Project Summary

Project Background
Private sector development and trade lie at the core of GoG’s strategy to achieve middle-income status by 2015. The GoG’s strategy aims at enhancing access to export markets, through facilitating import and export facilities as well as “removing technical barriers… and assist exporters to comply with international standards required by selected export markets.” In this context, Ghana considers the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to be a means of boosting regional integration in West Africa, and the conclusion of the ECOWAS (Economic Cooperation of West African States) integration process, i.e. customs union, is a main piece for the conclusion of the EPA negotiations (scheduled for 2008).

Project Objectives
The objective of the assignment was
(i) to summarise identified impacts of EPAs on Ghana’s economy (tariffs revenue reduction, capacity building needs, etc) and to identify other possible impacts resulting from economic growth and regional trade,
(ii) to identify potential support areas,
(iii) identify potential sectoral opportunities for Ghana to accelerate growth, enhance regional integration and mitigate any negative effects EPAs might have on short-medium term.

Project Activities
• Updating of the inventory of ongoing and planned trade related TA and capacity building interventions
• Review of priority areas requiring support to facilitate Ghana’s integration into regional and world trade
• Mapping of these against the above-mentioned inventory. Identification of gaps.
• Proposing areas that could be covered by EC support 2008 – 2013 under national or regional initiatives
• Development of indicators to be used for assessing performance in the sector
• Organisation of workshops to discuss findings with relevant stakeholders
• Preparation of more detailed project fiches for interventions proposed for inclusion in the 10th EDF document

Implementation Features
• The first report analysed the current trade-related situation with regard to the inventory of interventions and gaps to be filled against identified priorities and gave clear recommendations as to the potential support areas
• The second report highlighted a limited number of potential areas of intervention and their justification for inclusion in the 10th EDF programming document

Services Provided
• Intensive preparation and desk research
• Inventory of ongoing interventions
• Methodological inputs
• Extensive field research and discussions,
• Workshops with stakeholders/presentation of preliminary findings
• Feedback, recommendations, Final Report