



Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for trade-related assistance for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)



Semi-Annual and Annual Consolidated Report

Submitted by the National Implementation Unit (NIU) to
The Executive Secretariat (ES) for the Enhanced Integrated Framework
and the EIF Trust Fund Manager (TFM)

Tier 1 Phase 2 Project in Kiribati

Project title: Kiribati Trade Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening Project (Tier 1 Phase 2)

Date of approval by EIF Board:

Date of signature of MoU: 7 November 2017

Starting date: January 2021

Duration of project: 36 months

Total project budget: US\$600,000

Amount received under this Agreement: US\$600,000

Amount received from other sources of funding: n/a

Contribution of [name of Entity]: n/a

Type of report: Semi-Annual report

Time period covered by this report: January-June 2023

Amount spent during the period: US\$7,954.80

Date: 09 May 2021

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PART I. SITUATION ANALYSIS AND STATUS

I.1 Overview of the country situation in project implementation

□ Please briefly describe any significant economic, social, political and trade developments that influenced project implementation in the reporting period.

1. The government continued to implement key development strategies aimed at improving business environment as envisaged in the KDP 2016-2019 and the TPF. The Copyright Act 2018 seeks to contribute to the development of creative industry and overall cultural capital as envisaged in the KV20. The Act is in line with recent IP-related conventions like the Berne convention for the protection of literary and artistic works. The new Act is also in line with the Marrakesh Treaty which seeks to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. Copyright Act 2018 Regulations were drafted by the Attorney General office during the reporting period and now under review by MTCIC. The Trademark Bill was endorsed by Parliament during the reporting period, hence, became the Trademark Act 2019.
2. In line with the KV20 vision and TPF strategic actions, the Foreign Investment Act Regulations 2019 were drafted by the MTCIC in consultation with the Attorney General office and completed during the reporting period. The Act is aligned with the KV20 objectives which seeks to increase the number of foreign investments. It seeks to streamline Investment Application and Approval Process. It is aligned with Kiribati obligations in the investment chapter of the PACER Plus Agreement. In order to strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for the Tourism sector, a Tourism Act 2018 was passed. The Act seeks to establish Tourism Authority which justifies government commitment towards diversifying the economy through Tourism sector as envisaged in the KV20.
3. The Companies Bill, Company Insolvency Bill and Business Names Bill have been completed from the Tier 1, Phase 1 (T1P1) project.
4. The draft of the new Metrology Bill has been finalised after review by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) during T1P1 implementation. This Bill will replace the Weight & Measures Act 1984. During the reporting period the Bill was endorsed by Cabinet.
5. The government is also at an advance stage of adopting the new ICT policy, which seeks to enact cybercrime legislation to tackle cybercrime and computer crime, which is a good enabler to the development of E-Commerce. An E-Transactions Bill has been drafted. Consultation on the bill was conducted in December 2019. The Bill was read in the next Parliament sitting of the new Government in 2020.
6. Strengthening the government commenced the implementation of a feasibility study exercise, which had sought to explore possible options of establishing a centralised Analytical Laboratory in line with the recommendations in the National Quality Policy¹. This is a Project Preparation Grant Exercise that is expected to generate a costed project document to inform resource mobilisation. The National Quality Policy was endorsed in 2017 and launched together with the Trade Policy Framework in 2018.

¹ <https://MTCIC.gov.ki/download/15/policies/2605/kiribati-quality-policy.pdf>

7. The formulation of a Coconut Sector Development Strategy (CSDS) commenced in November 2018, and during T1P1 implementation, the validation of the CSDS was undertaken in July 2019. Publication and launching of the strategy took place in June 2021. The strategy seeks to explore possible options of maximising development benefits from the coconut sector. The strategy will recommend possible policy options of product diversification in the coconut sector value chain. Diversification of products through value addition is expected to generate income and improve livelihoods especially for the people on the outer islands. This is also one of the priorities in the Trade Policy Framework.
8. Government has also prioritised the need to establish an Open Integrated Market (OIM) to support the marketing of Local Produce from the Outer Islands. Establishing the OIM is a priority in the TPF. The Market seeks to provide an opportunity to economically empower women and youth on the outer Islands. During the reporting period, the OIM project is still under discussion between the Government Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Cooperatives and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. DFAT will financially support this project and will be implemented this year.

PART II: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

II.1 Overview of the results

- Outline the key activities of the project against the work plan during the reporting period as well as achievements vis-à-vis planned outputs.

	Activity in the Work Plan	Status	Overall Assessment
1	Develop E-Commerce Policy Launch of the E-Commerce Policy	TA has been advertised by UNDP TA has been recruited by UNDP Final Diagnostic report has been submitted by TA Draft E-Commerce Policy has been submitted by TA and now under review by IP, UNDP, UNOPS and hired expert The policy was endorsed by NTAC on 21 st March 2023. Printing, publication and launching await Cabinet endorsement and funding	Completed To complete by end of September 2023
2	Develop National Cooperative Policy	TA has been advertised by UNDP TA has been recruited by UNDP TA now working with IP Consultation on draft policy was carried out on South Tarawa by TA Diana during mission from 29/6/23 to 10/7/23. Final consultation to be conducted on Kiritimati Island in August 2023.	To be completed by end of August 2023.

3	Review Cooperative Ordinance and draft new Cooperative legislation	TA Diana has been advertised by UNDP TA has been recruited by UNDP Consultation on draft Bill was carried out on South Tarawa by TA Diana during mission from 29/6/23 to 10/7/23. Final consultation to be conducted on Kiritimati Island in August 2023	To be completed before end of August 2023
4	Develop Metrology Act regulations	TA has been advertised by UNDP TA has been recruited by UNDP Consultation on draft Regulations will be carried out on Kiritimati Island in August 2023. Final consultation to be conducted on South Tarawa by end of August 2023	To be completed by end of August 2023
5	Publication and launch of Investment Policy Framework	Publication and launch took place on the 15 th June 2021.	Completed
6	Training on verification of fuel dispensers	TOR has been developed Recruitment awaits fuel dispenser machine purchase which will be used for training Await procurement and arrival of equipment.	To be completed by end of September 2023
7	Procurement of working standards for verification of fuel dispensers	Procurement in progress by UNDP and MTCIC	To be completed by end of August 2023
8	Organising workshop to facilitate training on Cooperative development	Training was conducted on Kiritimati Island from 5-12 th June 2023	Completed
9	Sensitisation of stakeholders on Trade Policy related laws (Foreign Investment Act & Regulations, E-Commerce Policy, Quality Policy,) to enhance compliance	Sensitisation of stakeholders on Trade-related policies and laws was conducted on Kiritimati Island from 5-12 th June 2023	Completed
10	Recruitment of National Experts on CSDS Advisor	TOR has been developed. TA has been recruited TA is now working with the IP on the implementation of the CSDS Local TA work on CSDS implementation is still in progress	To be completed by end of August 2023
11	Staffing of the Project Management Unit	Done – Project Manager and Project Accountant.	Completed

12	Construction of Processing Centre and procurement of equipment to facilitate value addition in selected outer Island(s);	Tab-South Island has been selected due to its port issues in shipping copra to the main island. The VCO construction is in progress and is expected to complete on 31/8/2022. Official opening by His Excellency Te Beretienti (President) is planned to be held in September 2022 after parliament meeting. Three women champions from the Island have undergone a 1-month (Oct-Nov 2021) attachment training with the Butaritari VCO in Butaritari Island instead of Rabi VCO in Fiji due to covid-19 lockdown. May 2023 mission from UNDP documented interviews for impact stories & presented to MTCIC.	Completed Completed
13	Review and develop new Mauri Mark Standards for tourism	2 nd TA recruitment is in progress	To be completed by mid-September 2023
14	Designing Aid for Trade Project on E-Trade and E-Commerce	TOR has been developed Await engagement of TA by MTCIC	To be completed by end of August 2023
15	Designing Aid for Trade Project on Coconut sector and value chain development	Project proposal has been developed and shared with relevant parties for seeking donor funding	Completed
16	Designing Aid for Trade Project on Tourism and Value Chain Development	TOR has been developed Await engagement of TA by MTCIC	To be completed by end of August 2023
17	Support to Regional EIF Trade related meetings	No meetings have been attended due to COVID-19 and closure of the national and international borders. However, there are virtual trade-related meetings held which the Implementing Agency (MTCIC) supported in terms of related costs from its recurrent budget.	To be completed by end of August 2023
18	Evaluation	TOR has been finalised TA has been recruited TA will carry out in-country mission in August 2023	To be completed by end of August 2023

- ❑ Analyse and report progress in achieving outcomes as measured by the indicators (verify against your project log frame).

Outcome 1: Kiribati's own a Trade agenda conducive to sustainable pro-poor growth

The policy measures in the Trade Policy Framework, E-commerce policy, Cooperate policy, new Cooperative Legislation are in progress, with consultant TORs drafted, cleared & consultant positions advertised. The implementation of the priority issues is ongoing. The following are key activities undertaken in the scope of the outcome 1 target areas during the reporting period:

- a) *Creating an enabling environment requires effective formulation and implementation of policies to support inclusive trade and private sector development in line with the Kiribati 20-Year Vision development plan;*
- b) *Supporting the formulation of E-Commerce Policy, National Cooperative Policy, review of Cooperative Ordinance/Legislation, develop Metrology Act regulations in line with the National Trade Policy Framework;*
- c) *While MTCIC is working towards integrating the PMU positions as part of the MTCIC organisation structure, there is a need to provide resources to support the existing Project Management Unit. In this context, the project will provide funding to cater for Project Manager and Accountant;*
- d) *The MIE will be engaged to provide technical support towards the implementation of the key activities like drafting Terms of Reference for technical outputs to facilitate recruitment of short term advisors. The MIE will also assist the NIU (MTCIC) in drafting Aid-for-Trade proposals to leverage funding /investment from other development partners;*
- e) *In order for MTCIC to effectively deal with the emerging complex trade policies issues, the project will support training in the area of Cooperative Policy formulation and implementation, Verification of Fuel Dispensers and Consumer Protection;*
- f) *Capacity building and awareness of new Trade Policy related laws will also be enhanced in the area of Intellectual Property, Foreign Investment Act, Metrology Act, Company Act, Food Safety Standards and Regulations and E-Commerce to enhance compliance.*

Expected Outputs: The activities described above will generate the following outputs:

Output 1.1: Improved evidence-based policy inputs supporting pro-poor trade

Targets in 2021:

- *At least 20 Policy Measures in the Trade Policy Framework implemented – still in progress;*
- *Other Policies like E-Commerce Policy and Cooperative Policy developed – E-commerce policy has been completed while the Cooperative policy has been drafted and consulted on South Tarawa. Consultation on Kiritimati Island will be conducted in August 2023;*
- *New Cooperative legislation enacted – draft has been developed and consultation on South Tarawa has been completed. Consultation on Kiritimati Island will be conducted in August 2023;*
- *Stakeholders sensitised on Key trade Policy related laws and regulations to enhance compliance – has been conducted on Kiritimati Island from 5-12th June 2023;*

Indicators:

- *Number of Trade and Investment Policy and Regulations adopted;*
- *Number of awareness raising activities conducted;*
- *Enactment of new Cooperative legislation;*

Output 1.2: Strengthened institutional coordination of trade and development

Targets in 2021:

- *At least 1 Project position established as part of MTCIC organisation Structure – Project Officer post has been included in the MTCIC organisational structure; Project Manager and Accountant will be considered for 2024;*
- *All fuel dispensers within Kiribati are verified by 2021 – not yet as the verifier machine is yet to be procured;*

- Verification equipment procured and at least 15 Public Officials trained on Verification of Fuel Dispensers by 2021 – *not yet implemented as equipment is yet to be procured;*
- At least 20 Public Officials trained as TOT on Cooperative development At least 20 Public Officials trained as TOT on Cooperative development – *has been conducted on Kiritimati Island from 5-12th June 2023;*

Indicators:

- Number of PMU staffs permanently absorbed within MTCIC Structure;
- Number of Fuel Dispensers verified by 2022;
- Number of Verification equipment procured and public officials(disaggregated by gender and age) trained in Fuel verification
- Number of Public Officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained as TOT in Cooperative development

Progress updates in response to above output, targets & indicators? – refer to above updates.

Once the recruitment of TAs, there is an expectation that he/she will be taking the lead in organizing his/her team in accomplishing the targets stated above.

Outcome 2: Increased Presence in International Markets

- a) Processing Centre – plans are underway in targeting the production of value-added coconut products in one of the outer islands is to support the development of inclusive trade and private sector development (in line with the government 20-year vision development plan and the Trade Policy Framework) which seeks to spread the benefits of trade to all. The construction and equipping of the processing centre will:
 - target *producer cooperatives* trained in the production of value-added coconut products like *Virgin Coconut Oil, Coconut Sap Sugar and Coconut Soap*.
 - be constructed and equipped with production tools and equipment to assist the producers especially women on the outer islands to take advantage of the skills gained in the production of the value-added products given that one of the challenges faced by the SMEs and local producers is lack of production equipment to facilitate the utilization of the skills gained and available raw materials on the outer islands.
 - generate employment, income and improve livelihood for the I-Kiribati on the outer islands.
 - support the development of domestic trade and tourism through value- chain linkages, and have wider spill over effects to those engaged in the production and distribution value chain;
 - also assist in disseminating knowledge on coconut value addition processing and marketing to those on the outer islands.
 - Ownership be transferred to the women association on the island engaged in the production of coconut value-added production or the local island council on the island, and such ownership will ensure that the centre outputs directly delivers direct impact on the livelihood of the expected beneficiaries.
- b) In order to effectively implement priorities in the TPF, there is a need to mobilise Aid-for-Trade resources through sound technical Aid for Trade proposals. The project will provide technical support in drafting Aid for Trade funding proposals in the area of Trade and E-Commerce based on the recommendations in the UNCTAD E-Trade readiness assessment report for Kiribati; Coconut Sector and Value chain development in line with Coconut Sector

Development Strategy (CSDS) and Tourism and Value Chain Development and the Investment Policy Framework. The project will also support participation in the EIF Trade-related meetings.

Expected Outputs: The activities described above will generate the following outputs:

2.1. Support to boost productive capacities and access international markets

Targets in 2022:

- *Processing Centre constructed and equipment procured to facilitate value addition in coconut sector – **has been completed in December 2022;***
- *Mauri Mark standards for Tourism developed and at least 50 producers trained on value addition techniques and market standards – **to be completed by Q3 of 2023;***

Indicators:

- *Volume & value of production generated/increased due to the new processing facility;*
- *Number of producers trained in value chain practices and market standards*

2.2: Support to EIF countries to leverage (directly and indirectly) additional funding

Targets in 2022:

- *At least 3 Aid-for-trade proposals developed and funded - **only one proposal has been developed and the other 2 to be developed in Q3 of 2023;***

Indicators:

- *Number of projects funded by development partners related to the action matrix in the Trade Policy Framework;*
- *Number of actions undertaken by EIF Partners in support of leveraging finance and expertise*

Progress updates in response to above output, targets & indicators?

The establishment of the VCO processing Centre has been rolled out to the second island with funding support from EIF. The third island is under negotiation and there is hope that funding will be considered in the 3rd tranche of payment.

☐ Evaluate the overall progress or setback of the project against the work plan and log frame during the period.

- a) Most of the Activities for 2021 (outputs 1 & 2) have commenced and will be completed by end of Q4 of 2021.
- b) Annual Work Plans related to the TA are yet to be implemented given that the TORs have just been finalised, endorsed and shared with UNCP and advertisements of such consultancy works have also just been published and recruitments of local consultants are yet to be completed.

□ Note problems/obstacles or positive developments that were met during the period, how they may have affected the target delivery and how they have been addressed.

- a) Delay in the implementation of some of the activities as the implementation of such activities (Output 1&2 on AWP2021) was dependent on the recruitment of short-term consultants. These have been addressed except the TOR on the CSDS Implementation Consultant which the National Implementing Agency (MTCIC) is still awaiting from UNDP on further updates.
- b) Delays in the implementation of some of the activities was attributed to late finalisation of the 2021 revised AWP and late issuance of monthly General Ledger (GL) report by Treasury. These should be facilitated by the Project Manager but this was not the case.
- c) Delays in the implementation of the project activities is related with the Project Manager's poor work performance after a review of her performance from January to July 2021.

II.2 M&E and reporting

Please describe any M&E work, including reporting to Ministry and other stakeholders, and incorporation of results into Government reporting tools.

- ❖ Different M&E mechanisms were adopted during the reporting period.
- ❖ Monthly and quarterly reports to EIF are to be submitted by MTCIC/MIE for updates on the progress of project implementation.
- ❖ The progress on EIF projects are also reported during the NTAC Board Meetings held already with financial support from the Ministry's budget.
- ❖ The Government through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development also monitors the progress of all overseas-funded projects in the country.
- ❖ When new funds are remitted from donors, each project unit in a Ministry has to report using a template on the progress so far including the purpose of the new funding and so forth.
- ❖ Senior Management Weekly meetings discusses the project's progress. Information discussed were only those that were asked by the Senior Management Team to the Project Manager who is also joining this weekly meeting.

II.3 Training and capacity building

- Describe any progress made on the development of the capacity-building plan in line with the work plan.
 - Capacity building is yet to be achieved following training to be carried out in line with each activity in the work plan.

Describe any capacity-building measure that was implemented during the reporting period. Include beneficiaries.

- Training attachment of Tab-South Island women champions in Butaritari Island on Virgin Coconut Oil processing, packaging, marketing, reporting, etc, took place in October - November 2021. The attachment in Rabi, Fiji, was not possible due to the covid-19 lockdown.

□ What were the outcomes (positive or negative) of such measures?

The outcomes were positive in that the three VCO champions from Tab-South Island gained knowledge and skills on VCO and by-products production shared by the two VCO champions from Butaritari Island during the one-month training attachment. Such knowledge and skills will be shared with the women and youth on Tab-South Island by the three Tab-South VCO champions.

II.4 Sustainability and exit strategy

- Please describe any actions taken towards the integration of the NIU or its functions into the Ministry framework.
 - The NIU becomes the main focal point for the successful implementation of the activities under the EIF Phase 2 project. The Focal Point is the overseer in the implementation of these activities, however it is the Project Manager's role to make sure that the implementation of all activities are completed according to schedules and timeframes set in the AWP.
- Please describe any progress regarding the implementation of the exit strategy for the project while sustaining the dynamics that it has initiated.
 - Capacity building to allow women to sustain and attain their economic empowerment through the VCO project in Butaritari Island.
 - Market identification of trading products of the projects funded by the EIF Phase 2.
 - The VCO product has been successfully tested at the Fiji Laboratory for export in international markets.
 - Further progresses are yet to be achieved after all activities in the AWP have been completed.
- Please describe the Government's contribution to the project over time, including in-kind and financial contributions.
 - Transport for staff to/from the office, postal and messenger services, electricity and water, photocopy machine and telephone/internet services.
 - The Ministry also co-finances few Project Activities e.g. the combined launching of the CSDS and the Investment Policy Framework, virtual meetings with UNDP and other partners by providing free internet and electricity, etc.

II.5 Communication and dissemination

- Describe outreach activities that have been undertaken (e.g. publicity, press, digital stakeholder engagement) and what has been the impact.

- All workshops related to the EIF Project always display banners in the main centres of the village such as Betio and Bairiki to draw attention to its work.
- The events financed by the EIF Project and managed by the Focal Point including the construction of the VCO Plant in Tab-South Island and the combined launching of the CSDS and Investment Framework were publicly released via social media.
- The Tab-South Island VCO Facebook Page has been developed in which project work progress is posted for public awareness.

Are there any good practices or lessons learned to share from outreach efforts that have been undertaken during the period?

- Outreach activities should always be tailored into the context of the country. With two staff managing the project, outreach activities would be a challenge as they need more support in terms of budget and the additional staffing i.e. the promotion and advocacy staff. Translation of the materials into local language would also be a lesson learnt, however in doing this, there should be a budget provision in the project for outsourcing this activity and engaging the local TA to translate all the materials into local languages.

PART III: FIDUCIARY AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

III.1 Organization and fiduciary management of the project

- ❑ Please describe and report on any significant procurement activities undertaken by the unit, including problems faced, during the reporting period.
 - The non-provision of some documents as required by the external auditor. These include, the National Condition of Services as it cannot be disclosed to external partners as they are Government's property.
- ❑ Please describe any major organizational or fiduciary management issues that were faced during the reporting period, including efforts made to improve the organization/ management of the project.

Some issues regarding organisational and fiduciary management issues:

- Late dissemination of GL report was experienced during the reporting period had resulted in the delay in the reconciliation of financial statements between MTCIC and MFED.
- Lengthy process involved in the *Warrant processing* from the time notification is received from UNDP until the Warrant is issued. This is beyond the NIU's (MTCIC's) capacity. However, internal consultations and excellent work-relationships between the MTCIC and MFED to fast track all these processes should be improved in future.

Please describe personnel and administrative management issues and progress.

- During forced leave of Project Manager, there was no handing over notes provided by her to the Focal Point, for continued purposes. The Project Manager for some reason did not provide any briefing notes to the Focal Point to help facilitate the ongoing project activities.

- Misunderstanding one's roles and responsibilities has led to internal conflicts between Project staff and Admin staff resulting administrative decisions affecting project progress.
- Internal disputes between project staff had resulted in poor communication in relation to the project's progress.

III.2 Financial management

- ❑ Please describe any major financial and accounting management issues that were faced during the reporting period
 - None
- ❑ Indicate any financial support/resources received from the Government and other donor sources.
 - IBSA & EIF
 - MFAT & DFAT

III.3 Implementation of past ES/TFM recommendations

- ❑ Brief update on the status of the implementation of the ES and TFM recommendations (in the EIF Board approval letter or from previous missions).

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
1. As there is no dedicated <i>Monitoring and Evaluation plan</i> . It is recommended that within the first 3 months of the project a brief M&E plan should be shared with the ES and TFM.	M&E plan draft shared post 10/5/21 joint virtual mission. & to be reviewed amongst EIF/M&E team & updated before COB 3.9.21 <i>UNDP to re-share before EOW 17/9 for next MTCIC-UNDP meeting</i>
2. Please re-submit an updated version of the <i>project's log frame</i> within three months of approval: • Log frame Indicator 1.2.b. We recommend to explicitly include an indicator relating the strengthening of public-private coordination mechanism • Log frame indicator 1.2.c. We recommend the inclusion of an indicator tracking donor-government coordination mechanism. • Log frame indicator 1.3.a. Please capture the recruitment of a national expert on CSDS and the staffing of Project management Unit in the project logframe and set specific targets. • Log frame indicator 1.3.b. We recommended the inclusion of training of CSO and private sector actors, especially with regards to cooperative development and even consumer protection trainings. • Log frame indicator 1.3.c. Include more details on the main stakeholders that will be targeted under Output 1.1	In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
• ("Stakeholders sensitized on Key trade Policy related laws and regulations to enhance compliance") of the logframe. Please add a target to explicitly state/name the policies, (including the Investment Policy Framework) that would be part of the planned sensitization. Also explicitly mention the stakeholders (e.g. private sector, CSOs etc.) and provide a measure (number to be sensitized by 2021). • Log frame indicator 2.1.b. We recommend the inclusion of an indicator on environment in the logframe. • For log frame indicator 2.1.c. ; indicator 2.1.d. and indicator 2.1.g. ; consider disaggregating by sex and youth, the number of planned beneficiaries. • Log frame indicator 2.1.f. we recommend the inclusion of indicators on trade facilitation actions. • Log frame indicator 2.2.b. Please add an indicator on technology promotion and adoption.	returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021 In progress & to be re-visited by MTCIC/MIE before EOW 3/9/21 & update with returning project manager before EOM Sept 2021
3. It is recommended that within 3 months of the project initiation that a Communications plan be submitted to the ES and TFM. It is advised that the communications plan be spearheaded by the UNDP Communications Officer and the EIF Project Officer in Kiribati. Please be mindful of including specific activities of the workplan (ex: Sensitization of stakeholders on trade policy related laws).	Communications Plan in progress MTCIC – Sectry./PM to re-confirm if any developed. UNDP comms plan template to check & share as well.
4. As Kiribati is formulating a project on Quality and Standards Infrastructure. Concomitantly, there are initiatives in the region that are complimentary and can serve as a catalyst for quality and standards. It is recommended that the Government of Kiribati uses the NTAC as a fora for discussion and resources mobilization for these projects. The NTAC should be used as an institutional structure for exchanges with development partners, and specifically aim for concrete results in this area.	Quality and Standards Infrastructure proposal is still in progress and is using the NTAC (still active) as a fora for discussion and resource mobilization for this project. (Approved at National level. Currently awaiting funds from dev partners)
5. Sustainability of results beyond the lifecycle of the project needs to be ensured. It is recommended that the staff that coming to the project now – ex: PMU's Accountant and Project Manager – be familiarized with EIF and UNDP processes and procedures as soon as possible. The Government of Kiribati should initiate planning for absorbing all project staff under EIF funding within the first 6 months of the project.	The recently recruited EIF PMU Accountant will undergo induction by PM and UNDP.
TFM RECOMMENDATIONS	
1. Before the MoU signing: Recommendation 1 – UNDP is acting as the Donor Facilitator for this project which triggers a conflict of interest; therefore a Board waiver is to be obtained prior to the MoU signature (The rec should be removed subject to TFM reception of the above mentioned Board waiver).	Board waiver to be discussed & obtained
2. After the MoU signing: Recommendation 2 - Within 1 month following the MoU signature, the proposal should underline the lessons learned on capacity building as well as the fiduciary approach undertaken by UNDP for the capacity building of the NIU during T1P1.	Proposal in progress - to underline the lessons learned on capacity building as well as the fiduciary approach undertaken by UNDP for the capacity building of the NIU during T1P1.

RECOMMENDATIONS	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
	To be covered in next M&E/MTCIC-UNDP meeting before EOM Sept 2021
3. After the MoU signing: Within 1 month following the MoU signing, the MIE should further elaborate on mitigating COVID risks and fiduciary risks and to utilize the Risk Action Plan template issued in ES\TFM communications in April within the COVID context.	Risk Action Plan template – to request same & update with NIU. UNDP to relook into RAP template & update MTCIC in next M&E/MTCIC-UNDP meeting before EOM Sept 2021