

CUTS International's Session on

# Impact of COVID-19 on Women Traders in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal

World Trade Organization's Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking Event 2021

**25**  
**March 2021**  
**Thursday**  
09:30 - 11:00 (CET)  
14:00 - 15:30 (IST)



**Bipul Chatterjee**  
Executive Director,  
CUTS International  
Moderator



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Head of Trade and Gender,  
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Senior Regional Cooperation  
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Director General, Department of Employment and  
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**Selima Ahmad**  
Member of Parliament, Bangladesh  
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Gender and Natural Resource  
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Women's participation in trade and trade-related activities in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) is an issue that needs special attention in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic as micro, small and medium enterprises are bearing the brunt of the crises.

Similarly, the closure of international borders, shutting down production units, travel restrictions and sluggish demand due to the Covid-19 outbreak has impacted women and women entrepreneurs engaged in cross-border formal and informal land trade.

The pandemic has also resulted in the closure of 'Border Haats' that are functional along the international border between India and Bangladesh; thereby cutting off an easier source of consumer goods to marginalised communities, particularly women.

Drawing insights from the on-going projects [Gender Dimensions of Trade Facilitation in BBIN](#) and [India Bangladesh Border Haats](#), supported by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, CUTS is hosting a webinar as part of WTO's [Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking Event](#) from 23-25 March, 2021.

