

25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

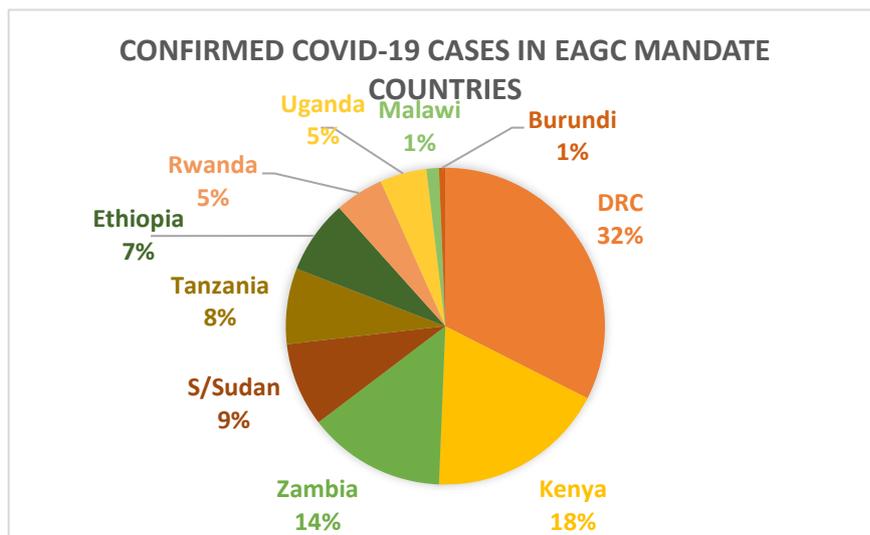


Dear EAGC Members and Stakeholders,

**WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR THE GRAIN SECTOR IN EASTERN AFRICA - WEEK 9**

Greetings from the Secretariat.

This Communique is a continuation of our weekly updates to EAGC Members and Stakeholders on developments in the grain sector in Eastern Africa in the face of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Previous editions of this Communique are accessible [here](#).

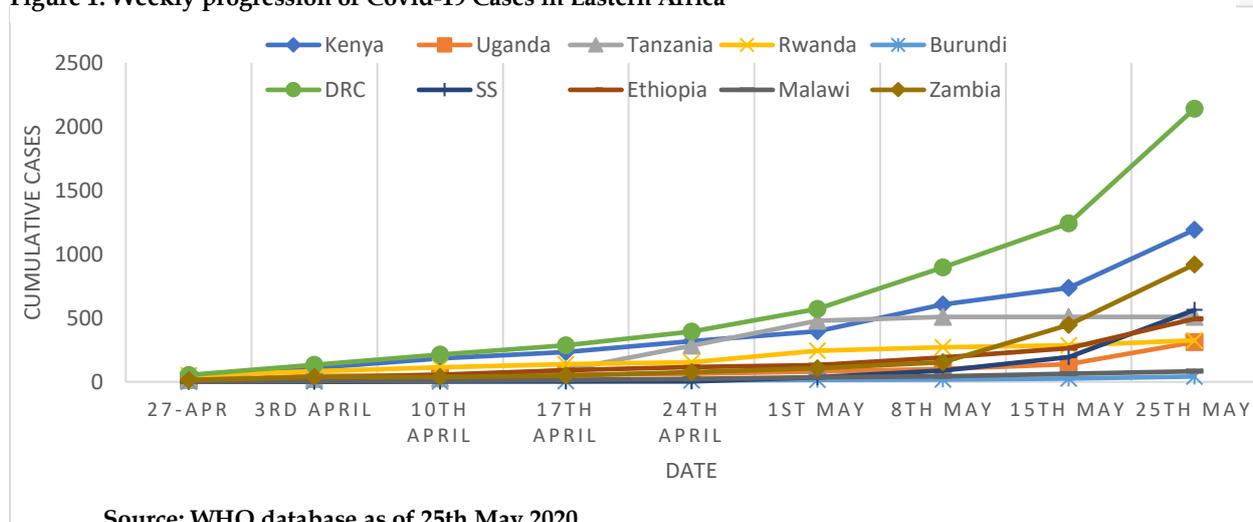


The number of Covid-19 confirmed cases in EAGC mandate countries has risen to 6,580 in the last one week, representing a 68% rise.

The pandemic is continually causing significant adverse impact on the economies following

the various lockdown measures that have been previously instituted, with some of the governments resulting to implementation of fiscal measures to mitigate the effects and provide relief for businesses and households. Within the ten EAGC mandate countries, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt differently as the measures taken by the respective governments have also differed on the areas of focus and comprehensiveness.

Figure 1: Weekly progression of Covid-19 Cases in Eastern Africa



Source: WHO database as of 25th May 2020

**KENYA**  
Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell:+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

**TANZANIA**  
Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

**UGANDA**  
Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 38435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

**RWANDA**  
Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

**SOUTH SUDAN**  
Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

**BURUNDI**  
C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

**MALAWI**  
P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

**ZAMBIA**  
C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988

## A. New Measures taken by Governments in Eastern Africa

### Regional COVID-19 response

Following the virtual meeting by Heads of States of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Ministers of Transport agreed to introduce the following directives, among others, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020:

- ✓ Deployment of the staff to the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Naivasha is expected to be finalized to ensure smooth clearance of the cargo
- ✓ All transit cargo destined for Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan will be transported either on Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) for clearance at the ICD at Naivasha or Metre Gauge Railway to Tororo/Kampala. All transit cargo railed to the ICD at Naivasha will be collected by trucks to the Partner States via Busia or Malaba border. Fuel products will be transported by pipeline to Kisumu and thereafter by Lake Victoria to Port Bell or Jinja
- ✓ All the transit cargo/containers transported on SGR will be armed only at the ICD at Naivasha to be tracked through the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System.
- ✓ All exports (both full and empty exports) not railed on metre gauge railway will be delivered to the ICD at Naivasha for railage to the Port of Mombasa.

The EAC secretariat through the EAC Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases (Mobile Lab Project), has handed over 2 Mobile Laboratories to Kenya to strengthen the laboratory capacity for COVID-19 response in the country as one of the Partner States. The labs which are set to be stationed at Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border and the other at the Naivasha dry port on the Nairobi-Malaba Highway, have a combined capacity to support 2,000 tests per day.



### Tanzania

The government has reviewed the [travel advisory note](#) dated 4th April, 2020 to accommodate measures related to International travel following what the government describes as a declining trend of admitted Covid-19 cases in the country, as follows:

- ✓ Enhanced screening for all travellers, without a 14-days mandatory quarantine upon arrival
- ✓ All international travellers to observe adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures
- ✓ All arriving/departing conveyances must provide Advance Passenger Information to allow for scrutiny of possible high-risk passengers.
- ✓ Pilot/Captain/Driver in command of conveyance should prior to arrival fill and submit health declaration forms to Port Health Authority
- ✓ All Conveyance operators to observe adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures
- ✓ Conveyances will be subjected to decontamination if deemed necessary

#### KENYA

Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell:+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

#### TANZANIA

Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

#### UGANDA

Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 28435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

#### BURUNDI

C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

#### RWANDA

Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

#### MALAWI

P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

#### SOUTH SUDAN

Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

#### ZAMBIA

C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988



### Rwanda

No new measures have been put in place in the past week.

- However, the government reviewed and upheld the existing measures to further contain spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, effective 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, which will be further reviewed after 15 days upon a health assessment.



### Uganda

New measures have been put in place in the past week as follows:

- The government announced that public or private transport shall not be allowed in border districts.
- Private cars will be allowed to move on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.
- All truck drivers will be required to wait for their test results in order to enter Uganda

Previous measures instituted in the previous weeks remain in place.



### Kenya

- The government continues to dispatch a total of KSh 250 Million on a weekly basis to vulnerable families and has announced the rolling out of Ksh 53.7 Billion 8-point economic stimulus programme to stimulate growth and cushion citizens and businesses.
  - ✓ The Agricultural sector has been allocated Ksh 3 billion for farm inputs supply through e-vouchers, targeting 200,000 small scale farmers; to cushion them from adverse weather and to secure food supply chains
  - ✓ Small and Medium Enterprises have been allocated Ksh10 Billion to fast-track payment of outstanding VAT refunds and other pending payments; while Ksh3 Billion has been allocated as seed capital for the SME Credit Guarantee Schemes to provide affordable credit to small and micro enterprises
- The government published a new [Gazette Notice](#) extending the maize importation window to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020. The Notice has also rectified the quality and standards issues raised in the initial Gazette Notice, and has removed directives to take all yellow maize to the factory on arrival from international markets.



### Malawi

No new developments have taken place in the past week

- The wearing of masks is now compulsory for vendors and buyers in all markets in Lilongwe effective 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

Previous measures remain in place a per the effective dates

#### KENYA

Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

#### TANZANIA

Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

#### UGANDA

Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 28435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

#### BURUNDI

C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

#### RWANDA

Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

#### MALAWI

P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

#### SOUTH SUDAN

Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

#### ZAMBIA

C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988

## B. Updates on cross-border trade situation

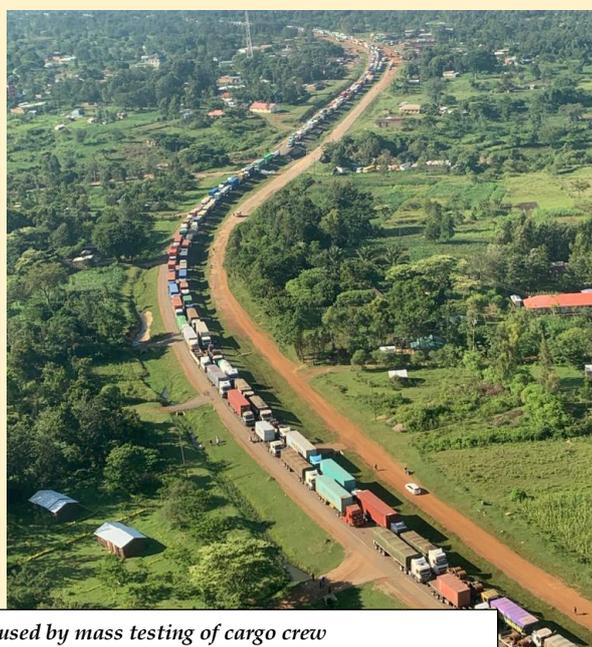
Below is a highlight of situations at key borders in East Africa.



### Uganda/Kenya borders

No new measures have been put in place in the past week.

- Long queues of trucks observed as both countries continue with mass-testing for COVID-19 on all trucks and crew.



*Smurl up of cargo trucks at the Malaba border caused by mass testing of cargo crew*



### Tanzania/Rwanda border

No new developments in the past week. EAGC continues to monitor the cross-border situation at the border point.

- Truck drivers have resumed ferrying goods across the border following an agreement by the two governments, with over 500 trucks estimated to have crossed the Rusuma border as of 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020. This follows a bilateral meeting to resolve cross-border trade challenges between the two governments.



### Tanzania/Uganda border

No new measures have been instituted in the past week.

- However, tighter controls remain in place at the Mutukula border as mass-testing for COVID-19 for all trucks entering Uganda from Tanzania is still ongoing.
- Only 1 crew member (the driver) is allowed per truck. Truck drivers entering Uganda will also be tracked as they are only allowed to rest in designated areas within Uganda.



### Kenya/Tanzania borders

The government of Tanzania imposed a ban on all Kenyan cargo trucks from entering Tanzania in what appeared to be retaliatory border closure, following Kenya's [announcement of the closure of her borders with Somalia and Tanzania](#). The two presidents upon negotiation, directed transport ministers and border regional commissioners to convene and resolve the COVID-19 testing and cargo truck barring disputes. A ministerial bilateral meeting on free movement of goods at the border posts was then held on 22nd May, 2020 at the Namanga One Stop Border Post. The Ministers agreed that;

- ✓ Each vehicle to be allowed to have up to three crew members
- ✓ Truck crew to be tested at the point of origin using WHO Standards and be issued a 14-day COVID-19 free certificate by competent authority which shall be mutually recognized.
- ✓ Each Partner State shall be allowed to gazette a conducive place where truck drivers can stop for a rest. Such places should be equipped with necessary amenities.
- ✓ Partners States shall undertake random screening in the designated/gazetted resting points, in a transparent manner and allow the owner to replace all crew if found to be at high risk of COVID19
- ✓ Cargo and conveyors to be offloaded at the point of destination unless there is a different agreement with the owner of the cargo. Vehicles shall not be compelled to offload at the border.
- ✓ Both states agreed to release the public data of the status of the COVID-19 tests without revealing the nationality of the infected, and data submitted to authorities through diplomatic channels
- ✓ Both states committed to revive and operationalize the Ujirani Mwema Cross border meetings
- ✓ Farmers on either border side, be allowed to access their farms, upon identification by local leaders



*Chaos at the Taveta-Holili border after Tanzania blocked Kenyan drivers from crossing into Tanzania amid Covid-19 measures row. Photo Credit: Citizen TV, Kenya*



### Tanzania/Zambia border

- Zambia reopened its Nakonde border with Tanzania on the 15th May, 2020 paving the way for movement of cargo after a five-day closure of the transit point

#### KENYA

Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

#### TANZANIA

Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

#### UGANDA

Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 28435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

#### RWANDA

Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

#### SOUTH SUDAN

Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

#### BURUNDI

C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

#### MALAWI

P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

#### ZAMBIA

C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988

### C. EAGC support to grain trade

EAGC continues to facilitate trade in grains, farm inputs, equipment and services through the G-Soko and G-Hub systems as follows:

- i. Logistical support for grain trade using pre-qualified service providers.
- ii. Emergency working capital arrangements with partner financial institutions ease liquidity constraints affecting the grain suppliers as a result of COVID-19.
- iii. Continued monitoring and regular reporting to Members on developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to inform the business decisions.

EAGC encourages members to engage in the trade of the commodities offered in these latest grain trade catalogues showing [offers](#) and [enquiries](#) respectively.

Noting the current restrictions to movement into or out of Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi Counties, EAGC continues to **support its Members in Kenya to obtain travel authorization to or from these places**. Members requiring this service are encouraged to contact the Secretariat through the contacts provided in Annex 1 below.

**EAGC reminds its Members and Stakeholders to make use of its trade facilitation services and bring to its attention any disruptions they experience in either domestic or cross-border trade through Secretariat contacts at the end of this Communique (Annex 1).**

Thank you and God Bless you.

**Gerald Makau Masila,**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN COUNCIL**

#### KENYA

Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell:+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

#### TANZANIA

Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

#### UGANDA

Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 28435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

#### BURUNDI

C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

#### RWANDA

Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

#### MALAWI

P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

#### SOUTH SUDAN

Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

#### ZAMBIA

C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988

**Annex 1: EAGC Contact Addresses for you to reach us for assistance**

Country	Contact Person	Contacts
Uganda	Justine Namubiru Country Program Officer	+256 772577500 <a href="mailto:jnamubiru@eagc.org">jnamubiru@eagc.org</a>
Kenya	Fred Simon Otieno Program Officer	+254 712 237 244 or call the office on +254 733, 444035 Email: <a href="mailto:fotieno@eagc.org">fotieno@eagc.org</a>
Tanzania	Kimwaga Mhando Trade Policy Manager and in-charge Tanzania Country Program	+255 712 453 493; +254 703 106 890 Email: <a href="mailto:kmhando@eagc.org">kmhando@eagc.org</a>
Rwanda	Epiphane Karekezi Country Program Officer	+250788750766 Email: <a href="mailto:ekarekezi@eagc.org">ekarekezi@eagc.org</a>
Malawi	Kohani Uzamba Country Program Officer	Mobile: +265 999 227 697 Email: <a href="mailto:ukohani@eagc.org">ukohani@eagc.org</a>
EAGC GSoko Trade Desk	Lynette Kithinji Trade Desk & Communications	+ 254 712 652 104 Email: <a href="mailto:communications@eagc.org">communications@eagc.org</a>
Regional office,	Gerald Makau Masila, Executive Director/CEO	+254 733 444055/ 0722 516250 Email: <a href="mailto:gmasila@eagc.org">gmasila@eagc.org</a>
DR Congo Burundi Zambia Ethiopia	Janet Ngombalu Regional Programs Coordinator	+254 722 804104 Email: <a href="mailto:jngombalu@eagc.org">jngombalu@eagc.org</a>  The Regional Office +254 733 444035, Email - <a href="mailto:grains@eagc.org">grains@eagc.org</a>



[www.gsoko.com](http://www.gsoko.com)



[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)



[www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net) - daily news updates



[www.eagc.org/services/atpaf-esa](http://www.eagc.org/services/atpaf-esa)

**KENYA**

Mbaazi Avenue, Off King'ara Road  
P.O. Box 218 – 00606, NAIROBI  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-374 5840  
Cell:+254-733 444 035 / 710 607 313

E-mail: [grains@eagc.org](mailto:grains@eagc.org)  
[www.eagc.org](http://www.eagc.org) / [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)  
[www.grain.institute](http://www.grain.institute)  
[www.g-soko.com](http://www.g-soko.com)

**TANZANIA**

Plot No. 33, Mikocheni B,  
Daima Street Block A  
P.O. Box 33619 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 754 354 582

C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute,  
(TARI) Selian Centre,  
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport  
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA  
Tel: +255 677 058 378

**UGANDA**

Muyenga, Galukande Close  
opp. Kironde Road  
P.O. Box 28435 KAMPALA  
Tel: +256 393 112 854

**BURUNDI**

C/o IFDC Office  
Tel: +257 714 80983  
BUJUMBURA

**RWANDA**

Mulindi Grain Market-Office No. 69,  
Nyakagenzi Village- Ndera Sector  
P.O. Box 4497 KIGALI  
Tel: +250 788 313 998 / 788 315 138

**MALAWI**

P.O. Box 30209 LILONGWE, MALAWI  
Tel: +265 999 975 994/999 975 899

**SOUTH SUDAN**

Hai Amarat, Dehavana Lounge,  
P.O. Box 505 JUBA  
Tel: +211 955 031 334

**ZAMBIA**

C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia  
Suite C & 1 Stand No. 6980, Katanga Road  
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA  
Tel: +260 973 502 988