

# Economic Participation at FHI 360

## ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

FHI 360 believes that when people and firms are **prepared**, empowered to be more **productive** and supported to take advantage of emerging **platforms**, all can thrive in today and tomorrow's dynamic economy.

Our Economic Participation approach is operationalized through our project portfolio, driven and led by our technical and programmatic experts in **three collaborating practice areas: Work, Youth and Skills and Inclusion.**



Mohammed Maghayda/USAID

## FHI 360'S FORWARD-LEANING APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

The nature of work and markets are changing – disrupting global and local economic and financial landscapes and creating new opportunities and challenges. In the midst of these shifts, people can leverage these opportunities to become more productive, or potential and aspirations can be left unrealized as economic inequality grows wider.

FHI 360's approach to economic participation addresses both supply and demand, building on the strength and legacy of our nearly 20 years in livelihoods, financial inclusion and skills building, especially among youth and women. This approach empowers the individual as an economic actor while working to ensure supportive and enabling systems and institutions that promote a win-win value proposition with the private sector.

## THREE P'S OF ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

FHI 360's synergistic approach to economic participation programming and research spans industries with particular expertise in tourism, food and agriculture, and design and textiles. Programming revolves around preparation, productivity and platforms.

### *Preparation*

These training, assessment and support activities prepare individuals and enterprises with the labor market information, skills and networks needed to successfully get a job, be self-employed, be an effective and sustainable entrepreneur and/or to participate in the economy as a worker, business owner, consumer or more effective policy-maker.

**About FHI 360:** FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing—creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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## **Productivity**

These programs foster market linkages for improved productivity, earnings, profits by strengthening value chains, introducing innovation, providing industry research or data, facilitating finance, supporting policy reform or applying latest technologies.

## **Platforms**

These programs create and increase access to platforms from which people can navigate job markets, grow or start a business or diversify an earning portfolio. Platforms can refer to digital solutions including online applications and e-commerce or work or business models such as the gig economy or micro-franchise.

## **FHI 360 ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mobile Solutions Technical Assistance and Research project, a technical assistance and research program, fosters the rapid adoption and scale-up of digital finance, digital inclusion and mobile data platforms in **Bangladesh, India, Liberia** and **Mozambique**.

In **Jordan**, the USAID Local Enterprise Support Project focuses on local small business growth and prepares women in non-traditional sectors through skills and vocational trainings, increases productivity by providing business and financial advice as well as supply chain linkages, and offers market platforms such as micro-franchising and home-based businesses.

Powered by a peer-to-peer platform, the USAID **Morocco** Career Center project provides tools and information for aligning workforce with private sector and employer needs so that youth can find meaningful employment and are prepared with the soft skills that are in high demand.

FHI 360's Department of State-funded Collaborative Action for Handicraft Exports project creates employment opportunities for **Tunisian** artisans. In **Afghanistan**, USAID-funded Goldozi assists women to increase the commercial potential of their traditional embroidered products and better prepares embroiderers and artisan entrepreneurs for local and international markets.

YouthPower Action is dedicated to scaling evidence-based, positive youth development approaches in all sectors and country contexts. FHI 360 has created tools and analyzed labor markets, supported group mentoring and community engagement activities and conducted research to identify, build and measure critical soft and life skills for youth in **Bangladesh, Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique** to enable the aspirations of youth with a focus on vulnerable and orphaned populations.

In **Guatemala**, FHI 360 supports inclusive and nutrition-sensitive agricultural livelihoods to build resilience under the USAID-funded Coffee Value Chains Project.