Who are small-scale cross-border traders?

SSCBTs are typically small-scale economic operators who trade low-value consignments along regional corridors.

Why were the surveys conducted?

- To explore regional trade patterns and dynamics.
- To understand existing impediments affecting SSCBTs.
- To identify frameworks or support that exists for SSCBTs.

Traders and porters, intermediaries, and transporters are generally unhappy with border clearance procedures. Complex requirements create long clearance times, higher costs for small traders, and greater potential for arbitrary enforcement and abuse. Border and market infrastructure were also found to be generally inadequate, while access to finance was often cited as priority constraint.

What did the survey reveal?

- Traders and porters, intermediaries, and transporters are generally unhappy with border clearance procedures.
- Complex requirements create long clearance times, higher costs for small traders, and greater potential for arbitrary enforcement and abuse.
- Border and market infrastructure were also found to be generally inadequate, while access to finance was often cited as priority constraint.

RESPONDENTS

- Border officials
- Traders, porters, intermediaries, and transporters (PITs)
- Traders’ associations
- Local authorities
- Financial institutions

The survey involved:

- 3000 Interviews
- 204 Key Informant Interviews
- 48 Focus Group Discussions
- 24 Border & market sites
- Satellite imagery & pattern-of-movement tracking

SURVEYED BORDER SITES

Atlantic Ocean Gulf of Guinea

Corridors

1. KIDIRA–DIBOLI
2. OUANGOLODOUGOU–NIANGOLOKO
3. PAGA–OMOULA
4. CINKANSÉ–CINKASSÉ
5. MALANVILLE–GAIA
6. JIBIYA

Corridors

- Railway
- Corridor

Managed by the World Bank Group (WBG) and the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) with strategic oversight and guidance provided by the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions.
SSCBTs are key economic actors in West Africa. Because SSCBTs face very specific constraints, the TFWA Program supports ad-hoc interventions at the regional, national, and corridor-levels to ultimately make trade easier, cheaper, and safer for them.

Please visit www.tfwा.ecowas.int for more information.