



African Policy Dialogues

EVIDENCE FACTSHEET MALI

December 2022

Enhancing women entrepreneurship in Mali

This document is about INCLUDE's African Policy Dialogue (APD) in Mali which is hosted by the Mali Investment Promotion Bureau (Agence pour la Promotion des Investissements au Mali) in collaboration with the Netherlands-African Business Council. The APD provides evidence and ideas to overcome the obstacles to women's entrepreneurship and economic participation in Mali.

Obstacles to women entrepreneurship

- Lack of coherence and coordination of entrepreneurship policies and programmes across government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations.
- Difficulties accessing premium markets due to lack of protection of local markets and low premium on the made-in-Mali products.
- Greater social and family burden for women in the informal sector, resulting in less time available to invest in their businesses.
- Women own fewer means of production (land, tools and equipment) and limited access to finance (notably bank credit).
- Inadequate business management skills and limited access to training and professional skills development.
- Non-availability or difficult access to relevant information on women entrepreneurship.
- The perception especially in the rural areas that women cannot and should not be entrepreneurs.
- Most businesses owned by women are more into artisanal than industrial processes, which leads to a lower value added and earned.

Key recommendations on enhancing women entrepreneurship

- Set up a platform to gather and exchange information on women entrepreneurship between the various stakeholders to pool efforts and create synergy of action among key players.
- Provide entrepreneurs with training to develop and strengthen essential skills in business such as financial management, negotiation, corporate governance and business management.
- Create programs dedicated to female entrepreneurship and adapt them to the context of each region to increase the visibility of and communication around.
- Develop schemes to facilitate access to finance for many women entrepreneurs, or to subsidize their loans and start-up funds.
- Mentoring of young women entrepreneurs by more experienced women entrepreneurs.
- Since the agri-food sector attracts women entrepreneurs the most, there is a need for targeted support to address the difficulties faced by economic operators in the sector.
- Involve men in communication about women's entrepreneurship.
- Women entrepreneurship interventions should be adapted to the needs of women based on their education, marital status, occupation, experience, languages and geographical location.
- Identify women entrepreneurs' networks and strengthen them in order to facilitate their access to information and to organize them so that they can generate proposals.



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Our publications from the APD Mali:

- Strengthening responses to increase women's entrepreneurship in Mali
- A plea for solutions in the short-term strengthening responses to increase women's entrepreneurship
- Creating synergy of action between the different stakeholders in the women's entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Driving positive change through the actions of stakeholders in women's entrepreneurship
- Obstacles to the development of women's economic activity in the formal and informal sectors in Mali
- Increasing women entrepreneurship in Mali

For more information on the African Policy Dialogues Programme:

<https://includeplatform.net/theme/african-policy-dialogues/>

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