



Women producers of Kiribati and their participation in inter-island and international trade





Women producers of Kiribati and their participation in inter-island and international trade



© 2020, United Nations

The work is available open access by complying with the Creative Commons licence created for intergovernmental organizations, available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo/>.

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

The designation employed and the presentation of material on any map in this work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mention of any firm or licensed process does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

References to country names in this publication correspond to the names in use historically during the periods for which data were reviewed.

Photocopies and reproductions of excerpts are allowed with proper credits.

This publication has been edited externally.

United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNCTAD/DITC/2020/4

eISBN: 978-92-1-005559-8

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by the Trade, Gender and Development Programme at UNCTAD. Inputs were provided by Tuiai Tabai. Comments were provided by Elena Procuta and her colleagues from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including the gender and inclusive development advisers, and from staff at the New Zealand High Commission in Tarawa, Kiribati.

The report was coordinated and supervised by Simonetta Zarrilli, Chief of the Trade, Gender and Development Programme at UNCTAD. David Einhorn was in charge of English editing.

The publication of this report was made possible by the financial support of the governments of Australia and New Zealand, which is gratefully acknowledged.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	VII
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. BACKGROUND CONTEXT.....	2
2.1. GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	2
2.2. SOCIOECONOMIC STRUCTURE	3
2.3. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	4
3. ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROFILE	6
3.1. ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND GROWTH PERFORMANCE.....	6
3.2. INTERNATIONAL TRADE.....	8
3.3. INTER-ISLAND TRADE AND NUTRITION	9
3.4. MARKET ACCESS	10
4. THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR GENDER EQUALITY	12
5. GENDER INEQUALITIES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE	14
5.1. WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING	14
5.2. WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET	14
5.3. INCOME-EARNING ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.....	18
5.4. WOMEN IN INTER-ISLAND AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE	20
6. MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN PRODUCERS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS	22
6.1. TIME POVERTY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....	22
6.2. SOCIAL ISSUES.....	23
6.3. ACCESS TO FINANCE	23
6.4. ACCESS TO INPUTS.....	25
6.5. ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE	25
6.6. ACCESS TO MODERN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES	26
6.7. ACCESS TO TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	27
7. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	28
ANNEX I: UNCTAD 2019 SURVEY	35
REFERENCES.....	40

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1.	MAP OF KIRIBATI	3
FIGURE 2.	SCORES ON DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON GENDER INEQUALITY.....	13
FIGURE 3.	KEY LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS, 2015	15
FIGURE 4.	DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED MEN AND WOMEN BY BROAD ECONOMIC SECTORS	15
FIGURE 5.	EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION BY WORK STATUS AND SEX	17
FIGURE A.1:	UNCTAD SURVEY SITES.....	35

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1.	TRADING ACROSS BORDERS: KIRIBATI AND THE REGIONAL AVERAGE, 2020.....	10
TABLE 2.	SHARE OF EACH SECTOR IN TOTAL MALE AND FEMALE EMPLOYMENT	16
TABLE 3.	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY RURAL AND URBAN WOMEN PRODUCERS IN KIRIBATI	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report investigates the income-generating economic activities of women producers and traders in Kiribati and the constraints they face while participating in production and trade activities. To this end, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) carried out both desk research and a field study in the four islands of South Tarawa and Kiritimati as urban areas, and Arorae and Makin as rural areas.

Kiribati's fragmented geographic structure and limited connectivity, narrow range of resources, high dependence on imports, and lack of economies scale – all of which are common to most small island developing states – create challenges for the expansion of the private sector and inter-island and international trade. Remoteness results in slower penetration of modern technologies and poses challenges for imports of raw materials and intermediate goods unavailable domestically. Weak business infrastructure, limited access to finance and burdensome licensing and trade procedures imply additional costs, further inhibiting the development of the private sector.

The economy of Kiribati is characterized by the dualism of urban and rural areas. While urban areas are home to public sector and most formal private sector jobs (with South Tarawa being the main urban centre), the rural sector is characterized by subsistence-based and informal economic activities. As a least developed country, Kiribati also faces high levels of poverty and inequality, more severely felt in remote islands and among female-headed households. Health and education are among the major success areas in terms of gender equality. However, gender-based physical and sexual violence remains an important issue despite some positive changes achieved over time. Women's participation in decision-making lags behind, especially in upper-level entities. Women

Agriculture (mainly copra growing) and fisheries are the two major economic activities in Kiribati. As a reflection of the economic structure, fish, crude coconut and unprocessed copra, in order of importance, are Kiribati's major export products. Like other small island developing states, the country imports most consumption and capital goods. The introduction of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) in 2012 and the launch of the Kiribati Fish Limited (KFL) in 2013–2014 was a turning point in this regard, substantially increasing the share of fisheries in economic activity and government revenues. Kiribati had the highest tuna catch among the small island developing states in the Pacific. The increase in fish licence revenue, in part, enabled the doubling of the copra subsidy in 2016. The government considers the development of fisheries as a priority area together with tourism in its Development Plan and KV20 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The coconut sector is considered as complementary due to its links to tourism and other sectors of the economy.

There is a clear gender segregation of employment across sectors in Kiribati. Women are overrepresented in manufacturing (e.g. cigarette making, handicrafts, garments) and services such as wholesale and retail trade, education and public administration. Men are mainly employed in agriculture (e.g. copra) and fishing, and in services such as public administration, wholesale and retail trade, and rental and businesses sectors.

Women producers, who were covered in the UNCTAD survey, carry out mostly traditional economic activities such as the production of handicrafts, garments, coconut-based products, smoked fish, and cigarette from pandanus leaves in both rural and urban areas. In urban areas, women also sell cooked food in response to the growing demand by government offices and

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_8664

