



Investing in Women in Nigeria (IIW-Nigeria)

PROGRAMME BRIEF



About AECF



The AECF (Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund) is a development funder institution that supports businesses to innovate, create jobs, and leverage investments and markets to create resilience and sustainable incomes in rural and marginalized communities in Africa. To date, AECF has supported over 400 businesses in more than 40 value chains and in 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Introduction



Investing in Women in Nigeria (IIW-Nigeria) is a five-year gender transformative and economic inclusion programme implemented by The AECF with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The programme aims to economically empower women by investing in businesses and cooperatives operating in various agricultural value chains, and providing capacity building support for policy advocacy.

Programme Objectives



Improved business performance of climate smart, women owned/led SMEs and Cooperatives and sustainability of investees initiatives.



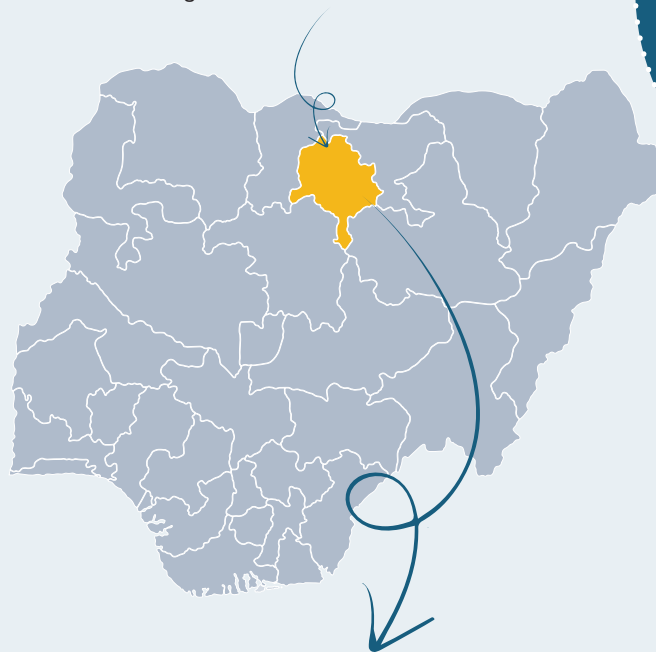
Increased access to economic opportunities for women in climate-smart agriculture value chains in Kano state.



Improved enabling environment and reduced systemic gender inequalities that women entrepreneurs and farmers face.

Geographical Focus

The programme is being implemented in **Kano State Nigeria**. However, beneficiaries can come from outside the state, but the investment being sought to be made must be in Kano State.



Target Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries are women in agricultural value chains . IIW-Nigeria aims to directly benefit:



Empowering women in the agricultural sector by investing in businesses and cooperatives operating in various agricultural value chains.

5 year
Program Duration



Programme Goal

The programme seeks to transform the role of women in agri-value chains in Kano state, Nigeria, with an aim to increase incomes, improve climate resilience and transform livelihoods. The programme will also provide capacity building and awareness creation around gender policy formulation to address gender barriers.



Value Chains of Interest

The programme will be investing in all agricultural value chains that demonstrate high engagement and impact for women.



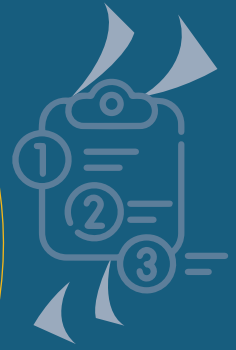
Programme Approach



The aim is to invest in innovative business ideas that have demonstrable social impact. The programme therefore uses the challenge fund model to select investees that offer innovative solutions in agricultural value chains.

The model selects investees through a competition process that provides fair and equal access to available funding.

Competition process



Launch of the competition



Concept note submission



Concept note shortlisting



Business Plan Development



Business Plan Shortlisting



Grant Awarding



Contracting



Funding will be in the form of non-repayable grants and will be disbursed in Canadian dollars. Funding is subject to meeting the matching fund criteria outlined below.

Funding payments will be milestone based, where disbursements will be made based on mutually agreed milestones provided in the contract which must be achieved/delivered before proceeding to the next milestone payment stage. Other conditions on disbursements may be introduced by AECF on an individual application basis prior to contracting.

Qualified businesses will be expected to visit the competition website and submit their concept notes using the dedicated link. Instructions will be provided on the website and the contact numbers/email as well.

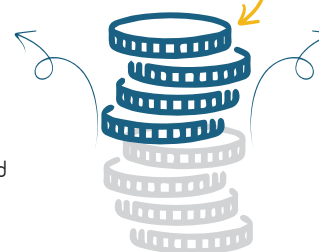
Funding opportunities

Applicants are expected to submit a funding application justifying their requirements for the business and/ or idea to be funded, the funding amount and the project duration.

Funding must be used for a specific project, e.g., introducing new services or products, scaling up an existing enterprise or replication/expanding to a new market. Investees can apply for a range of funding depending on their development stages as follows:

Window 2: Women groups/Cooperatives,

- Minimum fund award
CAN \$ 10,000
- Maximum fund award
CAN \$ 50,000
- 10% matching contribution in-kind
- Duration of agreement:
2 years



Window 1: Women led/owned SMEs,

- Minimum fund award
CAN \$ 65,000
- Maximum fund award
CAN \$ 1,300,000
- 50% matching funds required
(25% in cash and 25% in kind)
- Duration of agreement: **4 years**

Programme Support Mechanisms

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - IIW-Nigeria will deliver non-financial technical assistance on gender equality, human rights advocacy, business and management, climate- smart agriculture training and GAP. In addition, customized technical assistance will be provided through the AECF Advisory Studio and a pool of consultants.

The programme will foster partnership and close coordination with multiple stakeholders. **These include:** Business Membership Organisations, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), Financial Institutions (FIs) and Government Ministries including Agriculture, Women Affairs, Commerce, and Cooperative Development, among others.

Expected Programme Impact

50,000

beneficiaries (**50% women**) trained on community advocacy, gender equality and behavioural change.

600

new jobs created (**60% women**)

13

Women - led/ owned businesses funded

51,000

people reached (**80% women**) and lives improved.

40

Women enterprises and associations/groups/ cooperatives funded.



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Disclaimer: AECF will never ask individuals/Corporations for money to process applications or enlist them for the grant.