WOMEN IN TRADE

HOW TO INCREASE BENEFITS OF TRADE FOR WOMEN?

The case of the DRC

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- Kinshasa is the capital
- Size: 2,345,000 Km²
- 2nd largest country in Africa after Algeria
- 4th in Africa in terms of population
- 80 million habitants
- Very rich country for the point of view of water system
- 2nd largest river after the Nile of Egypt
THE DRC CONTEXT

- The DRC is an **immensely rich country** in terms of potentials in agriculture, fishing, farming while it’s also rich in **minerals resources** especially in the east part.

- **9 neighbourings countries** : Congo, Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan and the **Central Africa Republic**.

- Due to its strategic position in Africa, DRC supposed to be a land of opportunities but it has become an **easy target** for predators.

- Hunger and poverty take place in Congo while the **security situation and politics** remain big issues.

- Cross-border exchange or trade becomes increasingly important in linking food surplus areas to food deficit areas : **Women activity**
WOMEN SITUATION

- Women play the **main role** in the global economic
- Studies highlight that in Africa women **work more** than men in various sectors (production, transformation, services...)
- Unlike that, Women are **poorest** than men; women and girls have **less opportunity**, **less access** to the finance, education and information
- They don’t have **adequate treatment**
- They are abused and often used **like sexual weapon**
- They do not know about their rights
- They just ask for **living in good conditions**
Trade policies and agreements have different impacts on different groups.

- Generally, trade agreements and policies are gender-blind.

- PTAs formulate no equity policies regarding gender-sensitive issues while WTO and others stakeholders pretend to be gender-neutral.

- Trade favours women working in services sectors like export such as agriculture.

### Major concerns still remain

- No access to land
- No access to finance
- No access to opportunities
- No access to information and education: **Important**

**Link with the OSD 2030**: There is an enormous potential for international trade to drive economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa.
Recommendations 1

- Training women and empowering people which has a lot of economic benefits
- Reducing taxes or bringing down barriers for agricultural products belongs to women.
- Improving conditions in the borders to reduce harassments and violences against traders women
- Improving gender balance in participation while raising awareness
- Including women groups as you formulate programmes, agreements, policies
- Creating more opportunities for women is the right thing to do
- Encouraging commitment to gender equality in the practise of trade analyses and negotiations
- Assessing the impact of trade deals for women
- Encouraging meeting groups with Private sector, civil society and Public sector
- Bringing women together for applying for a tenders
- Creating more opportunities for women is the right thing to do
Each women who can benefit from trade is a women who can open new markets and new opportunities, can sell an spread her ideas and support her community… her whole village

Greater economic opportunities and rising living standards will contribute to greater stability
PERSONAL REQUESTS

- Support for our **training program** in order to empower and equip more women and youth

- Facilitate the access of the private sector to the **WTO e-training**

- Enhance Private sector by organising specific meetings for **sharing informations** and experiences
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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