



PROJECT RIEPF&GFAC



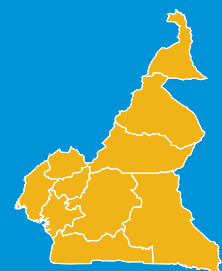
G F A C

International Conference

05 November
2024

Strengthen the Economic and
Political Inclusion of Women
for an Inclusive and Sustainable
Development in **Cameroon** ...

Yaounde - Cameroon





Senator

Agnès Ntubé Ndode Epse Ndjock
The National President of GFAC

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JUSTIFICATION

«The purpose of economic activity is to secure social development for the pleasure of the greatest number», according to Bentham's theory of utilitarian morality.

In line with the demographic representation of women in the world, the World Bank report (2022) showed that women had already represented more than 4 billion of the world's population in 2020 and, according to the United Nations Population Fund, population is one of the most important elements of economic productivity, as it influences a nation's rate of development.

The definition of women's economic and political inclusion in this context includes both their empowerment in the broadest sense of the term and their contribution to the development of the nation, as women's empowerment is closely associated not only with increased tax revenues for the state, but also with the reduction of unemployment, poverty and extreme poverty, gender-based violence, early marriage and the failure of young girls to attend school, as well as with the promotion of good governance. Consequently, the absence of a large part of the population from the political and economic sphere is a challenge for any developing country hoping to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

Although women make up 51% of Cameroon's population, their lack of economic involvement means that they continue to experience the highest levels of economic marginalisation (BUCREP, 2005). As the Network of Locally Elected Women in Africa (REFELA, 2020) points out, there are still a number of obstacles to overcome before the economic and political involvement of women in Cameroon can be improved, even in the face of several legislative and political reforms. Data presented in the July 2020 edition of the Analytical Report on the Situation of women's Economic Empowerment in Africa (REFELA), indicates that Cameroon ranks



33rd in Africa with a total score of 53.9 points for women's economic inclusion.

Failing to include 51% of its workforce economically and politically is a serious problem for a country with ambitions to become an emerging country by 2035. To support the political and economic inclusion of women in Cameroon and create a new generation of Cameroonian businesswomen, the main objective of the project «Strengthening the economic and political inclusion of women for inclusive and sustainable development in Cameroon (RIEPF)» is to encourage female entrepreneurship, promote the financial and economic empowerment of women and reduce disparities between men and women. for sustainable and inclusive development in Cameroon. This is in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 17.

Africa has the highest percentage of female entrepreneurship in the world (24%). So

it's no secret that the continent is fertile ground for female entrepreneurship. African entrepreneurs contrast with 9% of women in the Middle East, 6% of women in Europe and Central Asia and 11% of women in the South East Asia-Pacific region. It therefore appears that women's entrepreneurship is the most effective short-term policy instrument for improving the quality of employment prospects and empowering women. This will contribute to Member States' economic growth plans and Africa's structural transformation agenda, all of which seek to reduce poverty, empower women and improve the financial security of families and communities. With this in mind, the RIEPF project aims to promote female entrepreneurship in Cameroon by empowering women and encouraging their active participation in the political system. This will enable them to gain access to the country's governing bodies and defend their rights and ambitions more effectively, with a view to creating a new generation of businesswomen in Cameroon.



1

Presentation of Cameroon Business Women Association (GFAC)

GFAC is a non-political association of women engaged in business activities. It was created in 1984 and its statutes were registered on 24 January 1989. It is governed at central level by a General Assembly and an Executive Committee, which is vested with the broadest statutory powers to administer and represent the organization.

GFAC is a member of :

- The World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM);
- Cameroon Business Forum (CBF);
- Competitiveness committee;
- Chambre de Commerce, Industry and Craft (CCIMA);
- National Social Dialogue Committee
- Steering committee for Cameroon competitiveness support mechanism (DACC);
- The MINREX-CNCC platform in partnership with the Commonwealth.

GFAC is based in Yaoundé Ngoa-Ekelle, Reunification boulevard. It was inaugurated on 15 September 2020. This 4-storey building houses a 3-star hotel with 23 bedrooms, 3 meeting rooms, a restaurant, a banquet hall and car parking space. This headquarters building houses: administrative offices; an

incubation center for Cameroonian women and girls and a luxury hotel.

GFAC is also present in the 10 regions of Cameroon.

1. Motto

GFAC motto is: «ALONE WE ARE INVISIBLE, TOGETHER WE ARE INVINCIBLE».

2. Purpose

The aim of GFAC is to «Help women to become self-sufficient in self-initiated professional activities».

Objectives

Specifically, GFAC aims to :

- Represent working women vis-à-vis public authorities and private bodies;
- Ensure the application of the principle that women have equal rights with men,
- in accordance with the action programme drawn up from time to time by the Executive Committee of the Association of Women World Business Leaders, of which GFAC is a member;
- To study and defend the rights and general

interests of working women and women's enterprise in general;

- To campaign to inform working women of the positions that will be open to them, to encourage and support women's candidacies for professional bodies and all state bodies dealing with economic issues;
- To inform and document members on all general issues concerning their dual status as women and business owners;
- To implement all means likely to promote and consolidate investments, to facilitate or develop the commercial, service and industrial activities of women, to improve or the results of these activities;
- Provide information and training for women on existing activities and their environment, and provide them with the necessary assistance.

3. GFAC partners

- For the proper implementation of its activities, GFAC's main partners are:
 - Government structures: MINPMEESA, MINFI, MINEPAT.
 - Technical and Financial Partners: EU/DACC, ADB.
 - Employer/trade union organisations: GL-CAM, FCEM.

4. Sources of funding

- GFAC's sources of funding are mainly made up of :
 - Membership fees;
 - Member subscriptions
 - State subsidies;
 - Income from movable and immovable assets;

- Subsidies, donations and legalises;
- Loans that GFAC may take out with credit institutions;
- Contributions from public and private bodies;
- Services directly or indirectly related to GFAC's missions.

5. Delimitation and segmentation of GFAC's field of activity

According to the texts governing the operation of GFAC, its field of activity is built around the following points:

- Organisation, promotion and development ;
- Information, technical cooperation and training
- Protection of rights and legal assistance
- Material aid and assistance and ;
- External relations, events, visits and conferences.

Its activities focus on the following main areas:

- promoting and developing the commercial, service and industrial activities of working women and women's enterprise;
- informing and training women about existing activities and economic development opportunities;
- Protecting the rights of working women and providing them with legal assistance;
- developing partnerships (external relations, events, visits and conferences)
- material aid and assistance for women



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2- Presentation of the project

Strengthening Women's Economic and Political Inclusion for an Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Cameroon (Project-RIEF)

A. Creating a new generation of women entrepreneurs in Cameroon

1. Training women in income-generating activities based on growth sectors and the social and solidarity economy in Cameroon

- Agricultural sector
- Agri-business and processing sector
- Handicraft sector
- New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT) sector

2. Women's business incubation

- Capacity-building in business creation and management
- Support for the creation and formalisation of businesses to ensure the transition of businesses from the informal to the formal sector.

B. Technical assistance to businesses to set up business pillars

1. Technical assistance to businesses

- Business plan
- Business diagnosis
- Setting up a business accounting system
- Setting up a business commercial management system
- ICT intergration

2. Financial inclusion of businesses

- Setting up partnerships between the Incubation Centre and credit institutions

- Establishment of a partnership between the Incubation Centre and Debt Collection Agencies
- Setting up zero-interest micro-credits for start-ups
- Setting up a post-credit monitoring committee.

C. Political inclusion of women

- Reduce gender-based violence in Cameroon by 20%.
- Facilitate women's access to decision-making bodies in Cameroon
- Reduce early marriages by 30%.
- Reduce disparities between men and women
- Training community relays to raise awareness of the positive impact of women's political inclusion on good governance
- Advocacy efforts leading to political reforms and improvements in social justice.

D. Measurement (result and impact)

- Empowerment of 10,000 women, i.e. 1,000 per region of Cameroon;
- Creation of 1,000 businesswomen in Cameroon, i.e. 100 per region;
- Raising awareness among 1,500,000 men and women about gender-based violence and early marriage, i.e. 150,000 per region;
- Facilitating the schooling of 10,000 young girls, i.e. 1,000 per region.

INCUBATION CENTER OF GFAC



3 - Outline of the conference

A. General objectives of the conference

The aim of this conference is to consolidate and harmonize the various initiatives and assets aimed at strengthening policies to support women entrepreneurs, empower women, combat gender-based violence, prevent early marriages in rural areas, and advocate for girls' education.

B. Specific objectives

- To draw attention to the political and economic dynamism of women in Cameroon;
- Provide strategic alliances and cooperative efforts to stimulate women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in Cameroon;
- Raise the necessary funds to help Cameroon produce a new generation of businesswomen;
- Intensify advocacy for an ecosystem conducive to the expansion of women-owned SMEs;
- Intensify advocacy for the involvement of more women in politics;
- Intensify advocacy for the creation of an environment conducive to the development of women and girls in Cameroon.

C. Why should I participate?

To help Cameroon achieve the following objectives:

- Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere in the country;
- Eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Contributing to the elimination of violence against women;

- Ensure equitable access to quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities;
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Promote sustained, shared, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization that benefits all, and encourage innovation;
- Establish sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Partnerships to achieve the SGG.

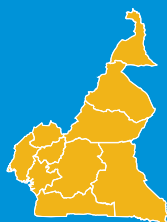
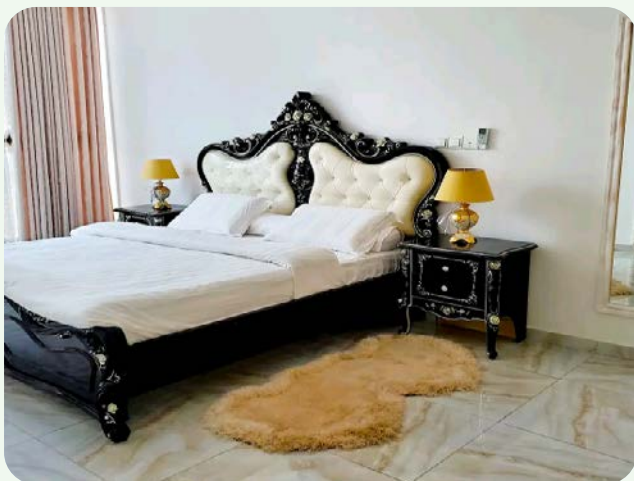
D. Who is involved?

- National and international donors;
- Cameroon's development partners;
- Diplomatic representations;
- Civil society actors;
- Business ecosystem institutions;
- Public administrations;
- Non-governmental organizations, associations, and federations;

E. Summary program (key activities)

- Presentation of a report on the current context of women's economic and political inclusion in Cameroon;
- Plenary conferences on strengthening the economic and political inclusion of; women for inclusive and sustainable development in Cameroon;
- Presentation of the RIEPF project.

Gfac Hotel, for a pleasant stay !!!



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Not-for-profit organisations

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