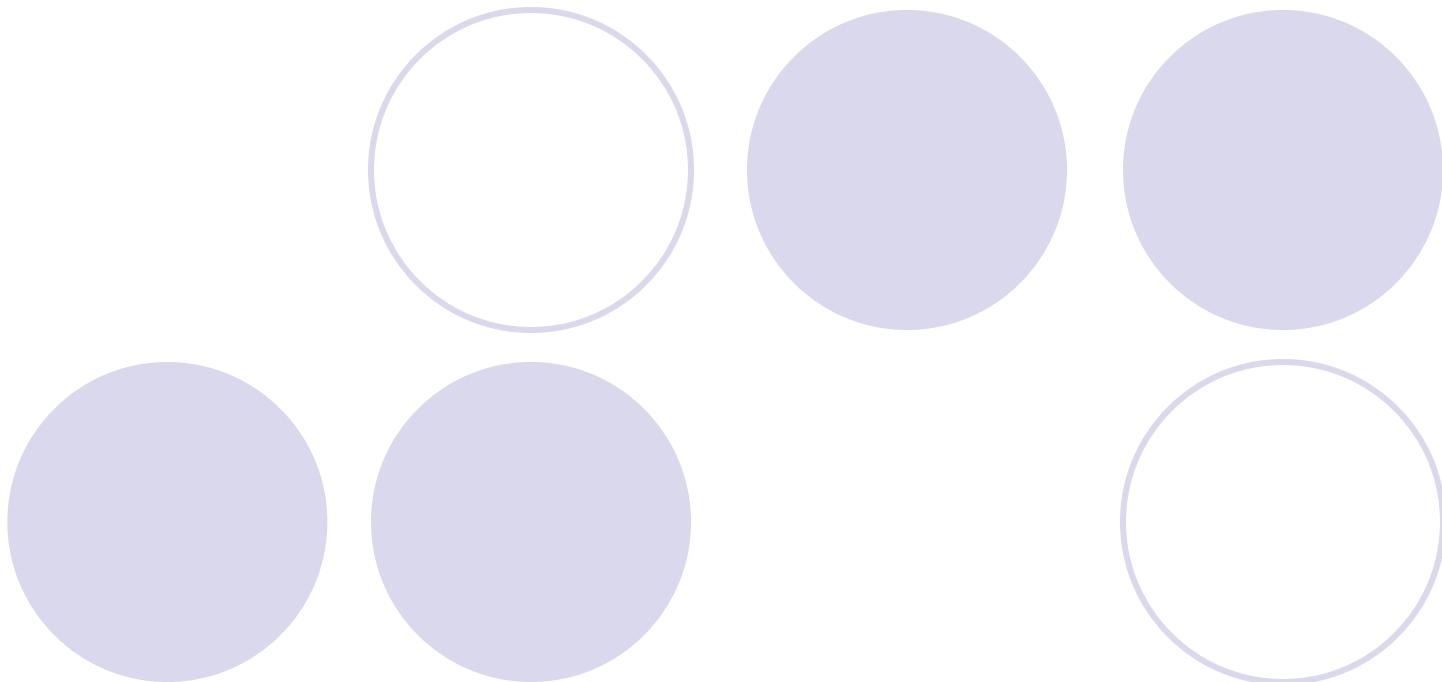


**Presented to OECD-DAC GENDER NET
EIGHTH MEETING
16- 18 June 2010
Nomcebo Manzini**

UNIFEM Regional Director for Southern Africa



Presentation Outline

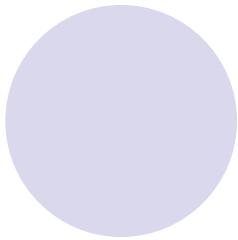
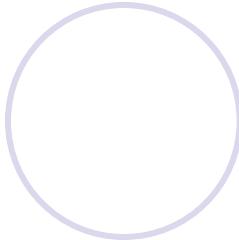
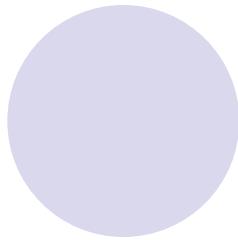
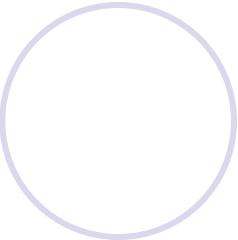
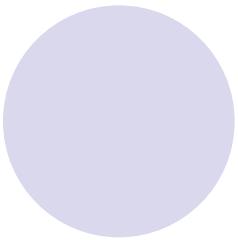
- Rationale for the research
- Key demographics
- Key findings
- Key recommendations
- Key follow up actions to date

Rationale

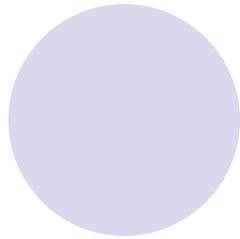
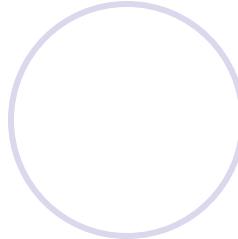
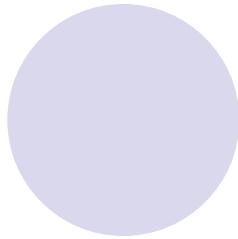
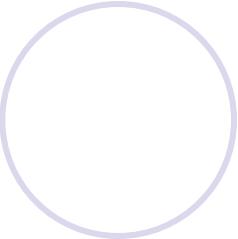
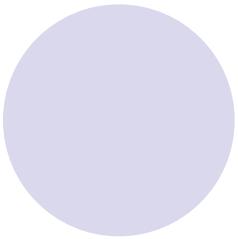
- Contribution to MDG goal 3
- Increasing levels of poverty among women and what they are doing about it
- How can UNIFEM and partners respond to support women and men in this sector
- The role of governments in being responsive and acknowledging contributions to economies – fragile states

Key approaches and elements

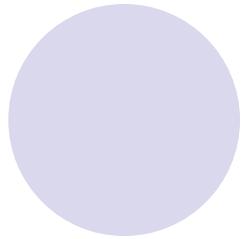
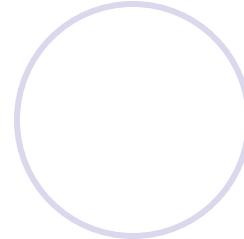
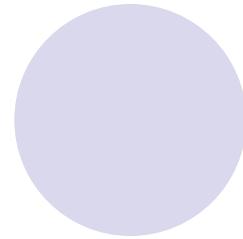
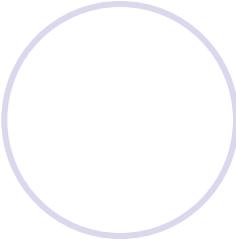
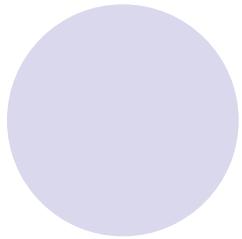
- Empowerment
- Wealth creation
- Increased accountability and service delivery
- Policy dialogue



- ❖ Total ICBTs interviewed **709**
- ❖ Zimbabwe **451**
- ❖ Swaziland **250**
- ❖ About **two thirds were women**
- ❖ Zimbabwe - **Beitbridge, Forbes** and **Plumtree** border posts.
- ❖ Swaziland - **Lavumisa, Lomahasha** and **Ngwenya** border posts.



- ❖ ICBTs are **small scale business people** engaged in ICBT as a **survivalist** as well as **wealth creation** strategy under **harsh economic conditions**.
- ❖ They are **mainly females** (70 % or more).
- ❖ Mostly trade in **handicrafts** and **finished consumer goods**.
- ❖ Mainly **educated** with at least sec level education.
- ❖ Mainly **African urbanites**.
- ❖ Mainly **married heads of households**.
- ❖ Aged between **25-44 years**, which is the **productive age** group.



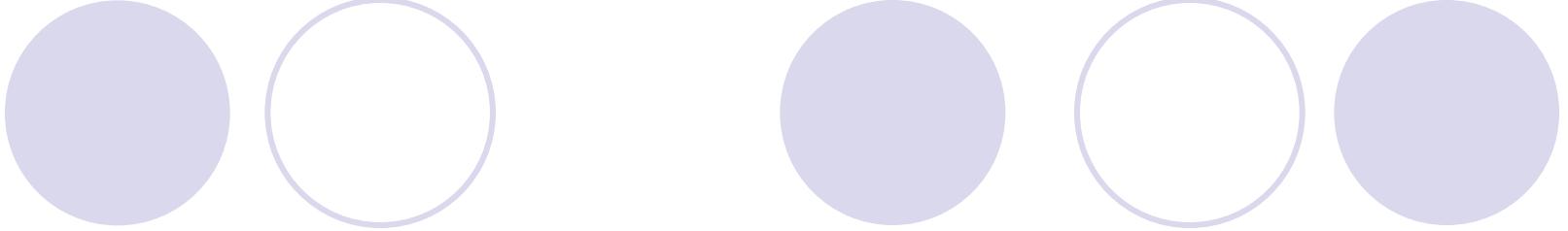
- ❖ A survey of 36 institutions (Zimbabwe-21, Swaziland -15) which are linked to ICBT was conducted.

- ❖ These institutions included:
 - Regional institutions (SADC, SACU & COMESA)
 - Government ministries and departments
 - Microfinance institutions
 - ICBT and private sector associations and
 - United Nations agencies.

Key findings and Challenges

- ❖ Improved decision making for women
- ❖ Willingness of government and other players to be involved
- ❖ Opportunities for regional collaboration and influencing development agendas
- ❖ Lack of knowledge and information mainly for women
- ❖ Language barrier to all destination countries .
- ❖ Lack of designated places for trading and harassment.
- ❖ Harassment (including sexual) and violence mainly for women .
- ❖ Corrupt government officials who demand bribes and delay passage through borders – complicated forms and sometime degrading searches.
- ❖ Inefficient transport systems and
- ❖ High duty tariffs.

- 
- ❖ **Banking regulations remain too stringent** in the region making it difficult for ICBTs to operate foreign currency accounts (FCA) in countries of destination. For Zimbabwe, it is illegal to operate FCAs outside Zimbabwe without authority.
 - ❖ Delays mainly to do with the **complicated forms** that ICBTs have to fill, and the **searches undertaken by customs officials**

- 
- ❖ Other problems experienced by ICBTs included:
 - Stiff competition in supply of goods to the same market.
 - Stiff competition from Asian products.
 - Loss of goods and cash to thieves.
 - Loss of goods to Immigration, Customs and Police and

Recommendations

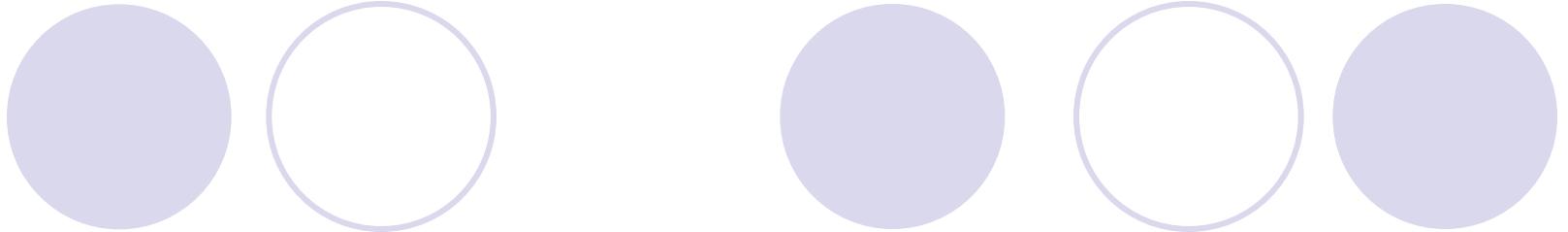
- ❖ **Recognize ICBT and put in place supportive government policies and regulations**
- ❖ **Facilitate the provision of financial assistance to ICBTs.**
- ❖ **Support the establishment of efficient ICBT Associations and offices in government**
- ❖ **Improve trading places and accommodation**
- ❖ **Free trade areas**
- ❖ **Free movement of persons**
- ❖ **Associations formed and or strengthened.**

Actions to date

- Validation consultation
- Agreements reached by governments and ICBTs

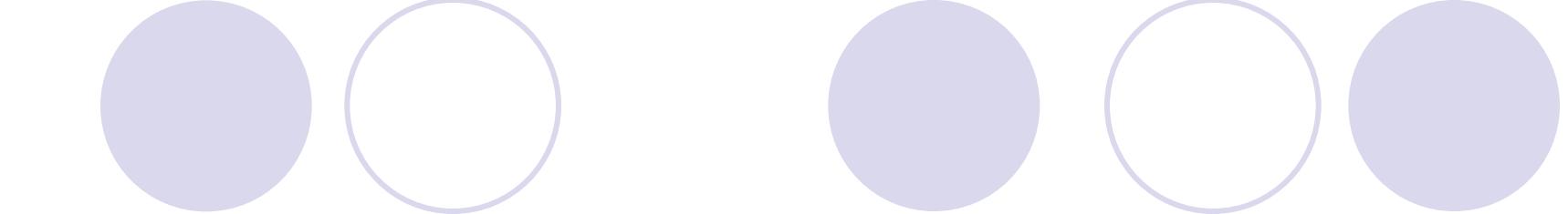
ZIMBABWE

- **Reviewing policies so that they address ICBT issues – the Ministry of Zimbabwe for instance is working on their regional economic integration policy and have integrated some ICBT issues – document still in draft form.**
- **Also reviewing tax and customs regulations**
- **Building capacities of key government departments such as immigration, custom and small to medium scale enterprises to understand ICBT challenges in order to address them.**
- **Ensuring that Ministries of Finance and Trade facilitate access to resources by ICBTs**
- **Developing an MOU on infrastructure – trade markets/houses, accommodation, access to banking facilities etc.**
- **Expediting government services for ICBT such as passports/permits and reducing delays at the customs**

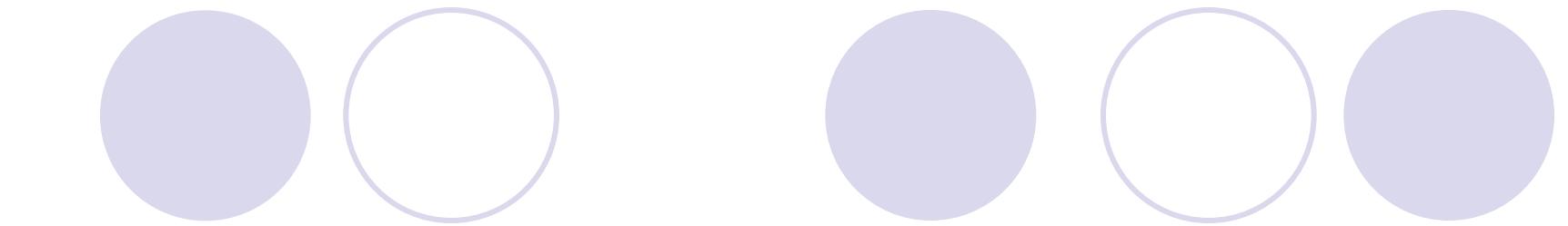


South Africa

- A secretariat is established to support the co-ordination and long term planning of the WICBT initiative, through a signed MoU between UNIFEM and Government
- A National Steering Committee on WICBT is established to develop a co-ordination framework and define the mechanisms of operation.
- Develop a database of information defining the roles and responsibilities of stakeholder organisations; as well as the programmes, services offered, etc on WICBT.



- Provide training for relevant government officials, development partners and women's trade networks to ensure that WICBT issues are part of planning and budgeting.
- Advocate with ministries of finance and the chambers of commerce for better allocation of resources to support the activities of women cross border traders (e.g. 'Right to information' of WICBT, cross border market facilities, social amenities, provisions of water and sanitation, health care and child care facilities in cross border markets, road networks, etc.).



- Support and work with the regional reference group on gender and trade to support regional trade negotiations, capacity building, research and advocacy on regional integration processes.
- **Work collaboratively with regional development partners to support a gender audit of Africa negotiating positions with the WTO to analyze their impact on women and men producers and traders.**