

to promote women's access to technical and vocational education and training, as well as to advance women's integration in dynamic value chains that are economically and environmentally sustainable. This increases access to decent work, helps women and girls become more competitive and innovative, and increases their employment and market opportunities. By seeking to expand the ability of governments to enable women's full participation in decision-making through support of gender-based analyses and gender-responsive budgeting in public management, Canada is also helping to support women's leadership in businesses, communities and institutions, and tackle their economic and political marginalization.

The sustainability of economic empowerment can be fragile, as a change in one's conditions can quickly erase the gains of years of hard work, leading to destitution and disempowerment. As such, financial inclusion, improved social protections, and the adoption of techniques that mitigate the impacts of climate change, are important policy objectives for Canada to increase women's economic resilience, particularly in rural areas.

Further examples of concrete initiatives for Canada to increase women's economic empowerment are noted below:

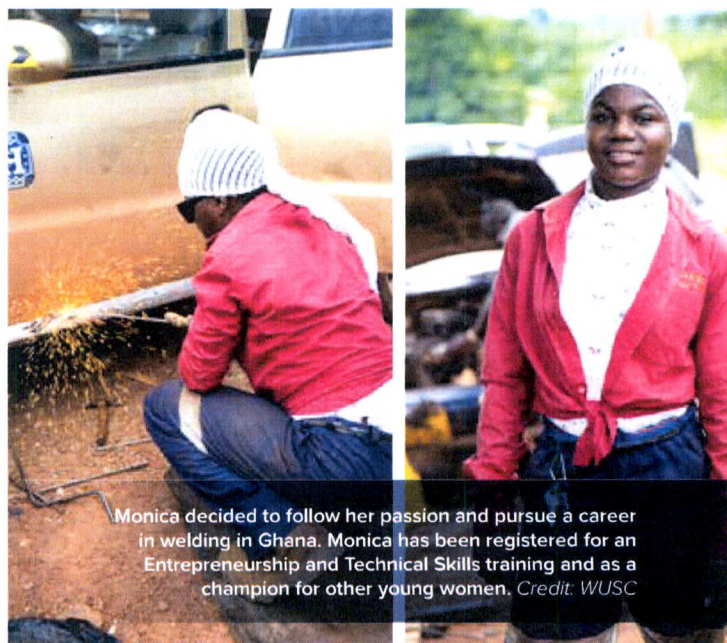
Advancing Women's Economic Rights and Leadership

In 2017, Canada made a strategic decision to make women's rights organizations and movements key partners in the design and implementation of international assistance initiatives, recognizing their critical role in achieving social change for gender equality. Canada committed \$150 million to the *Women's Voice and Leadership Program* to support local women's organizations and movements that advance women's rights in developing countries.

Canada's International Development Research Centre's *Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women Program* opens promising avenues with new approaches to address disempowerment resulting from the disproportionate burden of care shouldered by women. This seeks to address gender norms, particularly social and family expectations regarding unpaid work, which constitute a systemic barrier to women's economic empowerment.

Decent Jobs and Women-Led Enterprises

Canada contributed \$20 million to the *Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative*, a World Bank mechanism that aims to promote women's entrepreneurship in developing countries and \$15 million to the Digital Livelihoods: Youth and the Future of Work at Scale project, which trains women and youth to use digital tools.¹ These initiatives help women entrepreneurs access capital, networks and markets in higher value-added sectors.



Monica decided to follow her passion and pursue a career in welding in Ghana. Monica has been registered for an Entrepreneurship and Technical Skills training and as a champion for other young women. Credit: WUSC

¹ The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) was launched at the G20 Leaders' Summit in July to harness the public and private sectors to open new doors for women entrepreneurs across the developing world. With funding from fourteen governments, this collaborative partnership among governments, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and other stakeholders has been designed to unlock financing for women-led/owned businesses in developing countries, including in the most challenging environments.