Advancing women's economic empowerment through inclusive trade policies

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Mainstreaming gender in trade policy

- Generate relevant evidence to inform trade policy
- Design policies based on such evidence
- Support interventions on the ground

Some ways in which gender mainstreaming is occurring

- Conducting ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessment of trade reforms
- Including gender considerations in trade agreements
- Creating global awareness
- Working on solutions
It is the first attempt to provide a systematic framework to evaluate the impact of trade reforms on women and gender inequalities prior to the implementation of these reforms.

=> The toolbox allows for answering the following question:

What would happen to women if a given trade policy were implemented?
The toolbox has been applied to Kenya in the framework of the EPA between the EAC and the EU.
Ex-post gender impact assessment of trade reforms

Tariff liberalization in EAC export markets

- Led to an increase in the share of female workers overall in manufacturing firms in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.
- Led to a decline in the share of female workers overall in manufacturing firms in Burundi.
- The impact of the EAC Customs Union on women's employment was positive for production workers in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, but negative for production workers in Burundi.
- Women in non-production jobs did not experience an employment boost as a result of trade liberalization policies.

Tariff liberalization in non-EAC export markets

- Had an overall positive impact on women's employment in EAC member countries, though the impact was much smaller than the one from intra-EAC regional integration.
- Similar to the case of intra-EAC tariff liberalization, this effect was realized only for production workers.
- In terms of the destination of exports outside the EAC region, only tariff liberalization in European Union and Asia Pacific export markets had a positive but small effect on women's employment in production jobs overall in EAC members.
Trade and Gender in trade agreements

- Trade and gender chapters of the Chile-Uruguay FTA and the Canada-Chile FTA
  - Recognise the importance of gender mainstreaming for achieving inclusive economic growth
  - Provisions for cooperation (e.g. skills enhancement, financial inclusion, agency and leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation)

- Trade and gender chapters of the Canada-Israel FTA
  - Chapter subject to the dispute settlement process.

- EU Parliament resolution to include gender in trade agreements (e.g. provision under discussion for Chile-EC trade agreement)
Global awareness and action
Trade Impact Group (IGC)

• Multi-stakeholder network within IGC - Permanent Missions, international organisations, civil society, the private sector, and academic research centres

International Gender Champions

• Leadership network of decision-makers committed to gender equality in their spheres of influence (launched in July 2015).
• 205 active Champions - heads of International Organizations, Permanent Missions, and organizations from the civil society.
Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment

- Declaration shows that collaboration through the International Gender Champions can have an impact far beyond the network
  - Led by ITC, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, and the Permanent Representatives of Iceland
  - Joined by 121 members at MC11 in Buenos Aires
  - Acknowledges that:
    - inclusive trade policies contribute to advancing GEWE, which has a positive impact on economic growth;
    - there's need to develop evidence-based interventions that address the range of barriers that limit opportunities for women in the economy.

- Series of seminars going forward to the next WTO Ministerial Conference in 2020 to support the implementation of the Declaration
• Case study: The EAC regional integration
Policy framework

EDUCATION
- Secondary and higher education
- Vocational training programs

EMPLOYMENT
- Joint public-private sector education initiatives
- Incentive programs for firms
- Labour market policies

ACCESS TO RESOURCES
- Programmes to transform customs/traditions related to women's land ownership
- Targeted credit initiatives

OTHER REGIONS
- Use of the European Union’s gender policy framework as an example
- Regional funds as a leverage effect
- Collection of gender-disaggregated data
- Sharing of good practices

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN TRADE POLICY
- Gender chapters in free trade agreements
- Enhancement of capacity-building initiatives
- Gender-sensitive value-chain analyses
- Ex-ante gender impact assessment of trade reforms

GENDER POLICY
- Long-term advocacy campaigns
- Participation of women in trade policy
- Gender-sensitive implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

UNPAID WORK
- Affordable childcare facilities
- Awareness programs

DECISION-MAKING
- Initiatives to increase women’s participation in managerial positions
- Education policies to upgrade women's skills
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<th>TARGETS</th>
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<th>POSSIBLE ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES</th>
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<td>9a. Increased gender mainstreaming in trade policy and documents.</td>
<td>National: Ministries of Trade and Gender. Regional: EAC Secretariat (Clause 14 of the EAC Gender Equality and Development Bill). Civil society: Women’s organizations, NGOs that focus on trade.</td>
<td>• Introduction of gender chapters in future free trade agreements in the region. • Conducting of ex-ante gender impact assessments of trade reforms under consideration. • Promotion of participation by women’s organizations in trade policy processes.</td>
<td>• Independent oversight of ongoing trade agreement processes with a gender lens.</td>
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<td>10a. Improved capacity of women to participate in expanding sectors under trade reforms. 10b. Increased participation of women in higher-value-added export sectors.</td>
<td>National: Ministries of Trade, Labour, and Gender. Regional: EAC Secretariat (Clauses 11, 12 and 14 of the EAC Gender Equality and Development Bill and gender-sensitive implementation of the EAC Non-Tariff Barriers Bill). Civil society: Women’s organizations, NGOs that focus on trade.</td>
<td>• Enhancement of trade-focused capacity-building programmes targeting women (i.e., credit, business knowledge, and entrepreneurship). • Support for women’s networks, associations, and cooperatives and their use of information and communications technologies in accessing market information. • Gender-sensitive value-chain analyses to identify areas for skill development</td>
<td>• Number and reach of trade-focused capacity-building programmes in export sectors. • Number and reach of women’s networks, associations, and cooperatives in tradable sectors. • Number and extent of gender-sensitive value-chain analyses and monitoring of women’s participation in value chains.</td>
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Thank you for your attention

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Prosperity for all