

HUDUMA BIASHARA USALAMA



Funded by
the European Union



Secure Cross-border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region

FLASH REPORT

Community Based Component: Rapid Assessment in Bukavu (DRC) and Rusizi (Rwanda)

26 November - 6 December 2019

The EU funded action “Secure Cross-Border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region” implemented by IOM, in partnership with TMEA, is working towards strengthening the economic integration and social cohesion of the cross-border communities of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through the implementation of an integrated border management approach; facilitated by improved infrastructure, strengthened cross border cohesion and enhanced communication and coordination among the border agencies of the two countries.





"The discussion with the women gave them the time to reflect on their psychological and psycho social problems and they expressed the desire for counselling services to be made available within their cooperatives"- Jean De Dieu, Rusizi.

To enhance cross border social cohesion among border communities, migrants and cross border traders, IOM is identifying a specific set of initiatives that can contribute to enhance peace-building trends, social cohesion mechanisms and female cross-border traders' economic and psycho-social well-being in Bukavu and Rusizi.

The aim is to analyse the relevant psycho-social dimensions of cross-border trade dynamics and social cohesion's implications for the communities of Bukavu and Rusizi to indicate the main institutional, economic and informal actors of the cross-border trade and highlight strengths, weaknesses, opportunities of their relationships.

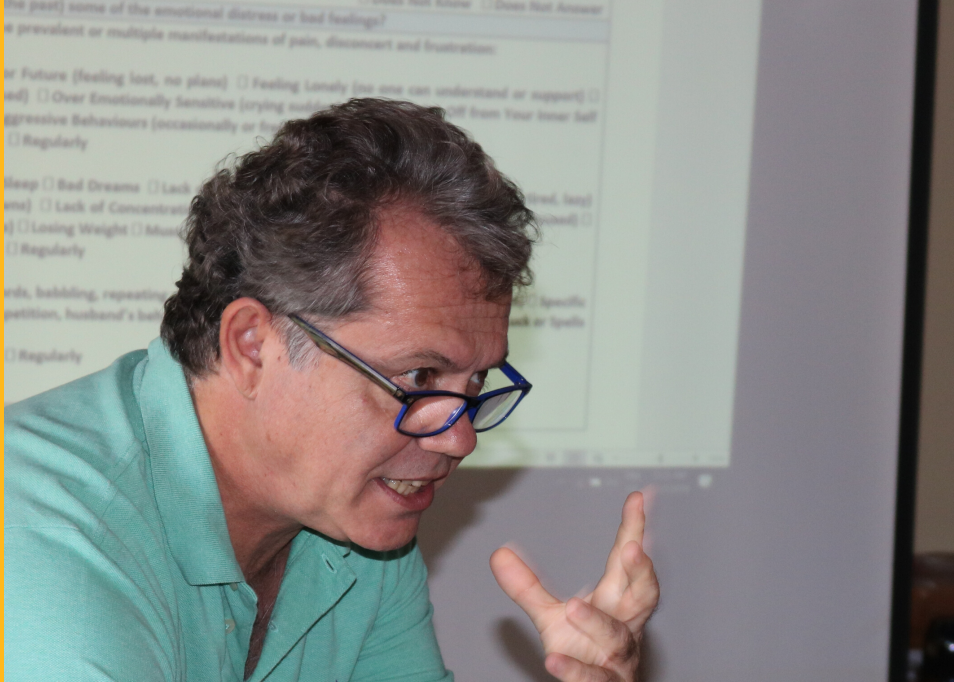
From 26 November to 6 December 2019, IOM carried a series of field activities comprising structured interactions through interviews, focus group discussions and workshops with key partners and beneficiaries of the Action.

Social workers of Bukavu and Rusizi and IOM staff participated in a joint interactive workshop led by IOM's social cohesion consultant to collectively understand and contextualize the approach that could be used to contribute to the well being of the women cross border traders.

"Travailler comme enquêteur m'a permis de réaliser le besoin de soutien émotionnel que je dois donner à ma femme qui est une CBT"- Kevin, Bukavu.

"The interviewing experience made me acknowledge the need to give emotional support to my wife who is a woman in CBT".





"The IOM assessment being carried in Rusizi and Bukavu is meant to cast lights on an aspect usually not explored enough by institutions: the psycho-social impact of the cross-border trade on women, their children, families and communities. We hope to identify the main manifestations of discomfort and pains, as well as the main stressors and conditions of vulnerability related to cross border trade. In fact, the emotional and relational burden carried out on daily basis by these women can be so heavy and distressing, to severely compromise self-confidence, psycho social well-being and life expectancy" - Renato Libanora, IOM Consultant.



“Grâce aux questions posées au cours de l’enquête elles ont réalisées qu’au-delà de se préoccuper d’argent il faut tenir compte de l’impact des traumatismes psycho sociales sur leur santé” - Françoise, Bukavu.

"The questions allowed the women in CBT to realise the importance of looking beyond the financial gains and to also consider psychosocial traumas which negatively impact their health".



"Talking to the women, has given me an in-depth understanding of the deep causes of the psycho social issues that women in CBT face"- Jean Marie, Rusizi.

For More Information Please Contact:

IOM RWANDA OFFICE: KG 632 Street, Gasasa, Rugando Cell, Kigali, Rwanda,

Tel: +250788389723, • E-mail: iomrwandapiu@iom.int

Or OSBP Rusizi II Information Line, Tel: +250788353311