In order to receive a W+ certification and issue W+ units, projects must follow these five steps to demonstrate their positive impact on women’s empowerment in at least one of the six domains: Income and Assets, Time, Education and Knowledge, Leadership, Food Security, and Health.

**STEP 1: Selection of W+ domains and development of Project Idea Note**

Project developers select at least one of the W+ domains they would like to measure and fill out the Project Idea Note (PIN) following the W+ PIN Template. The PIN is sent to the W+ Coordinator for completeness check. Once validated, the project will be featured in the projects’ section of the W+ website (featured as ‘in process’).

**STEP 2: Development of the Project Design Document and Registration on W+ Registry**

Project developers prepare the draft Project Design Document (PDD) following the W+ template and send it to the W+ Coordinator for a completeness check. The draft PDD is sent by the W+ Coordinator to a gender expert for technical review.

Once finalized, the PIN and PDD will be uploaded by project developers onto the W+ Registry hosted by IHS Markit. For that purpose project developers must open a W+ Registry account by selecting the "W+ Standard for Women’s Empowerment" on the application [W+ Registry Application].

**STEP 3: Measurement of project’s impact on women’s lives**

Once results have been achieved, project developers can measure results of project activities as per the PDD and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and prepare the Monitoring Report as per the W+ Monitoring Report Template.

**STEP 4: Verification of results and issuance of W+ units or label**

Project developers contract an accredited W+ verifier who will audit the Monitoring Report and prepare a Verification Report as per the W+ Verification Report Template.

Once the Verification Report is completed, project developers can upload the Monitoring Report and the Verification Report in their W+ Registry account. All uploaded documentation is reviewed by Markit and the W+ Coordinator before W+ units are issued and listed on the Registry.
STEP 5: Setting a value for W+ units or label and making direct share payments (required for 2nd Verification)

Option 1. Project developers can sell W+ units themselves directly or through a broker. Verified W+ units (WEMs) can be retired on behalf of the project developer or the buyer in the W+ Registry Account. The W+ Standard requires that at least 20% of the value of the units sold is channeled to women engaged in the project, as per the mechanism described in the project's PDD.

Option 2. Project developers determine alternative mechanisms suited to their context (as described in the PDD) for channeling at least 20% of the value of the units to women.

5 steps to W+ certification

Contact us

The W+ Coordinator is available to assist project developers efficiently apply the W+ Program. Questions and Comments related to any aspect of the program should be directed to the W+ Coordinator at coordinator@wplus.org. You can also visit the W+ website: www.wplus.org

For any Registry questions, please contact the IHS Markit Environmental Solutions Team at: environmental@markit.com