

Maldives: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation National Single Window Project

Project summary data

Project Number: 51330-001

Project Title: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation National Single Window Project

Funded by: Asian Development Bank

Loan Number: 3794-MLD

Grant Number: 0646-MLD

Lead Implementing Agency: Ministry of Economic Development

Other participating Agencies: Maldives Customs Service, Maldives Ports Ltd, Maldives Airports Company, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Maldives Food and Drug Authority, Maldives Monetary Authority

Executing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Start Date: 18th June 2019

Date of effectiveness of ADB loan/grant: 15th October 2019

Closing Date: 31 December 2023

Approved Budget: USD 11.99 million

Project Duration: 4 years

Approved Budget: USD 11.99 million

Project status: Ongoing

Project outline

The project leverage information and communication technology to improve efficiency in cross-border control procedures for import and export. It supports the development of an automated system or establishment of a National Single Window (NSW) environment to enable sharing of harmonized data and documents across cross-border regulatory agencies and port operators. The NSW system will allow traders and other service providers to submit, and to obtain unified

clearance of export and import documentation requirements through a single platform. The project will further provide technical assistance to build capacity of various stakeholders to operate in single window environment.

Project Impact and Outcome

The project is aligned with the following impacts; (i) Efficient international trade facilitation ensured, (ii) Faster, cheaper and more predictable cross-border trade in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) subregion achieved. The project outcome is to have efficiency in cargo clearance improved.

Project outputs

The project will contribute to achievement of following outputs;

1. National single window system for international trade and reengineered trade processes established
2. Capacity of relevant agencies and private sector users, including women, to utilize the national single window developed
3. High-level technologies to support national single window and trade facilitation pilot tested.

Status of Project key Activities *(updated as of 28 June 2021)*

Output 1 - NSW system for international trade and reengineered trade processes established

- NSW Turnkey contract signed on 30 December 2019 terminated and re-tendering of turnkey bid initiated with call for pre-qualification applications via Ministry of Finance National Tender on 25th February 2021. Prequalification application opening held on 19th April 2021 and currently applications received are being evaluated.
- TradeNet Maldives Corporation Ltd. incorporated as a 100% State Owned Enterprise on 15th October 2019 is designated by the Government as the operator of the Maldives National Single Window system.
- Policy Paper on data harmonization across Government ICT systems approved by the Cabinet on 24th Nov 2020. Data harmonization draft standards formulated and circulated for stakeholder comments. Application and APIs for implementation of Unique Entity Identifier and Unique Product Number developed and is being tested.

- Electronic Transaction bill finalized and sent to the President’s Office by the Attorney General’s Office to make arrangements for its submission to the Parliament. The Bill is included in the list of priority bills to be submitted by the Government to the Parliament second session of 2021.
- Enhancement of IT systems of 5 regulatory agencies under progress. Systems being either developed or enhanced for Maldives Food and Drug Authority (Dhirithi System), Ministry of Defense (Makudi System), Ministry of Economic Development (BOLI System), Ministry of Fisheries Marine Resources and Agriculture (AOS System and FIS System).

Output 2. Capacity of relevant agencies and private sector users, including women, to utilize the NSW developed

- Draft capacity building plan formulated. The plan needs further review once a new vendor for the NSW Turnkey contract is selected and mobilized.

Output 3. High-level technologies to support NSW and trade facilitation pilot tested

- IBM India engaged by ADB as the consultants for the pilot implementation in September 2020.
- Pilot covers end to end import process for sea cargo. By March 2021, application design and development work has been completed for all use cases selected except for the declaration lodgment component. Use cases covered in phase 1 activities include; Arrival notice, manifest, master and house bill submission, issuance of delivery orders, gate pass and related payments.
- The pilot application is integrated with Customs and Maldives Ports Ltd IT systems and integrated with payment gateways of Bank of Maldives and Maldives Islamic Bank.
- A pilot demo session of the application was organized for high level Government officials and policy makers in February 2021.
- User trainings and related technical level trainings on how the application is developed in the blockchain were conducted to all network participants and key stakeholders during March 2021. User Acceptance testing for Phase 1 activities were carried out between March and April 2021.

- Currently preparatory work is being carried out for phase 2 of the pilot which will cater for declaration submission component and additional changes related to some of the process flows in phase 1 activities. Phase 2 activities is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2022.

Project Procurement Status

The following provides a summary of the status of the project procurement packages

#	Item	Estimated cost (\$m)	Remarks
1	Develop, install, supply and maintain NSW Software and Hardware	8.01	Turnkey contract signed on 30th December 2019 was terminated on 11 October 2020. Rebidding for new turnkey contract is underway with application for prequalification announced on 25 th February 2021. Application opening held on 19 th April 2021. Visit Ministry of Finance website https://www.finance.gov.mv/tenders/ for tender details.
2	ASYCUDA World enhancement for NSW implementation	0.24	Pending - Direct Contract award with UNCTAD
3	Interface development in existing software systems (MFDA, MRMRA, MED and MOD)	0.15	MFDA, FIS, AOS and MOD system enhancement contract signed on 5 March 2020. MED contract signed on 10 August 2020. All contracts signed under direct contracting method.
4	Purchase of office furniture for PMU	0.03	PMU Laptops and Quickbooks purchased under RFQ method.
5	Purchase of office equipment and vehicle for NSW operator	0.58	Total 15 procurement packages. 1 contract awarded for TMCL air-conditioning on 15 July 2020 under RFQ method and work completed on 9 Sept 2020. Remaining 14 contracts are pending and work is underway in collaboration with TMCL and ADB. For opportunities, check Government gazette and Ministry of Economic Development Website.

Project Audit

Year	Status	Financial Statement and Audit Report
2019	Completed	Report publicly available from Auditor General's Office website https://audit.gov.mv/
2020	Ongoing – audit exit meeting held on 28 June 2021	

Contact

For more information on the project status send us an email to nsw@trade.gov.mv

Project related documents can also be accessed from ADB website
<https://www.adb.org/projects/51330-001/main#project-documents>