

BUSIA TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION SUMMIT 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Africa's Trade Corridor Where Continental Integration Meets Community Opportunity

29 - 31 October 2026 | Busia National Polytechnic | Busia County, Kenya
Including: Hack the Corridor - East Africa's First Cross-Border Trade Hackathon
Prepared by Jenga AfriHub | Busia County, Kenya | June 2026

From Jenga AfriHub

Busia sits at the centre of one of Africa's most consequential trade corridors - the point at which the economies of Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo connect to regional and global markets. Every container destined for these landlocked nations moves through this corridor. Every truck, every trader, every sack of agricultural produce crossing this border sustains millions of livelihoods across Eastern and Central Africa. What happens at Busia determines the cost of food in Kigali, the availability of goods in Juba, and the competitiveness of businesses in Kampala.

The people who sustain this economy remain largely disconnected from the systems built to support them. Women traders carry information asymmetries, payment barriers and informal transaction costs as daily operating conditions. Smallholder farmers sit outside regional markets. Young people watch digital transformation unfold around them with no clear way in. Governments, financial institutions and development partners have invested in infrastructure, trade systems and digital platforms - and the intended beneficiaries of those investments remain, in too many cases, outside the formal economy.

The frameworks exist. The African Continental Free Trade Area has created the world's largest free trade zone. The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System has built the infrastructure for instant cross-border payments in local currencies. East Africa's digital transformation agenda is advancing. Border digitisation systems are live at Busia. The distance is not between frameworks and reality. It is between frameworks and the people they were built to reach.

The Busia Technology and Innovation Summit 2026 closes that distance.

For three days, governments, continental organisations, development finance institutions, financial institutions, investors, innovators, traders, farmers and community leaders work

together in one place to transform policy commitments into practical outcomes. Digital trade made genuinely accessible. Cross-border payments seamless for those who have never held a bank account. Applied technology solving real trade challenges. The communities who sustain this corridor participating as full actors in Africa's economic integration.

Busia is the living laboratory where Africa's trade future is tested, refined and prepared for replication at scale.

The continent's institutions come to Busia - to the traders, the farmers, the youth innovators, the border communities. African integration is not something delivered to communities. It is built with them.

Why the Busia Corridor Matters to Africa

The Busia Corridor is one of the most strategically important trade gateways on the African continent - the point at which the Northern Corridor connects the Port of Mombasa to the landlocked economies of Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Those markets represent tens of millions of consumers, thousands of businesses and some of Africa's fastest-growing economies. Every container moving to and from them crosses through Busia.

A Continental Infrastructure Convergence Point

Three major infrastructure programmes - each at an advanced stage of development - are reshaping the economic geography of East Africa. All three converge at Busia.

The Standard Gauge Railway extension from Naivasha through Kisumu to Malaba - valued at over USD 5 billion - had construction formally launched on 19 March 2026. Uganda has simultaneously contracted the 273-kilometre Malaba-Kampala segment. When complete, the Mombasa-to-Kampala railway will reduce cargo transit time to under 24 hours and cut logistics costs from their current 28 to 35 percent of goods value to an estimated 18 to 22 percent (Northern Corridor Integration Projects, corridor performance data). Every container on that railway crosses into or out of Kenya through the Busia-Malaba corridor.

The Kenya Pipeline Company is in active negotiations to extend the Eldoret petroleum pipeline to Kampala and Kigali. Kenya and Uganda's presidents jointly committed to the Eldoret-Kampala extension in May 2024. Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya reaffirmed the Eldoret-Kampala-Kigali pipeline in December 2024. That pipeline runs through the Western Kenya corridor that Busia anchors.

The Kisumu-Busia Multinational Expressway, backed by the African Development Bank and NEPAD, has completed its feasibility assessment and been endorsed as investment-ready. The Port of Mombasa recorded cargo throughput of 11.51 million tonnes in the third quarter of 2025

alone - an 11.9 percent increase on the same quarter the previous year (Kenya Ports Authority, Q3 2025). That cargo moves inland by road, rail and pipeline through Busia.

Busia County sits at the gateway of the Lake Region Economic Bloc - 14 counties with a combined population of approximately 15 million people, representing nearly a third of Kenya's total population (Kenya National Population and Housing Census, 2019). A summit convened here speaks to the entire bloc and to every trading partner across the border.

A Continental Digital Trade Testbed

Busia is Kenya's most active environment for deploying applied digital trade technology - by deliberate institutional choice, not by designation.

In November 2025, KRA and TradeMark Africa, in partnership with the British High Commission, launched the eCUSTOMS app at Busia - not Nairobi, not Mombasa, not Kisumu. At the Busia OSBP alone, the platform is projected to save 1,200 truck waiting hours per day and KES 750 per customs declaration for small-scale traders (TradeMark Africa, eCUSTOMS Launch Report, November 2025).

In February 2025, UNESCO and the UN Joint SDG Fund designated Busia County's Nambale Ajira Youth Empowerment Centre as one of only 15 national Digital Innovation Hubs across Kenya, selected from over 50 applicants. In April 2024, Kenlinks Solutions opened a regional Digital Centre headquarters in Matayos, Busia County - a 6,000 square-foot Command and Control Hub covering Eastern Africa across eight countries.

Every major institution that made a technology investment in this corridor in the last 24 months chose Busia as a deployment site. This is where continental systems are tested against the full complexity of real trade.

The Gap the Summit Is Built to Close

The Busia border generated KSh 6.83 billion in the 2024/25 financial year - 28 percent above its revenue target (Kenya Revenue Authority, 2024/25). It clears over two thousand vehicles daily. Transit time from Mombasa has fallen from fifteen days to under three days since digital corridor systems came online (Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority, corridor performance monitoring).

Research conducted by J-PAL and Berkeley's Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) across more than 1,600 traders at the Busia and Malaba crossings found that 56 percent encounter informal facilitation costs at the border daily, 63 percent use unofficial crossings, only 38 percent know the market price of their goods on the other side, and only 18 percent know the exchange rate. More than 80 percent of these traders are women. Most have no bank account and no digital trade record. (Source to be confirmed with J-PAL Africa; citation to be added before external distribution.)

Africa's intra-continental trade stands at 16 percent of total trade - the lowest of any continent. AfCFTA was designed to change that. PAPSS was built to make it financially seamless.

Busia is where it changes - at community level, with the people who make this trade possible every day.

Summit Objectives

Strategic Objective

To position the Busia Corridor as Africa's leading demonstration site for inclusive digital trade, cross-border payments and community-level implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area - establishing Busia as the continental reference point where AfCFTA commitments are tested against reality, refined through practice and prepared for replication at scale.

Operational Objectives

- Demonstrate live AfCFTA trade facilitation and PAPSS digital payment processing to a minimum of 1,000 cross-border traders, with on-site account activation and certificate of origin processing completed before they leave
- Execute the PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration - a fully documented live transaction from Kenya to Uganda, conducted in local currencies, with no cash and no intermediaries, generating a complete digital trade record from price verification through payment confirmation
- Run Hack the Corridor - a 48-hour applied technology sprint producing a minimum of three investor-ready solutions deployable at the Busia OSBP, tested live with real traders before a jury on Day 3
- Convene all 14 LREB county governments, the Council of Governors, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the EAC Secretariat and national government ministries in formal alignment behind a single regional digital economy agenda through the Northern Corridor Leaders Forum
- Produce and publicly release the Busia County Digital Economy Roadmap 2026-2031, co-developed with stakeholders and formally tabled at County Assembly
- Adopt the inaugural Busia Declaration on Trade, Payments and Digital Inclusion - signed on stage by governors, ministries, development partners, financial institutions and regional organisations
- Launch the Busia Digital Trade Network as the permanent coordination architecture connecting Busia County to Uganda's Busia District, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and regional trade bodies
- Document and publish a Digital Health Gap Assessment for the Lake Region, shared with county health departments and development partners

Why This Summit Matters to Africa

The frameworks governing African trade integration are sophisticated. The commitments are genuine. The institutions are capable. The gap between what has been agreed and what a woman trader at the Busia OSBP experiences every day remains one of the defining development failures in East Africa.

The Busia Technology and Innovation Summit 2026 closes that gap in practice, with measurable outcomes that are verified, published and replicated.

Five strategic priorities organise everything the Summit produces:

Trade Integration

Practical implementation of AfCFTA and strengthened utilisation of regional trade frameworks at community level - where the treaty's benefits are either realised or lost.

Digital Payments

PAPSS and complementary digital financial infrastructure demonstrated at scale - reducing transaction costs, eliminating currency conversion barriers and expanding full participation in cross-border commerce, including for traders who have never held a formal bank account.

Innovation for Trade

Structured pathways for innovators, developers and entrepreneurs to solve real trade and logistics challenges through applied technology - with the border itself as the deployment environment.

Women's Economic Empowerment

The women who constitute more than 80 percent of informal cross-border traders are at the centre of the Summit's design. Not a thematic add-on. The primary constituency the Summit is accountable to.

Youth and Digital Inclusion

Young people connected to the skills, institutions and innovation ecosystems that enable meaningful participation in the digital economy - as active contributors now, not future prospects.

The goal is to build Africa's trade future - at the border, with the people who make trade possible.

Policy Alignment

The Summit is a live delivery mechanism for commitments already made at continental, regional, national and county level.

Continental Frameworks

African Union Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063's Aspiration 1 - a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development - and its Flagship Project on the AfCFTA provide the continental mandate for everything the Summit delivers. The Summit advances Agenda 2063's explicit targets for intra-African trade, digital transformation and women's economic participation.

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Kenya has fully completed its AfCFTA tariff schedules. President Ruto chairs the AU Committee on AfCFTA Implementation as of February 2026. The Summit's live onboarding clinics, certificate of origin processing and policy dialogue sessions directly advance AfCFTA implementation at community level - the scale at which the Agreement succeeds or fails.

AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol

The Protocol governs e-commerce, digital payments, digital identity and data flows across the continental market of 54 signatory states - 50 of which have ratified the Agreement as of late 2025. Every element of this Summit - the PAPSS Live Demonstration, Hack the Corridor, the trader onboarding clinics - advances its implementation in practice.

Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)

PAPSS settles cross-border payments in local currencies in under two minutes. Kenya's Central Bank is a live participant. The PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration at this Summit is the first documented community-level PAPSS trade demonstration on the Northern Corridor.

AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030

The Strategy's targets for digital connectivity, digital economy development and digital skills across Africa underpin the Summit's technology and inclusion programming.

Regional Frameworks

EAC Regional Digital Transformation Strategy 2024-2030

The EAC Strategy - anchored on digital connectivity, the digital economy, skills and innovation, and a harmonised legal and regulatory environment - explicitly leverages the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol. The Busia Summit, positioned at the Kenya-Uganda border, is a live implementation testbed for the EAC's cross-border digital trade objectives.

EAC Payment Systems Masterplan

The Masterplan harmonises cross-border payment frameworks across all EAC partner states. The Summit's PAPSS demonstration and Digital Trade Expo advance its implementation at the most active community-level border post in the region.

COMESA Simplified Trade Regime

The Simplified Trade Regime - designed to reduce barriers for small-scale cross-border traders - underpins the Summit's trader onboarding architecture and border rights programming.

Northern Corridor Integration Projects

The Northern Corridor Integration Projects framework, involving Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan, provides the infrastructure and trade facilitation context for the Summit's corridor-wide ambition.

National Frameworks

Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032

The Plan is built on four pillars - digital infrastructure, digital government services, digital skills and digital innovation - and specifically identifies border counties and rural communities as priority areas for digital inclusion investment. The Summit's onboarding clinics, county digital service demonstrations and hackathon advance all four pillars simultaneously.

Kenya Digital Economy Blueprint

The Blueprint's five pillars - Digital Business, Infrastructure, Digital Government, Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills and Values - map directly onto the Summit's design. The Digital Trade Expo and PAPSS onboarding address Digital Business. The hackathon addresses Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship. The governance track addresses Digital Government. The trader onboarding clinics address Digital Skills.

Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)

President Ruto's BETA framework, embedded in the Fourth Medium Term Plan 2023-2027, targets economic transformation through the informal economy, MSMEs, agriculture and youth enterprise. A Summit that onboards one thousand informal cross-border traders onto digital payment platforms is BETA in practice.

Who We Are Convening

The Summit convenes the continent's institutions alongside the communities that sustain continental trade - in the same place, at the same time, working on the same problems.

Continental Institutions

- AfCFTA Secretariat
- African Union Commission
- Afreximbank
- Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- African Development Bank

Regional Institutions

- EAC Secretariat
- COMESA
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA)
- TradeMark Africa

National Governments

- Republic of Kenya - Ministry of Trade and Industry, Kenya Revenue Authority, Central Bank of Kenya
- Republic of Uganda - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda Revenue Authority, Bank of Uganda
- Republic of Rwanda - Ministry of Trade and Industry, National Bank of Rwanda
- Republic of South Sudan - Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Republic of Burundi - Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Democratic Republic of Congo - Ministry of Trade

County and Sub-National Governments

- Busia County Government - Host
- All 14 Lake Region Economic Bloc County Governments
- Council of Governors of Kenya
- Uganda's Busia District Government

Financial Institutions and Development Finance

- Commercial banks operating across the EAC with cross-border trade finance portfolios
- FSD Kenya and FSD Africa

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- World Bank
- UNCDF
- Impact investors and venture capital funds active in East Africa

Innovation Ecosystem

- Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Strathmore University, iHub and national academic partners
- Fintech companies and mobile money operators
- Agritech and space technology firms operating in East Africa
- AI startups and digital logistics platforms

Community Stakeholders

- A minimum of 1,000 cross-border traders, with priority inclusion of women traders' associations
- Smallholder farmers and agri-businesses across the Lake Region
- Youth innovators and hackathon participants from across Kenya and Uganda
- MSMEs registered at the Busia OSBP
- Civil society organisations and community media

Note: Institutions listed as targets are aspirational. Formal engagement and authorisation will be sought before any institution is cited as a confirmed partner in external communications.

The Summit

The Busia Technology and Innovation Summit 2026 runs from 29 to 31 October at Busia National Polytechnic, with Hack the Corridor opening on the evening of 28 October. Every session either puts something directly useful in the hands of a trader, farmer, young person or community - produces a decision that enters an official document - or generates a solution deployable after the Summit ends.

The PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration

The Summit's defining moment takes place at the Busia One Stop Border Post. The PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration is a complete cross-border trade transaction, executed live before governors, ministers, development partners and media.

- A trader verifies the real market price of her goods on the Ugandan side
- She processes her trade documentation through the eCUSTOMS platform

- She completes a cross-border payment through PAPSS - Kenyan Shillings converted to Ugandan Shillings, settled in under two minutes
- She receives confirmation and generates a full digital trade record
- No cash. No US Dollars. No intermediaries. No unofficial crossing.

The infrastructure to execute this is already live. When completed, this becomes the first documented community-level PAPSS trade demonstration on the Northern Corridor - a continental milestone signalling to every institution investing in AfCFTA implementation and trade digitisation that Busia is where the system proves it works.

First Live Community-Level PAPSS Trade Demonstration on the Northern Corridor.

The Northern Corridor Leaders Forum

The LREB Governors' Roundtable is elevated at this Summit to the Northern Corridor Leaders Forum - reflecting the actual scale of the corridor's influence and the institutions that belong at the table.

Participants include LREB governors, national trade and finance ministries, revenue authorities, central banks, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the EAC Secretariat, Afreximbank and PAPSS. The Forum produces a corridor-wide digital economy action agenda - named commitments, implementation timelines and accountability mechanisms. A working instrument, not a communique.

The Busia Declaration on Trade, Payments and Digital Inclusion

The Summit's lasting instrument is the Busia Declaration on Trade, Payments and Digital Inclusion - adopted on Day 3 and signed on stage by governors, national government ministries, development partners, financial institutions and regional organisations.

The Declaration measures Africa's trade integration progress by the indicators that matter at community level: reduced trade costs, increased formalisation, faster payments, greater participation by women, stronger MSMEs and more young people with real pathways into the digital economy. It is adopted annually at the Summit. Over five years, it becomes the reference document for corridor trade and digital commerce in East Africa.

Integration is measured at the border. By reduced trade costs, faster payments, and women crossing through the formal gate.

Thematic Tracks

The Summit runs five tracks in parallel. Each produces a concrete output that exists after the event ends - a decision, a working product or a documented commitment. Each track also functions as a live problem domain: challenges surfaced in every session feed directly into what Hack the Corridor teams are building.

Track 1 - Trade Technology and Digital Commerce

Track 1 operates as a live trading floor. eCUSTOMS onboarding is designed to run in real time. PAPSS payment demonstrations are designed to cross the actual Kenya-Uganda border - settling transactions in local currencies with no dollar conversion and no intermediaries. Traders process real AfCFTA certificates of origin. Commercial bank sessions, digital lending demonstrations and a policy dialogue on the PAPSS rollout roadmap run throughout. A border rights clinic operates the full day. Target: one thousand traders with a digital trade record and activated accounts by the end of Day 2.

Track 2 - AgriTech and Climate-Smart Food Systems

Agricultural produce dominates the Busia border at community level. The Lake Region counties are among Kenya's most productive agricultural zones and among the least connected to digital markets. This track runs live buyer-seller matching between smallholder farmers and verified cross-border buyers, demonstrates space technology, satellite-based crop advisory, soil testing and weather intelligence tools in practice, and works through agri-export pathways under AfCFTA rules of origin. Post-harvest loss reduction is a specific focus. Agricultural challenges feed directly into the hackathon.

Track 3 - Digital Health and Community Wellbeing

This track examines how digital systems strengthen healthcare delivery, support frontline health workers, improve data systems and expand access in rural communities. It produces a documented digital health gap assessment for the Lake Region - shared with county health departments and development partners - and surfaces specific solvable technology problems for the hackathon.

Track 4 - Digital Inclusion, AI and the Future of Work

Track 4 is built around economic outcomes. Youth unemployment and underemployment in Busia County remains significantly higher than the national average, with county-level survey data indicating rates above 30 percent among youth aged 15 to 35 (Busia County Adolescents and Youth Survey, National Council for Population and Development, 2021). This track builds real pathways from digital skills into employment and income: AI tools young people can use today, digital freelancing and remote work pathways, entrepreneurship connections and structured links between training and income opportunities. The Hack the Corridor finals and awards ceremony sit here. Twenty-five curated youth innovations are on display, with structured investor matching for the strongest teams.

Track 5 - GovTech and Regional Digital Governance

The Northern Corridor Leaders Forum, the Council of Governors session and the co-creation workshop for the Digital Economy Roadmap all sit here. County digital service delivery is showcased. Last-mile connectivity gaps are documented. The Roadmap is formally endorsed on the record. The Busia Declaration is prepared for adoption. Governance is one of the Summit's five deliverables.

Hack the Corridor

Hack the Corridor is a 48-hour applied development sprint that takes real challenges surfaced across five thematic tracks and turns them into deployable software, tested live with the people those challenges belong to.

The traders, farmers and community members whose challenges define the problem brief are present at the Summit throughout the build sprint, available for testing, and in the audience when solutions are demonstrated on Day 3. Busia is the deployment environment.

The Challenge

Build a tool that enables a cross-border trader at the Busia OSBP to verify the real price of her goods in the destination market, complete a cross-border payment in local currency - no USD, no cash - and generate a basic digital trade record. From a basic mobile phone. Without a bank account. In under fifteen minutes.

Teams have 48 hours. Judges run a live test with real traders at the OSBP. A working demo is required to qualify for prizes.

Three Permitted Approaches

Approach A

A USSD or SMS-first tool delivering real-time prices on both sides of the border, the correct AfCFTA tariff rate, and initiating a local-currency mobile payment. No smartphone, no internet connection required.

Approach B

A lightweight compliance tool - WhatsApp bot, USSD or web - that generates a simplified trade declaration, calculates the correct legal duty and produces a digital receipt. The goal: make formal trade the path of least resistance.

Approach C

An open-data border intelligence dashboard using Busia OSBP trade flow data, commodity price differentials, AfCFTA utilisation rates and seasonal patterns. Usable by both county planners and individual traders seeking market intelligence before they cross.

Prizes

- Grand Prize: KES 1,000,000 plus six months' incubation at Jenga AfriHub and structured investor introductions
- Runner-up per approach: KES 500,000 plus three months' mentorship and post-Summit support
- Top women-led team: an additional KES 250,000
- All finalists: certificate of participation and post-Summit mentorship connections

Programme

Day / Time	Session
Day 0 28 Oct Evening	Hackathon registration and team formation. Problem brief and datasets distributed. Opening mentorship session. Welcome dinner for governors, delegates and invited investors.
Day 1 29 Oct Morning	Official opening: County Governor, Council of Governors representative, national government. State of Trade at Busia - live KRA and OSBP data. AfCFTA keynote. PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration at the OSBP.
Day 1 All Day	Busia Digital Trade Expo open - live trading floor, public access. All five thematic tracks running in parallel. MSME Digital Onboarding Clinic: M-Pesa, PAPSS, eCUSTOMS and e-commerce registration. Hackathon build sprint Day 1.
Day 1 Afternoon	Women Traders Forum: 200 Busia cross-border traders. Investment Forum: private session with invited multilateral DFIs, commercial banks and impact investors.
Day 1 Evening	Hackathon build sprint continues. Networking dinner.
Day 2 30 Oct Morning	Thematic tracks continue. Hackathon build sprint Day 2 - final user testing with traders and community members.
Day 2 Afternoon	Northern Corridor Leaders Forum: governors, ministers, revenue authorities, central banks, AfCFTA Secretariat, EAC Secretariat, Afreximbank. Council of Governors session. Kenya National Chamber of Commerce commitments dialogue. Busia Digital Trade Network founding session.
Day 2 Evening	Hackathon team presentations: top three teams per approach advance to Grand Finals.

Day / Time	Session
Day 3 31 Oct Morning	Hack the Corridor Grand Finals: nine finalist teams present live to the jury. Live user testing with real traders at the OSBP. Busia Digital Economy Roadmap 2026-2031 co-creation and formal endorsement.
Day 3 Afternoon	Commitment Ceremony: eight or more pledges signed on stage. Adoption of the Busia Declaration. Hackathon winners announced. Launch of the Busia Digital Trade Network. Joint communique adopted by the Northern Corridor Leaders Forum.
Day 3 Evening	Closing cultural showcase and networking.

What Success Looks Like

By the close of 31 October, the following outcomes are documented and verifiable:

- One thousand traders have completed PAPSS and AfCFTA onboarding and carry a digital record of at least one legal cross-border transaction
- The PAPSS Live Border Trade Demonstration has been executed, documented and released to media as a continental milestone
- Three working solutions to the Last Mile Trader problem have been built, tested live with real traders before a jury and connected to a post-Summit support pathway
- The Busia County Digital Economy Roadmap 2026-2031 has been co-developed, endorsed on the record and formally tabled at County Assembly
- Eight or more binding institutional commitments have been signed on stage, with named signatories and public delivery timelines
- The inaugural Busia Declaration on Trade, Payments and Digital Inclusion has been adopted and released publicly
- All 14 LREB county governments have formally aligned to a single regional digital economy agenda through the Northern Corridor Leaders Forum
- The Busia Digital Trade Network has launched with a functioning secretariat and a twelve-month activity plan
- At least two agricultural technology solutions have been demonstrated and matched to farmer and agribusiness partners for post-Summit piloting
- A documented digital health gap assessment for the Lake Region has been produced and shared with county health departments and development partners

Monitoring and Evaluation

The following indicators are tracked and reported publicly in the post-Summit impact report, due June 2027.

During the Summit

Indicator	Target
Traders completing AfCFTA and PAPSS onboarding	1,000
PAPSS accounts activated on-site	500
AfCFTA certificates of origin processed	200
MSMEs registered on digital commerce platforms	500
Hackathon working demos submitted and qualifying	Minimum 9 teams
Binding commitments signed on stage	8 minimum
LREB county governments endorsing the joint digital economy agenda	All 14
Agricultural technology solutions demonstrated and matched to partners	Minimum 2

Six Months Post-Summit

Indicator	Target / Method
Change in formal trade volumes at Busia OSBP	Tracked through KRA data
Hackathon solutions in active deployment	Minimum 2
Status of each commitment signed on stage	Delivered, in progress or delayed - published publicly
Busia Digital Trade Network activity	Active, meeting quarterly, documented membership
Agricultural technology pilot in Lake Region	Minimum 1 active

Twelve Months Post-Summit

- Busia County Digital Economy Roadmap formally tabled at County Assembly
- At least one LREB county replicating the Summit model
- Second annual Busia Declaration prepared for adoption
- Full impact report published and released publicly

Long-Term Vision

The Summit is the starting point. The ambition is to make Busia the place where Africa tests trade integration before scaling it across the continent.

Year	Milestone
2026 - Year 1	The Summit establishes the PAPSS Live Demonstration, the Busia Declaration, the Northern Corridor Leaders Forum and the Busia Digital Trade Network. Busia is the documented site of Africa's first community-level corridor trade digitisation platform.
2027 - Year 2	The Summit rotates to a second LREB county. The Busia Declaration is adopted for the second time with an expanded roster of signatories. Hackathon solutions from Year 1 are in deployment. The Busia Trade Corridor Index publishes its first annual measurement of border efficiency, digital payment adoption, women trader participation and trade formalisation.
2028 - Year 3	The Northern Corridor Leaders Forum convenes at ministerial level. The Summit attracts continental media coverage as the leading implementation forum for AfCFTA and PAPSS at community level. The Busia Declaration is a reference document cited by EAC and AU institutions.
2030 - Year 5	The Busia Summit is the leading African forum on corridor trade, digital payments and community-level economic integration. The Busia Trade Corridor Index is cited by the AfCFTA Secretariat, Afreximbank and development partners as the primary measure of Northern Corridor trade formalisation.
2035 - Year 10	The Busia Declaration has been adopted ten times, signed by a cumulative roster of African heads of institution, ministers and central bank governors. The Summit has produced a cohort of trade technology entrepreneurs operating across the continent. Busia is where Africa's continental trade ambitions became real.

Sustainability Beyond the Summit

The Busia Digital Trade Network

Launched on Day 3, the Network is the permanent coordination architecture connecting Busia County to Uganda's Busia District, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and regional trade bodies. It meets quarterly, publishes an annual state-of-trade report and serves as the official secretariat for Digital Economy Roadmap implementation. Host institution: Jenga AfriHub, with co-governance from Busia County Government.

The Busia Trade Corridor Index

Published annually, the Index measures border efficiency, digital payment adoption rates, women trader participation in the formal economy, trade formalisation trends and youth employment in the digital economy across the corridor. It is the Summit's annual accountability instrument - the measure by which the Busia Declaration's commitments are judged.

The Annual Summit and Declaration Model

The Summit becomes an annual event, rotating across LREB counties and expanding its institutional base with each cycle. The Busia Declaration is adopted each year with an

expanded roster of signatories and updated commitments. Year one establishes the platform. Year two proves it scales. Year five anchors it as a continental institution.

Hackathon Alumni and Innovation Pipeline

Winning solutions from Hack the Corridor enter a six-month incubation programme at Jenga AfriHub, supported by industry coaches and academic partners. Teams that build viable products apply independently to national and regional accelerator programmes. Over five years, this builds Africa's leading trade-technology innovation challenge.

Risk and Mitigation

Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation
Internet connectivity at Busia National Polytechnic insufficient for live demonstrations	Medium	Connectivity assessment completed 8 weeks before the event. Starlink terminals and partner telco MoUs secured in advance.
Low trader turnout at onboarding clinics	Low	Community mobilisation begins 6 weeks prior through women traders' associations, OSBP notice boards, local radio and county government channels.
Hackathon produces no deployable solutions	Low	Teams pre-screened 4 weeks before. Problem brief and datasets released early. Minimum viable demo standard set and communicated clearly.
High-level delegates unable to attend	Medium	Confirmations sought 8 weeks out. Alternate delegates pre-identified. Sessions structured so absence of any single principal does not cancel the outcome.
Commitments signed on stage are not honoured post-Summit	Medium	Commitments documented with named signatories, specific deliverables and target dates. Publicly released. Six-month status report published regardless of delivery.
PAPSS Live Demonstration technical failure	Low	Full technical rehearsal at OSBP 2 weeks prior. Backup transaction pathway agreed with PAPSS and CBK technical teams in advance.
Political or scheduling conflicts in the October window	Low	Date confirmed with Busia County Government 6 months in advance, cross-checked against LREB, national and EAC calendars.

About Jenga AfriHub

Jenga AfriHub was founded in 2022 in Teso North Sub-County, Busia County. Schools had closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Urban students shifted to online learning. Adolescent

girls in rural Teso North had no devices, no connectivity and no alternative. Small gatherings that began around learning and grew into spaces for mentorship and dialogue became the foundation of this organisation.

Jenga is a Swahili word meaning to build. The organisation works across four focus areas - Education, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Community - through school-based mentorship for adolescents aged 13 to 17, Youth Dialogues for young people aged 18 to 35, and active digital safety programmes. Through partnerships with schools, churches, TVET institutions, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, community networks and international partners including the European Union, Jenga AfriHub has reached over 1,000 young people across Busia County.

The Busia Technology and Innovation Summit 2026 is built on the same foundation as every programme Jenga AfriHub runs: when people are given the right tools, the right space and the right support, they lead change.

Africa's trade institutions come to Busia. This is where continental integration becomes real.

Busia Technology & Innovation Summit 2026 | Hosted by Jenga AfriHub

info@busiatechsummit.co.ke | www.busiatechsummit.co.ke | For partnerships, sponsorships, speaker nominations and hackathon registration