



**GENDER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:
A FOCUS ON INFORMAL CROSS
BORDER TRADE**

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Cote d'ivoire**

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

1. Background?
2. Informal Cross border trade challenges?
3. Infrastructure development and cross border trade?



BACKGROUND

- ❑ Women constitute about 70% of the informal cross-border traders in the SADC region, according to the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Most traders have no education and raise capital from their own resources.
- They are generally not bankable nor do they have assets that banks would accept as collateral. They can also be formally registered firms evading regulations and taxes or aiming to avoid border crossing posts.



BACKGROUND

- Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association (SACBTA) is non -profit making organization that was set to amplify the voices of small scale traders in the SADC region.
- Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association was formed at a regional meeting held on 9-10 July 2009 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, with the support of the Southern Africa Trust.
- Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT) is an economic activity that engages a high percentage of women in the region.
- Women in the SADC, COMESA and EAC regions have been at the forefront of cross – border trade both as a source of income and employment yet their experiences have not been adequately documented to advocate for improved trade conditions.



CONT.:

- This trade constitutes a significant proportion of regional cross-border commerce in many African countries with between 30-40% of total intra-SADC trade attributed to ICBT. The average estimated value of ICBT from this region is an impressive \$17.6bn annually,”(Tralac-Fundira)
- In Kenya, these enterprises employ 7.5m people or 80% of the country’s total workforce outside small-scale agriculture. Such statistics highlight the importance of ICBT as a centuries-old, quietly flowing artery between rural people and the commercial hubs, and between commercial hubs themselves.(Tralac)



ICBT OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- The lack of income generation and employment opportunities in the formal sector is a key factor for engaging in informal cross-border trade.
- Nevertheless, within the SADC region, this trade has proven to have a positive impact on the economy, especially with regard to its potential to cushion the impact of food security in the region.



CHALLENGES

- The economic and social situation in SADC has become more acute and the crisis of unemployment, poverty and HIV/AIDS cries out for attention. As the battle to survive intensifies, informal and cross border trade has become a viable alternative, the main challenges could be categorized as:
 - Lack of trade facilitation;
 - Inadequate border infrastructure;
 - Limited access to finance;
 - Limited market information;
 - Corruption and insecurity;
 - Limited knowledge, education; and
 - Business management skills.



OPPORTUNITIES.:

- ❑ Informal cross border trade ,if properly harnessed has the potential to support Africa's on-going efforts at poverty alleviation. The prevalent belief that informal cross-border trade should be criminalized demonstrates policymakers' failure to understand the underlying conditions and the potential impact on national and regional economies.
- Moving forward it will be critical for African countries to establish and strengthen data collection and analytical capacities in order to effectively measure informal cross-border trade's contribution to their respective economies and design appropriate policy responses.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND CROSS BORDER TRADE

- One of the major challenges of cross border trade is infrastructure. Most of the border post lack infrastructure.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Creation of one stop border posts in most borders can improve trade in Africa.
- The kazungula bridge project when finished will improve and reduce time spent at the border.
- Improvement of the North South Corridor road infrastructure can easy up the movement of cargo



MOVING FORWARD

- The continent needs to create a policy, regulatory, institutional and business environment that enhances the role of informal cross-border traders, legitimizes their activities (where the trade is found beneficial to the economy) and gradually mainstreams them into the formal economy.



End of presentation
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