



## Inclusive Growth: Gender Lens Investing (GLI) Programme in Bangladesh

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| <b>Swiss Portfolio Outcome:</b> | Sustainable and More Inclusive Economic Development |
| <b>Implementation Period:</b>   | March 2024 – September 2027                         |
| <b>Implementing Partner:</b>    | Truvalu.enterprises Ltd.                            |
| <b>Swiss Contribution:</b>      | CHF 600'000   |
| <b>Modality:</b>                | Contribution  |

### General Description

With 60.1% of the gap bridged, economic participation is the second most vulnerable sector, according to the Global Gender Gaps Report of 2023. Over the past few years, there has been a remarkable slow pace of progress in closing the gender gap. In 2023, a mere 0.3% improvement of Gender Gap score in the Economic Opportunity dimension is observed over the previous year's score of 59.8%. Despite making up over 41.1% of the workforce worldwide, just 32.2% leadership positions are held by women. Also, a 23% gender pay discrepancy has been observed. If women continue facing barriers in the workplace, unequal pay, limited opportunity of leadership and access to finance, it will take 169 years to achieve gender parity in women's economic involvement. One effective strategy to increase women's economic opportunities is by promoting gender lens investing, which directs funding to businesses promoting gender equality. Gender lens investing is an approach that considers gender-based variables to manage investment portfolios, such as women's ownership and leadership, their involvement in the workforce, and the offered services and products for women. GLI blends the pursuit of social well-being and gender equality with the goal of financial rewards. It gives businesses an opportunity to develop financially while being socially inclusive for women.

### Objectives

The overall goal of the programme is to mainstream GLI in Bangladesh, with a particular focus on fostering the growth of entrepreneurship that promotes gender-inclusion and women economic empowerment.

### Lines of Action / Components

- Providing technical assistance, including training, to gender-focused startups and small and medium sized enterprises.
- Awareness building of the ecosystem actors through knowledge sessions with capital providers and development of knowledge products to define the business case of GLI.
- Development of an applicable GLI framework by integrating global best practices.
- Dissemination of GLI framework for adoption among relevant financial institutions and investors.

### Intended Impact in terms of Systemic Change

Entities of the entrepreneurial ecosystem are aware of GLI for gender inclusion and financial growth. Businesses adopt better gender-based practices and policies to promote gender equality. Relevant financial institutions and investors are equipped with frameworks and guidelines to influence and provide capital to business for accelerating gender equality

### Intervention Targets

Direct Beneficiaries

- 200 gender focused small and medium sized enterprises or startups are capacitated through business development service and networking events.
- 100 ecosystem actors, including financial institutions and investors, are aware of the GLI framework and its applicability.