



The AfCFTA's Influence on Southern Africa's Regional Supply Chains in Gambia: An Analytical Framework

Mama Jawo^{1,2}, Foday Adam³, Sallie Jallow¹, Fatimah Jawo¹

¹ Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM

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Correspondence: mjawo@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Mama Jawo is affiliated with Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Foday Adam is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Sallie Jallow is affiliated with Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Fatimah Jawo is affiliated with Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit The Gambia at LSHTM and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to create a unified market among all 54 African countries by eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers, fostering economic integration across the continent. The study employs a qualitative approach to analyse existing literature and stakeholder interviews, aiming to provide insights into potential impacts of the AfCFTA on supply chain dynamics. Significant engagement from both domestic and international suppliers has been observed in Gambia's regional supply chains, indicating an increased interest driven by AfCFTA opportunities. The AfCFTA presents a promising opportunity for enhancing economic resilience and diversifying trade partners among Southern African countries, particularly through improved supply chain integration. Policy makers should facilitate infrastructure development to support the growth of regional supply chains, while also encouraging local businesses to leverage new market access opportunities.

Keywords: *African, Continental, Free, Trade, Integration, Analysis, Framework*

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