



Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities



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IFC, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Deploy \$1.45B to Women Entrepreneurs in Emerging Markets

AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER, 9, 2019—The Women Entrepreneurs Opportunity Facility (WEOF), a partnership between Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has delivered \$1.45 billion in investments over the past five years for local financial institutions to lend to women-owned businesses. This first-of-its-kind finance facility has supported nearly 53,000 entrepreneurs in developing countries through 53 financial institutions across 33 countries to date, according to a progress report released today.

WEOF has surpassed its original goals set at its launch in 2014 – having already delivered more than double its initial goal of mobilizing \$600 million for emerging-market financial institutions to lend to women-owned small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The report shares initial findings and insights from the partnership's first five years.

WEOF-participating financial institutions are reporting healthy growth and strong asset quality in their women-owned SME portfolios, results that will help develop a more inclusive financial market and narrow the \$1.5 trillion finance gap faced by women-owned businesses. Five years in, WEOF is reinforcing the impact of focusing on women, including better gender disaggregated data and initial results pointing to women as a stronger borrower base. Yet there is more to be done to close the gender credit gap. The report looks ahead at how the facility will continue to learn and innovate to further move the needle.

“Women entrepreneurs generate economic growth and create jobs, particularly in developing countries, where nearly one-third of small businesses are owned by women. But their economic potential remains largely untapped,” said IFC CEO Philippe Le Houérou. “IFC’s investments through WEOF in developing-country financial institutions are strengthening businesses and creating jobs in challenging markets around the world.”

“Pioneering the first facility of its kind means that we have a responsibility to share our experience with others. Grounded in data, the five year results are in: investing in women is good business; when you have a specific focus on women you see results; and women are great borrowers. We are humbled to support women entrepreneurs across the world who are lifting up their communities,” said Asahi Pompey, Global Head of Corporate Engagement and President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

WEOF was launched with \$43 million in funding from the Goldman Sachs Foundation. The initiative was designed to expand and deepen financing for women-owned SMEs in developing countries, empower women entrepreneurs through access to finance and expertise, and demonstrate the commercial viability of investing in women by attracting external investors. Of the \$1.45 billion investments through WEOF, \$979 million was invested from IFC’s own balance sheet and \$471 million was mobilized from external investors.

WEOF builds on the IFC [Banking on Women](#) and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiatives. 10,000 Women was launched in 2008 to foster economic growth by providing women entrepreneurs with

business education and access to networks. IFC's *Banking on Women* program was established in 2010 to provide financing and expertise to emerging market financial institutions to expand financial services and opportunities for women customers and business owners.

About IFC

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities where they are needed most. In fiscal year 2019, we delivered more than \$19 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. For more information, visit www.ifc.org

About Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women*

Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* is an ongoing initiative to foster economic growth by providing women entrepreneurs around the world with a business and management education and access to capital. The initiative has reached over 10,000 women from 56 countries through a network of 100 academic, nonprofit, and bank partners. In partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* launched the first-of-its-kind global finance facility in 2014 to enable access to capital to more women entrepreneurs. And now, the *10,000 Women* curriculum is available online through Coursera, further democratizing access to a business education in more corners of the world. For more information on Goldman Sachs' investment in female entrepreneurs, visit:

<https://www.goldmansachs.com/citizenship/10000women/>

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