

Gender Innovation Fund (GIF)

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Responsible Sector and Bank Unit:	Gender and Development - PREM
Recipient Agency:	U.N Dev. Fund for Women (UNIFEM); Int. Ctr. for Research on Women
Web Address:	http://www.unifem.org and http://www.icrw.org
Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)	
Total Budget:	7.37
DGF Funding Request:	1.00
DGF Percentage:	13%
Objectives and Expected Outcomes	
<p>This Gender Innovation Fund (GIF) initiative constitutes one of four action areas of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) – <i>Gender Equality as Smart Economics</i>. The overall goal of the GAP is to promote women’s economic empowerment over a four-year period (FY07 - FY10). The GIF will fund the implementation of six Results-Based Initiatives (RBIs), pilot projects that look to: 1) promote women’s economic empowerment in order to achieve sustainable and shared growth; 2) intensify gender mainstreaming beyond the social sectors; and, 3) improve efforts to measure results and impacts. The expected outcomes of the of RBIs are to contribute to improving women’s economic advancement, increasing the knowledge base of steps needed to advance women’s economic empowerment, and accelerate and scale-up the implementation of MDG 3.</p>	
Main Components	
<p>Results-Based Initiatives have two main components :</p> <p><u>Component 1: Piloting Results-Based Initiatives - \$600,000 annually</u> This component will fund the implementation six RBIs designed to enhance women’s economic empowerment and reduce constraints that directly affect their productivity. Emphasis will be placed on sectors where attention to women’s economic opportunities is lagging, such as private sector development and infrastructure (e.g., transport, energy, and water and sanitation). Interventions will be designed so that they are replicable, scaleable, have a high potential of impacting project beneficiaries and are amenable to the impact evaluation described in component 2.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Impact Evaluation and Capacity Building - \$400,000 annually</u> This component will finance the rigorous evaluation (using methodologies such as experimental design in social science research, as appropriate) to determine: a) whether a project has had the desired effects on individuals, households, and institutions; and b) whether those effects are attributable to the project intervention. The design of each RBI will incorporate impact evaluation elements at the outset.</p>	
Performance Indicators	
<p>The associated outcomes and performance indicators include the following:</p> <p>RBIs demonstrate high impact on women’s economic empowerment activities: (i) improved employment, earnings and/or productivity of beneficiaries; and (ii) national policies or programs are in place to enhance women’s economic activities and access to markets.</p> <p>Increase in the global knowledge base to advance women’s economic empowerment: (i) widely disseminate lessons learned and good practice notes; and (ii) RBIs are scaleable and replicable.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of partners to design, monitor and evaluate interventions: (i) client country and DGF partners use the experience gained to better design, monitor and evaluate activities that look to increase women’s economic empowerment.</p>	

Progress and Achievements

Six Results-Based Initiatives are at various stages of preparation/pre-implementation:

Egypt – Gender Equity Model Egypt (GEME): This RBI provides training to private firms to improve hiring, training, and promotion of women. Firms self-select into the project; after completing the training, an outside audit examines the firms' human resource practices to determine whether they are living up to their commitment. The team has received expressions of interest from a number of firms and is in the process of developing and carrying out a baseline survey.

Kenya – Export Competitiveness of Bead Workers: Working in coordination with a local NGO and women's groups, the RBI will improve the export competitiveness of bead workers by supporting training in quality enhancement, standardization and business skills development. A baseline survey is currently being carried out and training activities will begin upon its completion.

Liberia – Value-Added Cassava Enterprise: This RBI is working with a local women's group to turn the group's cassava cultivation operation into an income-generating cassava cultivation, processing, and marketing enterprise. Progress thus far includes the completion of a baseline survey (contributing to data availability in Liberia), the acquisition and distribution of tools, training in improved cassava production methods, beginning of a cassava processing plant, and establishment of national and county steering committees to oversee the project. Additional partners include FAO and UNESCO.

Mekong – Improving Bamboo Handicraft Value Chains for Women's Economic Empowerment in Lao PDR and Cambodia: The RBI aims to improve rural livelihoods and women's economic opportunities through innovations, productivity enhancements and market interventions for women engaged in bamboo handicrafts work. It forms part of a larger IFC/OXFAM initiative to promote bamboo production, marketing, and exports in the Mekong Region. Preparation of the technical design documents and impact evaluation strategy is underway.

Peru: The RBI in Peru is in the initial preparation stage and will build upon progress achieved in Bank-financed land administration project to improve communication and build capacity around access to credit.

Partners

The RBIs are implemented by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – which is responsible for designing and implementing the RBIs – and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) – which is responsible for developing and carrying out a rigorous impact evaluation of each RBI. In order to strengthen institutional capacity and ensure results within the specific timeframe, both UNIFEM and ICRW are working with local partners (NGOs and government agencies) in each RBI country.

Governance and Management

The Gender Action Plan, to which this DGF grant is linked, was endorsed by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors in September 2006. Thus, the GAP incorporates the governance structure specified in this grant and specifies the roles of the GAP Executive Committee and the two DGF partners, UNIFEM and ICRW. A Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the GAP has been established. The GAP also proposes an Advisory Council, which will serve as the Advisory Group for GIF RBIs as well as any RBIs that are funded directly by the Multi-donor Trust Fund for the GAP. The governance and management of RBIs has benefited from: (i) a QAG review of the grant which recommended quality enhancements for the program, including establishing peer review mechanisms for RBI impact evaluations, developing a communications and dissemination strategy, and seeking additional funds from the GAP MDTF to implement the RBIs; (ii) peer review workshops of the impact evaluation strategies that were prepared for the Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, and Mekong RBIs which have resulted in improvements in the design of the RBIs; and (iii) regular reviews by the Gender and Development Board, which have further emphasized the importance of simple, yet realistic designs with credible impact evaluations for the RBI interventions.

Exit Strategy

FY09 is the last year of DGF funding. An independent evaluation will be conducted in the second half of this calendar year (September – December 2008).