

**The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) is a groundbreaking partnership that aims to unlock financing for women-led/owned businesses (WSMEs) in developing countries.**

We-Fi's partners include 14 donor governments, six multilateral development banks as implementing partners, and numerous other stakeholders in the public and private sector around the world.

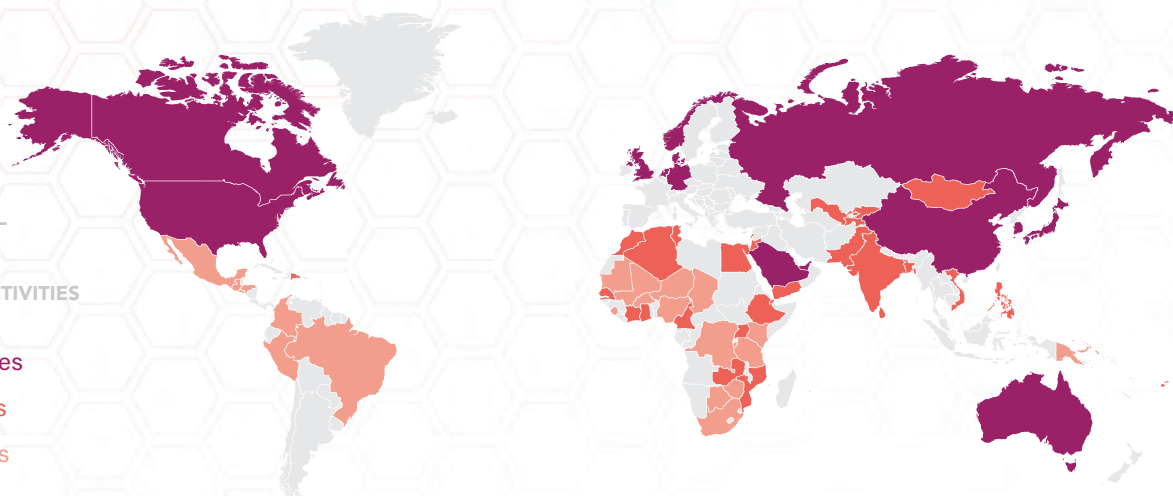
We-Fi has made rapid progress between its launch at the 2017 G20 Leaders' Summit in Hamburg, Germany with \$355 million in contributions from donor countries, the initiative has already allocated **\$300 million** to programs that will benefit close to **130,000 WSMEs** and mobilize **\$3 billion** from the public and private sectors. This far exceeds We-Fi's initial goal of mobilizing a billion dollars for women entrepreneurs. Projects are implemented in dozens of countries with over half of the funds going to low income (IDA-Eligible) countries, including many facing fragile, conflict and violence situations. We-Fi takes an ecosystem approach to removing barriers to women's economic empowerment, addressing constraints and opportunities related to finance, market access, capacity and the enabling environment.

## WHERE WE WORK

# 50

COUNTRIES WITH  
PLANNED WE-FI ACTIVITIES

- Donor Countries
- Active Projects
- Future Projects



**Donor countries include:** Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Korea, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America



### Featured entrepreneurs:

Maheen Adamjee and Lina Ahmed, co-founders of Dot & Line, saw an opportunity when they were discussing the low learning outcomes of Pakistan's 30 million school-going children. They established an after-school tutoring business with a tech-enabled training method and home-based female teachers, and received seed funding in June 2019 from Sarmayacar Fund, an investee of IFC and We-Fi. Dot & Line plans to increase the number of teacher partners by 40% in 2019. The firm is also developing a fully online module for high schoolers. In three to four years, they aim to reach 60,000 students using a network of 10,000 teachers.

## WE-FI CORE DEVELOPMENT PILLARS



### Access to Finance

Providing financial institutions with finance and capacity to expand women entrepreneurs' access to debt, equity, venture capital, and insurance.



### Access to Training, Mentoring, and Networks

Building the capacity of women entrepreneurs, and connecting them to mentors and networks, so that they can take their businesses to the next level.



### Access to Markets

Creating better linkages to domestic and global supply chains for women entrepreneurs, in partnership with the private sector and financial institutions.



### Improve the Enabling Environment

Working with public sector actors to improve the legal and regulatory constraints that women entrepreneurs face in running their businesses.

## WE-FI IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

### African Development Bank (AfDB)

**Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA)** focuses on improving access to finance for WSMEs, building financial capacity, and improving the policy and financial environment in 21 African countries. It will also launch a series of special initiatives for female entrepreneurs.

### Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Enabling and Empowering Business Environment for Women Entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka** aims to facilitate access to finance for WSMEs in Sri Lanka, as well as provide access to training and mentoring for women entrepreneurs.

**Women Accelerating Vibrant Enterprises in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (WAVES)** works in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam to improve financial access, reduce non-financial barriers, and help WSMEs develop financial capacity.

### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

**Women of the Steppe** will work in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to provide financing, mentoring, and network-building assistance for WSMEs. It will also work toward policy reform.

### Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB, IDB Invest, IDB Lab)

**Women Entrepreneurs for Latin America and the Caribbean (WeForLAC)** targets seven countries to improve access to finance, markets, skills and networks for WSMEs, and will build an entrepreneurship ecosystem for WSMEs. A particular focus will be Honduras.

### Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

**Business Resilience Assistance for Value-adding Enterprises for Women (BRAVE Women)** is developing initiatives in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Yemen to increase business growth opportunities for women entrepreneurs and provide resilience training and grant matching for WSMEs.

### World Bank Group (IFC and World Bank)

#### Creating Finance and Markets for All

IFC leads private-sector initiatives focused on expanding bank and insurance products for women entrepreneurs, increasing the numbers of women receiving equity finance, and expanding women's roles in value chains.

**The World Bank** supports eight country projects focusing on digital platforms, women in procurement, agricultural value chains, and access to finance. It will also undertake work on data collection, impact evaluation, and advocacy.



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