



Gender Equality and Canada's Aid for Trade Assistance

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On behalf of the
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Introduction: Gender Equality and Aid for Trade

- Importance of gender flagged in the final report of the Aid for Trade Task Force:
 - “Aid for trade should be rendered in a coherent manner taking full account, *inter alia*, of the gender perspective and of the overall goal of sustainable development...donors and partner countries jointly commit to the harmonization of efforts on cross-cutting issues, such as gender”.

Introduction (cont'd)

- AFT is relevant to the discussion of women's economic empowerment and gender equality because of its wide scope, covering issues ranging from trade policy and regulation, building productive capacity and trade-related infrastructure to trade-related adjustment.
- Women can be affected by trade policy reform in their multiple roles as workers, community and household caretakers and business actors.
- Women business owners, who usually are under-capitalised and have less access to finance, credit, and information networks than their male counterparts, must grapple with the day-to-day reality of complying with rules and standards emanating from changing trade policy and trade regulation.

(Source: Aft Task Force Report, and the Commonwealth Secretariat – Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Minister, "Gender and Trade", June 2007).

Canada's Aid for Trade Assistance

- Between 2001-2009, Canada's Aid for Trade has increased, amounting to \$513 million in 2008-2009, an increase of over \$150 million (CAD) from 2001. Approximately 70% directed toward Building Productive Capacity.
- CIDA Multilateral has contributed \$19.2 million over five years to the Enhanced Integrated Framework and provides an annual contribution to the International Trade Centre of \$950 K per year. Additionally, there is a new allocation of \$40 million from 2009/10 to 2013/2014 via multilateral institutions.
- Some examples of CIDA's bilateral and regional projects are:
 - \$19.8 million, between 2008-2014 to the Program for Building African Capacity to Trade (PACT II);
 - Canada-Americas Trade Related Technical Assistance Program with a disbursement of \$18 million from 2009-2015;
 - the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC II) with a total disbursement of \$14.7 million between 2008-2013.

Gender Equality as a Priority for Canada

- The Government of Canada is strongly committed to gender equality domestically and internationally.
- Attention to gender equality issues has been proven to significantly reduce poverty and lead to more sustainable development. Greater gender equality multiplies development results and helps to ensure that results are sustained in the long term.
- Canada recognizes that the role women play in commerce is critical for the development of a sustainable economy. Canada would like to promote this internationally, particularly within a developing country context, via Aid for Trade.

Gender as a Priority for the Canadian International Development Agency

- CIDA has outlined in its Gender Equality Action Plan 2010-2013 and Gender Equality Policy (1999) a two-pronged approach that helps to ensure results are achieved and maximized. They are: explicitly integrating gender equality in all policies, programs and projects; and, using programming that specifically targets the reduction of gender inequality.
- The Gender Equality Policy (1999), which CIDA adheres to in all of its initiatives, has three objectives: increasing women's access to resources and benefits; advancing women's equal participation as decision-makers; promoting human rights for women and girls.
- All AFT programming is subject to the cross-cutting requirements of the CIDA policy.

Case Story:

SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SUPPLY CHAINS IN MALI (PAFA) - \$14 million 2008-2015

- This project aims to contribute to the country's economy through a substantial increase in sales and profits from greater production of Shea butter and shallots, onions and garlic.
- The choice of crops for this project was influenced by the strong role of women in their production. The target clientele is almost exclusively female for the Shea butter crop, and is predominantly female for the shallot onion and garlic crops.
- The project further aims to improve women's working conditions and economic power and, at the same time, strengthen the position and status of women in decision-making roles and in organizations that influence the development of the two value chains.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SUPPLY CHAINS IN MALI (PAFA) (cont'd)

Gender results:

- A major project milestone was the active participation of women's Shea butter associations in the "Global Shea 2010" conference in Bamako. PAFA was an important facilitator in supporting Mali in its role as a leader in piloting agricultural supply chains.
- The design of the project ensures that women's interests in the two crops are safeguarded and improved within the traditional context of the rural setting in the project.
- The Shea butter project has allowed the participating women to make substantial progress as operators in the chain.

Case Story:

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE FEDERATIONS IN GUATEMALA - \$ 7 million 2002-2011

- *The Entrepreneurial Development of Cooperative Federations Project (PRODEF)* supports the agricultural federation FEDECOVERA to meet the needs of the grassroots cooperatives it serves, specifically in the production and marketing of cardamom, including international export markets.
- The main objective of this project is to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, consumer access for women and men to food products, and rural competitiveness of women and men small-scale farmers and small business owners in targeted provinces.
- Results: In 2002, FEDECOVERA had no export capacity. Last year, it exported around 400 tons of cardamom to the international market. This has led to family income increases between 10% and 20%. FEDECOVERA is today exporting to 20 countries, in North America, Europe, Japan, Middle East and South Asia.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE FEDERATIONS IN GUATEMALA (cont'd)

Gender results:

- PRODEF has increased the number of women associates participating in local cooperatives, including at the decision making level.
- The project now has increased capacity on gender mainstreaming by hiring a full time local staff. In doing so, gender indicators were introduced into the project logic model.
- The project has especially been successful in increasing family income and job creation for women entrepreneurs.

Concluding Reflections

- Aid for Trade initiatives can benefit men and women equally, particularly when the gender equality dimension of AFT programs and initiatives is explicitly integrated.
- When initiatives are developed it is important to ask the question – what are the gender equality implications?
- Integrating gender equality into AFT programming will be key to improving effectiveness and efficiency.

Concluding Reflections (cont'd)

- Canada looks forward to working with its partners, including International Trade Centre and others to advance this agenda. In coming months, we plan to (*inter alia*):
- Advance activities under the Multilateral and Global Programs Branch within the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the disbursement of \$40 million, with about a quarter dedicated to gender programming.
- Work with other donors to promote common interests and in pushing the Aid for Trade and Gender agenda forward.