WTO OMC



PAGE 5: ABOUT YOU

Q1: Country or customs territory	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
Q2: About you	
Name	Nik Sekhran
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Ministry or Organization	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Email Address	nik.sekhran@undp.org
PAGE 7: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES	
PAGE 7: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES Q3: Do you have an Aid-for-Trade Strategy?	No
	No

PAGE 9: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q5: Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories.If yes, please rank the top 5 priorities areas among the items listed.(1 being the most important)

Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation	2
International competitiveness	5
Export diversification	4
Connecting to value chains	1
Regional integration	3
Additional information : please specify further the priorities that you selected above as well as the main	On August 2013, UNDP Executive Board adopted a new Strategic Plan (SP) to guide

problems/obstacles encountered in furthering them and provide a weblink to the relevant strategy.

action by UNDP over the period 2014-2017. The SP's overarching vision is to position UNDP to help countries to achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP proposes to articulate its contribution around seven outcomes. UNDP's Aid for Trade support more closely falls under the following three outcomes: a) Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded; b) Faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment; and c) Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles. In addition, UNDP's Global Programme 2014-2017 provides the framework for articulating UNDP's policy advice and programme support services across the organization, including by supporting efforts within UNDP to enhance development effectiveness by raising programming quality. Among the five priority areas defined by the Global Programme, the following are linked to support by UNDP on Aid for Trade: i) Post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals; ii) inclusive and sustainable development pathways: iii) inclusive and effective governance; and v) gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2016 UNDP revised its policy on Private Sector and Foundations. The policy defines UNDP's engagement with these actors aimed at enabling them to become transformative partners in implementing the SDGs. The policy outlines four work areas: i) an enabling environment is created for sustainable and inclusive business and philanthropy; ii) the strategies and actions of the private sector and foundations are more aligned with the SDGs; iii) productive capacities, sustainable and inclusive business and value chains are advanced; and iv) resilience among MSMEs is improved and private sector and foundations are better engaged in crisis response. UNDP's interventions under each of these work areas may include trade-related components. A copy of the document can downloaded at: bhttp://www.iicpsd.undp.org/content/istanbul/en /home/library/reports/UNDPsPrivateSectorandF oundationStrategyfortheSDGs.html It is worth mentioning that since 2014 UNDP implements a regional programme for the Arab States (Aid for Trade Initiatives for Arab States), with a strong focus on trade facilitation aiming at enhancing cooperation among Arab countries on the basis of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the promotion of regional integration with special emphasis on

institutional strengthening of the League of Arab States.

PAGE 10: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q6: Has your Aid-for-Trade strategy changed since 2014?

No

PAGE 11: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q7: If yes, what are the top 3 drivers of these changes? (Please choose no more than 3 options)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 12: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q8: How has your Aid-for-Trade spending changed since 2014?

Between 0-10% increase,

Additional information on changes to your Aid-for-Trade spending since 2014. UNDP has not changed its Aid for Trade priorities

UNDP has not changed its Aid for Trade priorities since 2014 which are defined by its Strategic Plan 2014-2017, as mentioned above. Nevertheless, it is important to underscore the importance of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by Member States in September 2015, as well as other important international development frameworks, as guiding posts for UNDP's action over the next 15 years, including its Aid for Trade interventions. As foreseen in the Aid for Trade questionnaire in 2014, UNDP spending in this area increased slightly especially through regional programmes.

Q9: How do you expect your Aid-for-Trade spending to change in the next 5 years?

Unsure

Q10: Looking ahead, what changes do you expect to your Aid-for-Trade strategy in the next 5 years?

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals,

More focus on climate change and green growth,

More focus on LDCs,

More focus on poverty reduction,

More focus on private sector development,

More focus on regional integration,

More focus on results,

New priorities of development partners,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on changes you expect to your Aid-for-Trade strategy in the next 5 years. UNDP does not have an Aid for Trade Strategy but support is guided by UNDP's Strategic Plan which runs until 2017. Changes beyond this date cannot at this point be fully foreseen. Nevertheless, it is clear that Agenda 2030 and the SDG will continue to be a reference point and inform UNDP's work across thematic areas and geographical spaces as well as the focus on poverty eradication, gender equality and the needs of LDCs, etc. It is worth mentioning here that the adoption of the Strategic Plan in 2013 was accompanied by an important institutional reform process aimed at allowing the organization to leverage its resources in a more effective and cost efficient manner. This structural reform led to the establishment of a Development Impact Group to work on programme and development effectiveness. with an increased focus on quality assurance, resultsbased management and improving data analysis capacities. The Strategic Plan's Midterm review process shows that the reforms have started to deliver significant returns. These were reported to UNDP's Executive Board in June 2016. See Midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, including the annual report of the Administrator for 2015 available at:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp? symbol=DP/2016/9. Going forward such focus on results and on programme and development effectiveness is expected to continue. Through the heightened focus on engagement with the private sector in support of the SDGs, UNDP foresees work on private-sector led skill development, including skills needed for export-related sectors (see UNDP Private Sector and Foundations Strategy 2016-2020).

Q11: Are you engaging with the private sector in the design, delivery and monitoring of your Aid-for-Trade programmes?

Yes

PAGE 13: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q12: If yes, how are you engaging with the private sector:

Project or programme identification,

Project or programme implementation,

Project or programme financing,

Private sector associations in partner countries,

Private sector associations in donor country,

Individual companies,

Additional information on how you are engaging with the private sector in the design, delivery and monitoring of your Aid-for-Trade programmes. Please refer to UNDP's Private Sector and Foundations Strategy 2016-2020 for more information on UNDP's modalities of engagement with the private sector.

PAGE 14: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q13: In your view, can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?

Yes

PAGE 15: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q14: If yes, please specify which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) you think that Aid for Trade may help to achieve?Sustainable Development Goals:

- 1. No poverty, 2. Zero hunger, 5. Gender equality,
- 8. Decent work and economic growth,
- 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure,
- 10. Reduce inequalities,
- 17. Partnership for the goals

PAGE 16: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q15: Are you integrating women's economic empowerment into your Aid-for-Trade programmes?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is being integrated into your Aid-for-Trade programmes? (e.g. indicating how these programmes are attempting to impact women and marginalized groups)

As stated in UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypag e/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-strategy-2014-2017.html], the organization prioritizes gender mainstreaming as the main approach to achieve gender equality. Some examples of how this is translated in Aid for Trade programmes include: - Minimum percentage of female participation across all activities; - Dedicated activities focusing on female entrepreneurs; - Policy documents integrating a gender lens or with a specific gender focus; - Promotion of women's leadership in public and private sector; - Engaging in and facilitating advocacy and policy dialogue on gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Q16: Have you undertaken an evaluation of your Aidfor-Trade support?

Yes.

Additional information on the evaluation of your Aidfor-Trade support. (Please include information on the review's finding and/or a weblink to the evaluation document)

- Final Evaluation report. Wider Europe: Aid for Trade for Central Asia, South Caucuses and Western CIS II (Phase II), available at:

http://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/detail/9586 - Midterm Evaluation of UNDP's Regional Programme 2014-2017, Regional Bureau of Arab States. UNDP's project under the Aid for Trade initiative for Arab States was reviewed as part of the evaluation of the regional programme. Copy of the report enclosed as part of UNDP's submission.

PAGE 18: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q17: Is trade facilitation reflected as a priority in your Aid-for-Trade programming? (You may tick more than 1 box)

No.

Additional information on how trade facilitation is reflected as a priority in your Aid-for-Trade programming.

UNDP provides Aid for Trade support as per the priorities of its Strategic Plan 2014-2017 which may include in certain country and regional programmes support to trade facilitation. This is the case in particular, of UNDP's support under the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States which has a component on trade facilitation.

Q18: Are you providing Aid-for-Trade support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Yes, direct national programming/project support,

Additional information on Aid-for-Trade support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. UNDP provides Aid for Trade support as per the priorities of its Strategic Plan 2014-2017 which may include in certain country and regional programmes support to trade facilitation initiatives relevant for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This is the case for instance of UNDP's support under the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States where the organization assisted the design of programmes aimed at supporting the implementation of a number of provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, primarily promoting regulatory transparency, and adoption of facilitating measures such as design and strategic planning of national single windows (Section 1, Articles 1, 7, 8 and Article 10:4). Support involves assistance to policy makers regarding adjustment of policy frameworks, development of specific operational protocols on the basis of international good practices and organization of specialized training in topics such as trade and transport facilitation, harmonization of data for national single windows, etc. It is also important to highlight that several related international conventions on facilitation of movement of goods across national borders such as Revised Kyoto Convention, have also been considered and recommended in the technical design of national initiatives on trade and transport facilitation. UNDP has recently facilitated the formulation of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) updates in Comoros and Guinea Bissau. In cooperation with UNCTAD, both these reports include an analysis of the readiness of these countries to implement the WTO TFA and a set of recommendations

PAGE 19: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q19: If yes, how are you programming Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation support?(You may tick more than 1 box)

As part of national aid programming dialogues,

As part of regional aid programming dialogues,

Additional information on how you are programming Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation support.

UNDP provides Aid for Trade support as per the priorities of its Strategic Plan 2014-2017 which may include in certain country and regional programmes support to trade facilitation initiatives relevant for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Under the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab Stats specifically, UNDP's support seeks to improve Arab countries' connectivity through the facilitation of cross-border operations and strengthening of integrated management systems.

PAGE 20: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q20: In which regions are you providing Aid-for-Trade support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement? (You may tick more than one box)

North Africa and the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa

PAGE 21: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q21: For implementation of which disciplines of the Trade Facilitation Agreement are you providing Aid-for-Trade support?(You may tick more that 1 box)

Art 1: Publication and Availability of Information,

Art 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties

,

Art 7: Release and Clearance of Goods,

Art 8: Border Agency Cooperation,

Art 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit

,

Art 11: Freedom of Transit,

Art 12: Customs Cooperation,

Additional information on disciplines of the Trade Facilitation Agreement for which you are providing Aid-for-Trade support, for example with respect to specific measures within articles (e.g. single window, authorized operator, etc.). In the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States, and in line with the priorities identified by partner countries. UNDP has assisted the design and activation of the trade and transport corridor that links Sudan, Egypt and Jordan, and potentially Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as other Arab countries. UNDP's support consists on the design of the technical models (on bilateral basis while taking into account international standards), policy dialogue on the policy and regulatory framework required for the operations of the corridor, cooperation and information exchange between customs administrations, facilitation of technical consultations at national and sub-regional level between concerned countries, organization of specialized training and deployment of ICT equipment to support information systems at country level (e.g. at Qustol, Egypt in 2015). Since 2015, UNDP worked with the Government of Egypt in the formulation of a Roadmap for the establishment of Egypt's National Single Window. Cooperation also involves training of approximately 70 technical experts, policy makers and representatives from the private sector. The Roadmap has been used as the basis for the technical committees in charge of the operationalisation of the Single Window or EgyTrade. UNDP foresees continued collaboration with the Government of Egypt in this area, guided by the interministerial Council and within the framework of national policies and strategies as relevant. UNDP is also partnering with the Government of Jordan in the review and upgrade of Jordan National Single Window, Finally, UNDP promotes South-South cooperation and sharing of experience among countries in the region and beyond.

Q22: What difficulties, if any, are you facing in programming and providing support to partner countries or regional economic communities to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement?(You may tick more that 1 box)

Accessing the necessary expertise,

National coordination and demonstration of political will for TFA reform

′

Problems accessing external funds

PAGE 23: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q23: Are you working with the private sector to support implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement?

Yes

PAGE 24: SECTION 2: TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Q24: If yes, how are you engaging with the private sector:(You may tick more that 1 box)

Project or programme implementation,

Private sector associations in partner countries,

Additional information on how you are working with the private sector on TFA implementation. Collaboration with the private sector in partner countries involves specific activities to support trade and transport corridors and to raise awareness on the potential of technology for implementation of trade and transport facilitation measures. UNDP more broadly promotes Public Private Partnerships around the trade facilitation agenda.

PAGE 26: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q25: Does e-commerce (or other digital strategy) feature among the priorities in your national development policy?

No

PAGE 27: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q26: If yes, please indicate which of the following is included: (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 28: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q27: Do you have any special policy initiatives that cover the area of e-commerce (or other digital strategy)?

No.

Additional information on any special policy initiatives that cover the area of e-commerce (or other digital strategy) and add a weblink to the special policy initiative.

However, in the context of the Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States, UNDP's support on trade facilitation promotes broader governance reforms inclusive of e-Government approaches for enhancing transparency and accountability and access to information by economic operators, including trade-related provisions and regulations, promoting better compliance.

PAGE 29: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q28: Does e-commerce feature in your in-country dialogues with partner countries?

Yes

PAGE 30: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q29: If yes, please indicate which of the following is included: (You may tick more than 1 box)

E-government

Q30: If yes, please indicate how demand from partner countries for e-commerce support has grown in the past 5 years:

Some growth in demand for support

PAGE 31: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q31: Does e-commerce feature in your dialogues with regional partners e.g. regional economic communities or transport corridors?

Yes

PAGE 32: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q32: If yes, please indicate which of the following : (You may tick more than 1 box)

E-government

Q33: If yes, please indicate how demand from regional partners for e-commerce support has grown in the past 5 years:

Some growth in demand for support

PAGE 33: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q34: What types of support are you offering for e-commerce development? (You may tick more than 1 box)

E-commerce regulatory policy support,

E-commerce training for business associations,

E-commerce training for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs)

,

Support for regulatory frameworks for E-government

PAGE 34: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q35: Are you working with the private sector to support growth in e-commerce in partner countries and regions?

Yes.

Additional information on you are working with the private sector to support growth in e-commerce in partner countries and regions.

Collaboration is mostly in specific cases and when the need arises. Cooperation takes into account the requirements of the activity being implemented and is organized in coordination with government authorities.

PAGE 35: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q36: Based on your experience of e-commerce support programmes, please indicate the main issues that firms and consumers in your partner countries face in accessing and using internet services?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Access to international payment gateways,

Access to labour with necessary technical skills,

Business outsourcing services,

Credit card payments, Cybercrime laws,

Data protection, E-signatures,

Intellectual property registration and policies addressing IP infringement

,

Private data protection (including safe harbouring of data)

PAGE 36: SECTION 3 : E-COMMERCE

Q37: What are the most common trade issues that you encounter in your e-commerce support programmes? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Absence of E-certification capacity or non-acceptance of E-certification

,

Absence of, or difficulties in, using electronic single window for customs or border clearance

,

Banking restrictions on foreign exchange transfer,

Dealing with returned goods,

High costs of small parcel shipment,

Issuance and acceptance of conformity assessment certificates

,

Issuance and acceptance of export certificates,

Issuance and acceptance of origin certificates,

No customs or low de minimis threshold,

Non-acceptance of certification of rules of origin,

Non-acceptance of E-certification,

Problems with on-line payment systems

PAGE 37: E-COMMERCE

Q38: Do you anticipate a growth in future demand from partner countries and regional partners in the area of ecommerce?

Yes

PAGE 38: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q39: If yes, please elaborate:

Some growth in demand for support

PAGE 39: SECTION 3: E-COMMERCE

Q40: In your view, can growth in e-commerce in partner countries and regions make a contribution to women's economic empowerment?

Yes.

Additional information on how growth in e-commerce in partner countries and regions can make a contribution to women's economic empowerment. The digital economy facilitates forms of economic participation that allow women better reconcile household demands on her time with gainful economic activities. For instance, by engaging in commercial activities through e-commerce without leaving the house; and flexibility in time allocation and schedules, etc.

PAGE 41: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q41: Does your development policy or Aid-for-Trade strategy include trade-related infrastructure development priorities?

No

PAGE 42: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND INVESTMENT

Q42: Do you have any special policy initiatives that cover the area of infrastructure or trade-related infrastructure specifically?

No

PAGE 43: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND INVESTMENT

Q43: Does trade-related infrastructure feature in your incountry dialogues with partner countries?

No

PAGE 44: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q44: If yes, please indicate which of the following: (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 45: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q45: Does trade-related infrastructure feature in your dialogues with regional partners (e.g. regional economic communities or transport corridors)?

No

PAGE 46: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q46: If yes, please indicate which of the following services trade sectors feature as priority sectors in your national development strategy: (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 47: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q47: Do your programmes link trade-related infrastructure to the development of related services sectors?

No

PAGE 48: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q48: If yes, please specify which services sectors feature as priority sectors in your national development strategy. (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 49: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q49: Which service sectors do you expect will support implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and will help realize associated economic benefits in partner countries? (You may tick more than 1 box)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, Legal services,

Accounting, auditing and book keeping services,

COMPUTER AND RELATED SERVICES (e.g., services related to installation of computer hardware, data processing and database services)

COMMUNICATION SERVICES,

Courier and express delivery services,

Telecommunication services,

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES (including wholesale and retail trade services)

FINANCIAL SERVICES,

Banking and other financial services (excluding insurance)

,

TRANSPORT SERVICES (passenger and freight transportation)

PAGE 50: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q50: Do your development programmes link growth in services capacity and services trade to growth in industrial capacity and manufacturing exports?

Unsure

PAGE 51: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q51: If yes, please specify which services sectors are identified for growth in industrial capacity and manufacturing. (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 52: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q52: What are the main issues constraining growth in national services capacity and trade in your partner countries? Issues constraining growth: (You may tick more than 1 box)

Access to finance,

Competition from suppliers in informal sector,

Education and vocational training,

Low levels of domestic investment,

Low levels of foreign direct investment,

National monopolies,

Poor information and communication technology network infrastructure

,

Poor transport infrastructure (maritime, inland waterway, air, rail, road)

,

Regulatory restrictions

PAGE 53: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q53: Does your Aid-for-Trade programming include actions to improve the investment climate in partner countries?

Yes

PAGE 54: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q54: If yes, please specify how: (You may tick more than 1 box)

By providing assistance to update investment policy, regulations and/or strategy

,

By training officials

Q55: What Aid-for-Trade actions have you taken to support national or regional initiatives to improve the investment climate in partner countries during the past 5 years? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Focusing on public governance and institutions,

Training officials,

Updating investment policy, regulations and/or strategy

PAGE 56: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q56: Are you providing specific assistance and capacity building to help LDCs utilize services waiver opportunities?

No

PAGE 57: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q57: If yes, what kind of support are you providing? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 58: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q58: In your view, can the development of services trade contribute to women's economic empowerment?

Yes

PAGE 59: SECTION 4: INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT

Q59: If yes, please specify in which services sectors? Services sectors:(You may tick more than 1 box)

BUSINESS SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Computer and related services,

COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

EDUCATION SERVICES, FINANCIAL SERVICES,

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

PAGE 60: END OF SURVEY

Q60: CONSULTATIONPlease list other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply.

- UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (Istanbul); - UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (Addis Ababa); - UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States in Amman, Jordan; - UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub; - UNDP Multidisciplinary Pacific Centre in Suva, Fiji; - Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD).