

WOMEN AND TRADE IN AFRICA: REALIZING THE POTENTIAL

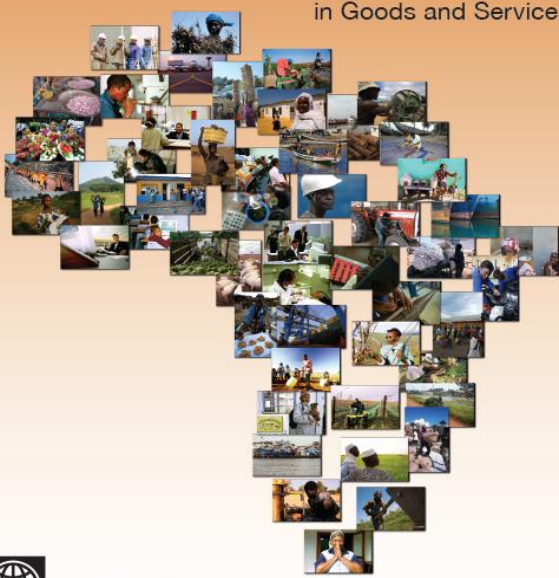



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Great Potential for Intra-Africa Trade

DE-FRAGMENTING AFRICA
Deepening Regional Trade Integration
in Goods and Services




 **THE WORLD BANK**

Edited by Paul Brenton and Gozde Isik



Africa Can Help Feed Africa
Removing barriers to regional trade in food staples

 **THE WORLD BANK**



Women heavily involved in trade in Africa.....

- ▣ Cross-border traders
- ▣ Producers of traded goods and services
- ▣ Entrepreneurs who manage export firms



**key to Africa
realising its
trade
potential**



...but contribution often overlooked by policy makers

- ▣ Lack of data and awareness
- ▣ Lack of analysis
- ▣ Lack of representation in trade policy discussions



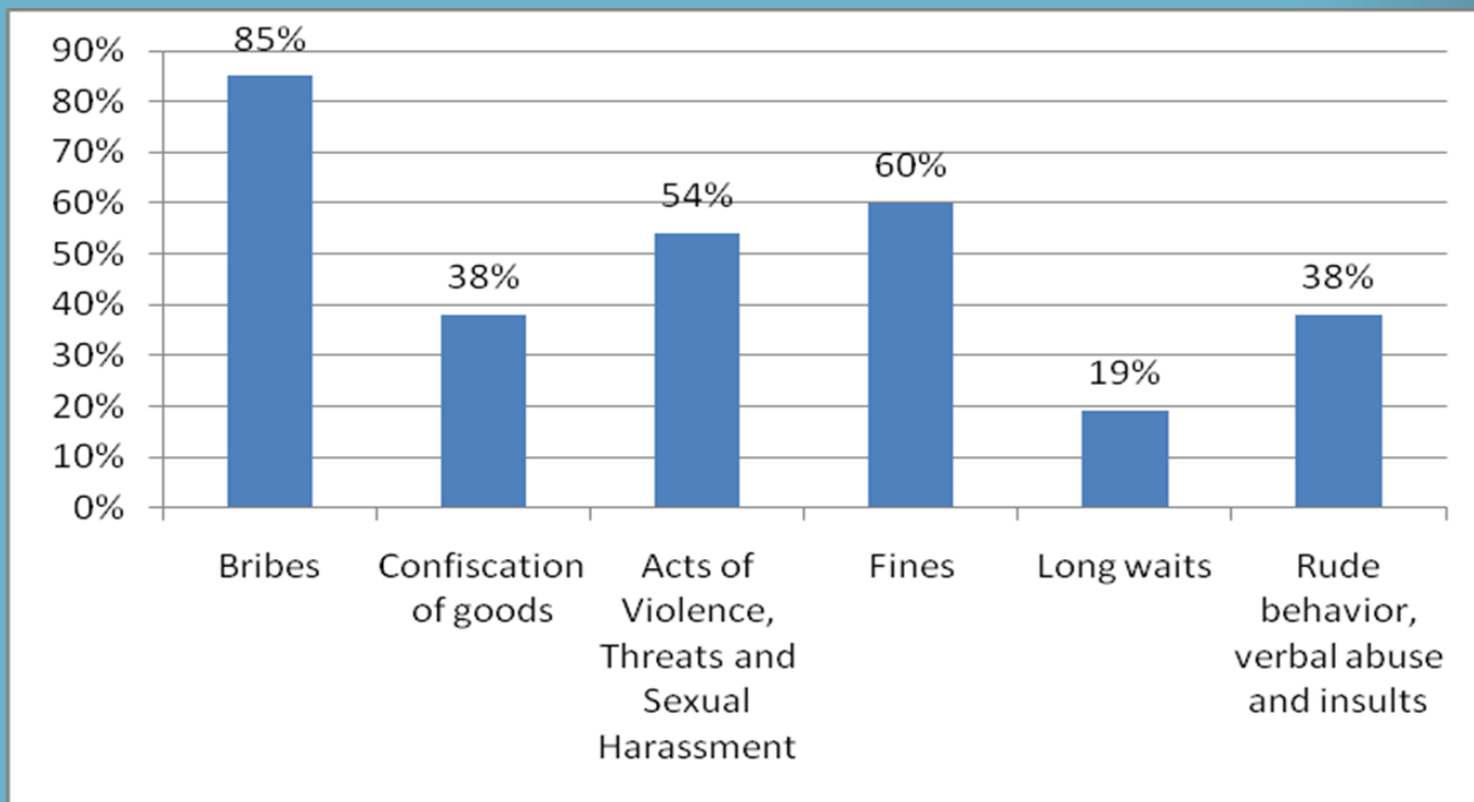
Women face specific trade barriers

- ❑ Lack of transparency and awareness of rules
- ❑ Difficulties in obtaining required documents
- ❑ Access to trade information and trader networks
- ❑ Poor conditions and harassment when crossing border



Women often face substantial risks when crossing borders

Reported frequency of risks from a survey of 181 traders at 4 border posts between the DRC and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda (2010)



A Charter for cross-border traders

Supported by measures to change behaviour



Charter for Cross-Border Trade (1)

- ▣ Traders processed efficiently, without discrimination or harassment;
- ▣ Physical checks of traders must be recorded with the reason and outcome provided.
- ▣ All duties, fees and taxes and methodology are publicly available at the border;
- ▣ Documentary requirements should be clearly stated and publicly available at the border;

Basic rights and obligations for traders and officials



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Charter for Cross-Border Trade (2)

With the support of the international community, governments commit to:

- Visible communication of basic rights and obligations at all border crossings;
- All senior officials and 50% of officials received gender awareness training;
- At all border posts traders can register violation of basic rights;
- Apply strict disciplinary measures against abusive officials;



Constraints on producers of exports

- ▣ Exports limited by relative lack of access to key inputs for women
- ▣ Women excluded from trader networks
- ▣ Services trade offers new opportunities for women
 - ownership more likely for services firms
 - But in some sectors (tourism) limited to low-wage jobs
 - In professional services conditions enabling participation as favourable in Africa as elsewhere



Export entrepreneurs

- ▣ Female run firms just as likely to export
 - But women-owned firms concentrated in low export intensive sectors
 - Women-owned firms smaller and operate across more sectors – a strategy of risk aversion
- ▣ Female-led exporters more likely to export regionally than globally
 - Key role for regional integration



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Simple steps to facilitate trade

- ▣ Recognise role that women play in trade
- ▣ Clear and transparent regulations governing trade
- ▣ Simplify trade requirements
- ▣ Effective design of interventions to facilitate trade
- ▣ Assist women to address risks they face in trading

Marcelo M. Giugale, Director, Economic Policy, World Bank Africa Region, *“The potential benefits are huge and obvious: better food security, faster job creation, more poverty reduction, and less gender discrimination. This is a win-win-win-win reform agenda that is ready for action.”*



MIND THE GAP:

Gender Equality and Trade in Africa

Now also showing on Vimeo

AN AFRICA THAT
CAN FEED AFRICA

Les Petites
BARRIERES



Thank you



www.worldbank.org/afr/trade



BOX 1.1: CHARTER FOR CROSS-BORDER TRADERS

Basic rights and obligations for traders and officials at the border

- 1. All individuals shall be able to cross the border without verbal or physical abuse or harassment, including but not limited to sexual and gender-based violence.**
- 2. Traders shall be processed at the border in an efficient and timely manner without discrimination. A receipt must be provided to the trader for any payment made and the payment properly recorded.**
- 3. Only officials of the approved agencies shall be present at the border, and all border officials shall wear uniforms or identification badges that indicate their respective agency.**
- 4. Physical checks of traders must be recorded with the reason and outcome provided. Female traders have the right to receive a physical check by female officials in a private but regulated and accountable environment.**
- 5. All duties, fees, and taxes and the basis for their calculation shall be publicly available at the border. Any change to duties, fees, and taxes must be publicly announced at the border, with reasonable time allowed for traders to prepare, before their application. No unpublished fees or charges shall be demanded at the border.**
- 6. Documentary requirements shall be clearly stated and publicly available at the border. Any change in required documentation must be publicly announced at the border with reasonable time for traders to prepare before implementation. Simplified procedures should be applied to small traders.**
- 7. Traders should be aware of their rights and obligations when crossing the border. Traders must present required documentation and pay appropriate duties at the border and obtain a receipt for any payments made to an official. Traders shall not attempt to bribe any official to avoid payment of duties or to obtain preferential treatment in any way, including avoiding queues.**



With the support of the international community, governments should commit to the following:

8. By [agreed time], these basic rights and obligations governing cross-border movement of goods and people shall be clearly stated in the local language and visibly apparent at all border crossings.
9. By [agreed time] at every border post at least one agent shall have received gender awareness training; all senior officials at the border shall have received gender awareness training by [agreed time]; 50 per cent of officials at any border post shall have received gender awareness training by [agreed time].
10. At all border posts, traders shall have recourse to an independent and confidential mechanism for registering violation of any of these basic rights. Female traders must be able to register the violation of any basic rights with a female staff.
11. Strict disciplinary measures shall be taken against officials found to have violated the rights of a trader.
12. Support organizations of informal cross-border traders shall be allowed to disseminate information on these rights and obligations and to deliver advice and information to enhance the capacities of the traders.
13. Governments shall continue to improve the quality of infrastructure at all border crossings to provide an open and safe environment for traders, with attention to the specific needs of women traders, and appropriate facilities in which officials may undertake their work.
14. Governments shall improve the quality of data on small traders collected at all border posts, including the number passing through the border each day and the nature of the goods carried.

