

HSBC launches \$1bn lending fund for female entrepreneurs

- *Female Entrepreneur Fund to provide US\$1bn of lending to female business owners*
- *Female CEOs and founders to gain access to bespoke financing advice, masterclasses and access to networks and investors via HSBC Roar programme*

HSBC has today launched a Female Entrepreneur Fund (“Fund”), which will provide US\$1bn in lending to female-owned businesses over the next 12 months. This comes alongside the introduction of the HSBC Roar initiative, which enables female entrepreneurs, as well as successful Fund applicants, to access:

- A series of masterclasses hosted by experienced business leaders
- Tailored networking sessions with major companies in markets where the Fund operates
- Insights from the investor community and the opportunity to pitch to angel investors
- Bespoke advisory for female entrepreneurs from experienced HSBC bankers

The initiatives launched today aim to break down the barriers faced by female entrepreneurs and provide the infrastructure and support to help them scale and grow their businesses.

Access to funding remains one of the biggest hurdles for female business leaders worldwide. Female-owned businesses received just 3% of start-up funding in 2019¹, while venture capital for female-founded enterprises hit a five-year low of 2% in 2021². Boston Consulting Group estimates closing the gender gap for women-led businesses could boost global GDP by US\$5 trillion³.

Sam Cooper-Gray, Global Head of Market Strategy at HSBC Business Banking, said: *“We are delighted to launch the Female Entrepreneur Fund and the HSBC Roar programme today to help address the challenges and bias that female leaders face.*

“The level of funding received over time by female-led businesses is significantly lower than male counterparts, while the recent impacts of the pandemic have seen these same businesses disproportionately affected. Female-owned businesses are also less likely to have global networks, meaning international expansion can prove particularly challenging.

“As the global economy continues to rebuild from the impact of the pandemic, small and medium-sized businesses will continue to be the bedrock on which our economies and local communities are built, meaning we need to ensure that those led by women are given the support to fulfil their full potential.”

Eri Budiono, Commercial Banking Director HSBC Indonesia continued, *“Empowering women, empowering the economy. In Indonesia, female entrepreneurs in the MSME category, hold a big role and potential in sustaining the national economy, especially in this pandemic era. The latest data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) on 2021 showed that majority of the total SME here, which is around 64,5% or 37 million, are managed by female. Yet, to grow, sustain and expand their businesses, they still need a lot more comprehensive supports, both financial and non-financial. This is where HSBC Roar comes in.”*

¹ HSBC's [She's the Business report](#), 2019

² [Pitchbook](#), Jan 2022

³ [Boston Consulting Group](#), 2019

The HSBC Female Entrepreneur Fund will be open to both new and existing customers across 11 markets⁴, and all Fund applicants will have access to HSBC Roar programme. In addition to Fund applicants, the HSBC Roar programme will also be available to female business leaders across nine markets globally⁵. Fund application details can be found <https://hsbc-roar.tec-events.com/> and <https://www.business.hsbc.co.id/id-id/campaigns/female-entrepreneur-fund>.

These initiatives build on a number of programmes HSBC has in place that advances women-led businesses:

- The *Mujeres al Mundo* programme has supported over 4,000 female business leaders in Argentina, Mexico and Uruguay by connecting them to local and international opportunities
- In India, HSBC has partnered with Startup India and the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WCCI) on *Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs*, a learning and mentoring program for women-led businesses
- HSBC is a global partner of the Financial Alliance for Women, a members' network of financial organizations dedicated to championing women's economic advancement
- HSBC Roar was piloted last year in Hong Kong, UK and US; this extended program has been designed with feedback from participants and partners including AllBright, a global careers networking community for women

END

Media inquiries:

Ariavita Purnamasari +628111588685

ariavita.purnamasari@hsbc.co.id

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 64 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of \$3.022tn at 31 March 2021, HSBC is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world.

About PT Bank HSBC Indonesia

HSBC has been operating in Indonesia since 1884 and currently serves customers throughout Indonesia. PT Bank HSBC Indonesia is a member of the HSBC Group which offers Commercial Banking and Global Banking services for Corporate and Institutional customers, Global Markets for Treasury and Capital Market management as well as Wealth and Personal Banking

⁴ Full list of markets: Argentina, Channel Islands/Isle of Man, Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, UK, Uruguay and USA

⁵ Full list of markets: Channel Islands/Isle of Man, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, UK, USA