

**Trade and Transport Facilitation
Monitoring Mechanism in Bangladesh:
Baseline study series #3**

**Time Release Study of
Burimari Land Border
Crossing Station, Bangladesh**



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Time Release Study of Burimari Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh

The 3rd report of a series of 5 studies on Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) in Bangladesh

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Preface

In the process of undertaking the baseline study of Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) in Bangladesh, five studies are carried out to provide multiple facets of trade and transport facilitation covering export and import of specific products, corridors and border crossings. A synthesis report is also produced based on five study reports.

The current report is focused on the Time Release Study (TRS) at Burimari Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh. It is a stand-alone document itself and in the meantime the 3rd report of a series of 5 studies and feeds the synthesis report. As such, it needs to be read along with other reports to fully understand the background, key findings and conclusions of the TTFMM baseline study.

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The report was prepared by Mohammad Farhad and Tengfei Wang. Data collection was carried out by Mohammad Farhad. Participants of the various workshops under the project, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, substantially contributed their expertise to enhance the quality of the project. Mashuk Al Hossain and Muhammad Minhaz Uddin Pahloan played a crucial role for organizing the TTFMM national validation workshop on 31 July-1 August 2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh¹. Study design and supervision were provided by Tengfei Wang. Critical review is provided by Vyonna Bondi.

Shigeaki Katsu from Customs Training Institute, Japan was nominated by the World Customs Organization to deliver training on Time Release Study at the national workshop on TTFMM held in Dhaka on 28-29 April 2014. His guidance on application of TRS is gratefully acknowledged.

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¹ <http://sasac.asia/index.php?page=event&eid=213&url=bgd-ttfmm-validation>

Executive Summary

The report is focused on the Time Release Study (TRS) at Burimari Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh. Following the *Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods* prepared by the World Customs Organization², the study reviews border crossing procedures in detail and examines the border crossing time.

Data was conducted from 13 - 22 February 2016. Sample includes 41 export assignments and 97 import assignments. Results show that the average time taken for release of all types of exports cargoes amounts to approximately 2 hours 14 minutes, which includes, among others, 1 hour 13 minutes for customs procedures and 31 minutes for port authority clearance procedures. The average time taken for release of all types of import cargoes amounts to approximately 5 hours 12 minutes, which includes, among others, 2 hours 36 minutes for completing the procedures at port authority area-weighing and unloading, 3 hours 14 minutes for completing customs procedures, 18 minutes for completing banking procedures and 44 minutes for completing port authority clearance procedures.

This report finds high efficiency in import and export process but cautions that such high efficiency may be explained by the low traffic volume. It observes several areas for improvement. For example, in terms of customs internal operations, Assistant Revenue Officer's decisions are always referred to the Revenue Officer and the Revenue Officer's decisions are often referred to the Assistant Commissioner. The Assistant Commissioner's decisions can also be referred to higher levels of management. The purpose of this arrangement is to ensure checks and balance and accountability, it nevertheless reflects a duplication of work in the Customs procedures.

Recommendations for further enhanced border crossing efficiency are made according to the bottlenecks identified in the study. For example, it is proposed that the government agency needs to review the internal workflows to further simplify the customs clearance processes and address duplication of work by reassessing delegations of responsibility and repetitive procedures.

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