Strengthening services trade policy-making for Africa’s integration into regional value chains in support of the 2030 Agenda
**Project title**  
Strengthening services trade policy-making for Africa’s integration into regional value chains in support of the 2030 Agenda

**Countries and sectors of focus**  
Transport services in Ethiopia and Kenya; Tourism services in Mali and The Gambia; Financial services in Nigeria and Togo.

**Project website**  
https://knowledge.uneca.org/stp/  
**Project Duration** 2019 - 2021

**Implementing partners**  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

**Project goal**  
Strengthen the capacities of national and regional policymakers and stakeholders to measure and analyze value chains and design services policies aimed at enabling higher integration into global and regional value chains.

**Recent project highlights**

**Train-the-trainer seminar on measuring the contribution of services to regional value chains**  
*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 29 - 31 January 2019*

UNCTAD and the UNECA jointly held a train-the-trainer seminar to discuss and validate a methodology, using both quantitative and qualitative tools, to measure the contribution of services to regional value chains. The analytical tools were adapted to the context of the beneficiary countries. Participants included national focal points from all beneficiary countries, including representatives from relevant trade ministries, national statistical officers, consultants, and staff from UNCTAD and the UNECA.

![Stakeholders gathered at the Train-the-trainer seminar in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss methodologies for measuring the contribution of services to regional value chains.](image)

**National capacity building workshops on measuring the contribution of services to regional value chains**  
*Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, The Gambia, and Togo*

Following the regional Train-the-trainer seminar held in Addis Ababa, UNCTAD and UNECA jointly supported the six project beneficiary countries to organize national seminars. These workshops were led by the trainees that attended the Addis Ababa Seminar, with the support and oversight of UNCTAD and UNECA staff.

In *Kenya and Ethiopia*, the seminars were organized respectively on 14-15 May and 12-13 June 2019. The seminars also included participants from both the public and private sectors, who discussed the constraints to transport services at national and regional levels, and the ways to exploit their full potential.

In *The Gambia and Mali*, the seminars took place, respectively, on 22-23 May and 29-30 July 2019. The relevant methodological approaches available to measure and assess the contributions of tourism services to economic performance and value chains integration were discussed at the events. In *Nigeria and Togo*, the seminars were held on 23-24 May and 12-13 June 2019, respectively, and discussed the organization of financial services value chains at national and regional levels, as well as the tools available to assess their contributions to regional value chains.
These seminars contributed to build capacities of both the private and public sector to understand the concepts, available tools and data requirements to measure contribution of services to regional value chains. The seminars also offered platforms for debating key constraints that impede countries’ capacity to fully unlock the potential of their services sectors, including within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In his opening remarks at the national seminar held in Togo, Mr. B. Magolemiена Mabana, Secretary General at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, noted that, “data gaps remain a key challenge for African countries to fully assess the contribution of services to regional value chains”. He then acknowledged the value added of this project in supporting the beneficiary countries address these gaps.

Services value chain analysis  
*Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, The Gambia, and Togo*

By the first quarter of 2020, UNCTAD and the UNECA provided support to national consultants and stakeholders in each of the project countries to undertake value chains studies in selected services sub-sectors.

In Ethiopia, the analysis revolved around transport services, focusing in particular on their role in the coffee and floriculture value chains. In Kenya, the analysis assessed the role of transport services within the tea value chain, which is heavily export oriented, and, therefore, has a strong regional and global value chains component. In The Gambia and Mali, the analyses focused on the tourism sector, evaluating the exchange of services across national borders, either with regional or global partners. In Nigeria and Togo, the contributions of financial services to national and regional value chains were analyzed. Advanced drafts of these reports will be showcased in the upcoming Multi-stakeholder meeting in the second half of 2020.

Next steps

Some of the project activities are being delayed or revisited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent travel restrictions and regulations. Notwithstanding these limitations, there are contingency plans in place to continue the project’s implementation throughout 2020. In the coming months, the UNCTAD and UNECA project teams will undertake the following activities:

- By September 2020, prepare a COVID-19 impact and response study, with a focus on the target services sectors in the project beneficiary countries.
- During the second half of 2020, organize a Multi-stakeholder seminar to share experiences and lessons learnt in the project countries, as well as identify emerging best practices in quantifying the contribution of targeted services sectors to national and regional value chains, in support of services trade policy making.
- Provide advisory services to support the project countries in harnessing services trade opportunities, while at the same time devising policy responses to mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on services sector.
**Contact us**

For more information about the project, please visit [https://knowledge.uneca.org/stp/](https://knowledge.uneca.org/stp/) or contact the project team directly:

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