

## **Workshops – WEE**

### **SDC Global Gender f2f 2019**

#### **1. Background on WEE workshops**

Women's Economic Empowerment is a key success factor for thriving inclusive economies. In addition, many studies repeatedly show that diverse teams lead to better performance and results. Furthermore, closing the gender gap in the economy leads to inclusive growth, e.g. closing the gender gaps in product access across the retail banking sector could unlock at least \$50B in additional annual revenue (Mary Ellen at the Savings and Credit Forum, 2018 at SDC).

Similarly, the effectiveness report of SDC on Gender Equality has also shown that gender sensitive projects perform better overall. Besides the convincing business case behind women's economic empowerment, it is also one of the thematic pillars of SDC's strategic goal number 7 of gender equality and a human right. These two workshop sessions make a deep dive into two specific aspects on the pathway to Women's Economic Empowerment and explore how we are not only gender sensitive in our programming, but instead become gender transformative.

#### **Session 2: Will pink check books reach the 1 billion unbanked women ?**

Financial Inclusion is a key factor in economic empowerment. Women face however higher barriers when it comes to access to finance at different levels within the system. Norms, regulations and questions of access and agency shape realm women are exposed to, which is (too) often very restrictive. The second session focuses on women's financial inclusion and the question on **how can we trigger (transformative) change within or of the financial system to ensure financial inclusion of women?**

After a short theoretical input on financial inclusion, we will dive into concrete programs/projects addressing financial inclusion as a main or subcomponent. We will analyze them according to the following questions:

- **Is the program designed in an inclusive way and consequently is able to reach the unbanked women? What is missing and where are the gaps?**
- **How should the program (theory of change) be changed to become more inclusive?**
- **What issues does the project face on the ground and how can the program take them into account to become**
  - o **Gender Sensitive**
  - o **Gender Transformative**

#### **Key Resource Person**

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Project Examples to be confirmed