

Women's Empowerment Lab

Session 1: Fostering an Inclusive African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

15 March 2022

10:30 am EST / 15:30 CET



Objectives.

- Identify challenges and opportunities for women under the AfCFTA
- Determine ways in which women entrepreneurs can be a part of the trading dialogue

Introduction





ITC's SheTrades Initiative: For Every Woman, Everywhere.

ITC's SheTrades Initiative is a global platform that **empowers women to engage in business**, creating value for both them and their communities. The Initiative **ensures the right capacities and conditions** are present to foster inclusive and sustainable trade.

SheTrades delivers activities and training that **improve women traders' ability to do business successfully**. At the same time, SheTrades works to **remove inequalities** that hinder women's participation in trade and **promote a better trade environment for all**.

SheTrades Approach

- **7 Global Actions:** Areas for intervention identified to unlock markets for women
- **Methods:** Global support, In-Country Projects, Partnerships, and National Hubs
- **Partners:** International organizations, governments, private sector corporations, etc.
- **SheTrades.com:** platform to connect women to buyers, investors, and new market opportunities (new website as of March 8th)



Making the AfCFTA Work for Women: Opportunities



AfCFTA: Initial Wins for Women



Market opportunities for goods



Market opportunities for services



Non-tariff barriers (NTBs)



Trade facilitation



Standards



Investment



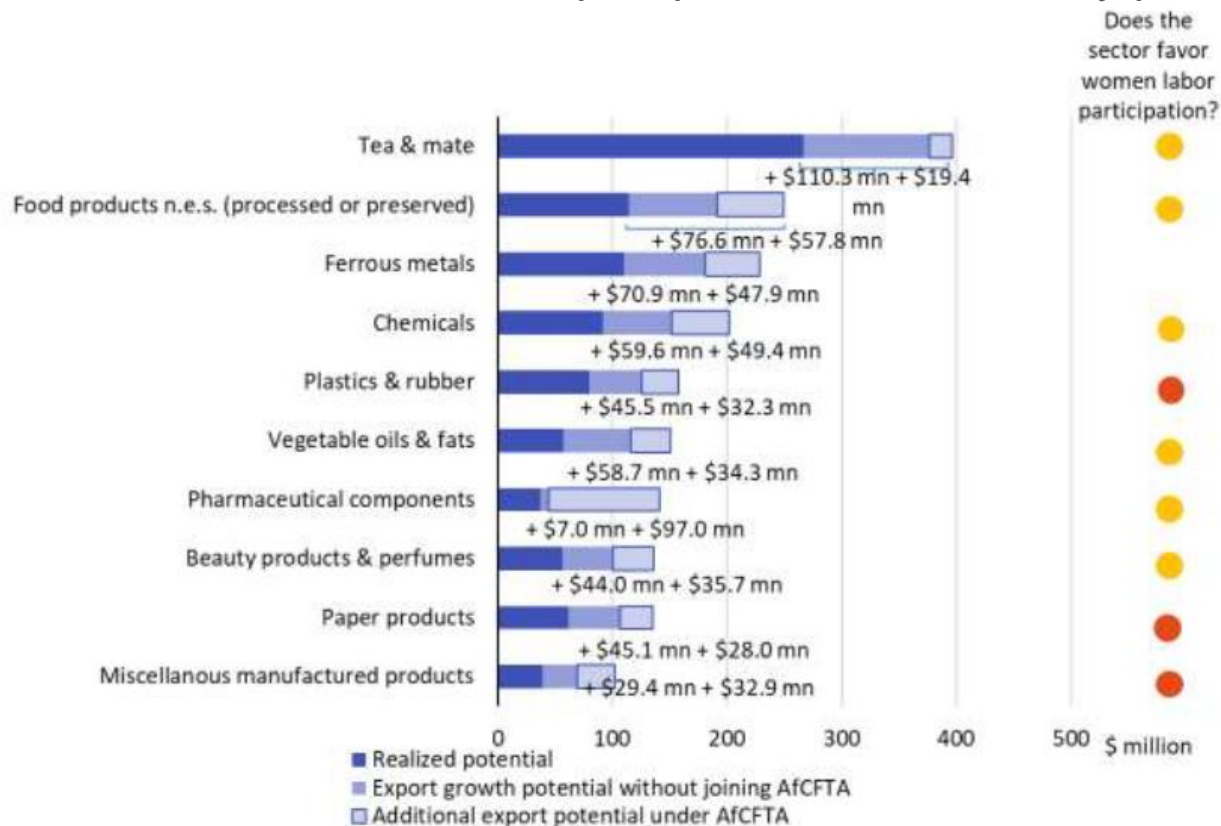
Intellectual Property



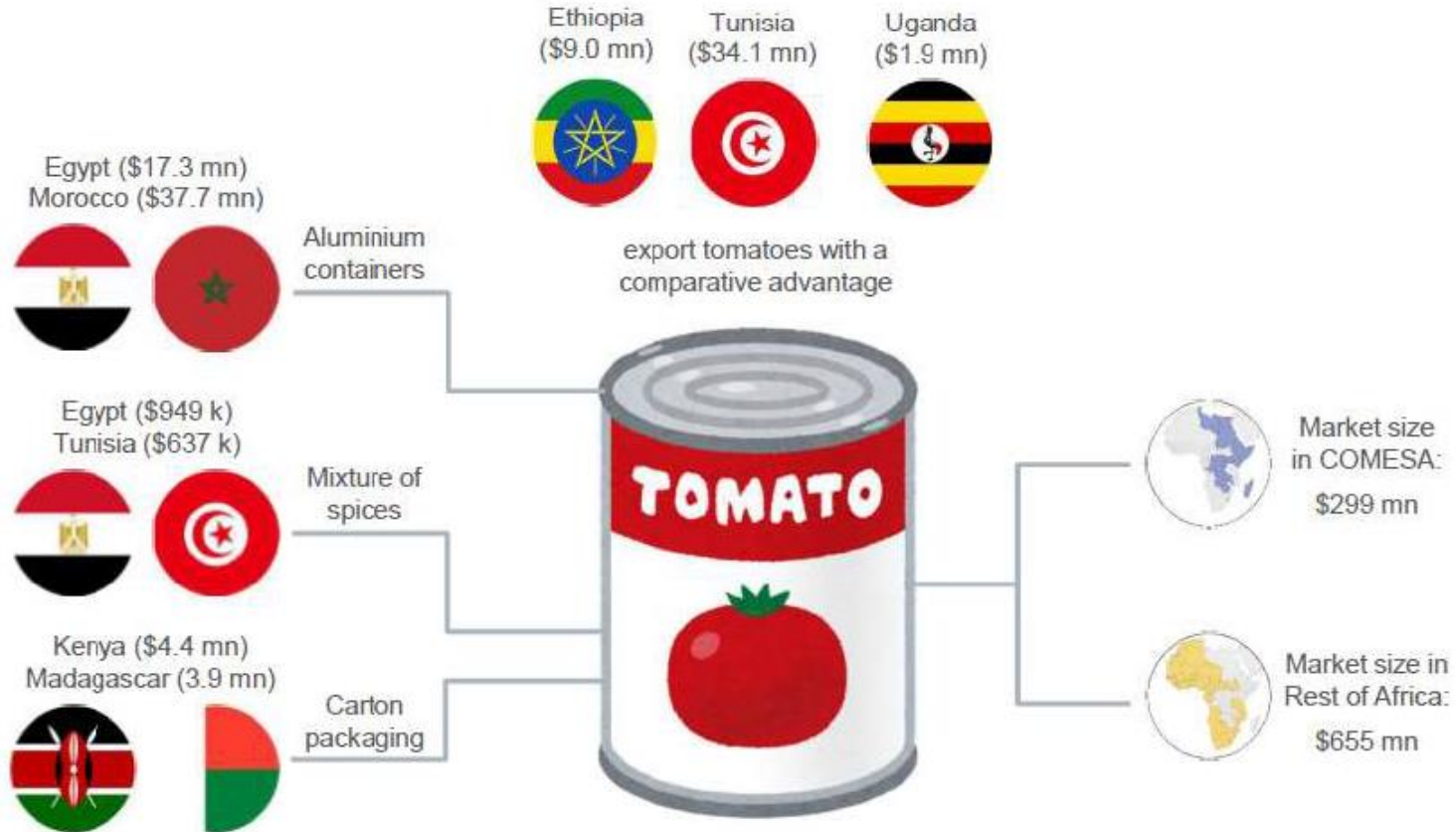
Competition

Opportunities: Leveraging Existing Value Chains

Total realized and unrealized export potential to Africa, by product



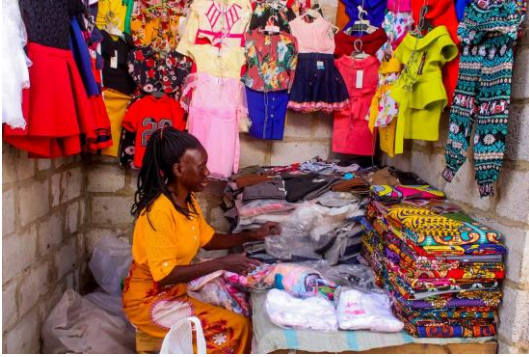
Opportunities: New value chains



Making the AfCFTA Work for Women: Initial Challenges



Current Challenges women face in trading



Informal to formal sector



Shifting from less profitable sectors



Accessing market information



Accessing adequate training



Complying with standards

Challenges women face in trading (continued)



Transporting at high costs



Facing difficulties at border facilities



Accessing financial products



Accessing info about tariffs and ROO



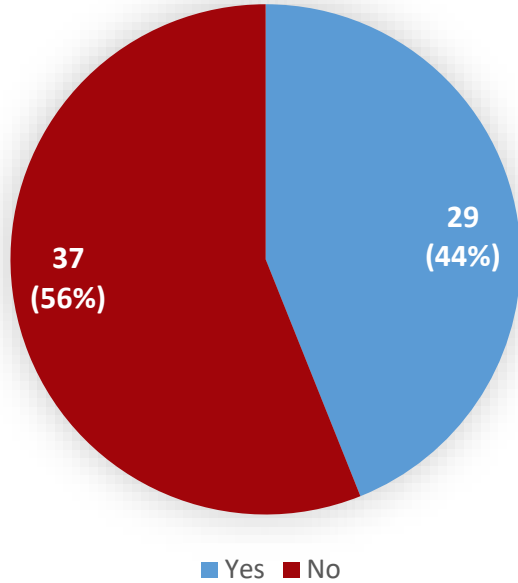
Making networks

Making the AfCFTA Work for Women: Be a Part of the Solution

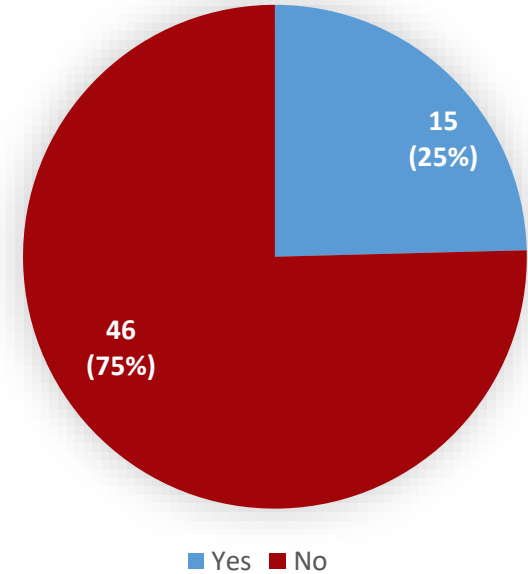


Survey of 70 African Women's Business Associations

Are most of your members taking advantage of regional trade agreements?



Since our last survey back in November 2019, has your organization been consulted on the negotiation and implementation of the AFCFTA?



1. Stay Informed



Resources:

- 9 policy briefs on trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers, standards, trade in services, ICTs and digital trade, strengthening women's associations, investment, competition, and intellectual property
- 44 validated recommendations on Phase I issues
- Reforming Public Policy Step-by-Step: An Introduction to Dialogue and Advocacy for Women's Business Associations
- Developed 3 Virtual Learning Space Modules on the AfCFTA, COMESA, ECCAS in partnership with RECs
- Institution strengthening training



2. Join the Network and Collaborate



Needs assessment:

- Exchange experiences
- Create a sound lobby group
- Facilitate access to market and networks
- Share information

Purpose of network: Vehicle for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and collaboration in order to strengthen links between women's associations and create new business opportunities.

Achievements:

- Africa-wide stakeholder workshop
- Tools for consultations
- Sub-regional consultations
- Continental strategy (ongoing)

3. Identify and advocate for women's priorities

1. Ensure equitable representation of WBAs on AfCFTA national committees and on trade facilitation committees – and improve effectiveness of representatives through
 - a) Providing accessible and affordable training for WBA representatives
 - b) Ensuring that all trade facilitation requirements are listed on the NTB monitoring tool
 - c) Providing simple explanations for all trade facilitation policies and requirements in advance of discussions at meetings
 - d) Allowing ample time for representatives to consider issues prior to meetings
2. Digitise all cross-border documentary requirements – and provide support to enable WBA to raise awareness amongst women traders
3. Improve the briefing and training provided to customs officials and implement measures to hold customs officials to account
4. Strive for continent-wide agreement on both common quality standards (for goods) and on mutual recognition of professional qualifications (for trade in services)



Examples of country-level gender-inclusive implementation

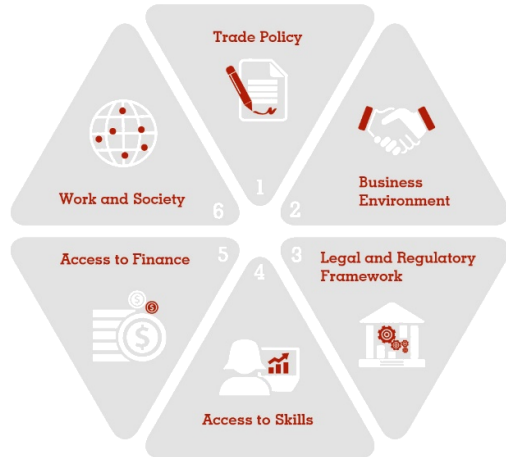


- The NTB and TF tools have been put into place in Rwanda to help women report market access procedure barriers
- The National Trade strategy from Sierra Leone that is being validated and incorporates the recommendations
- The Gambia and Lesotho's new National Trade Strategy's include recommendations as well (validated)
- The AfCFTA implementation strategy in Zambia which includes women and aims to be aligned with the recommendations discussed
- The Exporter Development Programme South Africa which builds the capacity of business to be export ready and access new markets

SheTrades Outlook: Highlights

What is SheTrades Outlook?

- An **online tool** to improve the policy ecosystem for women in trade
- **80% new data** on trade and gender
- Comprises **6 policy dimensions and 83 indicators** comparable across countries, regions and economic groupings
- Available at www.shetrades.com/outlook

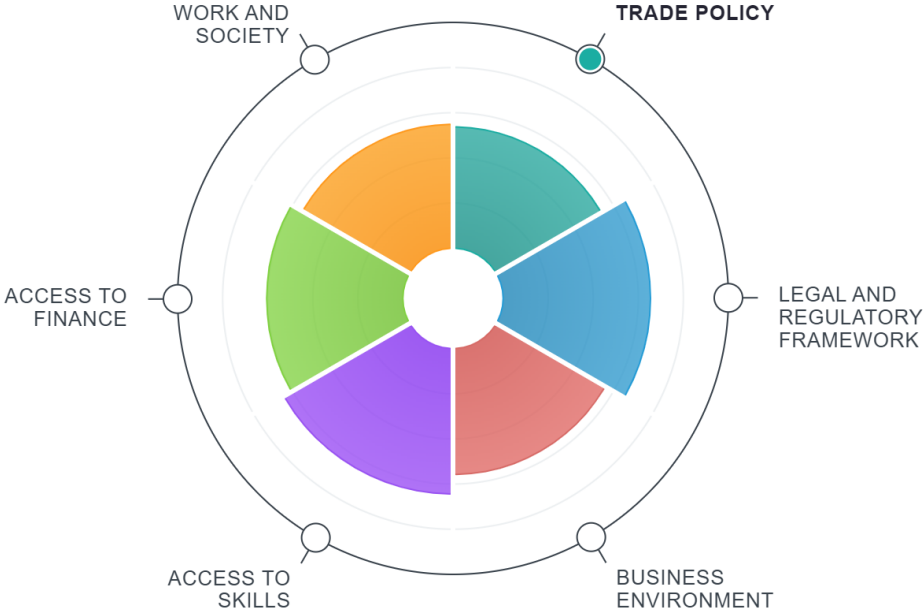


Highlights

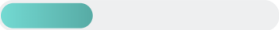
- **38 developing and developed countries + 80 good practices** in the tool
- Includes **23 African countries**:
 - Botswana
 - Eswatini
 - Gambia
 - Ghana
 - Kenya
 - Lesotho
 - Malawi
 - Mauritius
 - Namibia
 - Nigeria
 - Rwanda
 - Seychelles
 - Sierra Leone
 - South Africa
 - Uganda
 - Zambia
 - Côte d'Ivoire
 - Liberia
 - Guinea
 - Senegal
 - Mozambique
 - Cameroon
 - Zimbabwe
- **+3 African countries** in the 2021/2022 roll out:
 - Union of the Comoros
 - Egypt
 - Madagascar



SheTrades Outlook in Ghana



Consultation process



Gender-related concerns included in policies and agreements



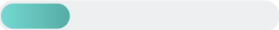
Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation



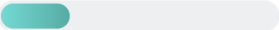
Sex-disaggregated data



Women's participation in strategic roles



Capacity building on gender issues



Compare Results

MODIFY VARIABLES AND WEIGHT



GHANA X

NIGERIA X

WESTERN AFRICA X

ACFTA X

DEFAULT WEIGHT IS 1

GHANA X

NIGERIA X

Western Africa X

ACFTA X

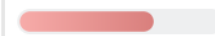
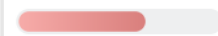
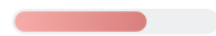
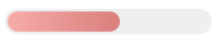
Trade Policy



Legal and Regulatory Framework



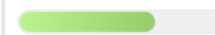
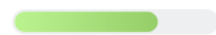
Business Environment



Access to Skills



Access to Finance



Work and Society



Total



Good practices

Repository of good practices

This repository of Good Practices aims to exchange experiences and lessons learned from various initiatives that are working to improve women's participation in trade. Each Good Practice provides background about the policy or project, key success factors, challenges and measures taken, achievements and links to more information. The Good Practices have been categorized into 10 topics, focused on most common barriers that women face when participating in trade. To explore the Good Practices of an individual country, select the country in the dropdown above or visit the corresponding country profile page.



SHOW FOR ALL COUNTRIES

ⓘ There are no good practices from Ghana

SEARCH...



Access to Skills

9 +



Access to Finance

8 +



Policies, laws and regulations that support women in trade

2 +

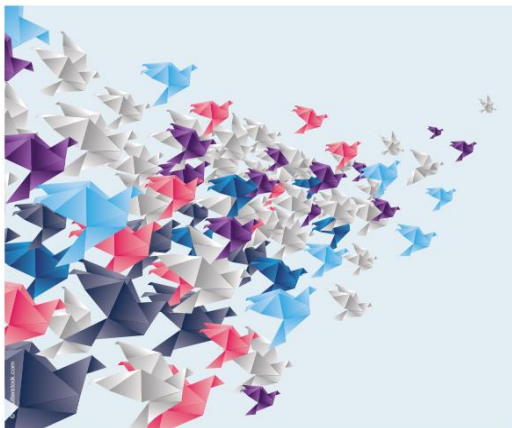


Access to Networks

3 +

3 Guides for Inclusive Policy Reform

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS



MAKING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WORK FOR WOMEN



FROM DESIGN TO EVALUATION: MAKING TRADE POLICY WORK FOR WOMEN



SheTrades



SheTrades



SheTrades



What's next?



Continental Networking

Operationalizing and strengthening the network



Regional activities

Support to ECOWAS to strengthen the ecosystem for women in the AfCFTA



In-country activities

Dialogues with policymakers and women's business associations on AfCFTA Phase II Issues



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