

ON MEASURING INFORMAL CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Duration 5 years (2022 - 2027)
Budget \$4,000,000

Beneficiaries Selected African countries

Executing entity UNCTAD & United Nations entities

Key Stakeholders Government officials from **National Statistical Offices, customs agencies, financial intelligence units, law enforcement**, ministries that are involved in the formulation and implementation of trade policies and strategies, **business associations and civil society**

4 Pillar Research and Capacity Building Strategy

- 1 App to facilitate the collection of data on informal cross-border trade (ICBT) and its traders
- 2 App to ease access to business and financial services like micro-credit for informal traders
- 3 Research services on artisanal mining, informal trade and its link to IFFs
- 4 Capacity building for Parliamentarians

Challenges and opportunities

- **30 to 40 per cent of intra-African trade is informal**, yet its measurement remains limited
- Data on informal trade and the decomposition of traders remain scattered
- Pan-African statistical standards are yet to be developed
- ICBT is often conducted by vulnerable and unregistered traders, mainly women and youth
- If properly supported, it can generate significant rural non-farm income and **become a catalyst for value chain creation, poverty reduction and the empowerment of women**

Goals of the Informal Cross-Border Trade App

PILLAR 1

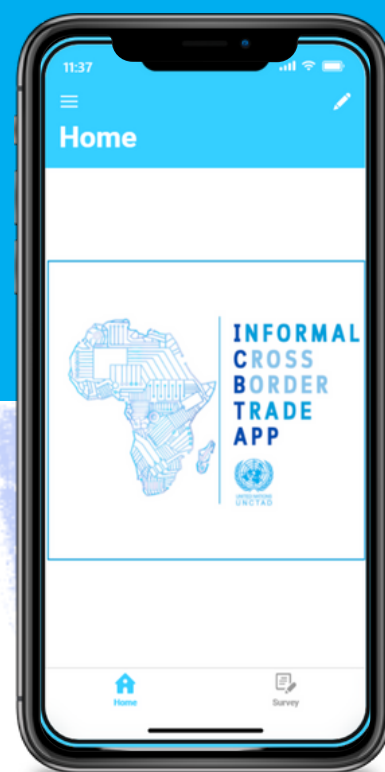
Producing comparable pan-African ICBT statistics

- Develop a conceptual framework for ICBT
- Develop statistical guidelines on the measurement of ICBT
- Facilitate a move from pen & paper to electronic collection of information
- Reduce costs of data collection, transformation, and administrative burdens
- Collect additional demographic data on traders (gender, age, nationality) and Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF)
- Support evidence-based policy making for inclusive gender-strategies

PILLAR 2

Improve access to business and financial services for informal traders

- Create a profile and join the platform
- Register daily-cross border trade transactions easily
- Generate business statistics automatically
- Provide additional information on:
 - women's trader associations
 - micro-finance opportunities
 - business services like profitability of agricultural products, export potential in destination markets, and diversification opportunities
- Add surveyed transactions as verified information to the trader's business profile



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