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YEARS

International Trade Centre

Advancing Women Empowerment through
AEO Programmes: Addressing Gender
Related Barriers in Global Trade

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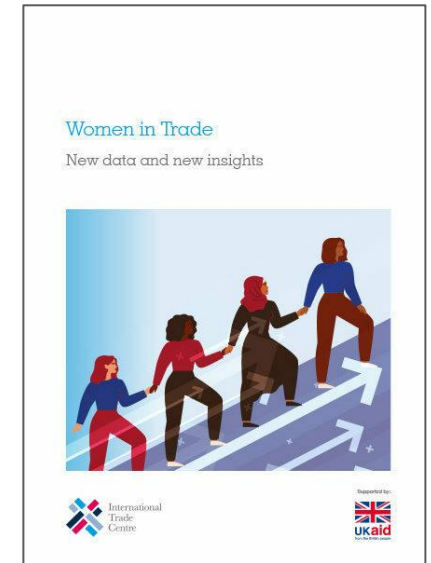


Women's participation in trade: some unique numbers that ITC provides



From ITC business surveys, in Europe, Asia, West and East Africa, Latin America:

- Only 20% of companies that export are led by women (owned or managed companies)
Only 16% of companies that import are led by women.
- Women-led exporting companies are more likely to be MSMEs than men-led exporting companies.
- Women-led exporting companies that export and/or import hire more women than men-led exporting companies.



See more at:
ntmsurvey.org and
intracen.org/resources/publications/women-in-trade

Women-led businesses struggle to comply with NTMs

- Dealing with existing procedural obstacles can be more difficult for MSMEs
- **Gender is a contributing factor.**
 - High fees – women’s lack of access to finance
 - Excessive documentation requirements – women’s lack of access to resources, information and networks
 - Discrimination – women are more likely to be subject to discrimination, sexual harassment and extortion by border officials
- This hinders **greater participation of women in trade.**

Procedural obstacles faced by women-led exporting firms, example in Asia (%)

Type of procedural obstacles	Asia
Time constraints	27.31
Informal or unusually high payment	34.1
Excessive documentation requirements	9.35
Lack of sector-specific facilities	10.73
Discriminatory behaviour of officials	2.61
Information or transparency issues	5.16
Lack of recognition or accreditation	8.86
Others	1.87
TOTAL	100

Source: ITC NTM Business Survey (2011–2020).

Women in Trade: New data and new insights <https://intracen.org/resources/publications/women-in-trade>

See more at ntmsurvey.org

Trade Facilitation helps to solve many of the problems raised



Reduces the costs of conducting trade



Reduces the time spent on conducting while protecting women from potential harassment and discrimination through automation.



Provides advantages for small businesses owned by women who often lack resources to access relevant trade information.



Ensures transparency, benefiting women-owned enterprises, especially those with fewer contacts and connections.

Promoting women's economic empowerment through trade facilitation

- **Launching public awareness campaigns** on both gender equality and increasing women's participation in the economy to break gender stereotypes in society, including in the public sector.
- **Streamlining and simplifying documentation requirements** and **implementing a single window electronic interface** to save women time and prevent customs and border officials from discriminating against them.
- **Establishing help desks for women** to provide them with a dedicated and safe channel to access business and trade information.
- **Setting up grievance redress mechanisms** so women can report business and trade malpractices.
- **Adopting a gender-responsive customs framework (WCO's GEOAT or Customs Integrity Action Plan)** and **training customs staff and border officials in trade and gender issues** to eliminate both excessive bureaucracy and gender-based discrimination in customs.

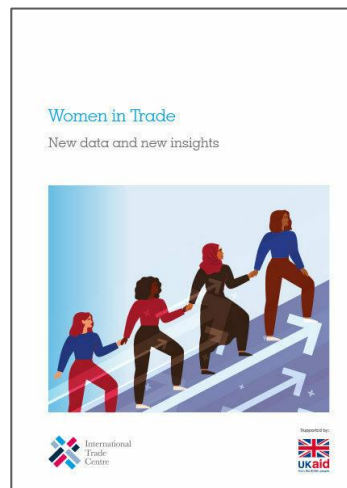


ITC SheTrades Outlook



- An online tool to help governments assess, monitor and improve the policy landscape for women in trade
- Accessible here: <https://outlook.shetrades.com/>
- Covers 6 policy dimensions and 55 indicators comparable across countries, regions and economic groupings
- Business Environment pillar includes indicators on trade facilitation
 - Access to trade and customs information
 - Mechanisms to report trade malpractices
 - Single window electronic interface
 - Gender-sensitive guidelines in customs
 - Training for customs officials on trade and gender

<https://intracen.org/resources/publications/women-in-trade>



01	Trade Policy	
02	Legal and Regulatory Framework	
03	Business Environment	
04	Access to Skills	
05	Access to Finance	
06	Work and Society	

Better access to information...



Globaltradehelpdesk.org

[African Trade Observatory](http://AfricanTradeObservatory)

... and anonymized channels to report obstacles to trade and misconduct at borders

[Trade Obstacles Alert Mechanism](http://TradeObstaclesAlertMechanism)



Stay connected!

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