

## Trade Data for Low Income Countries

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<b>Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)</b>	
<b>Total Budget:</b>	4.15
<b>DGF Funding Request:</b>	0.60
<b>DGF Percentage:</b>	15%
<b>Objectives and Expected Outcomes</b>	
<p>This project aims to improve the quality and availability of global trade and investment information and indicators for decision makers and researchers in developing countries. It will also favor continuous monitoring and evaluation of trade and investment policies, including in the context of the ongoing dialogue between development organizations and their clients. Its main expected outcomes are as follows:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Better Quality Data:</b> Generating annual data for low-income countries on tariffs and major non-tariff measures;</li> <li>(ii) <b>Integration of Software Platforms:</b> Unifying the three ITC trade and investment analysis tools and developing a single user interface;</li> <li>(iii) <b>Improved Access:</b> Providing free access to developing countries and research institutions; and</li> <li>(iv) <b>Sustainability:</b> Ensuring a sustainable transition to a free access business model for developing countries.</li> </ul>	
<b>Main Components</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Free Data Access for Developing Countries:</b> Making the International Trade Centre's market analysis indicators available as a public good to developing country users and non-profit research institutes. This step was implemented via an IP filter system on 1/14/2008;</li> <li>(ii) <b>Upgrading Data:</b> Improving the collection, coverage, quality and dissemination of indicators on trade, market access barriers and FDI; and</li> <li>(iii) <b>Improving Usability:</b> Unifying and improving ITC's market analysis tools, to facilitate access and analysis by developing country users.</li> </ul>	
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Availability of reliable and up-to-date primary indicators on trade, market access and FDI. In particular, trade policy indicators for all low income countries;</li> <li>(ii) Full integration of ITC's trade and market access data into the Bank's WITS system; and</li> <li>(iii) Use of trade, market access and FDI data by developing country users, as measured by the number of registered users of the ITC on-line interfaces/databases</li> <li>(iv) Active pursuit – in cooperation with the World Bank – of efforts to obtain agreement from major donor countries to employ future “aid for trade” funding to expand the regular budget of the ITC to cover the operating costs of sustaining free access to its data.</li> </ul>	
<b>Progress and Achievements</b>	
Progress will be measured directly against the above indicators, each of which is observable and verifiable. Intermediate	

milestones to facilitate assessment of achievements and effectiveness include:

- (i) Data availability: TradeMap now has data for 229 countries and territories. MarketAccessMap has 2007 tariff data for 145 countries and 2008 data for 52 countries.
- (ii) Usage: 1000 new users of ITC's databases and the WITS software system (which incorporates the trade and trade policy data that is collected by the ITC) by end of FY09. Performance has in fact exceeded expectations in this regard, with 8,133 new users of the ITC's databases registered between January and April 2008 (7,587 from developing countries or LDCs). Usage for 2008Q1 was 26% higher than for 2007Q1; and
- (iii) Incorporation of improved data into the annual Global Monitoring Report, and the Overall Trade Restrictiveness Index (OTRI) produced by the Bank.

An independent evaluation will be conducted in FY09.

### Partners

International Trade Center, World Trade Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Statistics Division, national customs administrations in low income countries, national statistics agencies in low income countries, trade support organizations and other civil society representatives in low income countries.

### Governance and Management

The program is managed by ITC in close coordination with strategic partners. ITC selects, manages, delivers, and monitors program activities. As part of the Project, ITC has established an Advisory Council to provide guidance on all major issues. The Advisory Council comprises internationally acknowledged experts from WTO and UNCTAD, the World Bank, UNSD, several representatives of partner country Trade Support Organizations, and academia. Following an initial meeting in February 2008, it will now meet once a year. It has overall responsibility for ex post assessment of program delivery, as well as identification of priorities for the future work program. Developing country stakeholders are important "owners" of the project, involved at a number of key points:

- (i) First, national customs and statistics agencies will be vital partners in data collection,
- (ii) Second, Trade Ministries and WTO Missions are potential users of the systems, and
- (iii) Third, governments and civil society organizations play a major role in dissemination activities.

At all points, these stakeholders will be fully integrated into the operations process, and will act as a conduit for demand-driven activities. The management of the project has regular input and feedback from partner organizations in developing countries.

### Exit Strategy

The program will exit from the DGF after receiving FY10 Funding. An independent evaluation will be conducted in 2010.