



African Women's Entrepreneurship Program

International Visitor Leadership Program Exchange



Spurring economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa is a policy priority for the United States.

The African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) directly supports the Presidential Policy Directive on U.S. strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa by (1) supporting economic growth and trade through incorporating women into the economic sector and (2) promoting opportunity and development throughout the continent for women and youth.

The African Women's Entrepreneurship Program,

launched by the U.S. State Department in July 2010, assists women entrepreneurs across sub-Saharan Africa. These small and medium business owners are transforming their societies through economic development and social advocacy in their communities. The **more than 200 alumnae** of AWEP have created more than **17,000 jobs** and established **22 women's business associations** across Sub-Saharan Africa that are transforming their societies and spurring economic growth.

AWEP U.S.-Africa Exchange

Through the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), approximately 30 African women entrepreneurs from across Africa arrive in the United States each year to attend professional development meetings and network with U.S. policy makers, companies, industry associations, non-profit groups, and multilateral development organizations. The three-week program allows the AWEP participants to share best practices, discuss common challenges and learn about the global economy and factors that lead to long-term business growth.

African Women: Drivers of Their Economies

AWEP promotes business growth and increased trade both regionally and to U.S. markets, including through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). AWEP empowers thousands of African women entrepreneurs to create better business environments, spur economic growth and become voices of change in their communities. AWEP alumnae include:

Minata Kone, Burkina Faso: Ms. Kone returned home and partnered with Costco to provide training to help local cashew farmers in 12 villages to produce more and better cashews. This training enabled the producers to access the international marketplace and built bridges between American and Burkinabé entrepreneurs.

Namakau Likando, Zambia: Ms. Likando is a pioneer of low cost organic farming techniques in Africa. Her success in business has allowed her to assist her community by introducing HIV awareness programs and by contributing funds for increased education opportunities.



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