WE-FI IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN ASIA

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- World Bank Group (WBG; World Bank and IFC)

WE-FI RESULTS IN ASIA TO-DATE

Since its inception, We-Fi has worked in Asia through projects implemented by the Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and World Bank, and IFC. We-Fi is currently supporting women entrepreneurs in 17 countries in the Asia region* (including East Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, and South Asia). Total funding allocated across three implementing partners amounts to $45 Million, or 23% of total We-Fi funding.

ASIA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In Indonesia, IFC is investing in the country’s first gender bond to boost women’s entrepreneurship. With We-Fi support, an IFC investment of up to $200 million in Bank OCBC NISP’s sustainable bond program helped to launch the first-ever gender bond in Indonesia in 2020. Proceeds from the bond will enable Bank OCBC NISP to increase lending to Indonesia’s women entrepreneurs and WSMEs. Learn more

In Vietnam, ADB is helping women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) gain access to finance. Through a We-Fi-supported technical assistance grant as part of a $25 million loan to the Tien Phong Commercial Joint Stock Bank (TPB), ADB will help TPB better meet the needs of WSMEs and promote its services to female borrowers. It will also enable TPB to use digital systems to analyze the underserved WSME market. Learn more

In Central Asia, EBRD’s “Women of the Steppe” regional program is providing a unique mix of financing, advisory services, and policy dialogue to create lasting systemic change in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia. In Tajikistan, the EBRD project team contributed to a review of the Tajik tax policy and business registration practices, which, after public consultation, led to the passage of revised legislation that supports women entrepreneurship with tax incentives for women entrepreneurs on maternity leave, and a streamlined business registration process for individual entrepreneurs that are home-based. Learn more

In Pakistan, the World Bank’s We-Fi program is providing customized coaching and support to high-growth women-led businesses. The WeRaise initiative supports women-led ventures in Pakistan with a focus on assisting them in raising capital. Selected startups benefit from a tailored coaching and support program, as well as connections with investors. WeRaise has helped raised $1.5M in seed funding for early-stage WSME ventures. Learn more

Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Fiji, Uzbekistan.