



Itaú Unibanco raises US\$ 400 million from Development Bank in the United States for expanding credit to SMEs

In March 2021, Itaú Unibanco raised US\$ 400 million with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in the international market. With this investment, the bank intends to expand its credit lines to small and middle market companies with particular focus on economically vulnerable regions such as the North and the Northeast of Brazil and also to companies majority controlled or led by women.

The initiative reinforces one of Itaú's Positive Impact Commitments, that of Inclusion and Entrepreneurship and designed to improve the financial management for very small and small companies through products and services. Among the goals underlying this commitment, is an increase in credit volumes for women entrepreneurs. "Small companies are the driving force of our economy, responsible for practically 30% of GDP and the generation of more than half of the formal jobs in the country. In the light of the crisis with the new coronavirus pandemic, Brazilians are tending increasingly to migrate to this activity as an alternative source of income", explains Luciana Nicola, senior manager of Institutional Relations, Sustainability and Entrepreneurship at Itaú Unibanco. "The current scenario, a particularly challenging one at this time, is seeing a diminished number of companies led by women. making initiatives which encourage women to be protagonists in the economic recovery even more necessary, especially in the North and the Northeast regions of the country", the executive concludes.

Through its focus on empowering women in the economy, this investment advances DFC's 2X Women's Initiative, which has catalyzed over \$7 billion of private sector investment in projects that economically empower women in developing countries—many of which by expanding access to financing for women entrepreneurs. Women-owned and women-led companies have been some of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, which makes Itaú Unibanco's focus on supporting women entrepreneurs all the more essential. "DFC is proud to leverage this investment to support women-owned and women-led businesses, and also those in the economically disadvantaged regions of Northern and Northwest Brazil," said Algene Sajery, DFC's Vice President of the Office of External Affairs and Head of Global Gender Equity Initiatives. "This financing will help underserved populations as they recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and work to further develop their communities." Worldwide, DFC partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world today, investing across sectors including energy, healthcare, critical infrastructure, and technology. The investment in Itaú Unibanco is an example of DFC's focus on regions of the world where women face the steepest challenges, and where financing can create the greatest impact.

This is not the only initiative where the focus is on a female audience. For seven years now, Itaú has been supporting women's entrepreneurship through the Itaú Women Entrepreneurs Program, which has as its mission to develop businesses managed by women. The program's solutions aim to inspire, build skills and enable connections between the female leaders of companies. On its platform alone by the end of 2020,

there had been more than 25 thousand enrollments while more than 260 thousand had visited the more than 700 contents which include entrepreneurial tools, case studies and articles on management, marketing, finance, innovation, leadership, as well as online courses and acceleration programs.

The program is open and free, available on www.imulherempreendedora.com.br. A standout initiative, and one which corroborates the initiative for developing regions and women from socially vulnerable backgrounds, was the edition of the Micro-business Support Acceleration program with a focus on Afro-descendent and indigenous women in the North and the Northeast regions of Brazil in partnership with the Diver.SSA organization. Held from November 2020 to February of this year, there were 87 hours of skills building, involving 30 women entrepreneurs in a Strategic Induction Journey. Ten of the entrepreneurs continued in the immersion Acceleration Journey program and six were also contemplated with a seed investment of R\$10 thousand each.

About Itaú Unibanco

Itaú Unibanco's purpose is to promote people's power of transformation and we do it through a strategic agenda focused on client centricity and digital transformation, based also on the diversity of our people. The largest bank in Latin America, Itaú Unibanco is present in 18 countries and has more than 56 million customers, among individuals and companies in all segments, to whom we offer the best experiences in financial products and services. Itaú Unibanco has been selected for the 21st consecutive time to be part of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI World), being the only Latin American financial institution to be part of the index since its creation in 1999. www.itau.com.br