



WE RISE TOGETHER

Creating equal market opportunities for women by advancing Supplier Diversity through Gender-Responsive Procurement (SD-GRP) in Thailand and Viet Nam.

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROCUREMENT

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

WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES (WOBs)



small and medium-sized enterprises that have (1) at least 51% ownership by women; or (2) at least 20% female-owned and (a) at least one woman as chief executive officer, chief operating officer, president, and/or vice president; and (b) 30% or more females on its board of directors, where a board exists.

GENDER RESPONSIVE ENTERPRISES (GREs)



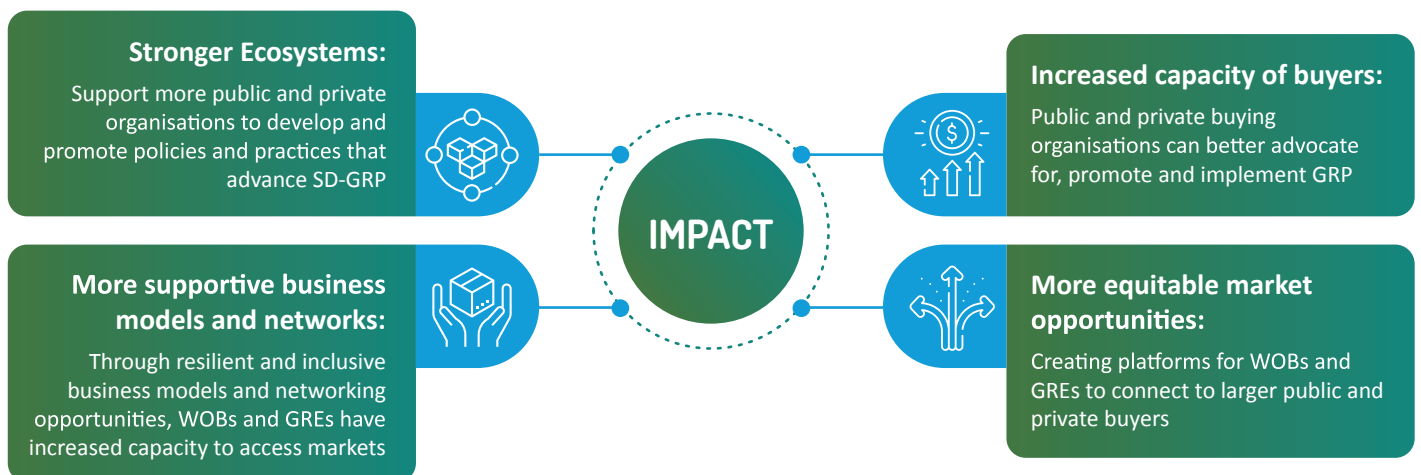
are defined as enterprises which integrate gender equality into their policies and practices, in alignment with UN Women’s Women Empowerment Principles, International Labour Organisation standards and other international standards.³

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.

WE RISE Together envisions creating an innovative ecosystem where women can lead businesses, and equally access and benefit from greater market opportunities in Thailand and Viet Nam. It aims to do this by working across four areas:



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The Mekong-Australia Partnership is part of Australia’s landmark package of new economic, development and security measures to support Southeast Asia’s COVID-19 recovery, sharing the vision for an open, inclusive, secure, and prosperous Mekong subregion.

1 Elizabeth A. Vazquez, and Andrew J. Sherman. Buying for impact: How to buy from women and change our world. Charleston, South Carolina. Advantage Media Group. 2013. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/07/rethinking-gender-responsive-procurement>

2 United Nations Global Marketplace. UN Women Gender Responsive Procurement. 2017. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/3/the-power-of-procurement>

3 UN Women. n.d. WEPs: Gender-responsive procurement. <https://www.weps.org/resource/gender-responsive-procurement>

3 UN Women, ‘The power of procurement: How to source from women-owned businesses. 2017, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/3/the-power-of-procurement>

4 ITC. 2020, Making Public Procurement Work for Women. https://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/ITCGuide%20WOB%20PP20201106_web.pdf

5 UN Women. n.d. WEPs: Gender-responsive procurement.