Trade affects women in the many roles they play in our societies & economies.

Gender inequality is pervasive in many aspects of life in sub-Saharan Africa.

When women participate more fully in the economy, countries are more competitive.

Trade changes affect jobs, growth and prices - these all impact on women at work.

57% of sub-Saharan African women work in agriculture.

The vast majority of female wage employees are in the services sector.
Trade changes can affect revenue

When revenue goes down, taxes may go up, or services may reduce. This can impact disproportionately on women who rely more on public services and for whom a greater proportion of their income may go on, for example, value added taxes.

The impact of tariff reductions is particularly felt by countries for which international trade revenue is a large part of the revenue base.

International trade revenue as a percentage of total revenue - highest African economies

Women are impacted most by price changes - especially on staple goods

Women are typically poorer and have lower incomes than men. This means, price changes that result from trade liberalisation can have a disproportionately positive impact on women consumers.

This is especially the case when trade policy reduces the price of staple foods.

Women traders face different challenges in different markets - it is crucial to get the data

Sources: World Bank Development Indicators, World Bank enterprise surveys, ILO employment data, WTO tariff download facility, UNCTAD trade and gender modules