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## ***IN BRIEF***

SAFE TRADE EMERGENCY FACILITY

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

# SAFE TRADE EMERGENCY FACILITY

TMEA set up the Safe Trade Emergency Facility (Safe Trade) Programme as a response to COVID-19. Now valued at **US\$32 million**, the programme has enabled governments to undertake critical measures along the transport and trade routes to ensure trade continues safely while protecting livelihoods in Eastern, Southern and the Horn of Africa. The Programme has three main components, and seven pillars, as follows:



## Making ports, borders and critical supply chains safe for trade:

- Distribution of emergency Personal Protective Equipment
- Trade Technology Interventions
- Trade Policy Interventions



## Ensuring food security and access to critically required medicines:

- Supply Chain Support
- Standards and SPS Projects



## Supporting measures that reduce job losses and supports exports:

- Advocacy Interventions
- Gender Inclusion, Women in Trade, and Safe Zones



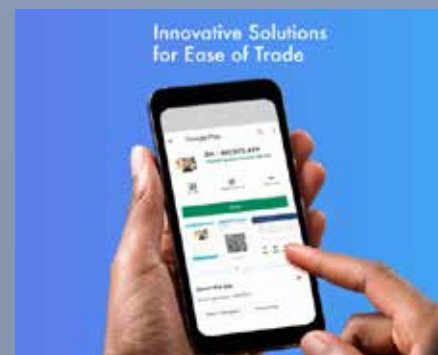
## Emergency Personal Protective Equipment

TMEA facilitated various Government Agencies with personal protective equipment (PPE) worth US\$2.1 million. These included reusable masks, safety boots, hand sanitisers, hand washing points, disinfectantspray, infrared thermometers, and face shields for frontline workers to ensure continuous trade at major ports and borders across Eastern, Southern and the Horn of Africa.



## Trade Technology Interventions

113,000 drivers have since been registered on EAC Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDS), with 70 percent of them receiving at least one digital COVID-19 certificate on the mobile phone based application. This has eased traffic at borders previously caused by long waiting periods for COVID-19 test results.



## Trade Policy Interventions

- In partnership with EAC Secretariat, developed COVID-19 protocols indicating step by step border clearance process flows, to facilitate faster movement across borders. The protocols were disseminated across all EAC Borders.
- Developed administrative guidelines on movement of goods and services, which were translated into French and Swahili and distributed across the EAC Region to raise awareness.
- With the support from UNCTAD – a Reform Tracker which is an online tool to monitor trade facilitation reform projects has been piloted in Kenya and Rwanda. Well embraced by stakeholders as an important tool to reduce unnecessary barriers to trade.



## Supply Chain Support

### E-commerce

- We partnered with KEPSA to train MSMEs on utilisation of digital platforms to access markets and efficient logistics services. The programme surpassed its target of 2,000 by registering 2,545 MSMEs for the training. 1,605 of them onboarded onto various platforms.

### Food Supplies

- In partnership with FEAFFA and other apex bodies, TMEA had engagements in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda to address disruptions in food supplies. This related to access to information and markets, availability and efficiency of logistics service providers, and harassment of transporters along key supply chains.



## Standards and SPS Projects

- To sustain operations in line with the COVID-19 health protocols, 1,131 Kenyan farmers were trained on compliance with food safety standards.
- In Burundi, 51 small and medium sized enterprises involved in cereals, meat, dairy and fisheries, were coached and trained on standards and phytosanitary measures applicable throughout the food supply chain.



## Advocacy interventions

Advocacy through TMEA-EABC partnership contributed to a reduction of backlog of trucks at key East African Borders of Busia, Malaba, Isebania, Rusumo, and Namanga, and promoted mutual recognition of COVID-19 health certificates thus eliminating the need for multiple tests across borders, and reducing time and costs of trading.



## Gender Inclusion, Women in Trade and Safe Zones

- Safe Trade Zone Markets constructed in Busia, Kenya, Tog-Wajaale Somaliland and Ethiopia, and in Rwanda. Approx 1,000 women cross-border traders will benefit.
- 18,000 women cross-border traders benefited from capacity building and advocacy initiatives during the year.

