

Gender, Markets, and Development in Africa

Deborah Rubin
Director, Cultural Practice LLC

March 20, 2011



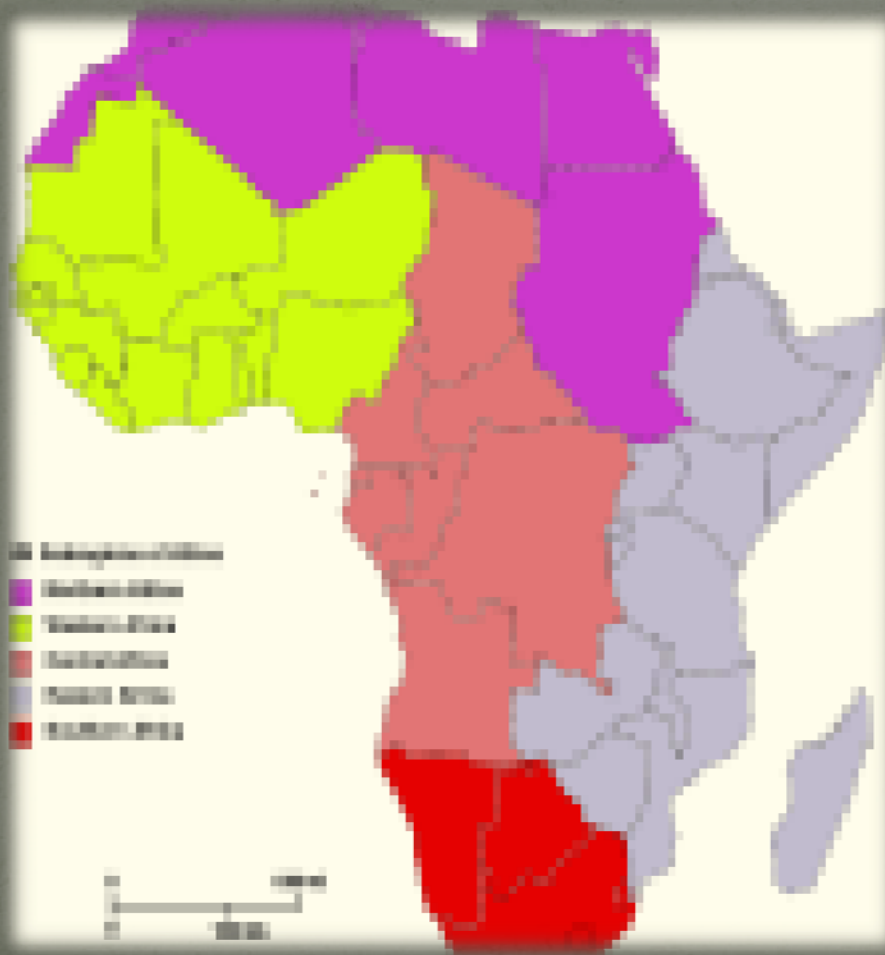
What is “Development”?

Process of improving the economic, political and social conditions of people's lives

- raising incomes
- increasing access to education
- increasing health measures
- Increasing political participation



Where is Africa? Where in Africa?



- Over 50 countries on the continent
- Focus on Sub-Saharan nations
- Diversity of histories, ethnic groups, levels of economic activity

What kind of markets?

Marketplaces

Formal and informal institutions that link buyers to sellers, establish prices, exchange price information, allocate resources



Value chains

Sex or Gender?

Sex

Biologically defined and genetically acquired differences between **males** and **females**

Gender

Socially defined characteristics and role linked to being men women or transgendered



What do you see?



Development that is not
engendered is endangered

Gender-based constraints



Restrictions on men's or women's access to resources or opportunities that are based on their gender roles or responsibilities.

The term encompasses both:

- measurable inequalities revealed by sex-disaggregated data collection and gender analysis, and
- causes contributing to specific conditions of gender inequality

General constraints

- Limited range of finance and credit options
- Lack of access to market information
- Small land holdings
- Lack of trust

Gender-based constraints

- Bank policies requiring a married women to obtain her husband's signature
- Social norms that limit women's networking abilities
- Laws or customs that restrict women's land ownership
- Perceptions and beliefs that misrepresent men or women's capabilities

Why a focus on women?

Around the world, women continue to be disadvantaged relative to men:

- access to, ownership of, key productive resources (land, inputs, equipment)
- limited literacy and educational attainment
- access to services
- Face additional domestic responsibilities



West Africa

ECOWAS Country	2010 Rank
Ghana	70
The Gambia	75
Senegal	101
Burkina Faso	111
Nigeria	118
Benin	128
Mali	131
Ivory coast	130
Not ranked: Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo	

Source: Global Gender Gap Report





East Africa

East Africa Region	2010 Rank
Ethiopia	121
Kenya	96
Tanzania	66
Uganda	33
Zambia	106
Not ranked: Burundi, CAR, DRC, Rwanda	

Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2010

USAID's Regional Strategies: Increase Regional Trade

Argument is that increased regional trade results in “deepening regional integration, improving economic growth and benefiting the population through employment, market and product diversification, increased outlets for goods produced and manufactured in the region and improvements in food availability”

- But is it good for women?
- Does it reduce gender inequalities?

AGRIBUSINESS AND TRADE PROMOTION PROJECT (WEST AFRICA) and COMPETITIVENESS AND TRADE EXPANSION PROJECT (EAST AFRICA)

- Reduce physical and policy-related barriers to moving agricultural and related commodities regionally;
- Enhance linkages among agricultural producers and agro-input suppliers, agro-processors and distributors;
- Empower regional private sector actors and NGOs to advocate for better regional trade policies;
- Improve regional market information systems.



Women are already involved in markets – differently

1. MARKETS CHAINS ARE EMBEDDED IN A SOCIAL CONTEXT
2. MARKET MECHANISMS AFFECTS GENDER ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS
3. GENDER EQUITY AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT CAN BE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE GOALS



USAID's Regional Strategies: Increase Regional Trade

West Africa

- Support women's access to business development skills and formation of national business associations
- Create regional associations
- Improving women's transport options and reducing border harassment

East Africa

- Support intraregional networking of women's business associations
- Work with regional associations
- Simplify customs processes
- Communicate new laws

Strategies to Support Gender Equity

Targeting: Address the Needs of Women

- Increasing access to education, credit, transport

Empowerment: Foster Equitable Participation

- Create incentives for associations to promote gender equality goals

Economic Efficiency: Support Advancement

- Provide support to women leaders in economic associations (e.g., producer groups, business networks)

Thanks to the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series (WMASLS), Sustainable Agriculture Natural Resource Management Collaborate Research Support Program (SANREM CRSP), and the Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIREd) for support with this Women's Month event

SANREM CRSP is made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American people through USAID Cooperative Agreement No. EPP-A-00-04-0013-00.