

# **FINAL REPORT**

## **FOR**

### **RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

**SUBMITTED TO**  
**TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA**



**COUNTRIES: BURUNDI, KENYA, RWANDA, SOUTH SUDAN,  
TANZANIA AND UGANDA**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	vii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Objective of Rapid Assessment .....	1
1.2 Specific Objectives .....	1
1.3 Key Evaluation Questions and Scope .....	2
CHAPTER 2: RAPID ASSESSMENT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY .....	3
2.1 Approach .....	3
2.2 Methodology .....	3
1.3 Contribution Analysis .....	4
2.1 Rapid Assessment Limitations .....	7
CHAPTER 3: ASSESSMENT FINDINGS .....	8
3.1 Relevance .....	8
3.1.1 Programme Support to Implementation of EAC Common Market Protocol .....	8
3.1.2 Alignment with priorities of EAC and national policies and needs of key stakeholders .....	9
3.2 Effectiveness .....	12
3.2.1 Programme Design and Implementation .....	12
3.2.2 The EAC Regional Quality Infrastructure System .....	13
3.2.3 Project Activities .....	18
3.2.4 Assessment Program Outputs and Results .....	19
3.2.5 Gender Issues and Standards .....	22
3.3 Efficiency .....	24
3.4 Sustainability .....	26
3.5. Coherence .....	27
3.6. Impact .....	28
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION .....	33
4.1 Relevance .....	33
4.2 Effectiveness .....	33
4.3 Efficiency .....	33
4.4 Impact .....	33
4.5 Sustainability .....	34
4.6 Coherence .....	34
CHAPTER 5: CHALLENGES .....	35
CHAPTER 6: LESSONS LEARNT .....	36
CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTION .....	37
ANNEXES .....	39
ANNEX 1: CASE STUDY .....	39
ANNEX 2: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA .....	42
ANNEX 3: CONFIDENCE LEVELS .....	42
ANNEX 4: SQI PROJECT ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT .....	43
ANNEX 5: SQI PROJECT RESULTS ASSESSMENT TOOL .....	46
ANNEX 6: SQI PROJECT RESULTS CHAINS .....	48

ANNEX 7: LIST OF EAST AFRICAN STANDARDS HARMONIZED 2018 TO 2022: ADOPTED AND USED	49
ANNEX 8: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONTACTED .....	52
ANNEX 9: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED.....	57

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Distribution of surveyed respondents by EAC Partner States .....	4
Figure 2: Respondents distribution by gender.....	4
Figure 3: Linkage of the TMEA Supported Strategy II (SQI) Programme Results Chain to TMEA Theory of change.....	6
Figure 4: Percentage of respondents Indicating SQI Programme supports implementation of EAC Common Market Protocol. ....	9
Figure 5: Percentage Respondents who think SQI Programme is aligned with priorities of EAC Trade Facilitation.....	10
Figure 6: Percentage respondents that consider SQI Intervention aligned to national policies on trade facilitation .....	11
Figure 7: Percentage of respondents in EAC Partner States Indicating SQI Programme achieving objectives .....	21
Figure 7: Linkage of the TMEA Supported Strategy II (SQI) Programme Results Chain to TMEA Theory of change.....	48

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Terms and definitions.....	v
Table 2: Overall SQI Project Assessment against Evaluation Criteria .....	viii
Table 3: Level of Adoption and Use of EAS by the EAC Partner States.....	16
Table 4: SQI Project Activity Implementation Status as at June 2022 .....	19
Table 5: Targeted outputs and status as at June 2022 and assessment.....	20
Table 6: Targeted outcomes as at June 2022 and assessment.....	20
Table 7: Respondents by gender on whether standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect male and female owned businesses .....	22
Table 8: Respondents by country on whether standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect male and female owned businesses .....	23
Table 9: Respondents on the effect of gender on access, implementation and compliance to standards and associated conformity assessment processes .....	23
Table 10: Respondents on the effect of standards stringency in sectors that are female-dominated vis-a-vis male dominated field .....	24
Table 11: Value of East African Community (EAC) exports to EAC (US Dollar thousand).....	32

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>BMOs</b>	Business Member Organisations
<b>CAPI</b>	Computer Assisted Personal Interviews
<b>EABC</b>	East African Business Council
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EALA</b>	East African Legislative Assembly
<b>EASC</b>	East African Standards Committee
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informants Interviews
<b>KPIs</b>	Key Performance Indicators
<b>NQP</b>	National Quality Policy
<b>NSBs</b>	National Standards Bodies
<b>OECD/DAC</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Assistance Committee
<b>PT</b>	Proficiency Testing
<b>RCC</b>	Regional Coordination Committee
<b>SACA</b>	Standards Accreditation and Conformity Assessment
<b>SCTIFI</b>	Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SQI</b>	Standards and Quality Infrastructure
<b>SQMT</b>	Standardizations Quality Assurance Metrology and Testing
<b>TBTs</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>TMEA</b>	Trade Mark East Africa
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>VfM</b>	Value for Money

Where these terms are used in the report they will carry the meanings in the table 1 below.

**Table 1: Terms and definitions**

TERMS	DEFINITIONS
<b>Accreditation</b>	Accreditation is the internationally accepted procedure that recognises the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, product certification bodies, quality system certification bodies and inspection bodies. Accreditation schemes minimise the duplication of re-testing and re-certification.
<b>Calibration</b>	This is the set of operations that establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values of quantities indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure or a reference material and the corresponding values realised by standards.
<b>Certification</b>	This is the procedure by which a third party provides written attestation that a product, process or service meets specified requirements.
<b>Conformity assessment</b>	This is when specified requirements for a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.
<b>Equivalence</b>	Equivalence means the acceptance of another party's technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure as fulfilling the same legitimate objectives as one's technical regulation or conformity assessment procedures, even if this fulfilment is reached through different means.
<b>Inspection</b>	This means examining a product design, process or installation and determining its conformity with specific requirements or, based on professional judgement, with general requirements.
<b>Legal Metrology</b>	Refers to the entirety of the legislative, administrative and technical procedures established by, or by reference to public authorities or by reference to public authorities and implemented on their behalf to specify and ensure, in a regulatory or contractual manner, the appropriate quality and credibility of measurements related to official controls, trade, health, safety and the environment.
<b>Measurement standard</b>	This means a material measure, measuring instrument, reference material or measuring system intended to define, realise, conserve or reproduce a unit, or one or more values of a quantity, to serve as a reference.
<b>Metrology</b>	This is the science of measurement that provides characteristics of the product or service in question to be measured in a way which compares them against the physical or chemical reference of known values.
<b>Mutual Recognition Arrangement</b>	Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA's) are agreements between parties that recognise the results of each other's testing, inspection, certification, or accreditation. MRA's are an essential step towards reducing the multiple conformity assessment that products, services, systems, processes and materials may need to undergo, mainly when they are traded across borders.
<b>Proficiency Testing Scheme</b>	This means a system for objectively checking laboratory results using an external agency, including comparing a laboratory's results at intervals with other laboratories, establishing trueness and assessing the accuracy.
<b>Quality Infrastructure System</b>	This is the totality of the institutional framework (public or private) required to establish and implement standardisation, metrology (scientific, industrial and legal), accreditation and quality infrastructure services, such as conformity

TERMS	DEFINITIONS
	assessment services (inspection, testing and product and system certification), calibration and verification, necessary to provide acceptable evidence that products and services meet defined requirements, be it demanded by authorities (regulatory framework or quality policy), the market place (contractually or inferred) and consumers.
<b>Quality management</b>	This means the coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation about quality.
<b>Standard</b>	This is a document or statement established by consensus and approved by a recognised body that provides, for everyday and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.
<b>Technical Barriers To trade (TBTs)</b>	Technical trade barriers are non-tariff barriers that generally result from the preparation, adoption and application of different technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.
<b>Technical regulation</b>	This lays down product characteristics, related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.
<b>Testing</b>	This means determining one or more characteristics of an object of conformity assessment in a specified way.
<b>Verification</b>	This is the procedure of examining a measuring instrument to ascertain and confirm that it complies with legal metrology requirements.
<b>WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement)</b>	The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

Source: World Trade Organisation (WTO) and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. TMEA has been implementing the Standards and Quality Infrastructure (SQI) programme since 2018 and expected to end in June 2023, whose aim is to build a sustainable regional Quality Infrastructure System in the East African Community (EAC) to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market, leading to reduced technical barriers to intra-EAC trade in the individual EAC Partner States. The programme works with National Standards Bodies (NSBs), other regulatory agencies and the private sector through Business Member Organisations (BMOs). The overall aim of this assessment was to ascertain the results, assess the SQI programme's performance and provide the findings, challenges, conclusions and recommendations. The evaluation team used both qualitative and quantitative techniques to collect and analyse data for the evaluation.
2. The evaluation team used the six OECD-DAC standard evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, coherence and sustainability to assess SQI projects' achievement. Each criterion was provided with an overall assessment using a sliding scale of 1 (poor), 2 (fair), 3 (good), 4 (very good) and 5 (excellent); for details, refer to Annex 2. Confidence levels of low (red), medium (yellow), or high (green) indicating the available level of evidence to support the evaluation team's assessment are also provided as detailed in Annex 3. The evaluation team collected secondary data through document review and primary data through key informant interviews and focus group discussions with key respondents that were purposively sampled based on their knowledge on the subject matter being explored. The programme progress towards realisation of the results was good. However, the COVID-19 Pandemic affected progress and realisation of some outputs that required physical meetings. However, with the lifting of the COVID-19 restriction, the programme activities are expected to progress as planned to successful conclusion.
3. Table 2 summarises the overall assessment of the SQI projects according to the evaluation criteria.

Table 2: Overall SQI Project Assessment against Evaluation Criteria

#	Criteria	Assessment (1 To 5)	Confidence Levels	Comments
i.	Relevance	4	High	<p>The evaluation findings indicate that the SQI TMEA supported programme is relevant in responding to the needs of the regulators and businesses in the East African Community (EAC) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Contributing to the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol (Article 3) objective of free movement of goods in the EAC region.</li> <li>ii) Supporting mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes and procedures through peer reviews that contributes to mutual trust and recognition of the NSBs conformity assessment procedures across the EAC;</li> <li>iii) Contributing to the smooth trade operation in the EAC Common Market by supporting the development of: the Technical Regulations Framework for cosmetics and packaged foods that facilitated cross border trade;</li> <li>iv) Activities being consistent with the EAC Treaty (Cap 13, Article 81) which recognizes the significance of applying a common policy for Standardizations Quality Assurance Metrology Testing (SQMT) in the region to promote trade;</li> <li>v) Consistent with the EAC SQMT Act of 2006 (Section 3e) which provides for harmonising national and East African Standards with international standards to facilitate trade;</li> <li>vi) 96% of the stakeholders interviewed revealed that the SQI Programme as aligned to the EAC trade facilitation priorities; and 92% indicated that the SQI programme had responded to their needs as an institution and their members;</li> </ul> <p>The SQI Programme is in line with the TMEA Strategy II theory of change aimed at reducing technical barriers to trade in the EAC region. The evaluation further notes that the project was in line with the World Trade Organizations (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement and is addressing the right identified needs in the region and therefore is highly relevant.</p>



#	Criteria	Assessment (1 To 5)	Confidence Levels	Comments
ii.	Effectiveness	4	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 76% (29) of the planned activities (38) have been implemented to deliver 50% of the targeted outputs and there is good progress towards realising the reminding outputs, that were affected due restrictions imposed by COVID 19 pandemic.</li> <li>ii) 24 standards were harmonised and gazetted as East African Standards (EAS) with adoption rate of 96% by the EAC Partner States.</li> <li>iii) Five (5) Policy Briefs have been developed to support the private sector's voice in the EAC by East African Business Council (EABC).</li> <li>iv) Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods has been developed to facilitate trade.</li> <li>v) The EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill and the EAC Metrology Bill have been developed and are under consideration for passing into law by EALA.</li> <li>vi) The NSBs of the 6 EAC Partners States participated in the peer assessments though South Sudan participated as an observer.</li> <li>vii) Standards and conformity assessments processes do not discriminate against gender, however they affect SMEs more, where most women belong compared to the larger businesses.</li> </ul>
iii.	Efficiency	4	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) SQI project started on 01/01/2018 and was expected to end on 31/06/2023.</li> <li>ii) Value for money economy is being achieved based on technical and financial proposals from the prequalified providers under the framework agreements.</li> <li>iii) Value of money efficiency was achieved by engaging experienced technical experts on framework agreements during the project implementation.</li> <li>iv) Value for money effectiveness indicated that out of the total project planned budget of US\$13.87 million, 72% (US\$9.92 million), was utilised to implement 76% of the activities.</li> <li>v) Further findings indicated 29 (76%) activities were completed out of the 38 that produced 4 out of the 8 expected outputs. Out of the 4 incomplete outputs, 2 are in finals stages, 1 is in progress and 1 is planned.</li> <li>vi) Value for money Effectiveness was further achieved through the TMEA support towards harmonising the regional quality systems (standards harmonisation, technical regulations and mutual recognitions) in the EAC, which contributed to reducing technical trade barriers.</li> <li>vii) Value for money equity is achieved by supporting a regional quality infrastructure system that does not discriminate against gender or nature of and size businesses.</li> </ul>

#	Criteria	Assessment (1 To 5)	Confidence Levels	Comments
iv.	Sustainability	4	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Technical Sustainability was achieved by building technical capacity through training on issues essential to the NSBs functioning effectively and efficiently.</li> <li>ii) Financial sustainability at the national level was being achieved. The NSBs received funding from the respective EAC governments and internally generated revenue by charging fees for buying standards and conformity assessment services like testing.</li> <li>iii) Financial sustainability at the regional level is achieved through the EAC secretariat budget for funding and supports standards, quality assurance, metrology and testing activities.</li> <li>iv) Supporting the regional quality institutional framework and governance structures are leading to mutual recognition and will go a long way to providing an appropriate legal framework at the regional level in the EAC for the sustainable implementation of standards.</li> <li>v) Good will and commitment exist at the EAC regional level and the respective EAC Partner States;</li> <li>vi) TMEA SQI project was implemented and managed in partnership with the relevant, appropriate trade agency, which is critical for sustainability.</li> </ul>
v.	Coherence	4	High	<p>The SQI programme intervention was coherent and compliments other existing initiatives aimed at reducing technical barriers to trade that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>Single Customs Territory (SCT)</b> that promotes free movement of goods in the EAC single market.</li> <li>ii) <b>One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs)</b> aim at increased physical access to markets for both formal and informal traders.</li> <li>iii) <b>Electronic Single Window (eSW)</b> implementation that facilitates international trade by expediting and simplifying information flow between the private sector and the regulatory government institutions, thereby reducing the time and cost of doing business.</li> <li>iv) <b>Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) Scheme</b> aims to enhance trade by reducing business costs, simplifying customs procedures and reducing clearance time.</li> </ul>

#	Criteria	Assessment (1 To 5)	Confidence Levels	Comments
vi.	Impact	3	High	<p>i) SQI Programme is making good progress towards contributing and realising TMEA's impact of reducing technical barriers to trade by supporting the development of regional quality infrastructure.</p> <p>ii) 83% of the stakeholders interviewed revealed that the SQI Project was meeting its intended objectives.</p> <p>iii) The value of intra-EAC export of products whose standards were harmonised increased from US\$160 million in 2018 to US\$227 million in 2021, which was an increment of 42%.</p> <p>iv) Overall support to standards harmonisation and conformity assessment activities is contributing to the reduction in technical barriers to trade in the EAC that results in increased trade, which is good.</p>

4. The evaluation team made the following recommendations:

#	RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS	ACTION POINT
1.	<b>Continue supporting the improvement of quality Infrastructure/conformity assessment services in the EAC region:</b> in order to get general acceptance and trust of Quality Infrastructure Institutions services through accreditation.	TMEA, EABC and EAC Secretariat
2.	<b>Support private sector to actively get involved</b> in the development of the quality policy, implementation thereof and ultimately in the governance structures of the QI institutions because they are key stakeholders.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
3.	<b>Involve the national accreditation bodies, private sector accreditation institutions and consumer associations as key stakeholders of the project:</b> because they are very critical for independent attestation as to the competency of an individual or an organization to offer specified conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection or certification). The consumers under their consumer associations give feedback on the QI system which helps to review, modify and make improvement on the different QI system components to improve on the performance of the QI system.	TMEA, EABC and EAC Secretariat
4.	<b>The QI system implementations should allow for transition periods and confidence-building mechanisms;</b> allow time for the respective EAC Partner States to get better acquainted with the respective institutional settings, promote trust in each other's regulatory systems and smooth frictions that may arise from misunderstanding before the mutual recognition arrangement enters into force.	TMEA, EABC and EAC Secretariat
5.	<b>Continue supporting the Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes</b> in order to assess capabilities, processes and procedures used by each of the EAC Partners States to conduct their conformity assessment testing activities as a way of building confidence and trust in each other's conformity assessment testing activities and thereby promote acceptance of conformity assessment results. The support should include building capacities of the NSBs based on the identified gaps during the Peer Assessments to improve on their competences.	TMEA, EAC Secretariat
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT CROSS CUTTING ISSUES</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>

6.	<b>Support gender issues and inclusivity:</b> NSBs through a Quality Policy make effort to improve the gender equality and inclusivity by encouraging women and small business to participate in standardisation activities such as Technical Committees, trainings and awareness.	TMEA, EABC and EAC Secretariat
7.	<b>Subsidize the conformity assessment fees for SMEs:</b> Some NSBs are supporting SMEs supporting the SMES by subsidizing their certification fees. Other NSBs should be encouraged to borrow this initiative and support the compliance of SMEs to standards, where most women owned businesses belong.	NSBs
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT EFFICIENCY</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>
8.	<b>Continue supporting planned pending activities and timely disburse funds to implementing partners for timely execution of project activities and</b> delivery of project results. Also continue supporting activities that were affected by the COVID19 pandemic to ensure that project results are realized in the reminding project time.	TMEA
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>
9.	<b>Follow up the passing of the SACA Bill and Metrology Bill into Law.</b> The project should continue supporting the finalization and passing of these bills in to law by lobbying politicians as this is a very critical foundation for the EAC QI system.	TMEA, EABC and EAC Secretariat.
10.	<b>Support the development of the regional quality policy:</b> to guide the interaction of government agencies involved in quality and safety control of traded goods: The Quality policy should have atleast 4 key elements that include: Policy Vision/Goal, Policy Objectives, Policy Outcome and Policy Measures.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

5. TMEA worked on the Strategy II Standards and Quality Infrastructure (SQI) programme to build a sustainable regional Quality Infrastructure System in the East African Community (EAC) to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market, leading to reduced technical barriers to intra-EAC trade in the individual EAC Partner States. The project was built on results and lessons learned in Strategy 1, where standards harmonisation facilitated faster standards-related border clearance. As an additional intervention, the regional SQI programme had interventions in:
  - i) Improving regional cooperation in Conformity Assessment Processes.
  - ii) Improving the development and application of technical regulations.
6. The programme was a trade facilitation tool specific to standards, technical regulations and associated conformity assessment processes. It was designed to enhance quality infrastructure related to standardisation, metrology and accreditation of conformity assessment systems; and to facilitate private sector compliance to technical regulations and standards for traded goods in the EAC region. It worked with National Standards Bodies (NSBs), other regulatory agencies and the private sector through Business Member Organisations (BMOs).
7. This rapid assessment measured the extent to which TMEA SQI programme interventions contributed towards ensuring that technical regulations, voluntary standards and conformity assessment procedures do not constitute unnecessary trade barriers.

### 1.1 Objective of Rapid Assessment

8. This assessment's objective was to conduct an accurate rapid assessment of TMEA's Strategy II SQI programme by collecting data in all the six EAC Partner States, where TMEA had been implementing regional interventions in SQI.

### 1.2 Specific Objectives

9. The rapid assessment of the standards and quality infrastructure project specifically involved:
  - a) Identifying and documenting standards that have been harmonised with TMEA support from July 2018.
  - b) Identifying and documenting harmonised standards in use among EAC Partner States since July 2018.
  - c) Identifying and documenting relevant technical regulations frameworks for applicable goods put in place with TMEA support since July 2018.
  - d) Document peer assessment review activities and reports done among EAC NSBs since July 2018, including efforts towards (a) improving conformity assessment systems (b) establishing mutual recognition arrangements for conformity assessment procedures in the EAC.
  - e) Determine the effectiveness of TMEA Standards and Quality Infrastructure Interventions since 2018.
  - f) Determining and documenting the efficiency of TMEA's investment in the Standards and Quality Infrastructure Interventions since 2018, including the Return in Investment for TMEA's funds.
  - g) Determining and documenting the relevance of TMEA's investment in the Standards and Quality Infrastructure relevance of Interventions since 2018.

- h) Determining and documenting the sustainability of TMEA's investment in the Standards and Quality Infrastructure relevance of Interventions since 2018.
- i) Determining and documenting the coherence of TMEA's investment in the Standards and Quality Infrastructure relevance of Interventions since 2018.
- j) Document the actual and potential impact of TMEA Standards and Quality Infrastructure Interventions since 2018.
- k) Identifying and documenting success/impact stories and lessons for communication pieces among programme partners, including private sector beneficiaries.
- l) Identifying and documenting lessons that can be used to improve current and future TMEA Standards and Quality Infrastructure Interventions, including at the Country Programme level.
- m) Identifying gaps in programme implementation for future fundraising and interventions.
- n) Determining the effectiveness of the EABC policy briefs on Standards and Quality infrastructure i.e. relevant audience dissemination, the extent to which they inform decision making and the success rate of implementing recommendations.

### 1.3 Key Evaluation Questions and Scope

10. Specifically, the evaluation answered the six (6) key evaluation questions based on the OECD/DAC criteria of: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and impact. The evaluation also provides the findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding the programme to draw lessons for future design and implementation.

## CHAPTER 2: RAPID ASSESSMENT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

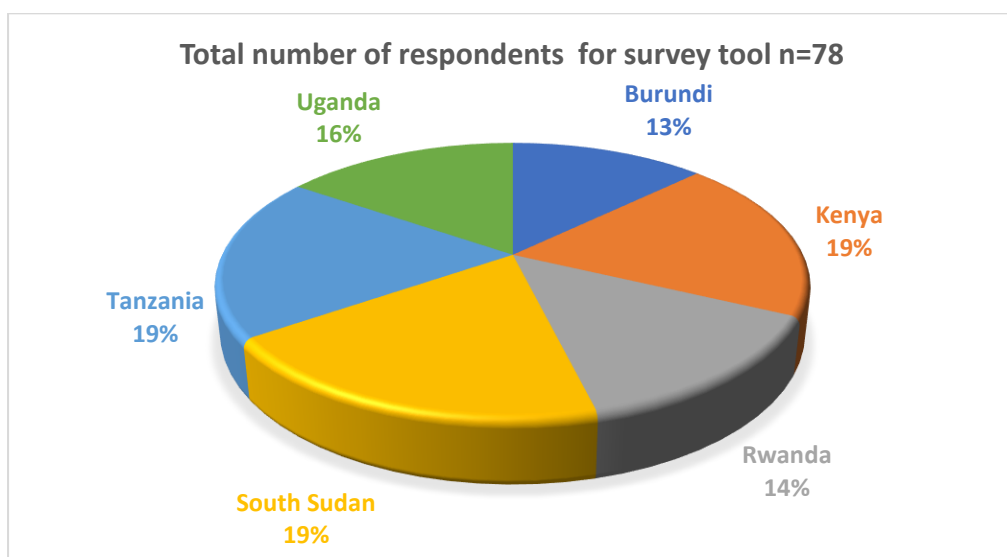
11. This section outlines the approach and methodology used to rapidly assess the standards and quality infrastructure projects. Overall, the rapid assessment approach and methodology were based on the six (6) OECD-DAC criteria: relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, sustainability and impact. In addition, contribution analysis was used to explore attribution using the programme results chain and TMEA Project theory of change (TOC).

### 2.1 Approach

12. The consultant used a participatory approach to collect the necessary data/information from the relevant stakeholders to the assignment for review and analysis during the rapid assessment. All data and information collected underwent quality assurance by data evaluation, triangulation and analysis before using it.

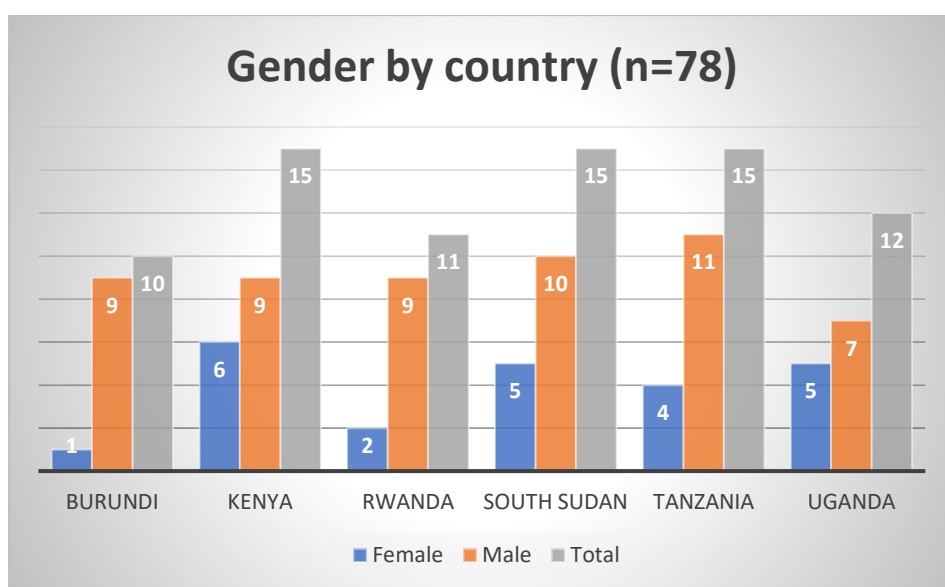
### 2.2 Methodology

13. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used. Primary data was collected through consultative field visits in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, where key informant interviews and discussions were held with identified vital stakeholders (refer to Annex 8 for details of the stakeholders consulted).
14. Secondary data was collected through a desk review of the project documents and other documents relevant to the projects and the evaluation (Refer to Annex 9 for details of the list of the documents reviewed). Thereafter, the collected data was cleaned before analysis and used for writing the report.
15. The rapid assessment of the standards and quality infrastructure project was conducted across the six EAC member states to establish whether the programme met its intended objectives. The rapid assessment targeted standards officials, regulators, business member organisations, manufacturers of juices, cosmetics and related products and sugar and sugar products.
16. The assessment team used purposive sampling to get respondents from the National Standards Bodies (NSBs), other regulatory agencies and the private sector Business Member Organisations (BMOs) and the manufacturers of the products whose standards were harmonized to provide specific information on the SQI projects outputs and the results.
17. The team used questionnaires to collect data from the purposively selected respondents in the six EAC partner states due to their specific knowledge of the project and interrogated issues. The different institutions were contacted and they identified the respondents to participate in the assessment. The number targeted for interview were 108. A total of 83 questionnaires were responded to directly and online, which gave a 77% response rate. The distribution of respondents surveyed in each of the EAC Partner States is shown in Figure 1. The data obtained was cleaned before analysis. For further details of the analysis findings refer to annex 9.



**Figure 1: Distribution of surveyed respondents by EAC Partner States**

18. **Gender:** Of the 78 respondents contacted and interviewed using the survey questionnaire across the EAC Partner States, 23 (29.5%) are females and 55 (70.5%) are males, as detailed in figure 2.



**Figure 2: Respondents distribution by gender**

19. Burundi had the least number of participants and equally the least number of females participating in the assessment, i.e. 10 and 1 respectively, while Kenya had the highest (6) female participants against the nine (9) male counterparts.

### 1.3 Contribution Analysis

20. The evaluation team used contribution analysis<sup>1</sup> to assess the progress made to achieve the TMEA-supported SQI project results and focus specifically to what extent the observed effects were as a consequence of the TMEA-supported SQI projects and established whether the SQI projects made

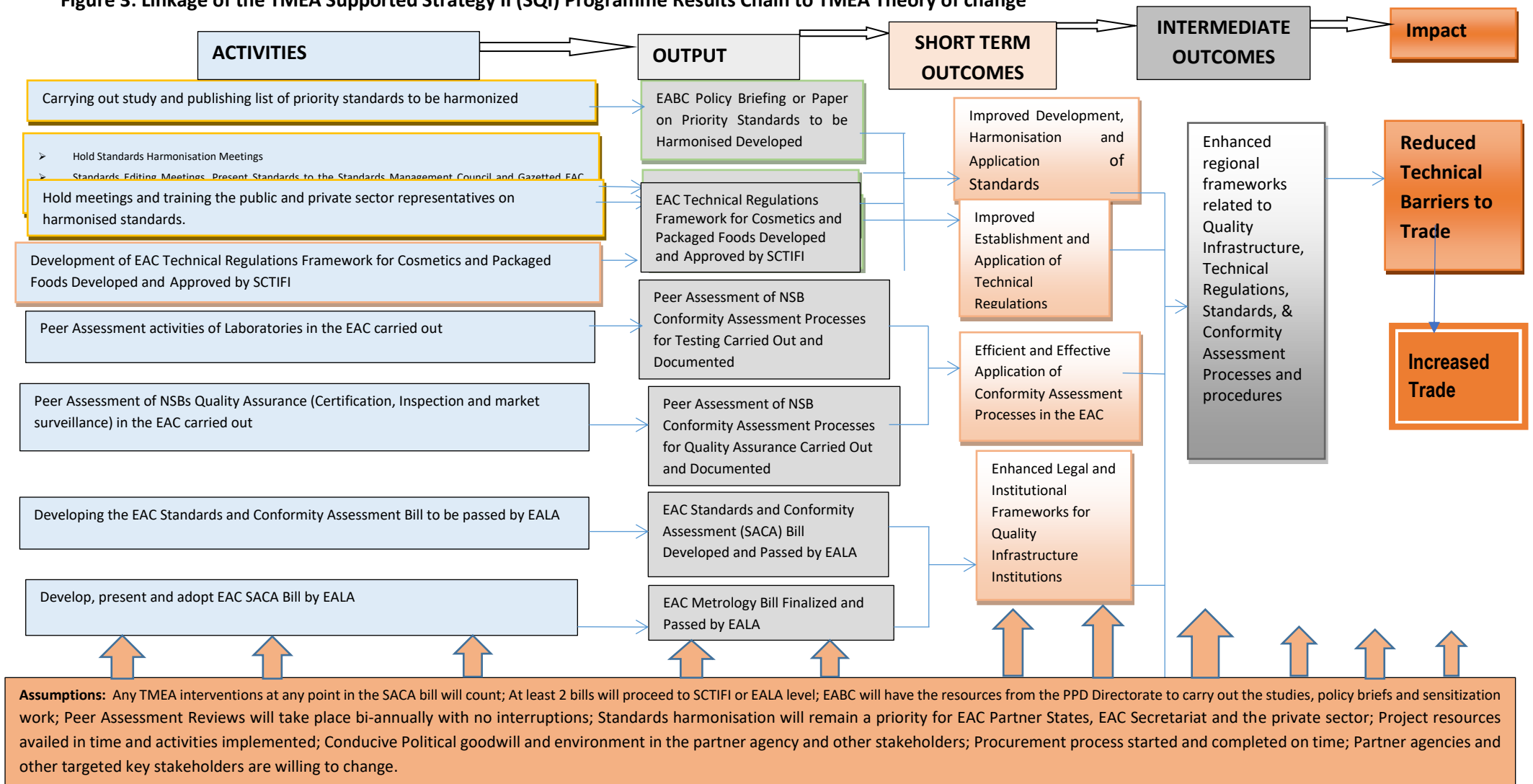
<sup>1</sup> John Mayne (2008), Contribution Analysis, An Approach to Exploring Cause and Effect, ILAC Brief 16.



a noticeable contribution to the observed results. The contribution analysis approach had the following six steps:

21. **Step 1: Setting out the Strategy II standards and quality infrastructure (SQI) project attribution problem to be addressed:** The core evaluation questions in the ToRs set out the specific questions to be addressed and were reviewed by the team to determine the specific cause-effect questions to be addressed and other key influencing factors.
22. **Step 2: Reviewing the Strategy II SQI programme results chains and the TMEA theory of change and the assumptions:** The team reviewed the strategy II SQI Programme results chain and linked them to the TMEA TOC as shown in figure 3. The Programme results chain provides a structured systematic sequence of how the SQI Programme interventions are expected to produce the desired results and link to the TMEA Programme theory of change. The factors and the assumptions that contributed to the Programme results interrogated during the data collection are in figure 3 below and in annex 6.

Figure 3: Linkage of the TMEA Supported Strategy II (SQI) Programme Results Chain to TMEA Theory of change



- 23 **Step 3: Gathering the existing evidence on the Strategy II SQI Programme results chain:** To validate the project results chain, proof in the form of performance indicators for the project was collected on the activities, results, assumptions and the other influencing factors through literature review, interviews and discussions with the TMEA project staff, partner agencies (EAC Secretariat, NSBs, EABC, among others).
- 24 **Step 4: Assembling and assessing the contribution story:** The findings from the data collected in Step 3 for the Programme was analyzed and assessed to identify strong and weak links in the Programme results chain and the credibility of the contribution story.
- 25 **Step 5: Seeking out additional evidence:** From the contribution story in step 4, other evidence was gathered by the evaluation team through desk review and discussions with key informants and FGD participants to augment the evidence in terms of the results, which occurred, the key assumptions and the role of external influences and other contributing factors.
- 26 **Step 6: Revising and strengthening the contribution story:** The evaluation team used the additional evidence collected in step 5 to build a more substantive and credible evidence that made the contribution story stronger. For instance, if we find from intra-EAC trade of the products whose standards were harmonised increase after harmonisation of the standards, this will therefore, provide an argument with evidence from which the rapid assessment team will reasonably conclude that the Strategy II SQI programme intervention contributed to reduced technical barriers to trade.

## 2.1 Rapid Assessment Limitations

27. Whereas there were some delays in getting the relevant data from the government agencies due to bureaucracy, the evaluation team generally received the necessary cooperation and openness from the SQI projects staff, partners and beneficiaries in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda and wishes to record its' appreciation for all the assistance provided. The methodology used proved appropriate for the rapid assessment and no significant limitations undermining the finding's reliability, validity or utility were identified. The other burden was that some baseline data was not provided in monitoring plans and this was mitigated by the evaluation team collecting the relevant baseline where possible.

## CHAPTER 3: ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

28. Based on the evidence from the review of the available project documents and other relevant literature and interviews with Programme staff and stakeholders across the EAC Partners States, the team organised the findings according to the 6 OECD-DAC criteria for evaluating development assistance and in line with the assessment requirements in the ToRs. The evaluation findings in this report cover the period 2018 to June 2022.

### 3.1 Relevance

**Relevance: this is how the Strategy II SQI project intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries' global, country and partner/institution needs, policies, priorities and continue to do so if circumstances change.**

The evaluation team assessed and ascertained the relevancy by answering the following evaluation questions:

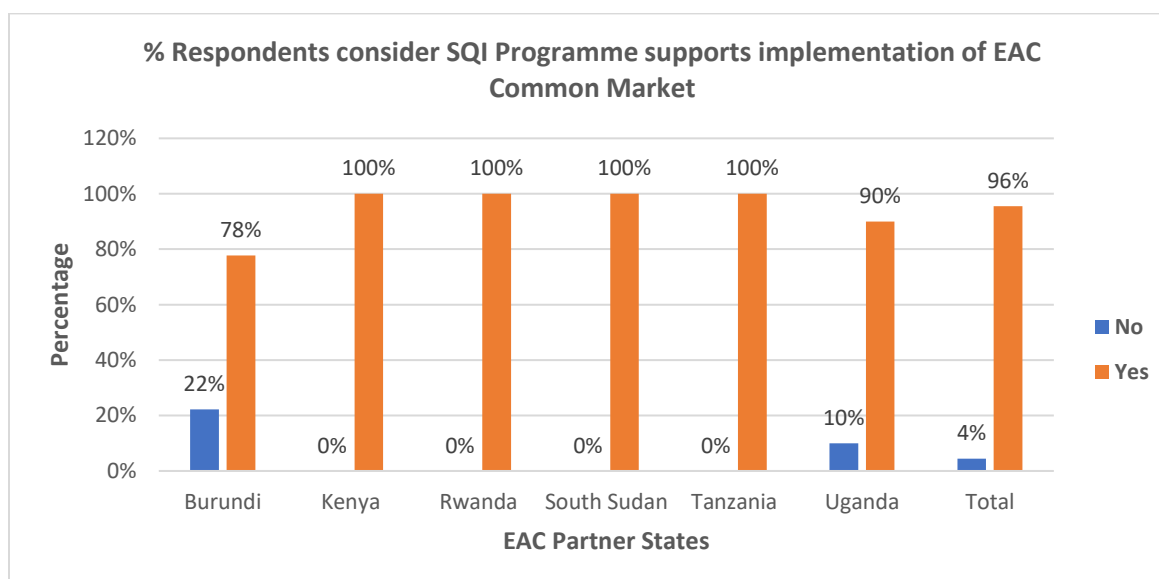
- a) How necessary is the TMEA-supported intervention regarding building a sustainable regional quality infrastructure system in the East African Community (EAC) to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market?
- b) How is the TMEA-supported intervention aligned with the priorities of EAC, the government's national policies and strategies and the needs of key stakeholders (Including the Partner States, the Private Sector, TMEA and its donors)?

#### 3.1.1 Programme Support to Implementation of EAC Common Market Protocol

29. **Free movement of goods:** The evaluation findings indicated that the TMEA-supported SQI Programme was designed to contribute to implementing of the EAC Common Market Protocol (Article 3) objective of free movement of goods in the EAC region. In addition, the TMEA-supported Programme contributed to reduced instances of multiple conformity assessment checks for goods traded within the EAC. It hence reduced technical barriers to trade among the EAC Partner States.
30. **Mutual recognition of Conformity Assessment Processes and Procedures:** The evaluation findings further revealed that the Programme intervention was relevant, critical and timely. During the evaluation, it was evident that fact goods traded in the EAC only needed to undergo one standards-related conformity assessment process to access the rest of the EAC Common Market, which has reduced the technical barriers to trade that were previously experienced by the business community and thus enhanced the free movement of goods across the EAC.
31. **Support to strengthen the regulatory framework to facilitate trade:** The evaluation findings further revealed that the Programme contributed to the smooth trade operation in the EAC Common Market by supporting the development of: the Technical Regulations Framework for cosmetics and packaged foods; EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment Bill; the EAC Metrology Bill; and standards harmonization;
32. **The EAC Framework to facilitate cross border trade** of pre-packaged foods and cosmetics was developed with TMEA support to enhance the free flow of trade across the borders in line with EAC Common Market, while maintaining an appropriate level of consumer protection, of processed pre-

packaged food products, non-medicated cosmetics and herbal cosmetics without medicinal claims. The overall objective of the framework is to provide a comprehensive harmonised approach to implementing regulatory controls for food and cosmetic products based on the principles of risk-based preventive controls, equivalence, harmonisation, mutual recognition and adherence to ISO/C Conformity Assessment standards while still achieving the twin critical goals of improved consumer protection and facilitating trade in the EAC and thus contribute to the implementation of the EAC Common Market.

33. **The EAC Metrology Bill**, which was developed and drafted with support from the Programme, aims: to establish the East African Metrology Committee to coordinate scientific, industrial and legal metrology activities within the Community; to provide for the implementation of metrology systems within the Community through traceability to and in conformity with international systems; to facilitate the mutual recognition of measurements by national metrology systems; and to provide for related matters that will facilitate trade in the region.
34. The findings by the survey conducted by the team in the EAC Partner States indicates that when the respondents were asked about whether the SQI programme had achieved its desired objectives of sustainable regional quality infrastructure system in the EAC, 64 (83%) out of 67 said yes; of the 62, females were 16. Refer to Figure 4 for details. For Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania, all the stakeholders interviewed indicated that the SQI Programme supports the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

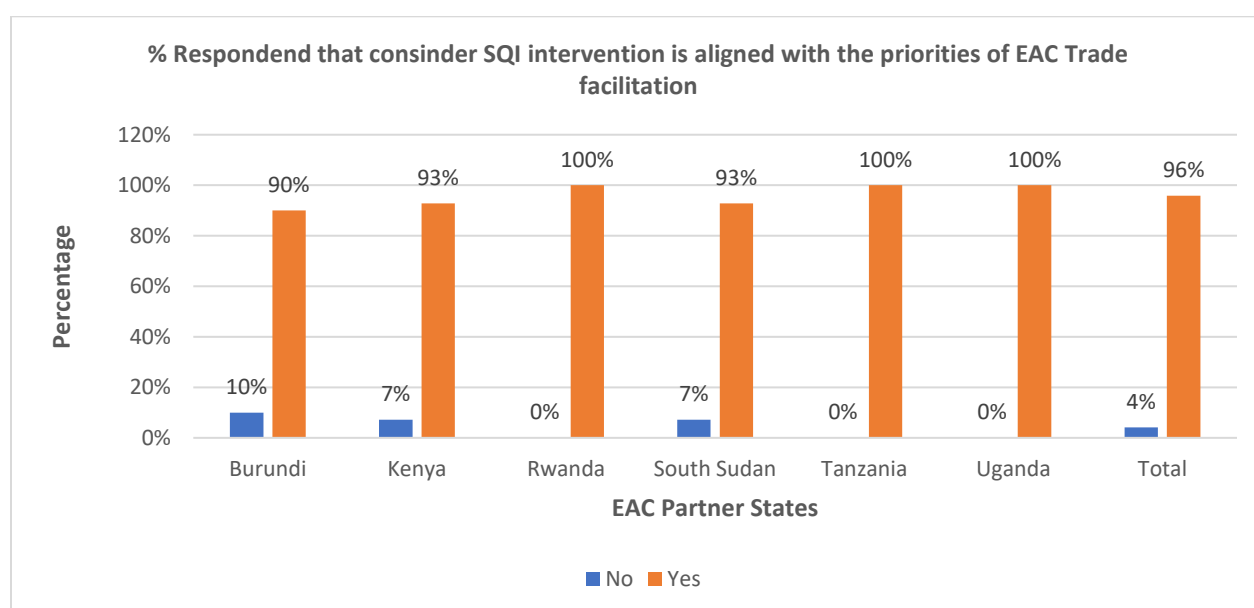


**Figure 4: Percentage of respondents Indicating SQI Programme supports implementation of EAC Common Market Protocol.**

### 3.1.2 Alignment with priorities of EAC and national policies and needs of key stakeholders

35. **Alignment with the priorities of EAC:** The evaluation findings showed that the TMEA supported Programme activities were consistent with the EAC Treaty (Cap 13, Article 81) which recognizes the significance of applying a common policy for Standardizations Quality Assurance Metrology Testing

(SQMT) in the region to: promote trade, protect the environment and the consumers. In addition, the project was consistent with the EAC SQMT Act of 2006 (Section 3e) which harmonised national and East African Standards with international standards to reduce business costs, enhance compliance and develop trade opportunities. The evaluation findings further showed that the project interventions were in line with the EAC Vision 2050 aimed at fully harmonised standards for all goods in the region and in conformity with WTO standards and eliminating non-tariff barriers to trade in the EAC region. The evaluation team also found that the project interventions were directly in line with the Sixth EAC Development Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26 strategies aimed at the development of EAC standards for the most traded EAC products and locally produced products to streamline, simplify and to harmonise Trade Administrative procedures and regulations in the EAC. These findings align with the stakeholders surveyed during the assessment 96% of them indicated that they consider the SQI Programme as aligned to the EAC trade facilitation priorities, with Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda showing 100% of the respondents shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5: Percentage Respondents who think SQI Programme is aligned with priorities of EAC Trade Facilitation**

- 36. Alignment with the priorities of the government national policies and strategies, key stakeholders (Including Partner States, Private Sector, TMEA and its donors):** The National Bureaux of Standards (NSBs) in the EAC region are government agencies that carry out all standards-related processes that included: development and harmonization of standards; product, system and process certification, laboratory testing, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology. The evaluation found out that the implementation of the SQI Programme activities was based on an initial Needs Assessment of the respective NSBs in the EAC and took into consideration the good political-will of the respective EAC governments for the full support and participation of the private business community which enhanced the projects relevancy in the region.
- 37.** The evaluation findings further indicated that standards development and harmonization processes were in line with the EAC Principles and procedures for the development of East African Standards of

2012. The principles included: Openness, Transparency, impartiality, Consensus, Effectiveness and relevance, Coherence and Development dimension. The evaluation showed that these procedures and principles were used as a reference tool and guide for the development of (East African Standards (EAS)).

38. The evaluation findings indicated that the SQI project was designed and structured to respond to the specific needs of all parties, in the private and public sectors of reducing instances of multiple conformity assessment checks for goods traded. The findings further indicated that the SQI Project specifically aimed at standards harmonisation, uniformity of conformity assessment processes and promoting equivalence of technical regulations. The aim was to reduce Barriers to Trade which was critical to the success of TMEA's outcomes of Improved Business Competitiveness and thus contributing to increased trade. From the stakeholders surveyed during the evaluation, 90% of all the respondents in the EAC partner states agreed that SQI Programme was aligned with the EAC national Priorities, with 100% of respondents in Rwanda as detailed in Figure 6. Also, from the stakeholders interviewed during the evaluation, 66 (92%) out of 72 indicated that the SQI programme had responded to their needs as an institution and their members.

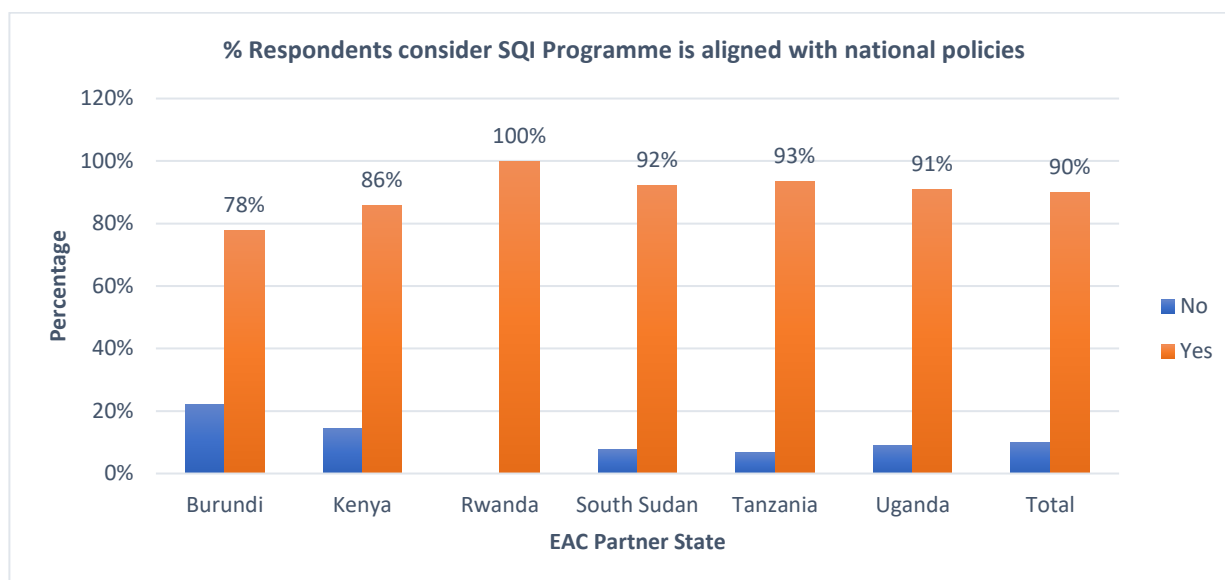


Figure 6: Percentage respondents that consider SQI Intervention aligned to national policies on trade facilitation

39. **Relevancy to TMEA's theory of change, policies and priorities:** The Quality Infrastructure (SQI) aims to build a sustainable regional Quality Infrastructure System in the East African Community (EAC) to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market, leading to reduced technical barriers to intra-EAC trade in individual EAC Partner States. In addition, SQI project is implementing interventions on improving regional cooperation in Conformity Assessment Processes and Improving the development and application of technical regulations. All these project interventions were of the SQI project were very relevant and in line with the TMEA theory of change Strategy II aimed at reducing barriers to trade.
40. **Relevancy to the World Trade Organizations (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement:** The WTO agreement on TBT aims to reduce impediments to trade resulting from differences between

national regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. Evaluation finding indicated that the TMEA supported SQI project activities and objectives in line with the WTO TBT Agreement that emphasizes the importance of standards and conformity assessment procedures in domestic and international trade. The agreement also requires that such procedures do not be prepared, adopted, or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to trade. The evaluation further noted that the project intervention and the WTO TBT Agreement further recognizes that harmonized standards and conformity assessment procedures can expedite when harmonized or seriously hinder the free flow of goods in international commerce when unharmonized.

41. Overall, the evaluation findings revealed that the SQI projects intervention relevancy was very good because it responded to the needs and challenges of the stakeholders at regional, national and institutional levels. Of the stakeholders interviewed, 90% and above confirmed that the TMEA-supported intervention was aligned with the priorities of EAC and the government national policies and strategies and the needs of key stakeholders at regional, national, institutional and members levels.

### 3.2 Effectiveness

**Effectiveness: the extent to which the Strategy II SQI project intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results, including any differential results across groups.**

The evaluation team assessed and ascertained:

- a) What results (outputs and outcomes) against the planned results have been the realised by Standards and Infrastructure programme?
- b) What factors were critical for the achievements or failure of the project results?
- c) What are the significant achievements with regards TMEA crosscutting aspects such as Gender, Climate Change and Poverty that were realised by the project?
- d) What are the private sector success stories about the benefits from the project?

42. The evaluation team found that the project worked with the NSBs in the respective EAC Partner States, the EAC Secretariat, EABC and the private sector through Business Member Organisations (BMOs) by providing financial and technical support was appropriate and effective. More specifically, TMEA's funds were directed towards supporting technical assistance to the EAC and National Quality Institutions, training to the private sector to acquire certification and activities requiring consensus building, such as the harmonisation of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment processes. The evaluation team further found out that the NSBs in the respective EAC Partner States were very critical in the project implementation because they had the legal mandate and were the responsible institutions to handle SQMT related activities during project implementation.

#### 3.2.1 Programme Design and Implementation

43. **Projects Design, Management and Implementation:** The project was designed to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol to promote the free movement of goods by



supporting the harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures affecting trade in goods in the EAC. The evaluation findings revealed that the Programme was being managed at the regional TMEA head offices in Nairobi, Kenya.

44. The evaluation findings further revealed that the project implementation involved stakeholders ranging from public to private sector with different needs and requirements and that a systematic approach was adopted from the outset by TMEA and its implementing partners by signing of agreements in forms of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Financing with all the respective partner states NSBs, EAC secretariat and EABC. This was a good approach because it provided the project decision-makers with good implementation directions for each of the implementing partners. These agreements between TMEA and the EAC partner states of the project clearly stipulated the project scope/description, the parties and their obligations, project budgets, duration, termination, procurement arrangements, governance, dispute resolution and jurisdiction which was a good practice and very commendable for the project implementation of this nature.
45. The evaluation findings indicated that the implementation approach of working with institutions with relevant mandates to handle SQMT and trade related activities in the EAC such as NSBs, EAC secretariat and EABC was a good governance model that was adequate, appropriate and effective for management and delivery of the projects results. Further evaluation findings indicated that the project had monitoring plans that were used to track project progress however there was need to regularly update the monitoring plans to reflect the status of the projects and inform decision making.
46. **The Project Risk Management and Mitigation:** The evaluation findings also indicated that the Project had a risk management plan and mitigation strategies in place. The risks were analyzed and reviewed periodically to identify possible threats to the projects which was a good practice.

### 3.2.2 The EAC Regional Quality Infrastructure System

47. The evaluation team noted that SQI project supported the building of a sustainable Quality infrastructure Systems at the national and regional levels in the EAC to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market, leading to increased intra-EAC trade. The evaluation team further noted that building of a quality infrastructure Systems was a good tool for defining, developing and verifying quality requirements for products and services and demonstrating that products and services actually meet set requirements. The evaluation team also noted that for the successful and effective implementation of a Quality Infrastructure system, the key main elements to be taken into consideration included: Governance, Quality Infrastructure Institutions, Quality Infrastructure Services, Private Enterprises and Consumers: Under the QI system, these key elements operate in as follows:
  - a) **Governance Element:** The evaluation team noted that the governance of a Quality Infrastructure needs to have a Quality Policy and Regulatory Framework developed. However, the evaluation team further noted that a technical regulatory framework for cosmetic and packaged foods had been developed to help and ensure that the respective regulator can work within the set framework in order to ensure consistency and avoid related TBTs. The evaluation evidence showed that the regional

quality policy was not developed and yet the regional quality policy was the basic and main instrument for establishing and overseeing the QI system.

- b) **Quality Infrastructure Institutions element:** The evaluation team found out that for the QI system to function properly there should be quality infrastructure institutions to provided service and these institutions included: National Standards Body (NSBs), National Metrology Institute, Legal Metrology Department, Calibration Laboratories, National Accreditation Body and a Private sector accreditation body. All the mentioned institutions were involved in the Programme implementation however, the National Accreditation Body or Private sector accreditation have not been involved in the SQI project and yet they are very important for independent attestation as to the competency of individuals and organization to offer specified conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection or certification).
  - c) **Quality Infrastructure Services element:** The evaluation findings indicated that for the QI system to operate effectively there should be services offered and the services offered under the QI system include: Quality Promotion, Inspection, Testing, Certification, Calibration and Verification. The evaluation findings further indicted all these service providers in the respective EAC partner states were included in the project implementation and in the setting up of the quality infrastructure framework.
  - d) **Private Enterprises element:** The evaluation team found out that the private sector enterprises are in most cases the ones demanding for the quality infrastructure services and are also expected to meet set standards and requirements. The evaluation team further found out that the Private sector enterprises were involved through the East African Business Council (EABC) and are still involved in the building of the regional quality infrastructure.
  - e) **Consumers Element:** The evaluation findings indicated that Consumer Associations are one of the critical elements to be considered under the quality infrastructure system. The evaluation findings further indicated that the emphasis of a QI system should be on markets and consumers. This was because feedback for the consumers allows review, modification and improvement of the different QI system components and of the whole quality infrastructure and it is this feedback that help to improve on the performance of the QI system. The evaluation findings indicated that consumer associations were not fully involved in the SQI project and yet they are very critical in operations of the QI system.
48. **East African Business Council (EABC) Policy Briefs:** The evaluation findings indicated that the SQI project supported EABC to represent the private sector views in the EAC and also develop Policy Briefs and papers on the Priority Standards to be Harmonised, which was done and submitted to the EAC for consideration and adoption. The policy briefs were disseminated and the list of priority standards to be harmonized was shared for support. The evaluation findings further noted that the EABC Secretariat presented the private-sector policy priorities and solutions to barriers to trade in high-level engagement and in particular at the EAC Organs. Through the EABC, stakeholders from the Private Sector were involved at regional level in East African Standards harmonization activities and development of the processed food and cosmetics framework to facilitate cross border trade.

49. The evaluation team found out that EABC was an observer in the EAC meetings and specifically to East African Standards Committee (EASC) and by virtue of that was legible to participate in any task force or committees undertaking Standardization, Quality Assurance, Meteorology and Testing (SQMT) related activities. The evaluation team further found that this enabled EABC to be represented in the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) for the implementation of the food and cosmetics framework for purposes of harmonizing the varying positions from the EAC Partner States private sector.
50. The evaluation team notes that because there is no ready-made QI model that will suit all countries, a tailor-made approach was necessary. The QI adjusts to meet the national and regional requirements that have been identified by a thorough assessment of needs that was done before the project implementation. 57% of the respondents interviewed revealed that the EABC policy briefs on SQI were effective in informing policy decisions indicating that this approach and level of engagement by EABC was effective and informed decision making during the implementation of the project.
51. **Harmonized East African Standards:** The evaluation team noted that standards harmonization was one of the good trade facilitation tools used during project implementation. The evaluation team noted that harmonization is probably the most well-known trade-facilitating tool with the goal of uniformity of trade measures and requirements. The evaluation findings revealed that with support from TMEA through the SQI project, the Priority Standards Harmonized were under three (3) product categories that included: processed horticulture products; sugar and sugar products; cosmetics and related products. The evaluation findings further revealed that a total of 24 standards had been harmonized against a target of 80 standards from 2018 to June 2022, which was far below the target. On interrogating further, the why the achieved targets were low, it was revealed that the EAC Partners States in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat were finding it sustainable to handle standards harmonization with minimal support.
52. In additional, the set target was not met because of the COVID 19 pandemic that affected the project activities beyond the control of the project implementation team. From the interviews with the respective NSBs in the region, the evaluation team noted that 96% of the standards had been adopted in all the EAC Partner States against a target of 90% and they were being used, which is very good. The level of standards adoption and use by each of the six EAC Partner States is shown in Table 3 and details of the standard harmonized, adopted and are in use are detailed in annex 7. Furthermore, the project support towards standards harmonization was contributing directly to the improved development, harmonization and application of standards in the EAC. In addition, harmonization led to a situation where EAC partner states implement the same measures and requirements based on the same regulatory objectives. The evaluation team also found that with the project support, the public-private representatives were to be sensitized on harmonized standards however, this was not yet realized because of the COVID 19 pandemic that affected its full implementation and realization, because some aspects needed physical meetings.

**Table 3: Level of Adoption and Use of EAS by the EAC Partner States**

Burundi		Kenya		Rwanda		South Sudan		Tanzania		Uganda	
Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used
100%	83%	100%	100%	96%	96%	100%	67%	100%	100%	96%	96%

53. **Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods:** The evaluation findings indicated that with support from the TMEA SQI project, the EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods was developed and approved by EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI). The evaluation findings further indicated that the framework was developed for facilitating cross border trade in the EAC for processed food and cosmetic products and this directly contributed to the achievement of the goals of the EAC Common Market of free movement of goods.
54. The evaluation team also noted that, because of the mandatory nature of technical regulations, they have the potential to become technical barriers to trade (TBT) that prevent or hinder the flow of goods and services between nations. In particular, the inconsistent use of standards and regulations can create technical barriers. Therefore, the EAC quality system supported by TMEA included the regulatory framework that each regulator in the region would work within in order to ensure consistency.
55. From the evaluation findings, the evaluation team found out that before the development of the framework with support from TMEA, in some Partner States processed food and cosmetic products were regulated by more than one regulator with each having different requirements creating multiple regulatory requirements to comply with. In addition, these multiple regulatory requirements had created a significant obstacle to EAC trade across borders in these products. The evaluation team further found out that the development of the Cosmetics and Packaged Foods framework helped in integrating the implementation of the different regulatory controls and measures specifically for food and cosmetic products by the respective relevant regulatory institutions. In addition, the framework ensured trade facilitation of these products through mutual recognition of the common aspects of their regulatory controls and avoided duplication or multiple interventions, while ensuring consumer protection.
56. The evaluation findings showed that the framework enhanced intra-EAC trade in processed and pre-packaged foods and cosmetics products without medicinal claims by removing or minimizing the impediments/NTBs and this was contributing to the improved establishment and application of Technical Regulations in the EAC and promoting free movement of good in the EAC.
57. **The EAC Standards Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill:** The evaluation team found out that the SQI project supported the drafting and development of the EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill. At the time of the evaluation, this SACA bill was not yet passed into law but was before the East African legislative Assembly (EALA) to be passed into law in the nearby future. The evaluation team further found out that before TMEA support, the respective EAC partner states required the traders in the EAC common market to comply with different sets of national regulations and conformity assessment procedures. This created a challenge of market access, complying with multiple trade requirements and mistrust among the respective national

bureaux of standards on their capacity to enforce standards and technical regulations. The evaluation team further found out that the SACA bill passed into law, was to create a harmonized <sup>2</sup>quality system in the EAC and ensure that the respective EAC partner states are obliged to comply with the law.

58. **EAC Metrology Bill Finalised and Passed by EALA:** The evaluation findings indicated that with support from TMEA, the SQI project supported the development of the EAC Metrology Bill whose development was finalized. However, at the time of the evaluation, the EAC Metrology Bill was yet to be passed in law by EALA. No testing would be possible unless the characteristics of the product or service in question can be measured in a way, which compares them against physical or chemical reference of known values. Therefore, adequate methods for measuring the properties of products and services are fundamental to the quality assessment process.
59. The evaluation team noted that without the metrology<sup>3</sup> law in the EAC, the business community was facing challenges of complying with different measurement and weighing requirements in the respective EAC partner states that created unnecessary technical barriers to trade in the region. Once this metrology bill is passed into law these challenges will be solved because all the EAC partner states will be required to comply with the metrology law and the business community will be cloying with one uniform measure procedure in the EAC region. The evaluation also notes that calibration services could be provided by both public and private sector calibration laboratories but the national metrology institution in the respective NSBs are charged with the responsibility to help build calibration capacity in their respective countries.
60. The evaluation findings indicates that once the EAC SACA Bill and EAC Metrology Bill is passed into law by EALA, it will address the challenges market access and compliance to multiple conformity assessment requirements. This will hence contribute to the EAC enhanced Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Quality Infrastructure Institutions and reduction of conformity assessment related NTBs.
61. **Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing in the EAC:** The evaluation findings indicated that the SQMT Act 2006 provides for peer assessment covering the conformity activities of: Product certification, import inspection, Market surveillance, Testing, Calibration and Proficiency testing however, TMEA started with supporting towards Peer Assessment of NSB in Proficiency testing by carrying out a gaps assessment. This was because conformity assessment bodies conducting the same type work have used peer assessment in order to assess capabilities, processes and procedures used by each other to conduct their conformity assessment activities as a way of building confidence and trust in each other's conformity assessment testing activities and thereby promoting acceptance of conformity assessment results.
62. The assessed Proficiency Testing (PT) Participating Laboratories were mainly from the NSBs in: Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. The laboratories that participated included: Centre National de Technologie Alimentaire (CNTA ) and Laboratore D'Analyse Des Sols Et Produits Agro Alimentarres (LASPA) 2 laboratories in Burundi; from Kenya it was 1 laboratory GMP

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<sup>2</sup> SACA Bill defines a Quality System as "the totality of policy, legal, infrastructure and institutional arrangements that provide support and services in standards, testing, certification and accreditation in both the regulatory and non-regulatory domain".

<sup>3</sup> Metrology is the science of measurement.

Services Ltd; from Tanzania the 3 laboratories were Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), Chief Government Chemistry Laboratory Agency (CGCLA), Zanzibar and Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) and in Uganda they were 5 laboratories that included: St. Michael Food Laboratory and Consultancy Ltd, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), UNBS Microbiology Laboratory, UNBS Material Testing Laboratory and UNBS Electrical Testing Laboratory.

63. The evaluation findings further noted that addressing the peer assessment gaps will contribute to the Proficiency testing provider's accreditation, improve and strengthen the services to the participating laboratories. In addition, this enabled laboratories to validate results and hence assurance of health and safety of human and the environmental and also facilitate trade in terms of reduction of technical barriers to trade and benefit the EAC common market.
64. **Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance at the EAC level;** The evaluation team found out that Mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes among EAC states was also a good trade facilitation. The evaluation findings noted that conformity assessment procedures were technical activities such as testing, verification, surveillance, inspection, certification and accreditation, which confirm that products or processes fulfil the requirements laid down in regulations and standards.
65. The evaluation findings further noted that TMEA supported the Mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes activities at the EAC level. The support mainly targeted strengthening implementation of mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes in the EAC through pre-assessments to reduce and eliminate the challenges of lack of trust and rejection of test results/certificates and reduce instances of goods retesting/recertification of products in the EAC.
66. The evaluation findings also showed that Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment outputs on testing was completed but the Mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes at the EAC level output was not yet fully realized because of the COVID 19 pandemics that greatly affected the implementation of project activities.

### 3.2.3 Project Activities

67. **Project activity assessment:** The evaluation team found that the project supported several activities at the regional level through the EAC secretariat and the East African Business Council (EABC). The overall project input and implementation model was through the provision of technical assistance (TA) and financial assistance. The support included: training and awareness; standards harmonization, development of technical regulations, Peer Assessment of Laboratories, Accreditation/Capacity Building, legal drafting of bills, harmonization of conformity assessment procedures<sup>4</sup>, facilitation of participants to meetings, consultations and dialogue at national, regional and international levels.
68. The activities evaluated covered the period from 2018 to June 2022 and they were found to be relevant and appropriate in addressing the right set of problems and identified needs in the respective EAC Partner States. Evidence gathered by the evaluation team from the desk review and stakeholder consultations indicated that 38 activities were planned; of which 29 (76%) had been completed and 9

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<sup>4</sup> Conformity assessment procedures are technical activities such as testing, verification, inspection, certification and accreditation, which confirms that products or processes fulfill the requirements laid down in regulations and standards.

(24%) were still in progress. The evaluation team noted that the delayed activity implementation was because of the COVID 19 pandemic that paused the realization of the expected project results, especially those related to peer assessments where physical meetings are inevitable. Chances were high that incomplete activities will be implemented since most of the COVID 19 restrictions had been lifted. It should also be noted that effective accomplishment all planned activities would further contribute to the realization of the expected projects results. The summary of the activities assessment of the project is shown in table 4 and for details of the activities and their status at the time of the evaluation refer to annex 4.

**Table 4: SQI Project Activity Implementation Status as at June 2022**

<b>SQI Projects/ Period</b>	<b>Agreed Activities<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Completed Activities</b>	<b>Incomplete Activities</b>	<b>% Completion</b>	<b>Assessment (1-Poor and 5- Excellent)</b>	<b>Confidence level (low-red, medium -yellow and High-green)</b>
<b>SQI Project (2018 To June 2022)</b>	38	29	9	76%	4	High

Source: Data from the field interviews of the partner agencies and Programme Implementation Team.

69. The evaluation team also noted that apart from the activities that were beyond the Programme management control such as enactment of laws, chances are very high that most of the incomplete activities within the Programme control will be accomplished within the short to medium term if the resources are made available in time.

### 3.2.4 Assessment Program Outputs and Results

70. **Assessment of Project Outputs:** The evaluation team found that the implementation of the project activities was based on the planned project work plans in the respective EAC Partner States and results were monitored using the project monitoring plan. All project results monitored were supposed to have measurable and clear elements such as timing, baseline data, targets, indicators and actual results achieved for proper follow up and monitoring so as to keep good track record on Programme progress.

71. The evaluation findings indicated that the Project had 8 targeted outputs as evidenced in Table 5 and detailed in annexes 4 and 5. Evaluation findings further showed that 4 outputs (50%) had so far been realized. However, the pending 4 outputs was expected to be achieved by the end of 2023 because most of the core activities had been accomplished; apart from the peer assessment of NSBs conformity assessment. For instance, the outputs related to the enacting of the EAC SACA Act and the EAC Metrology Act were at the level of being passed by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). The output related to Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance was planned and needs to be prioritized in the next activities for the outputs to be realized within the Programme timeframe.

<sup>5</sup> These were the activities in the work plan.



Table 5: Targeted outputs and status as at June 2022 and assessment

#	Targeted output	Output status as at June 2022	Assessment	Confidence level
1.	Output 1: EACB Policy Brief or Paper on Priority Standards to be Harmonised Developed	Realised	4	
2.	Output 2: Priority Standards Harmonised	Realised	4	
3.	Output 3: Public-Private Representatives Sensitized on Harmonised Standards	In progress	3	
4.	Output 4: EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods Developed and Approved by SCTIFI	Realized	4	
5.	Output 5: Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing Carried Out and Documented	Realised	4	
6.	Output 6: Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance Carried Out and Documented	Planned	2	
7.	Output 7: EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment Bill Developed and Passed by EALA	In final stages of realization	4	
8.	Output 8: EAC Metrology Bill Finalised and Passed by EALA	In final stages of realization	4	
	<b>OVERALL</b>		<b>4</b>	

## 72. Assessment of Short-Term Outcomes and intermediate Outcomes:

The Programme targeted to realize one (1) intermediate outcome and four (4) short-term outcomes. Overall there is good progress in realizing the results is shown in Table 6 and detailed in Annex 5.

Table 6: Targeted outcomes as at June 2022 and assessment

#	Targeted Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline Data	Targets	Actual Results, June 2022	Assessment	Confidence Levels	Evaluator's Comments
1.	<b>Intermediate outcome:</b> Enhanced regional frameworks related to Quality Infrastructure, Technical Regulations, Standards, & Conformity Assessment Processes	No. of NSBs taking part in Annual Peer Assessment Reviews in Conformity Assessment- Testing and Quality Assurances	4	5	6	4		There is very good progress towards realization of this outcome; though South Sudan is still participating as on observer to learn; PT conducted; QA planned.
2.	<b>Short-Term Outcome:</b> Improved Development, Harmonization and Application of Standards	% of harmonized East African Standards adopted by EAC Partner States	TBC	90%	96%	4		There is very good progress towards realization of this outcome; though South Sudan is yet to implement some of them.



#	Targeted Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline Data	Targets	Actual Results, June 2022	Assessment	Confidence Levels	Evaluator's Comments
3.	<b>Short-Term Outcome:</b> Improved Establishment and Application of Technical Regulations	No. of products covered in technical regulations frameworks	0	2	2	4		There is very good progress towards realization of this outcome.
4.	<b>Short-Term Outcome:</b> Enhanced Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Quality Infrastructure Institutions	No. of bills related to SQI passed reviewed by SCTIFI or passed by EALA	0	2	2	4		There is very good progress towards realization of this outcome.
5.	<b>Short-Term Outcome:</b> Efficient and Effective Application of Conformity Assessment Processes in the EAC	No. of annual or bi-annual peer assessments carried out for Conformity Assessment Processes-Testing, Certification, Inspection and/or Market Surveillance carried out with TMEA funding and coordination	1	3	1	2		There is some progress towards realization of these outcomes. Most activities planned for next financial year
6.	<b>Overall</b>					4		There is very good progress towards realization of the outcomes.

73. Overall 83% of the respondents interviewed revealed that the SQI Programme was meeting its desired objectives as shown in Figure 7. In Burundi, only 50% showed that the objectives were met because they were affected by sanctions.

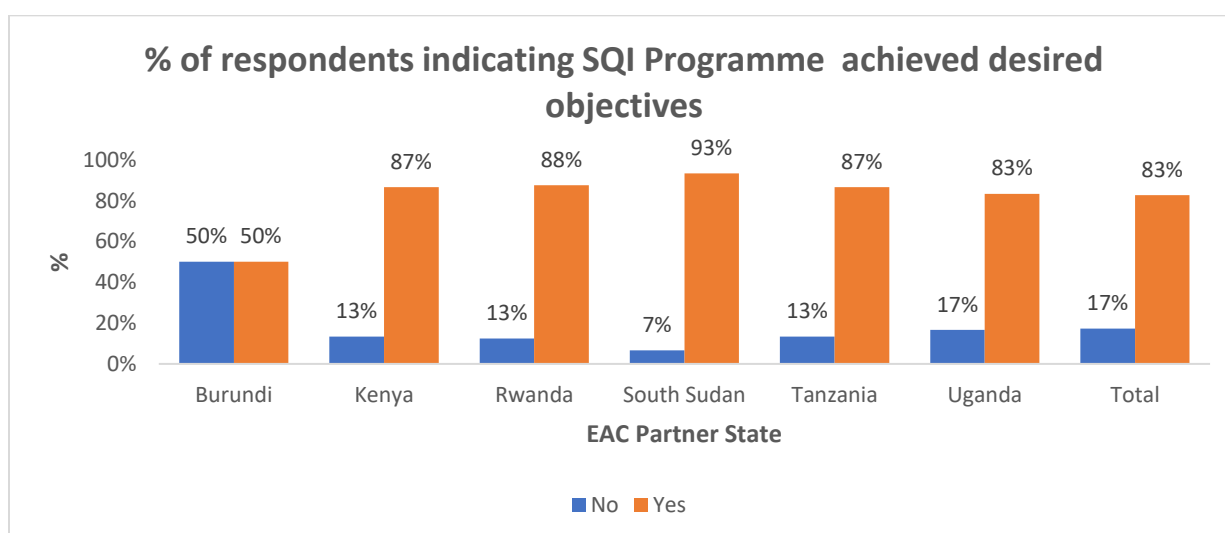


Figure 7: Percentage of respondents in EAC Partner States Indicating SQI Programme achieving objectives

74. Peer Assessment and Mutual recognition of NSB Conformity Assessment activities led to recognize the results of each other's conformity assessment results in the region. In addition, this would help towards reducing the multiple conformity assessment that products may need to undergo, especially when they are traded across borders and thus contributing to the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

### 3.2.5 Gender Issues and Standards

75. The evaluation team noted that genders issues concerning women were well mainstreamed in the project because women make up the majority of actors involved in cross-border trade in the region and standards and conformity assessment procedures affects their businesses, since most of them are Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The evaluation findings indicate that some NSBs had recognised the challenges the MSMEs were facing and reduced the fees required to certify their products. The evaluation team further noted that by working with NSBs to harmonise standards and a harmonized quality system in the region, the woman directly benefited from the project support. Some of the benefits the women cross Border Traders enjoyed were: reduced waiting time because standards and conformity assessment procedures were harmonized. In addition, the project supported women cross Border Traders to acquire knowledge and increase compliance to standards through trainings.

76. **Effect of standards on male and female-owned businesses:** During the rapid assessment, respondents were asked whether standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect male and female owned businesses differently. 46 (71%) of out of 65 respondents revealed that they do not. Out of the 46 respondents, 12 (26%) were female, as shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Respondents by gender on whether standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect male and female owned businesses**

Gender	7a. Do you think the standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect		Total
	No	Yes	
Female	12	6	18
Male	34	13	47
Total	46	19	65

77. It is important to note that only 1 respondent from Kenya and Burundi think that the process affects female and male-owned businesses differently. As shown in the table 8 below.

**Table 8: Respondents by country on whether standards and associated conformity assessment processes affect male and female owned businesses**

iCountry	7a. Do you think the standards and associated conformity assessment processes af		Total
	No	Yes	
Burundi	9	1	10
Kenya	13	1	14
Rwanda	3	4	7
South Sudan	3	6	9
Tanzania	10	5	15
Uganda	8	2	10
Total	46	19	65

78. **Effect of access, implementation and compliance to standards and associated conformity assessment processes by female-owned business compared to male-owned businesses:** 62% (41 of the 66) of the respondents interviewed think there is no difference in the access, implementation and compliance with standards and associated conformity assessment processes brought about by whether a business is owned by a male or female. Of the 41 who reported no, 10 are females as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Respondents on the effect of gender on access, implementation and compliance to standards and associated conformity assessment processes**

viiiGender	8a. Do you think there is any difference in the access, implementation and compl		Total
	No	Yes	
Female	10	8	18
Male	31	17	48
Total	41	25	66

79. **Effect of standards stringency in sectors that are female-dominated vis-a-vis male dominated field:** Respondents were asked whether when the sector is female-dominated or male-dominated, the terms of stringers would vary, 77% (50) of the respondents of which 12 were female respondents indicated that they do not as show in the tables 10.

**Table 10: Respondents on the effect of standards stringency in sectors that are female-dominated vis-a-vis male dominated field**

iiiGender	9a. Do you think the standards and conformity assessment processes vary in terms		Total
	No	Yes	
Female	12	6	18
Male	38	9	47
Total	50	15	65

80. Overall, the majority of the respondents (52%) and 50% of the female respondents think that SQI interventions does not have significant achievements regarding gender because standards affect the size of businesses rather than gender and that is why some NSBs have affirmative action on standards related issues based on the size of business rather than gender. However, it should be noted that the majority of businesses owned by the women are MSMEs and therefore affected more by the standards related issues compared to the big businesses.

### 3.3 Efficiency

**Efficiency is the extent to which the Strategy II SQI project intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.**

The evaluation team assessed and answered the following evaluation question:

1. How have the Standards and Infrastructure project results been achieved?
2. Have they been achieved with good Value for Money (VfM in terms of costs and benefits)?

81. This efficiency section of the report assessed the extent to which the SQI project resources/inputs were converted into results economically, efficiently, effectively and equitably. The evaluation team assessed Value for Money (VfM) of the Project based on the 4Es that were: Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness and Equity.

82. **Assessment of the VfM Economy:** The SQI Project economy was assessed by examining the extent to which the project was able to achieve the best cost of inputs to realize the results while maintaining quality. Under VfM economy, the evaluation team assessed whether TMEA was achieving appropriate quality at the right price for inputs and resources. The evaluation findings indicated that through the Projects VfM economy was being achieved based on technical and financial proposals with prequalified providers under framework agreements. The evaluation indicated that the VfM Economy was very good.

83. The evaluation finding further indicated that the total project planned budget was USD 13.87 million and USD 9.92 million had so far been used at the time of the evaluation which accounted for 72% of the budget. The remaining 28% of the project planned budget was yet to be utilized but funds were

already earmarked for some of the incomplete project activities especially those whose project implementation was affected by COVID 19 Pandemic. Based on the project work plan budget, generally the project disbursement and absorption of funds from 2018 to June 2022 was good.

84. **Assessment of VfM Efficiency:** The SQI project efficiency was assessed by the evaluation team examining how well the project activities converted inputs into results cost effectively. Evaluation findings showed that SQI project started on 01/01/2018 and was expected to end on 31/06/2023. Further findings indicated 29 (76%) activities were completed out of the 38 that produced 4 out of the 8 expected outputs as shown in Annex 4 and Annex 5. Out of the 4 incomplete activities, 2 are in finals stages, 1 is in progress and 1 is planned. Evaluation evidence showed that experienced technical experts were engaged on framework agreements during the project implementation that ensured value for money efficiency. However, some of the project results were not produced on time because of COVID 19 Pandemic which affected the project value for money efficiency. However, the evaluation findings indicated that these activities were being implemented or planned to be implemented to produce results. The evaluation indicated that the VfM efficiency was good.
85. **Assessment of VfM Effectiveness:** The evaluation team examined effectiveness as an aspect of VfM by assessing how well the SQI project resources were successfully utilized in achieving the desired outcomes from the activities implemented. The evaluation findings indicated that 72% of the allocated budget had been utilized so far to implement 76% of the activities to contribute to the project outputs and outcomes. The evaluation findings further indicated that the VfM effectiveness was achieved through the TMEA support towards harmonization of the quality systems (standards harmonization, technical regulations and mutual recognitions) in the EAC that was contributing to reduction of technical barriers to trade. In addition, TMEA was also working with the EABC, EAC Secretariat and NSBs in the region to implement the project activities to achieve the project results. However, it was noted that the rate of disbursement of funds to some implementation partners for some project activities was slow and, in some times, taking longer than expected to reach the relevant implementing partners due lengthy audit process for the EABC activities. These delays affected some activities especially during the restrictions due Global COVID-19. Nonetheless, the value for money effectiveness was good.
86. **Assessment of VfM Equity:** The evaluation team assessed VfM Equity by examining whether the SQI project ensured that the benefits were fairly distributed. The evaluation findings indicate that the VfM Equity was achieved through supporting harmonization of standards and the conformity assessment procedures which will support both male and female owned business of different sizes by reducing the technical barriers to trade in the region without discrimination. In addition, this would be also contributing to cost reduction of compliance to multiple regulations and standards in the EAC. The VfM Equity was good because it was directly contributing to facilitating trade for both male and female owned businesses with discrimination whether the businesses are small, medium or large. It should be noted however, that standards and conformity assessment requirements have some fixed cost requirements which affect small businesses more than the big counterparts.

### 3.4 Sustainability

**Sustainability is the extent to which the net benefits of the Strategy II SQI project intervention continue, or are likely to continue.**

The evaluation team assessed sustainability by answering the following evaluation questions:

- I. How sustainable are the positive effects or impact of the Standards and Infrastructure programme?
- II. What key lessons have been learnt and knowledge transferred to the Government, key implementing partners Secretariat and other stakeholders in order to improve the project results and its long-term sustainability?
- III. What conditions (including the delivery model) are needed to make this type of project succeed?

81. In this section of the report, the evaluation team assessed whether the SQI project intervention net benefits will continue even after the cessation of TMEA's support. The evaluation team found out that the project intervention benefits shall be made sustainable in the following ways:

87. **Technical Sustainability:** The evaluation findings indicate that the interventions being implemented by the SQI project was based on delivering improvements to the existing standards regulatory framework while harmonizing them at a regional level. In addition, the respective NSBs received technical capacity on issues which are essential to the NSBs functioning effectively and efficiently that will be sustainable. This involved building the capacities of each of the national bureaux of standards separately through staff trainings, enabling trust between NSBs, culminating in recognition of equivalence of the conformity assessment processes in the region. The evaluation evidence further indicated that due to the technical competencies attained by NSBs and at the EAC Secretariat levels, the stakeholders were comfortable undertaking standards harmonisation.

88. **Financial sustainability:** The NSBs had a realistic and sustainable funding mechanism from the respective EAC governments for standards development and conformity assessment activities that they carry out which will contribute to the sustainability of the project results. In addition, the EAC secretariat also had a budget and funding to support the planning of activities of the Standards, Quality assurance, Metrology and Testing. The project invested in strengthening the capacities of the NSBs, which has made them more efficient and effective in conformity assessment service delivery. The NSBs were also generating revenue internally by charging fees for buying standards and conformity assessment services like testing and certification, which contributes towards the budget. As more products access the market, traders will demand for more efficient and effective conformity services which will help the NSBs generate more revenue and thus contribute to sustainability.

89. **Quality Institutional framework and governance structures:** The implementation of the EAC SQMT Act and the enactment of the EAC SACA Bill and EAC Metrology Bill and related activities such as harmonization of standard and conformity assessment procedures leading to mutual recognition will go a long way to providing an appropriate legal framework at regional level in the EAC for implementation of standards and conformity assessment activities. The implementation of the harmonized quality system (harmonized of standard and conformity assessment procedures) in the EAC is supported by the Institutional structures that exist in the NSBs and at the EAC secretariat coupled with their improved collaboration and competences will ensure sustainability of the programme results. The evaluation team noted that the development and implementation of a

Regional Quality Policy is necessary because without solid government policy guidance, the required alignment of the regional quality infrastructure system will be seriously hampered.

90. **Socio-political Factors:** The evaluation team found that the SQI project had good political-will and commitment at the EAC regional level and the respective EAC Partner States governments. In addition, this political good is also supported by the participation of the private business community through EABC. This led to the successful implementation of the project in the respective countries, which would go a long way in ensuring the sustainability of the project initiative. The evaluation team further found that this political goodwill contributed to the cooperation and coordination between NSBs, EAC border management offices and both the public and private sector stakeholders.
91. **Strong Partner Trade Facilitation Agency/Institutions:** The evaluation team found that the TMEA SQI project was implemented and managed in partnership with the relevant and appropriate trade agency/institutions such as the (respective NSBs, EAC secretariat, EABC) an element that was very critical for the sustainability of the initiatives and results achieved. The evaluation team further found that all the partner agencies/institutions had the necessary mandates and therefore had the capacity to sustain the results for both public and private sector stakeholders. Overall, **the net benefits of the Strategy II SQI project intervention continue, or are likely to continue**

### 3.5. Coherence

**Coherence is the extent to which the Strategy II SQI project intervention is compatible with other interventions in a country, sector or institution.**

The evaluation team assessed by answering the following key evaluation question:

How is the project complementary with other TMEA and other donor initiatives along the Northern and Central Corridors?

93. The coherence section of this evaluation report assessed the extent to which the SQI project was consistent with other projects within and outside the TMEA programme. The evaluation team noted that the project intervention was coherent to some other existing interventions aimed at reduction in the technical barriers to trade and those initiatives identified included:
94. **Single Customs Territory (SCT)** promotes free movement of goods in the EAC single market with variations to accommodate goods exported from one EAC Partner State to another. The SCT has contributed to trade facilitation in the EAC through the free circulation of goods with minimum internal customs border controls and enhance trade facilitation by reducing compliance to multiple regulatory requirements and eliminating trade barriers hence promoting intra-EAC trade. In addition, the SCT contributes to trade facilitation by eliminating duplication of processes, reducing administrative costs and regulatory requirements and enhancing the relationship between private and public sectors. Thus, the SQI Programme complements the SCT by contributing to minimization of delays due to technical barriers to trade.
95. **One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs):** TMEA and the EAC Partner States introduced OSBPs Programme across the region that increased physical access to markets for both formal and informal traders. The OSBPs puts in place a legal and institutional framework that facilitates associated procedures that enabled goods, people and vehicles to stop in a single facility in which they undergo necessary controls

and checks following applicable regional and national laws to exit or enter another state in the EAC. The OSBPs arrangement leads to enhanced interconnectivity of EAC markets which in turn contributes to reduce technical barriers to trade in the region, which is goal of the SQI Programme.

96. **The Electronic Single Window (ESW)** implementation was supported by TMEA in the EAC Partner States. The single window facilitates international trade by expediting and simplifying information flow between the private sector and the regulatory government institutions, thereby reducing time and cost of doing business. These project initiatives translate into reduction of friction and duplication of documents transactions and the traders also receive real time information on progress of processing their trade related transaction documents. In addition, all regulatory requirements and issuance of release notices are computerized, resulting in improved efficiency and significant reductions in time and costs that arose from the previously cumbersome and time-consuming processes.
97. **Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Scheme:** The AEO project was an initiative that was supported by TMEA that sought to enhance trade by reducing the cost of doing business through simplifying customs procedures and reducing clearance time. Under the AEO, the compliant traders are given the AEO status which means they are low risk companies and can therefore be trusted by Customs. This implies that Customs can handle the consignments of such companies with less controls compared to others. That way the AEO program provides an instrument for growing compliance. In addition, the AEO has a benefit where you use advance information by clearing and forwarding agencies that start processing customs entries prior to arrival of transit trucks at border posts. When trucks arrive, they are cleared immediately since document formalities were completed; and this is enhanced with mutual recognitions of conformity assessments certificates issued by the exporting country and the importing country, an initiative that was supported by SQI Programme.
98. **Overall** SQI Programme complementary with other TMEA and other donor initiatives along the Northern and Central Corridors such as the SCT, OSBPs, ESW and AEO is very good. This is supported by the 81% (38 of 47) of respondents who revealed that the SQI interventions complement other TMEA and other donor initiatives

### 3.6. Impact

**The impacts are the tangible long-term outcomes to which the project contributed, positive and negative, intended and unintended.**

The evaluation team assessed impact by answering the following evaluation question:

How does or how the project will contribute to reaching higher level TMEA objectives related to the Improved Trading Standards.

99. The evaluation findings indicated that the SQI projects supported interventions that were directed towards building of efficient and effective national quality systems among EAC Partner States and strengthening the EAC Regional Quality Infrastructure System that reduced technical barriers to trade in the EAC and contributed to increased trade and ultimately to sustainable inclusive prosperity. The evaluation team also noted that harmonization, equivalence and mutual recognition were not mutually exclusive, but complementary means of reducing trade barriers while at the same time achieving the same regulatory objectives such as consumer protection. The evaluation findings



indicated that the SQI Programme interventions contribute to reduction in technical barriers to trade and an efficient and effective national quality systems in the region in the following ways:

**100. Impact from Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing Carried Out:**

The SQI project supported the proficiency testing scheme in the EAC to carry out a peer gap assessment. The objective of the gap assessment was to find out the status of PT providers on accreditation and what PT providers need to do in order to achieve accreditation. In addition, the consultant noted that Proficiency Testing (PT) was a prerequisite for accreditation and in the EAC has facilitated participating laboratories towards attainment of accreditation, which is an international recognition of competence.

101. The PT gap assessment revealed that, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Tanzania Bureau of standards and Uganda National Bureau of standards (UNBS) had strength in the testing Laboratories in terms of implementation and accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The evaluation evidence showed that these laboratories are now accredited. In addition, accreditation of these laboratories demonstrated enhanced technical capacity of the EAC PT Providers to perform efficient and effective testing services. Accreditation of the laboratories further led to ensuring that PT providers in the EAC region were in line with current regional, continental and global priorities through provision of reliable test results, which were relied on for regional and international trade.

102. The technical competency and trust of the quality system services like testing demonstrated through accreditation to international standards such ISO/IEC 17025 eliminates the burden of re-testing products during cross border trade because these results produced from an accredited laboratory are reliable and trusted for making decisions. Therefore, accreditation of these laboratories facilitated trade in terms of reduction of technical barriers to trade and benefited the EAC common market because the accredited laboratories validate their results which gave assurances, confidence and trust in the goods traded in the region.

**103. Impact from certification through regional harmonization of priority product standards in the EAC:** The evaluation team found that when East African Standards are developed and gazzeted in the EAC, these harmonized are supposed to be adopted by the respective East Partner States in a period of 6 months as per the requirement of the EAC SQMT act 2006. The EAC partner states are required to drop any standard with similar scope of implementation and start using the harmonized standard for purposes of uniformity in the requirements to be met when manufacturing and trading. In addition, the evaluation team found out that product certification process uses the harmonized product standards and this also helped to eliminate technical barriers to trade because one uniform standard is being use across the region for the same product and the requirements to comply either are exactly the same.

104. The evaluation findings indicated that the SQI project support for harmonization of standards was based on the 20 most traded products in the regions and this help to ensure that most traded products were given priority and were not facing challenges in crossing the borders. This was because in the region harmonized standard were being used to certify the products hence there was no room to create technical barriers to trade. The evaluation findings further indicated that the in the EAC there were notified product certification marks issued by the NSBs based on harmonized EAS and these

notified product certification marks issued by the NSBs were mutually recognized and accepted by the respective EAC Partner States. From the evaluation findings, it was therefore evident that certified products based on harmonized east African standards in the region are not supposed to under re-testing and re-certification and this greatly eliminated technical barriers to trade and contributes to increased trade in the region.

105. **Impact from the EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods:** The evaluations findings indicated that businesses reported the category of packaged foods and cosmetics as being the most affected by Technical Barriers (TBTs) because each country was regulation these products differently making the requirements to comply with different and costly. Based on this TBT challenged, the SQI project supported the development of the EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods.
106. The evaluation findings further indicated that the building blocks of the Technical Regulation Framework are very important and were fully taken into consideration. The building blocks included: carrying out an impact assessment, technical requirements based on international, regional or national standards, competent conformity assessment services (inspection and surveillance) and the regulatory authority not be involved in the conformity assessment service provision and administrative and judicial sanctions to ensure its smooth implementation. These building blocks were properly articulated for the legal system and were entrenched in legislation to ensure that all the respective NSBs in the region follow these general principles in the framework for greater legal certainty and transparency during implementation of the technical regulations. This also made this Technical Regulation Framework to be well align seamlessly with the regional approach to technical regulation.
107. The evaluations evidence showed that because of the full implementation and defining the building blocks of the EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods, technical barriers to trade related problems like complying with multiple regulatory requirements and divergent regulatory requirements were eliminated. The evaluations evidence also indicated that this Technical Regulations Framework helped the manufacturers, exporters and suppliers/traders to provided reputable evidence to the regulatory authorities in the EAC that their products met the technical regulation requirements and there was no need to comply with multiple requirements. From the evaluations findings this Technical Regulations Framework removed the significant obstacle to trade across borders in these cosmetics and packaged foods products and this contributed to increased trade with a direct impact on the achievement of the goals of the EAC Common Market of free movement of goods.
108. **Impact from mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes at the EAC level through the Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance:** The evaluation team noted and appreciated that mutual recognition was a trade facilitation tool that is used to accept regulatory differences by way of mutual recognition and accepting each other's rules. Due to the effects of the COVID-9 pandemic, the impact from mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes in the EAC was not yet realized. However, assessment from the evaluation and data collected showed that despite the fact that mutual recognition is provided for in the EAC Standards,

Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing Act 2006, there were still some occurrences of standards-related technical barriers to trade indicates that their implementation is not effective. In addition, there was a challenge of mistrust and rejection of test results and product certificates. The main intervention at the regional level will be strengthening implementation of mutual recognition of conformity assessment processes by building collaboration in the conformity infrastructure. The project will also seek to get consensus on the minimum acceptable requirements for the respective NSBs carrying testing, certification, inspection and market surveillance scheme to enable effective mutual recognition of the different areas. This approach will lead to in the harmonisation of standardisation, certification, inspection and market surveillance processes in the EAC.

109. In addition, with support from TMEA through the SQI project, the mutual recognition will mean that the involved EAC Partner States will have to mutually accept each other's conformity assessment procedures as equivalent in order to ensure compliance with prevailing regulatory requirements. The evaluation findings collected indicated that mutual recognition and its equivalence in the EAC if applied correctly and effectively will eliminate the TBTs challenges of lack of trust and rejection of test results/certificates and reduce instances of goods retesting/recertification to facilitate EAC regional trade.
110. **Impact from the Standardization, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill and metrology bill:** The evaluations team noted and proved that it is quite logical that the Quality Infrastructure System and the Technical Regulation Framework in the EAC can be given legitimacy primarily through a appropriate legislation and legal framework. This will provide the overall legal guidance as to the way in which standards, metrology and accreditation together with calibration and conformity assessment will be provided for in general and for technical regulation development and implementation in particular. The evaluations findings indicated the most of the activities leading to the development of the Standardization, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill and metrology bill were completed however, these bills were still in the process of being passed into laws.
111. The evaluations finding indicated that the: metrology bill covers regulatory issues on metrology and the Standardization, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill covers regulatory legal aspects on standards, accreditation and conformity assessment that included: (SACA) Bill: The evaluation findings indicated that the SACA Bill is passed into law the standards aspects will be providing for the development and publication of national standards, their legal standing and how they can be referenced within other pieces of national legislation. The standards aspects will also establish the national standards body if it is in the public sector, provide for its governance, responsibilities, activities and finances. The accreditation aspect will provide for the use of accreditation as the primary means to denote technical competency of conformity assessment service providers, not only for products but also in the case of services required by society at large. The accreditation aspect will further provide for the establishment of the national accreditation organization (or in its absence designate the regional or another national body as the *de facto* national body), its governance, responsibilities, activities and finances.
112. **The EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment Bill** provides for the development and promulgation of an agreed way of developing and implementing technical regulations in the country

across all responsible Ministries and their Agencies in compliance with the WTO TBT Agreement. The **conformity assessment** aspects will also contain guidance on conducting an impact assessment beforehand to determine the validity of developing a technical regulation, the use of standards for the technical requirements, preferred conformity assessment methodologies, responsibilities of the regulatory agencies and the imposition of sanctions. This conformity assessment further contains the establishment of the higher-level oversight body to coordinate all technical regulation activities of the various Ministries and QI organizations to ensure the country is in compliance with the act requirements once passed and the WTO TBT Agreement.

113. **The EAC Metrology Bill:** Will be providing for the International System of Units, so-called SI-system and the establishment and maintenance of the national measurement standards. Once it's passed into law, it will also provide for the establishment of the national measurement institution, its governance, responsibilities, activities and finances. Once it becomes law it will also be providing for the control over measuring equipment in trade, health services, environmental control and law enforcement amongst others, included pre-packaging requirements for consumer commodities. It will further provide for the establishment of the legal metrology department, its governance, responsibilities, activities and finances.
114. **Contribution towards TMEA high-level impact of increased:** The evaluation findings indicate that the products whose standards were harmonized with TMEA support their intra-EAC trade have generally increased apart from horticulture products, which may be affected by other factors as detailed in Table 11.

**Table 11: Value of East African Community (EAC) exports to EAC (US Dollar thousand)**

Categorizations/Year, US\$'000'	Value in 2018	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021
Total values for sugar and sugar related products	74,079	72,240	63,995	106,846
Total values for processed horticulture products	9,929	8,608	6,535	8,397
Total values for cosmetics and related products	76,283	45,345	54,559	111,536
<b>Overall totals</b>	<b>160,291</b>	<b>126,193</b>	<b>125,089</b>	<b>226,779</b>

115. The intra-EAC export values for 2019 and 2020 are generally low due to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. With opening of the economy in 2021 and most of the harmonized standards gazetted in July 2020 for use, the total values of the products increased from US\$160,291,000 to US\$226,779,000 which was an increment of 41%, thus contributing to the increased trade in the EAC. Overall, SQI Programme contribution to reaching higher level TMEA objectives related to the improved trading standards and increased trade was very good.

## CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

### 4.1 Relevance

116. The evaluation findings revealed that overall, the SQI Programme objectives and design is very relevant because it responds to the needs and priorities of the EAC and the NSBs of facilitating trade through free movement of goods by reducing technical barriers to trade. Further evidence indicated that overall, the SQI project objectives and interventions were well aligned to the TMEA Theory of Change (ToC); and priorities and the World Trade Organizations (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. The projects were to a great extent aligned to the respective National Governments standardization Strategies and Policies and were responding to the needs and challenges of the businesses and the trade environment. Overall, the relevance of the SQI Programme was very good.

### 4.2 Effectiveness

117. The evaluation findings showed that there was good progress being made in achieving the targeted objectives of: harmonization of standards, improving the technical capacity of the NSBs, supporting mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures, development of technical regulatory frameworks and creating awareness on standardization issues. This was helping to reduce and eliminate technical barriers to trade contributing to an effective trade environment and increased trade. There is very good progress towards realizing the targeted outputs and the outcomes as stipulated in the performance management framework and the Theory of Change (TOC).

### 4.3 Efficiency

118. The evaluation team found out that the Programme used competitive bidding coupled with proper due diligence during the formation of framework agreements. The restricted project procurement processes based on prequalified bidders were fast, which enabled the project to realize results as planned hence ensuring value for money. National and international experts were engaged on framework contracts in the implementation of activities that ensured efficiency through sharing of experiences and producing results in time. Evidence collected by the evaluation team shows that project was getting good value for money.

### 4.4 Impact

119. Evaluation evidence collected by the evaluation team showed that the supported SQI project resulted into the reduction in the technical barriers to trade in the region and building a quality infrastructure system in the region. The Empirical evidence shows that the Programme is contributing towards the impact of increased trade in the region and beyond. The evaluations team found out that once the 2 bills are passed into laws, they will create a great impact on reducing technical barriers to trade and also building the foundation for effective and efficient trade in the EAC which will lead to increased trade. Overall, the Programme's likelihood of contributing to the high-level TMEA results of increased trade is very good.

## 4.5 Sustainability

120. The evaluations team noted that generally, the sustainability of the quality infrastructure system in the region was good because it was based on a relevant legal framework that acts as a sustainable foundation. The financial sustainability of the quality infrastructure system of NSBs in the region greatly depends on the national budget and the user-pay-principle, where by stakeholders pay a fee to the NSBs to use the conformity assessment service like testing and certification. The evaluation team further noted that given the EAC Partner States different levels of economic development and quality infrastructure, it is likely that the NSBs will continue to require Government and donor support in the medium- to long-term, regardless of the achievements of the projects, as they improve the quality and number of conformity assessment services offered. Nonetheless, the pr

## 4.6 Coherence

121. The SQI project system was consistent with other projects within and outside the TMEA Programme and other interventions within the country particularly those aimed at reducing technical barriers to trade and contributing to increased trade in the region. These include the Single Customs Territory (SCT), One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), The Electronic Single Window (ESW), Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Scheme. All these were coherent with the TMEA Theory of Change (ToC), which was designed and structured to respond to specific needs of using effective trade systems and procedures to reduce trade barriers.

## CHAPTER 5: CHALLENGES

122. The evaluation team noted the following challenges during the SQI project implementation:

- i. **There was a challenge of COVID 19:** that interfered with the SQI project implementation in terms of restricted stakeholder movements due to lockdowns leading to loss of time. However, where possible, this was mitigated by working remotely.
- ii. **Monitoring plans and budgets were not being updated promptly** and shared with the partner agencies to track project progress and plan accordingly.
- iii. **Delayed disbursement of funds** to implementing partners: affected the timely implementation of project activities and realization of project results.
- iv. **Relatively lengthy standards harmonization process:** which affects the objective of eliminating or reducing technical to trade.
- v. **Delayed passing of the EAC SACA Bill and EAC Metrology Bill into law,** which is affecting the adoption and implementation of a uniform regional technical regulations framework to eliminate technical barriers to trade in the region.
- vi. **Use of obsolete harmonized East African standards for trade in the EAC;** there is an increasing rate of innovation new products and also technology is changing which creates a need for new standards or revision of standards. However, failure to revise East African standard at regular intervals not exceeding 5 years or whenever need arises creates standards related technical barriers to trade in the region.
- vii. **Lack of well-developed regional quality policy:** because the regional quality policy was not yet well articulated and yet it is the basic and main instrument for establishing and overseeing the QI system.
- viii. **National Accreditation Bodies and Private sector accreditation:** as Quality Infrastructure Institutions that provide accreditation services were not involved in the project implementation and yet they are very critical for independent attestation as to the competency of an individual or an organization to offer specified conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection or certification).
- ix. **Lack of consumer association involvement in the QI system;** yet the consumers under their consumer associations give feedback on the QI system which helps to review, modify and make improvement on the different QI system components to improve on the performance of the QI system.
- x. **Inadequate numbers of accredited testing and calibration laboratories;** to provide metrology and testing related service which are very critical in promoting confidences of conformity assessment services provide to the respective regulators, consumers and also for promoting fair trade.
- xi. **Lack of awareness on the regional QI system:** and yet a strong quality infrastructure system protects businesses from unfair competition, reduces barriers to trade and creates demand for the quality infrastructure services and thus creates a sustainable quality culture.

## CHAPTER 6: LESSONS LEARNT

123. The following lessons learned can be used to improve current and future TMEA Standards and Quality Infrastructure Interventions, including at the Country Programme level.

- i) **Align standards harmonization to the needs and priorities of the stakeholders enhances their adoption and use:** Harmonization of standards was on the needs assessment of conducted on the 20 most traded goods that promoted the adoption and use of the harmonized standards by the EAC Partners States.
- ii) **Global pandemics such as COVID 19** can greatly affect the project implementation and realization of result if the project implementers are not flexible to adjust and respond to emerging issues. Thus ability to positively respond and adapt to evolving local and international realities such as the COVID-19 pandemic enhances resilience, which minimises disruptions of implementation of activities due to changing realities on the ground.
- iii) **Engaging stakeholders such as regulators in peer assessments build mutual trust** of conformity assessment service providers to recognize results, reports and certificates by other regulatory authorities. This is because moving from mutual respect to mutual building of trust between regulators is a slow process.
- iv) **Regulatory differences in the region can be accepted:** and dealt with by way of peer assessment and mutual recognition as a trade facilitation tool.
- v) **Partnering with the right and relevant trade facilitation institution** in both public and private sector enhance project ownership and implementation that promotes project success.
- vi) **The strong anchorage to an international standards and best practices** are critical in promoting regulatory alignment that facilitates mutual recognition agreements.
- vii) **Political good will and advocacy:** are very important when it comes to endorsement and passing of legal documents into public policy or bills into law.
- viii) **Use of automated ICT infrastructure for the implementation of conformity assessment procedures:** reduce the time and cost of doing business and also further creates transparency in all the trade transactions hence reducing technical barriers to trade.



**CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTION**

124. In order to improve on the performance of the SQI Project, the evaluation team made the recommendations:

#	RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS	ACTION POINT
1.	<b>Continue supporting Quality Infrastructure/conformity assessment services in the EAC region:</b> in order to get general acceptance and trust of Quality Infrastructure Institutions services, accreditation to ISO/ IEC 17020 (for Inspection bodies), ISO/IEC 17021 (for quality management system certification bodies), ISO/IEC 17025 (testing and calibration laboratories) and ISO/IEC 17065 (for product certification bodies) should be strongly supported and advocated for without making it a legal requirement with the exception of service providers active in the implementation of technical regulations and SPS measures.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
2.	<b>Private sector should be supported to actively get involved</b> in the development; of the quality policy, implementation thereof and ultimately in the governance structures of the QI institutions as this is important because they are one that pay for the QI system and the implementation of technical regulations, either directly or through taxes.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
3.	<b>Involve the National Accreditation Bodies, Private sector accreditation institutions Consumer Association as key stakeholders of the project.</b> The Quality Infrastructure Institutions that provide accreditation services were not involved in the project implementation and yet they are very critical for independent attestation as to the competency of an individual or an organization to offer specified conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection or certification). The consumers under their consumer associations give feedback on the QI system which helps to review, modify and make improvement on the different QI system components to improve on the performance of the QI system and therefore need to be involved.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
4.	<b>The QI system implementations should allow for transition periods and confidence-building mechanisms;</b> as this is needed to allow time for the respective EAC Partner States to get better acquainted with the respective institutional settings, promote trust in each other's regulatory systems and smooth frictions that may arise from misunderstanding before the mutual recognition arrangement enters into force.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
5.	<b>Continue supporting the Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes</b> in order to assess capabilities, processes and procedures used by each of the EAC Partners States to conduct their conformity assessment testing activities as a way of building confidence and trust in each other's conformity assessment testing activities and thereby promote acceptance of conformity assessment results. The support should include building capacities of the NSBs based on the identified gaps during the Peer Assessments to improve on their competences.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT CROSS CUTTING ISSUES</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>

6.	<b>Support Gender Issues:</b> NSBs through the Quality Policy make effort to improve the gender equality by encouraging women and small business to participate in standardisation activities such as Technical Committees.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
7.	<b>Subside the Conformity Assessment Fees for SMEs:</b> Some NSBs are supporting SMEs supporting the SMES by subsidizing their certification fees. Other NSBs should be encouraged to borrow this initiative and support the compliance of SMEs to standards, where most women owned businesses belong.	NSBs
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT EFFICIENCY</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>
8.	<b>Continue supporting planned pending activities and timely disburse funds to implementing partners for timely execution of project activates and</b> delivery of project results. Also continue supporting activities that were affected by the COVID19 pandemic to ensure that project results are realized in the reminding project time.	TMEA
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SQI PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY</b>		<b>ACTION POINT</b>
9.	<b>Follow up the passing the SACA Bill and Metrology Bill into Law.</b> The project should continue supporting the finalization and passing of these bills in to law by lobbying politicians as this is a very critical foundation for the EAC QI system.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.
10.	<b>The project should support the development of the regional quality policy:</b> to guide the interaction of government agencies involved in quality and safety control of traded goods: The Quality policy should have at least 4 key elements that include: Policy Vision/Goal, Policy Objectives, Policy Outcome and Policy Measures.	TMEA, EABC and EAC secretariat.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX 1: CASE STUDY

#### THE CONTRIBUTION OF STANDARDS HARMONIZATION TOWARDS THE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES IN THE REGIONAL

**Context:** The East African Community (EAC) Comprises of SIX (6) countries namely: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Sudan and Uganda and is the fastest integrating regional bloc on the African continent with a population of about 177 million and a combined GDP of US\$ 240 billion<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the regional trade growth in the EAC that contributes to the GDP is driven by the progressive manufacturing sector which is supported by the integration milestones achieved through implementation of the EAC Customs Union and the EAC Common Market and also support from development partners like TMEA. Since 2018, TMEA has been implementing the Standards and Quality Infrastructure (SQI) Programme, under TMEA Strategy II, whose aim is to build a sustainable regional Quality Infrastructure System in the East African Community (EAC) and to support the implementation of the EAC Common Market, leading to reduced technical barriers to intra-EAC trade in individual EAC Partner States.

Setting up a Quality Infrastructure (QI) System is one of the most positive and practical steps that the region can take on the path towards developing a thriving economy as a basis for prosperity, health and well-being. Supporting the development of the regional Quality Infrastructure System helps the respective EAC partner states to meet the requirements of export markets, increases their competitiveness and ability to participate in global trade and in value chains. The QI system verifies and demonstrates that products and services actually meet set requirements and as such acts as catalyst for improving the quality of products and services on a national, regional and global scale. Therefore, a single, coherent and internationally recognized QI system will reduce the technical barriers to trade (TBTs), unnecessary duplications and inefficiency in the region and thus facilitate trade.

**Issues:** The ability of the respective EAC Partner States to exploit commercial opportunities, to compete in the region and on global markets and to participate in international value chains is often challenged by their difficulties in demonstrating compliance with quality requirements and trade rules. In many cases, the regulatory authorities that are mandated to enforce compliance prior to export of such products lack the financial and technical capacity and quality infrastructure to effectively carry out their mandate. In addition, poor coordination in developing and enforcing quality controls between EAC partners states complicates the problem. The combination of these factors mentioned creates technical barriers to trade and potentially reduces access to markets and therefore, an impediment to regional and international trade. It is against this background that the TMEA SQI project is supporting the development of a regional quality infrastructure and one of the key interventions in the project is through standards harmonization to support and strengthen the regional quality infrastructure services that include (quality promotion, inspections, testing, certifications, calibration and verification) so as to provide benefits for

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<sup>6</sup> EAC website quick facts about EAC

manufacturers, consumers, government regulators and the general public by eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs).

**Method:** In order to support the development of the regional QI system, the TMEA supported SQI project came up with a tailor made approach that included: The private sector participation through the East African Business Council (EABC) that developed Policy Briefs, Harmonization of East African Standards of the priority 20 most traded products, development of a Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods, development of the EAC Standards Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SACA) Bill and the EAC Metrology Bill to be Passed by EALA into law, Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing and Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance. TMEA came up with this approach because there is no ready-made Quality infrastructure (QI) model that will suit all countries, so a tailor-made approach was necessary. In addition, the QI approach used will adjust to meet the national and regional requirements that were identified thorough the needs assessment that was done before implementation. However, in all these interventions, TMEA has made significant progress in supporting standards harmonization in the region as a trade facilitation tool to support the QI in the region. More specifically, there was significant impact under standards harmonization intervention because for the regional quality infrastructure services that include: quality promotion, inspection, testing, certification, calibration and verification to operate seamlessly, the standards applied have to be harmonized.

**Results:** Despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the harmonization of East African Standards intervention through the SQI supported project registered the following results in the EAC region:

- a) Twenty-four (24) additional East African standards have been harmonized among the 20 priority most traded products in the region.
- b) Awareness was created on the harmonized east African standards which led to promotion and creation of demand for quality infrastructure services and thus a quality culture in the region.
- c) In the respective EAC partner states, for the products where standards have been harmonized, one uniform standard and requirements are being used for: Inspections, testing and Certification of products.
- d) For consumers, conformance of products and services to harmonized standards is giving them assurance about the product quality, safety and reliability.
- e) Certified products using harmonized East African standards and having valid certification permits in the EAC region are no longer undergoing destination retesting, inspections and certification.
- f) Promotion of fair trade because the harmonized standards provided a uniform criteria and requirements for the same products without discrimination.
- g) Trust between the respective NSBs because all the respective EAC partner states participated in the standard harmonization and agreed on uniform requirements to follow for the harmonized standard.

**Impact:** The promotion of intra-regional trade among the EAC Partner States is very much dependent on the implementation of functional, effective and coordinated quality infrastructures in each of the EAC Member States. The SQI project supported regional harmonization of product standards for the priority 20 most commonly traded products in the region and all the respective NSBs were involved in the process. For the products where standards have been harmonized, the manufacturers and the business community are having one uniform harmonized standard for a product in the EAC which has eliminated standards related technical barriers to trade. And this impact was in line with the requirements of WTO TBT Agreement.

In addition, the adoption of harmonized standards is backed up by the EAC SQMT act 2006 that requires the EAC partner states to drop their respective national standards and use the harmonized standards within a period of 6 month from the time the standards is harmonized. In addition, the intervention of using standard harmonization as a trade facilitation tool has helped in facilitating free movement of goods in the EAC and hence increased regional trade. Overall standards harmonization as a trade facilitation tool directly contributed to a strong regional quality infrastructure system that protects businesses from unfair competition, reduces technical barriers to trade and also helps companies to be competitive and be able to compete in the regional trading system. The evaluation findings indicate that the products whose standards were harmonised, their intra-EAC exports values have increased by 42% from US\$160 million in 2018 to US\$227 million in 2021, an achievement which the standards harmonisation has made a contribution..

**Lesson learnt:** This case study highlights the following lessons learned:

- a) The mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures and notified certification marks based on harmonized EAS greatly improves on the free movement of goods with in the region and facilitates trade.
- b) Ability to positively respond and adapt to evolving local and international realities such as the COVID-19 pandemic enhances resilience, which minimises disruptions of implementation of activities due to changing realities on the ground.
- c) Certifying products based on harmonised standards creates a competitive edge in the region over those whose products are not certified.
- d) The more regional product standards are harmonized, the better for the regional quality infrastructure system to work and also be sustainable in elimination technical barriers to trade.

**Challenges:** Standards harmonization process is a relatively lengthy and expensive processes and even after harmonization some EAC partner states do not fully adopt and implement the harmonized standards which creates technical barriers to trade.

**Who benefits:** The harmonization of standards in the EAC has benefitted several stakeholders. The manufacturers and traders have benefitted by complying with only one common standard; regulators have benefited by assessing the products based on one standard which saves resources; EAC Partner States have benefited because of improved trade facilitation through lower cost and reduced clearance time for producers, exporters and traders. In addition, the consumers benefit because they get quality and safe products to consume.

## ANNEX 2: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

This is the assessment criteria that were used by the evaluation team.

SCORE/RATING	RESULT DESCRIPTION
A++ (Excellent = 5)	Results Consistent and exceeded expectations/targets (>=100%)
A+ (Very good = 4)	Results Consistent with all expectations/targets (75-99%)
A (Good = 3)	Results Consistent with most of the expectations/targets (60-74%)
B (Fair = 2)	Results moderately meet expectations/targets (45-59%)
C (Poor = 1)	Results are not Consistent and substantially does not meet expectation/targets (0-44%)

## ANNEX 3: CONFIDENCE LEVELS

These are the confidence levels that were used to determine the extent of the available level of evidence to support the evaluation team's assessment

#	CONFIDENCE LEVEL	CRITERIA	COLOUR	
1.	High	All the evidence needed to support the evaluation team's assessment was available.	Green	
2.	Medium	Most of the evidence needed to support the evaluation team's assessment was available.	Yellow	
3.	Low	Partial evidence needed to support the evaluation team's assessment was available.	Red	

## ANNEX 4: SQI PROJECT ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT

Annex 4 gives the criteria for assessment using a scale of 1(poor), 2(fair), 3(good), 4(very good) to 5(excellent). Confidence levels low (Red), medium (Yellow) or high (Green) indicate the available level of evidence to support the evaluation team's assessment.

#	Agreed output/activities	Activity status as at June 2022	Assessment	Confidence level
	<b>Output 1: EACB Policy Brief or Paper on Priority Standards to be Harmonised Developed</b>	<b>Realised</b>		
1.	Carry out study on list of priority standards to be harmonised	Completed	4	
2.	Project Publish or share list of priority standards to be harmonised	Completed	4	
	<b>Output 2: Priority Standards Harmonised</b>	<b>Realised</b>		
3.	Hold Standards Harmonisation Meetings	Completed	4	
4.	Standards Editing Meetings	Completed	4	
5.	Gazetted EAC Standards	Completed	4	
	<b>Output 3: Public-Private Representatives Sensitized on Harmonised Standards</b>	<b>In progress</b>		
6.	Support fact-finding on the % of harmonised East African Standards in Use in the EAC	Completed	4	
7.	Hold meetings with public and private sector representatives on harmonised standards	In progress	2	
8.	Develop Position papers on harmonised East African Standards	Completed	4	
	<b>Output 4: EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods Developed and Approved by SCTIFI</b>	<b>Realized</b>		
9.	develop concept note on technical regulations framework on Cosmetics and Food Products	Completed	4	
10.	Present concept note on technical regulations framework on Cosmetics and Food Products to EASC for approval	Completed	4	
11.	Map technical regulations framework in each EAC Partner State	Completed	4	
12.	Draft Technical Regulations Framework on Cosmetics and Food Products	Completed	4	
13.	Present technical regulations framework on Cosmetics and Food Products to EASC	Completed	4	
14.	Present technical regulations framework on Cosmetics and Food Products to SCTIFI for approval	Completed	4	
15.	Raise awareness among Partner States on TRF on Cosmetics and Food Products	Completed	4	

#	Agreed output/activities	Activity status as at June 2022	Assessment	Confidence level
	<b>Output 5: Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing Carried Out and Documented</b>	<b>Realised</b>		
16.	Development of Background Paper of Technical Testing Accreditation	Completed	4	
17.	Development of Technical Testing Accreditation Work-Plan	Completed	4	
18.	Review of Background Paper of Technical Testing Accreditation Work-Plan	Completed	4	
19.	Peer Assessment of Laboratories in the EAC carried out	Completed	4	
20.	Report of gaps in accreditation for labs in the EAC reviewed and adopted	Completed	4	
21.	Accreditation/Capacity Building plans for participating labs developed and approved	Completed	4	
	<b>Output 6: Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance Carried Out and Documented</b>	<b>Planned</b>		
22.	Development of Background Paper of Quality Assurance Peer Assessment Paper	Planned	2	
23.	Development of Quality Assurance Work-Plan	Planned	2	
24.	Review of Background Paper of Quality Assurance Work-Plan	Planned	2	
25.	Peer Assessment of NSBs Quality Assurance (Certification, Inspection and market surveillance) in the EAC carried out	Planned	2	
26.	Report of gaps in Quality Assurance in EAC NSBs reviewed and adopted	Planned	2	
27.	Accreditation/Capacity Building plan for NSBs Quality Assurance departments developed and approved	Planned	2	
	<b>Output 7: EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment Bill Developed and Passed by EALA</b>	<b>In final stages of realization</b>		
28.	Position paper on EAC SACA Bill Developed	Completed	4	
29.	Public-private dialogue on EAC SACA Bill	Completed	4	
30.	Technical drafting of EAC SACA Bill	Completed	4	
31.	Legal drafting of EAC SACA Bill	Completed	4	
32.	Presentation of EAC SACA Bill to SCTIFI	Completed	4	
33.	Presentation and Adoption of EAC SACA Bill by EALA	In progress	3	
	<b>Output 8: EAC Metrology Bill Finalised and Passed by EALA</b>	<b>In final stages of realization</b>		



#	Agreed output/activities	Activity status as at June 2022	Assessment	Confidence level
34.	Position paper on EAC metrology Bill Developed	Completed	4	
35.	Public-private dialogue on metrology Bill	Completed	4	
36.	Technical and legal drafting of metrology Bill	Completed	4	
37.	Presentation of metrology Bill to SCTIFI	Completed	4	
38.	Presentation and Adoption of metrology Bill by EALA	In progress	3	
	<b>OVERALL</b>		<b>4</b>	

## ANNEX 5: SQI PROJECT RESULTS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Annex 5 gives the criteria for the assessment using a scale of 1(poor), 2(fair), 3(good), 4(very good) to 5(excellent). Confidence levels: low (Red), medium (yellow) or high (Green) to indicate the available level of evidence to support the evaluation team's assessment.

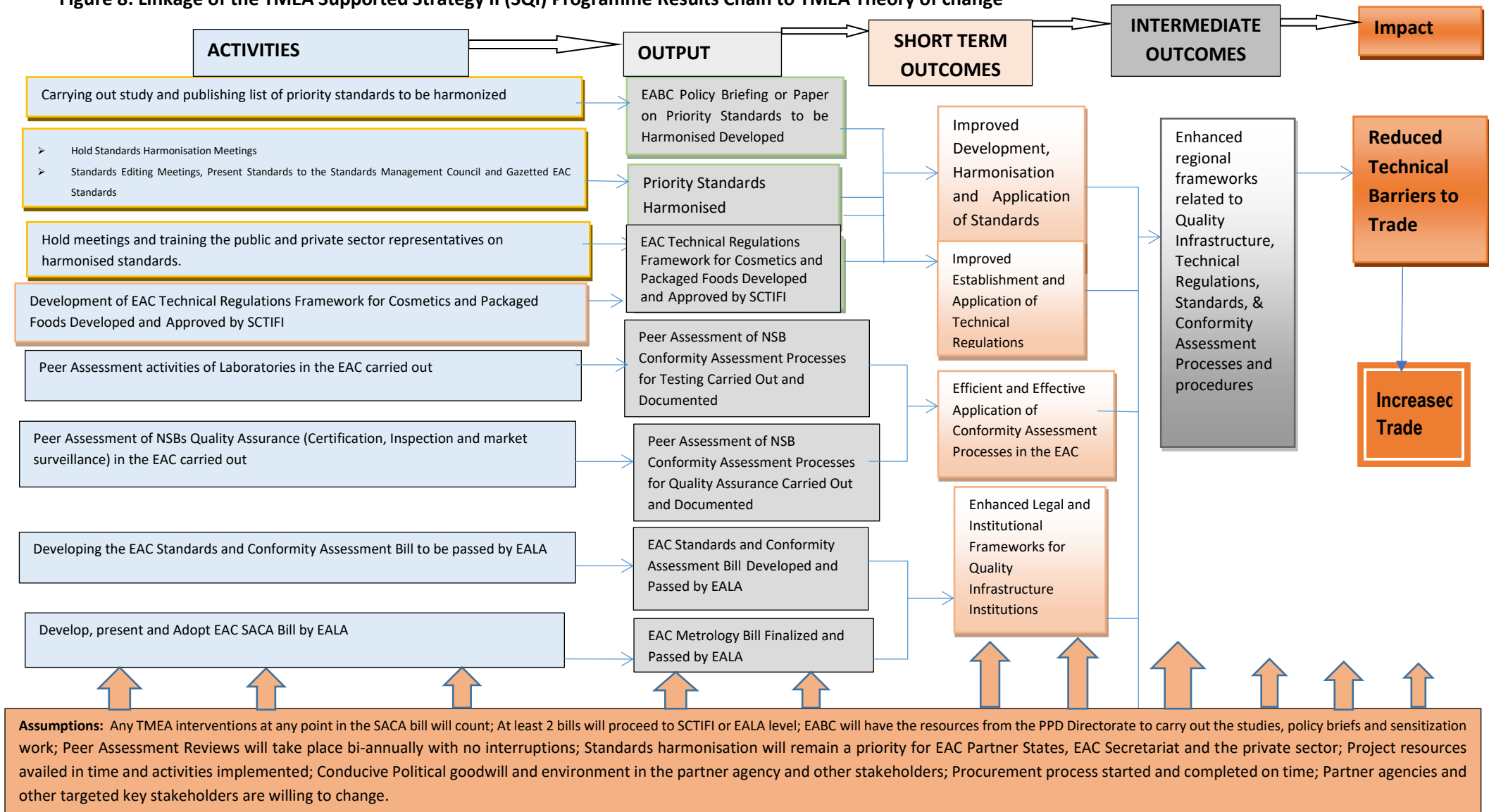
Outcome/Output	Outcome/Output Indicator	Timing		Baseline Data	Targets	Actual Results, June 2022	Assessment	Confidence Levels	Evaluator's Comments
		Start	End						
<b>Intermediate outcome:</b> Enhanced regional frameworks related to Quality Infrastructure, Technical Regulations, Standards, & Conformity Assessment Processes	No. of NSBs taking part in Annual Peer Assessment Reviews in Conformity Assessment- Testing and Quality Assurances (Certification, Inspection and/or Market Surveillance) with TMEA support	1/1/2018	June 2023	4	5	6	4		There is very good progress towards realization of these outcomes; though South Sudan is still participating as on observer to learn
<b>1.0 Short-Term Outcome:</b> Improved Development, Harmonisation and Application of Standards	% of harmonised East African Standards adopted by EAC Partner States	1/1/2018	June 2023	TBC	90%	96%	4		There is very good progress towards realization of this outcome.
<b>1.1 Output:</b> EACB Policy Brief or Paper on Priority Standards to be Harmonised Developed	No. of EABC studies for priority standards harmonisation	1/1/2018	June 2023	1	1	5	4		Output realized.
<b>1.2 Output:</b> Priority Standards Harmonised	No. of harmonised East African Standards	1/1/2018	June 2023	105 additional	Additional 80	24 additional	2		Output realized.
<b>1.3 Output:</b> Public-Private Representatives Sensitized on Harmonised Standards	No. of and type of stakeholders sensitized, disaggregated by stakeholder type and country	1/1/2018	June 2023	TBC	5	0	2		Activities planned next Financial Year to realize the output.
<b>2.0 Short-Term Outcome:</b> Improved Establishment and Application of Technical Regulations	No. of products covered in technical regulations frameworks	1/1/2018	June 2023	0	2	2	4		There is very good progress towards realization of these outcome. Framework covers prepackaged foods and cosmetics products.
<b>2.1 Output:</b> EAC Technical Regulations Framework for Cosmetics and Packaged Foods Developed and Approved by SCTIFI	Number of Support Services Implemented	1/1/2018	June 2023	0	1	1	4		Output realized.
<b>3. Short-Term Outcome:</b> Enhanced Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Quality Infrastructure Institutions	No. of bills related to SQI passed reviewed by SCTIFI or passed by EALA	1/1/2018	June 2023	0	2	2	4		There is very good progress towards realization of these outcomes.

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Outcome/Output	Outcome/Output Indicator	Timing		Baseline Data	Targets	Actual Results, June 2022	Assessment	Confidence Levels	Evaluator's Comments
		Start	End						
<b>3.1 Output:</b> EAC Standards and Conformity Assessment Bill Developed and Passed by EALA	No. of bills related to Standardisation and Conformity Assessment presented to SCTIFI and/or passed by EALA	1/1/2018	June 2023	0	1	1	4		Output realization in progress. Presented to EALA.
<b>3.2 Output:</b> EAC Metrology Bill Finalised and Passed by EALA	No. of bills related to metrology presented to SCTIFI and/or passed by EALA	1/1/2018	June 2023	0	1	1	4		Output realization in progress. Presented to EALA
<b>4. Short-Term Outcome:</b> Efficient and Effective Application of Conformity Assessment Processes in the EAC	No. of annual or bi-annual peer assessments carried out for Conformity Assessment Processes-Testing, Certification, Inspection and/or Market Surveillance carried out with TMEA funding and coordination	1/1/2018	June 2023	1	3	1	4		There is some progress towards realization of these outcomes.
<b>4.1 Output:</b> Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Testing Carried Out and Documented	No. of EAC NSBs-based laboratories and private laboratories participating in Peer Assessment in Testing	1/1/2018	June 2023	TBC	TBC	6	4		Output realization in progress. They participated on Proficiency testing.
<b>4.2 Output:</b> Peer Assessment of NSB Conformity Assessment Processes for Quality Assurance Carried Out and Documented.	No. of EAC NSBs-based certification bodies or private certification bodies participating in Peer Assessment of Certification, Inspection and/or Market Surveillance	1/1/2018	June 2023	TBC	TBC	0	2		Planned for next Financial Year
<b>Overall assessment of results</b>							<b>4</b>		<b>Very good progress towards the results</b>

## ANNEX 6: SQI PROJECT RESULTS CHAINS

Figure 8: Linkage of the TMEA Supported Strategy II (SQI) Programme Results Chain to TMEA Theory of change



## ANNEX 7: LIST OF EAST AFRICAN STANDARDS HARMONIZED 2018 TO 2022: ADOPTED AND USED

No.	Standard Title and Number	Standards Adopted and Used through												Remarks
		Burundi		Kenya		Rwanda		South Sudan		Tanzania		Uganda		
		Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	
PROCESSED HORTICULTURE PRODUCTS														
1.	EAS 77:2019, Fruit Drinks — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
2.	EAS 945:2019, Pickles — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
3.	EAS 946:2019, Dried mango — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
4.	EAS 947:2019, Jams, jellies and marmalades — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
5.	EAS 948:2019, Fruits juices and nectars — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
SUGAR AND SUGAR PRODUCTS														
6.	EAS 16:2021, Plantation (mill) white sugar — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
7.	EAS 17:2019, Methods of chemical analysis for Sugar — Specification	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Only Kenya and Tanzania adopted and used.
8.	EAS 351:2019, Toffee — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	Standard Title and Number	Standards Adopted and Used through												Remarks
		Burundi		Kenya		Rwanda		South Sudan		Tanzania		Uganda		
		Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	
9.	EAS 352:2019, Chewing gum and bubble gum — Specification	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from Burundi
10.	EAS 5:2021, Refined white sugar — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
11.	EAS 8:2021, Raw cane sugar — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
12.	EAS 348:2021 — Glossary of terms used in confectionery trade	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
COSMETICS AND RELATED PRODUCTS														
13.	EAS 956:2020— Air freshener aerosols — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
14.	EAS 957:2020— Aftershave - Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
15.	EAS 958:2020— Baby Oils - Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
16.	EAS 959:2020— Body Oils - Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
17.	EAS 960:2020 — Deodorants and	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	Standard Title and Number	Standards Adopted and Used through												Remarks
		Burundi		Kenya		Rwanda		South Sudan		Tanzania		Uganda		
		Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	Adopted	Used	
	antiperspirants - Specification													apart from South Sudan
18.	EAS 961:2020 Glycerine for cosmetic industry — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
19.	EAS 962:2020 — Hair spray — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
20.	EAS 963:2020—Lip Balm (Lip salve) - Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
21.	EAS 964:2020—Lip shine (gloss) — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
22.	EAS 965:2020—Lip stick Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
23.	EAS 966:2020 —Hair Extension — Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used apart from South Sudan
24.	EAS 967:2020—Shea Butter for Cosmetic Industry - Specification	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All adopted and used
25.	Overall level of adoption and use	100%	83%	100%	100%	96%	96%	100%	67%	100%	100%	96%	96%	

Overall, the EAC Partner States have adopted 96% of the EAC standards.

## ANNEX 8: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONTACTED

No.	County	Stakeholder Name	Designation	Company	Location	Telephone	E-Mail	Gender
1.	Burundi	Kanyamuneza Renonat	Head of chemistry lab	Burundi Bureau of standards	Angune Dela Tananie No. 500	+25779708121	renonatkany@gmail.com	Male
2.	Burundi	Baranpara Deo	Production	cooperative Teyi		+25775502035	baranparadeo@gmail.com	Male
3.	Burundi	Misigaro Simoen	Head, standards division	BBS	Bujumbura	+257779940877	misimeon@yahoo.com	Male
4.	Burundi	Manirakiza Dieudonne	Head, Inspection and market surveillance	Burundi Bureau of Standards	Boulevard Of Tanzania No. 500	+25779947298	manidieudo@yahoo.com	Male
5.	Burundi	Shadrack Niyonzima	Head, Quality Assurance Division	Burundi Bureau of standards (BBS)	Bujumbura, Burundi	+25779337182	niyonzima.shadrack@yahoo.com	Male
6.	Burundi	Karakura Daniel		DAPEL COMPANY	Bujumbura Ngagara Q10	+257 79991056	karakuradaniel2019@gmail.com	Male
7.	Burundi	Ndaboroheye Balthazar	Executive Secretary	Burundi Association of Manufacturers	Mukaza/ Rohero	+257779947852	balthazardaboreye@gmail.com	Male
8.	Burundi	Ruracenyeka Eric	Head of training center	BBM		+2577604444		Male
9.	Burundi	Nkorerimana Gorette	Director, Quality Assurance and testing	BBS	Boulevard Of Tanzania	+257761043733		Female
10.	Burundi	Binari	Laboratory and Quality	Rudi	Industrial Area	+25779917142		Male
11.	Burundi	Prof.Sindayikengera Severin	Director General	BBN				
12.	Kenya	Joyce Githuku	Quality Assurance Manager	Premier Foods Limited	Baba Dogo Road, Ruaraka, Nairobi	0700231565	Joyce.githuku@peptang.com	Female
13.	Kenya	Teresia Waithaka	Senior Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager	Coca-cola	Jogo James Gichuma Road, Nairobi	+254728572881	tewaithaka@coca-cola.com	Female
14.	Kenya	Evans Bullut	EDO	MSEA	Nairobi, Kenya	+254721649671	ebullut@msea.go.ke	Male
15.	Kenya	Tobia Ang'ila Ololo	Assistant Manager	Kenya Bureau of Standards	Popo Road Off Mombasa Road	+254722734921	ololot@kebs.org	Male
16.	Kenya	Ingrid Wekesa	Asst Director, Technology Transfer and Extension Services	Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute	Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, Nairobi Kenya	+254722789911	wngid@yahoo.com	Female
17.	Kenya	Josephat Bangi	Chief Manager- Metrology services	KEBS	Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road	+254722830965	bangij@kebs.org	Male
18.	Kenya	Sylvester M	Asst Manager-MS	KEBS	Popo Road Off Mombasa Road	+254718571664	mungais@kebs.org	Male
19.	Kenya	Tom Oduor Okumu	Ag Head of dept - testing	Kenya Bureau of standards	Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road	+254206948000	oduort@kebs.org	Male
20.	Kenya	Patricia Maina	QA Incharge	Kenvian Ltd	Nairobi	+254725423273	patricia.maina@kebiankenya.com	Female
21.	Kenya	Leinad Mwendwa	Asst manager	KEBS	Popo Road	+254026948652	mwendwal@kebs.org	Male



**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	County	Stakeholder Name	Designation	Company	Location	Telephone	E-Mail	Gender
22.	Kenya	Fredrick Mukilya	Trade research and policy	Kenya national chamber of commerce and industry	Hurahgham	+254717430094	fredrick.mukilya@kenyachamber.co.ke	Male
23.	Kenya	Mukoria Francis	Quality and regulatory Manager	Haco Industries Ltd	43903-00100	(+254) 786505071   726830776	francis.mukoria@haco.co.ke	Male
24.	Kenya	Lucy Ikonya	Manager trade affairs	KEBS	Popo Road Off, Mombasa Road	+254722737474	ikonya@kebs.org	Female
25.	Kenya	Tom Oduor Okumu	Ag. Head of Department-Testing Services	Kenya Bureau of Standards	Popo Road Nairobi	+254206948301	oduort@kebs.org	Male
26.	Kenya	Joyce Opondo	Corporate Manager	Kibos Sugar and Allied Industries Ltd	11273/2 Kisumu Municipality	+254707904900	goa@chatthegroup.com	Female
27.	Kenya	Elizabeth Nderitu	Regional Manager Standards and SPS	TMEA				Female
28.	Kenya	Dr. Andrew Edewa	Director Standards and SPS	TMEA				Male
29.	Rwanda	Robert Stephen		SULFO	Bp 90, Kigali	0788871487		Male
30.	Rwanda	Alphonse Kwizera	Executive Secretary	Rwanda Association of Manufacturers	Kigali	+250783955622	alkwizera@ram.org.rw	Male
31.	Rwanda	Utamuriza Ange Belise	QUALITY CONTROLLER OFFICER/CAMPANY REPRESENTATIVE	ORIBUT COMPANY LTD	Jabana-Gasabo-Kigali Rwanda,East Africa	+250785222308   +250786598006	oributcoltd@gmail.com	Male
32.	Rwanda	Mollene Kanyanze	Standards Officer	RSB	Gasabo, Kigali	+250788581740	mallene.kanyanze@rsb.gov.rw	Female
33.	Rwanda	Hakizimana Naivasha Bella	Horticulture Products Certification Officer/Acting Agro Processing SMEs, Technical Assistance Specialist	RWANDA STANDARDS BOARD	Kn 123 St, Kigali City – Nyarugenge District	+250 788 563 313	bella.hakizimana@rsb.gov.rw	Female
34.	Rwanda	Nizeyimana Jean	Standards Officer	RSB	Kigali, Rwanda	+250788283600	jela.nizeyimana@rsb.gov.rw	Male
35.	Rwanda	Julius Ndunga	Production Team lead	Bakhresa Grain milling Ltd	Special Economic Zone Kigali		julius@bakhresa.com	Male
36.	Rwanda	Aimable MUCYO	Food Products Standards Officer	Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)	Kk 15 Rd, 49 Kicukiro P.O.Box 7099, Kigali-Rwanda	+250788580303	aimable.mucyo@rsb.gov.rw	Male
37.	Rwanda	Stephen Mutua	Technical Manager	P2cussons E A ltd	P.O Box 48597-00100 Ruaraka Nairobi	+254720481177	stephen,mutua@p2cusson.com	Male
38.	Rwanda	Adrien Nkurikinsikiza	ICT Technical Asst	Chamber of women entrepreneurs	Kigali	+250781516863	adriennkiza@gmail.com	Male

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	County	Stakeholder Name	Designation	Company	Location	Telephone	E-Mail	Gender
39.	Rwanda	Ngurabatwaze Martin	Head Trade Negotiation and Facilitation	Private Sector federation	Magerwa Gatenga	+250788463080	martin@pst.org.rw	Male
40.	South Sudan	Jane Gordon Swore	Executive Director	South Sudan Women Entrepreneurs association	Central Equatorial State Juba	+211921643567	kanjan15@yahoo.com	Female
41.	South Sudan	James Nykole	Managing Director	South Farmers Ltd	Lemongabba, Juba	+211924787280	sfarmerscompanyltd@gmail.com	Male
42.	South Sudan	Zizi Maksudi	Head of Department	Revenue, customs	Juba Customs Hq	+211920236262	zmasaoud@yahoo.com	Female
43.	South Sudan	Boazl K	CEO	South Proconsulting Engineers	Yei Road , Ferrain Compound		boazk78@gmail.com	Male
44.	South Sudan	Yowa Soso		Chamber of commerce			yowasoso@gmail.com	Male
45.	South Sudan	Angelo Lado Gore		National Chamber of Commerce		+211921704494	angpitia70@gmail.com	Male
46.	South Sudan	Kennedy Kenyi Lodiong	Secretary General	Association of South Sudan Manufacturers (ASSM)	Juba	+211921746652	sgsouthsudanmanufacturers@gmail.com	Male
47.	South Sudan	Gloria N Lasu	Deputy Quality Assurance	SSNBS	Juba, South Sudan	+211921579458	gnyolia77@gmail.com	Female
48.	South Sudan	Neima Gomaa	Director	SSNBS	Juba, South Sudan	+211914525622	neimagomaa@gmail.com	Female
49.	South Sudan	Ayen Biong	Deputy Director, standards		Juba	+211921289892	ayenbiong@gmail.com	Female
50.	South Sudan	Matata Safi Juma	Managing Director	Hagana Agro Processing Co. Ltd	Juba, South Sudan	+211922925969	matatasafi@haganass.com	Male
51.	South Sudan	John Odongi	D/Director	SSNBS	Juba	+211921753111	odongijohn@gmail.com	Male
52.	South Sudan	Kual Komwel	D. Officer	SSNBS, Juba University	Juba	+211928511100	kworwel@gmail.com	Male
53.	South Sudan	Shaban A Mohammed	Operations Manager	ASSM		+21192802200	shabanajibs@gmail.com	Male
54.	South Sudan	Koul Ayom	Director, General	South Sudan National Bureau of standards	Juba, South Sudan	+21192230114	kaulabiar@yahoo.com	Male
55.	Tanzania	Max Rugaimukamu	Director General	Tanzania Private Sector Foundation(TPSF)	P.O.Box 11313	+225222601913	info@tpsf.or.tz	Male
56.	Tanzania	Magareth Gregory Teu	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION	P.O. Box 461, Uhindini, Dodoma	+255 758980226	magret.sido@go.tz	Female
57.	Tanzania	Eng.Saidi Isaa Mkwawa	Import and Export Control Manager	Tanzania Bureau Of Standards	PO Box 9524, Sam Nujoma Road / Morogoro Road, Ubungo, Dar Es Salaam.	+255 22 2450206 Toll Free Number: 0800110827	saidi.mkwawa@tbs.go.tz	Male
58.	Tanzania	Abdi Jumanne	Quality Assurance Officer	Tanzania Bureau of Standards	P. O Box 9524, Sam Nujoma Road / Morogoro Road,	+255 22 2450206	info@tbs.go.tz	Male
59.	Tanzania	Stephen George Bondo	Training manager	SIDO	Dodoma	+255784716877	bondo31@gmail.com	Male

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	County	Stakeholder Name	Designation	Company	Location	Telephone	E-Mail	Gender
60.	Tanzania	Margareth G Teu	Business development Officer	Small Industries development organization (SIDO)	Dodoma Region	+255758980226	magret.sido@go.tz	Female
61.	Tanzania	Salim Mohamed	Ag. International Liaison Officer	Tanzania Bureau of Standards	Morogoro Road / Sam Nujoma Road, Ubungo, Dar Es Salaam	+255715867800	salim.mohamed@tbs.go.tz	Male
62.	Tanzania	Victoria Michael	Policy Analyst	TPSF	Plot No. 1288, Mwaya Rd, Msasani Peninsula	+255 22 260 1938	victoria.michael@tpsf.or.tz	Female
63.	Tanzania	Frank J. Dafa	Trade Policy Specialist	Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI)	71783 Dar Es Salaam	+255 652 352 052	dafafrank@cti.co.tz	Male
64.	Tanzania	Eng Maneno Ally	Standard Officer	Tanzania bureau of standards (TBS)	Po Box 9524 Dare Salam	+2550689452334	maneno.ally@tbs.go.tz	Male
65.	Tanzania	Moses E Mbambe	Asst ME	TBS	9524 Dare Salam	+255767599191	moses.mbambe@tbs.go.tz	Male
66.	Tanzania	Fatuma Mauniko	Standards officer	Tanzania bureau of standards	Po Box 9524 Dare Salam	+255712607671	fatuma.mauniko@tbs.go.tz	Female
67.	Tanzania	Gervas Kaisi	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION MANAGER	TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (TBS)	P.O.Box 9524, Dar Es Salaam	+255222450206	gervas.mwanjabala@tbs.go.tz	Male
68.	Tanzania	Mohammed Jamal	Sales Director	METL Group Limited	P.O.Box 20660-	+255758077732	info@metl.net	Male
69.	Tanzania	Iddi Mvungi	COMPLIANCE MANAGER	SAID SALIM BAKHRESA&CO LTD	P.O.Box 2517---Dar Es Salaam	+255 22 2861116/7/8	mvungi3@bakhresa.com	Male
70.	Tanzania	Lamech Wesonga	Manager Standards and Policy	EABC				Male
71.	Tanzania	Stella Apolot	Principal Standards Officer	EAC				Female
72.	Uganda	Deus Mubangizi --	MANAGER NATIONAL MEROLOGY LABORATORIES	UNBS	-Plot M217 Nakawa Industrial Area	+256 772494025	deus.mubangizi@unbs.go.ug	Male
73.	Uganda	Rehema Meeme	STANDARDS OFFICER	UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (UNBS)	Bweyogerere, By-Pass Link, Uganda	+256783253612	rehema.meeme@unbs.go.ug   meemerehema@gmail.com	Female
74.	Uganda	Mariam Mugaga	Quality Assurance Manager	Britania Allied Industries	Industrial Area Ntinda	+256776100950	marriammuganga24@gmail.com	Female
75.	Uganda	Joel Peter Oryang	Regional and International Standardization Coordination (EAC Desk Officer)	Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)	Standards House, PLOT 2-12 Bypass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial And Business Park, P.O Box 6329 Kampala.	+256772946620	peter.oryang@unbs.go.ug	Male
76.	Uganda	Farhan Saud	QM	Hariss International Ltd Uganda	Kawempe, Bombo Road	+256707591593	f.saud@hotmail.com	Male

**REPORT FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

No.	County	Stakeholder Name	Designation	Company	Location	Telephone	E-Mail	Gender
77.	Uganda	Joseph Iberet	Principal Analyst (Head of Chemistry)	Uganda National Bureau of Standards	Plot 2-12, Bypass Link	+256701066148	josephiberet@gmail.com, j.iberet@unbs.go.ug	Male
78.	Uganda	Martha Lamuyu	ISO coordinator	Brittania Allied industries Ltd	Kampala, Uganda	+256778543349	iso@dauda.co.ug   marthalam2021@gmail.com	Female
79.	Uganda	Lydia Nayiga	Standards Officer	UNBS	Bweyogerere	+256779073981	lydia.nayiga@unbs.go.ug	Female
80.	Uganda	Philip Kahuma	Ag. Manager Certification Department	Uganda National Bureau of Standards	Standards House, Plot 2-12 By-Pass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial And Business Park, Wakiso, Uganda.	+256782949472	philip.kahuma@unbs.go.ug	Male
81.	Uganda	Phillip Nsenge	Research, Monitoring and Evaluation lead personel	Federation of small and Medium sized enterprises(FSME)	Stretcher Road,Ntinda	0782996632	nsengep@gmail.com	Male
82.	Uganda	Arorwa Daniel	MANAGER MARKET SURVEILLANCE	UNBS	Bweyogere	0785083079	arowdan@gmail.com or daniel.arorwa@unbs.go.ug	Male
83.	Uganda	Mable Ibunyu	Quality Control Manager	Movit Products Limited	Zzana, Off Entebbe Road, Bunamwaya	0703274936	Mable.ibunyu@movitproducts.com	Female

## ANNEX 9: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. 2603-SQI Regional-Work-Plan and Monitoring Plan(1)
2. EABC policy briefs
3. EAC Gazette 2020,
4. EAC PT Scheme Gap Assessment 2021 -Final Report.
5. EAC, 24<sup>th</sup> East African Quality Assurance Technical Subcommittee (QATSC)
6. EAC, Extra - Ordinary Meeting Of the Sectorial Council On Trade, Industry, Finance And Investment, September 2020.
7. EAC, Proficiency Testing Scheme EAC Peer Gap Assessment Report
8. East African Standards Catalogue 2022.
9. Final Adopted Report SCTIFI 11 Sept 2020.
10. List of TMEA supported harmonized standards.
11. OECD/DAC Guidelines for Project and Programme Evaluations by Austrian Development Agency, Evaluation Unit.
12. Project work plan 2603
13. Report of the 2nd TWG Taskforce Meeting 26-30 August Kampala.
14. Signed Report Of Proficiency Testing Peer Assessment.
15. Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (SQMT) Act 2006
16. Standards and SPS Programme PAR
17. Summary Of Peer Assessment Findings - Product Certification 2018.
18. TMEA Master\_Strategy\_2\_RF\_SQI-SPS Updated JAN27
19. TMEA Project Sheet.
20. TMEA SQI Project Appraisal Report (PAR).
21. Training And Peer Assessment Review Report 2020.
22. Treaty for Establishing East African Community