



Trade Policy and Trade Promotion Fund

Coordination of Trade Facilitation Measures in the EAC Region

Project name	Coordination of Trade Facilitation Measures in the EAC Region
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Country	East African Community (EAC)
Project partner	EAC Secretariat
Duration	2014 to 2016

The challenge

The East African Community (EAC) was founded in 1999 to promote and coordinate the process of social, economic and political integration in East Africa. The treaty between the five Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) provides for the creation of a Customs Union as the first stage of integration; this Union was formally established in 2005 but has not yet been fully implemented. The EAC's Single Customs Territory (SCT) has also come into force, on 1 January 2014, and aims to simplify customs clearance and the transit of goods. However, none of the Partner States has yet fully implemented the SCT system. Therefore, high barriers still exist to the cross-border trade in and transit of goods within the EAC and, as a result, the impetus for development generated by market integration cannot be fully harnessed.

In line with the agreement adopted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in 2013, the EAC Partner States therefore decided to draw up national implementation plans in the field of trade facilitation to be coordinated at regional level.

However, experience to date and the ongoing process of drawing up these implementation plans show that the EAC lacks robust, sustainable structures for coordinating and implementing trade facilitation measures. National implementation plans have, therefore, not yet been harmonised at regional level, nor has there been any coordinated implementation of key trade facilitation measures.

Our approaches

In the light of the current situation, the Fund measure's objective is as follows: 'The EAC Member States and Secretariat have established a sustainable regional coordination mechanism for trade facilitation measures'.

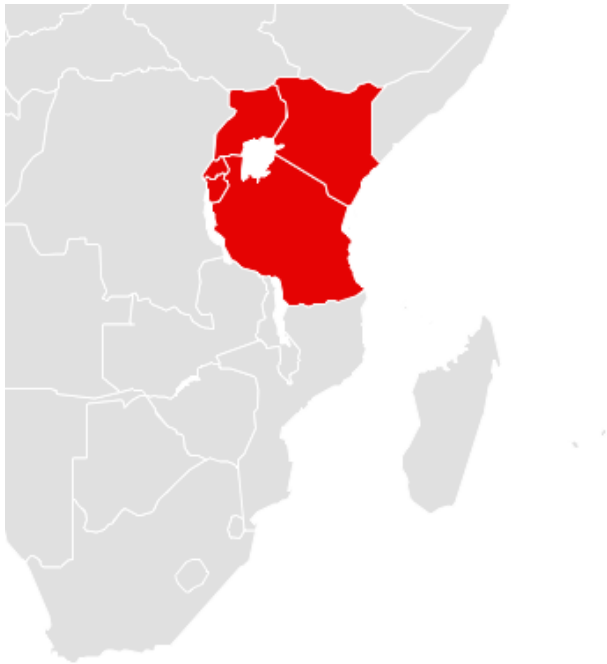
The project advises the Customs and Trade Directorate at the EAC Secretariat on harmonising and coordinating national plans with a view to drawing up a joint regional plan. This document sets the course for regional activities. In this context, the project also advises the partners on creating and implementing a regional monitoring system. The advisory services are supported by training courses and workshops in the area of planning and monitoring methods.

To improve communication and coordination between the Partner States, the project aims to establish appropriate and sustainable structures. Existing national structures are to be identified, such as the Trade Facilitation Committees provided for by the Trade Facilitation Agreement, or advice is to be given on establishing such structures. Furthermore, at regional level, the national units are to be linked to form a regional mechanism. This process will support the project by identifying appropriate structures, including a financing model.



To test the coordination mechanism in practice and adapt it as needed, the Fund-financed measure supports the implementation of the two regional plan measures.

Results and impacts



A harmonised regional plan for implementing trade facilitation measures enables measures to be coordinated in the area of trade facilitation throughout the EAC. Joint monitoring supports this plan.

Furthermore, existing national structures for coordinating trade facilitation measures, such as Trade Facilitation Committees, are identified or advice is given on establishing such structures. Conducting organisational development workshops helps define regional cooperation mechanisms and adequate financing mechanisms. The newly created regional structures enable measures to facilitate trade procedures in the EAC to be successfully implemented.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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As at October 2015

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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