



Urgent Call for Women Owned Enterprises Profiles in South Africa

Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO) is based in Pretoria, South Africa and serves five countries; South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

UN Women South Africa is implementing a flagship programme on ***‘Stimulating Equal Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs’***. The programme seeks to address the structured barriers faced by women-owned businesses in accessing procurement opportunities and seeks to leverage and systematically include innovation, partnerships and financial solutions to accelerate implementation and scale up.

The program aims to support women entrepreneurs to grow their businesses by:

1. creating demand for their products and services from the public and private sector (e.g. through affirmative policies and practices);
2. developing their capacities, knowledge and skills and access to markets information.

Rational

The ***empowerment of women and achievement of gender equality*** depends on several structural and inter-related issues, not the least of which are economic empowerment, ending gender-based violence, improved access to resources and knowledge, and combatting negative stereotypes. This requires strategies that acknowledge the complexity involved.

Many efforts exist to address these scourges and open up new opportunities for women, including extensive training, skill development and learning, provision of information and services, networking, advocacy and policy development, and campaigns. Yet often these are limited in audience, scope, duration, and the issues addressed.

UN Women is exploring new and innovative ways to meet these varied challenges more effectively and to reach transformative levels of scale.

To this end UN Women is developing a database to consolidate WOE profiles to ensure when procurement or tendering opportunities arise the information is shared timelessly with women.

Profiles Required

The following detailed profiles are being sought from Women Owned Enterprises:

1. Energy Sector
2. Transport Sector
3. Agriculture Sector
4. Tourism Sector
5. Communications/Media
6. Construction
7. Project Management
8. General Entrepreneur (if not covered by above)

Profiles must include the following:

- Company registration
- Duration of business
- Number of women or per centage shareholding in company
- Location of business

Kindly email profiles to siya.leshabane@unwomen.org; and agness.phiri@unwomen.org