



CUTS Dossier

Partnership with the UK Government

Exploring New Avenues and Outlining Goals

About CUTS

CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began in 1983 from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper, Gram Gadar (Village Revolution). Gram Gadar is published regularly and reaches every nook and corner of Rajasthan, including remote villages. It has been instrumental in providing a forum for the oppressed classes to get justice. The mission of the organisation is: *Consumer Sovereignty in the Framework of Social Justice, Economic Equality and Environmental Balance Within and Across Borders.*



CUTS is an international research, public education and networking organisation working in various fields, including international trade, competition policy and law, economic regulation, consumer protection and sustainable development issues. From a humble beginning in 1983-84, the organisation now has three resource centres in Jaipur, each in Calcutta, Chittorgarh and New Delhi in India. It works internationally, especially in the developing world, through its resource centres based in Kenya, USA, Vietnam, Switzerland, Zambia and Ghana. More information about the organisation and its centres can be accessed here: <http://www.cuts-international.org>.



1. Prototyping a “Better Trade Resilience Toolkit”: Assisting Developing and Least-Developed Countries Build Back Better

Duration: October 2022-January 2023

Client: Cowater, Fund Manager for Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2+ Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP500,00,510

CUTS aims to develop a prototype for a “Better Trade Resilience Toolkit” for trade policymakers, which they could use to make resilience-enhancing adaptations to their trade policies through a set of surveying, diagnosis and response-planning tools.



2. TAF2+ WTO Umbrella Grant on JSIs Issues – Phase 3: Ad-Hoc Support Mechanism for E-commerce and Investment Facilitation JSIs

Duration: October 2022-January 2023

Client: Cowater, Fund Manager for Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2+ Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP 44,450

Phase 3 of the TAF2+ WTO Umbrella Grant aims to reopen an Ad-Hoc Support Facility for developing country WTO negotiators on two Joint Statements: (i) Electronic Commerce; and (ii) Investment Facilitation for Development. Access to the facility will be extended to all interested least-developed countries country WTO members while interacting with the 11 original beneficiaries of the WTO Umbrella Grant Phase II.



3. TAF2+ WTO Umbrella Grant on JSIs Issues – Phase I and II: Capacity Building on E-commerce, Investment Facilitation and MSME JSIs

Duration: January 2020-March 2022

Client: Cowater, Fund Manager for Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2+ Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP402,801

The project undertook several capacity-building activities – including policy briefs, seminars and confidential ad hoc support to assist 10 beneficiary countries in understanding better the negotiations in the JSIs on e-commerce, investment facilitation and MSMEs and contribute to the development-oriented outcomes therein.

<https://bit.ly/3hRFS4D>



4. Enabling a Political Economy Discourse for Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN Sub-region

Duration: 2020-2022

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP560,510

This project aims to create an enabling environment for a political economy discourse on multi-modal connectivity in the BBIN sub-region. It addresses the implementation challenges of the BBIN MVA in Bangladesh, India and Nepal and identifies gaps in infrastructure policy and regulations, which can pose hurdles to multi-modal connectivity in this sub-region.

<https://bit.ly/3GkiNSB>



5. Support to ACP Group on WTO Negotiations/Discussions

Duration: October 2019-August 2021

Client: Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2+ Department for International Development, UK

Budget: CHF30,000

The project provided demand-driven and need-based substantive support to the ACP Group in Geneva through its coordinator and issued focal points on S&D and WTO institutional reform.



6. Gender Dimensions of Trade Facilitation

Agreement: Evidence from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal

Duration: 2018-2021

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP568,984

This project aims to identify barriers that limit women entrepreneurs' access to opportunities to engage in economic activities, particularly in trade. It creates awareness of gender-inclusive trade facilitation among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal and suggests country-specific policy recommendations in favour of the women-responsive Trade Facilitation Agreement.

<https://cuts-citee.org/home-gdtfa/>



7. Border Haats between India and Bangladesh as a Tool to Reduce Informal Cross Border Trade between the Two Countries

Duration: 2018-2021

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Budget: GBP328,638

This project aims to improve the livelihoods prospects of people, particularly women, living near the border areas of India and Bangladesh by establishing border haats to reduce informal cross-border trade between India and Bangladesh. It will provide country-specific and gender-inclusive evidence on the prospects of establishing border haats to reduce informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities between the countries.

<https://bit.ly/2MGrH0m>



8. Capacity Development Programme for Digital Commerce (CD Digital Commerce)

Duration: June 2017-March 2018

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK through UK Mission in Geneva

Budget: GBP50,000

The project developed and delivered two iterations of a hybrid capacity-building course for negotiations/policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of developing and least-developed countries on e-commerce.

<https://bit.ly/3OmcX50>



9. Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement: Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN sub-region

Duration: 2016-2018

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP158,410

The project aims to facilitate trade and transit among the four countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal by enabling the implementation of the BBIN MVA through evidence-based advocacy, facilitative dialogues, and capacity building.

<https://cuts-citee.org/bbinmva/>



10. Literature and Feasibility Study on Approaches to Assess the Poverty Impact of Economic Integration in the East African Community

Duration: 2015-2016

Client: Department for International Development, UK, through the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM - Brussels, Belgium).

Budget: GBP14,589

The objectives of the project are to summarise the existing evidence in the literature on the poverty impact of regional integration in different regions around the world; examine the lessons for poverty reduction applicable to East African integration and how the benefits from integration could be maximised. It also provides recommendations to address evidence gaps and assess the EAC Customs Union's potential country winners and losers and its impacts on poverty.



11. Facilitating the Adoption of the Regulatory Impact Assessment Framework in India

Duration: 2014-2016

Client: British High Commission

Budget: GBP90,000

The project aims to demonstrate the process and benefits of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) by designing and implementing RIA on select existing laws, generating awareness and building institutional capacity, thereby advocating the adoption of the RIA framework by the Central Government and certain regulatory authorities in India.

<https://bit.ly/3Gnt0NX>



12. Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries

Duration: 2013-2016

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK; BMZ (Germany); and GIZ (Germany)

Budget: GBP915,000 and €300,000 from GIZ

The project aims to demonstrate better the benefits of competition reforms in developing countries to ensure long-term support for competition reforms; greater attention and impetus for competition reforms in key markets of developing countries, resulting in benefits for consumers and producers. CUTS, through this project, aims to create an approach that would help assess the benefits of competition reforms on consumers and producers in select two sectors.

<https://bit.ly/3XaJMWM>



13. Support to Enhance Development of Trade in Services Negotiations

Duration: August 2014-June 2015

Client: Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund 2, Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP120,967

The project aimed to achieve the following objectives: i) Better use of services statistics for services trade negotiations and policymaking; (ii) Improved institutional mechanisms for services trade negotiations and policymaking; and (iii) Enhanced understanding of the potential role for services trade negotiations, reforms and integration to enhance the beneficiary ability to participate in services trade.

<https://bit.ly/3TOCW69>



14. Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration

Duration: 2014-2015

Client: Department for International Development, UK/Support to West Africa Regional Integration Programme

Budget: GBP25,000

The project's objective was to strengthen consumers' voice in the ECOWAS regional integration process with evidence-based research with a special focus on Ghana and Senegal; determine the potential impacts of regional trade and integration on consumer welfare using a few popular consumer goods as indicators, and assess current awareness and understanding of consumer organisations about the regional integration process and scope for improving their engagement and to identify some specific areas where advocacy can be carried out.

<https://bit.ly/3hYKqXb>



15. National Public Procurement Policy in India

Duration: 2013-2015

Client: British High Commission

Budget: GBP79,525

The objective of the project is to evolve a National Procurement Policy of India to address implementation concerns of the Public Procurement Bill; increase awareness among the relevant stakeholder groups about the benefits which can be obtained through judicious use of public expenditure and the use of public procurement as a socioeconomic developmental tool; increase information base for trade negotiations about public procurement, particularly for EU-India free trade agreement and the Asia Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

<https://bit.ly/3hOsCgT>



16. External Preferential Trade Agreements and the Indian Economy: An Analysis of Impacts and Counter Measures

Duration: 2013-2015

Client: Department for International Development, UK through IPE Global

Budget: INR14,005,000

The project's objective is to generate research results on the impacts of three selected external trade agreements on the Indian economy and use the same for informed policy decisions; and help Indian trade policymakers make informed choices *vis-a-vis* current and future negotiations for PTAs/RTAs.

<https://bit.ly/3X4v43z>



17. China-UK Cooperation on African Trade and Investment for poverty reduction: The Case for Kenya

Duration: 2014-2014

Client: Department for International Development, UK through International Development Studies

Budget: GBP29,986

The project's objective is to assess the trade relations of the UK and China with Kenya, including the state of play, challenges, opportunities and the way forward. The focus is on effectively supporting growth, structural transformation and poverty reduction, examining possible synergies between UK and Chinese policies.

<https://bit.ly/3UHQm5t>



18. Development Dimensions of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India

Duration: 2013-2014

Client: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK through IPE Global

Budget: INR3,876,000

This project aims at enhancing the developmental outcomes of India's National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP) by addressing existing gaps in NFTP's inclusiveness and its coordination with external trade negotiations, fostering linkages between the NFTP and Foreign Direct Investment policy, and exploring new avenues for using the NFTP for strengthening the participation of Indian business units in regional/global value chains. Beneficiaries of the project include trade policymakers and trade/industry associations, as well as various stakeholders from some of the developing and least developed countries.

<https://bit.ly/3GiEfY6>



19. National Competition Policy and Economic Growth in India

Duration: 2012-2014

Client: British High Commission

Budget: GBP103,125

The project aims to take forward the agenda of a National Competition Policy and focus on three sectors: Pharmaceutical, Electricity and Agriculture & Marketing to identify the existing gaps against the touchstone of competition and measure the benefits of correcting the same on the entire Indian economy.

<https://bit.ly/3GlgcYz>



20. Non-tariff Barriers Affecting Indo-Pak Trade

Duration: 2012-2012

Client: Department for International Development, Pakistan (through Sustainable Development Policy Institute)

Budget: £25,000

The project aims to create an information resource unit to facilitate Pakistan's exports into India and, simultaneously, encourage targeted Indian services into Pakistan to facilitate and guide Pakistan's small and medium enterprises and the upcoming young entrepreneurs.

<https://bit.ly/3hWZxjN>



21. Government Procurement – An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India

Duration: 2011-2012

Client: British High Commission

Budget: GBP167,530

The goal is to devise a more efficient government procurement system in India with greater transparency, efficiency and good governance to benefit both domestic and foreign enterprises and consumers. Another goal was to examine the advantages for India to progress from 'Observer' status in the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement to becoming its member.

<https://bit.ly/3Ame1jG>



23. Research Programme Consortium on 'Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth' (Phase I & II)

Duration: 2005-2010

Client: Department for International Development, UK (through DESTIN, London School of Economics, UK)

Budget: GBP41,010 London School of Economics, UK

The Consortium argues that the prospects for Pro-Poor Growth (PPG) are fundamentally influenced by formal and informal political, social and cultural interactions with economic institutions. This follows from widespread recognition that the CUTS analysed the impacts of these institutional interactions on growth, and PPG, in particular.

<https://bit.ly/3V2Ba2n>



22. State Business Relationship in Indian states under the Improving Institutions Pro-Poor Growth

Duration: 2008-2010

Client: Department for International Development, UK/The University of Manchester, UK

Budget: GBP 90,236/GBP153,766

The project's objective is to determine the significance of state business relations for economic growth. Constructing composite and specific indices of state business relationships for 16 states of India would generate new knowledge/information that would stimulate better policies and thus strengthen state-business relations.

<https://bit.ly/3tOmati>



24. Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries

Duration: 2008-2010

Client: Department for International Development, UK/International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Sweden

Budget: GBP327,400

The project's objective is to equip the national stakeholders in the seven countries: Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, to evolve and operationalise effective competition regimes to help achieve consumer welfare and alleviate poverty; and promote a healthy competition culture in the project countries.

<https://bit.ly/3TlkxrG>



25. India Competition and Regulation Report

Duration: 2006-2009

Client: British High Commission

Budget: INR3,612,600

The project aims to promote effective markets in India by doing a biennial review of competition and regulation scenarios in India to serve as a valuable source of data and well-researched information on the competition and regulatory issues in the country. It also enhances competition and contestability in the market, leading to higher efficiency and productivity, thereby sustaining high economic growth.

<https://bit.ly/3tyocOl>



26. Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern & Southern Africa

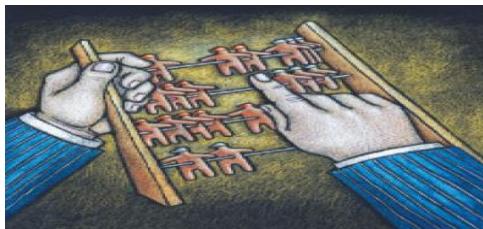
Duration: 2007-2008

Client: Department for International Development, UK and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Budget: GBP230,000 from DFID and NOK 1,700,000 from NORAD

The project aims to develop the capacity of national stakeholders, including the policymakers, regulators, CSOs, academicians and the media in each project country, to understand and appreciate prevailing competition concerns from the national, regional and international perspectives. It also understands and appreciates prevailing competition concerns from the national, regional and international perspectives, enabling them to respond appropriately.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/project-summary/>



27. Soho to Soweto – 5 debates to connect you to today's development issues

Duration: 2007-2008

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP3,652,308

The project's objective was to facilitate participatory and action-orientated learning amongst the UK public on international development issues through organising a series of accessible public debates and disseminating the proceedings and related resources to educational institutions; highlight issues of interdependence and shared interest between the developed and developing worlds; and provide information on how individuals and groups can contribute to tackling global poverty.



28. Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction

Duration: 2005-2008

Client: Department for International Development, UK /Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Budget: GBP564,149 and €1,500,000 from MINBUZA

The project aims to explore the linkages between trade, development and poverty by conducting a perception analysis of relevant stakeholders; establish a positive linkage between trade & development, especially from the point of view of poverty reduction, by looking into coherence between different policies & roles of different stakeholders.

<https://cuts-citee.org/tdp/>



29. Operationalising South-South Trade Cooperation: Linking Selected LDCs in Eastern and Southern Africa with India

Duration: 2007-2007

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP4,433,000

The project aims to explore and tackle problems/issues of operationalising duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) market access (MA) to the Indian market by producers of specific commodities in selected least developed countries (LDCs) in Eastern and Southern Africa; and list products to expand India's DFQF MA to maximise LDC benefits.



30. Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum

Duration: 2006-2007

Client: Department for International Development, UK and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

Budget: GBP75,000 from DFID

The project aims to undertake and popularise policy-oriented evidence-based research on competition policy and regulatory issues concerning the developing world and strengthen research assistance to developing countries in designing competition and regulatory laws as per their development needs and considering the various political-economy factors.

<https://bit.ly/3E7fUSk>



31. Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia

Duration: 2004-2006

Client: Department for International Development, UK and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland

Budget: GBP130,000 from DFID

The project aims to develop competition culture in project countries in Asia viz Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam and raise awareness on competition & economic development. It also advocates for the enactment of competition legislation, which was absent and the effective implementation of any in place.

<https://bit.ly/3X7qaCO>



32. Investment for Development

Duration: 2001-2004

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP536,624

The project's objective is to understand better developing countries' investment policies, their relationship with development and civil society's perception of foreign direct investment. Create awareness and build capacity on investment regimes and international investment issues in developing and transition economies.

<https://bit.ly/3Ak3qG0>



33. Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Select Developing Countries of the Commonwealth

Duration: 2001-2004

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP318,042

This project aims to evaluate how these countries enacted and implemented competition laws and how effective they have been. It was evident that the project countries (South Africa, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania in Africa, and Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India in South Asia) differed significantly in terms of population size, size of the economy, per capita incomes, industrial structure and exposure to the world economy.

<https://bit.ly/3Go9TmR>

Doha Development Agenda



34. International Working Group on Doha Agenda

Duration: 2002-2003

Client: Department for International Development, UK

Budget: GBP19,000.00

The main aim of the projects is to develop a knowledge base and understanding of the principles, provisions, modalities and implications of potential agreements on competition and investment; assist countries, especially developing ones, in evolving appropriate negotiating positions on potential competition and investment agreements at the WTO. It also builds the capacity of negotiators and other stakeholders on competition and investment issues.

<https://cuts-ccier.org/iwogda/>



Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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19 April 2007

Dear Pradeep,

Many thanks for your letter of 9 March and for the attachments you kindly shared with me.

I was very interested in your summary of the different proposals around Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanisms. The Interim Stocktaking Report is a clear presentation of the activities you have carried out under the project on Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction Linkages we fund jointly with the Netherlands. We very much value our partnership with CUTS, and the close and regular contact you maintain with us. I am aware, for example, that staff in International Trade Department recently participated in your excellent conference on Civil Society Organisations and Aid for Trade in Nairobi, and that they will be meeting shortly with your Deputy Executive Director in London.

I also appreciated your concise analysis for the Warwick Commission of the wider challenges facing the multilateral trading system. I wish you all the best for your work with the Commission, and look forward in due course to hearing more of the Commission's achievements at the end of its first year.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely,

GARETH THOMAS

More details available at www.dfid.gov.uk or from our Public Enquiry Point Tel: 0845 300 4100

Publications

