



Context

The Hub & Spokes programme is an innovative Aid for Trade initiative that helps to strengthen trade capacity in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states.

It is a joint programme of the European Union, the ACP Group Secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

Under the programme, trade advisers – the ‘spokes’ – strengthen the capacity of government ministries and regional organisations, while regional trade advisers – the ‘hubs’ – provide similar technical assistance to key regional and national organisations.

The initiative helps participating countries to develop and implement trade policies and agreements that both reflect national priorities and are effective in a global trading system.

The first phase of the Hub and Spokes programme operated from 2004–2012. During this period, 60 experts were deployed by the Commonwealth and 26 experts were deployed by the OIF across the ACP regions.

The budget for the first phase was €29 million, of which €21.4 million was funded by the EU, €5 million was provided by the Commonwealth and €2.6 million was financed by the OIF.

Key results of the assistance provided during Phase I included:

- More than 34,000 stakeholders, drawn from parliaments, academic and civil society organisations and business associations were trained and sensitised on trade policy issues;





- Significant contributions were made to the drafting of National trade policies in Botswana, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Federated States of Micronesia, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago;
- Joint trade policy reviews were prepared and presented to the World Trade Organisation by countries including Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic;
- A large volume of negotiating briefs, issues papers, position papers, and other working documents were prepared for participating countries over the eight year period; and
- Valuable contributions were made to the implementation of trade agreements and national efforts to reform regulatory regimes, such as the administration of intellectual property rights.

Objective of Hub & Spokes II

Following the success of the first phase of this major joint initiative, the Hub & Spokes II programme was launched in July 2012. Its overall objective is to contribute to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in ACP countries through closer regional integration and increased participation in international trade.

To contribute to this objective, the focus of Phase II is to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders in the public and private sectors in ACP countries – such as ministries, businesses, academic institutions and civil society organisations – to contribute to the formulation, negotiation and implementation of trade policies and agreements.





Beneficiaries

More than 70 developing countries in the ACP group are eligible for assistance from the Hub & Spokes programme.

How it works

The placement of highly experienced trade advisers at regional and national levels remains the backbone of the trade capacity development assistance offered by the programme.

Advisers support trade capacity development in priority Areas identified through regional needs assessments.

The network of advisers across the ACP regions comprises 11 regional trade advisers based at key regional organisations in the ACP regions, and 36 advisers operating in key regional organisations and within national ministries responsible for trade.

The Commonwealth is implementing the programme in eastern and southern Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions and is managing a network of 7 hubs and 22 spokes.

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie is implementing the programme in central and west Africa and is managing a network of 4 regional trade and 14 national advisers.





Partnerships

The main donor for Hub & Spokes II programme is the European Union.

With the support of the ACP Group Secretariat, €12 million was secured from the European Union's 10th European Development Fund for Hub & Spokes II. The Commonwealth and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie are co-donors and executing agencies, contributing €2.5 million and €1.2 million, respectively. The ACP Group Secretariat is the global partner.

Assistance to the ACP regions is being provided in partnership with key regional organisations and national ministries of trade in beneficiary countries, and in collaboration with other development organisations working on aid for trade.

Expected results – Phase II

- Key public, private and civil society sector stakeholders are trained on trade policy issues;
- Effective trade policies are developed and relevant international trade agreements are successfully negotiated and implemented;
- National and regional trade consultative networks are established and strengthened;
- Collaboration with donor partners is strengthened to maximise benefits of aid for trade opportunities; and
- Intra-ACP communications on trade development are promoted.

