

**W
GDP**

Women's Global Development
and Prosperity Initiative

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020 – 2021**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the President	6
Foreword and Acknowledgements	10
Executive Summary	13
Progress Report from the W-GDP Unit and W-GDP Fund	18
Agency Highlights	31
Progress on Pillar 3 Action Plans	40
Metrics	46
Conclusion	51

“
There is nothing more important to global economic growth than empowering women’s opportunities and legal rights that lead to global development and prosperity through the transformative W-GDP movement.
”

– Larry Kudlow, Director, National Economic Council

“*Women’s empowerment is a core facet of U.S. foreign policy—and a stated, priority action in our National Security Strategy. We know that women’s full and free participation is critical to sustaining peaceful and prosperous societies. And when women have access to opportunities and the ability to reach their potential, we all benefit. This is an agenda the United States is proud to champion at home and abroad.*”

– Robert C. O’Brien, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Two years ago, I established the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative. This bold initiative, designed and led by Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, is the first-ever whole-of-Government effort dedicated to economically empowering women to succeed in their home countries.

When women are free to create jobs and grow businesses, they strengthen their families, build up their communities, and increase stability, peace, and prosperity in their countries and around the world.

As the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and recover economically, it is more important than ever to ensure that women have the resources, training, and support they need to thrive in the economy.

The W-GDP Initiative initially set a goal of reaching 50 million women in developing countries by 2025. I am thrilled to report that in the first 2 years alone we have reached over 24 million women. Through our strategic partnerships with foreign governments and the private sector, we focus on three pillars. *Pillar One: Women Prospering in the Workforce* invests in workforce development and skills training. *Pillar Two: Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs* increases women's access to capital, markets, networks, and mentorship. *Pillar Three: Women Enabled in the Economy* works to remove legal, regulatory, and social barriers to women succeeding in the economy.

In 2020, we made unprecedented progress to advance these three pillars of women's economic empowerment.

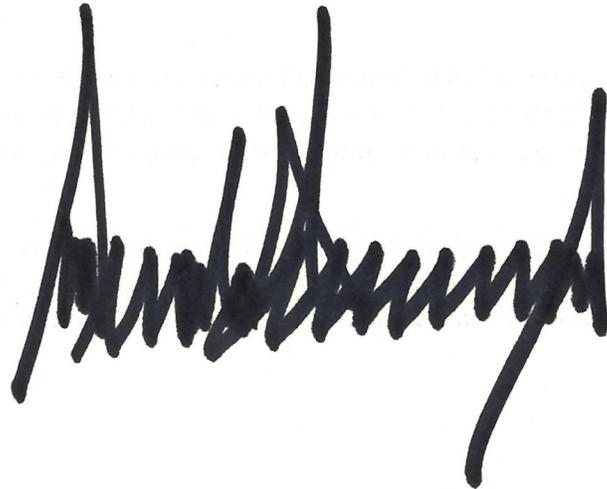
Through the W-GDP Fund, we invested \$100 million in 2020 in more than 60 countries to support women's economic empowerment activities. We also mobilized more than 200 private sector, nongovernmental and local organizations, as well as host countries to catalyze an additional \$140 million to enable women to participate in the workforce in greater numbers and to create and grow their businesses.

In August 2020, all 10 executive departments and agencies under W-GDP released their Pillar 3 Action Plans, in response to my December 2019 Presidential Memorandum. These Action Plans outline how they will work to advance W-GDP's five legal reforms around the world, ensuring women have the ability to access institutions; build credit; own, inherit, and manage property on an equal basis; travel freely; and work in the same jobs and sectors as men.

We successfully worked with other nations to secure legal reforms for women, including access to credit for women in Ecuador and the removal of travel restrictions on women in Sudan. These reforms build on commitments made in W-GDP's first year by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, and Colombia. The 2020 *W-GDP Index* report estimated that if all countries enacted W-GDP's five legal reforms, it could add as much as \$7.7 trillion to annual global GDP.

That is why, earlier this year, my Administration led the first-ever Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment with United Nations Member States, based on W-GDP. To date, 40 countries have pledged to develop a plan for continued legal and regulatory reform for women's economic empowerment in their countries.

As this year's annual W-GDP report demonstrates, enabling women to succeed in the economy creates greater safety, security, opportunity, and hope for countries, regions, and the world. My Administration will continue to advance a future of promise for women in the United States and around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump", written in a cursive style.



President Donald J. Trump signs a National Security Presidential Memorandum prioritizing global women's economic empowerment.
Photo credit: Official White House Photographer, Joyce Boghosian

“
As the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and recover economically, it is more important than ever to ensure that women have the resources, training, and support they need to thrive in the economy.”

– Donald J. Trump, President of the United States



From the desks of
Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo
and Advisor to
the President
Ivanka Trump

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since President Trump launched the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative two years ago, the United States has taken bold action to unlock economic opportunities for women around the world. W-GDP is the first-ever, whole-of-Government approach to global women's economic empowerment, and a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and national security.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented real challenges, the importance and applicability of W-GDP has never been more apparent. W-GDP prioritizes women's workforce development and entrepreneurship, while tackling the legal and regulatory barriers that impede their progress. As we come back from the pandemic, W-GDP is enabling more women to be drivers of the economic recovery, for their families, their communities, and the world. W-GDP intentionally does not address the full breadth of women's empowerment issues. For instance, it does not include basic education or global health, recognizing that the United States Government has led in those areas through other robust and established programs. Many other key aspects of women's empowerment are covered by other initiatives and strategies, including Women, Peace, and Security, and find a complementary but distinct home in the broader mandate of the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues and in other U.S. Government agencies.

Through W-GDP, we sought to fill a major and specific gap that existed in development assistance. W-GDP's targeted approach is reflected in its Three Pillars. Pillar 1 increases women's prosperity in the workforce through capacity building, including workforce development, vocational education, and skills training. Pillar 2 increases women's entrepreneurship through access to capital, markets, networks, and mentorship. Pillar 3 enables women to more meaningfully participate in the economy through the removal of legal and regulatory barriers, with a particular focus on five foundational areas: women's ability to access institutions; build credit; own, manage, and inherit property; travel freely; and work in the same jobs and sectors as men.

As we mark W-GDP's second year, we also celebrate continued progress in all areas of the Initiative. Over the course of the past year, the U.S. Government:

- Developed and launched Action Plans to advance W-GDP's Pillar 3, in response to a new Presidential Memorandum;
- Announced new programs and partnerships under the W-GDP Fund, including new projects with Mastercard, Microsoft, PepsiCo, United Parcel Service (UPS), and Walmart; and
- Doubled down on our efforts to mobilize capital for women with a commitment to catalyze an additional \$6 billion of private sector investment in global women's economic empowerment through the W-GDP 2X Women's Initiative.

These are just a handful of the milestones achieved in the Initiative's second year. Under the White House's leadership, all 10 Federal Departments and Agencies participating in W-GDP continued to advance women's economic empowerment through their international engagement. The U.S. Department of State began a new role as the lead coordinating agency for W-GDP, under the leadership of Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Kelley Currie. We also established a new W-GDP Unit to coordinate the Initiative's growing body of work.

One of W-GDP's greatest strengths is its focus on partnerships, because we know that when we act together, we can achieve lasting change. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have been integral to the Initiative's success around the world, particularly our partners in the private sector and civil society and those partner governments with whom we have made common cause and championed this work. We are especially grateful to those governments that have announced new commitments to legal and regulatory reforms this year, including the Governments of Ecuador and Sudan. We also extend our thanks to the 31 governments who joined us at the United Nations to launch the first-ever U.S.-led Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment, based on W-GDP.

Finally, we are especially grateful to the amazing female entrepreneurs and workers around the world, who have been a part of W-GDP. These are women such as Lightness Ladislaus Salema of Tanzania, who operates a beekeeping and honey production business and graduated earlier this year from the State Department's W-GDP Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, receiving a start-up grant under W-GDP through the U.S. African Development Foundation. The training and funding she received will empower Lightness to expand her business and create employment opportunities for members of her community. She inspires us with her innovation and commitment to a better future.

Together, we can and must champion economic opportunities for women. The imperative has never been clearer, and the time is now for bold, coordinated action. We invite all those who seek to advance women's full and free participation in the economy to join us.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Pompeo".

Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivanka Trump".

Advisor to the President
Ivanka Trump



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and Ambassador for Global Women's Issues Kelley Currie participating in the Women's Global Forum and We-Fi Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 7, 2019, President Donald J. Trump established the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative through National Security Presidential Memorandum-16 (NSPM-16). W-GDP is the first-ever, whole-of-Government approach to global women’s economic empowerment, which seeks to reach 50 million women across the developing world by 2025 through U.S. Government programs and partnerships. NSPM-16 also established a new and innovative W-GDP Fund, managed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to source and scale the most impactful programs.

W-GDP advances its work through Three Pillars:

Pillar 1: *Women Prospering in the Workforce*: Advancing women in the workforce by improving access to quality education and skills training.

Pillar 2: *Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs*: Increasing women’s access to capital, markets, networks, and mentorship.

Pillar 3: *Women Enabled in the Economy*: Working to identify and reduce the legal, regulatory, and cultural barriers that constrain women’s full and free participation in the global economy, and improved practices.

Additionally, under Pillar 3, W-GDP focuses on five foundational areas of legal reform:

1. **Accessing Institutions:** Lifting restrictions on women’s authority to sign legal documents, such as contracts and court documents; and addressing unequal access to courts and administrative bodies for women, whether officially or through lack of proper enforcement.
2. **Building Credit:** Ensuring women’s equal access to credit and capital to start and grow their businesses; and prohibiting discrimination in access to credit on the basis of sex or marital status.
3. **Owning and Managing Property:** Lifting restrictions on women possessing and managing property, including limitations on inheritance and the ability to transfer, purchase, or lease property.
4. **Traveling Freely:** Addressing constraints on women’s freedom of movement, including restrictions on obtaining passports on the basis of sex.
5. **Removing Restrictions on Employment:** Eliminating barriers that limit women’s working hours, occupations, or tasks on the basis of sex.

W-GDP brings together the work of 10 Federal Departments and Agencies, as well as the White House, under a cohesive policy framework for the first time. Participating Departments and Agencies include: the Departments of State, Treasury, Labor, and Commerce, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Peace Corps, the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), and the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF). W-GDP also involves multiple White House offices and components, including the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Office of Economic Initiatives (OEI), the National Economic Council (NEC), and the National Security Council (NSC).

Under NSPM-16, W-GDP is a White House-led effort, with OEI, NEC, and NSC co-chairing the Initiative and guiding its policy focus. In February 2020, the Department of State took on a new role as lead coordinating agency for W-GDP, in partnership with the White House and under the policy leadership of the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. To manage the Initiative's growing day-to-day operations, a new W-GDP Unit was established at the Department of State.



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo participates in the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Photo credit: Official State Department Photo by Ron Przysucha

Two-Year Anniversary Highlights:

- **Metrics for Impact:** NSPM-16 codified a commitment to track and report on annual metrics for W-GDP to analyze progress, promote transparency, and ensure efficiency of taxpayer resources. Key findings include:
 - 12.6 million women reached in 2020
 - 617,000 women participated in U.S. Government workforce development and skills training programs
 - More than 2,000 women-owned and led businesses received loans, or access to financing
 - 2 legal reforms advanced with U.S. Government support
 - 40 countries from all regions of the world joined a new Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment
- **Initiative Governance:** In 2020, the Initiative established its governance structure with the Department of State serving as the lead coordinating agency under Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Kelley Currie through the W-GDP Unit.
- **Congressional Appropriation:** The W-GDP Fund, managed by USAID, was fully funded with bipartisan support at \$100 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Omnibus Appropriations Act and at \$200 million in the FY 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which demonstrates alignment between the Legislative and Executive Branches on this important foreign assistance investment.
- **Partnerships:** In 2020, W-GDP launched multiple new private sector partnerships to advance its goals, including new partnerships under the W-GDP Fund with Mastercard, Microsoft, PepsiCo, UPS, and Walmart.
- **Pillar 3:** In response to President Trump's December 2019 Presidential Memorandum, all 10 Departments and Agencies under W-GDP released their Pillar 3 Action Plans in August 2020, outlining the efforts they will advance in support of Pillar 3. Additionally, this year brought new commitments from partner governments to advance reforms, including a pledge from the Government of Ecuador to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in access to credit, and the Government of Sudan's lifting of travel restrictions on women.

Going forward, W-GDP will continue to prioritize partnerships and reforms under Pillar 3, working to deepen its engagements with the private sector and partner governments to increase women's access to economic opportunities, particularly as part of the economic recovery from COVID-19.

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Women are the backbone of any healthy society, yet too often are denied the opportunity to participate freely in governance and economic activity. The W-GDP Initiative seeks to facilitate increased engagement by women in these areas, and I am proud to continue my support of this initiative.
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– Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

IMPACT STORY

Miswaleh Nlibaka Zingizi Kenya

W-GDP's Academy for Women Entrepreneurs

Miswaleh Zingizi is the founder of Kaya Nuts, a social enterprise in Kenya. Kaya Nuts sources and buys raw cashew nuts from local women farmers and processors, providing economic opportunities for marginalized women in the rural county of Kwale. Despite the cultural and economic barriers that women entrepreneurs face, including Muslim women, Miswaleh has shown leadership, passion, and commitment towards her business. As a result of her participation in W-GDP's Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), Miswaleh received a grant through the U.S. African Development Foundation which will help her double the production of cashew nuts and increase sales by as much as 70 percent. She also introduced "Cashew butter," a new and first of its kind product in Kenya.



Miswaleh Nlibaka Zingizi, AWE graduate from Kenya, showcasing her products from Kaya Nuts, a social enterprise cashew nuts brand that buys raw cashew nuts from local women farmers and processors.

*Photo credit:
Miswaleh Nlibaka Zingizi*

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE W-GDP UNIT AND W-GDP FUND

W-GDP Unit

In February 2020, upon the Initiative's one-year anniversary and with unanimous support from Federal Departments and Agencies, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo established a new W-GDP Unit under the management of Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Kelley Currie.

The W-GDP Unit works to advance women's economic empowerment through the Department of State's efforts, and to support interagency coordination on W-GDP across the 10 participating Departments and Agencies. The W-GDP Unit promotes diplomatic and policy goals under Pillar 3, in line with the Initiative's deepening emphasis on legal and regulatory reform in 2020 and the Department's core competencies.

In February 2020, Secretary of State Pompeo and Ambassador Currie traveled to Ethiopia during the Secretary's inaugural trip to Africa, where they met with local female entrepreneurs and business leaders, who were able to grow their businesses as a result of W-GDP funding and training. This included Azalech Tesfaye, who owns a coffee business that employs 50 people and exports around the world. Ms. Tesfaye was able to expand her operations with a loan funded by W-GDP. As Secretary Pompeo stated in a speech given during the trip, "entrepreneur stories like this remind me of America's founding too. These aren't just feel-good moments. They define a nation's future. These entrepreneurial activities will define Africa's future too."

Throughout the remainder of 2020, the W-GDP Unit worked to deepen bilateral and multilateral engagement on women's economic empowerment. These efforts included integrating, for the first time, women's economic empowerment and W-GDP into nearly all of the Department's major bilateral strategic and economic policy dialogues, including U.S. dialogues with the Governments of Bahrain, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea,

Mongolia, Taiwan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Uzbekistan, as well as trilateral dialogues with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. The bilateral U.S.-UAE economic dialogue resulted in a follow-on technical session at the Minister-level that was focused on women's economic empowerment, where the United States and UAE reaffirmed their commitment to removing barriers to empower women to drive the economic recovery from COVID-19.

The W-GDP Unit worked to advance W-GDP's objectives through multilateral economic fora, including the G20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum. This year, the G20 Leaders recognized in their statement "the importance of women's and girls' empowerment as a cross-cutting issue in all aspects of our policies," as well as "that women are a key driver of economic growth." Through APEC, the Department of State worked to advance women's economic empowerment through the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) and the development of the Implementation Plan of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth. The La Serena Roadmap, launched in 2019 during Chile's APEC host year, supports women's economic empowerment through its focus on addressing legal and regulatory barriers, including prohibitions on discrimination on the basis of sex in employment access and access to credit and capital.

The W-GDP Unit's major multilateral achievement was a new Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment, launched with a Core Group of 31 UN Member States, which was built off of the pillars of W-GDP. Released on October 23, 2020, the Call to Action reaffirms the critical role that women play in promoting the prosperity and stability of the global economy, especially as part of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary Pompeo, USUN Ambassador Kelly Craft, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump all provided remarks virtually at the launch event, along with partner countries in the Core Group. Secretary Pompeo called on other states to join the effort as signatories and expressed the United States' deep appreciation to the Core Group for partnering on this historic effort. Since then, nine additional countries have signed on to this initiative.



Ambassador for Global Women's Issues Kelley Currie delivers remarks at the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative Virtual Event, joined by National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump.

Photo credit: Official State Department Photo by Freddie Everett

W-GDP Fund

To date, \$300 million has been allocated to the W-GDP Fund, which implemented \$200 million in its first two years, partnering with more than 450 private sector, non-governmental and local organizations, as well as national governments, to work dynamically and flexibly across more than 60 countries. With the first two years of investments, the W-GDP Fund anticipates catalyzing over \$400 million in non-U.S. Government funding by scaling the successes and achievements of its first year.

In its second year, the W-GDP Fund invested \$100 million, with the potential to catalyze over \$140 million through more than 200 partnerships. Partnerships and investments made in the second year, including the following:

- **W-GDP New Partnerships Initiative (\$10 million):** Works with new and underutilized partners to increase women's economic empowerment in activities to prevent conflict and promote recovery for at-risk and marginalized women in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Philippines.
- **W-GDP Interagency Fund (\$7.4 million):** Transfers funds to the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps, and the U.S. Department of State to promote women's economic empowerment through programs that take advantage of each institution's strengths and expertise.
- **Women's Economic Empowerment Global Development Alliance with USAID and PepsiCo (\$5 million):** Builds upon a five-year, shared-value partnership that focuses on developing and demonstrating the business case for private-sector investments in women's empowerment in agriculture supply-chains.
- **W-GDP Grand Challenge: Women Enabled in the Economy (\$5 million):** Addresses the problem of women's access to commercial finance, often restricted by barriers in laws, regulations, policies, and practices.
- **W-GDP Microsoft Women's Digital Inclusion Partnership (\$5 million):** Contributes to Microsoft's Airband Initiative to increase significantly the number of women around the world with Internet coverage by July 2022 in Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, and Kenya.
- **W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge Round Three (\$4 million):** Finances private-sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities, and empower women to reach their full economic potential in an increasingly digital world. The W-GDP Fund also co-invests with the Reliance Foundation in an India-specific Women Connect Challenge.
- **W-GDP Invest in Women Portfolio (\$4 million):** Improves systemic reforms in financial systems and private-sector participation to unblock access to finance for women-run enterprises and increase commercial investment in blended-finance solutions that promote women's economic empowerment.
- **W-GDP Increasing Access: Pakistan (\$3.6 million):** Addresses the gender gap in Pakistan by supporting the national government to establish a system to enable women's full participation in the economy by issuing National Identity Cards to 1,200,000 women.
- **W-GDP Women Thrive in Bangladesh (\$3 million):** Provides core professional skills and leadership-development opportunities for 100,000 women in the ready-made garment sector to reduce the gender gap in factories and strengthen women's advocacy and negotiation skills.
- **W-GDP Enabling Environment for Economic Empowerment of Women in Burundi (\$3 million):** Addresses deeply rooted societal barriers to women's rights and access to property and productive assets, and builds the foundation for support to change the inheritance law for almost 6,000 women.
- **W-GDP Building Resilient Women Entrepreneurs (\$3 million):** Links 40,000 women-owned businesses in India to networks, resources, and social support schemes to enable their participation in market-based activities.

- **W-GDP Investing in Kenyan Women (\$3 million):** Supplies financial products to meet the needs of over 15,000 women borrowers with limited assets to pledge as collateral, uneven cash flow, or underdeveloped business and financial planning skills, and builds the capacity of women entrepreneurs to access financing products for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from commercial banks.
- **Engendering Utilities (\$3 million):** Scales the program to work with new utility companies, continues support to existing partners, and expands to new traditionally male-dominated sectors, such as the water sector, to create tangible economic opportunities for women, including jobs, promotions, and career development.
- **W-GDP-ANDE Partnership (\$3 million):** Scales the Advancing Women's Empowerment Fund, a catalyst fund that originated in South and Southeast Asia, to other regions to help close the gender gap in finance for women-led small and growing businesses.
- **Women in Waste Economic Empowerment (\$3 million):** Provides training, mentorship, and access to start-up capital for 500 women entrepreneurs in the Philippines and Indonesia to develop or expand their businesses in solid-waste management and recycling.
- **W-GDP Mastercard Partnership: Start Path (\$3 million):** Improves women entrepreneurs' access to grow and scale their businesses in Colombia.
- **W-GDP Women in Supply Chains (\$2.7 million):** Facilitates access to new and expanded markets in Guatemala for 400 women-owned SMEs through supply-chain relationships with anchor firms.
- **W-GDP West African Women Entrepreneurs (\$2 million):** Empowers 3,000 women in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana with the relevant skills in business and financial-management in the cocoa sector, while also working to remove the structural barriers that impede women's entrepreneurial activity.
- **Women in Associations: Leadership and Linkages (\$2 million):** Benefits 2,000 women in Azerbaijan through capacity building of women-led business and professional associations that can provide professional services to women entrepreneurs and advocate for reforms to reduce barriers that women face in the economy.
- **Women Leading Rural Entrepreneurship (\$1.9 million):** Enhances the capacity and entry for rural entrepreneurship and access to agricultural innovation to raise productivity for 5,000 women in Armenia, and increases stakeholders' capacity and commitment to address insufficient policies, employment practices, and cultural barriers that block women's participation in the economy.
- **W-GDP Expanding the Women's Labor Force in Lebanon (\$1.5 million):** Mentors and assists 200 women-owned micro- and small businesses to expand and employ other women to meet the local demand for goods and services.
- **Everywhere She Maps (\$1.5 million):** Cultivates the skills of over 700 women globally to become leaders in technology, science, and the geospatial industry through training in digital-mapping skills.
- **W-GDP Women in Food Security Logistics (\$1.5 million):** Improves business and planning skills for 400 women in Guinea to improve their operations and help them evolve from buyers of produce to formalized business owners in food-security logistics.
- **W-GDP Partnership to Train Kenyan Women Entrepreneurs in Collaboration with UPS (\$1.4 million):** Supports women in Kenya to launch, fund, or scale up their businesses and build their capacity with a focus on training, mentorship, investment, and access to U.S. businesses.
- **WEConnect International (\$1.1 million):** Establishes an alliance with SAP Ariba, Accenture, ExxonMobil, IBM, and Procter & Gamble, to develop the WECommunity, a multifunctional and multilingual global online platform to help women-owned businesses connect with participating multinational corporate buyers.

- **W-GDP Women in Angolan Farming (\$1 million):** Increases the participation of 6,000 female farmers in the economy in Angola through training in conservation-farming techniques, land rights, literacy, and numeracy; and supports them to be involved citizens through a network of Women Advocates and Farmers' Clubs.
- **W-GDP Women's Employment for Economic Recovery (\$1 million):** Benefits 200 women in the near term in Eswatini by reducing restrictive economic, legal, and cultural barriers, including by amending the Legal Practitioners Act; addressing private-sector hiring practices to improve hiring outcomes for women; and improving lending conditions for women to increase credit available to female entrepreneurs.
- **W-GDP Advancing Women Leaders in Energy (\$1 million):** Provides training and mentorship to 24 mid-level women managers and 100 female employees at energy regulatory commissions in Europe and Eurasia to equip them to move into leadership positions and secure promotions.
- **W-GDP Mastercard Partnership: Project Kirana (\$1 million):** Empowers small-scale retailers run by women in India to prosper and become part of the digital economy, helping them and their communities gain access to training and financial services.



Participants from USAID's "YES-Georgia" program learn to start and expand their businesses, build professional networks, and contribute to Georgia's economic growth.

Photo credit: USAID and the Crystal Fund

In addition, the W-GDP Fund made the following investments over its first two years:

- **W-GDP Invest in Women Portfolio (\$19 million):** Improves systemic reforms in financial systems and private-sector participation to unblock access to finance for women-run enterprises and increase commercial investment in blended-finance solutions that promote women's empowerment.
- **W-GDP Women's Land Rights (\$7 million):** Strengthens women's land rights in contexts where customary systems predominate and disadvantage women in India, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia.
- **W-GDP Fund Learning Agenda (\$6.1 million):** Ensures the W-GDP Fund bases its investments on evidence, institutionalizes women's economic empowerment at USAID, supports a W-GDP Fund Community of Practice, monitors progress and results, conducts a performance evaluation, and addresses learning questions or evidence gaps aligned with W-GDP's Pillars.
- **Strengthening the Governance and Control of Natural Resources to Advance Women's Economic Empowerment (\$2.7 million):** Strengthens women's governance and control of critical natural resources, from forests to fisheries, to advance their economic empowerment.
- **Self-Empowerment and Equity for Change Initiative (\$2 million):** Works with Johns Hopkins University to scale proven approaches in personal empowerment training with women entrepreneurs to strengthen core skills that advance their own professional goals; and to provide access to resources and opportunities with companies around the world.
- **Women Entrepreneurs Amplifying Ventures and Economies (WEAVE) (\$1 million):** Strengthens, scales up, and replicates tested models for women's entrepreneurship development in Indonesia and Vietnam to reach 15,000 women. This innovative, digital, cross-border program builds on successful services created by the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women with Qualcomm Wireless Reach™ and the ExxonMobil Foundation.
- **BetterTogether/JuntosEsMejor Challenge (\$1 million):** Identifies and finances innovative solutions to provide Venezuelan women in Latin America and the Caribbean with economic opportunities that drive growth.
- **W-GDP Digital Financial Literacy Campaign (\$975,000):** Increases women's digital financial literacy and capability to use mobile money. Financial literacy training material is free to download and use. This material is part of capacity-building programs by local actors to advance women's financial literacy.
- **Female Apparel Manufacturers in Ghana (\$150,000):** Assists West African garment manufacturers to shift their product lines to meet high international, regional, and local demand for medical apparel, which will create 500 jobs for women employees.

In the years to come, the W-GDP Fund will scale up proven solutions, build powerful partnerships, and strengthen systems for impact to continue to economically empower women in every region of the world. Building on the prior investments and efforts, the W-GDP Fund will implement the *W-GDP Fund Multi-Year Plan* to further institutionalize women's economic empowerment across the U.S. Government.

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Women represent one of the most powerful drivers of development, prosperity, and stability across the world. When we invest in women, the world prospers. The Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) has made tremendous strides to tap into this potential by empowering women to prosper in the workforce, thrive as entrepreneurs, and succeed in the economy through enabling business environments. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is exceptionally proud to advance W-GDP through its 2X Women’s Initiative, which has catalyzed billions of private sector investment to economically empower women and secure a stronger future for families and communities across the developing world.

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– Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer, U.S.
International Development Finance Corporation

IMPACT STORY

Maia Melikidze Georgia

W-GDP Advancing Women Leaders in Energy

In November 2020, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and USAID launched the two-year W-GDP Advancing Women Leaders in Energy project in Europe and Eurasia. This project seeks to address deficits in training, a lack of anti-discrimination policies, and ingrained barriers to pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education that have historically precluded many women from advancing to senior-level positions in energy regulatory agencies.

Mentors like Maia Melikidze, Commissioner at the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Commission (GNERC), will support mid-career professionals through an eight-month capacity development initiative. When asked about the project, Commissioner Melikidze remarked, “The project will definitely have an impact on a broader scale. There is a huge demand [for women’s empowerment] from Georgian Society. As soon as the COVID-19 challenge is over, in spring 2021, we have agreed to organize a huge event that will bring together active women, broadcast by the media. Our aim is to disseminate the knowledge and expertise we gained from the W-GDP project, which will definitely add value to the prosperity of the energy sector as a whole, not just to its women. The opportunity provided by this project is unique and of vital importance.”



Commissioner Melikidze speaks at Georgia’s Qarti Wind Farm during an October 2020 USAID event, which celebrated the transfer of a USAID-financed wind forecasting system to the Georgian State Electrosystem (GSE), Georgia’s power transmission network operator. Commissioner Melikidze’s remarks focused on the importance of USAID work to support renewable energy integration into the power grid in Georgia.

Photo credit: USAID Official Photographer

“

In every Walmart store, club, and office location around the world, as well as throughout our supply chain, we strive to be a place where all people feel included and valued. And we're proud to support the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, particularly because it upholds those values that are at the core of who we are as a company.

”

– Doug McMillon, President and Chief Executive Officer of Walmart

IMPACT STORY

Elisa Haiara Papua New Guinea

W-GDP's Academy for Women Entrepreneurs

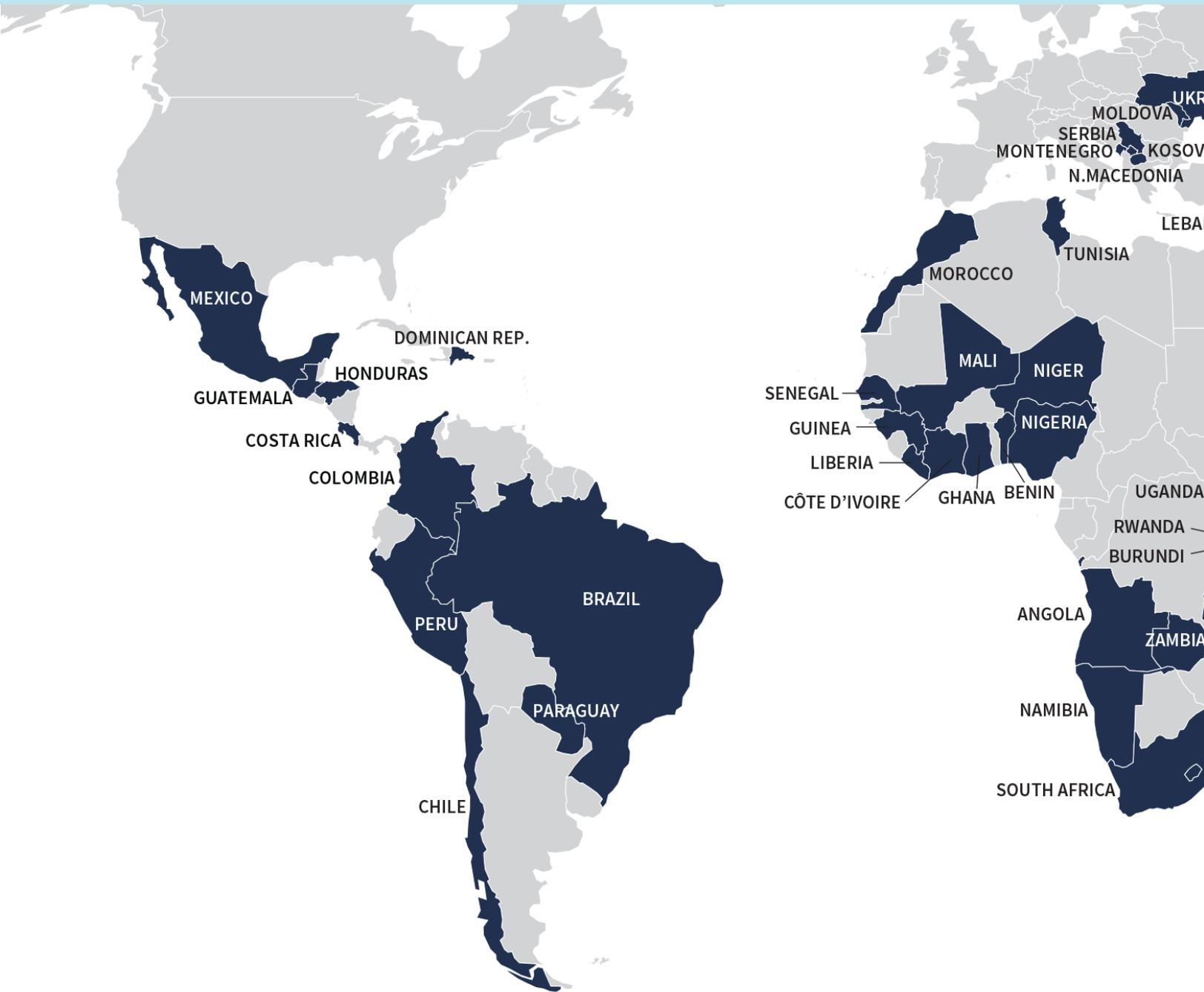
Elisa Haiara owns E-Products Limited, a printing and advertising business that has diversified to supplying gold-plated jewelry sculptured with national and local icons in Papua New Guinea. Her business is serving customers with bulk printing for schools, businesses, and organizations in Port Moresby and throughout the country. E-Products Limited recently established a local footprint by producing high technology digital banners, competing with established digital technological companies nationally. After graduating from W-GDP's Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, Elisa decided that she wanted to provide employment for her community and empower local women economically. She has since hired mostly young female employees to work at E-Products Limited.



Elisa Haiara, a proud AWE graduate from Papua New Guinea, is the owner of E-Products Limited, a printing and advertising business in Papua New Guinea.

Photo credit: Elisa Haiara

W-GDP FUND ENGAGEMENT



FY 2018 AND FY 2019



“
Promoting women’s economic empowerment advances U.S. interests, cements foundations of free-market principles, and defends democratic values. Through W-GDP, America has practical opportunities to help women become agents of real and measurable changes in their home countries.
”

– Kay Cole James, President, Heritage Foundation

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

In the second year of the W-GDP Initiative, Departments and Agencies have made significant inroads to realize this Government-wide effort to advance women's economic empowerment.

The **Department of State** has expanded its reach by bolstering programs that focus on increasing women's economic opportunities globally, especially through the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), the W-GDP International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), the Women Empowered Realizing Inclusive and Sustainable Economies (WE RISE), and Providing Opportunities for Women's Economic Rise (POWER).

Launched in 2019, AWE has grown from operating in 26 countries that year to 55 countries in 2020. Although COVID-19 has necessitated virtual programming, this has meant that more than 5,000 participants across these 55 countries are now able to participate virtually in the program and benefit from localized entrepreneurship knowledge.

In February 2020, AWE launched a new interagency collaboration with the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) to provide catalytic funding to support the enterprises of promising AWE alumnae. In 2020, the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and USADF granted nearly \$1 million to 38 AWE entrepreneurs across Africa and plan to provide up to \$10 million through 2025 to help AWE graduates succeed as entrepreneurs.

Additionally, through a new partnership with Amazon Web Services, AWE participants in Chile have access to training to leverage cloud technologies in order to grow their businesses.

In addition to efforts in expanding the reach of AWE, the Department of State has made significant strides in magnifying the impact of its W-GDP IVLP. Inaugurated in 2019, the program has made significant contributions to advancing Pillar 3. To this end, USAID and the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) co-facilitated an IVLP reunion to review the Action Plans of the participants to help prepare them for next steps and provide motivation and inspiration to continue their work in empowering women economically. The reunion also included a session hosted by Mastercard and Meridian International Center to highlight the impact of public-private partnerships within the W-GDP framework.

In 2020, the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues and USAID through the W-GDP Fund committed to working together going forward to advance Women's National Business Agendas in Central Asia.

Over the past year, the State Department's Providing Opportunities for Women's Economic Rise (POWER) has supported projects in 14 countries with partners from the U.S. private sector and local organizations to address barriers women entrepreneurs face in entering the formal economy, accessing finance, business development training, and building supportive networks. U.S. Embassies and Consulates have formed partnerships with the U.S. private sector, including but not limited to Mastercard, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Google, and American Chambers of Commerce, to support women's economic empowerment.

USAID has made significant progress in its support of the W-GDP Initiative via the W-GDP Fund.

The W-GDP Fund has prioritized scaling existing programs with proven success, like the Engendering Utilities program. Engendering Utilities partners with 29 power and water utilities in 24 countries to create tangible economic opportunities for women working in these traditionally male-dominated sectors. Engendering Utilities' approach is focused on implementing customized best practices, providing demand-driven coaching, and running the Gender Equity Executive Leadership Program (GEELP) in partnership with Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. Over the past year, utility partners have implemented over 40 new policies that enable women's empowerment companywide, trained over 1,700 women on technical and foundational skills to advance their careers, hired over 90 women, including in leadership and technical positions, and reached nearly 1,000 female job seekers through outreach and recruitment events.

For example, KPLC Kenya hired women into the leadership positions in Human Resources, Legal and Corporate Affairs, and Customer Service, increasing female representation at this level from 10 percent to 27.3 percent—just shy of the utility's target—and LASURECO Philippines for the first time promoted a woman into a leadership position. Further demonstrating their organizational commitment to gender equality, utility partners have contributed \$1.15 million of in-kind and direct support to implement their gender equality activities over the life of the initiative.

The W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge is a global call for solutions to improve women's participation in everyday life by meaningfully changing the ways women and girls access and use technology. Round One of WomenConnect Challenge (WCC) projects demonstrated how technology can create new opportunities for women's empowerment in communities where they have otherwise faced restrictions to technology access and use. Round Two focused on transitioning solutions to scale. W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge Round Three focuses on scale, replicability, and private sector partnership and investment in nine countries, building on the effective practices established in Rounds One and Two such as addressing social norms, creating new ways for women to engage with technology, and empowering women to reach their full economic potential in an increasingly digital world. As part of Round Three, Reliance Foundation funded a \$1 million India-specific WCC to close the gender digital divide through local and culturally contextual innovative solutions.

The W-GDP Fund has also worked to develop new and strong partnerships with the private sector. For example, the Fund co-invested with Microsoft to significantly increase the number of women around the world with Internet coverage in the next three years. The W-GDP Microsoft Women's Digital Inclusion Partnership will work in Guatemala, Ghana, India, Colombia, and Kenya and will ensure that 100 percent of their Internet service providers (ISPs) have gender-focused and inclusive connectivity, access, transformation and employment programs. This activity will promote women's employment (Pillar 1), women's entrepreneurship as providers (Pillar 2), and the overall enabling environment for women's businesses (Pillar 3), while establishing the business case for women as high-value customers and employees and leaders within ISPs.

Additionally, the Women's Economic Empowerment Global Development Alliance (GDA) is a partnership between USAID and PepsiCo to demonstrate the business case for women's economic empowerment in agriculture supply chains. Under this partnership, USAID and PepsiCo are implementing gender equality and women's economic empowerment interventions at PepsiCo's demonstration farms with the goal of strengthening women's agricultural technical skills and showcasing the important farming roles women play. Additionally, the partnership will support women-led farmer groups and businesses and other supply chain actors that work to address women's economic empowerment barriers. Building on USAID and PepsiCo's initial experience partnering in West Bengal to empower women potato farmers, the GDA will reach, benefit, and empower women in new regions in India and expand to Colombia, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Data and insights generated from the partnership will be used to demonstrate that investing in women makes business sense and should therefore be scaled throughout PepsiCo's global supply chains. The partnership will accelerate PepsiCo's efforts in making its sourcing strategy more inclusive as it engages women and their communities as critical partners for a resilient supply chain and enables the company to advocate that other leading corporations do the same.

Finally, working with Mastercard, the W-GDP Mastercard Partnership: Start Path will improve women entrepreneurs' access to grow their businesses in Colombia, and exemplifies the power of scaling proven solutions. The W-GDP Fund is also working with Mastercard in India through the W-GDP Mastercard Partnership with Project Kirana to empower small-scale retailers run by women to prosper and become part of the digital economy that will help them and their communities gain access to training and financial services.

The **U.S. Department of the Treasury** continues to lead the Administration’s engagement in the multilateral development banks (MDBs), in support of W-GDP goals. The United States has been a strong supporter of women’s economic empowerment at all of the MDBs in order to more equitably use development financing in developing economies.

Treasury plays a key role supporting Pillar 2 of W-GDP, and until December 2020, chaired the Governing Committee of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi). We-Fi directly supports women entrepreneurs by scaling up access to finance and markets, as well as providing MDB technical assistance to governments in creating enabling environments for women in business. In August 2020, We-Fi announced its third funding allocation comprising \$49.3 million – expected to benefit over 15,000 women-led businesses and mobilize about \$350 million of additional public and private sector resources. The third round allocates funding for programs to boost women’s entrepreneurship that will be implemented by four MDBs. Over 65 percent of the most recent allocations will benefit women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries affected by fragility and conflict.



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump participating in the W-GDP 2X Americas: Investing in the Future of Women Event along with DFC CEO Adam Boehler.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer

The **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** has worked to build programs that support the development of robust enabling environments for women to better access training opportunities, employment, equality, and entrepreneurship. MCC's investment criteria establish the principal requirements that investments must meet in order to identify and realize economic opportunity in MCC partner countries. These criteria are designed to support compact development and implementation by ensuring MCC programs mobilize complementary investments, raise standards of living for beneficiaries, and contribute to achieving large-scale poverty reduction through economic growth. For the first time in the agency's history, MCC has adopted Women's Economic Empowerment as an institutional investment criterion to further integrate these important activities into the design, implementation, and results of MCC programs, in line with W-GDP.

In August 2020, MCC signed a \$450 million compact with the Government of Burkina Faso to address the high cost, poor quality, and low access to electricity in Burkina Faso. In addition to improving energy infrastructure and increasing generation capacity, the compact will create opportunities for women to transform electricity use into productive assets and income. Women, who often face challenges in accessing credit in Burkina Faso, will receive enterprise development support and access to credit for the purchase of electric machinery. The program will also help increase women's employability in the energy sector by helping them gain practical work experience through scholarships, apprenticeships, and mentoring, and by assisting the Ministry of Energy in the development of policies that will help create more equitable human resource practices between women and men.

Through the W-GDP Fund, MCC was selected this year to receive an award of \$4 million to work with public and private sector stakeholders to establish a Women's Business Data Lab and e-Community in Côte d'Ivoire. The Lab will offer women entrepreneurs a center to build their digital and data skills. To complement the in-person training available at the Lab, MCC will also support a virtual network of digitally enabled female entrepreneurs within the country.

The **U.S. International Development Finance Incorporation (DFC)** has taken significant steps to unlock the multi-trillion dollar opportunity that women represent by catalyzing investment in projects that support women's economic empowerment. Since its inception in 2017, W-GDP's 2X Women's Initiative has mobilized over \$7 billion towards investments that support women as entrepreneurs, leaders, employees, and consumers. In 2020, DFC invested more in transactions benefitting the world's women than that of the last three years combined, investing \$2.6 billion and catalyzing over \$4.1 billion in capital to projects that economically empower women. As of December 2020, DFC has executed over 100 W-GDP 2X deals, with over 100 more in the pipeline. Additionally, in August 2020, DFC committed to catalyzing an additional \$6 billion of private sector investment in global women's economic empowerment, in a major new announcement from DFC CEO Adam Boehler and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump.



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and Ambassador for Global Women's Issues Kelley Currie participating in a Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative engagement during the We-Fi Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump speaking to the United States Diplomatic Corps along with the Chief of Protocol of the United States Cam Henderson.
Photo credit: Official White House Photographer

DFC, together with USAID Mission in India and Mastercard’s Center for Inclusive Growth, received a W-GDP Fund grant of \$3 million for the Inclusive Economic Activity in India project, which will empower millions of Indian women to gain access to financial tools. The project addresses W-GDP’s Pillar 2 by facilitating a partial credit guarantee facility that will enable a local commercial bank to lend to more women-owned, led, and/or supporting businesses. The project also supports W-GDP’s Pillar 1 by enabling more women access to the workforce. The Inclusive Economic Activity project supports women-owned small businesses to expand their operations by joining the digital economy. Full and active participation in the digital economy opens new business and skills development opportunities and helps in closing the gender digital divide.

Through the 2X Challenge, DFC and peer development finance institutions across the globe announced in June 2020 \$4.5 billion of catalyzed investment in women around the world, far surpassing the initial goal of \$3 billion by the end of 2020. The milestone marks the culmination of two years of unprecedented collaboration among member institutions, which together have helped set a global standard for investing in women.



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo participates in the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where female entrepreneurs brief him on their enterprises.

Photo Credit: Official State Department Photo by Ron Przysucha

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, DFC is continuing to prioritize women's economic empowerment in its COVID-19 response. In support of the W-GDP 2X Women's Initiative, the agency has already closed on ten investments, with 20 additional financing opportunities in the pipeline, that economically empower women while providing emergency COVID-19 support. For example, a \$20 million loan will help Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF) COVID-19 Global Gender Lens Emergency Loan Finance LLC deliver critical financing to women-led, women-owned, and women-supporting SMEs. Beneficiaries of the funding also commit to implementing the SEAF Gender Equality Scorecard, a tool focused on ensuring women are being economically empowered through SEAF's investment and development activities.

The **Department of Labor** continues to work to advance vocational opportunities for women, including through its work in Ghana's cocoa sector, where the Department's programs have provided vocational training to over 2,000 women and facilitated their access to agricultural markets. After receiving training on how to raise cocoa seedlings and manage cocoa nurseries, eight groups of women farmers established their own nurseries with high quality cocoa pods supplied by the Ghana Cocoa Board and their own resources. In total, the women raised about 88,000 seedlings, which will provide income for decades to come. The program also supported the women in organizing into 108 village savings and loan associations, increasing their access to micro-loans and savings for their fledgling businesses.

The **Department of Commerce** has worked to support women's economic empowerment and W-GDP this year through efforts such as the Virtual Women Entrepreneurs Bootcamp, a Department of State IVLP on Advancing Women's Participation in the Technology Sector in Cambodia, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)-Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs of India (CWEI) Intellectual Property for Entrepreneurial Growth in India.

The **Peace Corps**, since its founding 59 years ago, has worked to empower women economically at each of its posts. This year, volunteers in Guinea, Ukraine, Rwanda, and Colombia participated in projects aligned with W-GDP. The Peace Corps reported reaching 210,764 women in the first half of 2020 under Pillars 1 and 2; however, the agency had to evacuate all volunteers in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

Early in 2020 in Guinea, thanks to the support of donations made through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP), volunteers from the Gender and Development Committee held a two-day income-generating training program for host-country trainers. One of the successes of this training was introducing new products and activities to women and motivating them to initiate their own businesses. Participants learned how to make moringa soap, coconut oil, and corn flour, among other products, for sale in the local market. Participants were also able to fine-tune their business skills via small module-style activities and group discussions based on their prior entrepreneurial experiences, supporting W-GDP Pillar 2.

In Ukraine, Peace Corps Volunteers worked with local women on a PCPP-funded project focused on digital education. During five technology workshops, teachers-in-training learned techniques using online tools in the educational process, especially Google Tools and related applications. They also received training in financial planning and how to access available resources available from their local bank. Shortly after the training finished, Ukraine began distance education for all schools due to the pandemic. This gave the teachers an immediate opportunity to use their new knowledge in order to connect with their students.

In Colombia, the Peace Corps partnered with Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA), the national training service, to promote the inclusion of rural communities in small-scale productive economic activities. The Peace Corps/SENA collaboration specifically targets rural women, who comprise 67 percent of program participants. Peace Corps Volunteers work alongside SENA instructors to co-plan and co-deliver community trainings to enhance the skills of the participants in entrepreneurship, business management, and financial literacy, aligned with W-GDP Pillar 2. The Los Andes women's bakery cooperative in Nueva Granada, Magdalena, attributes its success in accessing new markets for its baked goods to the Peace Corps Volunteer who both facilitated their enrollment in the program and provided ongoing technical assistance after the training had concluded.

Throughout 2020, as part of the **U.S. African Development Foundation's (USADF)** COVID-19 response strategy, the agency supported several women-owned and women-led businesses in FY 2020 in repurposing their enterprise focus to support COVID-19 community response. Multiple women-led agriculture cooperatives funded by USADF have shifted their shea butter cosmetics-making operations to focus on producing bars of shea soap needed by their communities to help stop the transmission of COVID-19.

USADF in FY 2020 provided funding for Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners (ESP), to launch the African Resilience Initiative for Entrepreneurs (ARIE), a pan-African initiative to provide financial and technical assistance to 300 entrepreneurs impacted by COVID-19. Approximately 70 percent of the entrepreneurs selected will be women and will receive up to \$150,000 each in catalytic funding and technical support.

The **Inter-American Foundation (IAF)** added an additional \$10 million to its portfolio of Women INvesting in Growth and Security (WINGS) grants in FY 2020. This multi-year initiative invests directly in innovative, community-led projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean that increase women's opportunities for civic engagement, enable greater access to finance, and expand leadership, business, and management training options. For example, the IAF's \$1.5 million impact investment in microcredit lender Empresa para el Desarrollo (EDES) will extend access to credit and capital to an additional 1,400 women-owned small and micro enterprises in Costa Rica and Panama.

Now in its third year, the IAF portfolio of WINGS grants total a \$23 million investment in 121 local organizations in 23 countries. The IAF's \$23 million investment is matched by \$23 million mobilized by grantees. By requiring counterpart contributions from grantees, the IAF ensures that WINGS participants are already invested in their financial futures by building alliances within their community with which to mobilize resources, expand ownership, and obtain sustainable, viable, and grounded solutions.

In early March 2020, the IAF consulted with IAF's nearly 300 active grantee partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, including those among the WINGS cohort, to learn how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting both them and the communities in which they work. Economic issues were overwhelmingly the main concern expressed by IAF's local partners. In response, the IAF designed a flexible, nimble process to address short-term needs and lay the groundwork for recovery. Between March and October 2020, the IAF awarded \$6.6 million to WINGS grantees to safely continue their core mandates as well as undertake additional activities. Because IAF's grantees are local NGOs and grassroots organizations, these funds were able to quickly reach the communities — often remote, rural, and/or vulnerable — in which they work.

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Without question, investing in women’s economic empowerment is high-yield, with returns that improve both local and global economies. MCC is proud to recognize W-GDP in its second year of impact, and we are resolute in our commitment to create greater economic opportunities for women around the world.”

– Sean Cairncross, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation

IMPACT STORY

Samira Sabri Morocco

Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact

Samira Sabri is an example of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) impact in Morocco. Her community of Marrakesh-Safi is in one of the regions where MCC is piloting more efficient and inclusive land privatization procedures. Thanks to a new land law allowing multiple heirs, Samira's rights to the land that she inherited from her father will be formalized. Samira is now slated to be a title holder to a land parcel. Recently, she found her name and plot number, along with those of her brothers, on a parcel map that was being validated as part of MCC's Morocco Compact. Samira is one example of many other women heirs in her community, and within other communities, who will become titleholders as a result of MCC's work.



Samira Sabri of the Marrakesh-Safi region confirms the location and boundaries of her plot on the parcel map. Through MCC's Land titling investment in Morocco, Samira will become a first-time title holder to her own piece of land passed down from her father.

Photo credit:

Millennium Challenge Corporation

PROGRESS ON PILLAR 3 ACTION PLANS

In December 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed a Memorandum on Addressing Legal and Societal Barriers to Women's Global Development and Prosperity that enumerated W-GDP's five foundational areas of legal reform and directed Federal Departments and Agencies to develop action plans to prioritize efforts to address these reforms. The Presidential Memorandum further committed Departments and Agencies to report progress against their plans on a regular basis through the W-GDP Annual Report.

- In February 2020, the White House Council of Economic Advisors released The W-GDP Index, a landmark report that found that if all countries addressed just these five foundational areas of legal reform, these efforts could add as much as \$7.7 trillion to annual global GDP. Additional findings include the fact that most of the estimated \$7.7 trillion in additional annual global GDP comes from gains in South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific, areas with large populations where sex-specific regulations are prevalent.
- In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa specifically, fully eliminating these legal barriers could increase per capita GDP by over 60 percent.
- Additional estimates focusing on women's employment restrictions specifically find that fully eliminating those would generate annual gains to global GDP of \$1.5 trillion.

The 10 department and agency action plans were released in August 2020, and this year's report serves as the first progress snapshot against those. Going forward, Departments and Agencies will continue to monitor progress against their plans, refine metrics, and scale efforts that are working.

The **U.S. Department of State** continues to advance Pillar 3 goals through its diplomatic engagements and work at U.S. Embassies and Consulates overseas. In 2020, Secretary of State Pompeo highlighted women's economic empowerment as a top foreign policy priority, including support for the enabling environment in his engagements and travel abroad. Together with the Secretary of State, the Department of State's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB), and regional bureaus also included women's economic empowerment as a standard item in bilateral economic policy dialogues, which focused on improving the enabling environment for women's full and free participation in the economy. The Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) and U.S. Missions also included data on women's ability to work in the same jobs and sectors as men in the forthcoming Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

USAID aims to exponentially increase women's economic access, agency, and power globally by addressing W-GDP's Pillar 3 to achieve Pillars 1 and 2. Through the W-GDP Fund, USAID has made investments to advance all of Pillar 3's foundational areas of legal reform. In support of women's access to institutions, the W-GDP Fund supports the Government of Pakistan to establish a system for issuing National Identity Cards for women who do not have them. This activity aims to issue 1.2 million National Identity Cards, which are fundamental for women to access government institutions, obtain bank accounts and financial services, sign legal documents, register property, claim inheritance rights, and otherwise be included in the formal economy. The Government of Pakistan will build on this W-GDP-funded base to finish the work of registering its unregistered female citizens.

To help reduce sex discrimination in accessing credit, the W-GDP Fund has launched a new Grand Challenge, the W-GDP Grand Challenge: Women Enabled in the Economy, to crowdsource innovative solutions that increases women's access to commercial finance. Other investments address the gender digital divide and improve borrowers' financial digital literacy.

The W-GDP Fund also advances women’s ability to own and manage property and has grown its work on women’s land rights to reform national policies and customary practices in Ghana, India, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. USAID aims to advance women’s ability to travel freely through new campaigns to increase awareness about societal barriers to women’s freedom of movement. Furthermore, USAID is supporting women’s ability to work in the same jobs and sectors as men, such as through W-GDP’s Engendering Utilities program in the water and energy sectors.

The **U.S. Department of the Treasury** continues to lead the Administration’s engagement in the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), in support of W-GDP goals, including Pillar 3. As discussed earlier in this report, the third round of We-Fi allocations included funding for programs to boost women’s entrepreneurship. Two of these projects specifically contain legal and regulatory reform components supporting Pillar 3 goals and are detailed below.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was granted \$7.36 million for its “Stepping Up for Women” Women in Business Program, which aims to rapidly respond to the disproportionate pressures women-owned small to medium enterprises (WSMEs) face in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 related crisis. The program will deploy innovative solutions for WSMEs that will contribute to improving access to markets through more inclusive supply chains; enhancing competitiveness, growth potential, and access to finance by strengthening their ability to leverage digital technologies; and, in support to Pillar 3, leveraging sex-disaggregated data to inform more effective public and private sector interventions. Program activities will be implemented in Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, and Morocco.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) received \$11.25 million for its program, which supports women in West Africa engaging in entrepreneurial activities in the rice value chain. While women are heavily engaged in the rice industry, the prohibitively high cost of borrowing, and the non-financial constraints, which hinder access to resources, assets, and markets, prevent women entrepreneurs from improving their livelihoods. Accordingly, the program will aim to support upgrading and advancing WSMEs within the rice value chain in West Africa through capacity development and grant matching, as well as increased access to local and regional markets. One component of this program



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump speaking at the Women’s Global Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Embassy Official Photographer

will support Pillar 3 by developing an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, particularly in addressing social and cultural factors, as well as seeking to reduce gender biases in laws and policies, particularly land rights. Activities supporting this program will be carried out in Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

In Ghana, MCC supported the development of a Gender and Social Inclusion policy that was adopted in February 2020 by the electricity utility, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG). By adopting the policy, ECG has committed to take steps towards a more gender equitable recruitment and hiring process, and the promotion of women into leadership positions. In Benin, MCC worked with the electricity utility, the Beninois Society of Electrical Energy (SBEE), to develop a Social and Gender Charter that was formally adopted by the utility in September 2020. The Charter commits to improving human resources policies and practices to improve conditions for female employees, including more equitable recruitment and remuneration processes. The Charter also commits to improving customer service for a broad range of clients including women, people with disabilities and others with accessibility challenges.

The DFC has taken a collaborative approach to leveraging its

unique financing tools to support enabling environments and economically empower women. DFC successfully collaborated with McKinsey to create a scorecard of countries where DFC operates to track each country's inclusion of women. Additionally, DFC continues to collect and benchmark data from clients and partner banks in the 2X portfolio to better understand and identify the barriers that inhibit its female borrowers from entering markets and having the same economic opportunities as their male counterparts. Given DFC's unique set of investment tools, the agency's primary focus and progress has been on Pillar 3's Foundational Area of Accessing Credit and Capital. DFC continues to work to utilize financing as a powerful lever to promote and create behavioral and systematic change.

Further, DFC continues to pursue and explore Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Intent (LOI) with private sector companies, non-profit organizations, and foundations to promote enabling environments for women economically by providing additional opportunities for co-financing of women's access to credit and financing. For example, DFC recently announced a MOU and partnership with Visa Foundation focused on advancing women's economic empowerment and a commitment from Visa Foundation of \$25 million in catalytic co-investment opportunities focused on women.



Esther Mutuma, Managing Director of Komaza, speaks during a W-GDP roundtable discussion for women entrepreneurs in Nairobi. Komaza raised \$30 million with support from USAID to scale an innovative micro-forestry model and Kenya's largest commercial tree planter contributing to food security and incomes for smallholder farmers.

Photo credit: Official USAID Photograph, Mwangi Kirubu

In FY 2020, the **Department of Labor's** ILAB engaged with 48 countries to provide technical assistance, technical exchanges, or other forms of collaboration in support of W-GDP's Pillar 3. ILAB-funded W-GDP initiatives in Mexico, Colombia, Ghana, Jordan and Bangladesh have engaged a wide variety of stakeholders, focusing on women and girls of legal working age. Program interventions continue to promote acceptable working conditions, the adaptation of labor law frameworks that align with international standards, and women's economic empowerment.

Among W-GDP's five areas of legal reform, ILAB supported women's access to credit and capital, as well as the removal of restrictions on women's employment. For instance, the

Department of Labor provided input on a draft Vietnamese Decree on gender equality in the labor and employment sphere. ILAB also supported efforts in Chile to address the elimination of discrimination with respect to employment and occupation in law and in practice, through Labor Cooperative Dialogues. Finally, ILAB supported the Government of Jordan in amending the labor code to prohibit gender discrimination.

The **Department of Commerce**, through the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) has worked to advance Pillar 3. CLDP continued working with Bahrain Businesswomen Society on webinars to promote women’s economic empowerment, including a webinar on women’s role in civil society and small business advancement during a COVID environment.

Additionally, the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration hosted an event in October 2020 to advance opportunities for women-led firms to compete for procurement opportunities at the United Nations (UN), at which Ambassador Currie provided remarks, positioning women’s free competition for tenders at institutions such as the UN as critical to the growth of their enterprises.

In support of Pillar 3, **USADF** supports women in the workforce who are often the first to experience legal and regulatory barriers directly, and who have unique expertise to provide insight on impediments they experience in practice. USADF continues to use the experiences of its grantees in the workforce to highlight areas of concern in the application of existing laws and regulations.

The **IAF** advances W-GDP’s five areas of legal reform by promoting women’s leadership, civic engagement, and economic empowerment through its competitive grantmaking process, including through IAF’s Women INvesting in Growth and Security (WINGS) Initiative.

By promoting women’s leadership, civic engagement, and economic empowerment at the local level, the IAF ensures that women are better able to engage local governments, access institutions and services, and ensure that public policies and budgets reflect their needs and priorities. These local efforts build the foundation for addressing regional and national legal barriers to women’s participation in economic life.

While the IAF’s work to advance W-GDP Pillar 3 objectives is primarily programmatic, the agency is also undertaking internal reforms to strengthen its programming. The IAF is revising its monitoring system, which will include sex-disaggregated data at the activity level, including on entrepreneurial capacity building and access to credit.



Betty Mugo, Gender and Inclusivity Specialist of USAID Kenya and East Africa (r); Rebecca Miano, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen) (c); and Irene Angwenyi, Development Outreach and Communications Specialist of USAID Kenya and East Africa (l) during a W-GDP roundtable discussion for women entrepreneurs in Nairobi.

Photo credit: Official USAID Photograph, Mwangi Kirubu

IMPACT STORY

Sonia Lidia Brito El Salvador IAF WINGS

Sonia Lidia Brito, like many women in El Salvador, faces barriers to fully participating in the economic and civic life of her home community. With only an elementary education, Sonia struggled with illiteracy and public speaking.

To master these skills, Sonia became a member of IAF WINGS grantee Asociación Agropecuaria de Mujeres Produciendo en la Tierra R.L. (AMSATI), a women's agricultural association that increases women's economic and leadership opportunities by strengthening local women's organizations throughout El Salvador. Through AMSATI, Sonia participated in a number of workshops where she increased her self-esteem and gained the necessary skills to diversify her activities and expand into the production of honey, eggs, radishes, and bananas.

Sonia is now a strong community leader who facilitates leadership training for rural women in the surrounding municipalities and supports her family with the income she earns.

Women participating in AMSATI activities not only have increased their income, but have begun to actively engage in key local development efforts. These include becoming facilitators in human rights municipal committees and participating in a national program that addresses barriers women face regarding land titling.



Sonia proudly displays a honeycomb that she harvested using beekeeping techniques learned through AMSATI training. The honey she and other women sell from their small business diversifies and supplements their families' income.

Photo credit: Asociación Agropecuaria de Mujeres Produciendo en la Tierra R.L. (AMSATI)

“
We can't truly prosper as a nation and world if women can't fully participate in civic and economic life. By providing access to the right skills and technology, we can help transform the lives of millions of women everywhere.
”

– Brad Smith, President of Microsoft

METRICS

Table 1. Women Reached through United States Government Programs and Partnerships

	FY 2019	FY 2020
Grand Total *	12,174,346	12,568,643
of which, State	522,303	545,050
of which, Commerce	70	40
of which, Labor	932,315	1,488,153
of which, USAID	8,890,176	7,870,919
of which, MCC **	7,731	13,945
of which, Peace Corps	318,041	210,764
of which, DFC ***	1,171,985	2,325,323
of which, IAF	30,942	20,796
of which, USADF	300,783	93,653

* Due to COVID-19, some agencies' data reported for women reached in FY 2020 are lower due to staffing constraints, changes in resource allocations, changes in the implementing environment, and activity modifications or redirections due to the global pandemic.

** The MCC total includes only "participants," which MCC defines as "individuals who take part in an MCC-funded project."

*** The DFC estimates women reached based on a five-year time horizon for projects committed to within a given fiscal year, which have been spread evenly across the years for the purposes of this Report.



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump speaking during the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative One-Year Anniversary event at the State Department.

Photo credit: Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump participating in a Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative engagement during the We-Fi Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer

Table 2. Additional Illustrative Indicators from United States Government Programs and Partnerships by W-GDP Pillar

	FY 2019	FY 2020
Pillar 1		
1.1 Number of women participating in United States Government-supported workforce training programs	1,681,212 women	616,585 women
1.2 Number of jobs attained by women after participating in United States Government programs	9,107 jobs	4,667 jobs
1.3 Number of women whose working conditions have improved after participating in United States Government programs	2,532,022 women	3,464,658 women
Pillar 2		
2.1 Number of women participating in United States Government-supported entrepreneurship training and technical assistance	755,807 women	117,146 women
2.2 Number of women-led businesses receiving financing through United States Government programs	2,086 businesses	2,738 businesses
2.3 Number of women accessing financial services through United States Government programs	1,454,598 women	4,002,300 women
2.4 United States Government-supported loan amounts to women-led businesses	\$1.6 billion	\$1.8 billion
2.5 Number of women participating in United States Government-assisted programs designed to increase access to economic assets	1,810,629 women	2,294,798 women
Pillar 3		
3.1 Number of legal instruments adopted with United States Government assistance to promote gender equality or non-discrimination	5 legal instruments	2 legal instruments
3.2 Number of stakeholder groups that have received United States Government assistance to improve working conditions, combat discrimination, and/or improve compliance with worker rights and safety and labor standards	4,431 groups	6,189 groups
3.3 Number of persons participating in United States Government-supported activities promoting attitudes, behaviors, and actions to advance women's economic empowerment	9,109,906 persons	2,963,549 persons

* Figures represent the collective contributions of all participating Departments and Agencies.

** As some indicators capture different aspects of the same investments, some beneficiaries may be reported in more than one indicator above.

*** Due to COVID-19, the data reported for FY 2020 are lower in many instances due to staffing constraints, changes in resource allocations, changes in the implementing environment, and activity modifications or redirections due to the global pandemic.

Table 3. Total United States Government Funds Attributed to the Objectives of W-GDP

(\$ in millions)	FY 2019	FY 2020
Grand Total	491	**
of which, State	106	**
of which, Commerce	*	**
of which, Labor	*	**
of which, USAID	385	**
within which, W-GDP Fund ***	100	100
of which, MCC	*	**
of which, IAF	*	**
of which, USADF	*	**

* Due to differences in budgeting, this table includes only funds attributed to W-GDP by year of appropriation, as tracked by the State Department and USAID. This does not include funds obligated or expended by fiscal year, as tracked by the remainder of Departments and Agencies represented in this table.

** State and USAID generally have 2 years to obligate their appropriated funds and begin in the second year after plans have been approved by Congress. Attributions for W-GDP are not yet final for FY 2020.

*** In FY 2019, \$2 million from the W-GDP Fund allocation was allocated to the Cote d'Ivoire Mission directly.

Table 4.1 and 4.2 Total Catalyzed Non-United States Government Funding Attributed to the Objectives of W-GDP**Table 4.1 Public-Private Partnerships**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2019	FY 2020
Grand Total	154	*
of which, State	-	*
of which, USAID	142	*
of which, MCC	1	*
of which, Peace Corps	1	*
of which, IAF	6	*
of which, USADF	3	*

* Data on FY 2020 public-private partnerships is not yet available for all agencies.

** USAID's figures correspond to non-Federal funds catalyzed through the W-GDP Fund, and are not fully inclusive of USAID's broader public-private partnerships in support of women's economic empowerment.

Table 4.2 United States Government Credit Programs (loan amounts supported)

(\$ in millions)	FY 2019	FY 2020
Grand Total	1,638	1,794
of which, DFC *	1,482	1,794
of which, USAID **	156	-

* The DFC has counted finance and insurance commitments benefiting women-owned and women-led businesses globally. This includes DFC direct loans, loan guarantees, and mobilized funding from a variety of private and public sector sources.

** Beginning in FY 2020, the DFC was fully operational and all development finance activities were reported under that entity, which assumed activities previously carried out by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and USAID's Development Credit Authority.

IMPACT STORY

Irene Nabirye Gombe Uganda

W-GDP 2X Women's Initiative

The DFC's \$5 million loan to Akola under W-GDP's 2X Women's Initiative will help to empower low-income women, funding critical working capital needs that help Akola continue to provide stable wages and benefits through the pandemic to its all-female Ugandan workforce. Eventually, the loan will also support a new production facility and additional employees, enabling Akola to continue focusing on growing demand through its e-commerce platform, which in turn will help the company become more resilient to future market shocks.

Irene Nabirye Gombe of Uganda is one of the women who will benefit from a new loan under W-GDP's 2X with Akola. Irene used to farm with her husband to provide for their eight children. Unfortunately, when the harvest arrived her husband would leave with the money — only to return once it was gone. Irene overcame this by working hard and farming for daily wages to feed her children. However, with a meager income, she was forced to remove four of her children from school.

Eventually, Irene received financial training through Akola's non-profit partner, Akola Academy, and began to move toward economic independence, including buying her own goats and bricks to build a new home.

Irene Gombe is a jewelry artisan at Akola, a globally-inspired jewelry brand focused on lifting up and championing women around the world. A \$5 million DFC loan will help Akola continue empowering low-income women, particularly in the wake of COVID-19.
Photo credit: Akola



“
I am delighted that, through this significant partnership, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, with our committed corporate partners ExxonMobil Foundation and Qualcomm Wireless Reach, can scale and develop our programmes to meet the specific needs of 15,000 women entrepreneurs in Vietnam and Indonesia. This vital work will drive inclusive economic growth, and contribute to considerable impact not only at the household level for many women and their families, but nationally and globally at this critical time as the COVID pandemic disseminates opportunity.

”

– Cherie Blair CBE QC, Founder, Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

CONCLUSION

As W-GDP enters its third year, the Initiative will continue to build on its strong foundation of partnering for impact, rigorously tracking metrics, and advancing foundational freedoms. Especially now, as the world comes back from COVID-19, the United States will champion women's economic empowerment, consistent with our pro-market, pro-democracy principles.



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump's visit to Abu Dhabi for Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative engagements during the Women's Global Forum and We-Fi Summit in the United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump participating in the Women's Global Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Photo credit: Official White House Photographer

Women have already been serving on the frontlines of this pandemic, and will continue to be needed on the frontlines of our economies going forward. Through W-GDP, we will continue to increase their access to economic opportunities and work to empower them as drivers of the economic recovery. Through its innovative pairing of programs and partnerships with high-level diplomacy, W-GDP is able to engage at every level to advance women's economic empowerment, from training women in remote villages to engaging with heads of state to advance policy reforms.

Through its proven approach, W-GDP will continue to work toward its goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025, advancing diplomatic and programmatic efforts across all three of W-GDP's pillars and through all 10 participating Federal Departments and Agencies.

These developments mark the Initiative's continued development and progress, as the United States and its partners work to create opportunities for millions of women around the world to lift up themselves, their families, and their communities.

“
W-GDP impacted over 24 million women in its first two years. That’s millions of lives full of promise – mothers who can better provide for their children and women who will start businesses and become job creators, investing back in their communities. W-GDP is a commitment to a future we can and must achieve together.”

– Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the President

IMPACT STORY

Nadia Ali Aldhara Yemen

Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)

In light of the spread of the COVID-19 in Yemen amidst the ongoing conflict, it was necessary to think of alternative solutions to combat the pandemic. Yemen, like other fragile states, was not prepared to face the pandemic; the public health system had almost collapsed and there had been no quick response from authorities to protect medical staff. The shortage of medical equipment and supplies in the country was dire.

Nadia Ali Aldhara, the owner of a small sewing company, was able to adapt to the emergency need of the medical sector. With her team, she began to produce medical facemasks as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) with high standards, adopting all the requirements from the Ministry of Health. With the current critical need for such products, her motivation was based not only on profit but also on a sense of social responsibility towards her society, which is facing a new threat maybe worse than the war itself. “I was encouraged to join the BRAVE Women project to develop my business focusing on increasing my workshop’s production capacity, including purchasing additional sewing machines. Once I received the assets, I felt happy that yesterday’s dream became a reality today and that I am able to develop my business better.”

Nadia’s workshop produced about 1,000-1,500 masks and 100-150 protective suits every day. She also signed contracts with 10 private hospitals in four cities, four pharmacies, as well as seven medical suppliers to provide materials according to the production specifications approved by the Supreme Medicines Authority in Yemen.

Her workshops continue to provide medical personnel with medical masks and protective suits as the demand continues to be high. “I feel very proud that I actively contributed to saving the lives of frontline medical staff during this pandemic as well as patients who need to protect and isolate themselves until their full recovery.”



Nadia Ali Aldhara shows PPE produced by her company in Yemen.
Photo credit: Islamic Development Bank and Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS)

“
The clearest avenues of hope and the fastest strategies for recovery lie in efforts that are already well underway: the economic empowerment of women. When so much in our lives has had to stop, now is exactly the time to go full speed ahead on this effort because supporting women, supporting their business and making them economically resilient pays off for everyone — their families, their communities, their larger economies, and perhaps most importantly, themselves. That is why Mastercard is proud to be partnering with W-GDP and USAID to advance women’s economic opportunities and to be fostering a more inclusive digital economy through a number of efforts.”

– Ajay Banga, CEO of Mastercard

