



# NEUTRAL POLICIES, UNEVEN IMPACTS:

## Non-tariff Measures through a Gender Lens







# NEUTRAL POLICIES, UNEVEN IMPACTS:

## Non-tariff Measures through a Gender Lens



---

© 2022, 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.

Photocopies and reproductions of excerpts are allowed with proper credits.

This publication has not been formally edited.

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

UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2022/1

eISBN 978-92-1-001315-4

---

## Table of contents

Acknowledgements .....	iv
Executive summary .....	v
1. Introduction .....	1
2. Gender Mainstreaming in the Context of Non-tariff Measures .....	3
3. Non-tariff Measures and Women: An Analysis .....	5
3.1 Women as traders .....	6
3.2 Women as workers .....	11
3.3 Women as consumers .....	12
4. Developing Options for Making Non-tariff Measures Gender-Sensitive in Principle and Practice .....	16
4.1 Non-tariff measures design .....	17
4.2 Non-tariff measures implementation .....	21
4.3 Non-tariff measures compliance .....	22
5. Conclusion .....	26
References .....	27

---

## Acknowledgements

This study was prepared by Mingcong Li and Divya Prabhakar, under the general guidance of Ralf Peters, Chief of the Trade Information Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Insightful comments were provided by Anoush der Boghossian, Hana Daoudi, Narmin Khalilova, Christian Knebel, Mariangela Linoci, Graham Mott, Chi Le Ngo, Lance Thompson, Elisabeth Tuerk, Carla Isabel Vaca Eyzaguirre and Simonetta Zarrilli.

Special thanks to Anna L. Peters supporting the editing of the study. Desktop publishing and cover were prepared by Jenifer Tacardon-Mercado.



---

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are trade policy measures designed to achieve public policy objectives such as protecting public health, consumer safety, and the environment. While NTMs often bear high trade costs such as having high information, implementation, and compliance cost, they are usually necessary for achieving economic, social, and other policy goals to ensure product safety and quality for consumers.

In theory, NTMs are designed to have gender-neutral objectives, where a policy requirement is not designed to benefit/protect a particular gender or group of people. In practice, however, the impact of NTMs does not affect women and men identically. Especially, women and men are not equal when it comes to the **compliance costs** of NTMs and benefiting from the **levels of protection** provided by NTMs. In terms of compliance with NTMs, for instance, women often face more supply-side constraints, such as having limited access to resources, land, lack of skills and education, time poverty, and mobility constraints among others, which makes it more difficult for women to comply with technical regulations or standards compared to their male counterparts. On benefiting from NTMs protection, women are often disproportionately affected by technical regulations or standards for certain products (specifically products used at workplaces), where they do not consider the physical differences between women and men and are mainly designed with the male anatomy in mind.

Based on the review of a list of literature, case studies, and anecdotes, this study has looked at the gendered impacts of NTMs on women as **traders/entrepreneurs, workers, and consumers**, respectively, and aims to propose ways in which NTMs related project design, implementation and monitoring can be approached with a gendered lens.

## Main hurdles faced by women as traders/entrepreneurs

As traders or entrepreneurs, women can be disproportionately affected by technical trade regulations or standards because of their high compliance costs and the existence of gendered social structures. Access to resources (i.e., technical, productive, and financial), time poverty and mobility constraints, lack of skills and expertise, and potential to experience abuses and discrimination during import/export are just a few supply-side constraints that women traders are facing when complying with NTMs. These constraints are deeply rooted in the existence of gendered social structures and are specific to country-or sector-specific contexts.

## Main hurdles faced by women as workers

As workers,<sup>1</sup> women can often be exposed to safety and health risks if technical regulations and standards do not provide adequate protection at the workplace. This is due to the fact that regulations and standards on working gears and protective equipment are often designed with mainly the male anatomy in mind.

Moreover, some sectors including agriculture, fishery, and garment, where the major segment of workers are women are likely to be less regulated especially in developing and least developing countries. This could severely affect the health and safety of women workers.

---

<sup>1</sup> In most literature, “women as workers” refer to the impact of gender discrimination on work opportunities for women (wage gaps, career development, skills development, etc.) in the global value chain. In this study, we specifically look at how women are disproportionately affected by inadequate protection at the workplace.

## Main hurdles faced by women as consumers

As consumers,<sup>2</sup> technical regulations can affect women's health and well-being if they are not gender-sensitive and do not consider the physical differences between men and women. Sometimes, certain sectors with a high share of women can be less regulated, thus posing risks to their health and well-being. For example, the pharmaceutical industry does not generally consider gender differences even though women and men respond differently to drug treatments, in some countries women are even actively excluded from drug trials. Another example could be the cosmetic industry, where there are not enough technical requirements or standards set out to provide adequate protection for women's health and safety.

## Making non-tariff measures gender-responsive in principle and in practice

To address these imbalances that women face within the context of NTMs and to promote gender mainstreaming in NTMs related projects, this study has proposed a practical guide that can serve as a starting point to approach NTMs related programmes with a gendered lens. The practical guide covers gender mapping, needs assessment, and potential way ahead/policy interventions through better NTMs (i) design, (ii) implementation, and (iii) compliance to ensure that women are not put in a disadvantageous position compared to their male counterparts.

## Practical guide to approach non-tariff measures related programs with a gendered lens

Gender Mapping	Get a <b>gendered picture of the economy</b> and the sectors that are relevant for women. Collect qualitative and quantitative statistics by sex such as number and percentage of male/female-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the sector of interest, access to the product value chain, etc., through a variety of tools that could include literature reviews, focus groups, surveys, consultations, and community and social mapping.
Needs Assessment	Carry out <b>needs assessments</b> to ensure “gender-responsive” program design and the identification of possible areas of intervention. For example, it is critical to analyze the roles, needs, priorities, and interests of women and men (as traders, consumers, or workers) within a given value chain, and to understand if there are specific constraints or challenges for women compared to their male counterparts. Next, analysis on the root cause of such challenges should be undertaken to understand if the cause can be addressed by or arises from <b>NTMs design, implementation, or compliance</b> . This would allow programs to identify areas where specific measures to advance women traders, workers, and consumers are required.

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\\_30932](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_30932)

