AGENDA

Welcome and Overview
– Morgan Mickle, Senior Program Officer, USAID Women’s Economic Empowerment Community of Practice (USAID WEE CoP), Banyan Global

President Biden’s 2022 Trade Policy Agenda
– Jamila Thompson, Senior Advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative

The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
– Deborah Winkler, Senior Economist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, World Bank Group

Moderated Panel Discussion with Dr. Bama Athreya
– Judith Fessehaie, Senior Programme Officer, International Trade Centre
– Ann Dela Apekey, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Manager, The West Africa Trade and Investment Hub (WATIH)
– Kafui Djonou, Senior Project Management Specialist, Alternate Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR), The WATIH

Questions from the Audience
– Malini Patel, Senior Associate, USAID WEE CoP, Banyan Global

Wrap-Up and Announcements
USAID WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Currently 1,000+ members

Gather and share evidence

Facilitate learning among members

Foster engagement opportunities
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Build awareness of the links between trade and gender equality and women’s economic empowerment

2. Convey the potential for trade policies, facilitation, and systems to accelerate gender equality and women’s economic empowerment

3. Drive change by removing trade barriers for women and creating inclusive policies, procedures and systems
PRESIDENT BIDEN’S 2022 TRADE POLICY AGENDA
Jamila Thompson
Senior Advisor
U.S. Trade Representative
THE ROLE OF TRADE IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY
Deborah Winkler
Senior Economist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice
World Bank Group
Why did we write this report?

Provide evidence-based facts and recommendations on how to improve women’s wellbeing through trade:

• Explain the **linkages between trade and women** in their different roles – as workers, consumers, decision makers

• Identify **new global trade opportunities for women** – services, global value chains (GVCs), and the digital economy

• Identify **policies that reduce discrimination against women** while building significant human capital

• Collect **new sex-disaggregated data** across countries
Main findings
Firms that engage in international trade employ more women.

- Exporter: 33%
- Nonexporter: 24%
- Importer: 33%
- Nonimporter: 28%
The gender wage gap is smaller in trading firms

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Women working in firms engaged in trade are more likely to be employed formally.

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Trade liberalization also benefits women as consumers...
… and as decision makers

- Trade has increased **female bargaining power**
  
  In Bangladesh, for example, young women in villages that have been exposed to the export-intensive garment sector:
  
  - have delayed marriage and childbirth, and
  - young girls have gained an additional 1.5 years of schooling.

- Overall, trade seems to have **reduced the employment, wage and formality gaps of women and empowered women as consumers and decision makers.**
However, trade may have negative effects on some women

- Women have been particularly vulnerable to the Covid-19 shock:
  - Female-intensive sectors – such as apparel and tourism – have been severely hit during the pandemic
  - Female-intensive occupations offer fewer opportunities for remote work

- Women still don’t break glass ceilings:
  - GVC firms are less likely to be female-owned or female-managed relative to non-GVC firms

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
What can policy makers do to increase women’s participation in global trade?

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Eliminate pink tariffs

• Female workers are concentrated in sectors that suffer from higher trade costs

- The sector with the highest female employment share – food and beverages – faces average import tariffs on inputs that are more than twice as high as the sector with the lowest share – mining

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Beyond tariffs, better policies can help women to maximize the benefits of trade

Constraints for women in their trade-related roles

At the border
- Tariffs
- Nontariff measures
- Discrimination/Harassment

Beyond the border
- Access to education, finance, and digital technologies
- Legal discrimination
- Social, cultural, and behavioral constraints

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Going forward, what more can trade do for women?

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Services are increasingly important in the global economy including for female employment.

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
The digital economy could help women gain even more from trade

- **Digital technologies** such as electronic commerce platforms:
  - bring female producers and traders **closer to markets**
  - offer female consumers a larger **variety of products at lower costs**
  - make it easier for **female entrepreneurs to borrow**
  - deal with mobility constraints and cultural barriers faced by women by **reducing face-to-face interactions** when trading

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Countries increasingly integrate into global value chains which tend to create more and better jobs for women.

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality
Collective efforts to promote an inclusive trade agenda
A collective effort...

• There is growing awareness that women and trade are connected

• Governments, civil society, business, and international organizations are increasingly integrating women in their agendas
  - Governments invest in infrastructure and develop women’s skills
  - Firms provide flexible labor arrangement
  - The international community develops rules on digital trade, open services and GVC trade

Source: Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality

USAID WEE CoP October 2022 Learning Event
...to promote inclusive trade

• Going forward:
  - Maintenance and strengthening of rules-based and transparent trade
  - Impact evaluation of international assistance and domestic programs to identify successful interventions
  - Further analysis and technical assistance on gender-related topics
  - Collection of sex-disaggregated data
PANEL DISCUSSION
PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATOR

Bama Athreya
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub and the Inclusive Development Hub
USAID

PANELISTS

Judith Fessehaie
Senior Programme Officer
International Trade Centre

Kafui Djonou
Senior Project Management Specialist, Alternate COR
WATIH

Ann Dela Apekey
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Manager
WATIH
WRAP UP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Participant Poll

Call for Member Spotlights
Want to feature your activity in a future USAID WEE CoP monthly communication?
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