Can new trade rules help east Africa's cross-border women traders secure a decent livelihood?

Lorna Otkoyi has been a cross-border trader based in Malaba, western Uganda, for over 10 years. She left her home in northern Uganda and set up a business selling food staples and other goods to people in the town of Malaba.

According to Lorna, her business has grown steadily since she started trading in 2002. She sells a wide range of products, from food staples to clothing and other goods.

"Every day I earn money to support my family," Lorna says. "My business has helped me provide for my children and support my community."

However, Lorna faces several challenges in her trade.

"I often have to travel long distances to find the goods I need," she says. "And sometimes the prices I pay are much higher than what I can sell them for in Malaba."

Despite these challenges, Lorna remains optimistic about the future of her business. "I believe that with the right support and resources, I can expand my business and help more people in my community."