



Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality- WEDGE

I. WHAT IS WEDGE?

The WEDGE team is part of the ILO's Small Enterprise Development (SEED) Programme.

It works on enhancing economic opportunities for women:

- By carrying out affirmative actions in support of women starting, formalizing and growing their enterprises
- By mainstreaming gender equality issues into the ILO's other SEED work

The WEDGE approach is threefold:

- Developing the knowledge base on women entrepreneurs
- Promoting representation, advocacy and voice
- Developing innovative support services for women entrepreneurs

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the WEDGE team is to ensure that women and men have equal access to economic resources and business support to enable them to start, formalize and grow their businesses. WEDGE also works to contribute to the Global Employment Agenda's (GEA) overarching goal of ending discrimination in the labour market by focusing on policy issues that affect women entrepreneurs.

WEDGE takes account of longer-term sustainability issues; in terms of where market-led approaches to BDS may be appropriate, as well as where subsidies may be required to assist target groups living in poverty.

III. TARGET GROUP

The target groups include women entrepreneurs who wish to create their own business; women in the informal economy wishing to formalize their businesses; and women who are already in business and want to expand. A special focus is given to the business development needs of women entrepreneurs with disabilities.

WEDGE supports the ILO constituents, and member-based associations of women entrepreneurs and other associations serving them. WEDGE works with business support agencies interested and/or involved in assisting women entrepreneurs.

IV. METHODS OF DELIVERY

Details of the WEDGE tools are outlined on seven other Fact Sheets:

- GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise
- The FAMOS Check for Female And Male Operated Small enterprises
- Improve Your Exhibition Skills (IYES)
- WED Capacity Building Guide
- WED Association Building Guide
- Growth Oriented Women Entrepreneurs (GOWE) Assessment Framework
- The Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis

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