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DRC Cross-Border Trade Impact Evaluation

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Other Identifications / Acknowledgements**Scope: Keywords and Topic Classifications**

Border

Trader/trade

Business skills

Negotiation

Conflict

Harassment

Empowerment

Great lakes

Abstract

Cross-border trade was identified by the World Bank in 2011 as important for economic growth in fragile and in-conflict countries. Small-scale traders across the DRC-Rwanda border, 90% of which were women, had a poor access to information on tariffs and legal procedures, were forced to pay bribes in cash or in-kind, and were subjected to sexual gender-based violence incidents. Among the recommendations made by the World Bank, there was the need for training of border officials and traders, institutional reforms, and a strengthened voice for traders. In this regard, the World Bank funded a multi-component project "Improving the conditions of cross-border traders in the Great Lakes region of Africa," which was implemented by the NGO International Alert from March 2012 to July 2013. The DRC Cross-Border Trade Impact Evaluation focused on the effects of the training, under Component 2 "Empowerment of small-scale traders (via increased knowledge and understanding of regulations and rights and establishment and strengthening of associations/cooperatives)," of the larger project. It was a randomized individual trader-level assignment of 628 traders to treatment (training) and control. There were two rounds of survey data collection conducted by The Catholic University of Bukavu and IPSOS in 2011 and 2013. From the (unpublished) results, there was a potential reduction in sexual and gender-based violence (fewer traders insulted or spit upon), with no increase in "unofficial" fees to border officials. There also was a possible drop in corruption (fee-asking by border officials) emerging from the participation of border officials in the trader's training. Savings from trading activity also seemed to increase for small-scale cross-border traders.

KEY VARIABLES

DRC Cross-Border Trade Impact Evaluation program was designed to evaluate the impact of training on rights, procedures and tariffs, for cross-border traders, on the following outcomes:

- **incidence of corruption**
- trading activity (volume traded, income from trading, and profits)
- sexual and gender-based violence

SURVEY MODULES

- 1- Contact
- 2- Demographics
- 3- Midline demographics
- 4- Housing and assets
- 5- Midline expenditures
- 6- Expenditures
- 7- Trade
- 8- Midline trade
- 9- Border conditions and negotiations
- 10- Midline Border Conditions and negotiations
- 11- Business skills and financial literacy
- 12- Midline Skills and Financial Literacy
- 13- Conflict
- 14- Midline conflict
- 15- Harassment
- 16- Midline harassment

Scope – Summary Data Description

COUNTRIES

Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC) and Rwanda

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The dataset covers the Great Lakes zone, specifically North-Kivu and South-Kivu provinces in DRC country (represented by three fourths of the sample) and the border region in Rwanda country (represented by one fourth of the sample).

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individual trader-level

UNIVERSE

This data set is the baseline and midline survey dataset from a study of 628 small-scale traders across the DRC-Rwanda border in the aim to evaluate the effects of the training, under Component 2 "Empowerment of small-scale traders (via increased knowledge and understanding of regulations and rights and establishment and strengthening of associations/cooperatives)," of the World Bank's project "Improving the conditions of cross-border traders in the Great Lakes region of Africa."

Methodology – Data Collection

TIME METHOD

Baseline data collection took place from August 16 2010, and ended on December 15 2010. Baseline in August 2011 and End-line in August 2013, with the support of the Catholic university of Bukavu and IPSOS.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

A trader roster has been made available through the listing of traders at border crossings to identify 628 traders (90% female), from which 314 initially randomly selected to be trained and 314 selected to not receive the training.

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

Much effort was put into the wording in order to adapt the survey to local and cultural contexts. A team of researchers from the Catholic university of Bukavu, IPSOS and the World Bank worked together to finalize the questionnaire instrument, which was then piloted prior to the survey.

Enumerators were recruited based on their past experiences in conducting survey and their ability to implement the survey in local languages.

All field staff received training on data collection. This consisted of instructive lectures and demonstrations followed by practice sessions with non-sampled cross-border traders, and a final special briefing about different field techniques.

The enumerator teams were led by supervisors and controllers. They were selected among the most experienced enumerators.

A team of researchers from the Catholic University of Bukavu, IPSOS and the World Bank closely monitored all the field activities through frequent visits for spot checking. They revisited random sub-sample of the respondents, called back the respondents for verification of information, and checked completed questionnaires for consistency. During their visits, assistance and guidance were provided to enumerators and their supervisors where needed.

WEIGHTING

None

Related Studies

None

Related Publications

None