



Sunflower 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. Senior Policy Analyst - Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS)

<https://farmersforclimatesolutions.ca/senior-policy-analyst>

Farmers for Climate Solutions FCS is seeking a Senior Policy Analyst to help conduct federal policy research and analysis on climate and agriculture, participate in the development of policy tools for advocacy (e.g.: reports, documents, briefings and surveys), help support sector engagement on policy priorities, and support in government relations. Our farmer and rancher-led, solutions-oriented approach, and distinct voice is helping to shift the needle on climate change in agriculture in Canada. This is an opportunity to work with partners across Canada to advance policy solutions that support low emissions, high resilience farming and ranching.

This is a full-time contractual position until September 2026 with possibility of renewal should additional funding be secured. You must be based in and have the legal right to work in Canada. Deadline for applications is **August 5th, 2024.**

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2. Manitoba Business Mentorship Network Coordinator

<https://youngagrarians.org/were-hiring-manitoba-bmn-coordinator/>

Young Agrarians are seeking an experienced project manager capable of taking a leadership role to support farm viability for new and young farmers in Manitoba. The primary focus of this position is to coordinate Business Mentorships. These

Mentorships are focused on pairing up new farms in business with farmer business mentors. This role will include program administration, mentor and mentee recruitment, matchmaking, on-going support and online workshop facilitation.

Location: Ideally a remote office in Manitoba. We will consider applicants from other provinces if they have significant Manitoba agricultural knowledge and/or experience. Deadline for Applications: **Aug 15, 2024.**

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3. Learn more about becoming a Catalyste+ Advisor

<https://www.catalysteplus.org/volunteer-with-us/>

Are you a professional Canadian looking to offer mentorship or advisory services to communities across Canada and the world? Learn more about becoming a Catalyste+ Advisor. Virtual Q&A information session in **English is scheduled for August 15.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122289342>

Info session in **French is scheduled for August 14.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122289342>

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4. Scaling up Women and Youths' Participation in the Labour Force in Jordan

<https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/women-youth-work-femmes-enfants-travail.aspx?lang=eng>

Canada has launched a new call for concept notes called Scaling up Women and Youths' Participation in the Labour Force in Jordan. Organizations registered in Canada or Jordan that would like to propose concept notes for projects to help increase the participation of women and youth in the labour force in Jordan must submit their application by noon ET on **September 12, 2024.**

For this call, proposed projects must aim to contribute to the achievement of the following ultimate outcome: Improved economic well-being for women and youths in Jordan, particularly for marginalized groups, such as refugees and those living with disabilities or in remote areas.

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5. Manitoba Farm Women's Conference Board News

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

Registration for the 2024 Manitoba Farm Women's Conference will be opening in mid-August. This annual event is an opportunity for farm women from across Manitoba to come together to educate, encourage and empower one another.

The conference offers a diverse range of insightful workshops, engaging speakers, networking opportunities, and activities that aim to empower and inspire women in agriculture. Whether you are a seasoned farmer, a new entrant into the industry, or someone with a passion for rural life, this conference is designed to cater to all and provide valuable insights and perspectives.

Stay tuned for more details on the registration process and special events that will be part of this year's conference.

Make sure to mark your calendars for **November 18th- November 20th, 2024** and save the date for this exciting event that celebrates the vital role of women in agriculture. For any inquiries or further information, reach out to info@mfwc.ca

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6. Call to apply for the 2024 Cohort of 'Accelerating African Women's Leadership in Climate Action' Fellowship.

<https://awardfellowships.org/>

The Fellowship seeks to build a vibrant, highly connected and intergenerational network of African women leaders from diverse disciplines committed to address the urgent issue of gender inequalities in climate change adaptation in African agri-food systems. The Fellowship will invest in high-potential African women to lead their institutions and teams of men and women to integrate gender in climate adaptation solutions and catalyze the development of locally relevant solutions that will enhance smallholders' adaptive capacity to climate change. Fellows will be drawn from diverse organizations including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, research organizations, and the private sector among others.

The Fellowship is targeting high-potential women actively engaged in climate change adaptation from **Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal**. The call for applications closes on **Sept 10, 2024**.

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7. Advancing Women Conference East – 2024

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2024east/registration/>

Let's re-new relationships and network with others who are passionate about agriculture and food. Learn new skills and tools, hear new ideas and network with women from across the country and beyond at AWC EAST 2024 being held **November 17, 18, 19, 2024 at Niagara Falls, Ontario**.

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8. International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026

<https://www.producer.com/news/year-of-the-farm-woman-recognized/>

The International Year of the Woman Farmer was officially launched June 27 at an event in Washington, D.C.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other government agencies were at the event, which kicked off programs and policies to support female farmers around the globe.

"The International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 will serve as a platform for the adoption of effective policies and actions against the barriers and challenges that women farmers face across agrifood systems," the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said in May, after the UN General Assembly voted to declare the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

The designation is symbolic, but it does recognize that female farmers deal with unique challenges — in the United States, Canada and especially the developing world.

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This Month's News

1. Canadian Association of Farm Advisors- New Executive Director

https://cafabet.ca/article_content.asp?edition=5§ion=32&article=73

Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) Inc. is a national not-for-profit, member-funded organization that provides high-quality continuous-learning and networking opportunities for farm advisors to help improve the quality of advice to farm families and businesses. CAFA was created to ensure that farm families and businesses have access to quality, timely business and professional advice to help them better manage and transition their farms.

Joining CAFA as Executive Director is Amanda Bibeau, effective July 1, 2024. Liz Robertson retired after 20 years.

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2. MCGA awards five scholarships supporting post-secondary education

<https://canolagrowers.com/2024/06/27/mcga-awards-five-scholarships-supporting-post-secondary-education/>

The Manitoba Canola Growers announced the winners of their scholarship. They are all women!

“We were blown away by a record number of high-quality applications this year! Our judges were particularly impressed by the quality of the submissions – these students are clearly dedicated to their studies and making a difference in their communities,” says Warren Ellis, President of MCGA. “It is an honour to recognize these exceptional young leaders and provide them with a scholarship to fuel their bright futures.”

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3. What's the Women's School of Leadership?

<https://fairtrade.ca/issues/gender-equality/>

Even though women grow over half the world’s food, they often struggle to access resources. That’s why Fairtrade created the Women’s School of Leadership, aiming to change things by providing skills for financial independence, leadership, and decision-making in agriculture.

The Women’s School of Leadership was initially launched in Côte d’Ivoire by the producer network Fairtrade Africa in response to inequalities within cocoa farming. It is an innovative program with the goal of improving opportunities for women in agriculture. The courses provide skills and tools for women to become financially independent, take on leadership roles, and participate in decision-making.

The program has now expanded to recent cohorts of women flower workers in Ethiopia, coffee farmers in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, and a similar program, the Gender Leadership School, has launched in Central and Southeast Asia.

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4. Women Warriors Winning Fight to Bring Back Indigenous Food Traditions

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/06/women-warriors-winning-fight-to-bring-back-their-indigenous-food-traditions/>

Earlier in this Lower Primary school in Meghalaya’s East Khasi Hills, in India’s north-east, the government-funded school meals aimed at reducing child malnutrition served only rice, potato and yellow lentils. In a Himalayan foothill region rich in biodiversity, with food systems based on locally grown and foraged edibles, the indigenous communities’ healthy food is again being recognized and entering school meals.

Now, the Indian government for its part, has included millets in the public food assistance scheme for the economically weaker sections, which reaches millions of poorer families. Given India’s growing lifestyle diseases and that it’s now known as the diabetes capital of the world, some of the upper classes in India are rapidly transitioning towards millets and other foods with medicinal properties.

“Indigenous edibles, local and in-season, are being revived in school meals that had gone out of the children’s platter at home in the last few years. They include nutritious and medicinal cultivated and foraged greens and herbs like Jatira (water celery), Jamyrdoh (fish mint), Jali (wild leafy vegetable), Khliang syiar (herb Centella asiatica), Shriewkai, Jalynniar and Ja Miaw (wild leafy vegetables),” Mawroh elaborates. “The best development is that mothers too are cooking them at home now,” he added.

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5. Productive Solar Solutions

<https://efficiencyforaccess.org/rd-fund/agritech-call/>

Productive Solar Solutions (PSS) is leading research and development to innovate and deploy PMSMs for small-scale agricultural machinery in off- and weak-grid areas. Currently predominately using AC induction motors, PSS recognises their energy inefficiency and high inrush currents. PSS has successfully deployed Brushless DC (BLDC) motors for off-grid scenarios but recognises the need for AC-enabled PMSMs to meet the growing demand for efficient machinery in both off-grid and on-grid areas. The project aims to produce 14 PMSMs with matched drivers, designed to reduce inrush currents and enhance operational efficiency. These motors will be integrated into 20 different agricultural and food processing machines to demonstrate practical functionality. The initiative supports Efficiency for Access’ objectives by improving the availability, affordability, and performance of off- and weak-grid appliances.

By addressing high inrush currents, the project promotes sustainable energy use, lowers system costs, and boosts food system productivity. In collaboration with local and international partners, the project seeks to transform agricultural practices, support rural development, and promote gender and social inclusion.

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6. Market gardeners thrive with clean energy in Senegal

<https://energy4impact.org/news/market-gardeners-thrive-clean-energy-senegal>

<https://energia.org/empowering-women-market-gardeners-in-fass-ngom-senegal/>

In the community of Fass Ngom, 30 km from Saint-Louis in northern Senegal, Mercy Corps’ energy access platform Energy 4 Impact works in collaboration with ENERGIA to support women engaged in market gardening. Through the Foyré Rewbé 3.0 project (‘women & energy’ in the local Fulani language), which promotes equal access to clean energy for local economic growth and climate-smart development, local women are reaping the rewards of training in agroecological practices and the installation of solar equipment on their plots.

Solar-powered pumping equipment has vastly improved their water access, enabling larger-scale cultivation and higher yields. Business management, leadership, entrepreneurship training, and agroecological practices have further boosted their productivity and income. Collaborative efforts through cooperatives have enhanced their bargaining power, expanded product range, and improved market access.

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7. How the farmers without smartphones are using AI

<https://www.devex.com/news/devex-dish-how-the-farmers-without-smartphones-are-using-ai-108004>

The AI revolution is finally reaching some of the world’s poorest farmers. Via chatbots and smartphone apps, artificial intelligence is now helping them improve their crop yields, identify pests, and diagnose diseases in their livestock — even if they can’t read and don’t own smartphones.

Take Ulangizi, an AI chatbot from Chicago-based nonprofit Opportunity International that answers Malawian farmers’ real-time questions. When Christina Matsenga’s goat stopped eating recently, she was able to use the app despite not having a smartphone. She turned to an in-person farmer support agent who opened WhatsApp on her own phone, took photos of the goat, and sent them to a number linked to the Ulangizi chatbot. Within seconds, the chatbot replied with recommendations on how to treat the animal in Chichewa, the local language, which the agent read aloud to Matsenga.

Ulangizi, which means “advice” in Chichewa, pulls information from the Malawian government’s 700-page, English-language agricultural manual on good agricultural practices. And the app saved Matsenga from having to make a 25-mile trip to meet her local government agricultural extension officer in the capital of Lilongwe.

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8. Measuring impact by listening to smallholder farmers at scale in Latin America

<https://impactalpha.com/measuring-impact-by-listening-to-smallholder-farmers-at-scale-in-latin-america/>

Fundación Alpina was established in 2008. The Colombia-based foundation works as a social lab aiming to transform life projects of small-holder farming families, communities, and small-scale organizations in the rural sector by building and co-creating scalable and replicable initiatives. Fundación Alpina has a rich history in impact measurement, constantly refining its methods through past efforts and learnings.

Fundación Alpina and 60 Decibels listened to over 200 farmers across five regions in Colombia. The study yielded significant insights:

- Income levels: The study confirmed that the foundation mainly works with the hardest-to-reach communities, with income levels significantly below Colombia’s average, even for the lowest income levels. Nearly four in five farmers report an increase in their earnings due to Fundación Alpina, with more females reporting increased earnings.
- Impact performance: Farmers who received agroecological training reported increased productivity and better resilience to climate shocks, with women benefiting even more than men.
- Conditions and needs: The smallholder farmers working with the foundation are better off in terms of food security but still need improvements in farming outlook and financial and agroecological resilience. This information helps the Foundation target its efforts more effectively.

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9. Training Indonesia’s Extension Workers to Empower Female Farmers

<https://postharvestinstitute.illinois.edu/forty-eight-of-indonesias-extension-workers-trained-to-empower-female-farmers/>

As part of ADMI’s ADM Cares-funded Empowering Smallholders in Indonesia through Strengthening Female Led Farmer Organizations, 48 of Indonesia’s frontline extension workers participated in a training on strengthening female-led farmer groups. The training was held via Zoom on July 4 in conjunction with partners at IPB University, Bogor.

Over the next 6 months, the trained extension workers will use what they learned to strengthen the female-led farmer groups they already work with in their communities. Extension workers will fill out monthly surveys so that the research team (made up of ADMI and IPB researchers) can follow up on their progress. After 6 months of implementation, a stakeholder webinar will share results and success stories. This pilot project was funded by a grant from ADM Cares.

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10. Taking a Stand Against Female Genital Mutilation

<https://newint.org/health/2024/taking-stand-against-fgm>

Gambian lawmakers recently rejected a bill seeking to overturn a 2015 ban on (FGM). It’s not exactly a ‘victory’ for women’s rights, given that the majority of MPs approved the bill in March, raising fears that it would become the first country in the world to reverse a ban on the practice.

Gambia is not alone; nearly 140 million women and girls in Africa have undergone FGM and even with 28 countries on the continent enacting laws against it, enforcement remains weak, and accountability is elusive.

As ActionAid Gambia women rights manager Binta Ceesay told the BBC: ‘We as campaigners fought tooth and nail to bring about a ban and an end to [female genital mutilation and cutting].’

Regional bodies like the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, have urged the preservation of anti-FGM laws.

In her latest View from Africa column, Rosebell Kagumire writes that the growing conservative assault on women’s autonomy - something that the New Internationalist’s current issue on abortion justice also unpacks - demands we stand firm and organized.

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11. Namibia: LGBTQI+ Rights Victory amid Regression

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/07/namibia-lgbtqi-rights-victory-amid-regression/>

In June, the Namibian High Court struck down two sections of the country’s Sexual Offences Act that criminalised consensual sexual relations between men, finding them unconstitutional. While hardly anyone has been convicted for decades, the fact that their relationships were criminalised forced gay men to live in fear, perpetuated stigma and denied them recognition as rights holders, enabling discrimination, harassment and abuse.

In decriminalising same-sex relations, Namibia follows in the footsteps of Mauritius, which did so in 2023. In both countries, the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relations dated back to colonial times. Colonial overlords imposed these criminal provisions and countries typically retained them at independence, long after the UK had changed its laws.

Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990 but retained the criminal provisions South Africa inherited from the UK. South Africa then decriminalised male same-sex conduct in 1994 – sex between women was never criminalised – and recognised same-sex marriage in 2006. But Namibia hadn’t followed the same path – until now.

Following the decriminalisation of same-sex relations, Namibia is ranked 56th out of 196 countries on Equaldex’s Equality Index, which ranks countries according to their LGBTQI+ friendliness. Only three African countries are ranked higher: South Africa, Cabo Verde and the Seychelles.

Today, 66 countries around the world criminalise same-sex relationships: 31 in Africa, 22 in Asia and the Middle East, six in the Pacific and five in the Caribbean. A disproportionate number are members of the Commonwealth, the alliance mostly made up of countries colonised by the UK. Thirteen of the 29 Commonwealth countries that criminalise same-sex relations are African. This often comes with harsh prison sentences – up to 14 years in Kenya and up to life imprisonment in Sierra Leone and Tanzania. In northern Nigeria and Uganda, the death penalty can apply.

Some Commonwealth African states that have long criminalised same-sex relations, including Ghana, Kenya and Uganda, are experiencing a strong conservative backlash. Typically, small gains in rights have provoked disproportionate responses from anti-rights forces, who assert that LGBTQI+ rights are part of an imported western agenda – even though it’s criminalisation that was imported, and the anti-rights backlash is lavishly funded by foreign forces.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Women who Work in Canada’s Agriculture & Food Sector

<https://www.youtube.com/@mwaf-manitobawomeninagricu2455>

<https://youtu.be/yogvgsPzVdo>

Women are key in producing food and ensuring food security, yet they are largely invisible. To raise awareness about them, we are interviewing women in farmer’s markets to learn what they do and why.

The first video in this new series features Danielle Mondor, Executive Director of Le Marché St. Norbert Farmers' Market Coop in Manitoba. She works to support dynamic, resilient food systems and community wellness in Manitoba through education and engagement in direct marketing.

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2. Gender Dynamics of Village Based Agents’ Impact in Burkina Faso & Nigeria

<https://tanagerintl.org/2023/12/14/vba-impact-studies/>

Supporting AGRA’s Village Based Agents (VBAs) program, the Impacting Gender & Nutrition through Innovative Technical Exchange in Agriculture (IGNITE) project conducted a series of studies led by 60 Decibels (60dB) to understand the success of VBAs. (IGNITE, a program implemented by Tanager, Laterite, and 60 Decibels, is a technical assistance mechanism designed to identify models that demonstrate ways of increasing both the equitable consumption of affordable, nutritious diets year-round and empowering women in agriculture.) The surveys specifically analyzed the distinct experiences of male and female farmers to unpack how organizations can continue to empower women to thrive in the agriculture sector.

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3. Introducing Why Off-Grid Energy Matters 2024

<https://60decibels.com/insights/why-off-grid-energy-matters-2024/>

Based on phone interviews with 79,000+ off-grid energy customers, this report identifies areas for improvement and opportunities for outsized impact performance for energy organisations and investors alike – to aid in bridging the energy divide and achieve the global goal of universal energy access.

This report builds upon the first edition in 2020 to collect more than 2.5 million unique data points over the past 3 years. It includes a larger number of companies, a wider variety of energy products and services, new social performance indicators, and broader market insights. Much of the data is new, reflecting the constantly changing social dynamics and experiences of off-grid energy consumers. The report provides a deep, bottom-up analysis of data to share key insights about what it means to own a modern off-grid energy product: the impact on access, behaviours, and quality of life.

The people we spoke to offer a unique window into their lived experience, defining the impact and benefits of these services in their own words, as well as the challenges faced. In turn, this has allowed us to define metrics and measure impact based on what is most material to users, as well as build benchmarks around these metrics.

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4. Gender and Social Inclusion in the bundling of climate information services (CIS) & climate resilient innovation (CSA)

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

The video of the webinar from May 2 is available. The purpose of this webinar is to share experiences on the importance of considering Gender and Social Inclusion in the bundling of climate information services (CIS) & climate resilient innovation (CSA) using three cases from AICCRA Zambia as examples.

AICCRA's Gender and Social Inclusion team is hosting an ongoing series of knowledge-sharing and discussion-based webinars. These interactive sessions are designed to dive deeper into and share learnings from AICCRA's inclusion activities across our focus countries, unpacking some of the key barriers, opportunities and meaningful engagements with women farmers.

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5. Promoting women entrepreneurship under the Guided Trade Initiative

<https://odi.org/en/publications/promoting-women-entrepreneurship-under-the-afcfta-guided-trade-initiative/>

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is an ambitious initiative aimed at creating a single continental market for goods and services. By reducing tariffs among member countries and addressing trade barriers, AfCFTA holds significant potential for increasing trade within Africa and fostering socio-economic development across the continent. One of its key objectives is to promote gender equity by empowering female entrepreneurs.

The Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), a pilot program under the AfCFTA, offers a unique opportunity to assess the readiness of women entrepreneurs and exporters to benefit from this framework.

This report examines the experiences of women exporters and national implementation committees in the eight countries participating in the GTI. Through interviews and case studies, the report identifies key challenges faced by women traders in Africa, including limited access to finance, transportation and information, as well as difficulties in market research and accessing digital tools.

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6. Indonesian Micro and Small Enterprises '23-24

<https://60decibels.com/insights/indonesian-micro-and-small-enterprises/>

By 2025, Mastercard Strive Indonesia aims to empower 300,000 Indonesian micro and small businesses to succeed in the digital economy. As part of this work, 60 Decibels partnered with Strive Indonesia to run a study on Indonesian micro and small enterprises, hearing from them directly to understand their business challenges and hopes for the future. This report aims to provide insights for public and private stakeholders dedicated to helping small businesses flourish.

60 Decibels spoke with owners, or senior executives, directors, or managers of 835 micro and small enterprises from November 2023 to January 2024. The businesses that participated are dispersed across location, size, sector, tenure, and gender of business owners.

Women-led businesses do not appear materially disadvantaged: Across multiple metrics such as revenue, financial resilience, growth expectations, customer retention, and employee growth, there was little difference in the outlook of women-led businesses compared with their male-led counterparts. This is a marked improvement for the position of Indonesian female entrepreneurs, who have been historically disadvantaged.

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7. Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An East and Southern Africa Review

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/taking-stock-east-and-southern-africa-review>

This unseen toll that climate emergencies exact on women and girls' sexual and reproductive health is emerging across Africa, triggering untold suffering. Poor, vulnerable women and girls in at-risk countries are needlessly finding themselves in grave danger – when a safe and prosperous future can be secured.

It begins with recognizing that women and girls are on the frontlines of a crisis they did not create – and that it will take strong commitments, backed by significant global climate financing, to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health.

With climate impacts increasing in scale and intensity, communities on the frontlines are becoming more vulnerable, especially women and girls. As the year 2023 marked the conclusion of the first global stock taking of the Paris Agreement, this report reflects on how East and Southern African NDCs incorporated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights SRHR issues, and seeks to inform the third cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs to be submitted in 2025 from the region.

In East and Southern Africa, climate change-driven tropical cyclones are proving increasingly common, spreading waterborne diseases such as cholera and damaging hospitals, putting women with complicated pregnancies in peril.

Yet only 8 out of 19 national climate plans include references to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV. And where these are in fact referenced, they typically mention only maternal and newborn health, HIV and AIDS, and GBV – and they are seldom backed by specific programme actions and budget lines.

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8. Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: A West and Central Africa Review

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/taking-stock-west-and-central-africa-review>

This regional 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.

In North Africa, multi-year droughts are threatening the livelihoods of millions, forcing many women to become heads of households as men are more likely to migrate in search of economic opportunities.

While most countries reference the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV, only a few outline specific initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience to climate change through providing SRHR and GBV-related services.

West and Central Africa is plagued by intensifying floods, extreme drought, intense rainfall and desertification, which are exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, including climate-related conflict and diminished access to natural resources, affecting food security.

Yet just 6 out of 22 national climate plans address SRHR and GBV, referring to maternal health, menstrual hygiene and GBV. Even then, most of these countries have not backed this up with meaningful action plans – a failing that must be addressed.

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9. Sexual and Reproductive and Health and Rights in Climate Commitments: An Arab States Review

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/taking-stock-arab-states-review>

UNFPA’s analysis of the climate plans of 46 African countries reveals that considerations for sexual and reproductive health of women and girls are absent from the vast majority of published climate commitments. Only 17 countries have integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights into their national climate plans.

The consequences of extreme heat and climate change are undeniable. There is increased risk of stillbirths; mounting food insecurity threatens maternal and newborn health; and climate-related displacement is exposing more women and girls to gender-based violence (GBV), including harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. These vulnerabilities are compounded in the African context, among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change.

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10. Women Rising Series

<https://pages.devex.com/women-rising.html>

In celebration of the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the International Labour Organization’s Violence and Harassment Convention (C190), Devex and FORGE have launched a new narrative series spotlighting the intersection of gender-based violence and harassment and climate change in the world of work.

The series will explore the essential leadership of women workers, particularly migrant workers and those in the informal economy, as drivers of inclusive and disruptive change. This series highlights their pivotal role in championing ILO C190's

adoption and implementation and explores how they continue to address these critical issues by shifting power and influencing policy.

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11. When looking at the intersection of climate and gender finance, what do we see?

<https://odi.org/en/insights/when-looking-at-the-intersection-of-climate-and-gender-finance-what-do-we-see>

Discussions are underway at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to establish a new climate finance goal, known as the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). This goal will shape climate finance for the next few years. Recognising the impact of gender norms and inequalities, efforts are being made to integrate gender equality into climate finance. However, challenges arise due to fragmented reporting systems and inconsistent use of gender markers. This latest blog in our four-part series showcases ideas for how global financial flows and tax policy can better serve the cause of gender equality.

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12. Investing in Teachers, School Leaders Key in Keeping Girls in School UN-African Union Study Finds

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/07/investing-in-teachers-school-leaders-key-in-keeping-girls-in-school-un-african-union-study-finds/>

Investing in teachers and school leaders in Africa is the most important factor in promoting educational opportunities for girls, keeping them in school and ending child marriage, ultimately reducing gender inequality through education.

Having more female teachers in schools and having more of them lead the institutions is even more important for keeping the girls in school beyond the primary level and providing them with role models to motivate them to continue learning.

While low educational attainment for girls and child marriage are profoundly detrimental for the girls, their families, communities, and societies, investments in teachers and school leaders are also key in ending lack of learning, identified as the single biggest cause of school dropout for girls, besides traditional factors including social and cultural ones.

Despite data showing that less than a fifth of teachers at the secondary level for example, are women in many African countries, and the proportion of female school leaders is even lower, the teachers have been proven to improve student learning and girls' retention beyond primary and lower secondary school.

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13. Africa Teachers Reports series, Educating girls and ending child marriage in Africa: investment case and the role of teachers and school leaders

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390382>

Abstract:

In sub-Saharan Africa, just over two-thirds of girls complete their primary education and four in ten complete lower secondary education. More needs to be done to improve educational opportunities for girls, which would help end child marriage and boost countries' economic development. The first part of this study updates and expands for a much larger number of countries a previous investment case on the benefits of educating girls and ending child marriage. The second part looks at the role of teachers and school leaders in improving learning outcomes and educational attainment for girls. While the literature emphasizes economic incentives for adolescent girls to remain

in school, it is also important to note that: (1) Lack of learning is a key factor leading to drop-out in primary and lower-secondary school; (2) Teachers and school leaders are key to improving learning, but new approaches are needed for pedagogy in the classroom and for training teachers and school leaders; and (3) Nationally, professional standards and competencies for teachers and school leaders are also required. These three simple facts call for investing in teachers and school leaders, especially women, to improve education for girls and end child marriage.

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14. Case Study: Combatting Menstrual Stigma Through a Female-Centred Permaculture Garden

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/249/combating-menstrual-stigma-through-a-female-centred-permaculture-garden>

Girls of Tomorrow Foundation (G.O.T.) with local partner St. Jude Family Projects tested an innovative permaculture education tool to reduce menstrual stigma amongst girls and boys in Uganda. It was hypothesized that by teaching 13-16-year-old female and male youths, as well as their parents and teachers, to create female-centered permaculture gardens it would lead to a reduction in menstrual stigma.

The Girls of Tomorrow Foundation was recognized with the 2023 Organizational and Innovation Impact Award. With FIT support, Girls of Tomorrow tested a solution to reduce the stigma of menstruation in Uganda using permaculture gardens as a teaching tool.

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15. Knowledge Mobilization: Gender + WASH

<https://waterlution.org/fit-mozambique/>

Waterlution has achieved a positive impact in Mozambique. They held permaculture-based workshops for 100 girls (ages 12-15), addressing the impact of poor water access and sanitation on their school attendance and dignity.

Summary

In Africa, particularly in Mozambique, women and girls are given the responsibility for providing water for their families. With the acute water crises that the country has been experiencing in recent years (long periods of drought), this group is increasingly vulnerable, thus hindering their development (professional, academic, social and physical, etc.) due to the scarcity of water and, or the distances traveled to access this liquid. Since independence, several projects have worked to ensure that communities have at least the right to drinking water. Most of these projects have worked directly with this group as a way of being included in decision-making spaces on the water issue, since they are the most affected. When we look at girls, the situation tends to get worse, especially at school, due to female health/hygiene care that has been compromised due to lack of water in these schools, as many of these girls drop out of school. The article in question analyzes the practices developed in a pilot project “ Empowerment of adolescent girls through training and innovation in water in northern Mozambique (Nampula) in 2021”. This is methodologically based on the sociocratic paradigm. The results indicate that these practices must be worked on and replicated in other similar realities as a method for empowering girls not only in the water field, but also in other fields.

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16. The Future of Feminist Foreign Policy

<https://us.boell.org/en/future-feminist-foreign-policy>

In cooperation with the International Peace Institute, Heinrich Böll Foundation is publishing a series of interviews about feminist foreign policy - and what it looks like across the world. From the concept itself to issues in implementation and views from both the Global South and North, they are exploring the concept from all angles. Heinrich Böll Foundation is

presenting Feminist Foreign Policy in a new way - short, digestible videos that lay out what it means, what it should do, and how it needs to be done. The series will be coming out through the second half of the year, so make sure to follow along.

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17. Meet the Women who Work in Canada's Agriculture & Food Sector

<https://youtu.be/TliiOoZ-4ZU>

Agriculture and food industry is full of resilient and determined women who are transforming the market into a vibrant community. Sarah Wieler, the organizer of La Broquerie [Manitoba] farmers' market, is a trailblazing woman making waves in the market as a leader. Her dedication is committed to creating an inclusive community where local women can thrive and showcase their talents. The diverse culture Sarah has created exemplifies the power and impact of women in leadership.

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