

Partnership for
Economic Inclusion

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

PARTNERSHIP
FOR
ECONOMIC
INCLUSION

THE WORLD BANK
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The Partnership for Economic Inclusion has been instrumental in scaling up government-led economic inclusion programs for people living in extreme poverty, by providing a combination of financial and technical support, knowledge sharing, and building strong partnerships to address the multifaceted challenges of poverty.

On behalf of the World Bank’s Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice and the Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) funding partners, I welcome you to review PEI’s Annual Report 2023. The recent crises have derailed global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. The economic inclusion community has adjusted in response by innovating and expanding and PEI has been pivotal in promoting the economic inclusion of households entrenched in extreme poverty. At the heart of PEI’s work is to play a leading role in supporting the scale up of government-led economic inclusion programs. These programs integrate coordinated, multidimensional interventions and are designed to increase the earnings and assets of the extremely poor and vulnerable households in a sustainable way. This evidence-based approach enables governments to tackle the root causes of poverty while building households’ long-term resilience to shocks.

As 2023 comes to a close, PEI’s achievements underscore our commitment to advancing government-led economic inclusion programs by leveraging financial and technical support, fostering knowledge exchange, and strengthening partnerships. PEI has provided substantial financial and technical assistance to improve the design and implementation of government-led economic inclusion programs, investing \$4.2 million in 20 programs across 19 countries to date. This effort has influenced \$1.7 billion in World Bank financing. Through its grant-supported programs, PEI has reached nearly 4.5 million participants and their households, underscoring its potential to help take economic inclusion to scale.

In knowledge generation and sharing, PEI has established itself as a global center of excellence. It engaged more than 50 countries through various peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge-sharing events. PEI has also supported the design of seven impact evaluations focusing on building governments’ capacity to effectively scale economic inclusion programs. More than 2,000 knowledge products were disseminated, which have been accessed nearly 250,000 times, all in an effort to improve the quality of programs and services for people living in extreme poverty.

PEI’s partners and allies are at the heart of its success, including the support of four funding partners and work in collaboration with 12 leading organizations. These partnerships have been instrumental in informing design and sharing experience and know-how, and further amplify PEI’s effectiveness in expanding economic inclusion and resilience among vulnerable communities worldwide.

However, the path ahead remains complex. The looming threat of climate change, which could push an additional 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, poses significant challenges to the poorest, particularly for women. PEI’s response must be multifaceted, focusing not only on scaling up economic inclusion programs but also on addressing cross-cutting issues such as women’s economic empowerment and climate resilience.

As we move forward, the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice aims to expand our reach to 500 million extreme poor and vulnerable people under adaptive social protection systems by 2030. Within these systems, economic inclusion programs will play a crucial role in enabling these people to access more sustainable, resilient livelihoods and improved job opportunities. Our focus remains on targeted, tailored, and timely interventions that not only provide immediate support but also build long-term economic and climate change resilience. PEI is unwaveringly committed to a world where economic inclusion is not an aspiration but a reality for all. As we continue on this journey, your support and collaboration remain invaluable in shaping a future free from poverty and rich in opportunity for every individual, regardless of their starting point in life.



Iffath A. Sharif
Global Director, Social Protection and Jobs
World Bank



PART I

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The Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) was formed to help tackle one of the most stubborn challenges in development—advancing the economic inclusion of vulnerable households in extreme poverty.

During a period of significant global challenge, its mission has never been more urgent. Extremely poor and vulnerable people are disproportionately affected by the intensifying impacts of climate change, the fallout of a global pandemic, outbreaks of conflict, and increasing fragility worldwide. Despite steady decreases in global poverty over the past three decades, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed hard-won gains and expanded the number of people living in extreme poverty by more than 70 million. Without concerted action to reach the poorest and most vulnerable people, an estimated 574 million, or nearly 7 percent of all people on the planet, will remain living on less than \$2.15 per day in 2030. By the same year, 59 percent of people in extreme poverty globally are projected to live in fragile and conflict-affected countries. As governments grapple with these challenges, economic inclusion programs are fast becoming a cornerstone of large-scale anti-poverty programming that can help individuals, households, and communities build resilience with profound implications for women and youth.

It is against this backdrop that PEI has emerged as a unique global platform with a vibrant community of practice and growing policy influence. Economic inclusion programs—a bundle of coordinated, multidimensional interventions that increase the earnings and assets of vulnerable people living in extreme poverty—have proven to be an effective strategy for bolstering household resilience against both economic and climate shocks. By leveraging decades of evidence and experience by nongovernmental and community organizations, PEI and its Technical Partners work hand-in-hand with World Bank teams and other local and international stakeholders, to support national governments in scaling-up economic inclusion programs. The partnership helps ensure that governments have the capacity to adopt, adapt, and scale these programs, including incorporating evidence on design and effectiveness into implementation. By supporting governments as they take economic inclusion programs to scale, PEI can reach millions of vulnerable people in extreme poverty who may otherwise be left behind.

As of the end of fiscal 2023 (July 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023), PEI has advanced its goals to support governments to adopt and scale economic inclusion programs, create cutting-edge platforms for knowledge creation and exchange, and strengthened its partnerships across stakeholders. Economic inclusion is becoming more integrated into national programs and new evidence is filling knowledge gaps and supporting governments to reach greater scale. The partnership is expanding and engaging a vibrant learning community, providing greater access to new and existing knowledge products to meet a surge in demand, and growing and diversifying its network of partners to strengthen and sustain the partnership’s ability to support future demand. But challenges remain, and going forward PEI will maintain a sharp focus on adapting programs to key cross-cutting areas like advancing women’s economic empowerment and climate resilience, continue to generate new evidence and share knowledge, and bolster its ability to deliver the technical support demanded by governments.

SPOTLIGHT WHAT IS AN “ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROGRAM”?

Economic inclusion programs (used interchangeably with productive inclusion program) are a bundle of coordinated, multidimensional interventions that support poor individuals, households, and communities to increase incomes and assets while working toward the long-term goal of economic self sufficiency. Their design recognizes that the poorest and most vulnerable people face multiple constraints.



From the cover: Habi Sawadogo, an economic inclusion program participant in Burkina Faso, rears goats as part of her livelihood activities. Photo by Anaïs Angoulvant / Trickle Up

Impact Dashboard

RESULTS AREA 1

Supporting Government-led Economic Inclusion

DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$4.2 Million
invested in direct financial and technical support to 20 programs in 19 countries

FINANCING INFLUENCED

\$1.7 Billion
in World Bank financing influenced with the potential to influence \$20 billion in lending

PARTICIPANTS REACHED

4.5 Million
participants and their households reached through PEI's grant supported programs

RESULTS AREA 2

Promoting Knowledge Generation & Sharing

COUNTRIES ENGAGED

50
countries engaged through peer to peer exchanges and knowledge-sharing events

IMPACT EVALUATIONS

7
impact evaluations of government-led programs focused on scale, adaptations, and impact provided with design support

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

2K
knowledge products developed and disseminated that have been accessed nearly 250,000 times

RESULTS AREA 3

Ensuring Strong Partnerships & Alliances

FUNDING PARTNERS

4
funding partners directly supporting PEI's work secured and contributing to its success

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

12
leading organizations partnered with PEI to share their experience and know-how

POLICY STAKEHOLDERS

600
policy stakeholders in the economic inclusion field engaged in PEI activities

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Economic inclusion is increasingly being integrated into national programs, providing lessons and building evidence for scale that is rippling far beyond PEI’s country grant portfolio.

To advance its goal of supporting governments to adopt, adapt, and scale economic inclusion programs for people living in extreme poverty, PEI engaged over 50 national governments, representing a diversity of contexts, with a combination of grants, and technical and advisory services. PEI continues to maintain a country grant portfolio of \$4.2 million to design or implement national economic inclusion programs or strategies in 19 countries. During fiscal year 2023, country grants have advanced the climate resilience, women’s empowerment, and urban integration agendas, among others. In total, PEI grants have influenced \$1.7 billion in World Bank financing in these countries, helping nearly 4.5 million participants and their households benefit from government-led economic inclusion programs.

As part of an ongoing COVID-19 themed round of nine grants, PEI is helping address gender inequities through economic inclusion, and supporting the launch of new programs in contexts like urban areas in Ghana and with displaced populations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Grants from the first round successfully closed their activities in 2023 and are already providing lessons and new evidence for achieving scale through integration into existing national programs. Countries like Bangladesh, Madagascar, Uganda, and Uzbekistan are incorporating and expanding economic inclusion programs as part of social protection investments and embedding them in existing institutions. For instance, with support from PEI, the Support for Resilient Livelihoods in the South of Madagascar (Mionjo) Project added an economic inclusion strategy to engage vulnerable youth in productive endeavors and prevent them from succumbing to criminal activity or violence to survive. In Uganda, PEI’s assistance played an important role in introducing a \$95 million livelihoods and economic inclusion component to its ongoing Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF). In Angola, PEI has been supporting the institutionalization of economic inclusion within broader social protection strategies and programs (See Spotlight). Such investments are pivotal not just for addressing pressing country-specific challenges but also for scaling these solutions globally.

The partnership has grown into a reliable and demand-driven center of technical expertise. Its impact extends far beyond its grant portfolio. In fiscal 2023, PEI fielded more than 100 queries and requests spanning a variety of contexts and target populations that provided just-in-time technical support to 42 country operations. Over the last year, PEI played a crucial role in shaping new operations by responding to 23 peer review requests. These reviews offered valuable insights into costing, delivery methods, and evidence to governments and World Bank teams. This increased demand for technical advice signifies the effectiveness of PEI’s infrastructure in collecting, compiling, and developing new knowledge products and public goods. PEI’s efforts aim to share experiences, lessons, and evidence on economic inclusion programming. This knowledge is derived from PEI’s grant portfolio, Technical Partners, and the broader World Bank community. The ability to meet the growing demand for technical advice demonstrates PEI’s commitment to promoting best practices in the field.

SPOTLIGHT SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECONOMIC INCLUSION IN ANGOLA

PEI is supporting an assessment to determine the most effective economic inclusion strategies for young women in urban Angola, specifically within the Kwenda cash transfer program. Beyond this assessment, the grant-funded activities are helping inform the dialogue with the implementing agency, Instituto de Desenvolvimento Local (FAS). In fiscal year 2023, the World Bank and FAS established the Productive Inclusion Working Group to foster systematic exchange of knowledge, insights, and best practices on productive inclusion. The primary goal of this Working Group is to consistently contribute to the refinement of the design, operational procedures, information systems, and institutional structures to enhance and broaden economic inclusion within Angola’s social protection framework. Currently, the project is navigating an institutionalization phase, envisioning its medium- to long-term goals. The activities and regular engagements supported by PEI are poised to guide and hone the strategy for the scale up of the economic inclusion component.



Photo credit: Guillame Kroll / World Bank

A new wave of evidence is filling knowledge gaps and empowering governments to scale economic inclusion programs globally.

While strong evidence for the effectiveness of small-scale economic inclusion programming exists, evidence from government-led initiatives on a larger scale is scarce. One of the partnership’s primary goals is to help fill that gap. In the past year, PEI’s Innovation and Learning Hub has bridged critical knowledge gaps on impact evaluation and cost-effectiveness, and developed good practices, guidelines, and other tools by engaging governments, Technical Partners, World Bank teams, and research institutions. PEI grantee countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, and Zambia are not only refining and expanding economic inclusion within their countries but adding to the global knowledge base by contributing project documentation and analyses, market assessments, and operational manuals and guidelines that are helping other government programs to scale-up economic inclusion interventions. Investments in innovation led to exploring new targeting mechanisms in Cameroon, and in DRC, a good practices analysis supported the development of three pilot programs to support refugees and internally displaced people (see Spotlight).

In partnership with the Development Impact Evaluation Group (DIME), PEI established the Impact Collaborative with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of the next generation of government-led economic inclusion programs at scale. The Impact Collaborative consists of policymakers, thought leaders, international and local researchers, nongovernmental organizations, and others, all of whom work to build government capacity and test ways to improve the design and implementation of multi-faceted economic inclusion programs at scale. By working closely with governments and operational teams on the ground, the Impact Collaborative is addressing key knowledge gaps and implementation bottlenecks like scalable delivery mechanisms, impacts over time, the layering, sequencing, and bundling of interventions, and resilience and responsiveness to shocks. In fiscal 2023, the Impact Collaborative committed seed funding to seven government programs and local researchers to facilitate evaluation design activities and worked closely with policymakers to refine their designs through workshops and discussions focused on optimizing for scale, urban adaptations, mixed methods, and cost measurement. In addition, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mexico, Tanzania, and Turkey also participated in a workshop hosted by PEI and DIME for government-led economic inclusion programs to share impact evaluation designs, discuss implementation challenges, receive feedback from sector experts, and encourage further collaboration and learning activities (see “Countries Directly Supported by the Impact Collaborative” on page 9).

SPOTLIGHT

ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

PEI has supported the country team in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to conduct a comprehensive review of effective strategies for integrating displaced populations into economic inclusion programs. This review was conducted in collaboration with the government. Based on the findings and with the assistance of technical experts funded through the PEI grant, the Fonds Social de la République Démocratique du Congo - Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FSRDC) launched refugee-sensitive accompanying measures for recipients of unconditional cash transfers in fiscal year 2023. To refine the approach, these measures were initially tested through three pilots in North Ubangi, Kasai Central, South Kivu to fine-tune the design. The accompanying measures focused on economic inclusion and involved longer-term engagements compared to previous initiatives. The valuable experience gained from these pilots was later shared with various World Bank teams during an event that included experiences from Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Somalia.



Photo credit: FAS Local Development Institute

PEI’s landmark State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021, which established global data, analytics, and a common conceptual framework for economic inclusion programming, remained a key resource for practitioners and policymakers worldwide. In the face of escalating crises, PEI will continue to prioritize women’s economic empowerment and climate resilience. With this focus, the forthcoming State of Economic Inclusion Report 2024 will drive the conversation forward. Over the last year, PEI laid the groundwork for a substantive update to the report, including conducting a landscape survey that mapped more than 550 economic inclusion programs and surveyed over 400, suggesting that economic inclusion programming continues to surge. The survey also explores government integration of economic inclusion into broader social protection programming and policy and analyzes adaptations in program design to COVID-19, all through a resilience lens. The new report will examine the current landscape of economic inclusion programs globally and the evolution of programs and policies since 2021 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid multiple crises. It will explore efforts to scale up programs and policies, the degree of customization in vastly different contexts, and consider how economic inclusion programs can further adapt and innovate to build resilience among those most affected by climate change and other shocks.

Countries Directly Supported by the Impact Collaborative



Expanding and engaging a vibrant learning community is helping meet a surge in demand for knowledge on economic inclusion programs.

In addition to evidence, governments need tools, materials, information, and examples of the many facets of economic inclusion to develop their own customized approaches. Over the last year, PEI built upon and deepened its established knowledge platforms, developed and delivered knowledge products, and engaged a broad group of stakeholders to meet a surge in demand for evidence, research, and best practices on designing and implementing economic inclusion programs. The partnership has become a global center of learning, hosting substantive and interactive learning events, producing global public goods like the In Practice publication series, expanding open-access digital platforms like the Insight Resource Center, and establishing a new economic inclusion hub that’s helping provide operational advice and resources to World Bank teams. PEI’s online community continues to grow, with more than 35,000 people engaging with PEI’s online platforms in 2023. The partnership’s knowledge exchange events, from Country Innovation Exchanges, Task Team Learning Series, and Open House webinars have convened a wide array of stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, researchers, and World Bank teams to discuss adaptive and scalable solutions for savings, coaching strategies, lessons from the Adaptive Social Protection Program in the Sahel, and climate resilience, among others. Open House webinars alone have been watched by viewers for more than 600 hours.

PEI’s Data Portal continue to be critical resources that were accessed thousands of times. The In Practice publication series added new research from PEI grantees, Technical Partners, and World Bank teams on enhancing market links for farmers in Zambia, standardizing cost estimation of economic inclusion programs, lessons from four NGOs on the design and delivery of government-led programs, and the economic inclusion of safety net recipients in Bangladesh (See Spotlight). These and other public goods generated by the partnership were downloaded more than 14,000 times over the last year, filling critical gaps in global knowledge. Further, more than 2,000 knowledge products on economic inclusion were disseminated through PEI platforms, which have been visited nearly 250,000 times since they launched just two years ago. To further meet internal demand in fiscal 2023, PEI designed and developed the Economic Inclusion Task Team Hub aimed at assisting World Bank country teams in accessing economic inclusion resources. The Hub provides access to a crowdsourced and curated set of materials. The World Bank intranet site holds a repository of more than 200 resources, a series of

SPOTLIGHT OPEN HOUSE WEBINAR SERIES

PEI’s Open House is a public webinar series dedicated to promoting knowledge exchange on economic inclusion interventions. These events bring together governments, World Bank teams, PEI Technical Partners, researchers, and the general public. Attendees benefit from diverse insights into economic inclusion programming as well as the latest adaptations and innovations at both country and regional levels.



Making Markets More Inclusive >



Economic Inclusion and Savings for the Poorest >



How Economic Inclusion Contributes to Climate Resilient Development >



Adaptable Coaching Approaches for Economic Inclusion Programs >



Reaching the Poorest and Moving to Scale >



Economic Inclusion in an Aging World >



Boosting Productive Inclusion & Adaptive Social Protection Opportunities in the Sahel >

thematically curated operational briefs, and Task Team Learning Series webinars. With over 800 page views thus far, the resource hub is providing country teams with quick access to carefully curated resources, primarily sourced from other Government and World Bank teams developing and implementing economic inclusion programming.

A diversified global community is strengthening partnership sustainability.

The growth and development of economic inclusion programs has always been supported by a range of stakeholders in a broad economic inclusion community. Anchored by a new Monitoring and Learning Framework and theory of change, PEI is effectively responding to clearly identified country demands and priorities, and leveraging a range of activities to support a vision for scale. PEI continued its engagement with a broad base of partners through its Advisory Council, Steering Committee, and Technical Partners, including disseminating global public goods, hosting Open House webinars, peer-to-peer learning events with partners, and publishing practical guidance through In Practice notes. In Berlin, PEI convened practitioners from government and civil society to share lessons and experiences on scaling economic inclusion programs at the Global Forum for Adaptive Social Protection. In December 2022 and April 2023 PEI convened Technical Partner Roundtables, which included consultations to refine the design of PEI’s forthcoming work in climate change and economic inclusion, concept of the State of Economic Inclusion Report 2024, and PEI’s workplan. Finally, PEI continued regular touchpoints with PEI’s governance structures, including its Steering Committee and newly expanded Advisory Council, soliciting inputs on strategic priorities.

In fiscal 2023, PEI diversified its Technical Partner membership by welcoming ideas42 and CARE. ideas42 is a non-profit that applies behavioral science research to help development programs achieve stronger outcomes, offering the partnership technical expertise on an area of growing interest. In the past several years, ideas42 has engaged with teams within the World

Bank’s Social Protection and Jobs practice, and with several country governments, to apply behavioral design methodology to the implementation of cash transfer programs. CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty with operations in 100 countries and a special focus on working alongside poor girls and women. They are a leader in local ownership and capacity through Village Savings and Loan Associations, a strategy utilized by a broad swath of economic inclusion programs, and extensive expertise in livelihood creation.

Three pathways support climate resilience through economic inclusion.

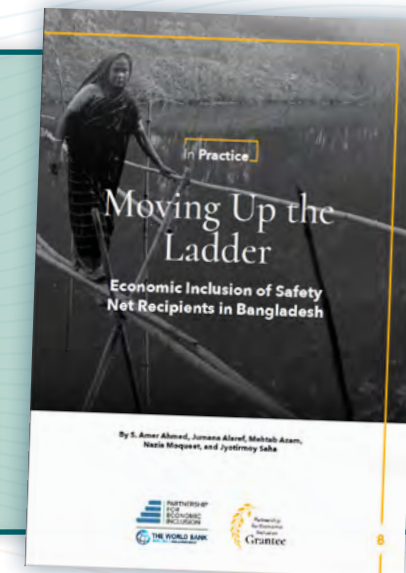
Extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change continue to disproportionately impact the poorest and most vulnerable people worldwide, destabilizing lives, disrupting livelihoods, and provoking climate migration. While an array of social sector responses is being explored, economic inclusion programs are uniquely positioned to support green, resilient, and inclusive development outcomes. During fiscal 2023, PEI laid important groundwork for a new round of country grants in support of the growing call to action for climate resilience. As part of this effort, PEI has developed a common vision and operational framework to advance climate-resilient economic inclusion in consultation with experts from across the World Bank and with Technical Partners. With a strong emphasis on gender, this framework will support efforts to adapt economic inclusion for climate resilience through three key pathways: adaptive safety nets, food and ecological systems, and green livelihoods and jobs.

SPOTLIGHT

IN PRACTICE SERIES

MOVING UP THE LADDER: ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SAFETY NET RECIPIENTS IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has a history of effective economic inclusion programs, but they are implemented primarily by civil society organizations. Government-implemented initiatives are critical for scale but there are no government-implemented economic inclusion programs in Bangladesh that meet the socioeconomic needs of the poor on a large scale. This report examines three groups of SSN beneficiaries in Bangladesh - working-age widows, people with disabilities, and households with young children--in order to understand their potential to benefit from economic inclusion programming. The report describes the socioeconomic characteristics of the three low-income groups and identifies gaps in their access to and coverage by the government’s main social protection programs; profiles a subset of SSN beneficiaries and presents findings on their potential to benefit from economic inclusion programming; describes packages of services; examines the factors that need to be in place for economic inclusion programs to succeed; and provides recommendations on how the government can build capacity to implement economic inclusion at scale in Bangladesh. This In Practice volume draws from analytical work funded by a PEI grant.



Momentum is building on women’s economic inclusion and empowerment.

Building on the groundbreaking policy commitment on Scaling up productive economic inclusion for women under the International Development Association (IDA 20) Gender Theme, PEI has made significant strides in promoting women’s economic empowerment through government-led economic inclusion programs. Countries supported by PEI have integrated specific strategies and innovations in their economic inclusion interventions to address interrelated gender gaps. This included building women’s skills and assets to increase their economic capacity and supporting efforts to boost their social capital and agency. In Uganda, with guidance from PEI, the World Bank-financed Social Protection operation expanded evidence-based economic inclusion interventions with a strong gender focus, integrating a Women’s Economic Empowerment approach that recognizes the barriers women face in different domains. Meanwhile, in Angola and Benin, PEI’s support is fostering women’s economic empowerment by adapting national employment programs to aid women’s employment and identifying suitable, inclusive economic opportunities for young women in poverty. PEI has also fostered knowledge exchanges, bringing together governments, practitioners, and World Bank teams (See Spotlight).

Tackling informality can help connect women and youth to national economies and systems.

Informality remains a key issue impacting poor and vulnerable populations, including participants of economic inclusion programs, who have limited access to formal employment opportunities. PEI has championed greater market access and productive work for informal workers, especially women and youth. The partnership will share and build upon the experiences of country grantees in different contexts. In rural areas, PEI has supported the Zambia’s Girls Education and Women Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project that provides women with better access to markets and helps them sustain and grow their own microenterprises. In urban areas, PEI has supported the National Employment Agency in Benin to provide internship placements for vulnerable youth with no or little education, and in Uzbekistan, where PEI worked closely with the Government and Bank teams to develop an entrepreneurship training

SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY INNOVATION EXCHANGE ON WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



PEI’s Country Innovation Exchange (CIE held in June 2023 promoted knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer on Women’s Economic Empowerment. By highlighting successful country initiatives, the CIE showcased how tailored design and delivery mechanisms can effectively meet the unique needs of poor women and girls. These adaptations have empowered them to seize productive opportunities and enhance their livelihoods through economic inclusion interventions.

By fostering greater collaboration, the CIE on Women’s Economic Empowerment spotlighted cutting-edge solutions in delivering economic inclusion programs that address the myriad challenges poor women face in their communities. This vibrant exchange featured over 120 participants, including government representatives from countries like Bangladesh, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Zambia, as well as practitioners from organizations such as ideas42, SEWA, and the World Bank.

program customized for vulnerable groups. Similarly, in Ghana, PEI funded a report to assess the vulnerabilities, capacities, and potential market linkages for poor individuals in urban areas, along with training manuals for life skills, entrepreneurship, and business management to support livelihood diversification.

Looking forward: Taking economic inclusion from ambition to reality

As we enter a new year, PEI will continue to build upon its successful strategy engaging directly with governments, generating and sharing evidence, disseminating knowledge products, and working collaboratively with a diverse and growing community of partners. Several opportunities remain to advance PEI’s mission going forward. These include a renewed focus on scaling economic inclusion programs for those living in extreme poverty, advancing women’s economic empowerment and promoting climate resilience, but also generating evidence on impact and cost-effectiveness and bolstering real-time technical support.

1 Scaling effective economic inclusion strategies for those living in extreme poverty

PEI aims to leverage its existing institutional knowledge to focus more sharply on scaling evidence-based economic inclusion strategies for those living in extreme poverty. This approach is specifically designed to directly contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG1, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty. To get back on track in achieving the SDGs, it is crucial to scale up evidence-based approaches that ensure individuals in extreme poverty have access to more sustainable livelihoods. The partnership will play a vital role in ensuring that governments have the capacity to adopt and adapt economic inclusion programs, incorporating evidence on design and effectiveness into their implementation. By providing support to governments as they scale up economic inclusion programs, PEI can reach millions of vulnerable people in extreme poverty who might otherwise be left behind.

2 Advancing women’s economic empowerment

Women should be at the forefront of economic inclusion programs and strategies. Globally, they are among the most consistently marginalized groups in terms of economic opportunities. Yet, incorporating them more fully into the economy presents one of the most significant opportunities for economic growth. Going forward, PEI will build upon its success having helped secure the IDA20 policy commitment on Scaling up productive economic inclusion for women, to explore the complementarity of gender with other key priorities like climate resilience. New evidence generated through PEI’s collaboration with DIME, will focus specifically on women’s enhanced access to livelihoods, and address the complexity of measuring the impact of non-economic outcomes such as women’s health, psycho-social dimensions of agency, and decision-making. PEI will continue expanding existing collaborations, including with the World Bank Gender Group and Gender Innovation Labs to ensure operational resources are aimed at advancing women’s economic empowerment through economic inclusion programming.

3 Building climate resilience and green transition through economic inclusion

Climate change is profoundly affecting the lives of billions of people around the world and threatens the very future of our planet. Compounding crises, including market and supply-chain disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the food, fertilizer, and fuel price inflation, intensified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, only exacerbate the challenges faced by already vulnerable people. In this context, economic inclusion strategies and programs present a rare opportunity to engage millions of people in extreme poverty while transitioning to an economy that’s more green, resilient, and sustainable. PEI aims to transform government-led economic inclusion programs to promote long-term resilience to climate change through links to social protection, agriculture, environment, and natural resource interventions. In order to further enhance climate resilience, a new round of country grants will be provided to support existing and planned economic inclusion programs. These grants will encourage innovations and adaptations that promote climate resilience. Additionally, the grants will also focus on identifying opportunities and synergies to address gender gaps and promote women’s economic empowerment.

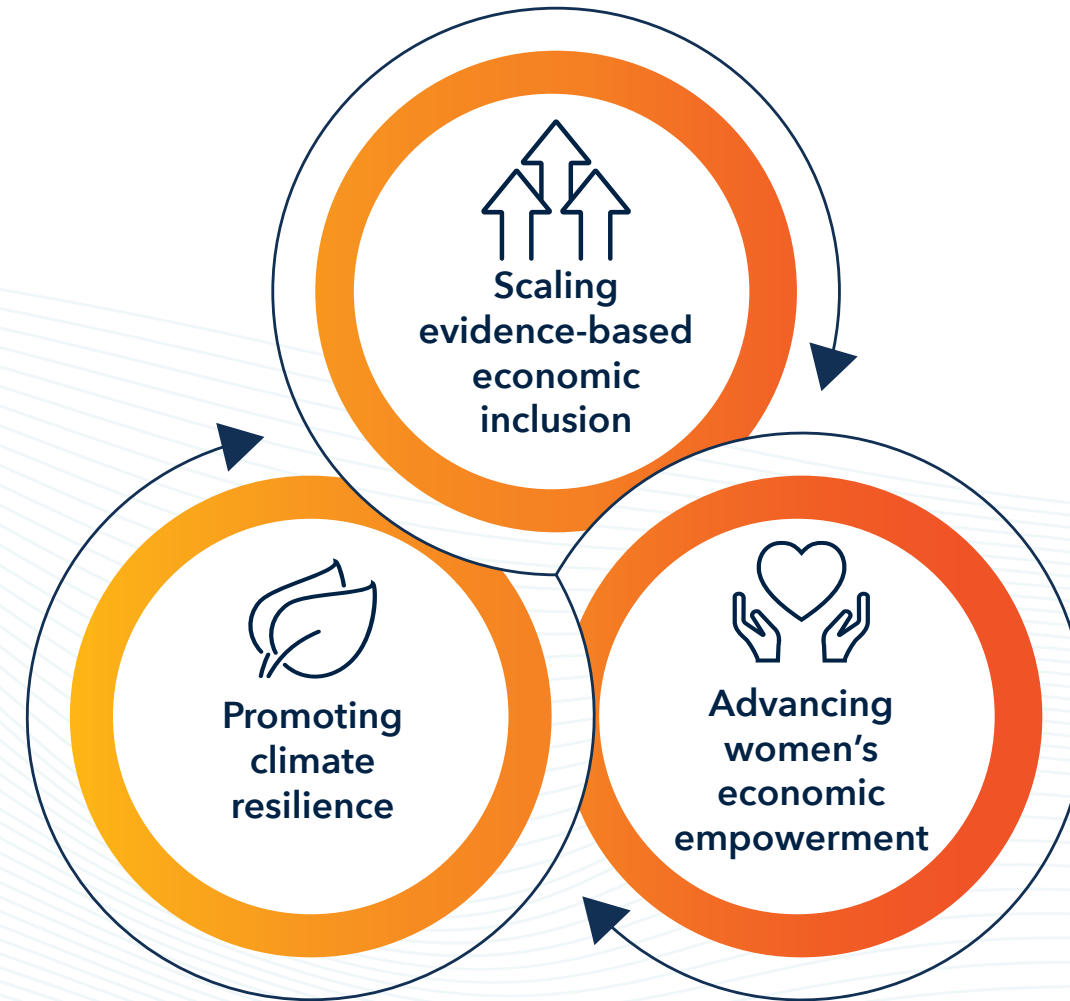
4 PEI will tackle global challenges in an integrated way

At the intersection of these three critical challenges, PEI aims to make a significant and tangible impact on the lives of millions of people worldwide who are living in extreme poverty.

In addition to the above priorities, PEI will continue to invest in generating evidence on impact and cost-effectiveness and bolstering real-time technical support and global knowledge exchange:

- Building government capacity to generate evidence on impact and cost-effectiveness:** Building government capacity to generate evidence on impact and cost-effectiveness is a crucial priority for reaching millions of people in extreme poverty through economic inclusion programs. The goal is to enable governments to implement these programs at scale while maintaining high-quality implementation. To achieve this, PEI, in collaboration with DIME, is committed to building government capacity to generate evidence for scale. This includes making necessary adaptations in program design and implementation. Additionally, PEI will facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges to stay updated on the latest evidence and costing. This will help in making a compelling case for the impact and cost-effectiveness of these programs during policy dialogues with national governments.
- Bolstering real-time technical support and global knowledge exchange:** Governments are increasingly demanding real-time technical support, tools, and evidence on economic inclusion programs. PEI will continue to refine and expand its platforms for supporting technical requests, disseminating public goods, and will develop new knowledge products that fill critical gaps. To achieve this in fiscal 2024, the partnership will make updates to its Data Portal, launch the State of Economic Inclusion Report 2024, deliver fresh practical lessons and guidance in the In Practice series, and produce a new line of In Focus publications to fill knowledge gaps. Through knowledge exchanges, from peer-to-peer events like Country Innovation Exchanges and the Task Team Learning Series to public events like Open House, PEI will continue to facilitate broader and deeper conversations on critical topics for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners.

Tackling Global Challenges in an Integrated Way





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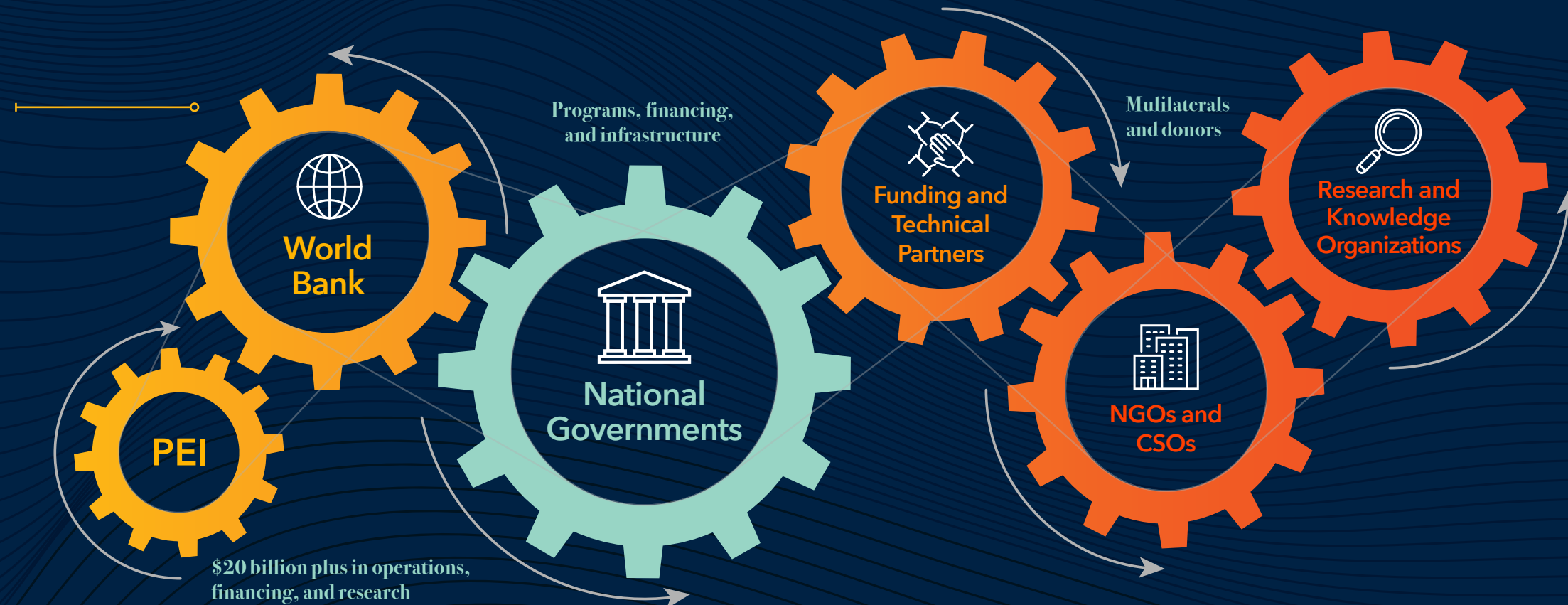
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Influence Model

How PEI is Tipping the Scale

PEI addresses the central challenge in scaling economic inclusion programs by supporting evidence-based, multidimensional interventions delivered through government systems with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. Hosted by the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice and encompassing a diverse set of funding and technical partners, PEI is positioned to leverage cross-sectoral expertise and relationships with governments, and influence World Bank development financing to advance economic inclusion of vulnerable people in extreme poverty.

PEI works with a diverse range of stakeholders to support evidence-based, multidimensional interventions delivered through government systems.



Country Engagement

The heart of PEI's work is helping governments design, adapt, and manage scalable programs that directly benefit extremely poor and vulnerable people. We do this by collaborating with an international network of practitioners, policymakers, development partners, and research organizations, and by linking economic inclusion programs to a wide portfolio of World Bank investments in government programs.

We offer technical grants to support innovative economic inclusion programs led by governments. Each grant supports diagnostics and data collection, assistance with strategy development, identification of good practices, and in-country coordination with development partners, as required. In mid-2021, PEI launched its second round of country grant awards with the selection of 10 new government-led economic inclusion programs focused on COVID-19 recovery. This second cohort expands the portfolio of PEI Country Grant Awards to 19 governments supported by PEI to scale up their economic inclusion programs. Emerging priorities across winning grantees include women's economic empowerment, urban adaptations, and shifting towards a green economy.

In addition to direct country grants, PEI handles real-time requests for support on program design and implementation from country governments as well as World Bank staff and development partners. The PEI team developed several work streams to achieve this, most notably through peer review and deep information sharing including policy dialogue with government ministries and other diverse stakeholders.

Key Results

DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$4.2
Million

invested in direct financial and technical support to 20 programs in 19 countries

FINANCING INFLUENCED

\$1.7
Billion

in World Bank financing influenced with the potential to influence \$20 billion in lending

PARTICIPANTS REACHED

4.5
Million

participants and their households reached through PEI's grant supported programs

Evidence & Learning

PEI works with our national and international collaborators to collect, generate, and share evidence of how economic inclusion programs work in a broad range of settings to determine how economic inclusion programs can be made effective and sustainable on a large scale while being appropriately tailored to local conditions. Research over the past decade shows that economic inclusion programs help strengthen resilience and expand opportunity for people living in poverty and vulnerability, which ultimately leads to increases in their income and assets, and improvements to well-being. Economic inclusion programs also work in a variety of settings and with different population groups.

PEI now aims to support a new generation of innovation and learning to support adaptation, innovation, and scaling of government-supported programs, both within partner countries and globally. PEI has established the Data Portal, a platform to share information on over 200 economic inclusion programs in 74 countries, and enabling users to search country-level data on economic inclusion programs, explore global trends, and submit data on new programs and their costs to ensure the dashboard reflects the latest information.



Country Innovation Exchanges

A series of exchanges on ground-level innovations on thematic areas: deep-dives on cross-cutting priorities such as gender, urban, displacement, etc.



Impact Evaluation Collaborative

A joint PEI-DIME initiative that aims to enhance the effectiveness of the next generation of government-led economic inclusion programs by building government capacity and testing ways to improve their design and implementation at scale



Data Portal

[A searchable portal](#) on program design, coverage, and institutional arrangements

Key Results

IMPACT EVALUATIONS

7 impact evaluations of government-led programs focused on scale, adaptations, and impact provided with design support

NEW RESEARCH STUDIES

25 studies have been funded or commissioned by PEI

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

22 country teams participated in policy workshops, technical workshops, and learning events for government-led economic inclusion programs to share impact evaluation designs, discuss challenges, get expert feedback, and encourage further collaboration

Global Knowledge & Engagement

Collecting, generating, and disseminating knowledge products and global public goods on economic inclusion programs are central to PEI’s mission. The PEI team facilitates internal knowledge flows and engages external stakeholders to advance economic inclusion worldwide, produces and disseminates global public goods, and convenes a community of practice focused on scaling effective economic inclusion for vulnerable people in extreme poverty. The team develops and maintains various platforms to assist and engage development researchers, practitioners, and policymakers like the InSight Resource Center and the In Practice and In Focus publication series, through peer-to-peer exchanges and public fora like the PEI Open House webinar series, and supports affiliate knowledge-sharing initiatives. In doing so, the partnership provides governments and other stakeholders with the latest and best available practical information and guidance about what works—and what doesn’t—when designing and delivering economic inclusion programs around the world.



PEI’s In Practice Publication Series

PEI’s [in-house publication series](#) engaging partners and World Bank teams to publish diagnostic studies, operational research, and policy notes



PEI InSight: A Resource Center

PEI’s [global knowledge resource center](#) offering partners and World Bank Teams the opportunity to share publications, research, operational guides, and other resources in an open-access global knowledge platform



Open House Webinar Series

[Ongoing webinar series](#) for a broad audience on policy, programming, and thematic areas of interest

Key Results

COUNTRIES ENGAGED

50 countries engaged through peer to peer exchanges and knowledge-sharing events

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

2K knowledge products developed and disseminated that have been accessed nearly 250,000 times

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

35K people engaged with PEI’s online platforms

Partnerships & Alliances

The enormity and complexity of scaling up economic inclusion programs demands the work and collaboration of diverse organizations and stakeholders. Part of PEI’s unique value proposition is that it leverages global expertise and mobilizes collective action and knowledge through a partnership of stakeholders. Our funding and technical partners represent a mix of expertise and organizational perspectives across different constituencies including governments, other public-sector entities including UN agencies, NGO implementers, service providers and research and advocacy organizations.

PEI is a new kind of partnership for the World Bank, balancing a strong focus on World Bank supported global operations with national country governments, with a commitment to partnership and collaboration with diverse stakeholder organizations. The partnership is animated by what commonly unites all technical and funding partners no matter how diverse – an ambitious goal to support and mainstream economic inclusion programs globally. Partners engage with various PEI efforts to advance knowledge-related public goods, and on-ground partnerships towards this goal.

Technical partners leverage PEI’s efforts, contributing to the creation of quality exchanges and a series of public goods to advance policy, practice and evidence of economic inclusion approaches. Some examples include PEI’s Open House Series, Country Innovation Exchanges, In Practice Publication Series and PEI’s Insight repository of tools and resources.

Key Results

FUNDING PARTNERS

4 funding partners directly supporting PEI’s work secured and contributing to its success

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

12 leading organizations partnered with PEI to share their experience and know-how

POLICY STAKEHOLDERS

600 policy stakeholders in the economic inclusion field engaged in PEI activities

PART III

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Management Team



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Operations Analyst



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Program Assistant



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Janet Heisey
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Victoria Stroková
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Frank F. DeGiovanni
Former Director of Financial Assets
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Marvi Memon
Former Minister for Poverty Alleviation
Pakistan



Nana Oye Bampoe Addo
Former Minister for Gender,
Children, and Social Protection
Ghana



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Chief of Party for the Graduating to
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AVSI, Uganda



Carolina Trivelli
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Peruvian Studies Institute
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Social Inclusion
Peru

Partners



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#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
IMPACT 1: Extremely poor and vulnerable households are able to improve their lives by participating in economic inclusion programs implemented through government systems.							
1	Evidence of positive impacts in beneficiaries' wellbeing achieved by government economic inclusion programs	Evaluations	–	A review of evaluations of 80 programs in 37 countries shows that a broad range of economic inclusion programs have shown promising and potentially sustained impact on a wide range of outcomes. Most of these evaluations are from programs at nascent stage and are nongovernment-led	A review of a larger body of impact evaluations shows economic inclusion programs implemented at scale through government systems result in improvements in beneficiaries' wellbeing, including by increasing income, and assets, and improving women's economic empowerment (WEE)	-	Due in FY25
IMPACT 2: Government systems are strengthened through improved program delivery, fiscal, and policy coherence.							
2	Evidence of increased coordination and cost optimization within government structures	Countries	–	Not available	Evidence found in at least 5 countries	-	Due in FY24 ¹
LONG-TERM OUTCOME: Governments implement effective economic inclusion programs at scale for extremely poor and vulnerable populations.							
3	Number of beneficiary households in government economic inclusion programs	Households	Sector at large	18,600,000	26,000,000	19,098,876	Not available ²
		Individuals	Sector at large	85,900,000	120,000,000	87,759,816	Not available ²
		Households	PEI grantees	Not available	–	927,085	264,621
		Individuals	PEI grantees	Not available	–	4,564,480	1,389,475
4	Percentage of government programs serving predominantly women and advancing WEE	%	Sector at large	11%	At least 50%	14%	Not available ²
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	25%	25%

¹ Mid-term assessment shifted to early FY24
² Data from the Landscape Survey FY23 is embargoed until the SEI 2024 is published and is therefore not available for the sector at large.

#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
5	Percentage of government programs serving the extreme poor and vulnerable	%	Sector at large	60%	80%	62%	Not available ³
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	73%	Not available ³
6	Number and percentage of governments with economic inclusion programming at scale	No.	Sector at large	16 government programs	At least 60 government programs	18	Not available ³
		%		15% of all government programs	30% of all government programs	21%	Not available ³
		No.	PEI grantees	Not available	–	–	Not available ³
		%		Not available	–	–	Not available ³
7	Number and percentage of government economic inclusion programs that report positive sustained impacts on income, assets, and WEE	No.	–	29 government programs	65 government programs	37	37 ⁴
		%	–	85% of government programs with an impact evaluation	90% of government programs with an impact evaluation	86%	86%
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1: Governments build their capacity to implement economic inclusion programs at scale.							
8	Number of governments participating in PEI’s learning events	No.	Sector at large	Not available	At least 40 governments	60	46 ⁵
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	15	10 ⁵
9	Percentage of governments that report having scaled up in the past 12 months	%	Sector at large	75%	85%	–	Not available ³
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	–	Not available ³
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2: Governments and partners develop and incorporate the relevant evidence on design and implementation into their economic inclusion programs, as best fits their contexts.							
10	Number of visits to and pageviews of PEI’s web-based knowledge-sharing platforms	No.	Total visits (all platforms)	0	500,000	245,239	41,836
			Total website visits	0	80,000	58,492	24,301
			Total Insight Pageviews	0	25,000	2,051	746
			Total Data Portal pageviews	0	25,000	8,226	1,924
			Total newsletter subscribers	0	10,000	4,358	1,428

³ Data from the Landscape Survey FY23 is embargoed until the SEI 2024 is published and is therefore not available for the sector at large.
⁴ Total no of programs is 43. Multiple impact evaluations for some programs report on at least one outcome.
⁵ This includes participants to Open House webinars, Impact Collaborative virtual workshop, Country Innovation Exchanges, and other learning events.

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#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
11	Number of downloads, references or citations, and external shares (including retweets and social media shares)	No.	Downloads	0	>100,000	35,942	14,041 ⁶
			References/citations	0	>100	29	8
			External shares	NA	>5,000	350	125
12	Percentage of economic inclusion programs that have research activities planned or underway to inform their economic inclusion programming	%	Sector at large	79%	At least 90%	69%	Not available ⁷
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	82%	Not available ⁷
13	Percentage of economic inclusion programs or organizations whose policy or programming has shifted in response to research or evidence shared by PEI	%	Sector at large	Not available	At least 75%	95%	Due in FY24
			PEI grantees	Not available	–	100%	100% ⁸
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3: Greater strategic collaboration is achieved, including through knowledge exchange, in support of national programs by partners, affiliates, and the World Bank.							
14	Number of references to economic inclusion programming in World Bank leadership statements	No.	–	0	20	18	8
15	Number of strategic collaborations between PEI and Technical Partners, affiliates, or other stakeholder organizations in the broader economic inclusion ecosystem	No.	–	10	100	77	32 ⁹
16	Evidence that country governments and other actors, including the World Bank, affiliates, and wider stakeholders, are increasingly collaborating in support of economic inclusion interventions and PEI's role in motivating them	No.	–	0	40	10	6

6 Download totals include the In Practice notes and the SEI report.
 7 Data from the Landscape Survey FY23 is embargoed until the SEI 2024 is published.
 8 For PEI grantees, this is based on 7 responses. It excludes 11 closed grants from which this information was not captured and two current grantees who have not responded this question.
 9 Instances of collaboration include Open House webinars, Task Team Learning Series, the Technical Partners Roundtable, and Impact Collaborative Virtual Workshop

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#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
OUTPUT 1: Government economic inclusion programs are designed and implemented with financial and technical support from PEI.							
17	Number of government programs receiving intensive support from PEI (total), by status of the grant (active/completed), and with a systematic gender component	No.	Total active/complete	10	40 grants active or completed...	20	20
			With a systematic gender component	2	...and at least half with a systematic gender component.	10	10
			Active	10	–	9	9
			Closed	0	–	11	11
18	Number of government programs receiving light-touch support from PEI team	No.	Total	12	40	52	42
			Peer review	Not available	–	22	11
			Helpdesk support	Not available	–	40	34
			Country presentations	Not available	–	7	5
19	Percentage of government officials receiving support by PEI that state that PEI's support has been useful to their work on economic inclusion	%	–	0	At least 75%	77%	Due in FY24
OUTPUT 2: Contributions are made to a new wave of evidence and learning on government-led programs at scale, focusing on the main research gaps identified.							
20	Number of studies funded or commissioned by PEI completed	No.	Total	3	40	56	25 ¹⁰
			Country	Not available	–	35	19
			Global	Not available	–	21	6
21	Percentage of users reporting that PEI's studies help fill in knowledge gaps and respond to critical operational questions	%	–	0	At least 75%	88%	Due in FY24

10 This includes 8 In Practice notes and briefs and 17 studies from PEI grantees.

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#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
OUTPUT 3: Cutting-edge economic inclusion knowledge platforms are established and maintained to share robust and relevant content.							
22	Website established and maintained	Rating	–	3	5	3	3 ¹¹
23	Open-Access Data Portal established and maintained	Rating	–	3	5	2	2
24	Online platform to capture and share knowledge (PEI Insight Resource Center) established and maintained	Rating	–	1	5	3	3
OUTPUT 4: Public-facing learning events and dissemination are conducted to generate knowledge and promote peer-to-peer learning.							
25	Number of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange events organized, by type of event	No.	–	3	100	49	18 ¹²
26	Number of knowledge products disseminated through PEI platforms	No.	Total	3	Over 400	2,009	887
			Data Portal	Not available	–	219	219
			Insight	Not available	–	358	358
			Website	Not available	–	19	19
			Newsletter	Not available	–	118	57
			Google Drive	Not available	–	55	55
OUTPUT 5: A broadening network of funders, Technical Partners, broader stakeholders, and World Bank staff are mobilized to support governments in operationalizing economic inclusion programs at scale.							
27	Number of funders, Technical Partners, broader economic inclusion stakeholders, and World Bank Global Practices engaged in PEI activities	No.	Total	10	175	547	332 ¹³
			Funders (excluding Technical Partners)	Not available	–	2	2
			Technical Partners	Not available	–	14	14
			Broader economic inclusion stakeholders	Not available	–	470	271
			World Bank Global Practices	Not available	–	61	45

11 For indicators 22-24, the following five-point scale applies: (1) not established; (2) established but not updated; (3) established and updated occasionally; (4) established and updated regularly; (5) established, updated regularly, and enhanced.
 12 This includes 7 Open House webinars, 6 Task Team Learning Series webinars, 1 Country Innovation Exchange, 2 Technical Partner Roundtables and 2 virtual workshops as part of the Impact Evaluation Collaborative. Over 1,900 participants (1200+ individuals) have taken part in PEI learning events organized in FY23.
 13 For World Bank Global Practices, we count the number of different units engaged.

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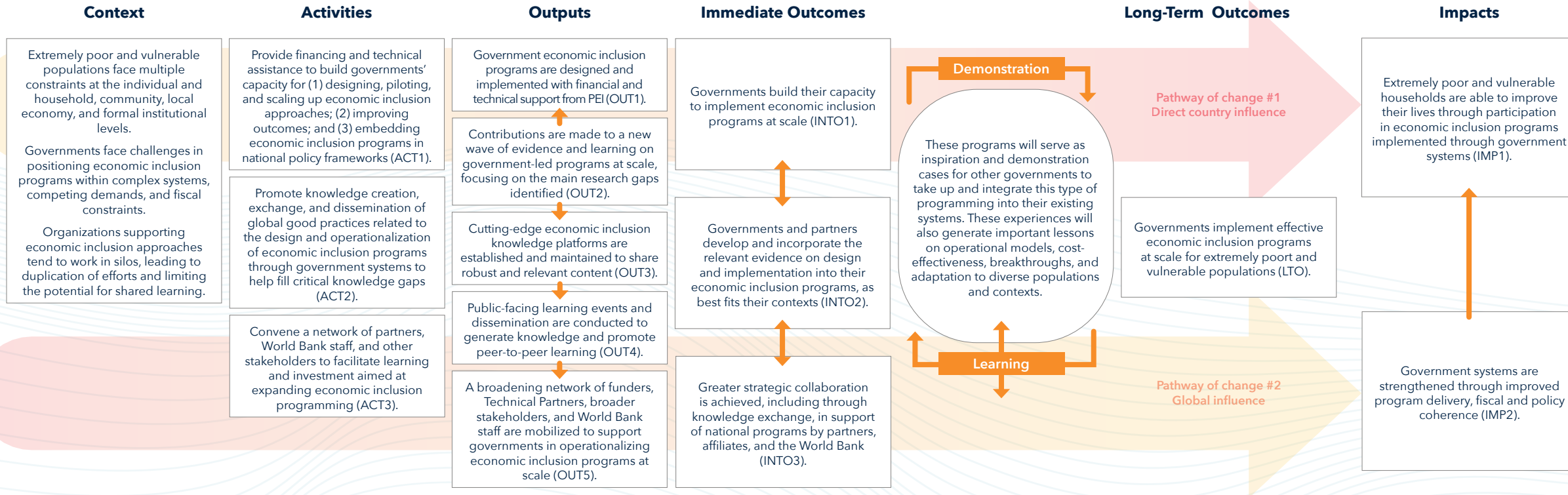
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#	Indicator	Unit	Breakdown	Baseline Value	FY26 Target	Cumulative Value (since FY22)	Value in Current Reporting Period (FY23)
28	Percentage of Technical Partners engaged in PEI activities in current fiscal year	%	–	0	100%	100%	85%
29	Percentage of funders, Technical Partners, and World Bank staff who report PEI’s work is useful to their work	%		0	at least 75%	76%	Due in FY24

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Theory of Change



Key Assumptions

- Governments and World Bank operational teams are aware of PEI financing and technical support opportunities and request such support.
- Partners, affiliates, and World Bank agree on way forward (scale through government-led programs).
- Development policy and the strategies of control actors such as the World Bank and wider stakeholders support the shift toward building on systems to drive delivery of economic inclusion programs at scale.
- Existing economic inclusion government programs will serve as demonstration cases for other governments to take up and integrate into their programming and systems.
- Country contexts largely driven by evolving global megatrends and a strengthened body of evidence will underpin decisions by governments to scale up economic inclusion programs.
- A comprehensive suite of interventions has a greater and more sustained impact on income, assets, and wellbeing relative to stand-alone interventions.
- Economic inclusion programs, when integrated in government delivery systems, push for in-country coordination.

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Individual Grant Status

Country	Grant Name	Grant Objectives	Innovations	Grant Amount	Direct participants (no. of households) ¹	Status
Inaugural or Foundational Grantees						
Afghanistan	Evidence-based approach to ensuring success of economic inclusion programs in FCV settings in Afghanistan	Strengthen capacity in evidence-based decision-making for economic inclusion interventions in FCV settings through a combination of rigorous co-produced operational research with program implementers and structured support to help implementing partners translate this research into operational decisions.	WEE, Displaced	\$180,000	12,698 households participating in the Targeting the Ultra-Poor Pilot program	CLOSED The grant-funded activities have helped produce significant additional research evaluating the impact of graduation programs in settings of multiple concurrent crises (pandemic, droughts, escalating violence). The research included an impact evaluation exploring seasonal dynamics and long-term impacts of graduation programs in fragile settings. The team also developed a women’s empowerment research framework to measure gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Targeting the Ultra-Poor context. The experience gained by the team will be used to develop and disseminate a toolkit for data collecting in FCV settings.
Bangladesh	Developing an Economic Inclusion Program through Social Safety Net Programs, Bangladesh	Design a sustainable economic inclusion program owned and implemented by the Government of Bangladesh to help young adults in poor households improve their livelihoods.	WEE, Urban, Youth, Climate	\$178,000	125,000 households participating in the RAISE Program	CLOSED The World Bank team, with PEI support, conducted a series of institutional and technical capacity assessments for government partners. Through direct support for the design of the RAISE Program, the grant engaged three government entities: PKSF (Bangladesh’s wholesale lending agency), the Local Government Division, and the Department of Social Services. Each of them was responsible to roll out complementary productive inclusion schemes, which are now incorporated under RAISE.
Egypt	Technical Assistance for Economic Inclusion/Empowerment Pilot	Complement the efficient and effective cash transfer program by introducing a new pilot program to support the borrower to improve access to economic opportunities and pilot different productive inclusion models through wage and self-employment.	WEE, Urban, Youth	\$179,867	50,000 households participating in the Strengthening Social Safety Net Project	CLOSED The grant activities supported an economic inclusion pilot (FORSA). The team conducted a series of diagnostic activities including a stocktaking exercise, a profiling analysis, and a market assessment, which informed the design of the pilot. The team also developed a Partnership Strategy to guide stakeholder engagement and a Business Process Review to document the pilot’s processes for developing a future Management Information Systems (MIS) module. PEI also supported the government in developing a behavioral change training module. Finally, outcomes from a baseline survey will inform the scale-up of economic inclusion activities after grant completion.

¹ Economic inclusion grant-funded activities are typically advisory in nature. The participant numbers reported throughout refer to the number of households covered by the economic inclusion activities of the World Bank-financed project, which has received grant funding and advisory support from PEI.

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Country	Grant Name	Grant Objectives	Innovations	Grant Amount	Direct participants (no. of households) ¹	Status
Iraq	Capacity-Building for Design of Economic Inclusion	To create more knowledge and awareness among the Iraqi counterparts on the concept of economic inclusion programs and to develop, together with the Ministry, a design for an economic inclusion pilot in Iraq.	Urban	\$178,800	2,200 households participating in the Protecting and Promoting Human Capital pilot program	CLOSED The grant helped with the integration of economic inclusion into the national agenda in Iraq, advancing economic inclusion programming in the country. In close collaboration with the government, the World Bank team designed Iraq's first economic inclusion pilot. Grant activities enabled knowledge-sharing and the production of studies to inform the design of the pilot intervention, including a stocktaking of best practices on economic inclusion. The grant helped produce a local assessment and stakeholders mapping to inform the intervention rollout, and the development of an impact evaluation proposal.
Madagascar (Southern)	Support for Resilient Livelihoods in the South of Madagascar	Support the Government of Madagascar in developing diagnostics, reviews, and evidence-based policies to shape the design and targeting of a component on resilient livelihoods under the 'Support to Resilient Livelihoods in the South of Madagascar (MIONJO)' Project.	Urban	\$180,000	98,000 households participating in the MIONJO project	CLOSED The grant contributed to shaping the design and targeting of an economic inclusion intervention in the south of Madagascar. It also supported the capacity building of government staff and NGO implementing agencies. Under the grant, international and local consultants facilitated learning activities to build an incremental understanding of the graduation approach among government staff and country counterparts. The grant enabled the development of local assessments and programming tools: a review of existing livelihood support schemes in the country, a households' drought impact assessment to identify household livelihood strategies and integrate them into the project design, an operational manual and a targeting plan to guide the implementation of the economic inclusion intervention.
Malawi	Developing Innovative Economic Inclusion Programming for Ultra-Poor Households	Provide technical and operational support to the Government of Malawi to build economic inclusion implementation capacity and enhance the design of livelihoods packages for extremely poor households benefiting from Social Cash Transfer and Public Works Programs.	Climate, Urban	\$180,000	70,000 households participating in the Social Support for Resilient Livelihoods Project (SSRLP)	CLOSED The grant has strengthened the government's capacity to implement improved designs of the economic inclusion intervention. The grant fostered the growth and scaling up of livelihood support interventions through additional resources contemplated for SSRLP as part of crisis response. Also, the grant facilitated a collaborative in-country impact evaluation design of the economic inclusion intervention to generate rigorous evidence for further scale up. Technical assistance supported knowledge products that significantly shaped an efficient delivery approach for the intervention. The products range from an assessment of the livelihoods training curriculum, M&E systems, and functionality of the MIS, to the development of livelihood Training of Trainers Manual and the review of the graduation operational guidelines. The production of those critical tools was followed by workshops to guarantee effective implementation.
Mozambique	Operational Options for Poor Farmers' Economic Inclusion	To design operational options for the economic inclusion of poor subsistence farmers who are social protection beneficiaries (Pequenos Agricultores) into financially sustainable value chains.	Climate, Displaced	\$180,000	721 households participating in the Moamba Income Generation Agricultural Pilot Project	CLOSED The grant-funded technical assistance produced a target population assessment and a market linkages study of agricultural opportunities, with a focus on climate-resilient crops, to inform the economic inclusion pilot. The World Bank and government teams engaged in technical meetings through the Social Protection and Agriculture agencies to harmonize interventions towards a more effective inclusion of poor and vulnerable households in rural and peri-urban areas in targeted provinces. The design of these joint interventions includes the development of horticulture for poor and vulnerable households in peri-urban areas to integrate them with small emerging commercial farmers while focusing on food security.

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Country	Grant Name	Grant Objectives	Innovations	Grant Amount	Direct participants (no. of households) ¹	Status
Panama	Panama Productive Inclusion Program in Indigenous Territories	Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) in Panama to implement and improve the Cohesion Social Program, which seeks to sustainably increase the income among the poor indigenous population in Panama.	WEE, Urban	\$240,000	5,845 households participating in the Cohesion Social program pilot	CLOSED The grant-funded activities expanded the institutional capacity of MIDES to implement economic inclusion programs. The grant supported the design and implementation of an impact evaluation, which will facilitate the adoption of future economic inclusion programming in Panama. Also, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the grant supported the implementation of contingency plans and a digital real-time monitoring system allowing the continuity of the intervention.
Uzbekistan	Promoting Entrepreneurial Mindset and Skills in Uzbekistan	Inform the development and implementation of an intervention focused on entrepreneurship to foster the economic inclusion of vulnerable groups (ultra-poor and specific vulnerable groups such as youth and women).	Urban	\$180,000	15,000 households participating in the Strengthening the Social Protection System Project	CLOSED The grant contributed to the development and implementation of an entrepreneurship intervention to foster the economic inclusion of vulnerable groups in the country. The grant-funded activities helped to develop local evidence to customize the design of the intervention. A living inventory of entrepreneurship programs was produced and used to improve referrals of beneficiaries. Likewise, an entrepreneur survey helped to shape the training curricula of the program. With support from PEI, the World Bank team supported the government in the development of training manuals and tools to expand skills for women empowerment and financial literacy tailored to the beneficiaries' needs.
Zambia	Developing Sustainable Livelihood through Value Chain Linkages	Provide technical and operational support to Government of the Republic of Zambia to develop operational techniques to enable growth of women-led household and micro enterprises in poor communities to move from 'survival mode' to 'opportunity mode' through upstream value chain linkages.	WEE, Urban	\$180,000	96,000 households participating in the Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihood (GEWEL) Project.	CLOSED The grant enabled the development of assessments and operational guidelines to establish value chain linkages for beneficiaries of the Supporting Women's Livelihood (SWL) component (for example, a summary of Value Chain Business Models and an Operational Manual to guide the implementation of the economic inclusion intervention). Also, the World Bank team facilitated linkages between the GEWEL and Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project, two economic inclusion-related interventions that had not traditionally worked together, expanding their joint capacity to boost economic growth for women's led household and micro-enterprises.
COVID-19 Recovery - Round 2 Grantees						
Angola	Empowering Angolan Women	Inform the design of economic inclusion interventions to empower poor young Angolan women in urban and peri-urban areas.	WEE, Urban, Youth	\$250,000	25,324 households participating in the Strengthening the National Social Protection System Project	ON TRACK The team completed the comprehensive assessment of the constraints affecting women and girls receiving cash transfers in urban and peri-urban areas. This assessment that identifies the factors inhibiting poor young women's transition into productive employment will inform the selection of intervention components that are appropriate for this target group in those areas.

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Country	Grant Name	Grant Objectives	Innovations	Grant Amount	Direct participants (no. of households) ¹	Status
Benin	Enhancing Youth Economic Inclusion and Women's Empowerment	Support the Government of Benin to: (i) increase learning on women's empowerment to advance the economic inclusion agenda and, (ii) introduce gender-responsive innovations in its national economic inclusion program as well as strengthen its capacities to deliver the Azôli program.	WEE, Urban, Youth, Climate	\$250,000	6,617 households participating in the Benin Youth Inclusion Project	ON TRACK The team has made substantial progress in the two planned qualitative studies aimed at deepening the understanding of women's empowerment constraints to accessing markets and wage employment. The data collection has been completed and the data analysis is ongoing. Also, the grant supported technical assistance for the design of a robust and gender-responsive Azôli economic inclusion program. Four consultants were recruited to provide technical support to develop operational tools, a gender plan, and an M&E system for the program.
Cameroon	Innovations for the Economic Inclusion of Urban Youth in the COVID-19 Context	Support the development of innovations for the economic inclusion of young informal sector workers in urban areas of Cameroon. With a focus on the COVID-19 context, the Grant aims to contribute to current efforts to improve youths' income-generating capacity and their resilience to shocks.	WEE, Urban, Youth	\$250,000	65,000 households participating in the Cameroon Social Safety Nets Project	ON TRACK The grant-funded activities are progressing as planned. The feasibility assessment of an innovative targeting system that involves using mobile phone data for identifying beneficiaries has been completed. Based on the study results, the government is recruiting the same consultant who performed the assessment to assist with the pilot of the targeting mechanism. The team also implemented the mapping exercise of digital financial services providers and explored several options for payments and savings. Based on the results, a section on digital savings is incorporated into the program's operational manual. Finally, the grant-financed market assessment was validated by the government.
Djibouti	Djibouti Productive Inclusion Program	Support the technical and institutional capacity of the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Affairs in developing and launching implementation of a new productive inclusion program.	Youth	\$210,000	2,000 households participating in the Integrated Cash Transfer and Human Capital Project	ON TRACK Despite a delayed start due to overlapping crises affecting the country, the World Bank team has made progress across main activities. The data collection for the stocktaking analysis of lessons and experiences from previous productive inclusion initiatives has been completed. A series of interviews and workshops with key stakeholders were performed and the inception report with key findings to inform the government's graduation strategy is in progress. Also, an initial framework for a graduation strategy has been elaborated and will be further developed based on the assessment.
Democratic Republic of Congo	Economic Inclusion for Refugees Pilot	Inform the design of an economic inclusion program that responds to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of refugees that are STEP (DRC Eastern Recovery Project) beneficiaries.	WEE, Displaced, Climate	\$250,000	167,680 households participating in the DRC Eastern Recovery Project	OFF TRACK While the team has made significant progress in the delivery of the grant activities, the implementation was put on hold at the end of April 2023. The Government of DRC decided to dissolve FSRDC, the legal entity responsible for the implementation of the STEP project, and replace it with a new institution. Thus, all project activities are on hold until a transition arrangement is found. Prior to this, the activities were taking place as planned. The analysis of best practices for integrating displaced populations into economic inclusion programs had been completed, and the results were shared with the government helping to inform the design of three pilots to support refugees and internally displaced people in DRC.

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Country	Grant Name	Grant Objectives	Innovations	Grant Amount	Direct participants (no. of households) ¹	Status
Fiji	Scaling Up Gender-Sensitive Economic Inclusion Programs for Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development in Fiji	Carry out analytical and advisory activities to inform the Government of Fiji's efforts in recovering from COVID-19 by scaling up gender-sensitive economic inclusion programs for green, resilient and inclusive development in Fiji.	Climate, WEE	\$250,000	To be provided in the next reporting period	ON TRACK After a slowdown due to national elections in 2022, the grant-funded activities are back on track, and the government has renewed its interest in embedding economic inclusion in its delivery system. Likewise, after a series of consultations with several government agencies and partners linked to gender-sensitive economic inclusion, a diagnostic report of the welfare graduation program between 2009 and 2015 has been completed, and the report has been shared with the government for review.
Ghana	Facilitating the Expansion of Productive Inclusion Activities to Urban Areas of Ghana	Carry out analytical and advisory activities to inform the Government of Ghana's expansion of Productive Inclusion activities to urban areas.	Climate, Urban	\$250,000	10,000 households participating in the Ghana Productive Safety Net Project 2	ON TRACK Outputs are underway. Incorporating perspectives from diverse populations, a Needs Assessment Survey in prospective target urban areas has been conducted by a research firm. This analysis identifies the critical needs of the poor and vulnerable groups such as female urban poor youth, migrants, and persons with disabilities. The draft report has been finalized and submitted to the government team for final review. Also, in close coordination with the team and government counterparts, the consulting firm developed two training modules (on Life Skills and Basic Business Management) identified as key prerequisites to enable beneficiaries to initiate and sustain their livelihood/enterprise activities.
Indonesia	Urban Regeneration and Economic Inclusion in Indonesia	Develop methodologies and tools to support the integration of appropriate economic inclusion strategies into the design and implementation of urban regeneration strategies.	Climate, Urban	\$180,000	Not applicable	DROPPED Initially, activities under the grant largely focused on developing a strong engagement strategy with the government and deepening country-level understanding of how an economic inclusion approach could strengthen the government's urban integrated regeneration approach. However, due to changes in government priorities, the pipeline urban project that the grant activities were intended to support did not come to fruition. The majority of the funds were returned to PEI, and the initial activities that were carried out were documented.
Madagascar	Economic Inclusion Pilot in Urban Areas	To provide access to productive activities and economic inclusion to extremely poor households for the first time in urban areas of Madagascar following COVID-19.	Climate	\$250,000	4,000 households participating in the Social Safety Net Project	ON TRACK Despite delays due to COVID-19 and drought conditions, initial diagnostic activities have been completed including (i) a baseline GIS map with basic infrastructure & livelihood sector analysis; (ii) review of existing livelihood programs; and (iii) review of livelihood graduation models to assess their applicability to the Madagascar context. Based on these outputs, two consultants have been hired to support government counterparts in implementing the livelihood subcomponent of the IDA-financed parent project.
Uganda	Assessing Economic Inclusion Interventions in Northern Uganda	Assess the effectiveness of the models for economic inclusion interventions to increase income, assets and build resilience among the extremely poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda.	WEE	\$250,000	171,000 households participating in the Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF 3)	ON TRACK The overall progress is on track. With support from the World Bank team, the procurement of a firm to carry out a diagnostics of economic inclusion interventions is at an advanced stage and the design of the study has been finalized. The team also facilitated a series of consultation meetings with the Office of the Prime Minister and several ministries to integrate economic inclusion into the social protection theory of change. In doing so, the grant played an important role in introducing a \$95 million livelihoods and economic inclusion component into the design of the ongoing NUSAF operation.

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Financial Highlights

As of June 30, 2023, development partner contributions to the Partnership for Economic Inclusion Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PEI MDTF) totaled \$13.09 million. The table below presents the status of paid and unpaid contributions by development partners. These contributions represent the amounts specified in the administrative agreements.

Development Partner	Contribution Currency	Signed (Contribution Currency)	Amount Received (US\$, Millions)	Unpaid Installments (US\$, Millions)	Total (US\$, Millions)
New Venture Fund	Million \$	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00
Germany-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Million €	5.90	6.84	0.00	6.84
BRAC USA, Inc	Million \$	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50
Ireland - Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Irish Aid	Million €	1.15	1.25	0.00	1.25
Stichting BRAC International	Million \$	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50
Total paid and unpaid contributions			13.09	0.00	13.09

The table below presents the financial summary for the PEI MDTF, including information on the status of donor contributions, investment income, grant commitments and disbursements, and funds available for future allocations.

Description	Inception June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	Cumulative up to June 30, 2023
Signed contributions (US\$ equivalent)						
Total signed contributions	7,169,670.40	500,000	3,164,145	1,271,480	989,285	13,096,921
Unpaid contributions	3,000,000	1,750,000	545,050	–	–	–
Receipts (US\$ equivalent)						
Contributions paid in	4,169,670	1,750,000	4,369,095	1,816,529.70	989,285	13,096,921
Investment income	24,626	78,898	18,486	10,959	153,241	286,209
Total receipts	4,194,297	1,828,898	4,387,581	1,827,489	1,142,526	13,383,130

Description	Inception June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	Cumulative up to June 30, 2023
Disbursements (US\$ equivalent)						
Grant disbursements	–	1,119,622	2,263,700	2,931,158	2,957,277	9,271,757
Program management	137,041	257,107	126,488	178,468	139,139	838,243
Total disbursements	137,041	1,376,729	2,390,188	3,109,626	3,096,416	10,109,999
Trust fund cash balance (US\$ equivalent)						
Grant committed amounts						12,375,270
Grant allocations						11,700,270
Available balance for new programming^(a) (US\$ equivalent)		n.a.	n.a.			1,682,860

(a) As of June 30, 2023 \$0.68 million in approved grants is still pending transfer/allocation; thus, \$1.1 million will be the available budget in light of the pending allocations. Source: SAP (World Bank internal system)

Notes: In accordance with the Trust Fund Administrative Agreement (see annex 2, para.3.3), “the Bank shall provide to the Donors via the Development Partner Center website, within six (6) months following the end of each Bank fiscal year, an annual single audit report, comprising (1) a management report together with an audit opinion from the Bank’s external auditors concerning the adequacy of internal control over cash-based financial reporting for all cash-based trust funds as a whole; and (2) a combined financial statement for all cash-based trust funds together with the Bank’s external auditor’s opinion thereon.

Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. n.a. = not applicable.

Disbursements as of June 30, 2023

Code	FY23 Indicative Budget (US\$)	FY23 Actuals as of June 30, 2023 (US\$)	FY23 Indicative Budget Utilization	Cumulative Disbursements Since Inception (US\$)
Program Management/Administration	210,000	139,139	66%	838,243
Staff time	125,000	122,932		594,635
STCs	50,000	-		155,617
Travel	10,000	11,189		48,621
Other program expenses	25,000	5,018		39,370

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Code	FY23 Indicative Budget (US\$)	FY23 Actuals as of June 30, 2023 (US\$)	FY23 Indicative Budget Utilization	Cumulative Disbursements Since Inception (US\$)
Pillar 1: Country Engagement	1,695,000	1,890,380	112%	4,914,012
Staff time*	250,000	95,466		754,530
STCs	140,000	326,983		914,840
Travel	60,000	7,433		13,062
Grants CFP1/CFP2	1,000,000	1,388,415		3,158,314
Small Country Grants	150,000	20,022		20,022
Events/Other program expenses	75,000	33,632		34,815
PASA	20,000	18,430		18,430
Pillar 2: Innovation and Learning	435,000	374,851	86%	1,364,522
Staff time*	100,000	156,440		385,904
STCs	175,000	190,976		675,881
Travel	60,000	3,753		74,987
Other Program Expenses	100,000	23,683		227,750
Pillar 3: Global Knowledge	660,000	692,045	105%	2,993,222
Staff time*	150,000	274,939		718,250
STCs	340,000	337,742		1,851,497
Travel	20,000	25,285		26,871
Events	50,000	1,713		92,145
Other program expenses	100,000	52,366		304,459
Total	3,000,000	3,096,416	103%	10,109,999

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system)

*Staff time includes Extended-Term Consultants.

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The Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) is a global partnership with a mission to support the adoption of national economic inclusion programs that increase the earnings and assets of extremely poor and vulnerable households. PEI brings together global stakeholders to catalyze country-level innovation, advance innovation and learning and share global knowledge. PEI is hosted by the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice of the World Bank.

Visit us at peiglobal.org

