

Gender and Equality in Public Procurement Republic of Kenya

- Kenya has an affirmative Action law on Public Procurement, that requires all public procuring entities to reserve a not less than thirty percent of their procurement spent for enterprises owned by Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs);
- Previously, Participation of Women and Youth in Public Procurement was minimal due to stiff competition from established firms, gender roles and lack of affirmative action;

Gender Laws for Public Procurement for the Country

- To ensure men and women participate fully in public procurement, the government established a law that created a programme called (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities – AGPO);
- The law requires this to be done through, Procurement Planning, Processing and Asset Disposal;
- To Participate in AGPO enterprises are required to register, be prequalified and certified by the National Treasury;
- The programme is monitored by both the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority and the National Treasury. The monitoring reports are shared with the State Department for Gender Affairs and the State Department for Youth Affairs to facilitate alignment with other women and youth empowerment programmes;

Women Participation in AGPO programme

- The government has registered **62,323** Women enterprises into the AGPO programme since its inception in 2013;
- During the last financial year ending June 2020, women entrepreneurs secured **9,242** contracts worth **Ksh.7,648,078,606** across various procuring entities;
- This represented **49.84%** of the total volume of contracts awarded under the programme;
- However, since inception of the programme a total of **66,055** contracts worth **Ksh.62,540,549,710** have been awarded to women entrepreneurs in the last seven years;
- This represented **52,06%** of the total volume of contracts awarded under the programme;

Lessons Learnt and good Practices

- Capacity building and sensitizations for the target group is paramount;
- Regulation of enterprises wishing to participate is important to safeguard the sanctity of the programme (thro' registration, certification and cert. renewals);
- Financial support, through seed capital;
- Prioritization of payment for these groups is important;
- **Challenges/Way forward**
- Abuse of the registration process;
- Information gap in rural areas with limited media coverage/low level of education;
- Targeted monitoring of the programme by both PPRA and the National Treasury;
- Capacity building of the supply chain officers on the need to mainstream Gender in procurement and overall tenets for the programme;
- Sensitization of the target groups Youth, Women and PWDs on the requirements of the programme;