IN BRIEF

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Partnerships

Photo: UN Women Kenya

CONTEXT

Why Partner with UN Women Kenya?

Gender equality is among the essential drivers of sustainable economic growth, business resilience, and social progress. Yet significant gender gaps persist globally and nationally, limiting opportunities for women and girls and constraining economic potential.

At the current pace, achieving gender equality remains decades away, while financing for gender equality continues to fall short of what is required. At the same time, businesses are increasingly recognizing that inclusive workplaces, gender-responsive value chains, and equitable leadership structures are critical to competitiveness, innovation, investor confidence, and long-term sustainability.

As the United Nations Entity Dedicated to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women works with the private sector to transform commitments into measurable impact for women, businesses, and communities.

Why the Private Sector Matters

The private sector plays a critical role in shaping:

- Employment and economic opportunities
- Innovation and market access
- Supply chains and procurement systems
- Investment and financing decisions
- Social norms and workplace culture

Through strategic partnerships, businesses can help accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on Gender Equality while strengthening their own organizational performance, reputation, and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments.

UN Women Kenya's Partnership Priorities

UN Women Kenya works with the private sector to advance:

Women's Economic Empowerment

Expanding women's participation and competitiveness in value chains.

Mobilizing resources through innovative financing and impact investment that accelerate gender equality outcomes.

Supporting women entrepreneurs and women-led MSMEs to access finance, markets, skills, technology, and business development opportunities.

Leadership and Decision-Making

Advancing women's leadership in business and public life by expanding access to leadership development, mentorship, sponsorship, and succession planning opportunities.

Promoting inclusive workplace cultures by increasing women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions through inclusive recruitment, promotion, and retention practices.

Strengthen gender-responsive corporate governance through inclusive policies, diverse boards, and accountability mechanisms.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Promote positive social norms by engaging employees, suppliers, customers, and communities to challenge harmful gender stereotypes and violence.

Build employee awareness and capacity through training, prevention campaigns, and survivor-centred referral and support mechanisms.

Strengthening workplace policies and reporting mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and discrimination.

Women, Peace and Security

Supporting women's participation in peacebuilding and community resilience initiatives through leadership, skills development, and partnerships.

Strengthening women's recovery and resilience by expanding access to employment, entrepreneurship, finance, and markets.

Partnership Models

UN Women Kenya offers flexible partnership models designed to create shared value and measurable impact.

Strategic Co-Investment Partnerships

- Jointly designed programmes that combine business expertise, resources, and UN Women's technical leadership to deliver large-scale impact.

Corporate Social Impact Initiatives

- Funding or co-funding initiatives that advance gender equality and women's empowerment in communities and sectors aligned with business priorities.

Gender-Lens Investing and Innovation

- Partnerships that mobilize capital, technology, and innovative solutions to address barriers facing women and girls.

Technical and In-Kind Contributions

- Provision of expertise, technology, skills, infrastructure, digital solutions, or professional services to support gender equality outcomes.

Multi-Stakeholder and Pooled Funding Mechanisms

- Collaborative financing approaches that bring together businesses, government, development partners, and civil society for greater scale and sustainability.

The Value for Private Sector Partners

Strengthen Business Performance

- Integrate gender equality into operations, workforce strategies, and value chains to enhance productivity, innovation, and resilience.

Demonstrate ESG Leadership

- Align with global sustainability standards and strengthen investor, consumer, and stakeholder confidence.

Access Global Platforms and Networks

- Engage through UN Women-led initiatives including:

Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

Generation Equality

HeForShe

Unstereotype Alliance

Benefit from Expert Guidance

- Access UN Women's global expertise, tools, evidence, and technical support on gender-responsive business practices.
- Enhance Visibility and Recognition.
- Showcase leadership through high-level events, partnerships, thought leadership opportunities, and recognition platforms.

Call to Action

- UN Women Kenya is seeking visionary partners committed to building inclusive economies and societies where women and girls can thrive.
- Let us create measurable impact through strategic investments, innovative partnerships, and collective action that advance gender equality while delivering value for business and society.

Partner with Us

UN Women Kenya Country Office

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UN WOMEN KENYA

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.

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UN WOMEN FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS