Growing needs for gender-in-trade data and measurement framework

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Why – these statistics?
Policy data needs

Trade and trade policy affect gender equality

- Trade is NOT gender-neutral – impacts on employments, income, agency, wellbeing
- Quality gender-in-trade statistics are critical for more balanced & targeted policy
- Trade Agreements, (EU, Canada, Chile etc.) require monitoring of gender impacts
- Going beyond trade and economy – to measure their impact

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
Development in global statistics

• UN Statistical Commission
  • Set up a New Advisory Board to Mainstream Gender in Official Statistics
• UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
  • Selected two new areas for gender mainstreaming – climate change & trade
• UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS)
  • Forming a set of core business indicators - linking business and trade
  • Extending to linking these to gender
• UN Trade Statistics Manuals’ update
  • Will include recommendations on linking trade statistics with gender data
How – to fill the need?
- 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 should be linked across datasets held by different agencies

Challenges

- Data confidentiality
- Lack of common survey populations across domains
- Legal frameworks and access
- IT infrastructure limitations
- Capacity and knowledge gaps
What - resources are there?
Resources to support countries’ efforts

• UNCTAD Conceptual Framework for Measuring Gender-in-Trade, 2018
• UNCTAD Guidelines on the compilation of gender and trade indicators, 2023, with country case studies
• Ongoing work by UNCTAD, WTO and OECD to measure e-commerce and the digital economy, including gender equality
• UNCTAD online training course on trade and gender, delivered annually in French and English free of charge
• Upcoming recommendations in the UN Trade Statistics Manuals to consider gender aspects & core set of business indicators
• In 2023, UNCTAD will release a set of gender and trade indicators in UNCTADstat based on macro level official statistics (indicative)
• Sharing of results from pilots in Georgia and Kazakhstan and other interested countries, including four pilots in Africa (Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe), with the support of UNCTAD, UNECE and UNECA
Conclusions

We can provide new insights by reusing and linking existing statistical data & building capacity to do so. Dedicated surveys fill gaps.

Linking can be challenging but early pilots enable sharing of good practices in different data environments.

There can be many approaches: Microdata linking is the most accurate, but macro linking provides valuable indications for more countries.

Policies need more integrated statistics for more effective measures – trade and gender is one of pioneering areas.
Thank you!

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