

Accelerating Women's Empowerment

An Introduction to CESO's AWE Program



CESOSACO

STRONGER ECONOMIES FOR BETTER LIVES
UNE ÉCONOMIE PLUS SOLIDE POUR UNE VIE MEILLEURE



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Accelerating Women's Empowerment (AWE) is CESO's flagship program that launched in 2020 in partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

ULTIMATE OUTCOME

Through AWE, CESO aims to achieve improved economic and/or social well-being of the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, in developing countries, with a view to contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs most relevant to our work are:



CESO'S MISSION & WORK



MISSION

CESO empowers and connects people, businesses, communities and institutions. We enhance governance and drive economic growth by:

- Strengthening capacity to engage, innovate and prosper
- Delivering the right expertise, experience and networks
- Fostering locally driven, sustainable solutions that are equitable, inclusive and environmentally responsible

CESO ADVISORS

For over 50 years, our volunteer CESO Advisors have been collaborating with local partners to build inclusive businesses and strengthen governance, both in Canada and around the world.

By leveraging their expertise in AWE, CESO Advisors will deliver capacity building activities and technical assistance to help our partners realize their full potential.



KEY OBJECTIVES OF AWE



Create opportunities to accelerate gender equality and women's economic empowerment (GE/WEE)

Support women-led micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs)

Strengthen institutions and build the capacity of our partners

Contribute to local, regional, national and international development

We will impact the lives of:

Women

Youth

Indigenous populations

Remote communities

Individuals with disabilities

Other vulnerable populations

Our interventions are guided by Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).



GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (GE/WEE) APPROACH



Gender equality (GE) refers to the equal rights, responsibilities, status and opportunities of women and men on political, social, economic and cultural levels.



Our GE/WEE approach is centered on three pillars:

- 1 Women's access to resources**
When a woman has the capacity to obtain productive resources required to enhance her economic position
- 2 Women's agency**
When a woman has the capacity to make decisions and act on opportunities that lead to economic advancement and the ability to influence her surroundings
- 3 An enabling environment for GE**
The underlying context where GE and WEE exist, including the regulatory and legal framework

GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (GE/WEE) APPROACH



We will promote the equal participation of women as agents of change in economic, social and political processes.



Our three-pronged GE/WEE approach will:

- 1 Be integrated & cross-cutting**
GE is an overarching theme throughout the program.
- 2 Be targeted & strategic**
Our activities are based on a country-specific analysis and contribute to long-term outcomes.
- 3 Raise awareness & build capacity**
We ensure sustainability by equipping partners with tools, knowledge and best practices.



GENDER SENSITIVE VALUE CHAINS (GSVC)

CESO will design and implement interventions that improve women's access to resources and agency, as well as create an enabling environment for women and other vulnerable groups to participate fully in value chains.

Our Gender Sensitive Value Chain (GSVC) approach is designed to increase our impact in four sectors of focus:



Agribusiness



Tourism &
Hospitality



Agroforestry



Nutrition
& Health

PROJECT COUNTRIES



Latin America & the Caribbean

- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Peru

- Guyana
- Suriname

Francophone Africa

- Senegal
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Ivory Coast
- Togo

Anglophone Africa

- Tanzania
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Ghana

Asia

- Philippines
- Myanmar
- Vietnam
- Laos
- Cambodia

PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS, CONSTRAINTS & RISKS



ASSUMPTIONS

CESO's approach to economic development and capacity building has been proven the world over.

In AWE, we will adapt to work with more vulnerable and marginalized communities and place a greater focus on GE/WEE outcomes in order to achieve success.

CONSTRAINTS

AWE was launched in the midst of a global pandemic. COVID-19 has significantly impacted the ability of our CESO Advisors to deliver assignments in-country.

We adapted quickly to this new reality by launching virtual assignments, enabling a continuation of work with our partners.

RISKS & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

We have identified potential risks and developed mitigation strategies for each. We continually monitor any impact they may have on our activities.

INTERNAL RISKS

These include technical challenges (associated with virtual assignments), recruiting qualified individuals and engaging a broad base of Canadians about key development issues.

EXTERNAL RISKS

These include economic and/or political crises, natural disasters and alignment with and implementation of our objectives (particularly GE/WEE).

In-Country Teams
CESO Advisors



Internal CESO Departments

Global Affairs Canada
Local Embassies & Consulates



Partners

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Governments

- Local
- State / Provincial
- National

**Local &
International
NGOs**

**Grassroots
Organizations**

**Civil Society
Organizations**

Foundations

Associations

Cooperatives

Universities

Training Centres

**Research
Centres &
Laboratories**

**Microfinance
Institutions**

**Micro, Small
& Medium
Enterprises**

**Trade
Boards**

**Chambers of
Commerce**

CESO'S PARTNERS



CESOSACO

We look forward to partnering with you to achieve your goals!

For more information, please contact your CESO Country Representative.

C E S O - S A C O . C O M



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