

**Trade and Transport Facilitation  
Monitoring Mechanism in Bangladesh:  
Baseline study series #4**

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



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# **Time Release Study of Banglabandha Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh**

The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Banglabandha Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh. It is a stand-alone document itself and in the meantime the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Study design and supervision were provided by Tengfei Wang. 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, Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>. 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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<sup>1</sup> <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 Banglabandha Land Border Crossing Station, Bangladesh. Following the *Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods* prepared by the World Customs Organization<sup>2</sup>, the study reviews border crossing procedures in detail and examines the border crossing time.

Data was conducted from 10 March to 25 May 2016. Sample includes 51 export assignments and 32 import assignment. Results show that average time taken for release of all types of exports cargoes amounts to approximately 1 hour 45 minutes, which includes, among others, 1 hour 23 minutes for customs procedures and 12 minutes for port authority clearance procedures. The average time taken for release of all types of import cargoes amounts to approximately 6 hours 34 minutes, which includes, among others, 4 hours 23 minutes for completing the procedures at port authority area-weighing and unloading, 2 hours 45 minutes for completing customs procedures, 14 minutes for completing banking procedures and 18 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 very low traffic volume during the study period. It observes several areas for improvement. For example, there is a lack of coordination between Customs and other border agencies in conducting inspections of import consignments, which sometimes lengthen the release procedures.

Recommendations to further enhance border crossing efficiency are made according to the bottlenecks identified in the study. For example, it is proposed that ASYCUDA World should be installed and fully operationalized at this LCS and an authorized economic operator (AEO) scheme as outlined in the Revised Kyoto Convention and WTO TFA should be implemented.

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