Gender-in-trade statistics: Linking existing data for new insights

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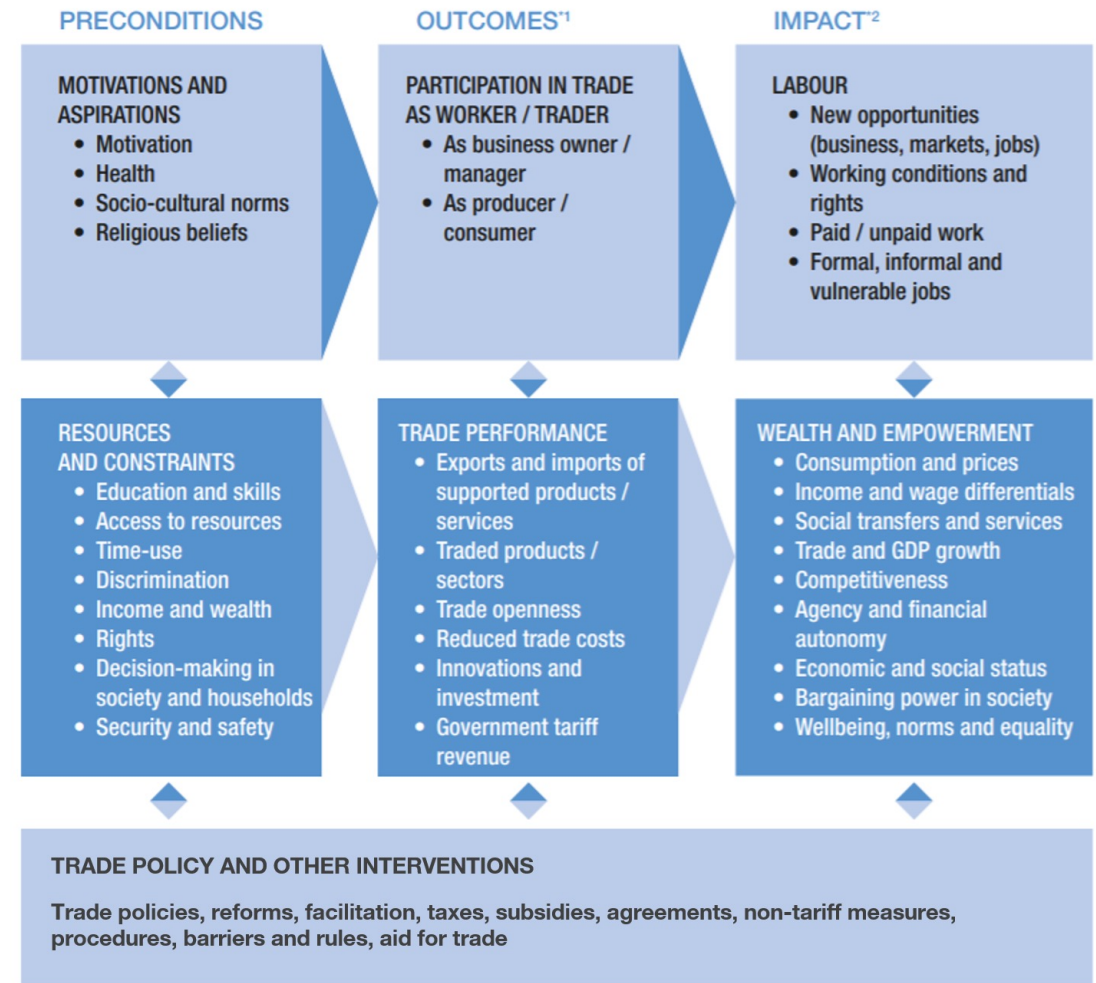
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Background

- Currently trade statistics in gender-blind as it does not include any gender variables.

- Research shows that participation in international trade is not gender-neutral and can be informed by existing gender biases and gender barriers.

- Quality gender-in-trade statistics is critical to develop gender-responsive trade policies.

- Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment (2017) – first call for gender-focused statistics related to trade

Conceptual Framework

- In 2018, UNCTAD developed a conceptual framework for the measurement of gender equality in trade
- Aim of the framework: help national statistical offices to review what data already exist for the measurement of gender and trade
- To get insights about gender equality we need to link trade statistics' data to other statistics across the statistical system, such as to businesses that trade and individuals they employ in different jobs.

PRECONDITIONS

MOTIVATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS
- Motivation
- Health
- Socio-cultural norms
- Religious beliefs

OUTCOMES[1]

PARTICIPATION IN TRADE AS WORKER / TRADER
- As business owner / manager
- As producer / consumer

IMPACT[2]

LABOUR
- New opportunities (business, markets, jobs)
- Working conditions and rights
- Paid / unpaid work
- Formal, informal and vulnerable jobs

RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Education and skills
- Access to resources
- Time-use
- Discrimination
- Income and wealth
- Rights
- Decision-making in society and households
- Security and safety

TRADE PERFORMANCE
- Exports and imports of supported products / services
- Traded products / sectors
- Trade openness
- Reduced trade costs
- Innovations and investment
- Government tariff revenue

WEALTH AND EMPOWERMENT
- Consumption and prices
- Income and wage differentials
- Social transfers and services
- Trade and GDP growth
- Competitiveness
- Agency and financial autonomy
- Economic and social status
- Bargaining power in society
- Wellbeing, norms and equality

TRADE POLICY AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Trade policies, reforms, facilitation, taxes, subsidies, agreements, non-tariff measures, procedures, barriers and rules, aid for trade

[1] Immediate short-term outcome of a change
[2] Longer-term effects of the outcomes on lives and living conditions.

Microdata linking

Microdata linking is the preferred approach ➔provides the most accurate statistics about gender and trade if data about firms by trading status are collected.

Linking may be challenging but there are ways to compile new indicators depending on which data are available in each country and how they can be linked

If micro data linking is not possible, macro linking industry-level trade data with aggregated labour force and business statistics can provide valuable insights on gender-in-trade.

Statistical data sources

Official statistics on international trade

Statistical Business Registers (SBS)

Structural Business Statistics (SBS)

Tax administrative records

Combined employer-employee data
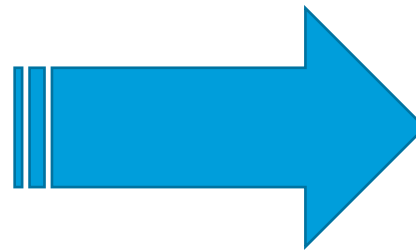
These data need to be linked across datasets held by different agencies using a common identifier

Challenges
- Data confidentiality
- Lack of common survey populations a statistical domains
- Legal frameworks
- IT infrastructure limitations
- Capacity gaps

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Testing from the pilots

Methodologies were tested jointly with the UN Regional Commissions for Europe and Africa

Six completed pilots: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe

Microdata was used to identify businesses in international trade and linked to tax data, SBR, and surveys

Calculated 3 indicators: employment, earnings, and wages in trading companies disaggregated by sex

Lessons: data linking is a cost-effective alternative to developing new surveys

Challenges: identified gaps in the NSS for further improvement in data integration

Example findings in Kenya: wages

Average Pay based on Sex in Trading Enterprises

❑ **Earnings by sex reveals male employees earn more than female employees during the period under consideration.**
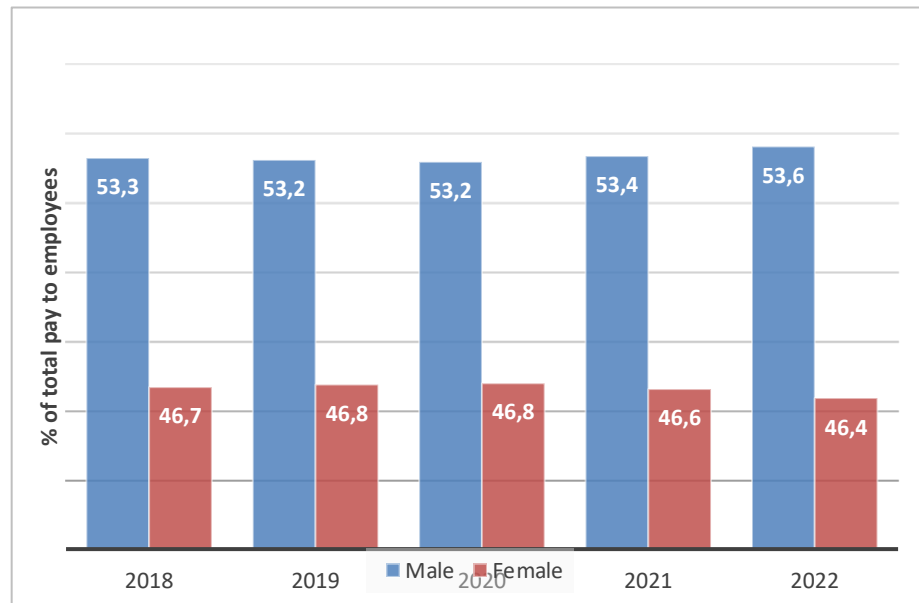
Average Gender Pay Gap in Trading Enterprises

❑**There was an average gender pay gap ranging from 21 percent to 27 percent. This indicates that men earned more than women, on average**
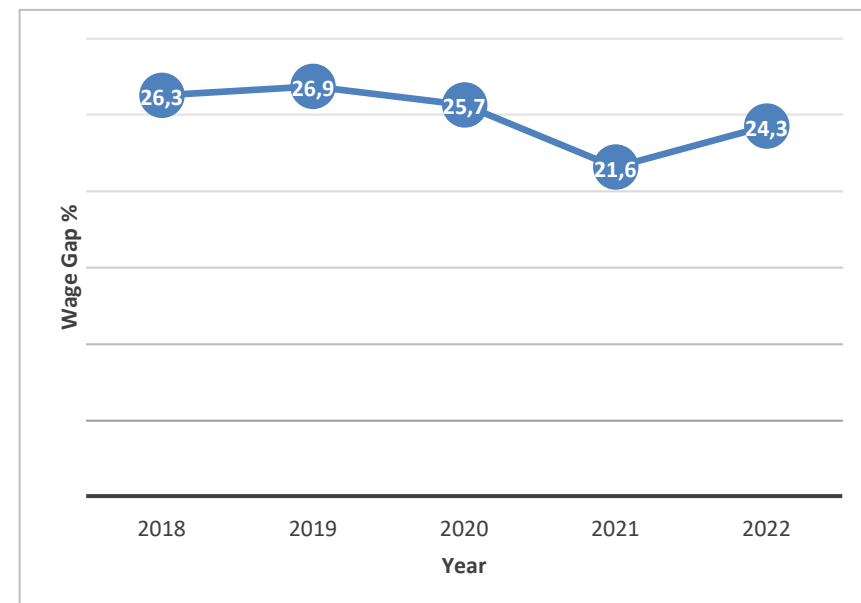
Global efforts

- UNCTAD published the first iteration of the **Compilation guidelines for measuring gender-in-trade for pilot testing** based on the methodology used in 6 pilots

- UNCTAD and the United States leading global efforts by trade statisticians to include recommendations to compile **gender data in the UN Trade Statistics Manuals (ITSM) and Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics (HIBTS)**

- Release a set of **gender and trade indicators in UNCTADstat Data Centre,** calculated at the macro level from globally available data sources

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Compilation guidelines for measurement of gender-in-trade statistics

PILOT TESTING METHODOLOGIES
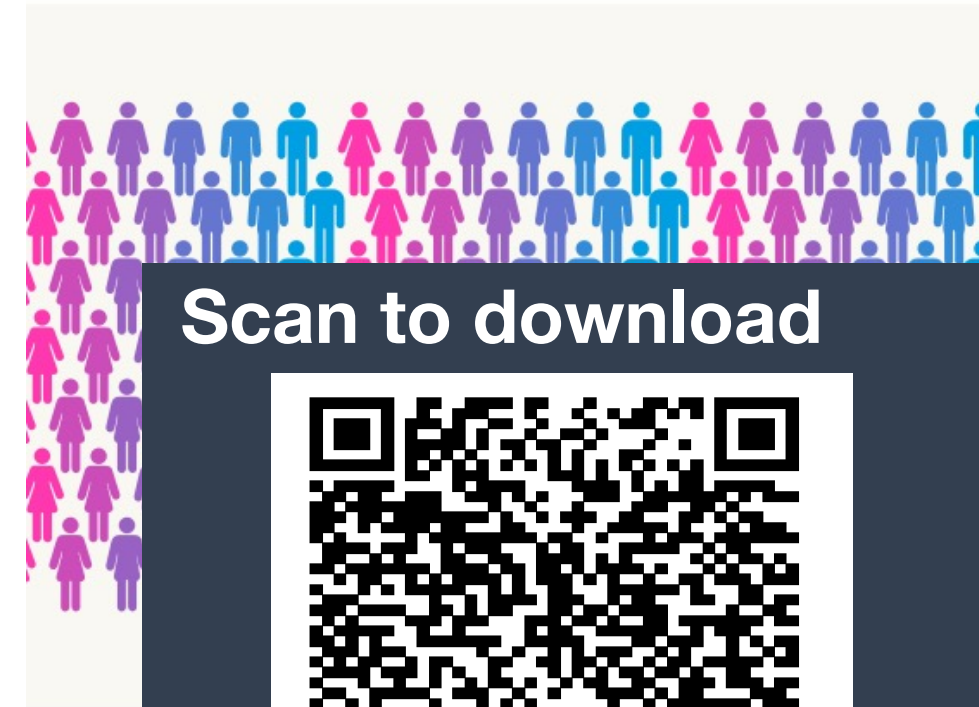
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We need more

gender data

to inform policy and achieve

#GenerationEquality