



**INVITATION**  
ONLINE EVENT,  
08.07.2021

## Supporting Women-Owned Businesses through Business Environment Reforms

*Legal, administrative and policy reforms to enhance access to finance and operating environments for women entrepreneurs*

### ABOUT THE ICR FACILITY

The ICR Facility is co-funded by the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the British Council. It is implemented by GIZ, the British Council, Expertise France, and SNV.

The ICR Facility supports specific and targeted interventions at the economy-wide, sectorial and value chain level with Technical Assistance for up to 90 days based on requests. Requests can be handed in by OACPS public and private stakeholders according to the eligibility requirements. The ICR Facility offers Technical Assistance in the field of Business Environment Reform for inclusive and sustainable economic development on the basis Public-Private Dialogue.

Investing in women is not only a moral imperative – it is good business. Business creation and business revenue growth are crucial engines of economic growth and job creation. Advancing gender equality can add \$13 trillion to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030. However, women are less likely than men to own formal micro, small- or medium-sized enterprises. Moreover, women-owned businesses are less likely to grow or have employees and have been more heavily affected by the Covid-19 crisis. The hindrances to women-owned small and medium enterprises are multidimensional and often interlinked.

This online event focuses on the **legal, administrative, and policy reforms necessary to promote women's access to assets and credits, as well as their ability to register and manage their businesses**. While these are not the only barriers women face, they were selected due to their importance in promoting gender-sensitive business environment reforms in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.

08 JULY 2021  
4:00-5:30 pm (CET)

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### AGENDA

1. Introduction

*Susanne Reichenbach, ICR Facility*

2. Welcome Address

*Christiane Leong Ho Yng, Programme Officer, Infrastructure Development and Economic Services (OACPS)*

3. Key takeaways from 'Reforming the Business Environment to support Women-Owned Businesses'

*Susana Martinez-Restrepo Ph.D., Senior International Expert (Gender and Development)*

4. Comments and Reactions

*Joanna Kahiluoto, Policy Officer, Women Economic Empowerment, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission*

*Kosi Yankey-Ayeh, CEO Ghana Enterprise Agency*

*Aminou Akadiri, CEO Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FEWACCI)*

*Dr Linda Davis, Founder & CEO Giraffe Bioenergy*

5. Q&A session

6. Assistance application process

More information: [www.icr-facility.eu](http://www.icr-facility.eu)

Questions? Please contact us: [info@icr-facility.eu](mailto:info@icr-facility.eu)

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