

## TAARIFA KWA VYOMBO VYA HABARI

### **Zanzibar Enhances Fight Against COVID-19 Through Secure Entry Points**

**Zanzibar, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021:** The Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development, in partnership with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), delivered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be distributed to frontline workers in Zanzibar.

This is part of TradeMark East Africa's wider support for mitigation measures against the spread of COVID-19 and continuous trade in Eastern and Southern Africa borders under its Safe Trade Emergency Facility Programme. Today's symbolic handover will cover the needs of customs, immigration, security, and port health officials in Zanzibar for a period of 6 months.

On his part, Principal Secretary Dr. Islam Seif Salum thanked TradeMark East Africa for their support to the government's efforts to fight COVID-19, further saying; "*The PPEs being handed over to the border officials will strengthen our government's measures of making our borders safe and open for trade. Given the vulnerability and exposure of the frontline workers to the virus, protection of all border personnel is paramount in ensuring they work in safe and optimal working conditions so that trade continues uninterrupted.*"

The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Ireland and Norway are funding Tanzania's component of the TMEA Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) programme with a contribution of TZS 208,350,000(USD 90,000).

Distribution of PPE is a key component of TMEA's Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) programme, that was launched to respond to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic which has hit Eastern and Southern Africa's border crossing points, causing some of the worst disruptions in history. The usually busy land borders are a main vector of human transmission from one country to another. In response, governments have adopted mandatory testing of border users at crossing points. Yet, crossing points have shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for front line staff and there are frequent reports of border officials contracting the disease. Inadequate or no PPEs for frontline officers, especially for port health and security personnel, is causing delays in border clearance processes. The PPE provided include key items agreed in consultation with governments, port health authorities and advice from medical agencies at regional and international levels.

Other interventions under the Safe Trade Emergency Facility include: technology to enhance truck driver testing and tracking; the development and implementation of relevant protocols to enhance efficient and safe trade; supporting trade policy, standards and SPS; policy advocacy and improving e-commerce; and the development of safe trade zones to support formal and informal traders at the borders.

TMEA Country Director for the Tanzania Country Programme, Monica Hangi said, "TMEA is committed to supporting staff working at entry points and the border users, to ensure medical compliant trade in the region. She noted that the support is critical to facilitate the safe continuation of trading activities and especially protecting livelihoods."

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

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### 2. About TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark (**Trade** and **Markets**) East Africa is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America as well as the European Union. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with successful operations and offices in EAC-Arusha, Burundi (Bujumbura), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia (Addis-Ababa), Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali).

### Kuhusu TradeMark East Africa

1. *TradeMark (Trade and Markets) East Africa* ni shirika la kusaidia biashara ambalo lilianzishwa mwaka 2010, kwa lengo la kukuza ustawi katika nchi za Afrika Mashariki kupitia ukuzaji wa biashara. TMEA inafanya kazi kwa misingi ya hisani bila kutegemea faida na inafadhiliwa na wakala za maendeleo za nchi zifuatazo: Ubelgiji, Kanada, Denmaki, Ufini, Ayalandi, Uholanzi, Norwe, Uingereza, Marekani na Jumuiya ya Ulaya. TMEA ina makao makuu yake Nairobi, Kenya, na pia inafanya shughuli zake kwa ufanisi katika Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki – Arusha, Burundi (Bujumbura), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo (Bukavu), Ethiopia (Addis-Ababa), Malawi, Zambia, Sudan Kusini, Uganda (Kampala) na Rwanda (Kigali). Ili kufahamu zaidi, tafadhali tembelea tovuti yetu, [www.trademarkea.com](http://www.trademarkea.com)

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### 3. About Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) Programme

Eastern and Southern African governments have recognised an immediate need to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on trade for the good of the economy and their citizens. As a result, TMEA has created a US\$23 million Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) to support Eastern African governments to undertake critical measures along the transport and trade routes that will ensure trade continues safely while protecting livelihoods.

Serikali za Mashariki na Kusini mwa Afrika zimetambua hitaji la haraka la kupunguza athari za Covid-19 juu ya biashara kwa faida ya uchumi na raia wao. Kama matokeo, TMEA imeunda Kituo cha Dharura cha Dola milioni 23 cha Dola za Kimarekani (STEF) kusaidia serikali za Afrika Mashariki kuchukua hatua muhimu katika njia za usafirishaji na biashara ambazo zitahakikisha biashara inaendelea salama wakati wa kulinda maisha.

STEF components:

- Making the ports, borders and critical supply chains safe for trade;
- Ensuring food security and access to critically required medicines; and
- Supporting measures that reduce jobs losses and supports exports.

- Kufanya bandari, mipaka na minyororo muhimu ya usambazaji kuwa salama kwa biashara;
- Kuhakikisha usalama wa chakula na upatikanaji wa dawa zinazohitajika; na
- Kusaidia hatua ambazo hupunguza upotezaji wa ajira na inasaidia usafirishaji.

**To find out about SAFE trade programme, please visit [www.trademarkea.com/safetrade](http://www.trademarkea.com/safetrade)**

Ili kujua kuhusu mpango Salama wa biashara, tafadhali tembelea

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