

SUCCESS STORY

Faster Border Crossings for Better Trade

Trade Hub program leads to sustained decrease in time taken to cross Nakonde border



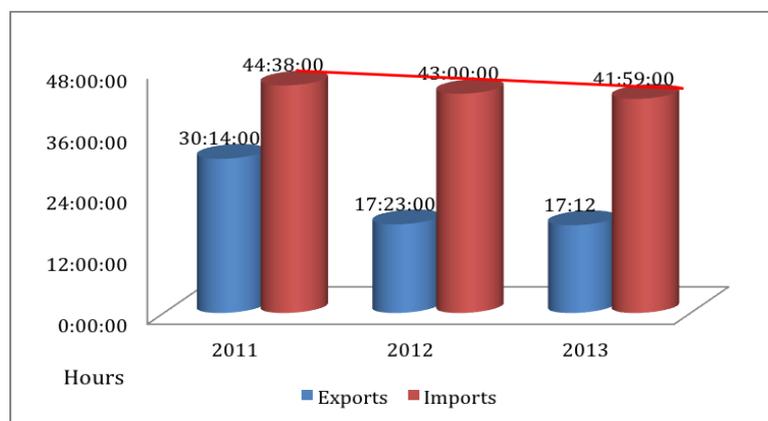
An average of 130 loaded import trucks and 70 loaded export trucks as well as numerous secondhand vehicles and empty trucks now cross Nakonde much faster than in 2011.

“Our target for improvement in Year 3 of the Hub was 15%, but at Nakonde the improvement was 23% this year, which even exceeds the target for improvement for Year 4, which was 20%. Maintaining the significant improvement achieved in Year 2 and improving it slightly in Year 3 is an achievement in itself. At other borders it has been not uncommon to see improvements one year followed by deterioration of the situation the following year,” explains Godwin Punungwe, Director of Trade Facilitation at the Trade Hub.

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In September 2013, USAID’s Southern Africa Trade Hub conducted its third and final assessment of the efficiency of border operations at the Nakonde border post between Zambia and Tanzania, revealing a further reduction in the 2012 border crossing times. The graphic below shows border crossing times in 2011, 2012 and 2013.



These assessments form part of the Trade Hub’s Coordinated Border Management (CBM) program, which was designed to encourage better cooperation and coordination among agencies working at the borders in order to simplify the clearance of goods and reduce the time goods spend at the border. Improving border efficiency enhances trade, economic growth and food security in Southern Africa.

The improvements at Nakonde are primarily being driven by the Joint Border Committee (JBC), which was established through the CBM program and consists of representatives from the public and private sectors involved in customs clearing and border crossing formalities. The Nakonde JBC is implementing a revised action plan, developed with Trade Hub assistance, to sustain improvements and identify and address challenges on an ongoing basis.

Having met its goal of reducing border crossing times across targeted borders in Zambia and Malawi by an average of 20% and having transferred over border improvement management to JBCs, going forward the Trade Hub will be focusing its attention on other Trade Facilitation tools such as One Stop Border Posts and National Single Window, which also address challenges associated with deficient infrastructure and inadequate equipment and technologies.