

INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR
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Cairo, Egypt

Trade Finance for Female Entrepreneurs

Wednesday, December 12
15:00 – 16:00

Session description

Female entrepreneurs typically face greater barriers to accessing trade finance than male entrepreneurs, particularly in the developing world. The World Bank Women, Business and the Law database shows that, in all regions, a significant proportion of countries do not prohibit discrimination based on gender or marital status in access to credit. Implicit discrimination by national financial systems due to cultural norms can exacerbate the gender-divide in access to credit. Ensuring affordable access to finance for female entrepreneurs will be crucial to facilitating women owned businesses to scale up, invest in new production processes, improve competitiveness and access world markets. The side event will discuss how trade and gender interact through the ability of entrepreneurs to access financial services, and what governments, the private sector and development community can do to help to promote gender-inclusive trade financing.

The questions this session seeks to address are:

- What constraints do female entrepreneurs face in accessing trade finance?
- What can governments, the private sector and the development community do to help promote gender-inclusive trade financing?
- What alternative options do digital technologies offer for extending trade finance to women?
- What role can financial literacy play in supporting female entrepreneurs' access to trade finance?
- How can the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) be used as a platform to promote trade finance for female entrepreneurs?

Session format

The session will be chaired by David Luke, Coordinator of African Trade Policy Centre, ECA

- Gwen Mwaba, Director, Trade Finance, Afreximbank
- Abeba Tesfai, Director, Women Economic Empowerment & Marketing, Enat Bank
- Patricia Pokudiaby, CEO, Plot Enterprise