

Women's Economic Empowerment 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**.



Jack Gordon/DDC

FHI 360 WEE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Gendered labor market assessment and training
- Promoting women-owned micro, small enterprise
- Supporting women's cooperatives, savings and lending groups and networks
- Private sector engagement
- Community engagement to create opportunity in non-traditional sectors
- Digital financial services
- Research and analysis
- Improving policy and regulatory environments

When women and girls thrive, so do their families, communities and countries.

Women's economic empowerment (WEE) sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth for all. FHI 360 programs improve women's economic participation and leadership opportunities through integrated solutions that engage women, men and youth in examining shifting gender norms, reducing gender-related stigma and addressing systemic barriers to enable women to reach their full economic potential.

We support women to improve their capacities, productivity, earnings, profits and work experiences by creating career pathways, strengthening women's cooperatives and entry to market, identifying and building skills to capitalize on livelihoods opportunities, increasing financial inclusion, supporting policy reform and providing access to the latest technologies. By creating and facilitating access to platforms such as digital solutions including online applications and e-commerce or work or business models such as micro-franchise or home-based business, we enable women to navigate job markets, grow or start a business or diversify an earning portfolio.

Our programs ensure women and girls are prepared with labor market information, skills and networks needed to successfully get a job, be self-employed and/or be an effective and sustainable entrepreneur.

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 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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FHI 360'S WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

In **Jordan**, United Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded **Local Enterprise Support Project (LENS)** programming has had a catalytic impact on the development and growth of micro- and small-enterprises, particularly those owned by women. Because of LENS, more than 80 percent of the home-based businesses registered under regulations championed by the project are owned by women, over 15,000 women-owned businesses were financed through loans and grants and hundreds of women increased their savings through informal savings and lending groups.

Women are prioritized in **Mobile Solutions Technical Assistance and Research (mSTAR)** work in **Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mali, Liberia, Bangladesh** and **Peru** to build digital ecosystems that facilitate financial inclusion, livelihoods and enterprise. In **India**, mSTAR prioritized supporting women's participation within identified value chains.

FHI 360's Department of State-funded **Collaborative Action for Handicraft Exports** project creates employment opportunities for **Tunisian** artisans, focusing on increasing production, local sales and exports of handicrafts, especially for rural women and cooperatives. In **Afghanistan**, USAID **Goldozi** assists women to increase the commercial potential of their traditional embroidered products and better prepares embroiderers and artisan entrepreneurs of both genders for local and international markets.

Through targeted outreach to female students, the **USAID Morocco Career Center** project was able to consistently and equitably serve a more gender-balanced, representative and diverse cohort. The project also worked with private sector partners to promote gender equality in the workplace and encourage young women to enter male-dominated careers.

Accelerating Strategies for Practical Innovation and Research in Economic Strengthening (ASPIRES) works in **Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe** and **Nigeria** to support gender-sensitive programming, research and learning to improve the economic security of vulnerable women, families and children.

The **Tasawi Program** provided internally displaced people and **Iraqi** ethnic/religious minority women with access to support systems to help them obtain new or improved employment opportunities.

FHI 360's **African Union Partnership** program has provided technical support to African Union Commission initiatives that enhance equitable access to technical and vocational education and training and increase opportunity for female youth.

Under the **Advancing Women's Empowerment** initiative, FHI 360 supports efforts to increase women's participation, productivity, profit and empowerment in existing and expected U.S. Feed the Future and Global Food Security Strategy programming.