



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



**GLOBAL QUALITY
AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME**





WHY ARE QUALITY AND STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

Global trade is growingly embedded within value chains and is increasingly governed by quality and standard requirements. Despite trade liberalization and globalization in recent years, many developing country exporters still face substantial challenges to meet and show compliance with international standards. They also face technical barriers to trade that hinder their ability to access markets. Lengthy procedures and border rejections due to non-compliance with market requirements can result in major financial losses for the producers, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). In order to gain and maintain access to international trade and benefit from global markets, standards compliance and proof of conformity are essential.

Setting up a Quality Infrastructure System is one of the most positive and practical steps that a developing nation can take on the path forward to developing a thriving economy as a basis for prosperity, health and well-being.





WHAT IS THE GLOBAL QUALITY AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME?

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) is a large-scale programme, which was designed to encourage systematic trade development along specific value chains by strengthening quality infrastructure institutions and service providers, enhancing the compliance capacity of private sector actors, particularly SMEs, and creating a culture of quality among all stakeholders. GQSP is funded by the Swiss Confederation, through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.



GLOBAL

GQSP is a global programme which aims at reinforcing coherence and developing global solutions for common challenges through knowledge dissemination, while allowing flexibility for country-level interventions based on specific needs.



COUNTRY

Country-specific interventions will address compliance challenges in a holistic, yet tailor-made manner, providing technical support to quality infrastructure institutions, strengthen private sector capacities and creating awareness for quality in target countries.



VALUE CHAIN

Interventions at country level will focus on specific value chains in order to provide targeted technical support to overcome compliance challenges and facilitate market access for specific products.

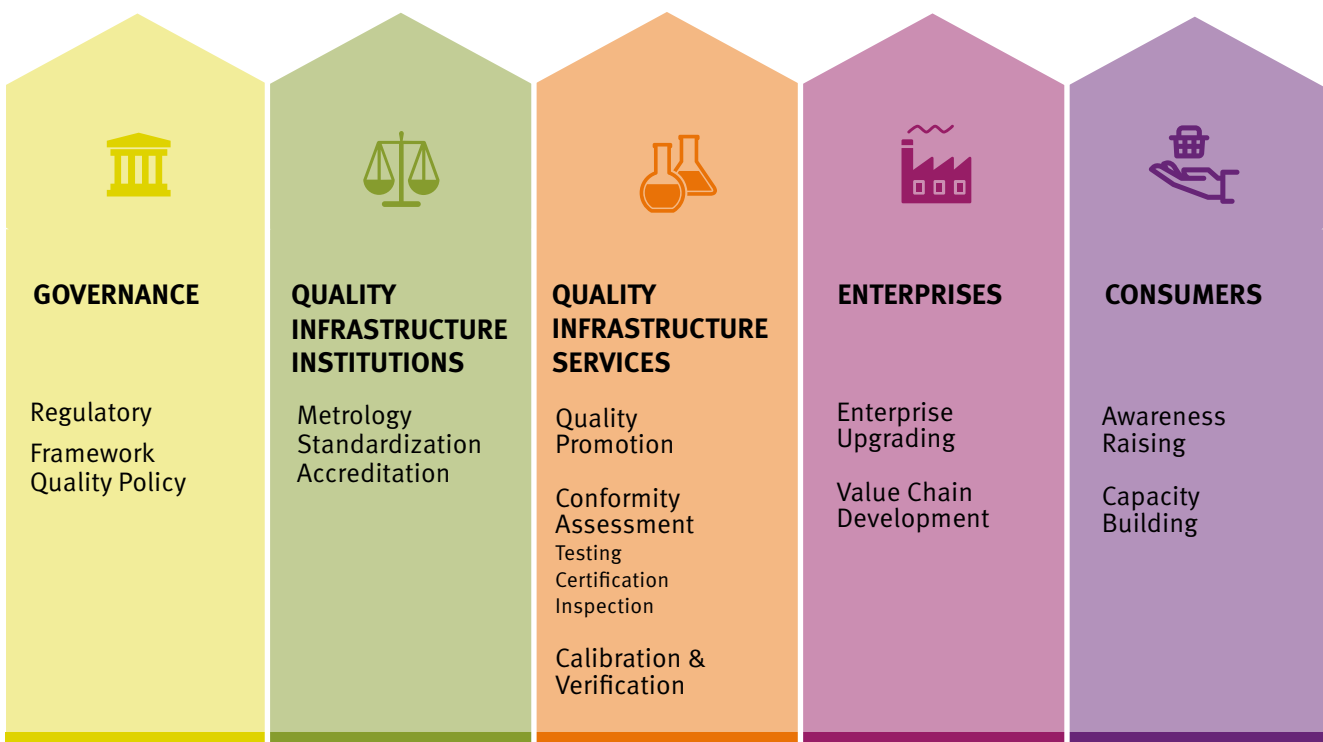
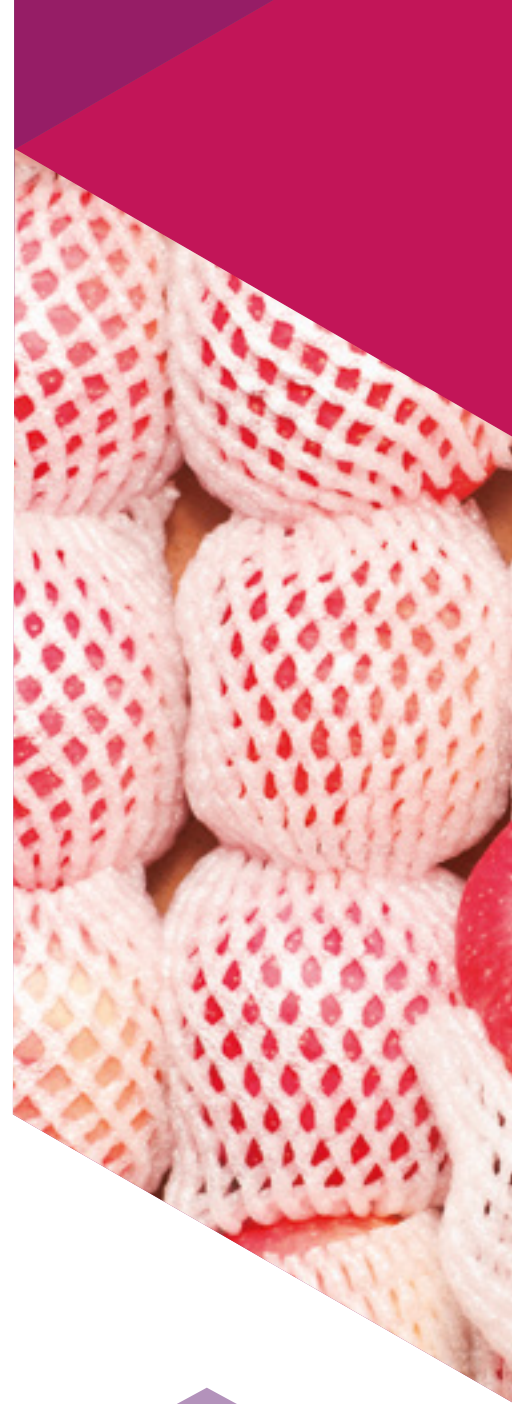




WHAT IS A QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM?

In the past, trade-related development initiatives in quality infrastructure development focused solely on strengthening supply capacities, namely quality infrastructure institutions (related to standardization, metrology and accreditation), and later also included quality infrastructure services, like testing, certification and calibration.

Today, it is widely recognized that in order to ensure sustainability of the quality infrastructure, it is important to view it as a system, and not only strengthen the supply side, but also create demand for quality services, by raising awareness and providing support to the private sector. This systemic approach to quality infrastructure development is demand-driven and based on market needs.



The Quality Infrastructure is “the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes. The quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing. It relies on metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance.”





WHAT WE DO

The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity of SMEs to facilitate market access.

The programme will support countries to align the demand for and supply of quality services required to prove and verify the quality of products, through the following 3 areas of intervention:



ENHANCING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Technical competence and sustainability of the National Quality Infrastructure System is enhanced.

Strengthening of key institutions and relevant public-private support institutions through capacity building, use of best practices, skills development, and implementation of management systems to ensure quality and international recognition of their services.

STRENGTHENING PRODUCERS

SME compliance with international standards and technical regulations is enhanced.

Improving compliance capacity through specialized training, capacity building and preparation for certification, strengthening of cluster networks and quality consortia as well as relevant support institutions.

RAISING AWARENESS

A culture of quality is created.

Advocacy, up-scaling of knowledge dissemination, advice for informed policy decisions on standards compliance and support for policy development.



HOW WE WORK

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

At global level, the main objective of the programme will be to generate and disseminate knowledge from research and past endeavors, which can be used to tackle quality and standards related challenges worldwide. This knowledge will be globally disseminated through the Trade, Investment and Innovation Knowledge Hub, an interactive online platform which provides news, information and training to a broad range of stakeholders. The benefits of this initiative will exceed the QOSP framework and serve as a useful global public good for future quality and standards related technical assistance.

COUNTRY PROJECTS

With production lines spanning over more than one country, global value chains have become increasingly important for trade. On the one hand, quality requirements pose obstacles to producers from developing countries to enter and participate in global value chains. On the other hand, capacity to prove compliance can also result in more trading opportunities and lead to integration into the global market. For better integration into value chains, QOSP focuses on providing targeted assistance to strengthen quality infrastructure services along specific value chains. The UNIDO approach in quality infrastructure development along specific value chains is unique and systemic, and comprises governance, institutions, service providers, enterprises and consumers.

More information on the Trade, Investment and Innovation Knowledge Hub can be found here:

<https://tii.unido.org>



WHERE WE WORK

The countries the programme will potentially cover are based on SECO priorities and UNIDO country assessments. GQSP target countries span over four continents and include Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine and Vietnam.



SOUTH AFRICA



In South Africa, the project will strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity of SMEs producing essential and vegetable oils destined for food, health and cosmetic markets.



GHANA



In Ghana, the project will strengthen the capacity of SMEs to comply with market requirements along the cashew, oil palm and cocoa value chains. At the same time relevant standards will be developed and quality infrastructure service providers will be supported to provide internationally recognized services.



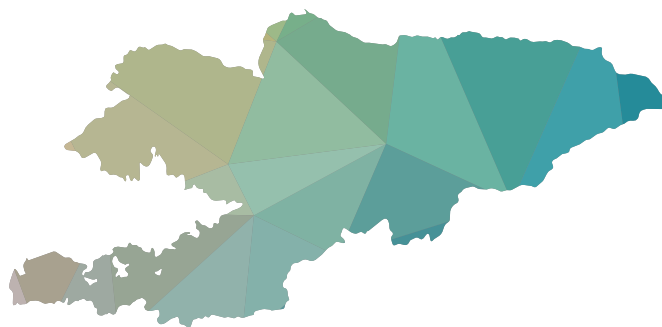
UKRAINE



The project will strengthen Ukraine's capacity to trade wood and processed wood products by enhancing services offered by the quality infrastructure institutions thereby facilitating exports into existing and new markets.



KYRGYZSTAN



The overall objective of the country project is to contribute to fostering Kyrgyzstan's competitiveness by enhancing the quality and standards compliance capacity along the fruits value chain to facilitate market access for SMEs.



PERU



The overall objective of the project in Peru is to improve export competitiveness of coffee and cocoa products in pilot regions, by strengthening quality infrastructure institutions and producing SMEs.



COLOMBIA



The general objective of the project in Colombia is to strengthen SMEs in the chemical sector to comply with technical requirements, international quality standards, and private and sustainability standards in view of better integration into regional and global markets.



INDONESIA



In Indonesia, the project will support two value chains related to fisheries aquaculture and seaweed, by strengthening the capacity of small-scale producers to comply with technical regulations and international market requirements.



VIETNAM



In Vietnam, the project will support producers along the tropical fruits value chain in the Mekong River Delta, to comply with technical regulations and international market requirements in view of strengthening their trade capacity.



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