

September 1, 2025

# GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Small white cloud in blue sky with spruce 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](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Africa Food Systems Forum 2025

<https://afs-forum.org/event/africa-food-systems-forum-2025/>

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/events/aiccra-afs-forum-2025>

This year's Africa Food Systems (AFS) Forum will be held in Dakar, Senegal under the theme: “Africa’s Youth: Leading Collaboration, Innovation and Implementation of Agri-Food Systems Transformation.” **31 August, 2025 - 5 September, 2025. Location Dakar, Senegal.** AICCRA team members, along with colleagues from the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), CGIAR and regional partners will contribute to the important conversations and actions set to take place.

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### 2. Let's Chat: Gender Equity and Engaging Men and Boys

<https://icn-rcc.ca/event/lets-chat-gender-equity-webinar-series/>

Spur Change invites small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) and anyone else interested in the topic across Canada and abroad to take part in a conversation series on promoting gender equity in international cooperation. This community discussion series centers on gender equity through an intersectional lens and will be a knowledge sharing moment for the SMO speakers who will present new ideas and examples on how to implement gender innovative strategies in their own projects and programs. **Wed, Sep 3, 2025 11:00 AM CDT**

Darcy Ataman, Make Music Matter, will present their Healing in Harmony model: a gender-transformative approach that engages men and boys and helps them process trauma, redefine masculinity, and build healthier relationships.

Kamilla Pinter, HealthBridge Foundation of Canada, will speak to the important role of including men to improve sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health (SRMCH) in a community and how this can help challenge underlying inequities.

Vurayayi (Ray) Pugeni, SCORE Against Poverty, will present the Men Can Cook initiative: a transformative approach anchored in cultural respect, safe community dialogue, and role modeling that engages men and boys in household nutrition and care.

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### 3. Changing behaviours, changing hearts and minds: Intentional EDIA strategies in turbulent times

<https://umanitoba.ca/extended-education/insights/webinars>

You're invited to join University of Manitoba Extended Education to reflect and build on the equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) approaches in your organization in this free webinar. Gain strategies, resources and ideas, and learn about our new course, Understanding Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Practice. Featuring Robin Attas, EDIA Specialist, UM Extended Education. **Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, from Noon to 1 pm CDT.** Registration is required.

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### 4. Let's Chat: Gender Equity, Climate Action, and Adaptability

<https://icn-rcc.ca/event/lets-chat-gender-equity-webinar-series/>

Organizations will highlight projects and insights on promoting gender equity alongside climate action.

Ronah Ahumuza, Holistic Actions for Development and Empowerment (HADE), will speak to HADE's approach to enhancing women's leadership in climate adaptation and strengthening the resilience of climate-sensitive communities through creating green, women-led co-working spaces, an Urban Recycling and Skilling Academy, and other projects.

Nicolas Mbengue, Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, will explore the implementation of ESSA: the Ecosystem Solutions for Sustainable Adaptation project. The project implements nature-based solutions, under the leadership of women, to strengthen community environmental skills and climate change adaptation plans. His presentation will also address aspects related to strengthening women's economic power, which remains important for strengthening climate resilience.

Ann Thomson, Salasan, will present the Climate Leadership and Action for Indigenous Women in Nepal (CLAN) project that aims to build local climate leadership and gender-inclusive capacity through supporting indigenous women climate leaders and inclusive gender-sensitive climate education. **September 10.**

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### 5. How can evaluators contribute to planetary health?

<https://evaluationbc.ca/event-6307477>

Planetary health "considers the interdependence between the elements (air, soil and water) and living beings (plants, animals including humans), emphasizing the importance of cultivating a positive ecosystem to support the flourishing of all forms of life" (Brousselle, Bemner, et al., 2024; Brousselle, Curren, et al., 2024, p. 269).

Most current evaluation approaches take the broader social and environmental context for granted when this context is the most important determinant for human survival and well-being. As we need to collectively respond to many embedded crises (environmental, social, health) we also need to reconsider the way we design and practice evaluation.

During this presentation, we will show how evaluators can design their evaluations for positively contributing to planetary health. In particular, we will see how to build logic models for planetary health. We will also explore a theory-based approach and rapid assessment tools to assess interventions using planetary health lenses. We will discuss how to integrate planetary health dimensions in all types of evaluation. **Wednesday, September 24, 2025 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm Pacific Time | Online**

## 6. Writing Effective Policies & Procedure

<https://elearning.charityvillage.com/courses/writing-effective-policies-and-procedures>

Policies and procedures serve many purposes within an organization. Therefore, it's important to understand the difference between the two and differentiate between a board policy and a management policy. It is also imperative to understand when policies and procedures are needed and how to develop and communicate clear policies and procedures. This course is designed to help you do just that.

This course is online and self-paced, meaning that you can take it at anytime and anywhere. It will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete it. You have 1 year (365 days) to complete the course from the date of purchase before it will automatically expire in your account.

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## This Month's News

### 1. Canada at G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2025/08/g20-labour-and-employment-ministerial-meeting-in-south-africa-minister-hajdu-reinforces-canadas-leadership.html>

Minister the Honourable Patty Hajdu, also highlighted Canada's support for initiatives brought forward by the presidency, including the G20 Nelson Mandela Bay Goal on Youth, which seeks to further reduce youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) rates by 5% by 2030; the G20 Brisbane-eThekweni Target, which aims to reduce the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2030; and a new G20 target to reduce the gender wage gap by 15% by 2035, noting a review of the target in 5 years with the objective of considering a higher target as measurable progress is made.

On the behalf of the Honourable Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State (International Development), Minister Hajdu announced the launch of an initiative called Green Growth – Empowering Youth for a Green Future, in partnership with SOS Children's Village Canada. This \$7 million project will be implemented in Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Somalia to increase the economic participation and resilience of disadvantaged youth—particularly young women—by equipping them with the skills and support needed to thrive in the growing green economy. This initiative reflects Canada's commitment to inclusive education, sustainable development and youth empowerment across the region.

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### 2. Alice Ruhweza's vision for AGRA and African agriculture

<https://www.devex.com/news/alice-ruhweza-s-vision-for-agra-and-african-agriculture-110647>

When Alice Ruhweza took the reins at AGRA on March 1, she stepped into an unusual mix of headwinds and tailwinds. Donors were pulling back — the U.S. Agency for International Development among them — but AGRA still had rare breathing room: a \$350 million Mastercard Foundation grant to create youth jobs and fresh support from the Green Climate Fund of \$105 million to reduce post-harvest losses.

A Ugandan national who joined AGRA from the World Wide Fund for Nature, Ruhweza succeeded Agnes Kalibata after her decade at the helm of the African-led agriculture group. Founded in 2006 and backed over the years by more than \$1 billion from the Gates and Rockefeller foundations and other donors, AGRA works to improve food security and the lives of farmers, with its work focused on 12 African countries. Its other backers include the United Kingdom and the United States.

Today, AGRA, which spent \$164 million on programming in 2024, faces a tall task: Across much of Africa, crop yields remain low, food import bills are high, and the impacts of climate change threaten to exacerbate both. At the same time, concerns over rising unemployment are growing — putting agriculture at the center of strategies for change.

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### **3. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)**

<https://awardfellowships.org/>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) envisions transformative change toward gender-responsive solutions that will catalyze lasting impact for equitable agri-food systems for women and men smallholders. We are investing in women's leadership to foster equality in AR4D, equipping AR4D professionals to integrate gender in their work, strengthening institutions to adopt gender-responsive policies and practices, and impacting the enabling environment to enhance gender responsiveness. Recent newsletter reports on the following:

- We recently launched the Gender in Agrifood Systems Policies (GASP) Program, an initiative designed to deepen our work on catalyzing the design of gender-responsive policies for equitable and resilient agrifood systems across Africa.
- We welcomed 40 emerging African women into the third cohort of the AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Sciences. Drawn from five countries across Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, and Malawi, these women have commenced their nine-month leadership journey.
- We are pleased to announce a new Fellowship that seeks to enhance data-driven solutions for food security and climate change. The African Women in Data Science Fellowship targets applicants from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Malawi.
- We are pleased to present seven policy briefs published by our Policy Fellows focusing on various issues, including, gender disparities and nutrition, gender and climate-smart agriculture, extension policies, financial policies, national policies, food safety, and agrifood systems gaps.

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### **4. Fistful of dollars and rice for Vietnam farmers displaced for \$1.5 billion Trump golf club**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/fistful-dollars-rice-vietnam-farmers-displaced-15-billion-trump-golf-club-2025-08-11>

Vietnamese farmer Nguyen Thi Huong has slept poorly since authorities told her to vacate her farm for a Trump family-backed golf resort, offering just \$3,200 and rice provisions in return.

The golf resort, for which construction is scheduled to begin next month, is offering thousands of villagers such compensation packages to leave the land that has provided their livelihood for years or decades, according to six people with direct knowledge and documents seen by Reuters.

The 990-hectare site designated for the golf course currently supports fruit farms growing bananas, longan, and other crops. While some see opportunity, many farmers are elderly and fear they will struggle to find alternative livelihoods in Vietnam's vibrant economy with its largely young demographic.

In Communist-run Vietnam, farmland is managed by the state. Farmers are assigned small plots for long-term use but have little say when authorities decide to take the land back. Protests are common but usually fruitless.

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### **5. Women From Landlocked Developing Countries Set Sights on Open Horizons**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/08/women-from-landlocked-developing-countries-set-sights-on-open-horizons/>

AWAZA, Turkmenistan, Aug 7 2025 (IPS) - “Progress towards gender equality and equity remains uneven and far too slow. One in four women in landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) live in extreme poverty, and this is nearly 75 million women,” said Rabab Fatima, Secretary-General of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries or LLDC3 ongoing in Awaza, Turkmenistan.

Fatima, who is also Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, brought into perspective the status of women in LLDCs, where “nearly half (150 million) face food insecurity.”

Speaking during the Women Leaders’ Forum organised by the UN OHRLLS, the government of Turkmenistan and the Central Asian Women Leaders’ Caucus, she told participants that female labour force participation stands at 54 percent, significantly lower than the 70 percent for men in the LLDCs and that most women (80 percent) are in vulnerable, informal employment.

“In LLDCs,” she continued, “Only 30 percent complete upper secondary education, less than half of the global average. And in a rapidly digitising world, just 36 percent of women in LLDCs use the internet. And this ratio will come down further for the women in the rural and marginalised communities.”

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## **6. An Ageing World on a Heating Planet: Why Older People Must Be Central to Climate Policy**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/07/an-ageing-world-on-a-heating-planet-why-older-people-must-be-central-to-climate-policy/>

HYDERABAD, India, Jul 31 2025 (IPS) - Hari Krishna Nibanupudi writes: I’ve just returned from the east coast of India, where I saw for myself the harsh challenges that older people in artisanal fishing communities confront daily. I saw how the community elders — the keepers of marine traditions and the coastal environment — are being forsaken by climate policy and their governments.

As their children head inland to find work, the ageing fishers are left behind with only their fading memories and a rising sea. Their survival hangs by a thread. The social pension for a couple is just over \$50 a month, not enough to afford more than a single bowl of daily rice boiled in seasoned water. Tea has become a luxury. I met widows who, despite living in a fishing community, had not eaten fish in months, and older men who lie on mud floors to cool their blistering bodies down and pray for a gust of wind. Their stories are a stark reminder of the human toll of climate change.

When they perish, they pass away silently, recorded as victims of “old age,” not heatstroke — even in 47°C heat waves.

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## **7. Transforming the Lives of Rural Women through Improved Livestock Management**

<https://60decibels.com/insights/project-mesha/>

Since 2018, Project Mesha has partnered with 60 Decibels to track and measure its social impact as the program matured. We’ve listened to over 3,000 Pashu Sakhis and female goat rearers — here’s what we found.

This month’s 60dB Signal Spotlight is Project Mesha, an Aga Khan Foundation program transforming rural livelihoods in Bihar, India. Project Mesha trains women as Pashu Sakhis—community-based livestock caregivers who provide health services for goat flocks, acting as a bridge between farmers and formal veterinary services. In their latest 60dB study, Project Mesha earned an outstanding Net Promoter Score® (NPS) of 67, placing them among the top performers in our India Agriculture benchmark. NPS measures how likely someone is to recommend a product/service and is a widely used indicator of satisfaction and loyalty. A score above 50 is considered excellent; the scale ranges from -100 to 100. Pashu



Sakhis who would recommend Project Mesha cited improved skills and knowledge, stronger financial standing, and enhanced social status as key benefits.

Top social outcomes:

1. Greater ability to pay for household expenses
2. Greater ability to afford children's education
3. Increased savings and investment

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## **8. Sustainable bananas: what are the impacts on workers?**

<https://www.iied.org/sustainable-bananas-what-are-impacts-workers>

Food producers and suppliers are increasingly seeking to develop more environmentally-friendly production methods. But shifting to sustainable food systems impacts workers. New research is examining the human dimension of shifting to sustainable food production.

Phasing out routine pesticide use can have implications for gender equity. Male workers account for 85-88% of the global banana growing workforce: they generally work outside on the plantation, while women work in the packing houses.

This division of labour remains entrenched partly because pregnant women and their fetuses are at heightened risk from pesticide exposure, and there is a strong indication of recruitment discrimination against women due to their reproductive function in some producer countries. Meanwhile, where organic banana production is expanding, the proportion of female workers is rising.

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## **9. Market-building efforts drive climate-friendly cooking in Coastal Kenya**

<https://www.energy4impact.org/resources/kenya-shift-cleaner-cooking>

A cooking revolution is gathering pace across Mombasa County, Kenya, where improved cookstoves (ICS) are increasingly widespread thanks to the strategic development of local stove businesses and markets. For example, after capacity-building support enabled the Favour Self-Help Group to evolve from a grassroots initiative into a fifteen-strong professional operation, they proceeded to capture scores of local customers through tireless promotion of their ICS products.

With much higher fuel-efficiency than traditional cooking methods, ICS serve as a crucial transitional solution, particularly for coastal communities with otherwise minimal access to modern cooking appliances. Though not classified as "clean" under WHO guidelines, county governments are pragmatically embracing ICS as a stepping stone towards cleaner fuels.

By strengthening local production, streamlining supply chains, expanding financial access, and engaging communities, the programme spurred a 271% rise in ICS sales, benefiting over 107,000 households. This targeted approach offers a blueprint to other African regions considering embracing ICS as a transitional solution towards cleaner and less harmful cooking practices.

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## **10. Women break the cycle of financial exclusion and harmful cooking practices**

<https://www.energy4impact.org/resources/women-break-cycle-exclusion-harmful-cooking-practices>

The Financial Inclusion for Clean Cooking Access in Rwanda and Sierra Leone (FICCARS) programme is empowering women in informal settlements to access clean cooking solutions and overcome financial exclusion. By improving access to digital financial services and flexible payment plans, FICCARS has made modern cooking appliances more accessible to low-income

women, bringing them a range of practical and financial benefits. For example, after Beatha Mukanyonga from Kigali switched from a charcoal stove to LPG, she was able to cut her monthly cooking costs by nearly half. The purchase also helped build her credit history, an essential step toward unlocking more financial services in future.

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## 11. **Opinion: Feminist Electrification: the Power Africa Needs**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/08/feminist-electrification-the-power-africa-needs/>

Chad is one of the most extreme examples of energy poverty, with just 10% of the population connected to electricity, a rural electrification rate below 2%, and a global per capita electricity consumption rate that's just 18% of the global average. This hinders its economic development.

So does its rapid population growth. Chad has one of the world's fastest-growing populations; its 21 million people are expected to more than triple by the end of the century. Chad's low educational attainment, with 38% of girls completed primary school, coupled with high rates of child marriage and fertility also pose problems for its development.

Energy poverty keeps hospitals from storing vaccines, people from starting businesses, and children from studying after sunset. It exacerbates the very inequalities that education seeks to combat, particularly gender inequality.

As a holistic way to redress it, women activists in energy-poor countries are promoting "feminist electrification" — explicitly designing energy investments to empower women as economic actors and consumers. This could include integrating family planning into energy rollouts, investing in women's education, training, and leadership development, and including them in energy planning.

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## 12. **Can a powdered egg a day keep malnutrition away? Uganda thinks so**

<https://www.devex.com/news/can-a-powdered-egg-a-day-keep-malnutrition-away-uganda-thinks-so-110528>

Fast forward four years, and after capturing the attention of UNICEF, Pristine Foods Limited has signed a three-year renewable deal with the agency and the government of Uganda. Together, they aim to bring powdered eggs to nearly 50,000 children between 2 and 6 years old by the end of this year. The initial phase of UNICEF's Egg Powder Initiative for Children, or EPIC initiative — using Pristine's powdered egg in a 12-gram sachet form — was launched in April.

UNICEF launches the Egg Powder Initiative for Children—saving Uganda's stunted children. The initiative hopes to reach 6.8 million children in Uganda between 2026 and 2030. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, or Norad, is providing funding for the project as part of a broader allocation of 90 million Norwegian krone (\$8.7 million) that NORAD has provided to a UNICEF nutrition fund.

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## 13. **Child malnutrition is a sign of conflict to come: Nigerian study links climate change, food and violence**

<https://theconversation.com/child-malnutrition-is-a-sign-of-conflict-to-come-nigerian-study-links-climate-change-food-and-violence-262359>

For our research, we used household data from the Nigeria demographic and health surveys and combined this with information on climate and conflict. We applied a system of equations to separate the role child malnutrition plays in climate-related conflict from other factors that aren't easily observed but which contribute to shape the climate-conflict link.



From this, we found that rising temperatures don't immediately trigger violence. Instead, they set off a chain reaction: heat stress on the planet over time stresses food systems. As crops fail and household incomes fall, the youngest and most vulnerable are often the first to show signs of distress and become malnourished.

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## 14. Addressing the Gender-Environment Data Gap

<https://genderenvironmentdata.org/>

At a High-Level Political Forum side-event in July, the Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) brought together a diverse group to discuss the importance of gender-environment data for sustainable and inclusive development.

The event focused on strategies for data practitioners, civil society organizations, and government officials to leverage intersectional data to build better futures.

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## 15. 'Well, no, you don't have to have children': what African women over the age of 60 have learned about life

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/aug/04/west-africa-older-women-life-60-sylvia-arthur-interviews>

Women across west Africa have a life expectancy of 59. In a rare project, Sylvia Arthur set out to give voice to those who have lived beyond expectation, whose experiences have been largely overlooked.

In 100 interviews with women over the age of 60 in villages and towns on the coasts of Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, covering how they live, love, survive and thrive, there were many stories. The commonality was in almost all having defied stereotypes, not just in terms of age but in breaking social and cultural barriers.

These are women who are farmers and traders, teachers and seamstresses, businesswomen, mothers, trade unionists and community leaders.

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## 16. Sudan women face triple food insecurity risk

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/198596/sudan-women-food-insecurity-un-women-report-2025>

Women-led households in Sudan face three times the risk of severe food insecurity compared to families headed by men as the country's humanitarian crisis worsens, the UN Women said in a statement. A new report shows 75% of female-headed households can't meet basic food needs, while severe food insecurity has nearly doubled in one year. Only 1.9% of women-led families are food secure compared to 5.9% of male-headed households.

The crisis hits women harder because of deep-rooted inequalities made worse by ongoing conflict and displacement. More women are becoming household heads after male relatives die or disappear in the fighting. They face the biggest barriers to getting food, earning income, and accessing aid when they need it most.

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## 17. A chance to grow: the women learning to garden in prison

<https://observer.co.uk/style/gardens/article/a-chance-to-grow-the-women-learning-to-garden-in-prison>

The Glasshouse Garden, one of the Chelsea Flower Show's prestigious show gardens, represents second chances. The Glasshouse, a not-for-profit social enterprise offers horticultural training to women leaving incarceration, as well as the potential for future employment within the organisation, which also grows and installs houseplants for retail and corporate clients. Women in custody often speak of being deprived of nature.

The current reoffending rate for women leaving prison is around 58%. For the more than 30 women who have been through the Glasshouse programme, it is 0%.

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## 18. Historic Quebec City farmland gets Afro-Caribbean twist

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-city-farmland-new-projects-soeurs-charite-1.7609320>

The Quebec government is slowly opening up calls for tenders and planting the seeds for an agro-park project on the 203 hectares of land to encourage urban farming and sustainable agriculture on its territory. Located 10 kilometres north of downtown Quebec City, nestled between the Beauport and Charlesbourg neighbourhoods, the land had been harvested by the congregation of the Sisters of Charity for more than a century.

Grocery store, Ivoire Epicerie, located in the Charlesbourg neighbourhood, down the road from the Ferme des Ambassadeurs, purchases fresh molokhia in Quebec — a staple in recipes from Ivory Coast, added to soups or served with plantains. That means introducing some of the basics of Quebec cuisine, like turnip, and adding in a pinch of Afro-Caribbean flavour, she said, pointing to the hot peppers and African eggplant growing in the field.

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## 19. World Breastfeeding Week & Solar Breast Pumps

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/worldbreastfeedingweek>

<https://youtu.be/geqknrr0dJc>

August 1 to 7 was designated as World Breastfeeding Week. At some point, breastfeeding moms may need a Breast Pump. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends breastfeeding exclusively for a baby's first 6 months to 2 years and then as long after that as both mom and baby like.

Breast pumps are helpful tools, and in today's busy world, they are practically essential! They allow moms to pump milk when they are away from their baby. This helps maintain moms milk supply and prevent both discomfort and infection.

Breast pumps are nothing new – in fact their first recorded use dates to Egyptian times! – but when breastfeeding mothers return to work, many do not have enough break time or safe spaces to pump.

And there are plenty of other barriers. Like the costs of pumps and education around how to use them and safely store breast milk. We have a long way to go to create supportive environments for breastfeeding moms everywhere.

But innovation and cooperation are playing a role.

Faduma Gure is the founder of LISS Technologies. Faduma studied access to reproductive health services in Somalia and then later when she became a mother and was navigating school and breastfeeding, she came face-to-face with challenges shared by many breastfeeding moms worldwide.

This led her to develop a low-cost, solar-powered breast pump for diverse environments and settings.

“When it comes to breastfeeding, women in Somalia, like in many parts of the world, face multiple barriers. They deal with competing priorities... and may not be able to breastfeed consistently. This means that they must rely on formula, which can be harmful for some babies and can constitute a significant amount of some families' household income.” – Faduma.

Watch LISS Technologies' short film “Solar Embrace” to learn more. This project received funding from Fund for Innovation & Transformation.

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## 20. Food security statistics: A global perspective

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/198626/food-security-statistics-a-global-perspective>

The ambitious goal to achieve a world that is free from hunger by 2030, set by all nations in 2015, still remains out of reach.

Despite some progress being made in meeting certain goals, such as the prevention of stunting and an increase in exclusive breastfeeding rates, for the last three years, malnutrition and food insecurity have affected an astounding number of humans around the globe.

These are some of the conclusions reached in the latest report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. [See The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 in the Reports section of this issue.]

How has food security evolved over the last few years, and which regions are the most insecure? Are the global nutrition targets achievable? Our latest article provides the answers to these and other questions.

To achieve food security goals, four requirements must be met:

- Food's physical availability
- Food's physical and economic accessibility
- Food utilization
- Stability of all the above-mentioned throughout time.

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## 21. Honorary Membership of SSSSL to Prof. R.B. Mapa

<https://www.facebook.com/sssslsc/>

On August 15, 2025, Prof. R.B Mapa was awarded honorary membership in the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka. Dr. Ranjith Mapa is Professor Emeritus of Soil Science at the University of Peradeniya. Dr. Mapa was a founding member of SRICANSOL, the twinning project between the Canadian Society of Social Science and the Science Society of Sri Lanka. SRICANSOL has produced publications on the Wet Zone, Dry Zone and Intermediate Zone of Sri Lanka, Fact Sheets of the Benchmark Soils, a GIS database and related maps. In 2004 Dr. Mapa received the 'National Award of Excellence in Agricultural Research,' as team leader of SRICANSOL project, from the Sri Lankan President. His book, The Soils of Sri Lanka, is available through Amazon. <https://www.amazon.ca/Soils-Sri-Lanka-Ranjith-Mapa/dp/3030441423>

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## 22. The Matilda Effect

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/womens-studies-and-feminism/matilda-effect>

The Matilda effect refers to the systematic undervaluation and denial of recognition of women's contributions and achievements, particularly in the scientific field. Coined by historian Margaret Rossiter, the term pays homage to Matilda Joslyn Gage, a suffragist whose efforts for women's rights were largely overlooked. Historically, women in science have faced barriers such as exclusion from professional societies and educational institutions, resulting in male historians often attributing their discoveries to male counterparts. Notable examples include Marie Curie, whose groundbreaking work was sometimes diminished by claims that she merely assisted her husband. The Matilda effect exposes the historical bias against women and highlights the need for greater acknowledgment of their scientific achievements. Rossiter's research sparked broader interest in the contributions of women in science and has influenced initiatives aimed at increasing female representation in these fields. Understanding the Matilda effect is essential for recognizing and addressing gender disparities in scientific recognition and history.

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## Reports, Publications, Resources

# 1. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ebe19244-9611-443c-a2a6-25cec697b361>

*Synopsis (short abstract)*

Six years from 2030, hunger and food insecurity trends are not yet moving in the right direction to end hunger and food insecurity (SDG Target 2.1) by 2030. The indicators of progress towards global nutrition targets similarly show that the world is not on track to eliminate all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). Billions of people still lack access to nutritious, safe and sufficient food. Nevertheless, progress in many countries provides hope of the possibility of getting back on track towards hunger and malnutrition eradication. Implementing the policies, investments and legislation needed to revert the current trends of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires proper financing for food security and nutrition. Despite a broad agreement on the urgent need to increase financing for food security and nutrition, the same cannot be said for a common understanding regarding how this financing should be defined and tracked. The report provides a long-awaited definition of financing for food security and nutrition and guidance for its implementation. There are recommendations regarding the efficient use of innovative financing tools and reforms to the food security and nutrition financing architecture. Establishing a common definition of financing for food security and nutrition, and methods for its tracking, measurement and implementation, is an important first step towards sustainably increasing the financing flows needed to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to ensure access to healthy diets for all, today and tomorrow.

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## 2. Crowdfunding for clean cooking: Trends and insights from 2016–2024

<https://www.energy4impact.org/resources/crowdfunding-for-clean-cooking>

Debt crowdfunding has emerged as a key channel for financing clean cooking companies, helping businesses scale operations and bridge financing gaps. A white paper by Crowd Power – an Energy 4 Impact program funded by UK aid through the Transforming Energy Access platform – provides a detailed analysis of debt-based crowdfunding in this space, building on the findings of the 2021 report published with Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS).

Crowd Power’s latest white paper traces the rise of debt crowdfunding as a valuable financing tool for clean cooking companies, which enables them to close critical funding gaps and expand operations. As part of its analysis of trends from 2016 to 2024, the paper shows that clean cooking-related debt crowdfunding has grown at an average annual rate of 64%. The Crowd Power programme has contributed to this growth by tackling systemic and operational barriers to energy access crowdfunding. The paper also spotlights the key markets where crowdfunding activity is concentrated, the emerging role of carbon finance, and the utility of crowdfunding as an important bridge to larger sources of capital.

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## 3. International Solidarity Glossary

<https://aqoci.qc.ca/lexique/>

This glossary aims to equip international cooperation and solidarity organizations (ICOs) and individuals working in the field with a common understanding of several key concepts in our sector. Its contents can be used for global citizenship education, advocacy, communications, research, and other activities.

Make sure your organization’s communications vocab is up to date! AQOCI, with support from members based across the world, have prepared an updated glossary exploring the nuance of terms we use everyday: partners, stakeholders, the Global South. Check out the glossary to learn the nuance of these terms and more.

We are proud to present this first version of our glossary, which will be enriched over the years by regular contributions of ICOs and their partners. The English version presents the 23 definitions that were developed as a co-construction by various partners and members of AQOCI. The complete version of the glossary is available only in French.

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## 4. Policy and Practice Insights on Effective Strategies to Promote Gender Equality in and through Education

<https://www.gpekix.org/knowledge-repository/policy-and-practice-insights-effective-strategies-promote-gender-equality-and>

This policy brief offers practitioners and decision-makers effective strategies and practices for promoting gender equality in and through education based on evidence and lessons learned from six Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (GPE KIX) research projects highlighted in the report Gender Equality in and through Education: A Research Synthesis. Available in: English Español Français. The projects involved 20 partners across 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Each project assessed a wide range of gender-responsive models to expand and strengthen knowledge of their characteristics, including the quality of their implementation, and address knowledge gaps about how to scale them.

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## 5. Implementing the AfCFTA Women and Youth Protocol in Ghana

<https://odi.org/en/publications/implementing-the-afcfta-women-and-youth-protocol-in-ghana/>

Ghana's economic future hinges on the full inclusion of its women and youth entrepreneurs in continental trade – and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Women and Youth Protocol holds the key to unlocking this potential.

Despite being the backbone of Ghana's economy, women and youth face persistent challenges that limit their full participation in trade. From limited access to finance and high transportation costs to complex regulations and the digital divide, these obstacles continue to prevent them from reaping the benefits of the AfCFTA.

This report explores Ghana's progress in implementing the AfCFTA Women and Youth Protocol, shedding light on the systemic barriers that limit women- and youth-led businesses from thriving in cross-border trade, and offering actionable strategies to overcome them.

Through extensive research – including stakeholder consultations, interviews and surveys – this report identifies critical gaps in policy and practice and proposes actionable solutions.

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## 6. Gender, equality, disability and social inclusion analysis in Latin America: Uruguay 2025

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-equality-disability-and-social-inclusion-analysis-in-latin-america-uruguay-2025/>

Uruguay is a well-known regional leader committed to gender equality and social rights. This research provides an up-to-date analysis of data on gender, equality, disability and social inclusion, tracking progress across political, economic, social and legal spheres in the Uruguayan context.

While Uruguay surpasses the regional average for Latin America and the Caribbean in indicators such as life expectancy, literacy and gross income, significant gaps remain – particularly in areas like gender-based violence, child marriage, women's representation in politics, the sexual division of labour and the unequal distribution of care between women and men. Uruguay is known for having shown a strong commitment to gender equality and women's rights in the region.

This ODI Report provides recommendations for government, development partners and civil-society organisations working on GEDSI issues in Uruguay. Three country briefs synthesize the evidence on topics of particular relevance: gender-based violence, women's representation in politics, and women's economic autonomy.

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