WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

AN INHERENT PART OF AID FOR TRADE

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INTRODUCTION

Gender: an element in Aid for Trade since 2006

The final report of the Task Force (WT/AFT/1) - July 2006:

– "Aid for trade should take full account ... of the gender perspective ... ".

– Donors and partner countries jointly commit to the "harmonization of efforts on cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality."
INTRODUCTION: CURRENT APPROACHES

• The Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment

• Interim report (WT/L/1095/Rev.1). A key work pillar of the IWG on trade and gender

• WTO Trade and Gender Action Plan 2017-2019: “Mapping out policy trends through WTO monitoring processes”

• WTO Trade and Gender Action Plan 2021-2026
STUDY FOCUS

• What is the impact of Aid for Trade on gender and women’s empowerment, in the last 12 years of this Initiative’s existence

• One of the 1st issues of WTO research

• WTO context: AfT reform discussions 2019
DATA AND SOURCES

• Focus: bilateral donors and country partners Aid for Trade strategies and programmes.

• The analysis based on the information provided by WTO Members during the Monitoring and Evaluation Exercises (M&E) since 2007.

• More than 500 questionnaires were reviewed covering the four phases of Aid for Trade.
STUDY FINDINGS

4 operationalization phases:
• Phase 1: 2005-2007
• Phase 2: 2007-2010
• Phase 3: 2010-2017
• Phase 4: 2018-onwards
STUDY FINDINGS

Gender has been a growing focus since the initial phase

Aid for Trade = A continuous increase in the focus of donors and developing economies on gender equality in Aid for Trade objectives since 2006-2007: both groups now at par
STUDY FINDINGS

A disconnect between objectives & priorities

• Explain difficulty in assessing the real impact of aid for trade on women's economic empowerment.

• Shows the challenges to translate objectives into effective programming.
STUDY FINDINGS
A disconnect between objectives & priorities

• The 2011 M&E confirms this trend.

• Aid for Trade flows confirm this trend.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS & LESSONS

• Aid for Trade can help foster women’s empowerment if it is the principal objective and priority of the projects.

• Need for a more systemic approach in evaluating Aid for Trade's impact on women -> reform M&E -> 2021-2022.

• Tools and indicators to be developed assessing quantitatively and qualitatively the differential impact of Aid for Trade on men and women.

• A “gender chapter” in next Aid-for-trade Work programmes?
NEXT STEPS & CONCLUSION

• Extending the research to the concrete case stories

• Looking at new issues: green/blue economy.
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Thank you.