

# Investing in women entrepreneurs: The added value

Monday, 7 March 2022, 12:00 – 13:00 | UN Hub at Expo 2020 and online



## Session Brief

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Access to financing is one of the main concerns of women entrepreneurs.

Although most women entrepreneurs in the MENA region are “banked”, only few of them receive a commercial loan and have a line of credit. This means that a small number of women business owners rely on financial institutions or investors to fund their activities. The majority of women entrepreneurs meet their capital needs through private sources, such as personal savings, family and friends. This financing gap is due to numerous factors such as: high interest rates, lack of collateral guarantees, lack of business track-record, and the complexity of the process set up by the financing institution.

Closing the gender gap and supporting women financial inclusion could facilitate new business opportunities for women and for other vulnerable groups, increase social inclusion, reduce inequality, and accelerate achievement of the SDGs with more balanced development and inclusive growth.

## Objectives

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This session will explore possible solutions to close the gender gap that forces women to use private or expensive sources to access funding hampering their ability to benefit from available economic opportunities.

The panel will discuss how to reduce or eliminate the financing gap experienced by women, identify what solutions can be proposed to overcome existing barriers and ease women access to capital and other financing needs, and explore some of the latest initiatives and their impact on access to finance.

## Expected outcomes

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- Identify major constraints faced by women in the MENA and Africa regions and understand the reasons that could explain the limited access to financing.
- Share good practices and lessons learnt from some initiatives in terms of promoting gender specific financing, supporting women empowerment and facilitate access to finance.
- Shed light on the role played by Angel investors and other impact investments to help women and narrow the gender gap in financing.
- Propose possible solutions to ease access to finance, support women to progress and grow their businesses, and to accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

## Logistics

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- You will soon receive a **QR code** by email for your temporary access badge.
- Speakers joining virtually: you will receive a **Zoom speaker link** shortly by email.
- Please arrive **30 min** before the session to meet the other participants and get set up for the session.
- Location: UN Hub, Opportunity Pavilion (map below)  
<https://www.expo2020dubai.com/en/plan-your-visit/expo-map/expo-map-full>
- You are invited to a **cocktail on 7th March 2022 at 13:00 at CANVAS CAFE**, located in the Opportunity Pavilion, in front of UN HUB

