UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

TIME TO CROSS SURVEY - FEBRUARY 2020

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FOREWORD

The Time to Cross surveys are conducted by the Bureau, funded by the government of Uganda through a World Bank (WB) grant under the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project (GLTFP) coordinated by the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives.

The main purpose of these surveys is to generate information to monitor and evaluate progress at the three borders of Mpondwe, Bunagana and Goli, with regard to infrastructure being constructed to facilitate trade, especially targeting small scale cross border traders. The core indicators monitored under GLTFP relate to time taken to cross the border, incidences of harassment faced by traders and trade flows handled through the respective border posts.

The Bureau would like to acknowledge the immense contribution of the Uganda Revenue Authority, Immigration Department, Security Agencies (Police and other security agencies), Local Councils leaders and individuals along the borders that make these surveys successful. We also acknowledge the cooperation of the border communities and traders in providing the essential information.

In a special way, I would like to thank the World Bank Monitoring and Evaluation team, which provided technical backstopping and continuous quality control reviews throughout the project implementation cycle.

Finally, I thank the Researchers, Field Supervisors and Coordinators for successful execution of these surveys.

Chris N. Mukiza (PhD)
Executive Director

COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GLR	Great Lake Region
GLTFP	Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project
IDA	International Development Association
MTIC	Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PBM	Performance Based Management
PDO	Project Development Objectives
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
WB	World Bank

The Bureau in collaboration with government agencies at the border posts of Mpondwe, Bunagana and Goli conducted the Time to Cross survey during the month of February 2020. This survey was conducted in view of infrastructural development by the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project (GLTFP) at the three borders to facilitate cross border trade.

The Time to Cross Survey sought to collect data on the average time taken to cross the border including processing of document, nature of goods carried by trader, and reported incidences of bribery and intimidation experienced by cross border traders among others.

The Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project (GLTF) is part of the broader development initiative collectively implemented by the three countries of Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo. The main objective of GLTF project is to facilitate cross-border trade by increasing the capacity of commerce and reducing the costs faced by traders, especially vulnerable small-scale and women traders at targeted border.

Key Survey Findings:

Time taken to process documents and cross the border

Overall, traders at Mpondwe took more time to cross the border compared to traders crossing at Bunagana and Goli borders. Specifically, at Mpondwe border, it took traders an average of 6.12 minutes to cross in February 2020 compared to 6.86 minutes recorded in October 2019. At Bunagana border, it took traders 4.95 minutes to cross the border in February 2020 compared to 4.52 minutes registered in October 2019. Meanwhile at Goli border, traders took an average of 2.85 minutes to cross the border in February 2020 compared to 2.97 minutes recorded in October 2019. The time taken to cross is mostly affected by the border setting, procedures and the traffic handled.

Value of Goods Handled through the Core Border Infrastructure

The findings further indicate that, the value of export and imports recorded under the informal cross border transactions were more than those recorded under the official

customs system at all the three borders. During 2019, the combined exports earnings (formal and informal exports) through the 3 borders monitored were worth $333.5 million from US$ 260.0 Million recorded in 2018, of which informal exports were valued at US$227.4 million in 2019 (68.2 percent) from US$ 175.3 million recorded in 2018. However, combined imports through the three border posts were estimated at US$ 14.9 million in 2019 compared to US$ 19.5 million recorded in 2018, of which, informal imports stood at US$ 11.7 million (78.5 percent) in 2019 from US$ 12.4 million (63.7 percent) recorded in 2018. The proportion of exports through the borders to overall exports earnings stood at 8.1 percent in 2019 compared 7.2 percent recorded in 2018. The proportion of imports through the three borders to the total country's import was 0.2 percent in 2019 compared to 0.3 percent in 2018. This underscores the importance of informal cross border trade to small and medium size business in terms income generation and food security for the border communities.

Direction of Traffic and nature of traded products

Just like the previous observations, most of the respondents interviewed were mainly from Uganda to DR Congo, accounting for 77.3 percent of respondents in February 2020 compared to 74.3 percent recorded in October 2019, while only 22.7 percent were from DR Congo to Uganda in February 2020 compared to 25.7 percent recorded in October 2019.

Specifically, travellers who entered DR Congo through the three borders of Mpondwe, Bunagana and Goli represented 77.0 percent, 83.5 percent and 53.8 percent of respondents respectively in February 2020 compared to those who entered DRC through the respective borders in the month of October 2019 recorded at 69.1 percent, 82.9 percent and 44.4 percent respectively.

Most of the traders (58.7 percent) were carrying manufactured or processed goods while 41.2 percent carried agricultural goods in February 2020 compared

Structure of the Report

This report has four chapters namely; introduction, methodology, survey findings, and, recommendations and conclusion. The chapter on survey findings is presented in three parts; first on time to cross; secondly, the traders' perception and thirdly, value of goods handled through border posts monitored.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project that commenced in 2017 is a 5-year regional Project being implemented by the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda, and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The project takes a multi-sectoral approach to improving the trade conditions at 5 key border-crossings and surrounding areas between the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. The targeted border crossings were selected basing on cross-border flows of goods and people; strategic importance to the countries, relevance to the Great Lakes Strategy for creating stability in the region; and critical nodes for cross-border connectivity.

The project is structured under the following four components:

(1) Improvements to core trade and commercial infrastructure in the border areas (e.g. upgrading border facilities;

(2) Policy and procedural reforms and capacity building to simplify border crossing procedures and improve the standards of treatment of traders and officials;

(3) Improved border management reform through application and enhancement of Performance Based Management (PBM); and

(4) The development of robust monitoring and evaluation systems for the project and for small-scale cross-border trade, as well as support for project implementation, communication and regional coordination.

The overall project development objective is to "facilitate cross-border trade by increasing the capacity for commerce and reducing the costs faced by traders, especially small-scale and women traders, at targeted locations in the borderlands." In order to achieve this objective, the three countries and COMESA are implementing a series of initiatives, pursuant to the project components listed above, at the country and regional levels.

As a way to measuring progress and determining success at achieving the objective, the project listed key performance indicators across the project countries and over the lifespan of the project.

In Uganda, the project components are being implemented by a number of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) including; the Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda Revenue Authority, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics among others.

Particularly, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics is charged with the responsibility of collecting data at the three border posts of Bunagana, Mpondwe and Goli to feed into the monitoring and evaluation framework throughout the 5-years life span of the project.

The Bureau, therefore, conducted baseline surveys namely; Time to Cross and Trader's Perception surveys to generate key indicators required for M&E of the project. The critical indicators identified were; to time taken to cross the border, incidences of harassment and trade flows through the border posts.

1.2 Survey Objectives

The broad objective of the surveys was to collect data to generate indicators to be used to track progress towards the Project Development Objectives (PDO).

Specifically, the surveys intended to:

i. Estimate the average time taken for traders to cross the border (minutes)

ii. Establish level of incidence of harassment of small scale traders; mainly incidence of harassment among female traders (percent)

iii. Value of goods handled through core trade infrastructure (US$ million)

1.3 Scope and Coverage

The baseline surveys covered three selected border posts of Bunagana, Goli and Mpondwe bordering Uganda and DRC. The selection of the border posts was in line with the project strategic importance to the Great Lakes countries in improving cross border trade and community livelihood.

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Data Sources

The data for the monitoring and evaluation indicators was collected from designated borders in line with the survey objectives. Two surveys were conducted namely; Time to Cross and Trader's Perceptions.

The Time to Cross survey collected information about; direction of traffic, country of residence, nature of goods transacted, type of traveller, purpose of travel, experience of the traders with the border officials, and time taken waiting to process documents and time taken to cross the border. The Traders' perception survey collected information on demographics of the travellers, nature of border crossing, access to market and financial information, and traders' experience of crossing the border posts including incidences of harassment among others. The Traders' Perception survey generated qualitative information on traders' perception on issues of harassment and quality of services provided at the borders to feed into the project M&E framework. Additional information on trade flows through the core infrastructures was obtained from Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT) survey conducted monthly by the UBOS.

2.2 Sampling of Respondents

Respondents were sampled from persons who crossed daily at the respective borders monitored. On average, about 30 persons were randomly sampled by the research assistants and questionnaires administered accordingly. The sampling took care of gender dimensions and other considerations in order to understand generally the business dynamics at the borders.

2.3 Survey Instruments

The main survey instruments used in data collection included; the research assistants' instructions manual, the Time to Cross Data Form and the Traders' Perception Questionnaire. The instruments were agreed upon by the entire project team namely; the World Bank support team, COMESA Monitoring and evaluation team, MTIC, Implementing Partner States and the UBOS team. The questionnaires

used were similar across the three countries implementing the GLTFP, that is, DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. However, a few questions were included for the case of Uganda to gather more information on sources of marketing and financial information for cross border traders. The World Bank provided technical support in developing the instruments across the implementing countries.

2.4 Data Collection Techniques

During data collection, direct observation and interview methods were used to capture the information required. At each border point, observation was used to randomly select participants to be approached and interviewed. Also, research assistants would observe variables like sex, time taken to cross and merchandise carried. The Interview techniques, using structured questionnaires were administered to the sampled cross border traders at the respective borders.

The survey was conducted at the three border posts for seven days concurrently.

2.5 Training of Survey Team

Prior to fieldwork, the survey team comprising of research assistants, supervisors and coordinators underwent a training to understand the survey objectives and data collection instruments. The training also involved office staff engaged in data processing on how to capture, edit and codify the data. Stakeholders, such as Uganda Revenue Authority and Immigration at respective border posts were notified about the survey before commencement of data collection.

2.6 Funding of the Survey

The funding for the survey was provided by the Government of Uganda through a WB grant. For operational purpose, the funds were disbursed to MTIC and requests made by the Bureau according to the work plan. The Bureau under took survey activities and accounted for the funds advanced to it accordingly.

2.7 Survey Organization

Uganda Bureau of Statistics undertook the survey in collaboration with other government agencies mainly at the respective borders. MTIC participated in supervision of field activities and provided overall coordination of agencies involved.

The overall research team comprised of Supervisors, coordinators, and research Assistants. Each border post was allocated research assistants depending on the volume of goods and traffic flow. Supervisors were permanently stationed at the border posts during data collection for strict supervision to ensure collection of high quality information in accordance with the survey objectives. In addition, supervisors and research assistants held daily evaluation meetings to identify challenges and forge a way forward. The data processing staff comprised of coders/editors, data entrants, and analyst that handled data processing and analysis.

2.8 Challenges

During the survey, a number of challenges were experienced in relation to data collection, interface with the interviewees and border communities. Amongst them, was the challenge of language barrier leading to use of interpreters. The survey used both observation and interview method which required the interviewer and respondents to interact in a language understood by both. However, most of the traders interviewed either spoke Lingala, French or Swahili and just a few could speak English fluently; causing a communication barrier with the interviewers.

The outbreak of Ebola in DR Congo was also a big threat to the citizens of Uganda that called for strict screening of all people entering Uganda. Although some traders never wanted to go through the screening, were forced to do so.

There was suspicion from the customs officials, traders as well as border security officials for fear that they were being investigated. Although border officials had been briefed about the survey, some officials and traders were suspicious of the survey intentions. Therefore, supervisors remained on the ground to continuously explain and dispel these misconceptions.

The bad weather conditions affected the flow of human traffic and merchandise. Sometimes it would rain heavily making it difficult for the interviews to take place at the right time of the day.

Clearing offices, especially Immigration and Customs were scattered. This posed a challenge when collecting information on time to cross which necessitated traders being followed up to the offices to be able to establish the difference between the time taken waiting for documents and cross the border.

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings of the three surveys in accordance to the indicators stated under the GLTFP monitoring and evaluation framework. The core indicators relate to time to cross the borders by the traders, incidences of harassment and trade flows (imports and export values) recorded through the borders monitored. The estimated time to cross the borders was captured through Time to Cross Survey, incidences of harassment were recorded through Traders' Perception Survey and Trade flows (imports and exports) recorded by Customs Authorities and the Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT) Survey.

3.2 PART 1: FINDINGS OF TIME TO CROSS SURVEY

Regarding the indicators required to monitor the frequency of traders crossing in a way to facilitate business at the respective borders, interviewers observed and recorded the time it takes for the traders to wait for processing of documents as well as time taken to cross the border. This was intended to monitor the delays that might be experienced during border crossing.

3.2.1 Average time taken to Cross the Borders

Survey finding revealed that traders at three borders took different time to process documents as well as crossing the borders. As it has been the reported in the previous survey, traders at Mpondwe took more time than Bunagana and Goli in February 2020. This was attributed to large volumes of goods taken to customs to be cleared and also the distance from one barrier to another which takes more time in transit.

On average it took 6.12 minutes for traders at Mpondwe to process documents and cross the border compared to 6.86 minutes recorded in October 2019, of which 0.36 minutes were taken to process the documents in February 2020 compared to 1.27 recorded in October 2019 while 5.76 minutes were taken to cross the border in February 2020 compared to 5.59 minutes registered in October 2019 if one had no documents to process, See Table 1 below.

At Bunagana, it took traders 4.95 minutes to process documents and cross the border in February 2020 compared to 4.52 minutes recorded in October 2019. It took trader 0.09

minutes to clear documents alone in February 2020 compared to 0.01 minutes recorded in October 2019 and those who had to cross without waiting to process documents took 4.86 minutes in February 2020 compared to 4.51 minutes recorded in October 2019.

Goli border post took the least number of minutes to cross the border. Traders took 2.85 minutes to cross the border in February 2020 irrespective of whether one had to process documents or not compared to 2.97 minutes recorded in October 2019. All respondents interviewed during the months of February 2020 and October 2019 had no documents to process.

Overall, time taken to cross the border dropped to 5.31 minutes registered in February 2020 from 6.14 minutes rise recorded in October 2019. This was due to reduction in flow of trade brought by off season of some products and awareness of border officials about the survey during the observation period.

Table 1: Average Time taken to Cross the Borders (Minutes)

Border	Document Processing					Border crossing					Total Time to Cross				
	Oct-18	Dec-18	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20	Oct-18	Dec-18	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20	Oct-18	Dec-18	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20
Mpondwe	3.21	1.03	1.07	1.27	0.36	10.74	7.55	5.94	5.59	5.76	13.95	8.59	7.00	6.86	6.12
Bunagana	1.40	0.48	0.15	0.01	0.09	3.51	8.28	4.69	4.51	4.86	4.91	8.76	4.84	4.52	4.95
Goli	0.63	0.25	0.12	-	-	5.27	4.24	2.81	2.97	2.85	5.90	4.49	2.94	2.97	2.85
Total	2.11	0.75	0.54	0.63	0.21	6.89	7.37	4.98	5.51	5.10	9.00	8.12	5.52	6.14	5.31

3.2.2 Direction of Traffic of Persons at Border Posts

According to the direction of traffic, most of the respondents interviewed were mainly from Uganda to DR Congo, accounting for 77.3 percent for February 2020 compared to 74.3 percent recorded in October 2019, while only 22.7 percent were entering Uganda from DR Congo compared to 25.7 percent recorded in October 2019. In regard to borders; Mpondwe, Bunagana and Goli border stations registered 69.1 percent, 82.9 percent and 64.4 percent of traders entering DR Congo from Uganda respectively in October 2019 compared to 77.0 percent, 83.5 percent and 53.8 percent recorded in the month of February 2020 as shown in Table 2 below

Table 2: Direction of Traffic Movement of Persons at the surveyed borders

Survey period	Direction	Border							
		Mpondwe		Bunagana		Goli		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
18-Oct	UG to DRC	124	45.4	240	86.6	28	40.0	392	63.2
	DRC to UG	149	54.6	37	13.4	42	60.0	228	36.8
	Total	273	100	277	100	70	100	620	100
18-Dec	UG to DRC	318	69.9	207	72.9	82	75.2	607	71.6
	DRC to UG	137	30.1	77	27.1	27	24.8	241	28.4
	Total	455	100	284	100	109	100	848	100
19-May	UG to DRC	295	71.1	319	75.8	73	56.6	687	71.2
	DRC to UG	120	28.9	102	24.2	56	43.4	278	28.8
	Total	415	100	421	100	129	100	965	100
19-Oct	UG to DRC	250	69.1	252	82.9	47	64.4	549	74.3
	DRC to UG	112	30.9	52	17.1	26	35.6	190	25.7
	Total	362	100	304	100	73	100	739	100
Feb-20	UG to DRC	241	77.0	222	83.5	35	53.8	498	77.3
	DRC to UG	72	23.0	44	16.5	30	46.2	146	22.7
	Total	313	100	266	100	65	100	644	100

Regarding place of residence, of the traders interviewed, 76.2 percent were residing in DR Congo during the survey period of February 2020 compared to 75.8 percent recorded in October 2019. With respect to gender, in February 2020, 67.7 percent of the traders interviewed were male compared to 66.0 percent observed in October 2019 while 32.3 percent were female compared to 34.0 percent registered in October 2019.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that most of the traders (58.7 percent) were mainly carrying manufactured goods while 41.2 percent carried agricultural goods in February 2020, See Table 3 below.

Table 3: Purpose of travel, residence, Sex and type of goods traded

Variable	2017_11	2018_10	2018_12	2019_05	2019_10	2020_02	Average for all surveys
Purpose of Travel							
Business	51.4	73.2	72.3	62.1	64.3	64.8	64.9
Personal	30.3	5.2	4.4	13.1	14.3	11.5	12.6
Transportation	18.3	21.6	23.4	24.9	21.4	23.8	22.5
RESIDENCE							
UGANDA	31.1	30.0	35.0	34.8	24.2	23.8	30.3
DRC	68.7	69.7	64.9	65.2	75.8	76.2	69.6
OTHERS	0.2	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	0.1
SEX							
Male	61.2	66.5	55.2	56.6	66.0	67.7	61.5
Female	38.8	33.6	44.8	43.4	34.0	32.3	38.5
TYPE OF GOODS							
Agricultural	27.7	39.0	42.7	47.2	40.1	41.3	40.5
Manufactured	70.8	60.5	57.0	52.2	60.0	58.7	59.1
Other	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	-	-	0.5

3.2.3 Type of Travellers

The survey sought to establish the type of travelers who crossed the three designated borders. The findings revealed that, 60.3 percent of the travelers during the month of February were traders compared to 54.5 percent registered in October 2019. This was followed by Transporters representing 23.5 percent compared to 26.3 percent registered in October 2019, occasional travelers (non-routine) represented 15.2 percent compared to 17.6 percent during October 2019, See table 4 below.

Table 4: Type of Travelers

Type of Traveller	Percent (%)						
	Nov-17	Oct-18	Dec-18	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20	Average for all surveys
Trader	50.8	70.8	67.2	58.5	54.5	60.3	60.4
Transporter	17.8	22.9	23.5	26.1	26.3	23.5	23.7
Occasional (Commercial or non-routine) Traveller	30.4	6.3	9.0	14.7	17.6	15.2	15.1
Disabled/Special Exception Transporter	0.7	-	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.4
Student	0.3	-	-	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.2.4 Purpose of travel

During the survey, respondents were asked about their purpose of travel. The findings revealed that most of the respondents crossed to do business accounting for 64.8 percent of respondents in February 2020 compared to 64.3 percent registered in October 2019. Other respondent travelled to transport goods and for personal reasons accounting for 23.8 percent and 11.5 percent in February 2020 compared to 21.4 percent and 14.3 percent in October 2019 respectively as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Respondents' purpose of travel

Purpose of travel	Percent (%)						
	Nov-17	Oct-18	Dec-18	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20	Average (Nov-17 to Feb-2020)
Business	51.4	73.2	72.3	62.1	64.3	64.8	64.9
Personal	30.3	5.2	4.4	13.1	14.3	11.5	12.6
Transportation	18.3	21.6	23.4	24.9	21.4	23.8	22.5
Business	51.4	73.2	72.3	62.1	64.3	64.8	64.9

3.2.5 Incidences of harassment

The survey also asked respondents about their experience with regard to incidences of harassment especially solicitation/payment of bribes, intimidation, verbal attack and physical contact. According to the survey findings, 91.4 percent of the respondents never experienced any form of harassment during their border crossing in February 2020 compared to 92.6 percent recorded in October 2019. However there was an increase in solicitation/ payment of bribes recording 7.4 percent compared to 5.5 percent registered in October 2019, followed by those who were intimidated that registered 1.0 percent in February 2020 and October 2019, those who had been verbally attacked reduced to 0.3 percent in February 2020 from 0.7 percent recorded in October 2019. All the respondents indicated that they had not experienced any form of physical harassment in February 2020 compared to 0.1 percent recorded in October 2019, See table 6 below.

Table 6: Incidences of Harassment Reported

Border	Incidence Reported	Freq- (May 19) M	Freq- (May 19) F	Freq- (Oct 19) M	Freq- (Oct 19) F	Freq- (Feb 20) M	Freq- (Feb 20) F	Percentage (May 19) M	Percentage (May 19) F	Percentage (Oct 19) M	Percentage (Oct 19) F	Percentage (Feb 20) M	Percentage (Feb 20) F	May-19	Oct-19	Feb-20
Mpondwe	Solicitation/payment of bribe	12	2	23	4	33	4	2.2	0	4.6	1.2	7.5	1.9	1.4	3.2	5.7
	Intimidation	3	4	5	2	2	2	0.5	1	1	0.6	0.5	1	0.7	0.8	0.6
	Verbal Attack	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.1	0
	Physical contact	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0.1	0
	No Incident of Harassment	243	152	220	181	177	96	44.3	36.1	43.7	54.2	40.2	46.2	40.7	47.9	42.1
Bunagana	Solicitation/payment of bribe	37	29	9	10	9	0	6.7	6.9	1.8	3	2	0	6.8	2.3	1.4
	Intimidation	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.2
	Verbal Attack	7	4	2	3	2	0	1.3	1	0.4	0.9	0.5	0	1.1	0.6	0.3
	No Incident of Harassment	167	181	189	113	174	83	30.4	43	37.5	33.8	39.5	39.9	35.9	36	39.7
Goli	Solicitation/payment of bribe	10	3	0	0	2	0	1.8	0	0	0	0.5	0	1.3	0	0
	Intimidation	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.3
	Verbal Attack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
	No Incident of Harassment	69	45	55	18	39	23	12.6	10.7	10.9	5.4	8.9	11.1	11.8	8.7	9.6
	Total	549	421	504	334	440	208	56.6	43.4	60.1	39.9	67.9	32.1		100	
	Grand Total	970		838		648										

PART 2: TRADE FLOWS THROUGH CORE INFRASTRUCTURE

4.0   Selected Border Trade Flows

This part gives the direction of trade with respect to Uganda and DR Congo at monitored borders. It presents both imports and exports flows under the formal customs system as well as the informal cross border survey conducted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics as shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Value of Goods in US$ ('000) handled through Core Trade Infrastructure from 2017 to 2019

Border Post	Trade Flow	2017		2018		2019		Total		
		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	2017	2018	2019
Bunagana	Export	8,701	12,626	12,484	24,593	23,902	36,310	21,327	37,076	60,212
	Import	34	1,280	49	1,475	72	2,034	1,314	1,524	2,106
Goli	Export	20,796	1,674	10,397	1,444	26,233	1,120	22,470	11,840	27,353
	Import	492	1,428	5,090	775	665	736	1,920	5,865	1,401
Mpondwe	Export	32,023	171,745	61,558	149,303	55,984	189,943	203,768	211,070	245,927
	Import	1,753	9,806	1,926	10,163	2,451	8,897	11,559	12,089	11,348
Total (Bunagana, Goli & Mpondwe)	**Export**	61,520	186,045	84,438	175,340	106,119	227,374	247,565	259,986	333,493
	Import	2,279	12,514	7,065	12,412	3,188	11,667	14,793	19,477	14,855
Overall Annual Totals	**Export**	2,901,642	549,040	3,087,364	546,563	3,563,785	531,870	3,450,682	3,634,245	4,095,655
	Import	5,595,888	80,679	6,729,437	59,983	7,696,029	57,763	5,676,567	6,789,420	7,753,792

Source: UBOS

From the Table 7 above, the value of exports and imports recorded under the informal trade transactions surpassed those recorded under the official customs clearance system at all the three borders. During 2019, the combined exports earnings (formal and informal exports) through the 3 borders monitored were worth $ 333.5 million from US$ 260.0 Million recorded in 2018, of which informal exports were valued at US$ 227.4 million in 2019 from US$ 175.5 million recorded in 2018. This accounted for 68.2 percent in 2019 from 67.5 percent in 2018. Meanwhile, combined imports through the three border posts were estimated at US$ 14.9 million in 2019 compared to US$ 19.5 million recorded in 2018, of which, informal imports were worth US$ 11.7 million (78.5 percent) in 2019 from US$ 12.4 million (63.7 percent) recorded in 2018. The proportion of exports through the borders to overall exports earnings increased to 8.1 percent in 2019 compared to 7.2 percent in 2018. However, the imports proportion through the three borders to the country's total import reduced to 0.2 percent in 2019 compared to 0.3 percent in 2018.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

4.0 Introduction

Cross border trade is critical for both small and medium scale traders in terms of income generation and food security for the communities along the border. The majority of the persons involved in this trade are border residents who derive their livelihood from the business. The ignorance of existing opportunities offered in the regional markets among the traders and border communities is a major hindrance to business expansion.

4.1 Recommendations

1. The government should setup functional Trade Information Desk where traders can access real-time information with regard to markets, prices and document processing at the border posts to ease and lower the cost of doing business. Trade information desks could also act as a mechanism for dealing with non-tariff barriers to trade and resolving day to day complaints experienced by the traders.

2. Sensitization of traders and border officials on customs procedures, traders' rights would empower traders, improve transparency at the borders and would further minimize the incidences of harassment and other related vices.

3. Joint review of data collection methodologies across the countries under the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation project i.e. Rwanda, DRC and Uganda and conducting of surveys simultaneously would enhance data comparability and survey effectiveness on the indicators measured.

4. The Research Assistants involved in data collection should be selected carefully while taking into account of the various languages spoken at the respective borders such as Swahili, French and English including a mixture of Swahili and Lingala. Therefore, there should be continuous training of research assistants to equip them with new techniques of handling respondents and dealing with unique challenges at the borders.

4.2 Conclusion

Cross border trade contributes greatly to the border community welfare and the country's economic growth. Having supportive trade policies towards cross border trade with regard to infrastructure development and streamlining trade operations can lead to increased revenue through the monitored core infrastructure. The lesser the time taken to cross the border, the lower the cost of doing business leading to increased trade.

Therefore, more supportive trade policies geared towards trade facilitation would go a long way in deepening trade and investment across the Great Lakes Region as envisaged by the project.

APPENDICES: Questionnaire Used

Appendix I: Time to cross Questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEASURING TIME TAKEN TO CROSS THE BORDER BY TRADERS, FEBRUARY 2020

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY:

The Time to Cross baseline survey collects information on the time taken by the Cross Border Traders to cross a particular border.

AUTHORITY:

The information is collected under the provision of **Uganda Bureau of Statistics Act, 1998**

CONFIDENTIALITY:

The information provided in this form will remain strictly confidential as per the Uganda Bureau of Statistics Act

INTRODUCTION: "Hi I am working for Uganda Bureau of Statistics and we are measuring the time it takes for traders to cross this border. May I briefly ask you some questions? This should take no more than 3 minutes and your participation is completely confidential."

To be filled by the Enumerator:

Name of Interviewer and Signature	
Date of Interview	
Start Time	
End Time	
Name of Border Crossing	
Name of Supervisor and Signature	

DATA SHEET

CATEGORY	RESPONSE
DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC 1. From UG to DRC **2.** From DRC to UG	
IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT **1.** National ID **2.** Student ID **3.** Business ID **4.** Residential ID **5.** Employment/Institutional ID	
ID NUMBER	
CITIZENSHIP	
COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE 1. UGANDA **2.** DRC **3.** KENYA **4.** TZ 5.Other (Specify)...............................	
SEX **1.** Male **2.** Female	
TYPE OF GOODS* 1. Agricultural **2.** Manufactured **3.** Industrial 4. Other (Specify)_____	
TYPE OF TRAVELLER** 1. Trader **2.** Transporter **3.** Disabled/Special Exception Transporter 4. Student **5.** Occasional (Commercial or non-routine) traveler	
PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	

TIME
    •   *Time taken to cross the border*
    •   *Time taken waiting to process documents*
(Record the current time to the minute)	

INCIDENCES REPORTED (*Note Agency*) If traveler is <u>exiting</u> the customs zone, ask: *"On this cross-border journey, did you experience any of the following from border official?* 1. Solicitation/payment of bribe **2.** Intimidation **3.** Verbal Attack 4. Physical Contact **5.** Other (Specify)..	
PAYMENT *(What is the approximate amount you paid in fees to cross the border?)*	
RECEIPT? *(Were you issued an official receipt for any of your payments?)*	
REMARKS	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME