

# COPLA – Trade and poverty in Latin America: Gender imbalances



## Strategic aim:

The COPLA programme explores the linkages between trade, poverty and social exclusion in Latin America, with a focus on the different impacts of trade liberalisation on marginalised groups including women, youth, indigenous minorities or the rural poor.

## Key messages and findings:

Liberalised trade can have both positive and negative effects on women, but it is clear that trade reforms must be coupled with complementary social policies to ensure women are in a position to take advantage of these reforms.

## Audiences:

- Trade, finance and social service ministers in our target countries: Bolivia, Peru and Nicaragua.
- Donors such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, USAID and DFID.

## Key challenges and recommendations:

- Given women's asymmetrical responsibilities for unpaid (household) activities, social and labour policies are needed that specifically target female-headed households and businesses – such as improved access to child care, parental leave rights and better transport.
- In many Latin American countries, women's access to land titles and ownership, credit and other financial services, technology and market information must be strengthened.
- Capacity strengthening opportunities are essential to empower women, and could include training and education, as well as advocacy, networking and policy dialogue skills, so women can better represent their rights and needs.

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