



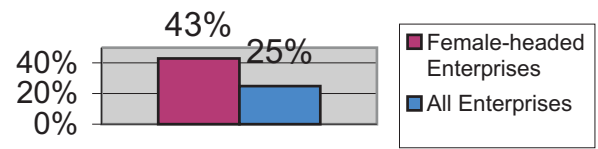
Public Private Partnerships— Promoting Gender Equity The Gender and Growth Assessment for Uganda

Gender Entrepreneurship Markets

Research suggests that Ugandan women are highly entrepreneurial, contribute very significant amounts of labor to the Ugandan economy (although much of this is unpaid), and are extremely credit-worthy. Women contribute around 50% of GDP and comprise 39% of businesses with registered premises. Yet their businesses remain small and employ fewer workers. So what is constraining Ugandan women from contributing more to private sector-led growth in Uganda? At the request of Uganda's Minister of Finance, the Gender and Growth Assessment (GGA) for Uganda sought to answer this question. The GGA was a result of a consultative process that involved stakeholders in public and private sectors. Through this process, the report not only identified issues and solutions that mattered to both sectors but it also fostered public-private dialogue. The GGA identified specific legal and administrative barriers to investment that have a gender dimension and suggested that Uganda could gain as much as 2% growth per annum by addressing gender inequalities. Some of the key findings and recommendations are:

- Barriers to formalization of a business appear to have a disproportionate effect on female entrepreneurs, and in some cases create an absolute barrier to their ability to formalize their businesses.
- Land allocation practices operate as a fundamental constraint to female entrepreneurs, especially in relation to access to credit. While there is scope for amending the Land Act, the Succession Act and the Divorce Act to give women enhanced rights over land, the key issue is the inability of many women to enforce even the rights they currently have.
- Women face barriers in using non-land assets that they may have as collateral because of the undeveloped system of personal / moveable property securities law.
- Poor people in general, and women in particular, lack information about their legal rights and access to mechanisms satisfactorily to enforce them. Reliance on the LC Court system for commercial dispute resolution puts women at a particular disadvantage because of traditional attitudes and customary law applied.

Figure 1. Enterprises that Responded Government Officials have "Intefered" with their Businesses



Source: Uganda Regulatory Cost Survey Report, 2004.

Some of the key results of the GGA are:

- GGA recommendations have been incorporated into Uganda's Medium Term Competitiveness Strategy 2005-9 and the National Gender Strategy 2005-2014.
- The Companies Act is being redrafted in line with world best practice as a result of the GGA.
- GEM has developed this pilot GGA Approach as a tool to assist governments to mainstream gender issues in their private sector development strategies. The GGA Approach provides guidelines for analysis of the linkages between gender issues and private sector development, and for taking reforms forward through a 4-step process of diagnostic, advocacy and awareness-raising of gender issues, solution design, and implementation. Work is underway to extend this approach across Africa through the NEPAD Investment Climate Facility.

The Gender and Growth Assessment for Uganda
Workshop on Advocacy and Public-Private Dialogue

Following a formal launch of the GGA in May 2005, IFC Gender Entrepreneurship Markets (GEM) and Uganda's Council for Economic Empowerment for Women of Africa organized a 2-day workshop for key women's business and advocacy groups and government contacts. The goal was to inform them about worldwide best practice in public-private dialogue and help them design strategic action plans to take forward the GGA recommendations. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen dialogue and understanding between



women's business associations and government representatives while also encouraging the participants to engage in needed gender reforms.

Led by an international expert in public-private partnerships, the presentations focused on:

- How to build effective public-private partnerships;
- Conducting stakeholder management and communication;
- Sharing best practice examples from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe;
- Designing reform approaches.

The presentations were followed by discussions on how to apply the tools to the Ugandan context to move forward the necessary reforms identified in the GGA.

The feedback form revealed that 100% of the participants found the workshops either 'useful' or 'extremely useful' in increasing their knowledge about international advocacy and in providing suggestions for follow-up action.

The workshop sharpened my perception of advocacy. It was useful in this gender project but also in my day-to-day advocacy role in investment promotion.

- Workshop Participant

Using the frameworks discussed during the workshop, the participants agreed to create an initiative to take the GGA recommendations forward. They defined key target areas and goals to be accomplished over the next nine months (prior to the presidential election), and champions to help with the marketing strategy and media attention. The workshop was thus a successful example of engaging stakeholders in public-private dialogue and giving them the necessary tools to engage in future reform efforts. GEM has used the workshop materials to develop a tool for conducting public-private dialogue and advocacy workshops. A user-friendly CD contains relevant materials that can be drawn upon in designing future workshops.



Recognizing that aspiring businesswomen are often prevented from realizing their economic potential because of gender inequality, IFC launched the **Gender-Entrepreneurship-Markets (GEM)** initiative in December 2004. The program aims to mainstream gender issues into all dimensions of IFC's work, while at the same time helping to better leverage the untapped potential of women as well as men in emerging markets. If you would like more information on IFC GEM's work, please visit our website at: <http://www.ifc.org/GEM> or contact:

Amanda Ellis
Program Manager
International Finance Corporation
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20433, USA
Tel 1.202.473.1028
Email GEM-info@ifc.org