



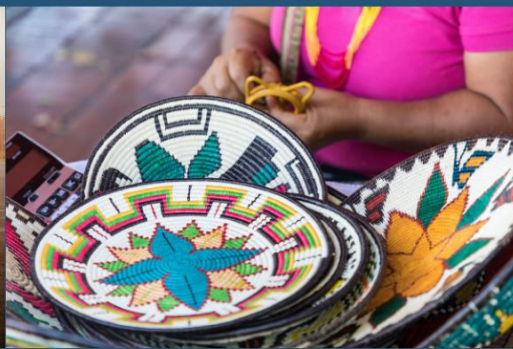
What we need to do to make the borders work for women

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Introduction

- MSMEs are important contributors to job creation and global economic development, they represent 80- 90% of businesses.
- According to the AfDB, small scale cross-border trade provides income for about 43 percent of Africa's population.
- 70-80% of the small to medium size crossed border traders are women.
- From the above statistics it is important that we take appropriate measures that will assist in making the borders work for women.

What we need to do to make the borders work for women

- Availability of gender disaggregated data in order to inform evidenced based policy formulation.
- Making border posts women friendly environment by increasing women representation through their ranks.
 - Policies made by women officials can accommodate the needs of women traders.
 - The presence of female officers makes the border less intimidating for women traders.
 - Reporting of harassment incidences is made easier

What we need to do to make the borders work for women

- Introduce capacity building and awareness campaigns via women's associations and cross border trade associations, targeting cross border women traders.
 - Education on trade facilitation initiatives available (e.g use of STR)
 - Invite customs and other border agencies to demystify some of the fears women traders may have.
- Consider low literacy level in capacity-building interventions for women cross border traders and use appropriate tools.
- Erect visible signage at the border to reduce harassment incidences.

What we need to do to make the borders work for women

- Improve border infrastructure to make it safer for women traders
 - provision of adequate lighting at night
 - installation of closed-circuit TV cameras for increased security
 - proper sanitation and facilities for nursing mothers
- Border upgrades to take into account streamlining of processes including reduction in the number of border agencies with physical presence at the border to reduce clearance time.
- In conclusion, making the borders work for women will go a long way in improving their contribution to intra Africa trade.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!