Concepts and practices in measuring gender-in-trade

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Contents

- Microlinking as a preferred method for gender-in-trade analysis

- Main building blocks of the Microlinking approach (field of study, data sources, statistical indicators)

- Key lessons of the Gender-in-Trade Project:
  1) Georgia (2021),
  2) Kazakhstan (2022)
  3) UNECA pilot in Africa (ongoing)

- UNECE Survey results

Trade and gender statistics: measurement approaches

Two general approaches in terms of data collection:
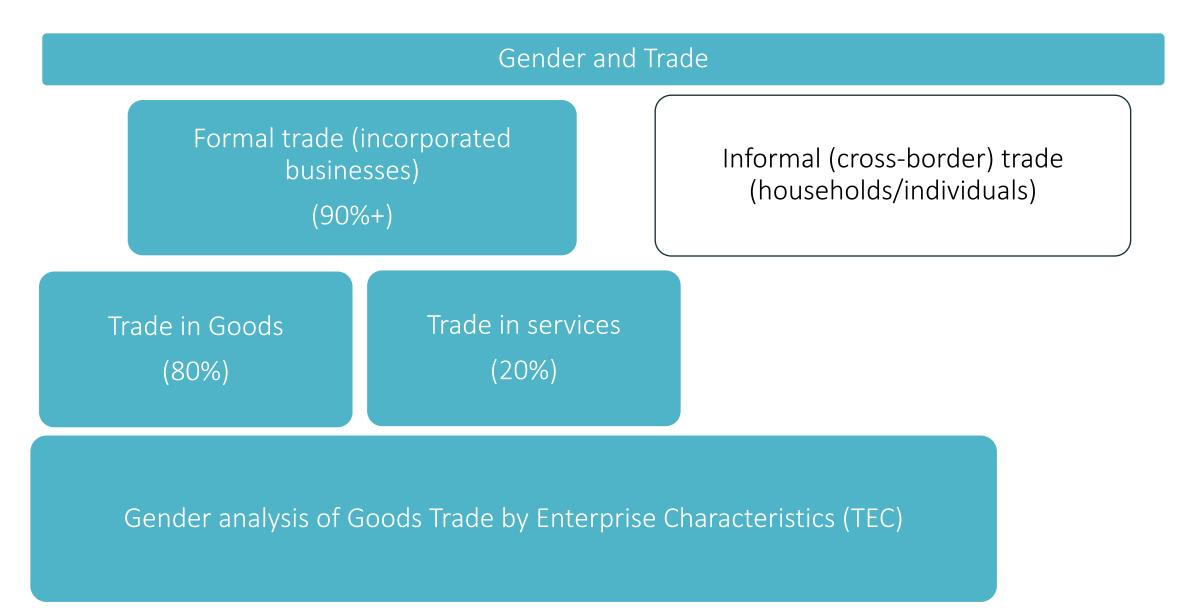
1. Use of available data:

      - Macroeconomic estimates ("top-down" approach): Canada, New Zealand, Finland

      - Use of enterprise-level data, microlinking ("bottom-up" approach): e.g. Finland, New Zealand, Georgia, Kazakhstan

2. Data collection through specialized (ad hoc) surveys of enterprises (e.g., Uruguay, Chile) and individuals (e.g., West Africa cross-border study by WB/GIZ)

Gender and trade statistics: structure

Gender and Trade

Formal trade (incorporated businesses) (90%+)

Informal (cross-border) trade (households/individuals)

Trade in Goods (80%)

Trade in services (20%)

Gender analysis of Goods Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC)

Gender-in-trade statistics – use of business-level data

The main focus: *merging trade data with enterprise-level data* *mostly from* **business statistics surveys.**

Benefits:

- No need to collect additional data

- Flexibility of analysis

- All types of disaggregations possible, given the available variables

Primary limitations for NSOs:
- Availability of trade microdata: institutional ownership and data exchange between NSO and data owners
- Identifiers for enterprises in the statistical business register and customs database

Gender-in-trade and enterprise statistics: dimensions and indicators

Dimensions	Basic indicators	Further Disaggregations
Employment	Share of women in employment	- Company characteristics (size, age, geographical location, foreign/domestic ownership, male/female ownership, etc.)
Earnings	Gender pay gap	- Employee skills (managers, high-, medium-, low-skill workers) - Educational attainment of employees
Ownership of resources	Share of women owners	- Other employee characteristics (age, length of service, types of jobs, etc.)

Gender and trade: differentiated indicators

▪Basic indicators can be analyzed by various disaggregations in order to:

Gain additional insights about the gender aspects

Estimate the impact of various factors on the basic indicators, e.g., the impact on gender pay gap by skill levels or industry groups

▪ Hence, the disaggregations may include

i) the breakdown by companies: by trading status, by industry and industry groups, by origin of company ownership, etc.

ii) the breakdown by employees and owners: by skill levels, by educational attainment, by gender-specific ownership shares, etc.

Pilots in UNECE: Georgia (2021) and Kazakhstan (2022)

- Microlinking – in both Georgia and Kazakhstan

- Sectoral approach in Georgia - linking export products (HS) to the domestic production (NACE)

- Critical points:
  - Availability of trade microdata at the NSOs
  - Unique identifiers used for Microlinking
  - Non-trade data used from NSO surveys
  - Strong cooperation and active involvement of the NSOs in the process

UNECA Pilots (under way)

- Four countries participating (Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Cameroon)
- National workshops conducted (March-April 2023)

- Challenges:
  - Trade microdata not fully available to the NSO (confidentiality)
  - Weak statistical business registers
  - Ownership data not easily accessible
  - Non-trade data used from NSO survey

UNECA Pilots (cont.)

- Opportunities:

  - Identification of the existing challenges – opportunity for developing fundamental statistical capacity and data exchange mechanisms

  - Additional leverage to strengthen MoUs on data exchange between institutions
  - Use of alternative data sources: administrative data from the Kenyan Revenue Authority to calculate gender-in-trade indicators for all three dimensions

UNECE Survey of NSOs on Gender-in-Trade

- Responses received from 9 countries:
  - *Armenia*
  - *Azerbaijan*
  - *Belarus*
  - *Georgia*
  - *Kazakhstan*
  - *Moldova*
  - *Tajikistan*
  - *Ukraine*
  - *Uzbekistan*

Survey results (1): general issues

- ***Customs*** was a *key agency collecting goods trade data* in all surveyed countries

- The ***NSOs*** were the *main producers of official statistics* on goods trade in all surveyed countries

- *All but one surveyed country* indicated *enterprise-level data availability* on goods trade

- *All surveyed countries* use *the same identifiers* for businesses across different government agencies

Survey results (2): data sources

- **8 countries** indicated they *regularly conduct enterprise surveys* on employment and wages.

- Of these, *4 countries* conduct *complete enumeration* of enterprises, while the remaining *4 countries* have a *mixed system* (generally complete enumeration of large enterprises and sampling of SMEs) with sufficiently large sample size

- Additional breakdowns by *occupations (5 countries)* and *education level (3 countries)* were available

- The majority of the surveyed countries had data on enterprise ownership and enterprise management. However, differentiation by sex was available in 3 countries for enterprise ownership and in 5 countries for enterprise management.

Survey results (3): challenges of production and use of gender-in-trade statistics

- Primary users of gender-in-trade statistics indicated by the countries comprised:
  - *Government agencies* (in particular, Ministries of Economy, Finance, Trade, Labour, Education, Foreign Affairs; the National Bank; specialized agencies);
  - Presidential and Parliamentary *Commissions on Gender, Women's Affairs*;
  - *NGOs* working on gender issues;
  - *International organizations* (UN agencies)
  - *Academic institutions*

- Challenges identified by the countries included:

  - A*dditional resources* for data processing and analysis, calculation of indicators (additional work for statisticians, higher level of representativeness needed in sampling surveys;
  - Availability of *methodology* on compilation of gender-in-trade statistics;
  - *Additional burden* on respondents and administrative bodies with regard to sex-disaggregated data on employment, occupations
  - *Need to inform users and promote interest* with regard to gender-in-trade statistics

Conclusions

- Production of gender-in-trade statistics is based on a clear methodology of using available information by means of linking trade- and non-trade data (Microlinking)

- UNECE pilots and the short survey show that the production of many basic and disaggregated indicators is feasible for the countries without significant preparatory activities

- Identified data gaps can be turned into opportunities and serve as additional areas for capacity development

- Work with the users is a key activity for making the production of gender-in-trade statistics sustainable

- Gender-in-trade statistics is a relatively new and developing area. It is expected to be mainstreamed into the process of regular statistical production