Mentoring Women in Business: an incredible development opportunity

Become a professional mentor and be a business hero!

The need for both professionals and businesses across the globe to build skills, resilience, adaptability and sustainability is now more vital than ever.

The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women matches experienced businesspeople in any country with woman entrepreneurs in low and middle income countries for a year-long, cross-border, entirely online mentoring relationship. This offers professionals the chance to play a pivotal role in the business growth and development of another person at a key stage of her business, and also gain valuable personal and professional skills, insight and development themselves.

“Mentoring has developed me as a person... It’s a two-way success story of personal growth for the mentor while helping the mentee realise her dream.”

Samridhi Sarin - Director of Global Financial Crimes Compliance, Bank of America
Develop your professional skills while creating lasting global impact!

Mentoring Women in Business benefits everyone. By giving access to business knowledge, supporting new skills, confidence-building, and creating and developing networks, it enables women entrepreneurs to increase the revenue and profits of their businesses, create jobs, and become pioneering leaders, change-makers and role models in their communities. Of our most recently-graduated mentees, 95% were either satisfied, more than satisfied, or very satisfied with the programme.

When women are economically empowered, everyone stands to benefit. It leads to reduced household poverty, increased life choices for women and an increase in children’s wellbeing. Furthermore, our research shows that closing the gender gap in entrepreneurship could boost global GDP by up to $5 trillion [1].

This enjoyable, engaging process has many rich benefits for mentors too, enabling you to:

- Develop and deepen your leadership, active listening and communication skills
- Grow professionally during these difficult times and while working remotely
- Learn about different cultures, professional backgrounds, sectors or industries
- Help level the playing field for women in business cultures and perspectives
- Create impact by empowering and releasing the potential of women entrepreneurs at a time when they need it more than ever
- Contribute to rebuilding economies post-COVID-19
- Understand the challenges that women entrepreneurs in low and middle income countries face
- Inspire and motivate others, playing a crucial and lasting role in the development of a business

"I am grateful for the opportunity given to me. I worked with an indefatigable, devoted mentor. She gave me the best in the last twelve months. I will miss her great support, but anywhere I go, I will always have her in my mind. Bravo, my mentor."

Lizzy - former mentee

Of our 2019 mentors:

- **100%** said the programme benefitted their personal and professional development, including building leadership, business and communication skills, growing awareness of a new culture or market, and their management/teamwork abilities
- **98%** were satisfied, more than satisfied or very satisfied with their mentee match
- **89%** reported gained new skills which fed back into and enhanced their own work


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What does it mean to be a mentor?

You could find yourself working with a shoe designer from Vietnam, a shop owner from Pakistan, a wine producer from South Africa, a travel agency owner from Kenya, or other ambitious women running their own enterprises.

Your support will help boost her confidence, improve her business performance and skills, and potentially have a huge impact on her life, her family, her community and beyond.

Requirements: mentors must be...

- A business professional, of any gender, with at least seven years’ experience in business
- Fluent in English
- Willing and able to commit fully to the programme
- Willing and able to share their expertise and experiences with a woman entrepreneur to launch, develop or grow their business

Commitments: mentors are expected to...

- Meet online with your mentee for two hours minimum per month, for a year
- Undergo two to three hours of pre-matching training
- Complete interim and end-of-programme surveys
- Provide feedback on your mentee’s SMART goals and end-of-year reflection
- Adhere to our Ethical Code of Practice

Expectations: mentors get...

- A motivated, keen mentee based in a low or middle income country who owns at least 51% of her business
- A match that aligns with your professional skills and experience
- Proactive and engaged ongoing support from the Foundation team
- Access to a suite of online resources to help you develop your mentoring skills
- Access to a closed LinkedIn networking group
- An opportunity to deliver a live webinar for mentees and alumni

To apply to be a mentor, please complete this short online form.

Funding your place and applying

Mentoring is an important, enriching experience for both you and your mentee, but also a valuable and generous donation of your time and money.

We ask mentors to fund their ‘match’—both their own participation and that of their mentees. This costs: £1,100 per mentor match

You can do this out of your own pocket, by fundraising for your place, or by asking your company to make a donation to cover your participation. This covers:

- Dedicated one-to-one relationship management
- Development of training resources and learning content
- Production of light-touch impact reports
Want to support women entrepreneurs but don’t have the time to mentor?

There are many fantastic business women among the Foundation’s programmes alumni who are now eligible and keen to be mentors but not in a position to fund their match. We are able to broaden access to the Mentoring programme by offering these potential mentors a funded place, thanks to the support of individuals who recognise its immense value.

If you’d like to support a women entrepreneur to take her professional development to the next level by becoming a mentor herself, you can fund her match with a mentee for £1,100.

Get in touch today!

To read more about the positive impact of our mentoring programme, please visit: cherieblairfoundation.org/category/impact

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