

GHANA

TRADE FACILITATION IN GHANA: EFFICIENCY GAINS FOR BUSINESSES & A MORE TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE FOR CUSTOMS

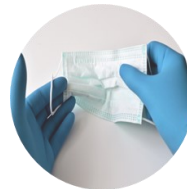


Against the backdrop of a challenging economic and geopolitical environment Ghana made notable progress with its customs modernization agenda. The project led to **efficiency gains of 91 person-years annually** for the business community and **strengthened customs in its role for a just transition** – related to regional integration, the environment, and health.

BACKGROUND

The project **Strengthening Trade Facilitation in Ghana under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** was implemented from January 2022 to March 2024.

The ambition was to achieve **time and cost reductions** of trade and to link this more explicitly with up-to-date development goals in the three key areas of **just transition, global health and gender equality**.



The Covid-19 pandemic, rising global food prices due to Russia's war against Ukraine and the disruption of global supply chains had negative effects for Ghana's public finances. **Revenue-generating activities became more urgent** and of higher political priority as compared to other goals. Project implementation had to **adapt to these circumstances**. Some activities had to be discontinued, while other new activities were taken up. Eventually, substantial results were achieved: Reduction of **time and cost of trade** and contributions to a **transformation agenda for Ghana**.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Title	Strengthening Trade Facilitation in Ghana under the AfCFTA
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana Revenue Authority - Customs Division
Duration	01/2022 – 03/2024

WHAT WE DID

The project involved trade procedure analyses, policy reform drafting, and trainings on various topics, including the following project activities related to....

...time and cost of trade:

- Simplify Creation of Certificates of Origin in Ghana's ICUMS.
- Train the Private Sector on efficient system use.

...AfCFTA:

- Business case for Ghana's accession to the Nairobi convention, as a legal basis for customs cooperation across borders.
- AfCFTA Training: Educate on rules of origin and benefits of AfCFTA.

...environmental topics:

- Trainings on Trade-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Trainings on Ghana's new Energy Efficiency Regulation.

- Drafting a Green Customs concept for the Ghana Revenue Authority.

...public health:

- Business Process Analysis (BPA) for Vaccine Imports/Exports: Analyze processes for vaccines and related supplies.
- Pharmaceutical Export Training: Prepare companies for AfCFTA export requirements.
- Address BPA Bottlenecks: Develop solutions for joint inspections and raw materials classification.

...gender equality:

- Training of 340 woman traders on legal procedures, their rights as traders and simplified declaration procedures.



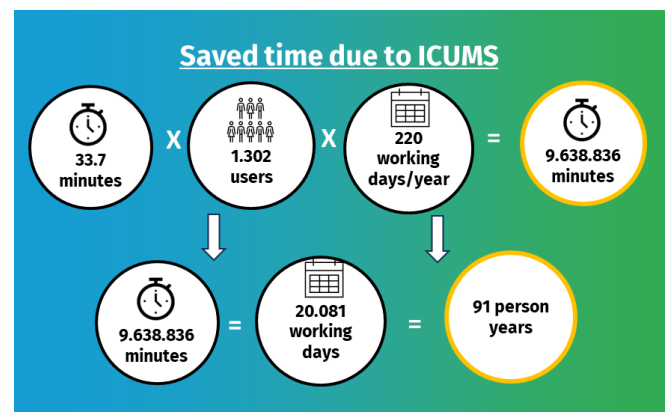
RESULTS

Unlocking efficiency: Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS) drives time and cost gains.

- ◆ The training reached 1.302 users from companies who have to use the system on a daily basis to declare goods.
- ◆ Simplification meant that users can now create several certificate of origin with just one Unique Consignment Number (UCR).
- ◆ A typical ICUMS user thus saves 33.7 minutes per working day.
- ◆ Aggregated time savings sum up to 91 person-years annually.

Customs improved capacities for a just transition – related to regional integration, the environment, health, and gender equality

- ◆ Customs officers (**89%** of all trained) and business representatives (**98%** of all trained) are now able to **apply AfCFTA-related trade rules**.
- ◆ Ghana Revenue Authority integrates 'Green Customs' in its 2023-2026 plan, and 44 officers are capacitated to enforce environmental agreements at borders.



- ◆ Work on facilitating trade related to **public health issues** has begun and is expected to be continued in a **new programme** (Strengthening the Ghanaian Pharmaceutical Sector with a Focus on Local Vaccine Production).
- ◆ **Women traders** who have been **trained** on border procedures are now aware of the correct duties and procedures and **are much less exposed to over-charging middleman** – resulting in considerable cost savings for them.

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