



## EASSI Quarterly Report April - June, 2020

<b>Priority Area 3: Gender and Economic Justice</b>					
<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Donors/ Development Partners</b>		<b>Target Group</b>	
<b>Advancing Economic Opportunities for Women And Youth by Engendering Trade Facilitation</b>	<b>Making Trade Work for Women</b>	 		Women Cross Border Traders in Busia (Kenya-Uganda), Malaba (Kenya-Uganda), Mutukula (Tanzania-Uganda), Elegu/Nimule (Uganda-South Sudan) and Goli/Mahagi (Uganda-DRC)  Revenue Authorities and border officials including immigration and security	
<p>The project started in April 2020 but funding was received in June 2020. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions on movement of persons and public gatherings in the entire East African region paralysed all EASSI's activities. The measures put in place by governments to combat the spread of the pandemic made it difficult to travel to the project border sites and also access government officials and the WCBTs targeted by the project. EASSI decided to carry out the project activities that did not necessitate travel, including the development of information, publicity and training materials, which will be used to facilitate the WCBTs to transit from informal to formal trade. The resource centre coordinators who will carry out the mobilization and capacity strengthening of the WCBTs at the different borders were recruited and have started work with EASSI, effective June 2020. EASSI has adopted the use of technology to hold online meetings with the stakeholders. We are also exploring procuring an audio bridging device which will make it possible to conduct training and engagements with the different women groups at the borders without having to physically move there. This has been embarked on but not yet finalized.</p>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Achievements</b>		<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Officer Responsible (s)</b>
<b>A Simplified Guide for Women Cross Border Traders</b>	The Guide is to be used to train women traders on the EAC trading requirements and on issues of violence and	A Simplified Cross Border Traders' Guide has been developed in English, and is being translated into French. The Guide highlights key information requirements needed for cross border trade by small scale traders, including understanding the Common Market regime. <i>Please see attached guide.</i> The guide will be used during the		The primary users of the guide will be micro and small-scale Women Cross Border Traders (WCBTs) and service suppliers as well as associations	Executive Director  Programme Manager, Ms. Ruth Warutere  IT & Communications, Ms. Sylvia Kironde

	rights.	sensitization meetings of women traders and will be distributed to the traders to act as a reference point, while transacting business. The guide will ensure that the traders have a credible source of information to reduce dependence on secondary information which could be manipulated and distorted. It will also reduce on the time and costs incurred by traders looking for accurate information and demystify the myths held about cross border trade. With more accurate information on cross border trade procedures, more women will aspire to grow their businesses beyond the national borders.	and cooperatives of women entrepreneurs, service suppliers and cross border traders. Other users will include: male cross border traders, the private sector in general, young entrepreneurs, investors, Business Membership Organizations (BMOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), development partners as well as relevant government institutions. Some of the guides will be placed as reference reading materials at the EASSI Resource Centers at selected borders to be utilized by the WCBTs.	
<b>Establishment of Resource / Information Centres at Ten Borders</b>	The resource centers are a safe space for women cross border traders, where they will be able to access up-to-date information on	Work on setting up the Resource Centres at eight selected borders begun in April. Furniture and equipment for the five Resource/Information Centers to be set up at selected borders in Uganda (Elegu, Goli, Malaba, Busia and Mutukula) have been procured and is ready to be dispatched once the COVID-19 movement restrictions are lifted. The furniture procured includes office	Since the COVID-19 restrictions on movement are gradually being eased, EASSI staff hope to travel to all the borders in the next quarter, meet with	Executive Director  Programme Manager, Ms. Ruth Warutere  IT & Communications, Ms. Sylvia Kironde

	regional trade; and also network as members of trading associations and cooperatives.	tables, chairs, filing cabinets, information display rack and computers. The furniture for the Resource Centers in Lunga Lunga, Taveta and Isebania will be procured in Kenya once EASSI staff are able to travel to those borders and secure the space where the centres will be located.	the different stakeholders and also ensure that the resource centers are fully operational.	
<b>Seven (7) Resource Center Coordinators recruited as Project Assistants</b>	The coordinators will be responsible for coordinating the project activities at the different borders and link the women traders to border officials, EASSI and other stakeholders. The Resource Centre Coordinators will also monitor the changes in the lives of the women traders as a result of the project. They will also be responsible for providing women traders with up to date trade information including carrying out training outreach	Seven resource center coordinators were recruited as EASSI Project Assistants, who will coordinate the project activities at the information and resource centers. The vacancies were advertised on the EASSI website, Facebook, twitter and also through various listserves. One hundred and twenty (120) applications were received, 20 were shortlisted and 18 candidates were interviewed. Two of the shortlisted candidates sent apologies, withdrawing from the interviews. Offer letters were written to seven successful candidates, (2 male and 5 female). Background checks were done, contracts drawn and signed between EASSI and the new employees. Two successful candidates were got for the Kenya resource center at Isebania and Taveta. However, the successful candidate for LungaLunga requested for a net pay of 1800-2000 USD, while another expected a net pay of 1000-1200 USD, which was above what EASSI could offer for that position (650 USD Gross pay). EASSI will continue looking for a coordinator who will manage the Lunga Lunga center once the restrictions on movement in both Kenya and Uganda are lifted.  An online orientation session with the recruited	The Resource Centres are aimed at helping the WCBTs abandon informal cross border trade and the use of the porous border routes in favour of using the formal crossing border trade routes. The Coordinators will track the results and expected outcomes of the project at the borders and also consolidate the achievement that will be made.	Executive Director  Finance and Administration Manager  Programme Manager, Ms. Ruth Warutere

	programmes to women traders at the border and in the hinterland.	resource centre coordinators was held and is ongoing to ensure the new staff understand EASSI as an organization, its policies and the project under which they were recruited.		
<b>Advocating for an improved trading environment (policy/regulatory/institutional reforms) in order to facilitate women in trade in Eastern Africa</b>	To attain a Gender responsive trade environment that supports women traders	<p>A meeting was held between EASSI and the External Trade Commissioner at the Ministry of Trade in Uganda to introduce the project and seek for partnership with the Ministry during the implementation of the project. The commissioner proposed that a meeting comprising of EASSI and the technocrats at the Ministry of trade should be held in July; to delve deeper into the activities of the project and align them with the needs of the women traders given the COVID 19 pandemic which has introduced new challenges for trade in the region. EASSI plans to have similar meetings with government officials in Tanzania, Kenya and Burundi.</p> <p>The Isebania Resource Centre Coordinator visited the border where he was able to meet with the women traders. During the field visit, he established that there was no existing women traders' association at the Isebania border. The women traders at Isebania disclosed that they feared interacting with the border officials; there was lack of knowledge on taxation and border procedures, harassment by border officials. Given the COVID 19 pandemic; the coordinator could not immediately set up as he risked being quarantined.</p>	Once travel restrictions are eased in Uganda, the Project Team will travel to the different borders and introduce the project to the Border Officials, the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), the Local Government Officials, the Women Cross Border Traders and other stakeholders.	<p>Executive Director</p> <p>Programme Manager, Ms. Ruth Warutere</p> <p>Project Officer, Lina Asimwe</p> <p>Resource Centre Coordinators/Project Assistants</p>
<b>COVID-19 Activities</b> - A study on the impact of COVID 19 on	The study is intended to document the impact of COVID-	A study on the impact of COVID 19 on women traders was commissioned after several measures were put in place by governments across the EAC. Although the measures were vital for	The findings of the survey will be used to advocate for consideration of the	<p>Executive Director</p> <p>Programme Manager, Ms. Ruth Warutere</p>

women traders	19 on Women Traders and use the findings to advocate for the inclusion of Women's Voices in the Post COVID-19 response and recovery programmes.	governments to combat the spread of the pandemic, they have severely affected women traders. Preliminary findings indicate that women traders have lost their sources of income and livelihoods and there has been an increase in domestic violence.	interests and needs of women traders to be included in the post-Covid-19 programming and reformulation of economic policies in order to cushion them against future economic shocks.	Project Officer, Lina Asimwe
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