

Key Results from IELD Mid-Term Evaluation



Unlocking Public and Private Finance for the Poor

The Inclusive and Equitable Local Development Programme (IELD) is a joint UNCDF, UNDP and UN Women initiative. The programme addresses structural impediments that prevent women from entering the labour market through local public and private investments, with a particular emphasis on unlocking domestic capital for women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. IELD uses a unique three-agency partnership to strategically approach delivery of the SDGs, using each agency's niche and comparative advantage in programming on gender equality and women's empowerment.

IELD uses a **three-agency partnership** that building on each agency's niche and comparative advantage in programming

UN Women is focusing on integrating gender into normative frameworks, national and local policies and programmes as well as working with women micro-entrepreneurs. This has included doing gender responsive budgeting and planning (GRBP) training with local officials to build capacity.

UNCDF's expertise in financial innovation at the local level is being leveraged to unlock local and public finance through funding of SMEs and PPPs and well as providing technical support to financial institutions and local governments.

UNDP is providing expertise on building government systems, policies and programme frameworks, support to building the capacity of government officials and support to BDS providers.



Highly Relevant Design

IELD aligns well with the Strategic Plans of UN Agencies and the country level UN Development Cooperation Frameworks. IELD should be considered more of an approach to WEE than a programme, which allows it to be integrated into a variety of UN settings across countries.



Financial Leverage

A total of \$1.242 million has been invested by the IELD programme and this is expected to leverage approximately \$1.65 million. The financial leverage from this early portfolio indicated that for every dollar invested, \$1.33 has been or will be unlocked. SMEs who received financial support from UNCDF view the funding and technical assistance provided as critical for their growth and building a relationship with funding institutions.



Innovative Tools and Approaches

The Women's Economic Empowerment Index is designed to evaluate and rank investment projects by public and private groups. The gender responsive Local Economic Assessment has potential to provide important information for planning and implementation of local economic development activities. The capacity development training modules for the local authorities to develop gender-responsive initiatives.

Conclusions

The limited extent of the work done across the countries to date and the preliminary nature of the outcomes generated means it is not possible to validate the overall IELD theory of change at this point and define what specific pathways are the most effective.

While some outcomes have emerged, none of the country programmes are yet able to undertake the systematic approach originally envisaged for IELD. The small size and nature of the funding available has meant that a critical mass of programming has not been possible.

IELD is viewed as a broad "approach" to tackling WEE not a global programme with a brand and coherence. While adapting the model to the country context is important, the wide variations in programming have meant there is broad diversity in terms of the programming areas.

The IELD RRF only captures quantitative indicators. Financial leverage is the primary result that is publicly presented by IELD in terms of results reporting. While financial leverage is an important part of the programming, reporting only on that indicator does not convey the outcomes that IELD is trying to address in terms of systemic changes in capacities, policies and systems on WEE issues.

The approach to implementation across countries has varied so widely the programme now appears disjointed. Only Tanzania, and to a lesser extent Bangladesh, has enough of the original model elements to start to show the potential of the model, although on a small scale. The idea of starting with LEAs that help establish priorities for investments and other support programmes is proving effective

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