



Creating opportunities for women's enterprises:

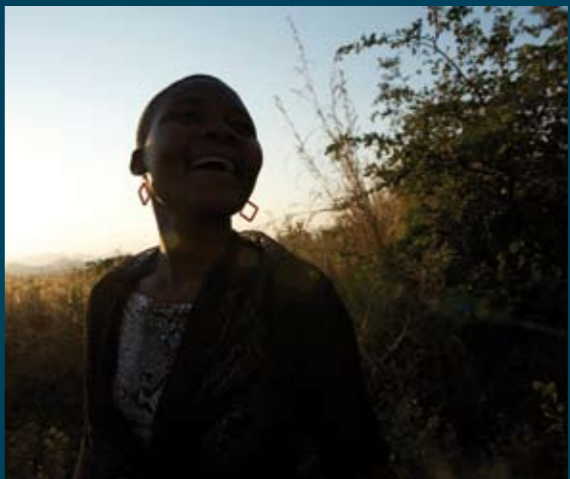
African Guarantee Initiative for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): the AfDB and the Danish Government alongside various bilateral and multilateral investors intend to respond to the historical lack of SMEs funding exacerbated by the financial crisis. A commission for African Recommendations is being established. The primary goal is to increase African SMEs long-term finance and capacity-building with loan guarantee products. The Initiative also includes support for capacity development of the financial institutions and services to help African SMEs improve their management skills.

African Women In Business Initiative: created to support women entrepreneurs both technically and financially. The program aims to build capacities of intermediaries to better service women entrepreneurs and to finance pan-African trainings and conferences.

The Growth-Oriented Women Entrepreneurs (GOWE) Guarantee Program for banks: USD 10 million in Kenya, Euro 10 million in Cameroon and a technical assistance facility of USD 3 million have been approved to support the training and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, associations, bankers and business services providers. Other partial guarantee programs for women were recently launched and are being implemented in Zambia and in Tanzania.

The AfDB thanks its strategic implementation partners: ILO, IFC-PEP Africa and the donors providing with their support

For further details, please visit the AfDB website : www.afdb.org



Women entrepreneurs' participation in African economies is essential. We are working together for their empowerment. They are working for Africa's future.

Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank

Harnessing the potential of women for development in Africa



For the African Development Bank (AfDB), promoting gender equality is one of the key building blocks for accelerating poverty reduction and promoting economic growth in Africa. The Bank's commitment to gender equality is articulated in its Gender Policy and other key policy frameworks and strategies. The recently approved Updated Gender Plan of Action (2009-2011) focuses on three priority areas: 1) investing in women's economic empowerment, 2) building institutional capacity and strengthening governance and 3) knowledge-generation.

The AfDB works to maximize efforts in addressing gender inequalities which continue to hamper progress in Africa.

Women's advancement: gender-based barriers remain unrecognized

Gender and results-oriented development: mainstreaming a gender perspective into Bank's results-oriented development approach is being institutionalized. This is being strengthened through the development and dissemination of gender statistics to ensure evidence-based development planning and monitoring progress throughout the African continent.

Investment and operations activities: the Bank continues to pay greater attention to gender issues in all its operations. It is a requirement to conduct gender analysis for every investment to ensure that the different needs of women and men are addressed in the design of the operations.

Promotion of women's economic empowerment

As part of the efforts to develop entrepreneurial skills and enhance access to finance for women and women's empowerment on the continent, the African Development Bank has various new interventions to incentivize African institutions including financial institutions and microfinance institutions to invest in women.

Supporting the microfinance sector is also supporting women

The Microfinance Capacity Building Trust Fund: created to provide a structure for efficient technical assistance in Africa and to increase the output and outcome for each Euro spent. This Euro 15 million fund provides capacity-building for the microfinance industry, especially for institutions targeting women entrepreneurs.

Migration and Development Fund:

The objective of this Euro 3 million Fund is to share knowledge on migrant remittances in Africa, to support reforms of the regulatory frameworks required to improve money transfers conditions and to develop financial products. The aim is to enhance local development in the migrants' countries of origin with productive and targeted investment on social needs, especially in the health and education sector.

Enhancing women's economic resilience:

The Bank's supported activities in entrepreneurial skills development, access to micro-credit and development of socio-economic infrastructure have been instrumental in increasing the productivity of women-owned small economic activities, in generating employment, in improving their income and in building their capabilities. According to a recent assessment, more than 75,000 women attended literacy classes and 60,000 women received microcredit loans in Malawi, Mali and Egypt. These initiatives have resulted in improved living standards and well-being for women and their families.

The Gambia: increase of women productivity with socio-economic infrastructure

Developing socio-economic infrastructure such as feeder roads, grinding mills, water pumps, health centers, improves women's lives in society. In the Gambia, the AfDB built 551 of such small facilities, including 36 production and multi-purpose centers, 15 small shops, 159 labor saving devices and others. They are serving as production and skills training centres and shops to market goods and services produced by women's micro and small businesses. They were complemented with the provision of entrepreneurial skills development and micro-credits and have been instrumental in job creation for women in particular, improving their productivity and market facilities.

