



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# Enhancing the resilience of female informal cross-border traders

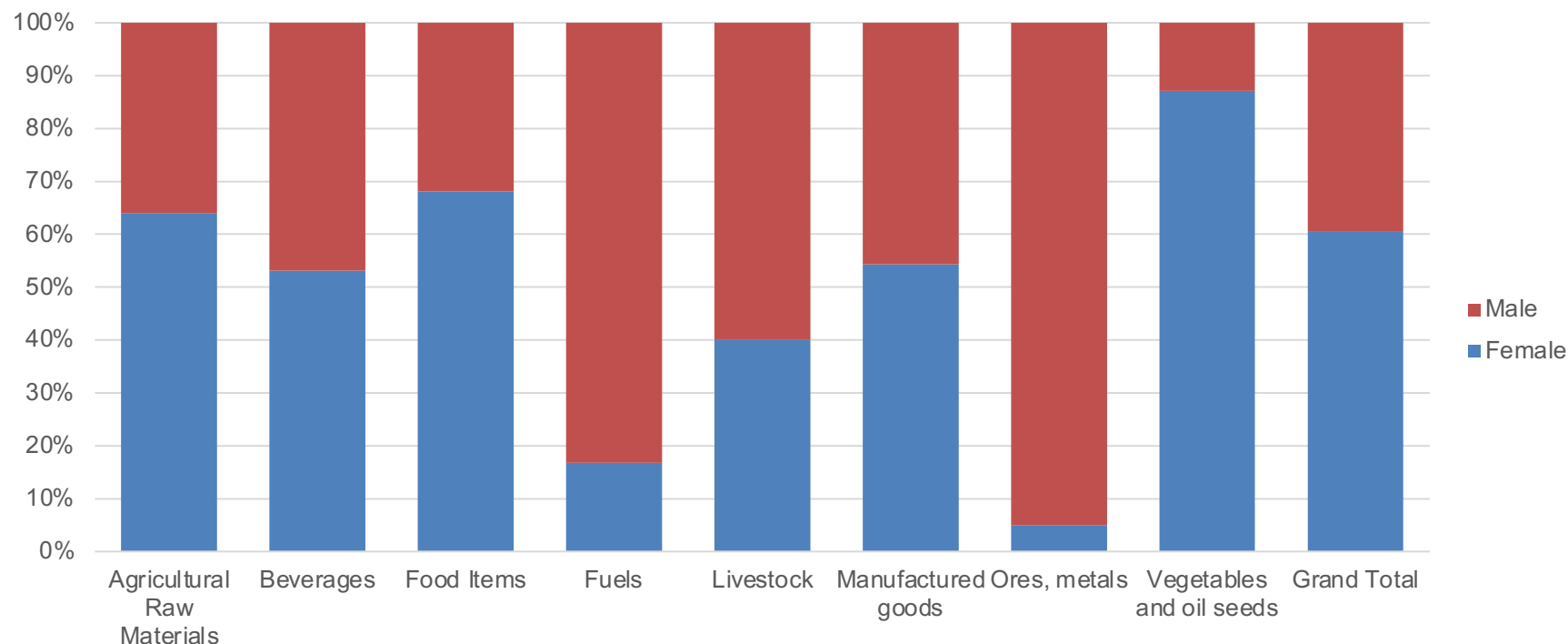
Economic Commission for Africa



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# Gendered dimensions of ICBT in ECOWAS

Composition of commodities traded by gender



Source: ECA-AFREXIMBANK pilot ICBT data collection exercise along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor

Female traders carry out **61 percent** of informal cross-border trade transactions

Women more likely to trade **agricultural** vs. manufactured products

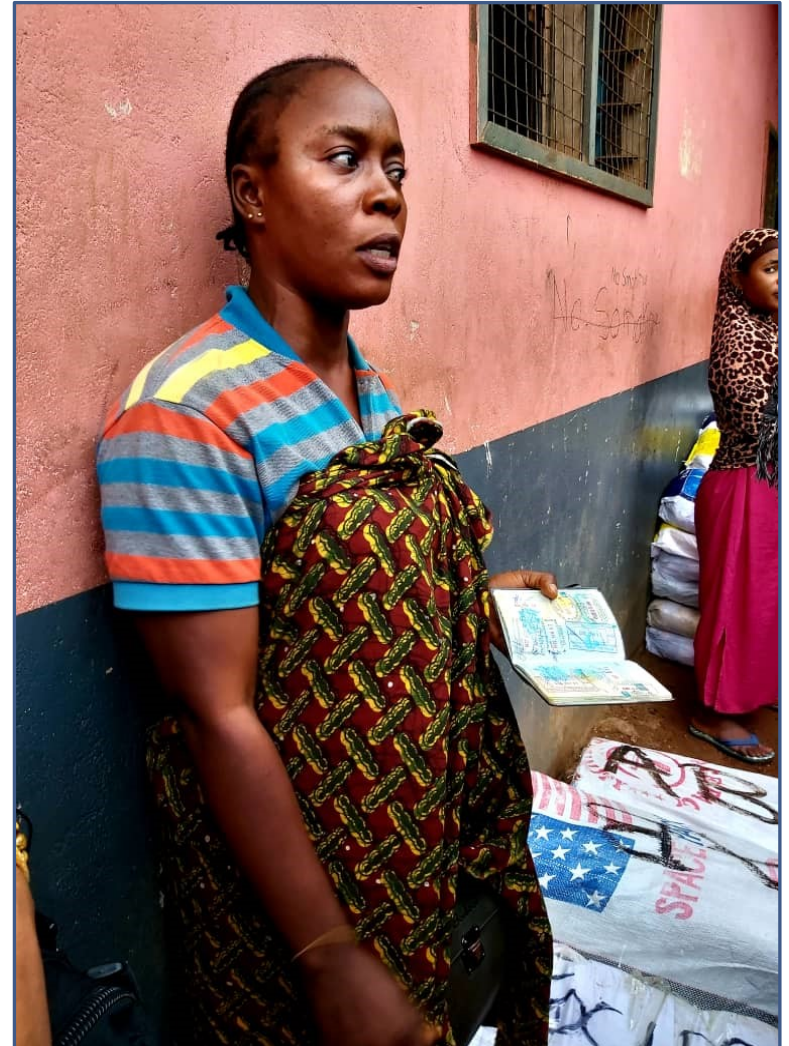
# ICBT challenges facing women

Limited knowledge of trade regulations & procedures

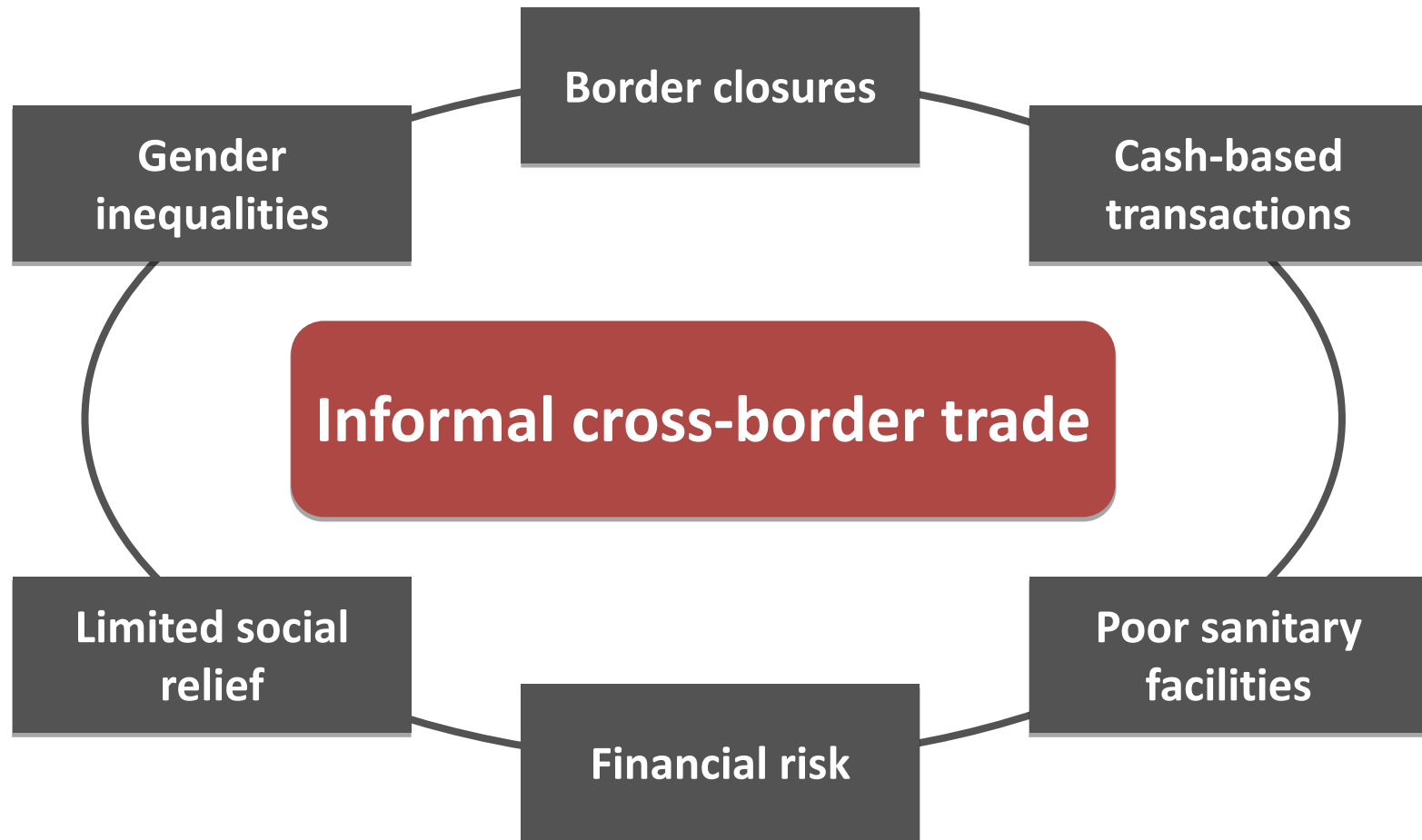
Sexual harassment, corruption and extortion

Limited access to finance

Inadequate (gender-friendly) infrastructure



# COVID-19: a blow to ICBT



# COVID-19: customized response for informal traders



## Border management

- Reopen ICBT at official border crossings with sanitary, testing & quarantine facilities
- Execute partial-reopening in a manner that avoids overcrowded borders
- Display visual step-by-step guide on how to conduct “safe” trade



## Simplified trade regime

- Establish regional & continental STRs to gradually incorporate informal traders into the official trading system
- Help to strengthen small traders to face future shocks to cross-border trade



## Digital Solutions

- Utilize contact tracing through smart phones
- Encourage e-payment platforms through fee reductions
- Automate trade facilitation processes



## Targeted supports

- Equip informal traders with PPE
- Facilitate the aggregation, transport and clearance of small traders' goods
- Extend social protection and relief to unregistered informal traders



**THANK YOU!**