

Gender-in-trade statistics

Linking existing data for new insights

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Why gender-in-trade statistics?



Trade and trade policy affect gender equality

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

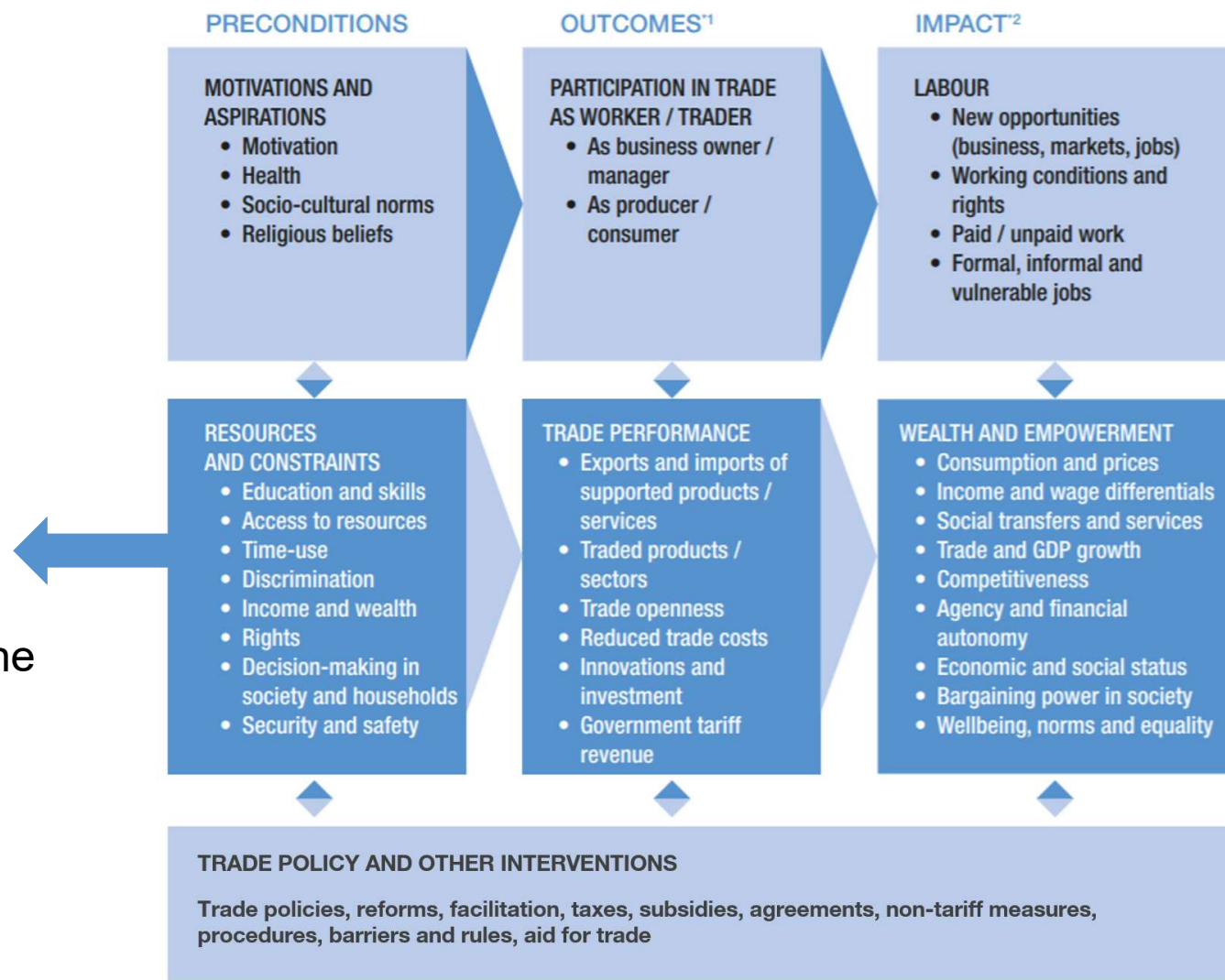
Women's economic empowerment on the global agenda

- Beijing Platform for Action (1995) – gender & economic statistics
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) – trade & gender link
- 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



¹ Immediate short-term outcome of a change

² Longer-term effects of the outcomes on lives and living conditions.

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

Macro- & micro-level		Statistics, indicators and tools to capture where trade may have gender-differentiated impacts
Georgia (ECE pilot country of DA project)	Macro-level indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of women employed in five most export intensive sectors by skill • Women-to-men wage ratios in five most export intensive sectors by skill • Gender pay gap in five most export intensive sectors by skill
	Micro-level indicators with micro data linking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of employed persons and annual employment growth in two-way traders and importers by sex • Women-to-men employment ratios among two-way traders and importers by skill levels • Employment distribution among two-way traders and importers by sex and skill levels • Average monthly wages and wage growth among two-way traders and importers by sex • Women-to-men pay ratio among two-way traders and importers • Gender pay gap among two-way traders and importers by skill levels • Number and share of women, men and legal owners of trading companies by trading status • Women-to-men employment ratio in trading companies by gender-specific ownership, residence status and skill level • Women-to-men wage ratio in trading companies by gender-specific ownership, residence status and skill level

Gender and trade in Georgia: micro data linking

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

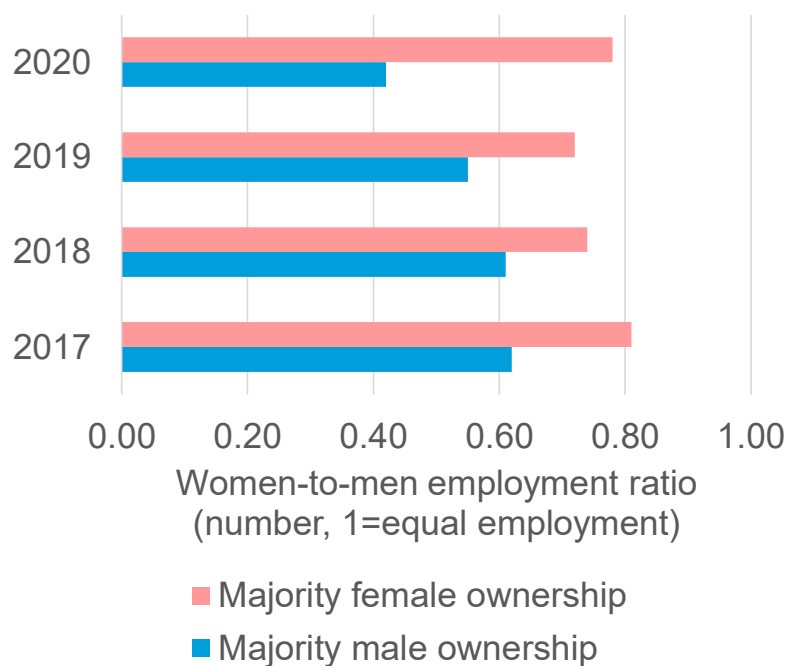
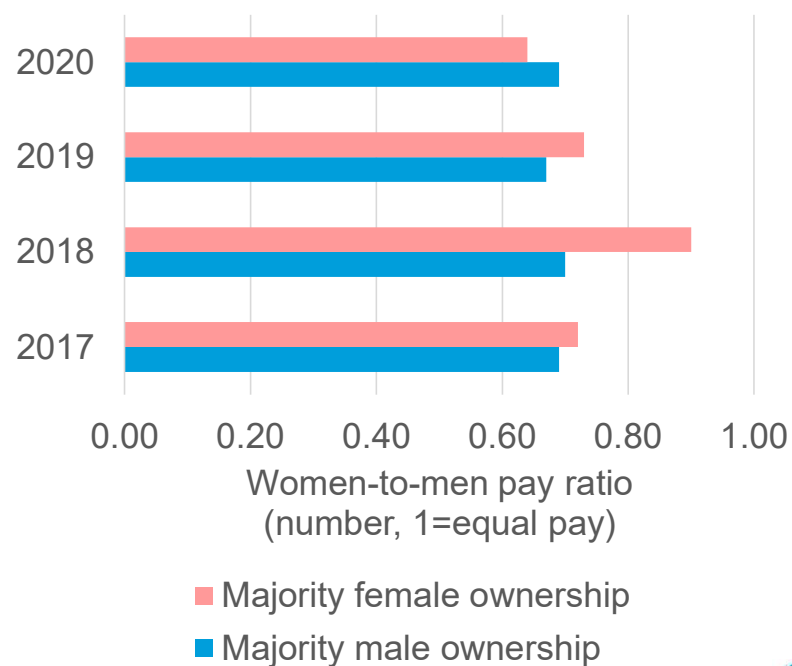


Figure 2: Gender pay ratio by ownership in two-way trader firms



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)

Employment, y-o-y change	2020		2021	
	men	women	men	women
Exporter	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Importer	-21.3%	-23.1%	8.4%	18.1%
Two-way trader	-4.8%	-6.2%	-2.9%	5.5%
Total	-12.8%	-14.4%	2.1%	11.0%

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.

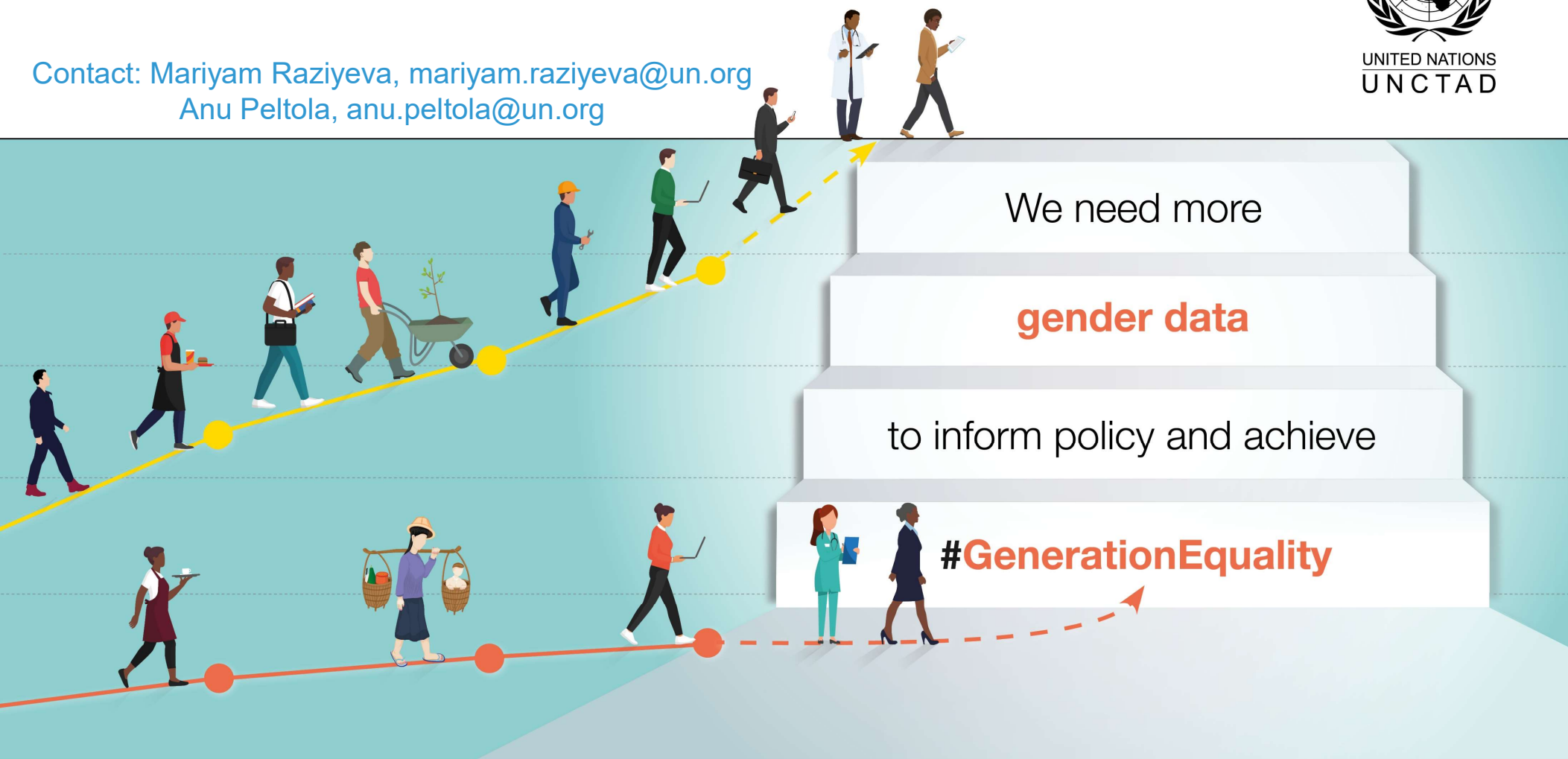
UNCTAD collaborates with many international organizations and countries. It is happy to engage further with interested organizations and countries to advance this work

Thank you!



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We need more

gender data

to inform policy and achieve

#GenerationEquality