

THE TIME IS NOW TO ACCELERATE WOMEN'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The Time Is Now To Accelerate Women's Public Procurement is a 23-part toolbox and call to action series created by USAID.



Overview: Snapshots Of Countries And Programs

In addition to the deeper or longer country case studies, a selection of “snapshots” of the experience of some different countries and programs have been included. The International Trade Centre (ITC) has made available important content, including the legislative and regulatory language on 17 women's public procurement programs from their [Procurement Map platform](#). In addition, they have shared a portion of the SheTrades Outlook analyses of their business and procurement ecosystem assessments (conducted with 25 Commonwealth countries) that enable countries to strengthen their ecosystems for women's public procurement and access to markets. Where possible, this content is integrated into the snapshot profiles.

The following initiatives are presented as snapshots:

- » Dominican Republic
- » Kenya and South Africa
 - Several countries in Africa have programs focused on the trio of women, youth and people with disabilities; the two oldest such programs, Kenya and South Africa, have very different strategies. Kenya has a set-aside, while South Africa uses a preferential point system.
- » Zambia: an ITC business and ecosystem analysis for public procurement
- » Gender Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform: A Deep Dive Ecosystem Analysis of Markets and Finance for WOBs
- » The Gender Sensitive Public Procurement Survey funded by DfID (the former name for the UK's Department for International Development, since merged with the Foreign Office)
- » With support from We-Fi, the World Bank has launched an advisory program in partnership with UN Women to catalyze access to public procurement contracts for women entrepreneurs. The Senegal snapshot provides a sample of one of these activities
- » The International Finance Corporation effort to bring women-owned businesses into the oil, gas and mining supply chain

Additional Women's Public Procurement Efforts

The following initiatives, while important, are not included among the Snapshots.

- » In April 2018, the **World Bank Group** set a 2023 goal to more than double its share of corporate procurement spent with women business enterprises to 7 percent. The share in FY19 was 4 percent, which was an increase from the FY17 baseline of 3.1 percent. Their goal for 2030 is 10 percent.
- » The **African Development Bank** is focused on providing training programs on gender mainstreaming in public procurement to build women's capacity.
- » The **Islamic Development Bank** recently published a "guidance" focused on sustainability in public procurement. While it is focused on good practices rather than being mandatory, it includes some focus on gender.
- » After more than a decade of operation, the **Korean Women Entrepreneurs Association** (KWEA) became legally recognized under the country's Women's Business Ownership Law in 1999, and it began operations after approval by the Small and Medium Business Administration. As part of its mission, KWEA now provides support for the 5 percent public procurement set-aside of products or services to be purchased from women entrepreneurs.
- » The **European Union** has had internal resistance to preferential public procurement policies for women-owned enterprises and has not yet established such a program, because of historic opposition to what is sometimes called "positive discrimination." However, according to Judith Fessehaie in the SheTrades Programme at ITC, "There is growing debate on how to leverage public procurement for social goals, including gender equality. At the Member State level, action tends to focus on gender equality in the labour market (working conditions, gender wage gap, etc. as criteria for qualification/adjudication/performance assessment) and gender equality in service provision. And according to [legal and procurement] experts, the EU directives do not seem to allow for discriminatory measures such as reservations or price preferences." To help overcome this resistance, the Women20 Working Group on Women's Entrepreneurship and Finance will be exploring whether women-owned businesses could become an area of focus within a carve-out for small and medium enterprises or micro, small and medium enterprises.
- » In 2013, with the Indian Companies Act of 2013, **India** became the first country to mandate corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending; the government requires large corporations to pay at least 2 percent of their average net profit from the previous three years into a CSR fund. Much of this funding has focused on poverty alleviation, but there is increasing corporate interest in aligning their CSR strategies with further investment in education, entrepreneurship and skills building for women and girls. If women entrepreneurial organizations in India built a coalition around this issue, they might be able to get some of their top priority initiatives funded, including investment in capacity building for women's access to markets, including public procurement.
- » **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, has instituted a local women's procurement program, with a new women-owned business seal, to encourage equitable procurement.

The TIME IS NOW for Women's Public Procurement.
Read how the stage is set for action!