



Wall hanging made with African fabrics. 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. Canada LIFTS Program Staff

<https://www.mcic.ca/about/careers>

Canada LIFTS is a six-year national funding and learning program supporting Canadian small and medium organizations (SMOs) and their partners working in international cooperation and solidarity. It's administered by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation MCIC on behalf of the Inter-Council Network ICN. Eleven positions are posted on the website.

Deadline April 24, 2026 at 1:00 pm Central Time.

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2. Call for Expressions of Interest: AWARD Reviewer

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/call-for-expression-of-interest/>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowships is seeking qualified and passionate professionals to join its Reviewer Pool for flagship fellowship initiatives. This is an exciting opportunity to directly contribute to shaping the next generation of African leaders who will advance gender-responsive, inclusive, and climate-resilient agrifood systems across the continent. **Application Deadline: April 30, 2026.**

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3. Survey: Wellbeing of women and gender-diverse employees in Canada's nonprofit sector

<https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50544239/WorkWell-WNN-Community-Survey>

This survey is a joint effort between the Women’s Nonprofit Network and YMCA WorkWell, designed to establish the first formal baseline on the wellbeing of women and gender-diverse employees in Canada's nonprofit sector. No deadline date visible.

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4. Canadian Association of International Development Professionals Conference

<https://dev.caidp-rpcdi.ca/>

On May 4, the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP-RPCDI), in partnership with the University of Ottawa Global Development Policy and Practice Hub (GDPP Hub), will host a conference in **Ottawa** on international development to explore emerging strategy and policy, finance and delivery mechanisms, and sector sustainability issues.

This timely conference provides a dynamic forum to explore new opportunities, partnerships and markets with experts and practitioners. An evening reception and discussion with Canadian Parliamentarians has been organized following the conference.

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5. Farmers & Ag Providers Needed for Manitoba Study

<https://www.centreforruralmentalhealth.com/events/farmers-amp-ag-providers-needed-for-manitoba-study-what-works-a-strength-based-approach-to-farmer-wellness>

The Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health at Brandon University is seeking farmers [owner; operator; farm employee; adult farm family member] and agricultural providers [business/organization/agency/service that provides a support to Farm and/or the Agriculture Industry] in Manitoba to participate in an INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW or FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION to share farm stories, information, details, and take a closer and much needed look at the ups and downs of the Agriculture Industry and “What Works” with respect to farmer and farm wellness. The information collected will be used to build an advocacy toolkit to promote farmer mental health and wellness. No date provided.

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6. Fewer questions planned for 2026 Census of Agriculture

<https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/daily/fewer-questions-planned-for-2026-census-of-agriculture/>

Farmers can expect a slightly shorter questionnaire for the impending Census of Agriculture, as Statistics Canada can now get some data elsewhere. The data collection period for StatCan’s 2026 Census of Agriculture **begins May 4 and runs to July 31**. Topics covered in the Census of Agriculture include farm operators, farm type, farm capital (such as the value of land, buildings, vehicles and equipment), business operating arrangements, succession planning, land tenure, land use (for

example, cultivation or summer fallow), tillage and seeding practices, direct-to-consumer sales and organic production, among others.

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7. Women in Food & Beverage Roundtable

<https://luma.com/masabpxu>

Are you a woman-identifying entrepreneur in the food and beverage industry? As part of the Startup Women 2026 program, Startup Canada will facilitate industry-specific roundtables every other month between February and November. Hosted by Amanda Logan, Programs Officer at Startup Canada, these sessions will feature expert talks from late-stage founders, a panel discussion with support organizations within the industry and networking breakout rooms with attendees and speakers. This closed-door, virtual meetup will give women-identifying entrepreneurs all across Canada a sense of community and support. **May 6**

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8. Training: Decolonizing Safeguarding and PSEAH

<https://app.glueup.com/event/decolonizing-safeguarding-and-pseah-177772/>

A 6-week online course for Canadian international cooperation organisations. Safeguarding and PSEAH standards are often rooted in coloniality, perpetuating existing imbalances of power. This course is designed to give you a structured, multi-step opportunity to challenge your policies and procedures. This is a participatory, applied course using facilitated online training, confidential peer reflection groups (Action Learning Sets), self-study, and two individual mentoring sessions.

Total live time: Approximately 14 hours over 8 weeks. Self-study and policy work: Approximately 1-2 hours per week. **Begins May 6 and ends June 4.**

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9. Conference:Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA20)

<https://www.iied.org/cba20-agenda> and <https://www.iied.org/cba20-local-solutions-inspiring-global-action>

The 20th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA20) takes place from **11-14 May in Manila, Philippines**. The planned CBA20 agenda will be regularly updated ahead of the conference. The CBA conference is a space for the adaptation community to share lessons on community-based and locally led adaptation approaches, and to explore how to put the principles for locally led adaptation (LLA) into practice, recognising the complexities, innovations and challenges that must be overcome. The core themes are:

- Achieving just and equitable adaptation in urban areas, with a particular focus on building the climate resilience of informal settlement communities
- Scaling local level health investments as a critical adaptation response in the context of rising temperatures and escalating threats, and
- Knowledge nexus – combining local, traditional and Indigenous Peoples knowledge systems with climate science to drive adaptation decision-making.

Finance, gender, decolonisation and equity will cut across all conference sessions.

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10. Changemaker Awards: Recognizing initiatives strengthening women's role in agriculture

<https://agraya.com/changemaker-2026/apply-now/>

Does your work support women in agriculture and help shape more inclusive food systems? Apply now for the Changemaker Awards 2026. Recognizing progress across innovation, sustainability, and community impact. Winners will be announced at the AGRAYA SUMMIT 2026 in Italy. Deadline is **May 15**.

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11. Canada Lifts Program

<https://icn-rcc.ca/lift-description/>

Are you already supporting an international development project through your faith community, service club, or other small or medium organization? You could be eligible for federal funding. Take a moment to explore whether your project qualifies—you could access resources to expand your work even further. **Register your interest by June 30, 2026.**

- Momentum Fund – for organizations wanting to scale, adapt or deepen their work
- Together Fund – matches the funds and in-kind support you raise in Canada

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This Month's News

1. When Drought Steals Childhood: How Climate Shocks in Northern Kenya Are Testing the SDGs

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/02/when-drought-steals-childhood-how-climate-shocks-in-northern-kenya-are-testing-the-sdgs/>

A widening crisis across Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) is taking place - where prolonged drought is reversing hard-won gains on poverty reduction, food security, health, and education, core pillars of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). According to Kenya's National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Mandera remains in the alarm phase, following repeated rainfall failures that saw the October–December 2025 short rains deliver just 30–60 per cent of the long-term average. Water pans have dried up, pasture has collapsed, and households dependent on pastoralism are rapidly losing their main source of food and income.

Across the Horn of Africa, the United Nations estimates that nearly 24 million people in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are facing acute water insecurity, following years of recurrent drought and climate shocks. UNICEF warns that 2.7 million children across the region are already out of school due to drought-related displacement, with another 4 million at risk if conditions persist.

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2. Extreme Heat Undermines Decent Work in North-Eastern Kenya

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/02/extreme-heat-undermines-decent-work-in-north-eastern-kenya/>

Situated in Kenya's arid northeast, Garissa is in its hottest season. Between January and March, daytime highs typically hover around 36°C (96.8°F). In early February 2026, temperatures reached 38°C (100.4°F), with "feels-like" readings topping 41°C (107°F), according to Samuel Odhiambo, the county director of meteorological services. The meteorological agency has issued a biometeorological advisory, warning residents that prolonged exposure increases the risk of heat stress, dehydration, and skin damage.

As the largest trade hub in northeastern Kenya, Garissa's economy is anchored by its livestock markets. Data from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) indicate that this economic dependence makes the region uniquely vulnerable: when extreme heat degrades livestock health and keeps buyers away, the resulting financial contagion directly shrinks customer flow for small vendors.

Across Kenya, informal workers like Farah account for roughly 80 percent of the workforce. According to a July 2024 report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Africa now faces the world’s highest heat exposure, affecting 92.9 percent of its workers. The agency warns that labour capacity can decline by up to 50 percent under extreme heat—a productivity drain contributing to projected global losses of USD 2.4 trillion by 2030.

Extreme heat poses a direct challenge to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.8, which mandates safe working environments for all. Without safeguards against extreme heat, this promise remains unfulfilled, exposing a critical gap in Kenya’s climate strategy and undermining SDG 13’s call for national resilience.

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3. Key Takeaways From Gender-Responsive Mangrove Restoration in Senegal

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/explainer/key-takeaways-gender-responsive-mangrove-restoration-senegal>

Biodiversity-mindful mangrove restoration can be a powerful tool for both environmental and social outcomes. We unpack lessons learned from a gender-responsive restoration project in Senegal.

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4. EIB Global puts €110 million behind Ethiopia's rural women farmers and climate resilience

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/206404/eib-global-puts-e110-million-behind-ethiopias-rural-women-farmers-and-climate-resilience>

European Investment Bank (EIB), the international development arm of the EIB, is committing €110 million to expand agricultural finance in Ethiopia, with half of all funding earmarked for women and 20% directed toward climate adaptation, according to an EIB press release. The financing will flow through the Development Bank of Ethiopia to rural microfinance institutions and Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives, ultimately reaching smallholder farmers and small businesses in rural areas who have historically had little or no access to formal credit.

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5. Childcare program enables mothers to work on nature-based solutions in Kigali

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/success-story/gender-equality-action-childcare-program-enables-mothers-work-nature-based>

Beyond advancing climate change adaptation through nature-based solutions (NbS), the SUNCASA project (Scaling Urban Nature-based Solutions for Climate adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa) is strongly committed to promoting gender equality and social inclusion across the implementing sites in Kigali (Rwanda), Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), and Johannesburg (South Africa). A core target is that at least 50% of all community members engaged with SUNCASA’s activities are women or individuals from underrepresented groups.

However, turning this commitment into concrete action—and ensuring women can meaningfully participate in NbS activities—remains challenging, particularly for women with young children. In Kigali, SUNCASA’s partner AVEGA Agahozo has responded by establishing a childcare program at tree nursery sites. This initiative allows women involved in NbS activities to bring their children aged 9 to 35 months to work, where they are cared for on-site through a rotation of parents and caregivers at dedicated childcare facilities.

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6. Aid cannot be the foundation of gender equality

<https://www.citizen-news.org/2026/04/aid-cannot-be-foundation-of-gender.html>

The current funding crisis is exposing a deeper flaw in development: progress for girls and women still depends too heavily on external actors, not on governments accountable to their people.

There have been real gains in gender equality over the past generation. More girls are in school than ever before, and more countries have laws protecting women’s rights. The idea that girls and women should have control over their own bodies and futures is now widely accepted as fundamental to equality, even if that promise remains far from reality in many places. But those gains remain fragile because too much progress still depends on external actors rather than accountable public institutions. When aid is cut or priorities shift, rights and services can disappear overnight.

In many countries today, governments still rely heavily on external funding and outside expertise that sets priorities and agendas, while parallel programmes operate alongside public systems. Services that should be provided by governments are often delivered through projects funded and managed by external actors, weakening governments’ role as providers for their own people.

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7. From Beads to Beans: Why Investing in Women Is the Most Powerful Way to Grow the Future

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/from-beads-beans-why-investing-women-most-powerful-way-1y9re/>

When women earn income, it doesn’t stop with them. According to the World Bank, women reinvest up to 90 percent of their earnings back into their families and communities. That means better access to education, improved health outcomes, and stronger local economies. Investing in women creates a powerful multiplier effect that lifts entire communities.

Today, through &BACK COFFEE, we work with women coffee farmers across the coffee belt to support thriving businesses and more prosperous futures in coffee farming. While the product may be different, both are rooted in the fact that when women succeed, communities thrive.

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8. Trade Over Aid caucus

<https://www.devex.com/news/scoop-us-to-un-global-aid-has-failed-to-improve-lives-of-poor-112291>

The Trump administration is poised to unveil later this month a new global trade initiative aimed at scaling back the obligation of high-income countries to spend tens of billions of dollars each year in foreign aid, according to a copy of an internal U.S. diplomatic note, which was obtained by Devex.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations has circulated its so-called Trade Over Aid initiative to U.N. member states, inviting them to sign a declaration of principles and to join a Trade Over Aid Caucus. It presents a sharp-tongue attack against the value of global charity, alongside a frothy paean to the virtues of the free market.

Governments that meet an April 15 deadline to sign onto the initiative’s nonbinding declaration of five principles, which highlight the importance of national sovereignty, limited business regulation, and free market economics, will be invited to a formal signing ceremony at the U.S. mission at the end of the month.

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9. Analysis: Don't mention the climate: Trump creates 'beyond absurd' situation at global finance talks

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/apr/13/dont-mention-the-climate-trump-creates-beyond-absurd-situation-at-global-finance-talks>

Governments desperate for cash to protect their citizens from the growing impacts of the climate crisis are being put in a "beyond absurd" situation this week at global finance talks: they are being urged not to mention the climate, even as they address the current oil crisis.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) spring meetings took place in mid-april amid a fragile ceasefire in Iran and upended geopolitics. One of the priorities was to forge a new "climate change action plan" (CCAP) for the world's biggest provider of funds to developing countries, to replace the current strategy, which expires in June. Now, it looks like the new plan may be shelved, along with substantive discussion of the climate crisis.

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10. AgriConnect

<https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/agriconnect>

AgriConnect is a World Bank Group initiative to transform smallholder farming, create jobs, and strengthen global food security. Family farms, which include 500 million smallholder farmers, produce most of the world's food, yet many remain in poverty, relying on traditional methods and lacking access to markets, finance, and technology. Supporting them to become commercially successful is critical to creating jobs, reducing poverty, and improving global food security.

1.2 billion young people will reach working age in the next decade. At the same time, the world will need 30% more food by 2050. Meeting this demand requires transforming agriculture into a driver of opportunity.

The World Bank Group has pledged to double its yearly investment in agribusiness to \$9 billion. Because agribusiness is one of the most powerful tools to feed 10 billion people, and end poverty and unemployment.

AgriConnect will roll out in several countries to bring solutions to scale. Senegal is the first country to establish a country compact, targeting three priority value chains: grains, horticulture, and livestock. The World Bank Group and partners launched AgriConnect in Brazil, aiming to reach 1 million family farms by 2030.

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11. Mission 300- Electricity

<https://mission300africa.org/>

The World Bank Group (WBG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with partners, have launched an ambitious mission to connect 300 million people to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. Known as Mission 300, this initiative provides a game-changing opportunity to lift millions out of energy poverty, unlock opportunities, and drive economic growth. To achieve this goal, Mission 300 focuses on:

- Expanding the electricity grid
- Expanding the electricity grid and increasing connections in underserved areas.
- Deploying mini-grids and standalone
- Deploying mini-grids and standalone solar solutions to bring power to remote, off-grid communities.

At the same time, Mission 300 is modernizing Africa's energy sector by catalyzing infrastructure investment, driving comprehensive policy reforms, and mobilizing private investment.

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12. Water Forward

<https://live.worldbank.org/en/event/2026/spring-meetings-water-forward>

On April 15, Water Forward was launched at the 2026 World Bank Group Spring Meetings, positioning global water security—which underpins 1.7 billion jobs across agriculture, industry, energy, and services—as a driver of jobs, investment, economic growth, and human development. Through this initiative, the World Bank Group and its partners set out a shared ambition to help deliver water security to more than one billion people by 2030, working alongside country-led efforts and development partners.

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13. Nepal confronts its caste discrimination

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/206422/nepal-confronts-its-caste-discrimination>

Nepal’s government issued a historic public apology to Dalits and other historically oppressed communities in April 2026, acknowledging centuries of systemic injustice rooted in caste-based discrimination.

Nepal’s Dalit community, which today comprises nearly 13.4% of the total population, has faced systemic oppression and violence for centuries under a rigid caste hierarchy that assigned social status by birth. Historically labelled as “untouchable”, Dalits were denied access to education, property, and economic opportunities, pushing the community to the margins of social, cultural, political, and economic life.

Dalit women face a triple burden of caste, gender, and economic marginalization, often making them more vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Inter-caste relationships frequently trigger violent, sometimes fatal attacks, known as “honor killings”.

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14. Unsung heroes of conservation this Earth Day

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whatonearth/environment-protection-movement-social-justice-india-canada-united-states-9.7166739>

In 1730, in the village of Khejarli in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, India, the region’s king, Maharaja Abhay Singh, set out to build a new royal palace. To supply the construction, Singh ordered the cutting of the area’s Khejri trees, which were essential to the desert landscape as they provided food, shade, shelter, and fodder for livestock, according to Amir Sohel, a doctoral candidate at the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, who researches carbon forestry and environmental history. Despite the importance of these trees, royal soldiers and woodcutters moved in to carry out the order.

But a woman in the village, Amrita Devi, noticed what was happening and bravely ran out to confront the soldiers with the help of her two daughters, hoping to save the trees. Ignored, the women embraced the trees, declaring: “Sar santey rukh rahe to bhi sasto jan” — a tree saved at the cost of a head is still worth it.

The soldiers killed the three women, an act that ignited wider resistance across nearby villages.

“This is the first recorded environmental movement in India,” Sohel said. “And in fact, the world’s earliest women-led environment movement.” An estimated 363 people died defending the trees before the king halted the operation and issued a ban on tree-cutting.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Statistical Report on Canada’s International Assistance 2024-2025

<https://international.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/corporate/reports/international-assistance-data/statistical-report-2024-2025>

Canada’s 2024 to 2025 Statistical Report on International Assistance is now online. It provides data that helps to illustrate how Canada stepped up during a period marked by complex global challenges.

The report highlights statistics on several international assistance engagements, including Canada’s humanitarian assistance in the world’s most urgent crises, with the largest increases in support going to Yemen, Syria and Sudan. It also includes data on Canada’s ongoing engagement with global financial institutions that help strengthen stability and resilience around the world.

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2. Gender equality and the climate crisis: champions and backsliders

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-equality-and-the-climate-crisis-champions-and-backsliders/>

Multilateralism is facing unprecedented challenges. The gender–climate nexus sits at the intersection of these pressures.

Understanding which alliances champion climate action and gender equality, and which are backsliding on agreed language, may help progressive actors navigate the changing multilateral landscape.

In this working paper, we’ve examined the positions that blocs and countries have taken on gender equality within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process from 2022 to 2025, supported by observations of negotiations on just transition and on gender at the thirtieth Conference of the Parties (COP30) held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

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3. Anti-gender & anti-climate politics: exploring converging agendas in Global Majority countries

<https://odi.org/en/publications/anti-gender-and-anti-climate-politics/>

Politics today is marked by accelerating global backlash against both gender equality and action on the climate crisis. This new working paper exposes how these two agendas are increasingly converging in Global Majority countries.

This ODI Global working paper is based on a deep dive into the political motivations, conditions and outcomes that shape this heightened opposition at both the national and multilateral level. The evidence explores ways in which anti-gender, anti-climate and authoritarian politics combine in eight countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Türkiye, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, surfacing three main categories of political opposition to progressive gender and climate policies.

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4. Country Platforms Action Toolkit for climate and development finance

<https://www.iied.org/22722g>

This toolkit provides practical, step-by-step guidance for governments and partners seeking to design, strengthen or refine country-led platforms for climate and development finance.

Developed under the Climate and Development Ministerial, the toolkit responds to growing demand from least developed countries and Small Island Developing States for more coherent, programmatic approaches to finance that align with national priorities.

Grounded in real-world experience and case studies, the toolkit moves beyond theory to offer actionable tools across the full platform lifecycle, from assessing readiness and governance design to aligning finance, developing investment pipelines and embedding learning systems.

It is designed to help countries shift from fragmented, project-based approaches toward more strategic, coordinated and locally-led delivery of adaptation and resilience outcomes.

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5. Multilateral development bank climate finance in 2024: what does the latest data tell us?

<https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/2026/04/mdb-climate-finance-in-2024-what-does-the-latest-data-tell-us/>

Multilateral development banks (MDBs) report \$437 billion in climate finance commitments between 2021 and 2024 through their annual Joint Reports. However, these headline figures only form part of the story. Detailed project-level disclosure is essential to verify where climate finance is going, assess which countries, sectors, and activities are being supported, and hold institutions accountable for how climate finance commitments are delivered in practice.

But \$71 billion remains untraceable to projects. In this blog, Ella Remande-Guyard explains why this transparency shortfall matters, and how our updated MDB climate finance dataset can help to understand exactly where climate finance is being directed. It was updated on April 10th, to include the new web-based dashboard of MDB climate finance.

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6. The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa report

<https://www.fao.org/africa/news-stories/news-detail/fao-report-reveals-scale-of-women-s-contribution-to-africa-s-agrifood-systems-and-calls-for-a-gender-just-transformation/en>

The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa report, launched April 16 at the first World Food Forum – Africa, held on the margins of the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, presents new findings and data on women’s labour, food security, nutrition, and wellbeing in agrifood systems across the region. The report also provides policy and investment recommendations to close gender gaps and level the playing field in food production, processing, distribution, and consumption.

The report also highlights that closing the productivity and wage gaps in Africa could increase the regional GDP by 2.58 percent - USD 53 billion - and reduce food insecurity by 3.79 percent.

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7. WFP Releases HungerMap Live

<https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-releases-hungermap-live-modernized-intelligence-platform-turns-data-global-hunger-early>

WFP Releases HungerMap Live; a Modernized Intelligence Platform that Turns Data on Global Hunger into Early Action.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) released its next-generation platform, HungerMap Live, a powerful digital monitoring and intelligence capability that integrates a wide range of food security data and analysis with predictive modelling to help fight hunger in more than 50 countries.

HungerMap Live offers AI-assisted forecasting capabilities of projected food needs in WFP designated Hunger Hotspots – 16 countries with populations already struggling with catastrophic hunger. Studies have shown that early warning of emerging food security issues can reap tremendous cost savings and operational efficiencies.

The newly modernized HungerMap Live platform brings together data from WFP’s extensive network of more than 300 analysts working on food security monitoring and mapping with information from dozens of trusted partners. This includes

the global benchmark for food insecurity data (known as IPC), government validated statistics, climate, market, agricultural and economic data.

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8. Introducing Manitoba Women in Agriculture & Food

<https://youtu.be/Hm8nzw1Z7I?list=PLv4QdpbyeGDlgLaZzo7a1oGN7W46Ujp8V>

A short video to tell you who we are and what we do. Be sure to visit us at <https://mwaf.ca/> to learn about our events, programs and services and our membership options. Subscribe to our newsletter and socials to stay up to date and reach out to us at any time.

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9. An innovative cookstove empowers women

https://youtu.be/5PQmjwEK_j0

Manitoba Council for International Cooperation MCIC: Learn about the 2026 Development Impact Award-winning project from World Vision Canada and World Vision Sri Lanka. This innovative project offered a gender-transformative approach for health, food security and climate resilience in Bogawantalawa, Sri Lanka. It included efficient home cookstoves, Savings for Transformation groups and the establishment of women-led development forums. Guided by the community with a focus on women, this project achieved incredible results! Our guests, Elmer and Stanlake, joined us to tell us about the project, the changes they have seen in the community and what's next.

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10. The Digital Fireside: Inspiring stories of African agriculture

<https://youtu.be/25XoQPDAtzc>

Storytelling is a powerful tool for amplifying impact and shaping influence. As part of our continued commitment to elevating the voices of our Fellows, this virtual forum spotlight selected participants from the Gender in Agri-food Systems Policies (GASP) program, who over the past year have worked to promote gender-responsive approaches that advance equitable and resilient agrifood systems.

Our digital fireside chat featured stories from six Gender in Agrifood Systems Policies (GASP) Program participants from Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, and Cameroon. We invite you to listen in as they share how they are redefining engagement with women smallholders and how targeted training has enabled experts to step up in their roles.

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11. The 2026 Canadian Organic Standards are Published

<https://organicfederation.ca/2025-review-of-the-canadian-organic-standards/>

The new editions of the National Standards of Canada for Organic Agriculture have now been published:

- General Principles and Management Standards - English version (CAN/CGSB-32.310-2026)
- Principes généraux et normes de gestion - Version française (CAN/CGSB-32.310-2026)
- Permitted Substances Lists - English version (CAN/CGSB-32.311-2026)
- Listes des substances permises - Version française (CAN/CGSB-32.311-2026)

The Organic Federation of Canada will host a series of webinars to share more about the changes (details can be found below). Farmers are also invited to stay tuned for an updated version of COG's Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards, coming soon.

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12. Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality

<https://womendeliver.org/wd2026/melbourne-declaration-for-gender-equality/>

Women Deliver and partners around the world co-created a bold, collective Declaration that calls for rebalancing the ecosystem for accountability, rights, and a future of gender equality. More than 650 people across all regions have shaped the Declaration so far. We are launching it at the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD2026) in Narrm (Melbourne).

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13. Gaza’s Agricultural Collapse Leaves Lasting Barriers to Food Security and Recovery

<https://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases/gaza-agricultural-collapse-food-security-recovery-conflict>

After more than two years of continuous bombardment, displacement, and severe restrictions on land access, Gaza’s agricultural system has effectively collapsed. New analysis by Mercy Corps shows that only 4% of cropland remains both accessible and undamaged, while 96% of farmland and critical agricultural infrastructure, including greenhouses, wells, and irrigation systems, has been destroyed or rendered inaccessible.

Click on [analysis](#) for the full report.

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14. Can African food systems thrive without chemical fertilisers?

<https://grain.org/e/7375>

The rise in fertiliser prices caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran has been a stark reminder of how dependent the global food system is on this chemical input.

Since 2006, African governments have devoted on average 30% of their national agriculture budgets to the fertiliser subsidies. In Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia, the figure is closer to 50%. Average fertiliser use among small farmers has plateaued at around 20 kg per hectare, far from the 50 kg per hectare that African governments committed to achieving under the Abuja Declaration in 2006.

When African governments and farmers buy fertiliser, most of the money leaves their borders. Only Nigeria and the countries of North Africa are significant producers of chemical fertilisers. The rest have to import about 80% of what they use. In the case of Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali and Rwanda, the dependency is complete. This is clearly a problem. It leaves countries vulnerable to global market dynamics and drains national income and foreign currency reserves.

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