

# PEP research in action

## Free trade, public investments & women's employment in Senegal



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### Potential effects of free trade on women's labour

In Senegal, women tend to work in the least competitive economic sectors.

**The EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**  
= progressive elimination of tariffs on 75% of goods over 20 years



- ▶ likely to make women's working conditions more precarious, compared to those in exporting sectors.
- Therefore, EPA may compromise country's efforts towards gender equality.

### Recommendations for poliymaking

- 10% increase in public investments** in the agriculture (subsistence and industrial), fisheries, construction and "other services" sectors
- Implement complementary measures**, such as:
- **Education programs** aimed at promoting women's employment in sectors less vulnerable to effects of free trade
  - **Research structures or initiatives** to analyze welfare and poverty impacts of EPA for people in Senegal

Local PEP researchers investigate **which measures can achieve trade liberalisation objectives while protecting/promoting women's jobs**

#### METHOD:

CGE modelling techniques to simulate different scenarios and measure effects on selected outcomes.

**1<sup>st</sup> scenario simulates effects of tariff elimination** of 50% or 100% every 5 years, over 5, 10 or 15 year periods, for different categories of goods - on various labor market outcomes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> scenario simulates effects of 10% increase in public investments**, as measure to mitigate negative effects of liberalization on labour outcomes.

## Findings

### EPA reduces demand for labor in sectors where most women work

- Qualified women are most affected
- Most affected sectors include "other services", farming/agriculture, & fisheries, in which women are busiest

### Increasing public investments leads to increase in labor demand in target sectors

- Which contributes to reducing women's unemployment and increasing their wages



## Informing national policy processes

Throughout project, team consulted with::

- Directorate for Gender Equity and Equality (DEEG)
- International Labour Organization (ILO) country office
- General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy (DGPPE) - in charge of decisions related to public investments

**All committed to support/promote project and contribute to disseminating the findings**

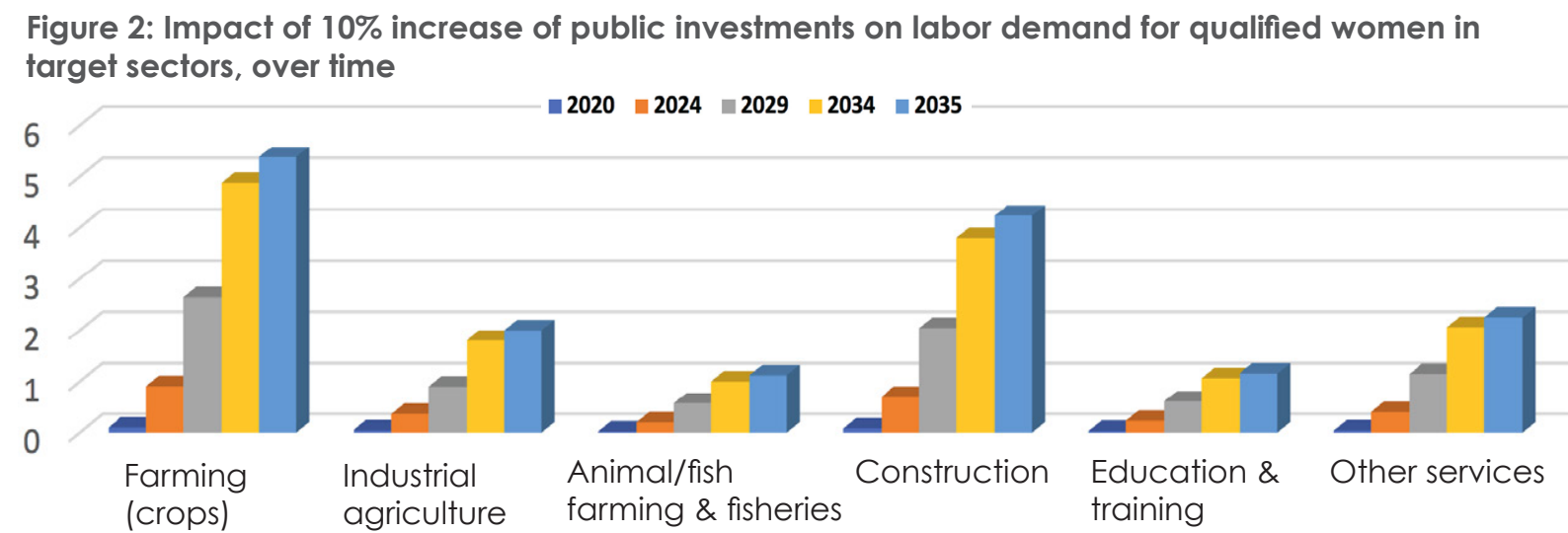
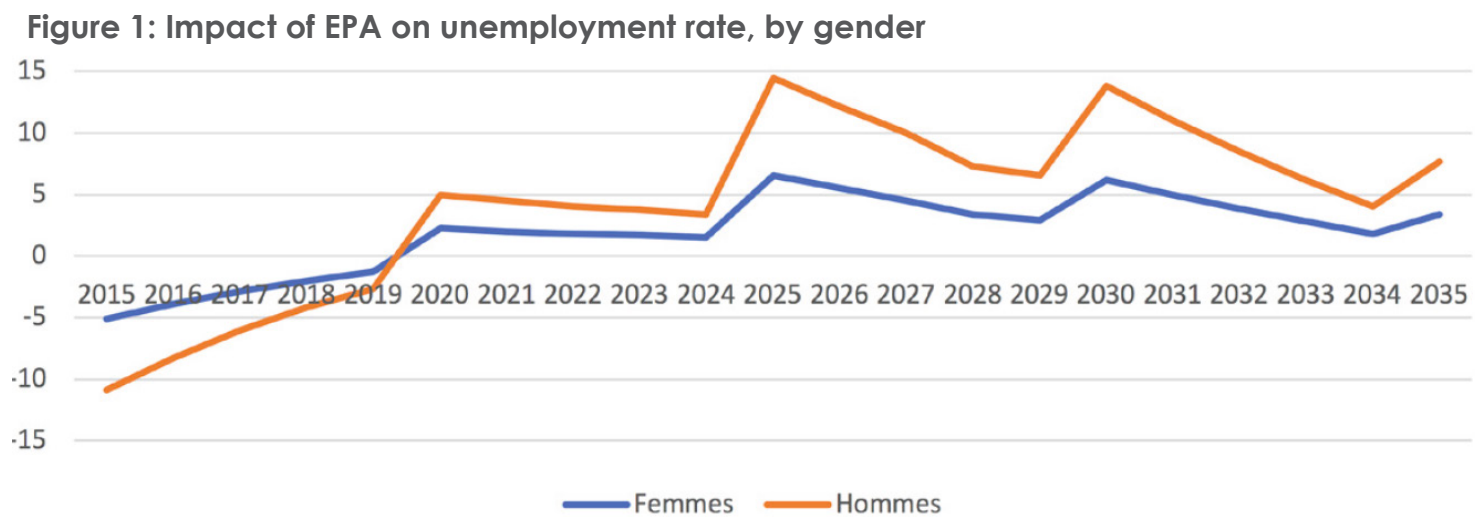
March 2019: team organizes PEP national policy conference

Attended by high-level representatives from:

- General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy
- Operational Office for Monitoring the Plan for Emerging Senegal
- Gender units of various government ministries

▶ **Resulted in official statement/commitment from DGPPE Coordinator to:**

- Assimilate research findings into DGPPE decisions
- Finance further (locally-led) research projects to promote research-policy collaborations
- Organize another workshop gathering different actors (policy, NGO, academia) to **form a committee in charge of monitoring the implementation of the team's recommendations**



#### Research team

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#### PEP publications

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This project was supported under the PEP initiative for Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment, 2016-2020 (PAGE II)

#### Funded by

