

Public Authority and the Governance of Informal Cross-Border Trade in Eastern DRC

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Information for participants

Thank you for considering participating in this study which will take place from July to August 2023. This information sheet outlines the purpose of the study and provides a description of your involvement and rights as a participant if you agree to take part.

1. What is the research about?

The research aims to identify the different stakeholders involved in informal cross-border trade in Eastern DRC and understand the drivers of change, challenges, and opportunities in cross-border trade in the region. It involves interviews with cross-border associations, civil society representatives, border agencies, local authorities, and representatives of the main development programmes in the region, to understand the different aspects of trade governance in the region. Funding for this research was contributed by the British Academy.

2. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you do decide to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form which you can sign and return in advance of the interview.

3. What will my involvement be?

The interview involves short discussions across a range of pre-determined areas commensurate with your specific expertise in relation to informal cross-border trade and trade and is expected to take approximately 45 minutes.

4. How do I withdraw from the study?

You can withdraw from the study at any point until publication of the research, without having to give a reason. If any questions during the interview make you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. Withdrawing from the study will have no effect on you. If you withdraw from the study we will not retain the information you have given thus far, unless you are happy for us to do so.

5. What will my information be used for?

I will use the collected information for a research article to be published in an international journal and a blog post and a policy brief to be published online in 2024.

6. Will my taking part and my data be kept confidential? Will it be anonymised?

The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. Only I will have access to the written notes. Any direct quotes used from the interview in my research will use generic language (e.g., a trader in Bukavu) to make sure that you cannot be identified; these will be shared with you for your review and feedback, and you are welcome to specify whether or not you would like answers provided through the interview to be fully anonymised in the publication of the research. All digital files, transcripts and summaries will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Any hard copies of research information will be kept in locked files at all times.

7. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has undergone an ethics review in accordance with the LSE Research Ethics Policy and Procedure.

8. Data Protection Privacy Notice

The LSE Research Privacy Policy can be found at: https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretarys-Division/Assets/Documents/Information-Records-Management/Privacy-Notice-for-Research-v1.2.pdf?from_serp=1

The legal basis used to process your personal data will be “Public Task”. The legal basis used to process special category personal data (e.g. data that reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or sexual orientation, genetic or biometric data) will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes.

To request a copy of the data held about you please contact: glpd.info.rights@lse.ac.uk

9. What if I have a question or complaint?

If you have any questions regarding this study please contact the researcher, Dr Jonathan Bashi at j.bashi@lse.ac.uk.

If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of this research, please contact the LSE Research Governance Manager via research.ethics@lse.ac.uk.

If you are happy to take part in this study, please sign the consent sheet attached.

CONSENT FORM

Public Authority and the Governance of Informal Cross-Border Trade in Eastern DRC

Jonathan Bashi

PARTICIPATION IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY IS VOLUNTARY

I have read and understood the study information dated 24/05/2023, or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.	YES / NO
I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and that I can withdraw from the study at any time up until publication, without having to give a reason.	YES / NO
I understand that the information I provide will be used for the publication of an article, a blog, and a policy and that the information will be anonymised.	YES / NO
I agree that my (anonymised) information can be quoted in research outputs.	YES / NO
I agree that my real name can be used for quotes.	YES / NO
I understand that any personal information that can identify me – such as my name, address, will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone beyond the study team.	YES / NO

Please retain a copy of this consent form.

Participant name:

Signature: _____ Date _____

Interviewer name:

Signature: _____ Date _____

For information please contact: Dr Jonathan Bashi (j.bashi@lse.ac.uk)

