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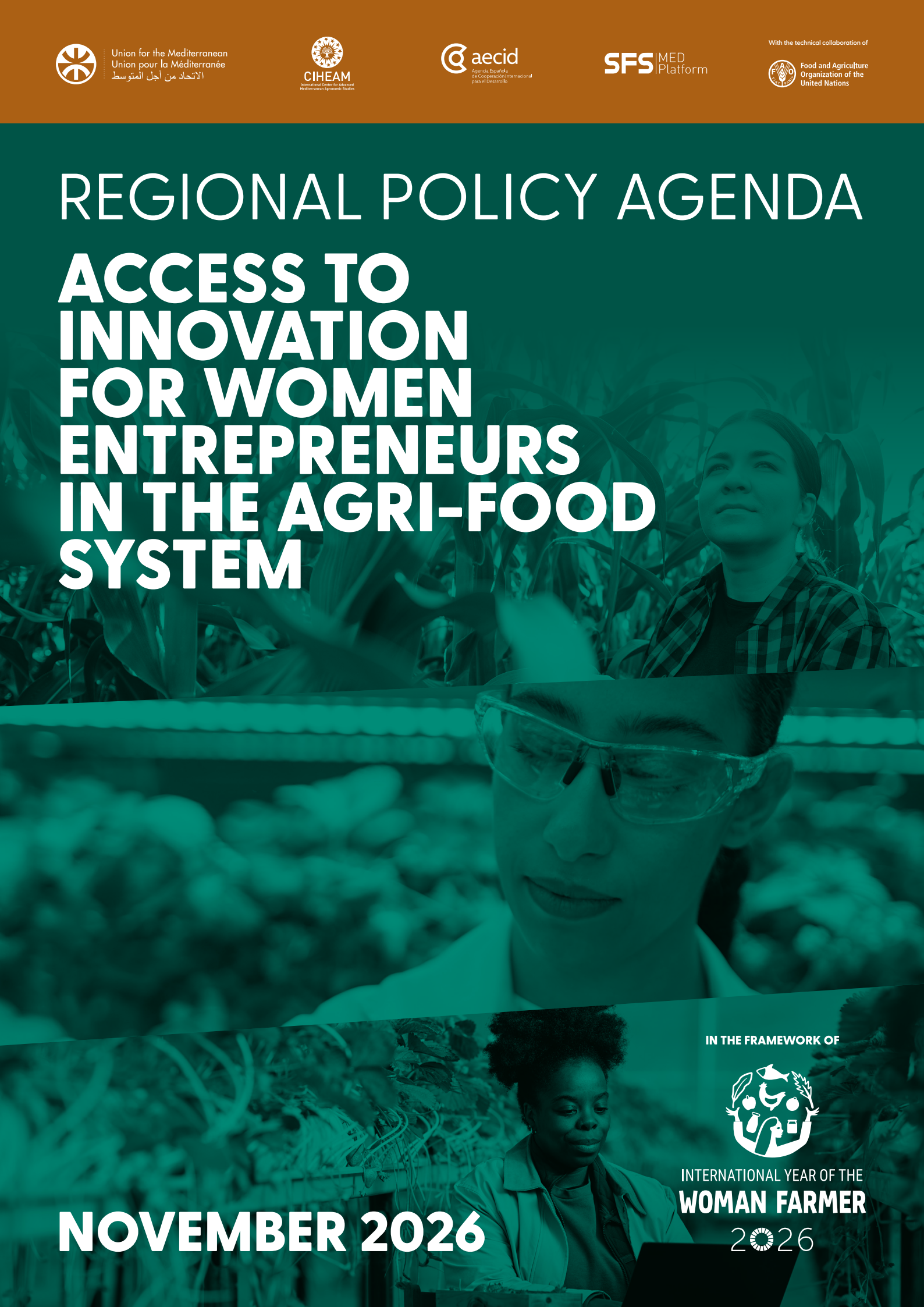
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REGIONAL POLICY AGENDA

ACCESS TO INNOVATION FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM



IN THE FRAMEWORK OF

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

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Context and Rationale

Women entrepreneurs in agri-food systems across the southern and eastern Mediterranean run a significant share of small and medium enterprises in the sector and contribute to local value chains, household income, and rural employment in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Algeria. Their enterprises consistently remain below their productive potential, not because the enterprises lack viability but because the institutional environment fragments the support they need across separate actors with no obligation to work together.

The primary structural constraint is fragmentation. Support for women entrepreneurs is delivered through disconnected initiatives, with no shared referral mechanism, no common framework for assessing enterprise stage, and no coordination among the institutions responsible for policy, finance, research, extension, standards, and market access. Enterprises stall at predictable transition points: a woman who completes a business support program and is ready for a loan receives no introduction to the finance institution that serves her stage; she must start over, re-explain her enterprise, and meet intake requirements designed for general borrowers, not agri-food producers at a specific development stage. Programs generate participation rather than enterprise progression.

Three features make this a regional problem requiring a regional response. First, the same structural bottlenecks appear across countries with different institutional contexts and levels of development, suggesting systemic rather than country-specific causes. Second, regional instruments that could accelerate change, including Mediterranean agricultural research and innovation programs, regional and international development finance institutions with a MENA agri-food mandate, and United Nations agency programs for the Near East, depend on national systems that can absorb and deploy their outputs. Those systems are currently too fragmented to function as effective counterparts. Third, proven national models for gender-responsive coordination, differentiated finance, research transfer, and rural service delivery exist within the region and have not transferred to countries facing comparable challenges.

This agenda is grounded in a diagnostic mapping of structural gaps across the seven mandate countries, developed through a desk review of more than 120 policy documents, program evaluations, and sector reports organized around four analytical dimensions: policy landscape, institutional programs, financing ecosystem, and innovation and knowledge, assessed through a cross-cutting lens of gender sensitivity and climate and sustainability integration. Structured consultations with 35 practitioners, policymakers, enterprise support providers, and women entrepreneurs across the seven countries complement the diagnostic findings with in-country practitioner perspectives. The eight priority areas emerge from this combined evidence base. This version of the agenda integrates insights and working group proposals from a regional conference held in Tunis on 28-29 October 2026, which convened practitioners, policymakers, enterprise support providers, and women entrepreneurs from the seven mandate countries in structured working groups organized by sub-regional cluster: Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia), Egypt, and Mashreq (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine). The working groups produced specific implementation proposals and the first set of country-level commitments for 2027, now reflected in the proposed actions for each priority area.



Vision and Strategic Objectives

By 2030, women entrepreneurs in agri-food systems across the region should operate within coherent national support environments, advancing through formalization, finance, product development, certification, and market access as a connected progression rather than as isolated stages served by disconnected programs. National institutions, regional programs, and international partners should coordinate, so no woman entrepreneur's enterprise stalls at a transition point due to a lack of institutional cooperation.

The agenda is organized around four strategic objectives:

Obj. 1

Support the establishment of a national coordination function in each participating country to align the institutions responsible for policy, finance, research, and market access for women in agri-food innovation.

Obj. 2

Build an integrated enterprise progression pathway from formalization through market access, with stage-appropriate instruments and defined handover points between institutions.

Obj. 3

Connect national systems to regional instruments, enabling southern and eastern Mediterranean countries to access Mediterranean research outputs, development finance, and international markets.

Obj. 4

Support a shared monitoring and learning framework that tracks enterprise outcomes, not only program participation, and enables evidence-based policy adjustment.

Priority Areas for Action, 2027–2030

Eight interlocking priority areas define the agenda. Each represents a structural bottleneck that no single program or partner can resolve alone and that requires coordinated institutional action. Actions and actors for each priority are set out in the tables below.

The 2027 action targets below are starting baselines, not uniform expectations across all seven countries. Implementation pace will differ by country context. Lebanon is operating under conditions of economic collapse and institutional fragility that affect every priority area, not only finance. Palestine faces movement restrictions and infrastructure constraints that make standard logistics, coordination, and program delivery routes inaccessible. Both countries are included in the architecture, and the working group commitments from Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine confirm engagement, but realistic implementation timelines for Lebanon and Palestine will be agreed at country level and are not expected to match the pace of Egypt or Morocco in the first cycle. Assess first-year progress against what each country can absorb, not a regional average.

Priority 1. National Coordination Function for Women in Agri-Food Innovation

Each participating country should establish or designate a national coordination function: a named institutional home with the mandate to convene the separate actors responsible for policy, finance, research, standards, market access, and rural extension, and to track whether referrals between them result in enterprise progression. This is not a new body. It is an expanded mandate assigned to an existing institution, in most countries, the Ministry of Agriculture, with a defined referral protocol and a shared diagnostic for enterprise stage.

System gap

Policies, programs, finance, research, and market access are delivered through separate institutional systems with no shared referral mechanism or coordination mandate. An enterprise completing a business support program is released with no introduction to the finance institution that serves its stage; it must restart from the beginning with a new intake process, re-explain its activities, and meet requirements designed for general borrowers. No institution is responsible for what happens in the gap, and no institution tracks whether the gap was crossed.

Proposed actions

2027: Identify the appropriate institutional home within existing government structures, using criteria that include existing mandate over agri-food policy, convening authority over finance and research institutions, and reach in rural areas; agree a coordination mandate and referral responsibilities with named partners; establish a national focal point connecting line ministries; select two to three bottlenecks for joint resolution. Working group evidence from Egypt confirms that exclusion from government procurement contracts is a critical bottleneck for women-led enterprises; identify a coordination point between enterprise support providers and public procurement bodies as an early mandate priority. Working groups from Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine identified Q4 2027 as the target for initial country-level commitments on enterprise support coordination; the national coordination function timeline should be set to meet this.

2028: Use the coordination mechanism to resolve the selected bottlenecks; integrate referral tracking into normal ministry reporting; document results for the 2028 review.

National actors

Ministries of agriculture, finance, research, women's affairs, and social development; national enterprise development bodies; business support organizations; women entrepreneur representatives.2028: Use the coordination mechanism to resolve the selected bottlenecks; integrate referral tracking into normal ministry reporting; document results for the 2028 review.

UfM Regional Task Force

FAO, PRIMA, AUC CEI, CAWTAR, CIHEAM, Impact Partner: institutional options guide, facilitation for the first mandate-setting session, peer exchange among national focal points, technical assistance on referral protocol design.

Priority 2. Integrated Enterprise Progression and Referral Pathway

Organize support by enterprise stage rather than by program type. An enterprise at the formalization stage needs legal registration support; at the finance readiness stage, it needs a loan officer introduction and a prepared application; at the product development stage, it needs technical assistance and access to testing. These services are delivered by different providers, and progression requires each provider to record the current stage, identify the next constraint, refer the enterprise to the appropriate next service, and confirm the referral was completed. Programs operating on a fixed cycle of less than twelve months do not cover the full progression from entry to market readiness, leaving enterprises in the gaps between program phases.

System gap

Support services are fragmented across programs and enterprise stages. Women entrepreneurs re-enter the same entry-level training and incubation programs cycle after cycle because no provider is required to record where an enterprise stands in its development or whether a referral to the next service was completed and acted on.

Proposed actions

2027: Map services across all relevant support stages; agree a common entry diagnostic form that captures enterprise stage, current binding constraint, and referrals made and completed; define feedback obligations; pilot case management with a defined enterprise cohort. Conference working groups confirmed that women entrepreneurs are technically capable in production but lack business and management skills; the common entry diagnostic should include a business skills assessment from intake and treat management skills support as a standard pathway step, not a remedial addition. Circular economy models in agri-food processing, where by-products and waste streams are converted into additional saleable outputs, were identified as a commercially viable but unmapped pathway; include this as a stage within the service map alongside conventional value chain support.

2028: Expand the pathway to additional intermediaries; maintain a live service directory; track whether referred enterprises reach the next stage.

National actors

Business support organizations, entrepreneurship agencies, local government, finance providers, standards and certification bodies, research and extension services, buyers.

UfM Regional Task Force

UfM Regional Task Force: convene regional exchange on pathway design choices and dropout patterns; coordinate, through partner organizations (Berytech, Impact Partner, Chemonics), the development of common diagnostic and referral templates and the practitioner training required to use them.

Priority 3. Stage-Appropriate Finance and Investment Readiness

Finance instruments should differ by enterprise stage, agricultural cash cycle, and collateral conditions, covering the continuum from proof-of-concept grants and seasonal lending to equipment finance, guarantees, blended instruments, and patient capital. Financial literacy should be a component of all enterprise support programs. Review co-financing requirements that disproportionately exclude women without prior access to capital and recognize alternative collateral mechanisms within national frameworks. Engage commercial banks, microfinance institutions, guarantee agencies, and development finance partners as co-designers.

System gap

Financing conditions often mismatch enterprise stage, agricultural seasonality, collateral requirements, and cash cycles. A loan with a six-month repayment schedule cannot serve an olive or cereal value chain with a nine-month production cycle. A bank requiring real property as collateral cannot serve rural women who do not hold land titles in their own names. Women-led enterprises stall in the transition from proof of concept to investment readiness because no instrument is designed for this specific position.

Proposed actions

2027: Map the finance gap by enterprise stage; convene finance providers around a stage-specific continuum; identify existing instruments for adaptation; prepare candidate instruments, pilots. Working group proposals from two sub-regions converged on two specific models for assessment: a cooperative financing mechanism, where enterprises pool assets to collectively access credit they cannot access individually, and a pooled emergency fund, where member enterprises contribute to a shared reserve that covers losses from drought, crop failure, or price collapse before the enterprise reaches insolvency. Both should be assessed for instrument design feasibility in the finance gap mapping. Diaspora networks in Lebanon and Palestine were identified as an underused source of equity, remittances, and import-side market access for women-led enterprises; include diaspora engagement mechanisms in the instrument inventory.

2028: Pilot or expand selected instruments; track enterprise progression after finance access; refine collateral and tenor design from results.

National actors

Finance ministries, central banks, commercial banks with agricultural portfolios, microfinance institutions, guarantee providers, impact investors, development finance institutions, business support organizations.

UfM Regional Task Force

PRIMA, AUC CEI, Impact Partner: technical design support for stage-appropriate instruments, practitioner exchange on collateral innovation, dialogue with development finance and donor partners.

Priority 4. Research and Innovation Commercialization

A commercialization pathway should connect priority agri-food research outputs to deployment by women-led enterprises. The connection requires resolving intellectual property arrangements (who owns the license and on what terms), researcher incentives (whether a scientist who transfers knowledge to an enterprise receives institutional recognition for doing so), proof-of-concept finance (who funds the field-testing phase between lab result and commercial scale), and a defined route from field validation to market entry. National agricultural research authorities should adopt a problem-focused transfer model that selects one priority challenge per cycle, deploys a research team to work alongside an enterprise, and measures success by field adoption, not publication count.

System gap

Research outputs and technical solutions reach publication and institutional reporting but rarely reach commercial use by women-led enterprises. A research institution that produces a drought-resistant variety or a low-cost preservation method publishes the result, closes the project, and moves to the next grant cycle. No pathway exists for the finding to reach an enterprise that could deploy it, because intellectual property, licensing, incentive, and capacity barriers are not systematically addressed.

Proposed actions

2027: Select priority value chains; complete a commercialization diagnostic; identify legal, administrative, and incentive barriers; establish field testing partnerships between research bodies and enterprises. Conference evidence from Algeria confirmed that researchers in national agricultural institutions are evaluated solely on peer-reviewed publication volume, with no institutional pathway or career recognition for transferring knowledge to enterprises; the commercialization diagnostic should assess whether researcher incentive structures currently permit or reward technology transfer. Circular economy approaches in agri-food processing, converting by-products into additional outputs, were identified as a gap between existing research knowledge and enterprise application; include circular economy as a priority value chain type in the commercialization diagnostic.

2028: Support paid pilots and licensing agreements in countries where the diagnostic confirms the conditions are in place; track enterprise adoption and document adaptation results. Researcher incentive reform, where the diagnostic finds that career structures do not currently permit or reward technology transfer, is a 2028–2030 objective; the 2027 diagnostic establishes the evidence base and identifies which institutions have the mandate and willingness to begin, not which institutions have already changed.

National actors

Agricultural research institutions, universities, extension services, technology transfer offices, relevant ministries, incubators, enterprises, producer organizations, regulatory bodies.

UfM Regional Task Force

UfM Regional Task Force: convene peer exchanges on intellectual property models and organize research-industry matchmaking events; coordinate, through partner organizations (CGIAR, PRIMA, AUC CEI), the commercialization diagnostic template and the field-testing arrangements that partner organizations manage in-country.

Priority 5. Standards, Logistics, Buyers, and Market Access

A practical market pathway should address food safety testing, certification, packaging, cold chain, and logistics in sequence, with a commitment that enterprises receiving processing support also receive energy access, testing, and packaging assistance within the same program cycle. The priority should explicitly include facilitating market access for women-led agri-food enterprises in conflict-affected and marginalized areas, including Palestinian producers seeking access to international and regional markets.

System gap

Enterprises stall at certification, packaging, cold chain, logistics, and buyer requirements because programs address each element separately. An enterprise that completes food safety training is left to source its own testing laboratory, packaging supplier, cold-chain provider, and buyer independently. Completing one step does not advance market entry without the full connected sequence.

Proposed actions

2027: Develop buyer-readiness tools and certification roadmaps by enterprise type and target market; identify laboratory and logistics referral routes; broker early buyer conversations before costly compliance investments. Working group evidence from Palestine confirms that women entrepreneurs face a layered barrier: food safety requirements designed for normal supply chains, combined with movement restrictions and checkpoint delays that make standard logistics routes inaccessible; buyer readiness tools should include a variant designed for conflict-affected supply conditions. Egypt working groups confirmed that contract farming, where a buyer commits in writing to purchase a specified quantity at a fixed price before the production season begins, is accessible but rarely used because women producers lack standard contract templates and guidance on negotiating terms; include contract farming framework templates adapted to smallholder agri-food conditions in buyer readiness tools.

2028: Expand buyer partnerships; support procurement and offtake pilots; connect enterprises meeting readiness conditions to regional and international market exposure.

National actors

Standards bodies, laboratories, relevant ministries, buyers, retailers, exporters, logistics and cold chain providers, business support organizations.

UfM Regional Task Force

MEDWAVES, Impact Partner, Chemonics: regional buyer connections, thematic study visits on certification or export-preparation models, common readiness tools, transfer of procurement preparation practices across countries.

Priority 6. Rural and Gender-Responsive Delivery

Organize service delivery to women entrepreneurs in rural areas through existing public and civil society infrastructure at the local level, with national ministries, agricultural extension services, local government units, and civil society organizations engaged as delivery partners. Mobility constraints, administrative distance, and household obligations should be treated as structural barriers requiring structural responses, including mobile service delivery, community-based facilitation, and location-adapted schedules.

System gap

Distance, care responsibilities, mobility constraints, and the concentration of services in the capital limit rural women entrepreneurs' ability to use support. A training program held in the capital requires a rural woman to arrange travel, accommodation, and childcare; the cost and logistics of attending are treated as the woman's problem rather than a failure of program design. Structural barriers require structural responses, not individual adjustment.

Proposed actions

2027: Map underserved geographies using existing national data; identify and train local intermediaries as referral actors in rural enterprise clusters; pilot proactive outreach in at least two countries. A village-level market access mechanism, proposed by the Egypt working group, would create a fixed local collection point where rural women bring their products to a single community location, buyers come to them, and transactions occur locally without requiring women to travel to urban wholesale or retail markets; this model should be assessed as a rural delivery pilot in the outreach design.

2028: Expand effective delivery partnerships; strengthen local mentor and facilitator networks; refine services from enterprise progression evidence collected in the first program cycle.

National actors

Local government, extension services, public universities, rural organizations, women networks, cooperatives, finance branches, ministries of social development.

UfM Regional Task Force

UfM Regional Task Force: convene peer exchange on last-mile outreach approaches and document effective community-based facilitation models for the practice portfolio; coordinate, through partner organizations (CAWTAR, AUC CEI, BETA), the rural delivery guidance and local intermediary capacity building delivered in-country.

Priority 7. Regional Transfer of Good Practice

Before proposing any national model for adoption in another country, apply a transferability screen that asks four questions: Does the receiving country have the operating conditions the model requires? Can it finance the model at the required scale? Does its regulatory context permit the approach? Is there evidence the model produced results, not only activity? Models that do not pass the screen should not be presented as transferable. Models that do should come with an adaptation plan prepared before the exchange visit.

System gap

Successful models are shared without testing whether they fit a receiving country's operating conditions, legal frameworks, or institutional capacity. A cooperative financing model that depends on an active cooperative law and a functioning rural savings network in the sending country may have no legal basis in the receiving country; without prior screening, the transfer is announced, the visit takes place, and the failure is attributed to implementation rather than to the mismatch that existed before the transfer was attempted.

Proposed actions

2027: Compile a practice portfolio; apply the transferability screen to each candidate; select problem-focused exchanges with a confirmed institutional owner in the receiving country; produce adaptation plans before visits. Conference working groups identified three models with high assessed transfer potential: a government-backed cooperative savings and lending program for women entrepreneurs with documented results for first-time borrowers, operational in one country; a cooperative network integration approach that connects women-led enterprises into existing agricultural cooperative structures rather than creating separate entities, in a second country; and a digital platform that consolidates market price information, buyer contacts, and certification guidance in one place, proposed across the Maghreb cluster. These should be prioritized in the first practice portfolio compilation and screened before the 2027 mid-year review.

2028: Support adaptation pilots in at least three countries; compare results; document what transferred successfully; discontinue practices that do not fit after one cycle.

National actors

National focal points, implementing organizations, finance actors, research bodies, standards and market institutions, women entrepreneur networks.

UfM Regional Task Force

CGIAR, PRIMA, BETA, AUC CEI, CAWTAR, MEDWAVES, Impact Partner, Chemonics: administer the transferability screen, curate and translate practice notes, organize problem-focused study visits, facilitate practitioner exchanges.

Priority 8. Monitoring, Evidence, and Learning

A shared monitoring framework should track enterprise progression outcomes, including formalization, finance access, stage advancement, market entry, and employment generation, with countries contributing to a regional dataset without requiring a unified data system. An annual learning review should compare results, identify persistent bottlenecks, and produce recommendations for program and policy adjustment, aligned with the UfM reporting architecture and Mediterranean agricultural development program indicators.

System gap

Participation is counted more often than enterprise progression and sustained business outcomes. A program that trained 400 women in food processing is reported as successful; the data do not show that most of those women re-enroll in the same program the following year because no referral pathway advanced them.

Monitoring frameworks track inputs and activities, not transitions between enterprise stages, which means the same fragmentation that holds back enterprises is reproduced in the evidence base used to design the next program.

Proposed actions

2027: Agree common definitions and progression indicators with all pilot implementers, capturing transitions between enterprise stages rather than participation counts; integrate the framework into pilot data collection from the outset; establish baseline enterprise stage for all participating enterprises. A regional needs assessment proposed by the Maghreb cluster working group as a 2027 deliverable, covering existing training capacity, certification requirements by value chain, and enterprise-level digitization readiness, should be integrated into the baseline data collection design. Working groups from Jordan and Lebanon identified Q4 2027 as the target date for initial country-level commitments on enterprise support coordination; these commitments provide a concrete monitoring anchor that should be reflected in the common indicator framework from the outset.

2028: Conduct a cross-action implementation review; compare outcomes by country, stage, and geography; present findings at the formal 2028 review.

National actors

National coordination mechanisms, program implementers, finance providers, research and support organizations, enterprise associations.

UfM Regional Task Force

AUC CEI, CAWTAR, Impact Partner: common indicator definitions and data templates, portfolio tracking support, cross-country synthesis for the 2028 review, facilitation of learning sessions.



Institutional Architecture and Responsible Actors



The agenda assigns clear ownership across four actor categories. The responsibilities listed are institutional roles that existing actors are invited to embed within their normal mandates and programming cycles, not new program assignments.

National governments and line ministries are invited to establish and resource the national coordination function, embed gender-disaggregated indicators in agricultural performance reporting, enable the regulatory conditions for differentiated finance instruments, and reform standards and certification pathways that currently exclude rural women-led enterprises. Ministries of Agriculture should serve as the primary coordination authority in each participating country, convening national women's machinery, agricultural advisory and extension bodies, cooperative directorates, and planning ministries as co-conveners or dedicated coordination partners. Invite Ministries of Finance and Planning as co-owners of the finance and investment readiness priority. Engage the Ministries of Social Development and Women's Affairs as delivery partners in rural and gender-responsive programs.

Engage national finance and enterprise development institutions, including national commercial banks with agricultural portfolios, microfinance institutions, national guarantee agencies, export credit bodies, and enterprise development funds, as co-designers of instruments adapted to agricultural cash cycles and the collateral conditions of women-led enterprises, not only as referral endpoints.

National and subnational support organizations, including business support organizations, cooperative directorates, accelerators, incubators, and civil society networks, should serve as the intermediary layer between national institutions and individual women entrepreneurs, responsible for enterprise referral, progression support, post-incubation transition, and rural outreach. Cooperative federations, producer organizations, and local support bodies in each participating country should collectively support market access and standards compliance. Standards bodies, certification authorities, and market access institutions should be engaged in each country as the primary market access actors for women-led agri-food enterprises.

Regional and international partners, including the UfM Regional Task Force and its partner organizations, regional agricultural research and innovation programs, international organizations with a Near East and North Africa mandate, and regional and international development finance institutions with a Mediterranean and MENA agri-food portfolio, should coordinate regional instruments, facilitate the transfer of validated models across national systems, and support the common monitoring framework. Their role should strengthen national systems rather than replace them.

Implementation and the UfM Role

Two functions give the UfM Regional Task Force its coordination spine across the four-year implementation period. The first is the transferability screen: before UfM proposes any national model for adoption in another country, it applies a structured assessment of whether operating conditions, financing capacity, regulatory context, and evidence of results are in place in the receiving country. The screen is the entry point for every regional exchange and study visit, and it is the reason national actors bring their models to UfM rather than arranging bilateral transfers independently. The second is the annual learning review: UfM convenes national coordination focal points and partner organizations each year to compare enterprise progression outcomes, identify persistent bottlenecks, and produce recommendations for the following cycle. The review is the accountability mechanism that keeps the common monitoring framework in active use.

Around these two functions, UfM performs three coordination roles that national actors cannot fill independently. It facilitates the first mandate-setting session in each country and convenes peer exchange among national focal points as they establish their coordination functions. It manages the regional practice portfolio and commissions, through its network of partner organizations, the technical assistance that accompanies each transfer. It holds the common indicator definitions and aggregates cross-country results for the 2028 review and beyond.

UfM does not implement programs, deliver training, or fund national activities directly. Where the priority area tables below assign technical or delivery tasks to the UfM Regional Task Force, these are activities UfM coordinates and commissions through its partner organizations, not activities UfM delivers itself. UfM's value to participating countries is its convening authority and its cross-country view across all seven mandate countries simultaneously.

The implementation sequence runs from 2027 to 2030. The first year focuses on establishing national coordination functions in each country, completing the transferability screen for the first practice portfolio, and agreeing the shared monitoring framework. The second and third years focus on deploying the eight priority actions, completing the first cross-country transfers, and conducting the first annual learning review. The fourth year is allocated to embedding instruments in normal government and partner programming and to reporting against the 2030 expected results. An operational committee, drawn from the national coordination focal points, should meet twice annually to review progress, agree on transfer priorities, and address cross-boundary constraints.



Expected Results, 2027–2030



By 2028

Across participating countries:

- A national coordination function is operational in each country, with a named authority, a referral protocol, and at least one cohort of enterprises tracked through two or more support stages.
- At least two finance instruments have been adapted to match agricultural cash cycles and the collateral conditions of women-led agri-food enterprises.
- At least one research commercialization route is active in each participating country, connecting national agricultural research outputs to women-led enterprises.
- Practical market pathways linked to verified buyer demand are operating in at least three countries, with documented results for certification, logistics, and sales volume.
- Rural delivery models using existing local infrastructure are documented, costed, and operational in each country.
- A transferability screen has been applied to at least three national models and at least one cross-country adaptation is underway.
- The common monitoring framework is collecting enterprise progression data in at least four countries.

By 2030

- The eight priority instruments are embedded in normal government and partner programming across participating countries and are no longer dependent on project-cycle funding.
- A self-sustaining regional practitioner network convenes annual learning exchanges without requiring external coordination support.
- Southern and eastern Mediterranean countries are positioned as a coherent regional counterpart for Mediterranean agricultural innovation programs, regional and international development finance institutions, and global market access initiatives.

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Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11
Barcelona, Spain - 08034
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102