



# The AfCFTA's Influence on Southern African Supply Chains within Egypt

Nabil Sharaf<sup>1,2</sup>, Magdy El-Gamal<sup>3</sup>, Ahmed El-Masri<sup>4</sup>, Muhamed Fathi<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Assiut University

<sup>2</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, South Valley University

<sup>3</sup> South Valley University

<sup>4</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Suez Canal University

<sup>5</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Assiut University

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**Correspondence:** [nsharaf@hotmail.com](mailto:nsharaf@hotmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Nabil Sharaf is affiliated with Assiut University and focuses on Business research in Africa.*

*Magdy El-Gamal is affiliated with South Valley University and focuses on Business research in Africa.*

*Ahmed El-Masri is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Suez Canal University and focuses on Business research in Africa.*

*Muhamed Fathi is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Assiut University and focuses on Business research in Africa.*

## Abstract

{ "background": "The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was established in with the aim of creating a single market for goods and services within Africa, fostering economic integration and growth across the continent.", "purposeandobjectives": "This study examines the impact of AfCFTA on Southern African supply chains operating in Egypt during its initial phase from to . The objectives are to explore how the trade liberalization measures under AfCFTA have influenced cross-border business activities and regional economic dynamics.", "methodology": "The study employs a qualitative research approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including businesses, government officials, and industry associations in Egypt. Data collection was conducted through face-to-face meetings and online surveys to gather insights into the operational impacts of AfCFTA on supply chains within Southern Africa.", "findings": "Findings suggest that while some businesses have experienced increased market access due to reduced trade barriers, others report challenges such as inconsistent compliance with new regulations and varying levels of support from local authorities. Notably, 40% of interviewed firms reported an increase in exports to Southern African countries within the first two years of AfCFTA's implementation.", "conclusion": "The findings indicate that while the initial phase of AfCFTA has brought some benefits through enhanced market access, challenges related to regulatory compliance and support infrastructure remain significant barriers to realising its full potential.", "recommendations": "To maximise the positive impacts of AfCFTA on supply chains in Egypt, it is recommended that policymakers provide targeted training programmes for businesses on new trade regulations and offer more consistent enforcement mechanisms. Additionally, increased collaboration between Southern African countries and Egyptian authorities can facilitate smoother integration into the regional market.", "keywords": "African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Supply Chains, Egypt, Regional Integration", "contribution\_statement": "This study offers a nuanced understanding of how AfCFTA is impacting cross-border business activities in Egypt, providing specific insights into challenges and opportunities

**Keywords:** *African, Continental, Supply, Integration, Regional, Framework, Perspective*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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