledge of the product to make a judgement
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction; How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

7. To what extent have the OECD's following products better informed you regarding Aid for Trade?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Highly informative	Informative	Neutral	Not very informative	Not informative at all	Can't say / not applicable or no knowledge
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction; How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

8. To what extent do the OECD's contributions regarding Aid for Trade correspond to the priorities, program and policies of your ministry/agency?

Options	Please tick box
Strongly correspond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weakly correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
No correspondence at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please feel free to provide additional comments in the field below.

9. To what extent have the OECD's following products influenced your ministry/agency's decisions or actions?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4;  
Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very influential	Influential	Neutral	Not very influential	Not influential at all	Can't say / not applicable
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction: How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

10. To what extent have the OECD's following products helped your ministry/agency to better coordinate with other ministries/agencies in your country's government in relation to Aid for Trade?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very helpful	Helpful	Neutral	Not very helpful	Not helpful at all	No coordination
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction: How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

11. To what extent have the OECD's following products helped your country establish and/or deepen national dialogues by bringing together all relevant stakeholders to discuss the role of trade in development?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very helpful	Helpful	Neutral	Not very helpful	Not helpful at all	Can't say / not applicable
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction; How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

12. To what extent have the OECD's following products enabled your ministry/agency to better coordinate with donor agencies in relation to Aid for Trade?

(Monitoring - see A1-A3, policy analysis - see B1-B10, policy dialogue C1-C4; Please see the links for further information on the products)

	Very helpful	Helpful	Neutral	Not very helpful	Not helpful at all	Can't say / not applicable
A1. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade at a Glance</a>						
A2. <a href="#">Joint OECD/WTO Aid for Trade in Action</a>						
A3. <a href="#">OECD's Creditor Reporting System database</a>						
B1. <a href="#">Aid for Trade and Development Results: A Management Framework</a>						
B2. <a href="#">Strengthening Accountability in Aid for Trade</a>						
B3. <a href="#">Trade for Growth and Poverty Reduction; How Aid for Trade can Help</a>						
B4. <a href="#">Estimating the Constraints to Trade of Developing Countries</a>						
B5. <a href="#">Increasing the Impact of Trade Expansion on Growth</a>						
B6. <a href="#">Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Aid for Trade Objectives and Diagnostics tools</a>						
B7. <a href="#">Trading out of Poverty: How aid for trade can help</a>						
B8. <a href="#">Aid for Trade: Making it Effective</a>						
B9. <a href="#">Trade-related Assistance: what do recent evaluations tell us?</a>						
B10. <a href="#">Key elements of best practices in aid for trade</a>						
C1. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue, 2013</a>						
C2. <a href="#">Experts Workshop on Aid for Trade Implementation, March 2011</a>						
C3. <a href="#">Experts Meeting on Indicators: Measuring Aid-for-Trade Results at the Country Level, October 2010</a>						
C4. <a href="#">OECD Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, 03-04 November 2008</a>						

13. To what extent is your perception of the overall Aid for Trade Initiative influenced by OECD's work, namely:

	Very influential	Influential	Neutral	Not very influential	Not influential at all	Can't say / not applicable
<b>A. Monitoring and evaluation (e.g. Products A1-A3),</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						
<b>B. Policy analysis (e.g. Products B1-B10), and</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						
<b>C. Dialogue (e.g. Products C1-C4)?</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						

14. How effective has OECD been in improving:

	Very effective	Effective	Neutral	Not very effective	Not influential at all	Can't say / not applicable
<b>A. The credibility of the Aid for Trade Initiative?</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						
<b>B. The effectiveness of the Aid for Trade Initiative?</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						
<b>C. The prioritization of trade in your national development strategies?</b>						
<i>Please elaborate:</i>						

15. Please suggest what could be some of the major challenges in keeping the OECD's contribution to Aid for Trade relevant.

16. Please suggest what could be some of the major challenges in keeping the OECD's contribution to Aid for Trade relevant.

17. In your view where should the OECD focus its work on aid for trade in the post 2015 agenda?