Supplier Diversity is an approach which promotes procurement from businesses that are majority owned and operated by traditionally underrepresented or underserved individuals or groups.\(^1\)

Gender-responsive procurement (GRP) is defined as “the sustainable selection of services, goods, or civil works that takes into account the impact on gender equality and women’s empowerment.”\(^2\)

The global procurement market is worth trillions of dollars and engages public and private organisations through the exchange of goods and services. Globally, public procurement is estimated to generate between USD 11 trillion to USD 13 trillion annually. Despite this, globally, WOBs receive only 1 per cent of both public and private procurement spending.\(^4,5\)

Structural gender inequalities impede women from a variety of backgrounds, race, class, sexual orientation, ability, and education, from gaining equitable access to networks, finance, and markets, including procurement markets. This prevents them from starting, expanding, or maximising the profits of their businesses.

Market access through procurement opportunities is key for GREs and WOBs because it empowers women to increase profits, further contribute to the economy and allows their businesses to thrive.

**IMPACT**

**Stronger Ecosystems:**
Support more public and private organisations to develop and promote policies and practices that advance SD-GRP

**More supportive business models and networks:**
Through resilient and inclusive business models and networking opportunities, WOBs and GREs have increased capacity to access markets

**Increased capacity of buyers:**
Public and private buying organisations can better advocate for, promote and implement GRP

**More equitable market opportunities:**
Creating platforms for WOBs and GREs to connect to larger public and private buyers

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\(^5\) UN Women, n.d. WEPs: Gender-responsive procurement.