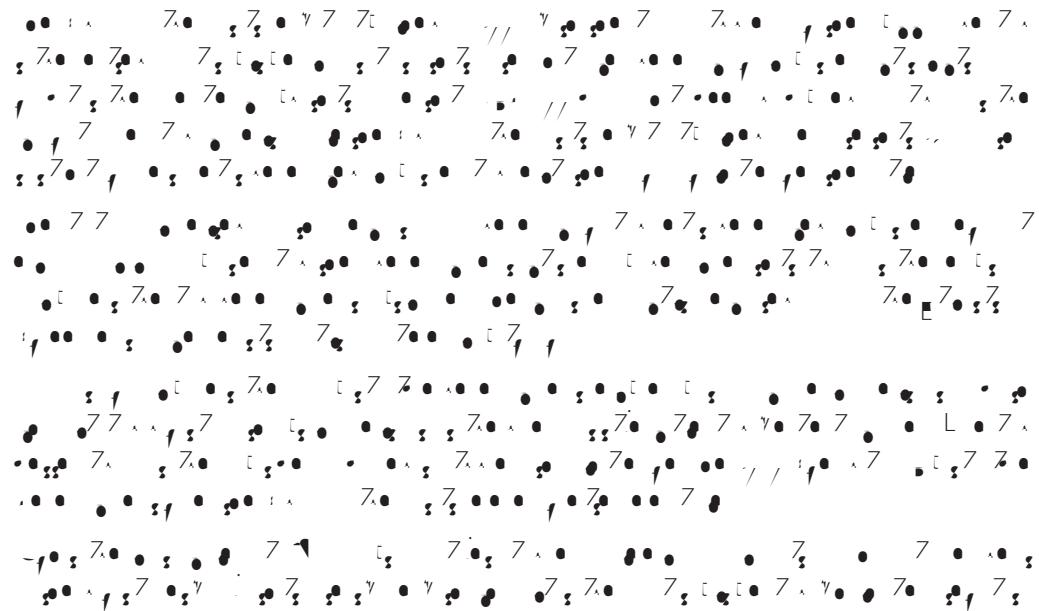


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Aid for Trade at a Glance: Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development

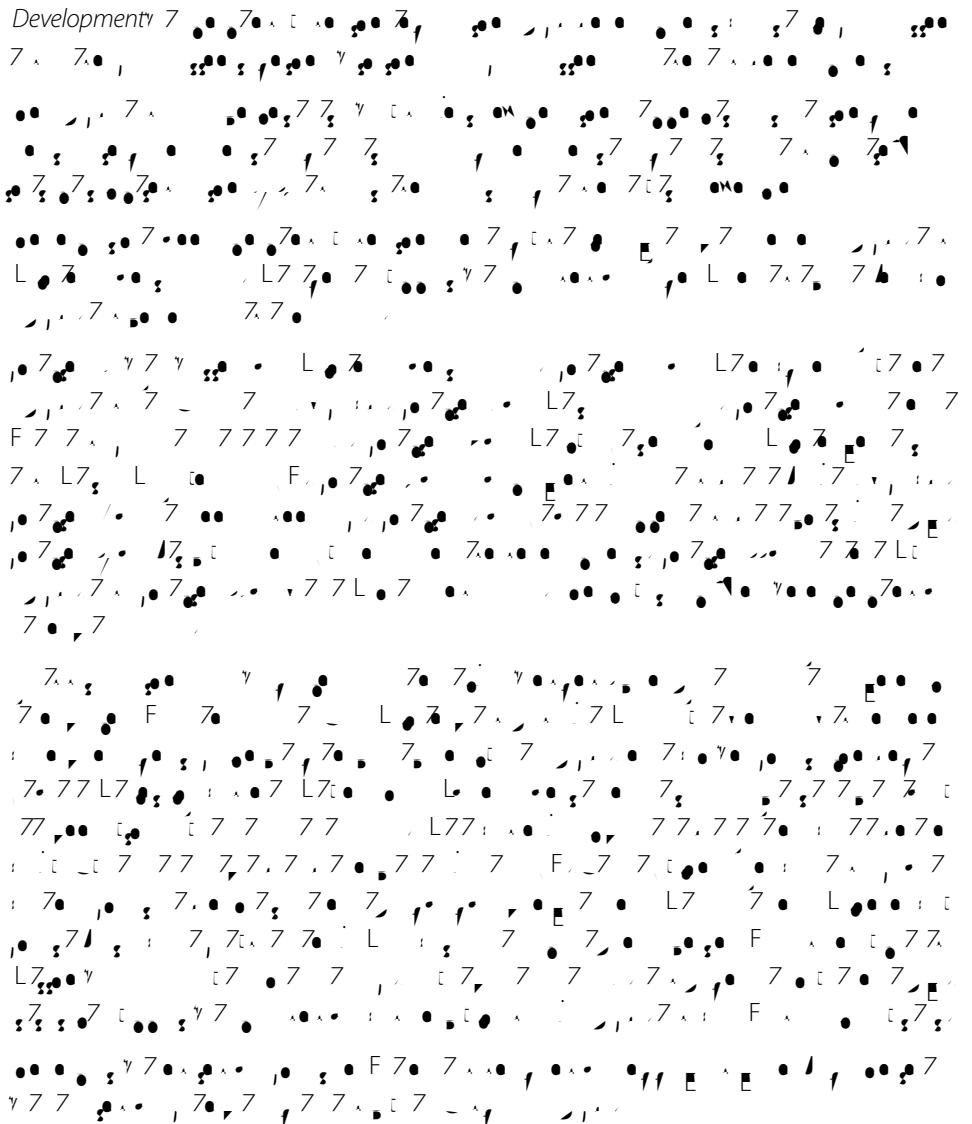


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

2G	Second generation (of wireless mobile telecommunications technology)	COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
3G	Third generation (of wireless mobile telecommunications technology)	Congo DPR	Democratic Republic of the Congo
4G	Fourth generation (of wireless mobile telecommunications technology)	CRS	Creditor Reporting System
A4AI	Alliance for Affordable Internet	DAC	Development Assistance Committee
AAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	DFID	UK Department for International Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank	DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ADSL	Asymmetric digital subscriber line	DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
AFD	French Development Agency	DTISU	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update
AfDB	African Development Bank	EABN	East Africa Broadband Network
AfT	Aid for trade	EASSy	Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System
AIFT	EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund	EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
APPEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	EC	European Commission
APTTA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit-Trade Agreement	ECOWAS	Economic Community
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations		
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data		
B2B	Business-to-business		
B2C	Business-to-consumer		
B2G	Business-to-government		
BIGAN	Burundi Internet General Applications Network		
BOP	Balance-of-payments		
BPM	Business process management		
BPO	Business process outsourcing		
C2C	Consumer-to-consumer		
CAB	Central African Backbone		
CAR	Central African Republic		
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation		
CARICOM	Caribbean Community		
CBI	Centre for the Promotion of Imports, the Netherlands		
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport Agreement		
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States		

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

GNI	Gross national income	LDCs	Least developed countries
GPI	Gender Parity Index	LICs	Low income countries
GSMA	GSM Association	LIMCs	Lower middle income countries
GSR	Global symposiums for regulators	LLDCs	Landlocked developing countries
G2C	Government-to-citizen	LPI	Logistics Performance Index
GVC	Global value chain	LTE	Long-term evolution
HICs	Higher income countries	Mbit/s	Megabit per second
HTS	High-throughput satellites	MICs	Middle income countries
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank	MOOCs	Massive open online courses
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	mPOS	Mobile point-of-sale
IDA	International Development Association	MSMEs	Micro, small and medium enterprises
IDI	ICT Development Index	NCTTCA	Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority
IDS	Institute of Development Studies	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund	NGSO	Non-geostationary satellite orbit
IMT	international mobile telecommunication system	OCTA	Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union
IoT	Internet of Things	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change	OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
IPR	Intellectual property rights	OLICs	Other low income countries
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education	OOF	Other official flows
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	OPHDI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
IT	Information technology	OSBP	One-stop border post
ITA	Information Technology Agreement	PIAAC	Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies
ITC	International Trade Centre	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
ITF	International Transport Forum	PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
ITFC	International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation	PPI	Private participation in infrastructure
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	PPIAF	Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility
IXP	Internet exchange points	PTD	Post and Telecommunications Department
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency	PPP	Purchasing power parity
Kbit/s	Kilobit per second	PPPs	Public-private partnerships
KFAED	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	PPPUSD	Purchasing power parity dollars
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry	PMR	Product market regulation
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean	QoS	Quality of service
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic		

RECs	Regional economic communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SATA	South Africa Telecommunications Association
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small island developing states
SIECA	Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
SSL	Secure sockets layer
ST-EP	Sustainable tourism-eliminating poverty
STRI	Services Trade Restrictiveness Index
TBT	Technical barriers to trade
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TFP	Total factor productivity
TIP	Telecom Infra Project
TiVA	Trade in value added
TMEA	TradeMark East Africa
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UMICs	Upper-middle income countries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the sixth edition of the

Border clearance delays and inadequate physical infrastructure also obstruct e-commerce. At the border, the digitalisation of customs and border agencies can support efficient customs services. Behind the border, the provision of efficient trade logistics still matters and is arguably even more important in an increasingly digital world. A priority for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) that emerges from the report is the need for action to streamline customs procedures for these firms. The coming into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) will arguably address many of these concerns.

The TFA is a powerful tool to reduce trade costs. Trade facilitation tops the aid-for-trade priorities of both developing countries and their development partners, albeit in a broader conception that also includes physical connectivity, such as transport corridors, and digital connectivity too. There is also growing evidence of the positive impact of aid for trade in tackling border bottlenecks and contributing to inclusive trade outcomes.

The role of services trade in promoting connectivity is growing. Services provide the basic infrastructure to support trade in goods, facilitate supply chains, provide significant value added to manufacturing activities, and form the backbone infrastructure that enables e-commerce and the growing online supply of services. Services trade policies can enhance (or hinder) connectivity and thus access to the benefits of integration into the international trading system.

Governments together with other stakeholders have a central role in developing e-commerce strategies not only around ICT infrastructure, but also including trade logistics, e-commerce skills, legal frameworks, payment solutions and access to financing. Access to a digital connection is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition to engage in e-commerce. Actions by developing country governments to boost connectivity needs to be complemented by action in these areas if they are to make the most of e-trade opportunities for generating economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction.

Digital connectivity promises productivity gains across all areas of the economy, including traditional sectors like agriculture. Developing countries and the least developed can use e-trade as a productivity lever and device for trade connectivity. Digital connectivity helps connecting MSMEs and women-owned enterprises to customers and suppliers around the world. A significant connectivity gap exists between large and small firms, notably in low income countries and LDCs. The Internet may reinforce existing inequalities of access, such as those between women and men, rural and urban, and large firms and small firms. Policy makers should scale up access and training programmes to tackle this risk.

The publication sheds light on various examples of how the private sector is helping MSMEs, women, and rural populations to connect to the global economy. The private sector is vital to bridging the digital divide and more should be done to solicit their views on policy choices and public investment, and promote public-private collaboration for boosting connectivity. Moving ahead, both developing countries and their development partners expect a scaling up of digital connectivity and e-commerce programmes.

Findings show that the better the physical and digital connectivity, the more it contributes to market access, financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment and poverty reduction. These impacts get amplified when the public and private sector work together to build the institutional and physical capacity to help the poor connect and compete.

The experience of some LDCs demonstrates that investing in efforts to improve ICT brings benefits for trade and economic development. When LDC governments together with key stakeholders including the private sector, and international donors work together to focus development finance on trade inclusiveness for sustainable development inclusion, much can be achieved.