



Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the COMESA Region

July 2018

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	iii
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background and Context.....	1
1.2 Objectives of the Framework.....	3
1.3 Approach.....	4
2. Experiences of Mainstreaming Gender/Women and Youth in COMESA's Regional Trade Initiatives.....	4
2.1 Experience from the Regional Initiatives.....	5
2.2 Case Studies of Initiatives from Member States.....	7
3. Challenges and Constraints for Women and Youth Cross-border Traders in COMESA.....	9
4. Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the Region for the Period 2018-2023.....	10
4.1 Goal.....	10
4.2 Objectives of the Framework.....	10
4.3 Priority Actions.....	10
4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).....	11
4.5 Institutional Arrangements.....	12
4.6 Funding Mechanisms.....	12
4.6 Implementation Risks.....	12
5. Matrix on the Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the Region for the Period 2018-2023.....	13
6. References.....	24

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfDB	Africa Development Bank
BDS	Business development services
BIAWE	Business Incubators for African Women Entrepreneurs
CBTs	Cross Border Traders (ICBTs)
CBTA,	Cross Border Traders Associations
CBC	COMESA Business Council
CBTs	Cross border traders
CIF	Climate Investment Fund
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMSTAT	COMESA Statistics Portal
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa
FEMCOM	Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa
GII	Gender Inequality Index
ICBTs	Informal Cross Border Traders
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
MoUs	Memorandum of Understandings
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development
NGOs	Non- governmental Organizations
SADC	Southern Africa development Community
SMEs	Small and Medium-size Enterprises
SSCBTs	Small Scale Cross Border Traders
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
STR	Simplified trade regime
TID	Trade Information Desk
TIDOs	Trade Information Desk Officers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEEF	Women Economic Empowerment Fund

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

1. COMESA Member States recognise that sustainable economic and social development of the region requires the full and equal participation of women, men and youth. Right from the formation of the Common Market, the Member States agree on the important role of women in the socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth process of the region and it is not possible to implement effective programmes for rural transformation and improvements in the informal sector without the full participation of women (COMESA, 1994- Article 154 of COMESA Treaty). Women in COMESA region account for about 50.1 per cent while youth¹ account for about 20 per cent of the region's population² (Table 1).

2. Equally important to the COMESA regional integration agenda is the role of women in business (COMESA, 1994- Article 155 of COMESA Treaty) as the Member States recognize them as the vital economic link within the chain of agriculture, industry and trade. Based on this importance, COMESA Member States agree to implement activities towards enhanced participation of women businesses in the Common Market trade and development activities. Such activities are specified in Article 155 of the COMESA Treaty (COMESA 1994) and include:

- i. Increasing the awareness of Women in Business issues at the policy level.
- ii. Creating an enabling environment for the effective participation of women in Common Market trade and development activities.
- iii. Promoting special programmes for women in small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).
- iv. Eliminating laws and regulations that hinder women access to credit.
- v. Initiating skill training strategies for improved women technical and industrial employment.
- vi. Supporting the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business.

3. The COMESA Gender Policy (COMESA, 2016) observes that although progress has been achieved towards COMESA regional economic integration, evidence still reveals that participation by women, youth and people with disabilities in intra-regional trade and investment has been sub-optimal. Women account for the largest proportion

¹ Persons between the ages of 15 and 24 according to UN definition of youth

²Based on World Development Indicators -World Bank database

(90 % in southern Africa) of informal Cross-border traders (ICBTs) as shown by Southern Africa Trade Hub (2016; Manyungwa-Pasani et. al., 2017). In addition, women participate in lower value chains (Maigua et. al., 2017, Manyungwa-Pasani et. al. 2017); hence gain less from production and trade as compared to men.

Table 1: Proportion of Women and Youth in COMESA population (2011-2016)

Country	% of women	Female Age 15-24 years (% of female population)	Age 15-24, male (% of male population)
Burundi	50.6	20.3	19.8
DR. Congo	50.2	19.3	19.5
Djibouti	49.8	20.9	21.2
Comoros	49.6	19.9	20.2
Eritrea	50.0	21.3	21.6
Ethiopia	50.1	20.8	21.2
Egypt, Arab Rep.	49.5	18.3	18.7
Kenya	50.0	19.9	20.0
Libya	49.4	17.1	17.0
Madagascar	50.2	20.3	20.4
Malawi	50.1	20.8	20.8
Mauritius	50.5	15.7	16.3
Rwanda	52.2	19.3	20.6
Seychelles	49.2	15.0	15.6
Sudan	49.8	19.7	19.9
Swaziland	50.7	23.3	24.3
Uganda	50.0	20.2	20.3
Zimbabwe	50.7	21.7	21.9
Zambia	50.1	20.1	20.2
Average COMESA	50.1	19.7	20.0

Source: World Bank database- World Development Indicators

4. In addition, in instances where policies and programs have been implemented, these have been done in isolated manner and vary between and among Member States in terms of design and impact, thus leading to uncoordinated program implementation, duplication of effort, waste of scarce resources and sub-optimal people-level impacts and outcomes.

5. Although the regional trade policies in COMESA have generally being gender neutral, the relatively more adverse effects on women as compared to men is attributed to inequalities between women and men in Member States. Table 2 shows some of gender inequalities in COMESA region.

Table 2: Some Gender Inequalities in COMESA

Country	Gender Inequality Index (GII) Rank (Out of 188)	% of Parliamentary seats held by women (2015)	Population with at least some secondary education (% ages 25 and older)		Labour force participation rate (% ages 25 and older)	
			Female 2005 - 2015	Male 2005 - 2015	Female	Male
Burundi	108	37.8	7.1	9.6	84.6	82.7
Comoros	..	3.0	..	..	35.3	79.4
Djibouti	..	12.7	..	..	36.5	68.1
DRC	153	8.2	14.5	35.0	70.5	71.8
Egypt	135	2.2	54.5	68.2	22.8	76.1
Eritrea	..	22.0	..	..	77.7	90.2
Ethiopia	116	37.3	10.8	20.7	77.0	89.1
Kenya	135	20.8	27.8	34.1	62.1	72.1
Libya	38	16.0	65.7	44.2	27.8	78.7
Madagascar	..	20.5	..	..	83.8	89.1
Malawi	145	16.7	14.9	24.2	81.2	80.8
Mauritania	147	22.2	11.1	23.5	29.1	65.3
Rwanda	84	57.5	10.5	16.4	86.4	83.2
Sudan	140	31.0	13.7	18.8	24.3	72.2
Swaziland	137	14.7	27.3	30.5	40.0	64.2
Uganda	121	35.0	25.9	32.1	82.3	87.7
Zambia	124	12.7	52.3	48.9	69.8	80.9
Zimbabwe	126	35.1	51.9	64.7	77.8	87.3
COMESA		22.5	27.7	33.6	59.4	78.8

...indicates data is missing

Source: UNDP, Human Development Report 2016. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>; accessed June 2017

1.2 Objectives of the Framework

6. **The overall objective** of the Framework is to contribute to attaining the full and effective regional economic integration in-line with COMESA Treaty, the COMESA Gender Policy and COMESA Social Charter.

7. **Specific objective** of the Framework is to identify the gap and guide programmes for implementation by COMESA Member States, for enhancing women and youth participation in intra-COMESA regional trade.

1.3 Approach

8. The approach to the development of the plan includes review of women and youth challenges in participating in intra-COMESA regional trade; review of women and youth trade support programmes in the region, and review and analyses of best practice in support programmes for women and youth businesses. Based on this a framework to support women and youth enhanced participation in intra-COMESA regional trade is developed.

2. Experiences of Mainstreaming Gender/Women and Youth in COMESA's Regional Trade Initiatives

9. COMESA Member States have been implementing programmes to mainstreaming women and youth entrepreneurship, as regional initiatives or as national initiative.

10. At the regional level, the COMESA Gender Policy has identified several measures for ensuring gender equity and improving female participation in the COMESA regional trade integration agenda, to be undertaken by Member States, Secretariat, cooperating partners, and other Stakeholders. Among these measures are:

- i. Scaling up capacity building programs in business management, trade, finance and export and import procedures including SPS standards and requirements for women engaged in business at different levels.
- ii. Promoting product-pooling to ensure critical masses of products for export especially for women entrepreneurs.
- iii. Building or upgrading border-crossing points comprehensively so as to make them female –friendly.
- iv. Promoting cooperatives for traders especially women to strengthen their participation in regional trade.
- v. Involving women, men and youth entrepreneurs in development processes of trade-related policies, standards and regulatory frameworks at national and regional levels.
- vi. Ensuring conducive environment for small scale cross border traders (SSCBTs) at the border, and implementation of trade facilitation procedures for SMEs.

- vii. Providing comprehensive services and facilities for small scale cross border traders (SSCBTs) at the border.

2.1 Experience from the Regional Initiatives

2.1.1 Business Incubators for African Women Entrepreneurs

11. Business Incubators for African Women Entrepreneurs (BIAWE) project is an initiative that intends to support women entrepreneurs in Africa being implemented at COMESA and Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) regions. It is funded by NEPAD under the NEPAD Spanish Fund.

12. In the COMESA region, this project is being implemented by the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM). The aim of the project is to establish regional business incubator and provide business incubation services to women entrepreneurs in three sectors: agro-processing, handicrafts and ICTs in both formal and informal business activities. The activities for the project are: providing incubation support by facilitating procurement of processing or manufacturing equipment/machinery for training purposes; establishment of incubator houses; providing onsite processing and manufacturing methods; training women entrepreneurs on technical and business skills; facilitating access to finance and facilitating policy review with regards to women entrepreneurs. The project is in the pilot stage and if implemented will contribute to capacity building of women entrepreneurs in COMESA region.

2.1.2 The 50 Million Women Speak Project

13. This is a networking digital platform for women entrepreneurs being implemented by COMESA, EAC and ECOWAS regions and funded by African Development Bank. It is being coordinated by COMESA secretariat. The project aims at connecting women entrepreneurs in with each other so as foster peer learning, mentoring and the sharing of information and knowledge within the above three communities. It also aims at providing women entrepreneurs with access to trade finance and market opportunities between urban and rural areas, and across borders and between countries. The project implemented period is three years (2017-2020).

2.1.3 COMESA Cluster Development Programme

14. COMESA Cluster Development Programme is a programme being implemented by FEMCOM, with an objective of enhancing collective efficiency, through facilitating enterprises of similar sectors or production interests to collectively compete with large firms. The aim of the programme which began in 2013 is to facilitate women in SMEs to form clusters, so as to collectively minimize their costs and increase their value-added goods and services in the regional and international markets. Activities for the project include: identifying and profiling SMEs in the selected clusters in the Member States; facilitating onsite processing and manufacturing methods, including development of new products; carry out training on business management and skills; design suitable loan facilities (in collaboration with financial institutions for the acquisition of machines and working capital).

15. Under this project cassava, textiles and garments and leather and leather products have been identified as sector clusters. According to FEMCOM, the textile and garments cluster has been on pilot operation in 10 COMESA Member States, where groups of women entrepreneurs engaged in textile and garments business have been supplied with textile machines and linked markets to sell their products such as large business firms. The cassava cluster was launched in 2011 and is being implemented in several COMESA Member States. Under this cluster, women have gained skills and knowledge on cassava growing and facilitation is being made for them to tap into the cassava value chain.

16. After the piloting stage, Zambia is implementing the same programme under funding by AfDB with an objective of developing skills for women and youth empowerment.

2.1.4 COMESA Simplified Trade Regime

17. Since 2010, COMESA has implemented the Simplified Trade Regime (STR), the simplified border clearance procedure, with an aim of enabling small traders in cross border trade to benefit from the COMESA preferential trade regime. Although, this programme applies to all small-scale cross-border traders including women and men, majority of these traders are women as observed recently by the USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub (2016), that women constitute 70 percent of informal cross border traders (ICBT) in the Southern Africa region.

The simplified border procedure includes: certificate of origin obtainable from Customs as the trader leaves the country; a common list of goods that are eligible to use the STR

regime; a simplified customs document filled in as the trader enters the country they are exporting to; a help or Trade Information Desk (TID) with a Trade Information Desk Officers (TIDOs) to assist traders in filling the documents and answering queries.

18. This regime is operational in several COMESA Member State borders including in: Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and DR Congo. Goods eligible for benefits under the STR vary from one boarder post to another depending on the concerned border countries agreement on the product list of interest. The size of trade eligible under the regime also varies between US\$ 1000 and US\$ 2000 United States Dollars.

2.1.5 COMESA Business Council Local Sourcing Partnerships Project

19. COMESA Business Council (CBC) implemented a pilot project on local sourcing during the period October 2015 to September, 2016 (Climate Investment Fund- CIF, 2017). The objective was to increase local sourcing from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the COMESA region. The project was piloted in six COMESA Member states of Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Ethiopia. The project focused on suppliers of high value agricultural products and corporate buyers in the hospitality and food and beverages industry. Specific activities in this project included: provision of training and capacity building (including training in food safety standards), business counseling and mentorship and promotion of local content. Main achievements of the project are: a total of 824 SMEs trained in Phase 1&2; 841 companies posted online through the CBC –BIZNET; 13 companies signed MoUs with the CBC; 9 companies were awarded Certification of Recognition; Ten (10) companies are engaging in supplier contracts with buying partners; and; three (3) companies were listed on regional shelves. In addition, cross border linkages have been established in sourcing from neighboring country particularly between Rwanda and Uganda.

2.2 Case Studies of Initiatives from Member States

2.2.1 Cooperative Unions in Member States

20. In addition to the regional programmes, women in various COMESA Member States have separately formed cooperatives which contributed to economic transformation. There are several success stories of such cooperatives from the region. Two of success stories are discussed here:

- **Women of Machakos Cooperative Union**

21. This is a cooperative group of women who weave baskets in Machakos County – Eastern Kenya, born in 2013. The group has since grown to comprise 26 women’s groups representing over 3,000 women. Most sales are made through the cooperative union, which markets the products online and in catalogues. Through support of an international NGO, working on Leadership & business skills for informal women workers in fair trade, the women have been: trained on business; certified through the fair trade; linked to international market including Japan, Canada, Italy and Germany, where they can export their products. In addition, women have been trained on governance; women rights; and on financial and business practices such as appropriately goods pricing and costing and negotiating better prices; product design, better weaving techniques and quality management. This has contributed to increased informal business women’s: access to foreign markets earnings and savings, access to credits, and participation in decision making (women serve as part of cooperative board of directors in the larger cooperative to which the women cooperative is affiliated to).

- **Cooperatives in Rwanda**

22. A look at cooperatives in Rwanda reveal many success stories of how small scale women farmers and informal trader have grown their businesses, expanded their production and trade to include participation in agricultural value chains and participate in export markets and ultimately transforming their economic status. One such success story is that of Co-operative de Production du Vin de Banane (Coproviba) formed 2004 in Ngoma District in Eastern Rwanda³. This cooperative started with five people and capital of about \$200 and as of 2016 had grown to 28 members – 20 of whom being women. The cooperative also works with other 43 smallholder farmers. The co-operative produces 5,000 crates of wine per week.

23. The cooperative members combined funds and resources to produce bananas and later process them into banana wine. Through training by the government, the cooperative developed banana wine processing skills and through marketing they are able to sell to local bars, groceries and supermarkets in Rwanda as well as exporting (about 20% of their production) to regional markets of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

³ Based on National Agricultural Export Board (2015): Rwandan Women Eye Into Cash Crop Export. http://www.naeb.gov.rw/fileadmin/Newsletter/NAEB_Newsletter_1st_Issue- March_2015.pdf.

3. Challenges and Constraints for Women and Youth Cross-border Traders in COMESA

24. Although some challenges to participate in intra-COMESA trade exist for both women and men, these challenges seem to impact more on women than they do for men because of the gender inequalities in access to productive resources which disadvantage women more than men. The gender inequalities which particularly hinder women from participating in intra- regional trade in the same footing as men have been identified by various authors including COMESA, (2016); Southern Africa Trade Hub (2016); PLAAS (2017) among others. They include:

- i. Less access to and control over and ownership of vital productive assets such as land, credit.
- ii. Limited access to financial resources to engage in sizeable trade.
- iii. High vulnerability of women to poverty.
- iv. Illiteracy and low level of education.
- v. Responsibility of household management including care for children and elderly members of family which leads to scarcity of time.
- vi. Inadequate reproductive health services including limited access to family planning programs in resource scarce communities.
- vii. Limited entrepreneurial and technical skills in product handling including packaging, export management and marketing.
- viii. Limitation in capacity to access markets and to utilize ICTs in accessing markets.
- ix. Less participation of women entrepreneurs in Key decision-making structures and in policy formulation processes.
- x. Concentration in the informal cross-border trade and micro-enterprises.
- xi. Concentration in the lower value chains of trade.
- xii. Limited knowledge on regulatory frameworks in cross-border movement of goods, services and people.
- xiii. Fear for lack of personal security and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, coercion, and exploitation while travelling across national borders.
- xiv. Inadequate gender friendly marketing centers and accommodation facilities at border areas.
- xv. Lack of access to efficient logistical services to enter into competitive small-scale export trade within the region.

4. Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the Region for the Period 2018-2023

4.1 Goal: To increase competitiveness of women and youth in COMESA regional economic integration processes ensuring equitable participation and benefit from regional integration programs at all levels.

4.2 Objectives of the Framework

1. Increase capacity and competitiveness of women and youth small scale cross border traders by increasing access to different resources and improve service provision.
2. Enhance women access to cross border markets through conducive policy and legal environment including adequate service provision.
3. Strengthen trade facilitation systems and services for women and youth small scale cross border traders.
4. Construct cross border markets and other facilities considering the various needs and concerns of women and men traders.
5. Improve trade facilitation and strengthen performance management and accountability system to eliminate harassment and gender-based violence for small scale cross border traders.
6. Enhance gender research to have a good knowledge base of trade and gender in the region and gender responsive data collection tools and analysis and M&E Framework.

4.3 Priority Actions

25. This framework plan of comprehensive support for women and youth cross border traders in the region will address the following priority issues on women and youth cross border traders in COMESA region:

- i. Empower women and youth to enhance their competitiveness using holistic multisectoral approach.
- ii. Conducting high level advocacy at national and regional level to create conducive policy and legal environment for women and youth small scale cross border traders.
- iii. Mainstream gender and youth into all trade and related policies, programmes and cross border trade interventions.

- iv. Encourage formation of cooperatives of women and youth SMEs to increase access to finance, information and education and other available services.
- v. Capacity building, skills development, awareness creation and training of women and youth on their rights, cross-border customs processes and export trade requirements.
- vi. Design governance system for small scale cross border traders and local financing mechanism to different initiatives of members of CBTAs in the effort of expanding their businesses to the next level.
- vii. Awareness creation to Customs officers, CBTA officers and other border agencies on Women and youth mainstreaming on cross-border processes.
- viii. Enhancing synergy and coordination mechanisms for women and youth programmes in Member States, COMESA and COMESA institutions.
- ix. Strengthen networking among member States including CBTAs, facilitate experience sharing forums including exchange visits and sharing good practices.
- x. Enhancing research to produce evidence and ensure availability of gender disaggregated data collection and analysis including in digital data collection tools for evidence –based trade related decision making in COMESA.

4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

26. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of this framework plan will be undertaken at both regional (COMESA Secretariat) and at national (Member State's level). Specific M&E activities will include:

- i. Developing Gender Responsive Trade Monitoring and Evaluation Framework or Review the existing M&E Framework to capture gender sensitive indicators.
- ii. Preparation and dissemination of annual reports.
- iii. Ensuring all COMESA annual plans and reports include gender and youth related issues.
- iv. Joint performance review of the framework plan of action during the COMESA Gender Technical Committee meetings.
- v. Provision of information and updates on the implementation of the framework plan of action by Member States over the period.

4.5 Institutional Arrangements

27. The main institutions involved in implementation of this framework plan are: COMESA Member States, COMESA Secretariat, COMESA institutions including: FEMCOM and COMESA Business Council (CBC), Development Partners, civil society and NGOs.

28. Responsibility of coordinating implementation of the framework is on COMESA Secretariat and the Member States.

4.6 Funding Mechanisms

29. This framework shall be funded by COMESA Member States, COMESA and Development Partners.

4.6 Implementation Risks

30. Implementation of this framework plan face a number of risks, among which include:

- i. Inadequate financial and human resources needed for implementation of the framework plan activities.
- ii. Unreliable power supply and poor internet connectivity.
- iii. Inadequate computers and software to capture data efficiently.
- iv. High illiteracy rate among women traders may deter their use of new technologies.
- v. Inadequate funds for Member States to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities.

5. Matrix on the Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the Region for the Period 2018-2023

Goal: To increase competitiveness of women and youth in COMESA regional economic integration processes ensuring equitable participation and benefit from regional integration programs.

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
Objective 1: Enhance capacity and competitiveness of women and youth small scale cross border traders					
Productive capacity of women and youth businesses enhanced	Train women and youth entrepreneurs on business management, marketing, financial management and accounting.	No. of women and youth trained	50% increase in the no. of women and youth trained	Training attendance and reports from different training institutions.	Member States, Private Sector, COMESA Secretariat and Institutions Development Partners, NGOs
	Facilitate women and youth to access finance at affordable interest rates	No. of women and youth small scale cross border traders accessing credit. No. of special credit facilities for women and youth CBTs	20% increase in no. of women and youth traders accessing credits	Reports from relevant government institutions such as Bureaus of statistics, Ministries of trade, Finance, women and youth	
	Operationalize and facilitate women traders access to COMESA Women Economic Empowerment Fund (WEEF)	WEEF operational and women traders in all Members having access to the fund	5% increase in no. of women traders accessing Finances	Reports from relevant government institutions, women and FEMCOM	

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
	Facilitate access and use of appropriate technology to enhance production and trade	No. of women and youth using appropriate technology for production	40% increase in number of women and youth who use appropriate technology for production	Reports from relevant ministries and institutions	
	Facilitate regional innovation awards for women and youth entrepreneurs	Member States have an innovation award programmes on an annual basis	Each Member State has such an innovation award activity each year	Annual reports of relevant ministries and institutions	
	Facilitate women and youth entrepreneurs access trade related information	No. of women and youth with access to trade related information	50% increase in the no. of women and youth traders with access to trade related information	Annual reports from institutions such as Chambers of Commerce, private sector institutions	
Competitiveness of women and youth businesses enhanced	Create awareness on Minimum standards requirements for small scale cross- border traders	No. of awareness sessions on minimum standards requirements held	At least one awareness session held in each border post in COMESA	Reports from Member States	
	Promote business incubation in COMESA region to grow women and youth businesses	No. of business incubators for women and youth	At least one incubator in each member State	Reports from COMESA Secretariat and Member States	

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
	Facilitate access to business development services (BDS)	Increase in no. of women and youth's businesses accessing BDS	At least 10% of women and youth's businesses access BDS	Reports from relevant institutions	
	Facilitate women and youth businesses to be more visible	Increase in no. of women and youth's businesses advertising in various media	At least 10% of women and youth's businesses advertise in various media	Reports from relevant institutions Reports from relevant institutions in Member States	
	Promote, counselling mentorship and philanthropy for women and youth's businesses	No. of women and youth businesses counselled and mentored	40% of women and youth's businesses counselled and mentored		
	Facilitate women and youth's enterprises access to and control of land and land resources	No. of women and youth with access to land	25% increase in no. of women and youth with access to land	Reports from relevant ministries in Member States M&E reports	Member States, COMESA Secretariat and Institutions
	Carry out advocacy and train women and youth on leadership skills to enhance their participation in trade related decision making	No. of advocacy and leadership trainings	20% increase in no. of advocacy and leadership trainings	Reports from relevant institutions in Member States	Private Sector,

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
		% of women and Youth traders participating in trade related decision making e.g. in Chambers of Commerce	At least a 20% increase in the number participating in trade related decision making	Reports from relevant institutions in Member States Reports from Standards bodies in Member States	Development Partners, NGOs
	Facilitate women and youth entrepreneurs access to products standardization and certification services	No. of women and youth entrepreneurs with access to product standardization and certification services	At least 10% increase in entrepreneurs accessing standards and certification services	Surveys	
	Promote value addition to agricultural products	Share (%) of value added to agricultural products	At least 20% value addition to agricultural products by women and youth entrepreneurs	Reports from Member States	
	Train and build capacity of women and youth's businesses on various sectors, on product design; product standards and quality	No. of women and youth trained	40% of women and youth trained per year	Reports from respective agencies: Chambers of Commerce, ministries of trade; women business associations, National private sector associations; Development Partners and NGOs.	

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
Product standards and quality of women entrepreneurs increased	Train and build capacity of women businesses on various sectors, on product design; product standards and quality	No. of women trained	40% of women trained per year	Reports from respective agencies: Chambers of Commerce, ministries of trade; women business associations, National private sector associations; Development Partners and NGOs.	
Objective 2: Enhance women and youth's businesses access to cross border markets					
Structured trade promoted	Raise awareness of organizing women in registered groups and cooperatives.	No. of women groups and cooperatives formed	Reduction of proportion of women entrepreneurs operating in the informal sector by 20%.	Reports and statistics available from government, non-governmental including: Bureau of Statistics, Ministries of Trade, Gender and Social development. Ministries of Trade, Gender and Social development	Member States, Private Sector, COMESA Secretariat, and Institutions Development Partners, NGOs
	Facilitate formation and registration of women groups	No. of women groups and cooperatives formed			
	Train women entrepreneurs on cooperative management	No. of cooperatives trained on management	All cooperatives formed trained		
	Link cooperatives to services such as training, BDS and affordable credit	No. cooperatives linked to services such as training and credits	Increase of women and youth entrepreneur's accessing credit		

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
			and capital by 25%		
Access to services and markets by women and youth in cooperatives increased.	Link cooperatives to local markets and regional markets	No. of cooperatives exporting to the regional markets.	10% of cooperatives exporting in to the regional markets		
Preferential and reservation schemes in public procurement for women and youth businesses developed	Ensure domestic laws and procurement regulations to provide preferential and reservation schemes of 30% of public procurement to women and youth in their public procurement programmes	No. of Member States providing preferential and reservation schemes for women and youth in their public procurement	All COMESA Member States provide preferential and reservation schemes in public procurement for women and youth	Public procurement regulations	
	Promote local content and advertise products of trained and certified small scale products online	No. of small scale women businesses with their products advertised online	10% of women businesses have their products advertised online	Reports by Member States	
	Networks for women and youth traders at national and regional levels strengthened	Facilitate organization of small scale regional businesses trade fairs	At least one regional trade fair for small scale women and youth businesses organized per year	Reports by COMESA Secretariat, Member States	Member States, Private Sector, COMESA Secretariat and Institutions

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
Women's and youth's businesses linked to large companies product buyers locally and regionally	Facilitate establishment of women and youth's businesses supplier contracts with large companies	No. of small scale women and youth traders signing supply contracts with large scale companies	20% of small scale women and youth's businesses sign supply contracts with large companies locally or regionally	Reports by Member States	Development Partners, NGOs
Use of IT to women businesses enhanced	Facilitate access and use of IT in by women businesses	Increased no. of women businesses using IT	10% of women businesses using IT		
Objective 3: Strengthen trade facilitation systems and services for women and youth small scale cross border traders					
Use of simplified Trade Regime (STR) by COMESA Member States increased	Facilitate presence of TDOs in all border posts where STR is being implemented	TDOs available in all border posts implementing STR	All border posts implementing STR have TIDOs at all times	Reports available from TIDs	Member States, Private Sector, COMESA Secretariat and Institutions Development Partners, NGOs
	Implement the STR in other COMESA Member States not implementing it in 2017	STR being implemented in Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, Libya and Swaziland	Small Scale traders in all COMESA Member States use STR for cross border trade	Regulations on STR available in COMESA Member States and at border posts	
	Explore COMESA- EAC- SADC Tripartite STR programme to enable use of STR between Member State and their	COMESA Member States who are neighbours to non-COMESA Member	No. of COMESA Member States trading under STR with their	Report by Member States	

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
	neighbouring countries in EAC and SADC who are not COMESA Members	States in EAC and SADC trade under STR	SADC and EAC non-COMESA Member States	Regulations on STR available in COMESA Member States and at border posts	
	Extent the scope of products eligible for trade under STR	No. of products eligible under the STR	No. of products eligible under the STR increased by at least 5%	Regulations on STR available in COMESA Member States and at border posts Product lists eligible for STR available at border posts	
	Extent the trade value ceiling for STR eligibility	The size of trade eligible under STR	The size of trade eligible under STR in all COMESA Member States to be above US\$ 1000 (One Thousand United States Dollars).	Regulations on eligible trade ceiling values available at implementing border posts.	
Credit/ financial access to women and youth small scale cross border traders increased	Facilitate CBTAs to provide affordable credits	No. of credits/loans provided by CBTAs	All CBTAs to give credits/loans	Reports on loans issues by CBTAs	Member States, Private Sector, COMESA Secretariat and Institutions

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means Verifications of	Responsible
					Development Partners, NGOs, CBTAs
Objective 4: Development of cross- border markets and facilities					
Hygiene and access to health care at border posts improved	Build health Centres/ clinics at border points for use by CBTs and the communities leaving around the border area	No. of border posts with health care centres	All border posts in Member States	Facilities build at border posts	Member States, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs
	Provide rest rooms for pregnant and breastfeeding women traders	No. of border posts with restrooms for pregnant and breast feeding women traders	All border posts in Member States	Reports from Member States Reports by Member States	
	Promote development of safe and hygiene accommodation facilities including being free of Malaria	No. of hygiene accommodation facilities developed at border points	At least 50% of border posts with such facilities		
Storage/warehouses built at border posts	Develop safe storage /warehouses	No. of warehouses available at border posts	All border posts in Member States	Reports by Member States, CBTAs	Member States, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs, Border Committees, CBTAs

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
Literacy of women small scale cross border traders increased	Provide facility for adult classes	Facilities established	At least 50% of border posts with such facilities	Reports by Member States	Member States, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs, Border Committees, CBTAs
Objective 5: Eliminate harassment and gender-based violence for small scale cross border traders					
Security of women informal cross-border traders increased	Facilitate development of a reporting structure for GBV	No. of GBV cases reported	No. of GBV cases reported increase by 50%	Reports by Member States, Development Partners	Member States, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs
Zero tolerance to harassment and gender –based violence	Enforce punitive measures to perpetrators of GBV	No. of perpetrators of GBV charged in court of law	Increase the no. of perpetrators of GBV charged in court of law by 10%	Member States, CBTAs	Member States
	Facilitate development of comprehensive gender based violence (GBV) facility which has functional preventive and management of victims including provision of Psychological support	Facilities at the border points	All border points have such a facility	Surveys, reports by CBTAs	Member States
Gender mainstreaming in custom processes achieved	Sensitize Customs officers on gender considerations	No. of sensitization sessions	At least one sensitization session on gender in each border	Reports of relevant institutions including customs Departments	Member States, COMESA

Expected output	Main activities	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verifications	Responsible
			post held once a year		Secretariat, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs
	Train customs officers and promote gender mainstreaming in customs procedures	No. of training sessions for Customs officers	At least 50% of all Customs officers trained on gender mainstreaming	Reports from Member States	Member States, COMESA Secretariat, Private Sector, Development Partners, NGOs
Objective 6: Enhance gender research and gender- disaggregated data collection for better regional trade policy decisions					
Enhance research on gender and trade in COMESA for better decision making	Create and ensure effective management of national database on gender cross-border trade in COMESA; including small scale cross border trade	Gender desegregated data on Cross-border trade including on small scale cross border traders existing in each COMESA Member State	All the 19 COMESA Member States create trade gender desegregated database	Reports by Member States; COMSTAT	COMESA Secretariat, Member States
	Undertake research on impact of COMESA policies and regulations on gender equality	No. of impact studies undertaken	At Least 2 studies undertaken	Reports by Member States; COMESA Secretariat	

6. References

Climate Investment Fund (CIF, 2017). CBC local sourcing project Completion Report. <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/Content/web/documents/new/LSP%20Report.pdf>.

Accessed, July 2017.

COMESA (1994). Treaty Establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. pp 210 & 211 – 212. COMESA, Lusaka.

COMESA (2002). COMESA gender mainstreaming manuals. COMESA, Lusaka.

COMESA (2016). COMESA Gender Policy. COMESA, Lusaka.

<http://www.plaas.org.za/sites/default/files/publications-pdf/WP45%20Manyungwa-Pasani%20et%20al.pdf>

Maigua, J., Maina, L. and Ndegwa, C. (2017). Challenges and Opportunities in Kenya's Macadamia Nuts Industry: A Gender Perspective. *Bridges Africa. Volume 6 - Number 4.* <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/challenges-and-opportunities-in-kenya%e2%80%99s-macadamia-nuts-industry-a>. *Accessed July 2017.*

Manyungwa-Pasani, C. L. Mafaniso, H. and Chimatiro, S. K. (2017). Women's participation in fish value chains and value chain governance in Malawi: A case of Msaka (Lake Malawi) and Kachulu (Lake Chilwa)', Working Paper 45. PLAAS, UWC: Cape Town).

Southern Africa Trade Hub (2016). Women Cross Border Traders in Southern Africa: Contributions, Constraints, and Opportunities in Malawi and Botswana.