



Gender perspective on Trade Facilitation Reforms



NTFC
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Ministry of Trade and Industry - Rwanda's experience in mainstreaming gender into trade facilitation reforms

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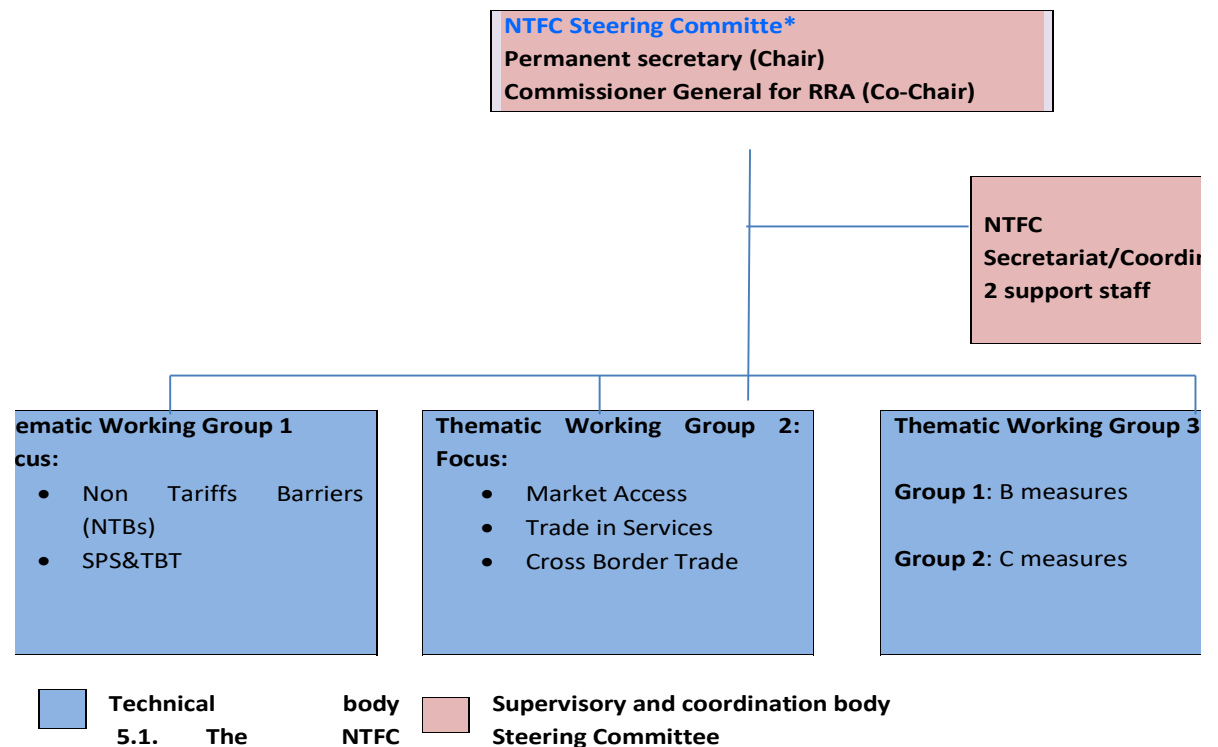
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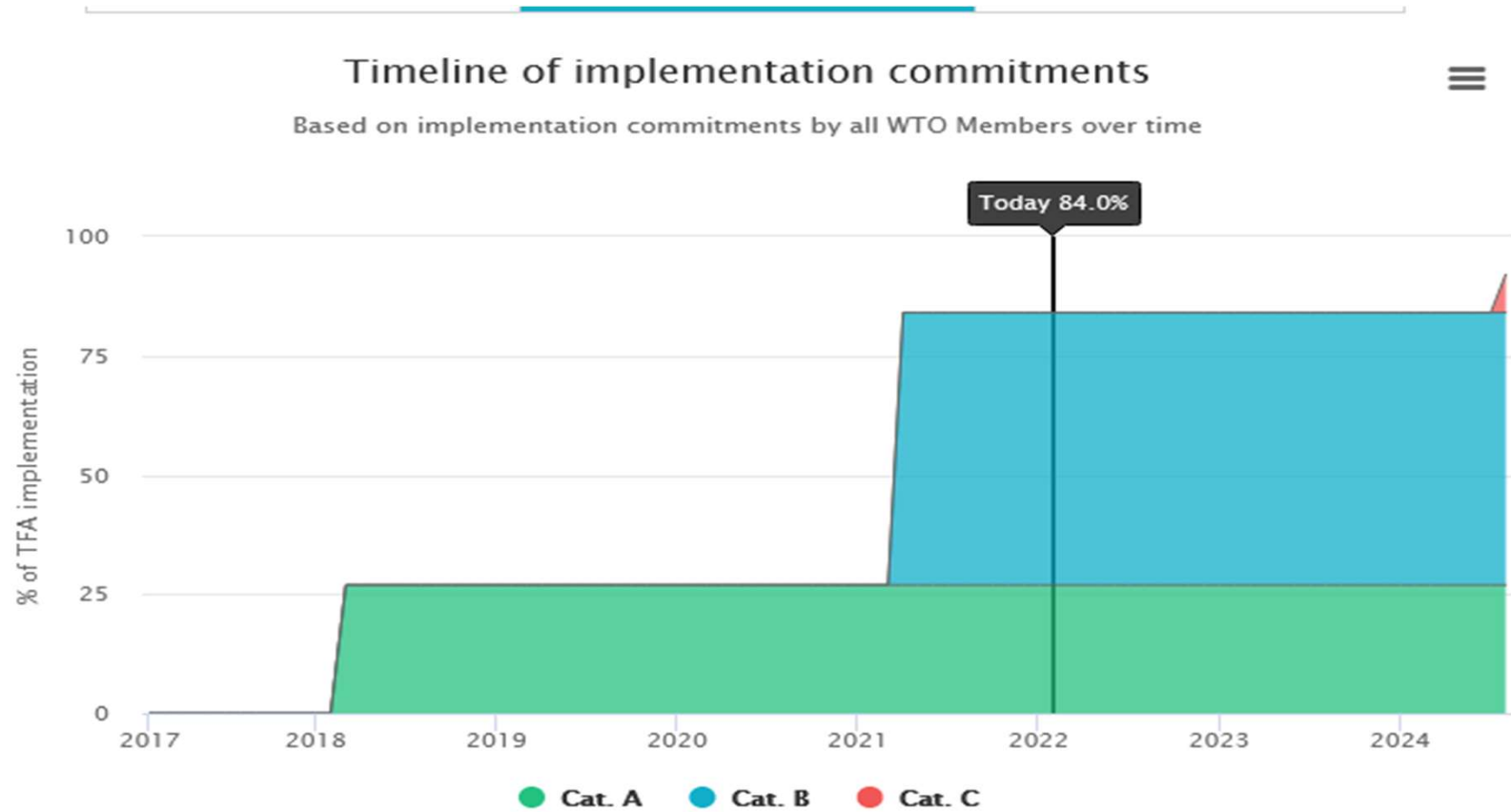
Introduction

- ✓ Rwanda ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2016 and came into effect on 22nd February 2017
- ✓ NTFC was established by the Cabinet meeting of on the 3rd November 2015
- ✓ 32-member institution that 30% of total members are from private sector, 6% from Civil society and 63% from Public sector

Structure of National Trade Facilitation Committee in Rwanda



Status of Implementation



Classification of cross border traders



Formal cross-border trade

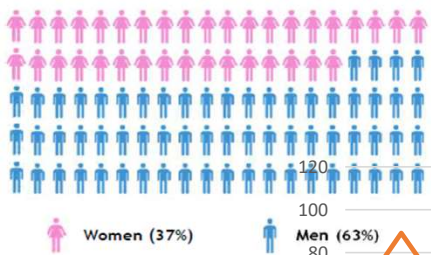
- Female individual traders, women entrepreneurs, and women-owned or managed businesses
- Through official land border checkpoints, ports or airports, or through border markets
- Only 16% of businesses are owned by women Worldwide (UNCTAD)

Informal cross-border trade (ICBT)

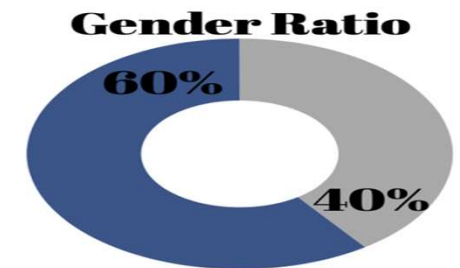
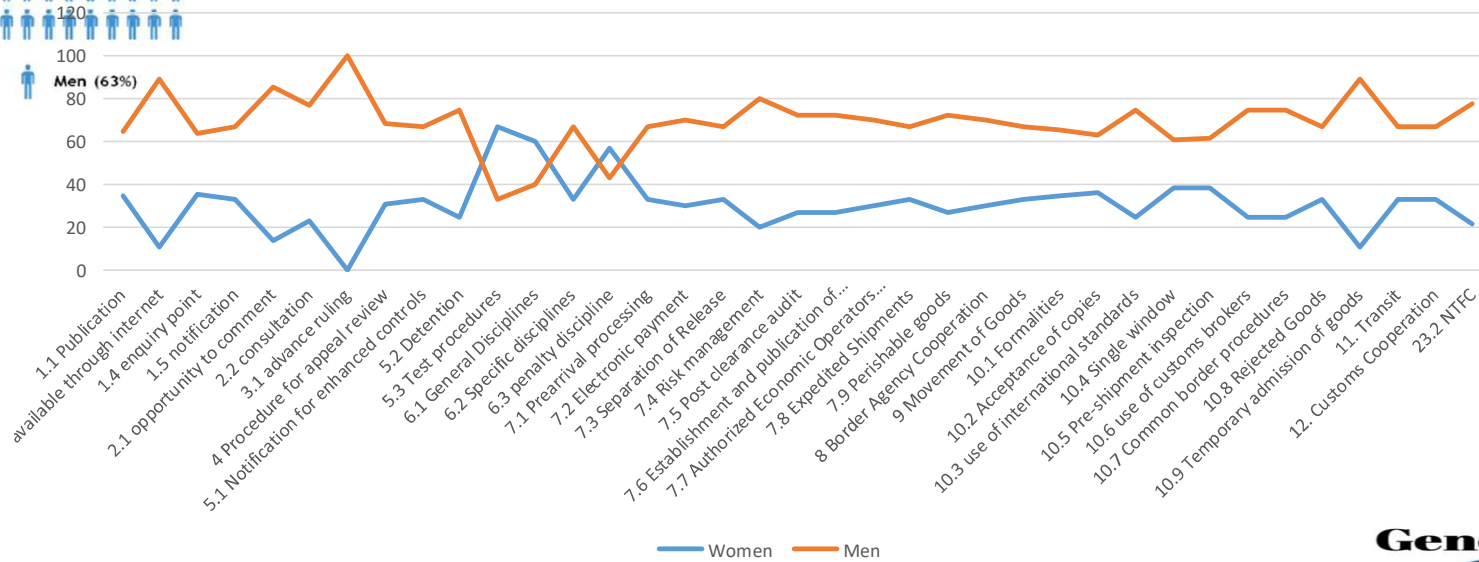
- Trade in goods and services escaping the regulatory framework avoiding tax and regulatory burdens (only 13.7% complying in 2017 and 51.4% understand those laws)
- represent a large portion of the national overall imports and exports
- unreported by customs agencies and multiple transaction constitutes a significant portion of total intra-African trade
- Informal exports to neighboring countries are about 51 percent higher than formal exports.



Status on Gender



Gender gap in NTFC



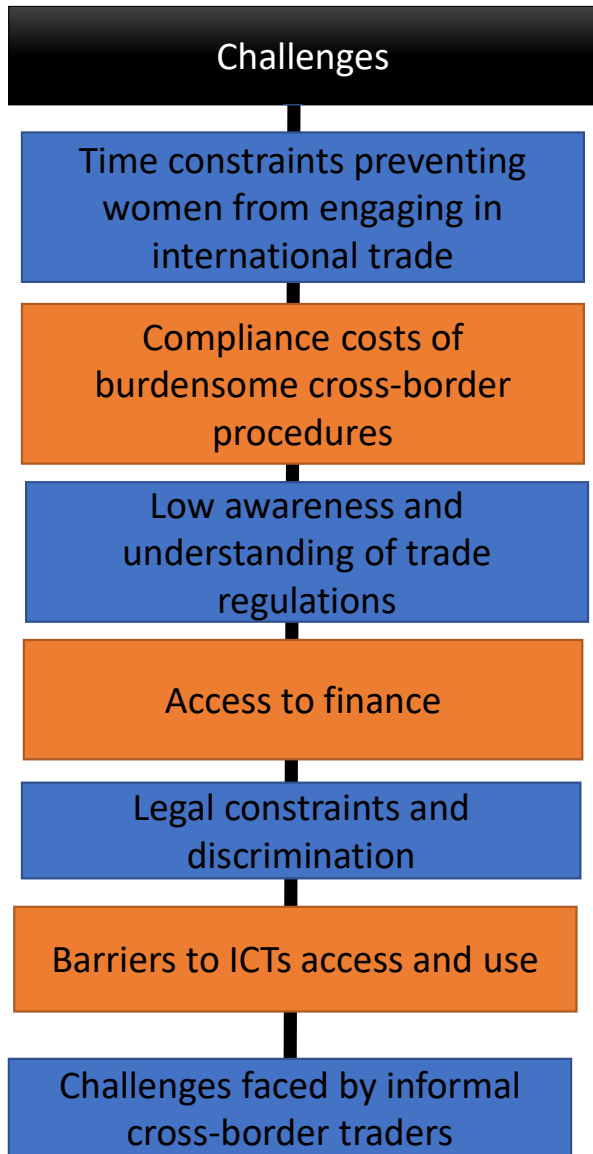
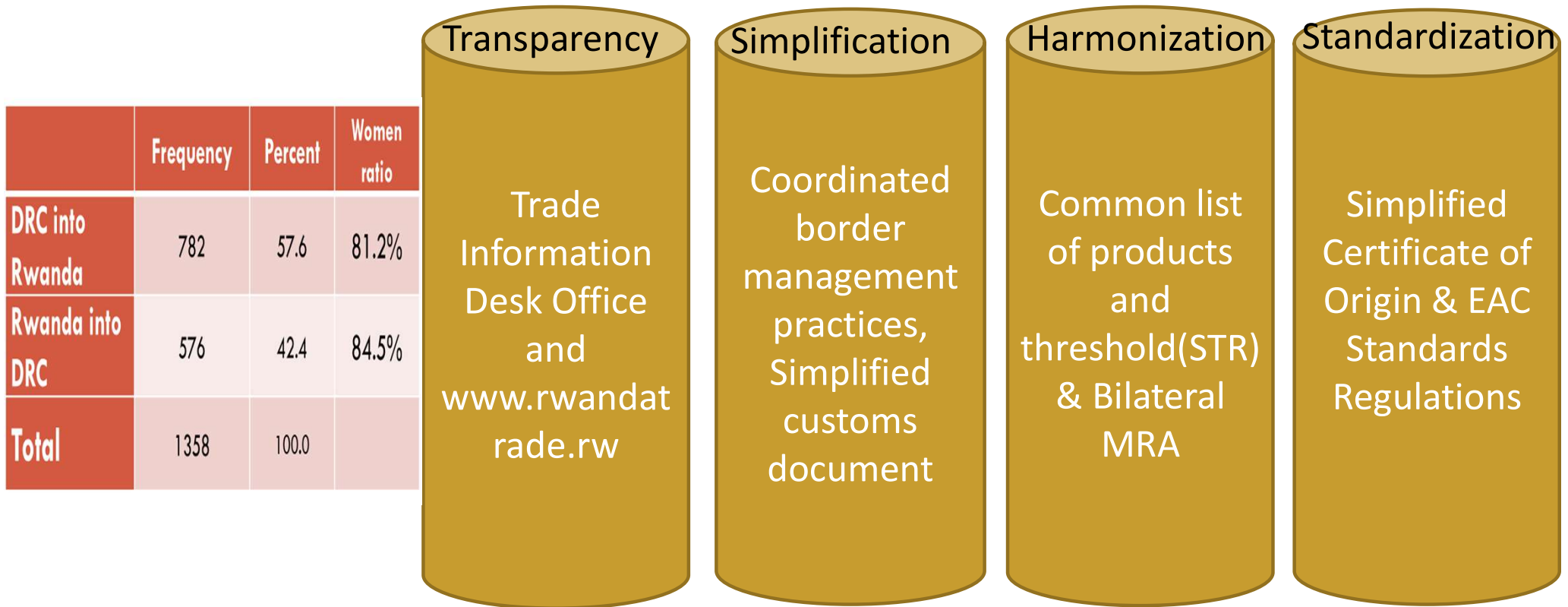


Figure 7: Trends in participants in the trading activities

Source: Generated using data from BNR, IFCB report, May 2020

Pillars of TF in WSCT framework



TFA provisions in addressing challenges

Provisions	Addressed challenges	Progress	Recommendation
Art. 1.1 Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time constraints preventing women from engaging in international trade - Compliance costs of burdensome cross-border procedures - Low awareness and understanding of trade regulations 	Info are published in English, Kinyarwanda and French to the Screen of borders	Publish Information at free of charge in all languages at MINICOM border screens
Art 1.2. Information available through Internet		Trade Information Portal was established. www.rwandatrade.rw	Build and maintain TIPs, capacity building and training for women traders, Mass communication on district radios and Use of Brochure to publish key border procedures and regulations
Art 1.3 Enquiry Points		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A CBT tool complaint https://cbtcomplaints.minicom.gov.rw/# was established - Border Uranyuzwe device for rating satisfaction of service. - TIP provides contact box for Rwanda Trade Enquiry Point - 1 TIDO at Bugarama, Rusizi and Rubavu are available for responding to small traders querries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce TIDOs and avail funds for their operations - Strong awareness raising on complaint tool and use of satisfactory device - Provide training to TIDOs on TFA - Connect CBT complaint tool to TIP contact box
Art. 2.1 Opportunity to Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal constraints and discrimination - Barriers to access and use Of ICTs 	Consultations are done in general regardless of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow women associations to comment on policies and strategies - Special consideration of CB women associations, AWEF, MIGEPROF, COMESA women Rwanda Chapter and PSF women chamber in consultation
Art. 2.2 Consultations			

TFA provisions in addressing challenges

Provisions	Addressed challenges	Progress	Recommendation
Art.4 Procedures for Appeal or Review	Corruption and harassment at the border	TIDOs facilitate small traders in appealing for customs administrative measures	- Enforce use of complaint tool and raise more awareness of border officials, TIDOs and women traders on Appeal procedures
Art. 5.1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	- Time constraints preventing women from engaging in international trade - Compliance costs of burdensome cross-border procedures	- Survey by SPIU MINICOM on time to Cross - High level committee reduced number of officials at the border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity building to explain test procedures, control, inspection and process • Support communication and awareness raising activities through TIDOs • Organize Training for trainers of TIDOs for training traders
Art. 5.2 Detention	- Corruption and harassment at the border		
Art. 6.1 General disciplines on fees and charges	Compliance costs of burdensome cross-border procedures	Harmonization of fees and charges for import and Export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically review of domestic fees and charges inside Rwanda and for import and Export • Develop position papers on costly fees and charges impacting female traders • Enforce publication of penalties
Art. 6.2 Specific disciplines on fees and charges Art. 6.3 Penalty disciplines			

TFA provisions in addressing challenges

Provisions	Addressed challenges	Progress	Recommendation
Art. 7.1 Pre – arrival processing	Corruption and harassment at the border	Not currently applicable to small traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast tracking harmonization of STR products • Advocate for traders to join cooperative to benefit from pre-arrival process
Art. 10.1 Formalities and documentation requirements	- Time constraints preventing women from engaging in international trade	- TIDOS facilitate illiterate traders in case of filling forms - Since outbreak of Covid-19 the forms are not being used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support outreach and awareness-raising programmes specifically targeting women traders periodically review formalities and documentation for formal traders
Art. 10.4 Single window	- Compliance costs of burdensome cross-border procedures	Electronic single window https://sw.gov.rw/ started 2012 but widely used by formal traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training and capacity building to use the single window to women in cooperatives
Art. 10.7 Common border procedures & uniform documentation requirements	- Barriers to ICTs access and use Corruption and harassment at the border	Established JBCs on DRC that meet at quarterly basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a monitoring system in place to follow up on agreed common procedure
Art. 23.2 National Committee on Trade Facilitation	Legal constraints and discrimination	Participation of women into NTFC meetings lies Btm 20-40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase women participation rate into NTFC meeting from minimum of 30% and above • Institution to prioritize delegating women into the NTFC meeting • Continuous tracking women participation in NTFC meetings • MIGEPROF, AWEP, PSF Women Chamber and 2 lead CB women association representatives to be part of observers in the NTFC

Specific Interventions

- Informal small cross border traders have been gathered into cooperative
- Advocated for small traders finance schemes through Business Development Fund
- More training for their understanding of laws, procedures and STR regime are conducted on quarterly basis
- Facilitate small traders to get guarantee of 70% from government on loans to ensure their access to finance
- During COVID 19 facilitate them to continue their business and cluster them so as cross the border

