EIF Interim Facility (InFa) Semi-annual Technical Report [For the period May, 2024–December 2024][1]	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Project title:	**EIF Interim Facility**
Country/Countries covered:	South Sudan
Submitted by (Main Implementation Entity, MIS):	UNDP
EIF Board approval date:	
Date of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):	08 May 2018
Date of first disbursement:	
MOU expiry date (including any extension):	September 2025
EIF Focal Point (name and title, e-mail and telephone):	Kawaja Kau Madol Undersecretary, Ministry of Trade
EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU) Coordinator (name and title, e-mail and telephone):	Mr. Augustino Kenyi Albert Director External Trade Kenyiagu09@gmail.com
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer contact for the project (name and title, email and telephone):	Alison Onesimo Abure Director of Logistics and Procurement asu.alison@gmail.com
Communications Officer contact (name and title, email and telephone):	Louis Legge Lako Director General for Domestic Trade +211916727525
FINANCING	
Total project budget (USD):	$100,000
EIF contribution (USD):	$60,000
Government contribution (USD):	$18,000
Other contributions (name, USD):	$40,000
AUTHORIZATION	
Contact person for this report (name and title, email, and telephone):	Daniel Kir Team Leader, STdaniel.kir@undp.org
Report authorized by (name and title):	Mr. Augustino Kenyi Albert, Kenyiagu09@gmail.com

[1] For the semi-annual report, indicate **January-June YEAR**; and for the annual report, indicate **January-December YEAR)**. For a project beginning in the current reporting period, the start date should be the date of signature of the MOU.

1. Summary progress of the project (further details can be included in the Annex, if necessary)

Annex the project logframe with an update to the results.

The National Implementation Unit (NIU) continues to play a pivotal role in delivering high-impact trade outcomes by effectively coordinating inter-sectoral bodies and ensuring seamless collaboration among government ministries, agencies, and private sector stakeholders. Its facilitation continues to drive policy coherence, fast-track trade reforms, and strengthen the execution of strategic trade initiatives, leading to a more dynamic and competitive trade environment.

MOTI in strategic partnership with UNDP remains at the forefront of legislative and policy reforms, accelerating South Sudan's global economic integration through strategic advocacy and institutional support. By advancing South Sudan's participation in key trade-related fora, MOTI has successfully driven critical reforms, including the formulation of an e-commerce policy and strategy and the drafting and adoption of the Competition Bill, now submitted to the Ministry of Justice for enactment and adoption. These transformative initiatives are designed to enhance market competitiveness, attract investment, and lay the legal foundation for South Sudan's accession to the WTO.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and UNDP have forged high-impact partnerships, securing USD 5.3 million in funding from the African Development Bank. This investment is set to unlock new economic opportunities by scaling youth- and women-led MSEs, directly driving job creation, financial inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods. By equipping young entrepreneurs and women with essential resources to grow their businesses, this initiative is a game-changer in reducing unemployment, fostering economic resilience, and accelerating inclusive economic growth.

2. Progress against core EIF InFa objectives

Institutional sustainability

A. List the trade coordination body meetings (committees, working groups, intersectoral groups) facilitated during the reporting period and the number of meetings held for each

1. National Implementation Unit
2. National Steering Committee

B. Number of NIU staff financed by:				
EIF (in full)	EIF (partial, e.g., top-ups)	Government	Other donors or partners	% not financed by EIF
		1. Augustine Kenyi Albert- Coordinator 2. Louis Legge Lako - Communication Officer 3. Alison Onesimo Abure - M&E Officer 4. John Pan Paguri - Private sector Coordination Officer 5. Kuol Markol Ariik – Donor Coordination Officer		100%

C. EIF versus other funding

EIF funding accounts for 90% or more of projects being implemented by the NIU	Yes
EIF funding accounts for less than half of the value of projects implemented by the NIU	No
Percentage of value of NIU projects funded by the EIF	100%

D. What projects are the NIU managing? Also include projects that have been signed/agreed though not yet started. Please list the 1. Project name; 2. Funder (name/s of Donor, Government or private sector company).

Started in 2024 or later (title, value, and funder):

1. Interim Facility of the EIF, $60,000, EIF

Started in 2023 or earlier (title, value, and funder):

1. Enhancing Institutional Capacities For Trade Integration And Economic Diversification In South Sudan.

Project negotiated and or signed with funder but not yet started (title, value, and funder):

1. South Sudan Job Creation Through Youth and Women-led Micro and Small Enterprises Project (JMSE), USD 5,300,000, African Development Fund (TSF Pillar I & III)

E. List the specific actions you have undertaken in the reporting period to leverage funding/support from the Government, donors, and the private sector.

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and UNDP have forged strategic and high-impact partnerships, successfully securing USD 5,300,000 in funding from the African Development Bank. This initiative aims to significantly boost youth and women's participation in the establishment and expansion of youth- and women-led/owned MSEs, driving job creation and improving livelihoods. The NIU will serve as the Government's key counterpart within the TPIA Project Implementation Team at MOTI. To reinforce institutional capacity, MOTI will take the lead in executing and overseeing the implementation of key activities under Component Two of the JMSE project, with UNDP providing targeted support to ensure effective delivery and sustainable impact.

F. How would you rate the NIU's ability to continue with a gap in support from the EIF? Likely/Unlikely?
What are the reasons for this rating?

The NIU's ability to continue with a gap in support of trade reforms is moderately rated due to funding shortages that limit its ability to provide comprehensive trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) and effectively coordinate inter-sectoral bodies. While it continues to drive policy coherence, regulatory alignment, and stakeholder collaboration, resource constraints hinder the scale and efficiency of implementation efforts.

G. What non-project-financed/execution functions is the NIU responsible for in the Ministry?

The NIU continues to provide trade reform outcomes by providing trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) and ensuring effective coordination of inter-sectoral bodies. This drives stronger policy coherence, accelerates regulatory alignment, and optimizes collaboration between government ministries, agencies, and private sector stakeholders.

H. Is there a formal Ministry/Government decision for the integration of the functions and tasks of the NIU? And/or is the NIU in the official Ministry organigramme? Yes/No and explanation.

Yes. With NIU being formally integrated into the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) and recognized within the official government organigram, its sustainability prospects have improved significantly. This formalization ensures long-term institutional backing, government funding, and alignment with national policies, reducing reliance on external support. Additionally, its embedded role within the ministry strengthens intersectoral coordination and policy implementation.

I. Is the NIU team coordinating trade-related technical assistance for the Ministry? Yes/No and explanation.

NIU continues to actively coordinate trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) for the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), and its role as a central mechanism for trade policy implementation and intersectoral coordination is reinforced. This continued function enhances its institutional relevance and sustainability

J. Is the NIU team facilitating the coordination of inter-sectoral bodies related to trade? Yes/No and explanation.

The NIU plays a pivotal role in driving impactful trade-related outcomes by effectively coordinating inter-sectoral bodies and ensuring seamless collaboration between government ministries, agencies, and private sector stakeholders. Its facilitation continues to strengthen policy coherence, accelerate trade reforms, and enhance the implementation of strategic trade initiatives.

Trade mainstreaming

K. Have you contributed to the inclusion of trade into a new national development plan over the reporting period? Yes/No.
If YES, please indicate what you have done and what the result has been.

South Sudan has strategically integrated trade into its National Development Plan (NDP) as a key driver of economic growth, diversification, and sustainable development. Recognizing the transformative role of trade in poverty reduction and job creation, the government, with support from UNDP and development partners, has prioritized trade policy reforms, market access expansion, and private-sector development within its national planning framework. This integration ensures that trade is mainstreamed across key sectors, reinforcing South Sudan's commitment to regional and global economic integration. By aligning trade policies with national development priorities, the country is better positioned to enhance competitiveness, create a favourable investment environment, and leverage opportunities under regional agreements such as the East African Community (EAC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The inclusion of trade in the NDP underscores South Sudan's proactive approach to fostering economic resilience and advancing efforts toward WTO accession.

L. What actions have you undertaken to support improved legislation and participation in trade-related fora? For instance, this could be the development of policies and regulations; participation in negotiations; and overall integration into global and regional trading systems (such as engagement with the WTO or Regional Trade Agreements, etc.). Please list 1. the specific action; 2. the result of the action; and 3. any lessons learned.

NIU continues to actively drive legislative reforms and enhance South Sudan's participation in key trade-related fora to accelerate its global economic integration. As part of its efforts to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework, UNDP has supported the development and formulation of an e-commerce policy and strategy, as well as the drafting, adoption, and enactment of the Competition Bill. These initiatives are critical in fostering a competitive business environment, promoting sustainable economic development, and advancing South Sudan's accession to the WTO.

M. For countries in the process of acceding to the WTO, has this project contributed to the process? If so, how and what has been the result of the action/s?

As of February 2025, South Sudan remains in the accession phase and has yet to attain full WTO membership. The path to WTO accession is complex and often prolonged, influenced by internal factors such as political instability and economic constraints that have slowed progress. Despite these challenges, UNDP continues to drive tangible advancements by enhancing labor skills, fostering private-sector growth and strategic partnerships, expanding trade initiatives, and promoting economic diversification. Through targeted capacity-building programs, UNDP is actively accelerating South Sudan's integration into the global trade community.

Additionally, UNDP remains instrumental in supporting South Sudan's accession to the East African Community (EAC), a pivotal step toward regional economic integration. By aligning South Sudan's trade policies with EAC standards, UNDP is not only facilitating regional trade but also strategically positioning the country for WTO membership. This alignment ensures South Sudan's trade practices adhere to international standards, paving the way for stronger economic resilience and global competitiveness.

N. Has the project helped conduct or finalize any new studies? Yes/No.
If YES, please list 1. the specific study; 2. the result or expected result/impact of the study; and 3. any lessons learned.

- No new study was conducted with support from the project during the reporting period.

O. What actions have you undertaken to follow up on the impact or sustainability of past EIF projects? Please elaborate on the findings.

UNDP continues to facilitate the active participation of ministerial and administrative authorities in the project's implementation, reinforcing national ownership and ensuring long-term sustainability. The project's management arrangements have played a pivotal role in fostering government leadership, with the establishment of the Project National Steering Committee (NSC) enabling broad stakeholder engagement in project-related decision-making. This inclusive approach has significantly strengthened ownership and accountability throughout the implementation process.

Technical staff from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and other government line ministries remain actively engaged in project activities, equipping them with in-depth knowledge of key project outputs. This engagement enhances their ability to implement project recommendations effectively and sustain outcomes beyond the project's funding period.

Furthermore, the project is strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, regulators, government agencies, and women and youth organizations. By enhancing technical expertise and fostering collaboration, the project is laying a

strong foundation for sustained engagement in trade policy formulation and implementation, ensuring long-term impact on South Sudan's economic integration and development.

P. Have you supported the process of your country's graduation from LDC status through this project? If so, how and what has been the result of the action/s?

As of the latest United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) review, South Sudan does not yet meet the required thresholds for graduation due to several critical challenges, including low Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, weak human development indicators (education, health, nutrition, and high economic and environmental vulnerability (conflict, climate change impact, and dependence on oil exports).

Q. What are the key lessons from implementation over this period?

Strategic partnerships between government entities and development partners can effectively mobilize significant funding to support economic empowerment initiatives. By securing financial resources and targeting youth and women-led businesses, such collaborations can drive job creation and improve livelihoods, demonstrating the importance of inclusive and well-structured development programs.

Ensuring national ownership and sustainability in development projects requires active engagement of government authorities and stakeholders. Establishing a structured governance mechanism, such as a National Steering Committee, fosters inclusivity, accountability, and strong leadership, ultimately enhancing project effectiveness and long-term impact.

Building the capacity of key stakeholders across various sectors is essential for sustainable economic development. Strengthening technical expertise and fostering collaboration among government agencies, private sector actors, and civil society organizations creates a solid foundation for effective trade policy formulation and implementation. This inclusive approach ensures long-term impact and supports economic integration efforts.

3. Operational update

A. What changes have there been in the implementation team, strategy, timeline, or work plan/budget over the reporting period?

Over the reporting period, the implementation team, strategy, timeline, and work plan/budget remained consistent and aligned with the original project framework. This stability ensured the uninterrupted execution of activities, enabling the project to stay on course and achieve its intended objectives without delays or resource reallocations.

B. What preparations or follow-ups have been conducted with respect to evaluations of EIF projects (e.g., sustainability reviews of past projects; completion or monitoring of the management response to a past EIF project, etc.)?

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and UNDP have forged strategic and high-impact partnerships, successfully securing USD 5,300,000 in funding from the African Development Bank. This initiative aims to significantly boost youth and women's participation in the establishment and expansion of youth- and women-led/owned MSEs, driving job creation and improving livelihoods.

C. What are some of the main challenges you found during the reporting period that impacted the achievement of results?

- Changes in Governance Structure: Frequent changes in government priorities and leadership instability disrupted the implementation of trade policy and enforcement.
- Limited Institutional Capacity: Limited technical expertise and resource constraints within the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- Limited capacity of local businesses, lack of competitiveness, and inadequate access to finance restrict private sector involvement in trade policy implementation.

D. What are the key next steps for your project?

1. Development of E-commerce Policy and Strategy
2. Facilitate cross-border trade exchange learning visits on key agricultural value chain including shea butter, fish, and honey export as the strategy to support the implementation of EAC and AfCFTA.
3. Develop and operationalize the portal for the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

E. Please share any other important information or lessons you have learnt with respect to the project implementation.

Strategic partnerships between government entities and development partners can effectively mobilize significant funding to support economic empowerment initiatives. By securing financial resources and targeting youth and women-led businesses, such collaborations can drive job creation and improve livelihoods, demonstrating the importance of inclusive and well-structured development programs.

Ensuring national ownership and sustainability in development projects requires active engagement of government authorities and stakeholders. Establishing a structured governance mechanism, such as a National Steering Committee, fosters inclusivity, accountability, and strong leadership, ultimately enhancing project effectiveness and long-term impact.

Building the capacity of key stakeholders across various sectors is essential for sustainable economic development. Strengthening technical expertise and fostering collaboration among government agencies, private sector actors, and civil society organizations creates a solid foundation for effective trade policy formulation and implementation. This inclusive approach ensures long-term impact and supports economic integration efforts.

F. Indicate the status of fulfilment of any outstanding recommendations provided by the EIF Board or the Executive Secretariat for the EIF (ES) and/or the EIF Trust Fund Manager (TFM).

Recommendation	Implementation Status

4. Risk assessment

What challenges and risks (internal and external), if any, did you face during this reporting period, and what actions did you take? Also highlight any changes that have been made to the rating/level of existing risks.

An updated risk matrix for your project should be annexed to this report, incorporating any new risks identified; changes to ratings of existing risks; or mitigation strategies in place.

Challenge/Risk	Mitigation Actions
Policy Inconsistency and Changes in Governance Structure: Frequent changes in government priorities and leadership instability can disrupt trade policy continuity and enforcement.	Consistency and adapting to change while mainstreaming trade policies
Weak Institutional Capacity: Limited technical expertise and resource constraints within the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)	Provide capacity-building and training for trade officials, businesses, and customs personnel to improve trade policy implementation.
Limited Coordination: Poor inter-ministerial and public-private sector coordination can slow down policy execution and lead to fragmented trade governance	Strengthen institutional governance and policy coordination to ensure trade policy consistency
Weak Private Sector Participation: Limited capacity of local businesses, lack of competitiveness, and inadequate access to finance restrict private sector involvement in trade policy implementation.	Increase private sector participation by improving access to finance, value chain development, and SME support programs
Unclear Legal and Regulatory Framework: Delays in finalizing trade-related laws and inconsistencies in their enforcement discourage foreign direct investment (FDI) and business expansion.	Enhance customs modernization and trade facilitation reforms to reduce non-tariff barriers and improve compliance with regional trade agreements.
Fiduciary Risks	**Mitigation Actions**

Financial risks associated with changes in prices during procurement of goods and services.	Procurement of goods and services is undertaken in line with UNDP procurement policies and regulations.

5. Quality assessment

Provide a brief assessment of your project to date based on the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact. This will help ensure that corrective measures can be made in a timely manner, if required. See the explanatory note on the DAC criteria below.

	Rating: 1 (highly unsatisfactory) to 4 (highly satisfactory)	Assessment (Please note if there is a change from the rating in the previous report) (Maximum 200 words)
1. Relevance to date	Highly satisfactory	The project is strategically aligned with South Sudan's priorities as outlined in the Revised National Development Strategy 2021-2024, which underscores the critical role of trade, trade facilitation, and exports in the country's development. Serving as a key driver of the national trade agenda, the project provides essential operational and technical support to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, enabling it to effectively coordinate and engage stakeholders in priority trade initiatives. These include the DTISU, trade capacity development, trade facilitation, E-commerce, AfCFTA implementation, WTO and EAC accession, trade policy formulation and execution, as well as broader objectives of trade integration and economic diversification.
2. Coherence of intervention to date	Highly satisfactory	The project drives a comprehensive strategy to enhance market access and boost trade competitiveness. It strategically aligns with initiatives led by key development partners such as the African Development Bank, FAO, etc. strengthening supply capacity for sustainable growth
3. Efficiency of implementation to date	Highly satisfactory	The project's financial resource utilization was strategically aligned with the approved Annual Work Plan, ensuring efficient allocation to achieve targeted outputs and desired outcomes.
4. Effectiveness to date	Satisfactory	The Project successfully achieved its intended objectives, significantly enhancing the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Trade and other trade-related organizations. By fostering technical expertise, policy awareness, and stakeholder engagement, the Project has established a sustainable foundation for continued trade development and integration.

		A key achievement was the capacity-building of government officials and private sector stakeholders, equipping them with critical knowledge on regional trade agreements, WTO accession, competition policy and law, AfCFTA, and the EAC integration process. These efforts have strengthened national trade governance, ensuring that South Sudan can effectively engage in regional and global trade negotiations while advocating for its economic interests. By empowering key stakeholders in both the public and private sectors, the Project has reinforced South Sudan's ability to navigate complex trade frameworks, implement trade policy reforms, and drive sustainable economic integration. The knowledge and technical skills transferred through these interventions will continue to shape trade policy decisions, facilitating long-term institutional resilience and trade competitiveness beyond the project's duration.
5. Prospects of sustainability	Satisfactory	The integration of trade-related policy priorities into the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and other sectoral plans underscores strong national ownership and institutional commitment to sustained policy execution. By embedding these priorities within government frameworks, the Project has ensured that trade-related reforms and capacity-building efforts remain active and relevant even after external funding concludes.
6. Contribution towards impact	Satisfactory	The Project has made a transformative contribution to South Sudan's trade landscape, directly supporting the country's integration into the global trading system. By aligning key results with the overarching purpose, the Project has enhanced trade governance, institutional capacity, and policy implementation—positioning South Sudan as a more active and competitive participant in regional and international trade. One of the most significant achievements is the development of the Draft Trade Policy Framework, which provides a strategic foundation for trade mainstreaming and the design of Aid for Trade initiatives. This framework ensures a structured approach to trade development, aligning national priorities with global trade facilitation standards. The Project also delivered extensive capacity-building interventions, equipping stakeholders with critical knowledge on trade policy issues, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), digital trade, e-commerce, trade facilitation, and

		competition policy enforcement. By strengthening institutional and technical competencies, the Project has built a foundation for sustainable trade governance, ensuring long-term national ownership and continuous policy evolution. Moreover, South Sudan's attainment of WTO Observer Status marks a pivotal milestone in the country's global trade engagement, opening pathways for deeper integration into multilateral trading systems. Additionally, the Project has facilitated evidence-based policymaking, improving the design and implementation of key trade policies such as the Trade for Peace Report.

6. Financial management

Indicate progress in financial management of EIF resources:

i. Report any financial issues and solutions found (this can be presented in a tabular format).

7. Communications – Impact story

Provide a short **impact story** (500 words) demonstrating key results achieved this year. Photographs are also welcome!

Media:
https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/trade-ministry-and-undp-validate-trade-bill
https://www.cityreviewss.com/south-sudan-validates-bill-to-boost-trade-and-protect-consumers/

Social Media:
https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSouthSudan/posts/pfbid02q1g5sxW92oN7WgdAMdqXcboUpAcvq2426yEg9ZLWRMiQjV7KN18mKGFQ75TqdEpl

https://x.com/undpsouthsudan/status/1849119621518872984

8. Any other relevant information

The Trade Policy Framework and DTISU Matrix remains instrumental in the mobilisation of additional Aid for Trade resources to support the implementation of aid for trade priorities beyond the project implementation /funding period to ensure sustainability of the project outcomes.

9. Contribution towards other areas of the EIF InFa logframe not captured above

Code		# in reporting period (reporting period only)	# from start of project (cumulative data from start)	Explanation
	IMPACT			
	Investment			
	Environment and climate change			
	Socio-economic development (e.g., jobs, incomes)			
	Outcome 1 – Improved trade environment conducive for inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs			
1.a	Support to national development plans integrating trade	0	1	Trade mainstreamed into Revised National Development Strategy (2021-2024); Trade

				mainstreamed into Ministry of Trade and Industry Strategic Plan; Key trade strategies integrated into the Revised National Development Strategy 2021-2024
1.b	Promoting effective trade coordination mechanisms	0	1	consultative mechanism established to facilitate public -private engagement on trade
1.c	Support to sector-specific strategies integrating trade	0	1	South Sudan Trade Policy Framework developed
1.d	Demonstration of progress in integration into global and regional trading systems[2]	0	2	UNDP continues to drive tangible advancements by enhancing labor skills, fostering private-sector growth and strategic partnerships, expanding trade initiatives, and promoting economic diversification. Through targeted capacity-building programs, UNDP is actively accelerating South Sudan's integration into the global trade community. Additionally, UNDP remains instrumental in supporting South Sudan's accession to the East African Community (EAC), a pivotal step toward regional economic integration. By aligning South Sudan's trade policies with EAC standards, UNDP is not only facilitating regional trade but also strategically positioning the country for WTO membership.
	Output 1.1 – Improved evidence-based policy and regulatory frameworks for trade and investment			
1.1.a	Number of quality trade and investment policies formulated and updated with support from the EIF	0	7	Trade Policy Framework Developed ;Trade Mainstreamed into National Development Strategy ;Technical inputs provided to Responses for questions

[2] This would refer to demonstrable progress in accession to the WTO or regional trading blocks; new bilateral trade agreements; or concrete implementation of WTO or Regional Trade Agreements.

1.1.b	Number of actions undertaken for improved legislation and participation in trade-related for a	0	1	raised on Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) to facilitate accession to WTO ;WTO Observer status achieved ;Report on Trade for Peace and Resilience in South Sudan developed; DTISU Report with key trade pro poor strategies developed and finalized.; Final Assessment Report on Status of Implementation of the East African Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols developed; Scoping Study on Automation of South Sudan Customs Procedures Developed. South Sudan Draft Competition Bill; The project provided technical support towards stakeholder engagement and drafting of competition bill**.**
1.1.c	Number of studies developed through EIF support[3]	0	2	
1.1.d	Number of trade and investment-related regulations adopted			
	Output 1.2 – Strengthened institutional coordination for trade development and investment			
1.2.a	Progress on integration of the NIU into the Government system	0	1	NIU is part of the Government system; NIU is physically hosted by the Ministry staff comprise of civil servants contributes to the coordination of TRTA; NIU facilitates trade-related intersectoral mechanisms. Project NSC established with key stakeholders drawn from government line Ministries and private sector representatives
1.2.a.i	Mechanisms to ensure that chances of sustainability do not fall	1	1	The sustainability of NIU is strengthened by its integration within the government system, ministry-hosted structure, and reliance on civil servants, ensuring institutional backing and continuity. Its role in coordinating trade-related intersectoral mechanisms and engagement with key stakeholders, including government ministries and private sector representatives, further enhances long-term viability

[3] Changed from Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs) as the EIF InFa may not be able to support full DTISs.

1.2.a.ii	Efforts to improve sustainability			
1.2.a.iii	Number of EIF Countries with NIUs that improve their score on integration	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.2.b	Support to quality functioning public-private coordination mechanisms (name mechanism and number of meetings)	1	1	The national steering committee continue to play a pivotal role in driving impactful trade-related outcomes by effectively coordinating inter-sectoral bodies and ensuring seamless collaboration between government ministries, agencies, and private sector stakeholders. Its facilitation continues to strengthen policy coherence, accelerate trade reforms, and enhance the implementation of strategic trade initiatives.
1.2.c	Support to quality Government-donor dialogue mechanisms on investment- and trade-related matters (name mechanism and number of meetings)	0	1	The MoTI has established a National Implementation Unit (NIU) to allow the Ministry to lead (i) Private Sector Coordination, (ii) Donors/Aid for Trade Coordination, (iii) Trade monitoring and evaluation, and (iii) Communication and outreach. Comprised of directorates in MoTI and with the Undersecretary for Trade and Industry as the Lead/Focal Point supported technically by a Coordinator who is the Director for Trade, the NIU provides a government approach towards trade promotion and growth, integration with the East African Community, and accession to the World Trade Organization
1.2.d	Number of trade coordination body meetings (committees, working groups, intersectoral groups) facilitated	0	2	The NIU and the national steering committee continue to play a pivotal role in driving impactful trade-related outcomes by effectively coordinating inter-sectoral bodies and ensuring seamless collaboration between government ministries, agencies, and private sector stakeholders

	Output 1.3 – Enhanced capacities for policy formulation and implementation			
1.3.a	Number of public officials (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment and trade-related areas	0	217	118 stakeholders from Private Sector and Policy Makers) sensitized on Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). 84% of the participants was Men, while 16% of the participants were women. 10 Senior Policy Makers (5 Women and 4 Men) trained and sensitized on Competition law enforcement through South-South exchange programme;58 participants trained on competition law enforcement (37 Female ;21 Male) Capacity of 3 NIU officials enhanced on Trade mainstreaming through South- South Exchange programme in Tanzania. Capacity of 28 South Sudan Senior Trade Officials enhanced on commercial and economic diplomacy (20 Male ,8 Female)
	Men	0	130	
	% women	0	40%	
	% youth			
1.3.b	Number of private sector and civil society representatives (disaggregated by gender and age) trained in investment- and trade-related areas to participate in the national trade agenda	28	28 (28% women)	Capacity of 28 South Sudan Senior Trade Officials enhanced on commercial and economic diplomacy (20 Male ,8 Female)
	Men		20	
	% Women		28%	
	% Youth			
1.3.c	Number of actions conducted related to the monitoring or sustainability of past EIF projects			
	Outcome 2 – Increased exports and access to international markets for the LDCs			
2.a	Volume (metric tonnes)			

	Direct			
	Indirect			
2.b	Value USD			
	Direct			
	Indirect			
2.c	Number of new international markets accessed with support from the EIF	0	0	None
2.d	Additional resources managed by the NIUs and/or leveraged from other sources, including donors, governments, and the private sector			
2.e	Number of additional non-EIF-funded projects designed, implemented and/or coordinated by the NIUs	1	4	1. South Sudan – Jobs Creation and Trade Development Project (JCTDP) funded by EU Trust Fund 2. Project on National Export and Investment Strategy funded by Africa export and import Bank 3. Transforming Agricultural Value Chain Through Private Sector Competitiveness, Investment in Green Industry and AfCFTA Linkages funded by AfDB/ITC 4. Job Creation through youth and women led micro and small enterprises funded by AfDB
	Output 2.1 – Improved participation of EIF Countries in strategic value chains for increased connectivity to markets			
2.1.a	Total number of people trained in value chain practices (disaggregated by gender and age) through participation in EIF capacity-building initiatives	0	29	
	Men	13		
	% Women	55%		
	% Youth			

2.1.b	Number of awareness-raising activities conducted on gender and the environment	0	0	None
	Gender			
	Environment			
2.1.c	Percentage of women directly benefitting from EIF--funded productive sector projects	48%	65%	
2.1.d	Number of producer associations (disaggregated by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), women-owned) trained in value chain practices	0	0	None
2.1.e	Number of people (disaggregated by gender) participating in trade fairs related to market connectivity	0	60	The Ministry of Trade and Industry-Republic of South Sudan (MTI-RSS) in partnership with Private sector and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized the first ever, "*Made in South Sudan exhibition*" under the theme: "Together Promoting South Sudan Business & Industry Development". The aim was to showcase products manufactured in South Sudan, and to unveil business opportunities available in the industry sector in the country.
	Men	37		
	Women	23		
2.1.f	Number of trade facilitation initiatives undertaken with EIF support	0	1	Six Senior trade officials supported through the South-South Exchange programme to The Gambia t o share experiences on EIF & DTIS Implementation; Women economic empowerment, market, access and value chain linkages; Scope, impact, and lessons learn in relation to the Gambia she Trade project; Strategies and impact of the Gambia She project in strengthening women economic empowerment value addition and market access opportunities linkages
2.1.g	Number of MSMEs supported by EIF projects	2000	4300	
	Number of women-led MSMEs	968	2,785	

	Output 2.2 – Improved technology use in production and services in selected value chains			
2.2.a	Number of e-commerce initiatives undertaken	0	1	South Sudan dukaanye digital marketplace (https://dukaanye.com/) developed to facilitate online business to Business linkages and to promote online buying and selling of goods
2.2.b	Number of new technologies adopted through EIF support	0	1	
2.2.c	Number of people (disaggregated by gender) adopting new technology through EIF capacity-building initiatives	2000	4300	
	Men	1,032	1,515	
	Women	968	2,785	
	Output 2.3 – Support to the EIF Countries to leverage (directly and indirectly) additional resources			
2.3.a	Number of actions undertaken by EIF partners (Agencies/MISs) in support of leveraging finance and expertise	1	2	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and UNDP have forged strategic and high-impact partnerships, successfully securing USD 5,300,000 in funding from the African Development Bank. This initiative aims to significantly boost youth and women's participation in the establishment and expansion of youth- and women-led/owned MSEs, driving job creation and improving livelihoods. ITC is providing support towards the formulation of the National Export Strategy; UNECA is supporting the formulation of AfCFTA strategy and WTO accession Strategy
2.3.b	Number of projects funded by development partners (donors/agencies/development	1	4	1. South Sudan – Jobs Creation and Trade Development Project (JCTDP) funded by EU Trust Fund

	banks) related to the Action Matrices of the DTISs[4]			2. Project on National Export and Investment Strategy funded by Africa export and import Bank 3. Transforming Agricultural Value Chain Through Private Sector Competitiveness, Investment in Green Industry and AfCFTA Linkages funded by AfDB/ITC 4. Job Creation through youth and women led micro and small enterprises funded by AfDB
2.3.c	Efforts and results in leveraging private sector resources			
2.3.d	Efforts and results in receiving additional funding from governments and development partners	1	2	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and UNDP have forged strategic and high-impact partnerships, successfully securing USD 5,300,000 in funding from the African Development Bank. This initiative aims to significantly boost youth and women's participation in the establishment and expansion of youth- and women-led/owned MSEs, driving job creation and improving livelihoods.

[4] Also to be monitored where feasible: Additional resources managed by the NIUs and/or leveraged from other sources, including donors, governments and the private sector; and number of additional non-EIF-funded projects designed, implemented and/or coordinated by the NIUs.

Annexes to the report:

Please attach and indicate that the following documents are submitted together with this report:

1	**Work plan and budget,** with a status update indicating the percentage completion of each activity	☐
2	Project **logframe** with values for current indicators	☐
3	Updated **risk matrix** for the project, highlighting any changes and mitigation measures that have been activated or incorporated into the project work plan and budget	☒
4	Implementation status of **recommendations** from the EIF Board, the EIF National Steering Committee (NSC) and ES/TFM missions	☐
5	List/composition of current **NSC** and/or project committee representatives. Please highlight any changes that have occurred in the membership of the NSC	☒
6	Supporting materials (such as impact stories, studies that have been conducted in the reporting period, news articles, etc.)	☒
Please note any further documents annexed to this report		