

Women's Business: Adapting Company Procurement Policies And Practice to Increase Female Participation in Local SMEs and Supply Chain

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Large resources companies provide a significant opportunity to stimulate local economies by integrating small and medium enterprise (SME) companies in their supply chain and building the capacity of SMEs to become competitive. This paper examines how procurement policies and practices can address the 'female face of poverty' by bringing benefits of economic growth to the women in society. However, procurement is a business activity rarely assessed with regard to its direct and indirect social impacts and potential development opportunities. The paper argues for a change in the dominant approach and considers case studies in Mozambique, where resources companies have partnered with the MozLink Women in Business program — a business linkage and mentoring program implemented by Mozal Aluminium smelter, IFC and a business association.