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Resilient nations.*

Dear Sir,

14 March 2016

**Subject: NARRATIVE REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 2015**

Enclosed, please find the Narrative Report for project **Diagnostic Trade Integration Study**, as of **31 December 2015**.

The report covers the period from the recruitment of national and international consultants, the main mission carried out in November 2015 and finally provides a brief outlook on the current status.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Amadu Bailo Camara,**  
Programme Manager, Head of  
Programme Management Support Unit (PMSU).  
Email [amadu.b.camara@undp.org](mailto:amadu.b.camara@undp.org)  
Tel.: +245 673 07 07

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Labão Dava', is positioned above the printed name.

**Gabriel Labão Dava**  
Deputy Resident Representative Program  
UNDP Guinea-Bissau

**Mr. Bernhard Schlachter**  
Executive Officer  
EIF Trust Fund Manager  
UNOPS



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## Guinea Bissau DTIS Update

### Activities report (July-December 2015)

<b>Project title:</b>	Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study Update in Guinea Bissau
<b>Main Implementing Entity (MIE):</b>	United Nation Development Programme
<b>Government implementing partner:</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Handicrafts

After the validation of the concept note during the first semester of 2015, UNDP took steps to recruit a team of experts for the preparation of the DTIS report. The main DTIS mission took place in November 2015.

The present report outlines the activities undertaken by UNDP over the period July through December 2015.

Activities	Progress
<b>Recruitment of international and national consultants (UNDP Guinea Bissau)</b>	<p>UNDP initiated the recruitment process of the DTIS team of international and national consultants in July 2015, after approval of the DTIS update concept note by the EIF Board and confirmation of funding for the additional requirements were cleared by the EIF Secretariat. In light with the DTIS concept note, the areas of expertise required were trade policy; capacity building; mining; horticulture value chains, and quality control, standardization and packaging for the international consultants. National consultants were engaged for leading chapters on tourism, competitiveness, fisheries, agriculture and trade facilitation. UNDP invited applications for these positions through its public job website. A total of five international and five national consultants were retained for the above mentioned positions. The recruitment of some of the positions, for instance, regarding horticulture value chains and quality and standards, as well as some of the posts for national consultants required extended application periods due to the poor level of applications received.</p> <p>Additionally, one expert from the Trade Logistics Branch of UNCTAD was also participates in the mission as expert on trade facilitation. Formalities regarding the contracts of the experts selected for the positions were concluded in late October/early November 2015.</p>



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<p><b>Main Mission and interim reports</b></p>	<p>The main mission of the DTIS II took place between 9 and 20 November 2015. Several approaches were used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exchange with the EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU), ITA and UNDP;</li> <li>- Meetings with the National Steering Committee of the EIF;</li> <li>- Interviews and consultations with key stakeholders and structures in the area of trade in Government (Ministries of Trade, Planning, Economy and Finance, Fisheries, Agriculture, Tourism, Industry, Handicrafts, Mining, Education, Infrastructure, Transport). These discussion sessions offered the experts the opportunity to complete, confirm or rectify the lessons learned from the literature review;</li> <li>- Documentary collection from different sources of information available, in particular, with the local UNDP office, the NIU, the Government departments, non-state actors and representatives of the private sector;</li> <li>- Site visits were conducted to the Safim Agro Farm and ECO-BISSAU, companies that produce and sell fruit and vegetables; the construction company Arezki, in Inerte; to Bambadinca, an area which has great potential for sweet potato farming; the Centre for Promotion of Cashew in Bissau, a cashew processing factory belonging to the company LAAICO, in Quinhamel, which has a high potential but which is now nonfunctional; Centro de Biomassa de Safim; the Afripêche fishing company, a member of the Mareyeurs AVEPROMAR Association; the INPA Horticultural Centre in Quebo, and a craft Association in Quinhamel, which manufactures Batik fabrics. These visits helped experts observe firsthand Guinea Bissau's potential for production and export, as well as difficulties encountered by entrepreneurs and ways to solve them;</li> <li>- Technical exchange sessions between experts, to develop a common understanding of issues and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>The consultants prepared their reports between 21 November and 15 December 2015, keeping a permanent exchange with the team leader, to improve upstream draft reports. The consolidation of the different contributions allowed the team leader to finalize a preliminary draft report on 19 December, 2015 which was also shared with the NIU for information.</p>
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<b>Current situation</b>	<p>The consolidated draft report was reviewed by UNDP who submitted detailed comments the team of experts.</p> <p>Most of the report is written in Portuguese with some chapters in French. A new version of the Preliminary Report (all in Portuguese through an informal translation by the ITA of French sections into Portuguese) was prepared in early February 2016 and sent for review, analysis and comments by national authorities of Guinea-Bissau. Moreover, focus group meetings with national stakeholders are planned for the first week of March to discuss the draft preliminary report. A draft of the comprehensive report of the DTIS, including the executive summary and a draft action plan is expected to be available during the month of March for consideration by the Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework.</p>
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