

Support to the East African Community Integration Process

The challenge

The East African Community (EAC) Partner States Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania have shown an economic growth of 6% over the last five years and continue to perform well above global and African average. A customs union, a common market, and a monetary union shall achieve the free movement of people, capital, labour and services, and grant the rights of establishment and residence. The ultimate goal is a political federation of East Africa.

The EAC strives to be market-oriented and people-centred. However, the tangible benefits of EAC integration are not yet fully comprehended by the EAC citizens and private sector.

Non-tariff barriers in combination with the slow implementation of the agreed protocols still hamper the free movement of goods, services and people. This prevents businesses from enjoying the full benefits and economies of scale of a common market. It also makes it difficult for ordinary citizens to appreciate the practical impact of integration upon their everyday lives. Nevertheless, manufactured goods account for over half of intra-EAC exports, signifying the importance of intra-regional trade for industrial development and regional value chains.

Our approach

The programme works with the relevant departments at the EAC Secretariat and the regional committees in charge as well as with Partner States, civil society and private sector. Priorities and measures for the abolishment of non-tariff barriers and the promotion of the Common Market are jointly developed and



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Project region	East Africa
Lead executing agency	Secretariat of the East African Community
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Financial volume	EUR 15.5 million

implemented. The programme pays particular attention to connecting the EAC better to its citizens through civil society and private sector involvement. The Incubator for Integration and Development (IIDEA) is a tool to ensure the active involvement of private sector and civil society.

In particular the following areas are supported:

- Liberalisation of trade in services
- Trade facilitation
- Mutual Recognition Agreements of qualifications (MRAs)
- Harmonisation of tax policies
- Preparation of the EAC Monetary Union
- Market access for regional pharmaceutical companies
- Portability of health care benefits across borders
- Monitoring and evaluation of EAC integration
- Internal and external communication of EAC Secretariat.

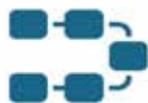
EAC Vision 2050

An upper-middle income region within a secure and politically united East Africa based on principles of inclusiveness and accountability.

Protocols signed:



Customs Union
2005



Common Market
2010



Monetary Union
2013



Political Federation



Kirsten Focken
Kirsten.focken@giz.de
Programme Manager and
Cluster Coordinator

Results in figures ...

Tailor-made training courses on trade in services have enabled the EAC Partner States to resume negotiations on trade in services. Interviews with almost 100 experts from EAC Partner States showed that 98% found the trainings effective. In the regional negotiation rounds (2016 – 2018) each Partner State made offers to liberalise at least 78 sub-sectors which contribute significantly to intra-East African trade. More than 50% of all service sectors now provide new opportunities for business.

The EAC Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme facilitates trade in goods through regulatory compliance, border security and simplified customs procedures. By 2018, 82 companies, representing more than 11% of intra-EAC trade, had enrolled in this programme.

IIDEA showcases hands-on cross-border projects which are successfully harnessing the opportunities created by regional integration.

25 PROJECTS have been implemented since 2016

50% use innovative **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

40% focus on **CROSS-BORDER TRADE**

Over **14,000 BENEFICIARIES** have profited

More than **4,000 PEOPLE** took part in **REGIONAL EVENTS** organised by IIDEA projects

More than **10,000 PEOPLE** were reached through **DIGITAL MEDIA** (websites, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Youtube)

Eaciidea.net has more than **27,000 VISITS PER MONTH**

83% OF OUR FOLLOWERS are citizens of the EAC

... and in stories

Simon Ntege had just graduated from university and was working two jobs to hustle for money while he was looking for employment like so many other young East Africans, when he and his partner Bonny came up with their idea.

Simon and Bonny wanted to create more efficient options for job-seeking in the region. They used their software engineering skills to create a youth employment application addressing unemployment in Uganda and Kenya. After two months of brainstorming, the idea of NIP-YE, the Youth Employment App, was born. NIP-YE enables young East Africans to access employers' requirements and match qualifications with skills. IIDEA support and financing helped to create the platform. It now provides newsfeeds to users and links entrepreneurial organisations with interested jobseekers. It has currently more than 950 registered users.

Middy Amule is a Ugandan trader at the border in Busia. She supports her four children through trade in handmade jewelry across the border in Kenya. The lack of information at the border taught her a rough lesson

'I had to learn the hard way, sometimes losing all my goods or paying hefty bribes.' Those challenges are now addressed by Sauti, a mobile-based trade information platform developed jointly by EASSI and Sauti Africa with the support of IIDEA. Through simple USSD-based technology, traders can access tailor-made trade and market information, including border procedures and documentation requirements, as well as exchange rates and market prices for commonly traded commodities. Middy feels a lot safer now, since she can access information from anywhere any time. And if someone denies her her rights or asks for a bribe, she can make her voice heard and report these events through the same phone application.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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EAC Headquarters, Former State Lodge
P.O. Box 13854
Arusha, Tanzania
T +255 27 20 50 288
eac-germancooperation@giz.de
www.giz.de; www.eacgermany.org

Authors GIZ-EAC Team

Layout www.media-design.me

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Addresses of the BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 99 535 - 0
F +49 228 99 535 - 3500

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 30 18 535 - 0
F +49 30 18 535 - 2501

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de