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JORDAN: simplification and digitalization of international trade procedures

The pilot support action to the *simplification and digitalization of international trade procedures* will intervene in close cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, in margins and in a complementary way to the initiatives carried out in Jordan with the support of international donors (e.g. ITC, UNCTAD, GIZ), and in the perspective of bringing to the Jordan policy makers international experiences of reforms in this area.

Jordan is implementing *several programmes in the framework of the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement*, TFA:

- The Ministry of Industry Trade and Supply- MoITS and the Jordanian Customs department with the support of the International Trade Center (ITC) have developed an '*Import and Export Procedure Guide*" focusing on international trade procedures and customs requirements for the clearance of goods in Jordan. The objective is to provide key information that will enable economic operators (importers and exporters) and beginners to have a comprehensive overview about the basics and cycles for the import and export operations in Jordan.

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- The Jordanian Customs has partnered up with GIZ T4E project and ITC in establishing an online trade portal that enhances the implementation of TFA Art. 1.1 and 1.2. This Portal is an online platform where traders can access *detailed procedures on import and export* of selected products, thereby enhancing their compliance and reducing transaction delays.

- UNCTAD and MoITS with the support of GIZ T4E project are conducting an *E-Trade Readiness Assessment for Jordan* to provide i) a detailed assessment of their digital ecosystem in the seven key policy areas considered most relevant for e-commerce development, and ii) an eT Ready Action Matrix, facilitating the implementation of priority actions based on the barriers and opportunities identified in the assessment. An action Plan will be developed to provide the Government with an operational tool for planning and implementing priority actions, based on the above eT Ready Action Matrix.

- Since 2003 a National Committee for Trade & Transport Facilitation (a partnership of members from both the private & public sectors) - NCTTF was officially created to tackle the challenges in international trade operations, specifically to enhance dialogue and develop a more supportive environment in the areas of trade, transport and logistics, agreements, and treaties, as well as border management. The NCTTF was established in accordance with UN Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) guidelines on regional trade. The committee is entrusted with carrying out its mandate by making *recommendations and proposals which will simplify procedures, organize logistics, facilitate administrative reform law, reduce time and costs of operations, and reinforce security*.

- With reference to the food processing sector, specific initiatives aimed at streamlining export procedures are promoted by Jordan Export. The *strategy of the food processing sector* prepared with the support of the T4E-GIZ Programme suggests setting up a portal on technical requirements for export of food products to the major export markets,….

Despite multiple activities aimed at strengthening the export ecosystem are carried out with different partners, private sector exporting companies continue to denounce the administrative burden due to the *significant number of formalities t*o be completed and bodies involved.

To this end, the scope of this action is to assist the Jordan Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply to take stock of different initiatives put in place in the framework of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement -TFA and to identify areas for improvement through simplification of procedures and digitalisation.

The expected results are the following:

R1.   Enhanced knowledge regarding areas of improvement of Jordan international trade procedures.

R2.   A simplified roadmap to streamline and digitalise international trade procedures.

R3.   The presentation of some international good practices of digital single window.

Implementation: January – April 2022