Innovative Financing for Development

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Context

$2.5 trillion per annum funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals
Innovative financing for women entrepreneurs

The programme has contributed to unlocking US$59 million in private capital to support women entrepreneurs.

**Women’s Livelihood Bond**
Debt security mobilizing private investment capital to fund a portfolio of loans to women-focused borrowers.

**Impact Investment Fund**
Private equity gender lens investing fund developed for SE Asia and Bangladesh.

**Guarantee Fund**
Credit guarantee fund across 5 financial service providers, targeting small enterprises.

**Challenge Fund**
Co-funds and provides technical and financial support to companies to pilot innovative digital solutions and/or digital financial solutions which support women entrepreneurs.
Innovations at the intersection of finance and technology

**SKYEYE LTD**: Samoa’s first payment gateway, integrating mobile money payment services, bank partners’ and SkyEye’s Maua online marketplace

**HFC BANK**: Digital savings and digital savings-based micro loans solution

**SPARROW PAY**: Financial and digital literacy training, and a digital marketplace linked with a bulk payment system

**SHE INVESTMENTS**: First ever mobile bookkeeping app in Cambodia supporting women to maintain the financial records needed to access loans

**IFARMER**: Digital agriculture lending platform linking urban farm investors to rural women farmers, and enhanced with training & financial management support
Government Innovative Financing Policy

**Market Facilitator**
Impact stock exchanges (Malaysia)

**Market Regulator**
Fiscal incentives (Thailand)

**Market Participant**
Access to capital (Bangladesh)
Social impact bonds (Republic of Korea)
Outcome Fund (Malaysia)
Key Questions

Would these innovative financing mechanisms and policy measures work in the education sector?

Would they be relevant to the Pacific context?
Recommendations

1. Problem first, solution second.
2. Use the relevant innovative financing mechanism.
3. Engage private sector tech expertise.
4. Meet a real education/skills need.
5. Implement incentivizing policies.
6. Consider the investment culture.
Thank You

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