



# UNCTAD NTFC GLOBAL FORUM

Accelerating the Implementation of Trade Facilitation Reforms Through  
the National Trade Facilitation Committees Despite the Pandemic  
Situation

# SESSION: HOW CAN NTFCs BECOME PROMOTERS OF GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE FACILITATION POLICIES

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# How Can NTFCs Become Promoters Of Gender Equality in Trade Facilitation Policies

## INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Ghana's National Trade Facilitation Committee was established in 2013 as a Technical Committee to work on the Needs Assessment for Ghana.
- ▶ Members of the Committee both Public and Private sector had the opportunity to be part of UNCTAD Programme for the Empowerment of NTFCs.
- ▶ In order to achieve reforms after the coming into force of the WTO TFA in 2017, the Ghana NTFC established sub committees to deal with some areas within the TFA.

# How Can NTFCs Become Promoters Of Gender Equality in Trade Facilitation Policies

## INTRODUCTION contd.

- ▶ These were sub-committees also referred to as
  - ▶ Technical Working Group (TWG) on Fees and charges
  - ▶ TWG on Enquiry Points
  - ▶ TWG on Pre-Arrival Processing
- ▶ All these working groups were supported by USAID, GIZ and Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation.



# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE

- ▶ Ghana's NTFC Trade and Gender Sub-Committee was set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group/Trade Facilitation West Africa.
- ▶ It was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by Ghana's Deputy Minister in charge of MSMEs, Trade Facilitation and Domestic Trade, Hon. Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei .
- ▶ The sub-Committee is mandated to
  - ▶ assess and review the impact of current and upcoming trade policies and practices
  - ▶ propose and execute gender-responsive initiatives, and
  - ▶ address the negative impact of gender-blind trade policies.

# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE

- ▶ **WHY A TRADE & GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE**
- ▶ Unlike the other sub-committees, and as part of efforts to contribute to a more inclusive trade facilitation and address the gender-differentiated impacts of trade, two (2) assessments were conducted by the WBG/TFWA.
  - ▶ **A. Regional Gender Assessment Survey**
  - ▶ **B. Regional Field survey on SSCBT.**
- ▶ These two surveys highlighted the trading ecosystem, profiles of cross-border traders, challenges they encountered and gender specific considerations along the TFWA's six trade corridors which includes Ghana.



# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE

- ▶ **Gender Assessment of NTFC**
- ▶ The WBG/TFWA again conducted a Gender Assessment of the NTFC, which shows that membership was skewed in favour of men and many were of the view that trade policies were seen to be Gender neutral while in practice they had a disproportional effect on women.
- ▶ (World Bank Group, SSCBT Survey 2019)

# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE

- ▶ **WHY TRADE AND GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE Contd.**
- ▶ On the presentations of the results of the surveys, and taking into consideration, international and regional programs on strategies for gender mainstreaming:
- ▶ The Trade and Gender sub-committee was launched by the Ministry in collaboration with the WBG/TFWA to identify and address the challenges faced by women and put a Gender perspective on the work of the NTFC as a group and on the individual organizations who form the NTFC.



# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE AND GENDER SUB-COMMITTEE

## ► **Main Objective:**

- The overall objective of Ghana's NTFC Trade and Gender sub-committee is to have a Technical Working Group that will be responsible for promoting and mainstreaming gender into trade policies and their effective implementation in Ghana.
- **It is to also**
- Encourage continued dialogue, greater accountability and monitoring of Trade facilitation policies and activities and their impact on women traders.
- Increasing women's participation to enable inclusive and sustainable accomplishment of the TF mandate and
- Highlight gains from increasing and promoting gender equality within the NTFC.

# How Can NTFCs Become Promoters Of Gender Equality in Trade Facilitation Policies

## MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ Members of the T&G sub committee are from the Private and Public sectors of Ghana, and is made up both female and male genders.
- ▶ They include representatives from the
  - ▶ Ministry of Gender and Social Protection
  - ▶ Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI)
  - ▶ Ghana Revenue Authority, Customs Division
  - ▶ Ghana Link Limited
  - ▶ Swiss Port
  - ▶ Food and Drugs Authority
  - ▶

# How Can NTFCs Become Promoters Of Gender Equality in Trade Facilitation Policies

## **MEMBERSHIP CONTD.**

- ▶ Ghana Ports & Harbours Authority (GPHA),
  - ▶ Ghana Shippers Authority (GSA),
  - ▶ Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA),
  - ▶ Plant Protection & Regulatory Services (PPRSD),
  - ▶ Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) International and
  - ▶ World Bank Group & Trade Facilitation West Africa. (WBG/TFWA).
- ▶ The sub-committee has a Chairperson and a Co-Chair.

# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB COMMITTEE

## ► TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Develop mechanisms to measure the number of women involved in cross-border trade and identify percentage of women in CBT (ie: M/F box included in ICUMS declaration form and others)
- Consult women traders and groups representing women across the trading ecosystem and relay concerns or recommendations to larger NTFC members to identify NTBs and propose solutions to facilitate cross-border trade for women
- Identify the required actions to strengthen gender mainstreaming within the NTFC institutional and operational framework
- Review NTFC operational documents (terms of reference, vacancy announcements, action plans, reports...) and suggest ideas, evidence, draft language etc. on how to mainstream gender into them
- Gender trainings for NTFC members

# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB COMMITTEE

## ► TERMS OF REFERENCE/CORE ACTIVITIES

- Promote policies responding to gender and/or sex-specific risks, vulnerabilities and needs, and assess if they contribute to the economic empowerment of women
- Undertake or commission research to improve sex-disaggregated data collection and dissemination
- Report on any malpractice and/or non-tariff barriers affecting women traders more and develop ways to address these pertinent issues
- Identify men in the trade ecosystem as gender champions (He for She)
- Advocate for the appointment of women in trade to leadership roles, as appropriate
- Collect and share individual, regional or international best practices, policies, positively impacting women traders as point of reference for all gender-related matters of the NTFC
- Develop and disseminate ad-hoc communications materials intended to showcase NTFC's work on trade & gender

# GHANA'S NTFC TRADE & GENDER SUB COMMITTEE

## ► CHALLENGES

- Lack of functioning Secretariat - A secretariat well equipped to handle the affairs of the NTFC and the work of the Trade and Gender Sub-committee
- Funding to interact with the women and building capacity . Training is important if the women are to know trade regulations and policies that affect the trading transactions.

# CONCLUSION

- ▶ The Trade and Gender (T&G) sub- Committee of the NTFC is a step in the right direction as gender issues would be brought to the fore and policy formulation will have the gender lens and bring in much needed gender balance especially in the implementation of the TF measures.
- ▶ By the establishment of the T&G sub-committee, awareness has been created for NTFC members who in the past had a general understanding of gender as a concept, they can now appreciate better the implications of the relationship between trade and gender.
- ▶ Small Scale Cross-Border Traders (SMEs) are the back bone of the economies of West Africa, the establishment of the T&G sub-Committee will go along way in promoting, representing and protecting their interests.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ The Trade and Gender Sub committee to start engaging with SSCBT, women associations, through regular visitation, creating awareness of its existence.
- ▶ Training and capacity building through seminars, workshops, lectures on Trade regulations and policies that do impact on their trade transactions
- ▶ Training can be done where necessary in the local language, etc.
- ▶ Bring to the fore the rights and responsibilities and where to get needed help
- ▶ Establishment of a Secretariat to effectively monitor progress and provide necessary feedback.
- ▶ Funding for training and secretariat
- ▶ Collaborate with other institutions within the Trade ecosystem



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**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR KIND ATTENTION**



NAA DENSUA ARYEETAY

CHAIR OF THE TRADE AND GENDER SUB COMMITTEE