The Time Is Now To Accelerate Women’s Public Procurement: A Toolbox And Call To Action

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What’s In The Toolbox?

Currently, women-owned businesses receive less than 1 percent of the trillions of dollars spent each year on public procurement globally.¹

This Toolbox maps the landscape of women’s public procurement (WPP) in a cross-section of countries. It identifies specific models, as well as policy and program strategies and recommendations that stakeholders can use to accelerate and transform WPP, if they work together and share knowledge and best practice.

The Toolbox is targeted to international development and financing agencies, policymakers, contracting officers, and corporate prime contractors in public procurement who are interested in subcontracting to and mentoring women-owned businesses, and women’s business associations. Its ultimate goal is to “build back better” after the Coronavirus Disease of 2019-2021, and to create a stronger ecosystem that contributes to gross domestic product and facilitates the development of scalable and sustainable women-owned businesses that create good jobs for the citizens of the countries in which development specialists work.

The Toolbox presents a series of case studies and snapshots of women’s public procurement models and initiatives that have been undertaken by various countries and facilitated by international organizations, development finance organizations, and international development agencies in donor countries. This Toolbox builds on extensive content from the International Trade Centre (ITC)—a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization based in Geneva—which has done substantial work on women’s access to markets, including corporate and public procurement, ecommerce and international trade. Other international entities have also provided foundational content that has been incorporated throughout these documents.

Finally, the Toolbox concludes with a global Call to Action on Women’s Public Procurement, and the announcement of a Virtual International Summit on Women’s Public Procurement in the fourth quarter of 2021, to be co-hosted by the ITC and the Women20 (W20) of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries. Organizers urge that stakeholders from around the world participate, so that we can collectively break barriers, share know-how, and greatly accelerate progress on developing a robust women’s public procurement system that works for women around the world. This Toolbox will provide resources before and well after the International Summit to advance gender equity in the field of public procurement.

¹ Based on U.S. dollar value.
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Acronyms

AgCLIR........................ Agriculture Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform (USAID)
AGPO .......................... Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
B-BBEE ......................... Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (South Africa)
BizCLIR ......................... Business Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform (USAID)
BWIT .................. Business Women in International Trade (Canada)
CLIR ............................ Commercial, Legal, and Institutional Reform (USAID)
COVID-19 ..................... Coronavirus disease of 2019
CSD .......................... Central Supplier Database (South Africa)
CSR........................... Corporate social responsibility
DFI .............................. Development Finance Institution
DFID .......................... Department for International Development (UK)
EDWOSB ...................... Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business (USA)
EU .......................... European Union
GDP ............................ Gross Domestic Product
GenderCLIR ............... Gender Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform (USAID)
G20 ................... Group of 20 countries
GSPP ......................... Gender-sensitive (public) procurement
HealthCLIR .................. Health Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform (USAID)
IFC ............................ International Finance Corporation
ILO ............................ International Labour Organization
ITC ............................ International Trade Centre
KWEA ..................... Korean Women Entrepreneurs Association
MBE .......................... Minority Business Enterprise (USA)
MicroCLIR ................. Value Chains Climate, Legal and Institutional Reform (USAID)
The TIME IS NOW for Women’s Public Procurement. Read how the stage is set for action!