



FACTSHEET: Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund Increases to \$100 Million in its First Year and Launches New Partnerships

- In November 2019, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green announced that an additional \$50 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funding had been added for the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Fund, increasing the total of \$100 million for its first year. The President requested \$100 million for the Fund in the most recent Budget for FY 2020, consistent with his commitment in National Security Presidential Memorandum-16 (which established W-GDP), to prioritize the Fund within the President's Budget and appropriated resources.
- The W-GDP Initiative was launched by the White House in February 2019 as the first whole-of-government effort to advance global women's economic empowerment focused on three pillars: women prospering in the workforce, women succeeding as entrepreneurs, and women enabled in the economy. W-GDP seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 through U.S. Government activities, public-private partnerships, and a new, innovative Fund, housed and managed by USAID.
- The White House-led W-GDP Working Group is comprised of ten U.S. Government agencies working to achieve the Initiative's goals and objectives: the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Labor, Millennium Challenge Corporation, U.S. Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation, Inter-American Foundation, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (soon to be part of the new United States International Development Finance Corporation), as well as White House offices and components, including the U.S. Trade Representative and Office of Management and Budget.
- In July 2019, W-GDP announced the first round of Incentive Fund awardees —14 new projects amounting to \$27 million with more than 200 public- and private-sector partners across 22 countries.

NEW 2019 W-GDP PARTNERSHIPS ANNOUNCED

On November 18, W-GDP announced activities and new partnerships that amount to over \$10 million, and will leverage an additional \$5 million from the private sector. These activities and partnerships were funded by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 \$100 million W-GDP Fund:

- **The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), Visa Foundation, and USAID** (\$600,000) to implement the Advancing Women's Empowerment Fund, a catalyst fund in East and Southeast Asia that will help close the financing gap for women-led businesses. The partnership includes a \$1 million investment by the Visa Foundation and will provide support to women entrepreneurs to fund more companies, build their capacity, and connect them with appropriate sources of capital to help them scale their businesses.
- **Bancamia partnership** to expand the **Partnering to Accelerate Entrepreneurship (PACE)** Initiative into Colombia. USAID's Revenue-Based Lending Acceleration initiative (\$800,000), a partnership in Colombia with Palladium and local bank Bancamia, will facilitate a new type of financial product that catalyzes private sector investment into early-stage, women-led businesses. It also bundles the financial product with specialized business development services, including training, group workshops, and individual consulting.
- **The Department of Commerce, the Government of the Dominican Republic, and USAID** (\$970,000) to revise procurement laws and practices to create greater opportunities for women-led businesses and provide technical assistance to help women-led businesses to take advantage of those opportunities.
- Three major American apparel company partners will invest \$1.5 million — **Kontoor Brands, Levi Strauss & Co., and The Children's Place** — with a \$1 million investment from W-GDP and will partner with **USAID** and the **Solidarity Center**, as well as local labor and women's organizations, and factory owners to increase women's safety and productivity at four major manufacturing facilities that employ more than 8,000 women located in Lesotho.
- **Mars, Inc.** to boost women's economic empowerment in the shea supply chain in Ghana through a \$4.5 million partnership with **USAID**. W-GDP will provide \$2 million in funding, leveraging an additional \$2.5 million from Mars. This partnership aims to transform the sector by establishing a sustainable supply chain for shea nuts by providing resources to these women-led businesses that will increase production efficiency and product quality, introduce crop rotation to provide additional income generating activities and improve access to financial products that help them reinvest and grow their businesses.

- **NASA, USAID, and regional, technical institutions around the world through the global SERVIR network** to close the gap between higher education and employment and advancement of women in STEM careers (\$970,000). The SERVIR program empowers people with satellite data, science, and technology to improve environmental decision-making among 23 developing nations. New activities will support training, internships, and mentorship for women in higher education to launch their careers.

- **Peace Corps and USAID to work to promote women’s digital and financial literacy** (\$975,000). USAID will help to create materials, resources, and programming for use by Peace Corps Volunteers to provide training (including training to local trainers) to women in digital and financial literacy skills that foster economic empowerment. To scale the work, Peace Corps will hold regional summits for trainers who can then introduce these skills training programs around the world.

- **W-GDP Women Connect Challenge** investing an additional \$2 million to award a second round of W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge grants, bringing the overall total to over \$3.5 million. The WomenConnect Challenge, launched on International Women’s Day in 2018 by Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and Administrator Mark Green, is a global call for solutions to bridge the gender digital divide so that women can fully participate in the global economy. Each of these winners will deliver digital innovations to support one of the three W-GDP pillars:
 - Pillar 1: Women Prospering in the Workforce. *Dimagi Inc.*, in partnership with Women for Women International (WfWI) and IDEO.org, will create “Coach Carene,” a chatbot that will provide vocational and financial literacy training and resources for women in Rwanda.
 - Pillar 2: Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs. *United Purpose*, in collaboration with women community collectives in Senegal, will develop Tekki Jigeen, a digital program that provides rural women with entrepreneurial training, resources, and banking services to help them overcome barriers they face in agricultural value chains.
 - Pillar 3: Women Enabled in the Economy. *Solidaridad* will link women dairy farmers in Bangladesh to formal supply chains. In this project, women across five districts will have the opportunity to enroll in a mobile money program that includes financial literacy trainings, resources to improve joint decision making in the family, as well as access to modern dairy practices.

For more information, visit: www.WGDP.gov