

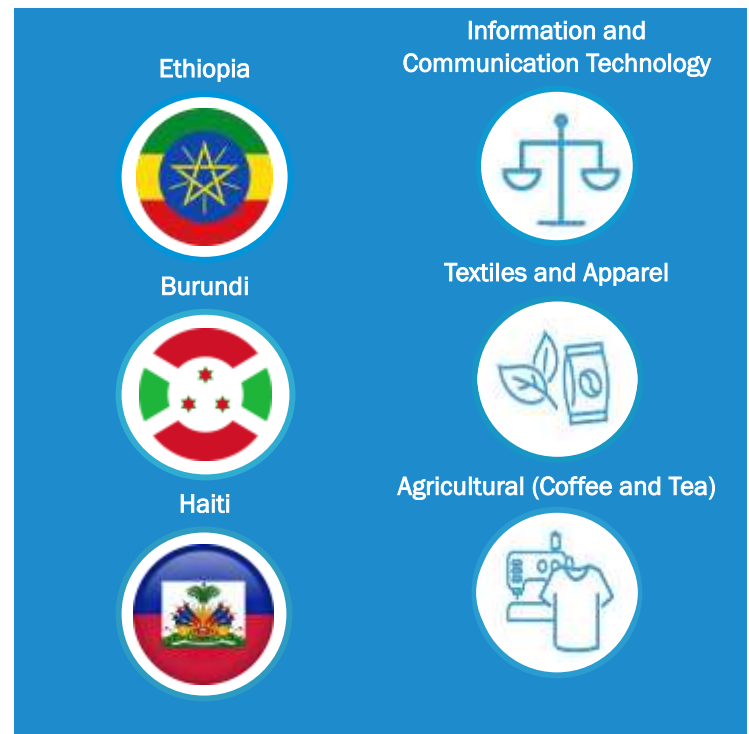
ADVANCING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

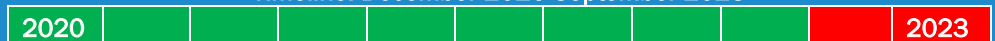
This project is a joint effort of the International Telecommunications Union, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and EQUALS Global Partnership, with the high-level goal of **reducing the digital gender gap** in LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by means of **building technological capacities and digital skills** for women and **connecting them to digital and professional markets**. This project looks specifically to advance the technological capabilities of **female entrepreneurs and young future entrepreneurs**.

TARGETED COUNTRIES AND INDUSTRIES



| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Project Budget: | USD 1,228,349 |
| EIF Contribution: | USD 798,104 |
| ITU-ICT Dev Fund: | USD 430,245 |

Timeline: December 2020-September 2023



Outcomes

COUNTRIES INVOLVED WILL HAVE MORE GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

INCREASED PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF WORKING-AGED WOMEN IN THE COFFEE AND COCOA AND TEXTILES AND GARMENTS INDUSTRIES IN THE TARGETED COUNTRIES

Outputs:

- Increase government capacity to develop and reformulate gender responsive policies and regulations in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- Equip women involved in policymaking to better participate in processes related to the formation of ICT policies and regulations
- Improve women's digital skills in the industries mentioned.
- Ensure that women are connected to professional networking platforms in the corporate industry.
- Women are digitally empowered to get job opportunities and increase their income

PROGRESS TO DATE

OUTPUT DELIVERY

- 52 face-to-face and remote digital skills development training sections were delivered to working-aged women.
- 32 women entrepreneurs participated in networking platforms on a regional and international level.
- Over 1,660 women have been trained to date

POLICY OUTCOMES

- Development of national strategy on electronic waste in Burundi with gender considerations in mind, and with reference to women's economic empowerment through the digital sphere
- A training that was implemented in Ethiopia will serve as a basis for the gender digital policy that the Ethiopian government is currently formulating

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Women entrepreneurs were invited to participate in trade shows and expos to improve their marketing knowledge and build their businesses.
- Testimonial from one Burundi participant: *"As someone who comes from an underrepresented country and being a woman, this is a wonderful opportunity to partner with potential buyers and other companies around the world."*



Participant meeting potential clients at the Middle East Organic and Natural Expo Dubai 2022



"I would like to teach others how one can do it and how well it is possible to have your own website and improve my knowledge to be part of the development of technology here in Burundi."

WHAT'S NEXT?

With the conclusion of this project, the aim is to replicate this model into other countries and industries. The focus to this point has been on product-oriented sectors, the next move would then be to become a niche in service-oriented sectors where digital skills are needed; those being service, tourism and hospitality, and the care sector. More than replication, the aim is to tailor this model to the needs of specific sectors, countries, and communities of young female entrepreneurs.

LESSONS LEARNED

FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORKS

Implementation of the project was severely impacted as it began during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this and instances of political instability, this project had to adapt the format of its activities to external circumstances"

PARTNERSHIP

This project highlighted the importance of having reliable partners on the ground, alongside the support of international partners.

RESILIENCE

To best respond to unforeseen external circumstances outside of the project's control, this project learned to be resilient, to bounce back when in-person events were canceled or when plans had to change.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Tech as a driver of Women's Economic Opportunity (ITU). [Project website](#).
- EQUALS global partnership. [Partnership website](#)
- [ITU projects portal](#)