



EMPOWER WOMEN, POWER TRADE



Enhanced Integrated Framework

Trade for LDC development

A NEW INITIATIVE AIMS AT TRANSFORMING
THE ECONOMIC LIVES OF WOMEN IN
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE?

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) EMPOWER WOMEN, POWER TRADE initiative exclusively targets women's economic empowerment in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It focuses on female entrepreneurs and producers, cross-border traders and women-owned micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

At the foundation of this effort will be the building of the evidence base to support gender-sensitive policies through EIF's country-specific trade studies. The recommendations generated will contribute to improved national policies and better integration of LDC women in decision-making bodies and processes related to trade.

Strategic support will be directed at sectors in which women are predominantly engaged, and this work with partners will focus on increasing the capacity of female-owned businesses so they can expand and access new regional and global markets.

WHY NOW?

Across LDCs women continue to face constraints that limit their participation in global trade. This includes discriminatory laws and social norms related to women's responsibilities and mobility, as well as barriers relating to information and finance that reduce access to opportunities.

Now that EIF has successfully helped to integrate trade into the national development plans of 37 LDCs, thereby ensuring that inclusive economic growth is on their trade agendas, it is time to take the next step and address the work precarity that almost half the population in LDCs are facing.

The EIF initiative will serve as the catalyst that female traders in LDCs need right now, and help to generate sustainable impacts that will resonate out to others.

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Malawi Director of Trade Christina Chatima works from her office in Lilongwe. Bringing more women into decision-making bodies is one of the foundations of the new initiative.

AT WHAT SCALE WILL WE OPERATE?

EMPOWER WOMEN, POWER TRADE *will operate in the 47 LDCs, with emphasis on countries where EIF has ongoing projects or partnerships and where EIF has a mandate.*

Financial support of US\$10 million will be directed to projects submitted by country governments, with co-funding through the leveraging of existing programmes by EIF partner agencies.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE BY 2022?

50,000 women will have been impacted.

This could mean that a small business owner is now exporting to the EU, that an entrepreneur was able to build her business and trade across the border, or that a woman with an idea was able to register her enterprise and obtain certifications and licenses. This could also mean that decision-making bodies include women as active and equal participants where they had not been before.

José Carlos Alexandre/EIF ▶

Rosalie Vatu runs a small baking business as well as managing a handicrafts shop at Vanuatu's revived seafront. The country's efforts to support tourism and sustainable development following Cyclone Pam include support for local 'market mamas' like Vatu, whose businesses had been impacted following the disaster.



47 LDCs

4 YEARS

US\$10 MILLION

50,000
WOMEN



HOW IS THE INITIATIVE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, AND HOW WILL IT COMPLEMENT EXISTING EFFORTS?

EMPOWER WOMEN, POWER TRADE *is unique because it exclusively targets women traders in LDCs. The initiative is different because it works via EIF's partnership approach, in which LDCs are in the driver's seat. It is special because it focuses on trade-led sustainable development via institutional and policy work.*

In-country coordination and partnerships with trade ministries means we are best placed to impact policy and target the right communities – linking government action to those on the ground we aim to influence. Our unique position as a catalyst for further funding means we can ensure support extends far and wide. Our experience with partners in the women and trade development arenas like the International Trade Centre's SheTrades, the Global Trade Professionals Alliance, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization means we can and will leverage a range of expertise to deliver deep and long-lasting impact.

◀ ©Olivier Girard/EIF

Houria Said Muhammed runs a small business creating local beauty products from key Comoros crops like vanilla, ylang-ylang and clove. But she continues to require assistance with marketing and branding, and access to finance and foreign markets.



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The Enhanced Integrated Framework brings together partners and resources to support the Least Developed Countries in using trade for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.



EIF Partner Agencies

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

World Bank Group (WB)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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