



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



GUIDE TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING in (AfCFTA) NATIONAL STRATEGIES

National AfCFTA Forum for the Kingdom of Eswatini November 3rd 2022



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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”

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

Operationalizing the approach to gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies

Three steps for operationalizing gender mainstreaming in AfCFTA National Strategies include:

- Application of gender analysis to key elements of AfCFTA National Strategies
- Design of a monitoring and evaluation framework
- Design of a communication and visibility plan

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

Example Gender Analysis-Eswatini

- The Constitution recognizes gender equality and non-discrimination
- The female population ratio is 53 per cent, making women and girls the majority in number though they remain a minority in voice.
- Eswatini is predominantly a patriarchal society
- Women do not have land inheritance rights
- Fifty six percent of the population is below 25 years of age
- Women and girls disproportionately represented in negative statistics
 - ✓ Unemployment
 - ✓ Infected and affected by HIV and AIDS
 - ✓ Gender-based violence
 - ✓ Absence or in decision making positions.
 - ✓ High Maternal Mortality
 - ✓ Lack of gender disaggregated data in some fields make it very difficult to ascertain the real gender equality situation.
- Despite ratification of several international and regional human rights instruments that promote gender equality and women's empowerment, the situation remains unchanged.

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