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

- 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
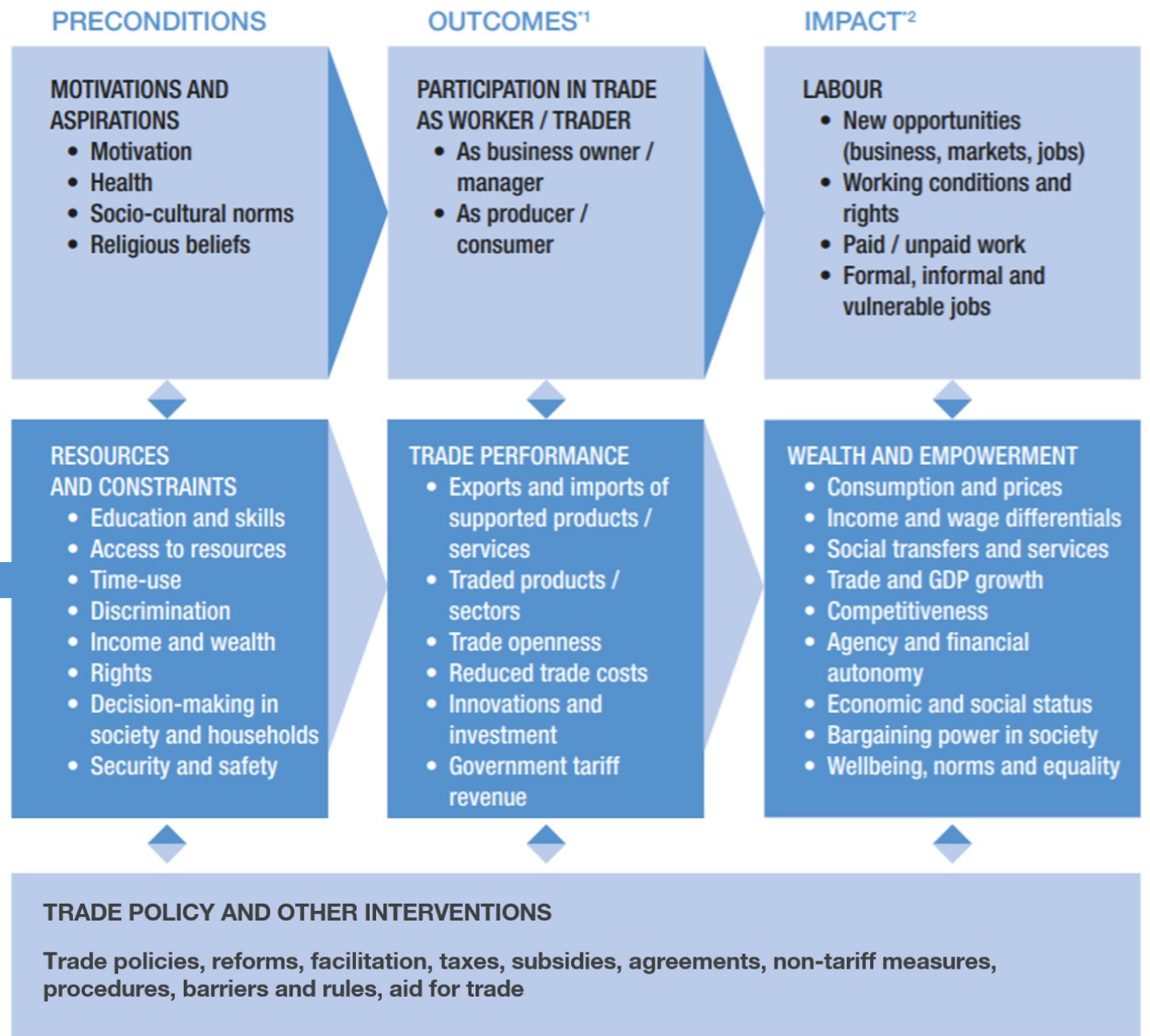
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Development in global statistics

- 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?

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- 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

PRECONDITIONS

MOTIVATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS
- Motivation
- Health
- Socio-cultural norms
- Religious beliefs

RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Education and skills
- Access to resources
- Time-use
- Discrimination
- Income and wealth
- Rights
- Decision-making in society and households
- Security and safety

OUTCOMES[1]

PARTICIPATION IN TRADE AS WORKER / TRADER
- As business owner / manager
- As producer / consumer

TRADE PERFORMANCE
- Exports and imports of supported products / services
- Traded products / sectors
- Trade openness
- Reduced trade costs
- Innovations and investment
- Government tariff revenue

IMPACT[2]

LABOUR
- New opportunities (business, markets, jobs)
- Working conditions and rights
- Paid / unpaid work
- Formal, informal and vulnerable jobs

WEALTH AND EMPOWERMENT
- Consumption and prices
- Income and wage differentials
- Social transfers and services
- Trade and GDP growth
- Competitiveness
- Agency and financial autonomy
- Economic and social status
- Bargaining power in society
- Wellbeing, norms and equality

TRADE POLICY AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Trade policies, reforms, facilitation, taxes, subsidies, agreements, non-tariff measures, procedures, barriers and rules, aid for 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 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

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What - resources are there?

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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

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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.