Enhanced Integrated Framework

Evaluation of the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Volume 3:
Supplementary Annexes

9th December 2021
Submitted by:

SAANA CONSULTING

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RFP-2020-159 EIF Evaluation

ANNEX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK (EIF)

2020-2021

I.   OVERVIEW

In today's complex trade environment, Aid for Trade (AfT) provides a framework for much-needed assistance from productive and institutional capacity-building to trade policy and strategy development. The least developed countries (LDCs) continue to face supply-side constraints that severely limit their ability to benefit from trading opportunities. High trade costs and constrained institutional capacities, including low quality national infrastructure, remain stumbling blocks for the LDCs to tap into regional and international value chains. This calls for intensified efforts from the LDCs, development partners and the private sector to foster the participation of the LDCs in global markets and trade, for example by investment in trade infrastructure, skills development, regulatory reforms, institutional support and access to finance and trade facilitation, to name but a few.

In recognition of these challenges, the Integrated Framework (IF) was established in 1997 as an international initiative to promote trade in the LDCs by mainstreaming trade into their national development plans (NDPs) and to coordinate the delivery of aid to them. Following a series of evaluations,[1] a Task Force recommended strengthening the delivery process of the IF by linking the activities and results at programme and project levels. This led to a revamping of the IF in 2007 into the present EIF, with the goal to support the LDCs' integration into the global trading system and with a view to contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development. The first phase of the EIF effectively ran from 2009 to 2015, with an independent Mid-term Review (MTR) carried out in 2012 and an end-phase comprehensive evaluation in 2014. Building on the findings and recommendations of the end-phase evaluation, the EIF's second phase started in 2016 and requires that all projects are completed by mid-2023 following the EIF Board decision in December 2019.

The operationalization of the second phase is guided by the Programme Framework Document (PFD), the Compendium for EIF Phase Two and the current Strategic Plan 2019-2022. New mechanisms were introduced for regional projects, combined modality, sustainability support, project preparation grants, thematic calls, improved Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs), with new guidelines in place, etc. EIF Phase Two also increases the focus on private sector engagement; inclusive and sustainable trade development with greater participation of women, youth and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in EIF activities; strengthening of linkages between trade and investment; and leveraging technology. Additional efficiency and value for money (VfM) in the programme's governance and operations were also put in place. During this phase, the EIF has developed or revised a number of procedures, guidelines and modalities and updated its Theory of Change (ToC) and programme-level logframe to measure results and a risk matrix to monitor risks associated with programme delivery.

The EIF is a unique global partnership between the LDCs, EIF Donors and EIF Agencies, which is dedicated to supporting the LDCs to use trade as a tool for economic growth and poverty reduction through job and income opportunities. The EIF empowers the LDCs to identify where trade can form an integral part of their national development strategies and assist them in harnessing AfT towards this goal. It is globally recognized in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, is specifically mentioned in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.a and is at the heart of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). The EIF works with the LDCs and recently graduated countries across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas with its activities financed through a multi-donor Trust Fund.

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[1] Evaluation of the Revamped Integrated Framework For Trade-related Technical Assistance to the Least-Developed Countries. Capra-TFOC Consortium, November 2003; and Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance, Addressing Challenges of Globalization: An Independent Evaluation of the World Bank's Approach to Global Programs, Case Study Manmohan Agarwal and Jozefina Cutura, 2004.

The EIF's objectives have continued to evolve from Phase One to Phase Two in response to the evolving needs of the LDCs. Building on its unique values, the partnership works to support the LDCs to:

Improve the evidence-based policy and regulatory frameworks for trade and investment.
Strengthen institutional coordination for trade development and investment.
Enhance capacities for policy formulation and implementation.
Improve participation in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets.
Improve technology use in production and services in selected value chains.
Leverage additional investments for productive capacity.

Based on the above, the EIF's support is targeted at the achievement of two key goals reflected in the EIF's current Strategic Plan 2019-2022. Goal 1 is aimed at improving the trade environment conducive for the inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs. This goal targets institutional and policy-related support (historically referred to as Tier 1 projects). Furthermore, this support includes the preparation of DTISs and the associated DTIS Action Matrix (DTIS AM), which forms the basis for including trade-related priorities into NDPs/Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and donors' financing forums; and for support to the EIF National Implementing Arrangements (NIAs) by building their capacity to formulate and coordinate trade policies and strategies and to manage projects. Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan targets increased exports and access to international markets through three specific objectives. These include the improved participation of the EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets; improved technology use in production and services in selected value chains; and support to leverage additional investments for productive capacity.

It is recognized that this evaluation will take place at a unique period when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will have had an impact on the programme and traditional methods for undertaking evaluations. Furthermore, it is not clear when the effects of the pandemic effects will be resolved and, consequently, agility and adaptability will be critical for this evaluation.

The objective of this Request for proposals is to select an expert company (the Evaluator) able to deliver the above-mentioned evaluation following the requirements set forth in these TOR. This evaluation shall be conducted by a consultancy team led by an expert team leader.

II.   RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

A.   Rationale

Evaluation and learning are seen as an integral part of EIF programme implementation and management and a necessary phase in the programme cycle. Moreover, the PFD and the Compendium for EIF Phase Two specified that an end-of-phase evaluation of the EIF should take place in order to:

Confirm performance and provide final course corrections if needed.
Sum up the evidence on results achieved from the full experience of the IF/EIF/ to that date and on the effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the EIF model to respond to the objectives of helping the LDCs to better integrate into the global trading system and advance their economic and social development.
Provide recommendations for appropriate future directions in mobilizing trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) for the LDCs in good time for consideration and possible actions by the end of the EIF term.

B.   Purpose and objectives

These TOR contain the provision for undertaking an independent evaluation of the EIF. The

evaluation will focus on an impact assessment, on providing feedback on the programme, on sharing lessons learned and on promoting accountability in programme delivery, implementation and management through a global assessment of the EIF processes and operations.

The main purpose of the independent evaluation is to assess the results of the programme relating them to the goals of the EIF as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 (hereinafter "the objectives") in an independent manner and capture key lessons learned. The evaluation should be of high quality, as the outcome will be used to inform the design of any possible future programming.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

Assess and sum up evidence of results of the EIF to date, with a particular focus on relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the model to respond to the programme's objectives as outlined above.
Assess the EIF's organizational effectiveness including VfM aspects;
Identify institutional and organizational factors that contributed to or hindered the achievement of the EIF objectives.
Identify lessons learned at the project and programme levels
Assess performance against the stated objectives and provide final course corrections if needed.
Provide recommendations for the appropriate future direction in mobilizing TRTA for the LDCs in good time for consideration and possible action by the end of the current phase of the EIF.

III.   SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

A.   **Guiding the evaluation principles**

The evaluation shall be guided by the OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC)[2] evaluation principles of independence, impartiality, credibility and stakeholder participation in the evaluation process, including the principle of utility. Consultants and all stakeholders to the evaluation process are called upon to adhere to the above principles. These principles may be complemented by other principles adopted by the EIF Board and its Evaluation Sub-committee (ESC) to guide the evaluation process.

B.   **Scope**

The evaluation will be guided by but not limited to the OECD DAC criteria of evaluation (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact). It is important that the evaluation fully captures the different levels and components of the EIF.

The scope of the evaluation shall cover both phases of the EIF, namely Phase One (2008-2015) and Phase Two (2016 to date). In doing this, the evaluator is encouraged to also make use of evaluations and reviews already carried out (especially in relation to EIF Phase One) and work already under preparation. The focus on the assessment of EIF Phase One will be to determine possible impacts of the programme from both the institutional/policy and productive capacity dimensions. The focus on EIF Phase Two will be on emerging results and the assessment of the programme design, implementation, management, results and administration at each of the levels of the EIF – the global programme level, the country project level and alignment/intersection between the two.

The evaluation should systematically cover <u>three</u> distinct streams of EIF activity:

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[2] https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

The EIF business model/approach as reflected in individual country-level interventions (DTIS/DTIS Updates (DTISUs), Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects) and related NIAs – i.e., the EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU), the EIF National Steering Committee, the EIF Focal Point (FP), the NIU Coordinator and the EIF Donor Facilitator, including an assessment of the EIF business model/approach for regional projects.

The global programme and activities including the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) function and advocacy on behalf of LDCs.

An assessment of the systematic changes to the entire EIF partnership (especially the Executive Secretariat for the EIF (ES), the EIF Trust Fund Manager (TFM) and implementing agencies) during EIF Phase Two, including areas that comprise the expected streamlining of processes, tracking cross-cutting themes (e.g., gender), efforts to ensure better sustainability and leveraging.

Geographically, the evaluation shall cover all four regions where the 51 EIF Countries[3] are located (Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Haiti in the Americas).

C.   **Methodology**

The evaluation will be conducted following the OECD-DAC criteria for development evaluation, including other programme-specific criteria for assessing effectiveness. The evaluation will be guided by these TOR and an Inception Report to be produced by the Evaluator, which will further specify the detailed evaluation questions and methodology.

A range of quantitative and qualitative impact assessment methods should be included in the proposed Inception Report, ensuring that the methods cover representative samples of each key constituency and group of actors in the partnership. Given the variety of outcomes at the country level, the evaluators will be requested to adopt a mix of methods to ensure triangulation of findings. This should include a checklist approach, with questions that are comprehensive and carefully targeted. Such an approach will ensure that the evaluation systemically looks through the entire EIF business model as a whole and in the case study countries (from DTIS to Tier 1/Mainstreaming to Tier 2 support), given that they are all meant to form an interlinked holistic suite of interventions.

In addition to the proposed checklist approach, the Evaluator's proposal should provide a clear description of the design and methodology that will be used to answer the key questions; outline innovative evaluation methods to be used; the ToC; proposed counterfactuals if/where appropriate; and propose data collection methods, analytical methods and an approach to synthesis. The proposal should be clear and comprehensive on the methodological approach that will enable the assessment of the EIF's performance in Phase Two and its development impact from Phase One interventions.

The evaluation shall combine both formative and summative evaluation approaches. On the formative side, the evaluation shall assess the performance of the ongoing EIF Phase Two, governance structures, funding model, ongoing project implementations and procedures so as to illustrate what is working well and what could be improved. On the summative side, the aim is to assess the intended and unintended impacts of completed (i.e., predominantly, although not necessarily only, EIF Phase One) interventions through applying innovative methods of both quantitative and qualitative impact assessment.

The evaluation should build on the findings of other evaluations conducted by the EIF, including the 2012 independent MTR, the 2014 independent evaluation, the 2014 review of

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[3] The list of countries is available of the EIF website www.enhancedif.org, while the full list (with projects per country listed) shall be made available to the winning firm during the inception meeting.

EIF Trust Fund Manager Operating Tools and Procedures, the 2019 meta-evaluation, and where relevant, upcoming thematic evaluations planned around the DTISs and the NIAs.

At a minimum, it would be expected that the proposed methodology described in the technical proposal would include, though not be limited to, the following aspects:

Document review: Familiarization with key documents (published and unpublished in English and French). Copies of all the listed documents in Appendix 1 will be made available to the Evaluator.

Stakeholder interviews and consultations: This will involve consultations and interviews, amongst other things, with members of the EIF governance structure and EIF beneficiaries at both the global and country levels. This should include, though not be limited to, the EIF Donor constituency and Donor EIF Board Members, the LDC constituency and LDC EIF Board Members, EIF Core and Partner Agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank and the WTO), those with observer status at the EIF Board (UNIDO and UNWTO) and other EIF partners, the Chair of the EIF Board, the Chair of the EIF Steering Committee, the ES and the TFM, and the country-level beneficiaries and stakeholders, including the governments and the private sector. It is anticipated that desk-based consultations, including through mechanisms such as questionnaires, will cover all countries with active involvement with the EIF. The full list will be discussed and agreed upon with the Evaluator during the inception phase.

Country-level evaluations (country case studies): The evaluation will include a detailed assessment of EIF activities in selected countries, guided by the same criteria as the overall evaluation (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact). The proposed selection criteria of countries to assess in greater detail will be included in the Inception Report by the Evaluator, clearly documenting the criteria for the proposed selection. It would be anticipated that a purposive sampling approach with a set of predefined country selection criteria, in conjunction with the physical viability of country visits in a COVID-19 environment, shall be used for selecting countries. It is likely that this would include factors such as the stage of implementation of the projects, the project category, the geographic/regional distribution and language; and different development factors, such as land-locked economies, countries affected by fragility and conflict or small islands developing states. **The final list of selected countries will be approved by the ESC in consultation with respective EIF Constituencies, such as the WTO LDC Group for LDC representatives**. For the case studies to provide as much data as needed and provide an accurate picture of impact on the ground, it would be expected that the evaluation includes assessments of around half of the countries that have benefited from EIF interventions. It is anticipated that a two-stage process will be used, with a first stage based on virtual consultations around a structured checklist, desk reviews and assessments. A more limited number of countries would be proposed for more in-depth assessments (such as through field visits, in-depth virtual missions and/or national consultations where feasible.).

The Evaluator is encouraged to propose alternative approaches or further develop the above tiered approach in the methodology section of the Inception Report, in order to demonstrate the most effective and efficient ways to conduct the case studies, taking into consideration potential travel restrictions or disruptions as a result of COVID-19.

The EIF is a complex multi-donor and multi-country programme, with multi-layered projects with different stakeholders and beneficiaries. It is critical for bidders to explain in their technical proposal how the complexity of the programme and of the evaluation will be managed. There will be a need for an innovative approach based on state-of-the-art evaluation methods in order to assess both short- and medium-term results in a single evaluation. This should be supported by an illustrative evaluation matrix. The methodology and particularly the evaluation matrix would be further refined and finalized in the inception phase by the Evaluator.

The technical proposal should outline how the Evaluator have designed the approach to deal with anticipated disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the assessment of the programme and in the means of conducting the actual evaluation. The proposal should also outline how the Evaluator hope to capture pre- and post-COVID-19 situations in their analysis. Where relevant, contingency methods should be specified in the case of further disruptions emerging over the course of the evaluation period.

IV.   EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation questions should focus on the scope and objectives of the evaluation and on a number of key points that allow more targeted data collection and more in-depth analysis. It is important to ensure that the answers to the questions are comprehensive and that the questions pertain to the evaluation and are linked to the ToC, intervention logic and the evaluation criteria. The Evaluator is encouraged to adopt the scope and flexibility necessary for developing thematic areas and questions to be presented in the Inception Report. The questions could also examine implications for future programming for the LDCs and the extent to which changes in the EIF's strategy and delivery within the time of implementation of EIF Phase Two may be required in order to maximize the impact of the EIF over the remaining period of EIF Phase Two.

The following sets of questions, together with indicative sub-questions to be included in the evaluation matrix have been defined to guide the evaluation. There are seven principle questions generally aligned by the OECD DAC criteria, each with a series of sub-questions to guide the evaluation. Further indicative lines of enquiry arising from the questions below are included in the annexes to the TOR.

A. Relevance: How relevant is the EIF to the trade-related capacity development needs and priorities of the LDCs?

How relevant are the EIF's operational principles to the needs of the LDCs?
Since its inception how relevant is and has the EIF been in the global context of support to the LDCs?
How relevant are the EIF projects to the needs of individual countries and targeted beneficiaries?
To what extent do the EIF programme's goals and outcomes target the major needs of the LDCs as demonstrated in DTIS AMs, National Trade Policies and NDPs?

B. Coherence: How coherent is the EIF's programme logic?

To what extent does the EIF's intervention logic and method of delivery fit with achieving the programme's objectives?
To what extent are EIF projects aligned to programmatic objectives?
Does the EIF collaborate effectively with, and where relevant, add value to other bilateral or multilateral (including EIF Agency) AfT interventions and vice versa?
Is there some degree of synergy (technical, material or financial) between EIF-funded projects at the country level and other non-EIF trade-related interventions in the same country? What actions are suggested to achieve higher synergy?

C. Effectiveness: To what extent is the EIF producing results?

To what extent have the EIF's objectives been achieved?
How effective are the EIF's operational mechanisms (at both the programme and country levels) ?

How effective are the EIF's governance mechanisms (at both the programme and country levels)?

To what extent are the EIF's analytical tools, and projects achieving results?

What are the factors that determined the achievement or non-achievement of the EIF programme objectives?

D. Efficiency: Does the EIF show an efficient use of time and resources?

How efficient are the EIF's operational mechanisms?

How efficient are the EIF's governance structures??

How efficient are the EIF's analytical tools and projects in delivering the EIF objectives?

Were the EIF programme objectives achieved on time?

E. Impact: What intended and unintended impacts can be observed as a consequence of the EIF programme?

What has been the EIF's contribution to sustainable development in the LDCs?

What has been the contribution of the EIF towards the integration of the LDCs into global and regional trading systems?

What contribution has the EIF made to the AfT Agenda for the LDCs?

What other impacts are evident as a result of the EIF?

F. Sustainability: Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to be sustainable?

Have the EIF's operations been designed in in such a way that the objectives of the programme are likely to continue?

To what extent is ownership of the EIF demonstrated by the LDCs?

Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to last following the close of the current phase?

What are the major factors that have influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability in EIF projects?

What is the comparative contribution of the LDCs to EIF projects compared to the contributions of taxpayers from EIF Donor Countries?

What is the level of engagement of national institutions in implementing the EIF interventions both Tier 1 and Tier 2 as Main Implementing Entities (MIEs) with full responsibility and accountability?

G. Other: To what extent have recent developments led to changes in relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme?

What changes are evident from the implementation of the change management plan from Phase One to Phase Two?

To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the EIF programme?

To what extent has the EIF ensured equity amongst beneficiaries?

To what extent have security and political crises had an impact on EIF Countries?

The Evaluator (firm/consultants) are encouraged to adopt the scope and flexibility necessary for developing thematic areas and questions to be presented in the Inception Report. The questions should also examine implications for any future programming and the extent to which changes in programme strategy and delivery will be required in order to maximize the global trade integration of EIF beneficiary countries and meet other development objectives at the country level.

V.   OVERVIEW OF TASKS OF THE EVALUATOR

Develop a concise **Inception Report** that will include the following elements:

The Evaluator's understanding of the evaluation's objectives and scope.
Description and justification of the proposed methodology. This should include specific reference to adaptations in the approach with respect to the COVID-19 restrictions on the evaluation, together with mitigation measures.
Key stakeholders to be consulted/interviewed in the evaluation process and the approach to engagement.
Any revisions to the evaluation questions presented in the form of an evaluation matrix by taking into account the ToC and intervention logic.
Proposed structure of the final Evaluation Report.
Detailed work plan, including timelines for each deliverable.
Annexes (list of consulted documents, interview guides for the different stakeholders, survey questionnaire).

In considering the Inception Report, the ESC and EIF Board will assess the quality of the methodology proposed by the Evaluator in line with the following criteria:

Suggested approach to assess the linkages between the global and country levels.
Development and refinement of the evaluation questions.
The sampling approach to select country case studies.
Proposed generalization from country-level case study evidence.
Extent to which the methodology will explore impact.
The overall analytical approach and the basis that will be used for judging performance under the individual evaluation questions.

Review published and unpublished EIF materials (listed in Appendix 1):

Review the programme logic and the ToC.
Conduct a desk review of the portfolio of EIF projects (including pre-DTIS, DTIS, DTISUs, Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects, including thematic, combined and regional projects).
Undertake field visits to countries for case studies and an in-depth analysis of project delivery and management, as well as conduct consultation meetings and interviews with selected stakeholders.
Undertake field visits and/or conduct telephone interviews with other EIF partners.
Prepare regular evaluation progress reports so that progress and the quality of the evaluation are discussed.
Conduct the overall analytical work of the evaluation to develop and write a draft final report covering programme management and delivery/results, best practice, lessons learned and recommendations for effectively delivering EIF activities in a results focused manner.
Present the draft final report to the ESC for initial comments and then to the EIF Board, the WTO LDC Group and stakeholders for comments.
Revise and finalize the Evaluation Report after incorporating comments and feedback from the EIF Board, the WTO LDC Group and other stakeholders.

These tasks may be adjusted and elaborated in the Evaluator's Inception Report and as agreed upon by the EIF Board through the ESC.

VI.   MANAGING THE EVALUATION

A.   **Role of the EIF Board**

As the decision-making body for operations and financial oversight and policy direction, the EIF Board has the overall responsibility for the evaluation. The Evaluator will report directly to

the EIF Board through its ESC for overall guidance on the substance and content of the evaluation. The ESC or, where relevant, the EIF Board, will advise on the context and content of the evaluation and oversee the work of the Evaluator. Oversight will take place through EIF Board approval of the Inception Report, including the evaluation questions; commenting on the Evaluation Report in order to assess progress against the assignment; receipt of the final draft Evaluation Report; and submission of comments to the Evaluator on the final draft Evaluation Report. In undertaking the responsibilities above, the EIF Board will rely on the advice of the ESC.

B. Role of the ESC

The ESC has been established as a specific sub-committee of the EIF Board to provide timely oversight of the evaluation process for this evaluation. The ESC meets on a periodic basis as required and consists of representatives of the three constituencies of the EIF (EIF Agencies, EIF Donors and the LDCs) and the ES and the TFM in an *ex officio* capacity. The ESC will review and where relevant provide guidance to the EIF Board on the quality of the different deliverables, such as the Inception Report and the draft Evaluation Report. The ESC will share and consult with the members of the respective constituencies; such as the LDC representatives in the ESC will regularly share and consult with the WTO LDC Group members.

C. Role of the ES and the TFM

The evaluation will be overseen by the ESC, who will work with the ES and the TFM to provide any necessary administrative support. This role includes managing the administrative aspects of the evaluation process; ensuring that the Evaluator (firm/consultants) deliver the agreed outputs by the given timelines; verifying and checking factual matters in the reports; following up with the Evaluator to ensure that the ESC and EIF Board's instructions/views/comments are acted upon; and acting as the main point of contact for the Evaluator for providing background information, documents, contacts and if necessary, coordinating trips, setting up meetings as required and other logistical support. The ESC, in close collaboration with the ES/TFM, will also prepare for the EIF Board's discussions of the evaluation process.

D. Role of National Implementation Arrangements (EIF Focal Points, Donor Facilitators, EIF National Implementation Units, Main Implementing Entities)

In line with the independence principle of this evaluation, the NIAs, similarly to the ES/TFM, will not have a direct technical role in the implementation of the evaluation. However, they shall considerably support the evaluation process on the ground through providing support to the evaluation team to access all the relevant data needed for the evaluation. This will include facilitating project site visits, facilitating meetings with direct project beneficiaries, providing all documents which are relevant for the evaluation and acting as key informants during interviews or group discussions.

VII. TIMEFRAME AND EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

Timeframe:

The WTO intends to notify the selected firm and sign the Protocol in late February or early March 2021.
The main evaluation process is projected to start four (4) weeks after the signing of the protocol and last over a period of about eight (8) months.
The final schedule will be confirmed with the selected firm before signature of the protocol and contract.

Milestone	Timeframe	Authorization to proceed to the next milestone	Deadline
1. *Inception Report*	within four weeks of the signature of the *Protocol.*	Consideration of the *Inception Report* by the ESC.	(Dates to be inserted based on the start date). Estimated end of March 2021
2. Approval of the *Inception Report*	Within one month of receipt of the *Inception report.*	Approval of the *Inception Report.*	Estimated end of April 2021
3. *Contract*	Upon approval of the *Inception Report.*	Approval of the *Inception Report* by the ESC.	Estimated end of April 2021
4. *Draft Evaluation Report*	Within 4.5 months of the signature of the Contract.	Consideration of the *Draft Evaluation Report* by the ESC.	Estimated mid-September 2021
5. Comments on the *draft Evaluation Report*	Within two weeks of receipt of the *draft Evaluation Report.*	Submission of ESC comments on the *Draft Evaluation Report* to the consultancy team.	Estimated end September 2021
6. Submission of the Draft-*Final Evaluation Report* and presentation to the EIF Board	Within two weeks of receipt of comments from the ESC.	Comments for finalization by the EIF Board.	Estimated mid-October 2021
7. *Final Evaluation Report* and *Management Response* to the EIF Board	Final evaluation report submitted within 2 (two) weeks of the submission of comments on the *Draft-Final Evaluation Report* by the EIF Board.	Approval of the *Final Evaluation Report* by the ESC.	Estimated early December 2021

Evaluation deliverables:[4] The evaluation deliverables should be submitted in both English and French and include:

Inception Report (a maximum of 10 pages, excluding annexes, with the first draft due within four of the signing of the protocol, with a final Inception Report due one week following receipt of comments). The Inception Report should provide information on the following:
the background and objectives of the evaluation;
the evaluation purpose, scope and key stakeholders;
the evaluation methodology, the refined evaluation questions and the evaluation matrix, including limitations and mitigation strategies; and
the evaluation work plan.
Short **evaluation progress update reports** of approximately two to five pages due at the start of every second month following the submission of the Inception Report for the duration of the assignment.
Draft Evaluation Report for discussion (a maximum of 30 pages, excluding the executive summary and annexes due 4.5 months after the commencement of the evaluation).
Country case study synthesis reports: The synthesis reports shall provide evaluative

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[4] All deliverables so produced are to be submitted in English and French.

insights from the detailed assessments conducted in selected countries. The synthesis reports shall provide additional lines of evidence on how some selected countries are meeting project outcomes and contributing to meeting EIF programmatic outcomes and impacts (due together with the draft Evaluation Report).

Draft-final evaluation report for presentation and consideration by the EIF Board.

Final Evaluation Report (of a maximum of 30 pages excluding the executive summary and annexes due two weeks following receipt of comments).

As long as confidentiality can be maintained, the relevant raw data from the evaluation should be submitted to the ES for future records.

In order to ensure that the final Report considers the views of the parties concerned and is properly understood, it is required that:

The Team Leader will be required to make a presentation on the Inception Report to the ESC and on the draft report to the ESC and/or the EIF Board (in person or via videoconference).

The draft Evaluation Report, especially the main conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the evaluation are presented to, and discussed with, the EIF Board and the EIF stakeholders. The next EIF Board is scheduled to take place in June 2021.

Comments made by all parties during the presentation and discussions are duly considered for incorporation into the final Evaluation Report.

The Evaluator keeps track of the comments during the reporting period and prepare a matrix of all comments and solutions applied as an annex to the final Evaluation Report.

It is essential that the final Evaluation Report be succinct and focus on analysis rather than lengthy descriptions. It should provide clear, justified conclusions and recommendations and be written in a clear and understandable manner.

The final Evaluation Report should be submitted electronically to the EIF Board through the ES within two weeks after the presentation and receipt of all comments during or within a set period following the presentation.

VIII.   EVALUATION CONSULTANCY TEAM AND COMPETENCIES

The evaluation will require the services of a team of consultants, led by a distinguished and experienced team leader.

A.   Team Leader

In accordance with these TOR and the Inception Report (to be produced by the selected firm), the Team Leader, a senior AfT expert with significant experience in trade and development issues, M&E and working with the LDCs, will be responsible for the overall conduct of the evaluation, including representing the evaluation team in meetings and submitting/presenting all evaluation deliverables in a timely manner. He/she shall have the following skills:

Demonstrated experience on trade and development preferably including at the field level working with LDC Governments and private sector on multilateral and regional trade initiatives and related investment issues;

Extensive M&E expertise and experience (at least 15 years), including leading global programme evaluations across diverse trade-related sectors.

Evaluation experience in AfT contexts and familiarity with AfT programme issues.

Extensive experience working with and in the LDCs, whether in M&E or programme management/implementation including implementing trade policy reforms at national level.

Knowledge of institutional issues related to development programming (including funding and administration and the role of donors, UN agencies and partnerships).

Experience working with multi-donor/partner/beneficiary initiatives, including understanding of the political and commercial diplomacy dimensions, and managing a complex evaluation process in that context.

Proficiency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of French would be an advantage.
Team leadership and management, interpersonal/communication skills.
Solid experience in participatory approaches to data collection, including consultations, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions involving a wide range of organizations and participants.
Post-graduate degree (Master of Science (MSc), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)) in International Trade, Development Economics, Development Studies, M&E or a related field.

B.   Team member(s)

Noting that the team composition should adequately reflect the constituencies of the EIF, the key qualifications for team member(s) are as follows:
i.   Knowledge in trade and development issues of the LDCs, preferably gained at field level including different programmes of support to LDC trade and development agendas at global, regional and country levels.
ii.   Extensive M&E experience of trade and development issues, and programmes in the area of AfT.
iii.   Proven experience in high-level data and information analysis techniques. Strong data collection and analysis skills with a focus on trade issues.
iv.   Demonstrated skills in conducting evaluations of AfT and/or development programmes in sectors such as agriculture and tourism in the LDCs.
v.   Considerable and demonstrated experience working with and in the LDCs in programme management and implementation.
vi.   Strong writing and communication skills in both English and French languages amongst the team are essential; Portuguese is an advantage.
vii   Teamwork and interpersonal communications skills and a strong commitment to undertake the evaluation.
viii.   Experience in participatory approaches to data collection, including consultations, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions involving a wide range of organizations and participants.
ix.   Post-graduate degree (MSc, MBA, PhD) in Trade, Development Economics, Development Studies, M&E or a related field.

Team members' CVs shall be made available in the technical proposal. The CVs will be used strictly for this assignment and shall be used within the norms of privacy protection.

IX.   SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL – SELECTION PROCESS

A.   Content of technical proposals

Technical proposals should contain the following elements:

Introduction (which must demonstrate a clear understanding of the EIF, its complexities and the general expectations of the evaluation).
Interpretation and understanding of the detailed requirements of the evaluation (which must demonstrate a clear understanding of the TOR).
Proposed approach and methodology for the evaluation, focusing on all identified objectives, including the "non-tangible" objective of promoting accountability, lesson-learning, feedback and knowledge-sharing among the EIF stakeholders (taking into account that details will only be worked out during the inception stage for documentation in the Inception Report). The proposed methodology shall include, but not be limited to, case studies including the number of countries by region that would be considered, methods to take into account COVID disruptions, document reviews and stakeholder interviews.
Proposed work plan for the evaluation (start and end dates; proposed dates for important

meetings, processes and deliverables; division of days per task and firm's team members). Detailed profile of the service provider, highlighting expertise and experience relevant to the evaluation of the EIF (statement of capability).
Details of the proposed team for the evaluation and the division of roles and responsibilities (short profiles highlighting relevant qualifications, expertise and experience – full CVs should be attached as annexes).
Description of three (3) similar projects and provision of three (3) letters of reference (for both the firm and the team leader).
Vendor registration form duly filled in and signed off.

B.   Content of the Financial Proposals

The financial proposals will follow the matrix provided in Annex III of the Letter of Invitation. Bidders are expected to provide a variante of their financial proposal in the event travel restrictions are maintained throughout first semester 2021 (completely remote work).

C.   Selection process

Please refer to the letter of Invitation for further details on the administrative procedure – Submissions of proposals.

The technical proposals will be evaluated jointly by representatives of the EIF Donors, the LDCs and the WTO Secretariat on the basis of the criteria that are listed in Annex II of the Letter of Invitation.

Interviews – the shortlisted bidders will be invited remotely to present their methodology, approach, timelines, and experience and introduce the team leader. Team leaders must be present for the interviews which are estimated to take place between 1-5 February 2021 (Appendix 5)

X.   CONTRACTUAL MECHANISMS

Once the competitive process is concluded, a Protocol shall be signed between the WTO and the selected provider (Evaluator) based on the technical and financial proposals submitted.

The Protocol is an intermediary binding contractual document that enables the Evaluator to carry out work before a firm contract is signed.

A sample Protocol document is provided as Appendix 4 to the TOR.

Upon signature of the Protocol, the Evaluator is authorized to carry out work towards compiling the Inception Report. The Team Leader will be briefed by the ESC and asked to provide an Inception Report within four weeks of signing the Protocol.

The Inception Report will then be evaluated by the ESC and submitted for approval to the EIF Board. Once the Inception Report is approved, a firm contract is signed and the evaluation team may begin its implementation.

Shall the Inception Report not be compiled to the satisfaction of the ESC as per the indicated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in these TOR, the WTO reserves the right to terminate the Protocol and cease the contractual relationship with the provider.

The selected firm shall guarantee the availability of the Team Leader throughout the whole duration of the contract. In addition, the firm shall guarantee the availability of the resources

proposed at the time of submission deemed adequate to carry out the work and replace them with equivalent staff if need be, at no cost for the WTO. Any change to the evaluation team shall be notified in advance and is subject to written approval by the WTO. Failure to comply with the requirements in this paragraph may result in contract termination by the WTO.

XI.   PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The performance of the Evaluator (firm and the team dedicated to the project) will be assessed on the basis of the following from the inception phase onwards:

	KPIs	Measurement During the Project	EIF/WTO Standard
1.	**Adherence to agreed project schedule** The Evaluator completes project phases by EIF-assigned deadlines. All incremental submittals shall be according to mutually agreed-upon schedules. Technical and other reports/reviews shall be submitted as per project schedules.	Number of failures to meet accepted deadlines	1
2.	**Quality** a) **Reports:** Reports submitted shall be clear, relevant, regular and well presented.	Number of non-conformities accepted.	1
	b) Reports should be error-free, without typos.		1
	c) **Completeness:** Reports and other work shall be complete and detailed, encompassing all areas as required.		1
	d) **Coordination:** Coordination, facilitating meetings, clear communications to all stakeholders.		1
	e) **Communications:** Questions should be replied to within three business days. No questions should be left unanswered.		2
	f) **Conformity to the TOR:** The deliverables conform to the TOR established by the EIF/WTO.		1
3.	**Responsiveness** a) **Project:** Acknowledgement within **48** hours to queries. Prompt and satisfactory solutions provided to problems.	Number of failures to respond within 48 hours.	2
	b) **Technical Capability:** Ability of the Evaluator to provide WTO-requested technical details.		2

In the event that an indicator is found to be non-satisfactory, the Evaluator is expected to take immediate action to readjust the services as requested by the EIF/WTO within a five-day period and within the scope of this contract. Failure to do so may lead to termination.

XII.   SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Evaluator will issue separate invoices for each milestone and in accordance with the WTO General Terms and Conditions (see Annex IV).

Payments are effected within 30 days of invoice receipt by the ES on the basis of report approval by the ESC of the corresponding report or presentation as indicated in the table below.

The WTO reserves the right to withhold payments, if it is determined that the deliverables due at the completion of any phase have not been completed to the satisfaction of the WTO. Satisfaction of the WTO will be based on key performance indicators as per the section above.

The table below shows the payment percentage breakdown per milestone:

Milestone	Payment as Per Cent of Contractual Total
After signature of the contract (formalizing the acceptance by the EIF Board of the final Inception Report	20%
Acceptance by the EIF Board of the second evaluation progress update	20%
Acceptance by the EIF Board of the draft final Evaluation Report for discussion	20%
Acceptance by the EIF Board of the final Evaluation Report	40%

XIII.   OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A.   Conflicts of Interest

The Evaluator (firm and its team of consultants) shall be independent and shall respect ethical standards with respect to conflicts of interest, confidentiality and transparency. The Evaluator (firm and its team of consultants) should declare any potential (actual or perceived) conflicts of interest that may be inherent in their submissions. Consultants that have implemented assignments for the EIF in the past are kindly requested to indicate the nature of these assignments. The EIF reserves the right to accept or refuse a proposal for the evaluation on the basis of the above.

B.   Intellectual property

The WTO shall obtain and retain the relevant intellectual property rights on the deliverables delivered to the WTO in the context of this project.

C.   Visas/work permits

The selected firm will be required to have taken all the necessary measures to ensure that the Team Leader/team members obtain the necessary visa and travel clearance to participate in meetings in Geneva and other countries as necessary. Should prevailing restrictions related with COVID-19 prevent physical meetings, these meetings may be held virtually. The firm should note that the WTO cannot intercede with the Swiss authorities to obtain any visas or work permissions.
_____

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE EVALUATION

	Governance and Programme Documents
1	Programme Framework Document (EIF Phase Two – current version)
2	Compendium of EIF Phase One and Two (including original Results Framework)
3	EIF Strategic Plan 2016-2018 and EIF Strategic Plan 2019-2022
4	EIF VfM Action Matrix
5	ES and TFM annual progress reports to the EIF Board
6	Decisions of the EIF Board on new EIF policies and mechanisms
7	EIF Board meeting minutes
8	EIF Steering Committee meeting minutes
9	Approved EIF project documents
10	Official statements by the LDCs/the EIF Donors on the EIF as part of international meetings (i.e., LDC meetings, Ministerial meetings, etc.)
11	EIF Board Chair's report to the EIF Steering Committee
12	EIF regional workshop reports
13	Guidelines on EIF support for graduated countries
14	Guidelines for Feasibility Studies
15	Guidelines for DTISs and DTISU for EIF Phase Two
16	Modalities for EIF Regional Projects
17	Guidelines on procedures for Mainstreaming Support
18	General principles on combined modalities for projects and thematic calls for proposals
19	Guidelines on post-Sustainability Support Phase engagement
20	Guidelines on the EIF Sustainability Support Phase
21	Sustainability Support Guidelines
	M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation)
22	Guidelines on project completion reporting
23	Monitoring toolkit
24	M&E Working Group minutes
25	Meta-evaluation
26	M&E Rapid Assessment Report
27	EIF Mid-term Evaluation Report
28	EIF 2014 Comprehensive Evaluation
29	EIF Technical Reporting Template and Questionnaire
30	Guidelines for EIF project evaluations
31	Samples of M&E Plans
32	Samples of project updates on the implementation of EIF Board, ES and TFM recommendations for approved projects
	Partnerships, Communications and Resource Mobilization
33	EIF Communications Strategy
34	EIF communications products, including Trade for Development News
35	Guidelines on branding and on resource mobilization
36	Pilot EIF communications training outline and training materials, including sample responses on EIF Country communications strategies
37	EIF Guidebook on Communications
38	EIF Guidebook on Resource Mobilization
39	EIF Branding and Acknowledgment Guidelines
40	Sample of EIF communications strategies developed; sample of EIF country publications (newsletters, trade magazines, brochures, websites); sample of EIF communications survey responses

41	EIF Country profiles, EIF global and national press releases (including samples of national media coverage of the EIF – print and audio-visual), articles, EIF brochures and flyers
42	EIF website (contains overview and useful links to key documents) – www.enhancedif.org
43	Documents relating to partnership activities, such as Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Agreement with ITFC, FAO, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
44	Country strategy of EIF Donors and other development partners, DTIS/DTISUs, implementation status/report of DTIS/DTISUs
	Financial and fiduciary matters
45	Guidelines for No-cost Extensions for Tier 1 projects
46	Guidelines for No-cost Extensions for Tier 2 projects
47	Guidance note on the escalation of reporting delays
48	Guidelines on the escalation of audits to the EIF Board
49	Guidelines for audits of the EIF National Implementation Units
50	TFM financial progress reports and list of pledges as per the 2015 EIF Pledging Conference
51	Sample of reports received from the LDCs (financial, narrative and audit reports)
52	Sample legal agreements with the LDCs and agencies
53	Template of Contribution Agreements and Standard Provisions with the EIF Donors

APPENDIX 2: EIF RESULTS CHAIN

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS

EIF IMPACT

The LDCs are empowered to use trade and investment to integrate into global trade for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

INDICATORS

A. LDC share of non-oil global exports.
B. Value of trade from the LDCs.
C. Aid for Trade flows to the LDCs.
D. Foreign Direct Investment in the LDCs.
E. Human Development Index.

OUTCOME 1

Improved trade environment conducive for inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs.

INDICATORS

1.a. Number of EIF Countries with trade integrated into their National Development Plan.
1.b. Number of EIF Countries with effective trade coordination mechanisms.
1.c. Number of EIF Countries with sector-specific strategies integrating trade.

OUTPUT 1

Improved evidence-based policy and regulatory frameworks for trade and investment.

INDICATORS

1.1.a Number of quality trade and investment policies formulated and updated with support from the EIF.
1.1.b Number of actions in support of improved legislation and participation in fora (includes WTO accession, regional integration, etc.).
1.1.c Number of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies developed through EIF support.
1.1.d Number of trade and investment-related regulations adopted.

OUTPUT 2

Strengthened institutional coordination for trade development and investment.

INDICATORS

1.2.a. Number of EIF Countries with EIF National Implementation Units integrated into the government system.
1.2.b. Number of EIF Countries with quality government-donor dialogue mechanisms on trade and investment related matters.
1.2.c. Number of EIF Countries with quality functioning public-private coordination mechanisms.

OUTPUT 3

Enhanced capacities for policy formulation and implementation.

INDICATORS

1.3.a. Number of public officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas.
1.3.b. Number of private sector and civil society representatives (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas to participate in the national trade agenda.
1.3.c. Number of EIF Countries with investment and trade-related information dissemination tools for different stakeholders.

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY- BUILDING PROJECTS

OUTPUT 1

Improved participation of EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets.

INDICATORS

2.1.a. Total number of people trained in value chain practices (disaggregated by gender and age) through participation in EIF capacity-building initiatives.

2.1.b. Number of awareness-raising activities conducted on gender and the environment.

2.1.c. Percentage of women directly benefitting from EIF-funded productive sector projects.

2.1.d. Number of producer associations (disaggregated by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), women-owned) trained in value chain practices.

2.1.e. Number of people (disaggregated by gender) participating in trade fairs related to market connectivity.

2.1.f. Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support.

2.1.g. Number of MSMEs supported by EIF projects.

OUTPUT 2

Improved technology use in production and services in selected value chains.

INDICATORS

2.2.a. Number of e-commerce initiatives undertaken.

2.2.b. Number of new technologies adopted through EIF-supported projects.

2.2.c. Number of people (disaggregated by gender) adopting new technology through EIF capacity-building initiatives.

OUTCOME 2

Increased exports and access to international markets for the LDCs.

INDICATORS

2.a. Volume of production generated through EIF interventions (tonnes).

2.b. Value (USD) of exports generated through EIF interventions.

2.c. Number of new international markets accessed with support from the EIF.

OUTPUT 3

Support to the EIF Countries to leverage (directly and indirectly) additional resources.

INDICATORS

2.3.a. Number of actions undertaken by EIF partners (Agencies/Main Implementing Entities) in support of leveraging finance and expertise.

2.3.b. Number of projects funded by development partners (Donors/ Agencies/development banks) related to the Action Matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study.

2.3.c. Number of EIF projects leveraging private sector resources.

2.3.d. Number of EIF projects receiving additional funding from governments and development partners.

APPENDIX 3: INDICATIVE LINES OF ENQUIRY

RELEVANCE: How relevant is the EIF to the trade-related capacity development needs and priorities of the LDCs?

How relevant are the EIF's operational principles (Ownership and Partnership) to the needs of the LDCs?
Since its inception, how relevant is and has the EIF been in the global context of support to the LDCs?
How relevant is the EIF to the SDGs, IPoA, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and other such mechanisms?
How relevant are the EIF projects to the needs of individual countries and targeted beneficiaries?
To what extent do the EIF programme's goals and outcomes target the major needs of the LDCs as demonstrated in DTIS AMs, National Trade Policies and NDPs?

COHERENCE: How coherent is the EIF's programme logic?

To what extent does the EIF's intervention logic and methods of delivery fit with achieving the programme's objectives?
To what extent are EIF projects aligned to programmatic objectives?
Does the EIF collaborate effectively with, and where relevant, add value to other bilateral or multilateral (including EIF Agency) AfT interventions and vice versa?
Is there some degree of synergy (technical, material or financial) between EIF-funded projects at the country level and other non-EIF trade-related interventions in the same country? What actions are suggested to achieve higher synergy?
To what extent has the EIF been able to leverage and explore synergies and complementarities with agencies and other relevant partners?

EFFECTIVENESS: To what extent is the EIF producing results?

To what extent have the EIF's objectives been achieved?
For Outcome 1: Achieving Institutional and Policy Objectives?
For Outcome 2: Achieving Results in Building Productive Capacity?
For both Outcomes: Achieving Results in Mainstreaming Gender in Programming and Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment?
Delivering on the unique values specified in the Strategic Plan 2019-2022?

How effective are the EIF's operational mechanisms (at both the programme and country level)?
Project development and oversight at the ES and TFM:
How effective is project development and oversight at the programme level in terms of delivering and overseeing quality projects?
How effective has the Management Information System (MIS) been from what was envisaged in the PFD?
At the programme level: has the programme sufficiently ensured the inclusion of fragile states in planning?
At the country level: what are some of the key achievements of the EIF in fragile contexts?

M&E:
How effective is M&E at the programme level (in terms of developing M&E capacity of the NIUs; delivering inputs for effective results-based management; assessing and managing risk; and tracking results for effective communications)?
At the country level: how effective is the M&E of projects: has risk management been adequate (including whether flexibility has been demonstrated in response to changes in circumstances)? Has the national capacity for M&E in Trade Ministries increased over time?

Communications, Fundraising and Partnerships:
How effective is the communications, fundraising and partnership function at the programme level? This includes, but is not limited to, increasing visibility at the global level; coordinating with partners, including by building new partnerships; and raising and leveraging resources for the programme.
Regarding the visibility at the country level, including the use of EIF tools and training, to what extent have EIF projects catalysed additional funds, or filled gaps where the projects could not otherwise have been able to attract funding? How successful have EIF Countries' governments been in leveraging additional funds?

How effective are the EIF's governance mechanisms (at both the programme and country level)?

At the programme level:
EIF Board: How effective has the EIF Board been as a strategic steering body, and how has this changed during EIF Phase Two?
EIF Steering Committee (EIFSC): How effective has the EIFSC been as a structure envisaged in the PFD (including being a forum for linking EIF country governance structures with global governance structures; providing visibility to EIF Country experiences and activities; and facilitating information exchange and best practices across the EIF partnership at the global level)?

At the country level:
NIUs: How effective have NIUs been in performing their functions, including implementing EIF projects; servicing committees; and leveraging resources for AfT, etc)?
EIF National Steering Committee (NSCs): How effective have NSCs been in bringing together different stakeholders around trade priorities; providing oversight to EIF projects and initiatives in the country; and serving as an umbrella platform for Donor-LDC engagement on the broader range of trade and development issues?
Donor Facilitators: How effective have Donor Facilitators been in the role of coordinating development partner support around country priorities; in mobilizing resources; and in ensuring accountability of projects at the country level?
How effective are EIF Focal Points as the key accountable officials for the EIF?

To what extent are the EIF's analytical tools and projects achieving results?

DTIS:
To what extent are DTIS achieving results in terms of directly supporting trade mainstreaming; being operationalized into ongoing programming (such as through Medium term programmes linking AfT priorities with AfT requirements); and in providing new insights into the binding constraints facing the LDCs?
To what extent have DTIS AM been executed and what results have been achieved so far?

Trade Mainstreaming projects:
To what extent are Trade Mainstreaming projects achieving results in areas such as the development of trade and related policies, and the acceleration of trade integration initiatives, including WTO accession?

Tier 1 Institutional and Policy Support:
To what extent is Tier 1 institutional and policy support achieving results, including by driving AM priorities across governments, particularly those linked to economic transformation and diversification; coordinating donor resources on AfT priorities and projects; building the skills of local experts and training institutions; and mainstreaming trade into NDPs and trade-related strategies?

Sustainability Support Projects:
To what extent are Sustainability Support Projects achieving results, including in terms of anchoring EIF objectives in Trade Ministries? Are NIUs integrated or are they largely isolated?

Productive Capacity Projects:
To what extent are Productive Capacity Projects addressing supply-side constraints in EIF Countries? Amongst other areas, this includes achieving results in building the productive capacity of the LDCs; supporting MSMEs, Trade Facilitation and the enhanced quality of products; stimulating supporting infrastructure, introducing new technologies in production; developing e-commerce and advancing women's economic empowerment.

How effective are Regional Projects as a new form of funding in EIF Phase Two?

How effective are Feasibility Studies in preparing for further project support?

viii) How effective are Project Development Grants in their key role to assist in the preparation of new projects?

3.5. What are the factors determining the achievement or non-achievement of the EIF programme objectives?
At the national level?

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At the programme level?

EFFICIENCY: Does the EIF show an efficient use of time and resources?

How efficient are the EIF's operational mechanisms?

At the programme level:
How efficient are the EIF project assessment, approval and management mechanisms?
How efficient have the different EIF funding modalities been?
How efficient are fiduciary oversight mechanisms?
Has the MIS contributed to an increased efficiency of the programme?
How has the EIF demonstrated VfM in operations and with respect to programme outcomes?
How efficient has the EIF been in cooperating with EIF Donors?
How efficient are the general internal business processes within the ES/TFM, and the streamlining of key EIF business processes to make them more user-friendly for EIF stakeholders?
Have the changes and new modalities introduced in the second phase being effective and timely implemented.

At the country level:
To what extent do EIF in-country processes and delivery mechanisms demonstrate VfM?
How efficient has the project development and in-country endorsement process been?
How efficient is the EIF project evaluation process?

How efficient are the EIF's governance structures?

At the programme level:
How efficient are the EIF's programme governance structures, including the EIFSC and the EIF Board?

At the country level:
How efficient are the NIAs as a mechanism for coordinating, overseeing and implementing EIF projects?

How efficient are the following EIF's analytical tools and projects in delivering the EIF objectives?
DTIS
Trade Mainstreaming projects
Tier 1 projects (Institutional and Policy Support)
Sustainability Support Projects
Productive Capacity projects
Regional projects

Were the EIF programme objectives achieved on time?

IMPACT: What intended and unintended impacts can be observed as a consequence of the EIF?

What has been the EIF's contribution to sustainable development in the LDCs?
What has been the EIF's contribution towards women economic empowerment?
How has the EIF contributed to providing economic opportunities, such as enhanced employment opportunities?
To what extent is the EIF's ToC likely to contribute to poverty reduction in the lives of beneficiaries?
What was the overall contribution of the EIF towards the SDGs (in particular Goal 8A) and the IPoA?
How has the EIF contributed to increased private sector investments related to trade?

What has been the contribution of the EIF towards the integration of the LDCs into global and regional trading systems?
What has been the contribution of the EIF to improving a trade environment conducive to inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs?
What has been the contribution of the EIF to increasing exports and the access to international markets for the LDCs?
How has the EIF contributed to increase in productivity in the sectors supported?

What contributions has the EIF made in the AfT Agenda for the LDCs?

What other impacts are evident as a result of the EIF?

SUSTAINABILITY: Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to be sustainable?

Have the EIF's operations been designed in such a way that the objectives of the programme are likely to continue?

How effective have Sustainability Support Projects been in ensuring a transition from Tier 1 funding?
Were Productive Capacity Projects designed in ways that allowed direct beneficiaries to gain the necessary skills and competencies needed for maintaining results achieved by project?
Is the EIF's current approach to sustainability at the national level likely to ensure financial, human resource, and technical sustainability in the medium and long term?

To what extent is ownership of the EIF demonstrated by the LDCs?

Is ownership demonstrated in promoting trade reforms and stronger integration?
To what extent have the LDCs demonstrated ownership of tools such as the DTISs, institutional reforms (such as national coordination mechanisms), and productive capacity interventions?
To what extent have LDC government and private sector undertaken follow-up actions on results achieved by EIF projects?

Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to be sustainable?

How sustainable are the EIF's current governance, funding, management and administrative arrangements?
To what extent will governments and partners sustain mechanisms to maintain the objectives and results of the EIF at the global and country levels in future years?
How likely is it that EIF Tier 1 trade capacity-building results will last within the beneficiary government, taking into account varying operational modalities?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue to drive AM priorities across the governments, particularly those linked to economic transformation and diversification?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue mobilizing resources (projects and investment) from EIF Donors, the national budgets, private sector, and other non-donor sources?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue coordinating donor resources on AfT priorities and projects?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, and supporting trade coordination committees?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue building the skills of local experts and training institutions?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue effectively mainstreaming trade into NDPs and trade-related strategies?
Are EIF Countries likely to be able to continue managing and undertaking DTISUs/analytical work going forward?
To what extent will EIF productive capacity investments continue to deliver results following EIF funding?

What are the major factors that have influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability in EIF projects?
What lessons can be drawn by taking into consideration similar partnership agreements and trust funds?

What is the comparative contribution of the LDCs to EIF projects compared to the contributions of taxpayers from EIF Donor Countries?

What is the level of engagement of national institutions in implementing the EIF interventions both Tier 1 and Tier 2 as MIEs with full responsibility and accountability?
What is the level of engagement of EIF Agencies in implementing the EIF interventions both Tier 1 and Tier 2 and how do these consider sustainability?

OTHER: To what extent have recent developments led to changes in relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme?

What changes are evident from the implementation of the change of management plan from EIF Phase

One to EIF Phase Two?
Relevance: Have the changes introduced in EIF Phase Two contributed to ensuring an alignment with developments as envisaged in the PFD, namely:
Increasing focus on regional trade and regional type projects?
Ensuring greater engagement of the private sector?
Increasing linkages to supporting investment in the LDCs?
To what extent have the changes introduced in EIF Phase Two led to an increase in efficiency?
To what extent have the changes introduced contributed to effective delivery and VFM implementation
To what extent have the changes introduced in EIF Phase Two led to an increase in effectiveness?
How has the EIF increased its focus on environment and climate change in EIF Phase Two?
Generally, to what extent has EIF Phase Two leveraged and improved the achievements from EIF Phase One?

To what extent has COVID-19 impacted the EIF programme?

What are the likely effects of COVID-19 on the ability of the programme to deliver the results originally envisaged?
To what extent has the EIF adapted to minimize the negative effects of COVID-19 on the programme?

To what extent has the EIF ensured equity amongst beneficiaries?

Has the EIF continued to ensure the inclusion of countries affected by fragility and conflict?
How has the EIF contributed to the inclusion of women and youth?

To what extent have security and political crisis had an impact on EIF Countries?

ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

EIF Documentation

Background on the impact of e-commerce training: e-shops for business owners

Board Meeting Reports to the EIF Steering Committee (2012 through to 2020)

Change Management Plan for Phase Two Programme Framework

Compendium of EIF Documents (2011) A User's Guide to the EIF

Compendium for EIF Phase 2 (2016-2022)

EIF Annual Reports (2013 through to 2020)

EIF and Trade Facilitation: Interventions and Projects

EIF Country Risk Levels Database

Empower Women Power Trade (EWPT) Logframe 2021 Tracking

Environment, Climate Change and EIF briefing document

Environment in the EIF Presentation (November 2021)

Environment Initiatives in West Africa

ES and TFM Annual Progress Reports to the EIF Board (2012 through to 2020)

Evidence on Regional Engagement

Guidelines for DTISs and DTISU for EIF Phase Two

Interim Closure Plan for Phase Two (33rd Meeting of the EIF Board) (November 2021)

Leveraging Examples Document (2021)

Log of NIU staff in high-level positions

Policy Support Table Database

Phase 1 Co-Funding Database

Phase 2 Co-Funding Database (2021)

Programme Logframe Indicator Chart and Explanatory Note (2020)

Programme Risk Log

Operational Guidelines (Inc Feasibility, Sustainability, Procurement) (2020 through to 2012)

Regional Trade Marker Database

Results Database and Explanatory Note (2021)

Risk Management Guidelines at EIF (September 2021)

Risk Management Update (May 2021)

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Short Brief on EIF's contribution to Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)

Steering Committee Meeting Reports (2020 through to 2011)

Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Strategic Plans (2016-2018)

Update of the EIF Executive Director (ED) of the Executive Secretariat for the EIF (ES) to the EIF Board (32nd Meeting of the EIF Board) (June 2021)

Update on the implementation of the EIF Value for Money Action Matrix (VfM) (27th Meeting of the EIF Board) (November 2018) and Revised Update (January 2019)

VfM Action Matrix

EIF Monitoring and Evaluation Documents

EIF Evaluation Phase 2 (2014)

EIF Midterm Review (2012)

Guidelines of Project Completion Reporting

M&E Rapid Assessment Report

M&E Toolkit (2019)

M&E Working Group Minutes

MEL Capacity Building Reports, Plans and Templates

Meta-Analysis of Independent Evaluations of Projects Supported by the EIF (2019)

Review of EIF Trust Fund Manager Operating Tools and Procedures (2014)

Sample M&E Plans

EIF Partnerships Communications and Resource Mobilisation

Communication Plan (2020)

Communication Workshops (2019)

EIF Press Releases

EIF Website - www.enhancedif.org

Empower Women, Power Trade (2021) https://enhancedif.org/en/empower-women-power-trade

Guideline for Resource Mobilisation (2020)

Impact Stories Training (2019)

Media Engagement Training (2019)

Social Media Webinar (2019)

Trade for Development News (2021) https://trade4devnews.enhancedif.org

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EIF Project- Level Documents (2008-2021)
Please note: the below sources were accessed from EIF Knowledge Hub and EIF MIS.

Audit Reports

Annual Financial Reports

Annual Progress Reports and Semi-Annual Progress Reports

Budgets (and budget revisions)

Capacity Needs Assessments

Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies/ U (DTIS/ Update) and Action Matrices (AM)

EIF Total Budget Contribution

Final Evaluations and Mid-Term Evaluations

Letters of Agreement

Memorandum of Understandings (and MOU Amendments)

No Cost Extension Guidelines for Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects

No Cost Extension Proposals and Approval Letters

Non- EIF Total Budget Contribution (from Governments/ Development Partners)

Project Budget Breakdowns- Approved Account Level Details Database

Project Completion Reports

Project Details

Project Logical Framework

Project Proposals

Quarterly Financial Reports

Risk Matrix

Technical Reports (both Annual and Biannual)

TFM Comments and Project Approval Message

Work plans (and Work Plan Revisions)

National Policy Documents (*produced by LDCs*)
Please note: National Policy Documents were reviewed for the 12 in-depth country case studies only.

National Development Plans (2008 though to 2035)

National Poverty Reduction Papers (2008 through to 2035)

Partner Agencies Documentation

Gay, Daniel (2021) A critical reflection on international support for least developed countries

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https://www.un.org/ldc5/sites/www.un.org.ldc5/files/a_critical_reflection_on_isms_for_ldcs_-_toward_ldc-v_conference_-_daniel_gay.pdf

UN Committee for Development Policy (2021) Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COIVD-19 on the LDC Category https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP_Comprehensive_Study_2021.pdf

UNCTAD (2020). Fast-tracking implementation of E-Readiness Assessments https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstict2020d9_en.pdf

WTO (2021) World Trade primed for strong but uneven recovery after COVID-19 Pandemic Shock (2021) https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr876_e.htm

External Economic Datasets

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development- Creditor Reporting System. https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1

UNCTAD-EORA Global Value Chain Database. https://www.worldmrio.com/unctadgvc/

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. UNCTADSTAT.
Business Database https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/

United States International Trade Commission's Dynamic Gravity Dataset. https://www.usitc.gov/data/gravity/dgd.htm

World Bank Doing. https://doingbusiness.org

World Bank. Logistics Performance Index Database. http://lpi.worldbank.org/

World Bank. Worldwide Governance Index Database. https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/

World Bank. World Development Indicators Database. https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/

World Economic Forum. Global Competitiveness Index Dataset 2007-2017

World Trade Organization. International Trade Statistics Database. https://data.wto.org/

ANNEX 3: PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

EIF Executive Secretariat (EIF ES) and Trust Fund Manager (TFM) Staff	
Names	*Organisation*
Ratnakar Adhikari	Executive Director, EIF ES
Annette Ssemuwemba	Deputy Executive Director, EIF ES
Chakib Belhassan	Executive Officer for the TFM, UNOPS
Hang Tran	Senior Coordinator, EIF ES
Violeta Gonzalez Belhar	*Formerly* Head of Partnerships, Outreach and Resource Mobilisation, EIF ES
Simon Hess	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation, EIF ES
Jonathan Werner	Coordinator, EIF ES
Peter Donelan	Coordinator, EIF ES
Paulin Zambelongo	Coordinator, EIF ES
Fanan Biem	Programme Officer, EIF ES
Marie-France Boucher	Communications Officer, EIF ES
Constanze Schulz	Administrative Assistant, EIF ES
Adeline Masson	Secretary, EIF ES
Fidelis Eyoh Ukeme	Monitoring & Evaluation Support Officer, EIF ES
Abha Calindi	Digital Communications Associate, EIF ES
Raphaelle Quintard	Country Coordinator Support officer, EIF ES
Natasha Smith	Partnership Associate, EIF ES
Apurva Mudliar	Monitoring & Evaluation Support Officer, EIF ES
Ferid Belhaouane	Programme Support Supervisor, UNOPS
Eric-Olivier Benoliel	UNOPS
David Daepp	Regional Portfolio Manager, UNOPS
Mariem Lissari	Portfolio Manager for East and Southern Africa Region, UNOPS
Mathias Mpanduji Gasto	To be confirmed
Mohammad Nasser	UNOPS
Lattanaphone Vongsouthi	NIU Director, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Laos
Idrissa Yahaya Sani	To be confirmed

EIF Former and Current Board Member and EIF Steering Committee (EIF SC)	
Names	*Organisation*
H.E Mani Prasad Bhattarai	Chair of the EIF Board
Mikael Anzén	Chair of the EIF Steering Committee
Edouard Jay	Vice Chair of the EIF Board
S.E.M Ahmad Makaila	LDC Group Coordinator, Chad
Talha Mahamat Alim	LDC Group Coordinator, Chad
Ghislain Kongbo Ngombe	Board Member, Central African Republic
Kathleen McNally	EIF Donor Coordinator, UK Delegation
H.E Kemvichet Long	Board Member (Cambodia)
Ally Gugu	Board Member (Tanzania)

Partner Agencies	
Names	*Organisation*
Taufiqur Rahman	WTO
Daria Shatskova	WTO
Ambassador Stephen Fevrier	WTO
Paul Akiwumi	UNCTAD
Antipas Touatam	UNCTAD
Lisa Borgatti	UNCTAD

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Kateryna Varukha	UNCTAD
Egbert Amoncio	UNCTAD
Torbjorn Fredriksson	UNCTAD
Luisa Bernal	UNDP
Zoritsa Urosevic	UN World Tourism Organisation
Ashish Shah	ITC
Sacha Silva	ITC, *formerly Permanent Mission of the UK to the United Nations*

Donors	
Names	*Organisation*
Tiina Satuli	EU Delegation
Remco Vahl	EU Delegation
Antti Piispanen	Finland
Mika Vehnamaki	Finland
Benedicte Fleischer	Norway
Judith Soentgen	Germany
Christiane Klaus	Germany
Christina Pfenniger	Switzerland
Sabrina Varma	Australia

LDC Group	
Names	*Organisation*
Remy Sohou	Benin
Sabine Beret	Central African Republic
Sebastien Nzimana	Burundi
Bizindavyi Leopold	Burundi
Nazaire Paré	Burkina Faso
Joachim Dovonon	Benin
Jean Bernard Favi	Benin
Kokou Bienvenu	Benin
Euloge Agbakou Houngbo	Benin
Pierre Dossou Ahoue	Benin
Patricia Gouchola	Benin
Karen Viou	Benin

In-Depth Case Study Countries	
Bangladesh	
Names	*Organisation*
Nur Mohammad Amin Rasel	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
Dr Sitesh Chandra Bachar	Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka
Dr Mostafa Abid Khan	Policy Research Institute (PRI)
Muhammad Abdus Salam	Bangladesh Organic Products Manufacturers Association
Amitava Chakraborty	City Group
Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Patwary	Ministry of Commerce
A B M Asrafuzzaman	University of Dhaka
Enamul Hafiz Latifee	Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services
Md. Khalilur Rahman	NIU, WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce
Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Patwary	Ministry of Public Administration
Mr Shubhashish Bose	Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Burkina Faso	

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Names	Organisation
TRAORE Boubacar	Ministry of Commerce
ILBOUDO Seydou	Ministry of Commerce
OUATTARA Sériba	Retired
OUEDRAOGO N. Régis Alfred	African Development Bank
SODRE Soulemane Pierre	Ministry of Commerce
COULIDIATY Yempabou	Sesame Trade Association
SAWADOGO/ OUEDRAOGO Salamata	Association Wend Guud Yamba
KONE Minata	SOTRIA-B
OUEDRAOGO Paul	Eben Fruit
BOUGOUMA Théophane Antoine	EBT-TRADIND
HAENTGES Jil	Ambassador of Luxembourg to Burkina Faso

Cambodia	
Names	Organisation
H.E Tek Rethkamrang	Ministry of Commerce
Laichea Chea	Ministry of Commerce
Hong Bunseng	Ministry of Commerce
Kim Lydet	Ministry of Commerce
Maria Yang	Ministry of Commerce
Ek Sereyroath	Ministry of Commerce
Phon Sovatna	Ministry of Commerce
Song Saran	AMRU Rice Cambodia Co., Ltd
Korng Khoeurng	AMRU Rice Cambodia Co., Ltd
Pich Borath	AMRU Rice Cambodia Co., Ltd
Lung Yeng	Cambodia Rice Federation
Sorn Chorvyvatey	Cambodia Rice Federation
Duong Sarak	World Bank/ IFC
Reathmana Leang	UNDP
Mao Thora	Ministry of Commerce
Camilla Lombard	Donor Facilitator- EU Delegation
Sophea Ly	EIF in Cambodia

Comoros	
Names	Organisation
Yousra SAIDALI	UCCIA
Laila Said Hassane	MECK-Moroni
Sitti Djaouharia	New OPACO
Mouzaoui	MODEC
Moufida Mohamed	EFOICOM
Tahamida Mzé	Federation of Comorian Consumers (FCC)
Issa MHADJI	Syndicat National des Agriculteurs Comoriens (SNAC)

The Gambia	
Names	Organisation
Ousman Bojang	NIU/ Director of Trade
Momodou Cham	Principles Fishery Officer
Moudou Ceesay	Gambia Horticultural Enterprise
Mariam Gaye Demba	Go Fresh Ltd.
Modou Touray	ITC
Papa Secka	Gambia Standards Bureau
Ebrima Kujabi	Gambia Civil Aviation Authority
Bai Ibrahim Jobe	Former NIU Coordinator

Guinea-Bissau

Names	Organisation
Fabio Russo	UNIDO
Nuria Ackermann	UNIDO
Raymond Tavares	UNIDO
Jose Julio Monteiro Sanchez	UNDP
Inacio Le	UNDP
Osmar Ferro	UNDP
Eric-Olivier Benoliel	UNOPS
Abbas Djalo	EIF NIU Coordinator
Lassana Fati	NIU team
Inacio da Silva	NIU team
Ude Cambai Djassi	NIU team
Jaimentino Co	EIF Focal Point, Ministry of Trade
Mário Reis	Ministry of Agriculture / FAO
Simona Schlede	EU (Good governance and socio-economic development section) / Donor Facilitator
Patrick Daniel	EU (Good governance and socio-economic development section) / Donor Facilitator
Gonçalo Pombeiro	EU (Good governance and socio-economic development section) / Donor Facilitator
Ana Sofia Santa Rita Vieira da Silva	EU (Good governance and socio-economic development section) / Donor Facilitator
António Mutaro Seide	Ministry of Finance / DG Customs
Aristino Joao da Costa	Ministry of Finance / DG Customs
Nelson Antonio Lopez	Ministry of Finance / DG Customs
Aureliano Marcelino Gomes	Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services

Laos

Names	Organisation
Sengphanomchone Inthasane	Deputy Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lattanaphone Vongsouthi	NIU Director, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Sengxay Phousinghoa	PSD Advisor, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Nitnida Phongsavath	Trade Analyst, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Pinphakone Xayyavong	Trade Analyst, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Khamsouk Sophilavanh	Trade Analyst, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Samly Boutsady	Deputy Director, Department of Industry and Handicrafts, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Latdavanh Sivongxay	Department of Standard and Metrology, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Phouxay Thepphavong	Secretary General, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Thongin Khamsompong	President, Oudomxay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Monekham Souksingha	Vice President, Oudomxay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Ouchong	President, Phongsaly Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Khamla	Rice Processor
Veomanee Douangdala	Co-Founder, Ock Pop Tok
Sommai Faming	Country Representative of UNIDO

| Konesawang Nghardsaysone | Trade Economist, World Bank |
| Souphaphone Thavonesouk | Donor Facilitator- EU Delegation |

Rwanda

Names	Organisation
Richard Niwenshuti	EIF NIU/ FP, MINICOM
Marc Uwitonze	MINICOM
James Bonner	DF, FCDO
Eric Uwitonze	MINICOM
James Tayebwa	MINICOM
Joseph Munyaneza	Vice Chair, Burera District
Niragire Theophile	Vice Mayor, Karonigo District
Rose Nyrabavakure	Development Bank of Rwanda
Anicet Muriro	Rwanda Standards Board
Alex Ntare	Rwanda ICT Chamber

Sierra Leone

Names	Organisation
Abdul Kamara	NIU
Christina Toepell	DF, FCDO
Fatama Abe-Osagie	National Tourist Board
Umaru Woody	National Tourist Board
Ibrahim Fornah	Western Rural Sierra Leone Trade Union
James S Koroma	Chamber of Commerce
David Jones	Banana Island
Yamide Deen	Office of the Solicitor- General
Mohamed Jalloh	Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Tommy Garnett	Environmental Foundation for Africa
Richard Marrah	Wara Wara Mountains

Solomon Islands

Names	Organisation
Benjamin Hageria	Varivao Holdings Limited
Dickson Manongi	National Public Health Laboratory
Ethel Saelea	Solomon Islands Women in Business Association
Rex Maukera	Goshen Enterprise
Samson Bisafo	Solomon Islands National University
George Tuti	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
John Paul Alasia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
Nigel Devi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
Cornelius Donga	Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labor and Immigration
Frosty Kohaimane	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Sudan

Names	Organisation
Amani Musassd	EIF Focal Point/ Ministry of Trade
Nasir M. Talab	EIF Coordinator
H.E. Ali Giddo	Minister, Ministry of Trade and Supply
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Supply	Ministry of Trade and Supply
Abda El Mahdi	Consultant on the EIF
Manal Al Zain Musaad	EIF FP
Nadia El Tigani Hammodi	EIF NSC; secretary of businesswomen; member of the economic advisory council to the Ministries Council.

Rahba Saeed	EIF NSC; Sudanese Standard and Metrology Corporation

Zambia	
Names	*Organisation*
Bessie Chelemu	EIF FP, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Florence Sinyangwe	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Langani Phiri	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Lawrence Mwalye	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Ajesh Patel	Zambia Manufactures Association
Griffin Nyirongo	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Kasonde Sampa	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Chrispine Mukwela	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Cristina Banuta	Donor Facilitator- EU Delegation
Laurian Haangala	Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Shadreck Mungalaba	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Ndawambi Daka	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Mawila Fututu	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Dr Ken Msiska	Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Pritchard Mukuwa	Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Albert Halwampa	Zambia Development Agency
Maureen Sumbwe	Zambia Federation of Women in Business
Wilson Mazimba	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Patricia Mwela	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Christopher Mwango	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

Summary Case Study Countries	
South Sudan	
Names	*Organisation*
Jose Manzano	UNDP
Samson Awinoh	UNDP

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ANNEX 4: EVALUATION MATRIX

Instruments Evaluation Questions	Phase 1 Indicators/Judgement Criteria	Phase 2 Indicators/Judgement Criteria	Programme Component	In-country component	Data analysis
A. Relevance: How relevant is the EIF to the trade-related capacity development needs and priorities of the LDCs?					
How relevant are the EIF's operational principles to the needs of the LDCs? Since its inception how relevant is and has the EIF been in the global context of support to the LDCs? How relevant are the EIF projects to the needs of individual countries and targeted beneficiaries? To what extent do the EIF programme's goals and outcomes target the major needs of the LDCs as demonstrated in DTIS AMs, National Trade Policies and NDPs? (other iii). To what extent has the EIF ensured equity amongst beneficiaries?	O2.1. Trade in PRSP and/or national development strategies O2.2. Existence of productive sector strategies for key sectors, integrating the trade dimension. O2.3. Functioning public/private consultation mechanism. O4.2. Number of EIF Countries where a government budget exists for the implementation of its trade strategy. Findings from previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	EIF alignment with SDGs, IPoA, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and other such mechanisms Alignment with ownership and partnership principle Alignment of DTIS with National Development and Trade Policies Adaptation to evolving, global context Stakeholder analysis and its results at country level Number of EIF Countries with trade integrated into their National Development Plan. Number of EIF Countries with effective trade coordination mechanisms. 2.2.a. Number of EIF Countries with EIF National Implementation Units integrated into the government system. 2.2.c. Number of EIF Countries with quality functioning public-private coordination mechanisms. Attention to and mainstreaming of gender, social inclusion, equity and private sector needs. Barriers of particular groups, such as youth and women, to participating in trade, including also attitudes, social norms.	PR, LR	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA

		Extent of EIF Phase 2 refocus on regional projects, value-chains and key thematic issues (e.g. gender equality, environmental sustainability), including climate change			
(other ii.) To what extent has the COVID- 19 pandemic impacted the EIF programme?		# of closed/terminated projects Covid-19 effects Measures taken to minimise the effect of Covid-19	PR, LR, OA	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA, ONA
B. Coherence: How coherent is the EIF's programme logic?					
To what extent does the EIF's intervention logic and method of delivery fit with achieving the programme's objectives? To what extent are EIF projects aligned to programmatic objectives? Does the EIF collaborate effectively with, and where relevant, add value to other bilateral or multilateral (including EIF Agency) AfT interventions and vice versa? Is there some degree of synergy (technical, material or financial) between EIF-funded projects at the country level and other non-EIF trade-related interventions in the same country? What actions are suggested to achieve higher synergy?	Availability, coherence and soundness of the overall EIF logic and links to countries and individual projects Alignment of projects with EIF objectives O3.1. Availability of an annual rolling implementation overview integrating all trade-related government and donor-supported activities (where applicable, identifying activities specifically addressing gender and the environment). O3.2. Frequency of government and donor consultations on trade-related matters. O3.3. UN CEB Cluster activities are based on DTIS Action Matrix priorities in EIF Countries. O3.4. Number of countries with joint donor initiatives in the trade area (such as needs assessments; strategy formulations; programming; pooled funding; M&E; etc.). O4.1. Number of EIF Countries with	Availability, coherence and soundness of the overall EIF theory of change, logical framework and links to countries and individual projects Alignment of projects with EIF objectives 2.2.b. Number of EIF Countries with quality government-donor dialogue mechanisms on trade and investment related matters. Number of actions undertaken by EIF partners (Agencies/Main Implementing Entities) in support of leveraging finance and expertise. Number of projects funded by development partners (Donors/ Agencies/development banks) related to the Action Matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study. Number of EIF projects leveraging private sector resources. Number of EIF projects receiving additional funding from governments and development partners. Synergies of EIF with other TRTA at country level Perceived EIF added-value, if any	PR, LR, OA, EA	SCS, ICS	ToC, DS, CA, ONA

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	implementation plan integrating DTIS/Action Matrix priorities and indicating financing needs to be met through ODA. O4.4. Number and amount of projects funded by donors related to the DTIS Action Matrix. Findings from previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	Clarity of roles and responsibilities (among LDCs, partner agencies and donors) Added-value of LDCs, partner agencies and donors to EIF partnership EIF influence on approaches/programmes in addressing LDC trade constraints Size of government and private sector contributions Amount of additional funding leveraged (AfT commitments and payments by 12 case study LDCs) Use of ES leveraging guidelines			
C. Effectiveness: To what extent is the EIF producing results?					
i. To what extent have the EIF's objectives been achieved?	see below	see below	PR, LR, VfM	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, DS, CA, VfM
Outcome 1: Achieving Institutional and Policy Objectives	O1.1 Tier 1 'Support to NIAs' project completed or under implementation in EIF Countries. O1.2. Number (and per cent) of active EIF Countries with complete, up-to- date (less than three years old) validated DTIS Action Matrices. O1.3. Level of capacity of the NIU to perform fiduciary programme management function for Tier 1 'Support to NIAs' project. O1.4. Number of EIF Countries with up- to-date (not older than five years) trade strategies. O1.5. Number of EIF Countries with quality trade strategies. O1.6. Number of EIF Countries with	Number of EIF Countries with trade integrated into their National Development Plan. Number of EIF Countries with effective trade coordination mechanisms Number of EIF Countries with sector specific strategies integrating trade. Number of quality trade and investment policies formulated and updated with support from the EIF. Number of actions in support of improved legislation and participation in fora (includes WTO accession, regional integration, etc.). 1.1.d. Number of trade and investment-related regulations adopted. 2.2.a. Number of EIF Countries with EIF National Implementation Units integrated into the	PR, LR	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA

	quality trade strategy implemented. O1.7. Number of EIF-funded projects achieving the expected results. O2.1. Trade in PRSP and/or national development strategies O2.2. Existence of productive sector strategies for key sectors, integrating the trade dimension. O2.3. Functioning public/private consultation mechanism. Findings from previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	government system. 2.2.b. Number of EIF Countries with quality government-donor dialogue mechanisms on trade and investment related matters. 3.3.c. Number of EIF Countries with investment and trade-related information dissemination tools for different stakeholders. 2.1.f. Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support.			
Outcome 2: Achieving Results in Building Productive Capacity		Volume of production generated through EIF interventions (tonnes). Value (USD) of exports generated through EIF interventions. Number of new international markets accessed with support from the EIF. Total number of people trained in value chain practices (disaggregated by gender and age) through participation in EIF capacity building initiatives. Number of awareness-raising activities conducted on gender and the environment. Percentage of women directly benefitting from EIF-funded productive sector projects. Number of producer associations (disaggregated by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), women owned) trained in value chain practices. Number of people (disaggregated by gender) participating in trade fairs related to market connectivity. Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support. Number of MSMEs supported by EIF projects.	PR, LR, EA	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, DS, CA

		Number of e-commerce initiatives undertaken. Number of new technologies adopted through EIF supported projects. Number of people (disaggregated by gender) adopting new technology through EIF capacity-building initiatives. Total number of Tier 2 projects that were high quality/high impact Number of Tier 2 projects that addressed prioritised supply side constraints Value addition of Tier 2 projects Additional experienced market constraints (e.g. access to finance, infrastructure (such as roads, ports, energy, availability and skills of workforce, political and regulatory constraints, informal rules and norms etc.), also for more marginalised and vulnerable groups			
How effective are the EIF's operational mechanisms (at both the programme and country levels)? How effective are the EIF's governance mechanisms (at both the programme and country levels)? To what extent are the EIF's analytical tools, and projects achieving results? What are the factors that determined the achievement or non-achievement of the EIF programme objectives? (other iv). To what extent have security and political crises had an impact on EIF Countries?	Findings from and benchmarking against previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	The assumptions, risks and bottlenecks between EIF analytical tools and projects and the achievement of results Effectiveness and efficiency of EIF structures, processes and resources throughout the project cycle Extent that DTIS accurately identified the binding constraints in country Prioritised (Action matrix) interventions Guided further analysis/evidence work Underpinned policy decisions Support trade mainstreaming Provided fresh ore more focused insights (through DTIS updates) Timeliness (and relevance)	PR, LR, OA, EA, VfM	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, DS, CA, VfM, ONA

		Number of additional (to Tier 1) projects were approved and why Number of AMs operationalised (e.g. through medium term programmes) through specific capacity-building projects and AfT requirements Effectiveness of MEL, communications and partnership efforts at the programme level How was MEL harvested results from individual interventions Used MEL data in wider lessons-learning and external communications on EIF impact/business model Aligned with countries' MEL structures (e.g. MTEF) and strengthened NIU MEL capacity Visibility of EIF and LDCS at international fora (e.g. EIF Global Forum) Use of EIF communication products at country level Number of partnerships and intensity of relationship Effectiveness of the implementation of the change management plan			
D. Efficiency: Does the EIF show an efficient use of time and resources?					
How efficient are the EIF's operational mechanisms? How efficient are the EIF's governance structures? How efficient are the EIF's analytical tools and projects in delivering the EIF objectives? Were the EIF programme objectives achieved on time?	Findings from and benchmarking against previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	EIF VfM Indicators ES organisational performance TFM organisational performance Board organisational efficiency and effectiveness EIF Steering Committee organisational effectiveness (linking global and national governance structures, visibility to country	PR, LR, OA, VfM	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA, VfM, ONA

(other i). i. What changes are evident from the implementation of the change management plan from Phase One to Phase Two?		experiences, facilitating information exchange and best practice Efficiency of processes ES expertise in trade, project management fiduciary capacity Strength of accountability mechanisms Extent EIF processes streamlined and user-friendly (for LDCs, partner agencies, Board) Utility of the MIS			
E. Impact: What intended and unintended impacts can be observed as a consequence of the EIF programme?					
What has been the EIF's contribution to sustainable development in the LDCs? What has been the contribution of the EIF towards the integration of the LDCs into global and regional trading systems? What contribution has the EIF made to the AfT Agenda for the LDCs? What other impacts are evident as a result of the EIF?	Economic trend analysis over EIF Phase 1 and 2	Economic trend analysis over EIF Phase 1 and 2 Evidence in the literature and case studies on the connection between increased trade and development Attention to and mainstreaming of gender, social inclusion, equity and private sector needs.	PR, LR, EA	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, DS, CA
F. Sustainability: Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to be sustainable?					
i. Have the EIF's operations been designed in in such a way that the objectives of the programme are likely to continue? iii. Are the results achieved by the EIF at the programme and country levels likely to	Findings from and benchmarking against previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation. Qualitative evidence of Phase 1 outcomes, including potential copying, replication and scale, after project closure	Government ownership, commitment (in DTIS and other EIF structures, processes and products), including specifically the NIU function Stakeholder engagement (in DTIS and other EIF structures, processes and products) Degree of co-financing by the government Degree of integration into government structures Extent DTIS was managed by LDC	PR, LR, OA	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA, VfM, ONA

last following the close of the current phase?	Continuity of Phase 1 outcomes after project closure	Extent DTIS built capacity for similar analytical work Extent that DTIS was used for policy making DTIS accessibility and synchronisation with national development/trade policy cycle Extent of private sector engagement Early signals of copying, replication and scale of EIF interventions			
ii. To what extent is ownership of the EIF demonstrated by the LDCs? What are the major factors that have influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability in EIF projects? What is the comparative contribution of the LDCs to EIF projects compared to the contributions of taxpayers from EIF Donor Countries? What is the level of engagement of national institutions in implementing the EIF interventions both Tier 1 and Tier 2 as Main Implementing Entities (MIEs) with full responsibility and accountability?	The following are only indicative as per retrospective assessment and for matching purposes (given that 'Sustainability Support' is only introduced in Phase II): O1.3. Level of capacity of the NIU to perform fiduciary programme management function for Tier 1 'Support to NIAs' project. O2.1. Trade in PRSP and/or national development strategies O2.2. Existence of productive sector strategies for key sectors, integrating the trade dimension. O2.3. Functioning public/private consultation mechanism. O4.2. Number of EIF Countries where a government budget exists for the implementation of its trade strategy. Findings from and benchmarking against previous EIF evaluations and evidence of their implementation.	Number of public officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade- related areas. Number of private sector and civil society representatives (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas to participate in the national trade agenda. Number of EIF Countries with investment and trade-related information dissemination tools for different stakeholders. Ministry of Trade capacity in: Mainstream trade into national development plans and trade strategies Action Matrix priorities integrated across government (e.g. economic transformation and diversification) Performance of Focal Point and NIU coordinator role Degree of NIU integration (staff, work programmes) integration into ministry of trade (vs. isolation) NIU support to country ownership and empowerment Inter- agency coordination	PR, LR, OA	SCS, ICS, TR	ToC, CA, VfM, ONA

		Stakeholder engagement (e.g. private sector, civil society, including women's and youth groups) Skills of local experts Skills of training institutions Coordination of donor resources on AfT priorities/projects Mobilisation of resources from national budget, private sector and non-donor sources Factors required for scale and sustainable impact			

Legend

PR = Portfolio Review	TR = Thematic Reviews
LR = Literature Review	ToC = Theory of Change
OA = Organisational Assessment	DS = Descriptive Statistics
EA = Economic Analysis	CA = Content Analysis
VfM = Value for Money Analysis	ONA = Organisational and Network Analysis
SCS = Summary Country Case Studies	GA = Gender Analysis
ICS = In-depth Country Case Studies	

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ANNEX 5: MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

1. Data

The data used in this analysis originated from various sources: the World Trade Organization for trade data; the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Creditor Reporting System for aid-for-trade (AfT) data; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for foreign direct investment (FDI) flows; UNCTAD-EORA Global Value Chain Database; the United States International Trade Commission's Dynamic Gravity Dataset (DGD) for gravity variables;[5] the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Database, Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Database, Worldwide Governance Index Database, and World Development Indicators Database for other macroeconomic indicators (e.g., GDP, population, sectoral shares in total value added, governance indicators); the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index Database; and the Knowledge Hub, Management Information System, and project documents for EIF financials. The selection of these data sources was based on the coverage and relative advantages that they offer for AfT analysis.

The dependent (outcome) variables included total, merchandise, and services trade; FDI inflows; value added, indirect value added, and foreign value added content of exports; shares of agriculture, industry, and services in total value added; LPI (overall and individual dimensions) and EODB (i.e., overall, starting a business, trading across borders) indicators; and global competitiveness—all of which were measured in levels and changes/growth. Additionally, trade performance was measured using trade-to-GDP ratios.

The key explanatory variables included total AfT disbursements[6]; EIF net disbursements, total project costs and total expenditures to date;[7] a dummy variable equal to 1 if a country is an EIF recipient and 0 otherwise;[8] and a dummy variable equal to 1 if the main implementing entity is a government entity (or partner agency) and 0 otherwise.

Control variables included a set of variables considered as relevant factors affecting trade flows and aid effectiveness. These include GDP[9]; population; government effectiveness; consumer price index; geographic variables (i.e., dummy variable equal to 1 if a country is a landlocked or a small island state); political stability as proxied by a dummy variable equal to 1 if a country is a fragile or conflict-affected state); and a unilateral trade facilitation variable measured by a country's membership in the WTO[10]. The final dataset used in this analysis covered 158 AfT-recipient countries (51 of which are EIF-participating countries) over the period 2008-2019.

As a prelude to the regression model estimation, we performed some regression diagnostics. First, using the below baseline regression model and taking total exports of goods and services as the outcome variable (our key variable of interest in this case), we tested for multicollinearity.

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[5] The set of variables in the DGD covered macroeconomic indicators, geographic variables, cultural variables, trade facilitation variables, and measures of institutional stability. Where necessary, data used in this analysis was supplemented by data collection from other sources, including from the WTO, UN, and the World Bank (e.g., for classification on fragile and conflict-affected states).

[6] Data on AfT disbursements and commitments was available by sector, type of aid, purpose, and policy objective. For this analysis, data on disbursements was selected given its representation of actual aid flows (i.e., the amount of AfT received by developing countries). The OECD further defines AfT as comprising three broad categories: aid for trade-related/economic infrastructure, aid for productive capacity building, and aid for trade policies and regulations and trade-related adjustment. AfT, trade, and other macroeconomic indicators of financial nature are all in nominal values. Given the prevalence of zero values (especially on AfT data) and to avoid the loss of observations by using the logarithmic transformation, we followed the common approach and widely suggested solution from the literature of adding 1 to the data transformation (e.g., replacing $\ln(AfT_x)$ with $\ln(1+AfT_x)$).

[7] Total project costs and total expenditures were only used in cross-section estimations due to data availability concerns at the time of conducting the analysis.

[8] In the panel dataset, this variable was considered as a dynamic variable to capture the timing of EIF aid.

[9] Excluded in specifications with trade-to-GDP ratios.

[10] WTO membership wass represented by a dummy variable equal to 1 if a country is a WTO member and 0 otherwise. It was considered as a dynamic variable in the panel dataset.

(1) $TOTAL\_EXPORTS_{it}$
$$= \beta_0 + \beta_1 AfT_{it} + \beta_2 POP_{it} + \beta_3 GDP_{it} + \beta_4 WGI_{GEE_{it}} + \beta_5 CPI_{it} + \beta_6 MEMBER_{WTO_{it}}$$
$$+ \beta_7 LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8 SMALL_{ISLAND_i} + \beta_9 FCAS_i$$

In general, there was no serious multicollinearity problem among the explanatory variables. As shown from the variance inflation factors (VIFs) in Table A1, with the exception of the population and GDP, the VIFs were satisfactory. Removing the two aforementioned variables indeed resulted in better VIF values; however, the adjusted-R^2 significantly decreased with the exclusion. Related empirical studies also retained these variables in aid regression models due to their high relevance to the model.
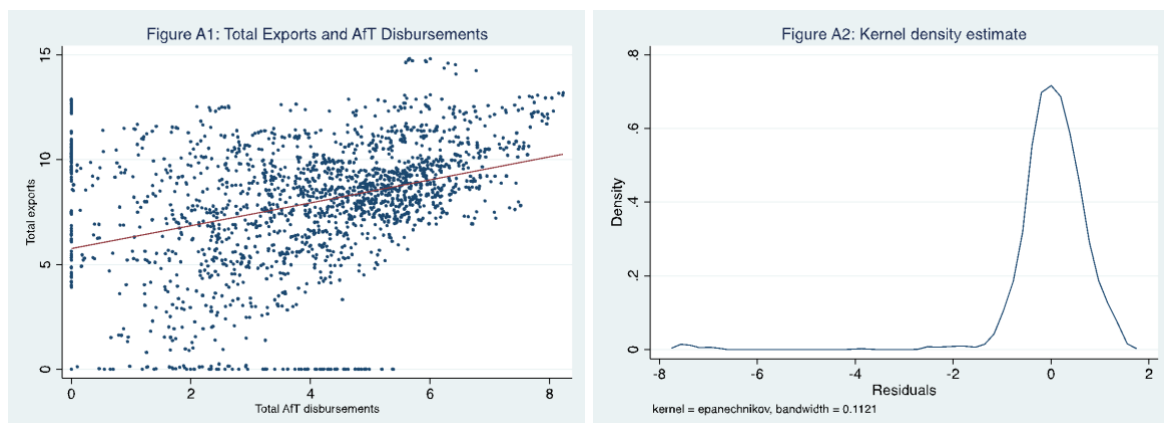
Table A1: Variance Inflation Factors

Variable	VIF	1/VIF
Population	15.08	0.06633
GDP	10.37	0.096472
AfT disbursement	2.45	0.408169
Government effectiveness	2.27	0.440867
Small island	2.14	0.466296
FCAS	1.53	0.653173
Landlocked	1.33	0.749974
WTO member	1.19	0.842429
CPI	1.09	0.918583
Mean VIF	*4.16*	

Secondly, we tested if there was linearity governing the relationship between total exports and AfT. Figure A1 shows that there was generally a linear relationship between the two variables. Third, we tested for normality in the distribution of the residuals. Figure A2 shows that there was non-normality in the OLS residuals. The Bera-Jarque normality test further confirmed that the underlying assumptions governing the normality assumption (i.e., symmetry and mesokurtosis) were decisively rejected by the data in this case. Given this non-normality, we tested for heteroscedasticity using the White/Koenker test (which is based on the less restrictive assumption that the residuals (errors) are independently and identically distributed). The test confirmed the presence of heteroscedasticity. Under these conditions, we therefore employed a quantile regression approach. The primary advantage of this approach is the informational gains it provides (e.g., on the heterogeneity of relationships between key variables of interest). Furthermore, quantiles are robust measures of location and are estimated using a robust estimator.[11] The following section further provides a description of this estimator and more generally of the empirical strategy employed in this analysis.

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[11] Machado, J. A. F., & Silva, J. M. C. S. (2005). "Quantiles for Counts." *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 100(472): 1226–1237; Machado, J.A.F. and Santos Silva, J.M.C. (2019). "Quantiles via Moments". *Journal of Econometrics*, 213(1): 145–173.

Figure A1: Total Exports and AfT Disbursements

Figure A2: Kernel density estimate

kernel = epanechnikov, bandwidth = 0.1121

2. Empirical Strategy

The first part of the analysis investigated the impact of total AfT and EIF disbursements on several global integration indicators. Following the empirical literature[12] and taking into account the abovementioned data characteristics and distribution of the sample of countries along the outcome variables of interest, this analysis employed the Quantile Regression estimator. In contrast to the standard Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) procedure which estimates the mean effect of explanatory variables on the unconditional mean of an outcome variable, the quantile regression approach provides a framework within which the assumption of homogeneity[13] across the conditional distribution of the outcome variable is relaxed. In essence, the quantile regression framework allowed us to 'go beyond the mean' and estimate the differential impacts of total AfT and EIF aid across the distribution of the outcome variables (i.e., at selected points of the conditional distribution). This estimation technique was suitable to the case at hand where AfT is likely to have different impacts on trade (and other outcome variables) in different countries. Another advantage of the quantile regression approach is its robustness to outliers.

Taking a similar structure to the linear regression model, the baseline quantile regression model to analyse the impact of AfT and EIF aid on trade and other outcome variables was given by:[14]

$$(2a)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \beta_1(\tau)AfT_{it} + \beta_2(\tau)POP_{it} + \beta_3(\tau)GDP_{it} + \beta_4(\tau)WGI_{GEE\,it} + \beta_5(\tau)CPI_{it} + \beta_6(\tau)MEMBER_{WTO\,it} + \beta_7(\tau)LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8(\tau)SMALL_{ISLAND\,i} + \beta_9(\tau)FCAS_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$$(2b)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \beta_1(\tau)EIF_{it} + \beta_2(\tau)POP_{it} + \beta_3(\tau)GDP_{it} + \beta_4(\tau)WGI\_GEE_{it} + \beta_5(\tau)CPI_{it} + \beta_6(\tau)MEMBER\_WTO_{it} + \beta_7(\tau)LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8(\tau)SMALL\_ISLAND_i + \beta_9(\tau)FCAS_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where i is a country subscript, t is a time subscript and τ corresponds to the τth quantile (i.e., 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th in this application). Y_{it} is a set of outcome variables (defined above) for country i at time t. For the above and succeeding model specifications, AfT disbursements, EIF aid, population, GDP, CPI, and select outcome variables are in natural logs. ε_{it} is the error term.

The inherent endogeneity of the AfT variables was also considered by employing fixed effects and lagging these variables by certain periods in some specifications.[15] Particularly in the panel estimations,

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[12] See for example Martinez-Zarzoso, I., F. Nowak-Lehmann and K. Rehwald. (2017). "Is aid for trade effective? A panel quantile regression approach." *Review of Development Economics*, 21: e175–e203. DOI: 10.1111/rode.12322. Our model specifications are informed by other related empirical studies, including that of Cali, M. and D. te Velde. (2011). "Does Aid for Trade Really Improve Trade Performance?" *World Development*, 39 (5): 725-740. DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2010.09.018.

[13] The homogeneity assumption implies for example that regardless of where countries are on the conditional trade distribution (i.e., bottom, middle or top), the effect of AfT is assumed the same (i.e., constant). This may be plausible in many applications but is ultimately an empirical question.

[14] Given that most of the main results presented in this section refer to panel estimation results, model specifications for panel estimations were used for illustration purposes.

[15] i.e., up to five year lags, with each year lag entered into the regressions separately.

year fixed effects were employed to control for shocks and time trends shared across countries. Alongside year fixed effects, country fixed effects were also utilised in estimations where the key explanatory variable was total AfT disbursements to control for time-invariant country characteristics that may have partial effects on the outcome variables.[16] Moreover, AfT is, in part, institutional by nature and its effects may be phased-in over a certain number of periods. The lagged AfT variables allowed us to capture the potential lagged effects of aid.[17] The augmented models with fixed effects took the following forms:

$$(3)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \sum_k \beta_k(\tau)X_{kit} + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$$(4)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \sum_k \beta_k(\tau)X_{kit} + \gamma_t + \lambda_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where X_{kit} are explanatory variables including AfT, EIF aid and several control variables defined in equation (1). γ_t denotes a year fixed effect that controls for shocks and time trends shared across countries. λ_i in equation (4) is a country fixed effect that controls for time-invariant country-specific factors, including the geographical country characteristics included in equation (1)—thereby also modifying the X_{kit} term. The modified equation (4) only applied to estimations with total AfT as the key independent variable for the reasons mentioned above.

The augmented model specifications with lagged effects of aid took the following forms:

$$(5a)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \beta_1(\tau)AfT_{i,t-x} + \beta_2(\tau)POP_{it} + \beta_3(\tau)GDP_{it} + \beta_4(\tau)WGI_{GEE_{it}} + \beta_5(\tau)CPI_{it}$$
$$+ \beta_6(\tau)MEMBER\_WTO_{it} + \beta_7(\tau)LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8(\tau)SMALL\_ISLAND_i$$
$$+ \beta_9(\tau)FCAS_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$$(5b)\ Q_\tau(Y_{it}) = \beta_0(\tau) + \beta_1(\tau)EIF_{i,t-x} + \beta_2(\tau)POP_{it} + \beta_3(\tau)GDP_{it} + \beta_4(\tau)WGI\_GEE_{it} + \beta_5(\tau)CPI_{it}$$
$$+ \beta_6(\tau)MEMBER\_WTO_{it} + \beta_7(\tau)LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8(\tau)SMALL\_ISLAND_i$$
$$+ \beta_9(\tau)FCAS_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where x in the term $AfT_{i,t-x}$ denotes the number of lags, in this case, up to five years. Two variants of the above models are also used: (i) the inclusion of year fixed effects and (ii) the inclusion of both year and country fixed effects. Similar to model specification (4), the second variant only applied to estimations with total AfT as the key independent variable.

Quantile regression coefficients are estimated by minimising the sum of absolute values of errors. Hence, the τth quantile regression coefficient β_τ was estimated by minimising

$$Q(\beta_\tau) = \sum_{i:y_i \geq x_i'\beta}^{N} \tau|y_i - x_i'\beta_\tau| + \sum_{i:y_i < x_i'\beta}^{N} (1-\tau)|\,y_i - x_i'\beta_\tau|$$

The coefficient estimates in a quantile regression capture the marginal effect of a change in the explanatory variable observed at the τth quantile of the outcome variable.

The second part of this analysis investigated the empirical relationship between the type of implementing entities in EIF-supported projects and a set of outcome variables. As the main purpose of this analysis was to estimate the mean effect of having government entities or partner agencies as main implementing entities of EIF projects on the unconditional mean of the outcome variables—and not necessarily the differential effects of such implementation/governance structures along the distribution of the outcome variables—the OLS estimator was used. The estimable equation took the

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[16] Due to data limitations, adding country fixed effects to the specifications with EIF financials as target variables rendered either inestimable results and/or error issues in the estimation process. Hence, while adding country fixed effects is ideal, this was (unfortunately) not pursued in the analysis of the impact of EIF aid on outcome variables.

[17] Cross-section estimations were also conducted but not shown in this report for brevity. The OLS estimator was also used as a robustness check in this set of estimations.

following form:

$$(6)\ Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 MIE_{it}^k + \beta_2 POP_{it} + \beta_3 GDP_{it} + \beta_4 WGI\_GEE_{it} + \beta_5 CPI_{it} + \beta_6 MEMBER\_WTO_{it} + \beta_7 LANDLOCKED_i + \beta_8 SMALL\_ISLAND_i + \beta_9 FCAS_i + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where *k* denotes a project. Y_{it} is a set of select outcome variables for country *i* at time *t*, specifically total trade, total exports, merchandise exports, services exports, value added content of exports, and LPI and its individual components.[18] The equation was estimated separately for each MIE type. The key explanatory parameter MIE_{it}^k is a dummy variable equal to 1 if the main implementing entity of project *k* in country *i* is a government entity (or partner agency) and 0 otherwise.

Some limitations of this analysis are necessarily in order. For one (and as with any empirical study), this analysis has not been able to exhaustively account for all variables that may be relevant to and/or have partial effects on the outcome variables. Nonetheless, the inclusion of fixed effects mitigated this potential concern of omitted variable bias. Secondly, this analysis focused on non-bilateral aid and trade data. The utilisation of bilateral data in aid evaluation research is undoubtedly valuable; investigating the bilateral impacts of the key independent variables covered in this analysis is therefore recommended as a possible area of future research, subject to data availability and reliability. Similarly, this analysis focused on the impacts of aid on global integration indicators, partly due to data availability concerns. Future inquiry into the welfare effects of aid would be interesting, especially in the context of the empowerment of women, youth, and MSMEs. Finally, this analysis has not covered 2020 due to data concerns: at the time of conducting the analysis, available data on trade and other indicators were preliminary estimates. The following section presents some key results.

3. Main Results

Total aid-for-trade exerted some limited but time-durable effects on global integration indicators. In particular, a doubling of AfT was associated with a 4.7% increase in total trade (i.e., exports and imports of goods and services)**,** on average and all else equal. Moreover, AfT disbursements were significantly linked with higher merchandise imports, FDI inflows, industry's share in total value added, and contribution of merchandise trade to GDP.[19] Furthermore, AfT had a delayed positive effect on logistics performance, particularly in terms of the quality of trade and transport infrastructure and efficiency of customs and border management clearance (Table A2).

Table A2: Effects of Total AfT Disbursements—Panel Quantile (Median) Regression with Country and Year Fixed Effects

	ln Total AfT	ln Total AfT$_{(t-1)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-2)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-3)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-4)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-5)}$
Outcome variables						
ln Total trade	0.0468***	0.0585	0.0866	0.1044	0.0557	-0.0008
	(0.0174)	(0.1102)	(0.1076)	(1.5827)	(0.0410)	(0.0206)
ln Merchandise imports	0.0340***	0.0208**	0.0048	0.0045	0.0025	-0.0019
	(0.0087)	(0.0083)	(0.0090)	(0.0094)	(0.0118)	(0.0866)
ln FDI inflows	0.0617**	0.0066	-0.0902*	-0.0729	-0.0309	0.0018
	(0.0315)	(0.0345)	(0.0506)	(0.0504)	(0.0495)	(0.0467)
Industry's share in total value added	0.7176*	0.5085	0.3692	0.5433	0.5019	0.3414
	(0.3878)	(1.5709)	(1.1203)	(1.3853)	(1.1937)	(0.5103)
LPI_Customs	-0.0114	-0.0079	0.0255	0.0294*	0.0086	-0.0028
	(0.0176)	(0.0204)	(0.0176)	(0.0172)	(0.0188)	(0.0279)
LPI_Infrastructure	-0.0129	-0.0022	0.0202	0.0426**	-0.0066	-0.0622***
	(0.0272)	(0.0234)	(0.0221)	(0.0206)	(0.0180)	(0.0194)
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	1.9226**	1.5204	1.2719	1.5381	1.4536	0.3311
	(0.9630)	(0.9437)	(1.3708)	(3.1353)	(6.3269)	(2.6648)

Notes: The key independent variable is total AfT disbursements. Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Significance

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[18] The results of AfT and EIF aid impact estimations served as guidance for the selection of these outcome variables.

[19] Albeit not statistically significant, AfT disbursement was also positively associated with total exports and merchandise exports. The magnitude of our estimates lagged by two years (6.05% for total exports and 3.07% for merchandise exports when doubling AfT) is comparable with those found by Martinez-Zarzoso et al. (2017) who found a 3.0% and 5.1% increase in total exports and merchandise exports, respectively, with also the second lag of the AfT variable and at the median distribution.

levels are as follows: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, and *** p<0.01. Estimates for the additional independent variables, including other outcome variables, are not shown in the table for brevity. Full results can be provided upon request.

The positive effect of total AfT among EIF-participating countries was characterised by regional differentials. In Asia, total AfT was linked to services exports, as well as merchandise exports and total and indirect value added content of exports three-five years after aid was disbursed. In Africa, the positive effect was pronounced through merchandise imports, as well as growth in the share of agriculture in total value added four years after aid disbursement. For both regions, total AfT was associated with improved logistics performance at least a year after aid disbursement (Table A3).

Table A3: Effects of Total AfT Disbursements among EIF Recipients—Panel Quantile (Median) Regression with Country and Year Fixed Effects

	ln Total AfT	ln Total AfT$_{(t-1)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-2)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-3)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-4)}$	ln Total AfT$_{(t-5)}$
Outcome variables						
ln Merchandise imports	0.0625**	0.0289	-0.0011	-0.0112	-0.0729**	-0.0992***
	(0.0310)	(0.0297)	(0.0334)	(0.0407)	(0.0360)	(0.0331)
Growth in agriculture's share in total value added	0.2434	0.3242	-0.1276	0.0467	0.9920**	0.1313
	(3.2091)	(0.5225)	(14.9074)	(0.5568)	(0.4329)	(0.4719)
LPI	-0.0178	-0.0367	0.0413	0.1379**	0.0117	-0.1493**
	(0.2272)	(0.0750)	(0.0442)	(0.0645)	(0.0698)	(0.0625)
LPI_Infrastructure	-0.0321	-0.0271	0.0463	0.2563***	0.0534	-0.1584
	(0.0726)	(0.0719)	(0.0908)	(0.0701)	(0.0838)	(0.5024)
LPI_Logistics	-0.0638	-0.1068	0.0373	0.1699**	0.1044*	-0.0188
	(0.0628)	(0.3624)	(0.0718)	(0.0704)	(0.0587)	(0.0496)
Asia						
ln Merchandise exports	-0.0497	-0.0245	0.0239	0.0954**	0.0717	0.0042
	(0.0447)	(0.0450)	(0.0364)	(0.0450)	(0.0444)	(0.1052)
ln Services exports	0.1446**	0.0477	0.0850	0.1104	0.0377	0.0195
	(0.0605)	(0.1756)	(0.0736)	(0.4755)	(0.1396)	(0.1308)
ln Value added content of exports	0.0214	0.0221	0.0134	0.0238	0.0173	0.0356**
	(0.0277)	(0.3198)	(0.0196)	(0.0212)	(0.0169)	(0.0150)
ln Indirect value added content of exports	0.0095	0.0174	-0.0042	0.0074	0.0061	0.0208**
	(0.0340)	(0.0189)	(0.0151)	(0.0128)	(0.0902)	(0.0087)
LPI	0.0728	-0.0316	0.0487	0.2387**	-0.0572	0.0013
	(0.1090)	(0.1025)	(0.0647)	(0.1046)	(0.1257)	(5.2854)
LPI_Customs	0.0021	-0.2297	0.0432	0.3501*	0.1973	-0.1537
	(0.1540)	(0.2145)	(0.3105)	(0.2065)	(0.1681)	(1.6367)
LPI_Infrastructure	0.0984	0.0427	0.0787	0.2821**	-0.1493*	-0.1035
	(0.0687)	(0.0761)	(0.1085)	(0.1177)	(0.0907)	(0.7141)
LPI_Shipment	0.0642	-0.0828	0.1234	0.3325***	0.0691	0.2485
	(0.1472)	(0.2225)	(0.2899)	(0.0995)	(0.1500)	(3.8852)
LPI_Logistics	0.0143	-0.1518**	0.0429	0.2272*	0.0468	0.1148
	(0.1006)	(0.0679)	(0.2346)	(0.1245)	(0.2453)	(2.7153)
LPI_Timeliness	0.1367	0.2274**	0.0500	0.0661	-0.3120	0.2315
	(0.0993)	(0.0943)	(0.1061)	(0.4526)	(0.2204)	(1.3193)
Africa						
ln Merchandise imports	0.1073**	0.0692	0.0549	0.0479	-0.0567	-0.0850
	(0.0443)	(0.0463)	(0.0572)	(0.0667)	(0.0685)	(0.0601)
Growth in agriculture's share in total value added	0.5915	0.7745	-0.0186	-0.1854	1.1661*	0.0096
	(0.9162)	(38.5320)	(0.6260)	(8.1825)	(0.6105)	(0.9219)
LPI	-0.0769	0.0301	0.1190	0.1450**	0.0693	-0.1693***
	(0.0852)	(0.1081)	(0.0738)	(0.0728)	(0.0831)	(0.0617)
LPI_Logistics	-0.0970	-0.0867	0.1033	0.1492**	0.0796	-0.0201
	(0.3528)	(0.1007)	(0.1090)	(0.0666)	(0.3482)	(0.0596)
LPI_Tracking	0.0899	0.0926	0.2047**	0.0984	-0.1557	-0.3901
	(0.1135)	(0.1232)	(0.1042)	(0.2084)	(0.1756)	(0.3232)

Notes: The key independent variable is total AfT disbursements. Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Significance levels are as follows: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, and *** p<0.01. Estimates for the additional independent variables, including other outcome variables, are not shown in the table for brevity. Full results can be provided upon request. Estimations for Pacific and Latin American EIF countries were excluded due to the significantly smaller country coverage in these regions compared with Africa and Asia.

EIF aid disbursements had trade- and investment-promoting effects, albeit limited and with regional divergences. Holding all other factors constant, a doubling of EIF aid was linked to around a 20% increase (i.e., 22%-26%) in total exports for countries with generally average and above average export volumes (relative to all EIF countries; Table A4).[20] Asian countries benefitted mainly through services exports, as well as through FDI inflows and growth in total exports two-four years after aid disbursement (Table A5). On the other hand, African countries primarily benefitted through merchandise exports.

Table A4: Effects of EIF Aid Disbursements—Panel Quantile Regression with Year Fixed Effects

	Q10	Q25	Q50	Q75	Q90
Independent variable: ln EIF net disbursements					
ln Total exports	0.1479	0.1793	0.2296*	0.2601*	0.2777
	(0.3282)	(0.2356)	(0.1310)	(0.1450)	(0.1806)
Independent variable: ln EIF net disbursements (t-1)					
LPI_Infrastructure	0.2264*	0.1893**	0.1502**	0.0967	0.0529
	(0.1234)	(0.0873)	(0.0734)	(0.1102)	(0.1624)
LPI_Tracking	0.3757*	0.2965**	0.2108*	0.1337	0.0490
	(0.2117)	(0.1440)	(0.1083)	(0.1392)	(0.2119)
Independent variable: ln EIF net disbursements (t-2)					
LPI	0.0816	0.1412	0.2038**	0.2545**	0.3168*
	(0.2084)	(0.1381)	(0.0980)	(0.1192)	(0.1861)
LPI_Infrastructure	0.0794	0.1516	0.2384**	0.3469**	0.4018*
	(0.1996)	(0.1437)	(0.1176)	(0.1714)	(0.2196)
LPI_Shipment	0.3079	0.3114*	0.3150***	0.3164**	0.3186*
	(0.2785)	(0.1715)	(0.1144)	(0.1283)	(0.1794)
LPI_Logistics	0.0990	0.1542	0.2134**	0.2541**	0.3168
	(0.2296)	(0.1503)	(0.1039)	(0.1237)	(0.2045)
LPI_Tracking	0.2589	0.2578	0.2568*	0.2558	0.2552
	(0.2922)	(0.1836)	(0.1406)	(0.1932)	(0.2551)
Independent variable: ln EIF net disbursements (t-4)					
LPI	0.1669	0.1940	0.2253*	0.2644	0.2873
	(0.2365)	(0.1684)	(0.1243)	(0.1667)	(0.2227)
LPI_Shipment	0.4318	0.3864**	0.3546**	0.3263*	0.2838
	(0.3338)	(0.1918)	(0.1448)	(0.1800)	(0.3068)
LPI_Logistics	0.1374	0.1933	0.2660**	0.3678*	0.4372
	(0.2209)	(0.1631)	(0.1291)	(0.1919)	(0.2681)
LPI_Tracking	0.0615	0.1972	0.3279*	0.4566**	0.5258*
	(0.3627)	(0.2374)	(0.1774)	(0.2263)	(0.2900)
Independent variable: ln EIF net disbursements (t-5)					
Growth in value added content of exports	0.0101	0.0205	0.0352**	0.0474**	0.0578*
	(0.0304)	(0.0221)	(0.0169)	(0.0217)	(0.0300)

Notes: Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Significance levels are as follows: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, and *** p<0.01. Estimates for the additional independent variables, including other outcome variables, are not shown in the table for brevity. Full results can be provided upon request.

EIF aid was also associated with improved logistics performance, especially after accounting for lagged effects (Table A4). This positive effect was generally observed across all levels of logistics performance and across most types of performance areas, with regional differentials. Nonetheless, performance

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[20] Cross-section estimations using the average annual growth of merchandise exports as the dependent variable and total EIF disbursements as the key explanatory variable also showed consistent results.

improvement effects among the lowest performers were relatively short-term (i.e., a year after aid disbursement) and realised mainly through quality of trade and transport infrastructure and tracking and tracing consignments. For better performing countries, the effect was longer lasting, including up to four years beyond EIF aid disbursement, realised through quality of infrastructure and tracking in the early years and additionally through ease of arranging competitively priced shipments and logistics in later years. Asian economies particularly benefitted via this impact channel, with the strongest effects observed in terms of tracking and infrastructure, two years after disbursement (Table A5).

EIF aid also tended to promote growth in value added content of exports. On average, the impact was realised five years after actual aid disbursement and observed for EIF countries with average and highest performing export value addition proportions (Table A4).[21] More specifically, a doubling of EIF aid was associated with around 3-5 percentage point increase in growth of value added content of exports, on average and all else equal. Both African and Asian countries tended to benefit through this channel, albeit with a stronger effect for the latter group of economies and four-five years after disbursements occurred (Table A5).

Table A5: Effects of EIF Aid Disbursements by Region—Panel Quantile (Median) Regression with Year Fixed Effects

	ln EIF net disbursements	ln EIF net disbursements $(t-1)$	ln EIF net disbursements $(t-2)$	ln EIF net disbursements $(t-3)$	ln EIF net disbursements $(t-4)$	ln EIF net disbursements $(t-5)$
Asia						
ln Total trade	0.0322	0.0766	0.1618	0.1668	0.2348	0.3596*
	(0.0867)	(0.3870)	(0.1581)	(1.2748)	(0.1727)	(0.1975)
ln Merchandise imports	-0.0142	0.0713	0.1008	0.1527	0.1979	0.3228**
	(0.0995)	(0.5442)	(0.1051)	(0.1057)	(0.1512)	(0.1278)
ln Services exports	0.2881*	0.1128	0.4392	0.2288	0.4052	1.3500*
	(0.1669)	(1.1874)	(0.2728)	(0.2926)	(0.3113)	(0.6953)
ln Services imports	0.0484	0.0788	0.1475*	0.1225	0.1547**	0.1584
	(0.4772)	(0.1079)	(0.0851)	(4.5293)	(0.0690)	(0.5079)
ln FDI inflows	-0.0538	0.3699	0.6961*	0.2946	1.4316***	-0.7287*
	(0.8524)	(0.4096)	(0.3999)	(0.4425)	(0.3848)	(0.3947)
LPI	-0.1790	0.2887**	0.9179**	-0.0189	-0.2596	0.2972**
	(0.1641)	(0.1161)	(0.4489)	(0.0929)	(0.3528)	(0.1336)
LPI_Customs	-0.0322	0.1571	0.6791	-0.0753	-0.6099	0.5312***
	(0.2914)	(0.1341)	(0.5388)	(0.2392)	(0.9295)	(0.1192)
LPI_Infrastructure	-0.2942	0.2714	1.1396**	-0.1750	-0.2814	0.0822
	(0.6234)	(0.8933)	(0.4722)	(0.1274)	(0.8939)	(0.2434)
LPI_Shipment	-0.3302	0.3174*	1.0042	0.0379	0.2991	0.4905
	(0.2229)	(0.1776)	(2.7012)	(0.7190)	(0.4301)	(0.4426)
LPI_Logistics	-0.0532	0.1191	0.4459	0.0149	-0.4706***	0.3748***
	(0.5897)	(0.2163)	(0.7060)	(0.1477)	(0.1458)	(0.1343)
LPI_Tracking	-0.2464	0.3727*	1.5938***	-0.2232	-0.8132	-0.0390
	(0.2860)	(0.2015)	(0.5950)	(0.1601)	(0.6149)	(0.1919)
LPI_Timeliness	-0.0667	0.4181**	1.0266*	0.2247	0.1416	0.2468
	(0.2156)	(0.2093)	(0.6151)	(0.1520)	(0.3398)	(0.3455)
Growth in total exports	0.0235	-0.0578	0.1418**	0.0561	0.1054*	0.1286
	(0.0647)	(0.6373)	(0.0687)	(0.0544)	(0.0549)	(0.1355)
Growth in FDI inflows	-0.1444	0.5000	0.6590*	-0.2712	1.0796**	-1.8592
	(0.3420)	(0.3121)	(0.3711)	(0.4647)	(0.4376)	(23.2203)
Growth in value added content of exports	-0.0063	0.0002	0.0185	-0.0118	0.0563*	0.0040
	(0.0168)	(0.1212)	(0.0180)	(0.0241)	(0.0292)	(0.1358)
Total trade (% of GDP)	1.0867	2.6888	8.5851	10.9604	9.0994	27.9967***
	(7.5433)	(7.5330)	(8.6549)	(8.2583)	(9.2232)	(9.2424)
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	-0.9673	0.4324	6.2105	9.6873*	9.9733	18.6445**
	(5.8653)	(6.6116)	(8.5607)	(5.6366)	(6.1257)	(8.0361)
Services trade (% of GDP)	2.3856	2.1580	2.2786	1.0470	1.0838	9.0171***
	(2.0192)	(2.5881)	(4.9926)	(4.3953)	(1.9988)	(3.1167)

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[21] This was consistent with cross-section estimations (with value added content of exports measured in growth/change).

Africa

ln Merchandise exports	0.3316**	0.2378	0.1672	0.1596	0.0281	-0.2772
	(0.1648)	(0.1713)	(0.1832)	(0.1973)	(0.2342)	(0.2656)
Growth in value added content of exports	0.0019	0.0029	-0.0111	-0.0115	0.0058	0.0322*
	(0.0108)	(0.0113)	(0.0107)	(0.0074)	(0.0109)	(0.0172)

Notes: The key independent variable is EIF net disbursements. Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Significance levels are as follows: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, and *** p<0.01. Estimates for the additional independent variables, including other outcome variables, are not shown in the table for brevity. Full results can be provided upon request. Due to the small number of observations relative to Asia and Africa, the effects of EIF net disbursements were not estimated for Pacific and Latin American countries.

The involvement of governments as main implementing entities of EIF interventions tended to facilitate total trade, as well as total exports, especially services. Additionally, this governance structure in project implementation had positive impacts on the logistics performance of countries in non-fragile and conflict-affected situations. On a similar note, the involvement of development partner agencies in project implementation was positively—albeit not statistically significantly—associated with logistics performance, both for FCAS and non-FCAS EIF-participating countries (Table A6).

Table A6: Effects of Implementer Type—Ordinary Least Squares with Year Fixed Effects

	Pooled	FCAS	Non-FCAS
Government as MIE			
ln Total trade	0.0966**	-0.0084	0.0608
	(0.0319)	(0.0572)	-0.0424
ln Total exports	0.0857*	-0.2241	0.0399
	(0.0419)	(0.1476)	-0.039
ln Services exports	0.2297*	-0.1715	0.2443
	(0.1167)	(0.2742)	-0.1444
LPI	-0.0384	-0.0773	0.0220*
	(0.0492)	(0.0815)	-0.0092
Agency as MIE			
LPI	0.0673	0.0773	0.0262
	(0.0581)	(0.0815)	(0.0553)
LPI_Customs	0.0953	0.0583	0.0822
	(0.0583)	(0.0614)	(0.0597)
LPI_Infrastructure	0.0490	0.0885	0.0315
	(0.0770)	(0.0933)	(0.0599)
LPI_Logistics	0.0601	0.1101	0.0046
	(0.0388)	(0.1160)	(0.0345)
LPI_Shipment	0.0324	0.0595	0.0376
	(0.0410)	(0.0627)	(0.0852)
LPI_Timeliness	0.0277	0.0825	-0.0524
	(0.0951)	(0.0869)	(0.0773)
LPI_Tracking	0.1444	0.0694	0.0516
	(0.1004)	(0.0731)	(0.0862)

Notes: The key independent variable is a dummy variable equal to 1 if a project has the government/partner agency as the main implementing entity. Regressions were implemented using a project-level dataset. Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Significance levels are as follows: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, and *** p<0.01. Estimates for the additional independent variables, including other outcome variables, are not shown in the table for brevity. Full results can be provided upon request.

Finally, we also performed robustness checks using OLS with year fixed effects to check the sensitivity of quantile regression results. Table A7 shows the results of select outcome variables and the key independent variable, EIF disbursements. Test statistics for the fitness and overall significance of the models are also shown for reference.

Overall, OLS and quantile regression generated similar estimates. In particular, the significant and positive effect of EIF disbursements held true for total exports of EIF countries, services exports of Asian recipient economies, and goods exports of African recipient economies. The overall regression statistics also showed that the models were well-specified and valid.

Table A7: Robustness Checks

Outcome variables	Coefficient estimates of EIF net disbursements	F statistic	Overall R-squared
Total exports	0.2212** (0.0843)	22812.37 (0.0000)	0.7998
Services exports (Asian EIF-recipient countries)	0.2904** (0.1116)	5510.98 (0.0000)	0.6750
Merchandise exports (African EIF-recipient countries)	0.3497* (0.1922)	1442.94 (0.0000)	0.8286

Notes: Robust standard errors of the coefficient estimates and p-values of the F statistic are reported in parentheses. Significance levels are as follows: * $p<0.1$, ** $p<0.05$, and *** $p<0.01$. Estimates for the additional independent variables are not shown in the table for brevity.