Gender and Value Chain Upgrading in Africa

Most majority, female-owned businesses in a sample of African countries want to upgrade their value chain in order to produce and trade higher-value-added goods. Here we break this down by size of business, sector and country.

### Main patterns

Not all surveyed businesses have the option to upgrade, but of those that do, many more majority, female-owned businesses went to upgrade than the balance of businesses.

### By business size

Majority, female-owned businesses are on the smaller end of the scale when it comes to size. The survey data shows that of the four business sizes, small female-owned businesses are most inclined to upgrade their involvement in the value chain.

### By business sector

Of the 24 business sectors covered by the survey, the top seven are featured in the chart. Majority, female-owned businesses are especially inclined to upgrade in the value chain in the broad agriculture/apparel sector, textiles & apparel and food sectors. These sectors are also among those identified by the AfCFTA for value chain development.

### By country surveyed

The survey data shows that majority female-owned businesses in some countries are on average more inclined to upgrade in the value chain than others. In the chart, a light color-coded country means that the majority of businesses surveyed expressed the desire to upgrade.

As the AfCFTA is rolled out, more businesses will become aware of the benefits of deepening value chain trade with other African countries.