

SME COMPETITIVENESS AND AID FOR TRADE

CONNECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRY SMEs
TO GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS



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This joint International Trade Centre - World Trade Organization study discusses the constraints that small and medium-sized enterprises face when engaging in international trade, and reviews how Aid for Trade is addressing these obstacles. Analyses the obstacles highlighted in the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies for 23 least developed countries and highlights three key bottlenecks for SMEs: quality of the business environment, access to finance, and lack of institutional support to identify and take advantage of market opportunities abroad. Highlights relevant Aid for Trade initiatives within the wider context of SME-specific development finance. Includes bibliographical references (pp. 36-40).

Descriptors: SMEs, Competitiveness, Aid for Trade, Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries, Global Value Chains.

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Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
AfDB	African Development Bank
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BIO	Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries
BSP	Bank South Pacific
BSTDB	Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
CAF	Andean Investment Corporation
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CASEIF	Central American Small Enterprise Investment Fund
CBI	Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries
CDC Group	British Development Finance Institution
COFIDES	Spanish Development Finance Institution
CONTAG	Portuguese National Confederation of Agricultural Workers
CPCCAF	Conférence Permanente des Chambres Consulaires Africaines et Francophones
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CTAP	Certified Trade Advisers Programme (ITC)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DEG	German Development Finance Institution
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EU	European Union
FinnFund	Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation
FMO	Entrepreneurial Development Bank of the Netherlands
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

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