



Policy Card: W20 Synthesis Summit Policy Lab



Context

The W20 Capsule session, convened under the G20 Entrepreneurship Learning Series, focused on Women’s Financial Inclusion. Led by the Graca Machel Trust with funding from the Anglo American Foundation, the dialogue explored how to create a “feministic financial future” where systemic gender biases are absent from financial systems. The session highlighted the \$42 billion gender financing gap across sub-Saharan Africa and the persistent underrepresentation of women in venture funding (only 2.2% of VC allocated to women-led businesses).

Key Message for Policymakers:

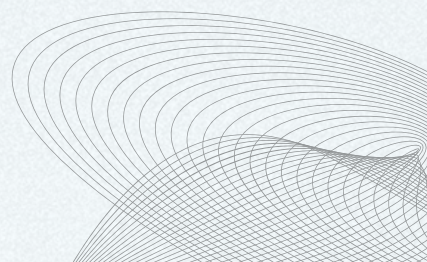
Women’s financial inclusion is not a niche issue—it is a prerequisite for inclusive economic growth. Addressing systemic financing gaps and embedding gender-responsive policies into financial systems will unlock transformative economic and social impact.

Why It Matters for W20:

By tackling financial exclusion, W20 can position women entrepreneurs as central actors in economic transformation, ensuring G20 priorities on inclusion and growth deliver tangible benefits for half the population.

Partner Organizations

- ANDE (Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs): Convenor of the G20 Entrepreneurship Learning Series.
- Graca Machel Trust: Lead partner and long-standing champion of women’s economic empowerment across Africa.
- Allan Gray orbis Foundation: Sponsoring partner for the Africa Capsule session, supporting inclusive economic growth.





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Insights from Scenario Planning

1. Participants envisioned a bold shift toward a feministic financial future and identified key systemic barriers and opportunities:
 - **Barriers:** reliance on traditional collateral, outdated entrepreneurship curricula, and structural exclusion from financial decision-making.
 - **Opportunities:** blended finance models lowering borrowing costs, alternative credit assessments using social capital and digital data, and network-based advocacy for policy reform.
 - **Technology as an enabler:** digital footprints, mobile money, and point-of-sale data can expand credit access, especially for rural and informal women entrepreneurs.

Africa (South Africa)

1. Integrated Financial Support Ecosystem
 - Build public-private partnerships to aggregate funding opportunities.
 - Provide pre-investment technical support to women entrepreneurs.
2. Deploy innovative financing models that reduce dependency on traditional collateral.
- 3.2. Financial Literacy Integration in Education Systems
4. Reform curricula to include contemporary financial and entrepreneurship concepts.
5. Develop digital learning platforms for financial literacy in low-connectivity environments.
6. Launch practical school-based entrepreneurship programs to prepare youth, especially young women, for real-world financial engagement.

Global Recommendations

1. Strengthen local ecosystems as the foundation of global entrepreneurship resilience.
 - Pilot township hubs in Africa and green/digital skills programs in Asia.
2. Integrate peri-urban and rural youth into policy design.
 - Ensure youth from the margins are systematically included in policy forums.
 - Align local innovation with global sustainability agendas.
3. Foster peer-learning across regions.
 - Position youth as co-authors of global entrepreneurship policies.