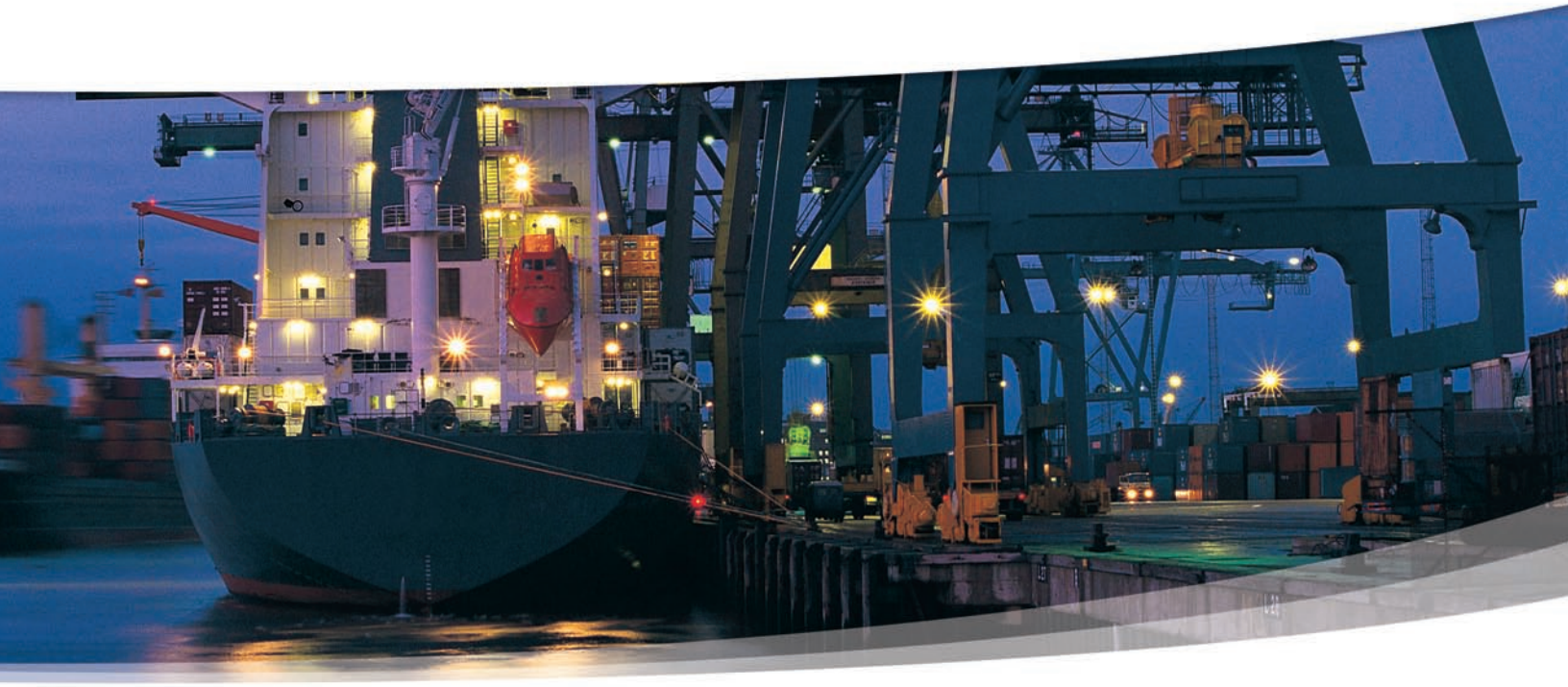
TCBoost

Supporting Trade Capacity Building Worldwide



Sponsored by USAID's Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, TCBoost aims to harness the power of trade to promote growth in developing countries.

RAPID RESPONSE AND TARGETED ASSISTANCE

Implemented by the DAI/Nathan Group, TCBoost helps USAID missions determine their trade-related technical assistance needs and design and implement trade capacity building programs and projects. TCBoost covers a range of trade capacity building activities and can meet every aspect of a mission's trade-related needs, from analysis to hands-on training. For example, missions can request assistance with activities related to

- Trade facilitation and customs reform
- Trade policymaking and negotiations
- Export diversification and competitiveness
- Economic adjustments to trade liberalization

Advisers with decades of experience building trade capacity in developing countries respond quickly to such requests and design practical activities that help USAID officers master trade concepts and design and implement programs.

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CUSTOMIZED DELIVERABLES FOR BEST RESULTS

TCBoost's predecessor projects — Support for Trade Capacity Building Activities (STCBA) and Facilitating Streamlined Trade (FASTrade) — provided needs assessments, training, and technical assistance in more than 30 countries. TCBoost continues the work of customizing deliverables for each mission. Deliverables might include

- Analysis and research
- Needs assessments on specific topics such as customs reform
- Short courses for USAID staff and host country partners on a variety of subjects
- Best practice guides

The following STCBA case study exemplifies the range of services available under TCBoost — and the long-term results of those services.

CASE STUDY

Preparing the Dominican Republic Apparel Industry for New Competition

PROBLEM

As the final days of global textile and apparel quotas approached, the future looked dim for the Dominican Republic's apparel industry. How could this industry so vital to the country's economy survive?

SOLUTION

The Support for Trade Capacity Building Activities project's trade advisers analyzed the likely economic and employment impacts of quota elimination on the Dominican Republic, highlighting the advantages to the DR of becoming a party to the US–Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

After the advisers presented their analysis to government and private sector representatives, public debate shifted from the threats CAFTA posed to the benefits it offered, and the DR chose to join the agreement. The analysis also showed that small Dominican firms could only remain competitive by moving from simple cut and sew operations to offering value-added, preproduction services such as pattern design and sample making.

Worker designs multiple patterns at the Pre-production Training Center in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Collaborating with the USAID/Dominican Republic Mission and public and private entities, the STCBA project set up a preproduction training center in the Santiago Industrial Free Zone. The skills taught in the center are enabling the apparel industry to adapt to the new global trade environment.

Training Center supervisor inspects fabric.

Contacts

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