



TRADE



# Main Challenges and Practices for Trade Facilitation in the COVID-19 Pandemic:

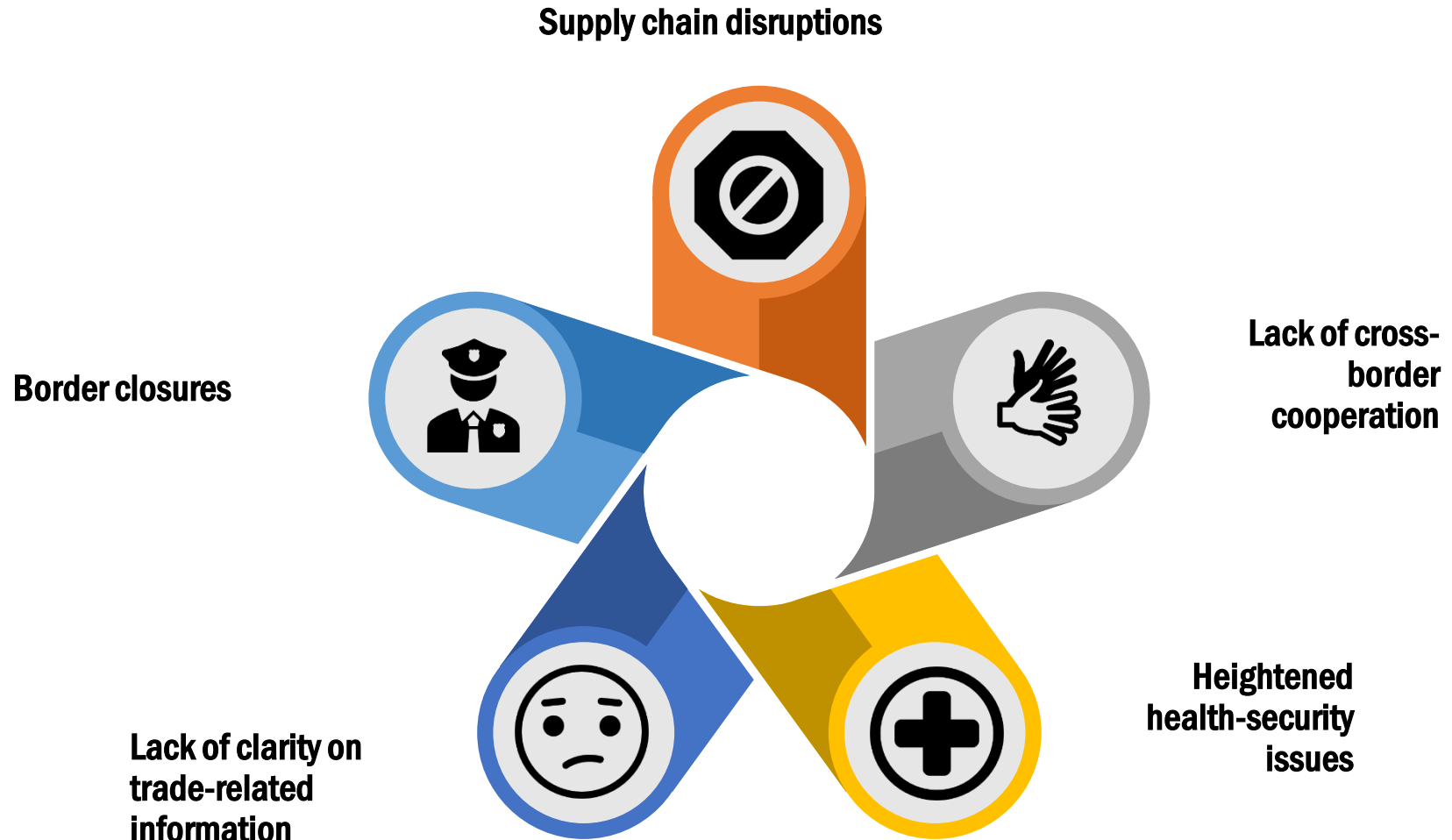
## UNECE Findings from Surveys and Studies



**Salehin Khan**  
**Trade Facilitation Section,**  
**Economic Cooperation and Trade Division**

**Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group**  
**20 May 2021**

# Overall challenges



# Country responses

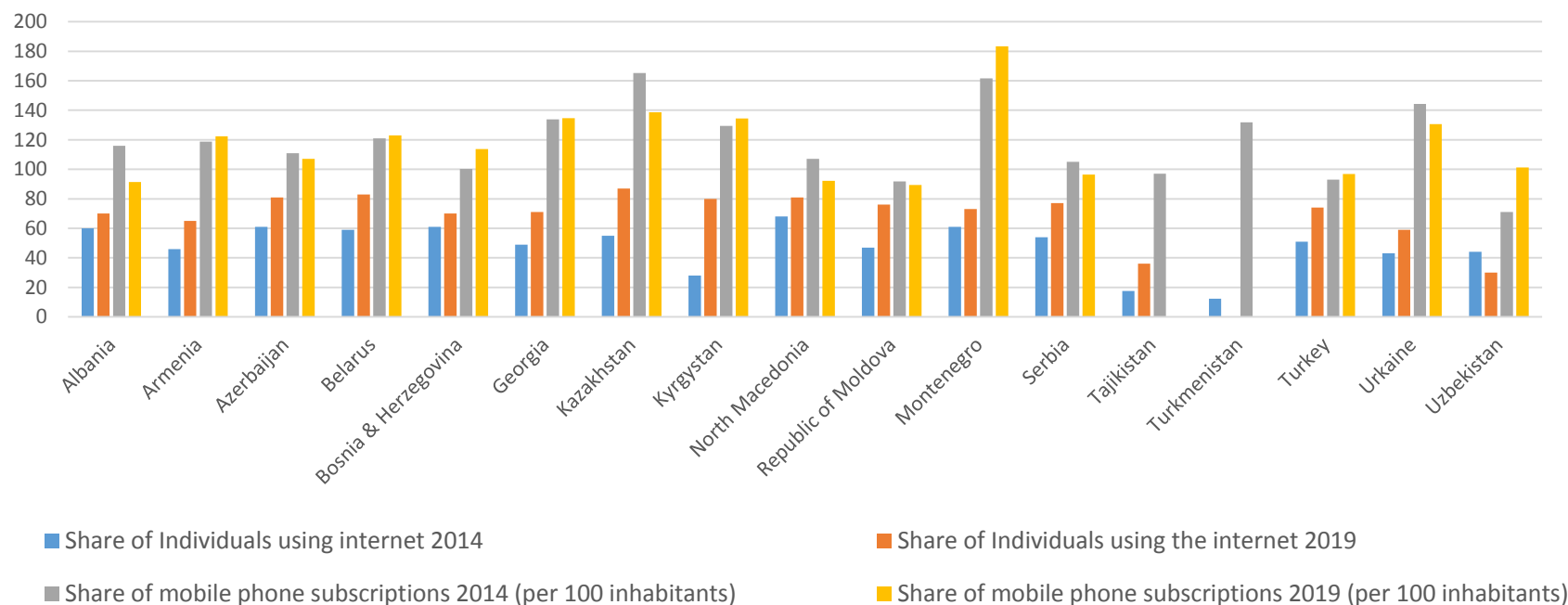


# Digitalization: Pre-existing and aggravated challenges

- Connectivity and access
- Inadequate trade facilitation
- Overreliance on cash and weak e-payment regimes
- Lack of consumer trust
- SMEs
- Gender issues



# Digitalization - connectivity



Source: compilation based on International Telecommunication Union data (ITU), the UNCTAD B2C E-Commerce Index 2020 and the UNCTAD B2C E-Commerce Index 2015.

# Fourth Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021

- **Biennial survey conducted by UN Regional Commissions**
- **Objective:** *“to enable countries to better understand and monitor progress on implementation of TF, including paperless trade measures; to support evidence-based policy making, and highlight capacity building and technical assistance needs.”*
- **58 trade facilitation measures in 10 modules.**
- 2021 Survey includes a new module: **Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis:**
  - **Institutional setup**
  - **Access to information**
  - **Coordination of measures**
  - **Digital measures**
  - **Preparedness for future crises**

## **Fourth Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021**

### **Regional Scope**

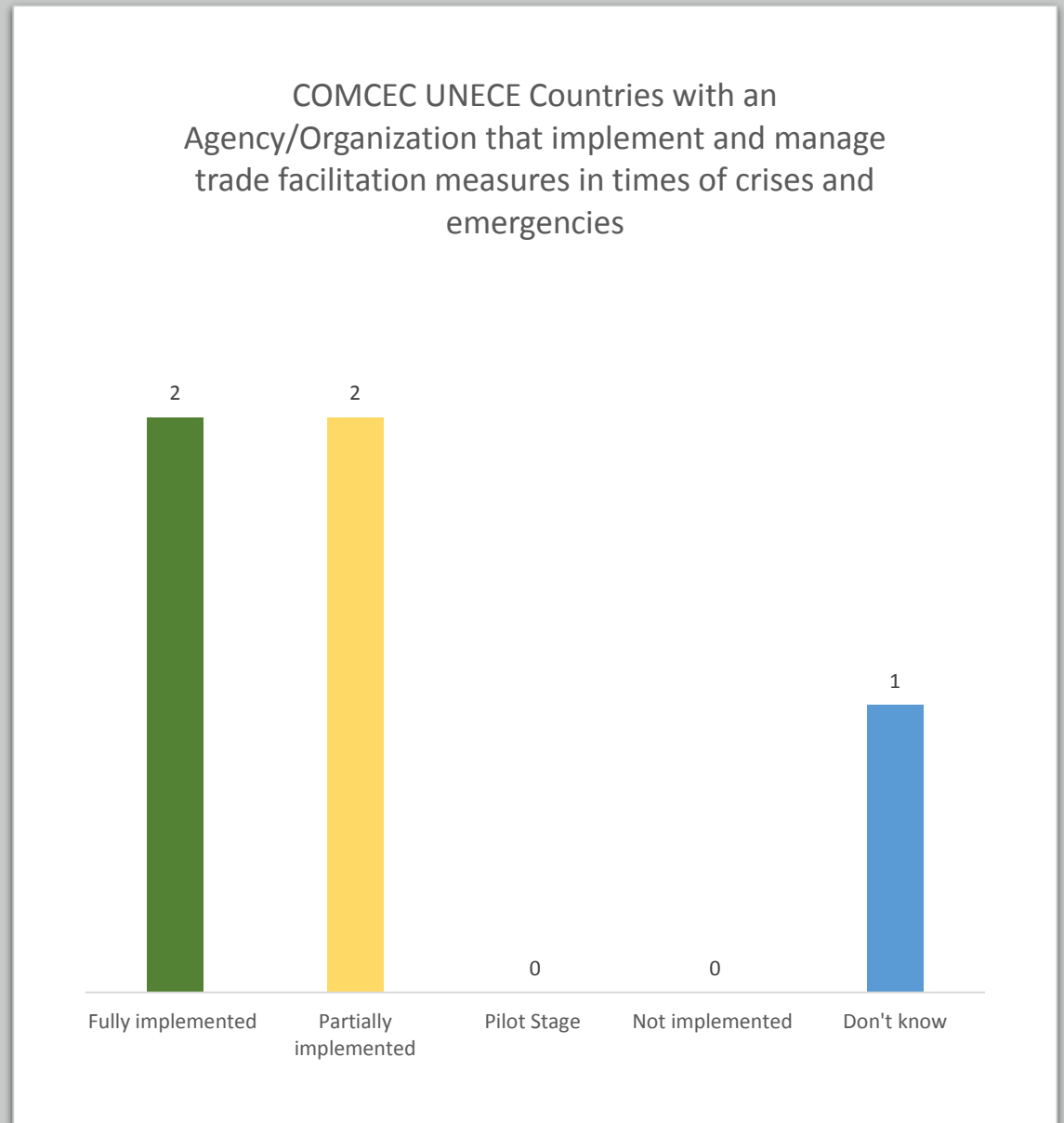
- Participated by more than 40 UNECE member States.
- For this presentation, **preliminary** results are presented from the common countries that are members of both COMCEC and UNECE :  
**Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey**



## Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

### Results from the new module

Has your government assigned an agency/organization to implement and manage trade facilitation measures in times of crises and emergencies (such as COVID-19)?

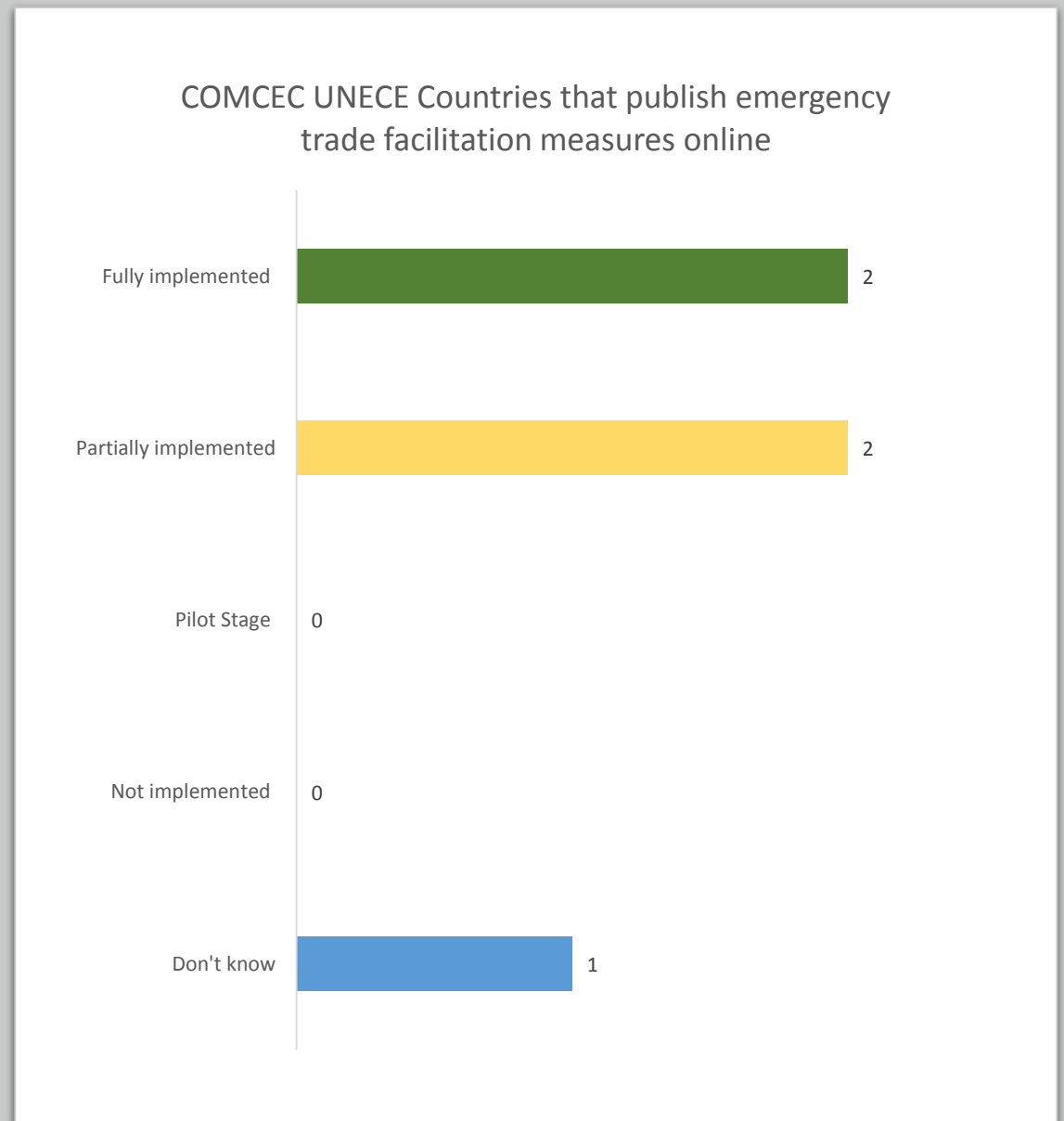




# Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

## Results from the new module

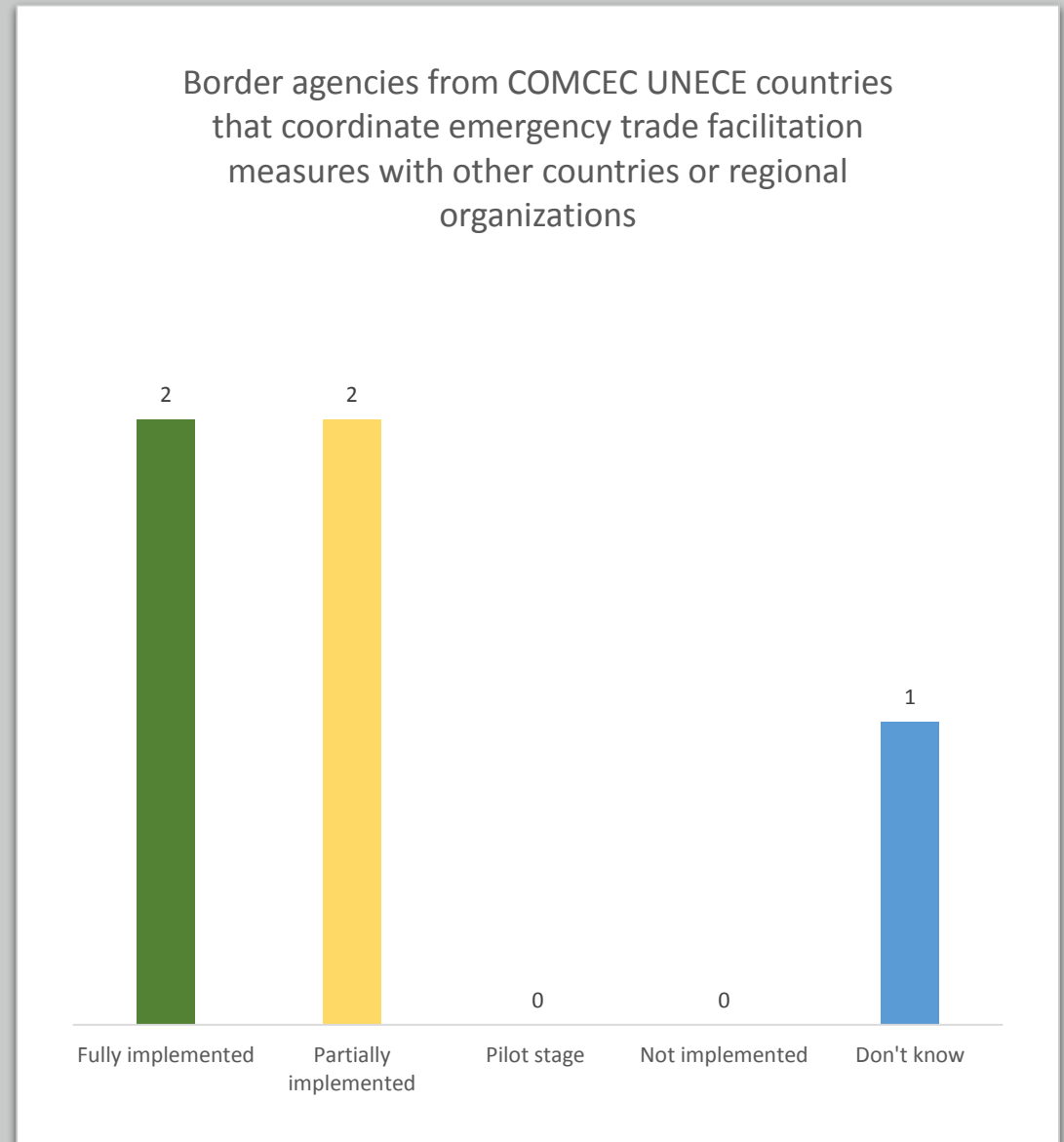
Does your government publish emergency trade facilitation measures online?



## Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

### Results from the new module

Do your border agencies coordinate emergency trade facilitation measures with other countries or regional organizations?

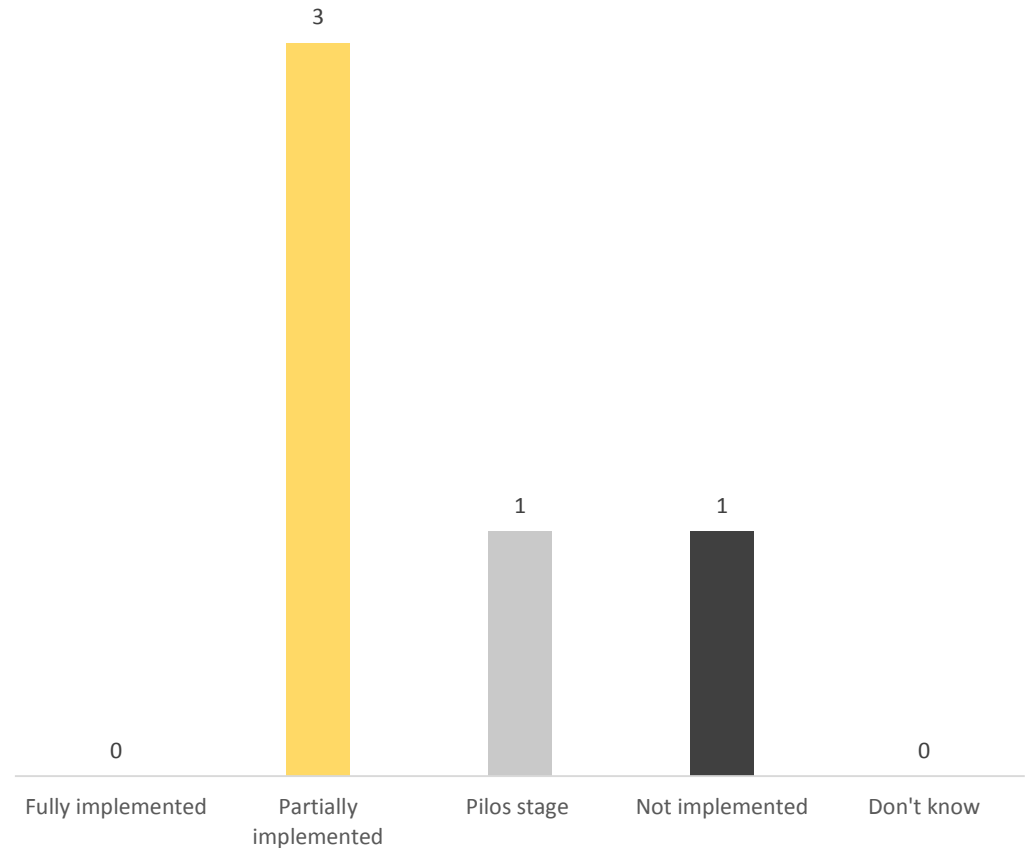


## Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

### Results from the new module

Has your government implemented additional (cross-border) paperless trade measures to facilitate trade in times of crises and emergencies?

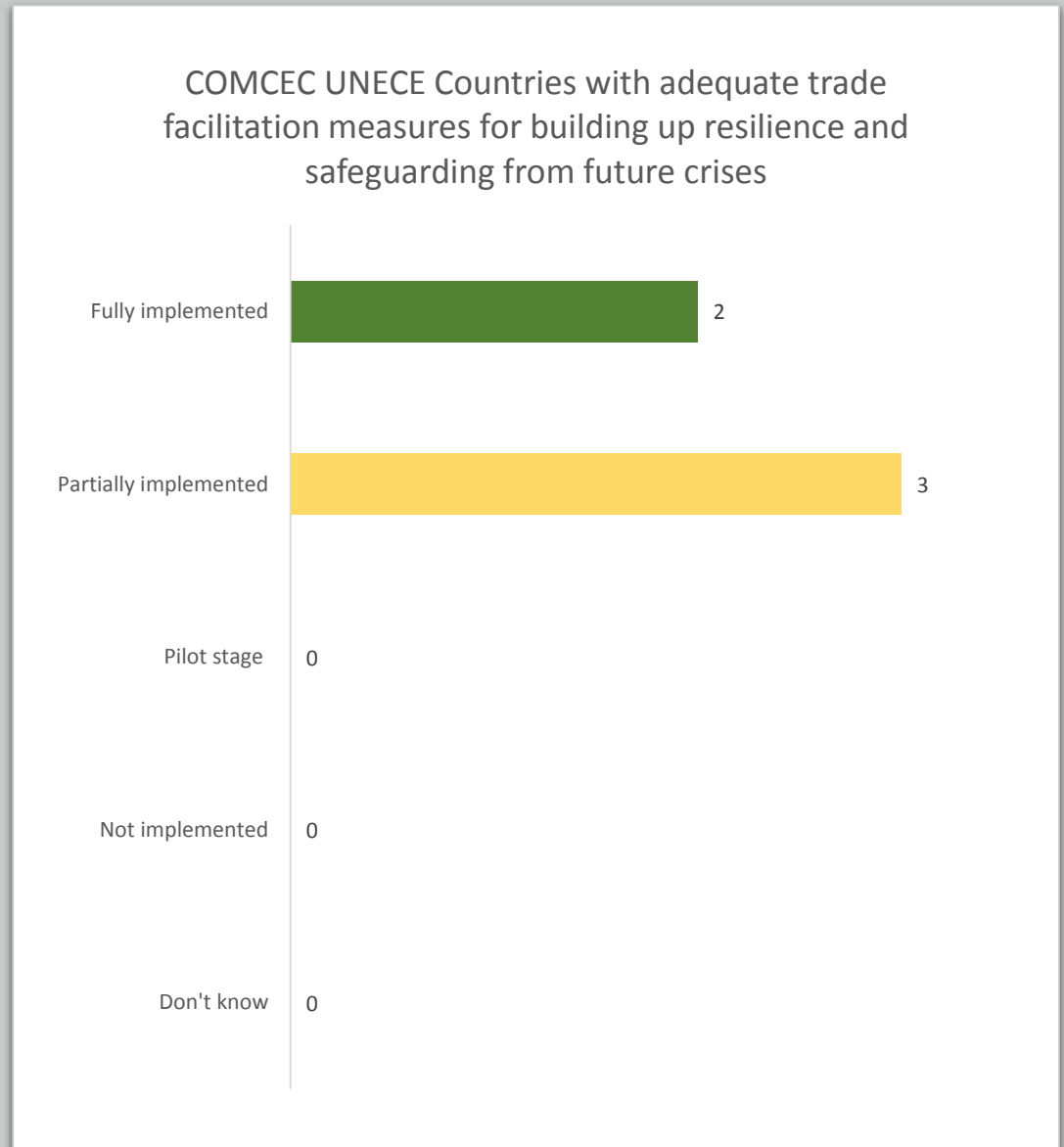
COMCEC UNECE Countries who implemented additional (cross-border) paperless trade measures to facilitate trade in times of crises and emergencies



## Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

### Results from the new module

Is your country prepared with adequate trade facilitation measures for building up resilience and safeguarding from future crises?

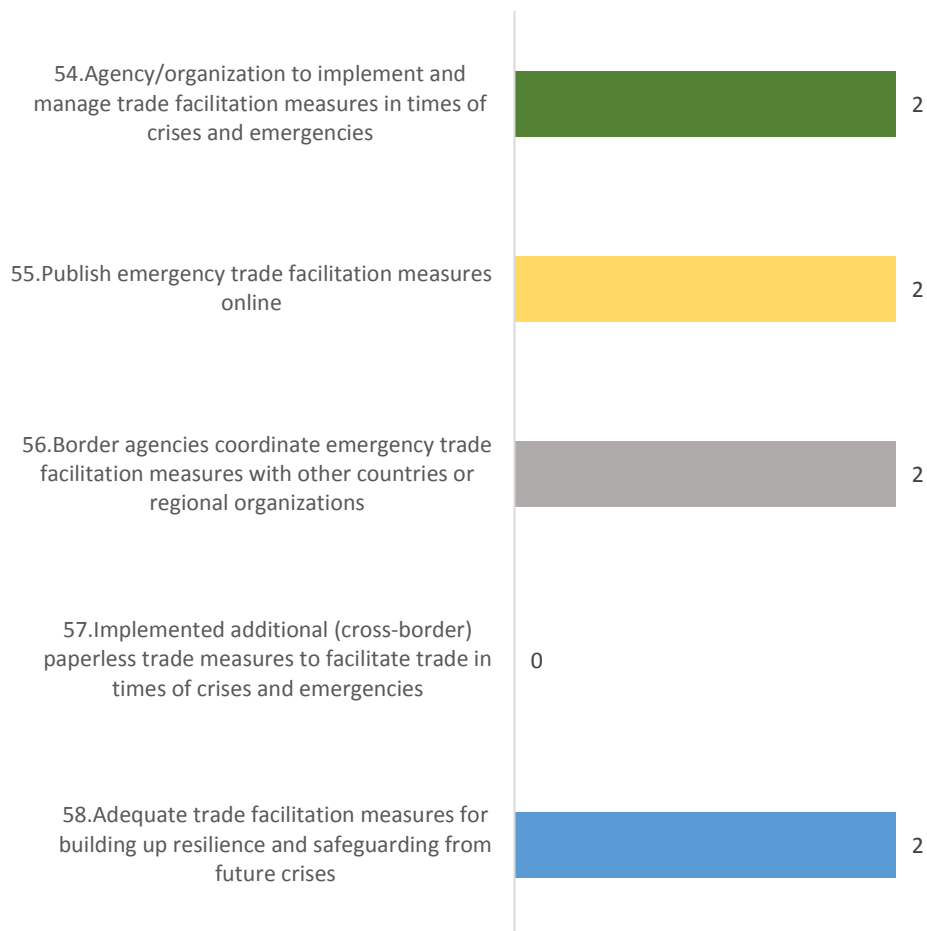


## Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis

### Results from the new module

- 2 countries out of 5 have fully implemented the indicator for almost 4 out of 5 indicators.
- Q.57 is the only not fully implemented indicator

#### Countries with full implementation per indicator in the UNECE Region



# UNECE Resources to combat COVID-19

- The aim of this website is to provide a non-exhaustive list of such resources on trade facilitation and digitalization.
- Many existing recommendations, standards, guidelines and capacity-building project activities can be used to stop the spread of COVID-19 as well as help trade recovery.
- In general, the resources are targeted towards both the public (governments and international bodies) and private (enterprises, entities) actors.



The screenshot displays the UNECE website's 'COVID-19 Response' section. At the top, the UNECE logo and 'Sustainable Development Goals' are visible. A search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'Advanced Search' is located in the top right. Below the header, a blue banner reads 'COVID-19 Response' with a button that says 'Find out about UNECE's Latest Developments'. A navigation menu includes links for 'About UNECE', 'Our work', 'Themes', 'SDGs', 'Open UNECE', 'Events', 'Publications', and 'Media'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'UNECE > TRADE > TRADE FACILITATION AND E-BUSINESS(UN/CEFACT) / COVID-19 RESPONSE'. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Trade Programme' with sub-links: 'Trade Facilitation and E-business - UN/CEFACT', 'COVID-19 Response' (highlighted), 'About us', 'Domains', 'Projects', 'Public Reviews', 'Outputs', and 'Meetings and Events'. The main content area has a heading 'COVID-19 Response' followed by 'Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Resources for COVID-19 Response'. The text explains that the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved from a health crisis into an economic crisis causing major disruption in global trade. It mentions the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and its subsidiary inter-governmental body, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), which have a number of recommendations, standards, tools and resources that can be used to address the immediate and long-term challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate global trade. The aim of this website is to provide a non-exhaustive list of such resources on trade facilitation and digitalization. An image of a globe with trade routes is shown to the right. The text concludes by stating that it is noteworthy that many existing recommendations, standards, guidelines and capacity-

- **White Paper Pandemic Crisis, Trade-Related Response**

- **Published:** 2021

- **Scope of the paper:** This paper aims to provide accessible best practice guidelines to enable efficient control, clearance, and release facilitation measures, and outlines standard operating measures for pandemic situations.

- This paper concentrates on the trade-related aspects of pandemic situations from both the public and private sectors' point of view. The findings of this paper can also apply to epidemics, which are confined to a country, territory, or region.

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## White Paper Pandemic Crisis

### Trade-Related Response

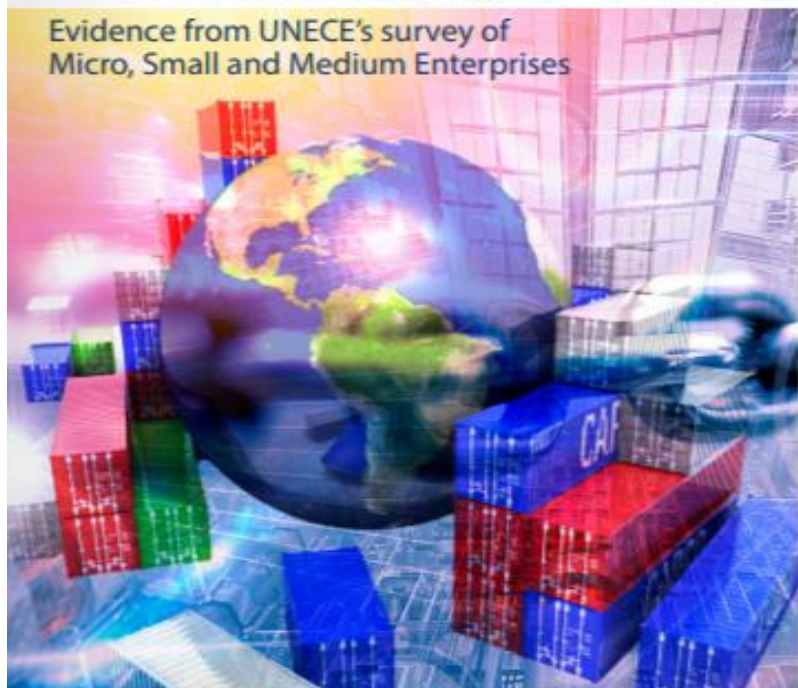




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## The Impact of COVID-19 on trade and structural transformation in Armenia

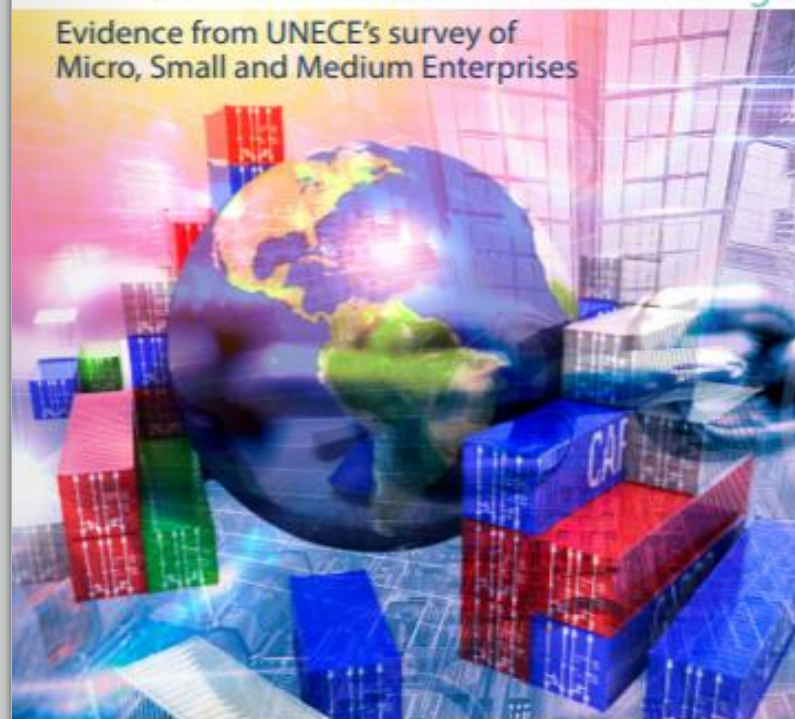
Evidence from UNECE's survey of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises



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## The Impact of COVID-19 on trade and structural transformation in Georgia

Evidence from UNECE's survey of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises





- **The Impact of COVID-19 Induced Non-Tariff Measures on SPECA Countries' trade Patterns:** Evidence from UNECE's survey of Freight Forwarders
- **Publication:** 2020
- **Scope of the paper:** This report shows how non-tariff measures (NTMs) deployed by countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)<sup>3</sup> - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan- and their partner countries to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the region's trade patterns. It focuses on:
  - The transmission channels of the pandemic's effects and the influence of NTMs therein.
  - The resulting supply chain disruptions.
  - The ripple effects of supply chain disruptions on the region's trade patterns.

The Impact of COVID-19 Induced Non-Tariff Measures on SPECA Countries' trade  
Patterns  
Evidence from UNECE's survey of Freight Forwarders

Geneva, Switzerland | November 2020

ZERO DRAFT





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# Thank you!

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