



Malaysia

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SHE TRADES OUTLOOK | 2023



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TIMEFRAME

March
2018

March
2025

OBJECTIVE

To increase economic growth and job creation in Commonwealth countries by enabling the increased participation of women-owned businesses in international trade. The project is funded by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and implemented by ITC under the framework of the SheTrades Initiative.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide governments with the tools, information and capacity to implement gender-responsive policies. Also offer a platform for governments to work collectively and share best practices, including through SheTrades Outlook and in-country technical assistance on policy reform.
- Provide direct support to women-owned businesses. Build their competitiveness and their capacity to participate in trade through intensive training, mentoring and coaching.
- Work with business support organizations to improve the service offering for women entrepreneurs.
- Engage private sector partners to adopt business practices that create economic opportunities for women-owned businesses.



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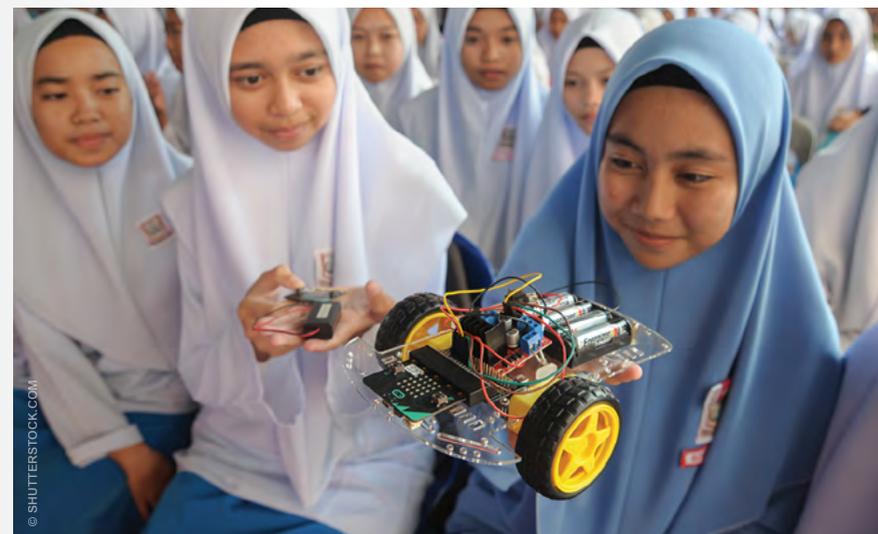
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SHETRADES OUTLOOK

SheTrades Outlook: Creating Trade Opportunities for Women in Malaysia

This policy brief presents analysis and recommendations for Malaysia to unlock women's participation in trade by improving the policy ecosystem. It is based on the results of the SheTrades Outlook tool in Malaysia, which collected and analysed data from 23 national institutions and three private sector organizations.



WHY DOES WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MATTER?

Between 2010 and 2022, Malaysia had a fast-growing economy with an average growth rate of 5.4%. However, this was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the gross domestic product growth rate contracted by 5.5%. Although labour-force participation rates were stable from 2019 to 2022, a gender gap remains (the rate is 52%–53% among women and 79% among men). Crises and shocks typically have disproportionate effects on women and vulnerable groups. This highlights the need to provide tailored support to women and mainstream gender in government policies.

In the longer term, Malaysia aspires to become a high-income economy. The [Twelfth Malaysia Plan 2021–2025](#) aims to enhance inclusivity and sustainability to achieve this vision. Women are a crucial part of this plan because they represent a huge opportunity to contribute to output production and inclusive development.

The [National Women Policy 1989](#) aims to empower women and achieve gender equality by mainstreaming gender perspectives, gathering and analysing gender-disaggregated data, and increasing women's capacity. Malaysia is also working on passing a [Gender Equality Bill](#) that will establish a legal framework on gender equality in the country.

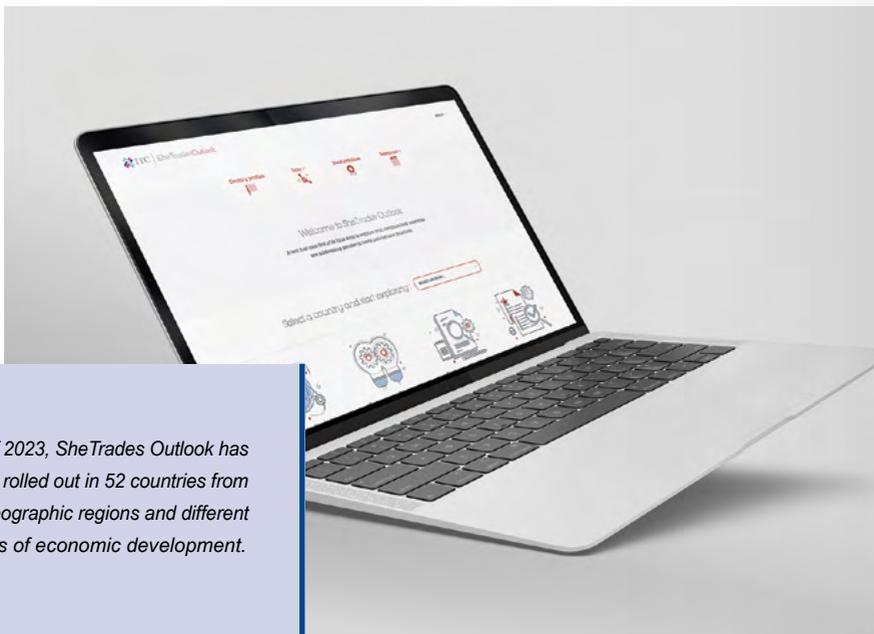
SheTrades Outlook provides critical data to help policymakers prioritize areas for improvement to promote women's economic empowerment and achieve the goals of Malaysia's national plans for development and gender equality. It offers practical insights to ensure that policies affecting business and trade are gender-responsive.

WHAT IS SHETRADES OUTLOOK?

SheTrades Outlook is an innovative, evidence-based policy tool designed by the International Trade Centre (ITC). It identifies policies, laws or programmes that contribute to or prevent women's participation in the economy and trade. This first-of-its-kind tool is based on 55 indicators. These are grouped under six interlinked pillars – Trade Policy, Business Environment, Legal and Regulatory Framework, Access to Skills, Access to Finance and Work and Society.

SheTrades Outlook is based on data collected by national consultants from an average of 20 national institutions and organizations per country. Data is collected through interviews based on semi-structured questionnaires. Examples of institutions surveyed include ministries of trade, education, finance, technology and women's affairs; public procurement authorities; Customs authorities; central banks; national statistics offices; business associations; chambers of commerce; and other trade support institutions.

SheTrades Outlook also makes use of reliable, publicly available and recently updated databases from the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Statistics Division; the World Bank and the World Economic Forum. Additionally, an average of three good practices are identified per country by national experts.



As of 2023, SheTrades Outlook has been rolled out in 52 countries from all geographic regions and different levels of economic development.

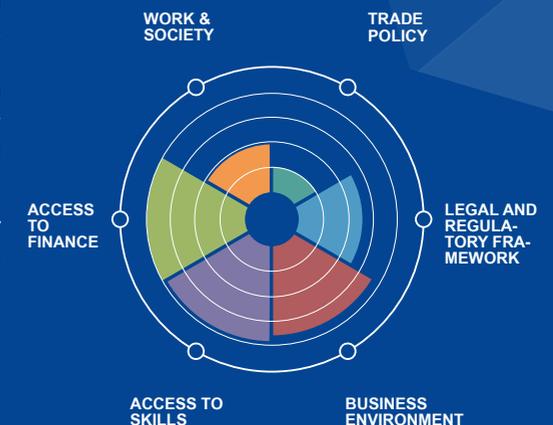
RESULTS

SheTrades Outlook – results

Twenty-six organizations – 23 national institutions and three private sector organizations – were interviewed to collect data. Institutions were chosen based on their strategic objectives and relevance in relation to the six pillars of the initiative. The institutional survey was conducted in 2019. This policy brief presents the latest available data.

The SheTrades Outlook indicator scores range from zero to one. Malaysia performed the highest in Access to Finance, followed by Access to Skills and Business Environment. Malaysia scored average on Legal and Regulatory Framework and low on Trade Policy and Work and Society.

Detailed information on the scores under each pillar is presented below. This includes strengths and bottlenecks, as well as gaps identified in the data.



TRADE POLICY



Consultation process	
Initiatives or mechanisms are in place to include women's associations/organizations in consultation processes	
Women's associations/organizations participate in consultation processes	
Trade and gender-related concerns are included in policies and agreements	
Policy or action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment includes trade-related concerns	
Trade agreements or regional economic integration agreements include gender provisions	
Assessment, monitoring and evaluation	
Ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessments of trade agreements are carried out	
Trade policy uses gender indicators	
Gender-disaggregated data	
Law or regulation mandates the collection of gender-disaggregated data	
Gender-disaggregated data is collected on companies	
Women's participation in strategic roles	
Women are represented in ministerial and parliamentary positions	
Capacity building on gender issues	
Trade Ministry staff receive training on gender issues	
A gender focal point focusing on trade and gender issues has been established	



The Trade Policy pillar focuses on the inclusiveness of trade policies, agreements and practices. It also includes the adoption of gender-sensitive practices in trade and trade-related institutions.

Malaysia performs the lowest in this pillar. Opportunities for improvement include:

- Mainstreaming gender in trade agreements
- Conducting ex-post impact assessments of trade agreements
- Including gender and trade issues in the national gender policy
- Using gender indicators in projects and programmes
- Providing training on gender issues for Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) staff
- Adopting a standard definition of a woman-led or women-owned business.

WHAT WORKS?

MITI consults women's business associations throughout the year on trade agreements. Close to 20 public and private sector organizations are invited for these consultations.

Malaysia also collects gender-disaggregated data on companies, particularly on employment and ownership. Estimates from national institutions show that women own between 11% and 20% of exporting companies in Malaysia.

WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

Malaysia is a party to the World Trade Organization Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, showing its commitment to improving opportunities for women to trade. At the national level, Malaysia has an opportunity to include trade concerns in the National Women Policy 1989 and the Gender Equality Bill.

In SheTrades Outlook, trade agreements can receive three ratings: 'limited', 'evolving' or 'advanced' levels of gender responsiveness. Malaysia is party to 13 free trade agreements. However, none have an evolving or advanced level of gender responsiveness. The government can consider incorporating gender equality issues in trade agreements. The ITC policy guide, [Mainstreaming Gender in Free Trade Agreements](#), presents recommendations and model clauses to improve women's participation in trade through trade agreements.

Gender mainstreaming in trade policy could also be improved. For instance, the government can consider strengthening its monitoring of trade agreements and trade policies and programmes. To do this, it is crucial to use gender indicators to track the outcomes of trade policies and programmes. Malaysia can also consider conducting ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessments of trade agreements to understand whether benefits from trade accrue to both women and men equally. In this regard, the government may wish to establish a law that mandates the collection of gender-disaggregated data across all agencies and departments.

MITI can establish a gender focal point to coordinate activities on trade and gender. To further build institutional capacity, training on trade and gender issues can be provided to MITI staff.

Lastly, the government could also adopt an internationally recognized definition of a women-led or women-owned business as prescribed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [International Workshop Agreement 34: Women's entrepreneurship – Key definitions and general criteria](#). This can improve the targeting of beneficiaries of women's economic empowerment programmes, collection of comparable data on women's entrepreneurship worldwide, and monitoring of the impacts of programmes and policies on women-led businesses.



LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



Signing, ratification and enforcement of key international conventions	
Country has ratified the CEDAW and CEDAW optional protocol	
Country has ratified and enforced ILO Conventions 100, 111, and 183	
Gender-responsive budgeting approach	
Government uses gender-responsive budgeting approach	
Laws that facilitate access to productive resources	
Law provides women and men with equal rights to property and access to financial services	
Laws that facilitate access to the labour market	
Law mandates non-discrimination in employment based on gender, protection from sexual harassment and equal remuneration for work of equal value	
Paid parental leave policies	
Maternity leave benefit is mandated	
Parental leave is available for both parents	
Childcare and education support and facilities	
Parents receive childcare and education support	



This pillar assesses a country's adoption of laws and regulations that protect and promote women's rights. It also covers laws and policies that encourage women's entry into, and continuity and advancement in, labour markets. An example would be laws that support women to combine work with childcare responsibilities.

More than 50% of the data for this pillar was sourced from World Bank Women, Business and the Law; the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Malaysia has a medium performance in this pillar. Areas for improvement include ratifying international conventions on gender equality; adopting a gender-responsive budgeting approach; and legislating to guarantee equal rights to inheritance and employment, and to provide 16 weeks of fully paid maternity leave.

WHAT WORKS?

Domestically, the government has legislated to ensure women and men have equal ownership rights, and to prohibit gender-based discrimination in opening a bank account. Malaysia also has laws on protection against sexual harassment at the workplace.

Malaysia provides seven days of paternity leave to fathers who are working in the public sector. The government also provides childcare and education support in the form of childcare centres and tax deductions per child.

WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

Internationally, Malaysia has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality by ratifying ILO Convention 100 (equal remuneration). It can further show its support by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as ratifying ILO Conventions 111 (non-discrimination in employment and occupation) and 183 (maternity protection).

Domestically, Malaysia can legislate to guarantee equal inheritance rights, protection from discrimination based on gender in employment, equal remuneration for men and women for equal value of work, and equal access to credit.

Currently, women receive 60–90 days of maternity leave with full pay. There is an opportunity to extend paid maternity leave to 14 weeks.

There is an opportunity for the government to adopt a gender-responsive budgeting approach. This can help increase women's participation in the budgeting process. It can also help track the allocation of public funds on women's economic empowerment programmes, as well as promote transparency and accountability in government budgeting.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



Representation of women business associations	
Women's business associations are represented at the national level	
Women-led businesses participate in activities conducted by chambers of commerce	
Business start-ups	
Support services are available when establishing a company	
National institutions implement incubator/accelerator programmes	
Access to trade and customs information	
Help and information desks are available at government offices to assist companies in complying with national regulations and export/import requirements	
Information on changes in customs procedures and trade regulations are announced in a timely manner	
Public procurement	
Information on public procurement process, vendors and transactions are available	
Preferential scheme on public procurement for women-led businesses is implemented	
Reporting and monitoring unfair practices in trade	
Means exist for women and men to report complaints on wrongdoing on trade regulations or procedures	
Trade facilitation and gender-responsive framework in customs	
Single-window electronic interface is available	
Gender-sensitive guidelines by the World Customs Organization or other national monitoring framework is implemented	
Border-level customs agents and officials receive training on gender-sensitive practices	MISSING DATA

Pillar score shows "Missing data" if more than 20% of the indicators have missing data.



A conducive business ecosystem is essential to achieve resilient growth through the business cycle. This pillar focuses on the inclusiveness of the business ecosystem and covers industry bodies that support women's entrepreneurship. It also includes the ease and costs of establishing and running a business, trading across borders, and accessing information and public procurement markets.

Malaysia has a medium-high score in this pillar. This is related to the existence of women's business associations in the country; the availability of business support services, incubators and accelerator programmes, and establishment of help and information desks and grievance mechanisms in the country; and publishing timely information on public tenders and changes in Customs procedures and trade regulations, among others.

WHAT WORKS?

There are several women's business associations in Malaysia, with 41 women's business associations registered under the Department of Women's Development. Some examples include: the Association of Bumiputra Women Entrepreneur Network of Malaysia, the e-Entrepreneurs Women Association Malaysia, and the Association of Bumiputera Women in Business and Profession Malaysia (*Peniagawati*). Women-led businesses participate in activities held by the Kuala Lumpur International Chamber of Commerce.

Business support services are available when establishing a company. The Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives and the *Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia* (Companies Commission of Malaysia) have help desks and mobile counters to assist entrepreneurs with the business registration process. As of 2019, approximately 21,000 women had benefited from these services.

Incubator programmes are also available for start-ups. These include *Institut Keusahawanan Negara* ([INSKEN Business Coaching](#)) and the [Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre \(MaGIC\)](#). As of 2019, 60% of the beneficiaries of these programmes were women.

Various institutions provide help desks to help traders comply with export and import requirements. The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) has an Integrated Centre for Export and business centre. MITI's *Seksyen Kerjasama Perdagangan dan Industri* (Trade and Industry Cooperation Section) has a help desk at MITI and across various states. It provides services such as counselling on sector reports, trade statistics, information on export/import incentives, authorized operators, and ruling on the tariff classification and origin of imported goods. However, data is not available for all products and sectors.



WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

MATRADE offers an online inquiry form for companies, organizations and individuals to report complaints on trade malpractices. However, the government may consider collecting gender-disaggregated data on the number of persons filing complaints. This can help assess the needs of women and improve services to make them more inclusive.

Various government agencies and local authorities collect and publish data on public procurement vendors via different systems. These include [ePerolehan](#), [iGFMAS](#) (1 Government Financial and Management Accounting System), *Sistem Pemantauan Projek II*, and *MyGPIS (Sistem Maklumat Bersepadu Perolehan Kerajaan)*. However, these systems are not consolidated into one single public procurement vendor database. Moreover, none of them collect gender-disaggregated data. There is an opportunity to collect gender-disaggregated data on public procurement vendors and create a unified database. This can help map women's participation in government procurement. Further, the government can adopt a preferential public procurement scheme for women. This can ensure that women-led businesses take advantage of business opportunities in the public procurement market.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department may also consider providing training on gender issues to Customs officials. This can help eliminate the gender-based discrimination and harassment typically faced by women in trade.

Updated information on Customs procedures and trade regulations is published online on the single window electronic interface, [myTRADELINK](#), and notified 14 days before implementation. Information on the application and selection process for public tenders is also made available online at [Perolehan Kerajaan](#).

Malaysia has fully implemented its single window electronic interface and allows several trade processes to be completed electronically. These include Customs declarations; submission of air cargo manifests; application for and issuance of import and export permits; and payment of Customs duties.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department uses the World Customs Organization's Customs Integrity Action Plan.



ACCESS TO SKILLS



Education and literacy



Law mandates compulsory education



Gender disaggregated data on adult literacy



Skills programmes for workers and entrepreneurs



Enrolment rate in technical and vocational programmes (female/male ratio)



Skills training programmes for workers are conducted



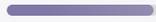
Business skills training for MSME owners are conducted



Training to facilitate access to markets are conducted



Targeted support and capacity building programmes for women



National institutions provide targeted support and capacity building programmes for women



Access to ICT and business innovation support



Policies and programmes are in place to support women's business innovation



Access to internet



Improved access to education is essential to build necessary skills and reduce inequality of opportunities between men and women. It is also vital to break the vicious cycle of poverty. This pillar focuses on measures designed to enhance women's abilities and business-related skills. One objective is to close the education gap. Another is to equip women with the capacity to compete and succeed in international markets and occupations traditionally dominated by men.

Malaysia's performance in this pillar is medium-high. This is related to the availability of both skills upgrading programmes for workers and entrepreneurs, and training on trade procedures and regulations. Targeted information and technical support are also provided to women entrepreneurs.

WHAT WORKS?

Malaysia has several skills upgrading programmes for workers. The [SME Corporation Malaysia \(SME CORP\) Skills Upgrading](#) programme aims to enhance the technical and managerial skills of employees of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Targeted sectors include electronics, information technology, industrial design and engineering.

Various training opportunities are also available for entrepreneurs. There are 60 agencies under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives that offer training to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). These include INSKEN, MaGIC, SME CORP, SME Bank and the National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (*TEKUN Nasional*).

Training is available to help entrepreneurs and MSMEs navigate trade and public procurement rules and procedures. MATRADE carries out various trainings and workshops related to rules and procedures governing trade through its Go-Ex programme, mid-tier companies' development programme and e-trade programme. Training and workshops on public procurement are conducted in the country but no data is collected on the number of participants.

Several programmes also provide technical support and targeted information to women's business associations. The MaGIC Pre-Accelerator Bootcamp hosts the [Female Founders Edition](#), which is a two-week programme to empower Malaysia's women to transform their business ideas into investment-ready solutions through mentorship and capacity-building initiatives. MATRADE implements the [Women Exporters Development Programme \(WEDP\)](#), which is a three-year export support programme targeted at women exporters. The aim of the programme is to encourage competitive and sustainable women-led businesses to expand their product and services exports. The programme provides customized business coaching, skills training, international business exposure, market immersions, networking and mentoring sessions, and leadership and entrepreneurial development. SME CORP also implements the Women Netpreneur programme, which aims to support women entrepreneurs to start and grow their business online. Through the programme, experts offer guidance and best practices to develop an online business.

WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

Malaysia has some business innovation policies that provide subsidies for the purchase of new machinery/equipment/software. However, there is an opportunity for Malaysia to adopt policies and initiatives that provide incentives for women to innovate and participate in entrepreneurship.

National institutions can consider collecting gender-disaggregated data on enrolment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes. Gender-disaggregated data can also be collected on participants of skills upgrading programmes, and trainings on trade and public procurement rules and procedures.

Lastly, the Department of Statistics Malaysia collects data on internet and mobile usage quarterly, but it is not gender-disaggregated.



ACCESS TO FINANCE



Access to financial services



Digital financial services are available



There is access to formal financial resources (female/male ratio)



Financial inclusion strategies and programmes



Financial inclusion strategy or programme is implemented



Financial support for women-led businesses and women's business associations



Women-led businesses receive financial support to participate in trade fairs



Fiscal and trade finance schemes



Financial institutions are mandated to report gender-disaggregated data

MISSING DATA

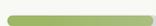
Fiscal schemes are available to facilitate entrepreneurial opportunities



Trade finance schemes are available in the country to facilitate trade



Financial instruments and other financing opportunities



Financial instruments are available to support entrepreneurial opportunities



Venture capital financing opportunities are available to support women entrepreneurs



Pillar score shows "Missing data" if more than 20% of the indicators have missing data.



This pillar focuses on women's access to formal financial services. It also covers whether governments – alone or in partnership with the private sector – have developed innovative solutions to promote financial inclusion for women. Examples include removing or modifying bank requirements for physical collateral or verifiable cash flow so that women can access finance more easily.

Malaysia has the highest performance in this pillar. This is related to several factors. These include the adoption of a financial inclusion strategy, availability of trade finance schemes to facilitate trade, provision of financial support to women-led businesses to participate in trade fairs, and the availability of a variety of digital financial services in the country, among others.

WHAT WORKS?

Digital financial services are available in Malaysia to facilitate entrepreneurship and trade. These include mobile and online banking, international wire transfers, issuing payments and peer-to-peer lending.

Malaysia has adopted the [Financial Inclusion Framework 2023–2026](#). It aims to achieve four outcomes: (i) access to affordable and suitable financial products and services; (ii) responsible use of financial products and services; (iii) financial innovation that delivers value for all; and (iv) financially capable consumers with good financial health.

Trade finance schemes are offered by financial institutions that support women in international trade. For instance, Export-Import Bank provides import and export financing services. There are also financial instruments to support entrepreneurship in the country, including some targeted at women. For example, *Majlis Amanah Rakyat* launched the [Special Business Financing Scheme for Women \(DanaNITA\)](#) and TEKUN Nasional implements the [TEMANNITA Financing Scheme](#), which helps women obtain group financing easily and quickly. SME Bank, along with Bank Islam, implements [MySMELady](#), which provides eligible women entrepreneurs with financing of MYR 1 million with minimum collateral.

Lastly, WEDP provides women-led businesses with financial support to participate in international trade fairs or other international trade promotion events. Women-led businesses can also participate for free in seminars and workshops organized by MATRADE.

WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

The government can consider mandating financial institutions to report gender-disaggregated data. This can assist in the development of financial inclusion strategies to encourage more women to access formal financial services.

WORK AND SOCIETY



Woman's opportunities in the labour market



Women are allowed to work in the same industries and perform the same tasks as men



Estimated annual earned income, US\$ PPP (female-male ratio)



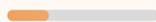
Labour force participation rate (female-male ratio)



Female share of employment in managerial positions (%)



Time spent on unpaid work



Time-use on unpaid domestic chores and care work (male-female ratio)



This pillar addresses the unconscious or conscious gender biases that prevent women from participating equally in the economy. This includes existing patterns of job segregation and the interventions set up by governments to address these biases. Malaysia has a medium-low score in this pillar.

WHERE IS MORE PROGRESS NEEDED?

There is an opportunity for Malaysia to facilitate the participation of women in managerial positions. In 2020, women occupied only 24.9% of managerial positions.

There is also a persistent gender wage gap in Malaysia. In 2022, the female-to-male gender wage gap ratio in Malaysia was 0.68. The government can consider establishing a law on equal remuneration of women and men for work of equal value.

Lastly, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, in cooperation with the Department of Statistics Malaysia, conducted a survey on time use and unpaid work in 2003. The survey covered 32,264 respondents from 15,640 households and found that women spent an average of 4 hours and 35 minutes a day on unpaid domestic work. Men spent 1 hour and 26 minutes per day. Malaysia can consider conducting regular time-use surveys to better understand how women and men allocate their time on unpaid care and domestic work, and devise policies that can help distribute care and household responsibilities equally between women and men.



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The way forward

The Twelfth Malaysia Plan 2021–2025 sets out a vision for an inclusive and sustainable economy. To achieve this, Malaysia needs to ensure that both men and women can participate in business and trade. Based on the SheTrades Outlook results in Malaysia, there are several areas where the country has made progress in promoting women's economic empowerment, such as access to finance, access to skills, and business environment. However, scores are relatively lower in the trade policy pillar.

There are several opportunities for improvement to facilitate women's participation in the economy. Policymakers can focus on mainstreaming gender into trade policy. Specific recommendations on how this can be achieved are provided in this policy brief. For further details on the steps and actions to make trade policy work for women, policymakers can also refer to the ITC policy guide: [From Design to Evaluation: Making Trade Policy Work for Women](#).

Another area for improvement is monitoring and evaluation. Malaysia could use gender indicators to monitor policies and projects, and to conduct gender impact assessments of trade agreements.

There is an opportunity to adopt inclusive frameworks to ensure that the business environment is conducive for both women and men. A preferential scheme for women-led businesses in public procurement can be adopted.



01

THE WAY FORWARD: MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO TRADE POLICY

Malaysia has an opportunity to use trade policy as an instrument to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Specifically, the government can:

- Incorporate gender equality issues in trade agreements
- Conduct gender impact assessments before and after signing a trade agreement
- Use gender indicators to track the outcomes of trade policies and programmes
- Adopt the internationally recognized definition of a women-owned business specified in the ISO International Workshop Agreement 34: Women's entrepreneurship – Key definitions and general criteria
- Provide training on gender issues to Customs officials
- Establish a trade and gender focal point.

02

THE WAY FORWARD: INCLUSIVE FRAMEWORKS

It is important to ensure that policies, schemes and practices related to business and trade benefit both women and men. To do this, the government can:

- Include trade concerns in national policies on gender equality
- Adopt a preferential public procurement scheme for women-led businesses
- Adopt a gender-responsive budgeting approach
- Extend paid maternity leave to up to 14 weeks.



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**GOOD PRACTICE:
CUSTOMIZED SUPPORT HELPS WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESSES EXPAND THROUGH EXPORT**

Through WEDP, MATRADE helps women-led businesses in Malaysia export their products. The programme provides coaching, workshops, financial support to participate in international trade fairs and trade missions, free exhibition space, networking and mentoring sessions, and leadership and entrepreneurial development support.

As of 2019, the programme had supported 1,700 women exporters working in non-traditional sectors such as chemicals, electronics and medical equipment.

The programme was launched in 2005 and in its first three years, export sales climbed up to MYR 9.8 million. As of 2019, MYR 629.41 million (approx. US\$150 million) in revenue had been generated.

Source: [MATRADE](#)

03 THE WAY FORWARD: MONITORING MECHANISMS

- Mandate the collection of gender-disaggregated data across all agencies and departments of the government
- Encourage financial institutions to collect and report gender-disaggregated data on product use
- Regularly collect gender-disaggregated national statistics on time use
- Collect gender-disaggregated data on:
 - suppliers in the public procurement database
 - participants of skills training programmes, TVET programmes and market access training programmes
 - complainants on malpractices in trade regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about this Policy Brief and the SheTrades Outlook project can be found at: <https://outlook.shetrades.com/home>

This policy brief was prepared by Vanika Sharma (International Consultant, SheTrades Initiative, ITC) under the guidance of Ma. Diyina Gem Arbo (Associate Economic Affairs Officer, SheTrades Initiative, ITC).

Contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals:



#SheTrades

FOR EVERY WOMAN, EVERYWHERE

The International Trade Centre's (ITC) SheTrades Initiative is a global platform that empowers women to engage in business, creating value for both them and their communities. The Initiative ensures that the right capacities and conditions are present to foster inclusive and sustainable trade.

SheTrades delivers activities and training that improve women traders' ability to do business successfully. At the same time, the Initiative works to remove inequalities that hinder women's participation in trade and foster a better trade environment for all.



International
Trade
Centre

SheTrades

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