### 9th Conference of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network e-Government Procurement Conference 2023 Session 6: Sustainable Public Procurement

# Sustainable Public Procurement Socially responsive public procurement: challenges and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean

Leslie Harper, Senior Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank
October 19, 2023



### Social sustainability and public procurement

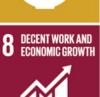
Socially responsive public procurement is the harnessing of the purchasing power of the state to advance public policy objectives in a country.



### SUSTAINABLE GEALS





























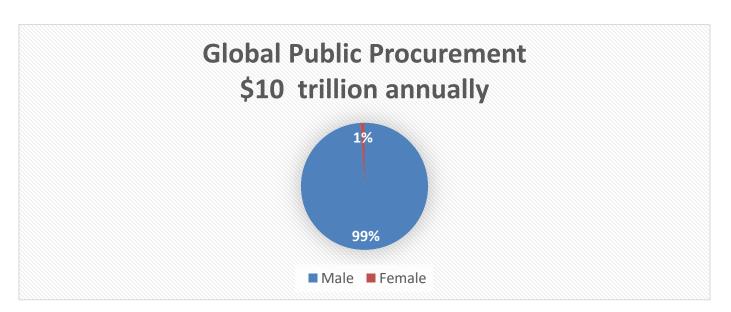






#### Size of women's participation in public procurement

Women-led businesses are underrepresented in public procurement awards.





## Barriers that explain this low participation



- Access to credit
- Lack of preparation to take advantage of digital technologies,
- Limited experience in participating in the public sector market, and
- Limited knowledge about the requirements to carry out transactions with public entities



## IDB Support for Socially Responsive Public procurement



















#### Lessons learned/challenges

- Political will
- Public procurement ecosystem
- Digital divide
- Use of Data
- Capacity building
- Have clear what you want to achieve and why

#### **Opportunities**

 Support not just the participation of womenowned businesses but also firms with gender sensitive policies.

 Explore support for the inclusion of other disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community.

 Increase the use and scope of technological tools in public procurement.

## Thank you!

leslieha@iadb.org

