

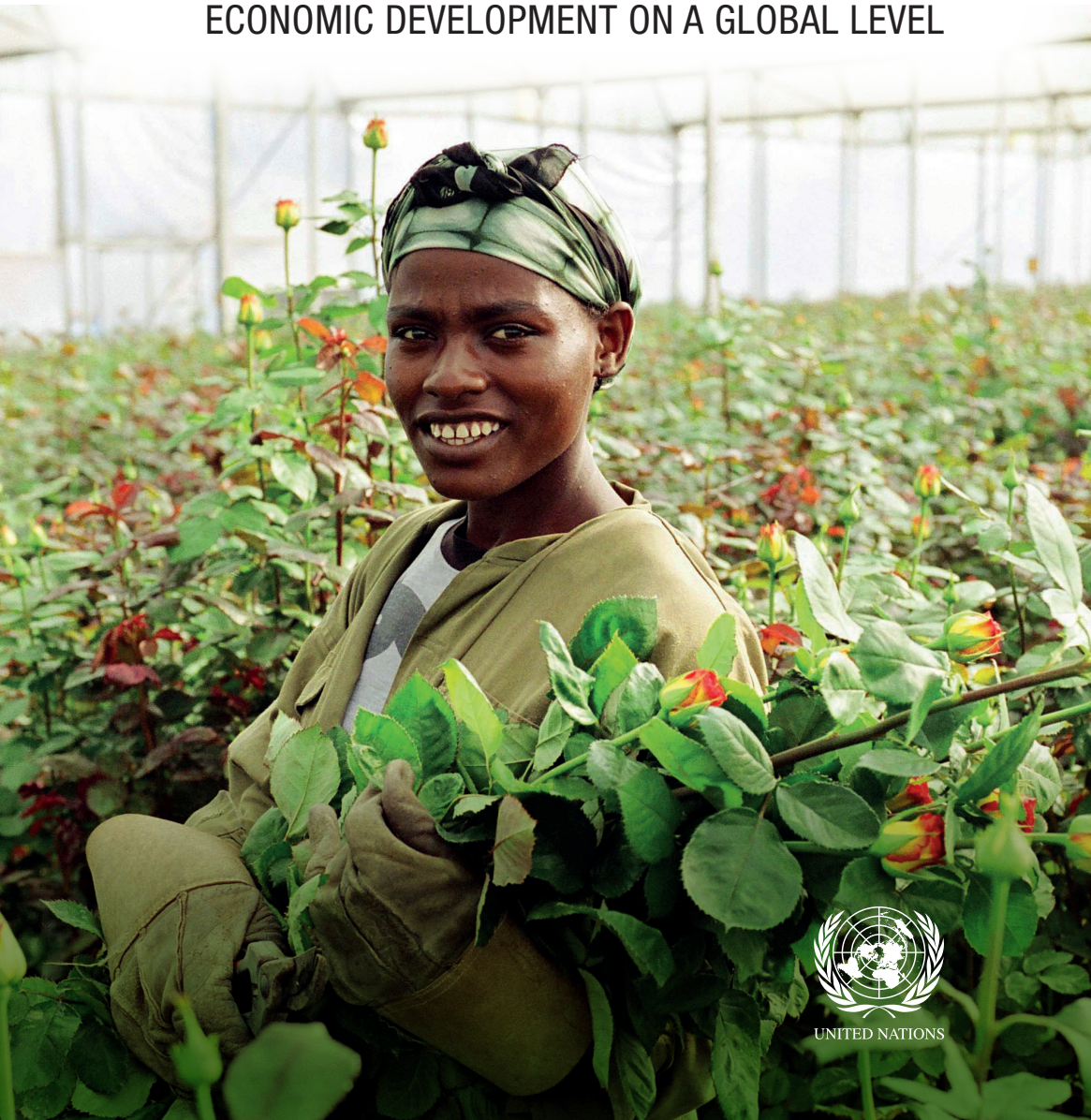
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD



TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

ADVOCATING INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-SENSITIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON A GLOBAL LEVEL



UNITED NATIONS

TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNCTAD plays a key role in ensuring that economic policies – trade policy in particular – become instrumental in the achievement of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment. Through its Trade, Gender and Development Programme, UNCTAD supports its member countries in the following endeavours:

- Assessing the effect of economic policies (trade policies in particular) on men and women, boys and girls; identifying gender-based constraints that hinder inclusive development; and devising strategies and policy measures to overcome such constraints.
- Mainstreaming gender into trade policy through the inclusion of gender considerations in policy formulation and implementation, and in negotiations of agreements on trade and other issues at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.

Nairobi Maafikiano: The mandate

The Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted during the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, which was held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, calls on UNCTAD to “[r]einforce its work on the links between gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment and trade and development, and support member States in the design and implementation of policies and the establishment of institutions that support women’s economic empowerment, economic security and rights, and enhance their economic opportunities” (paragraph 55(bb)).

The Maafikiano recognizes that “[w]omen play a critical role in development and contribute to structural transformation. Therefore, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is essential to unlock this potential. [...] Actions are required to address specific challenges to their equal and active participation in domestic, regional and international trade, especially to foster women’s entrepreneurship and increase the participation of women-owned companies in international trade...” (paragraph 73).

The Nairobi Maafikiano mandates UNCTAD to “[c]ontinue its efforts in all its work to mainstream cross-cutting issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women, ...”(paragraph 14(b), recognizing that “gender equality and women’s empowerment ... are essential to all countries to attain sustainable and equitable growth and development” (paragraph 14(a)).

ACTIVITIES

A. IN-DEPTH RESEARCH ON TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Country case studies and national seminars

The UNCTAD Trade, Gender and Development Programme has since 2010 been developing a portfolio of country case studies on the impacts of trade liberalization and facilitation on gender equality and women's well-being in target developing and least developed countries.

The studies describe the gender-differentiated outcomes of trade policy and draw lessons on policymaking. Using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and a range of multi-sectoral and sectoral approaches, the case studies contribute to the yet limited literature on the impact of trade policy on gender outcomes such as employment, income, empowerment and intra-household relations. The studies bring to the forefront of the analysis intersecting patterns of disparity relating to gender, income, race and spatial location; they also integrate social and cultural factors into economic analysis.

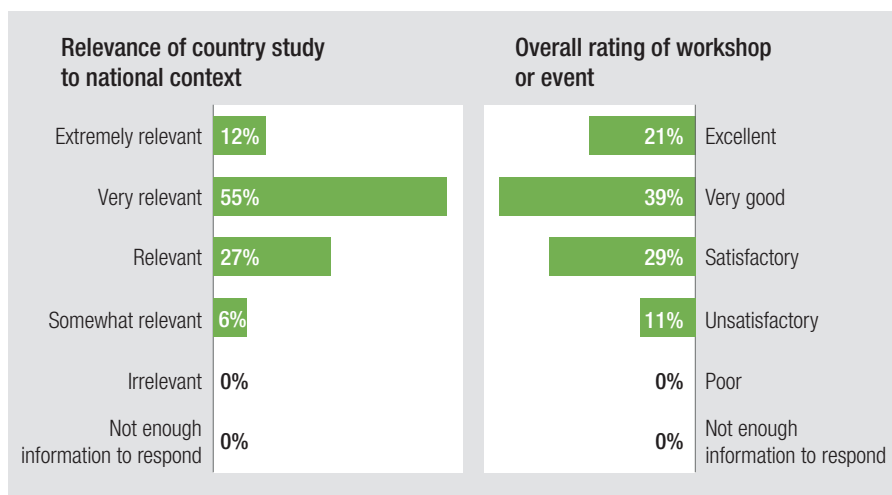
Research is carried out in close cooperation with national partners, which have ultimate ownership of the process and findings, and are in a position to translate research into policy action. Analytical activities include a series of national workshops aimed at raising the awareness of local policymakers on the gender ramifications of trade. The workshops also serve to disseminate analytical methodologies among relevant national stakeholders, for example statisticians, planning officers with quantitative assignments and researchers.



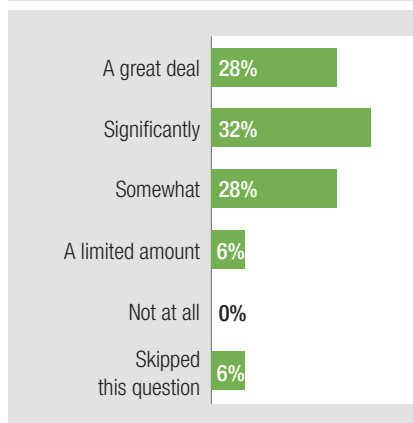
Launching of the country case study of Bhutan (Thimphu, May 2011)



Launching of the country case study of Uruguay (Montevideo, December 2014)



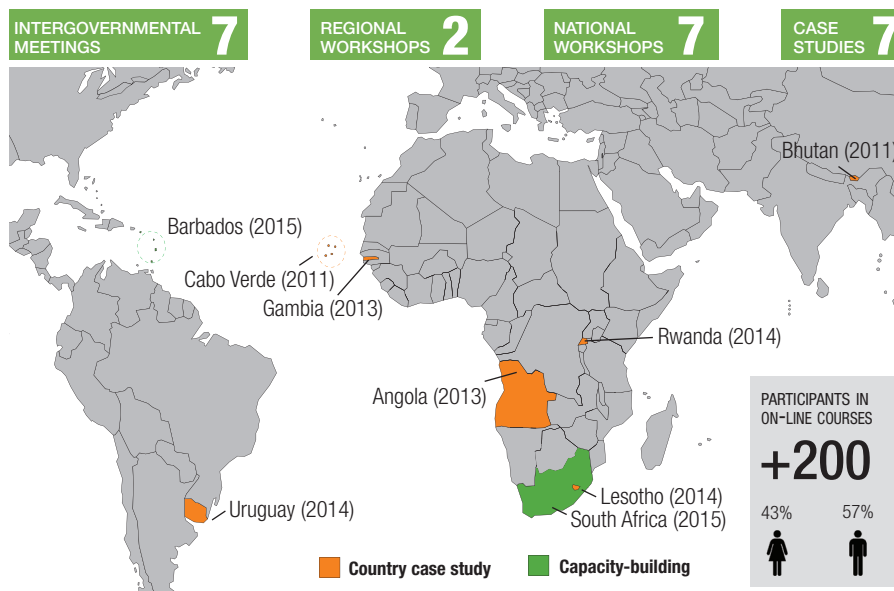
Extent to which capacity to analyse gender issues in trade policy and practice has been strengthened



A member of the Trade, Gender and Development Programme discusses a data analysis exercise with a participant in the regional trade and gender workshop (South Africa, June 2015).

Note: Figures show the results of interviews conducted by an independent evaluator with national stakeholders. The evaluation was conducted in 2015 after the conclusion of the country studies and national workshops.

The seven case studies published to date cover countries at various levels of development in different geographical regions.



Lessons learned

Despite differences in the economic structure and development levels of the countries analysed, the following issues and specific patterns common to several low-income economies can be singled out:

- The effects of trade on men and women are not clear-cut, and impacts are often double-edged, as women may simultaneously gain and lose from trade: Women may obtain stable wage employment, but still have low-paying jobs and remain crowded in the lower nodes of the sector; women may gain as consumers when agricultural tariffs are reduced, but may lose as producers when the prices of agricultural commodities fall.
- Gender equality commitments made at the international level often do not translate into national laws, and when they do, the institutions in charge of promoting gender equality tend to be understaffed, with limited budgets and insufficient political influence.
- Despite de jure equality between women and men achieved by many countries, customary practice, gender bias and deep-rooted social norms still prevent the realization of de facto equality.

- Gender segmentation across employment and occupational categories remains persistent, and women tend to work in subsistence agriculture, low value added nodes of the manufacturing sector and low-productivity services.
- Gender gaps in access and control over economic and financial resources, coupled with women's burden of care and household-related responsibilities, help perpetuate labour segmentation, hinder women's productivity and hold back their economic empowerment.

According to UNCTAD analysis, adopting a gender perspective contributes to a deeper and richer understanding of trade performance. This in turn is essential to inform the design and implementation of gender-sensitive policy measures and ensure that existing inequalities are not reproduced or exacerbated with shifts in trade policy.

Research-based projects

The Trade, Gender and Development Programme is deepening the scope of its analysis of the trade–gender nexus with three ongoing projects. The first, “Informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa (2016–2020)”, aims to strengthen the capacities of Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to leverage informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration. The purpose of the second project, “Trade and gender in East Africa”, is to conduct an in-depth analysis of women's participation in trade in that region and of the factors facilitating or impeding it. The purpose of the third project is to develop a trade and gender toolbox and a related trade and gender index. The toolbox will help answer the question, “What would happen to women if a given trade policy were implemented?”. The answer will contribute to designing policies and accompanying measures that favour women's social and economic empowerment. In addition, the toolbox will include elements for the computation of a trade and gender index to track progress over time.

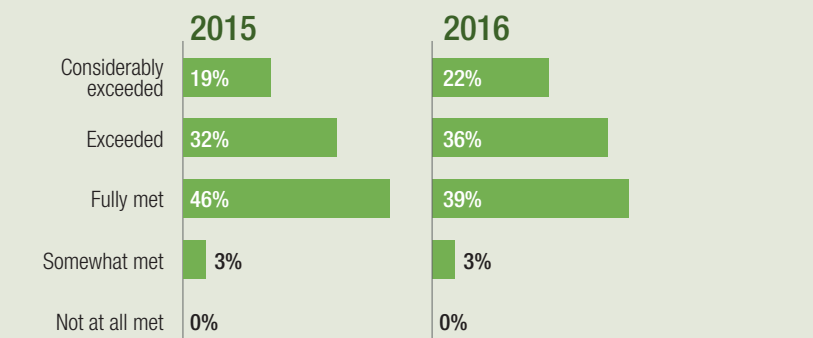
B. STRENGTHENING TEACHING AND RESEARCH CAPACITIES ON TRADE AND GENDER

Since 2013, and in partnership with the UNCTAD Virtual Institute, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme has been rolling out a capacity-building initiative to equip academics, government officials and representatives of civil society in developing countries with analytical tools to examine the relationship between trade and gender, and issue gender-aware policy recommendations.

Capacity-building initiative on trade and gender: Key components of the UNCTAD teaching package

- **A two-volume teaching manual examining the links between trade and gender.** Volume 1 introduces conceptual frameworks to study the relationship between trade policies and gender. Volume 2 covers different approaches and techniques to explore the trade–gender linkage. Volume 1 is available in English, French and Spanish; volume 2, in English. Its translation into French is being envisaged.
- **A seven-week online course based on volume 1 of the manual.** The first two editions of the course were held in January–March 2015 and January–February 2016, respectively. To date the course has reached more than 200 researchers, government officials and civil society representatives from some 60 developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

Participants' expectations of the course were:



- **A regional professional development workshop on trade and gender for developing country academics.** The first edition of the workshop was held in South Africa in June 2015 for 25 stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop drew on volume 2 of the teaching manual.
- **Mentored research projects on trade and gender for researchers graduating from the regional professional development workshop.** UNCTAD provided financial grants and mentoring support to three selected workshop participants from Cameroon, Ghana, and Nigeria to analyse the trade and gender linkages in their own countries.

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

“Trade and gender is currently at the heart of development thinking, since incorporating gender into economic analysis allows us to capture the social and cultural aspects of our economy. This is critically needed for inclusive growth.”

Elias Bagumhe, Ministry of East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania

“Participating in the mentored research project has helped me deepen my analytical and research skills. My country is currently engaged in the negotiations of a major trade agreement – the Economic Partnership Agreement – and I have been involved in a study aimed at proposing policies that would avoid the potential negative effects of this agreement. In the study, the gender dimension is missing. Through my participation in the mentored research project, I realized that the gender dimension is really important and needs to be taken into consideration. I will therefore use the knowledge gained from the project to propose appropriate policies to my government.”

Belmondo Tanankem Vouko, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Cameroon

“After the course, and with my previous knowledge of trade and gender, I feel comfortable teaching about their connection and the challenges that governments, private enterprises and civil society have in this respect. Also, after getting acquainted with case studies and policy recommendations, I feel capable of undertaking research aimed at promoting the gender perspective of trade for decision-makers.”

Caroline Herrera-Cano, Universidad EAFIT, Colombia

“I will use the knowledge from the course in preparatory work on the Bangladesh Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016–2020). As head of the policy wing of my organization, I will work to incorporate gender issues into the trade and industry section of this important document.”

Md-Mamunur Rahman, Ministry of Industry, Bangladesh

The products of the UNCTAD capacity-building initiative on trade and gender were originally developed for a global audience. Building upon its success, UNCTAD is carrying forward this initiative by expanding its scope: work is being carried out to tailor the trade and gender teaching package to the specific needs and contexts of target regions, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

In partnership with UN-Women, an abridged version of the online course was tailored to a broader and non-specialized audience as part of the online course “I Know Gender”. The module on trade and gender will soon be available on the e-learning campus of the UN-Women Training Centre.

C. RAISING AWARENESS AMONG POLICYMAKERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND DONORS

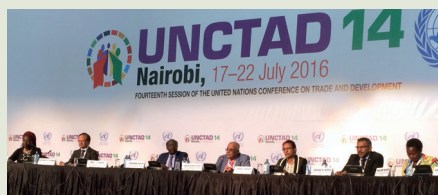
The Trade, Gender and Development Programme actively promotes policy dialogue to facilitate a better understanding of the links between trade and gender. It regularly publishes policy briefs and hosts expert meetings, round tables and workshops that bring together national and international stakeholders, including policymakers and representatives from intergovernmental organizations, civil society and academia.

Trade and gender events

UNCTAD has recently organized a number of widely attended events that have provided ways to explore the challenges and opportunities surrounding the gender–trade nexus:

19 JULY 2016

Ministerial round table: Women as agents for economic change – smallholder farming, food security, agricultural upgrading and rural economic diversification in least developed countries, fourteenth session of UNCTAD, Nairobi, Kenya.



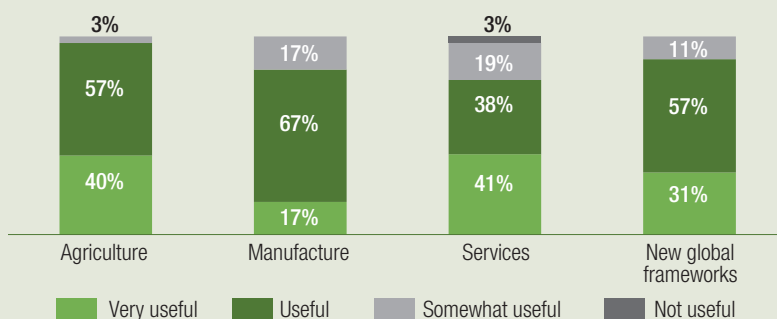
23–24 MAY 2016

Expert Meeting on Trade as a Tool for the Economic Empowerment of Women, Geneva, Switzerland.



Meeting participants' responses to the question:

“How useful did you find the four sessions of the Expert Meeting?”



17 MARCH 2016

Side event: Trade and global value chains – how to address the gender dimension, Commission on the Status of Women, sixtieth session, New York, United States of America.

**23–26 NOVEMBER 2015**

Workshop: Integrating gender analysis in Caribbean trade and economic growth programmes, Bridgetown, Barbados. Fifty-five per cent of the participants in the Barbados workshop rated the workshop “excellent” and 45 per cent, “very good”. Regarding the technical expertise of speakers, 64 per cent said it was “excellent” and 36 per cent, “very good”. As to the relevance of the workshop to their work, 55 per cent of the participants stated that it had proved “extremely relevant” and 45 per cent, “very relevant”.

15 SEPTEMBER 2015

High-level segment: Role of women as a catalyst for trade and development, Trade and Development Board, sixty-second session, Geneva.

3 MARCH 2015

Workshop: Looking at trade policy through a gender lens, Geneva.



GLOBAL GENDER AGENDA

The Trade, Gender and Development Programme actively engages in inter-agency dialogue and cooperation to support countries in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The Programme is building long-lasting partnerships with entities within and outside the United Nations system to enhance the outreach and policy relevance of its work. Strategic partners of the Programme currently include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the International Labour Organization; the International Trade Centre; UN-Women; regional development banks and regional organizations, such as the Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; and TradeMark East Africa.

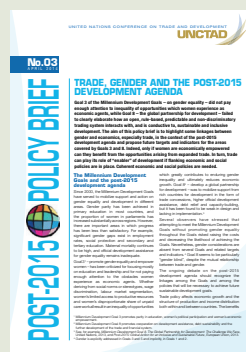


Gender and trade in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Along with many other stakeholders, UNCTAD contributed to the global discussion leading to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD has drawn attention to the role of trade as an effective instrument for achieving inclusive development when gender considerations are accounted for in trade policy formulation and implementation.

In line with Goal 5, which calls for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030, UNCTAD suggested that emphasis be placed on the preconditions necessary for women to become economically empowered and that gender-aware trade and investment policies be promoted to advance both economic and social development.

Based on its findings, the Trade, Gender and Development Programme highlighted key elements, data and considerations that could help national stakeholders (all levels of governments, civil society) determine whether the Sustainable Development Goals – in particular Goals 1, 2, 5 and 17 relating to the role of women as economic agents – are being implemented in a gender-sensitive manner.



GENDER MAINSTREAMING WITHIN UNCTAD

The Trade, Gender and Development Programme performs an advocacy role to enhance the inclusion of gender considerations in all areas of UNCTAD work. The Programme tracks the progress of and coordinates UNCTAD implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or SWAP. It also coordinates the UNCTAD network of gender focal points and is the UNCTAD focal point for the International Geneva Gender Champions initiative.

The Trade, Gender and Development Programme has been generously supported by the Governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden. Financial support for regional activities has been made available by TradeMark East Africa. Funds were also received through tranches 7 and 10 of the United Nations Development Account, a capacity development programme.

TRADE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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