

# FEED THE FUTURE RWANDA

## TRADE FACILITATION ACTIVITY

As a small, landlocked country, Rwanda relies heavily on cross-border trade. In recent years, Rwanda has made great progress in making trade faster, simpler, and easier. However, many challenges and barriers remain. Key systems are only partly digitized; in particular, the Electronic Single Window has only limited functionality, and there is a lack of standardization as well as persistent issues with Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (NTBs).

### Activity Objectives

#### 1) Reduce non-tariff barriers to trade:

- Provide technical support to Rwanda's National Trade Facilitation Committee for identifying and eliminating the NTBs, and
- Work with private sector associations, particularly Rwandan cross-border traders, to identify NTBs and to develop strategies to reduce, avoid or eliminate them.

#### 2) Enhance digitization of trade processes:

- Expand the scope and reach of the Single Window, thus broadening the number of government bodies that are connected,
- Increase the number of traders who use the portal,
- Support the digitization of advanced rulings by Rwandan Customs, simplified HS Code classifications for traders, and expansion of the online Customs Declaration Form, and
- Increase the number of Authorized Economic Operators in Rwanda, and automate the current paper-based system.

### Expected Results

- Reduced time required for goods to cross Rwanda's borders,
- Reduced cost of moving goods across Rwanda's borders,
- Reduced NTBs, both in Rwanda and within EAC trade partners,
- Increased harmonization of trade policies and standards between Rwanda and its neighbors, and
- Increased digitization of trade processes in Rwanda, particularly through expansion of the Single Window system.

#### Key Information

Implementation period: 2024 - 2028

Activity value: US \$4,998,607

Implementing partner: International Business Initiatives

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