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SECURE CROSS-BORDER SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Within the Great Lakes region, cross-border trade is critical for economic growth and development. However intra-regional trade in Africa is constrained by limited infrastructure as well as inter community tensions.

To address these challenges, the EU funded Action “Secure Cross-Border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region” will work towards strengthening the economic integration and social cohesion of the cross-border communities of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through the implementation of an integrated border management approach, facilitated by improved infrastructure, including the construction of relevant border facilities comprising the One Stop Border Post (OSBP), warehousing and truck parking, complemented by road construction to and from the border post.

WHY RUSIZI II?

- The Rusizi II border, between Rwanda and DRC, has been earmarked as an ideal location for the establishment of a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) as it is located along an important trade/transport corridor.
- This border is also significant in the scale and nature of movement of the cross-border communities, which cross the border every day for employment, trade purposes and health seeking behaviour.
- Rusizi I, located 20 km from Rusizi II, is mainly used by small traders, who cross the border on foot, while Rusizi II is primarily a cargo post where most border crossings are by vehicle, including large heavy goods vehicles.

WHAT ARE OSBPs?

- OSBPs are designed to facilitate the movement of goods and persons across borders by creating a single stop for border control, which reduces waiting times and increases cost efficiencies.
- The establishment of an OSBP further develops the border area through the creation of employment and economic growth.
- In supporting cross-border trade, and local community mobility, OSBPs can also support regional security and stability through engagement with local communities, as well as facilitating bilateral dialogue and cooperation.



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PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

- The EU has entrusted to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the overall responsibility for the management of this Action.
- Given the extensive scope of this Action, it will be implemented by the IOM and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), in close collaboration with relevant government authorities in Rwanda and DRC.
- The partnership will capitalize on the unique experiences and capacities of each organization. IOM will draw on its expertise in migration and human mobility issues, while TMEA will draw on customs and trade experience and build on their experience in the design and construction of OSBPs in East Africa. The two agencies, working closely together with government counterparts, are capable to draw upon their respective strengths.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The improved facilities and operating systems at the border area of Rusizi II/ Ruzizi II will ensure the seamless movement of people and goods, strengthen the communication among border agencies and between the two countries; while improving the level of security of the cross-border area. This action will benefit some 3 million people, living in large Bukavu in the DRC and Rusizi in

RESULT 1: BORDER SERVICES ARE MANAGED JOINTLY AND EFFICIENTLY

For border services to be managed jointly and effectively the Action will achieve the following:

- Physical border post infrastructure and interconnected infrastructure (bridge and road) constructed and operationalized
- Integrated Border Management processes, aligned to international standards, established at Rusizi II/Ruzizi II
- Border agencies, capacitated and supported to provide quality services



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RESULT 2: LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION AND (TRADE) EXCHANGE HAS IMPROVED, BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS, USERS AND CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITIES

For an OSBP to be effective, it is important that the surrounding border communities, border users and organizations working at or with the OSBP have functional and responsive communication and collaboration mechanisms in place. This Action will achieve the following:

- Communication and collaboration platforms between border communities, traders and institutions, strengthened
- Social cohesion across border communities enhanced
- Cross border trader capacity, including women cross border small traders, enhanced and market linkages strengthened



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