



*Acer ginnala* fall colour. 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](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Why does gender matter in a ‘just transition’?

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-does-gender-matter-in-a-just-transition-tickets-731759310797>

The climate crisis is already having catastrophic consequences for millions of people and their livelihoods, and for ecosystems, biodiversity and economies. In the effort to transform social and economic structures and build resilience, we are seeing increased momentum and support for a 'just transition' toward low-carbon, sustainable economies that 'leave no one behind'.

While fairness and equity are fundamental to just transition approaches and principles, there is much debate around the gendered dimensions of justice. This online event will unpack the concept of a 'gender just transition', exploring why it is important and how it manifests in different sectors. **Thu, 26 Oct 2023 08:00 - 09:00 CDT.**

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### 2. Launch event: Anticipatory Social Protection Index for Resilience (ASPIRE)

<https://www.iied.org/launch-event-anticipatory-social-protection-index-for-resilience-aspire>

Anticipatory Social Protection Index for Resilience (ASPIRE) is a diagnostic tool designed to assess the readiness of a country's existing social protection programmes to deliver climate resilience. This event will officially launch this groundbreaking assessment tool which has been rigorously tested and is guided by nearly 70 indicators.

ASPIRE works at two levels: first by assessing a country's overarching social protection policies and systems, and second by examining specific programmes being implemented, evaluating their design features and functions.

**Mon, 30 Oct 2023, 12pm - 1.30pm (GMT), Online, via Zoom**

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### 3. SMO Impact Journey | Shifting power: Localization in action

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/smo-impact-journey-session-1-parcours-dimpact-des-pmo-seance-1-registration-736447934597>

Over the next few months, Spur Change is convening the entire sector for international cooperation to learn from small and medium organizations (SMOs) supported through the three windows of Global Affairs Canada. Two key pilot-programs of Global Affairs Canada’s Small and Medium Organizations (SMO) for impact and innovation initiative are coming to an end, including the Spur Change program and the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT).

The first session will be focused on localization. Localization is a transformational process aiming to shift power towards communities and local partners. Localization calls for a transformation of our sector by radically changing policies, practices and agendas. Small and medium size organizations (SMOs) offer a unique perspective on localization and community-led approaches as they are known for their commitment to their local partners with very long-term relationships built over decades. Their commitment and knowledge of local context and partners is aligned with the localization agenda.

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## 4. Webinar: Climate-resilient food systems for health & nutrition - Nepal

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0bCWodHITXewEIOxU7g5qQ#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0bCWodHITXewEIOxU7g5qQ#/registration)

<https://idecanada.org/>

MCIC is coordinating a series of webinars on Building Resilience Together: Adapting Food Systems to Climate Change. On **November 1**, iDE Canada will share climate-smart innovations in Nepal and the role of innovation in climate resiliency work.

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## 5. Farm Financial Fluency Training for Women

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/farm-financial-fluency-training-for-manitoba-women-in-agriculture-food-registration-695447601497>

The Farm Financial Fluency Training Program will be delivered by Farm Management Canada and MNP and take place over three sessions. Please be prepared to attend all three sessions to get the most out of the program. Sessions will occur on: **October 30 from 1-3pm CT, November 1 from 1-3pm CT, and November 3 from 1-3pm CT.**

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## 6. ONLINE: Business Plan Development Workshop Series (Evening)

<https://wecm.ca/events/online-only-business-plan-development-workshop-series-daytime-november-2023/>

A business plan is a critical tool for outlining the strategy and developing the tactics to manage your business. This document identifies your business concept, organizes the information derived from your research, and explains how you will start and operate your business.

The Women’s Enterprise Centre is offering an interactive series. It is delivered on **six consecutive Wednesdays** starting in November and provides in-depth instruction on preparing each section of the business plan. A business plan template is included. Classes are small and range in size from 6 to 12 participants so there is lots of time for questions and discussion. A fee is required. Participants who attend every class will receive a certificate of participation.

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## 7. Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy conference

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ministerieBZ>

Five hundred participants from around the world are expected to attend the second Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy conference, taking place at the World Forum in The Hague on **1-2 November**. Anyone unable to travel to the Netherlands will be able to view some of the sessions on the foreign ministry’s YouTube channel.

The main aim of the conference is to continue to give shape to feminist foreign policy and to get this policy on the agenda, both in the Netherlands and worldwide. The conference also aims to expand the network of like-minded countries and countries that actively pursue a feminist foreign policy. One of the main themes of the conference is resources. The event aims to call attention to the need for additional funding for women’s rights organisations and movements in the Netherlands and abroad.

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## 8. FIT Survey of small and medium sized organizations (SMOs) in Canada

<https://app.kinaki.ca/survey/8903762154>

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT), a national program of the Inter-Council Network of Provincial & Regional Councils for International Cooperation, is required to do an endline survey.

The goal is to collect data from small and medium sized organizations (SMOs) across Canada, including SMOs who tested innovative solutions with FIT. You are considered an SMO if, in the last year, you (1) have less than \$10 Million in consolidated revenue (except for post-secondary institutions) and (2) have less than \$2 Million in overseas/international development expenditures. Please have your say **by Friday, November 3, 2023**, and share the survey link with your peers and contacts. This includes finding out more about you and your:

- experience as a Canadian SMO with testing innovative solutions,
- access to funding to test innovative solutions; and
- capacity and learnings as an SMO.

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## 9. MEDA: 70 Years of Innovation and Leadership in International Development

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/70-years-of-innovation-and-leadership-in-international-development-tickets-722846371957>

For seven decades, MEDA - Mennonite Economic Development Associates has been at the forefront of shaping the future of global development, and now, we're ready to share our journey with you.

Join us for this FREE hybrid event that delves into the very essence of international development, innovation, leadership, and the transformative power of impact investment. **Friday, November 3, from 9 - 10:30am EDT.**

Are you a seasoned international development practitioner eager to deepen your knowledge and share your expertise? Or perhaps you're just starting out in this dynamic field, seeking inspiration and a roadmap for your career? Regardless of where you are on your journey, this is a presentation you won't want to miss.

Topics include Gender Lens Investing: Dive into the transformative power of gender lens investing and how it drives positive change. Understand how MEDA integrates a gender perspective into its work and learn from our successes.

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## 10. Introduction to PSEA Training - Online

<https://form.jotform.com/232644283936261>

Are you a new focal point or staff member who is responsible for working on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in your organization? Do you need a better understanding of the basic concepts and principles of PSEA and how to apply them? Then, this upcoming three-hour introductory workshop by Digna training is for you. **November 9. Time: 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM, ET.** The training will be provided in English and French through an interpretation service.

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## 11. Webinar: Climate-resilient food systems for health & nutrition – West Africa

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0bCWodHITXewEIOxU7g5qQ#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0bCWodHITXewEIOxU7g5qQ#/registration)

<https://inter pares.ca/news/16-million-climate-and-feminist-action-west-africa>

MCIC is coordinating a series of webinars on Building Resilience Together: Adapting Food Systems to Climate Change. On **November 15**, Inter Pares will share its work on agroecology in West Africa and the intersection between women's rights, equality and farming.

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## 12. PSEA Reporting Mechanisms: Good Practices - Online

<https://form.jotform.com/232676345420253>

Having an effective sexual exploitation and abuse SEA reporting mechanism is crucial for organizations to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. This is a three-hour workshop is geared to staff, focal points and leaders involved in developing PSEA reporting processes with prior knowledge of basic PSEA concepts and principles. **November 16, Time: 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM, ET.**

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## 13. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference – Eastern Canada

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2023east/>

AWC is created for every woman who is passionate about agriculture and food, whether you are a university or college student studying agriculture, producer, rancher, entrepreneur, representative of a grower association or corporate agribusiness. AWC is for women who want to enhance their family life, community, career, and industry. **Niagara Falls, Ontario, November 19, 20 & 21, 2023.**

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## 14. 2023 Agricultural Excellence Conference Panel Discussion: Meeting the Needs of Farm Women

<https://fmc-gac.com/programs-services/agricultural-excellence-conference/>

Farm Management Canada will be hosting a panel discussion at its 2023 Agricultural Excellence Conference taking place November 21-23 at **Guelph, Ontario**. The session on **Wednesday November 22** will feature presentations by the lead researchers and invited guests from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and la Fédération des Agricultrices du Québec to explore how the findings of the research can inform policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at empowering farm women.

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## 15. Manitoba Farm Women's Conference

<https://www.mfwc.ca/>

**November 21 to 23 in Winkler, Manitoba.** The sessions include Farm Safety Workshop, Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program, Farm Transitioning for the whole family, Stress Conquering Skills, Building a Healthy Credit History, Simplify Your Life and Get Organized, plus tours of local agriculture businesses.

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## 16. FIT Program Results

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_k61FulO8Rxysqld7xm5QaA#/](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k61FulO8Rxysqld7xm5QaA#/)

How did FIT's SMOs advance gender equality and empower women and girls in their short-term testing projects? Join us on **Wednesday November 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. CST** to learn about our evaluation approach and insights.

Measuring gender equality in the innovation space is both new and complex. Informed by our findings and learnings as a program, the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) developed the Gender Equality Framework for Innovation (GEFI) to evaluate how testing innovative solutions allowed 52 FIT-funded SMOs and their partners in the Global South to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in 33 countries. We look forward to a lively Q&A following our main presentation!

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## 17. **Venture-Capital Ready: Investment Training for Women Entrepreneurs**

<https://venturecapital.ssfpa.net/>

The Small Scale Food Processors Association has identified the challenges women face and is offering a new program, funded through the Women’s Enterprise Strategy, to support you and your business to find a venture capital investor.

If it is time to grow your agri-food business but, like many women, BIPOC, and gender diverse entrepreneurs, you worry about the challenges and barriers you could face in finding financing – this program provides you with the insight, know-how, and resources you need. Commit approximately 40 hours over 4-6 months to learn about financing and investment capital.

Through Small Scale Food Processors Association’s Venture-Capital Ready: Investment Training for Women Entrepreneurs (VC Ready) program, you will be supported by industry specialists to prepare for challenges, create your pitch strategy, and have the opportunity to present to potential venture-capital Investors.

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### **This Month’s News**

#### **1. Opinion: Women who farm not recognized as farmers**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/2023/10/07/women-who-farm-not-recognized-as-farmers>

A lengthy report just released from the Farm Management Council of Canada attempts to quantify the work women do on Canadian farms, how that work is valued or how these women perceive themselves.

Women do a lot more than they get credit for keeping farm boats afloat. Yet when the research team went looking for relevant data to support the obvious, they had a hard time finding much.

Parameters established to measure what men do in a typical farm operation don’t necessarily apply to the multifaceted roles many women carry. They may not be ‘the’ owner, or operator, or manager. They might not even be paid. But they are often one of the decision-makers, an equipment operator, the person who runs for parts, the person who keeps everyone fed and whose off-farm salary buys the groceries.

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#### **2. Nobel Prize 2023 in Economics – Women’s Earnings**

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2023/press-release/>

This year’s Laureate in the Economic Sciences, Claudia Goldin, provided the first comprehensive account of women’s earnings and labour market participation through the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap.

Goldin showed that female participation in the labour market did not have an upward trend over this entire period, but instead forms a U-shaped curve. The participation of married women decreased with the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society in the early nineteenth century, but then started to increase with the growth of the service sector in the

early twentieth century. Goldin explained this pattern as the result of structural change and evolving social norms regarding women's responsibilities for home and family.

During the twentieth century, women's education levels continuously increased, and in most high-income countries they are now substantially higher than for men. Goldin demonstrated that access to the contraceptive pill played an important role in accelerating this revolutionary change by offering new opportunities for career planning.

Despite modernisation, economic growth and rising proportions of employed women in the twentieth century, for a long period of time the earnings gap between women and men hardly closed. According to Goldin, part of the explanation is that educational decisions, which impact a lifetime of career opportunities, are made at a relatively young age.

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### **3. Ambition to achieve gender balance at international climate negotiations must be matched with finance**

<https://www.iied.org/ambition-achieve-gender-balance-international-climate-negotiations-must-be-matched-finance>

In Least Developed Countries LDCs, the funding landscape falls short of adequately supporting projects that address both climate change and women's rights. This is also true for the financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF). A GEF evaluation showed that although integrating gender equality in funding proposals is a major requirement, gender is not incorporated in the implementation phase.

Without adequate funding, it will be impossible to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the GAP.

Examples of how finance can support gender-responsive climate actions include:

- Providing women with access to microfinance loans to start or expand climate-resilient income-generating activities
- Funding women-led climate adaptation projects such as climate-smart agriculture
- Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure
- Supporting women's participation training and capacity building, and
- Raising awareness of the importance of gender-responsive climate action among all stakeholders.

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### **4. Launching a Bold Vision: Gender Equitable Nutrition Project in Tanzania and Uganda**

<https://www.facebook.com/www.sema.or.tz> and <https://www.sema.or.tz/view-all>

Thanks to Global Affairs Canada's support, Sustainable Environment Management Action - SEMA, and Action Against Hunger. We're starting a journey towards brighter tomorrows in Bahi and Itigi districts. Target Groups:

- 25928 Children under five years
- 22680 Pregnant and Lactating women
- 190 Health care providers
- 6470 Adolescent girls and boys
- 41250 Other community members

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### **5. As social media grows in Kenya, so does the disturbing and toxic 'manosphere'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/oct/02/as-social-media-grows-kenya-so-does-disturbing-toxic-manosphere>



There's nothing new about misogyny, and Kenya is no exception. But online communities that promote harmful messaging have grown exponentially over the past few years, mirroring the growth in social media users in Kenya. Boys and young men are increasingly being drawn into online forums that denigrate, objectify and 'slut-shame' women. How can we effectively address it?

Female social media users ... said they prefer to just block accounts producing such content rather than engage, avoiding contradicting or correcting false statements through their fear of being trolled, harassed or doxed.

Studies show links between toxic masculinity – the assertion of male dominance and power over women – and sexual violence. More than 40% of women in Kenya already experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and one in three girls experience sexual violence before turning 18.

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## **6. Maize shortages bring Nigeria's poultry sector to the brink of collapse**

<https://www.devex.com/news/maize-shortages-bring-nigeria-s-poultry-sector-to-the-brink-of-collapse-106270>

Nigeria's maize shortage is affecting the country's poultry industry. Maize is the main ingredient in chicken feed, and prices have soared from 200,000 Nigerian naira (\$268.64) per metric ton to more than 500,000 naira (\$671.59).

There are a host of reasons for the scarcity: insecurity in the north where most of Nigeria's maize is planted, poor yield, lack of mechanization, inability to import from Ukraine due to the Russian invasion of the country, and heavy flooding. Small poultry producers make up about 80% of Nigerian poultry owners, and they have a limited ability to weather the country's economic crisis.

The maize scarcity endangers not only the future of Nigeria's poultry industry, but its nutritional security: Eggs are a form of cheap protein for many Nigerians, 25 million of whom face food insecurity.

"Families that can give one egg to their children will not be able to do it and it will affect a child's intelligence quotient, increase disease mobility, and cause protein-calorie malnutrition and some may not recover," says professor Johnson Agbede, a lecturer at the department of animal production of the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

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## **7. Guatemala's children go hungry as extreme weather hits harvests**

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/guatemalas-children-go-hungry-as-extreme-weather-hits-harvests>

Subsistence bean and maize farmers in Guatemala are finding it harder to put food on the table as prolonged droughts and torrential rains driven by climate change hit harvests.

In Guatemala, rates of stunted growth in children aged from 6 months to 59 months caused by chronic malnutrition are among the world's highest and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP).

With two-thirds of Guatemala's 17 million people living on less than \$2 a day, many farmers cannot afford to buy food if their harvests fail due to extreme weather events.

U.N. and international aid agencies tend to focus on providing women farmers with technical and financial assistance, as women are far more likely to spend money on food for their children and not on alcohol, as villagers say some fathers do.

In Guatemala's western highlands in the Huehuetenango province, similar efforts are underway as aid agencies prop up small-scale farmers to tackle malnutrition and extreme poverty with multiple interventions targeting a single family. This includes helping women to grow different food crops, set up rainwater storage systems, as well as cash transfers and donations of biofortified and drought-resistant bean seeds.

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## 8. Opinion: Workforce nutrition is an essential part of ESG reporting

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-workforce-nutrition-is-an-essential-part-of-esg-reporting-106305>

The concept of organizations reporting on Environment, Social, and Governance, or ESG, activities has its roots in sustainability reporting.

Developing a workforce nutrition program may seem daunting but with solid planning, clear commitment to metrics, and robust reporting, organizations can ensure they are supporting pathways for healthier workers, and ultimately, for stronger and more resilient business results.

It is utterly clear that S is an essential part of the ESG mix, and that workforce nutrition has to be a key element of the S activity and reporting.

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## 9. UN’s High-Level Appointments Should Give Priority to Gender in Geographical Rotation

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/uns-high-level-appointments-gender-rotation-not-geographical-rotation/>

The UN’s high-level appointments have mostly been on the basis of “equitable geographical rotation”—with Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean taking turns.

But a proposal for future appointments and for candidates for elective office— based on gender rotation—is gaining ground against a world body which is mostly male-oriented even at its highest echelons, with nine all-male Secretaries-General (UNSG) and only 4 women out of 78 presidents of the General Assembly.

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## 10. Hillary Clinton Joins Call For UN To Criminalize Gender Apartheid

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231005-hillary-clinton-joins-call-for-un-to-criminalize-gender-apartheid>

A group of high-profile activists including Hillary Clinton, Malala Yousafzai and Gloria Steinem have signed a call for the United Nations to criminalize gender apartheid, according to a letter sent to member states.

The letter, which is also signed by some of Afghanistan's most prominent rights activists, comes as the international community grapples with how to hold the Taliban government accountable for its grave abuses against Afghan women.

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## 11. Climate crisis is ‘not gender neutral’: UN calls for more policy focus on women

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/oct/10/climate-crisis-is-not-gender-neutral-un-calls-for-more-policy-focus-on-women>

A report published by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Queen Mary University of London is the first to examine whether climate plans refer to sexual and reproductive health. It calls on more countries to recognise the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on women and girls, and for more action.

Rising temperatures have been linked to poorer maternal health and complications during pregnancy, such as gestational diabetes. Extreme heat has been associated with triggering earlier deliveries and an increase in stillbirths.

The report said the climate crisis exacerbated existing inequalities. In east and southern Africa, for example, tropical cyclones have damaged health facilities, disrupting access to maternal health services and helping spread waterborne diseases such as cholera.

Hurricanes and droughts increase the risks of gender-based violence and child marriage, it added, as families under stress are less able to support daughters and seek to marry them off.

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## 12. What climate justice can learn from queer groups

<https://www.iied.org/queering-climate-justice-what-climate-justice-can-learn-queer-groups>

The concept of climate justice – increasingly becoming part of mainstream climate conversations – recognizes unfairness associated with the causes and responses to climate change. It points to structural power imbalances caused by colonialism and capitalism as root causes of climate injustice.

Many rights-based movements, including civil rights, queer rights and women’s rights movements, have a long history in shaping concepts of justice and in highlighting these same causes of injustice.

In an exploratory project IIED is examining why climate and development agendas so often ignore gender and sexual diversity and is looking for ways that climate action can learn from queer thinking and practice. This has included a series of dialogues between climate change researchers, practitioners, activists and queer organizations to cross pollinate learning and perspectives on climate justice.

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## 13. To End Child Marriage in Southern & East Africa, Governments Need to Strengthen Laws & Implementation

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/end-child-marriage-southern-east-africa-governments-need-strengthen-laws-implementation/>

Almost one third (32%) of women aged 20 to 24 in Eastern and Southern Africa – around 50 million – were married before 18 years old. To address this pervasive problem, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum has adopted the *SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage*, a legal framework providing a comprehensive, integrated approach to ending child marriage and protecting children already married.

New research reveals that while some SADC countries have taken commendable action to strengthen legal protections in this area, other Member States have made little or no progress.

These findings feature in new policy briefs which analyze laws across the 16 SADC countries and identify positive legal advances, best practices, and challenges, and a third brief, which examines the implementation of domestic and regional laws on child marriage, focusing on Malawi, Uganda, and Zambia as case studies.

While the SADC Model Law is having a positive impact, its success depends on effective implementation and enforcement by states. To assist governments, the briefs also provide recommendations on strengthening elimination efforts through good application of child marriage laws and policies.

Child marriage prevention must also be fully integrated into climate change mitigation and disaster response strategies. Africa is bearing the brunt of global warming, with extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, and food shortages intensifying economic hardships, conflicts, and forced migration. Girls are especially vulnerable, as families may view marrying daughters as a strategy to cope with financial difficulties and as a way of protecting them from the heightened risks of sexual violence and exploitation found in unstable environments.

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## 14. How African nations harness data to help end violence against children

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-african-nations-harness-data-to-help-end-violence-against-children-106349>

Several African governments are gathering data on the prevalence of violence against children as a first step to tackle the issue — and it's working. Survey data for Eswatini and Kenya collected at the country level and compared over time show a marked reduction in the number of children experiencing a form of abuse.

Together for Girls is a public-private partnership supporting governments in conducting violence against children and youth surveys, or VACS. The challenge is that many governments don't believe child violence is a problem in their countries until they take the time to research and investigate its prevalence, said Daniela Ligiero, CEO and president.

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## 15. Maputo Protocol- 20 years later

<https://www.devex.com/news/after-20-years-has-africa-s-gender-treaty-reached-its-abortion-goals-105906>

Twenty years ago, the African Union adopted a landmark, broad-sweeping treaty that serves as a road map for advancing gender equality across the continent known as the Maputo Protocol. The legally binding agreement covers a wide range of issues such as reproductive health, inheritance for widows, political participation, and gender-based violence.

But its most polarized element is on abortion access — a provision that those pushing for the legalization of abortion say shouldn't be controversial because it relates so directly to saving lives. Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. It's the first international treaty to explicitly recognize abortion as a human right under certain circumstances. Forty-four of the African Union's 55 member states have ratified the protocol. It's considered the only African consensus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In some cases, the Maputo Protocol has served as a tool to expand the legal grounds for abortion access — such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the treaty helped those who hit barriers when trying to change the law through Parliament.

But its abortion provision has also dominated the conversations in some cases, and this has turned countries such as Madagascar against the wide-ranging protocol completely. And this means women in the country aren't benefiting from other aspects of the treaty, such as the protection of widows.

And some countries have fallen somewhere in the middle. Kenya has ratified the protocol with a "reservation" that says it won't comply with the obligations related to abortion.

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## 16. Women & Economy: Seniors Thriving Through Plastic Waste in Zimbabwe

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/seniors-thriving-through-plastic-waste-in-zimbabwe/>

They do not have a pension nor financial support from families or relatives, but they have themselves. Now they have become collectors of plastic waste, which they turn into products as they battle for survival — earning money from the growing plastic pollution in Zimbabwe. Such are the lives of the country's senior citizens. The young are learning from the lessons from the senior plastic waste entrepreneurs.

Zimbabwe Environmental Management Agency (EMA) about 1.65 million tonnes of waste are produced annually in Zimbabwe, with plastic making up 18 percent of that.

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## 17. 'Power of the masses': the day Iceland's women went on strike and changed history

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/24/power-of-the-masses-the-day-icelands-women-went-on-strike-and-changed-history>

It was a day that changed history, the day in 1975 when 90% of Iceland's women went on strike. They brought the country to a standstill and engineered a turning point in the women's rights struggle.

Fifty years on, women from fishing industry operatives to the prime minister repeated the industrial action, summoning the biggest demonstration Iceland has ever witnessed, to protest against the ongoing gender pay gap and an epidemic of sexual violence. Schools and kindergartens closed across Iceland and just one bank stayed open.

The 1975 strike was a pivotal moment for the country – but 48 years later, Icelanders today protest at gender inequality. On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, nearly half a century on from that pivotal day when 90% of Iceland's women stopped work in protest at gender inequality, Icelanders once again took part in a full-day women's strike. Tens of thousands of women and non-binary people dropped work – paid and unpaid – to highlight the pay gap and rates of gender-based and sexual violence.

Despite huge legislative successes, men failing to take responsibility in the home continues to be a key problem, Kolbrún says, adding that what is needed is cultural change. Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, now 68, is a former climate minister and now the president of the confederation of university graduates in Iceland (BHM).

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir went on to become a member of parliament for the Women's Alliance party, created in Iceland after the 1975 strike. She was particularly influenced by a talk by a woman from one of the women's labour unions, whom she remembers as saying: "We are here because of the wage gap and because how underestimated women's work is."

"And that is exactly what we are stressing tomorrow, almost 50 years later," Kristín says. "The wage gap is still there and what is more important and what became so visible during the Covid years was the importance of the women in the healthcare system and in the schools."

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## 18. Assessing Canada's progress toward \$10-a-day child care for all

<https://monitormag.ca/reports/measuring-matters/>

Canada is moving towards the goal of universal \$10-a-day child care: fees have been cut in half in 18 out of 32 Canadian cities and another quarter were close to the target of a 50 per cent reduction. But the final quarter of cities missed the target by a larger margin.

A new CCPA report *Measuring Matters: Assessing Canada's progress toward \$10-a-day child care for all* evaluates licensed child care centres in 37 cities, as part of its annual parent fee phone survey. Using data from 2023, and previous fee surveys, the report assesses the first federal target of halving fees by December 2022 and the second federal target of an average fee of \$10-a-day by 2026.

Our recent, related work mapping child care spaces by postal code shows that "child care deserts" are more acute in some provinces and in rural settings. Downtowns of larger cities are generally best served with smaller towns and suburbs sitting in the middle but there are child care deserts in most regions of Canada.

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## 19. Study explores risk factors for suicide in farmers

<https://www.ualberta.ca/folio/2023/10/study-explores-risk-factors-for-suicide-in-farmers.html>

A new University of Alberta study exploring the risk factors that make farmers vulnerable to suicide could help them build better resilience.

The comprehensive review is the first to combine and analyze interview data gathered from several studies on farmers and suicide, and gives insight into the unique stressors they face, says lead researcher Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, a psychology professor at the U of A's Augustana Campus.

With livelihoods that can be threatened by weather, plant or livestock disease outbreaks, rising operational costs and other complex, evolving factors, farming is a stressful occupation linked to a higher suicide rate than other jobs, according to several studies from Canada, the United States and Australia, she notes.

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## **20. Virden woman wants to help farmers get mental health support from those who know ag sector**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/farmer-mental-health-counselling-1.7003528>

The Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program was launched in March 2022 and provides six free, confidential counselling sessions annually with counsellors who have a background in agriculture.. A recent report found farmers across Canada are dealing with declining mental health due mostly to economic challenges, but many are still not seeking help because of stigma.

While farmers have previously been able to access help in a crisis situation by phoning Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services, Odell said the ongoing counselling services available through the Farmer Wellness Program sets it apart and makes it unique in Manitoba. There are four counsellors based in Strathclair, Brandon, Steinbach and Winkler. Appointments can be made in-person, via video or phone, including during evenings and weekends.

So far it has relied on fundraising and donations from companies in the agriculture and financial sectors to keep it running.

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## **21. Climate, economic uncertainty erode farmers' mental health**

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2023/10/10/news/climate-economic-uncertainty-erode-farmers-mental-health>

Zsofia Mendly-Zambo, a health policy researcher at York University, reviewed literature on farmer mental health and surveyed and interviewed 21 members of the National Farmers Union.

She authored a report published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives last month which found economic uncertainty and precarity are at the heart of what her report dubbed "the farmer mental health crisis."

The report, titled *Field Notes: Looking upstream at the farmer mental health crisis in Canada*, suggests Canadian farmers are facing rates of stress, depression and anxiety much higher than those in the general population. Economic uncertainty and climate change are cited as major factors in the trend.

Urgent, comprehensive action is needed to address the situation, according to the report commissioned by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the National Farmers Union. Efforts have primarily focused on improving mental health-care access and education and reducing the stigma around mental health, but these measures alone are not adequate to deal with the root causes of the crisis, the report stated.

The report makes six recommendations including improving economic stability and expanding mental health care for farmers and farm workers.

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## 22. Newsletter from Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA)

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news>

Over the last weeks, AICCRA's teams have been involved in activities across the continent, designed to support innovation, to include climate action in education systems, and to connect the knowledge and lessons learned from our work to key partners who are scaling innovations developed by CGIAR – the world's largest research partnership for food security.

Articles include the following:

### Accelerating uptake of gender and nutrition sensitive climate-smart agriculture and climate information services in West Africa

- In Burkina Faso, the AICCRA team convened an event on scaling up gender and nutrition-sensitive agricultural innovations and technologies in Africa, where we focused on sharing current AICCRA climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) innovations, spillover mechanisms to support regional scaling, and lessons learned from the AICCRA Gender and Social Inclusion team. <https://aicra.cgiar.org/events/accelerating-uptake-gender-and-nutrition-sensitive-climate-smart-agriculture-and-climate>

### AICCRA agribusiness accelerators in Senegal and Zambia

- In a feature from The EastAfrican, read more on the AICCRA Gender Smart Accelerator Challenge in Senegal which provides 17 agribusinesses—mostly led by women entrepreneurs—with coaching and support to build and scale business models that increase the adoption of CSA to increase their resilience in the face of climate change, and our Accelerator project in Zambia which supports 14 small agribusinesses in opening up access to 400,000 smallholder farmers—nearly half of them women—to a range of climate-smart innovations including: Off-grid solar irrigation; Micro-finance; Drought-tolerant seeds; and Digital information services. <https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/news-agrf-2023-supplement-east-african>

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## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Can innovations in agri-food systems deliver gender equity and resilience?

<https://www.iied.org/21591iied>

Agri-food systems constitute a huge proportion of global jobs and economies, but are failing to provide healthy diets, equitable livelihoods and sustainable practices. Women in rural areas are highly prominent in the sector and most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Co-designing and bundling innovations could offer significant opportunities to achieve better outcomes. We reviewed the evidence base to explore how social and technical innovations can contribute to household resilience and gender equality. The findings suggest that combining different types of sociocultural and technical innovations into bundles (STIBs) offer a promising way forward, if they are appropriate for the context.

This briefing provides a framework for agri-food practitioners to implement STIBs across contexts, stressing the importance of participative processes and understanding the contextual gender dynamics to build household resilience. Highlighting a huge evidence gap, the study calls for stronger evaluation and learning mechanisms and greater investment in rigorous, longitudinal studies.

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## 2. Still in Recovery: Assessing the pandemic’s impact on women

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/still-recovery>

The COVID-19 pandemic that swept the globe in 2020 not only threatened people’s health but exposed and exacerbated entrenched inequalities. Women bore the brunt. Three years later, the acute phase of the pandemic is over, but women are still in recovery mode.

This brief takes stock of where we are now with respect to the gender gap in Canada—using the CCPA’s Gender Gap Index to assess developments over the past three years. The index focuses on the gap between men and women. It looks at 17 indicators across the five domains that make up the CCPA index: economic participation and security, personal security, educational attainment, health, and leadership and political empowerment.

Nationally, the CCPA index reveals that the gender equality gap widened slightly between 2019 and 2022. In 2022, Canada had closed 78.6 per cent of the parity gap, a decline of 0.4 percentage points compared to 2019.

The CCPA Gender Gap Index and Beyond Recovery project aims to help spur a national conversation about the challenges that women and gender-diverse people face and the progressive alternatives that are on offer at a local, provincial or national level. Such a conversation is essential to creating communities where all can thrive. If there is one message to take forward it is that change on gender equality is possible but concerted action is needed to get us there.

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## 3. Grounding Women’s Land Rights: Towards equity and climate justice

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/grounding-womens-land-rights-towards-equity-and-climate-justice-621543/>

This policy paper provides a critical examination of international commitments on women’s land rights, evaluating progress and persistent challenges. It scrutinizes commitments made through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalitions, revealing a substantial disconnect between ambitions and implementation.

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## 4. How are Land Rights Connected to Climate Justice?

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2023/09/how-are-land-rights-connected-to-climate-justice/>

**Loss and Damage to Land: Voices from Asia.** <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/loss-and-damage-to-land-voices-from-asia-621531/>

Land is at the heart of people’s lives, providing the basis for food production, water, housing and sustaining rural livelihoods. Loss and damage to land not only affect the land rights of local communities but also all other aspects of their lives. Pubudini Wickramaratne and Rashmini de Silva introduce a new paper that spotlights the voices of rural Asians suffering loss and damage to their land and explain how secure land rights are essential to increasing climate resilience.

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## 5. Tackling the Power Imbalance between Farmers and Agribusiness Buyers

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2023/09/its-time-to-tackle-the-power-imbalance-between-farmers-and-agribusiness-buyers/>

Since 2018, the Gender Transformative and Responsible Agribusiness Investments in Southeast Asia (GRAISEA) program has aimed to improve the livelihoods of smaller farmers through inclusive value chains and responsible business practices. It



broadly takes a systems-change approach, focusing on enhancing the systems around farmers in order to benefit them at scale, rather than directly supporting them.

One difference to other programmes is that GRAISEA has tried at various points to address power imbalances as part of this approach, and this blog shares key takeaways here from a recent review. This is not to say our programme has always succeeded, and lessons are as much what we could have done – but I hope this blog can help to start a discussion and knowledge sharing in this area.

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## **6. Gender-transformative approaches: Good practices and future frontiers**

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-transformative-approaches-good-practices-future-frontiers/>

The Government of Ireland supports gender-transformative approaches through its foreign and development policy as a route to advancing gender equality. Recognising the innovative work of its partners and missions, Irish Aid commissioned ODI to lead a collaborative research and learning project, bringing together civil society, governmental and international organisations, and mission staff from the occupied Palestinian territory, Sierra Leone and Tanzania to identify how the Government of Ireland and other donors can enhance the use of gender-transformative approaches.

The key findings of this collaborative research and learning project are distilled in this policy brief. They include the good practices identified across five gender-transformative strategies, and five systems-level ‘enablers’: practices and policies that donors can implement to enable the effective use of gender-transformative approaches.

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## **7. Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: A Global Review**

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/taking-stock-sexual-and-reproductive-and-health-and-rights-climate-commitments-global>

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the most central and globally representative climate policy documents that outline the national climate plans of countries that have ratified the Paris Climate Agreement. Submitted every five years, the NDCs indicate the voluntary commitments of countries to achieving agreed-upon mitigation and adaptation goals.

With climate impacts increasing in scale and intensity, communities on the frontlines are becoming more vulnerable, especially women and girls. As the year 2023 marks the conclusion of the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, this report reflects on how 119 NDCs incorporated SRHR issues and seeks to inform the next cycle of NDCs to be submitted in 2025.

UNFPA, in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, conducted a systematic content analysis of SRHR references and related thematic areas in NDC documents for 119 countries. Accompanying this will be regional reports for five regions: Arab States, Asia Pacific, East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and West and Central Africa.

This global report examines the integration of sexual reproductive health and rights and related themes - including health, gender, population dynamics, youth, human rights, vulnerable groups and participation - in the NDCs of countries from 2020. It offers recommendations on how the next submissions can more effectively address these intersections in terms of impact, commitments, budget and other critical actions.

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## 8. Partnerships for Municipal Innovation—Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL)

<https://www.fcm.ca/en/resources/pmi-will/discover-pmi-will-impact-report-2021-2023>

From the Federation of Canadian Municipalities: PMI-WILL is part of FCM’s portfolio of gender equality and women in local government initiatives. The 6-year project (2021–2027) is implemented in five countries over two continents, with a specific focus on five municipalities per country.

In close partnership with the Local Government Associations in countries of implementation, as well as Canadian municipal volunteers and associations, PMI-WILL is contributing to two core objectives:

- 1 Increasing women’s capacity to get involved and lead in local governance.
- 2 Increasing local governments’ capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive services.

The 2021-2023 PMI-WILL Impact Report highlights key results, illustrated by testimonies, in topics such as uplifting women’s participation and leadership in local governance; implementing policy changes to foster greater inclusion and gender-responsive approaches in local governments; making municipal services more inclusive and catered to the needs of women, especially from marginalized groups; and contributing to positive change through global collaboration.

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## 9. 2023 report on women’s representation in Canadian municipal elected positions

<https://www.fcm.ca/en/resources/women-in-local-government/women-representation-in-municipal-elected-positions-2023-report>

This research was conducted in 2023 by the Canadian Municipal Barometer at the University of Calgary on behalf of FCM’s Canadian Women in Local Leadership (CanWILL) project.

The data reveals that in 2023, women represent 31% of all municipal elected representatives in Canada. The report produced on this study highlights the following points:

- progress to date for councillor and mayoral positions
- representation by province and by territory
- the need to obtain disaggregated data
- conditions for women to enter or remain in politics
- resources to foster parity and more diversity of municipal councils

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## 10. New report outlines the breadth and depth of the experience of farm women in Canada

<https://www.realagriculture.com/2023/10/new-report-outlines-the-breadth-and-depth-of-the-experience-of-farm-women-in-canada/>

Report <https://fmc-gac.com/programs-services/research-analysis/#farmwomen>

To better understand the role of women in agriculture and the barriers, challenges and opportunities they face, Farm Management Canada, in partnership with CentricEngine, has published a new report titled “Expanding Opportunities for Canadian Agriculture by Understanding the Experience of Farm Women.”

The report offers over 30 recommendations presented under six (6) distinct groupings:

- a. Support gender equity and equality initiatives in policy development, programming and governance.
- b. Create and enhance programming, development opportunities, and resources that specifically address the needs of farm women.
- c. Dedicate efforts beyond women in agriculture to focus exclusively on supporting farm women.
- d. Promote communication and interpersonal skills along with business management practices as essential components of farming.
- e. Expand existing research to more effectively capture data related to farm women (ex. Census).
- f. Conduct additional research on the experience and contributions of farm women, factors that influence farm success, and a comparative study of farm men using the same human-centered lens.

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## 11. Four Things We’ve Learned from the 60Decibels Farmer Benchmarks

<https://60decibels.com/insights/4-things-we-learned-from-the-60db-farmer-benchmarks/>

This is a benchmark of the performance of 93 organizations, across 19 countries, listening to over 18,000 farmers.

This includes companies and organizations providing farming inputs, training and advisory, agricultural technologies, credit, insurance, or market access solutions to farmers, and data from the past 3 years. We’ll keep this page updated quarterly so you can always find the latest sector trends here.

- The Overview tab provides farmer profile benchmarks and experience with climate shocks. The climate benchmarks are new additions and currently cannot be filtered by region. 60 Decibels has recently launched a new Climate Resilience Assessment tool which will soon be incorporated into our benchmarks.
- The Benchmarks tab provides the benchmark for each 60dB agricultural impact metric.
- The By Service, By Gender, and By Region tabs provide visualizations for each impact metric, segmented by categories of interest.

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## 12. Bridging the Gender Gap in Agricultural Advisories: Insights from Farming Messages in Ethiopia

<https://60decibels.com/insights/female-farmers-in-ethiopia/>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/60-decibels\\_bridging-the-gender-gap-in-agricultural-advisories-activity-7102631768087764993-pQZ2/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/60-decibels_bridging-the-gender-gap-in-agricultural-advisories-activity-7102631768087764993-pQZ2/)

Agriculture fuels Ethiopia's economy and sustains rural livelihoods, but increasing access to crucial information in an equitable, gender-nuanced way is key to feeding the country.

Enter the Digital Agricultural Advisory Services (DAAS) project, a partnership between Digital Green, Precision Development (PxD), and the Ethiopian Government.

DAAS leverages Interactive Voice Response (IVR) tech, delivering tailored advisory services via mobile phones to farmers, bridging the knowledge gap and improving livelihoods. As a part of the #IGNITE initiative, 60 decibels partnered with Tanager and Laterite to understand the impact of this project.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform facilitates convenient and accessible information delivery, allowing farmers to access critical guidance through their basic mobile phones.

Key findings:

- Listeners highly valued the convenience, ease of understanding, and usefulness of the information provided through the farmer hotline IVR calls.
- Only 7 in 10 female farmers applied the received information, compared to about 9 in 10 male farmers.
- While 9 in 10 male primary listeners were the final decision-makers in their households, only 4 in 10 female primary listeners were.

With these findings, Digital Green and PxD are taking steps to close this gap and empower more women with vital agricultural knowledge.

Sign up to get the report delivered to your email address.

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### 13. EthioChicken: Improving food security and quality of life in Ethiopia

<https://www.finnfund.fi/en/investing/investments/ethiochicken-improving-food-security-and-quality-of-life/>

EthioChicken operates eight poultry farms and four hatcheries, which produce and supply young chickens for households in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas in Ethiopia.

EthioChicken employs directly roughly 1,480 employees, of which 615 are women (42%). In addition, they indirectly employ 9,000 entrepreneurs (25% women) who nurture, grow, and sell EthioChicken chicks. The young chickens are sold onwards mostly to farmers and households. In 2022, the company reached about 4,8 million farmers or households (80% women) in Ethiopia, generating income and improving the nutrition of a sizable proportion of Ethiopians overall.

EthioChicken is one of the few poultry companies in Africa to receive GlobalGAP certification, a global standard for sustainable agricultural practices.

Money for school fees and household expenditures as well as better nutrition; these are some of the main benefits people mentioned in the survey. Some key results from the survey:

- 87% of chicken farmers report their quality of life has improved
- 87% reported increased income from chicken rearing
- 37% report affording household expenses
- 25% talk about improved lifestyle
- 13% of respondents live in poverty (below USD 1.90 / day)

Another important finding of the survey was that 80% of respondents had no previous access to the type of high-quality chickens provided by the company. This finding was more pronounced in rural areas, where the availability of alternatives was also limited.

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### 14. Private Sector & Development magazine

<https://www.proparco.fr/en/ressources/private-sector-development-39-food-security-contribution-private-sector>

To mark World Food Day on October 16, the 39th issue of Proparco’s Private Sector & Development magazine is devoted to food security.

Articles include:

*Placing contract farming in the service of development, food security and equality.* Page 34: “Women’s access to productive resources such as land and finance is traditionally more limited compared with men, as is their general decision-making power at the household and community levels.” On the positive side, contract farming provides the opportunity to empower women, by allowing them to participate, which enables them to attain financial independence and increase their

bargaining power within their households. Yet, to succeed, awareness raising is needed. On the contrary, contract farming could reinforce the current gendered modes of operations. It may also have negative gendered effects if traditional food crops are displaced by cash crops.”

Page 35: “Kentegra Biotechnology, Kenya, produces a pale, refined extract of the pyrethrum flower, sourced mainly from smallholder farmers. Their farmer partnership model aims to build trust through transparency and fair treatment and has within a year been able to triple the number of contract farmers from some 7 000 to over 20 000. ...Concerning food security, the model has been a success. Farmers receive a steady, increased income, allowing them to pay school fees and buy additional food. Those with small land parcels – many with 0.5 acres – are able to join. Currently, some 50% of the farmers are women, but the target is 55% by 2027. To safeguard food security at the household level, Kentegra advises farmers to diversify production and retain space to cultivate food crops.”

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## **15. OVO Solar: Empowering smallholder farmers by developing an off-grid solar egg incubator**

<https://clas-zgpvh.maillist-manage.net/click/143c97170eb34223/143c97170eb2ee25>

Efficiency for Access Research and Development Fund operated the Low Energy Inclusive Appliances (LEIA) programme LEIA which is funded by UK aid. Explore our latest closeout reports to learn more about the grantee projects and what impact they are delivering.

Canadian company OVO Solar is on a mission to empower smallholder farmers by providing affordable, income generation products that will help break the cycle of poverty. In 2020, the Efficiency for Access Research and Development Fund supported OVO to continue developing and further refining its solar-powered egg incubator to increase energy efficiency and lower costs.

The affordable, pay as you go PAYG-enabled solution helps smallholder farmers to raise more chickens, earn more money, and enhance food security .By enabling access to productive use solar appliances like egg incubators, OVO helps to provide smallholder farmers in rural, off-grid locations with a means to increase their earning potential and income (which is critical to reducing poverty), increase food security, and improve their resilience to climate change.

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## **16. Launch of the 2023 Canadian Aid Trends Report**

<https://cooperation.ca/2023-canadian-aid-trends/>

Cooperation Canada and AidWatch Canada are proud to collaborate on an important report looking into Canadian international assistance. The information unearthed in this report is crucial for anyone following Canada’s contributions to international assistance and a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world. Accompanying the full length report is a document highlighting 20 key trends as well as a Q&A piece with the author, Brian Tomlinson.

Highlights include the following [page 9 in the full report]

15. GAC has approached or achieved FIAP’s 80% target for gender integrated bilateral projects every year between 2017/18 and 2021/22. The five-year average is 78%. However, GAC has not reached FIAP’s 15% target for gender specific projects, with a five-year average of 9%, but has achieved significant growth since 2018/19. CSOs have been essential in the delivery of gender specific projects in these five years, delivering 70% of these project disbursements in 2021/22.

16. GAC did not achieve its FIAP goal to devote 50% of bilateral ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa by 2021/22. In 2021/22, Sub-Saharan Africa received 38% of Real ODA and 45% of Real Bilateral ODA. Canada ranked 11th among 30 DAC donors in the share of gross bilateral disbursements for Sub-Saharan Africa.

See also pages 45 to 47 in the full report on Part IV: Assessing the Quality of Canadian ODA. Section 8. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

Page 22: “In 2017, the Government’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) committed to putting the empowerment of women and girls at the center of Canada’s contributions to global efforts to eradicate poverty and address inequalities. The Policy set out five Action Areas, with a sixth, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a core Action Area, which is to be integrated across all areas.<sup>11</sup> (See Chart 5 for the six Action Areas.)”

Page 22 continued: “While the FIAP is accompanied by action area policies and indicators for its implementation, there are no specific financial targets for each Area.<sup>12</sup> But the FIAP does commit to dedicating \$150 million over five years in support of local women’s organizations and movements and to dedicating 15% of bilateral international assistance to advancing gender equality. (See Section 8 above for more analysis of these gender commitments.) The HPDS does, however, track disbursements for the six Action Areas. Chart 5 indicates the relative share of each Action Area in support of FIAP. (See Annex Two for a detailed table of these disbursements.)”

Page 23: “Some highlights include:

- Over these five years (cumulatively), the Government allocated almost half of its disbursements to Human Dignity (49%), with Education at 6%, Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at 20%, Humanitarian Assistance at 13%, and Social Services / Food Security at 2%.
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls represents only 3% of total disbursements. But these disbursements -- \$917.4 million over the five years – are exclusively related to gender sector codes only<sup>13</sup> (excluding projects where gender equality has been mainstreamed, but is not the main objective).”

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## 17. The female beekeepers who hold ‘the keys to a better world’

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/oct/04/women-behind-lens-female-beekeepers-who-hold-the-keys-to-a-better-world>

This group of women are the first female beekeepers in their town. Their work began in 2018 after they arrived at the Ximenes settlement, in the municipality of Barreiros in Pernambuco state in north-eastern Brazil. The new settlement provided by the government is surrounded by a huge sugar cane plantation. The soil is unproductive, and pesticides threaten the native bees. There are no paved roads, schools, or health centres in the area. Housing is precarious and the area is often flooded by the river. With few options for planting, the women turned to the local university to learn how to keep bees.

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## 18. Equality Fund 2022-23 Report

<https://inmotion.equalityfund.ca/>

**Gender-Lens Investing:** Guided by an unapologetic feminist analysis, our Investment program ensures that our investment strategy aligns with our core purpose. Our portfolio is 100 percent gender-aligned, making us one of the largest gender-lens investors in the world.

**High-trust Global Grantmaking:** We are purpose-built to resource feminist movements in the many ways they are organizing across the globe, with support that matches their unique visions. Across four grantmaking streams set for launch through 2024, we partner with organizations, coalitions, feminist funds, and networks all focused on building power with women, girls, and trans people, especially in the Global South and East.

**Feminist Philanthropy:** At the Equality Fund, philanthropy plays a critical role in funding women’s rights organizations and feminist movements now, while building sustainable funding channels for the future. Intersectional and global, it’s a chance

for institutional and individual donors to activate aligned values and work alongside our movements. Solutions to the biggest challenges—from climate to conflict—are interdependent with gender equality and must be resourced abundantly.

**Policy Advocacy:** As one of Canada’s flagship initiatives under its Feminist International Assistance Policy, we are powered by a \$300 million investment from the Government of Canada. Our policy dialogue work is focused on leveraging that investment and our relationships with governments globally to unlock additional flexible and reliable resources for women’s rights organizations worldwide, including \$53 million from the UK government. We’re building on these partnerships, influencing how money is invested in feminist change by governments, philanthropists, and the private sector.

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## 19. Coffee: Creating a Sustainable Impact in Indonesia

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/241/lestari-inc-creating-a-sustainable-impact-in-indonesia>

<https://www.facebook.com/fit.fit.ca/posts/650290373916229>

With funding from FIT, Lestari Inc. and ICCRI/Indonesian Coffee & Cocoa Research Institute collaborated on the project: Women Empowerment, Agricultural Innovation and Climate Change Adaptation/ /WE-AICCA.

In testing this innovative solution, they introduced newly developed drought-tolerant coffee varieties (adaptation to climate change). This involved establishing a demo plot, and training 65 Toraja and Enrekang coffee farmers and Agricultural Extension Officers/AEO, mostly women, on climate-smart coffee farming techniques.

While the project ended in early 2021, the farmers and Agricultural Extension Officers/AEO continue to expand the drought-tolerant coffee varieties, including maintenance, using their new project supported skill sets.

The Dirjenbun/Ministry of Agriculture is now replicating the project's introduced coffee varieties to other parts of Toraja.

The innovation team’s Demplot has become the Dirjenbun's central coffee nursery in Toraja, and the Dirjenbun has entrusted the women.

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## 20. New digital magazine: Vantage Point: Perspectives on Clean Cooking

<https://cleancooking.org/news/clean-cooking-alliance-launches-new-digital-magazine/>

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) has launched a new digital magazine, Vantage Point: Perspectives on Clean Cooking. This interactive magazine marks an exciting new chapter in CCA’s commitment to advancing clean cooking and contributing to women’s empowerment, climate equity, and a sustainable future.

The inaugural edition of Vantage Point explores the pivotal link between gender equality and access to clean cooking. Through first-hand accounts, critical analyses, and engaging insights from experts, advocates, and changemakers, this edition showcases how clean cooking is central to improving the health, well-being, and economic opportunities for billions of women and girls.

The magazine shares stories of trailblazers. Vantage Point also explores the financial and policy solutions needed to increase access to clean cooking. These include gender-lens investing and results-based financing—which have the potential to help close the sector’s investment deficit—as well as national energy policies that fully incorporate gender considerations. Lastly, the magazine spotlights a selection of CCA’s partner organizations that are fostering women’s empowerment and leadership in clean cooking.

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