

## **New Project**

### **Concept Note**

#### **A Study of the Impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement on Women Shuttle Cross-border Traders in West Africa**

##### **1. Research Team**

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Ruth Abiola Adimula, Esq., FCTI-  
Lecturer, Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin,  
Nigeria.

Dr. Adimula is a Lecturer, Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin; immediate past Ag Director, Centre for Peace and Security Studies, Al-Hikamah University, Ilorin Nigeria(Sabbatical Leave-2022-23), Postgraduate Coordinator, Editorial Board Member Unilorin Bulletin(2012- date);Principal Partner, Biola Adimula & Co., a firm of Legal Practitioners. Obtained her Ph.D in Peace and Development Studies in 2014, LL.M 2004 (Obafemi Awolowo University); LL.B in 1992 (ABU, Zaria). Research area includes Law, Gender, Alternative Disputes Resolution, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees in West Africa; holds a Certificate of Harvard University, USA in Child Protection(2020); Rotary Peace Fellow (Class 23) Chulalongkorn University, Thailand(2017).

She served as a Faculty/Guest Lecturer, National Institute for Security Studies(NISS), Abuja, University of the Incarnate Words, Murray State University Kentucky; Trinity University, USA; Team of Experts- Martin Luther Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji, Nigeria. She is a Council Member, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria; served as Consultant, Senate Committee on Constitutional Review Nigeria(2016-2019); Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Governor of Kwara State between 2013 and 2019. She is the Chancellor, Igbomina Diocese, Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion.



**Researcher:** Dr. Adebunsi Adeniran  
Department of Sociology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



Adebusuyi Isaac Adeniran holds a PhD degree in Social Sciences and presently works as a Professor/Researcher in sociology, migration, crime, conflict, regional integration, sustainable development and research methodology at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Nigeria. He is a National Research Consultant to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Migration with focus on Trafficking-in-Persons (TIPS) and Smuggling-of-Migrants (SOMs) in Nigeria. He is also a Visiting Researcher at the Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, Toronto, Canada. He specializes in social research design, field investigation and data management. He has received copious academic awards, in forms of scholarship, fellowship, study and research grants, from notable academic and research based institutions, such as University of Oxford, United Kingdom, University of Pittsburgh, United States, York University, Canada, University of Oldenburg, Germany, Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), Sweden, South-South Exchange Program on History of Development (SEPHIS), The Netherlands, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Senegal, Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Canada, International Sociological Association (ISA), Center for Social Science Studies, Calcutta (CSSSC), India, Atlas Network, United States, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Greece and International Science Council (ISC). He has served on the editorial board of Working USA: Journal of Labor and Society. For nearly a decade, he has been functioning as a reviewer for Critical Sociology (Sage), International Migration (Wiley), Evaluation Review (Sage), Gender and Society (Sage), Journal of International Migration and Integration (Springer), Canadian Journal of African Studies (Routledge), Ethnic and Racial Studies (Taylor and Francis), Africa Today (Indiana University Press), Environmental Justice (University of Illinois), East Asian Integration Studies (<http://asianintegration.org/>), International Journal of Cyber Criminology (<http://www.cybercrimejournal.com/>). He is currently the co-

editor of 'African Review of Migration and Environment' (ARME) and a member of the editorial advisory board of Cambridge Scholars Publishing. He has equally functioned as an editor for Wiley-Blackwell in 2012 and as an author for Palgrave Macmillan and CODESRIA since 2012. He is the author of 'Migration and Regional Integration in West Africa: A Borderless ECOWAS' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and 'Migration Crises in 21st Century Africa: Patterns, Processes and Projections' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). He is the co-author of 'Regional Economic Communities: Exploring the Process of Socio-economic Integration in Africa' (CODESRIA, 2015), 'Africa Now: Emerging Issues and Alternative Perspectives' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) and 'ICT and Food Security in Africa' (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020). He has used cogent social science methods to research and publish over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book chapters and reviews that focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. He has participated in more than 70 distinguished academic fora (conferences, workshops, symposiums and trainings) in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America between 2005 and 2022.

**Researcher:** Dr. Catherine Adegoke  
Management Consultant

**Dr. Catherine Adegoke** holds a doctorate degree in Management Sciences. She combines both public and private sector experiences to demonstrate deep insight and wide experience of the development sector, in issues that affect public and private sector systems

She has worked (and consulted) for many national and international bodies, including WHO (Nigeria (*EPI/HIV/AIDS, EDM*)); WHO/AFRO; WHO/Geneva); UNAIDS; World Bank; UNDP, USAID/MSH/RPM Plus; USAID/John Snow, Incorporated (JSI); USAID/Basic Grant Management Solutions (GMS); IFC, SFH, UNICEF, ICF etc. She has been a technical facilitator for West African and East African PSM workshops and a consultant for several national and international conferences, training workshops, surveys and case studies.

Her specialized skills in Programme Management revolve around macro issues -Framework, Coordination and Projects (Strategic Planning, *Project Quality Assurance; Supply Chain Systems Quality Control/Analysis*); and Evaluation (*Research/Desktop, Case Study and Data Review*). She is

also versed in Human Resources Development: Capacity Building (*Training Needs Analyses; Curriculum and Training Materials development, as well as Facilitation and Evaluation of Training*).

**Researcher:** Ayodeji Adeyemo  
Senior Policy Analyst, BAC Consultancy



## **2. Proposed Study Areas**

### **Round One**

- a) Seme Border-Nigeria Benin Border
- b) Aflao Border- Togo-Benin Border

### Round Two

- c) Senegal- Gambia Border
- d) Togo-Ghana Border

## **3. Background & Context**

Intra-regional trade refers to the exchange of goods and services between countries located in the same geographic region. This can lead to an enlargement in the size of markets thereby creating competition, lower prices and improvement in quality due to competition, increase in entrepreneurship and new business opportunities for firms and enhanced employment opportunities. Regional integration can also reduce countries' dependence on traditional trading partners and raise their resilience against external shocks.

However, trade within African Nations has remained low compared to trade within other regions. Some key constraints to Africa's ability to trade with itself and with the rest of the world include lack of product diversification, high trade costs, poor transport and communications infrastructure, unreliable power, etc.

Also, Intra-African trade remains low because regional trade agreements (RTAs) have not been fully implemented by member-states. Trade tariffs remain high on products, and non-tariff barriers are pervasive across the continent. These impediments affect the ability of African citizens, especially women who are involved in cross border trade as small business entrepreneurs to benefit from the regional integration.