



SUCCESS STORY

USAID Facilitates Implementation and Launch of First RADDEx in Southern Africa

Though the introduction of the Single Administrative Document (SAD 500) was a major step in trade facilitation in Southern Africa, lack of direct exchange of electronic information between border posts continued to negatively affect transit times.



Photo: Southern Africa Trade Hub

USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub and COMPETE cooperated in providing technical advice on customs systems interface and connectivity between Tanzania and Malawi Revenue Authorities resulting in the joint development of RADDEx and an official launch in February 2010 in Malawi.

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As part of the ongoing effort to modernize customs throughout Eastern and Southern Africa, a need was identified to introduce Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions. These solutions are aimed at streamlining cumbersome customs and trade facilitation procedures thereby reducing delays in cargo clearance and transit times while working towards a paperless, communicating, fully accountable and reportable trading environment.

The Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) decided to implement the *Revenue Authority Digital Data Exchange System* (RADDEx) to reduce delays at their border crossings.

The RADDEx software is a tool of trade facilitation. It is software designed to work in a low connectivity environment utilizing minimal bandwidth. RADDEx transmits customs declaration data, in near real time, from the point of initial lodging, through all affected transit points, to the final destination. This automatic electronic transmission directly results in decreased transit delays through provision of advance notification, facilitation of pre-lodging, elimination of duplicate data entry and risk analysis.

Malawi and Tanzania requested technical assistance from USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, which in partnership with the USAID COMPETE Program based in Kenya facilitated the development and implementation of RADDEx. This was done through a series of meetings, technical workshops and training sessions resulting in the establishment of bilateral operational agreement; installation and customization of RADDEx software at MRA; extensive testing; and training of ICT technical staff.

The launch of the RADDEx is a manifestation of the commitment that MRA and TRA have to promote bilateral and intra regional trade. This will greatly contribute to more efficient and paper free processes as well as creating a transparent trading environment.