

April 1, 2023

# GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



8 steps to change gender norms for women's economic rights  
 Source: <https://www.alignplatform.org/resources/illustration-8-steps-gender-norms-womens-economic-rights>

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of the editor.

If you have information to share, please send it to [dinah.ceplis@gmail.com](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGhIH, FAIC, (Volunteer Editor)

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Indigenous Peoples and Technoscience

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/indigenous-peoples-and-technoscience-tickets-512625616017>

**April 13 | 12-1pm MDT (11-12pm PDT) | Online.** Learn about the intricate connections between science and technology fields, broader dynamics of colonialism, and increasing demands for Indigenous governance of science and technology with

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## 2. Webinar Series: Gender and Social Inclusion

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/webinar-series-gender-and-social-inclusion>

Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Gender and Social Inclusion team is hosting a series of knowledge-sharing and discussion-based webinars in 2023. These interactive sessions are designed to dive deeper into and share learnings from AICCRA's inclusion activities across our focus countries, unpacking some of the key barriers, opportunities and meaningful engagements with women farmers.

Upcoming in the Series:

**11 April 2023:** Getting women's participation in training sessions/meetings - discussion led by AICCRA Kenya

**25 April 2023:** Gender dimensions in climate smart Livestock - discussion led by AICCRA Ethiopia

**9 May 2023:** Experiences in CIS and digital agro-advisory services - discussion led by AICCRA Senegal

**30 May 2023:** Gender and Climate Policy: Working with AGNES - discussion led by Patricia van de Velde (World Bank)

Date TBD: Incorporation of gender and social inclusion in business models through innovative Finance - discussion led by AICCRA Zambia and Senegal

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## 3. 4-H Canada Scholarships for Agricultural Studies

<https://4-h-canada.ca/scholarships>

8 - \$5000 McDonald's Canada Future of Agriculture 4-H Scholarship.

15 - \$1000 John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarship

12 - \$2500 TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarship

2 - \$1000 Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers 4-H Scholarship

**Deadline: May 31, 2023.** For 4-H members.

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## 4. 2023 Canadian Evaluation Society Conference

<https://c2023en.evaluationcanada.ca/>

**June 19 - June 21, 2023 | Hilton Hotel, Quebec City.** How do we make use of the innovation and lessons learned from the experience of the Canadian and international evaluation community in order to benefit local interventions? This is the driving question behind the 2023 Canadian Evaluation Society conference which will provide an opportunity to reflect on the state of the evaluation practice through the theme "Evaluation in a Changing World". The theme is broken down into four sub-themes.

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## 5. Outstanding Young Farmers Scholarship

<https://www.oyfcanada.com/language/en/nominations-criteria/scholarship/>

Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually in Canada. One scholarship is awarded to an individual entering post secondary education from high school. The second scholarship is awarded to an individual who has already completed at least one year of post secondary study. Deadline to apply is **June 30**.

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## 6. Women Deliver 2023 Conference and Global Dialogue

<https://www.wd2023.org/about-women-deliver-2023-conference/>

The Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) will take place **in-person in Kigali, Rwanda, as well as virtually, from 17-20 July 2023**. We expect to convene 6,000 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and **six-month Global Dialogue** leading up to the Conference. The theme of WD2023 is Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions.

With sexual and reproductive health and rights at our core, we will center intersectional feminist principles, to address compounding issues impacting girls and women — from climate change, to gender-based violence, to unpaid care work — and collectively identify and action evidence-based solutions. The 2019 conference was held in Vancouver, Canada.

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## 7. Want to host a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon for STEMM?

<https://500womenscientists.org/>

Want to host a Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon? If you are part of an organization or company and would like to host a Wiki-edit-a-thon, email 500 Women Scientists at [wiki@500womenscientists.org](mailto:wiki@500womenscientists.org) to explore options for a partnership.

Since 2018, 500WS has partnered with organizations to host and facilitate global Wikipedia Edit-A-Thons to ensure the contributions of women and gender diverse individuals in STEMM are reflected in the world's largest free encyclopedia. To date, we have hosted over 30 Edit-A-Thons, leading to the editing of over 3,000 articles, and the creation of over 300 pages with 3 million+ views.

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## This Month's News

### 1. Addressing gendered gaps in digital technology for a just and inclusive transition

<https://www.iied.org/addressing-gendered-gaps-digital-technology-for-just-inclusive-transition>

A low-carbon transition aims to move away from carbon-intensive approaches in all sectors, including technology. And this has implications for gender equity because shifts in technologies, practices and policies impact groups differently. Any move towards less carbon-intensive approaches will inevitably be gendered, based on who is impacted, who makes the decisions, the nature of responses and the nature of investments.

Inclusive digital technology is important for a just transition and many emerging and developing economies have embraced digital technology for innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth (PDF). Digital technology has the potential to contribute to low-carbon transitions in different sectors, creating new jobs and supporting women to establish new businesses through electronic payments, mobile money platforms and so on.

But our research on an inclusive low-carbon transition and gender-just economic outcomes indicates that gender just transition aims are often high, but implementation and evidence of outcomes does not match what is needed for transformative change in gender equality.

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## 2. Opinion: The US must pass its feminist foreign policy resolution

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-the-us-must-pass-its-feminist-foreign-policy-resolution-105079>

First Sweden. Then Canada and Mexico. Now Germany, the Netherlands, and Liberia. What these countries, among others, have in common is that they have adopted a feminist approach to foreign policy. And now the United States has shown signs that it might soon join the club.

In establishing a feminist foreign policy, these countries' governments have decided to prioritize leveraging their foreign policy toolbox to create a more just, equitable, sustainable, and peaceful world. There is hope now that the U.S. will do the same.

Canada has led the way on funding for women's rights and feminist organizations, pioneering the use of innovative investment mechanisms to support grassroots women's rights organizations in communities contending with everything from climate change to conflict-related sexual violence. Mexico was among the few countries pushing for women's rights activists to lead the way in climate negotiations at the most recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

To date, the U.S. has taken small steps to make its foreign policy more feminist, but hasn't fully committed.

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## 3. Germany's government introduces 'feminist' foreign policy

<https://apnews.com/article/germany-feminist-foreign-development-policy-4b4b75d928b6f8117f8bd49ad61c9301>

Germany's foreign and development ministers presented new feminist foreign policy guidelines that are supposed to ensure that all people "have the same right to representation and access to resources."

The government policy focuses on considering and supporting the needs of women and girls in foreign affairs decisions, with a goal of erasing discrimination and thereby promoting more stable societies, the ministers said.

The guidelines for a feminist development policy in Germany stipulate that in the future, more than 90% of newly committed project funds should flow into global projects that also advance gender equality. In 2021, the figure was around 64%, German news agency dpa reported.

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## 4. Transforming Gender Norms Through Male Champions

<https://weeffect.org/stories/transforming-gender-norms-through-male-champions/>

Gender equality is still often considered a "women's issue." Gender equality, however, is the responsibility of all individuals. We acknowledged that men and boys are also involved with gender issues and have an important role in achieving equality. Together with Advocates for Social Change Kenya- Adsock through the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project (GEWEP), we have been assisting farmer-based cooperatives to carry out gender audits and analysis to facilitate the smooth implementation of gender transformation approaches. One such approach is the integration and promotion of male champions whose role is to promote women's social status and access to land. The sensitization on gender equality initiatives takes place through dialogue and awareness creation forums.

Male champions act as male agents of change toward gender justice. The aim of this Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) has been to create a critical mass of men to champion gender equality & women's rights by challenging and tackling patriarchal tendencies in communities and other structures not only on climate change issues but also on all the other gender equality concerns.

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## 5. Gender-Responsive Approach to Technology and Innovation Will Ensure Progress

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/03/gender-responsive-approach-to-technology-and-innovation-will-ensure-progress-un-international-womens-day-celebration/>

The UN's observance of International Women's Day (IWD) event touched on the significance of promoting gender equality in the digital space through the meaningful ways technology and innovation can empower women and girls when given the opportunity. It also notably dissected the barriers preventing complete gender parity in this sector. Put simply, women and girls have historically been underrepresented in the STEM fields and are prevented from unlocking the full potential of technology.

At present, nearly 37 percent of women do not have access to the internet, meaning that they neither have access to resources nor are able to acquire useful digital skills. Those women and girls who do use technology and occupy digital spaces are at greater risk of being subject to online harassment and violence, and misogynistic attitudes.

The gender disparity in online spaces is also evident in the ways that online harassment has targeted women and girls in these spaces and has even pushed them off these platforms. Within the tech industry, women make up less than a third of the workforce, with even fewer of them in leadership positions.

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## 6. Forget ChatGPT: The Greatest Tech Breakthrough Would Be Getting Cell Phones to Rural Women

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/03/forget-chatgpt-greatest-tech-breakthrough-getting-cell-phones-rural-women/>

While 100 million people worldwide are using the AI chatbot ChatGPT to get ahead on homework and try out for top jobs at Google, more than 370 million women in developing countries lack the services of a simple cell phone.

The world may be witnessing a quantum leap in the digital revolution, but cell phones and mobile internet would give these women enough of a foothold to access unprecedented opportunities to improve their incomes, nutrition and health.

For rural women and girls in low-income countries who rely on small-scale agriculture, ICT can unlock financial services, training and networks, and, importantly, information and knowledge. Without these core technologies, women are farming with one hand tied behind their backs, making up just a quarter of registered users of agricultural applications in Africa.

The potential of digital technology to transform farming and agriculture in countries across the Global South is increasingly compelling. Producers in sub-Saharan Africa who adopted online services were found to increase their incomes by up to 40 per cent while new forecasting and early warning systems can also help farmers stay ahead of climate shocks. Digital innovations are therefore an essential component of agricultural research strategies to strengthen food and economic security around the world.

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## 7. How a NASA-backed scientist uses satellites to help African farmers

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-a-nasa-backed-scientist-uses-satellites-to-help-african-farmers-105010>

The future of agriculture involves farmers deciding what, how, and when to plant, based not only on what they see in their fields but also using pictures from space.

Thanks to the work of Catherine Nakalembe, that future is not far off. The Ugandan scientist leads the Africa program for NASA Harvest, the United States space agency's food security and agriculture program. It monitors crops from space and uses a combination of satellite imagery and data from the ground to help farmers and policymakers on the continent make more informed decisions.

One of NASA Harvest’s projects is Helmets Labeling Crops, a ground data collection effort underway in Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda that involves taking pictures of fields from cameras mounted on motorcycle helmets or cars.

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## **8. The imperative for digital development and public private partnerships in Least Developed Countries**

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2023/03/01/digital-development-public-private-partnerships-ldcs/>

A paltry 36% of people use the internet in the world’s lowest-income countries. But bringing more people online requires far more than just reliable high-speed internet access. Connectivity and skills are critical to bringing the benefits of digital development to 46 countries that account for only 1.5% of global GDP and less than 1% of global trade.

“By bringing together the physical infrastructure and human infrastructure, you can actually start to make meaningful progress on the kind of underlying challenges facing the economy,” says Microsoft’s Chris Sharrock.

Microsoft yesterday unveiled new partnerships to expand internet connectivity in Africa and train youth and women entrepreneurs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Senegal, and Uganda. The announcement comes ahead of the fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which takes place every 10 years and convenes in Doha, Qatar, next week.

Microsoft is co-chairing the private sector forum at the conference and hopes its digital commitments could nudge other companies to do the same.

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## **9. Women’s voices continue to grow in agriculture with the help of social media**

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/104080/news/womens-voices-continue-to-grow-in-agriculture-with-the-help-of-social-media/>

<https://wildrosefarmer.com/the-rural-woman-podcast/>

Since 2019 Katelyn Duban has talked to around 200 women in the agriculture sector on her podcast the Rural Woman. According to the southern Alberta Farmer and podcast host, these women have always been the backbone of the industry, whether it be working in the field or the home, but now are finding the courage to speak up and share their stories.

“They can use their voice in a positive way for our industry, not only positive amongst each other but positive for the next generation coming forth to say we are strong contenders in this industry, and we belong to be here,” Duban says. “Women typically have a more empathetic way of doing things.”

Duban adds this feeling of empathy helps connect those in the agriculture with the general public and gets them thinking about where their food comes from. This connects consumers with the story behind how their food is grown or raised.

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## **10. Climate change puts more women at risk for domestic violence**

<https://fullerproject.org/story/climate-domestic-violence/>

Extreme weather events do not cause domestic or gender-based violence, but instead exacerbate existing pressures or make it easier for perpetrators to carry out such violence.

A 2021 study of extreme weather events in Kenya by researchers at St. Catherine University in Minnesota found the economic stresses caused by flooding and drought or extreme heat exacerbated violence against women in their homes.

The research, which used satellite and national health survey data, showed that domestic violence rose by 60 percent in areas that experienced extreme weather.

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## **11. Stop depicting women as climate victims - we shaped the movement**

<https://www.context.news/climate-justice/opinion/stop-depicting-women-as-climate-victims-we-shaped-the-movement>

Climate change does not impact everyone equally. It has a disproportionate impact on women across the globe. Women face greater risks from food security, ill health, violence, disruption to education and reduced work opportunities as a result of climate change. Because of these unequal impacts, women are generally depicted as victims of climate change. However, this narrative is deeply problematic.

It reduces women's roles in the climate movement to powerless actors who need to be saved - especially those in the Global South. This affects how women view their role within the climate movement and how they are treated by others, as well as how support is designed and implemented to help them cope with climate impacts.

It is simply not true that women have no control or influence in the response to the climate crisis. On the contrary, women have been essential in shaping the climate movement in four key ways.

- Representing vulnerable countries: Female heads of state have pushed for more ambitious international climate action on behalf of the most climate vulnerable countries.
- Changing the narrative: Women have been instrumental in raising awareness of the risks to the climate and the environment posed by human activities.
- Challenging established power structures: Women's historical fight for social justice has positioned them as leaders in working to uphold the rights of vulnerable communities.
- Converting the debate into action: Despite evidence linking female representation among decision makers to more effective climate policy, women are still underrepresented in decision-making and leadership roles in climate policy processes. Women made up less than 34% of country negotiating teams at COP27.

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## **12. Realizing Women's' Land Rights: Southern Highlands Tree Growers Association Tanzania**

<https://weeffect.org/stories/realising-womens-land-rights/>

In Tanzania, the agricultural sector is dominated by women who actively engage in agricultural activities. Women contribute significantly to the country's food production at more than 80 percent of the agricultural labor force.

Southern Highlands Tree Growers Association (SHTGA) in partnership with We Effect is implementing a project that supports improved women and youth participation. The project in private plantation forestry will increase women's income and household nutrition. In addition, the project conducts awareness on the right of women and youth to own, manage and have control of land so as to improve their economic well-being. Having access to land will enhance women and youth empowerment and increase participation in commercial tree growing.

SHTGA uses two approaches to facilitate ownership of land to women. The first approach is to create awareness in communities for them to allow female children to inherit land. The second approach is to work with village councils that have land banks to allocate the land to Tree Growers Association (TGA) members (men and women).

As a result of the campaign, village councils of Uliwa and Ngalanga provided 70 acres of land cumulatively. 60 acres was provided by Uliwa village council, and 10 acres was provided by Ngalanga village council. The land was given to Kikundi Cha



Wakulima wa Miti Uliwa (KIWAMIU) Tree Growers Association and Ngalanga Tree Growers Associations respectively. From these parcels of land, 46 acres was given to 46 women, each getting one acre.

In 2020, the project supported processing of Customary Certificate of Right of Occupancy CCROs for 60 members of KIWAMIU tree growers' associations. 24 CCROs were distributed to men and 36 to women.

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### **13. Access to clean energy technologies set to boost livelihoods of women entrepreneurs in rural Senegal and Benin**

<https://energy4impact.org/news/access-clean-energy-technologies-set-boost-livelihoods-women-entrepreneurs-rural-senegal-and-benin/>

Through a new initiative called Productive Horticulture Solutions for Senegal and Benin that Leverage Clean Energy (POSSIBLE), Energy 4 Impact is helping smallholder women farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Senegal and Benin capitalize on the possibilities enabled by clean energy technologies. Achieving higher productivity through the deployment of productive use of energy appliances will enable entrepreneurs to improve their livelihoods whilst also bolstering local food and water security and build their resilience against the impacts of climate change.

As rainfall becomes more erratic, solar irrigation reduces farmer dependence on rain-fed agriculture, enabling them to produce healthier crops with increased yields by using water from local rivers and lakes. Solar refrigeration allows farmers to drastically reduce the typically high levels of on-farm wastage of produce which jeopardizes local food security. Efficient processing equipment also reduces the need for onerous physical labour whilst also improving the overall quality and salability of produce. The efficiencies created by productive use of energy technologies frees up time for women and girls that can then be diverted towards other productive or educational activities.

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### **14. How a Women-led Investment Firm is Supporting Clean Cooking**

<https://cleancooking.org/news/how-a-women-led-investment-firm-is-supporting-clean-cooking/>

<https://sistema.bio/>

Nathalie Prado has built a 15-year career at the EcoEnterprises Fund, a women-led investment fund building investment portfolios focusing on critical natural ecosystems and working landscapes in Latin America. Among the Fund's many investment recipients is Sistema.bio, a biogas company serving small to medium-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

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### **15. One Woman's Quest to Bring Clean Cooking to Families in Nepal**

<https://cleancooking.org/news/clearing-the-air-one-womans-quest-to-bring-clean-cooking-to-families-in-nepal/>

Bambie Gadon Panta is the Country Director of The Cookstove Project Nepal. She works to increase awareness of the dangers of traditional cooking methods and to improve the health of women and children. The Cookstove Project builds improved cookstoves for families in Nepal using locally sourced materials and supports them in maintaining and caring for their stoves.

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### **16. Men Can Cook – Challenging Patriarchal Norms in Zimbabwe**

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/impact-stories/stories/26/men-can-cook-challenging-patriarchal-norms-in-zimbabwe>

Supported by FIT, St. Mary’s Road United Church and local partners SCORE Against Poverty (Zimbabwe) tested an innovative solution that engaged men in a community-designed program that redefines masculinity and associated norms in a positive, supportive way at the family level, using intent instead of mandate.

The innovation used two approaches. The ‘Men Can Cook’ competition involved a skills-based learning opportunity where men were taught to cook by women in the community, and then participated in a competition judged by the women. The ‘Men’s Forum’ intended to support the learning process and create safe spaces for men to dialogue and start to “unpack” what was being learned. This approach addressed the unpaid work imbalance in the home by both providing men with domestic skills and a platform for them to discuss and address harmful patriarchal norms. The innovation engaged 90 men and 80 women in the Mwenezi district of Zimbabwe.

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## 17. Six tips from women in STEM on how to succeed in development

<https://www.devex.com/news/6-tips-from-women-in-stem-on-how-to-succeed-in-development-94617>

STEM in global development tends to be male dominated, but three female leaders shared tips for succeeding as a woman in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math in the development sector.

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## 18. How Fairtrade addresses Gender Equity

<https://fairtrade.ca/fairtrade-addresses-gender-equity/>

At Fairtrade, we continue to promote gender equity in sectors where equal access and opportunities for women are still a challenge.

The theme of this year’s International Women’s Day is #EmbraceEquity– equity is no longer an ideal, but rather a necessity and is part of our core mission to eliminate poverty. Rather than focusing on equality, a concept that would infer that all people need the same things, this year we are focused on equity, recognizing that each person has different circumstances and therefore may need specific resources to achieve the same opportunities as their peers.

Together, we work towards gender equity in matters of pay, opportunity, and personal freedom.

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## 19. Lack of water services leave women and girls vulnerable

<https://www.devex.com/news/lack-of-water-services-leave-women-and-girls-vulnerable-to-sex-tortion-105203>

It’s a staggering statistic: Women and girls worldwide spend 200 million hours each day collecting water. But it’s just one part of the challenges they go through because of the lack of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in many parts of the world.

Without pads, girls often miss school. Having pads without water, meanwhile, means they aren’t able to wash their hands and practice proper hygiene. In some places, women and girls have turned to reusable pads. Women cooperatives sell them to make a profit while debunking taboos on menstruation in their communities.

But climate change is adding a layer of complication. In Liberia, which the World Bank expects will see increased risks and severity of natural disasters due to climate change, women and girls using reusable pads struggle to find a private place to hang them to dry, said Naomi Tulay-Solanke, founder of Community Healthcare Initiative.

In dire circumstances, women exchange sex for water, and their daughters sell their bodies for menstrual pads, Anita Soina from Sanitation and Water for All in Kenya said.

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## 20. Barbie doll modelled on a space scientist

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/mar/09/doll-barbie-space-scientist-inspires-girls-to-dream-bigger>

In the past, the Barbie doll offered a narrow ideal of beauty: she was thin and blonde, with straight hair and blue eyes, and she didn't look a bit like space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. But times have changed.

In 2023, the iconic Barbie name represents women of all shapes and sizes. Long gone are the unrealistic, and often frightening, beauty standards characterised by the early dolls. In their place, real-life doctors, marine biologists and astronauts are the new aspirational ideals. This month, Mattel will celebrate Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and six other STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professionals from around the world, including former YouTube chief executive Susan Wojcicki and the founder of ETU Education, Yinyu Li.

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## 21. Ghana launches \$30M education outcomes fund to get kids into school

<https://www.devex.com/news/ghana-launches-30m-education-outcomes-fund-to-get-kids-into-school-105066>

The world's largest education outcomes fund — \$30 million to get out-of-school children into the classroom and improve learning levels at primary schools — has finally kicked off in Ghana.

Some five years in development, the innovative program is structured as a results-based financing mechanism, which means that the implementers only get paid if they achieve certain, independently verified results. While a few such programs have been tested in education, this is the biggest to date.

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## 22. Jill Biden Visits Africa for First Time as First Lady

<https://www.voanews.com/a/jill-biden-to-visit-africa-for-first-time-as-first-lady-/6972623.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2023/03/01/jill-biden-africa-trip-2024/>

Jill Biden arrived in Namibia Feb 22 for her first visit to Africa as U.S. first lady. Biden will focus on women's empowerment, children's issues and food insecurity that has ravaged parts of the continent. In addition to focusing on women and children, the first lady will draw attention to the dire food insecurity that is again gnawing at East Africa as she visits Kenya.

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## 23. Fortifying Equity and Economic Diversification for Resilience (FEED II) project in South Sudan

<https://www.wvi.org/stories/south-sudan/women-farmers-south-sudan-find-their-groove-making-decisions-and-leading-fight>

"Our uncles took advantage of the situation and forced me into marriage at 14," says Adut, who was raised by a single mother in a cattle camp and had no other remaining male relatives. "They took the 30 head of cattle offered as a dowry for themselves. My mother could not say a word because men had the final say over girls and marriage."

The 29-year-old Adut, a mother of 8, is breaking stereotypes in her village in South Sudan as a proud farmer and leader at the Thurnyior Farmer Field Business School.

Through the Fortifying Equity and Economic Diversification for Resilience (FEED II) project, women like Adut are empowered to break the generational cycle and redefine the role of women to combat food insecurities for families in Warrap.

World Vision's Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), is implemented in partnership with CARE and War Child Canada. It aims to help community members reflect on the roles of women and men in their community and promote gender equality.

The project's goal is not to make men uncomfortable or feel guilty, but to encourage both genders to work together to create safer households and enhance women's leadership skills. Farming is one of the areas where women already have a lot of influence, hence, the project also trains them, along with men, to improve livelihoods and help South Sudan combat hunger.

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## **24. Femmes et foncier au Sénégal : promouvoir une gouvernance inclusive et participative**

<https://www.iied.org/fr/21366iied>

Au Sénégal, malgré d'évidents progrès législatifs en matière de parité de genre, les femmes restent encore minoritaires, voire absentes des instances stratégiques et opérationnelles de gouvernance foncière au niveau communal. Ces dernières années, plusieurs organisations de la société civile ont accompagné le développement d'outils favorisant une gestion participative et inclusive du foncier. Cette note politique partage les résultats, leçons et recommandations tirés de ces innovations de terrain visant à améliorer, tant sur le plan numérique que qualitatif, la participation des femmes à la gouvernance foncière locale au Sénégal.

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## **25. Ugandan Parliament Passes Extreme Anti-LGBT Bill**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/03/22/ugandan-parliament-passes-extreme-anti-lgbt-bill>

Ugandan lawmakers approved new legislation that entrenches the criminalization of same-sex conduct. It also creates new offenses that will curtail any activism on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues and eradicate LGBT people from any form of social engagement in Uganda. Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has 30 days to assent or reject the Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

If the law comes into force, it will violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, liberty, privacy, equality, freedom from discrimination, inhuman and degrading treatment, and a fair hearing – all guaranteed under Ugandan and international law – for all Ugandans.

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## **26. Workshop on women's leadership in agriculture and climate research**

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/workshop-womens-leadership-agriculture-and-climate-research>

Evidence suggests women made up only 25% of agricultural scientists in Africa in the last decade, and a much lower proportion of decision makers on agriculture and climate change at institutional, national & global levels. This situation has not critically improved in recent years.

In response, together with CORAF | West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development, AICRA hosted a workshop designed to develop women's leadership in agriculture and climate research, and to promote their access to decision-making positions in regional, and national research, extension, and advisory organizations.

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### 1. Podcast: Ripple effects and revolutions: Women leaders in climate and biodiversity

<https://www.iied.org/ripple-effects-revolutions-women-leaders-climate-biodiversity>

The newest episode of IIED's Make Change Happen podcast is now available. Around the world, girls and women play a critical role in caring for biodiversity and managing the risks of climate change. Yet their role as stewards of nature and champions of climate action often goes unrecognised, and they are largely overlooked in decision-making spaces.

In this new episode of the Make Change Happen podcast, launched ahead of International Women's Day, an all-women panel share the transformative change driven by women as they take on leadership roles at every level – from remote rural villages to international conventions.

Hosted by James Persad, director of IIED's Communications Group, this podcast features Ritu Bharadwaj, principal researcher in IIED's Climate Change research group; Omaira Bolaños, director of the Latin America and Gender Justice programmes at Rights and Resources Initiative; and Ivonne Higuero, secretary-general of CITES.

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### 2. Book: “Why Women Grow: Stories of Soil, Sisterhood and Survival”

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/mar/05/my-search-for-women-gardeners-life-stories-helped-me-combat-lonliness-and-make-great-friends>

For journalist and Guardian Saturday gardening columnist Alice Vincent, her 20s seemed – on paper at least – full of fun. However, deep down she was lonely, a feeling that would re-emerge during the Covid lockdowns. In response, Alice resolved to make a list of women she wanted to meet, seeking out new friendships with other people who also shared a passion for gardening. Over 14 months, she met 45 women aged from 22 to 82, finding out about their lives as well as their green-fingered exploits. She has since brought their stories together in a book, *Why Women Grow: Stories of Soil, Sisterhood and Survival*.

“Forming new friendships has been exhilarating, especially with people I would struggle to encounter otherwise – women from a different generation or background, who have lived different lives,” she writes. “Furthermore, in making these new friends I have learned to be a better friend to those who have stuck with me for far longer”.

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### 3. The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) 2022 Annual Report

<https://cleancooking.org/reports-and-tools/2022-annual-report/>

CCA's Annual Report shares significant developments from across the organization's range of activities in 2022. Highlights include:

- Supporting the development and launch of the Spark+ Africa Fund, the world's first impact fund financing clean and modern cooking solutions, which raised US \$54 million at first close.
- Launching the Responsible Carbon Finance for Clean Cooking Initiative, which focuses on building trusted and effective carbon markets to support clean cooking and a just energy transition.
- Growing the Venture Catalyst program, which has now carried out 83 projects in 19 countries and added five new companies to its portfolio in 2022.
- Implementing four initiatives under the Clean Cooking Systems Strategy, including a Delivery Units Network to help national governments increase access to clean cooking.
- Publishing a Country Action Plan with the Government of Nepal to support Nepal's energy access goals.

- Welcoming 700+ in-person attendees from 60+ countries to the Clean Cooking Forum 2022, held in Accra, Ghana.
- Inaugurating the second cohort of the Women in Clean Cooking mentorship program by CCA, SEforALL, and GWNET, engaging 120 early- to mid-career women from Africa, Asia, and Haiti.

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## 4. Achieving Sustainable Food Systems in a Global Crisis: Summary Report

<https://www.iisd.org/publications/report/sustainable-food-systems-global-crisis-summary>

This report summarizes the evidence-based and costed country roadmaps for effective public interventions to transform agriculture and food systems in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Nigeria in a way that ends hunger, makes diets healthier and more affordable, improves the productivity and incomes of small-scale producers and their households, and mitigates and adapts to climate change.

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## 5. Feminist Analysis of COP27 Climate Finance Outcomes

<https://action-nexus.medium.com/feminist-analysis-of-cop27-climate-finance-outcomes-63a4bf43b3c3>

During COP27, which took place in Egypt from November 6–18, advocates from the Women & Gender Constituency (WGC) and the Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice were on the ground following key finance agenda items and advocating for feminist climate finance. The piece looks at five key areas of negotiations and discussions, including within the “Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan.” Read our summary and analysis of five key areas of negotiations and discussions.

1. Setting a New Climate Finance Goal (aka the NCQG)
2. Providing Loss & Damage Finance
3. Calling for the Transformation of the Global Financial Architecture
4. Making Climate Funds Work for Climate Justice: the GCF, the GEF, and the Adaptation Fund
5. Addressing Debt Justice

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## 6. Research Paper: 'Towards a More Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement'

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/research/>

In January of 2023, the Inter-Council Network ICN published its most recent research paper, 'Towards a More Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement'. This report is a summary of a research project on public engagement conducted by the ICN between November 2021 and June 2022. The research focuses on better practices in public engagement in the international cooperation sector. To strengthen sector actors’ public engagement work, the ICN explores decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches. Broadly, this research focuses on big social justice questions around equity and power.

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## 7. The State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-school-feeding-worldwide-2022>

This report is World Food Programme’s WFP flagship publication and the main reporting mechanism of the School Meals Coalition. It provides an overview on how countries support their children through effective school feeding programmes.

The State of School Feeding worldwide publication is issued every two years and uses the best available data sources to provide an overview of coverage, implementation practices and costs of school-based health and nutrition programmes worldwide.

This publication will be the first one to additionally monitor the progress of the School Meals Coalition and the achievements towards its goal of providing every schoolchild globally with a daily, healthy meal in school by 2030.

The last State of School Feeding was launched during COVID-19 – today the world is recovering from the pandemic, and most children have returned to school. However, many children have lost more than two years of schooling, resulting in the largest loss of human capital in decades.

This report will analyse how school health and nutrition interventions have recovered from the severe impact of the pandemic and how governments are prioritising school feeding programmes in the political landscape of post-COVID recovery, climate change, and an unfolding food crisis.

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## 8. Testing Marketing Strategies for Women Farmers in Nepal

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0erWDou\\_Mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0erWDou_Mo)

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/funded-innovations/search/42/ide-canada>

iDE Canada and iDE Nepal share insights on their recent innovation on Testing Marketing Strategies for Women Farmers. This project was funded by Fund for Innovation and Transformation. This innovative solution will empower women smallholders in Kaski, Nepal with increased choice about how they grow vegetables. iDE has trained these women to use integrated pest management (IPM) production methods which minimize or eliminate the use of chemical pesticides.

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## 9. Digital Book: The Manitoba Women’s Institute (MWI) COVID Story Collection

<https://mbwi.ca/2022/02/28/titlecontest/>

The Manitoba Women’s Institute (MWI) COVID Story Collection is “hot off the presses”. MWI compiled the collection of stories to ensure that the history of Manitoba women coping with COVID-19 and its variants is reflected in written format for the generations to come.

“When MWI tried to research the 1918 Influenza (aka the 1918 Spanish Flu) we were unable to find stories written by women. We found a couple pictures of finely dressed women in long gowns and parasols but nothing about the hardships endured by women especially in rural and agricultural areas where access to medical care and social supports were limited or did not exist. The stories contained in this digital book have been collected by MWI to ensure that history will possess valuable documentation on how we as women coped and survived COVID-19 and its variants.”

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## 10. Updated: Fix the Gap – Honoraria

<https://fixthegap.500womenscientists.org/>

Last year, 500 Women Scientists launched Fix The Gap — a database of over 1,000 honoraria and speaking fees from across STEM disciplines, career stages and geographies. Our goal was to help normalize compensation for STEM expertise, and make it easy to ensure scientists, especially those belonging to historically excluded communities, are being paid fairly for their time and effort.

Over the last year, thanks to support from Lyda Hill Philanthropies, we've been busy updating the database to make it more user-friendly. Today, we're excited to unveil the second iteration of Fix The Gap — the database is now integrated into gage, and even easier to navigate with a more user-friendly interface for both desktop and mobile users.

Head to Fix The Gap today to explore 1,000+ honoraria, and filter by various factors, including country, gender, age range, and the type of speaking engagement (e.g., talks, panels, workshops, keynotes, and guest lectures).

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## **11. Updated: Guide to Organizing Inclusive Scientific Meetings**

<https://500womenscientists.org/inclusive-scientific-meetings>

Scientific meetings form the connective tissue of the global scientific enterprise. Whether in-person, virtual, or hybrid, scientific meetings are essential for building relationships and trust, and bridging different perspectives on challenging problems. Because participation in scientific meetings is so essential for a successful career in science, it's imperative that they provide equitable, inclusive, accessible, and just spaces. That's why we're excited to share the updated Guide To Organizing Inclusive Scientific Meetings. This Guide is the go-to resource for people in planning or leadership positions for scientific meetings (co-chairs, steering committees, subcommittees, organizers, etc.).

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## **12. Podcast: Climate Smart Africa**

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/international-womens-day-2023>

Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) latest podcast 'Climate Smart Agriculture' explores how AICCRA teams and partners are enabling women across Africa to embrace climate information services and climate-smart agriculture for a more resilient future.

Engaging women to increase their access to information and technology is a key theme of AICCRA's activities and in this podcast you'll hear about how we're doing that through training women in the use of Next-Gen forecasting systems, community engagements in Ghana, and more.

The episode is hosted by Mina Okuru Addico, MCIPR with guests AICCRA's Gender and Social Inclusion Lead Sophia Huyer, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)'s Renee Bullock, AICCRA Ghana Social Inclusion Expert Faustina Obeng Adomaa and International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School's Amanda Grossi.

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## **13. Webinar: AICCRA Ghana on Access to Agriculture Services for Women Farmers**

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/aicra-ghana-access-agriculture-services-women-farmers>

During the webinar, there was a presentation by the Ghana Country team followed by discussions with all participants. The discussions focused on unpacking some of the key barriers, opportunities and meaningful engagements with farmers in accessing Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and Climate Information Services in a gender-smart manner.

Watch the recorded webinar at the link.

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## **14. Recent research highlights the role of gender in pastoral and dryland innovations**

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/recent-research-highlights-role-gender-pastoral-and-dryland-innovations>



Research evidence in this article by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) shows that gender-responsive approaches for climate change adaptation in pastoral and dryland areas will help women to continue building independent and resilient livelihoods.

AICCRA is scaling climate information services and climate-smart agriculture and increasing women’s uptake and adoption of drought-tolerant crops in lower eastern counties by using socially-inclusive approaches.

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## **15. Gender empowerment and parity in East Africa: evidence from climate-smart agriculture in Ethiopia and Kenya**

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/126510>

Permanent link to cite or share this item: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/126510>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2022.2154124>

*Abstract*

The aim of this study is to understand the role of climate-smart villages (CSVs) in promoting gender empowerment and equality in East Africa. This paper uses data collected from 280 and 305 randomly selected farm household heads in Doyogena (Ethiopia) and Nyando (Kenya), respectively. To analyse the data, the gender empowerment index for climate resilient agriculture (GEI-CRA) and the gender parity index (GPI) were constructed based on guidelines from the literature. In both Doyogena and Nyando, households in CSVs scored higher GEI. Comparing men and women in the CSVs, women were found to be more empowered compared to men and comparing between the two sites, household heads in Doyogena were more empowered than those in Nyando. Regarding gender parity index (GPI), in both sites, majority of the women in the empowered households in CSVs were either at equal status with men or even at higher status than men. These findings shed light on the potential of CSVs in enhancing gender empowerment and promoting gender equality. The positive contribution of CSVs may guide policymakers to scale up these practices with a better-targeted approach that recognize and adequately address the implementation of CSA practices so that men and women can equally benefit.

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