TRADE MARK EAST AFRICA

Growing Prosperity Through Trade

ABOUT **TMEA'S TRADE POLICY & TRADE FACILITATION PROGRAMME**

TradeMark East Africa's Trade Policy Programme is multifaceted and aims to reduce barriers to trade, increase business competitiveness and enhance the trade regulatory environment in the East African Community (EAC).

Programme Components

> Integrated Border Management Systems: TMEA aims to enhance the operational efficiency and capacity of selected One Stop Border Post (OSBPs) along the East African Trade Network.

> Elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs): TMEA aims to strengthen institutional capacity to effectively respond to and resolve NTBs in the EAC and improved cooperation and dialogue in the resolution of existing NTBs.

> World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-TFA): TMEA aims to enhance compliance to the WTO TFA in the EAC.

> Trade Policy Research: TMEA aims to enhance the availability of evidence to support inclusive trade policy programming in the EAC.

Outcomes we Expect:

> Improved efficiency and capacity of transport infrastructure.

> Effective trade systems and procedures.

> Improved regulatory environment for trade.

> Improved standards and reduced NTBs.

🏆 Achievements of Strategy 1

2010

Establishment of **15** One Stop Border Posts and integrated border management programmes.

> **3** of the **5** EAC Partner States have ratified the TFA,

> **5** of the EAC Partner States have established National Trade Facilitation Committees,

> **4 of the 5 Partner States have established national trade information portals,**

2017

2018

A regional trade facilitation index tool was developed and launched in December 2018.

🚩 Agenda of Strategy 2

TMEA's second phase (2018 – 2023) is built on the success and lessons of Strategy 1 and we have anchored our work on two broad objectives:

> Reducing barriers to trade; and

> Improving business competitiveness.

2023

FEATURED PROJECTS

Smart Borders East Africa – IBM Border Programme II

TMEA supports EAC Partner States to deliver trade facilitation initiatives recommended by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. However, there are a number of challenges constraining full maximisation of the benefits of interventions including sustainability approaches to ensure continuous performance improvements of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs). There are also delays on EAC border frontiers which constrain trade to and from adjoining States notably DRC and Ethiopia.

This programme focuses on the most immediate priorities that will sustain and further enhance operational efficiency, capacity and environmental sustainability of selected OSBPs. These priorities aim at minimising costs and delays at borders; further streamlining border procedures and establishing a sustainable and systematic border performance improvement programme.

These include the establishment of

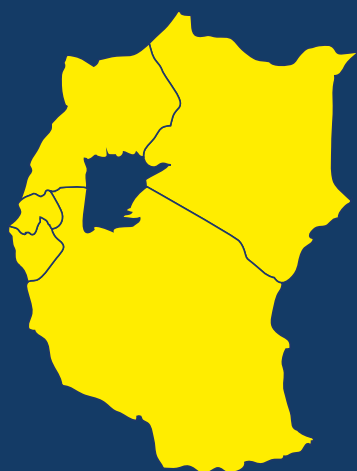**15** **One Stop Border Posts and integrated border management programmes.**

Implementation of WTO Trade Agreements

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) undertook a joint project to provide support for the implementation of the WTO TFA, increase transparency of foreign trade procedures and enhance the role of women in cross border trade in the EAC.

Project Timeline: 2016-2018

Project Components: Trade Facilitation, Trade Portals, Trade, and Gender

> As a result, **3** of the **5** EAC Partner States have ratified the TFA, **5** of the EAC PS have established National Trade Facilitation Committees,

> **4** of the **5** have established national trade information portals,

> a regional trade facilitation index tool was developed and launched in December 2018 and most importantly,

> EAC Partner States signed a declaration of their renewed commitment to implementing Trade Facilitation (TF) measures.

The objective of of this project is to build on the results achieved during Strategy 1 and foster EAC integration through enhanced implementation of trade facilitation measures, simplification of trade procedures and enhancing the functionality of the Trade Information Portals. The project will promote transparency of trade procedures and build the capacity of stakeholders and institutions, making trade inclusive and beneficial to all.

Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers

NTBs are laws, regulations, administrative and technical requirements other than tariffs imposed by a partner state, whose effect is to impede trade. TMEAs interventions towards the removal of NTBs in Strategy 1 included:

- Support to the EAC Time Bound Programme on the elimination of NTBs.
- Provision of technical assistance to the National Monitoring Committees.
- Funding for the SMS/Online based NTB reporting at the national level. (Uganda, Tanzania,
- Kenya
- Funding for the Tripartite NTB reporting mechanism.
- Support to the negotiation and enactment of the EAC NTBs Act 2007.

Data: 127 NTBs were Resolved in Strategy 1

TMEA has extended its programming on the "elimination of NTBs" into Strategy 2, taking into consideration lesson learned from Strategy 1 programming. In Strategy 2 TMEA aims to establish a more coordinated process of NTB identification, monitoring and elimination while using more effective delivery channels and better integration with other TMEA programmes in the EAC. We will do this by:

Strengthening institutional capacity to effectively respond to and resolve NTBs.

Improving cooperation and dialogue in the resolution of existing NTBs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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