

2022 tralac Alumni Conference

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Gender Mainstreaming the AfCFTA



AfCFTA and Gender

- AfCFTA Agreement underscores the imperative for gender equality in order to create an inclusive trade environment within the continent.
- This is reflected in Article 3(e) of the AfCFTA Agreement which posits that one of the objectives of the Agreement is to promote and attain sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality and structural transformation of the State Parties.
- The AU Assembly, vide Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 831(XXXV) taken at its 35th Ordinary Session held in February 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, decided to include the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade in the scope of the AfCFTA Agreement


Gender Mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

What is gender mainstreaming?


Gender mainstreaming is “a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women and men an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality”

Gender mainstreaming


Proposed approach to advancing a gender-sensitive approach to the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement is through gender mainstreaming in National Strategies to implement the AfCFTA Agreement



- Gender mainstreaming is grounded in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, that seeks to ensure that national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not have an adverse impact on women's new and traditional economic activities



- Gender mainstreaming allows policy makers to assess the differentiated implications for women and men arising from AfCFTA market liberalization. Offers an invaluable framework within which to address the social dimension of trade liberalization



- By conducting quantitative and qualitative research, gender mainstreaming enables policymakers to answer the following question: what could be the gender-impact of intra-African trade liberalization and why does this matter, particularly in the context of COVID-19?

AfCFTA implementation through gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

Gender mainstreaming entails

- Understanding how women contribute to and participate in trade in their different roles, as workers, producers, small-scale traders and entrepreneurs (formal and informal)
- Examining the gender dimension and impact of issues- specifically as they relate to production and trade, AfCFTA market opportunities and export performance
- Examining potential AfCFTA-related risks as well as gender-specific constraints for women who tend to be disproportionately affected by trade barriers and inequalities
- Identifying complementary measures that can address trade obstacles for women to leverage new opportunities and move to higher skilled work through the AfCFTA

Creating gender-equitable opportunities in the AfCFTA through gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

A multi-pronged strategy that systematically addresses the different needs and concerns of both women and men in AfCFTA-related policies and through targeted interventions when analysis shows that one sex – usually women – are disproportionately affected by multiple forms of discrimination and structural barriers, is key to ensuring that women and men benefit equally under the AfCFTA

Operationalizing gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

Application of gender analysis to key elements of AfCFTA National Strategies

Why is gender analysis important

- Helps to better understand the challenges the AfCFTA could create for women who tend to be disproportionately affected by deeply rooted gender-inequalities and structural barriers to economic empowerment
- Robust, detailed and context-specific gender analysis will be necessary to understand:
 - Gender, inclusion and AfCFTA linkages
 - Potential mechanisms whereby AfCFTA implementation can impact on gender inequalities – either positively or negatively
- Process must not be a technical check-box exercise, but rather an integral lens that contextualizes and shapes interventions in the design of gender-sensitive AfCFTA policies

Operationalizing gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies (cont.)

Application of gender analysis to key elements of AfCFTA National Strategies

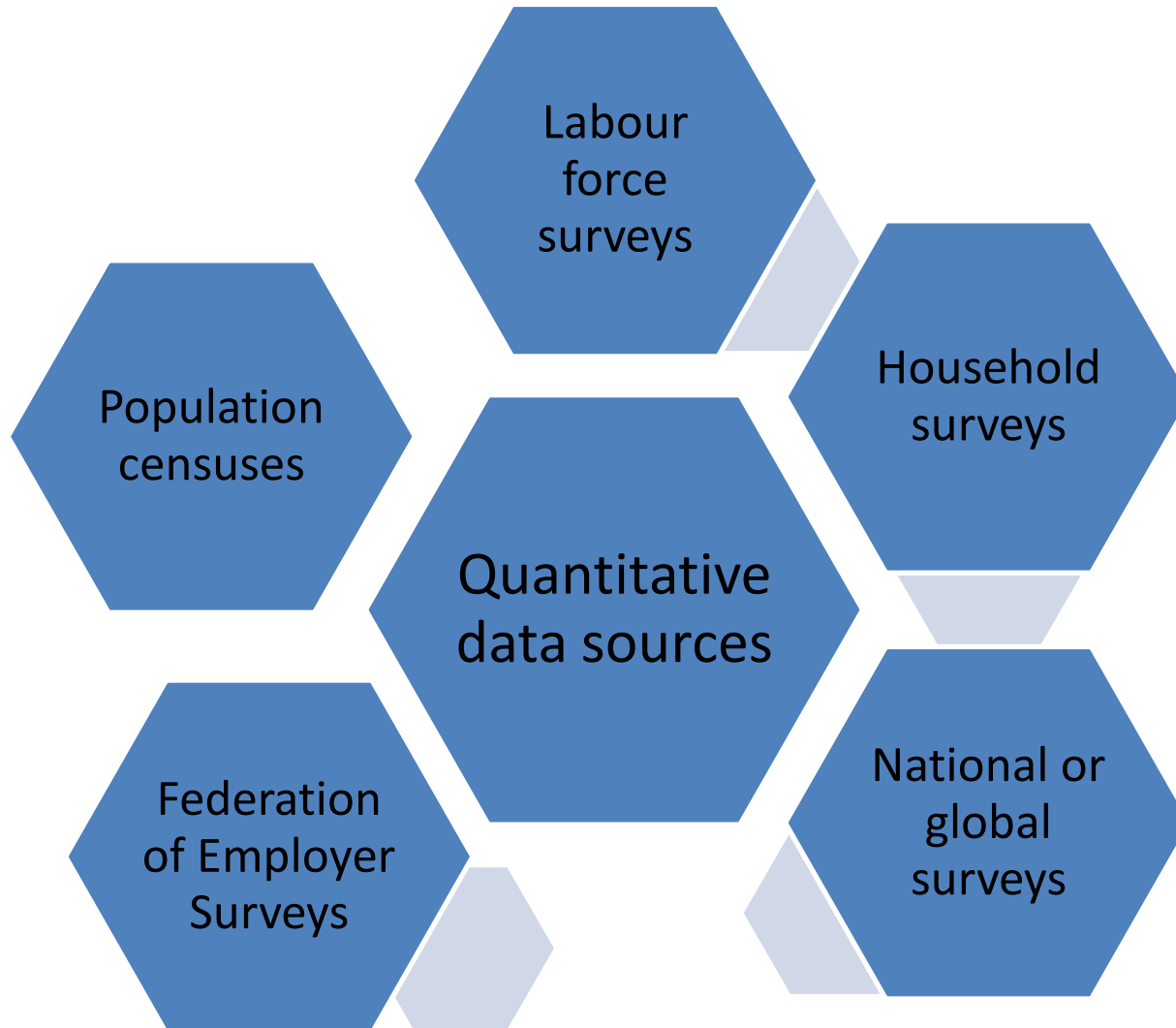
When and what does gender analysis entail:

- Critical starting point for gender mainstreaming and must be applied at the earliest possible stage of the mainstreaming process
- Should be integral to all research and analysis undertaken in preparation for the drafting of a country's AfCFTA National Strategy
- A practical tool to diagnose and understand the differences between women and men regarding specific activities, conditions, needs, access to and control over resources, and enjoyment of their rights
- Systematic way of examining the relationship between women and men and identifying:-
 - "Who" does "what"
 - "Who" has "what"
 - What influences arrangements related to resource access and control

Defining an approach to gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

- Approach adopted by countries should be :
 - Context driven
 - Fit-for-purpose
- Necessary to understand how women:
 - Contribute to; and
 - Participate in trade
- Opportunity to integrate gender considerations in the design of policies and complementary measures:
- Three steps for operationalizing gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies include:-
 - I. Application of gender analysis to key elements of AfCFTA National Strategies
 - II. Design of a monitoring and evaluation framework
 - III. Design of a communication and visibility plan

Importance of gender and trade data for gender analysis: quantitative data sources



Importance of gender and trade data for gender analysis: qualitative data methods

Primary (surveys and consultations, unstructured or semi-structured interviews; focus group discussions and community and social mappings)

Secondary data sources from Government reports and research studies, including country-specific investment climate or value chain studies may be used, particularly to triangulate, compare and cross-check information from more localized primary data collection

Consultations provide valuable qualitative data in relation to the critical needs of disadvantaged women or men and in so doing, provides a useful tool for developing proactive measures that respond to identified needs and priorities. Stakeholder consultations must consider the views of both women and men.

If trade and gender statistics are not available, surveys may be developed to collect data on different aspects of men and women's participation in trade as workers, producers, traders and consumers, and data on detailed product groups that are exported and/or imported by corresponding firms

Stakeholder consultations as a fundamental for gender analysis

Key stakeholders



Private sector, including Chambers of Commerce, Export Councils, Industry Associations, regional and national Women's Business Associations



Civil society groups including women's organisations and research networks, national and/or cross-border trader associations; agricultural producer and farmer associations (including smallholder farming associations)



Small-scale female traders and entrepreneurs (formal and informal sector, with different sized enterprises)



Labour organizations



Universities/other academic and research institutions



Representatives from Trade, Industry and Economic Development Ministries, representatives from Ministries of Gender, Finance, Agriculture, Labour and Education are important stakeholders

Gender analysis informs the design of gender responsive policies and complementary measures

- Data and information collected inform a gender assessment
- Gender assessment highlights systematic causes of gender inequalities such as women's limited access to finance/credit, ICT, skills development and training; pervasive harassment, restrictions on mobility and various other trade-related barriers that tend to disproportionately affect women
- Gender assessment should draw from national and regional gender equality policies and consider how identified interventions could complement and support identified commitments
- Key findings from the gender assessment in turn informs the formulation of gender-responsive policies, complementary measures and other interventions that advance gender equality objectives of the AfCFTA Agreement through implementation

Understanding gender, inclusion & AfCFTA linkages

- Pre-requisite for gender-responsive AfCFTA policies and complementary measures is to understand gender, inclusion & AfCFTA linkages

May be achieved through detailed gender analysis

No prescribed approach, but are certain recommended steps

Includes the identification of “entry points” for the application of gender analysis to key components of AfCFTA National Strategies

Identification of gender analysis entry points

Developing a detailed gender picture of the economy

Understanding the gender characteristics of production and trade opportunities and constraints

Creating opportunities for stakeholder engagement for gender analysis

4 step guide to implementing gender analysis in AfCFTA National Strategies

Step 1

- Develop gender analysis entry points and guiding questions

Step 2

- Collect and analyse sex-disaggregated and gender-disaggregated data

Step 3

- Arrive at a gender assessment

Step 4

- Design and implement gender-responsive AfCFTA policies and complementary measures

Design of gender-sensitive AfCFTA M&E framework

In order to evaluate whether the AfCFTA is promoting inclusive and sustainable development, it will be necessary to mainstream gender in the M&E framework

Gender-sensitive M&E framework

- Help to better understand gender, inclusion and AfCFTA linkages

Gender-sensitive M&E framework

- Clarify the existing situation and track the evolution of gender inequalities – before and after AfCFTA implementation

Gender-sensitive M&E framework

- Serve as an effective tool to prevent exacerbating gender disparities in the design of policies and complementary measures to support AfCFTA implementation

Gender mainstreaming in design of AfCFTA Communication and Visibility Plan

AfCFTA National Strategies should incorporate

- Strong mechanism for communication, advocacy and outreach related to the instruments of the AfCFTA Agreement.

Communication and visibility plan of AfCFTA National Strategies should aim to

- Raise awareness and understanding of the AfCFTA
- Leverage benefits of AfCFTA Agreement for stakeholders

AFCFTA WOMEN AND YOUTH CONFERENCE-DAR ES SALAAM 12-14TH SEPTEMBER 2022 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- [AfCFTA Women and Youth Conference Dar
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Thank you for Listening

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