

The ILO - DCI Partnership Programme

Background:

The ILO-Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) Regional Partnership Programme activities are being implemented in 5 partner countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, with three further countries - Malawi, South Africa and Swaziland - to be included.

The two development objectives to which the Programme will contribute are poverty reduction and the economic empowerment of women, including women with disabilities, through their development of enterprise activities.

Immediate Objectives:

- Women entrepreneurs, including entrepreneurs with disabilities and women affected by HIV/AIDS, have increased access to a more equitable business environment as well as business development services (BDS), including basic business skills (BBS) and Improve Your Business (IYB) training.
- Women entrepreneurs including those with disabilities and women affected by HIV/AIDS, have increased access to financial services and related support services, including micro-finance, savings and credit services.
- Women entrepreneurs, including entrepreneurs with disabilities, women affected by HIV/AIDS, have increased market access and developed marketable technical skills.
- Representative associations of women entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities in Tanzania and Zanzibar have increased capacity to provide voice, support and enterprise development services to their members.
- Central and Local governments, OPDs their member associations have increased capacity to promote, individually and collaboratively the employability and employment or self employment of persons with disabilities through effective legislation, policies and programmes.