



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

“We cannot define progress only in economic terms. UNIDO can support efforts towards sustainability and inclusiveness with this joint quality and standards programme.”

Doris Leuthard, President, Swiss Confederation

QUALITY AND STANDARDS FOR SYSTEMATIC TRADE DEVELOPMENT ALONG VALUE CHAINS

Global trade is increasingly embedded within value chains and governed by quality and standards requirements. Despite trade liberalization and globalization in recent years, many exporters from developing countries still face substantial challenges to meet and prove conformity with market entry requirements, and 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. 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.

UNIDO'S APPROACH

The large-scale Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) was designed to encourage systematic trade development along specific value chains. The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs through compliance with international market requirements and thus facilitate market access. Through individual country projects in Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, South Africa, Ukraine and Viet Nam, the programme will support specific value chains, aligned with each country's priorities. In addition, special emphasis is put on the creation and dissemination of knowledge from research and past endeavours, which can be used to tackle quality and standards related challenges in GQSP countries and elsewhere. GQSP is funded by the Swiss Confederation through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

IMPACT

The programme supports countries to align the demand for and supply of quality

services required to prove and verify the quality of products with the overarching goal of enhancing productive and trade capacities and ultimately exports.

Overall, GQSP contributes to:

1. Enhancing the technical competence and sustainability of the national quality infrastructure system by strengthening of key institutions and relevant public-private support institutions through capacity building, use of best practices and skills development;
2. Strengthening the capacity of private sector actors (particularly SMEs) to prove compliance with international standards and technical regulations, through specialized training, preparation for certification, strengthening of cluster networks and quality consortia;
3. Creating a culture of quality through advocacy, up-scaling and knowledge dissemination, advice for informed policy decisions and standards compliance and support for policy development.

The programme pays specific attention to good governance in quality infrastructure development and strong private sector involvement.

WAY FORWARD

GQSP targets outcomes derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to enhance trade and competitiveness through promoting a favourable Quality Infrastructure framework for quality and standards compliance and fostering greater international competitiveness of SMEs. It encompasses UNIDO's mission to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development and assist countries in strengthening their competitiveness in global markets. The programme, which started in 2017, focuses on achieving the highest level of impact in the target countries and the expansion of its interventions in other countries. Global knowledge tools developed under the GQSP will support many countries in enhancing their trade capacities.

AT A GLANCE

Project title	Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP)
Thematic area	Advancing Economic Competitiveness
Donor	Swiss Confederation through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
Budget	CHF 17,349,455
Duration	2017-2022