INVISIBLE BARRIERS TO TRADE

United Republic of Tanzania: Business perspectives









In collaboration with







United Republic of Tanzania: Invisible barriers to trade

Business perspectives

About the paper

More than a third of Tanzanian companies have fully or partially resolved trade obstacles in the last six years. Government-led initiatives and regulatory reforms have helped ease exporters' difficulties.

This second ITC survey in the United Republic of Tanzania also finds that 72% of exporters – especially those exporting agricultural commodities – still struggle to comply with domestic and foreign trade-related regulations and procedures. These measures undermine exporters' competitiveness and ability to access international markets.

The report suggests that establishing a single window to meet export-related requirements and improving international recognition of conformity assessments are vital to develop Tanzanian exports.

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For more information on NTM surveys, see www.ntmsurvey.org

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Foreword

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals explicitly recognize international trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction, and contributing to the promotion of sustainable development.

For the United Republic of Tanzania, international trade can also be a key driver of economic growth. The country has the potential to increase its exports by \$2 billion in 2024, according to the International Trade Centre (ITC). However, \$688 million of this untapped potential are in jeopardy due to market frictions such and related non-tariff measures (NTMs). This is particularly true for small companies aiming to reach international markets. Clearly, better understanding of these trade constraints is crucial to develop appropriate trade policies.

Under the auspices of the European Union–East African Community Market Access Upgrade Programme, ITC is pleased to have worked with national authorities in the United Republic of Tanzania on this exercise to assess the country's trade barriers. This report relies on a large-scale business survey of Tanzanian exporters and importers. It identifies the most challenging non-tariff measures that these firms face. It gives policymakers evidence-based guidelines to tackle trade obstacles, reduce costs and boost competitiveness.

This is the first time ITC has implemented the NTM Business Survey twice in the same country. For us, it represents a unique opportunity to assess how business experiences have evolved over time and to document reforms the Government has made to facilitate trade.

I am pleased to see the various regulatory improvements initiated by the Government through its Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms. I am also glad that these reforms incorporate some of the recommendations ITC provided after the first NTM Business Survey in 2014. It is very encouraging that the business community positively perceives these efforts – particularly those in the domain of e-procedures.

Tanzanian authorities have a major role to play to support local traders. Survey results reveal that more than 70% of exporters in the United Republic of Tanzania still face difficulties with restrictive regulations or related trade obstacles. Non-tariff measures especially affect agricultural exporters.

We believe market access begins at home. As such, ITC stands ready to assist the Tanzanian Government to prioritize trade facilitation and sector value chain development to help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises achieve export success.

ITC remains committed to helping Tanzanian small businesses participate fully in regional and international value chains with products and services that meet market requirements.

I hope this report will help forge a roadmap that leads to more inclusive and competitive trade policy.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton

Executive Director
International Trade Centre

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