



Flowering annuals in pots: Lulu Marigold, Zinnia, False sunflower. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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 to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Agribusiness Acceleration approaches for CSA innovation, resilience, gender and social inclusion

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/agribusiness-acceleration-approaches-csa-innovation-resilience-gender-and-social-inclusion>

A knowledge-sharing session at Africa's Food Systems Forum 2023 (AGRF) in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. September 4.**

Livestream link will be shared if available. The session will address the following:

- The pivotal role of science and research in business acceleration programs to scale up climate-smart agriculture practices.
- The use of climate-smart agriculture technical assistance to enhance investment readiness and bankability.
- The need for business skills development, training, and market linkages to facilitate access to finance for women, youth-owned enterprises, and other stakeholders.
- The provision of incentives to investees upon achieving gender targets, including increased participation of women and youth in the value chain, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) trainings, and the upskilling of women and youth extensionists.

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2. WEBINAR | Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Maximizing the impact of gender analyses

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/event/webinar-gender-responsive-nap-processes-gender-analyses/>

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process offers a crucial opportunity to achieve effective and sustainable climate change adaptation, ensuring equitable benefits for people of all genders and especially for the most vulnerable populations. In light of this, the NAP Global Network worked with nine countries between 2017 and 2022, conducting targeted gender analyses to inform their NAP processes.

This webinar will give the floor to representatives of two countries who will share their reflections on the gender analysis they conducted and the resulting changes they have seen in their NAP processes. In sharing these reflections and examples, we aim to demonstrate the value of targeted gender analysis in promoting adaptation action that is gender-responsive, while also providing advice to undertaking gender analyses for their adaptation planning processes. **September 05, 2023.**

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3. Strengthening Gender Integration in Climate Policy and Action in Africa

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/aicra-africa-climate-summit-and-africa-climate-week>

<https://agnesafrika.org/2023/08/24/examining-climate-change-vulnerability-at-sub-national-level-in-africa-a-gender-perspective/>

Africa Climate Summit will include a side-event to raise awareness about the gender dimensions on climate change impacts on vulnerable communities in Africa. Presentations will be shared on the preliminary outcomes of the gender and climate change vulnerability hotspot mapping in Botswana, Uganda and Kenya, emphasizing the need for gender analysis in climate risk assessments. The side-event also aims to strengthen partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders to develop gender responsive solutions and promote gender equality in climate change resilience efforts. **Wednesday 6 September, in Nairobi, Kenya.** Livestream link: To be added if available.

4. Webinar: Transformative food systems governance and the environmental agenda

<https://www.iied.org/transformative-food-systems-governance-environmental-agenda-lessons-national-city-level>

The food sector uses more natural resources than any other sector, and food systems governance has direct consequences for natural resource management and ecosystems functioning. Join IIED and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on **Wednesday, 13 September** for an informative webinar, Transformative food systems governance and the environmental agenda: lessons from the national and city level.

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5. Unlocking the Value of Gender Equity at Work

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/unlocking-the-value-of-gender-equity-at-work-tickets-705032279527>

The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) presents this online workshop. **September 19.** Did you know share price performance can be almost 50 percent higher when women are well represented at the top of employers? This workshop outlines how gender equity in the workplace enhances long-term financial performance, creates innovation, facilitates retention, and builds culture.

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6. September 25-29 is Gender Equality Week in Canada

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/gender-equality-week.html>

Gender Equality Week is an opportunity to:

- raise awareness of the important contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada,
- celebrate the significant achievements and accomplishments that we have made in advancing gender equality, and
- reconfirm our commitment to address persistent gender equality gaps in our country.

Gender Equality Week is the result of the passing of Bill C-309, the Gender Equality Week Act, which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2018. This legislation designates the fourth week in September as Gender Equality Week.

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7. Beef and Dairy Producer Wellbeing Survey

Dairy farmers in Canada: bit.ly/46acmMs or https://cssrp.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cOUcPh8tJFVifC6

Beef farmers in western Canada and Ontario: bit.ly/45Zjifg or https://cssrp.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mvvqT4Wnr3ruNE

This survey is to help with recruitment for a research study conducted by graduate students at the University of Manitoba and supervised by Dr. Meagan King.

We know that women are often the emotional rocks for the family and the farm. If you are a dairy or beef producer, please consider helping us understand how your well-being is related to farm management and animal health. This project is also open to your spouses/family members who are primary/co-decision makers.

This research has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at the University of Manitoba. Contact for questions. Email: FarmerWellbeing@umanitoba.ca

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8. The Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)

<https://genderenvironmentdata.org/membership/>

GEDA is a membership-based alliance working to address the gender-environment data gap and drive more gender-transformative climate and environment policy.

GEDA works to enhance the availability, accessibility, understanding, and application of robust and high-quality data and information, including by amplifying and supporting Global South data practitioners and feminist methodologies. After an initial period of defining our scope and mapping the gender-environment data landscape, GEDA is ready to invite more partners to spotlight diverse analysis and collaborate on research and advocacy. We're **launching our 2023 Membership Drive**, and we invite you to join us.

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9. Women and youth: Join Heifer CEO for UNGA fireside chat

<https://pages.devex.com/devex-at-unga-78.html>

Join Devex for a series of events in New York City on the sidelines of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.

Harnessing the ingenuity of women and investing in the innovative potential of youth is key to accelerating SDG progress. Join Heifer International CEO Surita Sandosham for a fireside chat with Devex at UNGA online and in person from **Sept. 20-21**. Tune in for a conversation on why women and youth are critical change agents to bolstering food security and household well-being while building resilience to the worsening effects of climate change.

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This Month's News

1. Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/stories-histoires/2023/2023-06-feminist-assistance_aide-feministe.aspx

Gender equality is key to eradicating poverty and building a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world for all, and it is not a battle that can be won by targeting women alone. Meet Stephen Chilufya, a 48-year-old husband, father and "gender champion" from northern Zambia. Through CARE Canada's Southern Africa Nutrition Initiative, Stephen learned the importance of sharing household responsibilities equally. "I now cook, wash plates and involve my wife in decision making," he explains.

When men and boys challenge traditional gender roles and advocate for equality, they contribute to empowering women and girls economically, politically and socially. By promoting equal opportunities and access to health care, embracing non-violent practices, education, fair wages and inclusive policies, a ripple effect is created, breaking generational cycles of poverty and supporting entire communities.

It is a myth that a feminist international assistance policy prioritizes women over men. Together, we can rewrite the narrative and support equal opportunity and rights for all.

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2. Opinion: Feminist foreign policy activism can harm African women

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-feminist-foreign-policy-activism-can-harm-african-women-106038>

There has been a lot of discussion in the last few years on what a “feminist” foreign policy, or FFP, means and why it’s a good idea for countries to adopt. Sweden used to have one, while France, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico, and Chile have all signed up.

There is no single definition, but our understanding is that when a country adopts an FFP it prioritizes girls’ education, women’s leadership, peace and security, ending sexual violence, and boosting women’s economic freedom around the world. Some definitions also mention climate justice and ending racism.

As two successful African women strategists and thought leaders, we have unique perspectives on what the conversation on FFP tends to miss in the context of our continent — and what we think needs to be changed for FFPs to reflect the aim of achieving gender equality.

The work we do at our respective organizations has been central to changing the conversation about African women as drivers and active participants in our own progress as opposed to passive recipients of aid.

In the United Kingdom, The Five Foundation has pushed for systemic change for years, including a significant contribution to the new international strategy on women and girls.

Nalafem Collective works to transform the engagement between multilateral intergovernmental institutions and grassroots organizations. The Africa Young Women Beijing+25 Manifesto is a groundbreaking feminist political document that succeeded in including eight out of its 10 demands into United Nations Action Coalitions at the Generation Equality Forum, as well as the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact.

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3. African Women Seek to Boost Innovation and Creativity in Agribusiness

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/african-women-seek-to-boost-innovation-and-creativity-in-agribusiness/>

As part of Rwanda’s agriculture transformation efforts to enhance agribusiness competitiveness, a growing number of women are now engaged in agribusiness, where many have been able to generate business benefits throughout the value chain.

Official estimates show that in Rwanda, more women than men are primarily engaged in agriculture, yet female farmers face more challenges in starting successful agribusinesses than their male counterparts.

Despite these challenges, the latest official trends show that African women are abandoning traditional ways of engaging in agribusiness and adopting intellectual property (IP) approach to transform food systems on the continent.

According to experts, adopting IP in agribusiness aims to protect goods or services produced in the sector. It mainly deals with trade secrets, described as an essential component for businesses to protect confidential information that provides them a competitive edge.

During the first Africa Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Conference for Women in Agribusiness, which took place in Kigali in May 2023, delegates expressed the desire to promote innovations in women-led agribusinesses in Africa by helping them understand and use IP to bring their ideas to the world.

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4. Feminist Entrepreneurs Growing Green Economies - Tanzania

<https://www.meda.org/projects/fegge>

In partnership with the Government of Canada, MEDA’s Feminist Entrepreneurs Growing Green Economies (FEGGE) project will focus on an improved business-enabling environment and facilitation of opportunities for women-owned businesses.

FEGGE will focus on and work with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), small entrepreneurs (SEs), and other actors in the dryland and semi-arid regions of Tanzania.

Canada supports small and medium-sized businesses through the Feminist Entrepreneurs Growing Green Economies (FEGGE) project in collaboration with MEDA. One of the many small businesses supported by MEDA is Central Park Bees Limited (CPB). This sustainable beekeeping company empowers local farmers by offering free training, equipment grants and technical services.

In the journey from hive to retail, CPB works closely with local talent, providing expertise and promoting economic opportunities.

The process starts by producing and selling beehives using locally sourced materials, creating jobs and supporting local market opportunities. Next, farmers in the region are trained and equipped with the skills needed to effectively maintain their hives. Once the honey has been harvested, they purchase the honey directly from the farmers at a fair market price—ensuring a fair trade for farmers.

But it's not just about honey. Sustainable beekeeping and the bees themselves play a vital role in our ecosystems. When bees pollinate, they support the growth of plants, flowers and crops, contributing to biodiversity and food security. In addition to supporting the economic empowerment of farmers and promoting sustainable beekeeping practices, the FEGGE project contributes to a greener and more balanced ecosystem—for all.

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5. Women Shatter Gender Barriers in Uganda's Fish Farming Industry

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/women-shatter-gender-barriers-ugandas-fish-farming-industry/>

In a groundbreaking turn of events, women in Bugiri District, Eastern Uganda, have defied societal norms and broken into the traditionally male-dominated fish farming industry. Through the Women Economic Empowerment Programme launched by UN Women, these women have not only mastered the art of fishing but also revolutionized their economic prospects.

1,400 women have been trained in fish farming. With funding from the Government of Sweden and Standard Bank, UN Women partnered with the Bugiri District Local Government to support rural women in engaging in fish farming activities on the waters of Lake Victoria. As a result, 28 cages brimming with Tilapia fish now stand as a testament to the women's unwavering dedication and determination.

The project has also made significant strides in improving gender relations at the household level. With women contributing to the family budget and gaining financial independence, gender-based violence has notably reduced.

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6. Disappearing Fish Spell Hard Times for Women in Zimbabwe

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/disappearing-fish-spell-hard-times-for-women-in-zimbabwe/>

Zimbabwe's ballooning informal sector has, in recent years, spawned the over-exploitation of the country's natural resources, with the fisheries taking some of the most felt battering. Amidst challenges brought by economic hardships, fisheries—for long imagined to be an infinite resource by hawkers and fishermen—are providing women with livelihoods against odds brought by climate change and competition from male fishmongers who go into the water. Selling fish has for years been a source of income for women, but with current unemployment levels, more and more women are trying their hand at anything that will provide income.

According to the International Labour Organisation, out of more than five million informal traders in Zimbabwe, 65 percent are women, throwing more women into sectors such as fisheries that offer hope for steady incomes. And with huge numbers entering the fish trade, it has meant diminishing returns as fish in the country's waterways are not being repopulated fast enough.

Zimbabwe is in the midst of a long-running energy deficit that has not spared anyone, with the fisheries sector feeling the strain. Fresh fish sellers worry about the fish going bad because of electricity power cuts. Selling dried bream and kapenta has become the answer to these challenges.

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7. Transforming gender relations and turning to sustainable resource use in Cameroon

https://womensgenderclimate.org/gjc_solutions/transforming-gender-relations-and-turning-to-sustainable-resource-use-in-the-kilum-ijim-forests-of-cameroon/

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) engages local and ethnic women in sustainable forest management, while enhancing their human and socio-economic rights and transforming patriarchal gender relations in the forest communities. Cooperating with Oku local authorities and the government of Cameroon, CAMGEW gives women the opportunity to assume leadership positions of forest institutions and stakeholder platforms. They provide a broad range of trainings to over 2000 people : environmental education for schools and adults, bee farming, agroforestry and organic farming, small livestock breeding and biogas production, entrepreneurship skills with financial assistance. This initiative helps 800 young women fight domestic violence through counseling on their rights, business opportunities and community sensitization to counter early marriages.

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8. Building an efficient solar drying technology for women farmers' economic empowerment [Nigeria]

https://womensgenderclimate.org/gjc_solutions/building-an-efficient-solar-drying-technology-for-women-farmers-economic-empowerment/

Women Environmental Programme WEP has built a pilot solar dryer tent in Adogo village, Nigeria. The main objective of this innovative equipment is to improve the drying process of agricultural and sea products such as pepper, tomatoes, fish etc. through a healthier and controlled method. The pilot dryer responds to the specific needs of poor farmers – mostly women. The initiative promotes entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment, increases access to food and resources, and boosts commercial activities. It also improves hygiene and health, since the produce are dried in a controlled environment preventing contaminations by pests. It avoids spoilage of farm produce and has reduced the labour burden for women.

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9. Women in urban slums act for climate resilience (Kenya)

https://womensgenderclimate.org/gjc_solutions/women-in-urban-slums-act-for-climate-resilience-and-covid-19-recovery-in-kenya/

This project brings useful responses to specific gendered impacts of the COVID pandemic, which left many women in urban slums without a job while increasing their household responsibilities. Association of Women in Agriculture (AWAK) trained 700 urban women in slums to convert former domestic dumping sites into vegetable gardens, using organic compost to enrich the soil and biomass waste to produce biochar. The project provides women with sustainable sources of livelihood, including from vegetable sales, and promotes table funding as well as access to formal banking. It builds a holistic recovery program, with beneficiaries training more women, economic empowerment reducing domestic violence, and access to education for children.

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10. Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya

https://womengenderclimate.org/gjc_solutions/women-in-energy-enterprises-in-kenya-week2/

From 2019 to 2022, Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya – WEEK2 - promoted gender equality in Kenya’s energy sector. Kenyan women face barriers in access to energy technology, information and finance, leading to low participation in sustainable energy markets. 84% of rural households rely on wood as their main fuel, leading to GHG emissions and deforestation. Health impacts of indoor smoke and firewood collection fall disproportionately on women and girls. WEEK2 championed the business development of women entrepreneurs in sustainable energy markets in six counties. It influenced national and county policy to support women-led enterprise and promote sustainable energy products. WEEK2 empowered women as energy actors and leaders.

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11. Bean breeding improves farmers’ lives in Uganda

<https://devex.shorthandstories.com/bean-breeding-improves-farmers-lives-in-uganda/index.html>

NARO bean 6 is a variety specifically bred by scientists to withstand the increasingly challenging climatic conditions for farmers across Uganda.

The characteristics of the beans weren’t chosen by the scientists but were selected after consultation with farming communities to meet their specific needs. Top of the list of desirable traits in Uganda is high-yielding — an all-encompassing term that means the plant can withstand the host of shocks farmers experience and still remain ripe for harvesting, including drought tolerance and pest and disease resistance.

Scientists also focus on the social conditions around beans: The specific size and color preferred by certain communities, as well as how long they take to cook, and how well-suited they are to canning. They are biofortified with iron and zinc to improve nutrition.

NARO bean 6 and a host of other varieties were developed by a partnership between the National Agricultural Research Organization of Uganda, known as NARO, and scientists with the Alliance of Biodiversity-International Centre for Tropical Agriculture’s Pan-African Bean Alliance, or PABRA. NARO began in the 1960s but resumed its breeding program in 1985 after a period of inactivity.

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12. 2X Global gender lens investing

<https://60decibels.com/insights/60-decibels-joins-2x-global/> and <https://www.2xglobal.org/new-to-gender-lens-investing>

60 Decibels, the leading global, tech-enabled social impact measurement company, has joined 2X Global, the global membership and field-building organisation focused on unlocking gender-smart capital at scale. 2X Global engages the full spectrum of investors, capital providers and intermediaries to advance gender equality and women’s economic empowerment through gender lens investing.

2X Global’s work is aligned with 60 Decibels’ commitment to supporting the gender lens investing ecosystem. Through its membership, 60 Decibels will collaborate to better support 2X Global’s strategy pillars, from building investor capacity to advancing and aligning standards that help shift markets.

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13. Empowering Women in Assam: Livestock Farming Brings Economic Relief

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/empowering-women-assam-livestock-farming-brings-economic-relief-post-covid/>

In India's northeastern state of Assam, most men from the village of Milonpur, a small hamlet with no more than 1,000 inhabitants, move to cities and towns in search of work, leaving women behind to take care of the house, children, and farmland.

After the COVID-19 lockdown in India in the year 2020, most of the factories were shut for months, and the male workers were jobless. Even after the lockdown ended and workers were called back to the factories, the wages dipped.

With the help of an NGO, about ten self-help groups of women were created. They trained in livestock farming and how this venture could be turned into a profitable business. The women were initially reluctant because they were unaware of how to make livestock farming profitable. The women received training on feeding and veterinary care, and each group was given ten goat kids. Customers from the main towns request goat's milk. Surplus animals have been sold.

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14. Half of All UN Members Abstained From US-Led Pledge Not to Weaponize Food in War

<https://www.passblue.com/2023/08/06/half-of-all-un-members-abstained-from-us-led-pledge-not-to-weaponize-food-in-war/>

The United States and 90 other countries took a formal stand against weaponizing food in conflicts last week, while more than half — 102 United Nations member states — declined to sign the communiqué pledging to condemn the use of food as a tool of war. Only 11 of Africa's 54 countries agreed to the messaging.

The communiqué was part of the US agenda highlighting the issue of famine and food insecurity — which some experts say is a euphemism for starvation — as it leads the Security Council as rotating president in August. Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, chaired the country's first signature event of the month, on Aug. 3, addressing hunger and famine as consequences of war.

African countries spend more than \$75 billion to import over 100 million metric tons of cereals annually, according to the African Development Bank. The continent also relies on imported fertilizer and ammonia, a key ingredient in fertilizers, to increase its farm yields, which has become difficult since Russia's invasion of Ukraine 18 months ago. The Black Sea grain initiative eased some shortages, but with the deal collapsed, many African countries risk heightened food scarcity and rising costs.

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15. Uganda's anti-gay bill hits HIV treatment

<https://www.devex.com/news/uganda-anti-gay-law-already-causing-harm-says-us-ambassador-105972>

U.S. officials and those working in the HIV response in Uganda said they are already seeing the detrimental effects of the controversial anti-gay bill that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed into law in May, with many affected populations now in hiding and not seeking services.

People from the LGBTQ+ communities are currently being denied treatment in some health centers, and when they do seek services, they are reported to the police. Some have also been fired from their jobs and evicted from their homes.

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16. HIV/AIDS has 'fallen off' the political agenda, says UNAIDS official

<https://www.devex.com/news/hiv-aids-has-fallen-off-the-political-agenda-says-un-aids-official-105896>

The number of people dying from AIDS-related illnesses went down from 660,000 in 2021 to 630,000 in 2022, according to new data released by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Countries such as Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe have also achieved the UNAIDS' 95-95-95 targets. This means that 95% of people living with HIV in

these countries know their status, 95% of that number are on antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of those on treatment have virally suppressed HIV, meaning they are highly unlikely to transmit the virus to another person. The data also showed a decline in new HIV infections to 1.3 million in 2022 from 1.4 million in 2021.

But a closer look reveals women and girls account for 46% of all those new infections. Every week, 4,000 adolescent girls and women aged 15 to 24 years old were infected with HIV in 2022, with the majority of those infections happening in sub-Saharan Africa. HIV prevalence was also higher among key at-risk populations. It's 11 times higher among gay men and men who have sex with men and 14 times higher among transgender people. And while fewer people die from AIDS it still claimed a life every minute in 2022.

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17. Involving men and boys in the fight to end FGM/C: what does the evidence say?

<https://odi.org/en/insights/involving-men-boys-to-end-fgmc/>

Recently, there has been significant debate about the importance of involving men and boys in strategies to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). But what does the evidence show about the involvement of men and boys in the practice of FGM/C, and the effectiveness of interventions that engage them? Should men and boys be implicated as a priority, and if so, how? This post presents some answers.

ODI argue that social norm change interventions aimed at eliminating FGM/C are much more likely to succeed if they use a 'grandmother-inclusive' strategy which engages grandmothers as a priority, as well as other key authorities and stakeholders (men, women of reproductive age, community and religious leaders, midwives, etc.). Strategies which focus on one group in isolation, such as girls/youth empowerment activities, are not effective in shifting social norms and behaviour.

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18. Advocacy group calls for gender-alternating leadership at the UN

<https://www.devex.com/news/advocacy-group-calls-for-gender-alternating-leadership-at-the-un-105953>

Former female leaders of multilateral institutions have called out the hypocrisy of the global system, which they say preaches gender equality yet still upholds the deep-seated biases and systems that have hindered the full and equal participation of women.

Speaking at the Women Deliver conference in July, leaders from the Group of Women Leaders Voices for Change and Inclusion presented a report on women's leadership in the multilateral system. Since 1945, women have led 33 of the most important multilateral institutions for only 12% of the time, according to the report.

Currently, only one-third of these organizations are headed by a woman. Thirteen — including the four largest development banks — have never elected a woman as their leader, while five have only done so once.

Women were mainly elected to leadership positions in organizations focusing on areas such as children, food, population, and health, while areas such as politics, finance, and international development remained male-dominated.

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19. No Gender Equality Without Access to Clean Cooking

<https://cleancooking.org/news/op-ed-no-gender-equality-without-access-to-clean-cooking/>

It may be surprising to some that the way women cook can have such a profound impact on gender equality. Yet, when we examine the facts, the connection becomes undeniable. In developing countries, where traditional cooking methods are prevalent, millions of women and girls are forced to rely on solid fuels like wood, charcoal, and dung for their cooking needs. The smoke emitted from these fuels causes severe health problems, leading to respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and

premature death. The burden of this health crisis falls disproportionately on women and children, who spend more time in close proximity to the smoke while cooking or processing fuel.

Moreover, the time and effort required to gather these fuels further exacerbate gender inequalities. Women and girls spend countless hours each day collecting firewood, often trekking long distances, leaving them vulnerable to sexual assault, trafficking, and other forms of violence. These arduous tasks often prevent them from pursuing education, earning a livelihood, and participating in community activities. The absence of clean cooking perpetuates the cycle of poverty and reinforces gender disparities, trapping women in a vicious cycle from which escape seems impossible.

If we truly care about women, we must recognize that access to clean cooking is a fundamental human right. It is not a luxury or an afterthought. Clean cooking solutions, such as improved cookstoves and cleaner fuels, exist and can make a world of difference. These technologies reduce deadly smoke emissions, improve air quality, and protect the health of women and their families. They also save time and energy, liberating women from the burden of fuel collection, allowing them to pursue education and income-generating activities, and contributing to economic empowerment.

Furthermore, clean cooking solutions have a positive ripple effect on the environment and climate change. Traditional cooking practices contribute to forest loss, soil degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions. By transitioning to cleaner alternatives, we can mitigate climate change, protect ecosystems, and build a sustainable future for all.

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20. The rise of regenerative agriculture

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/14/this-way-of-farming-is-really-sexy-the-rise-of-regenerative-agriculture>

On the Isle of Wight Hollie Fallick and Francesca Cooper are part of a movement to bring tired and depleted soil back to life – and boost food security. The friends – who have five young children between them, were both vegan for a period, and are lifelong environmental activists – are not typical livestock farmers. And they don't practise typical farming: instead, they are part of a growing global movement practising regenerative agriculture – or regen ag for short.

This year more than 6,500 people turned up to Groundswell – a sort of Glastonbury for regen ag farmers – which had just 400 attendees to its first event in 2016. The first Scottish Groundswell opened a month later.

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21. Vaccine Equality Is as Vital for Livestock as for People

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/vaccine-equality-vital-livestock-people/>

With smallholder poultry farming often a lifeline for millions of low-income and rural families – accounting for 80% of poultry production in the region of Tanzania – access to medicines and vaccines is just as important for livestock as it is for people. And yet, logistical, infrastructural, and supply challenges are hindering access to veterinary services across the African continent and therefore, holding back smallholder productivity.

At the same time, a rapidly industrialising poultry sector in many developed countries, and an increase in grain prices globally, coupled with cheap imports from more developed markets and low access to animal health care is driving inequality between small- and large-scale producers, threatening to squeeze out smallholder poultry farmers.

Thankfully, this is starting to change. Animal health initiatives are helping local hatcheries to vaccinate chicks against common and damaging diseases before selling them to small-scale farmers, who rear the chicks until they are six months old, eventually selling them to neighbours, restaurants, and other businesses nearby.

For women, who make up nearly half of the global agricultural workforce in developing countries and in sub-Saharan Africa, the poultry sector offers a crucial source of income and healthy animals are essential for decent livelihoods.

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22. Women Study More in Brazil, but Make Little Progress in the Exact Sciences

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/women-study-brazil-make-little-progress-exact-sciences/>

Women have excelled in educational advancement in Brazil, a country of just over 203 million people. In 1970 they made up only 25.6 percent of Brazilians graduating from university. By the year 2000 they represented 52.8 percent. This trend has continued, although at a slower pace.

But in mathematics, applied and computational mathematics and statistics, there was a small reduction in female participation between 2009 and 2019, according to a special bulletin released in May by the Gender and Diversity Commission of the Brazilian Societies of Mathematics (SBM) and Applied and Computational Mathematics (SBMAC). From 53 percent of female graduates in 2009, the proportion dropped to 47 percent in 2019.

Maternity is one of the notable factors in the low presence of women in research. Until now, pregnant women lose points for productivity-based scholarships, because their evaluation considers the period of pregnancy and maternity leave as an interruption of their work.

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23. Lessons on backlash from Women Deliver: tackling the enemy in the room

<https://odi.org/en/insights/lessons-on-backlash-from-women-deliver-tackling-the-enemy-in-the-room/>

Led by voices from the Global South, last month's Women Deliver conference in the Rwandan capital of Kigali re-energised global feminist ambitions – especially for sexual and reproductive rights.

At the same time, a spotlight was shone on the shadowy anti-rights movement that is behind the backlash to gender justice, reminding us just how dangerous this patriarchal resurgence really is.

The conference achieved much of its purpose: to catalyse collective action for gender equality, create space and strengthen the feminist movement, but another objective to hold leaders accountable was challenged during its opening moments.

Anti-rights actors are using the protection of family, culture, and religion to justify their resistance to, or reversal of, reforms in family laws. The United Nations resolution on the protection of the family is a result of this backlash against universal human rights norms.

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24. Rights groups condemn Taliban's new curbs on women

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/28/rights-groups-condemn-talibans-new-curbs-on-womens-education-movement>

Human rights groups have condemned the Taliban's latest restrictions on Afghan women's education and movement after it barred them from visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks and stopped them from leaving for the United Arab Emirates to study on academic scholarships. Amnesty International said it denounced the Taliban's latest action prohibiting female students from travelling to Dubai to start their university studies. On Sunday, the Taliban government's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice closed the Band-e-Amir national park to women, saying female visitors were failing to cover up.

Women have been barred from visiting parks, fairs and gyms and must cover up in public since the Taliban returned to power two years ago. They have also mostly been blocked from working for UN agencies or NGOs. Thousands have been sacked from government jobs or paid to stay at home.

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25. Indigenous women of India set up collective to fight climate change

<https://www.devex.com/news/indigenous-women-of-india-set-up-collective-to-fight-climate-change-105998>

As part of their strategy to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, over 2,500 forest dwellers, mostly tribal women, have formed a voluntary guild called Athkosa Mahasangha in Sundargarh. Their idea is to build resilience to work through the crisis induced by climate change that is creating the unavailability of non-timber products.

This includes ensuring equal access and distribution of produce among the community and raising their concerns regarding the climate crisis with authorities.

Athkosa Mahasangha is now a strong organization of tribals who not only highlight issues such as drought, shortage of grain, reduction in non-timber produce, etc. but also fight the growing mining of coal, lead, and zinc in the region. The guild has expanded over the years to 58 villages in the district, and in the last two years has even started formalizing its organizational structure.

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26. What can harnessing 'positive deviance' methods do for food security?

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-can-harnessing-positive-deviance-methods-do-for-food-security-105707>

“Positive deviance” is a concept that originated in 1991 during a nutrition program in Vietnam run by Save the Children. Instead of focusing on the population level, project managers studied outliers in the system — children who were healthier than their peers despite sharing similar circumstances, and then looked at what the parents of these children did differently.

Once the beneficial practices were identified — in this case, that included collecting wild foods, such as crab, shrimp, and sweet potato tops for their children — they encouraged mothers to tell other parents. Through this outlier-centric approach, the project was able to reduce malnourishment by 74%.

Positive deviance emphasizes the benefit of identifying and amplifying these “deviant behaviors”, as they hold the potential to generate scalable solutions that can benefit the entire community.

It can be broken down into three steps: First, identifying high-performing individuals or groups within a challenging context. Next, an investigative process in the community via in-person interviews, group discussions, and questionnaires to find what their behaviors and practices are. Finally, it means encouraging solutions to be spread throughout the community.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Cooperation Canada and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) dialogue on PSEAH

<https://digna.ca/gac-cso-dialogue-2023/>

On June 19, 2023, Cooperation Canada and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) organized the third GAC-CSO dialogue on PSEAH. As part of Digna’s core programming activities, this dialogue aimed at strengthening collective action and regaining momentum toward the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) within the Canadian international cooperation sector.

The conference brought together sector leaders, government officials, and PSEAH champions to discuss how the sector can collaborate effectively to prevent and address instances of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. Read the summary of the 2023 GAC-CSO dialogue on Digna’s website to learn more about the main sessions and key points of the event.

Key insights from the rich and insightful discussions that took place included:

- Emphasizing the importance of sustained forums for discussion between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Canadian government to ensure the momentum is not lost on addressing PSEAH.
- Recognizing the necessity of applying PSEAH principles with an intersectional approach to account for the diverse experiences and needs of individuals and communities.
- Highlighting the significance of contextual understanding and the development of tools and local resource lists specific to each context, supporting investigators and resource groups working with survivors.
- Recognizing the importance of providing programmatic and budgetary space for organizations to implement and integrate PSEAH effectively in their projects.

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2. Gender and Environment Data Alliance

<https://genderenvironmentdata.org/>

“Gender-environment data” is data related to the environment that is disaggregated by gender and reflects gender issues in both its content and its methodologies (quantitative and qualitative). GEDA helps connect the dots among the gender-environment data that does exist, and gets this knowledge and information into the hands of decision makers and data users working to advance climate resilience and transformative environmental policy.

Learn more about GEDA by watching the webcast of our launch event, held on the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 22, 2022.

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3. Promoting the application of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Guidelines for Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

<http://www.fao.org/3/cc6333en/cc6333en.pdf> or <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6333en>

This handbook aims to help Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) parliamentarians play their role in operationalising the ASEAN Guidelines for Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI). It is based on "Responsible investments in agriculture and food systems: A practical handbook for parliamentarians and parliamentary advisors" published by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in 2020. It adapts that earlier handbook to the ASEAN context and provides ASEAN parliamentarians with practical guidance on how to contribute to an enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in their countries, based on the ASEAN-RAI Guidelines.

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4. The Myth of Man the Hunter: Women’s contribution to the hunt across ethnographic contexts

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287101>

Abstract

The sexual division of labor among human foraging populations has typically been recognized as involving males as hunters and females as gatherers. Recent archeological research has questioned this paradigm with evidence that females hunted (and went to war) throughout the *Homo sapiens* lineage, though many of these authors assert the pattern of women hunting may only have occurred in the past. The current project gleans data from across the ethnographic literature to investigate the prevalence of women hunting in foraging societies in more recent times. Evidence from the past one hundred years supports archaeological finds from the Holocene that women from a broad range of cultures intentionally hunt for subsistence. These results aim to shift the male-hunter female-gatherer paradigm to account for the significant role females have in hunting, thus dramatically shifting stereotypes of labor, as well as mobility.

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5. Shifting power dynamics: Equity, diversity and inclusion in the nonprofit sector

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/research/equity-benchmarking-project>

A new study shows that while organizations overwhelmingly express support for the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), when it comes to concrete actions many - especially white-led organizations - are doing less than they can and should. The study also shows that organizations with leadership from Black, Indigenous, racialized communities and other underrepresented groups do more to advance EDI, even though they serve some of the highest-need communities, experience increased expectations from funders, and face greater barriers.

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6. Advancing gender equity through women producers' exchange platform

<https://www.iied.org/advancing-gender-equity-through-women-producers-exchange-platform>

Women are at greater risk of slipping into or remaining in poverty. This is especially true in the agriculture and forest sectors of the global South. Even though women play important roles along agricultural and forest value chains, they suffer large gender inequalities in access to agricultural assets, inputs, services, new technology, education, information, markets, rights and legal protection, networks and decision-making processes. They also have less control of the products and income from their sale.

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) focuses on strengthening forest and farm producer organisations (FFPOs). Women-only producer organisations can be crucial where existing producer organisations are restricted to men or where it is culturally not foreseen for men and women to sit together and jointly negotiate and make decisions.

As part of its gender strategy, the FFF aims to offer opportunities that allow women producers to take part in peer-to-peer (women-to-women) sessions to exchange knowledge and experiences and to enable for greater economic empowerment.

The solutions that mentorship and peer-to-peer learning services offer to address common challenges for women entrepreneurs are shown in this infographic [see the link], designed to be used by FFPOs and their support partners in advocating for and developing such services.

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7. Beyond inclusion: a queer response to climate justice

<https://www.iied.org/21546iied>

As climate impacts escalate and the links between climate and gender are increasingly recognised, it is timely to understand how climate change affects sexual and gender diversities and it is important to emphasise that 'gender' is not synonymous with women. Vulnerability to climate change is intersectional, often based on gender, race and disability, as well as sexual

orientation, gender identity/expression and sex characteristics. The root causes of climate vulnerability are in who holds power and privilege and who is disadvantaged and excluded.

Globally, LGBTQI+ groups continue to be marginalised in accessing rights, resources and decision-making processes. This marginalisation is made worse because LGBTQI+ groups are invisible in discussions about climate change vulnerability and impacts. This must change to ensure climate action does not perpetuate the same injustices queer people consistently face in other realms. Climate justice involves understanding the root causes of interlinked oppressions, connecting struggles for climate justice, gender justice, racial justice, intergenerational justice, disability justice and others to colonialism, capitalism and extractivism. A climate-just future also requires queer justice.

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8. Gender differences in smallholders' socioeconomic networks and acquisition of seed of improved wheat varieties in Ethiopia

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2022.1080401/full>

Enhancing farmers' access to improved seeds is essential to increase productivity and ensure food security in the Global South. However, for many socially marginalized groups, seed access is constrained by the weak institutions governing the input supply chains and the dissemination of information. Using cross-sectional survey data collected from 1,088 farming households in three major wheat-growing regional states of Ethiopia in 2021, this paper assesses empirically how participation in different socioeconomic institutions by men and women farmers shapes their access to and acquisition of seed of improved wheat varieties. The results show that the seed market in the study area is largely informal, where the recycling of wheat seeds from the previous season is a common practice among both male- and female-headed households. However, a significant difference exists between male- and female-headed households regarding patterns of varietal use, with male farmers growing newer wheat varieties more frequently. Men are also more active than women in local social and economic institutions, and their participation is positively associated with the adoption of new wheat varieties. Thus, strengthening the local social and economic institutions and supporting equitable participation of both male- and female-headed households in these institutions could facilitate the diffusion of quality seeds of improved and recently released wheat varieties in countries where the informal seed system plays a major role in seed acquisition.

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9. Gender and climate change adaptation: A case of Ethiopian farmers

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-8947.12259>

Abstract

The adverse impacts of climate change, in many cases, aggravate existing gender inequalities and hinder developing countries from achieving the targets set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is, therefore, crucial to understand whether there exists a gender gap in climate change adaptation and investigate the factors explaining the gap to reduce the vulnerability of the farming households to surging climatic risks. Using data from 2279 farm households in Ethiopia and applying a multivariate probit model and exogenous switching treatment effect regression method, this study examines the existing gender gap in climate change adaptations among farmers in Ethiopia and factors contributing to this relationship. The results show a significant gender gap in climate change adaptation in farming households due to the differences in both observable and unobservable characteristics of male- and female-headed households. It indicates that reducing the gap can enhance climate change adaptation by female-headed households by almost 19%. Women's workload in household chores significantly reduces their likelihood to adopt climate change adaptation measures. Therefore, unless policies proposed target institutional factors, including social and cultural barriers, traditional gender norms and division of labor, and other intrinsic behavioral issues, addressing only observed characteristics may not fully address the gender gap. To bring about transformational changes in the existing gender norms and social attitudes, long-term gender-informed policies are essential, along with short-term projects, to address the gender gap in climate change adaptation through the provision of equitable opportunities for all.

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10. **Changing gender role declines maize yield, but remittances offset: Findings from migrant households in the central Himalayas, Nepal**

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00307270221097984>

Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the interplay between labor out-migration, changes in gender roles, and their effects on the maize farming system. The paper unravels these interactions using the data collected from 1053 migrant households in the mountains of Nepal. The result shows that household size positively and the number of 17–60-year-old household members negatively influence maize yield. Remittance income and raising farm animals enhanced maize yield. Geography, especially maize farming in the mountains, showed a reduction (25.6%) in yield. The migrants' wives stated less maize yield (5%) compared to the other household members. In addition to these contextual factors, women's increased participation in the household chores, rearing and caring of farm animals, and community activities significantly compromised maize yield. However, the remittance income offsets the loss. As women's role in agriculture is central, especially in the context of male labor out-migration, gender-transformative approaches to research and development practices would ensure social justice and equitable benefit sharing. Accounting for their choices and preferences in developing and designing agricultural interventions is thus vital for the long-term sustainability of the mountain farming systems.

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11. **Podcast: Water Solutions for Women and Girls**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/water-solutions-women-girls/>

In the wake of harsh climate change and erratic weather conditions, women and girls are most affected. They often walk miles to collect fresh water which makes them vulnerable to rape and other crimes and infringement of their rights. This podcast is highlighting simple water solutions for women and girls.

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12. **Policy Brief | Rapid assessment: Food and nutrition security in Somalia**

<https://odi.org/en/publications/policy-brief-rapid-assessment-food-and-nutrition-security-in-somalia/>

This policy brief presents a snapshot of the findings in Somalia of the main report 'Rapid assessments of the hunger-climate-conflict nexus: first assessment', published by ODI for Action Against Hunger.

Key messages

- Fragility and conflict create vulnerabilities to climate and non-climate shocks, and impact livelihoods and food and nutrition security. Decades of fragility and conflict, particularly by armed groups, have led to low investment in socioeconomic development.
- In Somalia, prolonged drought has destroyed crops and killed livestock, devastating agricultural and agropastoral livelihoods. While cases of diagnosed malnutrition are low, households have little to eat beyond purchased spaghetti.
- Households are dependent on what they earn for the day in order to purchase food. A day without work is a day without eating.
- Women face the highest livelihood, food, and nutrition insecurity, as well as gender-based violence.

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13. Policy Brief | Rapid assessment: Food and nutrition security in South Sudan

<https://odi.org/en/publications/policy-brief-rapid-assessment-food-and-nutrition-security-in-south-sudan/>

This policy brief presents a snapshot of the findings in South Sudan of the main report 'Rapid assessments of the hunger-climate-conflict nexus: first assessment', published by ODI for Action Against Hunger.

Key messages

- Fragility and conflict create vulnerabilities to climate and non-climate shocks, and impact livelihoods and food and nutrition security. Decades of fragility and conflict have led to low investment in socioeconomic development.
- In South Sudan, severe flooding has destroyed crops and killed livestock, devastating agricultural and agropastoral livelihoods. While cases of diagnosed malnutrition are low, households have little to eat beyond water lily or wild vegetables and are eating two or fewer meals daily.
- Due to lack of income, few can afford to pay canoe ferry costs to pick up food or cash aid.
- A lack of bank accounts also inhibits receipt of remittances or cash aid via mobile phone banking.
- Women face the highest livelihood, food, and nutrition insecurity, as well as gender-based violence.

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14. Policy Brief | Rapid assessment: Food and nutrition security in Mali

<https://odi.org/en/publications/policy-brief-rapid-assessment-food-and-nutrition-security-in-mali/>

This policy brief presents a snapshot of the findings in Mali of the main report 'Rapid assessments of the hunger-climate-conflict nexus: first assessment', published by ODI for Action Against Hunger.

Key messages

- Fragility and conflict create vulnerabilities to climate and non-climate shocks, and impact livelihoods and food and nutrition security. Decades of fragility and conflict have led to low investment in socioeconomic development.
- In Mali, repeated severe flooding has damaged rice crops. Armed groups threaten communities with kidnap and rape, making it difficult to work in fields and to travel for non-farm jobs.
- Poor rice harvests and sharp price rises have led to households cutting back on number of meals, and diversity of food. Adults reduce food consumption so that children can eat.
- Women face the highest livelihood, food, and nutrition insecurity, as well as gender-based violence.

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15. Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food Security in a Changing Climate

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-indigenous-food-sovereignty-1.6946580>

The cumulative impacts of climate change (including heat waves, droughts, flooding, forest fires, and storms) paired with the COVID-19 pandemic and related supply chain issues, rising food prices, impacts of industrial activities, and the encroachment/mismanagement of traditional Lands (by both government and industry) has collectively resulted in a significant increase in food insecurity and reduction in food sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples across BC. These catastrophic events have shown us the vulnerability of our interconnected food systems, particularly for rural and remote communities, and highlight the need for a coordinated and integrated approach to food sovereignty and food security across communities, levels of government and leadership.

From a series of Indigenous climate resilience engagements held from February to July 2022 (see Introduction for details), this report culminates participants’ perspectives, knowledges, and projects relating to the intersection of Indigenous food sovereignty and food security.

This report contains three main sections along with an appendix that highlights three stories of Indigenous climate resilience and food sovereignty currently happening in First Nations communities across BC. The three main sections are:

1. Describing Food Security and Indigenous Food Sovereignty provides the reader with general descriptions to support a shared understanding.
2. Ongoing Challenges looks at climatic impacts, environmental degradation and industrial activity, effects of colonization, COVID-19 and compounding crises, inflation and high food prices, honouring Métis-specific challenges and honouring challenges for people living in urban centres or otherwise away from home.
3. Recommendations for Building Climate Resilience offers lessons for the future success of culturally centred and community-led climate solutions from both Provincial and community-based lenses.

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16. Shifting Power Dynamics: Equity, diversity and inclusion in the nonprofit sector

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/research/equity-benchmarking-project>

The first study of its kind, *Shifting Power Dynamics: Equity, diversity and inclusion in the nonprofit sector*, explores what Canadian charities and nonprofits are doing to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within their organizations.

Study Highlights

While most nonprofit leaders support equity, diversity and inclusion, far fewer pursue it with deep intentionality.

Organizations led by Black and Indigenous people and those from other underrepresented communities do more to advance EDI, even though they serve some of the highest-need communities, experience increased expectations, and face greater barriers.

Funders have a key role to play in advancing EDI by supporting Black, Indigenous, racialized-led organizations and other organizations committed to advancing EDI.

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17. What can organizations do to advance equity, diversity & inclusion?

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/360/lets-imagine-podcast-episode-9-equity-diversity-inclusion-within-nonprofit-sector>

We invite you to listen to this Let’s Imagine episode with ammanuel melles, of the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities and a member of the Equitable Recovery Collective in which we explore what organizations can do to meaningfully advance EDI.

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