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

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“For women, financial independence is a matter of necessity”

.....Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz

“Investing in women means investing in the people who invests in everyone else”Melinda Gates



History: Understanding Gender Related Barriers.

SCOPE

- Local and long-distance from the distant past.

CROSS-BORDER TRADE

- Seme, Idiroko, engaging with neighboring countries like Benin, togo, and Cameroon.

NON- TANGIBLE VALUES

- Bringing in their wake resilience, resourcefulness, and ability to navigate complex trading networks.

GAPS

- “low-level entrepreneurship as they are primarily involved in **informal trade**, with **minimum revenue**.



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Plugging the Gaps

Regulatory Environment – Gender blind policies - Embracing Collaboration

- Social bias – Industrial Training Fund (ITF), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), NGOs
- Economic structures -



PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVITY THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (OGA's).

Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN).

39,654,385 Registered businesses

About 40% owned by women.



OUTCOMES OF NCS'S INTERACTION WITH WOMEN IN TRADE (August 2023)

Very low access to affordable finance

Poor access to Business Development Service

Inadequate infrastructure/High cost of doing business



Providing Solutions: AEO

- ✓ Capacity Building.
- ✓ Access to relevant information on Customs Procedures & resources.
- ✓ Gender responsive infrastructure - AEO
- ✓ Considerations for women owned businesses in AEO.
- ✓ Match-making/ opportunities for collaboration.



Impact: Success Stories

- ✓ The story of two SMEs who have heaved a heavy sigh of relief.





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Thank you for listening!

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