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

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Mariyam Raziyeva, UNCTAD
Contents

• Why gender-in-trade statistics?
• UNCTAD’s framework for measurements GT
• UNCTAD’s projects in GT statistics
• Conclusions
Why gender-in-trade statistics?
Trade and trade policy affect gender equality

- Trade is NOT gender-neutral
- Quality gender-in-trade statistics is critical to develop gender-responsive trade policies

Women’s economic empowerment on the global agenda

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a goal & a cross-sectional issue
- Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment - A call for gender-focused statistics related to trade
UNCTAD’s conceptual framework
• Derived from the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality
• Aim of the framework: help national statistical offices to **review what data already exist** for the measurement of gender and trade
Statistical data sources

- labour force surveys
- health and education statistics
- time-use surveys
- household surveys
- official statistics on international trade
- employment statistics
- business registers
- statistics on employment in trading businesses
- structural earnings survey by occupation or skill
- international databases on trade policy measures

These data need to be linked across datasets held by different agencies

Challenges
- Data confidentiality
- Lack of common survey populations across statistical domains
- Legal frameworks
- IT infrastructure limitations
- Capacity gaps
UNCTAD’s projects
UNCTAD’s projects on gender-in-trade statistics

**European Commission DG Trade**

2020-21 – Methodologies were developed jointly with DG Trade

This project aimed to advance both macrolevel analysis based on publicly available European statistics, and the use and linking of the micro level data held by ESS statistical authorities to enable the compilation of new statistics on gender-in-trade.

**UN Development Account project 2020-2023**

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

• Microdata to identify businesses in international trade → linking to individuals who are employed, manage/own the business, education, jobs, earnings → inform trade policy

• Data linking is a cost-effective alternative to developing new surveys

• Georgia and Kazakhstan have compiled new indicators of gender-in-trade by reusing existing data

• Four pilots ongoing in Africa region: Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe
### Gender and trade indicators - Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macro- &amp; micro-level</th>
<th>Statistics, indicators and tools to capture where trade may have gender-differentiated impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia</strong>&lt;br&gt;(ECE pilot country of DA project)</td>
<td><strong>Macro-level indicators</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Share of women</strong> employed in five most export intensive sectors <strong>by skill</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Women-to-men wage ratios</strong> in five most export intensive sectors <strong>by skill</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <strong>Gender pay gap</strong> in five most export intensive sectors <strong>by skill</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Micro-level indicators with micro data linking</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Number of employed persons and annual employment growth in two-way traders and importers <strong>by sex</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Women-to-men employment ratios among two-way traders and importers <strong>by skill levels</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Employment distribution among two-way traders and importers <strong>by sex and skill levels</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Average monthly wages and wage growth among two-way traders and importers <strong>by sex</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Women-to-men pay ratio among two-way traders and importers&lt;br&gt;- Gender pay gap among two-way traders and importers <strong>by skill levels</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Number and share of women, men and legal owners of trading companies <strong>by trading status</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Women-to-men employment ratio in trading companies <strong>by gender-specific ownership, residence status and skill level</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Women-to-men wage ratio in trading companies <strong>by gender-specific ownership, residence status and skill level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender and trade in Georgia: micro data linking

Figure 1: Employment ratio by ownership in two-way trader firms

- Majority female ownership
- Majority male ownership

Figure 2: Gender pay ratio by ownership in two-way trader firms

- Majority female ownership
- Majority male ownership
## Gender and trade in Georgia: gendered impact of COVID-19

### Table 1: Y-o-y change in employment by firm trading status (2020 and 2021, percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment, y-o-y change</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>men</td>
<td>women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exporter</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importer</td>
<td>-21.3%</td>
<td>-23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-way trader</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
<td>-6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-12.8%</td>
<td>-14.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are country specific and cannot be generalized→ need to compile indicators rather than make assumptions
Moving globally

• UNCTAD has prepared *Guidelines on the compilation of gender and trade indicators* with country case studies which could be extended to consider aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy.

• **UNCTAD online training course on trade and gender** is delivered annually in French and English.

• UNCTAD and the United States leading global efforts by trade statisticians to include **recommendations to compile gender equality data in the UN Trade Statistics Manuals**.

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

UNCTAD’s approach is based on reusing existing statistical data and building the capacity of national statistical systems to link their data ➞ new insights on gender equality in international trade.

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

Data about firms by trading status is needed: micro data linking provides the most accurate statistics about gender and trade if data about firms by trading status are collected. 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.

UNCTAD collaborates with many international organizations and countries. It is happy to engage further with interested organizations and countries to advance this work.
Thank you!

Contact: Mariyam Raziyeva, mariyam.raziyeva@un.org
Anu Peltola, anu.peltola@un.org

We need more gender data to inform policy and achieve #GenerationEquality