



ONLINE COURSE ON TRADE AND GENDER
WITH AN OPTIONAL MODULE DEDICATED TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES

FROM 31 MAY TO 18 JULY OR 25 JULY 2021

With support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework

PROSPECTUS

Background

Economic development and social and cultural shifts have contributed to a decrease in gender-related inequalities across the world. Among the major shifts are the rise in female educational enrolment compared with male enrolment, and the increase in women's participation in the labour force. However, these shifts cannot be considered an automatic outcome of development but rather the result of concerted policy action and resource allocation for gender equality. Taking a gender perspective has helped to reveal a number of structural inequalities between men and women in the social, economic and political spheres, and encouraged the implementation of measures to redress them. Efforts to mainstream gender equality in policymaking have been important in this regard.

Trade and trade liberalization policies tend to affect men and women differently. They yield important redistributive effects within the economy, which can either magnify or reduce existing disparities among groups, including between men and women. It is therefore imperative for policymakers to anticipate how trade policies will redistribute wealth within the economy and take corrective actions.

In an effort to increase awareness of the links between trade and gender among stakeholders in developing and least developed countries, UNCTAD developed a portfolio of online courses on trade and gender. This edition of the course will be offered in English and French over a period of seven weeks, from 31 May to 18 July 2021. Participants will have the opportunity to take an optional module focusing on the least developed countries. The course with optional module will run from 31 May to 25 July 2021.

The course is based on volume 1 of the UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender, entitled *Unfolding the links*. The optional module is based on the teaching module *Trade and Gender linkages: An Analysis of Least Developed Countries*, which includes case studies, data and coursework that address contexts and specificities of this group of countries.

The course is open to stakeholders from developing and least developed countries and to a limited number of stakeholders from developed countries. It will be managed and tutored by the Trade, Gender and Development Programme of UNCTAD.

Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge needed to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and ultimately produce gender-aware policy recommendations. To this end, the course introduces the concepts of trade and gender, and combines theory on the interaction between trade and gender with empirical evidence. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- Look at the economy from a gender perspective
- Identify the channels through which trade affects women's economic empowerment and well-being, and the channels through which gender inequality affects trade performance and competitiveness

- Interpret critical data about gender inequalities and female labour force participation
- Illustrate how trade integration has influenced gender outcomes in the different economic sectors
- Use the knowledge acquired to produce policy-oriented research and strategies that could be used by national and regional policymakers, and academic papers investigating the interplay between trade and gender
- Contribute to mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies.

The topics covered in this course are currently an active area of research in trade and development-related studies. An increasing number of researchers and policymakers are engaged in dissecting the relationship between trade and gender at the country and regional levels. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to contribute to this relevant area of research and policy-oriented work.

A detailed description of the course content and timetable is provided in the annex.

Target audience and course prerequisites

The course targets policymakers, academics from universities and research centres, and representatives of civil society in developing and least developed countries involved in policy formulation and implementation, research, teaching, advocacy or field work in the area of trade and gender. The number of participants is limited to ensure appropriate support throughout the course.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a masters degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, gender studies or related area.
- Possess excellent knowledge of the language in which the course is taught.

To successfully complete course activities, participants should plan to devote 10–12 hours a week to the course.

Course fees

Thanks to support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework, selected participants will be exempt from fees associated with access to the course and tutoring services.

Participants who so wish will receive free of charge a hard copy of UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender and a copy of the optional module dedicated to the LDCs, and/or a USB key containing course material.

Certificate of completion

Participants with passing grades in the course (58 per cent for the multiple-choice tests and 65 per cent for the final essay) will receive a certificate of completion. Outstanding participants will also receive a distinction letter.

Application information and deadline

Applications should be submitted by following the instructions at the links below:

- Course on Trade and Gender Linkages in **English**, with optional module focusing on Least Developed Countries: <https://www.research.net/r/LZH6HBF>
- Course on Trade and Gender Linkages in **French**, with optional module focusing on Least Developed Countries: <https://fr.research.net/r/L5KTTWL>.

Applications must include a detailed curriculum vitae and a letter of nomination from the applicant's institution indicating its support for the application and explaining how the applicant's participation in the course will contribute to his or her future work and the work of the institution.

The deadline for application is **16 May 2021**. Incomplete applications or applications received after that date will not be considered. For assistance with the online application process, please contact elarningtrade@un.org. Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to:

Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli
 Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme
 Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
 Email: simonetta.zarrilli@un.org

A selection committee will review each application and select the course participants based on the supporting documents and the relevance of the course to their work.

Participants will be advised of their selection by **25 May 2021**.

Annex: Content and timetable of the course

The course contains three modules, each of which is based on one module of volume 1 of the teaching manual on trade and gender. An optional fourth module will be devoted to Least Developed Countries. Each module includes the following:

- Accompanying multimedia lectures
- Suggested additional reading on issues covered in the course.

To successfully complete the course, participants will be requested to pass multiple-choice tests at the end of each module and draft a final essay of around two pages in which they will apply their new knowledge to their country situation.

An Internet connection is required to take part in the discussions in the forum and to interact with course tutor and other participants, as well as to complete end-of-module tests and submit the final essay.

Course on Trade and Gender Linkages (31 May to 18 July 2021)

| <i>Dates</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Content</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Weeks 1 and 2 31 May–13 June | Module 1 The trade and gender debate: Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks | The economy as a gendered structure; the multiple roles of women in the economy; measures of gender inequality; definitions and measurement of trade; the trade and gender relationship; country case study of Angola; mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies |
| Weeks 3 and 4 14–27 June | Module 2 Effects of trade on women’s well-being and economic empowerment | Women as workers – employment and wage effects; women as producers – farmers and small-scale producers; women as traders – petty traders and cross-border informal traders; women as consumers – consumers of imported products and users of public services; women as taxpayers – the revenue effect |
| Week 5 28 June–4 July | Module 3 Gender-based inequalities and trade performance | Women as sources of competitive advantage for export-oriented firms; women as underachievers of competitive advantage in their own enterprises |
| Weeks 6 and 7 5–18 July | Final essay | Two-page essay explaining the relevance of the issues covered by the course for the participant’s country and providing some options and suggestions on how to mainstream gender in the trade policy of the participant’s country |

Course on Trade and Gender Linkages, with optional module dedicated to the least developed countries (31 May–25 July 2021)

| Dates | Title | Content |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Weeks 1 and 2 31 May–13 June | Module 1 The trade and gender debate: Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks | The economy as a gendered structure; the multiple roles of women in the economy; measures of gender inequality; definitions and measurement of trade; the trade and gender relationship; country case study of Angola; mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies |
| Weeks 3 and 4 14–27 June | Module 2 Effects of trade on women’s well-being and economic empowerment | Women as workers – employment and wage effects; women as producers – farmers and small-scale producers; women as traders – petty traders and cross-border informal traders; women as consumers – consumers of imported products and users of public services; women as taxpayers – the revenue effect |
| Week 5 28 June–4 July | Module 3 Gender-based inequalities and trade performance | Women as sources of competitive advantage for export-oriented firms; women as underachievers of competitive advantage in their own enterprises |
| Week 6 and 7 5–18 July | Module 4 Interactions between trade and gender inequalities in Least Developed Countries | Trade and gender nexus in least developed countries; socioeconomic outlook of the least developed country groups; an assessment of the various dimensions of gender inequalities; a gender analysis of trade policy and trade flows in the least developed countries |
| Weeks 8 19–25 July | Final essay | Two-page essay explaining the relevance of the issues covered by the course for the participant’s country and providing some options and suggestions on how to mainstream gender in the trade policy of the participant’s country |