

THE TIME IS NOW TO ACCELERATE
WOMEN'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Snapshot: Dominican Republic

LISTENING TO DATA AND PEOPLE

Success for the Dominican Republic's public procurement program comes from its strategic use of data, along with listening to the needs of women entrepreneurs and procurement officials.



Women currently win one in four contracts in the Dominican Republic, thanks to inclusive procurement reforms.¹

According to data from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), public procurement represents almost 30 percent of spending by governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, amounting to 8.6 percent of their gross domestic product. With such an important role in the economy, procurement is thus a key tool for inclusion and development in these countries. By integrating and strengthening women's participation in the sector, governments can create new opportunities and promote more equitable economies and societies.

1. Romina Colman, "Women win one in four contracts in the Dominican Republic thanks to inclusive procurement reforms," September 23, 2020, <https://www.open-contracting.org/2020/09/23/women-win-one-in-four-contracts-in-the-dominican-republic-thanks-to-inclusive-procurement-reforms/>.

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



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This was the path that the Dominican Republic chose. Over less than a decade, the country's new public procurement strategy led to a 16 percent increase in contracts awarded to smaller businesses led by women, from 10 percent of these deals in 2012, representing spending of \$41 million, to 26 percent in 2019, with a value of \$125 million. Although competitive public tenders are still a male-dominated field, the fraction of these contracts awarded to women also increased, from 20 percent in 2013 to almost 30 percent in 2019. But the team's most important achievement was to develop a big picture understanding of the problem. They did this with the help of data, which was the raw material to drive the changes, but also by actively listening to the needs of women and the procurement agencies across the country.

Summary Of Legislation Or Policies Related To Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises In Public Procurement²

The Dominican Republic has preferential public procurement policies for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as is evident in Regulation N° 490-07 on the application of Law N° 340-06. The following articles of the Regulations particularly concern SMEs:

- » **Article 5.3.:** preferential procurement procedures that promote SMEs are legal.
- » **Article 11.2.11.:** SMEs must submit a certificate from the Secretary of State Industry and Commerce that proves their qualification as SMEs in order to benefit from the preferential treatment they are eligible for.
- » **Article 55.:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can submit partial bids at a minimum module for partial bids determined by the contracting authority, which should be no less than 20 percent or more than 30 percent of the total supply.
- » **Article 56.:** the total amount of each product to be procured should be distributed to a wide array of providers to encourage the participation of MSMEs.
- » **Article 86.:** The procurement authority should grant SMEs a 5 percent preference to match the best bid and be awarded.

2. International Trade Centre, "Procurement Map –Results for the Dominican Republic," n.d., https://procurementmap.intracen.org/Data/Results?countryID=214&sort_by=Deadline&order_by=asc§ion=sme.



16%

Increase in contracts awarded to smaller businesses led by women from 2012 to 2019

30%

Contracts awarded to women in competitive public tenders in 2019

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