



## PRESS RELEASE

# TradeMark East Africa and East Africa's Freight Forwarders body ink US\$ 3.2Million deal to raise capacity in East Africa's logistics sector

**Kigali, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019:** TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) has today announced funding the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA) with USD3.2Million dollars. This will support a four-year programme that provides skills enhancement for customs agents, freight forwarders and warehouse providers in East Africa. The programme, implemented by FEAFFA across East Africa, will offer timely training that is in tune with changing technologies and logistical needs, thus enabling customs agents and freight forwarders to provide competitive and high-quality end to end services.

The two institutions made the announcement as they signed a grant agreement at the ongoing Global Logistics Convention in Kigali, where TMEA was represented by its member of the Board of Directors, Ms. Patricia Ithau and FEAFFA was represented by its President, Mr. Fred Seka.

Dubbed the EAC Logistics Sector Skills Enhancement Program; it will meet the need of the identified large skills gap in the EACs logistics sector; which has resulted to high costs to business. Either because freight forwarder is unaware of certain regulations, or a custom agent is not conversant with multiple country regimes. The two partners said that they expect the programme to evolve into self-sustaining training activities through a robust sustainability model that will generate training related revenue.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Ithau said, "The high logistics costs in East Arica are driven not only by the high cost of inputs required for delivery of goods but also the inefficiencies and poor quality of logistics service delivery."

On his part, Mr. Seka highlighted important components of the programme saying, "One key component is the updating of the East Africa Customs and Freight Forwarding Practicing Certificate (EACFFPC) curriculum and training materials. A strong warehousing module will be introduced to address the skills gaps in this critical element of logistics. We have focused on enhancing FEAFFA's online learning programme as this will ensure that training is available and accessible in many parts of the region. With this funding, FEAFFA introduce a higher - level qualification that will build on the success of the certificate program. The higher - level training program intends to expose practitioners to global practices and position them as global logisticians".

A market study conducted by TradeMark East Africa, 2016 found that there was a lack of capacity building in the transport and logistics sector throughout the EAC region. The study established that clearing and forwarding agents had low capacity, and this compelled shippers to understand the clearing process, an additional skill outside their core area of business. It also established there were limited formal training opportunities in warehousing, resulting in warehouse functionaries learning the basics on the job. Besides, the few existing logistics capacity building programs are provided in large cities; and this locks out operators at far flung regional economic centres and at major border posts to access them.

The programme will: Develop a continuous professional development (CPD) program that will keep practitioners abreast with emerging trends in the industry. Support domestication of the regional model bill on self-regulation for customs agents and freight forwarders in EAC Partner States.

The EAC Logistics Sector Skills Enhancement Program builds on the many years of successful implementation of the East Africa Customs and Freight Forwarding Practicing Certificate (EACFFPC).



EACFFPC is a mandatory training program for customs agents and freight forwarders developed jointly in 2007 by freight forwarders under FEAFFA, East Africa Revenue Authorities and the EAC Directorate of Customs. “More than 6000 customs agents and freight forwarders have graduated from the EACFFPC program across the East Africa since it was launched in 2007” said Elias Baluku, FEAFFA’s Ag. Executive Director as he expressed optimism that the new programme will enable the institution to double this number.

-Ends-

---

## Notes for Editors

### 1. For more information contact:

#### For FEAFFA

Elias Rwamanyonyi Baluku  
Ag. Executive Director  
Federation of East African Freight forwarders Ass  
Tel: +254738150396  
Email: [baluku@feaffa.com](mailto:baluku@feaffa.com)

#### For TradeMark East Africa

Allan Ngugi  
Ag. Director, Business Competitiveness  
TradeMark East Africa  
Email: [allan.ngugi@trademarkea.com](mailto:allan.ngugi@trademarkea.com)

### 2. About FEAFFA

The Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA) is a regional private sector apex body of the Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding industry in East Africa representing over 2500 clearing firms. The Federation aims at promoting a professional freight logistics industry for trade facilitation and regional economic growth. FEAFFA strives to address the challenges experienced by its members at Association, firm and individual levels through provision of training and other aspects of capacity building. The Federation advocates for the removal of barriers that impede the full implementation of the East African Community (EAC) Customs Union.

### 3. About TMEA

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010 with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not for profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and United States of America. TMEA works closely with Regional Intergovernmental Organisations, like the East Africa Community, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.



The first phase of TMEA (2010-2018) delivered exceptional results which contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration in terms of reduced cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase (2018 - 2023) where we will focus on: i) **Reducing barriers to trade;** and ii) **Improving business competitiveness.**

TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with successful operations and offices in EAC-Arusha, Burundi (Bujumbura), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia (Addis-Ababa), South Sudan, Uganda (Kampala), Rwanda (Kigali) and Horn of Africa.

To find out more, please visit our website [www.trademarkea.com](http://www.trademarkea.com)