

July 2026

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Female fox with three young foxes playing in the garden. 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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Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Webinar: How Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strengthens Development Outcomes.....2
2. Gender-Responsive and Women-Led Research and Development program3
3. Deadline Extended to Register for the Canada LIFTs Momentum and Together Funds3
4. BE-STEMM 2026 Conference3
5. Public Engagement Course3
6. New Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and NAP Processes Online Course4

This Month's News

1. AI is Already Rewriting Reality for Billions of People– But It is Getting Women Wrong4
2. From MDG to SDG to Six Transitions: How the UN's development frameworks have evolved4
3. Advancing Transparency, Learning and Accountability in Solidarity ATLAS5
4. Afghan Women Complete Medical Studies but Are Barred From Practicing5
5. Europe Must Not Turn Its Back on Rural Women's Empowerment5
6. Tanzanians Seek Stronger GEF Support to Cushion Vulnerable Communities6
7. How AgricTech Cuts Labour for Zimbabwe's Female Farmers6
8. In West Africa's Benin, Women Make Centuries-Old Salt Production Methods Sustainable6
9. Why water and sanitation are women's rights issues, UN Women explains7
10. GHANA: 'This Is Bigger than LGBTQI+ Rights – It's about the Kind of Society We Want to Be'7
11. Systematic Vilification of Russian LGBTQ+ Community Pushes Them Underground.....7
12. Women in farming more vulnerable to mental-health struggles and stress, Guelph study finds8
13. Half of world's children exposed to at least three climate hazards8

14.	Multilateral development banks are boosting childcare spending	8
15.	Volunteers help save Scottish rainforest by collecting 11m seeds	9
16.	Ugandan Commonwealth Youth Award Winner Takes Aim at Hunger Across Africa	9
17.	Jeanie Borlaug Laube WIT Award	9
18.	Dr. Darshani Kumaragamage: Erica & Arnold Rogers Award from U of Winnipeg	10

Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement: Practical guidance for companies in the agriculture and food manufacturing sector	10
2.	Gender rights and justice: Insights from 5 years of gender-responsive work in climate and agriculture	10
3.	Growing Justice: Health, safety and dignity for South Asian farmworker women in British Columbia	11
4.	Tracker to Map Global Climate Commitments on Cooking	11
5.	Gender equality and the climate crisis: resolutions at the Human Rights Council	12
6.	Towards a Legally-Binding Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters	12
7.	A Sector Hidden in Plain Sight: New Data Reveals Canada’s Global Footprint	12
8.	New Spotlight Report on Women in Global Climate and Environmental Leadership	13
9.	Ultra-processed food consumption in sub-Saharan Africa: a narrative review through a gender lens	13
10.	Delivering on gender equality: the missing piece in climate and food systems policy	14
11.	Democracy on the Line: LGBTQ+ Movements as Critical to Democracy	14
12.	What Borrowers’ Voices Reveal About the Child Impact of Financial Inclusion	14
13.	When Data Directs: How Third-Party Impact Measurement Shaped Oorja’s Decisions	14
14.	Explore the new FAOSTAT Gender in Agrifood Systems Domain	15
15.	Manitoba Council for International Cooperation Annual Report 2025-2026	15
16.	Fairtrade Canada Annual Report 2025	16
17.	Right to Learn Afghanistan Annual Impact Report 2025	16
18.	2025 CLASP Annual Report	16

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Webinar: How Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strengthens Development Outcomes

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/webinars/view/111/insight-led-impact-how-monitoring-evaluation-and-learning-strengthens-development-outcomes>

DevelopmentAid, in collaboration with the South African Monitoring Evaluation Association SAMEA, invites development organizations and individual professionals to join the webinar “Insight-Led Impact: How Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strengthens Development Outcomes”, which will take place on **Thursday, July 2, 2026**, at 4 pm (Brussels)/10 am (Washington, D.C.).

In an increasingly results-driven development sector, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is no longer just a checkbox for donor compliance. It has evolved into Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), a vital framework that helps donors and recipients understand not just what happened, but why, who might be left behind, and how we can pivot for lasting, sustainable change.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Gender-Responsive and Women-Led Research and Development program

<https://awardfellowships.org/the-gender-responsive-and-women-led-research-and-development-program/>

Call for Fellowship targeting women breeders is now open until **July 24, 2026**. Through the GROW Fellowship: Gender Responsive Research for Optimized Women-led Breeding Systems, we aim to strengthen the leadership pipeline for women professionals in plant breeding systems and contribute to more gender-responsive crop improvement systems across Africa.

The fellowship targets two cohorts of 48 women breeders across **Africa**, competitively selected through two rounds of an open Call for Applications.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Deadline Extended to Register for the Canada LIFTs Momentum and Together Funds

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

Registration is extended to **July 30, 2026**. The application window will open on Friday, **July 31 2026** and completed applications must be submitted by Friday, **September 25 2026** at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

In August, the Canada LIFTs team will host a webinar to answer questions and offer guidance around the application process and the two funds. More details to come.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. BE-STEMM 2026 Conference

<https://blackscientists.ca/conference-landing-page/>

The Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN) will be hosting its 5th Annual National Conference for Black Excellence in STEMM (BE-STEMM). Taking place in **Ottawa from July 30 - August 1**, the conference celebrates the brilliance, innovation, and resilience of Black professionals in STEMM.

Attend to take part in career fair and job info sessions, science fair project displays, keynote talks, panel discussions, awards and prizes, networking receptions, and workshops.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Public Engagement Course

<https://learning.icn-rcc.ca/courses/>

The Inter-Council Network ICN is pleased to announce the launch of our free Public Engagement Course. The course is informed by the ICN's research project on decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist approaches to public engagement. Through the completion of three modules, you will be able to learn about key concepts and definitions, power, and centering communities in public engagement and global citizenship.

This course is for you if you practice public engagement in your work and want to inform your practices with decolonial, anti-racist, and feminist approaches rooted in research.

6. New Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and NAP Processes Online Course

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/online-course-gesi-nap-processes/>

The NAP Global Network's self-paced online course will launch next month and seeks to help participants strengthen the integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion GESI in their country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. This course unpacks concepts related to GESI and NAP processes, explains why inclusion matters for effective adaptation planning, and showcases practical tools and methods for integrating gender-responsive and inclusive approaches to enhance the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

This course is free and designed to be useful to a range of GESI and adaptation practitioners, whether you work for a government, a civil society organization, or a research institution. You will earn a certificate upon completion. **The course launches in July.**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

This Month's News

1. AI is Already Rewriting Reality for Billions of People– But It is Getting Women Wrong

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/ai-is-already-rewriting-reality-for-billions-of-people-but-it-is-getting-women-wrong/>

A study of 133 AI systems found that 44 per cent demonstrated gender bias and 26 per cent demonstrated both gender and racial bias. Yet only 51 per cent of marketers currently use human oversight to test AI-generated creative before release. Ahead of the **United Nations Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance from 6 – 7 July** and **AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland from 7-10 July**, UN Women sets out what is at stake – and what must change – to build a gender-equal digital future.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. From MDG to SDG to Six Transitions: How the UN's development frameworks have evolved

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/207862/from-mdg-to-sdg-to-six-transitions>

This article traces the evolution of the United Nations' development policy frameworks spanning over 30 years from 2000 to 2030: from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the Six SDG Transitions.

Halfway to 2030, only 17 percent of the UN's SDG targets are on track. Hunger has returned to 2005 levels. Gender equality is estimated to be 300 years away. The UN's response, introduced at the 2023 SDG Summit, is a new policy of SDG Six Transitions – strategic entry points designed to accelerate progress towards 2030. But to understand where the UN is going, it helps to look at where it has been.

The Six SDG Transitions are not a replacement of the SDGs but form an acceleration strategy. These six transitions focus on food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and the triple planetary crisis – climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

These six were chosen because they are interlinked and have multiplier effects. Investing in one transition advances multiple goals simultaneously. Investing in food systems advances not only SDG 2 (zero hunger) but also SDG 1 (poverty),

SDG 5 (gender), SDG 8 (decent work), and SDG 13 (climate). The Six Transitions now show that even with the right goals, how you sequence and prioritize matters.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Advancing Transparency, Learning and Accountability in Solidarity

ATLAS

<https://ca.linkedin.com/company/cooperation-canada>

On June 15, Cooperation Canada launched a new public data platform called ATLAS. ATLAS is a new platform mapping the composition of Canada’s international cooperation sector. It brings together data on organizations working across international development and humanitarian cooperation to provide a clearer picture of the sector’s size, diversity, funding landscape, geographic reach, and thematic priorities.

The dashboard currently includes data covering 2015–2023, with future updates planned as additional data becomes available. The dashboard includes over 400 organizations from across Canada’s international cooperation sector. The final dataset used in the report included 409 organizations with 2023 data available.

Questions about methodology, data interpretation, or corrections should be directed to Cooperation Canada: atlas@cooperation.ca. A virtual session will be available in the fall.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Afghan Women Complete Medical Studies but Are Barred From Practicing

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/afghan-women-complete-medical-studies-but-are-barred-from-practicing/>

While Afghanistan faces a serious shortage of female doctors, the country’s Islamist regime has placed restrictions on female students from graduating, further exacerbating the situation. Female medical graduates are barred from writing their final exams, which provide them with the professional qualification to practice as medical doctors.

The final exam was last held for women in 2021. Since then, only men have been allowed to take the exam. The situation is exacerbating Afghanistan’s already dire shortage of female doctors.

UN experts have warned that restrictions on women’s education and employment in Afghanistan are deepening the country’s health crisis, particularly by reducing the number of female doctors and other female health professionals who could treat women.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Europe Must Not Turn Its Back on Rural Women’s Empowerment

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/europe-must-not-turn-its-back-on-rural-womens-empowerment/>

The European Union faces a critical moment as it negotiates its post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). While the European Commission has described the draft as its “most ambitious ever”, rising debt repayments and interest costs mean that, in real terms, funding for external action and development is stagnating or declining.

The new MFF prioritises competitiveness, industrial policy and defence. These priorities are understandable in a volatile geopolitical context, but they risk coming at the expense of development cooperation, Official Development Assistance (ODA), and gender-focused programmes — particularly those supporting Africa.

This policy drift comes at a dangerous moment. In 2025, global aid fell by a record margin following a 9% decline in 2024. France cut ODA by 11%, Germany by 17%, the UK reduced bilateral aid to Africa by 12%, and the United States slashed overseas aid contracts by more than 90%.

The consequences are immediate. Programmes supporting girls’ education, health services and women’s economic empowerment across Africa are being scaled back or closed.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. Tanzanians Seek Stronger GEF Support to Cushion Vulnerable Communities

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/tanzanians-seek-stronger-gef-support-to-cushion-vulnerable-communities/>

Tanzania is calling for stronger international support under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to cushion vulnerable communities from climate shocks. Meeting in Samarkand for the GEF-9 replenishment discussions, Tanzanian civil society experts are urging a shift in global climate finance – from high-level pledges to practical investments that directly benefit rural communities.

They argue that without faster and more direct support, countries like Tanzania – where livelihoods depend heavily on forests, land and water – will struggle to withstand recurring droughts, deforestation and food insecurity.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

7. How AgricTech Cuts Labour for Zimbabwe’s Female Farmers

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/how-agrictech-cuts-labour-for-zimbabwes-female-farmers/>

Long burdened by the labour-intensive nature of agriculture, Zimbabwe’s female farmers are finding relief in new agro-technologies that significantly reduce the time they spend in the field.

With assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), female farmers are adopting technologies such as earth augers, multi-crop threshers and grinder-choppers to help them navigate climate resilience and boost production at a time when African countries are facing funding cuts in the agriculture sector, further threatening food security.

The UNDP partnership with the government of Zimbabwe is part of a broader Green Climate Fund initiative expected to promote climate resilience and boost food production as countries in the Global South continue to seek ways to cushion their populations against climate uncertainty.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

8. In West Africa’s Benin, Women Make Centuries-Old Salt Production Methods Sustainable

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/in-west-africas-benin-women-make-centuries-old-salt-production-methods-sustainable/>

The women have been working as part of a grassroots project called ProSEL Benin, a collaborative effort of the governments of Benin along with India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that focuses on strengthening local salt-producing communities to access sustainable energy sources and create medium-sized enterprises for the production and marketing of local iodised salt. Salt production is one of the main income-generating activities for the populations living in and around southern Benin.

The traditional method of collecting and cooking the salt has been practised in Benin since at least the 15th century, primarily by women, and involves collecting saline soil, evaporating the water and filtering brine by burning chopped mangrove wood to produce salt. The practice harms women’s health due to how they collect the salt and the conditions in which it is prepared. The ProSEL Benin project attempts to change this traditional practice and make the process of collecting salt healthier and cleaner.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

9. Why water and sanitation are women's rights issues, UN Women explains

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208366/why-water-and-sanitation-are-womens-rights-issues-un-women-explains>

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has released an explainer outlining why water and sanitation must be treated as women's rights issues, highlighting how the lack of access disproportionately affects the safety, agency, and time of women and girls worldwide, according to a press release. The organization notes that the United Nations General Assembly recognized the human right to safe drinking water in 2010 and safe and dignified sanitation as a distinct right in 2016. These rights are rooted in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. UN Women underscores that access to clean water and sanitation may determine whether a girl attends school, a pregnant woman delivers a healthy baby, or a family has enough to eat. The explainer argues that without gender-responsive policies, access to water will remain deeply unequal.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 calls for the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. However, UN Women warns that current SDG 6 measurement does not include gender-based benchmarks, reflecting a broader absence of gender perspectives across WASH policies.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

10. GHANA: 'This Is Bigger than LGBTQI+ Rights – It's about the Kind of Society We Want to Be'

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/ghana-this-is-bigger-than-lgbtqi-rights-its-about-the-kind-of-society-we-want-to-be/>

CIVICUS discusses Ghana's anti-LGBTQI+ law with Leila Lariba, Executive Director of One Love Sisters Ghana, a community-driven organisation that advances human rights, social inclusion and wellbeing for Muslim LGBTQI+ people in Ghana.

On 29 May, Ghana's parliament approved the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, which imposes prison terms of up to three years for people who identify as LGBTQI+ and three to five years for anyone deemed to promote, sponsor or support LGBTQI+ activities. With it, Ghana joins a growing group of West African states, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal, that have recently passed anti-LGBTQI+ laws.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

11. Systematic Vilification of Russian LGBTQ+ Community Pushes Them Underground

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/systematic-vilification-of-russian-lgbtq-community-pushes-them-underground/>

LGBTQ+ people in Russia are being forced to increasingly use self-censoring strategies in their daily lives as they struggle with systemic vulnerability, one of the largest surveys of the LGBTQ+ community in the country has shown. The latest annual survey of more than 6,000 people across Russia by the Coming Out and Sphere Foundation organisations showed that, in 2025, the situation for the community had neither improved nor significantly worsened.

The groups say the findings reinforce the perception that LGBTQ+ people in Russia – where a series of repressive laws demonising and persecuting the community – are likely to face persistently high levels of vulnerability and threats to their safety, health, and quality of life for some time to come as they come under attack simply for being who they are.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

12. Women in farming more vulnerable to mental-health struggles and stress, Guelph study finds

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/women-in-farming-vulnerable-to-more-mental-health-struggles-9.7216862>

Researchers at the University of Guelph have released studies in the past about the vulnerability of farmer's mental health and found that women were scoring higher in stress, depression, anxiety and burn out. Through that work, Jones and her team conducted in-depth interviews with women farmers and found many felt undervalued and reported instances of disproportionate workloads. She added many women also struggle with their identity. They reported a lack of recognition in the sector and often were only being perceived as "the farmer's wife."

Kristin Wheatcroft, director of Agriculture Wellness Ontario (AgWO), echoes what Jones and her team have heard, saying it's part of a broader pattern in the agriculture sector. AgWO is a branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association that provides counselling supports, education and peer-based community supports. She said her organization regularly hears from women who are balancing not only farm operations and work, but family responsibilities, off-farm employment and the weight of supporting those around them.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

13. Half of world's children exposed to at least three climate hazards

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/16/half-of-worlds-children-exposed-to-at-least-three-climate-hazards-unicef-says>

Half of the world's children are exposed to at least three overlapping climate hazards threatening their health, education and survival, according to a Unicef report.

The Children's Climate Risk Report found rising temperatures and extreme weather are putting more stress on infrastructure, and warned that key roads and bridges are being hit, with dire consequences for the local community.

Unicef analysed young people's exposure to eight climate hazards: coastal floods, droughts, extreme heat, fires, heatwaves, river floods, sand and dust storms, and tropical storms.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

14. Multilateral development banks are boosting childcare spending

<https://www.devex.com/news/multilateral-development-banks-are-boosting-childcare-spending-112824>

Multilateral development banks are investing significantly more in childcare than they did a few years ago, with financing rising nearly 70%, and projects increasingly appearing outside traditional social sectors.

The growth in funding and projects reflects a broader shift in how development banks view childcare. Once largely confined to education and social protection programs, childcare initiatives are increasingly appearing in sectors such as infrastructure, urban development, health, and agriculture as development banks recognize that the lack of childcare services can prevent women from participating.

This trend accelerated after the COVID-19 pandemic, which drew renewed attention to childcare as fundamental to women's participation in the workforce and broader economic recovery, according to Center for Global Development CGD.

Yet despite these gains, childcare financing remains relatively small and vulnerable to shifting priorities, experts said. Indeed, the report found a slight decline in childcare project approvals in 2024, a trend researchers say should be monitored closely.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

15. Volunteers help save Scottish rainforest by collecting 11m seeds

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/29/growing-the-future-volunteers-help-save-scottish-rainforest-collecting-seeds>

A small band of volunteers has helped to grow nearly 8m native trees in Scotland, crucial to efforts to restore lost parts of the Atlantic rainforest, after collecting 11m seeds by hand. About 100 volunteers, including retired teachers and doctors, office workers and young families, have spent tens of thousands of hours venturing into often remote woods in the western Highlands and islands to search out seed-bearing trees.

They have used detailed maps compiled by NatureScot and Scottish Forestry that identify pockets of ancient woodland, often in exposed, challenging locations, scrambling up hillsides to find the right specimens. They search for a select range of trees, known to have colonised Scotland after the last ice age: hazel, sessile oak, dwarf birch, willow, juniper, birch, wild cherry, wych elm, yew and elder.

Its backers believe the project is the largest citizen-based reforestation programme of its kind.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

16. Ugandan Commonwealth Youth Award Winner Takes Aim at Hunger Across Africa

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/06/from-rotten-tomatoes-to-ai-ugandan-commonwealth-youth-award-winner-takes-aim-at-hunger-across-africa/>

Childhood memories – of abundance turning into loss and hard work failing to translate into opportunity – would eventually shape a mission that has now earned Shifra Ainomugisha from Uganda recognition as the regional winner for Africa under SDG 2: Zero Hunger in the 2026 Commonwealth Youth Awards.

Selected from almost 1,000 applicants across the Commonwealth's 56 member states after a two-stage adjudication process involving 57 judges, Ainomugisha joined 19 finalists recognised for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and community impact. But the award was not her only accolade. The Ugandan farmer and innovator earned the prestigious title of 2026 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year at the 2026 Commonwealth Youth Awards ceremony in London.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

17. Jeanie Borlaug Laube WIT Award

<https://bgri.cornell.edu/awards/wit-early-career-award/>

The Jeanie Borlaug Laube WIT Award recognizes researchers at the front lines of wheat science, advancing the discoveries that help protect harvests and carry agricultural progress forward. Named in honor of Jeanie Borlaug Laube, a dedicated advocate for agricultural progress and daughter of Nobel laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, this award highlights significant contributions to wheat research and improvement.

The WIT Award celebrates individuals making strides in wheat science, recognizing their dedication, innovation, and impact on global food security. It serves as a platform to support and elevate researchers working to advance wheat production and resilience in the face of global challenges. The 2026 winners are:

- Shannon Baker, originally from Strathclair, MB and now Assistant Research Scientist with Texas A&M AgriLife Research in the United States.
- Katharina Jung, from Germany, is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich in Switzerland.
- Bernice Ngina Waweru, from Kenya, is a fourth-year PhD researcher at the John Innes Centre (JIC).

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

18. Dr. Darshani Kumaragamage: Erica & Arnold Rogers Award from U of Winnipeg

<https://news.uwinnipeg.ca/uwinnipeg-staff-and-faculty-awards-2026/>

Prof. Darshi Kumaragamage, one of the long-standing members of the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka SSSSL received the Erica & Arnold Rogers Award research award from University of Winnipeg. She was instrumental getting the SRICANSOL project with collaboration of the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

Dr. Darshani Kumaragamage with the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences at the University of Winnipeg in Manitoba is a creative and impactful researcher whose contributions to soil science have shaped our understanding of agricultural nutrients on the Prairies.

A leading expert on soil nutrient dynamics, with a focus on keeping phosphorus on the land, where it benefits farmers, and out of waterways, where it causes water quality issues, Dr. Kumaragamage's research program is distinctive for how she applies fundamental science principles to urgent environmental questions.

The seeds of this research began when she was a Professor in Soil Science in Sri Lanka, working on nutrient dynamics in flooded tropical soils. Arriving at UWinnipeg in 2009, she applied her knowledge to gaps in our understanding of prairie soils, which flood annually during the spring snowmelt.

For exemplifying research excellence, The University of Winnipeg is proud to present Dr. Darshani Kumaragamage with the Erica and Arnold Rogers Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement: Practical guidance for companies in the agriculture and food manufacturing sector

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/policy-practice-oxfam-org-resources-meaningful-stakeholder-engagement-practical-guidance-for-companies-in-the-agric-621800/>

This practical guidance helps companies in the agriculture and food manufacturing sector strengthen Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement (MSE) as part of human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD). MSE the process of engaging workers, farmers, communities, and other stakeholders in genuine, safe, and ongoing dialogue so their perspectives shape company decisions and outcomes.

In complex, high-risk and often opaque agrifood supply chains, such engagement is both challenging and essential. It improves risk identification, strengthens responses, and supports alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the OECD Guidelines, and upcoming legislation such as CSDDD.

Structured around key questions (who, how, when), the guidance offers step-by-step support and real-world examples to inspire action. Additional resources – including a checklist, stakeholder mapping tool, and impact tracking tool – help companies at different levels of maturity turn commitment into action.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Gender rights and justice: Insights from 5 years of gender-responsive work in climate and agriculture

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/gender-rights-and-justice-insights-5-years-gender-responsive-work-climate-and-agriculture>

Climate-related disruptions threaten traditional agricultural practices and pose unprecedented challenges to all farmers, but the challenges are particularly acute for women farmers, who are disproportionately affected. Gender rights and justice in

smallholder agricultural systems concern whether women and other marginalized groups have equal rights, voice, recognition, access to resources, and decision-making power in ways that enable them not only to participate in agriculture, but to benefit fairly and shape its transformation.

Between 2021 and 2025, Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) has worked across Africa's agriculture sector to expand the reach, usability and inclusivity of climate-smart solutions for small-scale farmers – with a strong focus on incorporating gender and social inclusion.

Responding to these challenges, AICCRA's approach across the project's duration has evolved from targeting women for inclusion in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS), to one of integrating gender responsive and gender transformative planning into inclusive bundles and innovation packages from design to delivery, ensuring innovations are not only accessible to women farmers but are also meaningful and actionable.

Since 2021, more than a million women and young people have adopted climate-smart innovations disseminated through AICCRA's gender-responsive approaches.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Growing Justice: Health, safety and dignity for South Asian farmworker women in British Columbia

<https://bcpolicy.ca/2026/05/06/growing-justice/>

For decades, South Asian immigrant farmworker women in British Columbia have faced exploitative practices.

These practices include wage theft, pressure to accept unsafe transportation along with excessive and unpredictable hours. Agricultural workers in general are excluded from several of the basic rights granted to other workers such as overtime pay, statutory holiday pay and annual vacation pay. South Asian farmworker women who are new immigrants face additional vulnerabilities such as language barriers and a lack of formal job training. In short, previous research and advocacy have shown that the people who harvest the province's vegetables, grow ornamental flowers and pack berries face low wages, high risks of injury and weak workplace protections. Since the late 2010s, the BC ministries of agriculture and labour have acknowledged the vulnerabilities facing agricultural workers, but it is unclear whether commensurate improvements have been made in recent years to support their workplace rights.

Our research examined what has changed in recent decades for immigrant farmworker women and what has not.

First, our report shows that health and safety risks are pervasive, including a lack of clean, accessible washrooms, potable water, chronic and acute physical injuries, unsafe machinery and retaliation for voicing safety concerns.

Second, interview participants recalled experiences of wage theft and barriers to accessing upward economic mobility.

Third, a persistent challenge for many of the women in our study was a lack of basic respect in the workplace.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Tracker to Map Global Climate Commitments on Cooking

<https://cleancooking.org/news/cca-launches-ndc-tracker-to-map-global-climate-commitments-on-cooking/>

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) launched the Clean Cooking NDC Tracker, a publicly available resource that documents which low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) include clean cooking measures in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Cooking is a significant, but often overlooked, source of climate-harming emissions. Nearly 2.1 billion people worldwide rely on inefficient open fires or stoves that burn polluting fuels like wood, charcoal, and kerosene to cook their food. Cooking this way generates super pollutants such as black carbon and methane, as well as other greenhouse gases such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. At the same time, reliance on biomass fuels puts pressure on forests. Clean cooking is vital to

combating global climate change, reducing environmental degradation, and addressing health concerns such as air pollution, making it a natural fit for national climate planning.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Gender equality and the climate crisis: resolutions at the Human Rights Council

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-equality-and-the-climate-crisis-resolutions-at-the-human-rights-council/>

Since 2008, the Human Rights Council (HRC) has brought a human rights lens to climate action, playing a leading role in analysing and recognising the links between climate change and human rights.

This briefing paper examines how gender and climate change have been addressed together in resolutions adopted across all HRC sessions between 2022 and 2025. It establishes a baseline for understanding how the gender–climate nexus is addressed within the HRC and provides a foundation for tracking future progress.

This paper forms part of a wider body of ODI Global work which has established a baseline of commitments at the gender–climate nexus across other multilateral forums - G7, G20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - between 2022 and 2024.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. Towards a Legally-Binding Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters

<https://wedo.org/resources/towards-a-legally-binding-convention-on-the-protection-of-persons-in-the-event-of-disasters>

This guide, produced by WEDO as part of the Secretariat of the Women & Gender Stakeholder Group of the UNDRR, introduces the ongoing process to develop a legally binding convention on the protection of persons in the event of disasters (PPED) — and explains why feminist and gender-justice advocates need to be paying attention.

After nearly a decade of legal drafting, the international community is moving toward a binding treaty that will establish clear state obligations for disaster risk reduction, response, and international cooperation. The convention is to be adopted at a UN Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Manila in early 2027. The stakes are high: disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, and no globally binding legal framework currently governs how states must act to protect affected populations.

Yet the current draft text contains no mention of gender, women, or intersectionality — despite overwhelming evidence that women, girls, and marginalized communities are disproportionately and differently affected by disasters. A small number of state submissions have proposed gender-inclusive amendments, but these remain fragile and far from guaranteed.

With the preparatory process now underway and key negotiating deadlines approaching, this guide maps the milestones, explains what the draft articles cover, and outlines how civil society can engage to ensure the final convention reflects the realities of those most at risk.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

7. A Sector Hidden in Plain Sight: New Data Reveals Canada’s Global Footprint

<https://cooperation.ca/news/a-sector-hidden-in-plain-sight-new-data-reveals-canadas-global-footprint/>

<https://atlas.cooperation.ca/>

Cooperation Canada is launching Atlas (Advancing Transparency, Learning and Accountability in Solidarity), a new interactive platform that brings together data on the size, reach, priorities, and composition of Canada’s international cooperation sector.

Atlas draws on publicly available data to provide an unprecedented view of Canada's international cooperation community, making it easier to explore trends in funding, geographic reach, organizational priorities and the sector evolution over time.

To accompany the launch, we also released a new brief, Profiling the Canadian International Cooperation Sector: Analyzing Trends From 2015 to 2023, which highlights key changes and emerging trends across the sector over the past decade.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

8. New Spotlight Report on Women in Global Climate and Environmental Leadership

<https://www.gwlvoices.org/actions/gwl-voices-launches-new-spotlight-report-on-women-in-global-climate-and-environmental-leadership>

GWL Voices is proud to launch its new Spotlight Report on Women in Global Climate and Environmental Leadership at an official event of London Climate Action Week 2026, bringing together women climate leaders from across generations, think tanks, research institutes, and civil society to discuss the future of gender-equal climate governance.

The report examines women's representation and leadership across seven of the most influential global climate and environmental institutions. Drawing on historical data, policy analysis, literature review, and interviews with leading women climate advocates, the report provides a comprehensive picture of progress made—and the barriers that remain.

The data reveals persistent gender gaps across global climate and environmental governance.

The world’s leading climate science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has never had a woman chair. Since 1972, women have held only about 30% of top leadership positions across those bodies, according to GWL Voices. The report argues that the problem is less about participation than power. Women’s representation drops sharply in senior positions — meaning the people tasked with advising on inclusion are often not the ones making decisions.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

9. Ultra-processed food consumption in sub-Saharan Africa: a narrative review through a gender lens

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S3050501126000787> and <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanafr.2026.100097>

Summary

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is experiencing a rise in ultra-processed food (UPF) consumption, with implications for public health nutrition. This paper argues that UPF uptake in SSA must be understood in relation to the gendered organisation of foodwork. Drawing on evidence from across the region, we show that women, despite increasing participation in paid employment, continue to primarily handle tasks such as acquiring food, cooking, and related domestic labour, creating time poverty. Under these circumstances, UPFs emerge as practical coping strategies, with implications for dietary quality and public health. Policy approaches that emphasise home cooking or behaviour change may therefore be ineffective or inequitable if they increase women’s unpaid workload. We conclude that addressing UPFs as a public health concern in SSA requires gender-responsive strategies that focus on the organisation of foodwork and the conditions under which food is prepared and consumed in order to reduce time burdens and reshape food environments.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

10. Delivering on gender equality: the missing piece in climate and food systems policy

<https://odi.org/en/publications/delivering-on-gender-equality-the-missing-piece-in-climate-and-food-systems-policy/>

Agrifood systems face a convergence of global challenges: an accelerating climate crisis, rapid biodiversity and ecosystem loss, rising fragility and conflict and geopolitical shifts, all of which are reshaping the financial and political commitment underpinning international development cooperation.

This brief examines the structural failures in climate and food systems policy and finance that leave women in climate-vulnerable agrifood contexts, from smallholder farmers to informal market vendors and post-harvest workers, most exposed and least supported.

It makes the case that these same women are central to food system resilience, and that investing in their agency and participation is an effectiveness argument, not only an equity one. It identifies specific leverage points through which policy and finance can be redesigned to reach them, including the operationalisation of the Belém Action Mechanism and regional and national food systems architecture.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

11. Democracy on the Line: LGBTQ+ Movements as Critical to Democracy

<https://thefulcrum.us/community/democracy-on-the-line-lgbtq-movements-and-democracy>

Autocratic leaders have exploited anti-LGBTQ+ public sentiment to crack down on freedom of expression, freedom of the press, the right to organize, and to silence dissenting voices. In response, many LGBTQ+ movements are re-emphasizing their roles as democratic actors.

Because LGBTQ+ rights have been so regularly attacked by authoritarian politics, LGBTQ+ rights activists are responding by making the case that their rights are fundamental to democracy. LGBTQ+ rights are inextricably linked to the rights and freedoms of all, the protection of which is central to upholding the democratic principles of inclusion, voice, and representation.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

12. What Borrowers' Voices Reveal About the Child Impact of Financial Inclusion

<https://60decibels.com/insights/child-impact/>

New research explores how a child lens can reveal differences in how households experience financial services — from resilience and savings to education and wellbeing outcomes.

New research from UNICEF USA, Global Partnerships, VisionFund International, Accion, and 60 Decibels suggests that a child lens may uncover impacts that traditional financial inclusion metrics overlook. Together with UNICEF USA, we expanded our 2025 Microfinance Index survey to include child-focused questions, capturing the experiences of more than 23,000 microfinance clients across 39 countries.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

13. When Data Directs: How Third-Party Impact Measurement Shaped Oorja's Decisions

<https://oorjasolutions.org/when-data-directs-how-third-party-impact-measurement-shaped-oorjas-decisions/>

At Oorja, data and feedback have never been an afterthought. It is a core part of the organisation’s culture and core values. From the outset, we built internal feedback loops; monthly data collection, seasonal surveys, service assessments, field-level monitoring into how we run the organisation and our services.

Oorja's pay-per-use solar irrigation model is helping smallholder farmers in India access reliable water at lower cost. Their 60 Decibels study prompted the company to update how it measures reach, improve onboarding for women farmers, and refine service delivery. The results also helped strengthen funding conversations with partners including Swiss Re Foundation and MIT Solve.

The data also surfaced two areas requiring strategic action. First, women farmers, despite being central to agricultural labour in our districts, were underrepresented as direct service users. We responded by redesigning our onboarding to actively include women as independent subscribers, regardless of land ownership. Women now make up 20% of Oorja’s Irrigation Customers (as of March 2026), with an aim of increasing it further to 30% by 2030 as we scale the model.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

14. Explore the new FAOSTAT Gender in Agrifood Systems Domain

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-releases-most-comprehensive-dataset-to-date-on-women-in-agrifood-systems/en>

FAO’s new domain helps turn evidence into better policies, investments and action for more equal, resilient agrifood systems. Dive into the data to understand gaps, track progress and support informed decision-making.

Women play vital roles at every stage of agrifood systems - from production and processing to distribution and trade. Yet they continue to face greater barriers in accessing land, resources, services, technologies, finance, and decision-making opportunities.

The new Gender Domain directly addresses this challenge by bringing together harmonized, internationally comparable, sex-disaggregated data, enabling gaps between women and men to be tracked over time and allowing policymakers to target interventions where they are most needed.

The dataset is organized into five domains, with indicators spanning the 2000-2024 period. Together, they provide a systemic view of differences between women and men, where outcomes in one area both shape and are shaped by constraints in others. For example, limited access to assets can reduce productivity and earnings, while social norms can restrict access to education and labor market participation.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

15. Manitoba Council for International Cooperation Annual Report 2025-2026

<https://www.mcic.ca/about/annual-report-financial-statements>

The Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP) was established in 1975 by the Government of Manitoba to provide funding for international development projects delivered by Manitoba organizations and their overseas partners. Grants are awarded to successful applications through a peer-review process carried out by committees made up of MCIC member organization representatives.

Projects funded through the Development, Theme, and Community Solidarity funds ranked the top four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their respective projects. In 2025-2026, among 46 projects in 35 countries, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 4: Quality Education, were indicated most frequently.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

16. Fairtrade Canada Annual Report 2025

<https://www.fairtrade.net/ca-en.html>

In the report, you'll find updates on the Fairtrade movement growth in Canada, an overview of the Canadian market performance, news from the Producer Networks, new impact tools, a message from our CEO, a recap on our biggest campaigns, and more.

This year, we hit the most important milestone of our 2021–2025 strategic plan: \$10 million USD in Fairtrade Premium generated for farmers and workers through Canadian Fairtrade sales. That number is the sum of every cup of coffee poured at a Canadian kitchen counter, every banana packed into a lunchbox, every square of chocolate broken off after dinner. Small, ordinary acts aggregated into something transformative: a school roof, a climate-resilient crop, a healthcare fund, a woman's leadership program.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

17. Right to Learn Afghanistan Annual Impact Report 2025

<https://righttolearn.ca/annual-report/>

The situation in Afghanistan remains catastrophic. Amidst overlapping human rights, humanitarian and displacement crises, Afghan women and girls are shouldering the most severe consequences: impunity for violence against women, rising child marriages, devastating poverty, and a legal system so discriminatory, it's called gender apartheid. Yet in the midst of this crisis, the demand for education hasn't subsided: in fact, it's intensified.

At Right to Learn, we respond to this demand. Standing beside Afghan women and girls, we build safe, credible education pathways where learners gain knowledge, skills, and prepare for futures of their own design.

In 2025, we remained focused on reaching more learners and supporting them to keep going. With stronger programs and a fiercely dedicated team, we opened the doors that had been slammed shut to Afghan girls who refuse to give up.

In a place where books are seized, women are silenced, and girls beyond grade six are denied schooling, our online learning platform, Darakht-e Danesh Academi, restores access to learning, through its three "branches". The Library makes available nearly 9,000 resources and books; the Classroom provides an internationally recognized secondary education to 700 girls attending full-time, and in the Courses, over 5,000 learners study online. And in 2025 alone, we awarded nearly 1,400 scholarships and devices to women enrolled at higher education institutions around the world.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

18. 2025 CLASP Annual Report

<https://www.clasp.ngo/research/all/2025-clasp-annual-report/>

Solar-powered appliances and equipment turn energy into opportunity, helping small businesses generate jobs and income. In 2025, CLASP re-launched our innovative Productive Use Financing Facility to make it cheaper and easier for entrepreneurs, farmers, and small businesses in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria to buy solar-powered appliances and equipment that power livelihoods. Last year, CLASP partnered with 11 companies to drive jobs and economic growth in Africa's informal and agricultural sectors, which make up 70-80% of African economies.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++