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WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

AN INHERENT PART OF AID FOR TRADE

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Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender
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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."



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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



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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



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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.



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STUDY FINDINGS

4 operationalization phases:

- Phase 1: 2005-2007
- Phase 2: 2007-2010
- Phase 3: 2010-2017
- Phase 4: 2018-onwards



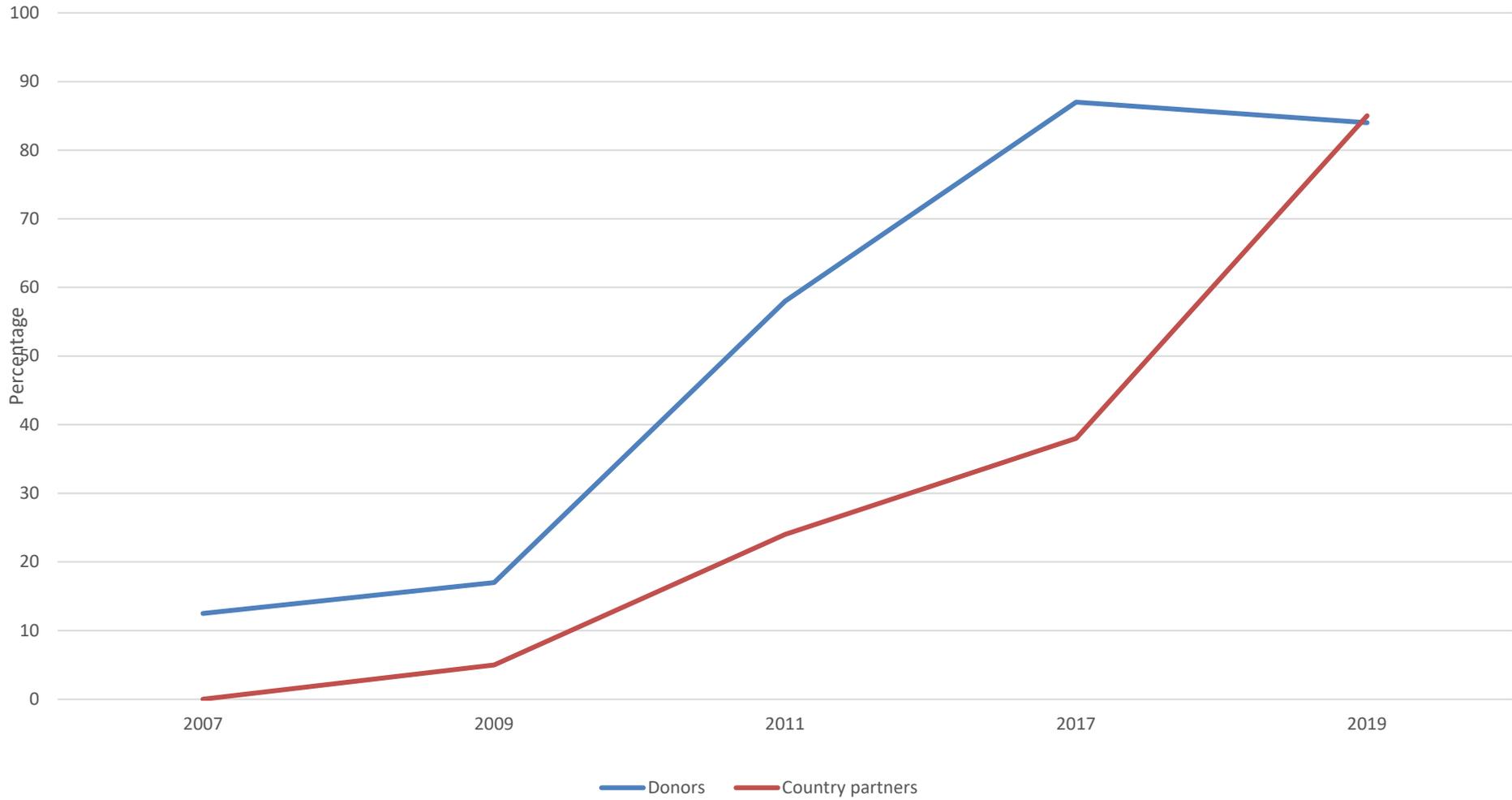
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STUDY FINDINGS

**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





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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.



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STUDY FINDINGS

A disconnect between objectives & priorities

- The 2011 M&E confirms this trend.
- Aid for Trade flows confirm this trend.



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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?



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NEXT STEPS & CONCLUSION

- Extending the research to the concrete case stories
- Looking at new issues: green/blue economy.



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Thank you.