Promoting growth, resilience and capacity

International Trade Centre projects in Least Developed Countries

ITC has a rich experience working in LDCs across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Haiti. For nearly 60 years, we have supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from LDCs through trade-related technical assistance. In 2022, 40% of ITC's delivery was allocated to 43 LDCs. Thanks to our partners, ITC has supported LDCs in building productive capacities and fully integrating regional and international markets. Find a full list of active projects on the back.

For more information on how ITC will continue to support LDCs, download our brochure *ITC Contribution to the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries: Intervention Plan* from our website https://intracen.org or scan the QR code.

International Trade Centre

ITC in LDCs: A Snapshot

This infographics charts examples of recent ITC actions and programmes. Most stories are from between 2020 and 2022.

Find full stories in our brochure *ITC Contribution to the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries: Intervention Plan*.

The Gambia

Blazing trails in the Gambia

Tekki Fii – which means 'Make It Here' in Wolof – is a movement by Gambians, for Gambians, to equip young people with job-ready skills and entrepreneurship opportunities in a variety of sectors, ranging from the arts and agribusiness to tech and tourism and more. The goal is to empower young people to earn higher, stable incomes and create quality jobs for others.

Guinea

Urban logistics benefit small businesses during COVID-19

Closing down was not an option for Aoudi Food. The company switched to new ways of reaching out to its local customers. With support from INTEGRA-ITC, an ITC-led programme for the development of technical and professional skills, it upgraded its existing website to sell on-line, which put the business back on track.

Haiti

The women weavers of Labiche

Hat-making is a traditional craft in Haiti, where women in different rural areas are specialized in unique weaving styles. The Labiche community women weaver artisans produce hats, which are finished by artisans from the Port-au-Prince production hub, DOT. After receiving several trainings, the artisans can produce hats up to international market standards.

Liberia

ITC and MICAT organise first marketing and branding workshop on Liberia tourism

A number of interventions are being implemented under the project, including establishing an inventory of tourism resources in Liberia, developing a tourism information booth and tourist reception facilities at Robertsport, Providence Island and Marshall Island as well as building tourism governance capacities.

Rwanda

Tracing Rwandan coffee digitally for inclusive trade

To help small businesses in addressing traceability, we started a new pilot at ITC: digitizing the traceability records of close to 1,000 women coffee growers in Rwanda. Offering traceability records in a digital format is essential for farmers and processors. It helps them improve their visibility to buyers as well as the sales value of their coffee.

Tanzania

Building a new market provides economic opportunities for women and youth in the host community of Kigoma

ITC, together with 16 other UN agencies, is helping marginalized groups in this community, who have experienced an influx of refugees, build sustainable livelihoods in the agricultural sector. The project also indirectly benefits refugees in the region. Beneficiaries include women and young refugees as well as host community members.

Madagascar

Broadening the horizon for a family-owned textile business

INDEX OI is a family textile company founded in 2000 which employs 120 people and operates three production lines. It joined ITC's UKTP programme in 2019 and is working towards moving from sub-contracting to co-contracting.

Nepal

In the heartland of Nepali pashmina

ITC began the groundwork for the EU-Nepal Trade and Investment Programme (TIP) in 2019. The following three programmes are part of the initiative targeting the Chyangra Zone: a zone operation orientation workshop, a breeding and production increment programme and a meat processing programme.

Bhutan

Pioneering access to market information

In addition to new e-platforms, ITC provided advisory support on e-commerce, trade policy, investment promotion, business advocacy and business growth after COVID-19. It developed investment profiles for mineral processing, food processing, construction and non-alcoholic beverages to encourage investments in Bhutan. Furthermore, ITC provided targeted support to small-scale farmers, artisans and exporters.

Bangladesh

Local artisans shift gears in the midst of a pandemic

Tarango (fair-trade enterprise that specializes in jute products) initiated a host of measures to help cushion its employees and community from the fallout of COVID-19. It set up a safe home that could host up to 45 women and 25 children, developed COVID-19 awareness campaign for its staff members, and delivered food packages to women weavers and vulnerable families and masks and hand soaps to 120 families of the Mirpur community.

Myanmar

Staying ready to receive tourists post COVID-19

In Southern Shan State, 80% of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism ecosystem rely on Internet and online platforms for advertising their services to customers. Therefore, social media was chosen for sharing latest information and recommendations. A Facebook post now goes out regularly with practical tips.

Uganda

Ugandan food hub connecting farmers to consumers speeds up, boosting business and local production

Minute5, a Uganda-based e-commerce platform offering a fresh food delivery service sourced directly from local farms and markets, has moved to the AWS (Amazon Web Services) cloud computing platform. The company introduced a successful full mobile functionality with contactless delivery and cashless payment model.

LIST OF ACTIVE PROJECTS BY COUNTRY

Afghanistan
Advancing trade (Phase II)
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness

Bangladesh
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
SheTrades Commonwealth +

Benin
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
Stratégie Nationale d'Exportation - Élaboration et gestion mise en oeuvre
Création d'activités génératrices de revenu alternatives pour les communautés vivant autour du complexe w-arly-penjari
ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II)
Building Resilient Trade Competitiveness by Fast Tracking the Digital Technology Sector (NTF V)

Bhutan
Implementing support for Brand Bhutan among MSMEs
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2 projects)
ASEAN Regional Integration Support (Laos-ARISE Plus)
Systematic Mechanism for Safer Trade (SYMST)

Burkina Faso
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
Création d'activités génératrices de revenu alternatives pour les communautés vivant autour du complexe w-arly-penjari
ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs

Burundi
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP
EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP
Central African Republic (1 project)
Programme d'appui à la promotion de l'entreprenariat en milieu urbain et rural (PAPEUR)

Chad
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT

Comoros
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Improving public-private dialogue and quality management systems to benefit from Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU
Comoros: UK Trade Partnerships Programme
Trade Intelligence: UK Trade Partnerships Programme
Democratic Republic of the Congo (3 projects)
ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs
COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across the Borders

Ethiopia
COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across the Borders
Building Alliances for Action in Coffee from seed to cup (NTF V)
Building Resilient Trade Competitiveness by Fast Tracking the Digital Technology Sector (NTF V)
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)
Alliance for Product Quality in Africa
Africa Fashion and Textile Network (Africa FAN)

The Gambia
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
Addressing the drivers and causes of vulnerability in migration among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor
COVID-19 recovery through digitalisation and market access for women horticulture producers
Improving skills and employment opportunities for youth and women
Jobs, Skills and Finance (JSF) for Women and Youth
Localizing SDGs - Improving the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth around the Senegambia Bridge
Youth empowerment project (YEP)

Guinea
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
Improving sustainable livelihoods for border communities
Relance de la filière ananas (REFILA)
Programme d'appui à l'integration socio-economique des jeunes (INTEGRA)
SheTrades West Africa

Guinea-Bissau
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)

Kiribati
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness

Liberia
ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II)
SheTrades West Africa
Conducive policy and regulatory environment: Trade negotiations and policy reform

Madagascar
Trade Intelligence: UK Trade Partnerships Programme
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)
UK Trade Partnerships Programme

Malawi
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II)
COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across the Borders
SheTrades: Empowering women and boosting livelihoods through agricultural trade: Leveraging the AfCFTA

Mali
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
Building Resilient Trade Competitiveness by Fast Tracking the Digital Technology Sector (NTF V)
Culture project: Identity Building and Sharing Business Initiative

Mauritania
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)

Mozambique
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)

Myanmar
Trade-Related Technical Assistance (ARISE+ Myanmar)
Upgrading horticulture supply and sustainable tourism to develop business linkages

Nepal
Nepal Trade-Related Assistance

Niger
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II

Rwanda
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II)
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs
EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)
Alliance for Product Quality in Africa

Senegal
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs
Africa Fashion and Textile Network (Africa FAN)
Alliances for Value Addition in Cashew Nut (NTF V)
Building Resilient Trade Competitiveness by Fast Tracking the Digital Technology Sector (NTF V)
Programme d'appui à la Compétitivité de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (PACAO)
SheTrades: Accelerator Programme for women entrepreneurs in the Apparel, Accessories and Home Décor sector

Sierra Leone
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
AfCTA Export Training Programme for African SMEs
SheTrades West Africa
West Africa Competitiveness Programme

Solomon Islands
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness

Somalia
Refugee Employment and Skills Initiative: Building Solutions for Somali Refugees in a Fragile Protracted Displacement Scenario (RESI Dadaab II)

South Sudan
Jobs Creation and Trade Development
National Export and Investment Strategy (AfCFTA)

Togo
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP)
SheTrades: Empowering Women in the AfCFTA (Phase II)

Tuvalu
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness

Uganda
Trade and market intelligence for ICDT
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
Building Resilient Trade Competitiveness by Fast Tracking the Digital Technology Sector (NTF V)
EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)
Culture project: Identity Building and Sharing Business Initiative
Strengthening Agribusiness Resilience and Competitiveness (STAR)
Youth Startup Academy in Africa

United Republic of Tanzania
Enhanced transparency and simplified trade formalities for business competitiveness
EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme - MARKUP
COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across the Borders
Developing the Beekeeping Value Chain
Kigoma Joint Programme under UNDAP II

Zambia
ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances
COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across the Borders
Partnership for enhancing export capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC)
SheTrades Zambia: Increasing the participation of women in trade