



# AFAWA

AFFIRMATIVE FINANCE ACTION  
FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA




AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE  
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

# BRIDGING THE FINANCE GAP FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA



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“When women are supported, they deliver.  
When you empower women,  
everything changes.  
When women win, Africa wins.”

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina,  
President,  
African Development Bank

“With its innovative financing and rating  
system, AFAWA will transform the African  
financial industry and empower women  
to drive inclusive growth on the continent.”

Vanessa Mounzar,  
Director for Gender, Women and Civil Society,  
African Development Bank

# Why AFAWA?

Women are the backbone of the African economy and of African communities, yet they face a **\$42 billion dollar** financing gap, due to:

**A finance challenge:** a perceived higher risk of lending to women, prohibitive interest rates, and lack of bankable collateral.

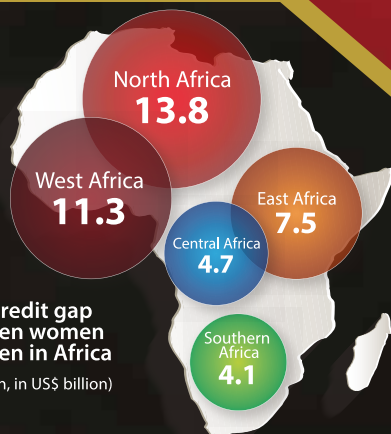
FINANCE

**A capacity challenge:** from financial institutions lacking 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.

CAPACITY

**A business environment challenge:** with legal and regulatory frameworks hindering women's full participation in private sector growth.

ENVIRONMENT



Total credit gap between women and men in Africa  
(by region, in US\$ billion)

# AFAWA solutions

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH

1



**AFAWA Finance:** AFAWA leverages the African Development Bank's financial instruments to increase lending to women to finally close the gender gap.

2



**AFAWA Technical assistance:** AFAWA provides advisory services to financial institutions to ensure successful implementation of their product portfolios for women and strengthens the capacity of women entrepreneurs through training to enhance business productivity and growth.

3



**AFAWA Enabling environment:** AFAWA engages with African governments and other key stakeholders to support legal, policy and regulatory reforms and strike down the structural barriers impeding women in business.

# AFAWA innovations

Two innovative solutions to encourage  
lending to women



AFAWA is a \$300 million risk sharing instrument to unlock \$3 billion in credit for women businesses and enterprises in Africa.

Building on a network of commercial banks and micro finance institutions, AFAWA will create structural change and a lasting impact for women.

A rating system to evaluate financial institutions based on the share and quality of their lending to women, and their socio-economic impact. Top institutions will be rewarded with preferential financing terms from the African Development Bank.





# 2019

E D I T I O N



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