



Projected Impact



\$15 million raised from private investors through 2024 to invest in, scale, and accelerate women-owned or led businesses; and access to venture capital funding provided for 12 women-led or owned businesses.



Accelerate 120 women-led or owned businesses in seven West African countries through providing business development services and technical support.



200 jobs created and 20,000 participants economically benefiting directly or indirectly by the investments through 2024.



[Superfluid Labs](#) in Ghana, a data analytics and artificial intelligence company, was selected as the first investment for ShEquity, an investment vehicle focusing on providing investments for African female entrepreneurs and innovators. Photo credit: Superfluid Labs

About ShEquity Partners

[ShEquity Partners \(ShEquity\)](#) is an investment firm providing smart investments for female-led and owned businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. ShEquity's vision is to close the gender funding gap in Africa. ShEquity facilitates access to a pool of de-risked deals to investors composed of innovative, impactful, and scalable female-led and owned businesses. ShEquity aims for a triple bottom line: financial, social and environmental returns that directly correlate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more information, please visit the ShEquity website

Co-Investment Partnership

The USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub (Trade Hub) awarded a \$1.2 million co-investment grant to ShEquity to provide fair access to venture development services and venture capital funding for women-led or owned businesses, with a priority for businesses impacted by COVID-19. As a catalyst grant, the Trade Hub grant will enable ShEquity to raise \$15 million from impact-oriented private investors. ShEquity will support 120 growth-constrained businesses in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria with venture building and mentoring services. In addition, through the co-investment partnership, ShEquity will select 12 high-growth startups to receive pre-seed investments of at least \$50,000 each.

Partnership Opportunities

Although women entrepreneurs operate more than 40 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa, they cumulatively face \$42 billion less in financing than their male entrepreneurs due to social and cultural biases. Since 2013, only 3% of early-stage funding went to all-female founded businesses, and in 2021, female founded businesses made exclusively of women received 0.95% of the total raised funds by startups in Africa (\$4.6 billion).

It is estimated that closing the entrepreneurship gender gap could boost the Sub-Saharan African gross domestic product by up to \$316 billion. ShEquity addresses the gender gap in entrepreneurship by combining a business accelerator with seed financing that will cumulatively support 120 women-owned or led businesses and invest in 12 qualifying businesses. The combined accelerator and seed funding approach reduces the probability of investment losses, mitigates exit risks, and enhances the long-term business sustainability of the investees.



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