



Enhancing FCDO's development impact in Africa: delivering third-party monitoring for Africa Programmes Expertise Department

Tetra Tech supplied third-party monitoring (TPM) to FCDO's Africa Programmes Expertise Department (APEX) to help strengthen the department's confidence in what is being delivered and achieved by its programmes, particularly in areas where staff are unable to monitor programme delivery or results directly. We carried out five types of TPM activity that provided timely and relevant feedback on the quality of results systems, data and partner delivery.



2019-2024



Output score A
received in 2022/2023



44 TPM products
delivered for APEX



10 countries
covered by TPM
fieldwork

Our TPM delivery

As a trusted TPM partner, Tetra Tech has **successfully delivered 44 TPM products** for APEX, the third largest spending department in FCDO's Africa Divisions, under the £2.3m contract.

We supported the verification of programme monitoring in the Africa region, including some of the most fragile and poorest areas. We provided our expertise across APEX portfolio of **humanitarian, conflict, energy, climate change, trade and agricultural development** programmes.

Some of our notable work includes:

- Reviewing data systems that assist the Supporting Humanitarian Operations in Central African Republic and the Region programme (SCHOCARR) focused on addressing both protracted crisis as well as spikes in humanitarian need in the Central African Republic.
- Conducting Activity Verification Visits-Beneficiary Feedback (AVV-BF) to assess grain aggregation and processing operations in Mozambique as a part of African Agriculture Development Company (AgDevCo).
- Carrying out AVV-BF to verify the quality of construction of Phase 1 of the border post infrastructure between Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda for TradeMark Africa.
- Delivering Rigorous Results Verification (RRV) for Africa FoodTrade and Resilience programme (FoodTrade) aimed at verifying the Chinyanja Triangle Soybean Programme results.

We helped ensure the success of the APEX programmes by providing **tailored support** and maintaining **flexibility** in our response to the unique needs of each context. We worked closely with our pool of technical specialists and regional research agencies to ensure that the collection and interpretation of TPM data is **contextually relevant, technically accurate** and useable for key policy and programming decisions.

Our work has been crucial in supporting FCDO's efforts in the Africa region. TPM activities were particularly important given the challenges of ensuring the quality of data reported by partners due to limited FCDO presence in countries where APEX programmes are delivered.

TPM Outputs

- 1. Data Systems Reviews (DSRs):** scrutinising and assessing the quality and suitability of implementing partners' systems for results reporting, verification and aggregation along the delivery chain.
- 2. Activity Verification Visits-Beneficiary Feedback (AVV-BF):** observing partner activities and collecting independent feedback from beneficiaries. AVV includes field visits and supporting review work to verify a sample of reported implementing partner delivered activities. BF involves interviewing beneficiaries of programme outputs to collect some independent feedback on their quality and usefulness.
- 3. Rigorous Results Verification (RRV):** a larger scale sample-based data collection exercise with beneficiaries to verify the accuracy and quality of selected reported results.
- 4. Expenditure Monitoring (EM):** reviewing a sample of records of payments down the programme delivery chain to beneficiary level.

APEX programmes across which Tetra Tech provided TPM support include:

ACE	Africa Clean Energy
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area Support Programme
AgDevCo	African Agriculture Development Company
AHRF	Africa Humanitarian Response Fund
AHRF II	Africa Humanitarian Response Fund Phase Two
ARCAN	Africa Regional Climate and Nature Programme
AUSP	African Union Support Programme
CIFFS	Countering Illicit Financial Flows in Africa
CONGO-ILLUCBF	Improving Livelihoods and Land Use in Congo Basin Forests
FoodTrade	Africa FoodTrade and Resilience programme
NHSE	Nutrition, health and sanitation support in Eritrea
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme
SHOCARR	Supporting Humanitarian Operations in CAR and the Region
TDDAP	Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme
TDDAP2	Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme Phase 2
TMEA	TradeMark East Africa
TWM (CRIDF)	Transboundary Water Management in Southern Africa (Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility)
WISER	Weather and Climate Information and Services for Africa

TPM fieldwork country coverage

Since the programme's inception, we have been engaged in 10 African countries, covering a range of TPM products where fieldwork has been done.



and cash-transfer management.

This review was instrumental in verifying that the IP had robust processes in place and identifying areas for improvement.



AVV-BF activities for Africa Continental Free Trade Area Support Programme (AfCFTA)

Through the AVV-BF process, we intended to verify three research activities and their respective outputs developed and disseminated by ODI and reported to have been completed by March 2023.

Specifically, we assessed the extent to which the activity products were oriented around the right topic, were timely, and targeted and reached the right stakeholders.

Overall, respondents found the activities participatory and highly relevant to their work and ultimately useful to their responsibilities. Respondents could mostly identify how and where the activity will inform dialogue and/or policy.



RRV activities for African Agriculture Development Company (AgDevCo)

The purpose of this RRV was to verify results data as reported by AgDevCo and Empresa de Comercializacáo



DSR activities for Africa Humanitarian Response Fund (AHRF)

We conducted a DSR to assess FCDO's contribution to the World Food Programme (WFP) campaign in CAR focusing on cash transfer modalities as part of FCDO's due diligence.

By drawing on evidence from multiple sources, including interviews with stakeholders from WFP and a detailed document review, our assessment revealed how WFP's collaborative approach with partners enhances needs assessment, planning, monitoring,

Agricola (ECA) that has fed into annual reporting on FCDO logframe output indicators. The scope of our work focused on a survey of a sample of contracted maize farmers who have entered into an input purchase agreement.

We used field data to verify the validity, integrity, precision and reliability of various data points related to smallholder maize farmers, including their identifiers, inputs, training, crop yields, gross income, purchase prices, and feedback.

Our RRV assessment aimed at contributing to learning by FCDO, particularly understanding the effect of programme interventions on farmer yields and incomes, especially for women farmers.



EM activities for Supporting Humanitarian Operations in Central African Republic and the Region (SHOCARR)

The EM sought to provide a better understanding of the effectiveness of financial processes and procedures used to verify that cash-transfer to beneficiary households have taken place as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Using evidence from various sources, including FAO documentation in Bangui, stakeholder interviews, and a beneficiary survey, we reviewed financial control and reporting systems for cash transfers and analysed financial flows and cash distribution reconciliation.

Our EM activities were essential in providing assurance on a FAO-ECOBANK cash transfer scheme aimed at vulnerable and food-insecure households. We also provided recommendations on how to improve selected aspects of activity and results reporting systems for this scheme.



Learning Synthesis

Annually, we have conducted Learning Synthesis which distils the key insights and lessons learned from TPM activities to guide FCDO's developmental goals within the region. By consolidating evidence and identifying common lessons within the APEX portfolio, we contribute to broader learning within and beyond APEX.

Tetra Tech delivered all TPM reports to the agreed quality standard by adapting flexibly to the requirements and needs of the programmes. In 2024, the Learning Synthesis report was well received and signed off by APEX.