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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

**2019 BY THE NUMBERS**

- **48%** Gender-Inclusive Clients
- **43%** Outstanding Balance to 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

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**CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2012**

- **WOMEN FARMERS REACHED** 420k
- **WOMEN EMPLOYEES REACHED** 11k
- **WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS REACHED** 65

**GOAL BY 2022:**
- **443k** Women Farmers Reached
- **13.5k** Women Employees Reached
- **100** Women Entrepreneurs Reached

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**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.