

TRAINING COURSE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



INTRODUCTION:

The integration of gender equality in economic policies and decision making remains a global challenge, especially at the local level. Creating an enabling environment that supports gender-equitable local economic development interventions is key in addressing barriers to the economic empowerment of women. The Inclusive and Equitable Local Economic Development Program (IELD), co-implemented by UNCDF, UNDP and UN Women from 2016 to 2020 with the generous funding from Switzerland, aims to increase local public and private investments for women's economic empowerment. The program aims to address barriers by deploying locally driven solutions that engage both the public and private sector with an emphasis on unlocking domestic capital for the economic empowerment of women. The main objectives of the program include: 1) Building capacities of local government for gender responsive economic development. 2) Creating an enabling environment for the economic empowerment of women. 3) Deploying innovative financing tools to increase local investments in women's economic empowerment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

AROA SANTIAGO,

GENDER SPECIALIST,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
UNDP

EMAIL:
AROA.SANTIAGO@UNDP.ORG



Young girls in the GoGirl ICT Initiative, an organization founded by young South Sudanese women, which aims to empower women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), UNDP Sudan

Objectives of the course

The objective of the training course Gender-responsive local economic development planning and implementation, developed as part of the IELD program, is to increase the capacity of local and regional governments for gender-equitable local economic development policies, interventions and public and private sector investments. No sustainable structural transformation towards gender equality can occur without gender-responsive institutions. As such, these modules are needed to enhance local government competencies for business development and growth.

The course focuses at public and private local investments and at local economic planning and implementation. The support to governmental officials starts well before the course is initiated, and, after a five-day training course, post-course support is provided while implementing their newly acquired knowledge in their respective villages. The continuous follow up bridges the gap between learning and implementing and ensures commitment of participants.

Target Audience

1) Elected representatives such as mayors, counselors, local officials, local government entities, planning and budget officers; 2) Officials of local and regional governments; and 3) Civil society organizations, women's organizations, private sector representatives and academics.



Cucumber sorting machine being used to speed up the production process, UNDP Lebanon

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the training is as follows:

Module 0: Pre-training work is done by participants to motivate them and collect relevant data from their respective villages and local governments. This data informs the planning of the course.

Modules 1-5: In the five-day training programme, short participatory lectures are combined with group exercises that have a wide mix of methodologies, including case studies. It is expected that each module will last 1-2 days. With the guidelines for facilitators that are incorporated in the course, local training facilitators adapt the exercises and course schedule to their respective context and needs. Attendees develop competencies in gender-responsive participatory local economic development.

Module 6+: Facilitators provide on-demand technical advice and support to participants, to implement in the field their newly acquired competencies. Participants will present project proposals in the plenary for a final re-examination in order to check the strong and weak points from gender perspectives and to tailor them further by adding good practices learned from other projects.



Cheese processing, IELD funded investment Bangladesh



IELD Funded project, Mopti, Mali

Module Contents

METHODOLOGY

Module 0: Preparatory work

The main objective of the preparatory work is to encourage participants to arrive at the training programme with a well-established basic understanding of the local economy and its gender structure and a familiarity with existing local government programmes and policies.

Module 1: Gender, local economic development (LED) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This module introduces basic gender and economic concepts related to gender-responsive local economic development (GR LED) and links them to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are important for policy and programme interventions at the local level. Practical examples and appropriate adult learning methods and materials are used to create a common understanding of key concepts and to demonstrate the importance of mainstreaming gender in the design and implementation of local and regional policies and programmes.

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Module 2: Engendering local economic development for a greater economic growth and improved standard of living for all

The module focusses on some crucial issues related to gender-responsive local development planning (LDP) such as the negative impacts of excluding women from access to resources and jobs; the benefits of infrastructure; the economic benefits of equal sharing of unpaid work amongst men and women; steps for ensuring women's participation in LED processes; and the importance of assessing local development endeavors from gender perspectives. The module also introduces essential steps to be taken by planners before the planning of a GR LED.

Module 3: Local government and gender-responsive local economic development (LED)

This module focuses on the role of the local government (LG) in planning, strategizing, implementing and monitoring the GR LED. This module also emphasizes reviewing existing policies, laws and other structural opportunities and deficiencies related to GR LED. The module introduces tools for assessing contexts and integrating gender perspectives into LEDs such as gender budgeting and gender budget statements. Such tools allow local policymakers and planners to integrate gender responsiveness into LED policies and programmes. Identifying ways to get the relevant stakeholders onboard in support of women entrepreneurs is also an important part of the module.

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Module 4: Strengthening gender-responsive local economic development through enhancing private-sector development

This module delivers a deeper understanding of the structural barriers that women-owned businesses face which prevent them from accessing value chains. Module 4 also emphasizes figuring out gender-responsive structural and regulatory supports, equitable financing and investments. This module introduces the local economic assessment (LEA) as an integral part of GR LED planning processes and lays out the steps of planning GR LED projects and strategies.

Module 5: Public-Private Gender-responsive investments

This module focuses on reviewing participants' understanding of their respective local development plans from a gender perspective. It will review the Women's Economic Empowerment Index, a tool developed as part of the IELD Program to evaluate and support the financing of investable projects that directly promote women's economic empowerment in the least developed countries. Module 5 reviews participants' understanding of gender responsiveness based on the knowledge they have gained from the course through hands-on exercises on including a gender perspective in existing local development plans from their constituency and evaluating a fictional PPP investment plan using the WEEI tool.

Module 6: Developing Gender-Responsive SDG-Consistent Local Economic Development Investments

This module is focused on field-based work to develop a gender-responsive, SDG-consistent local economic development investment plan according to the action plan created in Phase Two. This module starts by revisiting the gender-responsive local economic assessment, developing a set of feasible and actionable gender-responsive local economic development investments, and engaging in participatory-planning processes with the local community to generate support for a specific investment. Module 6 concludes with a full proposal to be reviewed by the local community. This module encourages the presentation of all project proposals in the plenary for a final re-examination in order to check the strong and weak points from gender perspectives and to tailor them further by adding good practices learned from other projects.

The Training Course on Gender Responsive Local Economic Development for Local Governments is developed as part of the joint global programme, 'Inclusive and Equitable Local Development' implemented by UNCDF, UNDP and UN WOMEN.

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