

12 July 2024

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CAD 7 billion in federal investments and commitments from almost 20 different federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

Source: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/women-entrepreneurship-strategy/en>.

2.1.4.2 Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund

2.8. Some WES program mes have a focus on reducing barriers to financing for women entrepreneurs. Budget 2021 committed CAD 55 million towards the Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund, managed by ISED. The Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund is providing loans of up to CAD 50,000 for women entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds through five loan administrators. While there are uniform parameters for loan delivery, the loan administrators offer a variety of services to a diversity of clients, such as zero interest loans, micro loans under CAD 15,000, loans for Indigenous women, and loans available online. These administrators also provide additional wrap-

2.1.5 Chile

2.1.5.1 Seed Starter funding for women -led businesses, CORFO

2.11. Programme for women -led businesses. In 2021, Seed Starter support was provided to 45 women entrepreneurs, as part of the programme set out in the Institutional Gender Strategy of the Corporation for the Promotion of Production (CORFO). These women entrepreneurs were awarded funding of CLP 765 million. The capital initiative shares the same goal as the wider Seed Starter programme, but is unique in focusing solely on providing support to women entrepreneurs.

Source: https://www.corfo.cl/sites/cpp/convocatorias/semilla_inicia_empresas_lideradas_mujeres.

2.1.5.2 Revitalization Support Programme (PAR - Women's Empowerment), CORFO

2.12. A programme supporting taxpayers in the MSMEs sector to improve production potential and strengthen business management and entrepreneurship. It also supports the development of skills and capacities of entrepreneurs.

2.17. The Mujer Exporta Programme's initiatives for 2023 centre around four key areas:

- **Education and training schemes for both internal and external stakeholders**. This initiative seeks to raise awareness about specific issues throughout ProChile's network of offices, both within Chile and abroad. ProChile has 16 regional offices in Chile and 56 offices overseas.
- **Creative industries.** A major focus of ProChile's activities is on creative industries, including more traditional offerings typically associated with women, as well as other areas such as music, video games, the publishing sector and audiovisual productions. Women make up a significant part of the work teams in these sectors, and ProChile

2.1.7 Colombia

2.1.7.1 Free and Productive Woman Fund

2.19. Colombia's National Development Plan (2022 -2026), titled "Colombia World Power of Life" , contains specific financing provisions for women and advances affirmative action for different groups including indigenous women entrepreneurs, victims of gender violence and women in the process of reintegration. In particular, article 73 of Law 2294 of 2023, called the "Patrimonio Autónomo Mujer Libre y Productiva " (Free and Productive Woman Autonomous Heritage) , is a fund aimed to "design and implement financial and non -financial actions and instruments aimed at supporting and financing projects and initiatives that promote auto . en()12,nn.feee

2.1.8 Côte d'Ivoire : Credit fund for women to start and expand their businesses

2.22. The Fonds d'aide aux femmes de Côte d'Ivoire (FAFCI) aims to enable women in Côte d'Ivoire to create or expand their income

2.1.11 European Union Member States

2.1.11.1 Ireland

2.31. Enterprise Ireland believes that Ireland 's economic success will be driven by harnessing a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem which utilises the skills, ambition and talent of a diverse population. Increasing opportunities for women entrepreneurs and in management is a strong focus for Enterprise Ireland, and this work is underpinned by a six -year Action Plan for Women in Business. A key objective of the Women in Business Strategy is to grow the number of women becoming

appropriate agreements with wide experienced intermediate organizations, in order to provide the necessary technical business advice for the preparation, validation and processing to the financial entities of business projects for which the microcredit is

all 47 counties of Kenya with loans totalling KES 16,653,170,580 (approximately USD 157 million). One group of women who received funding from the WEF reported better nutrition for their families,

assistance for the development of women -managed businesses, meant to complement the financial and non- financial support currently available in Moldova; (ii) creating an integrated national model

2.1.23 Senegal

2.1.23.1 Supporting women's entrepreneurship through microfinance

2.76. The government of Senegal has created the National Fund of Credit for Women (Fonds National de Crédit pour les Femmes – FNCF) to promote women's access to microfinance. The FNCF has established a line of credit and a financing system for the activities of women's organizations to: develop productive and income-generating activities; strengthen, through training, managerial capacities; propel women towards formal entrepreneurship; create project incubator spaces in promising market niches; and contribute to the fight against the feminization of poverty. The FNCF has raised more than XOF 3.9 billion for female entrepreneurs. More than 300,000 women have benefited from the FNCF's services.

taken to address these challenges include assistance in the drafting and submission of applications, the provision of advisory services to beneficiaries to assist in compliance reporting, changing the designated authority to the Enterprise Seychelles Agency, revision to the governance structures of

2.1.32.2 50 Million African Women Speak Platform

2.98. Zambia's 50 Million African Women Speak Platform aims to empower women entrepreneurs by providing access to financial and non-financial business information. The project targets connecting 50 million women across Africa through a web-based platform. The areas that the project addresses are: (i) access to business information (financial and non-financial); (ii) learning (Peer-to-peer); (iii) knowledge transfer; and (iv) ideas and business opportunities. The online platform was operationalized in July 2019 and has enrolled more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs.

Source: [Home - 50 Million African Women Speak \(womenconnect.org\)](#) and WTO Database Gender - Responsive Trade Policies (upcoming).

2.1.32.3 Export Development Fund

2.99. Zambia's Export Development Fund (ZEDEF), managed by Zambia's Development Agency (ZDA), is designed to facilitate export finance. ZEDEF provides low interest loans provided to exporting companies as well as those with the potential to export. Loans are mostly for the purpose of pre-shipment or post shipment requirements by exporters. To date, the fund has worked with various Producer Associations to support the interests of members such as the Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM).

Source: [Zambia Export Development Fund \(ZEDEF\) - Zambia - 50 Million African Women Speak \(womenconnect.org\)](#) an

2.2 SELECT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION -LED INITIATIVES

2.2.1 Bangladesh: a policy framework for financial institutions

2.104. Bangladesh Bank's SME and Special Programmes Department formulated and instituted a policy framework to be implemented by banks and non -bank financial institutions. It includes specific policy suggestions, target -based SME financing plans, refinancing sche mes and training programmes. The policies also target at least 15% of all the SME funds to be allocated to women -owned businesses. Bangladesh Bank instructed banks and financial institutions to advertise all the facilities made available by the policy framework in print and electronic media. Due to this intensive and targeted information campad (-)Tj v2 [(i)- 1 (ed iv(8tto).TJ O37 (ilit57 (ilitv2 4 (i000)9.4 ((n)-3p(t)-2 r4

Source: <https://www.fcc->

among governments, multilateral development banks, public and private sectors supports women entrepreneurs by scaling up access to finance, skills, markets and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Source: [Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative | Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative \(we-fi.org\)](https://www.womenentrepreneursfinanceinitiative.org/).

2.2.6 The Gambia: A financial product built for women entrepreneurs

2.116. Reliance Financial Services – a non-bank financial institution – conducted detailed market research in Gambia to identify the needs and market potential of financial products and services specifically designed to support women entrepreneurs. These financial products include micro loans, savings plans, and life insurance. The average loan amount ranges from USD 100, and based on savings capacity, can be increased to USD 500. Loans typically have a six -month term, with a two-month grace period in repayment between the two principal and interest repayments on

lack the capacity to understand and respond appropriately to women entrepreneurs, who also often lack the financial and business acumen to respond to the needs of financial institutions; and (iii) a business environment aspect: in many countries, legal and regulatory frameworks hinder women's full participation in private sector growth.

Source: [AFAWA \(Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa\) | African Development Bank Group - Making a Difference \(afdb.org\)](#).

2.3.2 The Asian Development Bank: Small and Medium -sized Enterprises Line of Credit Project in Sri Lanka

2.121. Since 2016, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been implementing a USD 175 million credit line through 10 local banks to underserved SMEs, including women-led firms. In 2018, the project enhanced its gender-related impact with the introduction of a USD 12.6 million grant from the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi). The expanded support includes blended finance through an SME line of credit and We-Fi grant, and capacity development support for women entrepreneurs, banks, government organizations, and other key stakeholders. 1,305 women-led SMEs have borrowed from ADB's credit line. With the additional We-Fi support in 2018, a USD 6.3 million grant blended with USD 25.2 million in ADB credit line has been accessed by 637 women-led SMEs that were previously capital-constrained. Capacity development is also on track. As of February 2020, 187 women entrepreneurs had completed business development training across the country. Gender gap assessments have been carried out for 10 participating banks, three government organizations, and two chambers of commerce to improve their service delivery to women.

2.122. Challenges include prevailing inequities in the labour market and in rates of women's entrepreneurship. High-level government engagement and ownership has been vital for achieving successful implementation and sustainable institutional behavioral shifts. The development of partnerships with local financial institution to deliver project goals in conjunction with the implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation system and the provision of technical assistance has also been necessary. The efforts have been supported by a proactive dissemination campaign to boost awareness among potential female beneficiaries as well as banks as to how to access new opportunities provided by the project to improve their business practices. These lessons highlight the importance of designing responses which address the multiple gender-specific barriers women SMEs face.

2.123. Bearing the challenges in mind, the ADB also has a Guidance Note on Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration for Recovery and Resilience, which recognises and advocates for supporting women's entrepreneurship through skills training and greater access to finance and technology. Areas of focus can include: (a) promoting women's access to and trade skills (e-commerce) and tourism activities; (b) helping women in border communities participate in cross-border activities; (c) protecting migrant workers' benefits; and (d) enabling women-led MSMEs to join the cross-border supply chain and trade activities, among others. Recommended policies include identifying private sector solutions to overcome capital constraints such as supply chain finance solutions/incentives for financial institutions, among others.

Source: [Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration for Recovery and Resilience: Guidance Note \(adb.org\)](#).

2.3.3

ANNEX

Country/Territory/ Institution	Initiative Name	Type of Organization	Name of Organization	Start Date	End Date
ARGENTINA	Reciprocal Guarantee Companies (SGR) scheme	Government Agency	N/A	N/A	N/A
AUSTRALIA	Partnering with impact investors to support women-owned SMEs	Government Agency	Department of		



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JAPAN	Nadeshiko Brands	Government Agency	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)	N/A	N/A
KENYA	Affordable credit for women to improve lives	Government Agency	Women Enterprise Fund (WEF)	2007	Ongoing
MALAWI	Promoting women's transition from the informal sector through a loan fund	Government Agency	Ministry of Gender Affairs	2016	Ongoing
MALAYSIA	Financing for women in rural areas	Government Agency	MARA (the People's Trust Council)	2017	
MALDIVES	Financial instruments tailored to SMEs	Government Agency	SME Development Finance Corporation (SDFC)		

Country/Territory/ Institution	Initiative Name	Type of Organization	Name of Organization	Start Date	End Date
UGANDA	Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)	Government Agency	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNITED KINGDOM	Investing in Women Code	Government Agency			