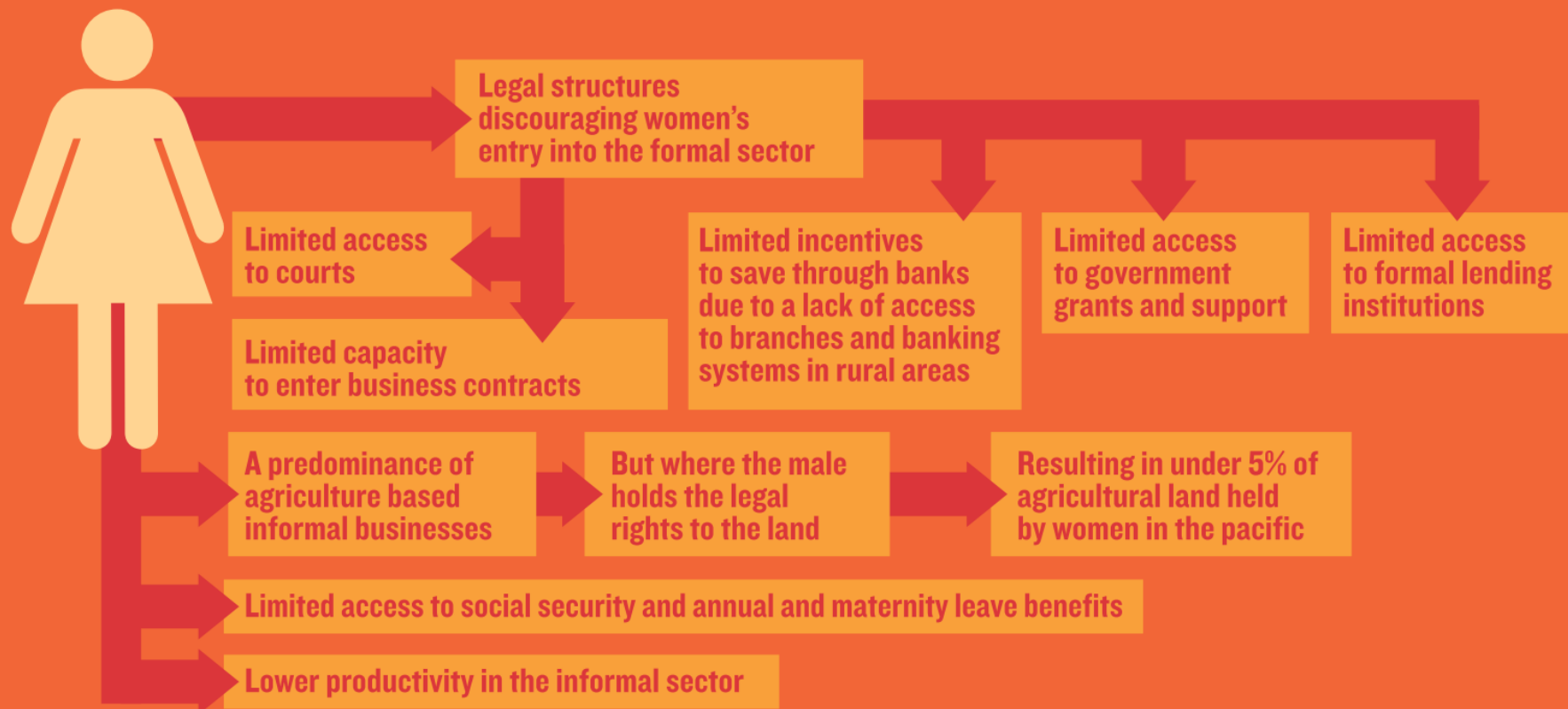


Private Sector Development Initiative

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC**



WOMEN'S ROLE IN PRIVATE SECTOR IS LIMITED BY:



THESE BARRIERS TRANSLATE INTO UNMET ECONOMIC POTENTIAL



1. BUSINESS LAW REFORM

PROBLEM



Regulation, red tape, and discrimination discourage formal business



The triple burden on women



No specific business structures geared toward women in business

SOLUTION



Simplified, automated business registrations take out discretion, reduce legal costs, eliminate discrimination, and take less time



Remote company meetings, automated annual reports and email updates



Single shareholder companies, reducing likelihood of male interference, separating legal and personal ownership and reducing informality



Community companies allow for communal ownership and management of resources, reducing fraud potential

Results



826 female directors registered companies
25% increase 12/2010 – 5/2013

867 registered female shareholders
19% increase 12/2010 – 5/2013

2. ACCESS TO FINANCE

PROBLEM



With males owning most land, loans using other collateral are difficult for women to obtain



Identification requirements are too complex to open a bank account



Bank branches are too far from rural populations

SOLUTION



Secured transactions reforms simplify access to credit enabling use of tractors, crops, livestock and cars as collateral.

Automated registries reduce loan processing time

LOAN APPROVAL TIME IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

PRE-REFORM



POST-REFORM



Simplified identification procedures such as a letter from the tribal or church leader



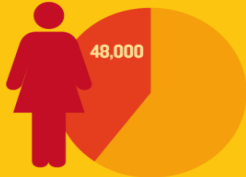
Mobile phone banking and point of sale machines provide branchless banking options and reduce exposure to risk of crime

Results

PSDI SUPPORTS IMPROVED FINANCIAL LITERACY

✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The ADB-AusAID microfinance expansion project is targeting 120,000 people (40% women) for training by 2017



PSDI PROMOTES BRANCHLESS BANKING

Telecommunications deregulation has created opportunities for mobile and branchless banking initiatives

Mobile subscriptions per 100 people have significantly grown across the Pacific

1.2
2005

27.8

2010

✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PSDI ENCOURAGES NEW SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Papua New Guinea Nationwide Microbank

CURRENTLY MORE THAN
100,000
ACTIVE CLIENTS

34% ARE WOMEN

74% ARE RURAL CUSTOMERS

LEADING TO FASTER LOAN APPROVAL

SOLOMON ISLANDS

PRE-REFORM



28 DAYS

POST-REFORM

1 DAY

This means reduced interest rates. Lending is less risky and loan processing costs are lower because of reduced legal fees. Financial institutions broaden their portfolios by lending to a wider range of businesses.

- 4,080 women have a MiCash account in PNG
- Secured Transactions:
VAN 567 women; SOL: 222 Women

3. SOE REFORM

PROBLEM



Lack of female representation on boards



SOLUTION

Encouraging governments through advocacy to promote female board representation

Director training programs to promote women's business skills

Results



- a pool of potential female SOE directors expanded
- 16 % of SOE directors are women

