



African Women's Entrepreneurship Program

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INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



SPURRING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IS A POLICY PRIORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

More than
80%

of AWEPParticipants expanded their business networks, including fellow women entrepreneurs from their AWEPParticipants-IVLP cohort across Africa, U.S. women entrepreneurs and other business representatives, and U.S. Embassy contacts in their countries.

72%

of AWEPParticipants expanded into new local, regional, and/or international markets.

More than
60%

reported both increased sales and revenue or profits as a result of their exchange.

Find out more from the 2017 AWEPParticipants evaluation here:
<http://state-low.box.com/v/AWEPParticipants17Eval>

THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (AWEPParticipants), launched in 2010, is an outreach, education, and engagement initiative designed to introduce sub-Saharan African businesswomen to American approaches to leadership, business growth, forging networks, and becoming voices of change. The program supports the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by highlighting trade liberalization and international finance movements in Africa.

AWEPParticipants U.S.-Africa Exchange

Through the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), AWEPParticipants participants spend three weeks interacting with private companies, policy makers, nonprofit groups, business incubators, and multilateral development organizations across the United States. Programming is designed to encourage AWEPParticipants participants and U.S. entrepreneurs to learn effective business strategies and advocacy from one another.

AFRICAN WOMEN: Drivers of Their Economies

AWEPParticipants's 200+ alumnae have created over 20 women's business associations and thousands of jobs in sub-Saharan Africa. Each year's participants add to the strength and diversity of the AWEPParticipants network, using their IVLP experience to improve businesses and uplift communities. Their newfound entrepreneurial skills and connections serve as positive vectors of local change.

A participant from Madagascar shared her new insight into her role as an entrepreneur:

"It's about working on society's behalf. I am looking at ways of integrating corporate social responsibility."

A Namibian participant spoke to the strength of AWEPParticipants connections:

"Coming together [with other alumnae] and continuing to have these conversations is closing the gap in the business community and is helping us network together."



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs ★ U.S. Department of State

<http://eca.state.gov/awep>

Twitter: #AWEPParticipants