

TFWA

Trade Facilitation
West Africa



FACILITATING TRADE AND PREVENTING FRAUD THROUGH CUSTOMS-TO-CUSTOMS SHARING OF DATA

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND



The Trade Facilitation West Africa (TFWA) program is an initiative driven by multiple development partners to improve trade facilitation in West Africa. Its objective is to improve the free and efficient movement of goods in the region and internationally, by reducing the time and cost of trade borne by the private sector in West Africa, and by strengthening regional trading networks' ability to take advantage of these improvements.

SITUATION: TRADE FACILITATION CHALLENGES IN WEST AFRICA



ECOWAS and its Member States face multiple challenges for transit across key trade corridors in West Africa:

- High trade costs, poor roads, and inadequate infrastructure
- Long transit processing times at borders
- Scarce information on goods at transit and destination points

SIGMAT: IMPROVING CUSTOMS INTERCONNECTIVITY



SIGMAT is a digital initiative (developed by the ECOWAS Commission with TFWA Program support) to improve regional integration. It automates transit procedures between Member States. **SIGMAT** paves the way for the exchange of real-time, electronic/automated cross-border trade data between multiple Customs administrations about cargo in transit from one border to another, enabling the easier and more secure flow of goods.

What are the benefits of SIGMAT?

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of transit procedures;
- Improving prevention and detection of fraud through the electronic exchange of information and data;
- Simplifying and securing Customs revenues; and
- Encouraging the growth and competitiveness of West African economies.

SIGMAT: HOW DOES IT WORK?



SIGMAT is an acronym for **S**ystème **I**nterconnecté de **G**estion des **M**archandises en **T**ransit (which, translated into English, means **Interconnected System for the Management of Goods in Transit**).

At the departure country, a transit declaration is registered, and a copy is electronically sent to the transit and destination countries' systems, warning of the arrival of goods. Customs agents at the border or at the destination office only need to confirm the arrival of goods on the transit declaration that is received by their system. The confirmation is sent electronically to the departure country, saving both time and paperwork.

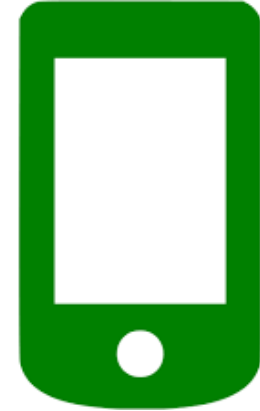
SIGMAT **VERSIONS**



Interconnection for rail transportation (which includes private sector third party)



Interconnection for road transportation



SIGMAT Mobile, which uses the SIGMAT App when and where the Customs systems is not available

SIGMAT: IMPROVING CUSTOMS INTERCONNECTIVITY

The TFWA Program has helped rollout SIGMAT across the region:

- Cote d'Ivoire Customs is connected (by road and rail) with Burkina Faso's Customs system
- Burkina Faso Customs is connected with Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Niger
- Togo is connected with Burkina Faso, Niger, and recently with Benin
- Niger is connected with Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, and Cote d' Ivoire

- Ghana is about to be connected with Cote d' Ivoire and Togo (by end of this year)
- Senegal is about to be connected with Mali

Except for Senegal, Ghana, and Nigeria, all other countries within the region share the same Customs System, ASYCUDA

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE WCO DATA MODEL IN THE PROJECT?

- Standardization and Harmonization
- Integrity and transparency
- A standard that eliminates duplication and redundancy
- Better data quality, which improves compliance
- Seamless data exchange



SIGMAT: SYSTEM RESULTS (CIV)

ANNEE	T1 départ	T1 en route CI	T1 Sortis CI	T1 en route inter Etat	T1 entré BF	T1 en route BF	T1 arrivés BF	T1 arrivés conforme BF
2021	12 822	305	12 517	484	12 033	589	11 444	10 989
PREMIER TRIMESTRE 2022	6 611	44	6 567	44	6 523	118	6 405	6 006
TOTAL	19 433	349	19 084	528	18 556	707	17 849	16 995
TAUX		1,79%	98,20%	2,72%	95,49%	3,64%	91,85%	87,45%

DATA EXCHANGE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Convincing countries to implement the computerized regional transit advocated by ECOWAS
- Harmonizing data to be exchanged
- Aligning with the WCO Data Model
- Funding message development
- Integrating messages into different country systems
- Improving regional texts that allow Customs data exchange (in progress)
- Improving stakeholder (Customs, other governmental agencies, and freight forwarders) willingness to change physical procedures at the borders
- Improving political will and support

Thank You!