



BIZCLIR

Business
Climate
Legal &
Institutional
Reform

GenderCLIR

Solutions for the economic empowerment of women



The Challenge: Empowering Women in Business

Gender concerns present a particular development and stabilization challenge in developing, fragile, and post-conflict societies. The Gender Business Climate Legal and Institutional Reform tool (*GenderCLIR*) is oriented toward addressing these challenges.



The full engagement of women in an economy is essential for maximum economic growth, poverty reduction, and stabilization. In developing countries, women are key actors in business but mainly at the micro-business level. There is an invisible ceiling that seems to cap the growth of their enterprises and creates a gap that has been termed the “missing middle.” Impediments to women often go unrecognized unless a holistic review of the business environment, including through a gender lens, is performed.



In addition, women in developing economies are often engaged in the parts of the economy most vulnerable to external shocks. Women form the backbone of the agricultural and fishing industries and play a key role in food security.

The challenge is to create the right enabling environment so that women can reach their potential in contributing to society.

The Opportunity

Greater economic participation for women leads to many documented benefits, including education and improved nutrition for the family, a greater political voice for women, and economic stability. Women are significant drivers of economic growth and recovery, therefore investing in women will bring great benefits for all nations.

If You Want to Know:

- What is the most critical impediment to engaging women in the economy?
- Why are there few successful large women-owned businesses?
- Can women have property in their own names, obtain loans, and start a business without someone’s permission?
- Does the regulatory framework support or hinder women entrepreneurs?
- What are best practices in the field of women’s enterprise development?
- What skills do women need to succeed in business and where can they obtain those skills?
- If there is a Gender Ministry and an appropriate legal framework, why are there still problems?
- Why are women in cities more successful than women in rural areas? What can be done?
- Do certain underserved sectors exist that present real opportunities for women? Internet? Accounting? Services?
- Does trade liberalization provide opportunities for women, or does it have a disproportionately negative impact on them?

Photo credits:
Front top, middle, bottom:
Anne Simmons-Benton
Back: Guenter Guni



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GenderCLIR: Producing Tangible Results

Existing assessment tools for the business environment do not address issues unique to women and do not look at the larger role of women in society. *GenderCLIR* analyzes the effect that the enabling environment has on women's enterprises. It provides a deep analysis of the impediments to women starting and growing a business, from the agricultural cooperative level; to the micro, small, and medium enterprise level; to the successful large enterprise. *GenderCLIR* reveals the root causes and inefficiencies of an underperforming economy from a gender lens and makes targeted, action-oriented recommendations for improvement.

GenderCLIR: The Assessment Tool

GenderCLIR addresses the key areas of the business environment using the *Business Climate and Institutional Reform (BizCLIR)* methodology, which has been used in more than 35 countries.

Each of the *GenderCLIR* areas is evaluated across four dimensions—legal framework, implementing institutions, supporting institutions, and social dynamics—to provide a 360-degree analysis of issues affecting women in business. Gender and technical experts work together as a team to apply the indicators in the following seven key substantive areas:

- Women's Role in Society
- Women in the Private Sector
- Women and Labor
- Women and Property
- Women and Credit
- Women and Trade
- Women and Commercial Justice

GenderCLIR: Assessments and Technical Assistance

The end result of the diagnostic is a detailed report that identifies issues, priorities, and recommendations for targeted reform to produce real results.

GenderCLIR's benefits include:

- Quick diagnosis that allows for rapid response programs
- Indicators for benchmarking progress
- Action-oriented plans that identify programmatic priorities for remedying *GenderCLIR* problem areas
- Roundtable events that spur public-private dialogue and problem-solving
- Rapid response technical assistance

Investing in women yields results

For more information, please contact:

USAID/EGAT/EG

Nick Klissas

PH: +1.202.712.0115

nklissas@usaid.gov

Charles Schwartz

PH: +1.202.712.1761

cshwartz@usaid.gov

Wade Channell

PH: +1.202.712.1909

wchannell@usaid.gov

USAID/EGAT/WID

Misrak Brhane

PH: +1.202.712.1538

mbrhane@usaid.gov

Booz Allen Hamilton

Anne Simmons-Benton

PH: +1.703.902.4021

simmons-benton_anne@bah.com

To find out more about *GenderCLIR*, go to www.bizclir.com