



Development  
Bank of Namibia

Expect more.

# DBN For Her

Finance designed  
for *her* vision.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Background

The Bank developed a dedicated financing initiative specifically for women entrepreneurs aimed at increasing access to finance for women. The initiative is responsive to the needs of women-owned businesses, whether they are starting up, expanding, or scaling and whether they are small, medium or large enterprises.

### Eligibility & Access

**01** “Who qualifies for funding under this initiative?”

**Answer:** This initiative is open to 100% women-owned Namibian businesses employing between 5 and 300 employees, across all sectors of the economy.

## How to Apply

**02** *“Does the initiative cater exclusively to 100% women-owned businesses, or are majority women-owned businesses also eligible?”*

**Answer:** At this stage, the initiative is specifically designed for Namibian businesses that are 100% owned by women only.

**03** *“How much funding can businesses access?”*

**Answer:** Businesses can apply for financing ranging from N\$150,000 up to N\$10 million, depending on their needs and the scale of their operations.

**04** *Do I need an existing business to apply?*

**Answer:** No. All new businesses, start-ups, and established businesses are eligible.

**05** *Are there specific sectors targeted?*

**Answer:** No. The initiative is open to all economic sectors, provided the business is commercially viable, sustainable, and aligned with DBN's mandate.

**06** *“How can one apply for funding under the initiative?”*

**Answer:** The application process is quite simple. Forms can be downloaded from the DBN website or collected at any DBN branch. Once completed, applications can be submitted at the DBN branches.

**07** *“How long does the application and approval process take?”*

**Answer:** Processing times depend on the completeness of the application and the complexity of the project. Applicants are encouraged to submit all required documentation to avoid delays.

## Loan Features & Benefits

**08** *“What interest rates applies?”*

**Answer:** The facility is offered at the Prime interest rate, making it competitive and affordable.

**09**

***“Tell me more about the 12-month interest-free period?”***

**Answer:** The 12-month interest-free period is a key benefit of the DBN For Her facility. During the first 12 months after loan disbursement, no interest is charged. At the end of this period, the loan transitions into the normal repayment phase, where both capital and interest payments commence in line with the agreed loan terms.

**10**

***“Is there a grace period to repay the principal amount?”***

**Answer:** Yes, you will benefit from a 12-month grace period, during which no repayments are required. This gives your business time to stabilise and grow.

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***“Does the grace period run concurrently with the 12-month interest-free period?”***

**Answer:** Yes, this initiative includes a 12-month grace period during which no instalments are payable as well as no interest is charged. This arrangement then provides businesses with valuable time to stabilize their operations before full repayment obligations commence.

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***“What happens after the 12-month grace period ends?”***

**Answer:** After the grace period, normal loan repayments (both capital and interest) will commence as per the agreed repayment schedule.

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***“What makes this financing different from standard loans?”***

**Answer:** What sets DBN For Her apart is the 12-month interest-free period, which is rarely found in the market. Combined with financing at the prime rate, it gives women entrepreneurs the opportunity to stabilise and grow their businesses before taking on the full cost of financing.

## **Credit Guarantee Scheme**

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***“What is the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS)?”***

**Answer:** The Credit Guarantee Scheme is a support mechanism that partially guarantees your loan, reducing the risk to the Bank. This makes it easier for businesses, to access financing.

**15*****“How does the Credit Guarantee Scheme work?”***

**Answer:** Under the scheme, a third-party guarantee provider agrees to cover a portion of the loan in the event that the borrower is unable to repay. This reduces the Bank’s exposure to risk and allows it to approve more applications that may not meet traditional collateral requirements.

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**16*****“Is participation in the Credit Guarantee Scheme compulsory?”***

**Answer:** Yes. All approved applicants under the DBN For Her initiative will be required to participate in the Credit Guarantee Scheme. This is a key feature of the product designed to improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

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**17*****“Will I have to pay for the Credit Guarantee Scheme?”***

**Answer:** Yes, a guarantee fee will be applicable and will form part of the loan structure. However, this cost is designed to be affordable and is offset by the benefit of improved access to finance.

**18*****“Do I apply separately for the Credit Guarantee Scheme?”***

**Answer:** No, you do not need to apply separately. As part of your loan application, the Bank will automatically assess your eligibility for the Credit Guarantee Scheme and onboard you if applicable.

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**19*****“How do I access the Credit Guarantee Scheme?”***

**Answer:** Access is provided through your loan application with DBN. Once your application is approved, you will be onboarded to the scheme via a designated third-party provider as part of the loan process.

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**20*****“Who provides the guarantee?”***

**Answer:** The guarantee is provided by an approved third-party guarantee provider, working in partnership with the Bank to support access to finance for eligible businesses.

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**21*****“Does the Credit Guarantee Scheme replace collateral?”***

**Answer:** Not entirely. The scheme reduces the need for collateral, but some level of security may still be required depending on the size and risk profile of the loan.

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*“Will I still be responsible for repaying the loan?”*

**Answer:** Yes. The guarantee does not remove your repayment obligation. You remain fully responsible for repaying the loan in accordance with the agreed terms.

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*“What happens if I am unable to repay the loan?”*

**Answer:** In the event of default, the guarantee provider may cover a portion of the outstanding amount. However, recovery processes may still be pursued, and this may impact your credit record and future access to finance

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*“Is there a cost associated with the Credit Guarantee Scheme?”*

**Answer:** Yes, a guarantee fee may apply, which is typically incorporated into the loan structure. This fee enables access to the risk-sharing benefit provided by the scheme

