Using regulatory information for gender-sensitive policymaking

NTMs & Gender



GAIN project Start-up meeting
13 Oct 2026, Lusaka, Zambia

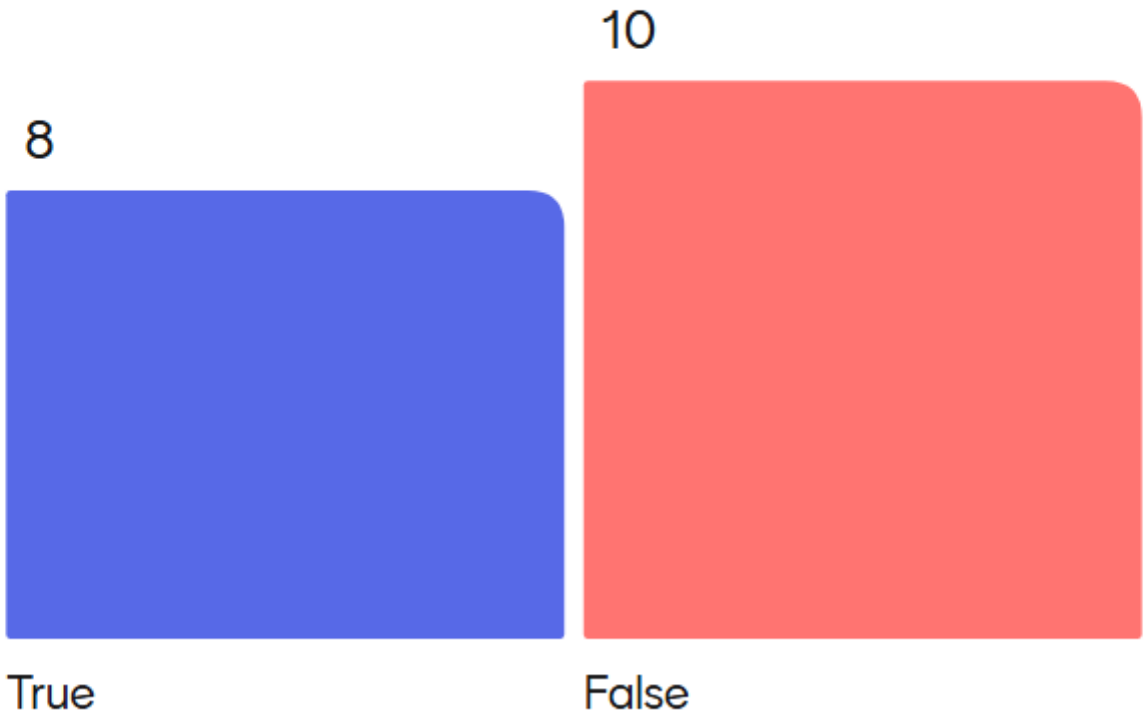
Ms. Chi Le NGO; Ms. Seul LEE

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Mini quiz

Menti

NTMs are gender-neutral. They affect men and women equally.



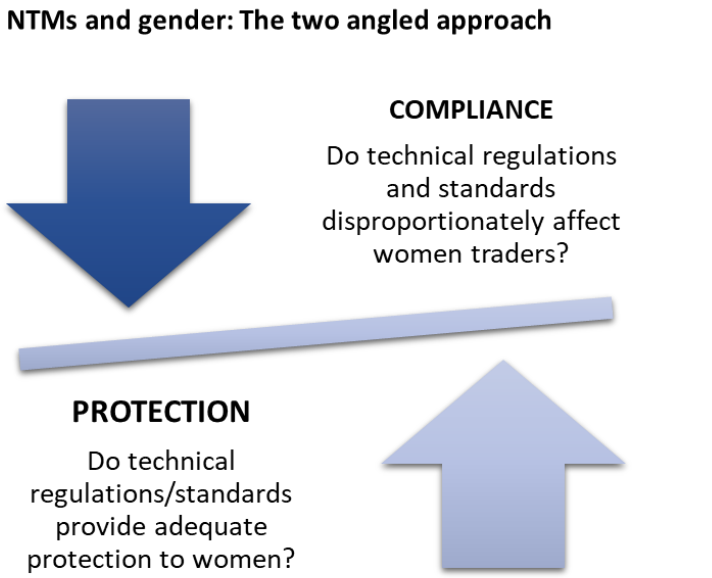
Not equal when it comes to compliance and protection

The same requirement can have different effects

Resources, sector concentration, business size, working conditions, household responsibilities and physical differences in men and women can influence compliance and protection.

The policy question

How can regulations achieve their public purpose while enabling more inclusive participation and adequate protection?



*Note: This approach is an adaptation based on the **UN Women Guidance Note on Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming (2014)**.*

Channels in which NTMs affect women

Producers and traders

Market access and resources needed to meet requirements.

Workers

Jobs, working conditions and protection from workplace risks.

Characteristics of sectors where women are concentrated.

Consumers

Safety, quality, prices and availability of products for women and dependents

Taxpayers when relevant

Taxes and their distributional effects in the selected area.

Women as producers and traders

Mango jam from the Djiguiya Women Cooperative, Mali

Women participate heavily in Mali's mango value chain. The cooperative in Yanfolila produces mango jam. Challenges in compliance.

Capacity to comply matters

The Government and partners provided a fruit processing unit. 16 women trained in quality and food hygiene, and the cooperative obtained ISO 22000 certification. The jam now reaches local and export markets.

Questions for GAIN

Which government requirement limits market access? What support would help women producers comply while preserving food safety?

Source: UNCTAD (2022), Box 4, p. 25. Documented example from Mali

Women as workers

Cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNCTAD reports risks for women sorting and washing ore without adequate personal protective equipment.

Availability and fit both matter

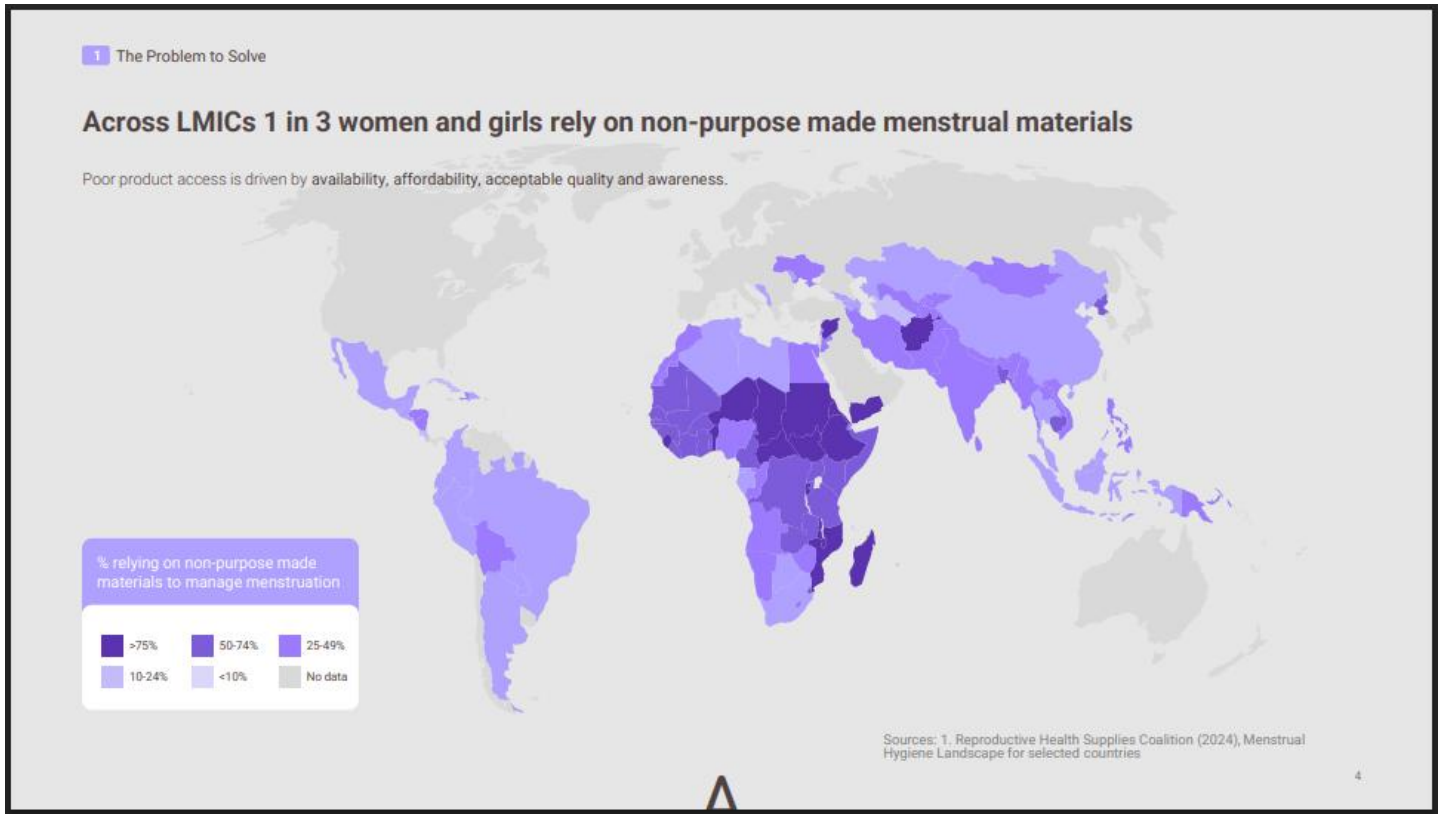
Protective equipment is often scarce in artisanal mining and may not adequately fit women.

Questions for GAIN

Do relevant equipment requirements address fit and protection? What additional evidence is needed on access, use and enforcement?

Source: UNCTAD, critical energy transition minerals report (2025), section 2.3.

Women as consumers



Source: Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF), *A Market-Based Approach to Menstrual Health*, presentation to the WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs, 3 October 2025.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/msmes_e/agenda_item_7_1_shf.pdf?utm

ISO Standards for Menstrual Products

Questions for GAIN

Do product requirements for women and dependents adequately protect them?

2025

14th and 15th May ,Jarra Soma , Lower River Region

PHOTOS



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International/Regional commitments

- WTO 11th Ministerial Conference in 2017 **“Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade”**
- More than 120 signatories agree to work on
  - Removing barriers for women’s economic empowerment
  - Sharing best practices for conducting gender-based analysis of trade policies

- AfCFTA “**Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade**”
  - Remove tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and streamline trade impediments affecting women and youth
  - Expand access to online tools, and digital literacy to bridge the gender divide

Steps for gender-sensitive policy making

DIAGNOSE	DECIDE AND ACT
1 Policy question and scope Which products and sectors should the review examine? <- Now for initial inputs	**5 Prioritization** Which issues merit closer review, considering costs and protection? <- 1st multi-stakeholder consultation
2 Regulatory landscape Which rules and individual requirements apply? <- NTM data collection assisted by AI	**6 Causes and policy recommendations** Does the problem concern regulatory design, implementation or capacity to comply? What are the policy recommendations?
3 Baseline, gender profile and data architecture What is the starting situation? Which evidence, indicators and data gaps matter?	**7 Validation** Do stakeholder experiences and other evidence support the initial findings? <- 2nd multi-stakeholder consultation
4 Likely channels of impact How could requirements affect costs, work, income, consumption, safety or time? <- Sex-disaggregated data + research	**8 Action plan and monitoring** Who will act, by when, with what resources and measures of progress? <- 2nd multi-stakeholder consultation and follow-up support (if selected)

6. Causes and policy recommendations

Regulatory design

Review whether the requirement addresses the relevant risks and different protection needs.

Implementation

Improve clarity, consistency and accountability in procedures and enforcement.

Capacity to comply

Address information and service gaps, including access to testing, certification or suitable training.

National knowledge will guide the analysis

Trade ministries and regulatory agencies

Identify the relevant rules, implementation responsibilities and feasible policy responses.

Gender ministries and business associations

Help identify affected groups, practical experiences and gaps in available evidence.

Questions for the next stage

Which products or sectors deserve attention? What experiences and evidence can inform that choice?

Sources

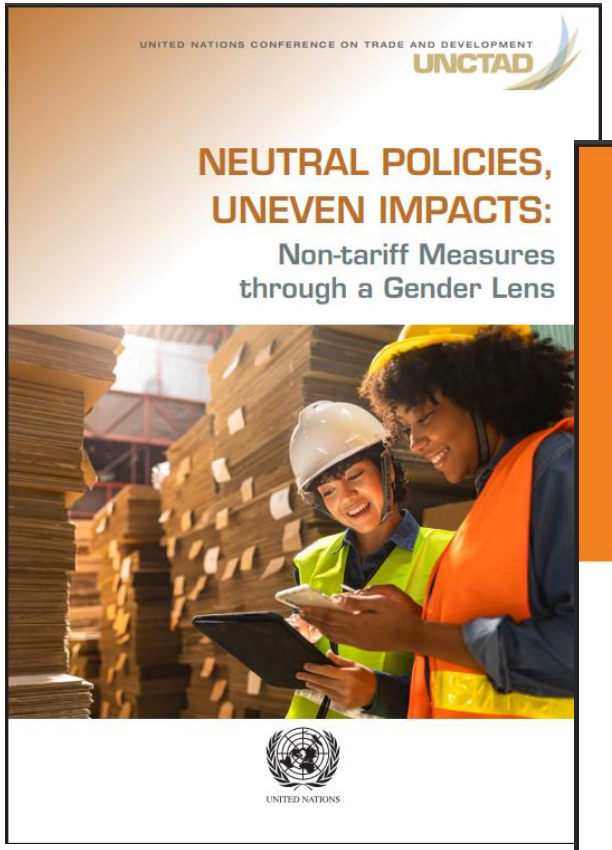
UNCTAD (2022), Neutral Policies, Uneven Impacts: NTMs through a Gender Lens.

UNCTAD (2025), The implications of critical energy transition minerals for women's participation in the mining sector

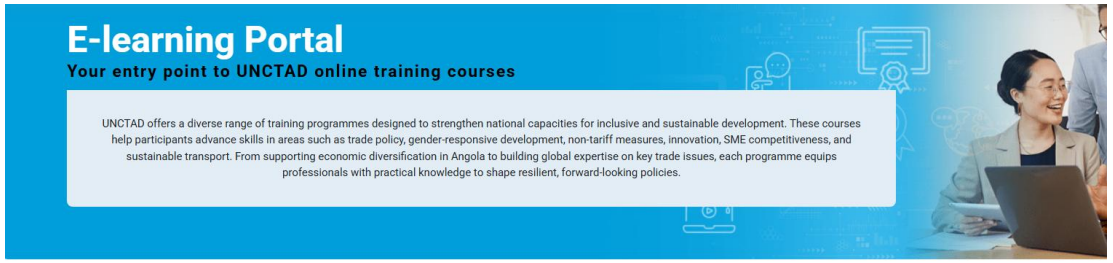
Online courses on NTM and Gender, Trade and Gender

Baria, Callahan and Schnerre (2026), VR headset standards.

KEBS sanitary-towel standard catalogue. WTO account of the menstrual-product side event.









Thank you

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