



Creating an Enabling Environment for Women's Economic Empowerment

**Presentation made at the IORA
Event
on Women's Economic Empowerment
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What is an enabling environment?

- An **enabling environment** is a set of interrelated conditions – such as legal, organisational, fiscal, informational, political, and cultural – that impact on the capacity of development actors (Canadian council for International Cooperation).
- The enabling environment (BEE) for women's economic empowerment therefore should include includes norms and customs, laws, regulations, policies, international trade agreements and public infrastructure that either facilitate or hinder WEE.
- **Therefore, a coordinated, harmonized, multi-sectoral approach is needed to create an enabling environment for WEE.**



So, what constitutes an enabling environment?



Elements, or pillars of an enabling / conducive environment for women's economic empowerment could be grouped under the following:

- ▶ Economic conditions
- ▶ Social conditions
- ▶ Political conditions
- ▶ Environmental condition

Economic conditions

- ▶ Sound and stable macroeconomic policy and good management of the economy – **fiscal, monetary policy, exchange rate policies**
- ▶ Trade and sustainable economic integration – **trade, regional integration policies**
- ▶ Enabling legal and regulatory environment – **land policies,**
- ▶ Rule of law and secure property rights
- ▶ Fair competition – **Competition policies**
- ▶ Access to financial services – **SME policies, role of Central Banks**
- ▶ Physical infrastructure – **Town planning laws and regulations**
- ▶ Information and communication – **ICTs policies**

Social conditions

- ▶ Entrepreneurial culture – [SME Policies](#)
- ▶ Education, training and lifelong learning – [Education, skills development policies](#)
- ▶ Social justice and social inclusion – [Gender Policy, Youth Policies, Employment and Labour policies,](#)
- ▶ Adequate social protection – [social security policies](#)

Political and Environmental Conditions

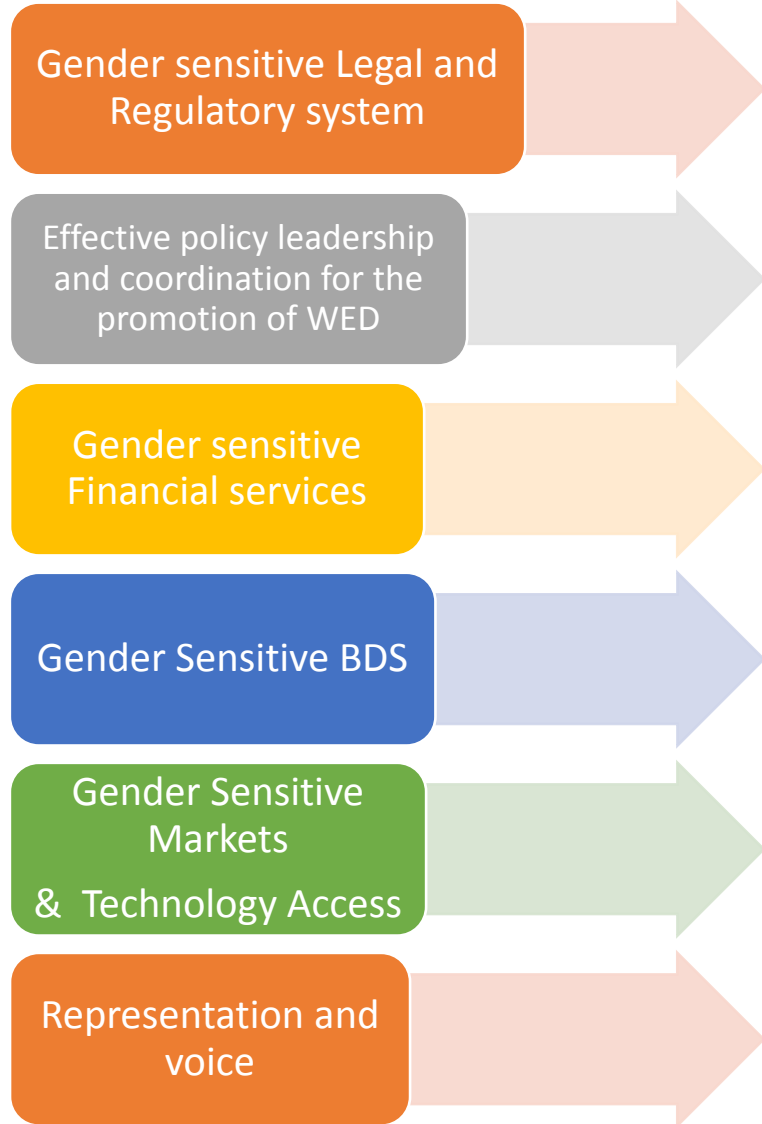
- ▶ Peace and political stability
 - ▶ Good governance
 - ▶ Respect for universal human rights
 - ▶ Responsible stewardship of the environment
- Enabling environment is therefore an eco system of actors and players...
 - Requires harmonization of the sometimes starting with the Supreme law (constitution), to Acts of Parliament, then to regulations and by-laws (administration and application)



Women Entrepreneurship Development Assessment



Example:
WED
Assessments



Kenya
Women Economic Empowerment
Strategy and Implementation Plan

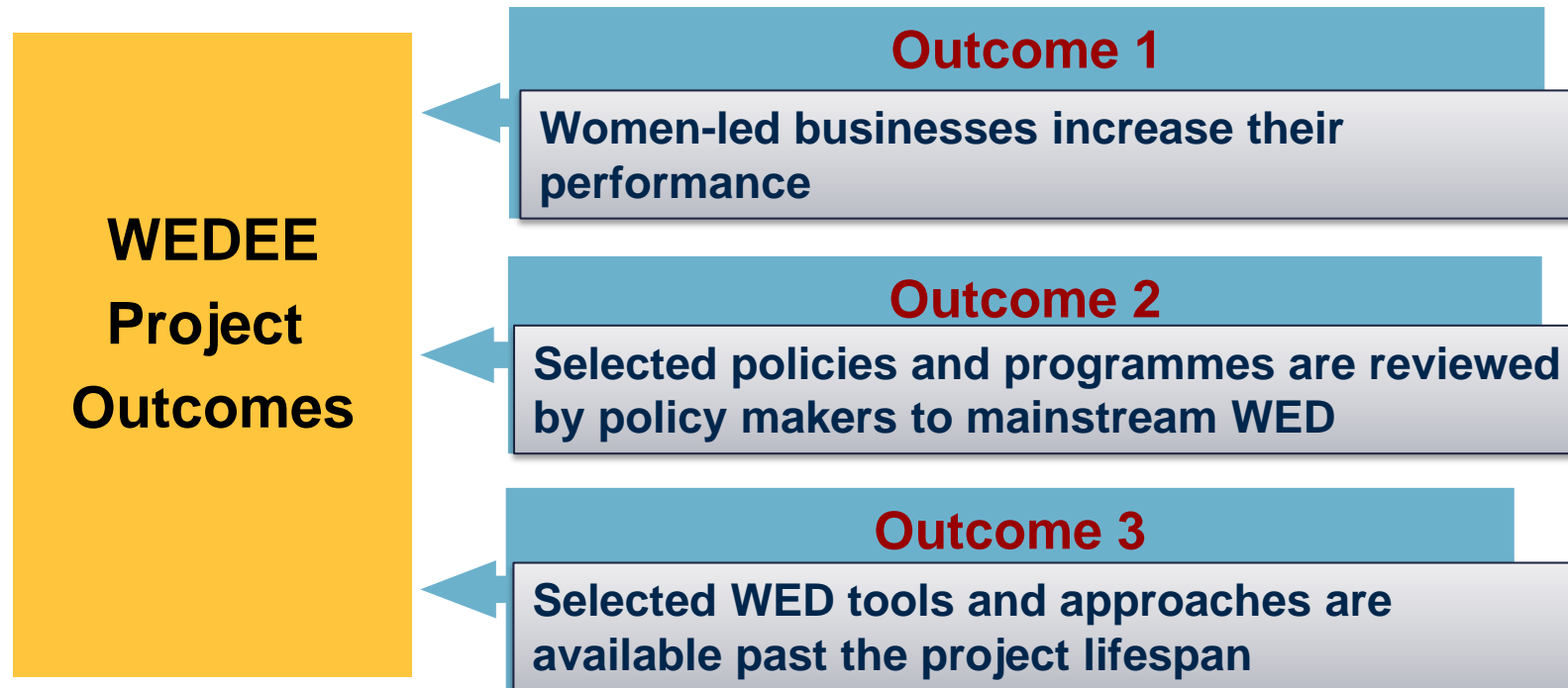
Uganda, Tanzania
Review of MSME Policies
WED National Action plans



WEDEE Intervention



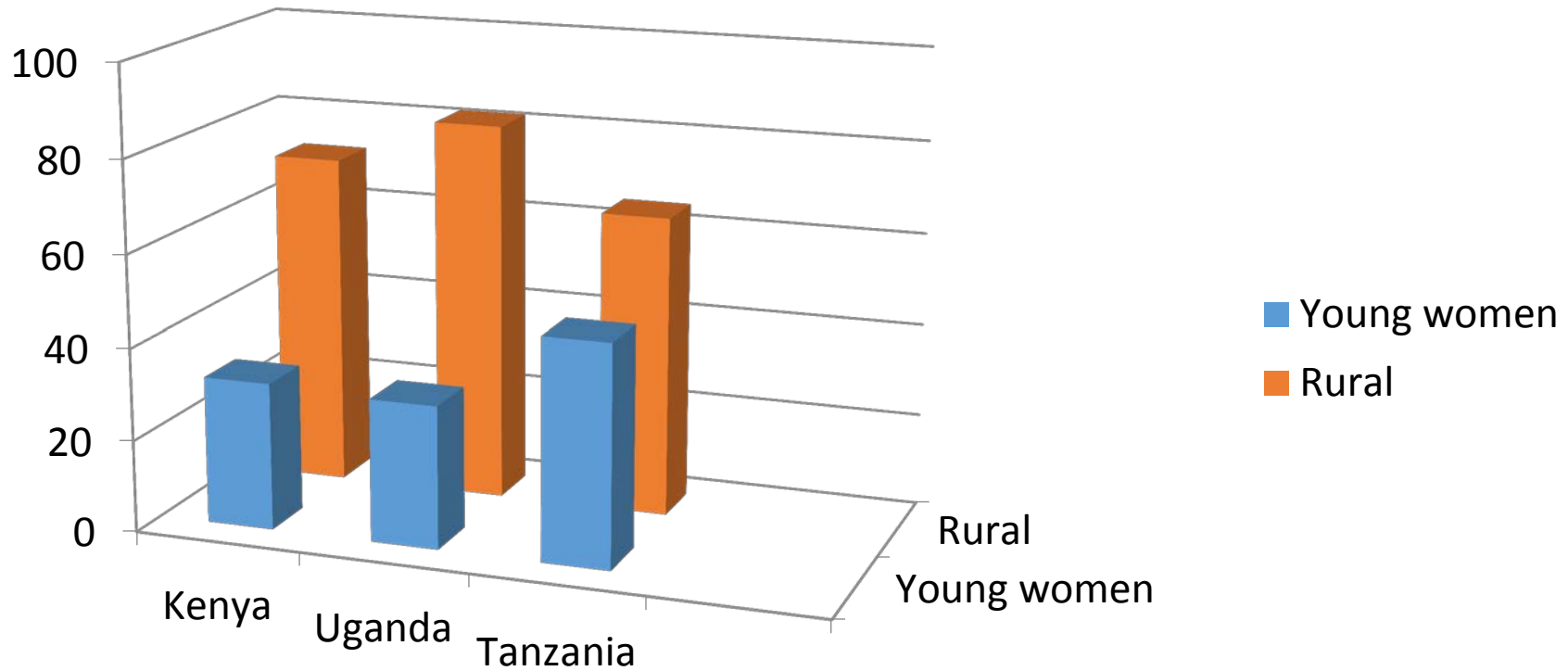
- **Development Objective:** More women-led businesses contribute to job creation, economic growth and gender equality
- **Target Countries:** Tanzania, **Kenya** and Uganda



Target group → women entrepreneurs (30% young, 30% rural) and women entrepreneurs' associations.

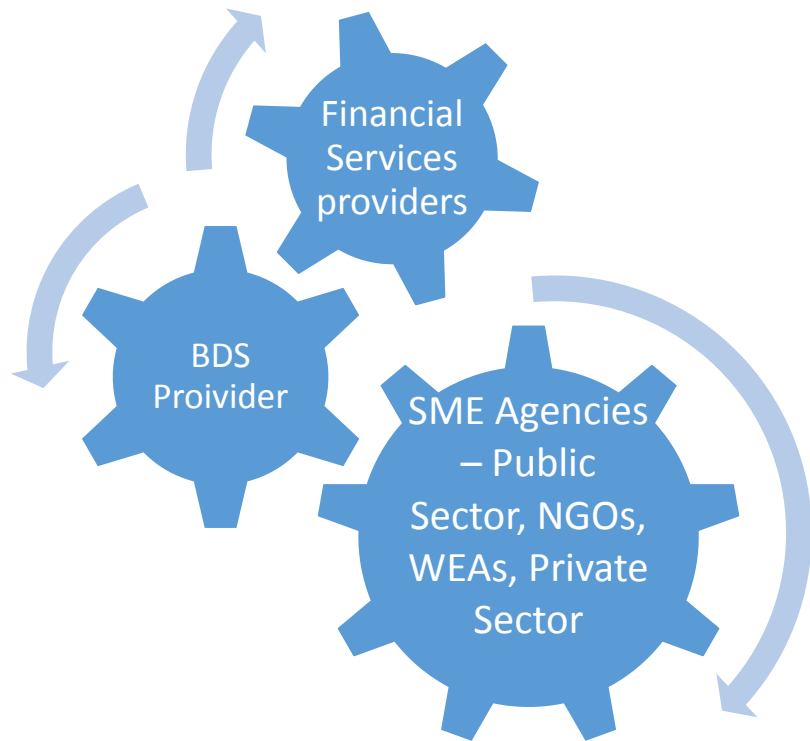


Young and Rural Outreach





Enhanced Capacities BDS provision and outreach by financial service providers



- Training
- Mentors hip
- Market Information
- Market Linkages
- Technology Access
- Financial Access



Social Security, Formalization, Outreach to Women, Youth, in Rural areas



Lessons Learnt from the Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Economic Empowerment Programme



Provide / facilitate integrated Business Development Services (finance , training, markets, IT)

Consultative policies and programmes produce better results

Collaborate. Leverage. Develop Partnerships

Targeting – Rural, Youth, PWDs (Women are not a homogenous group)

Ensure that changes made at the macro level cascade down to micro levels

Regular assessment and review of Enabling Environment

Lessons Learnt

For more information...

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