

FOREWORD

The Aid-for-Trade Initiative has achieved a great deal since its launch in 2005. It has raised awareness about the positive role trade can play in economic growth and development, which has contributed to an increase in the mainstreaming of trade-related priorities in partner countries' national development strategies. Bilateral and multilateral donors, and providers of South-South co-operation, are responding with more concessional and non-concessional financing. The private sector is also examining how it can contribute toward making trade work for development and poverty reduction. A review of aid for trade – focusing on both progress and further improvements needed – is building confidence that the Initiative is delivering tangible results.

The trade and development landscape has changed since the start of the Initiative. Research on trade in value added – led by the WTO and the OECD – is shedding light on the complex production networks that now characterise global trade. The deepening and widening of value chains has boosted the share of intermediate goods in trade as more firms and countries join these diffuse networks. As firms focus more on trade in certain specific tasks and less on the complete production process, new opportunities arise for firms in developing countries, including in the least developed countries, to become part of these regional and global networks. Furthermore, the trade performance of developing countries is more intertwined as South-South trade and investment expand.

In the area of development co-operation, the optimism is giving way to new fiscal realities as OECD countries experience pressure on their aid budgets. Despite this downturn in OECD countries' aid expenditure, which will hopefully be short-lived, substantial funding is still available, including via South-South co-operation, triangular co-operation, and the private sector.

The enthusiastic response to the latest OECD/WTO monitoring survey highlights the continued engagement of donors, South-South partners, developing countries and the private sector in achieving the objectives of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative. There is still room for improvement, in particular with regard to trade-related barriers at and behind borders, as there is evidence that they might constrain the ability of developing country firms to establish, connect and move up value chains. However, countries are addressing these concerns by tackling many of the binding constraints that are affecting the connectivity of developing countries.

The encouraging message of this publication is that our efforts to put focus on the Aid-for-Trade Initiative were well placed. We need to continue working along the same lines but redouble our efforts to achieve development results. The report also calls attention to the need to further engage providers of South-South co-operation and the private sector, give more prominence to the issue of skills, expand the role of development finance and improve the conditions for cross-border projects and regional integration.

The *Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation* can play a catalytic role in ensuring that developing countries leverage diverse forms of development finance to promote trade and development through an “investment for trade” approach. This publication examines these and other issues to help ensure that the Aid-for-Trade Initiative remains relevant in this changing trade and development landscape. The report will also provide a good basis for discussion and guidance at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference which will be held in Bali in December 2013.

Aid for trade has achieved a great deal, and is an established part of the focus of our two organisations. But our work is far from finished. It is our collective hope that the global membership of the Initiative tackles these remaining challenges with renewed vigour in the years to come.



Angel Gurría
Secretary-General
OECD



Pascal Lamy
Director-General
WTO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains was prepared under the aegis of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the Trade Committee in close co-operation with the WTO Committee on Trade and Development.

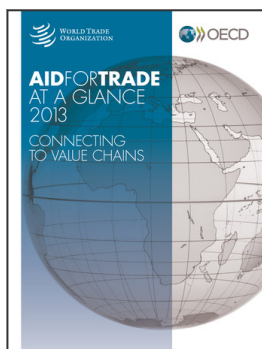
The OECD and WTO Secretariats would like to express their appreciation to all the governments, international organisations and private firms that participated in this fourth monitoring exercise.

The report has been prepared under the overall guidance of Frans Lammersen (OECD) and Michael Roberts (WTO).

The core team was composed of William Hynes, Richard Newfarmer, and Michael Plummer, with assistance from Deborah Barker, Olivier Cattaneo, Michael Cornish, Maria Alvarez de Cozar, Rebecca A. Freeman, Ann Gordon, Marion Jansen, Rainer Lanz, Aime Murigande, Se Eun Park, Ben Shepherd, Alissa Tafti, Conor Trodden, and Cristian Ugarte.

The report was designed by Peggy Ford-Fyffe King and John Smith provided editing support. The team was assisted by Susan Hodgson.

We also extend our acknowledgement to internal reviewers, notably Evdokia Moisé, Gregor Slokan and Trudy Witbreuk.



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

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/aid_glance-2013-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD/World Trade Organization (2013), "Foreword - Acknowledgements", in *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2013: Connecting to Value Chains*, World Trade Organization, Geneva/OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/aid_glance-2013-1-en

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.