



# Building entrepreneurship eco-systems for women: skills, policies and financing

Women Entrepreneurs in Asia  
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GENDER EQUALITY  
THEMATIC GROUP

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Operational Priority 2  
**Accelerating Progress  
 in Gender Equality**

**GENDER EQUALITY  
 THEMATIC GROUP**

- Build on good practices on gender in operations
- Go beyond gender mainstreaming in country partnership strategy
- Develop stronger gender pipeline
- Improve quality of project gender designs and target setting
- Continue to improve gender equality results in projects
- Conduct pilots and technical assistance (TA) on innovative and transformative approaches
- Enhance gender knowledge products, events, and partnerships
- Update and strengthen business processes and tools
- Combine ordinary capital resources with TA and concessional resources
- Build knowledge and expertise in emerging areas

**Strategic Operational Priorities**

**1** Women’s economic empowerment increased

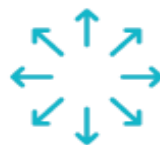
**2** Gender equality in human development enhanced

**3** Gender equality in decision making and leadership enhanced

**4** Women’s time poverty and drudgery reduced

**5** Women’s resilience to external shocks strengthened

**Operational Approaches**



**Scale up gender mainstreaming in operations across sectors and themes**



**Integrate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5’s “transformative” gender agenda, e.g., economic assets and resources for women, unpaid care and domestic work, digital technology/ ICT, and gender-based violence**



**Expand gender mainstreaming in nonsovereign operations**



**Tackle multiple gender inequalities through integrated solutions, e.g., livable cities program**



**Develop capacity of developing member countries and clients in tracking and achieving gender-related SDGs**

**Sub-pillars**

- Women’s access to job skills improved
- Women’s financial inclusion increased
- Women’s entrepreneurship supported
- Women’s access to infrastructure and services improved

- Women’s and girls’ participation in nontraditional education and training increased
- Quality and access to women’s and girls’ health services improved
- Protection from gender-based violence strengthened

- Women’s leadership capacity improved
- Regulatory, legal, and institutional environment for gender equality improved

- Provision of time-saving or gender-responsive infrastructure improved
- Quality and access to child and elderly care services improved

- Resilience-building community-based initiatives for women and girls implemented
- Provision of climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure for women and girls improved
- Financial protection systems for women strengthened
- Dedicated crisis-responding social assistance systems for women and girls strengthened





## Investing in women: ADB's support to Women's Entrepreneurship

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- Fostering gender-responsive entrepreneurship ecosystems
- Expanding gender lens investing
- Supporting gender-responsive policy frameworks
- Promoting workplace gender equality
- Strengthening data to build business case



# Access to Finance

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- Setting gender targets in MSME onlending
- Dedicated credit lines for WSMEs
- Working with FIs on gender-responsive financial products & services
- Blended finance, gender bonds
- Digital technologies for women

See: [Asian Development Bank | Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative \(we-fi.org\)](https://www.adb.org/en/initiatives/women-entrepreneurs-finance-initiative)







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KEUANGAN INKLUSIF  
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NATIONAL WOMEN'S FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

# Policy Development

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- Sex-disaggregated financial data
- Definition of women-owned business
- Markets: trade, procurement
- Fiscal reforms/ streamlining business processes
- WSME Action Plans/Strategies/Taskforces

See: [Economic Empowerment of Women » Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative \(pacificpsdi.org\)](http://pacificpsdi.org)



Since 2015, we've been fully operational. But then, COVID became a real testing factor for our business. We lost a lot of our good corporate clients. That's been a major obstacle... so I am glad for this opportunity as it helps in terms of strategizing and having contingency measures, as well as knowledge about how and when to apply for a loan.

Moala, 58, certified florist from PNG

# Skills Development

- Financial literacy
- Business planning
- Business accelerators
- Digital tools/online platforms

See: [Women's Finance Exchange | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](#)



# COVID-19 Relief for Women-led SMEs

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- \$5 million grant (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) to restructure existing or extend new loans to at least **500 women-led** small and medium-sized enterprises (**SMEs**) over the next 2 years.
- Complemented by **specialized business counseling program**
- **Entrepreneurship ecosystem** approach drawing on ADB track record on women's entrepreneurship (includes policy support, gender assessments of banks, randomized control trials).





## Multimedia Resources

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- [Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka – Pradeepa Nilanthi's story – YouTube](#)
- [Women Entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka: Addressing a missed business opportunity | Savindi Jayakody - Talk – YouTube](#)
- [Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka – Ruchirani Munasinghe's story – YouTube](#)
- [Women Entrepreneurs Are Agents of Growth in Armenia's SME Sector | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](#)
- [Integrated Approach for Inclusive Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development | Development Asia](#)
- [Sustainable Recovery Options for Mongolia's Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](#)

