



## COLOMBIA

### Implementing a risk management system for the National Food and Drug Surveillance Institute

Supporting Colombia in moving essential goods efficiently



Colombia's National Food and Drug Surveillance Institute (INVIMA) regulates the import and export of products which are vital for society such as food, medicines, medical devices, cosmetics and toiletries. Without a modern risk management system, however, INVIMA must physically inspect 100% of goods arriving at borders, making trade more costly and time consuming for businesses, particularly those with perishable products, and putting unnecessary strain on the agency.

#### WHAT WE ARE DOING

The Alliance has brought together INVIMA, other relevant Colombian agencies and the private sector to design and implement a modern risk management system (RMS) for INVIMA aimed at reducing inspection rates from 100% to 70% or below. Our project involves:

- providing risk management expertise to ensure the process is conducted in accordance with international best practices
- collecting historical risk management data and setting up new risk profiles
- developing a simple yet robust IT solution
- rolling out of the new RMS

#### BENEFITS

The implementation of the new RMS will:

- improve INVIMA officers' understanding of products by creating a historical record of manufacturers, importers, exporters and countries of origin
- reduce the cost of inspections and transactions for low-risk consignments
- speed up the processing of customs declarations and border inspections, reducing transport times and improving predictability for traders
- automate the recording and filing of data, providing traceability for products entering Colombia

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We are monitoring and evaluating the project throughout its duration. Key indicators of success will include:

- actual reduction in percentage of physical inspections conducted on imports
- reduced waiting times and costs for importing food, pharmaceuticals and medical devices

#### THE NEW RMS AND THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

The new RMS will help Colombia to implement the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement which requires countries to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, namely:

**Article 5.1** (Notifications for Enhanced Controls or Inspections)

**Article 7.4** (Risk Management)

**Article 7.9** (Perishable Goods)

## TIMELINE

The project will be implemented in three phases over 18 months.

## HOW CAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR GET INVOLVED?

Successful trade facilitation is only possible when the private sector plays an active part. After all, it is businesses who know best where the barriers to trade lie. We are looking for business to get involved in a wide range of activities including:

- assessing the new system's functional and technical requirements and advising on its implementation
- testing the system
- drafting technical and user manuals for private sector users
- providing training
- piloting the system in Bogota and/or Cartagena

## THE COMPONENTS OF A RMS

Risk management systems typically:

1. establish risk profiles based on historical data and current trends
2. apply these risk profiles to all import declarations and select corresponding clearance channels
3. gradually reduce inspection rates and carry out impact analysis
4. update risk profiles and refine the selection and application of risk criteria based on experience to ensure all relevant risk information is processed.

## TIMELINE

### PHASE I

Design and development of the RMS

3 months

### PHASE II

Testing and piloting the new RMS for food in 13 ports and border crossings

9 months

### PHASE III

Expansion of new RMS to medicine, medical devices, and cosmetics

6 months

## WHO WE ARE



The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation is a public-private partnership for trade-led growth. We believe that international trade should be simpler, faster and more cost-effective, creating new business opportunities, enabling greater economic and social development and reducing poverty. Working with governments and businesses from the ground up, Alliance projects identify and deliver common sense trade reforms in developing and least developed countries. Our work is designed to help governments implement the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To get involved or for more information, please contact us at [info@tradefacilitation.org](mailto:info@tradefacilitation.org)  
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