

Upcoming Events

Training of Trainers for International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

March 4-7, 2024
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

County Stakeholder Consultations on the National Quality Policy

March 14, 2024
Nairobi, Kenya.

Rwanda OSBP Visit by Tog Wajaale OSBP Committee

March 11-14, 2024
Kigali, Rwanda.

Training of DRC Senior Policy Levels Officials - EAC Integration

March 14-18, 2024
Kampala, Uganda.

AfCFTA Digital Taskforce

March 18-22, 2024
Kigali, Rwanda.

AfCFTA Digital Trade Conference

March 25-27, 2024
Lusaka, Zambia.

EAC NTBs Regional Monitoring Committee Meeting

April 15-19, 2024
Nairobi, Kenya.



From L-R: Trade Catalyst Africa CEO Duncan Onyango and the USAID-ERRA Chief of Party, Mark Priestley, at the contract signing ceremony.

USAID Supports the Greening of an Industrial Warehousing Space to Attract Garment Investors.

On February 28, 2024, TradeMark Africa (TMA), through USAID-ERRA, signed a \$530,000 grant with Trade Catalyst Africa (TCA), its commercial arm that was recently established to support trade and investment to catalyze the 'greening' of industrial warehousing space in the EPZ Athi River, Kenya. The aim is to address the growing demand for a more sustainable footprint in the garments sector. Specifically, this grant will help TCA support developers in reducing their carbon footprint by providing solar renewable energy and water conservation through effective rainwater harvesting.

As consumer trends in the garment sector shift from 'fast' fashion to more sustainable fashion, apparel suppliers are under increasing pressure to demonstrate their "green" credentials to meet this growing demand. This grant will serve as a model for sustainable warehouse development in the region and set a new standard for eco-friendly industrial buildings in Kenya. Adopting energy-efficient technologies is anticipated to reduce the carbon footprint with an estimated savings of 18 tons of CO₂/year and 1000 m³/year of water savings in a 5000 m² warehousing space. These features will help secure the much sought-after EDGE Green Building Certification.

Given this shifting trend and Kenya's growing attractiveness as a destination market for garment manufacturing, this is expected to attract garment investors, leading to job creation, particularly for women, and an increase in exports. [Read more.](#)

Seeding Growth: How USAID Uganda's US\$2.3 Million Buy-In Will Boost Food Security



Photo Credit: TMA

USAID Uganda has finalized a 'buy-in' to the USAID-ERRA program, providing an initial funding support of US\$2.3 million. The program will enhance Uganda's role as East Africa's 'food basket' by boosting exports and value addition in the staples and horticulture sectors, which despite their vast potential, face significant challenges. These include low productivity, inadequate quality agro-logistics causing post-harvest losses, and low levels of SPS/Standards compliance, especially in food safety, resulting in prevalent aflatoxin contamination in traded foods. Additionally, much of Uganda's cross-border trade with her neighbors is informal, involving women who are often marginalized and susceptible to external shocks.

The USAID-ERRA program in Uganda will address these issues by structuring trade more effectively within these sectors. Planned interventions include:

- Establishing grain hubs (G-hubs) in select grain-producing regions, which includes organizing farmers into groups and facilitating their access to inputs and services, training them on SPS/Standards measures to enhance their compliance, and providing aggregation and storage solutions alongside market access.
- Supporting evidence-based advocacy to improve the business and trade environments.
- Strengthening the capacities of governmental bodies to perform inspections and certifications for food safety and traceability to meet export requirements satisfactorily.
- Supporting Uganda's Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Mechanism to identify and eliminate trade barriers, specifically in the targeted sectors.
- Facilitating the formalization of women and youth cross-border trader associations into Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), improving their access to finances and markets.

The ERRA Uganda program will aim to work with strategic implementing partners, including the East African Grain Council (EAGC) and Hortifresh, as well as with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Agriculture. These partnerships will help us achieve our objectives of boosting exports, food security, creating jobs, and increasing incomes, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The African Union Adopts the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol: A Critical Enabler for Trade Facilitation

In February 2020, the African Union (AU) Assembly of the Heads of State and Government endorsed the inclusion of a Digital Trade Protocol into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement Framework. This initiative, supported by technical support from USAID-ERRA, saw the commencement of detailed negotiations among State Parties in 2022 to flesh out the Protocol's provisions. The Protocol encompasses measures to be adopted or maintained by an AfCFTA State Party affecting digital trade. It defines digital trade as digitally enabled transactions of trade in goods and services delivered digitally or physically.

At the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2024, the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol was adopted. The Protocol will establish a single African digital market for digital trade across Africa and will i) eliminate digital trade barriers promoting access to markets, ii) harmonize digital trade standards streamlining digital transactions, iii) create a secure and trustworthy digital trade environment, and iv) promote interoperability of frameworks and systems required to facilitate digital trade. Furthermore, it will deepen economic integration, boost job creation, provide a stable market environment attractive to investors, and advocate for quality digital infrastructure, which is essential in enabling and facilitating digital trade.



Photo Credit: The African Union

Following the adoption of the Protocol, the next steps include assessing readiness and compliance with the agreed-upon obligations through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). This entails, among other things, the deposition of instruments of ratification and domestication by State Parties, the implementation of pilot projects, and private sector engagement and sensitization.

Through the implementation of this Protocol, it is projected that the continent's exports will increase by 81 percent, increasing its income to over US\$450 billion by 2035.



USAID
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Published by TradeMark Africa,
Communications Office, Fidelity Insurance Centre, Waiyaki Way,
313-00600, Nairobi.

