

Background

After two decades of sustained growth, the United Republic of Tanzania transitioned from lower-income to lower middle-income country status in July 2020. This is in part due to the sustained macro-economic stability coupled with utilization of the country's rich natural endowments and strategic geographical position. However, key constraints still remain in place, which hinder private sector investment and business growth. These include an unpredictable business regulatory environment, high quality standards compliance costs, challenges in tax administration, persistent skills and knowledge gaps, and lack of access to finance and development services.

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QUALITAN

QUALITY AND STANDARDS
FOR TANZANIA



QUALITAN (Quality and Standards Compliance Programme for the United Republic of Tanzania) is a European Union (EU)-funded technical assistance project whose main objective is to widen market access for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by improving access to quality standards, reducing compliance costs and enhancing consumer protection.



Funded by
the European Union





Introduction

QUALITAN (Quality and Standards Compliance Programme for the United Republic of Tanzania) is a three-year (2022 – 2024) European Union (EU)-funded technical assistance project. Its main objective is to enable Tanzanian MSMEs to have better access to markets, as well as to enhance consumer protection. The QUALITAN project will contribute to the effective implementation of standards, and the delivery of internationally recognized conformity assessment services. This will result in reducing the costs of compliance.

BEGIN Programme

QUALITAN is a component of the EU's BEGIN (Business Environment, Growth and Innovation) programme. The overall objective of the programme is to promote inclusive economic growth, employment and innovation particularly among women and youth, and to enhance consumer protection.

BEGIN is comprised of three objectives;

- addressing of the regulatory framework in Tanzania, BLUEPRINT, implemented by the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade (MIIT) – BEGIN Specific Objective 1.
- strengthening of services and effectiveness of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), QUALITAN, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) – BEGIN Specific Objective 2.
- enhancing MSMEs' capacities to meet market requirements to boost exports, FUNGUO, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – BEGIN Specific Objective 3.

Vision

The QUALITAN project aims to enhance standards compliance, through the supply of effective and efficient conformity assessment services within TBS to reduce costs to the private sector particularly among MSMEs and enhance consumer protection.

Intervention's logic

Output 1 – Capacity building of TBS conformity assessment bodies

Improving capacities of testing, calibration and inspection services (conformity assessment bodies). This means building their capacities and enlarging the scope of accreditation of TBS laboratories and inspection bodies. This will contribute to increasing accessibility and efficiency of the conformity assessment services.

Output 2 – MSMEs' compliance to quality standards improved

TBS will receive support to improve quality standards development process with the ultimate goal to increase the level of compliance in Tanzania, thereby increasing market access opportunities.

Output 3 – TBS ICT systems enhanced

Provision of modern and scalable digital infrastructure to TBS to facilitate collection, use and sharing of quality standards data with other government institutions in Tanzania.

Output 4 – TBS' project governance and outreach capacity improved

Improving outreach by designing and implementing awareness raising campaigns to reach out to TBS customers with a special focus on MSMEs and the general public.

Partners

Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade (MIIT)

The main government partner of the QUALITAN project whose BEGIN team is supporting various agencies including TBS in the simplification of the regulatory environment and removal of operational overlaps among agencies.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

The main beneficiary of the QUALITAN project mandated with the promotion of standardization in industry and trade, development of quality standards, conducting of inspection, sampling and testing of locally manufactured and imported commodities in order to ensure quality.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The implementing partner of the QUALITAN project. A specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development. UNIDO's vision is a world without poverty and hunger, where industry drives low-emission economies, improves living standards, and preserves the livable environment for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

European Union

The European Union (EU) is the resource partner of the QUALITAN project. The Delegation of the EU to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC) is the key actor in the maintenance of the relations between the EU and Tanzania as well as the East African Community (EAC), supporting the country's development agenda for a better life for all. The QUALITAN project is part of the larger BEGIN programme that is funded by the EU.