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GEM Digest of the Month

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Poppies in bloom. 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. The Intersectoral Action Fund

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/call-for-applications-intersectoral-action-fund/applicant-guide.html>

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is inviting eligible organizations to apply to the Intersectoral Action Fund ISA for funding to support intersectoral policy action on the social determinants of health and community resilience.

The objective of the Fund is to support action on the social determinants of health (SDOH) by strengthening capacity in communities to advance upstream ISA, in ways that improve population health, reduce health inequities, and strengthen community resiliency. **Application deadline for the Advanced Screening Form: July 25, 2024.** This is an anticipatory solicitation process. Final funding decisions will be subject to available funds.

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2. The Landscape of Bias in STEM

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-landscape-of-bias-in-stem-tickets-899220261007>

September 11 | 12-1pm PDT | Online. Learn about bias in STEM careers during this interactive session. Dr. Fiona Rawle will present evidence on biases, examine their impact on decision-making and daily work and review case studies highlighting bias in assessments, group work, job applications and grant applications. Then learn practical strategies to mitigate bias and promote equity in STEM.

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3. Conference for Small & Medium Organizations in Canada: Pathways to Gender Equality

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/spurchase/national-conference/2024-national-conference/>

Is your Canada-based small or medium organization engaged in promoting gender equality and empowerment? This year's conference will take place **November 6-8 in Ottawa, ON**. In the spirit of peer-knowledge sharing and promoting collaboration, this year's conference is focused on exploring Pathways to Gender Equality. The Pathways to Gender Equality conference aims to advance gender equality and empowerment by showcasing the impactful work of small and medium organizations (SMOs) in international cooperation. The conference will also gather insights from these organizations on the support needed for future capacity-building programs.

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This Month's News

1. How can African Women and Girls Make their Voices Heard in Climate Action?

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2024/05/how-can-african-women-and-girls-make-their-voices-heard-in-climate-action/>

Women across the continent, especially in rural and coastal areas, are paying a heavy price for the climate emergency, so why are they so often missing from key areas of influence such as climate research and national environment ministries? Ilse Kithembe sets out five ways to tackle Africa's environmental gender gap, as Oxfam in Senegal launches a new paper on boosting the role of communities in climate action.

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2. World falling behind on environment, health and hunger goals, UN report says

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/world-falling-behind-environment-health-hunger-goals-un-report-says-2024-06-17/>

The world is way off track on most of the sustainable development targets agreed in 2015, such as tackling poverty and hunger, says a United Nations report which cites funding shortfalls, geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.N.'s annual Sustainable Development Report ranks the performance of its 193 member states in implementing 17 wide-ranging "sustainable development goals" (SDGs), which also include improving access to education and health care, providing clean energy and protecting biodiversity.

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3. Sudan facing world's deadliest famine in 40 years

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/17/we-need-the-world-to-wake-up-sudan-facing-worlds-deadliest-famine-in-40-years>

Sudan is facing a famine that could become worse than any the world has seen since Ethiopia 40 years ago, US officials have warned, as aid deliveries continue to be blocked by the warring armies but arms supplies to both sides continue to flow in.

With much of the world's attention focused on Gaza, the scene of another human-made famine, Sudan is already the worst humanitarian crisis in the world and is slipping towards a humanitarian disaster of historic proportions, with far less media coverage and global concern. A UN humanitarian appeal for the country has received only 16% of the funds it needs.

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4. Taliban call on West to build deeper ties, ignore curbs on women

<https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-call-on-west-to-build-deeper-ties-ignore-curbs-on-women/7678823.html>

A United Nations-led two-day conference of special envoys for Afghanistan from nearly two dozen countries kicked off Sunday in Qatar with the Taliban demanding an end to financial sanctions and expressing a desire for greater engagement with the West while dismissing curbs on women's freedom as a policy difference.

This is the first time the Taliban participated in the gathering to discuss international engagement with Afghanistan since U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres initiated what is commonly referred to as the "Doha process" a year ago.

The U.S. froze \$7 billion of Afghan central bank funds after the Taliban took control of the country in August 2021. In 2022, the Biden administration put half the money in a Switzerland-based trust account called "Fund for the Afghan People," which a board oversees. The remaining money is locked in the U.S.

The Taliban delegation head did not directly reference the ban on girls' education and women's employment in most sectors, or curbs on their mobility, instead hinting at them as cultural, religious and policy differences. In a recent report, U.N. special rapporteur Richard Bennet called the Taliban's hard-line practices an "attack on the entire civilian population, amounting to crimes against humanity."

Despite severe criticism by global rights group of the U.N.'s decision to exclude Afghan women from the event and their issues from the agenda, no country boycotted the gathering. Delegates from the United States, Canada, Norway, and other western countries as well as the European Union are taking part in the talks along with representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

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5. OPINION Bangladesh Can Boost Growth & Climate Resilience by Investing in Women

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/06/bangladesh-can-boost-growth-climate-resilience-investing-women/>

Bangladesh has made major gains for its population, the world's eighth largest with more than 170 million people. Per capita incomes, one of the best measures of broad economic well-being, have risen seven-fold in the past three decades while poverty has been reduced to a fraction of former levels.

Such progress has been driven in part by greater labor force participation by women, most notably in the garment industry, and has been accompanied by other meaningful improvements in women's empowerment.

Our recent analysis, however, shows there are still large gaps between women and men. Notably, women's labor force participation is only half the rate of men.

Our analysis further highlights several factors that render women in Bangladesh uniquely exposed to the effects of climate change and natural disasters:

- Women's employment in Bangladesh is highly concentrated in agriculture and informal work. Climate change very directly affects agricultural production, whereas informal workers are often particularly vulnerable to climate shocks as they lack access to social insurance programs.
- International and internal migration are important climate adaptation strategies, availed mostly by men. Bangladeshi men are 16 times more likely to be employed overseas than women, who tend to be primary care givers for children and the elderly, leaving them less mobile and more likely to remain living in areas highly exposed to climate change.
- Women in Bangladesh carry primary responsibility for collecting drinking water and cooking fuel. As warming temperatures, rising sea levels, deforestation and more frequent cyclones and droughts render these tasks more time-consuming, women's time poverty is expected to be exacerbated.

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6. Kashmir Mushroom Production

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/06/kashmir-frontier-woman-leads-the-way-in-breaking-down-patriarchy/>

People in the frontier town called Bala Chak, located in the R.S. Pora sector of Jammu and Kashmir, have faced the ordeals of border cross-firing and climate change stoically for decades. In 1947, when the subcontinent got divided and Pakistan was formed as a separate country, a deadly line was drawn in this village too.

In the midst of the seedy-looking dwellings spread across the lush green paddy fields of Bala Chak is Surjeet Kumari, looking after her mushroom crop in a dimly lit room located adjacent to her single-story house. The woman, in her late 40s, has been living in the village for the past 25 years. Farming in the open fields, says Surjeet, has always been a dangerous affair in her village.

Experts from Jammu’s Agriculture University trained the women in mushroom production. Apart from the training, the university also supplied the initial infrastructure for the women to start their businesses, providing fertilizers and seeds.

Surjeet is proving quite a guide for these ambitious women in her small hamlet. “Earlier, the women, like in other households in the countryside, were being considered nothing more than a commodity. She was expected to do all household chores and was deemed to be a burden. The self-reliance is helping them to break the shackles and come out triumphant. I teach them the skills and encourage them to work hard so that they can find respect in the eyes of their families and husbands. I am doing my bit,” Surjeet said.

Madhulika Sharma, a senior official at Sevenikatan, who assisted with the training, says the Surjeet has become a beacon of hope for other women who want to get their families out of financial crises and those who want to become self-reliant.

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7. Gender Bias in Academic Conferences

<https://scwist.ca/gender-bias-in-academic-conferences/>

It's conference season, and the absence of female presenters in STEM is glaring. Discover how this underrepresentation hinders recognition of women's research and explore actionable steps to foster gender equity at academic conferences.

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8. Student's community work on food sustainability helped win a \$70K scholarship

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/high-school-student-climate-change-cbs-food-scholarship-1.7228307>

Leah Casey has been pitching in with a community garden in Conception Bay South and is linking that work to broader issues of food insecurity and climate change. She is one of 20 recipients from across the country of the \$70,000 TD scholarship for community leadership. Casey's biggest motivator is her anxiety about climate change issues, affecting both the world at large and the province specifically.

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9. OPINION Are We Equipping Women or Merely Filling the Gender Gap?

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/06/equipping-women-merely-filling-gender-gap/>

In the expansive field of groundwater resource management, a pressing question often emerges: are we truly equipping women with the necessary tools and opportunities to thrive, or are we simply attempting to fill in the gender gap without tackling the root causes?

Despite significant progress in gender equality across various sectors, including science and technology, the underrepresentation of women in groundwater-related fields remains alarmingly high.

Recent statistics reveal that women make up only 22% of the global groundwater workforce, a stark indication of a persistent gender gap that demands immediate attention. This gap suggests that while there may be efforts to increase women’s representation, there may still be systemic challenges and barriers that hinder true equity and inclusion in the field.

While progress has been made in bridging the gender gap in recent years, the statistics present a stark reality of the hurdles that women still encounter in entering and thriving in groundwater-related professions.

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10. Shear Genius: Turning Waste Wool into Clean Fertilizer

<https://thetyee.ca/WhatWorks/2024/06/11/Turning-Waste-Wool-Clean-Fertilizer/>

The Woolwerx Fibre Arts Studio, a project of the Elizabeth Fry Society, employs about a half-dozen marginalized women at a time. The women work part time in a converted residential building nearby the transition house, using local wool to create hand-felted dryer balls, hand-spun yarn and, at Christmastime, adorable sheep-themed ornaments.

The work is transformative, Gordon says. The routine offers structure, but enough flexibility that women can go to school and attend to other life matters. Just as importantly, the repetitive nature of felting and yarn spinning is meditative and therapeutic.

Woolwerx is also a no-waste operation — using “waste wool” donated from farmers and left over from their other projects, they’ve been creating pelletized fertilizer. So far, Gordon estimates they’ve diverted about 60 fleeces from the landfill, producing about 1,800 bags of pelletized wool fertilizer.

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11. Companies Delivering Sustainable Cooling in Nigeria

<https://www.clasp.ngo/updates/solar-refrigerators-nigeria/>

Nigeria, like many West African countries, has experienced record-breaking temperatures in recent months. These intense heatwaves threaten people’s health, reduce food production, and increase energy costs as people try to stay cool.

Inconsistent power supply in the country means households and businesses rely on expensive, polluting diesel generators for electricity – a system not everyone can afford. The solar refrigerators sold by companies like Koolboks, offer an affordable and reliable cooling solution.

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12. Efficient Appliances Translate to Higher Business Revenues, Field Tests Show

<https://www.clasp.ngo/updates/field-testing-shows-higher-revenues/>

CLASP recently spent several months field-testing a range of renewable appliances and technologies in Rwanda. Working with 12 entrepreneurs focused on hospitality, farming, and mobility in four districts across the country, we tested electric pressure cookers in busy restaurants, solar water pumps on working farms, and electric motorbikes. Our team collaborated with the business owners to measure the efficiency of these products, assess air quality improvements, and quantify time savings and income generated or saved.

Our findings: a direct correlation between the adoption of efficient appliances and increased incomes.

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13. Ag education leader, Johanne Ross, to receive Assiniboine Honorary Diploma

<https://assiniboine.net/community/news-events/news-assiniboine/ag-education-leader-johanne-ross-receive-assiniboine>

Johanne Ross, a distinguished leader in agriculture education, will be awarded an Assiniboine College Honorary Diploma in recognition of her dedication to education in agriculture and passionate contributions to this important sector.

Throughout her career, Ross was a foundational builder with Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) in Manitoba and then across Canada, where her leadership was instrumental in the management and growth of AITC programming nationwide, ultimately serving as the national organization's first Executive Director. Through this work, she was breaking new ground to build strong agriculture literacy offerings in Canada that continue today to deliver unique, relevant and inquiry-based educational experiences for all grade levels. She ensured the development of interactive programs and resources that are embraced by urban and rural educators, while inspiring curiosity, critical thinking and lifelong learning for Canada's agriculture and food sector.

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14. Frances Shaver appointed as Member of Order of Canada

<https://www.gg.ca/en/order-canada-appointees-june-2024>

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation CRRF lifetime member Fran Shaver was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada on June 27th. The award emphasizes her research on sex-work but we also recognize her pioneering work regarding farm women. Her use and development of a systematic and comparative field work approach has also contributed to the work of CRRF's New Rural Economy (NRE) project.

Women, work, and transformations in agricultural production <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-618X.1990.tb00130.x>

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15. Opinion: Farmers are getting old. Time to unlock our youth's potential

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-farmers-are-getting-old-time-to-unlock-our-youth-s-potential-107787>

With the average age of farmers in most high-income countries approaching 60, and data showing that average agricultural household heads are around 50 in nearly 40 low- and middle-income countries, agriculture is facing a critical demographic challenge.

More and more young people are turning their backs on farming and flocking to cities in droves. If this trend continues, our global food supply could be in serious jeopardy.

Investing in land-based jobs and green business opportunities for youth can be a game changer. Studies show that every dollar invested in land restoration can generate up to \$30 in economic benefits. This trillion-dollar restoration economy could offer viable solutions not only to environmental challenges, but also to youth unemployment.

To make our rural economies thrive again, we need to start with the most basic thing: decent jobs. That means creating national policies to build infrastructure, improve mobility, and connect rural communities to essential services. It's not just about improving lives; it's about creating new economic opportunities in rural areas.

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16. The communal kitchens fighting famine in Khartoum

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2024/06/24/we-survive-together-communal-kitchens-fighting-famine-khartoum-sudan>

Communal kitchens are assisting hundreds of thousands of people in Sudan’s embattled capital, Khartoum, providing regular meals as well as social and emotional support amid a deepening famine that international aid groups are failing to tackle.

The kitchens operate from relatively space places and are set up so that nobody has to travel too far to reach them. On top of food, they function as communal spaces where teachers run alternative education programmes and women organise cooperatives.

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17. How children starve

<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/GAZA-HUNGER/myvmakwxrvr/>

Nearly 166 million people worldwide are estimated to need urgent action against hunger, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a global partnership which measures food insecurity.

That includes nearly everyone in the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli military launched an offensive in October following an attack on Israel by Hamas militants. More than one million of Gaza’s inhabitants face the most extreme form of malnutrition – classified by the IPC as ‘Catastrophe or Famine.’

One in three children in northern Gaza are acutely malnourished or suffering from wasting, according to the U.N. children’s agency UNICEF, citing data from its partners on the ground. Gaza’s hunger crisis is also a product of war.

The plight of Gaza’s children is part of a bigger trend. Globally last year more than 36 million children under 5 were acutely malnourished, nearly 10 million of them severely, according to the Global Report on Food Crises, a collaborative analysis of food insecurity by 16 international organizations.

Even when children survive, nutrition experts say food deprivation in the early years can do lasting damage.

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18. Vertical farming champion looks to stack Manitoba’s future

<https://www.producer.com/news/vertical-farming-champion-looks-to-stack-manitobas-future/>

To build her knowledge of vertical farming, Trina Semenchuk went back to school for her master’s degree at the University of Manitoba. Her thesis topic looked to validate an energy model focused specifically on vertical farming, and her studies included the design, construction and operation of a working vertical farm on the university campus.

Operating under the department of biosystems engineering, the farm in the university’s Sustainability in Action Facility is housed in an enclosed structure with no natural light. Plants are stacked vertically, with photosynthesis facilitated through LED lighting rather than sunlight.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Navigating the complexities of field data collection: a reflection on using the pro-WEAI tool

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/navigating-complexities-field-data-collection-reflection-using-pro-weai-tool>

The interpretation of empowerment varies across cultural, social, and economic contexts, highlighting the need for standardized frameworks to measure it effectively. Yet, tools need to be flexible and adaptable, capable of accommodating complexity while remaining user-friendly and practical.

The Project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) is a structured framework for measuring women’s empowerment in agricultural systems.

A large part of the project is gathering data on the empowerment aspects of adopting technologies and innovations. Adapted from the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), we used the pro-WEAI quantitative tool for baseline data collection in treatment and control villages in West Bengal, India where the HER+ project is being undertaken.

This blog outlines our reflections and insights gained about the complexities and challenges we encountered while using the tool. Our initial experience with pro-WEAI in West Bengal villages highlights the intricacies of cultural translation in data collection, emphasizing the need for cultural sensitivity.

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2. Ukrainian Agriculture: Promoting Resilience and Adaptability

<https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/farmers-wartime-promoting-adaptability>

Report findings on agricultural production, exports, and other obstacles facing small-scale Ukrainian farmers include:

- 87.5% of respondents in the fruit and vegetable, 71.4% of poultry and 75% of dairy sector highlighted lack of labor that limits production.
- 30% of interviewed farmers are open to hiring veterans and people with disabilities, but agricultural equipment typically lacks the necessary accessibility modifications.
- Decreasing domestic demand, especially in dairy, honey, and fruit sectors as many of their main consumers, over 5 million women and children, left the country.

International attention has focused on the grain sector, due to its importance to global food security and concerns over export disruptions. Less attention, however, is paid to other sectors. Particularly, the fruit and vegetable, dairy, poultry, and honey sectors. Among the findings, are the impact of labour shortages as a significant factor curtailing production. Investments to adapt agricultural equipment for use by persons with disabilities (PWDs) could mitigate these shortages and lower unemployment among PWDs.

The destruction of infrastructure being another challenging factor for production in the wake of war. Among the solutions examined are targeted activities to revitalize irrigation systems could increase vegetable and fruit production, especially in areas affected by the Kakhovka Dam's destruction in 2023. Local-level interventions focusing on transportation could prove beneficial, especially for household-level and smallholder producers, who are hardest hit by transport costs.

According to the Center for Economic Strategy, as of September 2023, between 5.6 and 6.7 million Ukrainians had left the country due to the ongoing war, over 80% of them women and children. The honey, dairy, and fruit industries in all three sectors have been affected by the emigration of women and children – their main customers.

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3. Gender, social, household, and ecological factors influencing wheat trait preferences among the women and men farmers in India

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2024.1284817>

The goal of public breeding programs is to develop and disseminate improved varieties to farmers. This strategy aims at providing farming communities with superior crop varieties than they are growing. However, the strategy rarely considers the needs and preferences of farmers, especially gendered preferences, failing to solve real field problems by addressing

the differences and inequalities prevalent in the farming communities. Our research examines how personal, household, agronomic and ecological characteristics of wheat growers in Bihar, India's eastern Indo-Gangetic Plains, affect women and men's wheat trait choices. Data were obtained from 1,003 households where both male and female respondents from the same household were interviewed. We accounted for 23 traits of wheat from a careful assessment of production, environment, cooking quality, market demand, and esthetic criteria. Binomial logistic regression was used to determine women's and men's trait preferences. The results imply that gender influences the preferences of wheat traits. Some traits are favored by both women and men, however, in other instances, there are striking disparities. For example, men choose wheat varieties that are well adapted to extreme climate conditions, have a higher grain yield, and produce chapati with a superior taste, while women prefer wheat types with superior chapati making quality, higher grain yield, and high market prices. Other socioeconomic, agronomic, cultural, and geolocational factors have a considerable impact on trait preferences. These human dimensions of traits preferred by women and men farmers are important for trait combinations to develop breeding product profiles for certain market segments.

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4. Blog 1: What recent ODA trends indicate for gender equality

<https://odi.org/en/insights/ringing-the-alarm-bell-what-recent-oda-trends-indicate-for-gender-equality/>

Almost a decade has passed since governments committed to achieving gender equality as part of the Sustainable Development Goals – but preliminary figures suggest progress is at risk.

Donors are moving away from multilateralism, even though there is stronger power to tackle gender inequality in multilateral bodies. They are also not always prioritising low-income countries, where gender inequality is higher, and where the costs of tackling this are lower than in many other parts of the world.

Countries that have traditionally supported gender equality and women's empowerment like Germany and France are also cutting official development assistance (ODA), and others look set to follow suit.

These aid allocation trends do not bode well for advancing gender equality, write Nilima Gulrajani and Nerea Craviotto.

This is the first blog in a new series showcasing ideas for how global financial flows and tax policy can better serve the cause of gender equality.

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5. Blog 2: A blurred picture: three global gender data gaps that need plugging

<https://odi.org/en/insights/a-blurred-picture-three-global-gender-data-gaps-that-need-plugging/>

This blog is the second in a new ODI series showcasing ideas for how global financial flows and tax policy can better serve the cause of gender equality.

It is hard to assess the size of the global gender financing gap if we don't know how much is being spent on this goal in the first place. There are at least three important data gaps preventing us from measuring the size of international public spending directed towards gender equality.

Data on gender focused finance is self-reported at the project level by DAC member countries at using the OECD Gender Equality Policy Markers.

Against the backdrop of fiscal pressures, domestic political shifts and geopolitical conflict, our first blog suggested the context for international public spending on gender equality does not look as healthy as it once perhaps did. In this operating environment, we urgently require a comprehensive and harmonised measurement system to track development finance investments to gender equality by all official funders that includes aid and beyond aid sources.

6. Blog 3: What is hindering gender-responsive practice in locally led climate adaptation finance and how can it be fixed?

<https://odi.org/en/insights/what-is-hindering-gender-responsive-practice-in-locally-led-climate-adaptation-finance-and-how-can-it-be-fixed/>

This blog is the third in a new ODI series showcasing ideas for how global financial flows and tax policy can better serve the cause of gender equality.

Northern donors are making efforts to fund local actors more directly and enable greater local leadership, notably within climate adaptation programming aiming to promote gender equality. And yet, despite the urgent need, progress to directly fund local civil society, national governments and subnational actors is slow. What is hindering this effort?

The global commitment by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Parties to increase gender-responsive climate finance is dependent on the ability to achieve locally led aspirations in climate adaptation programming. Localising climate adaptation finance can promote the leadership of women, minority or marginalised groups in climate action, drawing on their knowledge and experiences to build community resilience, improve the responsiveness of climate interventions to local priorities, and address the needs of other vulnerable groups such as children. Supporting women’s rights organisations (WROs) specifically can also challenge patriarchal norms in natural resource ownership.

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7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Food Growing and Farming

<https://youngagrarians.org/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-in-food-growing-and-farming/>

The Young Agrarians provide a set of resources for those who want to see a change in the future of food growing and farming. At the heart of that change is who grows our food, and even more so – who is able to access the resources to do so. Like us, you’ve probably noticed that certain farmer demographics are more represented than others. The question then is – how do we break down these barriers so that EVERYONE can succeed?

We believe that it starts with education. As an organization focused on new and young farmers, we want to centre equity-deserving farmers in the conversation.

Farmers for Climate Solutions defines equity facing farmers as: “Young farmers, women farmers, farmers with disabilities, Black farmers, Indigenous farmers and food providers, farmers of colour, small-scale farmers, 2SLGBTQ+ farmers, and new Canadian farmers often experience additional and unique barriers to enter and succeed in our sector.”

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8. New “Tracking SDG7 Report” Calls for Urgent Action on Clean Cooking

<https://cleancooking.org/news/new-tracking-sdg7-report-calls-for-urgent-action-on-clean-cooking/>

The 2024 Energy Progress Report offers a comprehensive overview of global advancements toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), with a strong focus on clean cooking. Despite notable progress, the report highlights significant access gaps that require urgent attention — and a dramatic increase in funding — to meet 2030 targets.

Published by the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization, the report found that in 2022, approximately 74% of the global population had access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, marking a 16% increase since 2010.

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9. Special Report: Exposing Afghanistan’s Pervasive, Methodical System of Gender Oppression

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/07/special-report-exposing-afghanistans-pervasive-methodical-system-of-gender-oppression/>

The UN Special Rapporteur’s annual report on human rights in Afghanistan lays bare the alarming phenomenon of an institutionalized system of discrimination, segregation, disrespect for human dignity and exclusion of women and girls.

In the new report, Richard Bennett, the UN’s Special Rapporteur, provides an intersectional analysis of the establishment and enforcement of this institutionalized system of unparalleled gender oppression. It paints a picture of a worsening situation for women and girls.

Bennett is referring to the distressing pattern of large-scale systematic violations and subjugation of women’s and girls’ fundamental rights that is unfolding, abetted by the Taliban’s discriminatory and misogynist policies and harsh enforcement methods such as gender apartheid and persecution.

The Special Rapporteur finds that the Taliban’s institutionalized system of discrimination is most visible through its relentless issuance and enforcement of edicts, decrees, declarations and orders that in and of themselves constitute severe deprivations of human rights and violations of international law. Between June 2023 and March 2024, they issued an estimated 52 edicts. These include banning foreign non-governmental organizations from providing educational programmes, including community-based education.

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10. Farmers across Canada are adapting to climate change

<https://youtu.be/dWhOSw3fAyw>

Canadian Organic Growers COG's Board President Allison Squires recently joined CBC's The Current, along with Farmers for Climate Solutions Board Director Jennifer Deol, to talk about how farmers across Canada are adapting to climate change. June 14, 2024.

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11. Let’s Chat: RBM and Gender Equity

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/lets-chat-rbm-and-gender-equity/>

The Spur Change team invited small and medium sized organizations (SMOs), and other interested sector participants across Canada and abroad, to take part in a conversation series with SMO speakers in our first Let’s Chat series. Selected SMO Speakers shared their own experiences in implementing gender-transformative Results-Based Management (RBM) strategies in their projects to better inform and provide case studies for others to work off of.

This informal conversation series was centered on peer-to-peer learning, providing plenty of opportunities for folks to get engaged through exploring processes, tools, and best practices for incorporating gender and intersectionality into a project’s RBM framework.

That being said, each session began with a presentation by the SMO speaker of the day. Find the recordings and see how they integrated RBM with gender equity.

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