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# WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

## MID-YEAR UPDATE 2019

**GROW**

### Increasing the proportion of gender-inclusive and women-led businesses in our portfolio.

We conducted **market studies** in Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines to assess opportunities for reaching more women farmers, employees, and entrepreneurs. Additionally, through our new **pay-for-impact partnership** with IDB Lab, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Roots of Impact, we reached four new businesses in Latin America that are both gender-inclusive *and* early-stage. Early-stage businesses are especially in need of Root Capital's financing—working with these enterprises, we are not only reaching more women, but supporting those with the least access to the credit.

**CULTIVATE**

### Strengthening the capacity of women working in agricultural enterprises.

We launched a deep-dive review of our strategy to **enhance gender inclusion in our advisory services**. Over the next two months, through a series of interviews with our clients and advisors, we'll assess barriers to women's participation in Root Capital trainings and recommend strategies to improve gender balance. As part of our **Talent Partnerships Program**, we also placed 34 interns—21 of them women—for **one-year internships** within agricultural enterprises, where they can hone their skills while improving the businesses' operations.

**INNOVATE**

### Supporting agricultural enterprises to design and implement strategies that benefit women.

We launched our first **Gender Equity Grants (GEGs)** with a specific climate resilience focus. With three clients in Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, we facilitated diagnostics to prepare them to implement projects to strengthen the climate resilience of women farmers. This included **climate risk and adaptation training** to map specific climate-related risks for women associated with these businesses. Over the next two months, grant recipients will design and begin implementing their projects.

**AMPLIFY**

### Demonstrating to others how to holistically impact women across agricultural value chains.

We published a business plan outlining what we've learned since launching the WAI in 2012 and how we plan to **scale the initiative over the next three years**. Almost 400 people signed up for a webinar about the business plan. Additionally, in partnership with Value for Women and with support from Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, we are **evaluating our new climate-lens GEGs**. We will share lessons learned with other lenders, investors, and practitioners.

## 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

43%

Outstanding Balance to Gender-Inclusive Clients

48%

Gender-Inclusive Clients

16%

Women-Led Businesses

39%

Women Farmers Reached

20%

Women Participants in Advisory Workshops

38%

Clients with Programs Specifically Designed for Women

\*January 1-June 30, 2019

## CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2012

GOAL BY 2022: 443K

WOMEN FARMERS REACHED 420K

GOAL BY 2022: 13.5K

WOMEN EMPLOYEES REACHED 11K

GOAL BY 2022: 100

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS REACHED 65



Antoine Ntuen/Coutume Café

### CLIENT STORY

## Rebuild Women's Hope

LOCATION: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRODUCT: COFFEE

Rebuild Women's Hope supports women coffee farmers in the DRC, a country mired in political conflict, extreme poverty, and an epidemic of sexual violence that has marked it as one of the most dangerous places in the world for women and girls. The founder of RWH, Marceline Budza, was inspired to establish the cooperative in 2013 after witnessing the economic and social struggles her mother and other women faced in their country. Today, RWH reaches more than 2,000 women coffee farmers across South Kivu, accounting for 79% of their supplier base. Root Capital disbursed its first loan to RWH this year—a loan without which RWH would have been unable to pay farmers during the July coffee harvest. By investing in Rebuild Women's Hope, Root Capital is supporting the women of DRC to build a brighter future for themselves, their communities, and their country.



Launched in 2012, Root Capital's Women in Agriculture Initiative supports agricultural enterprises to generate opportunities that are inclusive of women throughout their value chains. To learn more, visit [rootcapital.org](http://rootcapital.org).