

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – FIRMS

(Preparation of two Pan African Reports Summarizing Policy Interventions Driving Women Small Medium Enterprises’(WMSMEs) Access to Finance in Africa)

Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire

Developing an Enabling Financial Policy and Regulatory Environment for Women SMEs in Africa

Women Small and Medium Enterprise (WSME) Sector

Financing Agreement reference: G-Z1-ID0-ZZZ-028

Project ID No.: G-Z1-ID0-ZZZ-028

The Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) *has received* financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Developing an Enabling Financial Policy and Regulatory Environment for Women SMEs in Africa and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for the **Preparation of two (2) Pan African Reports Summarizing Policy Interventions Driving Women Small Medium Enterprises’(WMSMEs) Access to Finance in Africa**.

This project aims to develop two (2) Pan-African Reports that analyze the financial policy and regulatory landscape across Africa, with a particular focus on women-owned micro, small, and medium enterprises (WMSMEs) and their access to finance. These reports will serve as key knowledge products for financial policymakers and regulators, offering insights into policy effectiveness, emerging trends, regional disparities, and opportunities to advance financial inclusion. The first report is expected to be ready by June 2026 and second report is expected to be ready by April 2027. Specifically, the consultancy aims to:

- a) Assess challenges hindering WMSMEs’ access to finance across different African countries.
- b) Analyze key policy interventions driving financial inclusion for WMSMEs, identifying what is working and where gaps remain.
- c) Examine regional trends, disparities, and opportunities based on both global datasets and national-level data.
- d) Provide evidence-based recommendations, tailored to the African region, to support policymakers and regulators in developing and strengthening gender responsive financial inclusion policies, including impact measurement methodologies.
- e) Ensure continuity between the two reports, with the second report building on the first by measuring progress, assessing impact, and identifying new areas for action.
- f) Contribute to peer learning and capacity-building efforts under the African Financial Inclusion Policy Initiative (AfPI) by sharing insights, best practices, and case studies that can inform future policy decisions.

The AFI now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (provide brochures of previous assignments undertaken; describe similar assignments undertaken in the past; indicate experience in similar conditions/Sub-Saharan Africa; and avail a list of appropriate key experts/staff with skills and experience for the assignment). Consultants may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's ***"Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations"*** October 2015 which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours between 0900 – 1700 hours, Cote d'Ivoire local time.

Expressions of interest including supporting documents must be emailed to the address below by **4-June-2025** at 17:00 hours, Cote d'Ivoire local time and mention **"EOI Preparation of Two Pan-African Reports"**.

Attn: *Africa Regional Office, Alliance for Financial Inclusion*
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