Enhancing the resilience of female informal cross-border traders

Economic Commission for Africa
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

Informal cross-border trade

- Gender inequalities
- Limited social relief
- Financial risk
- Poor sanitary facilities
- Cash-based transactions
- Border closures
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!