

CATALYZING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY THROUGH WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

ENVIRONMENT

Today, there are an estimated 12 million women-owned small-and-medium sized businesses around the world, and 7 million of those businesses are in developing countries. Globally, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 45% of formal, permanent, full time employment and more than 70% of the creation of net job growth in low and middle income countries. Women business owners face disproportionate challenges in accessing the services and support needed to grow their businesses, including financial services, business training, networks and access to markets.

PHILOSOPHY

At Vital Voices, we believe that women-owned businesses are a powerful force for inclusive growth and prosperity. By supporting women at the helm of SME businesses, the VV GROW Fellowship helps women create jobs, catalyze economic growth and drive social change around the world.

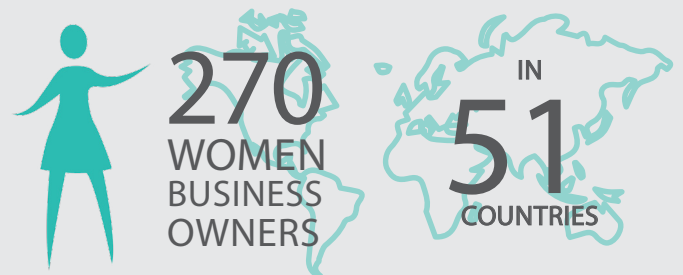
IMPACT

Established in 2013 in partnership with the ExxonMobil Foundation, the VV GROW Fellowship is a highly competitive one-year accelerator program designed specifically to meet the needs of women SME owners. We work with them to address key obstacles to growth and enhance their leadership and management skills. The VV GROW Fellowship provides customized business skills training, technical assistance, leadership development and access to networks.

IF WOMEN PARTICIPATED EQUALLY IN THE ECONOMY, GLOBAL GDP COULD INCREASE BY



\$28 TRILLION



IN MORE THAN 15 INDUSTRIES



The VV GROW Fellowship invests in women business owners to grow their businesses and increase their leadership impact, in order to create jobs and spur inclusive economic growth. Two years after the fellowship:



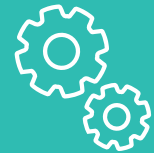
85% OF FELLOWS USED AT LEAST ONE CONNECTION TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS*



FELLOWS GREW SALES ON AVERAGE BY 42%*



40% OF FELLOWS INCREASED EMPLOYEES*



100% OF FELLOWS MADE CHANGES TO THEIR BUSINESS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY*

*Among 2013-2014 fellows



Patricia Castellanos de Muñoz

Company: CEDAF
Industry: Medical Services
Country: Guatemala
Class: 2015–2016



“In Central America, it’s not easy for women who want to be self-sufficient. It took years for me to gain the respect of my male colleagues because they didn’t think I should be running my own practice. I want to help other women navigate this landscape.”

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced Finance Management Skills
- Increased Marketing and Promotion Efforts
- Conducted Profitability Analyses
- Boosted International Service Offerings
- Expanded Market Research Capabilities

SALES HAVE GROWN BY 33% AND HAS HIRED 3 NEW EMPLOYEES.



Habiba Ali

Company: Sosai Renewable Energies
Industry: Renewable Energy
Country: Nigeria
Class: 2015–2016



“I used to hide in the office because I didn’t want people to know that it was a woman behind the business. But those women inspired me, and I’ve given up bothering about what the community thinks. And I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the response.”

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed Leadership Skills
- Achieved Rural Market Expansion
- Launched Female Mentorship Program
- Expanded Access to Business Networks
- Launched Local Energy Entrepreneurship Initiative for Women

SALES HAVE GROWN BY 31%.



Nadia Wehbe

Company: Baby Arabia
Industry: Education
Country: U.A.E
Class: 2014-2015



“My new media strategy allows for greater exposure and market reach. I truly believe that the increased investment in PR initiatives is responsible for Baby Arabia’s recent business growth.”

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced Employee Relations
- Improved Public Relations Skills
- Launched Language Expansion
- Developed a Media Strategy
- Increased Public Speaking Abilities
- Improved Website and Content Management

SALES HAVE GROWN BY 16% AND HAS HIRED 3 NEW EMPLOYEES.

OUR PARTNERS



FOUNDING GLOBAL PARTNER

The ExxonMobil Foundation is the primary philanthropic arm of Exxon Mobil Corporation (NYSE:XOM) in the United States. The foundation and corporation engage in a range of philanthropic activities that advance education, promote women as catalysts for economic development and combat malaria. In the United States, ExxonMobil supports initiatives to improve math and science education at the K-12 and higher education levels. In 2015, the ExxonMobil Foundation together with Exxon Mobil Corporation, its divisions and affiliates along with employees and retirees, provided \$272 million in contributions worldwide. www.exxonmobil.com/community.



PLATINUM SPONSOR

FedEx is dedicated to transforming lives and economies around the world and in the communities where we live and operate. The company is committed to investing \$200 million in more than 200 communities by 2020 through collaborations with trusted organizations around the world. FedEx invests in programs that: foster entrepreneurship and create employment pathways for underserved populations; enhance sustainable transportation solutions and make our roads safer; and provide relief aid and residency measures to communities that need them most. The company donated over \$42 million in cash and in-kind services in FY15. <http://csr.fedex.com>.

ABOUT US



VITAL VOICES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Vital Voices Global Partnership invests in women leaders who improve the world. Founded by then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and guided by the belief that women are essential to progress in their communities, we have partnered with leaders from more than 140 countries who advance economic opportunity, increase political and public leadership, and end violence against women. Our programs in strategic planning, business, advocacy and communications build critical skills needed for creating transformational change at scale. Through our global platform, women leaders expand their connections and visibility, accelerating shared progress for all.

To learn more about the VV GROW Fellowship, please contact info@vitalvoices.org with the subject line “VV GROW Fellowship.” Please also visit our website at www.vitalvoices.org/vvgrow.