

REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY/TRANSPORT CORRIDOR QUESTIONNAIRE



PAGE 4: B.1) ABOUT YOU

Q1: REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY / TRANSPORT CORRIDOR	COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA - COMESA
Q2: MEMBERSHIP	Burundi, Comoros, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Seychelles, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Q3: ABOUT YOU	
Name:	Deo Kamweya
Position	Head of Technical Cooperation and Resources Mobilization
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PAGE 6: C.1) TRADE COSTS AND YOUR REGIONAL / CORRIDOR STRATEGY

Q4: How important are trade costs for the competitiveness of exports of goods and services from your region?	Very important
Q5: Additional information.	
Trade costs are reflected in the final consumer prices and this greatly affect the consumer choices especially in our regional where consumers choices are largely driven by price	
Q6: Do your strategies address the issue of trade costs?	Yes

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Q7: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for exports?	Regional development strategy, Corridor development strategy
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Q8: Documents (add weblinks where appropriate):

COMESA Customs Management Act, COMESA Aid for Trade Strategy

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Q9: How important are trade costs for access to imports?

Very important

Q10: Do your strategies address the issue of trade costs for imports?

Yes

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Q11: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for imports?

Regional development strategy,
Corridor development strategy,
Other (please specify) See 12 below

Q12: Documents (add hyperlinks where appropriate):

Sanitary and Phytosanitary control measures for both exports and imports should be risk based and implemented in a manner that is least costly or least restrictive to trade. Preliminary evidence shows that this is not always the case. Quite often, SPS controls are more restrictive than necessary and at a high cost to traders. In 2015, work will commence to simplify SPS measures along key trade routes and reduce trading costs

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Q13: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of merchandise goods in your region? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
Access to trade finance

Q14: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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Q15: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of services in your region?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Non-recognition of professional qualifications,
Restrictions on commercial presence ,
Restrictions on movement of natural persons ,
Poor regulatory environment for services

Q16: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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Q17: In which regional markets to which you export merchandise goods and services do you face the highest trade costs? (Please select no more than 5 regions)

North America, Central America,
Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe,
West Africa

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Q18: FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are the trade costs high? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Tariffs, fees and other charges,
Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
Transport infrastructure

Q19: Additional information.

In some cases there are issues of tariff escalations and NTBs that come inform of private standards

Q20: FOR SERVICES: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are the trade costs high. (You may tick more than 1 box)

Non-recognition of professional qualifications,
Domestic restrictions on commercial presence ,
Restrictions on movement of natural persons ,
Poor regulatory environment for services

Q21: Additional information.

Most of the destination countries subject our regional professionals to additional (and in most cases) per-employment tests even when they are fully qualified from our regional academic and or training institutions.

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Q22: How have your trade costs evolved over the past 5 years ?

Between 0-10% reduction

Q23: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 16: D.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q24: Are there on-going regional actions to reduce trade costs?

Yes

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Q25: Please specify.(You may tick more than 1 box)

Initiatives led by your organization,
Initiatives led by national governments,
Joint public-private sector initiatives,
Initiatives supported by development partners

Q26: Add text and/or weblinks to information on initiatives:

COMESA Virtual Trade Facilitation System (CVTFS), The yellow card programme, Regional Transit COMESA Guarantee Bond are some of the own initiatives aimed at facilitating trade with a view to reducing trade costs.

Q27: In which areas have actions been undertaken or are actions on-going:

Reducing trade costs for MERCHANDISE GOODS
,
Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Non-tariff measures (including standards),
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Transport infrastructure,
Access to trade finance,
Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services
,
Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers

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Q28: Is external support aligned with your priorities on reducing trade costs? Yes

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Q29: How is external support aligned with your priorities?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Dialogue with donors has resulted in attention to the issue of trade costs

,
Improved dialogue with the private sector has resulted in this issue being prioritized

PAGE 20: D.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q30: Why is external support not aligned with your priorities?(You may tick more than 1 box) No opinion

PAGE 22: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

Q31: Is trade facilitation reflected as a priority in your regional strategies? Yes

PAGE 23: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

Q32: In which strategy can trade facilitation be found as a priority?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Other (please specify)
COMESA Treaty and various protocols that have been signed by Member States such as customs protocol, customs union, comesa common investment area as well as various council decions and directives.

Q33: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 24: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

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Q34: Is trade facilitation included in new strategies currently being formulated or updated ?	
Regional trade strategy	Yes
Regional development strategy	Yes
Regional infrastructure strategy	Yes
Corridor strategy	Yes
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Q35: Additional information:	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>

PAGE 25: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

<p>Q36: Which, if any, of the following Trade Facilitation Agreement disciplines are covered by existing regional strategies or approaches?(You may tick more than 1 box)</p>	<p>Border agency cooperation,</p> <p>Movement of goods intended for import under customs control</p> <p>,</p> <p>Formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit</p> <p>,</p> <p>Customs cooperation</p>
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Q37: Additional information.	<i>Respondent skipped this question</i>
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Q38: Would changes need to be made to regional strategies or approaches to integrate, when adopted, Trade Facilitation Agreement disciplines?	Yes

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Q39: Where would changes need to made? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Publication and availability of information,
 Appeal and review procedures,
 Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency
 ,
 Release and clearance of goods,
 Border agency cooperation,
 Movement of goods intended for import under customs control
 ,
 Formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit
 ,
 Customs cooperation,
 Establishment and / or continued operation of national committee

Q40: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 27: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

Q41: Do you plan to seek Aid-for-Trade support to help make changes to regional policies so as to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, after adoption?

Yes, after adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Q42: Please specify where you believe you may need support.(You may tick more than one box)

To develop regional implementation plans,
 To support regional scheduling of commitments,
 To support national ratification,
 To support implementation of specific TFA provisions
 ,
 To align commitments with on-going regional programmes

Q43: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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PAGE 28: E.1) TRADE FACILITATION

<p>Q44: What difficulties do you face, or do you expect to face, in securing Aid-for-Trade support to help implement trade facilitation reforms and the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted? (You may tick more than 1 box)</p>	<p>Lack of information on funding opportunities , Differing priorities of donors, Problems accessing funds, Ensuring TFA implementation is a priority in regional development planning documents , Programming cycles, Problems in formulating requests, Ensuring coherence with past programmes, Integrating TFA implementation into on-going programmes</p>
<p>Q45: Additional information.</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>
<p>Q46: What impact do you consider that implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, will have on the evolution of your region's trade costs?</p>	<p>More than 10% increase</p>
<p>Q47: Additional information.</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>
<p>Q48: In which region(s) with which you trade would implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have the biggest impact on the trade costs you face? (You may chose more than 1 option)</p>	<p>All regions</p>
<p>Q49: Additional information.</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>

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Q50: What outputs have been achieved through regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Updated customs legislation,
New rules on transit,
Updated customs working practices,
Improved cooperation between border agencies,
Improved border infrastructure

Q51: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q52: What outcomes have been achieved by regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Fall in border clearance times,
Increase in customs revenue,
Increase in traffic flows through border posts,
Increase in exports volumes,
Increase in import volumes

Q53: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 31: F.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q54: What impacts have been achieved by regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Diversification in export markets,
Entry into new value chain,
Rise in female employment,
Increase in foreign direct investment,
Fall in poverty

Q55: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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Q56: Which types of actions have achieved the most positive results in reducing trade costs for goods and services? (Please choose no more than 7 options)

Customs reform, Other border agency reforms,
Support for compliance with Non-Tariff Measures
,
Upgrading transport infrastructure,
Improving the regulatory environment for services
,
Tariff reforms on product inputs (e.g. on computers for ICT services)

Q57: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 32: F.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q58: What have been the key factors in achieving successful reductions in trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Alignment of projects with private sector priorities
,
Funding from development partners,
Sustained engagement of development partners,
Sustained political engagement and commitment by national authorities
,
Commitment of regional partners to goal

Q59: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q60: What contribution do you think reducing trade costs can make to the target of inclusive, sustainable growth?(Please choose no more than 7 options)

Rise in employment,
Rise in female employment,
Entry into new value chains,
Moving up value chains,
Diversification in export markets,
Diversification in export products,
Foreign direct investment

Q61: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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<p>Q62: Has the alignment of Aid-for-Trade support to your organization's needs and priorities changed since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in 2005?</p>	<p>Improved</p>
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<p>Q63: How has the alignment improved?(You may tick more than one box)</p>	<p>Better dialogue with donors, Better dialogue with South-South partners, Better dialogue with private sector</p>
<p>Q64: Additional information.</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>

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<p>Q65: Why has the alignment declined?(You may tick more than one box)</p>	<p>Other (please specify) This does not apply to COMESA. On the contrary there is more dialogues which has resulted in improved alignment</p>
<p>Q66: Additional information.</p>	<p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p>

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<p>Q67: What impact has the Aid-for-Trade Initiative had since its launch in 2005? (Please choose no more than 5 options)</p>	<p>Increase in resources available for trade development , More attention to trade issues in development, More priority given by national authorities to trade issues in national development planning , More priority given by donors to trade issues in national development planning , More priority given by NGOs to trade issues</p>
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Q68: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q69: What potential future contribution can the Aid-for-Trade Initiative make to the post-2015 development agenda?(Please choose no more than 5 options)

Contribution to improving the business and regulatory environment

,

Ensuring continued attention to trade issues in development

,

Engaging the private sector in development issues

,

Making a contribution to economic growth and poverty eradication through inclusive, sustainable development

,

Positive impacts on women's economic empowerment

Q70: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 37: F.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q71: Additional information on "Reducing trade costs and inclusive, sustainable growth". If there is anything you would like to add on the topic of "Reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth", which you feel has not been covered in this questionnaire, please use this box.

Respondent skipped this question