



TIER 2 INDICATOR TECHNICAL NOTE

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SUPPORTED TO ENGAGE PRODUCTIVELY WITH THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

Last updated: 25/02/2024

DEFINITION

This indicator requires a **response of the number of countries** assessed to have satisfied the Indicator. A list of the relevant countries, along with related and brief examples/case studies (less than 100 words), will evidence the numerical response for this Indicator.

Countries supported means any country aided through our global/multilateral, regional, or bilateral investments to engage productively with the multilateral trading system. **Support** could include technical assistance, capacity development, resources, or research.

We define **engage productively** as the ability to participate in, influence, or benefit from, the multilateral trading system. **Note: Productively** is defined here as meeting goals and/or targets of the investment; those goals depend on the relevant investments/projects. This includes instances of productive engagement with rules-based multilateral trading system with traceable linkages to investment project interventions.

The rules-based **multilateral trading system (MTS)**, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, is the ecosystem of rules, processes and obligations that underpin the international trading system. The MTS covers trade in goods, services, agriculture, the trade-related aspects of intellectual property, as well as trade-related aspects of investment measures. Multilateral trade agreements provide standardised import and export procedures, establishing the legal foundations for, and facilitating, global trade.

Further information about the multilateral trading system can be found at [WTO | The WTO in brief](#).

This **indicator reports the number of countries supported** to engage with the WTO, negotiate and implement trade and investment agreements, formulate, and implement trade and investment policies and strategies, mainstream trade as part of their economic and development objectives, and undertake trade or investment related legislation and regulatory reform.

SCOPE

INCLUDES:

Geography - all countries are within scope.

EXCLUDES:

Countries supported to engage productively with regional or non-WTO plurilateral trade agreements (or organisations) should not/not be counted.



CALCULATION METHOD

This indicator is designed to count all countries supported through Australian funding to engage productively with the multilateral trading system. **Each separate country should only be counted once**, even if it is supported by multiple investments or projects. For this reason, the list of countries supported included in the numerical response is important.

Each country included in the numerical response must be linked to Australian funded support, with traceable linkages to investment project interventions.

All separate inputs (number of countries) will be aggregated to produce a department-wide figure.

DATA SOURCE/S

The **investment monitoring reporting process** will provide key source of data on this Indicator.

For the **Multilateral Aid for Trade Program (EPF)**, data would be derived from the Multilateral Economic Cooperation Program Performance Framework, Intermediate Result (IR) 2: “developing country and LDC partners demonstrate increased capacity to more effectively participate in and derive benefits from regional and multilateral rules-based trading systems”.

DISAGGREGATION

Disaggregated data (i.e., gender, rural/remote/urban, disability, youth) is not required for this indicator given it is a numerical response. However, disaggregated data by geography/country will be required to ensure there is no double counting of countries in the Indicator results. Other disaggregated data would also add value in the case studies or examples provided if relevant. For example, the gender inclusion aspects of a project would be beneficial to spell out.

WORKED EXAMPLE

- 15
- Asia-Pacific Region
- Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tajikistan, Vietnam.

Evidence:

The WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) increases the capacity of developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines, and recommendations to help improve their ability to gain and maintain access to international markets.

During the reporting period, the STDF strengthened SPS systems in the listed countries in areas that included SPS compliance, food safety, mitigating chemical residues, harmonising regulations, managing scale insects in fresh fruit, pest notifications, supply chain transparency, laboratory capacity building, and animal identification registration. (Refer table for further details.)

BENEFICIARIES	TITLE
Mongolia	Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system
Solomon Islands	Enhancing laboratory capacity to boost fish exports



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Tajikistan	Promoting market access for honey and apricot products
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	Promoting IT solutions for pest surveillance and reporting in the Asia-Pacific
Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea	CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing on cocoa in Southeast Asia
Sri Lanka	Improving the safety and quality of fruits and vegetables
Sri Lanka	Enhancing capacity in the cinnamon value chain
ASEAN member states	Strengthening capacity in pesticide export requirements
Nepal	Public-private partnerships to promote ginger exports
Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	Integrated systems approach for pest risk management
Thailand, Viet Nam	Boosting safe fruit and vegetable exports
Bangladesh	Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp/prawn farmers
Azerbaijan	Strengthening phytosanitary border controls
Viet Nam	Strengthening SPS capacities for trade
Cambodia	SPS action plan
Nepal	SPS Capacity Building
Asia-Pacific countries	Using the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool
India	Developing regional skills on risk analysis
Asia-Pacific countries	Risk-based food standards