



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung



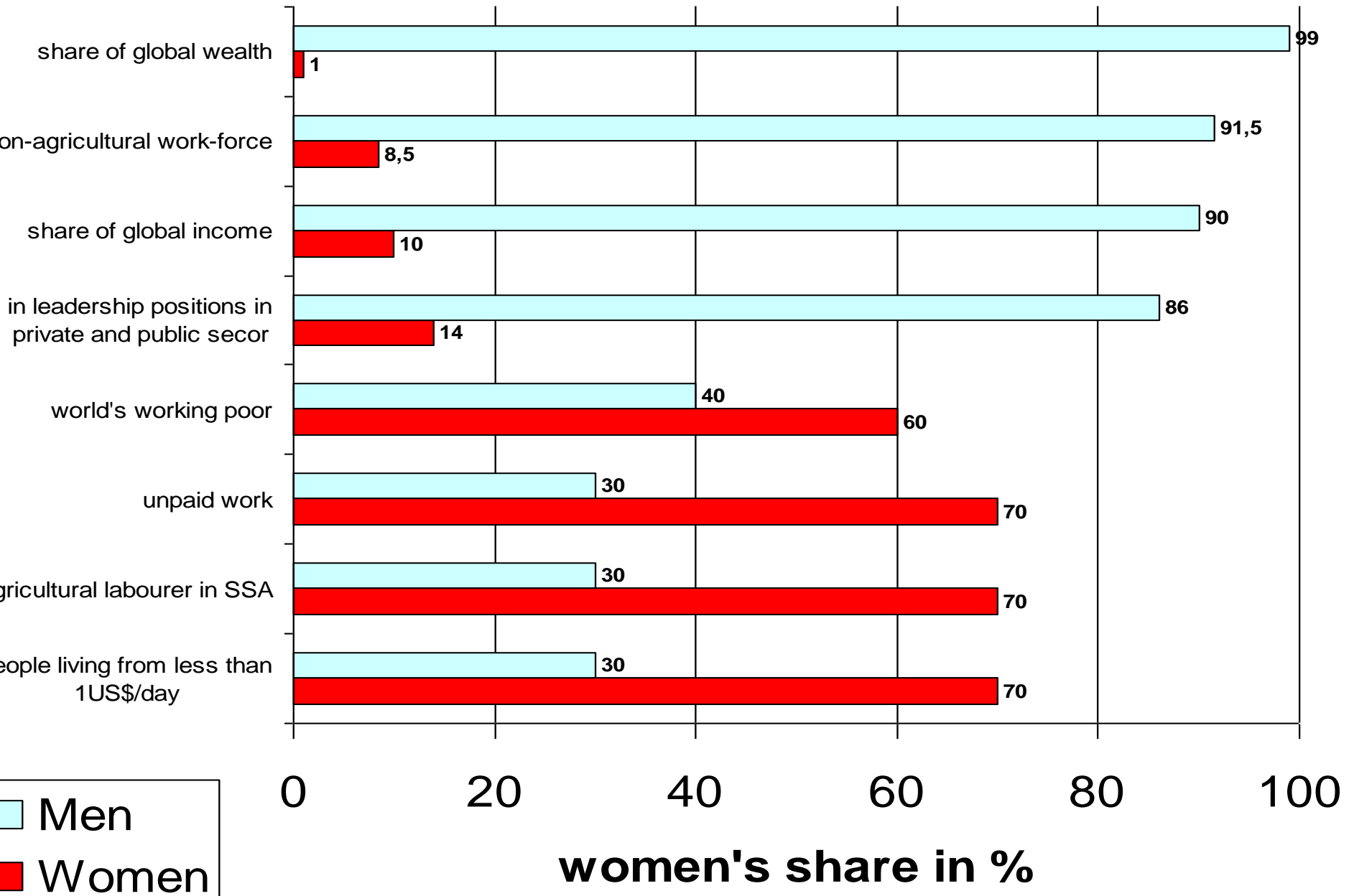
# **Business Environment Reforms**

## **A Call for Gender Responsive Donor Guidelines**

By

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# The challenge - gender inequality





# Gender specific obstacles

- Nearly **60%** of the reasons given by women in Latin American and the Caribbean for either not entering or leaving the job market relate to their care-giving obligations.
- The overwhelming majority of women in sub Saharan Africa, regardless of their marital status, cannot own or inherit land, housing or other property in their own right both under statutory and customary law.
- In Tanzania women hold 1% of the land title in their own name, 5% on joint titles while men own an overwhelming 94% of the land.



## The opportunities and risks

- Research in Africa shows that reducing structural gender inequality can **increase** agricultural yields by more than **20%**.
- Gender inequality is costing the Asia Pacific region **58 – 77 billion US\$** annually.



## Existing donor commitments

- **Millennium Declaration and the MDGs**
- **G8-Commitments - GROWTH AND RESPONSIBILITY IN AFRICA** (June 2007)
- **EU Council Conclusions on Aid for Trade, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation, Employment** (May 2007)
- **WB Group Gender Action Plan**
- ...



# Joint commitments

- Call for Action
- 8th Africa Partnership
- ...



# African Commitments

- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)**
- **Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa**
- **SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)**
- **COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for the years 2007 to 2010**
- **Framework for the Promotion of the Private Sector in West Africa**
- ....
- **Individual country commitments**



## COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP)

- ***COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for the years 2007 to 2010 outlines the strategy of implementing of the COMESA regional integration agenda***
  - *Goal 8: Gender Equality and Equity is mainstreamed at all levels of regional integration and cooperation and specifically highlights the intention to ‘develop a programme on mainstreaming gender in trade and business with special emphasis on addressing the disadvantages faced by women’,*



## SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

### *Priority Intervention Areas*

- Adopt women's economic empowerment policies and strategies in order to address the inequalities in access to, and control of resources; develop specific programmes and put in place gender-responsive budgeting initiatives.
- Target 6: Development, strengthening and implementation of specific programmes for the economic empowerment of women by end of 2007



## Framework for the Promotion of the Private Sector in West Africa

Recognizes that women's role in the management of SME is weak

**The need at the Regional level to:**

- **Promote regional programmes for promoting women entrepreneurs;**

**At the national level to:**

- **Develop national policies and programmes for promoting women entrepreneurs.**



# The way forward

- We need to develop and engage in gender-sensitive and inclusive business development reforms.
- 1st step – **develop gender responsive practical guidelines!**



## Practical Guidance for Development Agencies

### Key message

- Business environment reform is not a one-off act. It is a continuous process of adapting to new challenges and changes as they emerge. **For business environment reforms to be most effective they need to respond to the fact that the business environment holds different barriers for and thus presents itself differently to most men and women.** Therefore development agencies should understand and add value to reform processes by supporting reforms that are more transparent, evidence-based and **gender responsive.**



Figure : Some Examples of How Business Environment Reform Contributes to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

MDG 1:

- THE ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER  
Removing the constraints and barriers to business growth so that domestic firms can **unleash their full potential and** contribute more to economic growth, as well as by removing the constraints and barriers to participation by the poor in the private sector, **especially women and youth.**

MDG 3:

- THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN  
**Removing the constraints and barriers including laws and regulations that discriminate against women and prevent them from unleashing their potential, participating and competing in the market lead economy as compared to the subsistence and care economy. Introducing and investing in measures and investments including infrastructure to reduce women's time burden.**

MDG 8:

- A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT Integrating national business environments with global trade and investment opportunities – promoting an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading system, and a commitment to good governance, **inclusive pro-poor development**, and poverty reduction; **developing and implementing strategies for decent and productive work for young women and men;** and transferring new technologies, especially information and communications.



## Pre-conference – Working group results on **land and property rights**

- Review existing land laws and policies to enhance gender equality in access and control over productive resources
- Improve access to justice and legal services including protection from abuse when claiming defending your property rights
- Sensitise and lobby traditional land authorities to promote equal access
- Build the business case: Support research and dissemination of research findings along with best practices



## Pre-conference – Working group results on **access to finance**

- Support credit schemes which consider collaterals other than immovable property or provide back-ups to commercial banks
- Disaggregate data and keep track of applications, loan approvals and performance
- Support the development of financial literacy strategies
- Integrate mentoring support for firms graduating from micro > small > medium > large scale enterprises into financial systems and services delivery packs
- Provide capital for economically disadvantaged groups, such as women and youth, on favourable rates.



## Pre-conference – Working group results on **gender, infrastructure and enterprise development**

- To unleash their economic potential invest in time saving infrastructure to free women's time otherwise consumed by the care-economy
- Include women entrepreneurs and other users of transport, electricity and water in the planning and implementation process for development of respective infrastructure and services – promote affirmative action
- Take women's demands and service needs into account and strengthen women's voices and stakes in planning decision making
- Invest in infrastructure that brings BDServices at an arms reach of women (in business)



## Pre-conference – Working group results on **female employers and entrepreneurs**

- Provide broad support for addressing and changing prevailing gender stereotypes and relationships in enterprise development
- Share lessons learnt and promote good practices on women's participation in business development and interactions
- Establish gender responsive BDS and improve women's access to them
- Strengthen the voice and level of participation of female entrepreneurs and employers in business development and reform processes
- Increase „functional literacy“ – promote education and training including management training for women



## Pre-conference – Working group results on **BDS and ICTs**

- Support programmes targeted at changing the gender bias mind-sets and business cultures discriminating against women
- Involve women and women's business organisations in ICT regulatory and policy making processes
- Build the capacity of women in using ICT services and provisions
- Promote sex-disaggregated collection and gender sensitive processing of the same to inform policy and strategic decisions and BDS
- Make donor BDS guidelines gender responsive on the basis of assessments of experiences to date