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USAID Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Quarterly Progress Report

Fiscal Year 2018, Quarter 1
(October – December 2017)

USAID Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

USAID/Pakistan

Office of Economic Growth & Agriculture

Contract Number: AID-391-C-15-00012

January 15, 2018

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Introduction

On September 1, 2015, Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) was awarded the five-year, USD 14.4 million, Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA). The overarching focus of PREIA is to further the development of Pakistan's trade sector by improving the country's competitiveness in regional markets. This activity is a key component of USAID Pakistan's overall economic development program and it supports the achievement of USAID/Pakistan's Mission Strategy Development Objective #2: *-Improving Economic Status of Focus Populations and Sectors*. PREIA interventions facilitate increased access to international and, in particular, regional markets in order to enhance Pakistan's regional economic integration with its neighbours - Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. Focusing primarily on trade promotion and facilitation, PREIA will endeavour to improve the international trade environment, resulting in increased trade and transit volumes.

Components and Principles

PREIA consists of two key components:

- 1) Improved Business Enabling Environment (Component one /C1); and
- 2) Improved Capacity to Access Regional Markets (Component two /C2).

The Activity will also apply three cross cutting principles, which are integrated into the activities under each component:

- Increased Technology Adoption;
- Increased Participation of Women; and
- Increased Public-Private Collaboration.

Notable Achievements in FY 2018 Quarter 1

Improved Business Enabling Environment (Component one /C1)

- Developed a draft law for the Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) of Pakistan. The Act provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the import/export of goods and services, including those arising from e-commerce transactions.
- From October 31 to November 1, successfully delivered Round 3 of Trainings designed under PREIA's gender initiative – the Women Leadership in Trade Policy Program. The training built the capacity of a select group of 29 individuals on the gender dimensions of trade and how policies can be made amenable to gender specific concerns.
- On December 12 and 13, 2017, partnered with Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) and Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) to organize two consultative sessions on the finalization of the Women National Business Agenda (WNBA) in Lahore and Karachi. The discussions convened key stakeholders from the public and private sector to collectively review existing policies for trade promotion and identify areas where the role of gender could be enhanced. PREIA followed up its support in disseminating the finalized Agenda to all major political parties and public sector organizations through a Dissemination Seminar, held on December 22, 2017 in Islamabad.
- Completed an assessment of the Ministry of Commerce's Commercial/Trade Officers Program, and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the Program's effective delivery. In doing so, PREIA examined the strengths and weaknesses of the prevailing M&E practices, and made recommendations for the realignment of the performance appraisal process vis-a-vis international best practices.



Improved Capacity to Access Regional Markets (Component two /C2)

- Extended technical advisory support to Pakistan Customs in the implementation of a National Single Window (NSW) System by designing the Terms of Reference (ToRs), job descriptions, functions and organizational structure for Program Management Office (PMO). Additionally, PREIA STTA also drafted ToRs for the National Steering Committee on NSW and facilitated donor efforts by mapping the ToRs for consultants on Law & Procedures and Port Community Systems.
- From November 23 to December 28, launched Phase one of an Outreach Campaign on NSW by delivering awareness sessions on the benefits of introducing a NSW for goods clearance. The sessions were held at Customs offices in Islamabad and Karachi, and at the premises of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (FPCCI) and the Pakistan-Japan Business Forum in Karachi.
- PREIA contracted firm, Crimson Logic, conducted a preliminary visit to study the current processes, policies and institutional capabilities of FBR/Pakistan Customs and other trade regulatory authorities in Pakistan. Subsequently, PREIA shared with FBR/Pakistan Customs a draft Situational Analysis Report (SAR) that assesses Pakistan's capability to introduce NSW. The SAR will be supplemented by two other strategic guides namely the "NSW Blueprint" and the "NSW Implementation Roadmap", expected for development by February/March 2018.
- On October 02, 2017 FBR/Pakistan Customs, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and 1-Link Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the introduction of electronic payments for trade transactions. The introduction is a result of expert consultancy being extended by PREIA to FBR/Pakistan Customs for developing stakeholder consensus and designing a solution model for e-payments. The official roll-out of the e-payments system is expected by Quarter 2 of FY2018.
- On December 11, 2017 PREIA, FBR/Pakistan Customs, SBP and 1-Link Pakistan jointly organized an awareness raising session on the E-Payments system for trade. At the occasion, the prototype software module on E-payments was presented to over 70 stakeholders including representatives from scheduled banks, trade associations, and clearing agents.
- From October 23-28 2017, completed the delivery of a "Hands on Training on Transports Internationaux Routiers Procedures" to officials of the Pakistan National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (PNC-ICC), FBR/Pakistan Customs and private transport operators in Karachi. The trainings, attended by over 150 participants and delivered by subject experts of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), provided an overview of TIR procedures, the process of issuance for the TIR guaranteeing document (i.e. TIR Carnets), information on the application procedure to become a TIR holder, receipt of TIR Carnets, and a description of how the TIR- Electronic Pre-Declaration (EPD) system works.



Progress towards Meeting Objectives

Component 1: Improved Business Enabling Environment

The objective of Component 1 is to assist the Government of Pakistan (GoP) in developing and implementing policies, regulations and trade reform measures; and augmenting the capacity of private sector stakeholders to effectively engage in policy-making. In doing so, activities implemented within the component seek to augment the capacity of stakeholders for the effective analysis of policy issues, negotiation of trade agreements and improvement of trade regulations. Component 1 counterparts and stakeholders include the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) and Chambers of Commerce, among others.

Component 1 Results in Quarter 1

Development of Rules and By-laws for Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO)

As part of its scope, PREIA assists the attached departments of the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) in augmenting their capacity to perform their mandated responsibilities. One such department, the Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO), was established - as part of the Government of Pakistan's Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2015-2018 – to aid Pakistani importers/exporters in managing fraud in international trade and to help improve the reputation of Pakistan as a global trading partner through the increased use of internationally recognized Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. To help TDRO perform and execute its functions effectively, PREIA contracted an expert law firm namely RIAA Barker Gillette (RIAABG) in FY2017 to extend technical assistance in redrafting the Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) Act 2016 vis-à-vis international best practices.

During the reporting quarter, PREIA, TDRO, RIAABG and the MoC's World Trade Organization (WTO) Wing held meetings to discuss the legal amendments required to be made to the existing Act, the recommended restructuring of TDRO, and dispute settlement procedures to be followed by the organization. As such, it was also decided that the draft TDRO Act would include a mechanism for the resolution of Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce) disputes, for which PREIA helped TDRO organize a multi-stakeholder session on October 24, 2017 in Islamabad. The support ensured that the draft Act sufficiently addresses matters pertaining to E-Commerce dispute resolution, consumer protection and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection.

The first two working drafts of the TDRO Act were subsequently presented to TDRO and MoC for review, comment and onward finalization on December 04 and December 22, 2017 respectively. As of January 2018, the Secretary Commerce has instructed TDRO to gather feedback from key stakeholder before the draft Act can be finalized within the anticipated date of late January/early February 2018. In the meanwhile, RIAABG will initiate the drafting of TDRO's Service Rules and Operational Rules. PREIA expects that its support to TDRO for the development of the draft Act, rules and regulations, will be concluded by the second Quarter of FY2018.

Women Leadership in Trade Policy (WLTP) Program – Cycle 1

Promoting gender inclusion in the trade policy process requires that individuals have an understanding of the impact that trade-related policies have on men and women, and the ability to determine how such policies can be formulated with a gender perspective, so that their redistributive effects on women are ultimately rewarding. PREIA's Women Leadership in Trade Policy (WLTP) Program was initiated to address the aforementioned knowledge gaps, with an aim to train a cohort of (20-30) individuals on the subject of trade policy and enabling potential leaders to eventually advocate for the mainstreaming of gender in Pakistan's trade policy formulation and reform process. With



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Round 1 and Round 2 trainings on the introduction to trade policy formulation, advocacy action planning and proposal development imparted earlier in January and July 2017 respectively, PREIA concluded Cycle 1 of its WLTP Program with the third and final training session entitled "Gender Dimensions of Trade" on October 31 and November 1, 2017. The training was designed by Ms. Linda Schmid, an international consultant contracted by PREIA, and delivered to 29 participants in Lahore, many of which were representing prominent private sector businesses, media, and academic/policy institutes of Pakistan.

The main objective of the training was to increase the individuals' knowledge on Pakistan's participation in the world trading system, linkages between increased women economic engagement and economic productivity, and how trade and investment policies can be made responsive to gender specific issues. At the occasion, the US Consular General, Ms. Elizabeth Trudeau, also attended the opening session and interacted with participants to learn about challenges pertaining to women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.



Above: Participants take part in group discussions at WLTP Training, October 31-November 01, 2017



Above: Participants pose for a group photo at the conclusion of WLTP Cycle 1

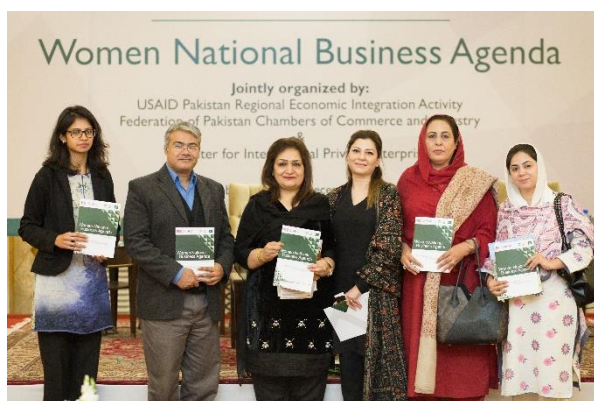
Upon the conclusion of Cycle 1 of WLTP, trainees are expected to develop proposals for the promotion of gender equity in trade policy, for onward submission to policy makers. PREIA will continue to monitor any progress made by its select group of trainees through FY2018, to capture and report on any significant developments that arise from USAID efforts.



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Women National Business Agenda (WNBA)

Part of PREIA's efforts to promote gender equity in the trade policy formulation and reform process includes supporting the Women National Business Agenda (WNBA). The Agenda was conceived in January 2017 and advanced by one of PREIA's WLTP Program participants, Ms. Masooma Sabtain, who is also the Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI). The policy reform proposal is a joint effort of FPCCI, Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and PREIA, and aims to lay down a strategic roadmap identifying policy barriers that inhibit the growth of Pakistani businesswomen. Additionally, the Agenda also presents recommendations for ensuring that the GoP's future trade policies offer even handed opportunities to both genders.



Above Left: Participants pose with a copy of the Agenda, at the WNBA Dissemination Seminar in Islamabad.



Above Right: CIPE Advisor, Mr. Hammad Siddiqui introducing the WNBA to participants.



Above Left: Representatives of all major political parties discuss the WNBA Agenda in a panel discussion.



Above Right: Participants pose for a photo at the conclusion of the WNBA Dissemination Seminar.

In FY2018 Quarter 1, PREIA partnered with FPCCI and CIPE to organize two public-private consultative seminars for the finalization of the WNBA. The sessions, held in Lahore and Karachi from December 12-13, were attended by a total of 48 individuals representing key public and private sector organizations including the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Small Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). The discussions helped key stakeholders to collectively review the GoP's existing policies for trade promotion with a view to identify areas where the gender role could be improved and women owned businesses can be provided adequate development opportunities. The consultation process was followed by a "WNBA Dissemination Seminar" - also organized with the support of PREIA - on December 22, 2017 in Islamabad where FPCCI formally presented the WNBA to prominent public sector policy makers and notable political representatives including Senator Syed Shibli Faraz (Chairperson for the Commerce and Textile Industry), Ms. Shahida Rehmani (Member National Assembly from Pakistan People's Party), Ms. Shahida Zulfiqar (Member National Assembly from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf), Ms.



Ayesha Syed (Member National Assembly from Jamaat-e-Islami), Ms. Amna Malik (Senior Leader from Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaaz) and Ms. Mehreen Malik (Senior Leader from Pakistan Muslim League -Quaid). PREIA's continued efforts to advance the WNBA has provided a platform for women chambers and entrepreneurs to form a collective opinion on the need to include gender equity in future political and economic manifestos, and effectively communicate the same to policy makers and accredited political agents.

Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF)

In Year 2 of implementation, PREIA will assist Pakistan's research/academic institutions in establishing a "Public Private Dialogue Forum" (PPDF) on trade policy, through the Project's Grants Under Contract (GUC)/Activity Fund. The PPDF will help facilitate public-private dialogue on international trade, to highlight trade and policy related issues and identify recommendations for a more effective exporting environment i.e. one that ensures equity across the multiple sectors and industries. From October through December 2017, PREIA initiated discussions with various educational and research institutions including Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), among others, to introduce the concept behind the initiative and gauge the capacity of each potential institution to establish the forum as envisaged. The Expression of Interest (EoI) for the PPDF was also circulated on December 13, 2017. With the submission of all proposals due by January 5, 2018 it is expected that PREIA will select a suitable firm for the PPDF by early February 2018.

Under the Forum, a Quarterly Trade Bulletin (QTB) will also be developed, mapping Pakistan's trade performance, highlighting key trading trends and analysing various economic policy measures, for wider dissemination among key public and private sector stakeholders. The purpose behind aiding the development of a QTB is to facilitate the decision making process of all stakeholders by identifying key markets and products, highlighting opportunities and indicators for growth, and enabling positive connections for the private and public sector to utilize in the performance of their duties. PREIA anticipates that it will have a suitable firm selected by January 2018, and the first QTB published in Quarter 2 of FY2018.

Reforms to the Commercial Diplomatic Services of Pakistan

In FY2017 Quarter 3, PREIA was requested by the Ministry of Commerce's (MoC) Foreign Trade Wing to extend technical support in reforming the performance appraisal system for Pakistan's Commercial/Trade Officers posted abroad. Pursuant to the request, in FY2018 Quarter 1 PREIA examined the current business processes, communication flows, reporting templates and performance indicator definitions for the Trade Officers' Program. The exercise was conducted primarily to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the prevailing M&E practices, and to make recommendations for the realignment of the performance appraisal process such that it matches global best practices. On December 26, PREIA shared a draft set of recommendations on the improvement of M&E for the Trade Officers Program with MoC, for review and feedback. In the draft report, PREIA recommends the following to strengthen the M&E system:

- i. Define Key Performance Indicators (KPI) - for which PREIA has drafted detailed indicator guide sheets for each KPI;
- ii. Incorporating Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in Periodic Reporting;
- iii. Streamlining of Periodic Reporting - for which PREIA has proposed a revised process flow and few changes to the reporting timelines to remove redundancies and ease the burden of reporting on the trade officers; and
- iv. Maintaining a Dashboard of KPI Targets and Achievements - for which PREIA has shared a draft Excel based KPI tracker.



Activity Fund/Grants Under Contract (GUC)

On November 28, 2017 PREIA was granted approval to engage Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan as a grantee. The organization had previously proposed to implement a project on “Harnessing Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade to Meet the Development Goals of Pakistan”, for a period of one year/12 months. The grant, once awarded, will focus on creating a common platform for traders, and government and non-government stakeholders involved in Pak-Afghan trade, by developing an online forum with background information and clearly defined rules of participation. Through this initiative, LEAD Pakistan would also aim to undertake a research study focusing on those unexplored dimensions of Pak-Afghan Trade that would help create a Nexus of Trade-Development-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Due to an increase in the grant’s value and award period, PREIA has requested for a revision to the approved vetting request and is currently awaiting a response from USAID’s Vetting Support Unit (VSU). Upon receipt of eligibility notice, expected in Quarter 2 of FY2018, PREIA will engage LEAD Pakistan to finalize an activity schedule and initiate implementation.

Component 2: Improved Capacity to Access Regional Markets

Component 2 aims to improve the capacity of Pakistan to access regional markets. The component is divided into two (2) sub-components. The first sub-component relates to providing support on enhancing regional trade and transit facilitation, simplifying/harmonizing customs procedures and addressing barriers to trade. The second sub-component focuses towards working with the private sector to enhance business-2-business (B2B) linkages and increase Pakistan’s exposure to regional and international markets through participation in trade promotion events and networking events. Key stakeholders within Component 2 include the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)/Pakistan Customs, the Pakistan National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (PNC-ICC), border control agencies, Chambers of Commerce and Industries, trade associations, and women entrepreneurs, among others.

Component 2 Results in Quarter 1

Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW) environment for Trade

The National Single Window (NSW) System allows all trade regulators to lodge standardized documents and information (such as status of exemption and concession certificates etc.) on a single platform, thus fulfilling all import, export and transit related requirements in a seamless manner. PREIA is supporting FBR/Pakistan Customs in transitioning towards a NSW environment for trade, which includes extending strategic advice and capacity building support (through an expert STTA), technical direction on the phased implementation of the Project (through an expert firm namely Crimson Logic) and the improvement of donor coordination on efforts pertaining to the initiative. Progress and achievements against each of the aforementioned areas during the reporting quarter are as follows:

1. **Technical Advisory Assistance (STTA):** On October 19, 2017 FBR/Pakistan Customs issued an official notification on the establishment of a Project Management Office (PMO) for the design, implementation, and management of the NSW in accordance with the recommended international best practices. The timely notification of the PMO comes as a success for the Activity as the need for its establishment was suggested by PREIA’s STTA. Subsequent to the notification, PREIA advisor drafted the job descriptions of key personnel that would perform the functions of the PMO. The document, in addition to a revised organizational chart and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the PMO, and draft ToRs for the National Steering Committee on NSW, were shared with FBR/Pakistan Customs. Additionally, in November 2017, the STTA also drafted ToRs for the hiring of two Consultants (on Law & Procedures and Port Community Systems) to guide the efforts of International Finance Corporation (IFC), which will be recruiting the two consultants for the Government of Pakistan’s FBR/Pakistan Customs department.



2. Awareness Raising and Outreach Sessions/Trainings: PREIA's technical experts delivered awareness raising sessions/trainings on the implementation of a National Single Window for Pakistan Customs' officers stationed in Islamabad and Karachi, and members from the private sector including the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Pakistan Japan Business Forum. This series of nationwide awareness and outreach sessions will continue through February 2018 and would include private and public sector stakeholders from Quetta, Faisalabad, Lahore and Peshawar.
3. Technical Advisory Assistance (Crimson Logic): PREIA contracted firm, Crimson Logic, conducted a preliminary visit to study the current processes, policies and institutional capabilities of FBR/Pakistan Customs and other trade regulatory authorities in Pakistan. The thorough examination lead to a Situational Analysis Report (SAR) that assesses Pakistan's capability to introduce a National Single Window. The SAR was shared with the FBR/Pakistan Customs and finalized after the incorporation of all comments in December. Crimson Logic will now be submitting its other two deliverables – NSW Blueprint and Implementation Roadmap – in Quarter 2 of FY2018.
4. Donor Coordination: During November, PREIA held multiple meetings with officials from the World Bank Group's "Trans-Khyber Pass Peshawar-Torkham Economic Corridor" Project to discuss possible areas of future collaboration and eliminate any inadvertent duplication of donor efforts. Both parties agreed to coordinate efforts and exchange ideas on how best to utilize donor funds for the common objective of establishing a NSW environment in Pakistan.
5. Customs Coordination: On December 14, 2017 PREIA organized a NSW Stakeholders' Coordination event in Islamabad. The event, aimed at facilitating the networking and exchange of ideas among NSW focal persons, was attended by an approximate 18 individuals from FBR/Pakistan Customs and various trade regulators including Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Ministry of National Health Services, Ministry of Industries & Production, Ministry of Narcotics Control, Anti-Narcotic Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Maritimes Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information Technology, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning Development & Reforms, and the Ministry of Defence Production.

Introduction of Electronic Payments for Goods Clearance

The Electronic Payments System for goods clearance is mandated by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and seeks to introduce an efficient payment method that allows for the settlement of import/export duties, taxes and fees by electronic methods of payment. To promote the introduction of a secure payment system for trade, PREIA has been providing technical advisory support to FBR/Pakistan Customs through an expert Short Term Technical Assistant (STTA). Owing to the continued efforts of PREIA's STTA in designing the solution model, developing solution consensus among all stakeholders involved and providing technical governance for the delivery of the solution, on October 02, FBR, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and 1-Link Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that allows users to pay customs duties and taxes using interbank funds transfer via internet banking or through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). The signatories of the MoU included Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Governor SBP, Mr. Tariq Pasha, Chairman FBR, and Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla CEO 1-Link.



Above: The Minister for Finance, Mr. Ishaq Dar, and representatives of FBR/Pakistan Customs and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) sign MoU on the e-payments system in Karachi.

On December 11, 2017 PREIA, FBR/Pakistan Customs, SBP and 1-Link Pakistan jointly organized an awareness raising session on the E-Payments system, at the Directorate General of Training in Karachi. During the session, PREIA's contracted STTA/Consultant for E-Payments, Mr. Omer Bin Ahsan, showcased the prototype software module on E-payments and presented on the key concepts, features, scope of coverage and benefits of the E-Payments system to over 70 stakeholders including representatives from scheduled banks, trade associations, and clearing agents. The awareness session allowed a much needed opportunity to take the users of the e-payments system on board and address their concerns before the system is fully rolled out. PREIA will replicate a similar awareness session in Lahore on January 18, 2018, where representatives from various Chambers of Commerce and Industries would also be invited to provide feedback on the system's capabilities and areas of improvement. PREIA expects that the E-payments system will be fully rolled out latest by mid-February 2018.

Capacity Building Support - Implementation of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention

PREIA is building the capacity of various stakeholder authorities in understanding the procedures involved in the implementation of the TIR Convention. From October 23-28 2017, PREIA, in collaboration with the Training for Pakistan (TFP) Project completed the delivery of "Hands on Training on TIR Procedures" to officials of the Pakistan National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (PNC-ICC), FBR/Pakistan Customs and private transport operators in Karachi. The trainings, attended by over 150 participants and delivered by subject experts of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), provided an overview of TIR procedures, the process of issuance for the TIR guaranteeing document (i.e. TIR Carnets), information on the application procedure to become a TIR holder, receipt of TIR Carnets, and a description of how the TIR-Electronic Pre-Declaration (EPD) system works.



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Above: Trainers from IRU impart knowledge on TIR procedures in Karachi, Pakistan.



Above Left: Chairman PNC-ICC, Mr. Tarik Rangoonwala informs the audience on Pakistan's implementation of the TIR Convention.

Above Right: Participants of the Training observe panel discussions.

International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001:2015 Certification of Customs House Karachi

From December 26-27, 2017 PREIA contracted expert firm namely Bureau Veritas (BV) conducted a Gap Analysis of the process at Customs House Karachi, vis-à-vis the Quality Management Standards defined under the globally reputed ISO 9001:2015 certificate. As of January 08, BV has assessed the existing practices and documentation of 12 different formations stationed at Customs House Karachi against the ISO 9001:2015 standards and will be submitting a report highlighting the findings of the review by mid-January 2018. Following the report submission, Pakistan Customs will be required to address the gaps within a period of 6 months, which will be confirmed through a final audit before the certification is awarded. PREIA expects that the ISO certification process will be complete by August 2018.



Obstacles and Challenges

Component 2: Improved Capacity to Access Regional Markets

Obstacles/Challenges	Resolution/Next Steps Required to remedy
Transfers and Postings of Pakistan Customs' Focal Persons nominated to coordinate the ISO Certification process has hindered the process, since the newly appointed officers required to be updated on the requirements and commitments of the activity. PREIA had requested FBR/Pakistan Customs to nominate a focal person from each of the twelve Customs departments that are housed within Karachi Customs House. In October 2017, when the certification process was gaining momentum, six of the focal persons were transferred, delaying the audit to be conducted by the certifying agency.	PREIA requested Pakistan Customs to nominate alternate focal persons and is currently making best efforts to complete the activity before the end of the newly nominated officers' tenure.
The changing political climate in Pakistan is a reality that is a continuing challenge for donor agencies. The current political uncertainty, it is foreseen, may impede GoP decisions on the establishment of the NSW Steering Committee.	PREIA will keep FBR/Pakistan Customs informed of all progress made through PREIA support, in an effort to gather support from policy makers and public sector implementers.

Component 0: PMO/Cross Cutting

Obstacles/Challenges	Resolution/Next Steps Required to remedy
PREIA vendor declined to accept the zero-rated exemptions on services received under Pakistan Enhanced Partnership Agreement (PEPA) from Economic Affairs Division (EAD) through USAID. Consequently the credit facility extended to PREIA is temporarily suspended.	DAI/PREIA has taken up the matter with the Inland Revenue Wing of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for clarity on tax related provisions, as the exemptions are not legally extendable to third parties. The case has been submitted to FBR in consultation with DAI's Tax Consultants so as to seek the required exemption. A round of negotiations has been proposed with the vendor to address concerns with EAD exemptions. Furthermore, alternative vendors have been identified so that the programmatic activities do not suffer.
The lead-time in conducting a due diligence/verification of Principals and Board Members of sub awardees, prior to submission of the Partner Information Form to USAID Vetting Support Unit (VSU) is becoming increasingly lengthy. The time required for due diligence is increased further in cases where the sub-awardee is an international organization and its management consists of international personalities from multiple jurisdictions. The due diligence processing time can take upwards of one month while PREIA awaits ID certifications of these individuals, which impacts the overall vetting processing time and hinders the timely implementation of program activities.	DAI/PREIA is prioritizing the implementation of its work plan activities, and is also ensuring compliance with the 'Eligibility Determination' process for its sub awardees. Staff orientations are also being held to ensure proper understanding of the vetting order. PREIA staff has been advised to ensure timely collection, review and submission of documents for the vetting of potential contractors, subcontractors and recipients. PREIA has also set up a three tier process of scrutinizing and screening the information collected before submitting to VSU, so as to avoid or minimize email exchanges seeking clarifications.
It has been noted in an external Data Quality Assessment exercise that one of PREIA's assigned indicators "DO 2.1.3 b Number of farmers or others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance" contains a gender disaggregation column, before the data can be accepted into Pak-Info. Since PREIA reports on others (i.e. organizations) and not individuals, the mandatory reporting on gender disaggregation should be removed from Pak-Info	PREIA will report the issue to USAID for the rectification of the problem.



Project Documents

Component 1: Improved Business Enabling Environment

Document Title	Submission
Terms of Reference (ToR): Hiring of Individual Consultants For the review of Proposals and drafting of Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF)	November 14, 2017
Terms of Reference (ToR): Hiring of Individual Consultants for the Development of Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) for the Ministry of Commerce	November 14, 2017
Expression of Interest: Hiring Services of an Institute for the Development of Quarterly Trade Bulletin (QTB)	November 29, 2017
Scope of Work/ToRs: Hiring Services of an Institute for the Development of Quarterly Trade Bulletin (QTB)	November 30, 2017
Expression of Interest: Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on Trade Policy	November 30, 2017
Concept Note: Hiring of a Short Term Technical Assistant (STTA) Consultant/firm to review and evaluate stakeholder proposals for the STPF 2018-2023	December 11, 2017
Assessment: Monitoring and Evaluation of Trade Officers	December 14, 2017

Component 2: Improved Capacity to Access Regional Markets

Document Title	Submission
[STTA Deliverable] Job Descriptions: Program Management Office (PMO) on NSW	October 20, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Terms of Reference (ToRs): Program Management Office (PMO) on NSW	October 20, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Organizational Structure: Program Management Office (PMO) on NSW	October 20, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Terms of Reference (ToRs): National Steering Committee on NSW	October 22, 2017
Presentation: TIR System in Pakistan	November 03, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Terms of Reference (ToRs) for hiring a Consultant (Law and Procedures) for NSW implementation	November 17, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Terms of Reference (ToRs) for hiring a Consultant (on Port Community Systems) for NSW implementation	November 17, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Presentation: An Introduction to National Single Window (Delivered to FBR/Customs Officials and private sector stakeholders)	November 23, 2017
Event Briefer: Pakistan Afghanistan Transit and Trade Forum	November 30, 2017
Situation Analysis Report: National Single Window	November 30, 2017
Concept Note: Made in Pakistan Trade Expo in Almaty, Kazakhstan	November 30, 2017
Concept Note: Collaborative Interventions on TIR - PREIA and ADB/Mott McDonald Pakistan	December 13, 2017
Concept Note: NSW Awareness and Outreach Plan	December 14, 2017
[Crimson Logic Deliverable] Situation Analysis Report: National Single Window	December 15, 2017
[STTA Deliverable] Event Briefer: National Single Window Stakeholders' Conference	December 15, 2017
[STTA Deliverables] Evaluation Report: Status of E-payments (October, November, December 2017)	October 25, 2017 November 27, 2017 December 25, 2017



Component 0: PMO/Cross Cutting

Document Title	Submission
Annual Summary Report (Year 2)	October 31, 2017
Quarterly Progress Report (FY17 Q4)	October 31, 2017
Review of Indicators (FY17 Q4)	October 31, 2017
Monthly Progress Report (October 2017)	November 07, 2017
Monthly Progress Report (November 2017)	December 07, 2017
Projected Expenditure Report Quarter 1, 2018 (October – December 2017)	December 13, 2017
Financial Data for Accruals Quarter 1, 2018 (October – December 2017)	December 13, 2017

Security and Risk review

Despite a visible decline in acts of terrorism, shifting loyalties within terrorist cadres, and slowing military operations, militant groups managed to adopt new tactics to sustain their presence in the country. Quarter 1 of FY2018 witnesses that a majority of the militant agenda was focused on infighting among terrorist outfits, emergence of new splinter groups and the drive for recruitment and retention of extremists. The targets of such activities appear to be refocusing on security personnel, despite a slight decrease in such targeted violence in the recent past. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) also launched a female-centric publication, “Sunnat-i-Khaua”, following Daish’s (Islamic State – IS) footsteps in attempting to recruit educated females for its operations. The successive military operations being executed alongside intelligence based operations (IOBs) as a part of ongoing nationwide “Rad-ul Fasad” agenda has weakened most terrorist groups to a great extent. Resultantly, the operational capacities of terrorist groups has also been weakened, especially as noticed in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region.

A considerable decline in the number of fatalities arising from violence in the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and FATA regions is reflective of the improvement in the country’s security situation. The transportation of explosives and confiscation of armaments from FATA and other parts of the country, on the other hand, also manifest the tenacity of militant organizations. After a string of successful military operations in the FATA regions, the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh appear to have become the main hubs for militant activity, with a pronounced focus on targeting security forces.

Politics across the country also thrived in the first quarter of FY2018, with political parties actively participating in political activities inside as well as outside the parliament. Following the panama case verdict and its aftermath, the political bustle across the country remained highly active during the quarter. With the approaching General Elections, scheduled for mid-2018, political parties will adjust their course to commence election campaigns, which will further increase political activity across the country.

The security situation in upcoming period is assessed to remain sensitive due to prevailing threat alert and developing political tension. Protests are a frequent occurrence in Pakistan which can occur with little warning and can potentially turn violent in a quick span of time. PREIA’s security team continues to monitor the prevailing situation in the country and keeps all staff informed of any incidents that are observed or reported. Moreover, staff has been made aware of the Activity’s security policy and standard operating procedures in case of a security threat.



Annex 1: Forthcoming Meetings, Events and Trainings

Date	Description
January 04, 2018	NSW awareness and outreach session for the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC) at the Model Customs Collectorate (MCC) Islamabad
January 05-06, 2018	Pre-STPF 2018-2023 Development: Stakeholder Consultation in Karachi
January 08-12, 2018	Training for six (06) MoC Officers on Dispute Settlement at the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern, Switzerland
January 09-10, 2018	NSW awareness and outreach session with Customs (Central Region) Officials and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in Lahore
January 11, 2018	Pakistan Afghanistan Transit and Trade - Public Private Dialogue Forum in Islamabad
January 15-19, 2018	Training for five (05) MoC Officers on Non-Discrimination in International trade at WTI in Bern, Switzerland
January 17, 2018	Awareness Raising Session on the introduction of Electronic Payments for banks, clearing agents, trading associations and chambers of commerce, in Lahore
January 22-26, 2018	Training for six (06) MoC Officers on Border Management: Tariffs and Quantitative Restrictions at WTI in Bern, Switzerland
January 31, 2018	NSW awareness and outreach session with KhyberPukhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KPCCI) in Peshawar
January 2018 (TBD)	Meeting with Joint Secretary, Mr. Bilal Pasha, to follow up on report by PREIA for reform of Commercial Diplomatic Services' M&E mechanisms
January 2018 (TBD)	Pre-STPF 2018-2023 Development: Stakeholder consultations in Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, Sialkot, Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan
February 2018 (TBD)	PNC-ICC's visit to Turkey, for knowledge sharing to The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and one of the TIR issuing chambers
February 2018 (TBD)	NSW awareness and outreach sessions with Chambers of Commerce in Quetta, Sialkot, and Faisalabad
February 19-March 02, 2018	Training for 15 (TBD) MoC officers at the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law (ACWL) in Geneva, Switzerland
March 06-07, 2018 (TBC)	CrimsonLogic's stakeholder workshop/seminar on NSW (FBR Focal Persons/GoP/Ministries/Agencies and Private Sector stakeholders) in Islamabad



Annex 2: Key Meetings

Component 1

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Development of Organizational Rules and By-Laws for Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO)	Deputy Director, Ministry of Commerce World Trade Organization (WTO) Wing, TDRO, RIAA Barker Gillette (RIAABG)	12-Oct-17	The meeting initiated discussions on the legal amendments required to be made to the TDRO Act so as to reflect the organizational structure and dispute settlement procedures being followed by Organization	The WTO Wing of the MoC informed of its planned stakeholder consultations on how consumer protection, dispute resolution and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will be regulated with respect to Electronic Commerce. The said consultations, to be held on October 24, will provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of organizations involved in the E-commerce disputes	Islamabad
Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on Trade Policy	Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)	13-Oct-17	Discussion on the possibility of institutionalizing a Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on trade policy	PREIA learnt about SDPI's on-going activities, organizational structure, objectives. The discussions revealed that SDPI has the institutional capacity and experience of facilitating economic related dialogue and may be suitable to take the PREIA-funded PPDF forward. PREIA encouraged the Institute to apply for the task once the Expression of Interest (EOI) is advertised, for further evaluation and possible selection.	Islamabad
Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on Trade Policy	Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME)	19-Oct-17	Discussion on the possibility of institutionalizing a Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on trade policy	PRIME also provided a presentation on its research capabilities and areas of expertise, including research on regional trade and current collaboration with key public sector stakeholders.	Islamabad
Development of Organizational Rules and By-Laws for TDRO	MoC WTO Wing, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Ministry of Information and Technology (MoIT) and Daraz.pk	24-Oct-17	Stakeholder discussions on how the draft TDRO law can be amended to ensure that Electronic Commerce dispute resolution, consumer protection and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection are covered sufficiently	Attained clarity on the different types of E-Commerce disputes, demarcation of domestic disputes and international disputes with regards to e-commerce, consumer protection aspect of the TDRO law and authorities that should be nominated to regulate E-Commerce operations. It was decided that the participants will provide their input on the aforementioned issues by November 02, 2017.	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Development of Organizational Rules and By-Laws for TDRO	RIAA Barker Gillette (RIAABG)	31-Oct-17	Scope of Work (SoW) for the revision of the draft TDRO Law, and for the drafting of rules, regulations and by-laws on trade dispute settlement in Pakistan.	Since TDRO should have the authorities of a statutory commission and the TDRO Act is to be amended accordingly, the SoW of RIAA Barker Gillette, should also be expanded to include the drafting of service rules and designing of a recommended organizational structure for TDRO. RIAA Barker Gillette will be sharing a revised SoW with PREIA by November 03, 2017.	Islamabad
Development of Organizational Rules and By-Laws for TDRO	Secretary Commerce, TDRO, RIAABG	2-Nov-17	Presentation on the recommended structural amendments required at TDRO and solicitation of approval on the direction with respect to the re-drafting the TDRO law, by-laws and legislative amendments; especially with regards to Electronic (E) - Commerce	The Secretary Commerce agreed with RIAABG's recommendation to redraft the existing TDRO law and to endow TDRO with law enforcement powers, thereby renaming it the Trade Dispute Resolution Commission (TDRC). The drafting of the legislation would thus entail giving binding powers to TDRC. RIAABG will be submitting the first draft of the revised law to the MoC by early-mid December 2017	Islamabad
Capacity Building Support to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC)	Mr. Ilayas Ghauri (Director General) and Ms. Nazish Sami (Director Training), Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD)	2-Nov-17	USAID approval for the training of seventeen (17) probationary officers at World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern, Switzerland and plan of action	PREIA would support the participation of 17 PITAD officers on WTO dispute settlement, WTO Non-Discrimination in international trade, Border Management I: Tariffs & Quantitative restrictions and Border management II: Customs procedures & Trade facilitation from January 5-February 02, 2018. PITAD will be sharing nominations for each training course by November 10, 2017	Islamabad
Women National Business Agenda (WNBA)	Stakeholders of the Women National Business Agenda (WNBA)	6-Nov-17	WNBA Consultations	The participants highlighted some of their concerns with women participation and their role in business, small-medium enterprise and trade	Islamabad
Women National Business Agenda (WNBA)	Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)	6-Nov-17	Discussion on arrangements and agenda for the upcoming WNBA seminars being supported by PREIA	PREIA is facilitating FPCCI and CIPE to hold two consultative sessions on the WNBA in Lahore and Karachi on November 28 and 19, 2017, and one dissemination seminar in Islamabad during December (TBD) 2017. The plan of action and understanding on collaboration was elucidated	Islamabad
PREIA-MoC Scope of Work	Mr. Nauman Aslam, Director General (DG), Trade Policy Wing MoC	7-Nov-17	To discuss the drafting of the Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) for the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) and	The DG advised PREIA to re-evaluate the SoW for the drafting of SROs and requested for PREIA to extend assistance in developing a template for proposed refinements to the STPF	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
			solicit feedback on other areas where the MoC would require PREIA support	2015-2018. The template would be utilized by the MoC to document and prioritize policy recommendations from the private sector, academia and other stakeholders for the current and future STPFs. PREIA will share a revised SoW with the MoC, for review and feedback	
Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on Trade Policy	Dr. Turab Hussain and Dr. Abid Aman Burki (department of Economics), and Rausing Executive Development Center at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	9-Nov-17	Discussion on the possibility of institutionalizing a Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on trade policy	PREIA will consider the feedback gathered from LUMS in the development of its Concept Note and implementation plans on PPDF formulation	Lahore
Capacity Building Support to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC)	Mr. Naseer Ahmed, Director Trade In Services (TIS) Wing, MoC	14-Nov-17	Identification of areas where PREIA can improve the capacity of the TIS Wing, particularly with regard to the design and implementation of policies aimed at enhancing Pakistan's exports of priority service sectors.	The TIS Wing identified that there is a need for donor support in the areas of data collection and in the development of an implementation roadmap for the TIS Wing. PREIA has agreed to develop a draft Concept Note on support to TIS, which will be shared with the MoC by late November 2017	Islamabad
Capacity Building Support to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC)	Conference Call with Dr. Rodrigo Polanco, Senior Researcher and Lecturer, World Trade Institute (WTI)	17-Nov-17	Planning on the procedures and administrative requirements for training to PITAD Officers at WTI	Discuss the trainings and planning on the required procedures and administrative requirements from WTI	Islamabad
Women Leadership in Trade Policy (WLTP)	Conference Call: Ms. Maria Masood, consultant at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	24-Nov-17	Confirmation on the expert's availability and possible terms of engagement for the upcoming WLTP sessions	PREIA will continue reaching out to potential individuals and organizations for the commissioning of the studies. It is expected that the research will be initiated in the first quarter of calendar year 2018.	Islamabad
Trade Policy Reform Support - Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF)	Director (Trade Policy Wing), MoC	5-Dec-17	solicit concurrence on the draft Scopes of Work (SoW) for the review of proposals for the upcoming STPF 2018-2023 and the development of Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs)	The MoC formally approved PREIA's draft SoWs for the consultants and will be providing further clarification on the duration of the assignments, number of SROs etc. by December 8, 2017 following which PREIA will recruit the consultants	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Gender Parity in Trade Policy	Rawalpindi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCI)	18-Dec-17	Participated, as an observer, in the All Pakistan Women Chambers President's Summit, organized by RCCI	PREIA presented on its experience of implementing the Women Leadership in Trade Policy (WLTP) Program and lessons learnt/observations made with regard to devising effective interventions for enhanced women engagement in Pakistan's economy	Rawalpindi
Gender Parity in Trade Policy	US Ambassador Mr. David Hale	13-Dec-17	PREIA attended a reception hosted by the US Ambassador Mr. David Hale in honor of the US-Pakistan Women Council	PREIA shared the Project's gender related initiatives and interacted with other attendees	Islamabad
Development of Organizational Rules and By-Laws for TDRO	Secretary Commerce (MoC), RIAABG TDRO	21-Dec-17	Discussion on the first working draft of the TDRC Act that PREIA had submitted to MoC and TDRO for review and feedback	PREIA, RIAABG, TDRO and MoC officials reviewed the first draft of the draft TDRC Act. Secretary Commerce asked RIAABG to insert an enabling clause in the Act enabling TDRC to accept domestic e-commerce disputes as well. RIAABG to submit a revised Act by December 22	Islamabad
PREIA-MoC Scope of Work	Director General (Trade Policy Wing), MoC	27-Dec-17	Discussion on proposed plan of implementation for the development of the STPF 2018-2023 and reform of the GoP's Trade Officers Program	MoC identified cities where stakeholder consultations would take place during January/February 2018, including Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, Sialkot, Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan. With regards to the M&E of the Trade Officer's Program, the MoC would circulate the report among its Foreign Trade Wings and revert to PREIA with suggested improvements and way forward	Islamabad

Component 2

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic (Conference Call)	3-Oct-17	Coordination meeting on CrimsonLogic's visit to Pakistan, information gathering exercise and planned itinerary	CrimsonLogic would mobilize its team by mid-October 2017, for a two-week visit. PREIA and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)/Pakistan Customs would coordinate the assessment plan, gather useful information and identify stakeholders for Crimson Logic to meet	Islamabad
PREIA-FBR Scope of Work (SoW)	Mr. Imran Mohmand, Chief Reforms & Automation (R&A) Wing, FBR/Pakistan	6-Oct-17	Both parties met to discuss the status of key activities being implemented under the	Due the lengthy procurement procedures at PREIA it was highlighted that some of PREIA's activities could be taken up by the World Bank	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
	Customs		PREIA-FBR SoW, particularly the upgradation of the Pakistan Customs' Web Based One Customs (WeBOC) website for goods clearance	Group (WBG). The Chief (R&A) informed PREIA that WBG has shorter procurement timelines in comparison and could take over procurement intensive activities while PREIA could focus towards continuing the provision of technical assistance to FBR/Pakistan Customs	
PREIA-FBR Scope of Work (SoW)	Ms. Saima Zuberi, Operations Officer - World Bank Group (WBG) and Mr. Wajid Ali, Reforms & Automation (R&A) Wing, FBR/Pakistan Customs	10-Oct-17	To agree on a way forward in the assisting FBR/Pakistan Customs for trade facilitation and automation reforms	Support being extended by PREIA for the upgradation of the WeBOC website will be formally handed over to WBG. For the migration of Customs legacy data, PREIA would attempt to identify an alternate local firm other than IBM by October 30 and, in case significant progress is not made, the task would be taken up by WBG. The Director (R&A), FBR/Pakistan Customs requested PREIA to procure GEFEG.FX's World Customs Organization Data Model Study package	Karachi
Improved Regional Business to Business (B2B) Linkages	President and Vice President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)	13-Oct-17	PREIA-SCCI collaboration through research and public-private dialogue forums aimed at promoting the pursuance of an enabling environment for Pak-Afghan trade	Key points discussed included the planned Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade Advocacy Forum, roles that can be assumed by SCCI and PREIA to execute a successful forum, preliminary Terms of Reference (TORs) and structural dynamics of the forum and PREIA's monitoring efforts to identify impediments to the implementation of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). SCCI expressed complete willingness to facilitate the planned dialogue forum	Peshawar
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	Asian Development Bank (ADB)/ Mott McDonald Pakistan	20-Oct-17	Discussion on areas of intervention and exploration of possible collaboration	ADB provided a brief overview of its initiatives and collaboration strategy with the Government of Pakistan (GoP) to modernize Pakistan's transport sector for improved connectivity. PREIA and ADB discussed the various challenges faced in the effective implementation of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) and in the enhancement of trade within the Central Asian Republics (CARs) region. Additionally, PREIA and ADB agreed to collaborate on activities pertaining to the successful implementation of the TIR Convention	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Improved Regional Business to Business (B2B) Linkages	Mr. Khalid Rasool, Director Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)	24-Oct-17	To learn about TDAP's upcoming trade promotion initiatives and ways in which PREIA can complement the efforts of each of the collaborating partners	Discussed the upcoming Expo Pakistan, trade promotion initiatives for the CAR region. TDAP agreed to share the concept paper and a formal letter of invitation to solicit collaboration/partnership on organizing the CAR conference from PREIA. The possibility of organizing an expo on gems and jewelry was also discussed.	Karachi
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, Member Customs, DG (R&A), and Member Information Technology, Pakistan Customs	30-Oct-17	Introduction of CrimsonLogic to key members of FBR/Pakistan Customs and key regulators	FBR/Pakistan Customs officials briefed Crimson Logic on customs processes and policies, and its role as the designated "lead agency" for NSW implementation in Pakistan	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, MoC and its subsidiary organizations i.e. National Tariff Commission (NTC), Trading Corporation of Pakistan, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and Intellectual Property Organization (IPO)	31-Oct-17	Introduction of CrimsonLogic to key members of key regulators for trade	The expected role of each organization in implementing a National Single Window (NSW) was discussed. The MoC has committed to providing support to FBR/Pakistan Customs, Crimson Logic, and PREIA in the development of the NSW Strategy Document and implementation roadmap	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL), Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Textile Industry Division, Ministry of National Health Service, Regulation, & Coordination, Ministry of Industries & Production, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Narcotics Control Division, and Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT)	2-Nov-17	Introduction of CrimsonLogic to key members of key regulators for trade	Focal persons from each division provided an overview of their respective organization's functions with respect to trade	Islamabad
Implementation of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR)	USAID US State Department	3-Nov-17	Presentation on the presentation on the TIR system	The presentation provided an introduction to the TIR Convention and recent developments in implementation of the TIR system in Pakistan.	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Convention				PREIA explained its future plans for promoting TIR and the capacity development of officials from PNC-ICC (the designated carnet issuing authority in the country), Pakistan Customs, and private sector transport operators	
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, Customs Officials at Directorates of Appraisalment (East/West), Reforms and Automation, Enforcement, Pakistan Customs authorities at Port Qasim	7-Nov-17	Observation of customs operations for the stakeholder readiness assessment on the implementation of a NSW in Pakistan	The team also visited port areas to observe customs operations including Model Customs Collectorate East, Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT) Limited, Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) Limited, and Qasim International Container Terminal (QICT) Limited. Meetings were organized to understand the readiness status of Pakistan Customs and develop a situational analysis report accordingly.	Karachi
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	World Bank 'Trans-Khyber Pass' Peshawar-Torkham Economic Corridor Project	7-Nov-17	Met with officials from World Bank managing the 'Trans-Khyber Pass' Peshawar-Torkham Economic Corridor Project	An overview of the project was provided to PREIA, for possible partnership and collaboration on areas of support. The project is a road infrastructure development program that will improve Pakistan's connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs). Possible areas of future collaboration were also discussed	Karachi
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, Customs Officials at Model Customs Collectorate East, Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT) Limited, Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) Limited, and Qasim International Container Terminal (QICT) Limited	10-Nov-17	Observation of customs operations for the stakeholder readiness assessment on the implementation of a NSW in Pakistan	Observed operations and conducted a preliminary readiness assessment on NSW implementation in Pakistan	Karachi
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	CrimsonLogic, Officials of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Directorate of Plant Protection, Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA),	11-Nov-17	Observation of customs operations for the stakeholder readiness assessment on the implementation of a NSW in Pakistan	Observed operations and conducted a preliminary readiness assessment on NSW implementation in Pakistan	Karachi



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
	Sindh Revenue Board, Karachi Port Trust, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), freight forwarding firms and clearing agents				
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	Ms. Nadia Rocha, Senior Economist of the World Bank Group (WBG)	15-Nov-17	Discussed possible areas of future collaboration and the design of programs that can address and eliminate any inadvertent duplication of donor efforts	WBG provided a detailed explanation on its interventions for trade policy formulation that are currently being provided to the GoP. Both parties agreed to share updates on each other's' efforts to help the GoP introduce a NSW for customs. PREIA will share a situational analysis of NSW stakeholders with WBG, upon receiving the first draft from its contracted firm namely Crimson Logic	Islamabad
Improved Regional Business to Business (B2B) Linkages	PREIA-sponsored delegates of the Pak-Tajik B2B Forum 2017	16-Nov-17	Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the PREIA sponsored Pak-Tajik B2B and resulting outcomes/impediments/success stories	The companies expressed their intent in continuing to explore opportunities, not only in Tajikistan, but also in the surrounding region as it would provide the businesses with a gateway into Eastern Europe and regions beyond Europe. One of the PREIA-sponsored pharmaceutical companies namely AR Sons has submitted 6 dossiers for registration of its products in Tajikistan. Additionally, a steel company namely Anwar Industries also reinforced its initial intent of pursuing the import of semi-finished steel from Tajikistan and then exporting the finished product.	Lahore
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Project namely "Enabling Economic Corridors through Sustainable Transport Sector Development"	22-Nov-17	Discussion on interventions for enhanced trade facilitation and discuss possible areas of collaboration, especially with regard to the implementation of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention in Pakistan.	It was decided that ADB will use its allocated resources for training programs on TIR, establish private sector working groups, and initiate the development of a TIR manual, whereas PREIA will continue its on-going support for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)/Pakistan Customs. ADB also informed that it will share the draft National Transport Policy with PREIA	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
Improved Regional Business to Business (B2B) Linkages	President and Vice President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)	22-Nov-17	Coordination on preparations for the upcoming Pak-Afghan trade and transit forum	PREIA shared a brief “event overview” document with SCCI, which will be attached to the formal invitation cards. PREIA has also initiated the designing of communications material, which will be shared with SCCI for input	Peshawar
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	ADB funded Project namely “Enabling Economic Corridors through Sustainable Transport Sector Development”	30-Nov-17	Discussion on interventions for enhanced trade facilitation and discuss possible areas of collaboration, especially with regard to the implementation of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention in Pakistan.	PREIA to share a Concept Note for joint PREIA-MMP implementation of activities on the implementation of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention in Pakistan. The Note will provide tentative timelines, rationale, benefits, and definition of work division between MMP and PREIA. In principle, it has been decided that ADB would be primarily financing all future TIR events while PREIA will provide technical assistance	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	Mr. Afnan Khan (Secretary) and Ms. Rizwana Siddiqui (Joint Director) National Single Window Project Management Office (PMO)	5-Dec-17	Preparations for the upcoming two-day conference on National Single Window, scheduled to be held from January 16-17, 2017 in Islamabad.	The Conference will be delivered by PREIA contracted Crimson Logic to FBR focal persons, Government of Pakistan (GoP) officials, Ministry officials, agencies and private sector stakeholders. Both PREIA and counterparts from FBR/Pakistan Customs reached an agreement on planned design and delivery of the conference	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	NSW focal persons	14-Dec-17	PREIA organized a NSW Stakeholders’ Coordination event in Islamabad	The event facilitated the networking and exchange of ideas among NSW focal persons, and was attended by an approximate 18 individuals from FBR/Pakistan Customs and various trade regulators including Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Ministry of National Health Services, Ministry of Industries & Production, Ministry of Narcotics Control, Anti-Narcotic Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Maritimes Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information Technology, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning Development & Reforms, and the Ministry of Defense Production	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window	Mr. Imran Mohmand, Chief Reforms & Automation	21-Dec-17	Discussion on timelines and support for the implementation	Upon FBR’s request, the sequence and timelines of deliverables and events that PREIA had	Islamabad



Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA)

Workstream	Meeting With	Date	Overview	Outcome/Result	Location
(NSW)	(R&A) Wing, FBR/Pakistan Customs		of NSW in Pakistan	planned in its WorkPlan for FY2018/PY3 have been revised. As such; 1. The NSW Awareness Seminar (initially planned for January 15, 2018) would be held on March 6 or 7 (TBD) 2018 2. Crimson would submit the Blue Print along with the Strategy Document by 15th of February 2018. 3. PREIA would aim to complete the first phase of its NSW 'awareness and outreach' activities within February	
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	ADB funded Project namely "Enabling Economic Corridors through Sustainable Transport Sector Development"	19-Dec-17	Discussion on interventions for enhanced trade facilitation and discuss possible areas of collaboration, especially with regard to the implementation of the TIR Convention	ADB/MMP had no objection on the Concept Note, which laid out the rationale and objectives of the proposed activities, with each organization taking a lead role on the activities suggested by it and PREIA providing technical expertise across all activities	Islamabad
Donor Coordination: Trade and Transit Facilitation	ADB funded Project namely "Enabling Economic Corridors through Sustainable Transport Sector Development"	22-Dec-17	Discussion on interventions for enhanced trade facilitation and discuss possible areas of collaboration, especially with regard to the implementation of the TIR Convention	ADB suggested that, for the proposed Conference in January 2018 - the Bank would prefer to augment the agenda with a presentation on its interventions for the improvement of Pakistan's transport sector	Islamabad
Implementation of a National Single Window (NSW)	Chairman, Vice Chairman Pak-Japan Business Forum (PJBF)	28-Dec-17	Bringing the organization on board with the NSW initiative and to explore further collaboration with the private sector, especially with regard to the Business to Business (B2B) component of the NSW.	It was agreed that the PJBF will organize a bigger meeting/session comprising of members from different associations in late January 2018 and invite PREIA and the Pakistan Customs' PMO to educate members on the benefits of NSW.	Karachi