



Early morning sky through the trees. 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. Gender Results Based Financing for Productive Use Appliances

<https://odysseyenergysolutions.com/financing-programs/gender-results-based-financing-for-productive-use-appliances-72a84>

A pilot program to help women and girls gain access to productive use equipment to improve their livelihoods. The Gender RBF pilot aims to improve gender outcomes by (1) incentivizing distributors of productive use appliances to target women, and (2) encouraging women to use productive use appliances to improve their livelihoods. This pilot will serve as a proof-of-concept to validate the value of positive gender outcomes that are produced by the adoption and use of productive use appliances and will provide learnings to maximize impact for a full-scale roll-out of a gender RBF program. The Gender RBF program also aims to expand the addressable market for appliance distributors by tapping into an often-overlooked segment of the population for these appliances.

Register and apply by **May 7**. The pilot program aims to prioritize learnings to improve the effectiveness of future RBF programs for gender outcomes and may evolve during the implementation period to ensure program outcomes are achieved.

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2. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair

https://whova.com/portal/registration/scwis_202405/

This event caters to both early-career professionals seeking and established professionals aiming to transition into leadership roles. Women from diverse backgrounds, education levels, and career stages to join us in this inclusive and empowering event. Whether you're available all day or just for specific sessions, you can tailor your participation to fit your schedule perfectly. **May 10. 8:30-3:30 PDT | Online**

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3. Healthy World Conference: Dialogues on Health, Gender & Climate Resilience

<https://canwach.glueup.com/event/healthy-world-conference-dialogues-on-health-gender-climate-resilience-93668/>

The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) is excited to welcome you to the Healthy World Conference: Dialogues on Health, Gender & Climate Resilience, in **Montréal, Quebec, on May 14-15, 2024.**

Immerse yourself in this dynamic environment where stakeholders will dive deeply, connect meaningfully, and reflect with curiosity on the interconnected nature of climate, health, and gender equality.

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4. Course: How to Hire Farm Workers

<https://youngagrarians.org/courses/how-to-hire-farm-workers/>

How to Hire Farm Workers is a **self-paced, online course** that covers the basics of hiring and managing farm employees. Young Agrarians structured this course to guide you through the process of hiring the right person for your farm. Registration in the course gives you access to five hours of content, including videos, checklists, templates, and resources. The suggested sliding scale cost is \$25-\$125. Once you register, you have lifetime access to the content.

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This Month's News

1. Responding to women's challenges for fair and more productive rice farming in Mali

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/responding-womens-challenges-fair-and-more-productive-rice-farming-mali>

Smart Valleys <https://www.africanrice.org/smart-valleys>

In Mali, AfricaRice is disseminating gender sensitive technologies through AICCRA, using business models such as the Center for Mechanized Agriculture, Pay-As-You-Go and Saving Clubs to enhance women's access to finances, and accelerate the adoption of climate-smart agriculture and climate information services for 50,000 women to date. The large-scale adoption of such technologies could help female farmers to be fully engaged in rice production.

Women have benefited from trainings on the development of Smart Valleys and were also given seeds of drought and flood tolerant rice varieties. They are informed and engaged in other proven gender responsive technologies and innovations being promoted in Mali such as solar pumps for boosting off-season vegetable growing, improved rice parboiling technology for processing quality and nutritious rice for their household's consumption and selling, integrated rice-fish for diversifying income and improving food and nutrition security, RiceAdvice digital application for location of specific sustainable rice cultivation practices and climate information services for climate informed agricultural decisions.

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2. The private sector is helping to scale the adoption of ‘climate-smart’ aquaculture in Zambia

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/private-sector-helping-scale-adoption-climate-smart-aquaculture-zambia-boosting-womens-role>

In Zambia—a landlocked country—aquaculture provides a critical source of affordable protein. Scaling training programs developed by WorldFish and supported through AICCRA Zambia partnerships are reaching thousands of fish farmers with practices that are boosting productivity by 70 percent and providing women with a more powerful role in production.

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3. Mainstreaming climate information services and climate-smart agriculture in African higher education systems

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/mainstreaming-climate-information-services-and-climate-smart-agriculture-african-higher>

Over 1,500 university lecturers and staff — including 30 percent women — from 37 African countries benefited from capacity development training on new modules on climate services and climate-smart agriculture, to ensure the next generation can scale initiatives that make African agriculture more resilient to climate change. And a new Master’s degree specialization has been created at the Felix Houphouet Boigny University in Cote d’Ivoire with a view to use the new modules to generate next expertise to transform African agriculture and food systems.

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4. Clean Cooking Alliance Releases Digital Magazine Focused on Carbon Finance and Climate

<https://cleancooking.org/news/clean-cooking-alliance-releases-digital-magazine-focused-on-carbon-finance-and-climate/>

The new edition of the Clean Cooking Alliance’s digital magazine Vantage Point: Perspectives on Clean Cooking highlights the importance of carbon finance for clean cooking and for helping solve the climate crisis. The magazine explores some of the challenges in expanding carbon finance for clean cooking; innovative efforts to bring more investors onto the scene; and new programs to strengthen the market’s sustainability and transparency, including the CCA-led Clean Cooking and Climate Consortium and the Responsible Carbon Finance for Clean Cooking Initiative.

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5. In Sudan, Women’s Bodies Have Long Been the Battleground

<https://newint.org/violence/2024/sudan-womens-bodies-have-long-been-battleground>

Government security forces have used sexual violence against female protestors as an intimidation tactic. The failure to pass laws criminalizing rape and all forms of sexual and gender-based violence has meant both the public and uniformed personnel can act with impunity. Under the Sudanese criminal code, rape and all other forms of physical violence are treated with equal consideration.

Sudan's family law also gives sweeping powers to male relatives over women and fails to explicitly define the limit of male guardianship. Women in Sudan can neither marry nor divorce without the legal intervention of a male guardian, which often causes struggles over custody of children.

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6. Gender-Based Challenges in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/04/breaking-silence-gender-based-challenges-lesotho-highlands-water-project-ll/>

In many projects funded by public development banks PDBs, women are not only excluded and left behind, but are put in a position of harm. One such case is the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) where there is growing evidence of a wide range of negative gender impacts within the affected communities.

The objective of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is to provide water to the Gauteng region of South Africa and to generate hydroelectricity for Lesotho by harnessing the waters of the Senqu/Orange River in the Lesotho highlands through the construction of a series of dams.

Despite long-standing concerns and documented impacts on communities, including increased HIV/AIDS risk, the project proceeds with Phase II without adequately addressing residual issues.

The project's impacts disproportionately affect women, exacerbating vulnerabilities through increased risks of displacement, lack of access to water and healthcare, and heightened instances of sexual exploitation, contributing to a cycle of socio-economic marginalization and health disparities.

Cases of transactional sex between migrant workers and young women and girls have increased, including cases of abortion and concealment of birth, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and high school drop-outs.

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7. Supporting women's voices in Ghana

<https://www.iied.org/supporting-womens-voices-ghana>

Women farmers and forest producers in Ghana make up nearly half of the country's crop producers, but they face multiple disadvantages. These include lack of land ownership and limited access to finance, inputs and markets and a lack of political voice.

As part of Forest Farm Facility, IIED worked with 11 forest and farm producer organisations to establish the Ghana Federation of Forest And Farm Producers (GhaFFaP). The federation aims to advance the collective voice and priorities of the country's producers, to get their concerns addressed at the national level. Gender equality is built into the fabric of GhaFFaP, and today the organisation represents more than one million producers, 46% of whom are women.

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8. Women Affected by 'Gender-Biased' Climate Change Deserve Justice

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/04/women-affected-by-gender-biased-climate-change-deserve-justice/>

A new report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has found that climate change has a disproportionate impact on the incomes of rural women, people living in poverty, and older populations. The report analyzed data from over 100,000 rural households across 24 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It found that women's capacity to respond and adapt to extreme weather events is unequal to that of men.

The Unjust Climate report highlights that in LMICs, female heads of households in rural areas suffer significantly greater financial losses annually than men. For instance, heat stress results in households run by women losing 8 percent more of their income each year compared to households run by men.

According to the report, if the average temperatures were to increase by just 1°C, women would face a staggering 34 percent greater loss in their total incomes than men. Unless climate change is addressed, it will widen the income gaps in years to come.

A study by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) found that climate change impacts in India's Maharashtra state have reduced rainfall and caused recurring droughts affecting women and girls. As a result, women have been forced to migrate to look for jobs in sugarcane fields. The women migrants have often been obliged to get hysterectomies so that they can work without taking breaks during menstruation or giving birth.

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9. Solar Power and Biogas Empower Women Farmers in Brazil

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/04/solar-power-biogas-empower-women-farmers-brazil/>

A bakery, fruit pulp processing and water pumped from springs are empowering women farmers in Goiás, a central-eastern state of Brazil. New renewable energy sources are driving the process. The bakery is an initiative of the women of the Genipapo Settlement, established in 1999 by 27 families, as part of the agrarian reform program implemented in Brazil after the 1964-1985 military dictatorship, which has so far settled 1.3 million families on land of their own. Genipapo, the name chosen for the settlement, is a fruit of the Cerrado, the savannah that dominates a large central area of Brazil. Each settled family received 44 hectares of land and local production is concentrated on soybeans, cassava and its flour, corn, dairy cattle and poultry.

A year ago, the project obtained a solar energy system with six photovoltaic panels from the Women of the Earth Energy project, promoted by the Gepaaf Rural Consultancy, with support from the Socio-environmental Fund of the Caixa Econômica Federal, the regional bank focused on social questions, and the public Federal University of Goiás (UFG).

Iná de Cubas, another beneficiary of the Women of the Earth Energy project, has a biodigester that supplies her stove, in addition to eight solar panels. They generate the energy to produce fruit pulp that also supplies the schools of Orizona, a municipality of 16,000 inhabitants in central-eastern Goiás.

The solar plant, installed two years ago, made the business viable by eliminating the electricity bill, which was high because the two refrigerators needed to store fruit and pulp consume a lot of electricity. The abundance of fruit residues provides the inputs for biogas production, an innovation in a region where manure is more commonly used.

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10. Children in Brazil are climbing 70-foot-high trees so you can eat açai berries

<https://www.cnn.com/world/americas/acai-berries-child-labor-brazil-spc/index.html>

In 2012, the state of Pará, which produces more than 90% of Brazil's açai, exported 39 tons of the fruit; in 2022, 8,158 tons were exported generating over \$26 million in revenue, according to industry data. As a result, children are being sent on dangerous journeys to harvest the fruit, climbing trees as tall as 70 feet without harnesses, and exposing themselves to the perils of the swamps of the rainforest, including venomous snakes, scorpions, and jaguars.

In Spring, when most fruit is not yet ripe, each 130-pound sack is being sold to wholesalers for about \$80, more than double the price it sells for when it is in season. Buyers may or may not know that the superfood they are purchasing to sell to multinationals may have been picked by children — no one is checking.

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11. Child Malnutrition in Peru Driven Up by Poverty and Food Insecurity

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/03/child-malnutrition-peru-driven-poverty-food-insecurity/>

The institutional crisis is compounded by an economic recession, the reduction of agricultural production due to climatic phenomena such as El Niño, and a poverty level that climbed to 30 percent in 2023, according to official provisional data.

Against this backdrop, the levels of anemia and malnutrition in children under five years of age are of concern. According to official figures presented last year, chronic malnutrition affected 11.7 percent of the population, but with a greater impact in rural areas: 24 percent compared to seven percent in urban areas.

Other forms of malnutrition also present worrying indicators: 42 percent of the population aged six to 35 months has anemia, with a higher percentage in rural areas (51.5 percent) than in urban areas (39 percent). Meanwhile, nine percent of children under five years of age are overweight or obese.

Statistics show that it is the poorest people in rural areas and children who are directly affected by policies that do not place them at the center of their actions.

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12. The Struggles of Women Left Behind in Syria’s “No-Man Land”

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2024/03/patriarchy-remains-syrias-no-man-land/>

Up to three-quarters of the population are women because men have died in the protracted conflict, fled the country for safety – particularly during a three-year IS siege – or simply left to seek better lives abroad. The result is thousands of women and their dependents left behind to fend for themselves.

For the first time in their lives, local women and told me they find themselves responsible for a whole family. Suddenly, women in Syria are heads of their families and the sole breadwinners.

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13. How an alternative management model for rural water supply is proving its worth in Nepal

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2024/03/water-alternative-management-model-nepal/>

Backed by funding from the Grundfos Foundation, a collaboration between communities, Nepalese local partners, local and federal government and Oxfam has pioneered an alternative model for sustainable water supply: bundling a number of small water supply systems together under the single management of a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Management Board (RWSSMB).

This “Alternative Management Model” is the result of three years of research and groundwork, and has given over 30,000 people access to safe, and importantly sustainable, water services, with the most vulnerable and marginalised households prioritised.

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14. Climate crisis and food insecurity are driving anemia in India

<https://www.devex.com/news/climate-crisis-and-food-insecurity-are-driving-anemia-in-india-107278>

A 2017 Harvard study published in GeoHealth journal that analyzed diets from 152 countries found that wheat, rice, barley, maize, and legumes have lower iron concentrations of 4%-10% when grown under increased carbon dioxide concentration. This puts 57% of children under age 5 — a staggering 354 million — and 1.06 billion women of childbearing age, at risk of anemia.

As per the World Health Organization, 29.9% of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) were anemic, which is over half a billion women within this age group. Globally, most people derive their dietary iron from the consumption of plants. The researchers found that countries with high anemia rates derived iron from the fewest foods, and over half of the global anemia cases can be attributed to a lack of adequate iron.

This can be devastating because the Food and Agriculture Organization’s 2023 report on the state of global food security and nutrition shows that over a billion people in India, roughly 74% of the population, can’t afford a healthy diet.

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15. Global hunger levels 'bleak' amid spikes due to wars in Gaza and Sudan

<https://www.devex.com/news/global-hunger-levels-bleak-amid-spikes-due-to-wars-in-gaza-and-sudan-107539>

Over 280 million people in 59 countries and territories faced high levels of acute hunger last year, a worldwide increase of 24 million from the year prior — and the jump is mostly driven by worsening conflict in places such as the Gaza Strip, Sudan, and Haiti.

That's according to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises published this week, which found that global hunger levels have increased for the fifth year in a row. Climate shocks and economic crises are additional reasons behind the increase, along with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout of the war in Ukraine.

Women and children tend to suffer the most in these hunger crises, the report notes, with more than 36 million children under 5 years old acutely malnourished across 32 countries, with malnutrition particularly severe among displaced populations.

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16. Don't forget women in new UN climate fund, policymakers urged

<https://www.context.news/climate-justice/dont-forget-women-in-new-un-climate-fund-policymakers-urged>

The loss and damage fund's success hinges on women's participation and recognising their uneven climate burden, rights groups say.

- Climate change impacts put extra strain on women.
- In loss and damage plan, calls to close gender gap.
- Quantifying women's work and needs seen as vital.

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17. How salty water is putting Bangladesh's pregnant women at risk

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/apr/02/headaches-organ-damage-and-even-death-how-salty-water-is-putting-bangladeshs-pregnant-women-at-risk>

As rising sea levels and extreme weather contaminate drinking water sources, doctors are seeing alarming numbers of women with serious health problems including pre-eclampsia.

The rural population relies on rivers, ponds, and groundwater for cooking, drinking and bathing. But these natural water sources have been contaminated by varying degrees of salinity due to saltwater intrusion from cyclones and rising sea levels.

As a result of Khan's research, several initiatives were undertaken by NGOs and the Bangladesh government to reduce salinity in Dacope's waters, including reverse osmosis, rainwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge; a technique which collects and treats water from ponds and rooftops and injects it underground for storage and future use.

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18. Uganda tweaked its anti-gay law just to get donor cash, activists say

<https://www.devex.com/news/uganda-tweaked-its-anti-gay-law-just-to-get-donor-cash-activists-say-107383>

As a court in Uganda refused to strike down one of the world’s harshest anti-gay laws enacted nearly a year ago, activists fear the law there and the “lackluster” response to it from donors will spur on other countries considering similar harsh legislation.

The Constitutional Court of Uganda on Wednesday rejected the nullification of The Anti-Homosexuality Act in its entirety, scrapping just two sections and two subsections and declaring the rest of the law constitutional. The ruling, which had been expected months ago, comes as activists in Ghana wait to see if a draconian new anti-gay bill passed by the country’s Parliament last month will become law.

An activist said that the justices had taken the position on the right to health because the government “can’t fund our health care system.”

In Kenya, religious leaders last month sent a letter to parliament pushing for an anti-gay law there.

Tanzania, where the law already imposes prison for gay sex, is also considering tougher punishments for gay people, including the death penalty and castration, it was reported last year just before Uganda’s law was approved.

At the start of the AIDS pandemic, most countries in the world criminalized LGBTQ+ people. Today two-thirds of them do not.

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19. Urging our development sector to do better for LGBTQ+ individuals

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-as-a-leader-who-is-gay-i-urge-our-development-sector-to-do-better-107381>

We can and must do better at addressing the near silence on sexual orientation both internally as organizations and in our external work. The global development sector, for the most part, has become relatively accepting of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in their global north-based central or head offices.

Maliha Khan, Women Deliver president and CEO — a Muslim, queer, immigrant woman of color — says the global development sector has more to do when it comes to supporting diverse identities and orientations.

However, in most other contexts, their approach to staff members who identify as queer leans toward “don’t ask, don’t tell” at best, with instances of outright discrimination and prejudice in the worst cases. There’s an undeniably stark contrast between the extensive preparation our sector provides on topics like gender, ethnicity, religion, and physical security, and the near silence on sexual orientation both internally as organizations and for our external work.

“I am not advocating for a disregard of local sensitivities,” Khan writes, “but for a more thoughtful consideration of when and how it might be safe and appropriate to be open about our sexual orientations.” She lays out the essential steps:

- Implement protective policies.
- Shift workplace culture to clearly signal that all sexual and gender identities are celebrated and championed.
- Proactively prevent LGBTQ+ staff from being bullied, discriminated against, or sidelined.
- Boost LGBTQ+ representation in leadership ranks.

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20. April 4, 2024 was Equal Pay Day in Manitoba

<https://policyfix.ca/2024/04/04/equal-pay-day-in-manitoba/>

On average, women in Manitoba have to work for 460 days to earn the same amount as men do in 365 days. This means women have to work an extra three months just to catch up to men.

Women in Manitoba earn 71 cents for every dollar men earn, according to census data presented in a recent Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba Report, Tired of Waiting: Rectifying Manitoba's Pay Gap. The pay gap is worse for women who face additional forms of discrimination, such as colonialism, racism and discrimination against persons with disabilities. In Manitoba, the pay gap is especially severe for Indigenous women as well as for black women and women of colour – 58 and 59 cents, respectively.

New pay equity legislation should be part of a comprehensive plan to close the gender pay gap, along with affordable and accessible childcare, raising the minimum wage to a living wage level, expanded education and training opportunities, and measures to put an end to harassment and violence in the workplace.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. The unjust climate: Measuring the impacts of climate change on rural poor, women and youth

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc9680en>

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9638en>

Developing policies to foster inclusive rural transformation processes requires better evidence on how climate change is affecting the livelihoods and economic behaviours of vulnerable rural people, including women, youths and people living in poverty. In particular, there is little comparative, multi-country and multi-region evidence to understand how exposure to weather shocks and climate change affects the drivers of rural transformation and adaptive actions across different segments of rural societies and in different agro-ecological contexts. This evidence is essential because, while climate risk and adaptive actions are context specific and require local solutions, global evidence is important for identifying shared vulnerabilities and priority actions for scaling up effective responses.

This report assembles an impressive set of data from 24 low- and middle-income countries in five world regions to measure the effects of climate change on rural women, youths and people living in poverty. It analyses socioeconomic data collected from 109,341 rural households (representing over 950 million rural people) in these 24 countries. These data are combined in both space and time with 70 years of georeferenced data on daily precipitation and temperatures. The data enable us to disentangle how different types of climate stressors affect people's on-farm, off-farm and total incomes, labour allocations and adaptive actions, depending on their wealth, gender and age characteristics.

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2. Women paying the cost of the climate crisis with their wombs: quantifying loss and damage faced by women battling drought, debt and migration

<https://www.iied.org/22281iied>

As climate change intensifies, it is imperative for policymakers to address the escalating loss and damage it inflicts on vulnerable communities in developing countries. In India's Maharashtra state, these impacts are forcing rural families into life-altering decisions and migrations to work in sugarcane fields, where exploitative practices by contractors, including fines for work absences, are prevalent. The fear of losing income drives many women to have hysterectomies to avoid having to take breaks due to menstrual pain.

This paper uses two frameworks to analyse and quantify the economic and non-economic loss and damage faced by these communities, offering insights into the multifaceted nature of climate impacts.

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3. There's a youth bulge, but the global south is also getting older

<https://www.devex.com/news/yes-there-s-a-youth-bulge-but-the-global-south-is-also-getting-older-107327>

While development practitioners have given the so-called youth bulge much attention in recent years, particularly in Africa, less notice has been paid to the impact of improved global life expectancy. The World Health Organization says that expectancy increased by more than six years between 2000 and 2019 from 66.8 years to 73.4.

As a result, between 2022 and 2050, low- and middle-income countries will account for 85% of the population growth of people aged 65 and older worldwide, according to aging-focused nonprofit AARP International. By 2050, roughly 4 in 5 older adults will live in these countries, which is also where aging inequity — the cumulative effect of inequalities experienced throughout a person's lifespan — tends to be more acute, compared to high-income countries.

Moreover, gender-based disparities in education, large informal economies, and a lack of pension coverage also contribute to aging inequities in LMICs, according to an AARP International report published last year.

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4. IWD 2024: Invest in Women - Accelerate Progress

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/iwd-2024-invest-women-accelerate-progress>

For International Women's Day under this year's theme 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress', we've compiled some recent highlights of the work and research AICCRA and partners are doing to support women in Africa's agricultural ecosystem - scaling access to resources, finances and skills to build resilience.

- Senegal is launching an agricultural Gender and Climate Action Plan
- Boosting women's role one pond at a time in Zambia
- Savings club in Mali boosts women farmers access to climate-smart innovations
- Senegal Gender-Smart Accelerator Challenge winner receives scaling investment
- Article: From gender gaps to gender-transformative climate-smart agriculture
- Innovation hackathon sparks ideas for solving post-harvest losses in Senegal
- Paper: Enabling gender and social inclusion in climate and agriculture policy and planning through foresight processes

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5. Podcast: Scaling climate-smart information use through radio in Ghana

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/scaling-climate-smart-information-use-through-radio-ghana>

In Ghana, a radio program produced by AICCRA, Farm Radio International and Community Radio Stations has reached more than 240,000 farmers with daily, weekly, and seasonal forecasts and information on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices.

In a special podcast episode for World Radio Day, we spoke to Gideon Sarkodie, a radio presenter with Adars FM and Francisca Martey of the Ghana Meteorological Agency about how - through collaboration supported by AICCRA Ghana - farmers are using radio to access climate information that is guiding their decision making.

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6. Factors influencing household and women's dietary diversity in migrant households in central Nepal

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0298022>

Abstract

Food security and dietary diversity, defined as providing either physical (availability) or economic (accessibility) access to food, are linked with access to and control over productive resources and is a highly-gendered phenomenon. In Nepal, labor out-migration has increased household income and may have increased people’s ability to access diverse food either by increasing investment in agriculture or purchasing various food items from the market. However, the relationship between household dietary improvement and labor out-migration is complex. Drawing on a survey of 1,053 migrant households in three agroecological regions of Nepal, this paper disentangles this complex phenomenon by showing how household dietary diversity and women’s dietary diversity are influenced by biophysical, social, economic, and cultural factors. The influence of the amount of remittances, land abandonment, and women confined to the house by household chores are some factors that policy makers should consider seriously in designing gender-sensitive nutrition policies. The expansion of women’s agency contributes to enhancing dietary diversity and specifically women’s dietary diversity at the household level; however, how these factors determine an individual’s dietary diversity depends on intrahousehold dynamics and relations.

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7. Women’s economic empowerment and family caregiving dynamics in Tanzania

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106626>

Abstract

Women’s economic empowerment is recognized as a fundamental component of gender equality and global development. Despite a significant body of evidence highlighting the positive effects of women’s labor force participation in low- and middle-income countries, relatively few studies have explored how caregivers of young children perceive women’s economic empowerment in relation to childcare and family responsibilities. The objective of this study was to examine how mothers and fathers viewed the links between maternal employment and family caregiving dynamics specifically in terms of couples’ relationships and parenting. We conducted in-depth interviews with 23 mothers and 29 fathers of young children under aged 2 years and 9 focus group discussions with mothers and fathers across 4 communities in Mwanza, Tanzania. Data were analyzed through both deductive and inductive approaches. Results revealed distinct gender differences in maternal versus paternal perceptions regarding women’s engagement in income-generating activities. Mothers held favorable views towards employment and largely perceived positive effects on parenting, child, and family outcomes. On the other hand, most fathers were unsupportive of women’s employment and held restrictive gender attitudes. Men feared a loss of power and perceived various negative consequences in terms of increased marital conflict, poorer maternal parenting, and worse child outcomes. Overall, this study revealed differences in maternal versus paternal perceptions about women’s economic empowerment and its links with couples’ relationships and parenting that were strongly shaped by gender attitudes. Women’s economic empowerment programs that engage men to transform gender norms while incorporating program components to strengthen couples’ relationships and promote positive parenting have potential for achieving family-wide benefits among mothers, fathers, and young children.

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8. Podcast: How Swiss women won a landmark climate case for Europe

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2024/apr/15/how-swiss-women-won-a-landmark-climate-case-for-europe-podcast>

Elisabeth Stern, 76, is a climate activist with the KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz (Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland), a campaign group of 2,400 older Swiss women. In a case at the European court of human rights, the group argued that older women were more likely to die in heatwaves, and that the Swiss government was not doing enough to curb carbon emissions.

Last week the group won the case. The court ruled that the government’s weak climate policies violated fundamental human rights. The journalist Isabella Kaminski tells Hannah about the ruling, and what it means for future climate cases.

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9. A look at those at work in agriculture in Canada

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/6075-look-those-work-agriculture>

Nearly half (49.6%) of the 278,493 people working in Canada’s agriculture sector were employed on a seasonal basis in 2022, with most working solely during the growing season from May to November. Traditionally, agricultural operators have relied on temporary foreign workers (TFWs) to meet their needs for additional labour at various points in the year.

Nearly 150,000 employees (or 53.3% of all agriculture workers in Canada) worked in the agriculture sector in Ontario and Quebec.

Canada continued to welcome workers predominantly from Central and South America, as more than four in five came from Mexico (44.3%), Guatemala (25.1%) or Jamaica (13.3%). The number of workers from Mexico was up by 1,718 in 2022, the largest increase among countries.

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10. IDRC announces research on solutions to address women’s care load in Africa

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/news/idrc-announces-research-solutions-address-womens-care-load-africa>

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/initiative/scaling-care-innovations-africa>

New research to scale policy and program solutions is getting underway in sub-Saharan Africa to reduce and recognize care work and redistribute this responsibility between men and women.

The initiative ran a competitive two-stage process to select 17 research teams that will assess how to scale pilot-tested innovations addressing the disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work that falls on women and girls. Seven of these teams will focus on policy-oriented solutions and 10 will look at scaling program-based solutions. Each project will tackle the challenge of unpaid care work by building on successful, locally led solutions.

Program Innovations:

- CARE Tanzania leads this project to adapt and scale up gender-transformative Farmer Field and Business Schools, developed by CARE and operating in 18 countries.
- Led by Ripple Effect Kenya, this project aims to reduce the time women spend on unpaid care activities, including those tied to small-scale livestock rearing, through a blend of new labour-saving innovations and community engagement aimed at shifting gender norms.
- In the rural district of Kishapu, Tanzania, the Economic and Social Research Foundation will scale up proven innovations, including installing water-harvesting systems, training women and girls in entrepreneurship and job skills, and engaging couples in discussing gender norms by adapting the Rwandan Bandedereho (role model) program.
- Recognizing the overlap between gender-equality and climate-action goals, this project aims to address women’s disproportionate responsibility for care work, through energy-efficient TIKA cookstoves in Cote d’Ivoire.

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11. Ctrl Shift Equality

<https://pages.devex.com/ctrl-shift-equality.html>

The digital world holds immense potential: connection, opportunity, and empowerment. But for millions of women and girls, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, this landscape is out of reach due to unequal access, gender biases embedded within the very design of technology, and a rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Ctrl Shift Equality confronts this stark reality. We also explore a future where technology serves as a powerful equalizer, empowering women and girls to fully participate in the digital world. We'll delve into how the global development community can bridge the digital divide, dismantle harmful biases, and promote safer online environments for women and girls across the world.

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12. Piloting organic districts in Madagascar

<https://youtu.be/NsGsnyo-PTM>

Around two thirds of people in Madagascar work in the agricultural sector. However, the sector faces various challenges—ranging from high deforestation rates to fragmented value chains—which threaten the sustainability of both livelihoods and ecosystems.

In response to these issues, IISD team is continuing to engage and support Madagascar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries and SYMABIO (Madagascar's union of organic agriculture producers) as they move toward implementing the country's first organic districts (Territoire à Vocation Agriculture Biologique).

This exciting initiative involves establishing areas where local actors including farmers, tourist operators, and local authorities agree to manage local resources sustainably and according to organic principles. We will also support the efforts of organic producers and exporters in positioning themselves in the international market and establishing commercial links with buyers.

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, check out this video (**available in French only**).

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13. Report examines farming women's safety needs

<https://www.country-guide.ca/daily/report-examines-farming-womens-safety-needs/>

Farming women may need more support and programming to address their specific safety needs according to a recent study.

For instance, more than two thirds of Canadian women who farm struggle to find safety apparel and personal protective equipment that fits them, said the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association in a recent report.

Thirty-nine per cent said women's safety apparel is more expensive than men's, and 42 per cent said machinery isn't designed with women in mind.

The report draws on data from a broader study, which CASA co-funded, of Canadian farm women's experiences. That study, which included a survey of more than 1,000 farming women, was published in February.

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14. Power-Sharing in the Global South: Patterns, Practices and Potentials

<https://news.brandonu.ca/2024/04/03/new-book-and-keynote-address-by-bu-prof-show-potential-in-power-sharing/>

A new book of collected essays co-edited by Dr. Allison McCulloch explores how power-sharing can support political peace using examples from across the global south.

Power-Sharing in the Global South: Patterns, Practices and Potentials includes 15 essays that offer individual case studies and comparative perspectives about the framework of power-sharing in places as varied as Colombia, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Malaysia.

Dr. McCulloch, a Professor and Chair of Political Science at BU, also co-authored one of the essays, about women’s rights reforms in Lebanon, as well as co-writing the book’s conclusion.

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