

SheTrades Outlook Validation Workshop in Pakistan

March 8, 2024

Islamabad, Pakistan

Description and Objectives

The International Trade Centre (ITC)'s SheTrades Initiative, Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority and Adam Smith International (ASI), supported by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), are organizing a half-day workshop to present and validate the results of SheTrades Outlook in Pakistan, and discuss recommendations for potential policy reform and technical assistance.

In 2022, ITC rolled out SheTrades Outlook in Pakistan to map and understand the policy environment for women in business and trade. Data was collected from 25 public and private sector institutions. This workshop will provide a venue for public and private sector stakeholders to share their experiences, lessons learned, and insights for improvement, with a view to validate the results of the assessment. The objectives are:

- To raise awareness on SheTrades data and policy technical assistance work
- To discuss the results and recommendations from the SheTrades Outlook assessment in Pakistan
- To share good practices on mainstreaming gender into policy
- To identify potential areas for policy reform, technical assistance, and collaboration

Programme/Agenda

TIME	DESCRIPTION
12:30 – 13:00	REGISTRATION (Coffee and tea available)
13:00 – 13:20	OPENING REMARKS <i>Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority</i> <i>ITC</i> <i>UK FCDO</i> (Group photo to be taken immediately after the opening remarks.)
13:20 – 13:40	PRESENTATION: SheTrades Outlook in Pakistan <i>ITC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of collecting trade and gender data • About SheTrades Outlook and how to use the tool (Online walk-through) • Assessing the policy environment: SheTrades Outlook Results in Pakistan • Good practices
13:40 – 14:00	VALIDATION AND Q&A DISCUSSION
14:00 – 14:10	BREAK (Coffee and tea available)
14:10 – 14:20	PRESENTATION: Developing a Women's Entrepreneurship Policy in Pakistan <i>Adam Smith International</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas to include in the policy • Process of developing the policy • Next steps and areas for collaboration
14:20 – 14:45	PRESENTATION: Experiences in Mainstreaming Gender into Policy <i>Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority</i> <i>Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)</i> <i>Women Chamber of Commerce</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness on policies, programmes and projects promoting women's economic empowerment • Q&A

14:45 – 15:25	<p>BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS</p> <p><i>Guide questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific challenges and issues that Pakistani women face to do business and trade? • What specific policy actions should be done to address issues faced by Pakistani women? • What interventions can be included in the women’s entrepreneurship policy? • What are the key institutions and their roles to undertake these actions? What is the timeline? What are the resources required?
15:25 – 15:50	<p>PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of priorities and recommendations for policy reform
15:50 – 16:00	<p>CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS</p>

Annex: ITC Resources

A. SheTrades Outlook

[SheTrades Outlook](#) is an innovative policy tool that promotes more inclusive policies and data. It helps stakeholders assess, monitor, and improve the institutional ecosystem for women’s participation in international trade through quantitative and qualitative data.

SheTrades Outlook can be used to:

1. Map the environment for women in trade
2. Examine data gaps
3. Identify areas for potential inclusive policy reform
4. Share and learn from good practices

SheTrades Outlook provides a comprehensive assessment of the policy ecosystem using a set of indicators on six policy pillars: Trade Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework, Business Environment, Access to Skills, Access to Finance and Work and Society. ITC collects data on these six topics through interviews with national stakeholders. The Outlook tool also has a repository of good practices on women’s economic empowerment policies and programmes. These aim to share experiences and inspire similar initiatives in other countries.

SheTrades Outlook currently includes 52 developed and developing countries across different regions. ITC is aiming to expand Outlook globally to support additional governments with undertaking gender-responsive policy reforms.

Based on SheTrades Outlook results, ITC provides technical assistance to governments to mainstream gender into trade and trade-related policy. So far, ITC has provided technical assistance to policymakers in 17 countries to mainstream gender in trade and SME policies, export strategies, African Continental Free Trade Agreement implementation strategies, public procurement policies, acts and regulations, and COVID-19 stimulus package, and develop definitions of women-led and women-owned businesses.

B. Step-by-step guide for policymakers: Gender mainstreaming into trade policy

[From Design to Evaluation: Making Trade Policy Work for Women](#) – This guide offers policymakers and trade practitioners practical, step-by-step advice on how to mainstream gender concerns into the work of their trade ministries, small business ministries and trade support institutions. It presents strategies and tools to better collect and use data, engage stakeholders, leverage trade policies, identify opportunities in value chains, design and deliver action plans, and implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

1. Review the trade policy options
2. Use data to shape policies
3. Engage and coordinate with key stakeholders
4. Design and deliver a gender-responsive action plan
5. Implement a monitoring and evaluation framework