

Evaluation of Swedish Trade-Related Support to ECOWAS through Phase II of the Trade Negotiation and Capacity Building Project

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations

Presentation to the TNCB II Project Steering Committee meeting, Lomé, 23-24 March 2015

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Disclaimer

This presentation presents some preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation of Swedish Trade-Related Support to ECOWAS through Phase II of the Trade Negotiation and Capacity Building Project.

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The TNCB II results matrix

(from Sida's Assessment Memo 2008)

Objectives	Indicators
Development objective Reduced poverty in ECOWAS member countries by means of more beneficial outcome of international trade	(i) external trade as portion of GDP (ii) trade balance (iii) poverty reduction/economic growth
Project objective Increased awareness of importance of multilateral trade for development and poverty reduction and increased capacity to negotiate in multilateral trade agreements at regional and national levels in ECOWAS	(i) IICs are effective tools for national coordination in multilateral trade (ii) IICs are regularly communicating with ECOWAS (iii) ECOWAS trade department properly staffed with capacity to represent and support members countries in multilateral trade negotiations, and stronger integration
Outputs 1. A common external tariff (CET) finalised and WTO notified 2. ECOWAS trade policy developed and proposed for Council of Ministers by 2009 3. Inter-institutional committees for multilateral trade in function in all member countries by 2010	

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Evaluation process

- Terms of reference 3 October 2014
- Main data collection activities:
 - Review of project documents
 - Visit to Abuja 26-27 January 2015, including attending the National Coordinating Committee on Trade (NCCT) meeting and interviewing ECOWAS Commission
 - Follow-up survey by mail to NCCT participants
 - Interviews with Sida and other donors
- Final report submitted by 30 April 2015

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The five OECD/DAC evaluation criteria

Relevance	The extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor
Effectiveness	The extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved
Efficiency	A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time etc.) are converted to results
Impact	The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended
Sustainability	whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn

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Relevance has been high

- Regional trade and integration essential for growth and diversification
- TNCB II conceived at crucial moment in CET and EPA negotiations
- Entirely appropriate to support the CET negotiation process directly, the capacity of the ECOWAS Department of Trade and the institutional frameworks for trade policy making in the member countries in the form of the Inter-Institutional Committees seem

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Effectiveness has been moderate

- Output 1 (*the CET finalised*) and Output 3 (*functioning IICs*) have been partly achieved with delays
- Little progress on Output 2 (*supporting the Department of Trade and the ECOWAS Trade Policy*)
- The project has clearly contributed to the Project Objective (*Increased awareness and capacity on trade at regional and national levels in ECOWAS*)

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Efficiency has been low

- Delays and implementation challenges have characterised the project since its inception
- Reasons include
 - political situation in member countries
 - reforms and bureaucracy within the ECOWAS Commission
 - insufficient project staffing
 - uncertainty regarding transfer of funds to countries
- Results-based management insufficient
- Audit reports very late
- Sida's level of engagement has been low

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Impact and sustainability

- TNCB II's design had potential for impact and sustainability
- Project had impact on CET and IICs
- Sustainability at risk:
 - CET implementation will be a challenge
 - Lack of resources in many IIC
 - Still capacity constraints within ECOWAS Commission

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Recommendations

1. Sida should continue to support trade policy and integration in West Africa
2. Sida and ECOWAS should consider novel ways to cooperate, e.g. through GIZ/EU programme, trapca or the Accelerating Trade in West Africa (ATWA) initiative
3. The ECOWAS Commission should improve its project management capabilities
4. Sida should increase its engagement and monitoring efforts

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Thank you to the NCC meeting participants and the ECOWAS Commission for their support during the evaluation.

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