

UK Trade Partnerships Programme



BACKGROUND

The United Kingdom Trade Partnerships Programme (UKTP) will support African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to take advantage of the duty-free, quota-free access to EU and UK markets that they enjoy under Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The programme will support ACP countries to effectively implement and maximise the benefits of the EPAs, promoting trade under the existing EU EPAs and in anticipation of the implementation of the replicated UK EPAs as the UK exits the EU.

GOALS

The UKTP aims to increase export flows from ACP countries to the UK and the EU, creating quality jobs in those countries in the long-term.

This will be achieved by increasing awareness of firms and institutions on how to access the UK/EU markets and better identifying trade obstacles across all Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible EPA countries. It will also build the capacity of targeted firms/products to export to UK/EU markets in selected pilots.

COVERAGE: African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
TIME-FRAME: 2019-2022
BUDGET: £17 million

The programme's full portfolio will be developed during the inception phase (April – November 2019), drawing on in-country consultations and ITC's knowledge of the sector, market conditions, exporter and buyer motivations as well as partner country government interest.

The following focus areas will be confirmed during inception:

- Increasing private sector awareness of what EPA preferences are, how to use them, the business environment for exports to UK/EU markets and how to find market opportunities through communications campaigns and online trade portals.
- Promoting exports from target sectors in 8-10 ODA-eligible pilot countries through focused support and capacity building with firms, sector organisations, trade and investment support institutions, trade/business support providers and export promotion agencies.

ITC's approach to gender, youth and environment will be mainstreamed in UKTP.

SUPPORT TO EXPORTERS

To ensure the relevance of the chosen interventions UKTP will support both high potential and export aspiring firms to increase exports to the UK/EU.

Support will be tailored to the local context and could include:

- logistics and supply chain;
- meeting technical/quality requirements;
- export marketing;
- fostering market links.

TIMELINE

The UKTP will be delivered in two phases: an inception phase of six months (May to November 2019) to tighten project design and prepare for delivery during an implementation phase of over 30 months (late 2019 to March 2022). The end result of inception will be detailed project plans for the implementation phase.

KEY ACTIVITIES DURING INCEPTION

During inception UKTP teams will assess and map existing trade portals, conduct stakeholder consultations, select products for trade promotion, analyse trade barriers and trade facilitation issues, identify, screen enterprises, map supply chains, develop alliances with UK and EU buyers and assess partner institutions.

The inception report and detailed plans will follow a procedure of stakeholder validation that will ensure the relevance of the intervention.

STAKEHOLDERS

During initial scoping for the programme, ACP partner governments, private sector and other stakeholders were consulted.

ITC will implement UKTP in collaboration with a wide network of stakeholders including public trade support institutions, business associations, sector platforms, cooperatives and farmer groups and civil society. These stakeholders will also benefit from the project through assistance on improving their services, to enable their members to increase trade.

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Through increased trade, the programme supports these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



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