

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.

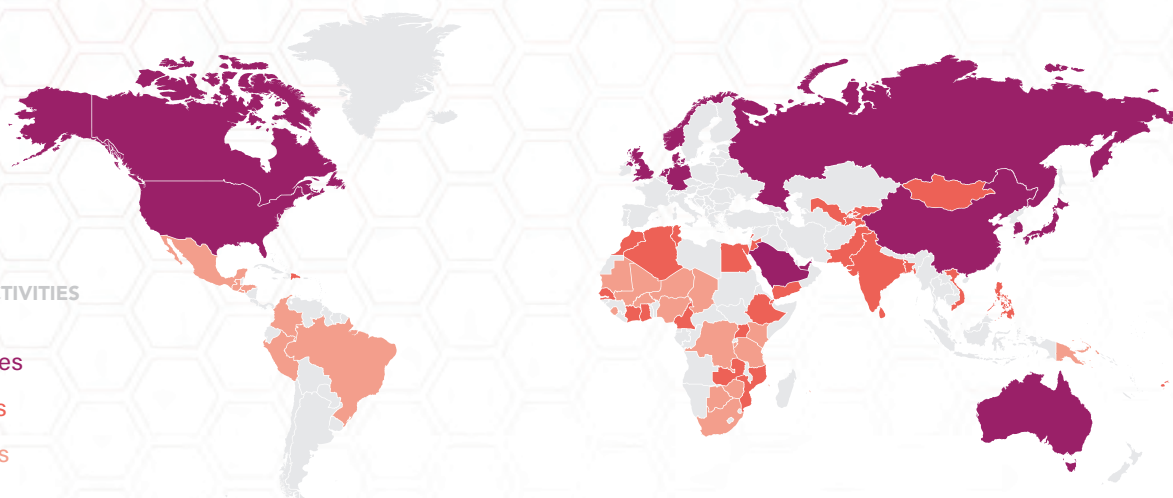
We-Fi has made rapid progress between its launch at the 2017 G20 Leaders' Summit in Hamburg, Germany with \$355 million in contributions from donor countries, the initiative has already allocated **\$300 million** to programs that will benefit close to **130,000 WSMEs** and mobilize **\$3 billion** from 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

60

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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