

Why we care about women.

Founding Partner and co-CEO Isabella da Costa Mendes shares the fundamental driving force behind our ambition to enable transformative infrastructure to empower women in the Global South



At ImpactA Global, we care about women.

We were founded by 4 female partners who had the privilege of building successful careers in the finance industry.

In order to achieve that, we had support from our loved ones and we had access to education, health, water, sanitation, transport and power. We did not have to face the daily challenges caused by climate change.

We also had the privilege of fighting for equal rights in the workplace. Maternity leave and competitive pay – if not equal, were competitive.

The challenges faced by most women in the Global South are a far cry from those we had to overcome.

Because only 29% of people in lower income countries have reliable access to clean water (with deaths linked to unsafe water being 1000 times greater in these countries than in Europe) and 40% lack access to safely managed sanitation (or 70% in Eastern and Southern Africa, for example)¹ both of which factors

¹ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) (2024)

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/our-lifetime-opportunity-enable-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-all-who-unicef>

disproportionately affect women, not least due to cultural and social norms. Because 95% of maternal mortalities occur in low- and middle-income countries², meaning a woman dies every 2 minutes due to preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Because only 28% of people in rural areas of these countries have access to electricity³. Against this backdrop, these women cannot even start to think about competing for well-paid jobs, for a better education or for economic prosperity.



Addressing the challenges that women face in their empowerment requires action on multiple fronts. The complexity of the problem, however, should not deter us from trying.

Our focus is on delivering sustainable infrastructure. Through our investment in greenfield projects in renewable energy, clean mobility, health, water and sanitation - which we hope will be catalytic in unlocking other capital - we will contribute to reducing the large gaps in emerging markets infrastructure that impact women disproportionately. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), women and children are 14 times more likely to die during disasters⁴.

To highlight the importance of our strategy as well as that of other initiatives that help address this multi-faceted problem, we have been partnering up with other stakeholders who complement each other in creating broader solutions.

We have also engaged with some inspiring leaders and want to highlight the important work that Um Pequeno Gesto does in Mozambique⁵, overcoming significant infrastructure challenges to deliver education to children (and empower

<https://www.unicef.org/esa/sanitation-and-hygiene#:~:text=Ethiopia%2C%20Uganda%2C%20Kenya%20and%20Tanzania,of%20people%20practising%20open%20defecation.>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

³ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1787/4607b7c7-en>

⁵ <https://umpequenogesto.org/>

women); the good work of the Tony Elumelu Foundation⁶ in sponsoring small African Entrepreneurs, amongst which are very promising women-led small businesses; the essential work of Doutores das Aguas⁷, a charity focused on providing medical care to impoverished riverside populations in the Amazon region; and the charity Equality Now⁸, focused on tackling legislation that hinders the advancement of women worldwide.

This of course naturally sits alongside our financial partners, in particular Legal & General Capital⁹, who are instrumental in our financing efforts to reduce those gaps.

All of these remarkable initiatives are worthy of praise. They are delivering empowerment despite infrastructure challenges.

At ImpactA Global we hope to contribute our part: to deliver infrastructure that is sustainable, transformational and empowering to women.

⁶ <https://www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/>

⁷ <https://www.doutoresdasaguas.org.br/>

⁸ <https://equalitynow.org/>

⁹ <https://www.legalandgeneralcapital.com/media-centre/news/legal-and-general-capital-invests-impacta-address-infrastructure-deficit-emerging-markets/>