



وزارة التعاون الدولي
Ministry of International
Cooperation



EGYPT-ICF
INTERNATIONAL
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ENGAGING FOR IMPACT

WORKSHOP 03



“Women in Business”: Supporting Female Entrepreneurship in Egypt



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

September 9th, 2021
Session Duration: 120 minutes
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

egypt-icf.com/



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Overview

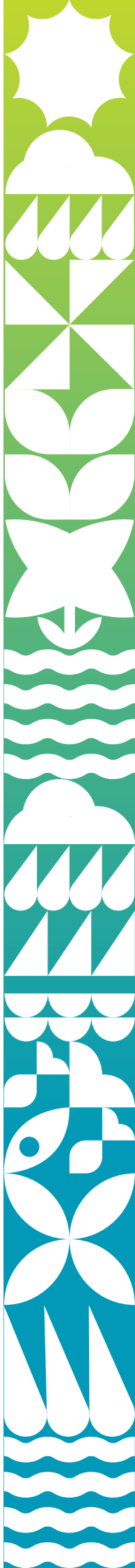
This workshop aims to introduce the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Women in Business program in Egypt and discuss the best practices for supporting women-led enterprises in the country. The program, implemented in partnership with financial institutions in the country, aims to reinforce and support the role of female entrepreneurs in the economy through the provision of technical and financial services for women to launch and expand their businesses.

Women's participation in the labor market is considered a key driver to sustainable development and growth. Despite the global efforts in advancing women's entrepreneurship and gender equality, the gender gap remains persistent, especially in the Middle East and Africa region. In Egypt, only 1.8% of women are business owners (as opposed to 10.3% of men), accounting for 10% of entrepreneurs (CAPMAS, 2018). The greatest impediments to women's entrepreneurship include access to financial resources and technical know-how, alongside social barriers.

Accordingly, the EBRD's Women in Business program comes as a timely intervention as it helps address such barriers and prioritizes one of the EBRD's main goals in Egypt, which is to promote an inclusive and sustainable economy. It delivers credit lines, training and advisory services to women entrepreneurs to strengthen their technical know-how, expand their network outreach and help them become active players in the Egyptian economy.

The program is relevant to "Egypt's Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030" with regards to advancing women's access to economic opportunities. It is also consistent with "Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator" action plan that was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of International Cooperation, the National Council for Women and the World Economic Forum. The action plan was launched in 2021, in partnership with the private sector, with the objective of supporting governments and businesses in creating a gender conducive environment, accelerating gender parity, diversity and inclusion, and adopting proactive measures to advance women economic empowerment.

Furthermore, the Women in Business program contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5 of Gender Equality. It is similarly an important part of the EBRD's Equality of Opportunity Strategy (2021-2025) that aims to further promote a gender-sensitive investment culture and bolster the human capital and resilience of women in the business community.





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In that context, the workshop, titled “Women in Business: Supporting Female Entrepreneurship in Egypt” provides a unique opportunity to:

- **Showcase** the development impact achieved through the Egypt Women in Business program;
- **Discuss** the specific challenges faced by Egyptian women entrepreneurs, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and describe how local financial institutions and EBRD can support in overcoming such challenges;
- **Provide** better understanding of how increasing women’s access to finance and technical support can spur economic development;
- **Identify** relevant trends in digitalization that will impact the businesses of Egyptian women entrepreneurs in the post-COVID world; and
- **Demonstrate** the significance of the financial sector in not only allocating resources, but also providing tailor-made products and offering non-financial services.

In Attendance

- National policymakers
- Development partners
- Egyptian financial institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Entrepreneurs
- Think Tanks

