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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



**THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN MEETING HOUSEHOLD
NEEDS IN MKWASINE ESTATE, MASVINGO.**

BY

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN
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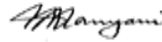
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DEDICATION

To the resilient and resourceful cross border traders who courageously navigate the challenges of international trade in search of better lives and brighter futures.

This work is dedicated to your spirit of enterprise, your unwavering determination, and your passion for building a better world for yourselves and your communities. May your efforts be recognized and rewarded, and may your successes inspire future generations of entrepreneurs and innovators.

I also dedicate this work to you, my family, for your unwavering faith in me and for the sacrifices you have made to help me pursue my dreams. Your presence in my life has been my guiding light, your words of encouragement my motivation, and your smiles my hope for a brighter tomorrow.

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"I have run the race with endurance, I have fought the good fight, and I have kept the faith. As the psalmist says, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path' (Psalm 119:105 KJV). I have leaned on God's promises and guidance throughout my journey at Bindura University of Science Education, and He has sustained me and brought me to this day.

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ABSTRACT

The sustainability of cross-border trade as a means of meeting household needs in Mkwesine Estate is confronted by a complex array of challenges, encompassing economic, environmental, and policy-related factors. Despite the pivotal role of cross-border trade in fulfilling household requirements, there is a critical need to comprehensively understand the underlying reasons for engaging in cross-border trade, the livelihood strategies employed by traders, the sustainability of these strategies, and the challenges encountered in this context. This study aims to address these gaps by investigating the reasons for cross-border trade, determining the livelihood strategies utilized, assessing the sustainability of these strategies, and identifying the challenges faced by cross-border traders in meeting household needs within Mkwesine Estate. Data was collected through interviews and questionnaires with cross border traders and village heads to investigate their reasons for engaging in trade, the livelihood strategies employed, the sustainability of these strategies, and the challenges they face. The findings revealed that cross border trade is an important source of income for households in Mkwesine Estate, and is driven by factors such as limited opportunities for formal employment, poverty, high prices of basic goods, and the desire to support family members. The study further reveals that cross border traders employ a range of livelihood strategies, including agriculture, retail, manufacturing, services, casual labor, buying and selling a variety of goods, engaging in multiple forms of trade, and seeking financial support from family and friends. Despite the benefits of cross border trade, the study also identifies several challenges faced by traders, including accommodation, sexual abuse, xenophobia, transport cost, crime and theft, abuse, language, competition, currency fluctuations, difficulties accessing credit, safety and security risks, and limited bargaining power. The results of this study are poised to inform targeted interventions and policies aimed at bolstering the sustainability of cross-border trade and livelihood strategies, particularly in meeting household needs within Mkwesine Estate. This involve the development of tailored support programs, capacity-building initiatives, and policy reforms to enhance the resilience and effectiveness of cross-border trade as a means of meeting household needs. Additionally, the findings have the potential to contribute to broader discussions on sustainable economic development and community well-being, offering insights with relevance beyond the local context.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ICBT.....	Informal Cross Border Trade
NDP.....	National Development Plan
ESAP.....	Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes
SLA.....	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
DFID.....	Department for International Development
SLVC.....	Sustainable Livelihoods Vulnerability Context
ILO.....	International Labor Organization
IOM.....	International Organization for Migration
CBBTS.....	Cross Border Business Trade solution

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Cross-border trade is a significant form of informal economic activity, where the movement of goods across borders is a critical aspect of self-employment, poverty reduction, and wealth creation. Cross-border trade is also a transaction in goods and services between residents and non-resident. It is a crucial aspect since it benefits in the employment creation and meeting family needs. Zimbabwe has a record of 90% rate of unemployment (estimation), looking at only formal trade and surprisingly, cross-border trade has created a pivotal employment chances, with around an estimation of 5.7 million people currently involve in informal trade.

Due to economic hardships in Zimbabwe, people strive as to meet household needs such clothes and food and they end up involved cross-border trade. Like other entrepreneurship, cross border trade have risk and obstacles that traders may face, for instance lack of protection, harassments, robbery and thefts, just to mention but a few Adding on, cross-border traders have also their methods or strategies as a way of mitigating the challenges and risks they may face.

1.1 Background of the research

Poverty have been increasing in recent years in Zimbabwe which have left many people choice less but to be involved in formal activities, such as cross border trade. Munshi (2003), argued that high levels of unemployment and poverty in developing countries leads to the growth of informal cross border trade activities, as unemployed individuals seek to generate income and support their families. This rapid expanding of cross-border trade is triggered by weak employment opportunities, high market response of informal cross-border trade to market signals especially in time of higher price vitality, week capacity constraints state, and mainly by economic hardships hence increasing as people strives for better lives. Humindu (2013), alluded that, one of the crucial challenges is food insecurity in Zimbabwe with almost 50% of the population living with less than US\$ 2 per day.

According to Ama and Okurut (2013), informal cross-border trade (ICBT) is a crucial source of income generation, livelihood development, and meeting the needs of family households. This form of trade, as a livelihood strategy, has the potential to improve income levels and provide a sustainable source of income for households. In many regions, informal cross-border trade represents a significant economic activity, providing a means for individuals and households to earn a living and improve their standard of living. They also pointed that cross border trade creates employment, ensuring household foods security, and poverty reduction. This is what is happening in Mkwesine Estate where there are cross-border traders. Furthermore, there are no reasonable doubts on the exact role played by cross border trade in aiming to meet household need in Mkwesine Estate, Masvingo, since the research observed the significance of cross-border trade as it reduces poverty, creates self-employment. Moyo (2021), pointed the importance of informal cross border trade in exploring new markets, reducing poverty and supporting livelihoods in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas bordering with neighboring countries. More so, World Trade Organization (2019), noted that the availability of unique products is a key driver of international trade, as they provide an opportunity for traders to enter new markets and increase their market share.

Cross-border trade, while offering numerous benefits to traders and their families, is also fraught with various risks and challenges. According to Muzvidziwa (2007), this line of work involves significant challenges that traders must navigate in order to survive and succeed. From security concerns and cross-border regulations to competition and financial risks, cross-border traders face numerous hurdles that can impact their safety, livelihoods, and success. Despite these challenges, many traders continue to engage in cross-border trade due to the income-generating potential and the limited alternative opportunities available to them.

Some of the challenges or obstacle that cross border traders in Mkwesine Estate face are notably; fluctuation of exchange rate, less marketing information difference language, transportation costs, customs such as norms and values, harassment and also abuse. Smallbone and Welter (2012) noted that cross-border entrepreneurship, just like any other form of entrepreneurship, is challenged by various difficulties and obstacles that can undermine cooperation and profitability. The cross-border context, in particular, introduces unique challenges that entrepreneurs must overcome to succeed. Cross-border entrepreneurs face issues such as cultural and language barriers, legal and regulatory challenges, and logistical complexities, among others. These factors can impede effective

communication, hinder business transactions, and increase costs, all of which can impact the overall viability and profitability of cross-border enterprises.

Cross-border trade has been lowering the vulnerabilities of many family holds in Mkwazine Estate but these challenges or obstacle may have significant impact to traders. Muzvidziwa, (2007) postulated that cross-border trade is strategy undertaken by people as social mechanism to escape poverty and is it more profitable when there are less challenges and risks.

The research realize that cross-border traders continue with their trading business forgetting all the obstacle that they may face. Even if they face challenges of robbery and theft, they with bounce back to where they were before the unfortunate scenario occurred. Some of the strategies or methods that are used by cross-border traders include online shopping, good communication, consultation and cooperation between trading businesses.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Despite the critical role of cross-border trade in meeting household needs, there is a significant knowledge gap in understanding the sustainability of this phenomenon. While cross-border trade has been extensively studied in the context of international trade and economic development, the specific focus on its sustainability has received relatively little attention in the literature. Moreover, the existing research on sustainable cross-border trade is fragmented, with few studies examining the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of this issue in a comprehensive and integrated manner. This lack of research attention is particularly concerning given the growing importance of cross-border trade in meeting the needs of a rapidly increasing global population, and the urgent need for sustainable solutions to mitigate its environmental impact.

Therefore, this study aims to address this knowledge gap by exploring the sustainability of cross-border trade in meeting household needs in the context of Mkwazine Estate, Zimbabwe. This study will identify the reasons for cross-border trade among households in the region, determine the livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders, and examine the sustainability of these strategies. Additionally, this study will determine the challenges faced by cross-border traders in meeting household needs, including the role of policy, infrastructure, and market factors. Mukozho (2011), Welter (2012), and Muzvidziwa (2007) all highlight the importance of recognizing and

institutionalizing cross-border trade as part of national policies, given its significant role in shaping household livelihood options. Cross-border trade is a complex and often challenging endeavor, fraught with various risks and obstacles. Sarkar (2010) also notes that these risks can affect both male and female cross-border traders. The findings of this study will have important implications for policy and practice, highlighting the need for sustainable cross-border trade practices that prioritize both economic development and environmental stewardship.

This study also aims to contribute to the achievement of Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, by identify the reasons for cross-border trade in meeting household needs, which will inform strategies for promoting sustainable consumption patterns (Target 12.2). Determining the livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders, which will help assess the sustainability of their practices (Target 12.3). Examining the sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross-border trade, which will identify areas for improvement and inform policy interventions (Target 12.4). Determine the challenges faced by cross-border traders, which will help develop targeted solutions to address these challenges and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns (Target 12.5).

1.3 Aim of the research

- To examine the sustainability of cross border trade in meeting household needs in Mkwane Estate, Masvingo.

1.3.1 Main research question

- How sustainable is cross border trade in meeting household needs in Mkwane Estate, Masvingo.

1.4 Objectives of the research

- To identify the reason for cross border trade in meeting their house hold needs.
- To determine the livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders in meeting their house hold needs.

- To examine the sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border trade in meeting house hold needs.
- To determine the challenges faced by cross border traders in meeting house hold needs.

1.5 Research question

- What are the reasons for individuals to engage in cross-border trade to meet their household needs?
- What livelihood strategies do cross-border traders utilize to meet their household needs?
- How sustainable are the livelihood strategies employed by cross border trade in meeting house hold needs?
- What are the challenges faced by cross border traders in meeting house hold needs

1.6.0 Justification

1.6.1 To the student

The research is worth taking because it is the completion of the Bindura University Science Education, bachelor of sciences honors degree in Development Studies. It will also improve the author's knowledge of the causes, challenges and livelihood methods employed by cross border traders.

1.6.2 To the society

Cross-border trading has over the years been an important livelihood option in Zimbabwe, particularly given the worsening economic problems such as chronic unemployment, high inflation rates, and cash shortages. This study will come out with the advantages of cross border trade such as poverty reduction and fight social discrimination as it provides trading opportunities for a good number of people, for example women, are the most active traders. Cross border trade is a significant means of stabilizing food security at household level, particularly given that traders mentioned that they bring foodstuff for consumption back home. One of the major advantages of international trade is the increase in market competitiveness. With increased trade, businesses are exposed to more competition, which drives them to offer better prices to consumers in order to maintain market share. This

ultimately leads to more affordable products and services for consumers, as businesses are incentivized to offer competitive pricing to stay ahead of their competitors.

1.6.3 To an entrepreneur

This study is worth taking because it explores some of the advantages brought by cross border such as cross-border business trade solutions (CBBTS). Additionally, businesses can benefit from international trade by gaining a deeper understanding of the laws and regulations in different markets, which allows them to operate more effectively and efficiently. By navigating these regulations with ease, businesses can expand their customer base by catering to market-specific preferences and requirements, further increasing their competitiveness.

1.6.4 To the University

The study is important to the University since it will add some information to the body of knowledge, especially to the faculty of sustainable development that other academics can use in the future.

1.7 Definition of terms

1.7.1 Cross border trade

According to Kachere (2011), cross-border trade refers to the short-term movement of small-scale traders between neighboring countries to buy or sell goods, typically from formal retail outlets to wholesale stores. These goods are then usually resold in boutique stores and flea markets. Furthermore, Muzvidziwa (2007) highlights that cross-border trade is a strategy employed by people to escape poverty. As a social mechanism, cross-border trade offers an alternative means for individuals to generate income and improve their livelihoods, particularly in communities with limited economic opportunities.

1.7.2 Household need

Household needs are goods and products used within households. They are the tangible and movable personal property placed in the rooms of a house, such as a bed or refrigerator. According to Hosegood (2005), standard definitions of the household mainly involves some intersection of keywords or phrases relating to residency requirements, common food consumption, and common intermingling of income or production decisions.

1.7.3 Livelihood

These are the methods or ways used by people as a means of production and also consumption as to meet their daily needs and wants. In simple words it is a means of securing the necessities of life. It can be expressed as the adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs. According to Chamber and Conway (1992), a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets including both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living.

1.7.4 Mkwesine Estate

Mkwesine Estate is located in the lowveld region of Zimbabwe. The Estate is located in the north east of Chiredzi town, with an estimation of thirty kilometers away from the town.

1.7.5 Sustainability

A sustainable livelihood is one that can withstand sudden shocks and chronic stress, while preserving or enhancing its capacity to provide for present and future needs, without compromising the natural resources upon which it depends. The term "sustainable" underscores the importance of maintaining or improving resource productivity over time. A sustainable livelihood is not only able to cope with and recover from challenges, but also strengthens its resources and capabilities to ensure long-term viability. Moreover, such a livelihood takes into account the natural resource base and recognizes the need to protect and preserve it for future generations.

1.7.6 Resilience

Livelihood resilience refers to the ability of social systems to cope with and recover from disasters. Jiao (2017), postulated that, livelihood resilience refers to the ability of social systems to cope with and recover from disasters

1.7.7 Livelihood provisioning

Livelihood provisioning is a set of relief interventions that aim to provide essential food, health, and other needs to households facing emergencies or chronic vulnerabilities. These interventions are designed to ensure that people in distress are able to maintain their nutritional levels and survive.

Livelihood provisioning typically involves the distribution of food and other relief items, as well as health services, to affected communities. The goal is to address immediate needs and prevent the deterioration of people's wellbeing. This form of assistance is crucial for those facing extreme situations, such as natural disasters, conflict, or persistent poverty

1.7.8 Livelihood protection

Livelihood protection interventions aim to safeguard the livelihood systems of households from degradation, and to replace or rebuild their productive assets. These interventions include timely transfer of food or income to mitigate the impact of disasters and maintain household resilience, as well as infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, and replacement of critical assets such as tools, boats, and seeds.

The goal of livelihood protection is to shield households from the devastating effects of shocks and stresses, preserving their ability to meet basic needs and continue their productive activities. These interventions seek to not only protect people from immediate hardship but also to build their capacity for long-term self-sufficiency and stability.

1.7.8 Livelihood promotion

Livelihood promotion interventions focus on improving the resilience of household livelihoods, so that they can sustainably provide for food and other basic needs. These interventions often include strategies that diversify livelihood options, create alternative income-generating activities, provide financial services, such as loans and insurance, and strengthen local markets.

These interventions require a different set of resources, capacities, and timeframes to achieve their objectives, compared to livelihood provisioning or protection interventions. Livelihood promotion aims at addressing the root causes of household vulnerability, fostering economic growth and stability, and ultimately supporting long-term sustainable development.

1.8.0 Limitation

1.8.1 Limited access to information

Like many other researches, the study involved some people in the research, and the author faced problems with access to information. It was because respondents regarded certain information as private and confidential. However, the author convinced and assured them that the study was meant for only academic interests.

1.8.2 Limited time

Most study have their deadlines when they need to complete their studies, and the student faced challenges in finding time for research, but he managed to carry out the research during weekends

1.8.3 Financial constraints

Despite limited resources, the research managed to conduct a thorough study. Financial constraints restricted the research's ability to fully delve into the research topic, but innovative and cost-effective strategies, such as the use of emails and surveys, were employed to gather data. The resource limitations, while hindering the research's ability to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the subject, also required resourcefulness and adaptability to overcome obstacles and collect as much valuable information as possible within the constraints.

1.9 Assumptions

The research hypothesizes that cross-border trade has the potential to bring about positive macroeconomic and social changes in the form of food security, income creation, and reduced social exclusion for rural populations, particularly in the Mkwesine Estate area. If these potential benefits can be harnessed and capitalized upon, cross-border trade can become a vital contributor to the Estate's ongoing efforts to combat poverty. By tapping into the resources and opportunities created by cross-border trade, Mkwesine Estate can address some of the key challenges facing its population, such as access to food, stable income, and social integration. More so, in Zimbabwe, where unemployment is estimated at up to 90% when considering only the formal economy, the research assumes that cross border trade can create a significant employment opportunity.

However, the author assumes that the challenges uncounted by cross border trade such as lack of infrastructure, transport costs, gender discrimination, lack of common currency, the difference in languages, high cost of doing business, political instability, insecurity, corruption and harassment complicates cross border trade and can make it not sustainable.

1.10 Summary

The chapter presented background details, aims and objectives of the study, a description of the issue statement, a key research question, a list of research objectives, the importance of the study, assumptions, definition of terms, a list of limitations, and a summary

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Due to economic hardships, cross-border trade increased as to fight against poverty and inequalities. These two higher level of poverty and inequalities, affect social inclusion and economic growth gradually. Humavindu (2013), pointed that counties in Sub Saharan, households face food insecurity. Unemployment, poverty and social and gender inequalities in Zimbabwe are the pivotal causes leading to cross border trade.

Long (2004), said that (SLA) Sustainable Livelihood Approach assists individuals to meet their desired livelihood consequences with great emphasis on the poverty alleviation as well as ensuring that households meet their needs. Muzvidziwa (2007), also pointed that the processing of crossing border, buying goods to sell when you get back or going with to sell in other countries is not something new because it has been done since 1890s. Some scholars like Sparks (2010) pointed that cross border trade in an entrepreneurial activity that stimulate employment and economic growth. One can also tell that the continuation of people being in cross border trading shows that the trade has much benefits

2.1 Contextualizing cross border trade

As suggested by Smallbone (2012), cross-border traders exhibit entrepreneurial characteristics and engage in cross-border trade, sometimes traversing multiple borders. Skider (2010) notes that such trade is commonly referred to as "informal" because these traders and their business enterprises are typically unregistered, and operate outside of the formal regulatory and taxation frameworks. This informal nature of cross-border trade is also corroborated by Ostrom (2007), who emphasizes the absence of infrastructure and the evasion of government regulation and taxation by cross-border traders. Lesser (2009), further supports the informal nature of cross-border trade, highlighting that while the goods traded are often legitimate, the traders themselves circumvent government regulations and taxation. This avoidance of formal frameworks contributes to the widespread

perception of cross-border trade as an illicit activity, despite the significant economic contributions made by these traders to their respective communities. The informal and often unregulated nature of cross-border trade presents unique challenges and opportunities that require careful consideration by policy-makers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

2.2.0 Reasons for cross border trade

A significant body of literature suggests that high rates of unemployment and poverty serve as major drivers of cross-border trade. Kabeer and Chani (2012), indicate that individuals often turn to cross-border trade as a means of generating income and improving their livelihoods in the face of limited economic opportunities in their home countries. The informal nature of cross-border trade allows individuals to engage in economic activities without the constraints of formal employment or the need for advanced skills or education. This flexibility can make cross-border trade an attractive option for those seeking to supplement their income or support their households in the face of poverty.

2.2.1 Unemployment

According to the Republic of Namibia (2012), unemployment can be defined as individuals who are 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job, and who are either actively seeking employment or are available to work. The definition of unemployment, as outlined by the Republic of Namibia, emphasizes the importance of capturing those individuals who are of working age and are either actively searching for employment or are ready and able to work. This definition highlights the broader scope of unemployment, which includes individuals who may not be actively seeking employment due to factors such as a lack of opportunities or limited access to job-related resources. Vollmann and Hüttermann (2020), highlighted the role of cross border trade in promoting growth in developing countries as people will have employment. Households in rural communities engage in ICBT for various reasons, such exploring new markets and income generation (Chasi, 2021) and Yeats (2020).

Most African countries have higher records of unemployment. Barnett (2010), argued that most African counties especially those in Sub Saharan Africa are faced with daunting unemployment rates. Some school of thoughts argues that unemployment is a worldwide crisis, and it identifies

unemployment as a major challenge that the African countries in the Sub Saharan with face years after years, despite some indicators of economic development and economic growth. Furthermore, this school of thought goes on to say there is need of social and economic policies that with reduce higher level of unemployment in Africa. Due to rise in unemployment rates, cross border trade increased, China (2008) pointed. The National Development Plan of Namibia (2012) has identified the root cause of cross-border trade as being linked to the challenges of unemployment. The plan suggests that the genesis of cross-border trade is often rooted in the economic hardships and lack of opportunities that people face in their home countries. This lack of opportunities drives individuals to seek economic opportunities across borders, often through informal trade. The National Development Plan (NDP) recognizes that cross-border trade is a vital component of many people's livelihood strategies, serving as a means of generating income and supporting their households in the face of poverty and unemployment.

Matorova (2008), also postulated that the higher level of unemployment are such causes or push factors for cross border trade (ICBT). This view goes hand in hand with Kachere (2011) ideas, which says that non formal economies in Africa, especially in the Sub Saharan region are not stable or shrinking. He goes on to say that this retrenching employers and are not able to attract all school leavers. Hence leaving people with no option but to be engaged into different informal livelihood such as cross border trade and informal mining. Due to decline of formal sector in terms of wages, cross border trade becomes profitable and keeping its existence and supported by Kachere (2011) and Muzvidziwa (2007).

The National Statistic Agency of Zimbabwe (2014), also pointed that informal cross border trade is a major asset in the non-formal sector. Kabeer (2012), also goes on to argue that limited or shortages of employment in the formal sector and the continuation decline in the wages is leading women to join the informal cross border trade as to escape poverty. Therefore, these allegations can be true that the rise in unemployment rate and decrease in the wages are determinant of cross border trade.

2.2.2 Poverty

Titeca (2012), pointed that in Uganda, cross border trade is much linked to marginal, economic discrimination. He also added that cross border trade was born in Uganda as an indigenous way to

give development and fight poverty. Muzvidziwa (2007), argued that, Zimbabwe is great example that show that economic hardships, which leads to poverty leads to cross border trade. He pointed that during the (ESAP) Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes, most women were forced by poverty to participate into cross border trade. (ESAP) Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes caused dramatic inflation, minimized savings at household level and led to poor standard of living, hence poverty, Saunyama (2013) and Muzvidziwa (2007), Jawando (2012) and Kachere (2011), showed in their research that cross border trade has expanded due to increase of poverty situations. People are forced to be in cross border trade as a result of such fragility social and economic situations, Lombard (2003). Furthermore, Kachere (2011), pointed out that the basic concept of poverty, which is the failed to attain the pre requisites for a survival, has transcended many skeptics and has led them to be involved in informal cross border trade so that they will survive. He goes on to say that many women are involved in cross border trade than man so as to escape the burden of caring as well as sustaining families. Due to such burden women try to get rid of it through informal cross border trade. Welter (2012) and Kamba (2017), pointed that cross border trade as an activity of entrepreneurial where people will be trying to protect them from social and economic burden. Therefore, one can argue that poverty is such a factor that is contributing to informal cross border trade judging with the above factors.

Many previous studies have examined the causes of informal cross border trade (ICBT) and have identified unemployment and poverty as major factors driving people to engage in this activity. However, most of these studies have been conducted in urban areas, and little is known about the specific causes of ICBT in rural areas like Mkwazine Estate. This study will focus on understanding the unique factors that lead people in this area to engage in to cross border trade.

2.3.0 Livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders in meeting their house hold needs

2.3.1 Small-scale agricultural production to supplement income from trading.

One study that looks at small-scale agricultural production as a livelihood strategy for cross border traders is "Livelihoods, food security and trade in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe" by Shackleton, (2011). This study focuses on the town of Beitbridge and surrounding areas, which is located on the border between Zimbabwe and South Africa. The authors note that many residents of Beitbridge engage in both trading and small-scale agricultural production to support their livelihoods. They specifically mention

that residents grow crops such as maize, sorghum, and groundnuts, and raise livestock such as cattle, goats and sheep, (Nhemachena, 2007). By engaging in small-scale agricultural production, traders can generate additional income, which can help to offset any losses from trading. It can also help them to diversify their income sources, which can reduce risk and increase resilience. More, Tamuka (2020) and Chirwa (2017), found that agriculture is an important livelihood strategy for cross-border traders in Beitbridge District, especially for those who engage in informal trade. More so, Chalmers and Chidamoyo (2018) found that agriculture is an important livelihood strategy for rural smallholders in the border areas of Zimbabwe.

2.3.2 Providing services such as transportation, storage, or packaging for other traders.

Providing services such as transportation, storage, or packaging for other traders is another important livelihood strategy for cross border traders (Musoni, 2017) and (Rogerson, 2015). For example, traders may offer to transport goods from one location to another, either by road or by rail. They may also offer to store goods in warehouses or provide packaging services, such as labeling or packaging products for transport. These services can be particularly important for perishable goods, which need to be stored and transported in a timely manner, (Ouma, 2015). By providing these services, traders can generate additional income and build relationships with other traders Kakukuru, (2013). Chinamasa (2019) found that provision of services by informal cross-border trade in Southern Africa generates significant income and employment opportunities for traders and households in border regions.

2.3.3 Informal employment such as domestic work, construction, or petty trading.

Engaging in informal employment can be a key livelihood strategy for cross border traders, (International Labor Organization, 2015). This includes jobs like domestic work (such as cleaning and cooking), construction work (such as building houses or roads), and petty trading (such as selling goods on the street). These jobs may not be formally regulated or recognized by the government, but they can provide a source of income for traders (International Organization for Migration 2016) and (Anyadike, 2013)

2.3.4 Using personal savings to invest in new opportunities.

Using personal savings to invest in new opportunities is one of the potential livelihood strategies for cross border traders (Malulu, 2015). This could mean putting money into a business, investing in stocks or property, or even starting a savings account (Mwatwa, 2015) and Mkandawire (2018).

2.3.5 Forming partnerships with other traders to increase their bargaining power.

Forming partnerships with other traders or organizations can help cross border traders increase their bargaining power, which can lead to improved terms for their trade deals. This can include forming partnerships with other traders to pool resources and share costs, or forming partnerships with organizations that can provide access to new markets or distribution networks (Kiplagat, 2017).

NB. According to Dela (2019), there are a few different ways that cross border traders can form these partnerships and these models can all be useful for increasing the bargaining power of cross border traders. Trade associations, which bring together traders to share resources and advocate for their interests. Cooperatives, which pool resources and coordinate trade activities. Networks, which connect traders to other organizations or individuals who can help them expand their reach (Rocha, 2012).

2.3.6 Engaging in remittance sending and saving money

Remittance sending is the process of sending money to another person, often in another country. In the context of cross border trade, remittance sending can be an important source of income for traders, (Rocha, 2009). This is because many traders rely on sending money back home to support their families. Remittances can also be used to finance future trade activities, making them an important financial tool for cross border traders.

2.3.7 Diversifying income sources.

To explain diversifying income sources, let's start with an example. Imagine a cross border trader who relies solely on selling a specific product, like clothing. If the demand for that product decreases, the trader may lose their main source of income. By diversifying their income sources, the trader could add other products to their inventory, like electronics or household goods (Kabeer and Shwe, 2011). This would help to protect the trader from market fluctuations and ensure that they always have income, (Shafie, 2009)

Previous studies have examined the livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders in a variety of locations around the world. However, there is a lack of research specifically focused on the livelihood strategies of cross border traders in Mkwase Estate, Zimbabwe. This study will explore the unique livelihood strategies employed by individuals in this area, and how they differ from the strategies used in other parts of the country or the world. By understanding the specific strategies used by cross border traders in Mkwase Estate, we can gain a better understanding of the economic and social realities of this community.

2.4.0 Sustainable livelihood approach (SLA)

Sustainable livelihood approach refers to a livelihood that involves capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is considered to be sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks without compromising its capabilities, assets and activities during the present time and in the future, Scoones (1998).

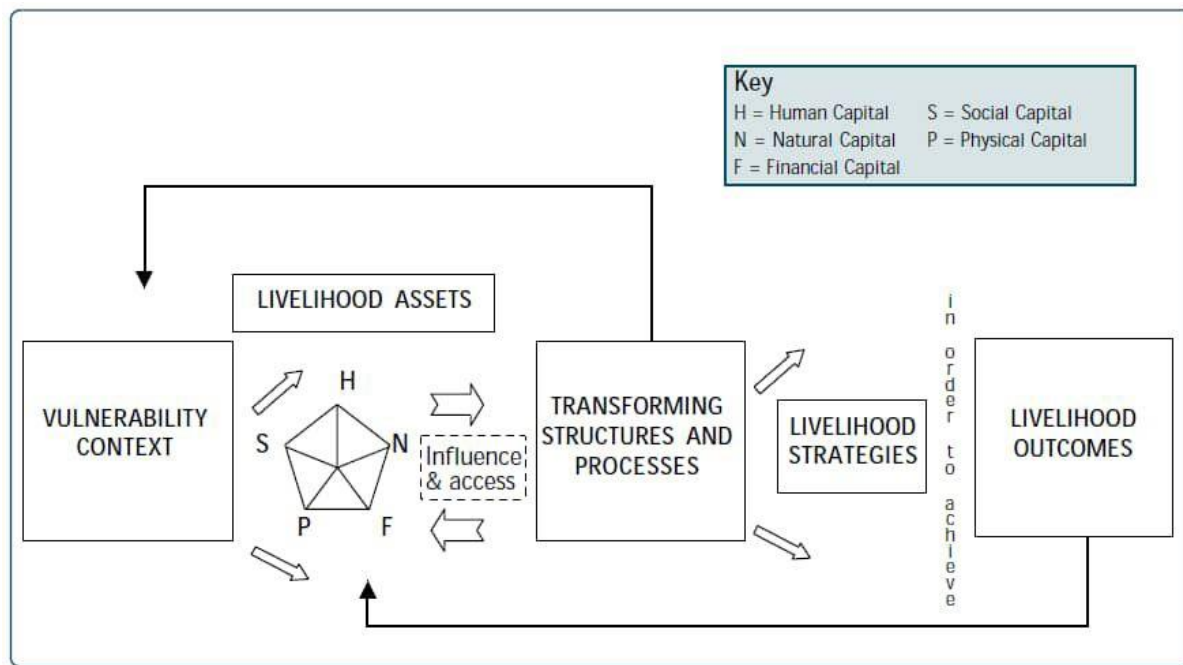


Figure 2.1: shows the sustainable livelihoods framework

2.4.1 Principles of the sustainable livelihood approach

May (2009), pointed out that the principle of sustainable livelihood approach mainly focuses on the understating of poverty and on the strategies that can be used so as to improve the lives of people living with poverty. In his study, Muzibuko (2013), argued that unlike the past generations, the current generation are more dominant with the idea of sustainable livelihood approach.

2.4.2 People-centered

Muzibuko (2013), viewed that aims at poverty alleviation should focus on what people have, the strategies they use cope with challenges, the environment and also their abilities to adapt (resilience). According to Elliott (2011), the main issue concerning social development such as improving standard of living and poverty alleviation is to focus on the people as well as their ability to participate in issues that can affect them. Wall and Tao (2009), believed that sustainable livelihood approach is people centered. He believed so because the approach emphasizes people's capabilities and

knowledge system. Looking at cross border traders is crucial in the understanding their experiences, risks, resilience methods and the ways of making policies that will benefit them as well as maximizing profits.

2.4.3 Participation and responsive

According to the Department for International Development (DFID), the citizens who are affected by the actions of institutions should play an active role in challenging the accountability of those institutions. This is because institutions need to be responsive to the needs of citizens. As articulated by Muzibuko (2013), the people directly affected by an issue should be the primary actors in identifying and addressing key issues related to that issue.

In the context of cross-border trading, the traders themselves should be the main actors in determining and prioritizing the needs of their households. This approach empowers cross-border traders to actively engage in identifying solutions to the challenges they face, which in turn can lead to poverty alleviation. By allowing traders to take a central role in addressing their own issues, the potential for lasting and meaningful change is greatly increased.

Furthermore, involving cross-border traders in the decision-making process acknowledges the expertise and knowledge that they have accumulated through their experience in the informal sector. This empowers them to bring their valuable insights and perspectives to the table, which can inform policy and programmatic solutions that are more relevant and effective.

2.4.4 Sustainability

Sustainable Livelihood Approach gives people room to escape poverty through participation through utilization of people's capital and response to what they need for their sustainable development. According to Jawando (2012), informal cross border trade as a sustainable livelihood strategy plays a pivotal role dealing with poverty situation at household's level. Gambler (2015), also pointed out that it's crucial to analyze any livelihood activity in relation to its ability to cope from stress and shocks.

2.4.5 Role of capital in Sustainable livelihood strategy

According to Scoone (1998), access to basic resources such as financial capital, assets, credit, and infrastructure is essential for pursuing livelihood options. He likened these resources to capital bases that generate various income streams, which are then used to build and sustain livelihoods. In other words, having access to these fundamental resources is crucial for creating and maintaining a livelihood, and can be thought of as the foundation upon which livelihoods are constructed.

2.4.6 Financial Capital

Scoones (1998) asserts that financial capital, which encompasses assets such as cash, credit, debt, savings, infrastructure, and technology, serves as the fundamental foundation for any livelihood strategy. This type of capital is essential to the viability and longevity of livelihood pursuits. However, according to Ajumbo (2012), cross-border traders often struggle to access the financial capital they need to expand their operations. The absence of sufficient financial resources can hinder the growth and development of cross-border trading activities, negatively impacting the livelihoods of traders and their households.

2.4.7 Social Capital

This study, influenced by Alinovi's (2009) argument that social capital strengthens and sustains system resilience, examines the relationship between social capital and the capacity for promoting cross-border trade resilience. Nguyen (2005) shares this view, recognizing that social capital serves to reduce uncertainty and risk. As cross-border trade inherently carries various risks and challenges, social capital is crucial in mitigating these effects, providing cross-border traders with the necessary support to navigate through these issues. Additionally, Narayan (2000) posits that social capital refers to an individual's network of friends, family, and associates, which acts as a social network for opportunities and as a means to overcome vulnerability and poverty. When it comes to cross-border trade, businesses can leverage these networks to expand their operations, tap into new markets, and access essential resources that can help them thrive in a dynamic and competitive environment. Nguyen (2005) adds that trust, norms, and networks are key components of social capital, representing the pillars on which a strong and resilient cross-border trading ecosystem can be built.

2.4.8 Human capital

Human capital, encompassing aptitude, expertise, and work ethic, is a critical factor in determining an individual's success and livelihood choices. As highlighted by Mazibuko (2013), leadership capital, labor, and interpersonal capacity are vital human elements that significantly impact sustainable livelihood and development. This study explored the human capital of cross-border traders, examining their contributions to economic development and the challenges and risks they encounter in the process.

2.4.9 Physical capital

Physical capital, comprising buildings, tools, and transportation, forms the foundation of a sustainable way of life. According to Tchouassi (2010), inadequate warehouse space hinders traders' ability to store goods, while Sen (1999) highlighted how limited access to physical infrastructure, markets, economic opportunities, and support services constrains livelihoods. Moreover, physical capital plays a crucial role in determining the success of cross-border traders' sustainable livelihood strategies, as it provides access to essential resources and services necessary for meeting household needs and achieving economic stability.

2.5.0 The sustainable livelihoods vulnerability context (SLVC)

The sustainable livelihoods vulnerability context (SLVC) approach is a framework for analyzing the vulnerability of livelihoods (Gebremedhin, 2011). It has four main components: exposure, sensitivity, capacity, and adaptive capacity. Exposure refers to the risks and hazards that people are exposed to, such as natural disasters or economic shocks. Sensitivity refers to the degree to which people are affected by these risks and hazards. Capacity refers to the resources and assets that people have to cope with and adapt to these risks and hazards. Adaptive capacity refers to the ability of people to make changes in response to the risks and hazards they face. Together, these four components provide a holistic picture of people's vulnerability and their ability to cope with and adapt to changing conditions. The SLVC approach can be used to inform policies and programs aimed at reducing vulnerability and improving livelihoods (Chambers & Conway, 1992).

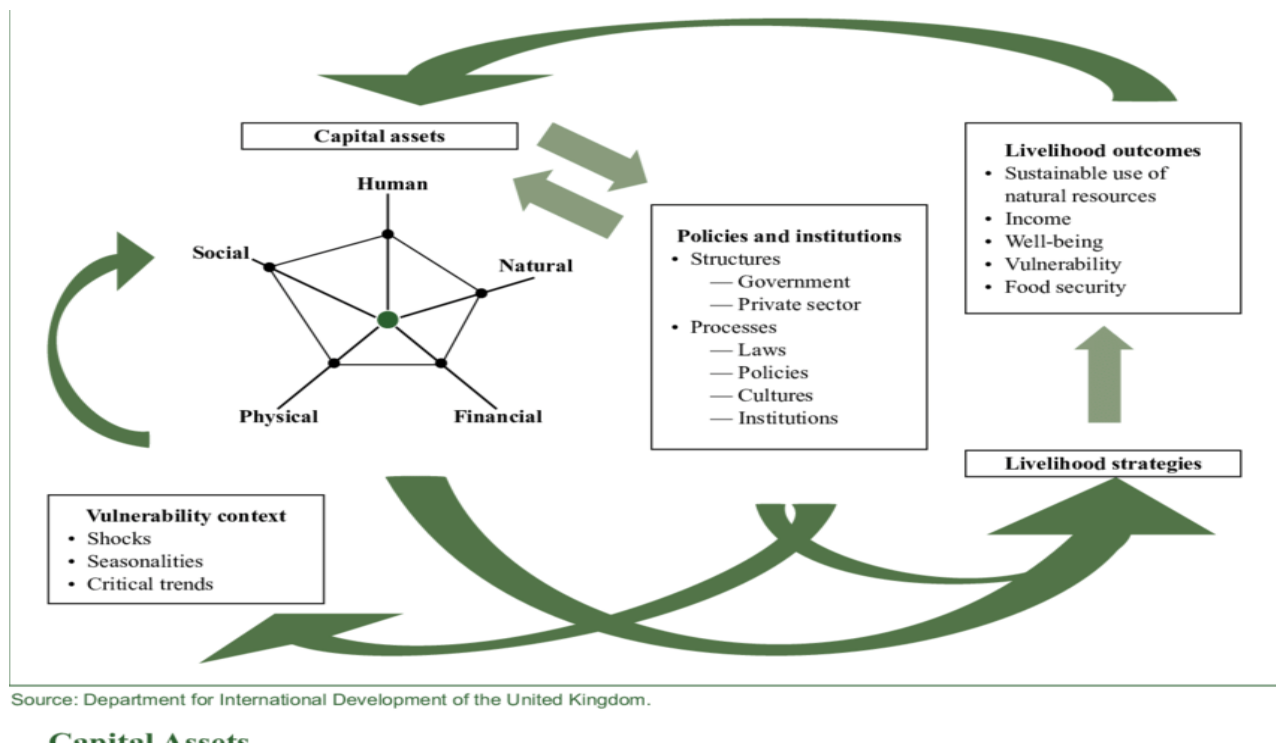


Figure 2.2: shows the sustainable livelihoods vulnerability context (SLVC)

2.5.1 Exposure

The first stage of the SLVC approach is to assess the exposure of cross border traders to different risks and hazards. This can be done by looking at the different risks and hazards they face, such as economic risks, political risks, or environmental risks (Haas, 2016). Then, you can assess the sensitivity of cross border traders to these risks and hazards. This involves looking at factors like their level of education, their level of poverty, and their access to resources. Armel (2016), pointed that cross border traders can be particularly vulnerable to risks and hazards due to the nature of their work. They often operate in informal settings, with limited access to legal protection or government support. They also face challenges related to language barriers, cultural differences, and a lack of knowledge about the local context (Annett, 2016). One risk that cross border traders often face is the risk of violence or theft. They may be targeted by criminals who want to steal their goods or money. Another risk is the risk of legal or bureaucratic obstacles. This can include things like difficulty getting visas, difficulty registering businesses, or difficulty getting access to banking services. Another risk is the

risk of health hazards, like exposure to unsafe working conditions or diseases. Finally, cross border traders also face the risk of political instability or conflict in the countries they work in. (Haas, 2016).

2.5.2 Capacity

The next stage of the SLVC approach is to assess the capacity of cross border traders to cope with the risks and hazards they face (Beall, 2014). This includes assessing their access to resources, their social networks, and their level of resilience. In terms of resources, cross border traders may have access to financial resources, human resources, or physical resources. Social networks can include family, friends, or community networks (Kanji, 2014). Resilience refers to the ability of cross border traders to adapt and recover from shocks. Financial resources can include access to savings, credit, or insurance. Human resources can include things like skills, knowledge, and education. Physical resources can include things like land, housing, or transportation. Social networks can provide things like emotional support, information sharing, or access to resources.

2.5.3 Adaptive capacity

The next stage of the SLVC approach is to assess the strategies that cross border traders use to cope with risks and hazards. This can include both short-term coping strategies and long-term adaptation strategies. Short-term coping strategies are those that are used in the immediate aftermath of a shock, while long-term adaptation strategies are those that are used over the long term to improve resilience. For example, cross border trader who is used to selling goods in a certain market, but then the market closes down. This trader could use their adaptive capacity to find new markets for their goods. They might network with other traders to find new opportunities, or they might use their savings to travel to a new market. These are just a couple of examples of how adaptive capacity can help cross border traders cope with change.

2.5.4 Sensitivity

Sensitivity is one of the four components of the SLVC approach. It refers to how sensitive someone is to external factors, like changes in the economy or the environment. Sensitivity can be measured

by looking at indicators like income, health, or food security, (Shaw, 2008). For example, a cross border trader might be highly sensitive to fluctuations in the value of their local currency, since this could have a big impact on their income (Thomas, 2008).

2.6.0 Poverty trap frame work

The concept of the poverty trap is based on the idea of a "threshold effect," where there is a certain point at which people can escape poverty, (Duflo, 2011). If a person's income falls below this threshold, it becomes very difficult to escape poverty, even if they work hard and try to improve their situation. This can lead to a situation where poverty becomes self-perpetuating. There are two main types of poverty traps that are relevant to the context of cross border trade. The first is the "savings trap," where a lack of access to savings or credit prevents people from investing in their business or education. The second is the "human capital trap," where a lack of education or skills prevents people from finding better jobs or earning higher incomes, (Banerjee, 2011).

2.6.1 Factors that contribute to the poverty trap for cross border traders

This is according to Banerjee & Duflo, (2011).

- Lack of access to formal financial services, like banks or credit unions. This makes it difficult for traders to save money or invest in their businesses.
- Lack of access to markets, so traders may not be able to sell their goods for a good price.
- Lack of infrastructure, like roads or storage facilities, which makes it difficult to transport goods.
- Lack of education and training opportunities for traders. This makes it difficult for them to learn new skills or get better jobs.
- Lack of legal protections for traders, which makes it difficult for them to enforce contracts or get fair prices for their goods.
- Lack of political representation for cross border traders, which makes it difficult for them to get the policies they need to improve their livelihoods.

- Lack of social safety nets for cross border traders. In many cases, they do not have access to health care, unemployment benefits, or other forms of assistance that can help them in times of need. This lack of support can make it very difficult for traders to cope with unexpected events, like illness or economic downturns.
- Lack of information about opportunities and resources for cross border traders, which makes it hard for them to take advantage of new opportunities

2.6.2 Potential solutions to poverty trap for cross border traders.

- Improve access to formal financial services, like banks and credit unions. This would allow traders to save money, invest in their businesses, and borrow money for large purchases.
- Improve access to markets, through things like trade fairs or online platforms. This would allow traders to reach more buyers and get better prices for their goods.
- Invest in infrastructure, like roads and storage facilities, to make it easier for traders to transport and store their goods.
- Increasing access to education and training programs for traders. This would help them to learn new skills and find better jobs.
- Create social safety nets, like health insurance and unemployment benefits, specifically for cross border traders.
- Increasing access to information and technology, like mobile phones and the internet.

However, existing literature provides insights into the economic and social aspects of cross-border trade, there is a significant knowledge gap regarding the sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by traders in Mkwesine Estate. This study will also focus on the sustainability of cross border trade in Mkwesine Estate.

2.7.0 The Hurdles and Dangers Experienced by Cross-Border Traders

Cross-border trading presents numerous risks and challenges for entrepreneurs, particularly those engaged in informal trading. Welter (2012) and Manda (2010) highlights the myriad of risks associated with informal cross-border trade. This observation is echoed by Potts (2008), who points

out the multifaceted shocks experienced by informal cross-border traders. Muzvidziwa (2007) also alludes to the risks and hurdles encountered by cross-border traders.

Connell (2014) further emphasizes the difficulties faced by cross-border traders, which are a result of changing border rules and regulations, lack of policies, legal frameworks, transport, and market-related issues. These obstacles exacerbate the already challenging nature of cross-border trading, which is a significant source of livelihood for many households that depend on buying and selling across borders. The informal cross-border trading sector is particularly vulnerable to a host of adversities that hinder its growth and profitability, thereby negatively impacting the livelihoods of the people who depend on it.

2.7.1 Structural related challenges

The informal nature of cross-border trade in Zimbabwe is echoed in many other countries, where this type of trade is not considered a formal economic activity. Titeca (2012) highlights various obstacles that hinder cross-border trade, such as the time and cost associated with exporting or importing goods, processing fees, and high tariffs. These factors, according to Titeca (2012) and Chiumbu (2018), are directly linked to the lack of formal recognition and support for cross-border trade. Barka (2012) and Makarau (2019), emphasized that delays at border crossings are one of the main challenges that informal cross-border trader's face. Zindiye (2019) corroborates this claim, noting that crossing the Beitbridge border post can take up to twelve hours. This demonstrates the extreme delays that cross-border traders have to contend with. According to Lesser (2008) and Ndubisi (2020), cross-border trade is often undervalued by policy-makers, resulting in the myriad of challenges faced by traders in this sector. The lack of official recognition and support for cross-border trade means that traders have to navigate through a complex and often hostile environment, which negatively impacts their livelihoods and the overall profitability of their businesses. More so, Kanyandago and Odiawo (2017), argued that the enforcement of border regulations is often inconsistent and arbitrary, which can lead to delays or fines for traders.

2.7.2 Market related challenges

According to Ajumbo (2012), some of the market related challenges that are faced by cross border trade includes limited access to market (local and regional, international) and lack of information about potential markets. This is also supported by Afrika (2012), who pointed out that these challenges are also contribute to the reason why cross border traders have difficulties to access finances and loans. Chiliya (2011) highlights that the lack of reliable market information can be a significant obstacle for informal cross-border traders. Given their informal status, these traders often operate outside of the regular business circles and do not have access to information about market prices, demand, and supply. Similarly, Kutazo (2008) and Raftopoulos (2018), notes that small-scale informal enterprises in Namibia struggle to access lines of credit, which limits their ability to expand their operations and increase their profits. Without adequate financial support, these enterprises find it difficult to navigate the already challenging environment of informal cross-border trade

2.7.3 Individual related challenges and risks.

Most deadly challenges that are faced by cross border trade are at individual challenges. Chiliya (2011), pointed out that some of the challenges that are faces by individuals includes

- Accommodation challenges
- Sexual harassment
- Xenophobia
- Transport costs
- Crimes
- Theft
- Abuse by police or border officials
- Bribery

While existing research on cross-border trading highlights the challenges faced by traders in general, there is a dearth of studies specifically focusing on the challenges faced by traders in Mkwazine Estate, Zimbabwe. This lack of research leaves a significant knowledge gap in understanding the particular issues that affect traders in this region.

The absence of targeted research on cross-border trading in Mkwase Estate means that the unique challenges and obstacles experienced by traders in this area may remain unidentified and unaddressed. This study will address this gap by exploring the specific challenges that are specific to this area. These challenges may include issues such as transportation, infrastructure, and access to markets. By identifying these challenges, the study can help to find solutions that are tailored to the needs of cross border traders in this community. However, Williams and Mwatwara (2017), revealed that traders reported experiencing a range of sexual harassment behaviors. In the report, Southern Africa Trust (2014) highlighted that traders face numerous obstacles to trade, including high transportation costs, accommodation, corrupt officials, and inadequate infrastructure. Berhanu and Gettu (2019), found that cross border traders in Ethiopia are frequently subjected to extortion and bribery by officials at border crossings. Males are often overrepresented in unemployment statistics (Briu et al., 2012; Sanders & Vouquier, 2015), which leads contribute to their higher participation in international cross border trade (ICBT) activities. This relationship can be explained by societal norms and economic opportunities (Betts et al., 2014). In addition, Chisira and Chipangura (2021), argued that the Beira corridor is a key trade route for goods and services. Eze (2019), also said that poor enforcement of policies and regulations, leads to corruption. According to Kuppuswamy and Dhule (2021), women traders experienced various forms of sexual violence, including rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, and transactional sex. Morris (2016) said that poor road infrastructure and limited port capacity does exacerbate transportation costs, as traders have to pay for additional handling, storage, and customs clearance services. Muchena (2019), said language barriers create misunderstandings and miscommunications between traders and officials, which can lead to delays in processing documents or shipments and traders may have difficulty understanding the requirements or regulations for cross border trade, which can result in fines or penalties if they are not able to comply with the rules.

2.8.0 Contextualization of resilience

According to Strumper (2013), building resilience in the face of challenges involves effectively managing risks. Katungu (2013) states that resilience pertains to communities overcoming difficulties stemming from poverty, socioeconomic and political challenges, and global financial constraints. Wood (2014) asserts that the concept of resilience has been gaining significant attention. Additionally, Breda (2011) highlights the connection between social work and the strengths-based approach.

Resilience is a relatively new topic in social work discussions, with limited application into guidelines or practical implementations in the field. However, resilience is increasingly important in the context of sustainable development. Bene (2009) defines resilience as the ability of a system or individual to anticipate, withstand, and adapt to challenges.

2.9 Summary

The obstacles of cross-border trading are numerous, and they affect female traders more severely than they do male traders. One important conclusion drawn from the literature review is that, in spite of the obstacles and dearth of policies encouraging cross-border trade. Traders that demonstrate perseverance by carrying on with cross-border trading. Furthermore, financial, material, and social capital are crucial to sustained livelihood activities. These many types of capital are essential to cross-border trade operations and, consequently, to helping traders achieve their basic demands.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the research methods, sampling methods and data analysis methods that will be used to investigate the topic of the sustainability of cross border trade in meeting house hold needs.

3.1 Research design

For this study, a mixed research design (quantitative and qualitative) was used because it is a convenient way to investigate public opinion, it allowed the research to collect both quantitative and qualitative data, which gave more complete picture of the topic being studied and it helped to fill gaps in the literature and address research questions that cannot be answered by using a single research method. Interviews were given to village heads and questionnaires were directed to households. The research design serves as the framework that holds a research project together. It can be used to guide the development of research strategies, make judgments, and build theories (Trochim, 2006). It is also a strategic framework for action that connects research questions with the collection and analysis of data. According to Burns and Grove (2003), the research design gives cohesion and structure to a research project. It may also be used to guide decision-making and support current practices.

3.2 Study population

In this research, study population was 2064 households with 834 households involved in cross border trade, Zimstats (2022). A study population is the entire collection of people or entities that the research intends to study, usually within a specific geographic location or demographic group (Singleton, 2005). A population is defined by Lippeveld (2005), as the complete set of individuals to be studied, usually sharing a common characteristic, e.g. geographical location, age, or gender.

3.3.0 Research sampling

For this study, simple random sampling was used to sample the households and purposive sampling to sample the village heads. Research sampling is the process of selecting a subset of individuals from a larger population to participate in a research study. The goal of sampling is to select a group of people that is representative of the larger population and that can provide accurate and reliable data. There are a few different types of sampling methods, including random sampling, stratified sampling, and cluster sampling, (Creswell, 2009).

3.3.1 Simple Random Sampling (SRS)

The research utilized simple random sampling to contact households who are cross border traders for the study. To implement this, the research used the data that was published by ZimStats about households who are cross border trade, in Mkwesine Estates. The research used Microsoft Excel's built-in random number generation functionality. Firstly, the research selected a cell where it wanted to display the random sample, such as Cell B1, then typed the formula `=RAND()*(834-1)+1` and press Enter to generate a random number between 1 and 834 which is the total number of households that are in cross border trade. To ensure these numbers were correspond to actual household name, the research used the ROUND function to round the numbers to the nearest whole number. And typed `=ROUND (B1, 0)` and copy the formula down to the next 47 cells (B2:B48). This will give out 48 random whole numbers between 1 and 834,

3.3.2 Purposive sampling

The research also used purposive sampling to select 12 village heads who have a better understanding on cross border trade. The research used purposive sampling because it allows him to target specific individuals or groups who had the information and experience needed for the study, which led to more focused and meaningful data collection. The research also used purposive sampling because it gave him more control over the selection of participants, which helped him to ensure that the sample is representative of the population of interest. In this study, the research used purposive sampling to come up with village heads which have knowledge about cross border trade. Purposive sampling, also

known as judgmental or subjective sampling, is a non-probability sampling method in which author use their knowledge and judgment to select specific individuals or groups to participate in a study based on certain criteria, such as expertise, geographical location, or demographic characteristics (Polite & Beck, 2017).

3.3.3 Sample size (Sample size determination)

The study used sample size determination to come up with the number of participant. The area of study consists of 834 households who are into cross border trade. The research used, confidence level of 97%, a margin of error of 3%, and get 47 households as the sample, as shown below.

According to Lenth (2016), sample size can be defined as the number of individuals or observations in a sample. In this study, the sample size was an important factor in determining the reliability and validity of the results. The larger the sample size, the more accurate the results are likely to be. However, the study considered other factors when determining the appropriate sample size, such as the type of study and the resources available.

First, the research plugged the values for the confidence level, margin of error, and population size into the sample size calculation formula:

$$n = (z\text{-score})^2 * p (1-p) / E^2$$

The z-score for a 97% confidence level is 2.02, so the reseacher calculated the first part of the formula:

$$(2.02)^2 = 4.04$$

Calculating the second part of the formula:

$$p(1-p) = 0.5 * (1 - 0.5) = 0.5 * 0.5 = 0.25$$

Substituting the values

$$n = (4.04) * 0.25 / 0.03^2 = 47.56$$

Since we can't have a partial participant, the research round up to the nearest whole number, which is 48 households.

3.3.4 Supplementation

The supplementation of 12 village heads allowed for the incorporation of expert knowledge and perspectives, providing a more comprehensive understanding on the causes and challenges faced by cross border trade. Specifically, the village heads offered valuable insights into the challenges faced by cross border trade. By supplementing the sample with village heads, the research was able to triangulate data and increase the validity and reliability of our findings, ultimately providing a more nuanced understanding of the complex issues under the sustainability of cross border trade in Mkwesine Estate.

3.4.0 Data collection methods

3.4.1 Questionnaire

To collect data from households, the research conducted personal visits to 48 households. The research used a survey questionnaire that was administered to 48 households in the study area. The questionnaire was designed to collect information on household about, reasons for cross border, livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders, sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border and challenges faced by cross border traders in meeting household needs.

By directly engaging with households and collecting detailed information on their cross border trade activities, household needs, and demographic characteristics, the research reached an understanding of the lived experiences and needs of households engaged in cross border trade. The research also contextualize the challenges and opportunities faced by households in the study area, providing a nuanced understanding of the local dynamics that influence cross border trade and household well-being. The research also used questionnaires because they were generally cost-effective, requiring minimal resources compared to other data collection methods such as interviews or focus groups.

However, the questionnaires were limited in their ability to capture the complexity and nuance of cross border trade activities, household needs, and human capital. For example, households were engaged in cross border trade for multiple reasons, which were not adequately captured in the questionnaire. More so, some households hesitated to provide accurate and complete information on sensitive topics, such as illegal or informal cross border trade activities, resulting in response bias.

3.4.2 Interviews

The interviews were conducted in-person to twelve village heads, allowing the research to establish rapport with the village heads and gather rich, contextualized information. The questions asked in the interviews were designed to gather information about the village heads' knowledge and experience with cross border trade, including reasons for cross border, livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders, sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border and challenges faced by cross border traders in meeting household needs. During the interviews, the research also gathered information about the village heads' perceptions of the challenges and opportunities facing cross border traders in their villages, such as issues related to customs clearance, security, and market access. The interviews were documented using notes, which allowed for a detailed analysis of the information gathered and ensured accuracy in reporting.

The research used interviews because they provided reach, contextualized data that cannot be captured through questionnaires alone. This allowed for more detailed understanding of cross border trade practices, household needs, and human capital. Furthermore, interviews were flexible and allow for follow-up questions or probes based on the responses of the interviewee. Lastly, interviews provided insights into the individual and social factors that affect cross border trade activities, household needs, and human capital.

However, interviews with village heads were subject to limitations in representativeness and recall bias, which led to skewed data. As village heads had different experiences and perspectives compared to households or individual traders. It was important to triangulate the information collected from interviews with other sources of data, such as questionnaires and documents from ZimStats data, to ensure that the findings are comprehensive and robust."

3.4.3 Use of secondary data

In addition to primary data collected through questionnaires and interviews, the research utilized internet-based secondary data sources as part of the research. The research analyzed documents from ZimStats, the official statistics agency of Zimbabwe, to understand the demographic context of the study area such as population size, age structure, and gender composition of cross border as to

understand the sustainability of the livelihoods employed by cross border traders. The research used documents from internet because they provided a broader context for understanding cross border trade, household needs, and human capital in the study area. This understanding helped to inform research questions and interpret primary data. More so, internet was more time- and cost-efficient than collecting primary data. By using both primary and secondary data, the research triangulated the information and ensure that your findings are reliable and robust.

However, ZimStats data was not fully capture informal or illicit cross border trade activities, which was a significant part of cross border trade in the study area and the information was lastly collected in 2021, which resulted in outdated information being used in your analysis.

3.5 Data analysis

The research used both qualitative and quantitative data analysis to analyze the collected data. Both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed using the Microsoft Word Excel and content analysis. Data was then presented using, bar graphs, pie charts and the data was presented in descriptive ways so that the basic findings of the research would be interpreted and justifies.

3.6 Summary

This chapter outlined the various data collection methods used to obtain the necessary information for a study on the sustainability of cross border trade. This chapter explained the study population, sample size, sampling techniques, and research tools in detail. The chapter also discussed the primary and secondary data sources that were used. Lastly, the chapter covered the research's plans for data presentation.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter represents the findings of the sustainability of cross-border trade in meeting household needs in Mkwesine Estates. The primary aim of this research was to explore the reasons for engaging in cross-border trade, examine the livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders, and assess the sustainability of these strategies in meeting household needs. By analyzing the data collected through surveys and interviews with cross-border traders in Mkwesine Estates, we gained valuable insights into the dynamics of cross-border trade and its impact on household well-being.

The results presented in this chapter shed light on the diverse motivations driving individuals to participate in cross-border trade, ranging from economic opportunities to social networks and cultural ties. The study also delve into the various livelihood strategies adopted by cross-border traders, including income-generating activities, savings practices, and investment decisions. Through a comprehensive analysis of these strategies, we evaluate their effectiveness in supporting households in meeting their basic needs and achieving long-term financial stability. Furthermore, this study examines the sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders, considering factors such as resilience to external shocks, adaptability to changing market conditions, and potential risks and challenges. By assessing the viability and long-term impact of these strategies on household well-being, we aim to provide valuable insights into the role of cross-border trade as a sustainable livelihood option for residents of Mkwesine Estates.

Overall, the results presented in this chapter will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between cross-border trade, livelihood strategies, and household needs in Mkwesine Estates. By examining the data collected from cross-border traders and analyzing key trends and patterns, we seek to draw meaningful conclusions that can inform policy decisions and future research efforts in this area.

4.1 Response rate

The study sample consisted of 48 cross border traders and 12 village heads. The research distributed questionnaires to 48 audiences and other 12 audience were interviewed. A response rate of 100% was achieved after 48 questionnaires were returned.

Table 4.1. Response rate analysis (Questionnaires and interviews)

<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Send</i>	<i>Returned</i>	<i>Response rate</i>
<i>(Questionnaires)</i>	48	48	100%
<i>(Interviews)</i>	12	12	100%

4.2.0 Demographic Profile of Cross-Border Traders

The majority of the group are females, accounting for 55% of the total sample, while males make up 45%. The largest age group in the sample is individuals aged 26 to 35, representing 35% of the total sample. The educational distribution shows that the majority have a secondary education level (60%), followed by those with a degree (26.67%), and a small percentage with primary education (5%). No individuals fall under the "Others" category for education level.

4.3.0 Presentation of the research objectives

This section is going to illustrate, the findings in relation to the study objectives which are written as follows; to examine the reason for cross border trade in meeting their house hold needs, to determine the livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders in meeting their house hold needs, to examine the sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border trade in meeting house hold needs and to determine the challenges faced by cross border traders in meeting house hold needs. All these were summarized by the diagram below and further explanation follows.

4.3.1 Causes for informal cross border trade (ICBT), Mkwesine Estate?

Cross-border trade plays a vital role in meeting household needs by providing access to goods and services that may not be readily available locally. In this research, key findings from interviews and questionnaires (households and village heads) have highlighted various factors driving this practice. Unemployment and poverty emerged as significant concerns, with respondents emphasizing their impact on households. Additionally, the allure of unique products, cultural exchange opportunities, better pricing mechanisms, and potential for business expansion were also identified as key drivers of cross-border trade. These findings underscore the importance of exploring the sustainability of cross-border trade to ensure long-term benefits for meeting household needs. Figure 4.1 below illustrates

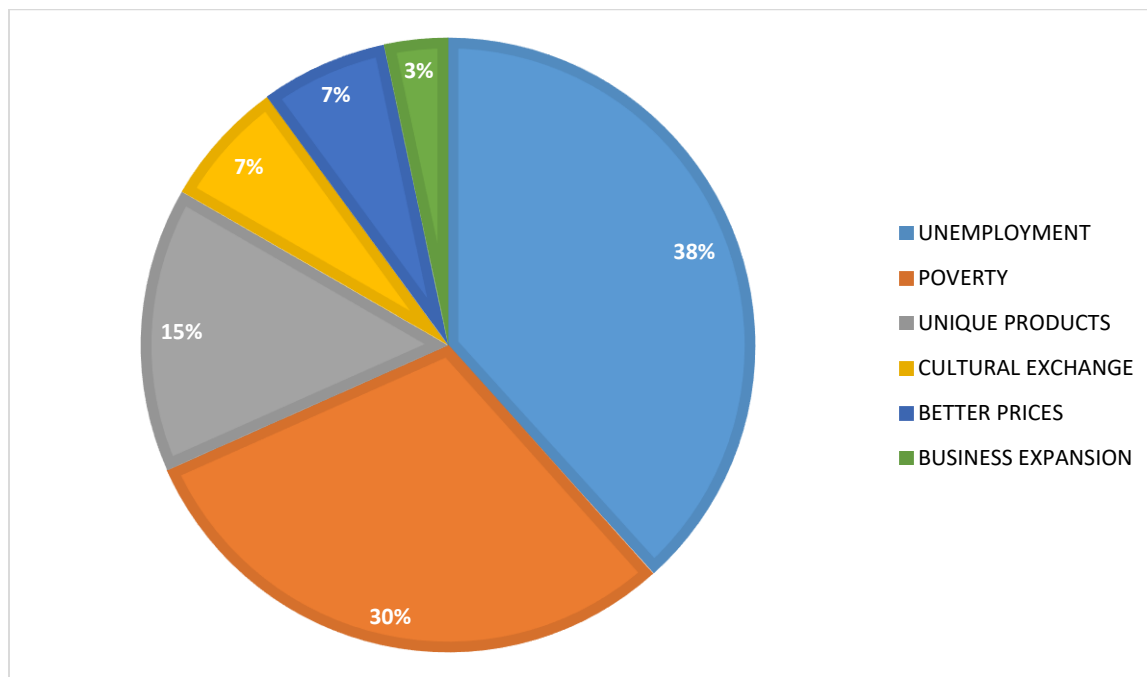


Fig 4.1 causes for informal cross border trade in Mkwesine Estates. (n-60)

Through the varied data collection methods used, the analysis of the responses revealed the livelihood assets status in the study area. It shows that, the high prevalence of unemployment is a main cause of ICBT. From respondents who were interviewed questionnaire, 35.25% showed that unemployment is a capital cause for cross border trade. This suggests that the economy and labor market in Mkwesine Estates, plays a significant role in shaping cross border trade activities. According to Sandefur (2007),

areas where job opportunities are limited or poorly compensated, individuals may see international business and trade as a viable means of generating income. Munshi (2003) argues that high levels of unemployment in developing countries leads to the growth of informal cross border trade activities, as unemployed individuals seek to generate income and support their families. Males are often overrepresented in unemployment statistics. This contributes to their higher participation in international cross border trade (ICBT) activities. In this cultures, men are primary breadwinners in their households, which motivate unemployed males to seek out alternative sources of income through cross border trade activities. Males are often overrepresented in unemployment statistics (Briu et al., 2012; Sanders & Vouquier, 2015), which leads contribute to their higher participation in international cross border trade (ICBT) activities. This relationship can be explained by societal norms and economic opportunities (Betts et al., 2014). More so, Kabeer (2012), also goes on to argue that limited or shortages of employment in the formal sector and the continuation decline in the wages is leading women to join the informal cross border trade as to escape poverty.

Poverty is the second and another significant factor, contributing to 31.15% of ICBT occurrences in Mkwesine Estates. Households who were respondents for the questionnaire alluded that poverty is playing a role in cross border trade in Mkwesine Estates. This indicates that economic hardship and lack of resources are drive individuals or businesses to engage in international trade to improve their financial situation. Poverty is a powerful driver of international cross border trade (ICBT) activities Moez and Bolay (2010). Economic hardship and lack of resources can create a sense of desperation and motivation to take risks in the pursuit of financial stability. In their paper "Cross-Border Migration and Internal Mobility in Africa," researchers Gervais and Raissa (2017) identified economic hardship as a key factor influencing cross border migration and trade in Africa. Hence this is line with what the study gathered. Males are more engaged in cross border trade activities in response to poverty. In many societies, men are expected to take on greater financial responsibility for their families, which can motivate unemployed or underemployed males to seek out international trade opportunities as a means of supporting their families. This goes hand to hand in their research on informal trade in West Africa, Thompson & Adugna (2017) found that males were more likely to engage in cross border trade activities as a response to poverty and lack of employment opportunities, due to societal norms and access to resources. According to Makhamisa (2021), males have greater access to resources

needed for international trade, such as transportation and capital, which can make them more likely to engage in cross border trade activities in response to poverty.

Another reasons for engaging in ICBT is seeking better prices which consists (19.84%), in Mkwesine Estate. From the data collected from households and village heads, the pursuit of better prices is a common reason for engaging in international cross border trade (ICBT) activities. This is driven by a number of factors such as, pricing differences, informal markets and local demand. Prices for goods and services can vary significantly across borders due to differences in production costs, transportation, taxes, and currency exchange rates. By engaging in ICBT, individuals take advantage of these pricing differences and sell products at a higher price in one country while buying them at a lower price in another. In their report "Understanding Informal Cross Border Trade in Sub-Saharan Africa," the World Bank (2020) notes that traders engage in ICBT to take advantage of price differentials across borders, highlighting informal markets and local demand as key drivers of this behavior. Another source that supports the role of pricing differences in ICBT is the article "Informal Cross-Border Trade in the Greater Horn of Africa: A Dynamic Look" by Mikaelsson et al. (2015). Informal markets account for a significant portion of trade activity. These markets often operate outside of formal trade channels and are less regulated, which allows traders to negotiate prices directly with buyers and sellers, potentially leading to better prices, Mikaelsson (2015). According to Mikaelsson (2015) local demand for certain products also influence prices. For example, a product that is in high demand in one country may be less expensive to purchase in another country where it is less popular, allowing traders to sell it at a higher price.

Furthermore, exploring new markets follows with 11.48% is another reason for households in Mkwesine Estate to engage in ICBT in order to satisfy their needs for goods and services that are not available locally. More so, households and traders engage in ICBT to explore new markets in order to access better pricing or expand their customer base. The study found that, households in Mkwesine Estate engage in cross border trade with neighboring countries such as South Africa to purchase building materials, farming inputs, and household items that are not readily available and are too expensive in Zimbabwe. Chigumira, (2021), highlighted the importance of informal cross border trade in supporting rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe, noting the challenges and opportunities associated with this form of trade and argued that cross border traders are also engaged into this activity as to explore new markets. They travel to these countries to purchase these items and resell them locally,

providing a service to other households in their community while also generating income for themselves. "Examining Informal Cross Border Trade Flows in Zimbabwe: A Case Study of the South Africa-Zimbabwe Border." In his report, Sauti (2018) highlights the role of households in engaging in informal cross border trade, particularly in border communities such as Beitbridge, to meet their household needs and generate income and exploring new markets. In his paper, Chasi (2021) argues that informal cross border trade (ICBT) has a significant impact on rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe. He notes that households in rural communities engage in ICBT for various reasons, such exploring new markets and income generation. Moyo, (2021), pointed the importance of informal cross border trade in exploring new markets, reducing poverty and supporting livelihoods in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas bordering with neighboring countries, hence this goes hand to hand with the study's findings.

Offering unique products is another reason for engaging in cross border trade (ICBT), representing 7.38% in Mkwazine Estate. Households who were given the questionnaires said they got goods that are not locally available. This involves trading goods that are not readily available or are in high demand in other markets, providing a competitive advantage to traders. By offering unique products, traders tap into niche markets or differentiate themselves from other traders, potentially leading to higher profits and increased market share. This can be particularly beneficial for traders in developing countries, where access to global markets can provide opportunities for growth and diversification. World Trade Organization (2019), noted that the availability of unique products is a key driver of international trade, as they provide an opportunity for traders to enter new markets and increase their market share. Yeats (2020), noted that product uniqueness provide a competitive advantage for firms in international trade, as it allows them to differentiate themselves from their competitors and command higher prices for their products. Chen and McDaniel (2016) explore the relationship between product uniqueness and trade, noting that firms in developing countries benefit from product uniqueness by entering high-value markets and differentiating themselves from competitors.

Business expansion, representing 3.28% of the motivations for international cross border trade (ICBT) activities in Mkwazine Estate, as few households confirmed. This involves traders engaging in cross border trade to expand their business operations and reach new markets. This can include expanding into neighboring countries, diversifying into new product lines, or accessing new customer segments. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2018), business expansion

through ICBT provides firms with a number of benefits, including access to new markets, increased revenues, and increased opportunities for growth and innovation. International Trade Centre (2019), noted that cross border trade plays a significant role in promoting business expansion and job creation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Vollmann and Hüttermann (2020) highlighted the role of cross border trade in promoting growth in developing countries. The article notes that traders that engage in cross border trade are more likely to experience greater growth and innovation compared to those that remain within their domestic markets. In addition, Chang (2021) noted that informal cross border trade (ICBT) plays a significant role in business expansion and economic growth in Southern Africa, particularly in rural areas.

Cultural exchange, is the last factor representing 1.64% of the motivations for international cross border trade (ICBT) in Mkwesine Estate, This refers to traders engaging in cross border trade to explore new cultures, languages, and social customs. Kottak and Kozaitis (2008) argue that culture can have a significant impact on international trade and investment patterns. They note that cultural factors, such as values, beliefs, and customs, can shape the way that firms and individuals engage in international trade and investment. This can include trading goods that are culturally or regionally unique, participating in cross cultural exchanges and events, or simply seeking out new experiences and perspectives. Cultural exchange is be an important driver of international trade, as it can foster understanding and appreciation for different cultures and help to create shared interests and values. Ong (2017), argues that cultural exchange can be a key driver of international trade, particularly in contexts where there are strong cultural ties between countries.

4.3.2 Livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders.

The research identified various livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders. These strategies include casual labor, agriculture, services, retail, manufacturing, and trade. Through interviews and questionnaires, it became evident that cross-border traders engage in a diverse range of livelihood activities to support their households. These activities play a crucial role in meeting household needs by providing income, access to goods and services, and opportunities for business expansion. Understanding the different livelihood strategies employed by cross-border traders is

essential in assessing the sustainability of cross-border trade and its impact on meeting household needs. Fig 4.2 below explains.

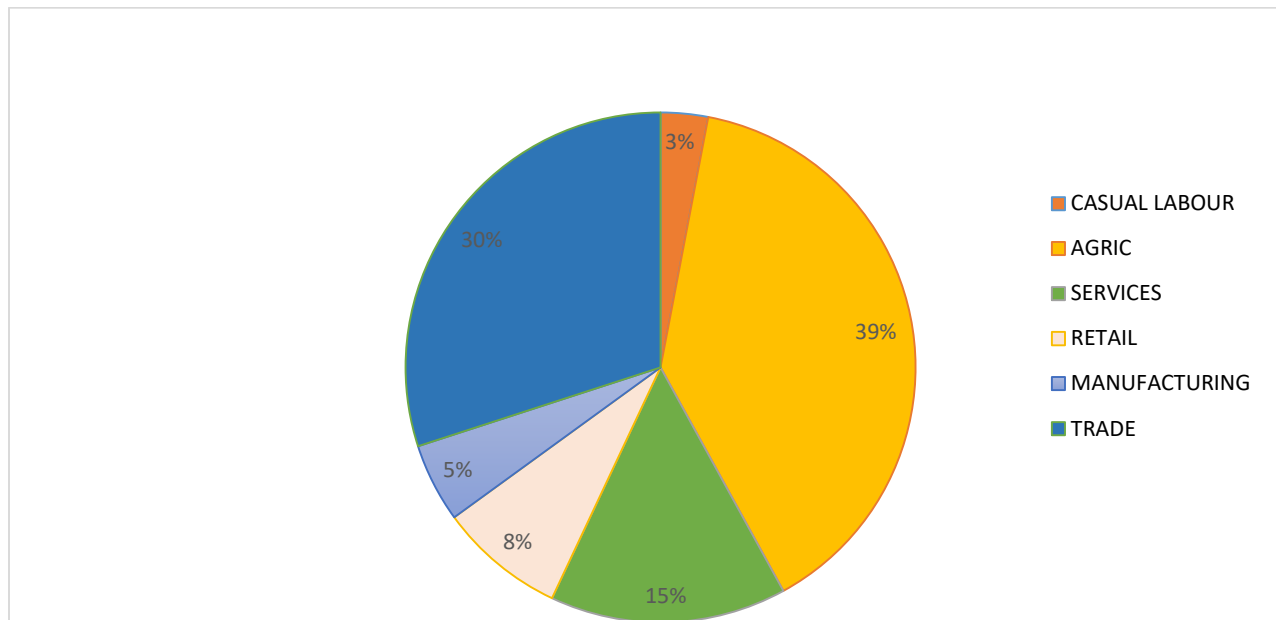


Fig 4.2 Livelihood strategies by cross border traders in Mkwesine Estates. (n=60)

The role of agriculture as a livelihood strategy is notable as it is shown in Fig 4.3.b as it leads with 39%. For example, farmers grow fruits, vegetables, and cash crops such as cotton, which fetch higher prices on international markets. Through data that was collected from both interviews and questionnaires, agriculture is the most livelihood that most traders are involved. Olomolaiye and Moradi (2020), argued that cross-border trade has enabled farmers to access international markets and generate income from the sale of their agricultural products. This has helped to improve the economic well-being of rural households and contributed to the economic growth of the region. While agriculture is typically associated with subsistence farming, the data shows that a significant number of households in Mkwesine Estate are engaged in exporting their produce. This suggests that agriculture can be a valuable source of income and a platform for economic growth in this region, as long as farmers are able to tap into international markets and access the necessary infrastructure for exporting their products. Kwesiga and Virani (2013, supported the idea that farmers potentially increase their income and improve their economic well-being by diversifying their crops beyond traditional subsistence farming and accessing international markets. More so, Khamis & Norman

(2009) argued that agricultural export markets have the potential to alleviate poverty by generating income for smallholder farmers and creating job opportunities in rural areas. This also supports the findings of the research as he found out that agriculture is the most livelihood that most traders in Mkwasine Estate are practicing. Riungu and Nyangito (2010) found that cross-border trade had several impacts on rural livelihoods in the Kenya-Tanzania border region, including improved access to income and employment opportunities, especially for young people, women, and the landless, as cross-border trade creates jobs in sectors such as transport, warehousing, and small-scale retailing. Therefore, the results that the study gathered are in line with what Nyangito (2010) found in his study.

Furthermore, trade is a livelihood strategy in Mkwasine and it's the second from agriculture with 30%. From the data that collected from households through questionnaires, trade offers multiple opportunities for generating income and employment for border communities. This is because cross-border trade creates diverse opportunities for traders in Mkwasine Estate, as well as those involved in related activities such as transportation, packaging, and retailing. This is also supported by Sibanda et al. (2019), who noted that small-scale farmers in Zimbabwe engage in cross-border trade by selling their agricultural produce, such as maize, tomatoes, and other fruits, in neighboring countries. This provides an important source of income and employment for rural households, especially in areas close to the border. Through the questionnaire and interview, the research noted that cross border traders in Mkwasine Estate are also involved in selling of second-hand clothes which they trade with people from Mozambique and South Africa. This is also supported by Hackleton (2011) and Kamba (2017), who said some traders from Mkwasine Estate engage in cross-border trade with Mozambique, particularly in the sale of second-hand clothes, household goods, and other non-agricultural products. This is also supported by Lobo (2015) and (Rocha, 2009), who argued that informal cross-border trade provides income-earning opportunities for rural households, particularly for women and youth, who are often excluded from formal employment opportunities.

Another livelihood by cross border trade in Mkwasine Estate is services provision which scored 15%. They offer cross-border transportation services, providing a crucial link between traders and markets in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Some households own minibuses that transport traders and their goods across the border. This service provides a reliable and convenient mode of transport for traders who need to move goods quickly and efficiently across the border, while generating income for the households that provide it. In addition, some few households in Mkwasine Estate provide

communication services to cross-border traders and travelers, particularly those who do not speak the local languages of Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In her study, Chivasa (2020) and Ouma (2015) found that cross-border communication services provide an important source of income. She argued that some households offer telephone interpretation services, while others accompany traders and travelers on their journeys to provide face-to-face translation. Hence this is in line with what the research gathered on this study.

Another livelihood is retail which scored 8%. Most households in Mkwazine Estate engage in cross-border retail trade with Mozambique. Most households in Mkwazine Estate when asked through questionnaires said that they purchase second-hand clothes, household goods, and other products in Zimbabwe, where they are relatively cheap, and resell them in Mozambique, where they are in high demand and can fetch higher prices. One village head said *"We use our own vehicles or hire transport to carry goods across the border into Mozambique. Once in Mozambique, we sell our goods in local markets or directly to customers"*. In his article, Ncube (2020) argued that cross-border livelihood strategies, including retail trade, play an important role in the lives of people in border regions. He identified several benefits of cross-border trade, including increased income. Melo (2019), argued that informal cross-border trade is an important source of livelihood for many poor households in Southern Africa, providing income and employment opportunities for women, youth, and others who may have limited formal employment opportunities. Therefore, the research's findings are in line with what Melo (2019) and Ncube (2020) find in their study.

Furthermore, some households in Mkwazine Estate engage manufacturing which scored 5%. From the data collected through questionnaires from households, cross border trade in Mkwazine are involved in the production of handicrafts and other handmade goods for sale in local and cross-border markets. In her study Moyo (2018), found that manufacturing of handmade goods, particularly traditional handicrafts, is an important livelihood strategy for some cross border trade. Women in Mkwazine Estate weave traditional baskets, mats, and other handicrafts using local materials such as reeds, grasses, and natural dyes. These products are then sold in local markets or to traders who transport them to Mozambique for sale. In their study, Ncube and Mudenda (2016) found that informal manufacturing plays an important role in the livelihoods, particularly those engaged in cross-border trade. Otoo and Prügl (2020) also found that informal manufacturing is an important livelihood

strategy for many people in the Volta Region of Ghana. All this goes hand to hand with what the research has found in this study.

Lastly, another livelihood by cross border is casual labor which scored 3%. Only two households confirmed of this strategy. Cross border traders in Mkwase Estate also provides various services to cross-border traders, including loading and unloading services. This is a form of casual labor that can provide an important source of income for households in these areas. For example, during the busy season, when cross-border trade is at its peak, many traders require assistance in loading and unloading their goods. Like other households, households in Mkwase Estate offer their services to these traders, helping to unload goods from trucks or load them onto carts for transport to local markets (Shafie, 2009). In their study, Chimedza and Mazula (2015) found that cooking is an important livelihood strategy for households in border towns in Zimbabwe, including Beitbridge Town. These jobs may not be formally regulated or recognized by the government, but they can provide a source of income for traders (International Organization for Migration 2016) and (Anyadike, 2013) and Kakukuru (2013).

It is worth noting that the majority of traders are engaged in some form of cross-border trade, whether it be importing, exporting, retailing, manufacturing, or providing services. This underscores the importance of cross-border trade as a key economic activity in the region, and highlights the role it plays in supporting local livelihoods. Ntuli et al. (2017), highlighted the importance of informal cross border trade as a key livelihood strategy for rural Zimbabweans, particularly those living in areas close to the border. The authors noted that the trade offers a means of survival and income generation for people who are often marginalized from formal economic activity. Nguyen and Taylor (2014), argued that cross-border trade is often more lucrative and accessible for people in these communities than formal employment opportunities, and that it plays a significant role in supporting livelihoods and economic resilience in the region. According to a study by Otsuki et al. (2018), cross border trade provides an important source of income for rural women, enabling them to support their families and improve their economic well-being.

4.3.3 The sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border trade.

Data collected from interviews and questionnaires showed different levels of sustainable after considering facts such as market access, social networks, food availability and affordability, access to healthcare services and environmental impact. These factors are crucial for meeting the household needs of individuals engaged in cross-border trade. By examining the sustainability of these livelihood strategies through interviews and questionnaires, the research explored how these sectors contribute to the well-being and resilience of households involved in cross-border trade. Fig 4.3 below illustrates.

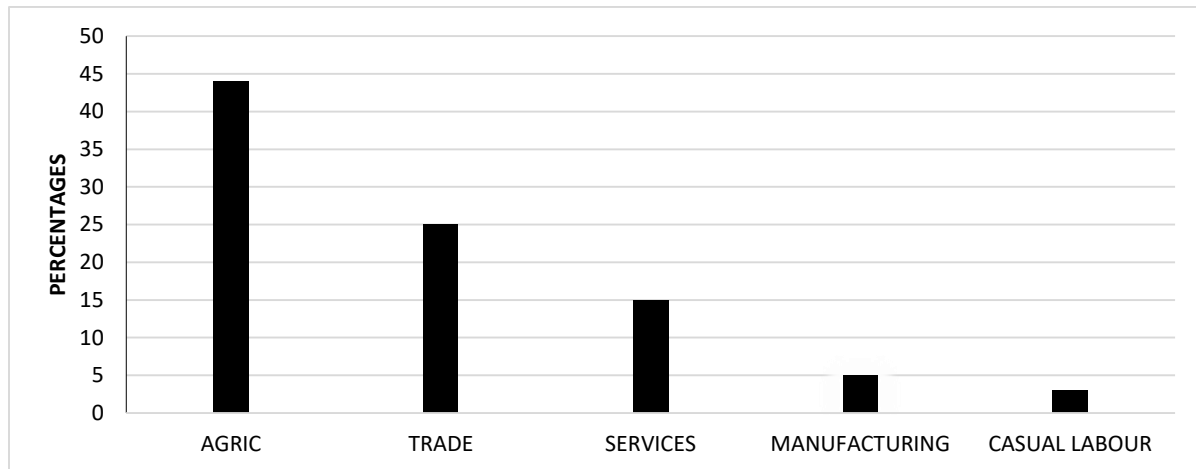


Fig 4.3 Livelihood sustainability employed by cross borer trades. (n=60)

Agriculture is generally a sustainable livelihood option for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. From the interview and questionnaires, households and village heads agreed that agriculture is a primary activity for almost all traders hence having twenty-six percent. This is because agriculture provides a steady source of income, contributes to food security, and has the potential for long-term growth and stability. Additionally, agriculture can be adapted to changing market conditions and environmental challenges, making it a resilient livelihood option. In their study, Chalmers and Chidamoyo (2018) found that agriculture is an important livelihood strategy for rural smallholders in the border areas of Zimbabwe, including the Beitbridge District. In Mkwesine, households grow crops such as maize, sorghum, and groundnuts for local consumption and sale in cross-border markets. Chirwa (2017) found that agriculture plays a central role in the livelihoods of households. Most traders in Mkwesine Estate are into livestock rearing hence an important component of agricultural livelihoods, with most households keeping poultry and goats for meat, eggs, and milk. Tamuka (2020),

found that agriculture is an important livelihood strategy for cross-border traders in Beitbridge District, especially for those who engage in informal trade. He also said that these traders sell their produce in local markets and across the border in South Africa, generating income that supports their livelihoods and provides food for their households. All this works in hand with what the research has found.

Trade is another sustainable livelihood option for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. Traders in Mkwesine Estate, engage in informal cross-border trade, buying and selling goods such as livestock, grains, and vegetables across the border. Trade allows individuals to access a variety of goods and services, generate income through buying and selling products, and adapt to market demands. However, the sustainability of trade depends on factors such as market stability, access to resources, and regulatory frameworks. Musemwa and Ncube (2016), argue that informal cross-border trade can be a sustainable livelihood strategy for traders in border regions of Zimbabwe. The authors also highlight the importance of informal trade in providing access to goods and services that are not available in local markets, such as food, clothing, and household goods. Mkandawire and Mhango (2018) found that trade is an important source of income and employment for many households in the Beitbridge border region of Zimbabwe. This all supports what the research has found in his research.

The third livelihood in Mkwesine Estate is services provision. Providing services can also be a sustainable livelihood option for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. Services such as transportation, finance, communication, and hospitality generate income and contribute to economic development. The sustainability of service-based livelihoods depends on demand, competition, and the quality of services provided. Traders in Mkwesine offer transportation services to cross-border traders, providing trucks, cars, and motorcycles for hire. This generates income for households and helps traders transport goods across the border. One households alluded that they also provide financial services, such as money transfer or currency exchange. These services generate income for them and support the flow of capital across the border. Musoni (2017) found that service provision is an important livelihood strategy in border regions, with many households providing services such as transportation, finance, and communication to cross-border traders and travelers. Chinamasa (2019) found that provision of services by informal cross-border trade in Southern Africa generates significant income and employment opportunities for traders and households in border regions. Hence

the funding of Chinamasa (2019) and Musoni (2017), are in line with what the research has found in this study.

Retail activities also provides a sustainable source of income for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. Retail involves selling goods directly to consumers, which can generate profits and contribute to local economies. Musemwa (2016) pointed that the sustainability of retail livelihoods depends on factors such as market trends, competition, and consumer preferences. Some households in Mkwesine set up shops and stalls to sell goods to cross-border traders and travelers. These goods may include food, clothing, and household items. According to Ncube (2016), the sale of these goods generates income for households and contributes to local economic development.

Manufacturing is less sustainable livelihood option for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. From data collected by the research on households that are into cross border trade through questionnaires, few people are into manufacturing of textile and clothing which is 5 percent. While manufacturing activities create value-added products and generate income, they often require significant investment in equipment, skills, and resources. The sustainability of manufacturing livelihoods depends on factors such as market demand, production costs, and access to markets. In his work titled "The Political Economy of Informal Cross Border Trade in Southern Africa," Manda (2019), pointed that informal cross-border trade has become a critical part of the economic landscape in Southern Africa, particularly in areas where formal trade and employment opportunities are limited. He suggested that while informal cross-border trade provides important economic opportunities for traders, manufacturers, and communities, it also raises challenges related to security, governance, and economic stability. Manda (2010), suggested that informal cross-border trade is an important source of income and employment for many households in East Africa, particularly those who are disadvantaged in terms of manufacturing.

Casual labor is generally a less sustainable livelihood option for informal cross-border traders in Mkwesine. Casual labor often involves temporary or part-time work, which may not provide a stable source of income or long-term employment opportunities. The sustainability of casual labor livelihoods depends on factors such as job availability, wages, and working conditions. In Mkwesine informal cross-border traders find work as day laborers on farms, construction sites, or in local markets. For example, a trader regularly crosses the border into South Africa to sell goods may take

on casual labor jobs in towns near the border to supplement their income. These jobs include working on a farm during harvest season, helping with construction projects, and even selling goods for other traders in the market. Havnevik, E. (2008) alluded that some traders regularly crosses the border into South Africa to sell goods may take on casual labor jobs in towns near the border to supplement their income. This all supports the finding that the research has gathered.

In order of sustainability according to the results gathered by this study:

Agriculture

Trade

Services

Retail

Manufacturing

Casual labor

4.3.4 Challenges faced by cross border traders.

Cross-border trade plays a significant role in meeting the household needs of individuals engaged in this activity. However, it is prone to various challenges such as physical safety and security, social challenges, economic factors, regulatory and policy issues. Through interviews and questionnaires, the study have identified several challenges. Fig 4.4 below explores challenges faced by cross-border traders in Mkwesine Estates.

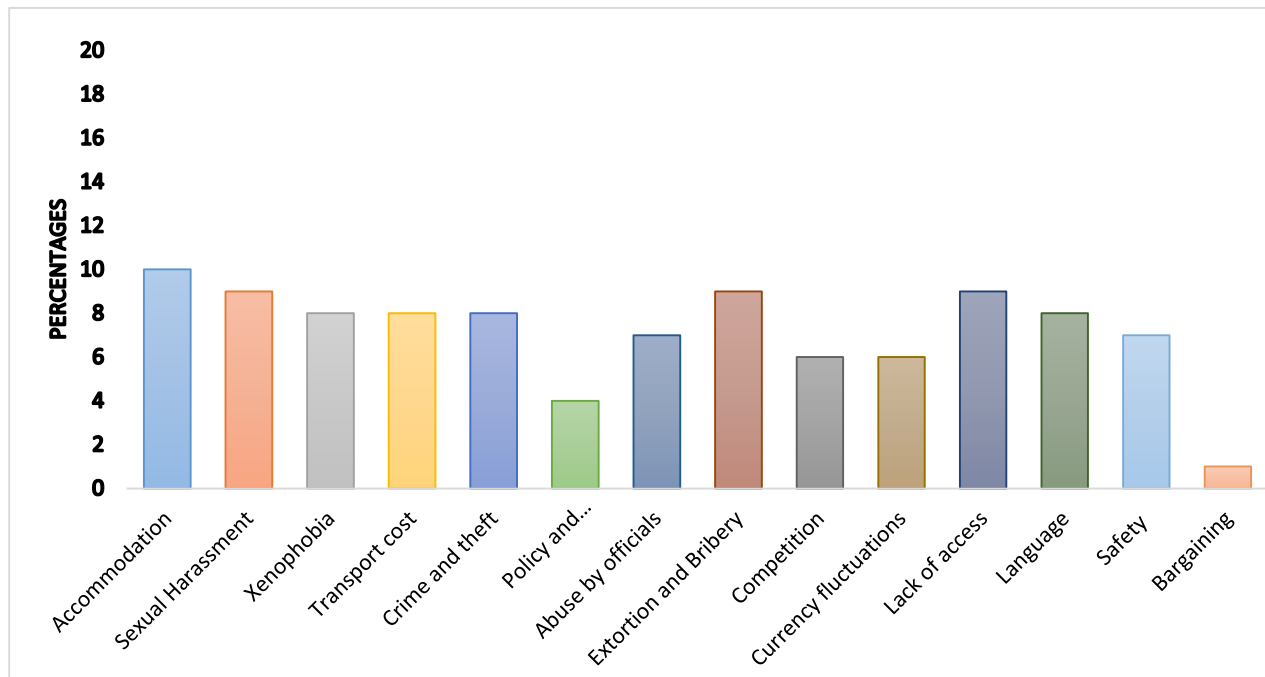


Fig 4.4 Challenges faced by cross border traders. (n-60)

Accommodation is most challenge that cross border traders face with aiming 10% which is almost every cross border trader facing the challenge. All the respondents from interviews and questionnaires said they face high rental fees and poor living conditions in different areas where they operate. In Mkwesine Estate, cross border traders who travel frequently between Zimbabwe and South Africa face challenges related to accommodation. For instance, a trader is based in Mkwesine Estate but needs to spend several days each month in Johannesburg to buy and sell goods, they have difficulty finding affordable and safe accommodation. This is also supported by Makunike (2019), who said women traders face a range of social and economic challenges, including accommodation, limited access to credit, poor infrastructure, and gender-based discrimination. Groff (2016) pointed out that accommodation, corruption and bribery at border crossings further exacerbate the challenges faced by traders, especially small-scale cross border traders who are more vulnerable to exploitation. *On interview, one village head said, "many budget hotels and guesthouses in Johannesburg are located in high-crime areas, making them unsafe for them us."* Alternatively, if the trader decides to stay in a more expensive and safer hotel, the high rental fees may eat into their profits. In the report, Southern Africa Trust (2014) highlighted that traders face numerous obstacles to trade, including high

transportation costs, accommodation, corrupt officials, and inadequate infrastructure, hence this is in line with what the research has found in this study.

Sexual harassment is the second highest challenge with 9%. Respondents confirmed that they face sexual harassment by both customers and officials, making it difficult for them to carry out their trade without fear of physical or sexual violence. *During the questionnaires process with a cross border trader, she l said, "I had endured frequent sexual advances and inappropriate comments from male customers when selling goods in the market and the harassment made me feel unsafe and uncomfortable, often felt powerless to defend myself or to report the behavior. I also experience physical groping, unwanted touching, and verbal threats of sexual violence from male customers and officials at the border.* This is in line with Williams and Mwatwara (2017), who revealed that traders reported experiencing a range of sexual harassment behaviors. He also said that women traders also reported that sexual harassment occurred in different settings, including at border crossings, markets, and on the road. According to Kuppuswamy and Dhule (2021), women traders experienced various forms of sexual violence, including rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, and transactional sex.

Extortion and Bribery with 9%, respondents confirmed that they are at risk of extortion and bribery by officials at border crossings, who demand money in exchange for allowing their goods to pass. This makes it difficult for traders to operate without fear of corruption or harassment. Corruption, extortion, and bribery are prevalent challenges for cross border traders in Mkwazine Estate, where traders are at risk of being extorted or bribed by officials. This prevalence of corruption does hinder the traders' ability to conduct their businesses smoothly and profitably, while increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. Berhanu and Gettu (2019), found that cross border traders in Ethiopia are frequently subjected to extortion and bribery by officials at border crossings. The authors noted that traders are frequently forced to pay bribes or "fees" in order to have their goods cleared, or to avoid delays or obstacles. This type of corruption significantly increase the costs of doing business, and make it more difficult for traders to compete in the market. More so, Raftopoulos and Stanger (2018), pointed that extortion and bribery are prevalent at Zimbabwean border crossings, and often involve border officials demanding money in exchange for allowing goods to pass through. They also said that traders who refuse to pay bribes or "fees" may face delays or obstacles at the border, which can significantly increase their costs and undermine their competitiveness. All this is in line with this study. Mutake (2016), alluded that the prevalence of bribery can create a culture of impunity and

corruption, which undermines the rule of law and the legitimacy of government institutions. For instance, a trader from Mkwase Estate, reported that she was forced to pay a border official R2000 to allow her goods to pass the border. The official threatened to seize her goods if she did not comply.

Lack of access to Credit is another challenge faced by cross border traders in Mkwase Estate with 9% of cross border traders have difficulty accessing credit. Through interviews and questionnaires as shown by this study, that lack of access makes it hard for traders to invest in their businesses or expand their operations. Lack of access to credit is a significant obstacle for cross border traders, as it limits their ability to invest in their businesses or expand their operations. Traders who are unable to access credit may be unable to purchase new inventory or equipment, or may be forced to rely on informal sources of financing that may be expensive or unreliable. Abate and White (2018), said that one of the key obstacles to credit access for SMEs is the high interest rates and collateral requirements that are often imposed by financial institutions. These high costs and strict requirements make it difficult for many SMEs to obtain loans, and can result in a lack of capital for investment or expansion. Acquaye and Lundin (2019) highlight that access to formal financial services, as many SMEs are unable to meet the requirements for traditional bank loans, such as collateral or high credit scores, hence this is in line with what the author has found in this study.

From the questionnaires and interviews, some traders pointed that language is another challenge that they face which has 8%. Cross border traders face language barriers when dealing with customers or officials in different countries, which can make it difficult for them to communicate effectively. Language barriers does significantly challenge cross border traders, particularly when they are operating in countries with different official languages or dialects. This barriers makes it difficult to communicate with customers or officials, which can lead to misunderstandings or delays in the trading process. One trader reported that he faced difficulties when trying to negotiate prices with customers in Botswana, as he was not fluent in Setswana. He had to rely on intermediaries or translators to communicate with his customers, which added to his costs and reduced his efficiency. Muchena (2019), said language barriers create misunderstandings and miscommunications between traders and officials, which can lead to delays in processing documents or shipments and traders may have difficulty understanding the requirements or regulations for cross border trade, which can result in fines or penalties if they are not able to comply with the rules.

One of the village head from Mkwasi Estate during interview said *"I traveled to South Africa to sell goods, often met with hostility and resentment from the local people. Some people have told me to go back to Zimbabwe and accused me of taking jobs away from South Africans"*. Xenophobia is has 8% which is more respondents confirming. Respondents showed that xenophobia present a range of challenges for cross border traders in Mkwasi Estate, from discrimination and stereotyping to violence and legal obstacles. Those who rely on cross border trade to make a living, find themselves facing hostility and hostility in the communities where they try to do business. They are viewed with suspicion and distrust by local people, who see them as outsiders who threaten their livelihoods or take advantage of their vulnerability. This especially challenging for women traders, who may face additional barriers related to their gender. This is also supported by Ncube (2018), who pointed that xenophobia is a significant barrier to the free movement of goods and people in the region, harmful to women traders, who face additional barriers to trade due to gender inequality and stereotypes about women's roles in society and xenophobia undermine efforts to promote regional integration and economic development in Southern Africa. Mutsvairo and Nyirenda (2019), said female traders often face sexual harassment and gender-based violence in addition to xenophobic attitudes. He also said, xenophobia leads to social isolation and stigmatization for female traders, who may be viewed as outsiders or foreigners in the communities where they trade.

Transport costs with 8% is another challenges faced by cross border trade. High transport costs, makes it difficult for them to make profits from their trade. This is often due to poor road conditions, expensive fuel, and costly border crossings. High transportation costs is a major challenge for cross border traders, especially in regions like Southern Africa where road infrastructure is often poor and fuel prices are high, Nyoni (2018), This makes it difficult for traders to transport their goods to markets, and lead to significant losses in profits. In Mkwasi Estate, cross border traders have to pay high fees for trucking or bus transportation, which eat into their profits. This is particularly a challenging for small-scale traders who have not have the capital to invest in their own transportation or to pay for expensive freight services. Mudzingwa (2020) revealed that transportation costs are a major barrier to trade, with some traders reporting that up to 50% of their profits are eaten up by transportation costs, hence this is in hand with what the research has found on this study. Morris

(2016) said that poor road infrastructure and limited port capacity does exacerbate transportation costs, as traders have to pay for additional handling, storage, and customs clearance services.

The vulnerability of cross border traders to theft and robbery, especially when they are transporting valuable goods over long distances is higher. Crimes and theft have 8% which means that cross border traders are at risk of being targeted by criminals and thieves. This involves stealing their goods or extort money from them. This makes it difficult for traders to operate safely and securely. This is in line with Chiumbu (2018) who identified several key findings about the impact of crime and robbery on cross border traders in Zimbabwe, such as theft and robbery. Mudzingwa (2020), alluded that the harsh realities of cross border trade in Zimbabwe, where traders often operate in a dangerous and uncertain environment. Gangs and criminals, along with corrupt officials, are major sources of danger for traders, who may find themselves at risk of robbery, extortion, or violence. Hence this supports what the research has found in this study.

Abuse by officials is another challenge with 7% which is another challenge. Cross border traders face abuse by officials, who demand bribes or extort money from them in exchange for allowing their goods to pass through the border. In her article, Makarau (2019) pointed that border officials use their discretionary powers to delay or deny traders' goods at the border, which can result in significant losses for traders. The issue of abuse by officials is a major challenge for cross border traders, especially in regions where corruption is widespread or where border officials have wide discretionary powers. Traders are forced to pay bribes or kickbacks in order to have their goods cleared or to avoid delays or obstacles at border crossings. *"Another household trader from Mkwesine Estate reported that, I was stopped at the border and told that my goods were not properly documented. When I tried to explain that she had all the necessary paperwork, the border official demanded a processing fee of \$100 USD to allow her goods to pass."* Ndubisi (2020), said traders in the region often face demands for bribes or kickbacks from officials, which can add significantly to their costs and reduce their competitiveness in the market. Hence this is line with what the research has found in this study.

Another challenge is safety and Security with 7% of cross border traders face safety and security risks while traveling, including the risk of being robbed or attacked by criminals. Safety and security risks are a serious concern for cross border traders, with 7% of traders reporting that they face dangers such

as robbery, violence, or kidnapping while traveling. This makes it difficult for traders to operate safely and effectively, and result in financial losses or personal harm. One village head who was interviewed reported that *"I was robbed at gunpoint while traveling to Mozambique to purchase goods for my business. The robbers stole my cash and merchandise, which resulted in a significant financial loss for me and put my business at risk."* Chisira and Chipangura (2021), argued that the Beira corridor is a key trade route for goods and services, but is also a hotspot for criminal activity, including robbery, violence, and extortion. The authors also said that, traders along the corridor may be targeted by criminal gangs who are seeking to steal their goods or extort money from them. This is hand in hand with what the research has found in this study that, insecure border crossings and weak law enforcement exacerbates these risks, as traders may be unable to rely on the authorities for protection or support.

Competition has 6% of respondents confirming that they face stiff competition from other traders in the market, which makes it difficult for them to sell their goods at a profit. This competition drive down prices, reduce profit margins, and make it more difficult for traders to sustain their businesses over the long term. In addition, competition also lead to price wars between traders, which result in lower quality products or dangerous practices such as adulteration or counterfeiting. For example, one village head during interviews reported that some of his competitors were selling maize meal that had been mixed with other, cheaper grains in order to increase their profit margins. Gbikpi and Olivier (2017), said that competition can lead to higher profits for traders who are able to differentiate their products or services, or who are able to create unique value propositions for customers. They also said that, competition can also lead to lower profits for traders who are unable to differentiate their products or services, or who are forced to compete on price alone.

Furthermore, currency fluctuation also affect the trades in Mkwesine Estate with 6% which means that cross border traders also face difficulties related to currency fluctuations. Currency fluctuations are a significant challenge for cross border traders, as the value of currencies can change rapidly due to a variety of factors such as inflation, interest rates, or political instability. This have a significant impact on the cost and profitability of trade, as traders find that the value of their goods fluctuates significantly from one day to the next. For example, a trader during interview reported that, *"I purchased a shipment of textiles from South Africa, but when I tried to sell them in Zimbabwe, the exchange rate had changed significantly, resulting in a loss of profit."* Okafor and Onuoha (2019),

highlighted that currency fluctuations lead to significant price volatility in cross border trade, which can make it difficult for traders to predict or plan for their costs and profits. They also pointed that traders may seek to hedge their currency risk by using strategies such as forward contracts or currency hedging instruments, but these strategies may be expensive or difficult to access for small and medium-sized traders. This is in line with what this research has found on this study that currency fluctuation impact the value of their goods and make it difficult for them to plan and budget for their trade.

Another challenge is policy and regulations which has 4%. Respondent confirmed that challenges related to policies and regulations are unclear or inconsistent between countries. Most female confirmed that policy and regulation does affect them. This makes it difficult for them to understand the rules and regulations that apply to their trade, which can lead to delays or fines at the border. Cross border trader from Mkwase Estate finds that the goods they are trying to export to South Africa are subject to different tariffs or customs requirements than the goods they are importing from South Africa. For example, a trader named X reported that she had been stopped at the border and told that she needed to pay a "processing fee" to have her goods cleared for import. When she asked for a receipt or documentation, the officials told her that there was no need for such paperwork and demanded payment in cash. In their article, Kanyandago and Odiawo (2017), argued that the enforcement of border regulations is often inconsistent and arbitrary, which can lead to delays or fines for traders. Eze (2019) said that poor enforcement of policies and regulations, leads to corruption and favoritism at border crossings. All this is in line with what the research found on this study.

Weak bargaining power is the least with 1% which is few respondent on questionnaires have weak bargaining power when negotiating with buyers or suppliers, which can make it difficult for them to get fair prices for their goods. Weak bargaining power is a significant challenge for cross border traders, as it limits their ability to negotiate effectively with buyers or suppliers. For 1% of traders, this can result in lower prices or reduced profits, which makes it difficult for them to sustain their businesses over the long term. One trader said, he struggled to negotiate fair prices for his products with buyers in Botswana, as he was unable to use his market knowledge or expertise to gain an advantage in the negotiations. Traders with weak bargaining power may be unable to secure favorable terms for their goods or services, which can reduce their profitability and competitiveness in the market, Agyemang (2018).

4.4 Summary

The results of the interviews were presented alongside the questionnaire data, using pie charts, tables, and bar graphs. This data and the findings of the study will be used to make conclusions and recommendations in the next chapter. The qualitative explanations of the collected data will also be considered when making these conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the key findings of this research and offers recommendations for future research and practice. The research will begin by highlighting the main conclusions from this research, then move on to discuss the implications of these findings for the field of cross border trade. Finally, the research will make some recommendations for future research and practice in this area.

5.1. Interpretation and discussion results

5.1.1 Causes and reasons for informal cross border trade (ICBT)?

The finding that poverty is a significant driver of cross-border trade is consistent with previous research that has found that poverty is a major push factor for migration and other risky activities. The finding also suggests that efforts to reduce poverty in the area could have a significant impact on reducing cross-border trade. Unemployment is also a significant driver of cross-border trade is also consistent with previous research that has found that lack of employment opportunities is a major push factor for migration and other risky activities.

Additionally, the significant presence of unique products and cultural exchange among the factors driving ICBT suggests that the activities are not only driven by economic incentives but also by the desire for cultural exchange and the opportunity to bring distinct and valuable products to new markets. The relatively low contribution of business expansion among the factors indicates that ICBT may be primarily driven by individual or small-scale business needs rather than large-scale business strategies. This finding suggests that ICBT activities may offer more opportunities for smaller players to engage in international trade, potentially leveling the playing field and promoting entrepreneurship.

Lack of opportunities: The finding that lack of opportunities is a factor that drives cross-border trade suggests that people are seeking a better standard of living in other countries because they feel that there are no opportunities for them in their home country. This is consistent with research on the

"brain drain" phenomenon, which suggests that lack of opportunities leads to skilled individuals leaving their home countries to find better opportunities elsewhere.

The allure of a better standard of living: The finding that the allure of a better standard of living is a factor in cross-border trade suggests that the perception of other countries as having a better quality of life than the respondent's home country is a major motivator for cross-border trade. This finding is significant because it indicates that efforts to improve the standard of living in the local community could reduce the appeal of other countries and thus reduce cross-border trade. It also suggests that there is a need for more accurate information about the conditions in other countries, so that people are not tempted to engage in risky activities in the hope of a better life.

5.1.2 Livelihood strategies employed by cross border traders.

Firstly, it is worth noting that the majority of households are engaged in some form of cross-border trade, whether it be importing, exporting, retailing, manufacturing, or providing services. This underscores the importance of cross-border trade as a key economic activity in the region, and highlights the role it plays in supporting local livelihoods. The dominance of trade as a livelihood strategy suggests that households in Mkwasine Estate are keenly attuned to market dynamics and consumer demand. This flexibility and adaptability are crucial for navigating the often-volatile conditions of cross-border trade. For example, households engaged in trade may shift their focus from importing certain goods to exporting others, depending on changes in demand or market conditions in neighboring countries.

The role of agriculture as a livelihood strategy is also notable. While agriculture is typically associated with subsistence farming, the data shows that a significant number of households in Mkwasine Estate are engaged in exporting their produce. This suggests that agriculture can be a valuable source of income and a platform for economic growth in this region, as long as farmers are able to tap into international markets and access the necessary infrastructure for exporting their products.

The presence of small-scale manufacturing and service industries is also important, as these activities add value to the local economy and create unique offerings for consumers. For example, the creation of handmade goods or the provision of logistics services can help to differentiate Mkwasine Estate

from other cross-border trading hubs, and provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to build successful businesses.

Lastly, the presence of informal trading activities, such as roadside stalls and local markets, highlights the importance of flexibility and informality in the livelihood strategies of households in Mkwesine Estate. For many households, formal employment or traditional business models may not be feasible or accessible. Informal trading activities allow households to generate income on a more flexible and ad-hoc basis, while also contributing to the vibrancy and resilience of the local economy.

5.1.3 Sustainability of the livelihood strategies employed by cross border trade

First, agriculture stands out as the most sustainable livelihood option for traders in this region. Agriculture is a vital part of the local economy, providing food security and a steady source of income. Its resilience and adaptability to environmental and market changes make it an attractive choice for traders who seek to build a long-term, sustainable livelihood.

Trade, service provision, and retail activities are also viable livelihood options for cross-border traders in Mkwesine. While these options offer different levels of sustainability depending on factors such as market stability, competition, and consumer preferences, they offer flexibility and potential for growth. For example, retail activities may provide a stable source of income by catering to local consumer needs and preferences, while service provision can tap into the demand for essential services in the region.

Manufacturing and casual labor, on the other hand, are less sustainable livelihood options for traders in Mkwesine. Manufacturing requires significant investments in equipment, skills, and resources, which may be difficult to obtain in a region where infrastructure and financial support are limited. In addition, the sustainability of manufacturing livelihoods depends on factors such as market demand, which can be volatile and unpredictable.

Casual labor, while offering an immediate source of income, is generally not a sustainable livelihood option for traders in Mkwesine. The temporary or part-time nature of this work can lead to instability and uncertainty, which can undermine efforts to build a long-term, sustainable livelihood.

Overall, the findings indicate that traders in Mkwesine should focus on agriculture, trade, service provision, and retail activities to build sustainable livelihoods.

5.1.4 Challenges faced by cross border traders.

The traders in Mkwesine are facing a wide range of economic and socio-cultural challenges that are hindering their ability to engage in effective and sustainable cross-border trade activities. The high cost of accommodation and transportation, as well as the lack of affordable options, present a significant barrier to entry for many traders. This is particularly true for those with limited financial resources or who need to make frequent trips across the border, which can eat into their profits and make it difficult to maintain a profitable business.

In addition to economic instability and limited resources, traders in Mkwesine also face serious social and cultural challenges. Female traders, in particular, are vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation by men in positions of power, including other traders, border officials, and local residents. This creates an unsafe and hostile environment for women, which can discourage their participation in cross-border trade activities and limit their economic potential.

Discrimination based on nationality or ethnicity is another significant problem facing traders in Mkwesine. The prevalence of discrimination can have a significant impact on the success of traders, as it can limit their access to markets and customers, reduce their bargaining power, and even put them at risk of violence or harassment. For example, traders who are perceived as outsiders or foreigners may be viewed with suspicion or hostility by local communities, making it difficult for them to establish trust and build relationships with potential customers.

Moreover, corruption and official abuse also pose serious challenges for traders in Mkwesine. Corrupt officials can demand bribes, extort money, or use their position of power to intimidate or harass traders. This creates a climate of fear and uncertainty that can discourage traders from engaging in cross-border trade activities, as they may not know who to trust or how to navigate the complex web of official corruption. Moreover, corrupt officials can make it difficult for traders to obtain permits or licenses, access markets, or even cross the border without facing harassment or delays.

Ultimately, these economic, social, and cultural challenges highlight the need for a more holistic approach to addressing the difficulties faced by traders in Mkwesine. This could include measures to promote gender equality and reduce harassment and discrimination, as well as efforts to combat corruption and official abuse.

5.2 Recommendations

- Invest in education and training to reduce unemployment and improve economic opportunities.
- Invest in infrastructure and development to improve the standard of living in the local community.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and start-ups to create more local economic opportunities.
- Strengthen law enforcement to reduce the risk of crime and violence associated with cross-border trade.
- Improve border security to reduce the risk of illegal goods and people crossing the border.
- To explore ways to promote and develop the agricultural sector, as it seems to be underrepresented.
- Advocate for policies that promote sustainable livelihoods, such as those that support small businesses and farmers.
- To address the accommodation challenge, it is important to increase the availability of affordable housing in the area. This could be done through government initiatives or through partnerships with private developers.
- To address the sexual harassment challenge, it is important to increase awareness about sexual harassment and the resources available to victims. It is also important to provide safe spaces for victims to report incidents and seek support.
- To address the xenophobia challenge, it is important to promote tolerance and understanding between different groups in the community.

5.3 Conclusion

International cross-border trade (ICBT) is a multifaceted economic activity that responds to a range of economic, social, and cultural forces. While economic factors such as unemployment and poverty

are the primary drivers of ICBT, the pursuit of better prices, new markets, unique products, and cultural exchange also play significant roles in motivating engagement in international trade. These factors, together with the need for business expansion, highlight the diverse and dynamic nature of international commerce, reflecting the aspirations and needs of individuals and businesses across the globe.

Furthermore, the households in Mkwasi Estate demonstrate a dynamic, resourceful approach to their livelihood strategies, relying on a mix of formal and informal activities, including trade, agriculture, services, manufacturing, and informal retailing. This diversity allows them to respond to economic and market changes, contribute to the local economy, and take advantage of opportunities for growth and innovation. The challenges and opportunities presented by cross-border trade play a crucial role in shaping these strategies, highlighting the importance of understanding local contexts and fostering economic resilience in the face of global uncertainties.

Based on the findings of this study, agriculture, trade, services, and retail are more sustainable livelihood options for informal cross-border traders in Mkwasi, compared to manufacturing and casual labor. Agriculture offers the most sustainable livelihood due to its steady source of income, food security, and long-term growth potential. Trade, services, and retail provide other viable alternatives that allow for income generation, while manufacturing and casual labor are less sustainable due to factors such as high resource requirements and short-term work contracts.

Overall, traders in Mkwasi are confronted with numerous economic, social, and cultural challenges, ranging from high costs of living to rampant corruption and gender-based violence. A multi-faceted approach that addresses these issues holistically is needed to ensure that informal cross-border trade can thrive as a sustainable means of livelihood for the local community. Tackling the economic, social, and cultural barriers will require concerted efforts from multiple stakeholders, including government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRES

Declaration

My name is Admire Mudhefi and I'm studying at Bindura University of Science Education. I'm conducting these questionnaires as part of my research project. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used for research purposes.

SECTION A

Demographic Data

Tick the corresponding box

(1) **What is your sex**

Male		Female	
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(2) **What is your marital status**

Single		Divorced		Separated	
Married		Windowed		Other (Specify)	

(3) **In which age group do you belong?**

Below 20 Years		20-30 Years		30-40 Years	
40-50 Years		50 – 60 Years		60 Years & Above	

(4) **How many children do you have?**

0-3 Children		3 – 6 Children		6 Children & Above	
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(5) What is your level of education?

Primary		Secondary		Diploma		Degree	
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Others (must Specify).....

SECTION B (Reasons for cross border trade)

(6) Why do you people in your area are involved in cross-border trade?

Unemployment		Poverty		Better prices		Unique products	
Cultural exchange		New markets		Business expansion		Others	

Others (must Specify).....

(7) What do you think are the disadvantages of cross-border trade for people in your area?

Poverty reduction		Lower costs		Cultural exchange	
Job creation		Regional integration		Others(specify)	

(8) How do you think cross-border trade has affected your area, both positively and negatively?

Increased economic activity		Poverty reduction		Cultural exchange	
Goods and services diversification		Job creation		Others(specify)	

SECTION C (Livelihood strategies)

(9) What other income-generating activities are you involved in?

Trade		Agriculture		Services	
Retail		Manufacturing		Other(Specify)	

(10) What other livelihood activities do you engage in, besides cross-border trade?

Livestock keeping		Hairdressing		Vending	
Fishing		Sewing and tailoring		Casual labor	
Beekeeping		Transport		Others	

Others (must Specify).....

SECTION D (Sustainability of the livelihood strategies)

(11) Does your livelihood strategy allow you to meet your household needs in the short-term and long-term or how can you describe it?

Tick the correct box	Yes	NO
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Provides sufficient income to cover the household's basic needs in the short and long term.		
Helps the household to cope with risks and shocks, such as economic downturns or natural disasters.		
Has the potential for growth and expansion, for example through skills training or access to credit.		
Flexible and adaptable		
It doesn't provide enough income to meet the household's needs.		
It doesn't help the household cope with risks and shocks		
It relies on a single source of income, making it vulnerable to economic downturns or natural disasters.		
It doesn't take into account environmental sustainability, leading to the depletion of natural resources.		

(12) To what extent do the following attributes describe your livelihood strategy. (Using a scale of 1-5 whereby 1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3= neutral, 4= disagree and 5= strongly disagree)

	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Environmentally Friendly					
Socially Acceptable					
Economically Viable					

Culturally Appropriate					
Technologically Feasible					
Policy Support					

(12) **Do you feel that your livelihood strategy is secure and resilient to external shocks?**

Agree		Strongly Agree		Neutral	
Disagree				Strongly Disagree	

SECTION F (Challenges faced by cross border trade)

(13) **What are the main challenges you face in your livelihood activities?**

<i>Tick the correct box</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
Accommodation		
Lack of access to finance and credit.		
Sexual harassment		
Crime and theft		
Xenophobia		

Language barriers.		
Limited market access.		
Safety and security concerns.		
OTHERs		

Others (must Specify).....

(14) What are the main barriers to accessing markets and selling your goods?

<i>Tick the correct box</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
High transport and logistics costs.		
Complex customs and trade procedures.		
Lack of market information and intelligence.		
Abuse by officials		
Inadequate packaging and labelling standards.		
Lack of certification and standards compliance		
Insufficient capacity to meet market requirements.		
Limited access to financing and credit.		
Poor quality of products		
Weak bargaining power.		
Low product prices due to competition from formal and informal sectors.		

(15) **Have you had to change your livelihood strategy in the past? If so, why?**

Competition		Policies or regulations.		Currency fluctuations.	
Conflict or violence		Natural disasters		Personal health issues.	
Abuse		Crimes		Others	

Others (must Specify).....

Maitabasa Ngiyabonga Nikesile

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEWS

- 1) Why do you think people in your village participate in cross-border trade?
- 2) What are the main motivations for engaging in informal cross border trade?
- 3) What benefits do you think cross-border trade has for the people in your village?
- 4) Do most cross-border traders in your village focus on one product or service, or do they have multiple sources of income?
- 5) What are the different activities you engage in to earn a living?
- 6) Are there any other sources of income for you besides cross border trade?
- 7) Do cross-border traders in your village face any environmental, economic and social challenges?
- 8) Do you think that the benefits of cross-border trade outweigh the risks and challenges?
- 9) What challenges do you think people in your village face when participating in cross-border trade?
- 10) What are the biggest challenges you face in accessing markets for your goods or services?

Maitabasa Ngiyabonga Nikesile