Empowerment as a Catalyst for Democracy Support and Economic Recovery

Background Information

Two years in, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate formal and informal barriers to women’s economic empowerment. By hindering opportunities for women’s full and active economic participation, the global health crisis is widening many forms of gender and socioeconomic inequalities. Women’s economic empowerment serves as both a critical constituent part of democracy, which relies on opportunities and equality for all citizens, as well as a crucial mechanism to enhance other facets of democracy.

The Center for Women’s Economic Empowerment (CWEE) will continue to provide thought leadership on CIPE’s gender integration work. CWEE is working towards creating greater understandings about the intersections between women’s economic empowerment and other areas of CIPE interest such as democratic governance, the digital economy, and accountable investment. Additionally, CWEE aims to demonstrate why making gender integration and empowerment a priority will reduce corruption and foster a more equitable and democratic economic global system.

Key Objectives

• To support women in business, including women from further marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities; ethnic and religious minorities; youth; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations in order to address challenges to democracy and barriers to economic recovery

• To promote gender integration in CIPE’s work through regional office hubs

Expected Results

CWEE and its partners will connect women across regions to advocate for democratic reforms that promote women’s leadership, safe technological transformation, and a strong and unified private sector response to gender-based violence and sexual harassment. CWEE will focus on undertaking activities that integrate women’s economic empowerment objectives with other key areas of CIPE’s interest. The Center will serve as an internal organizational resource to integrate gender-based activities into regional projects, as well as facilitate partner subgrants that support six regional hubs as they expand economic empowerment efforts.

COUNTRIES

• Global, Multi-Regional

• Focus countries include Nigeria, Ukraine, the Philippines, Slovakia, Colombia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ecuador

DONOR

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

LOCAL PARTNERS

Local women’s business associations and civil society organizations in target countries

DATES

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