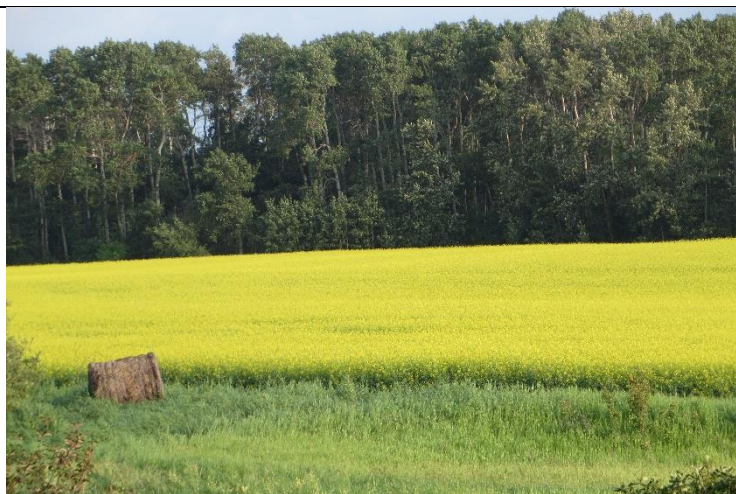


August 1, 2026

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Field of canola in flower and a hay bale beside a forest . 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.

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Statistics Canada Webinar: Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yQPR9rRvTXOxXhqcq1aBHw#/registration

Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics Hub (GDIS Hub) will introduce Statistics Canada’s central platform for gender, diversity, and inclusion–related data. The session will focus on data related to ethnocultural diversity and guide participants

through how the information is organized, what types of data are available, and where to find relevant analyses on the Statistics Canada website.

For organizations involved in volunteering, giving, and community participation, these data can help strengthen understanding of the populations they serve and support more informed planning, learning, and reflection.

Join us on **July 28 at 1 p.m. ET** for a session on data related to ethnocultural diversity, which will guide participants through how the information is organized, what types of data are available, and where to find relevant analyses on the Statistics Canada website.

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2. New Online Course on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in National Adaptation Plan Processes

<https://learning.napglobalnetwork.org/login/index.php>

Our new interactive online course, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes, is now open. The NAP Global Network's self-paced online course seeks to help participants strengthen the integration of GESI in their country's 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.

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3. Call for proposals: IFAD grant to implement the initiative "Leveraging IFAD's Rural Sector Performance Assessment for Policy and Investment"

<https://www.ifad.org/en/w/calls-for-proposal/call-for-proposals-ifad-grant-to-implement-the-initiative-leveraging-ifad-s-rural-sector-performance-assessment-for-policy-and-investment->

This call for proposals is to select a recipient or consortium of recipients to receive an IFAD grant financing to implement the initiative: Leveraging IFAD's Rural Sector Performance Assessment for Policy and Investment for a total amount of up to US\$1.2 million. IFAD has identified enhanced policy assessment as a priority area for support to improve the country-level policy and investment environment for rural development

Potential applicants are encouraged to send **Expressions of interest** to RSPAGrant@ifad.org by **31 July 2026**. These are not mandatory and non-binding. The deadline to receive **proposals** is **4 September 2026, 12:00 (CET)**

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4. Unlocking Domestic Finance for Clean Cooking and Carbon Markets

<https://cleancooking.org/events/unlocking-domestic-finance-for-clean-cooking-and-carbon-markets/>

Carbon finance could significantly accelerate clean cooking access across Africa, yet businesses and project developers still struggle to secure the early-stage and commercial capital required before carbon revenues materialize. Join CCA, in collaboration with the Nigeria Off-Grid Market Acceleration Program (NoMAP) and the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA), for a peer-exchange webinar on unlocking domestic finance for clean cooking and carbon markets.

Tuesday 4 August at 07:00 EDT / 11:00 WAT / 12:00 BST / 14:00 EAT

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5. Seed to Scale 2.0 Accelerator

<https://www.fead.ca/seedtoscale>

FEAD (Female Entrepreneurs in Agri-Food Development) is a national non-profit dedicated to empowering and advancing women entrepreneurs in the dynamic food processing sector.

FEAD's Seed to Scale 2.0 Accelerator helps food founders grow their early-stage businesses with practical guidance from experienced industry experts. This free, Canada-wide online program is designed for women, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit food and beverage entrepreneurs who are in the early stages of building their businesses or preparing to become retail-ready and scale.

The program begins **August 10, 2026**, with sessions held online every Monday morning. It concludes with a pitch competition where participants can showcase their businesses and compete for prizes to support their next stage of growth. **Applications are open until July 31, 2026.**

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6. The Indigenous Youth Hub by MCIC

<https://www.mcic.ca/get-involved/indigenous-youth-hub>

In this new 8-month program, Indigenous youth (ages 18-35) will gain skills for global citizenship, leadership and sustainability. Through the program, participants will connect with like-minded youth and inspiring Indigenous leaders from around Manitoba. The Indigenous Youth Hub will take place primarily online from September to April and will wrap up with an in-person celebration!

Applications will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis until **August 23, 2026**.

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7. Call for proposals: Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund 2026

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/funding/funding-opportunities/advancing-leadership/about.html>

Women's labour force participation in Canada has slightly improved in recent years. A clear example of this is that women are still underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, trades and other traditionally male-dominated fields, and especially in senior roles. They also face lower retention and fewer pathways for advancement. Women also face new challenges and opportunities. The fast spread of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into workplaces could impact women's economic participation. It is important to identify opportunities for women in an AI-driven economy.

This call for proposals will support projects that seek to change these conditions. It will also support projects that seek to drive equal opportunity for women. The focus must be on changes to social or institutional elements to address the root causes of inequality. **Deadline: September 15, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Pacific time**

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8. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17)

<https://www.iied.org/where-find-iied-partners-cop17-event-listing>

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) will be held from **19 to 30 October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia**, preceded by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi from 27 July to 1 August and the 7th meeting of the SBI in Nairobi from 4-12 August.

- Event at the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA): Monday 27 July. Advancing gender responsive biodiversity data systems for effective implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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9. Call for papers: The role of women in achieving food security and agricultural sustainability

<https://link.springer.com/collections/hadchhiaee>

Submission deadline 20 November 2026. BMC Agriculture is calling for submissions to our Collection focusing on the role of women in achieving food security and agricultural sustainability. As primary producers in many regions, women play essential roles in farming, food processing, and marketing. Despite their significant contributions, women face numerous barriers, including limited access to resources, land ownership, and decision-making processes. Understanding the dynamics of women's roles in agriculture is vitally important to create policies that enhance their participation and empower them in the universal goal of achieving food security. This Collection supports research related to SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 5: Gender Equality. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Women's role in agricultural practices
- Women's leadership in sustainable farming
- Impact of female farmers on food security
- Gender equity in agricultural policies
- Barriers faced by women in agriculture
- Technology and innovation for women in agriculture

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10. Conference: Advancing Women in Agriculture & Food 2026

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/registration-for-the-advancing-women-conference-east-2026-tickets-1985459284166>

The national Advancing Women in Agriculture & Food Conference (#AWCEAST2026) is being held in **Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 22 to 24, 2026**. It features the following focuses:

1. Empowering Leadership & Soft-Skills Development
2. High-Value Networking Opportunities
3. Inspirational Keynotes & Real-World Role Models
4. Practical Workshops & Skill-Building
5. Well-Being, Balance & Self-Care Focus

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This Month's News

1. Feeding Africa: Women Farmers Key to Ending Hunger

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/07/feeding-africa-women-farmers-key-to-ending-hunger/>

UNITED NATIONS, Jul 9 2026 (IPS) - As FAO coordinates the implementation of the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, gender team leader Tacko Ndiaye discusses why investing in Africa's women farmers is essential for food security, economic growth and creating more resilient agrifood systems.

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2. Aid cuts leave at least one million women and girls without vital support

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1167908>

At least one million women and girls have lost access to critical humanitarian support since January 2025 as unprecedented aid cuts push women's organizations in crisis zones to the brink of collapse, the UN's gender equality agency, UN Women, said on July 10.

The warning comes in a new report, *Beyond the Breaking Point*, which finds that those providing essential services to women and girls are being forced to reduce or suspend programmes just as global humanitarian needs reach historic highs.

According to the latest figures, around 120 million women and girls worldwide now require humanitarian assistance and protection. Yet the local women's organizations best placed to reach them are facing severe funding shortages, despite often operating in places where international agencies cannot.

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3. Super El Nino will hit women the hardest

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/el-nino-climate-super-crisis-women-b3011246.html>

This year's "super" El Niño climate will hit women the hardest, the regional director of one of the world's largest women's charities has told The Independent in a new interview.

Walter Mwasaa, the regional director for CARE International in East and Southern Africa, also revealed just how significant aid cuts from the US have turned out to be 18 months after they first hit, describing how they, too, have particularly impacted women.

The Independent has previously reported how the super El Niño poses a critical threat to the world's 500 million smallholder farmers, with global agricultural output projected to take a \$342bn (£260bn) hit. Both incomes and food security in the African continent are set to be threatened as a result.

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4. Can the Ebola response avoid another sexual abuse disaster?

<https://www.devex.com/news/can-the-ebola-response-avoid-another-sexual-abuse-disaster-112821>

Many community members in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo don't trust those responding to the Ebola outbreak — isolation tents have been torched, responders attacked, and some people with symptoms stay in their communities — exposing others — rather than seeking healthcare.

Some experts say that amid discussions around community distrust, something's missing: Not long ago, trust in Ebola responders was severely broken after many women and girls in this region were sexually abused and exploited during the 2018 to 2020 outbreak of the disease. Failing to prevent that from happening again could further undermine an already excruciatingly challenging response.

In 2021, a World Health Organization independent commission published a damning report identifying 83 alleged perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse, or SEA. It determined "with certainty" that alleged perpetrators in 21 cases were WHO employees. Investigators established that jobs were promised in exchange for sex, and women were sexually exploited to keep their jobs.

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5. World Bank approves \$140 million to boost road connectivity in Senegal's agricultural areas

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208805/world-bank-approves-140-million-to-boost-road-connectivity-in-senegals-agricultural-areas>

The World Bank on July 14, 2026, approved a second additional financing of EUR 119.6 million, equivalent to \$140 million, for the Republic of Senegal under the Enhancing Connectivity in the Northern and Central Agricultural Production Areas of Senegal Project, according to a press release. Mobilized through the International Development Association and complemented by a \$2 million contribution from the Government of Senegal, the support brings the project's total investment to \$470.8 million. About 570,000 people will directly benefit from the initiative. The financing targets rural connectivity to markets, essential services, and economic opportunities.

By connecting about 221,000 people along the two new corridors to regional markets and essential services, the second additional financing will help strengthen local economic dynamics. It will also facilitate the integration of rural producers into more efficient value chains, in line with the AgriConnect initiative. New job and income opportunities are expected to emerge, particularly for youth, women entrepreneurs, and actors in agricultural value chains.

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6. IFAD and South Sudan launch US\$41.8 million project to boost food security and rural resilience

<https://www.ifad.org/en/w/news/ifad-and-south-sudan-launch-us-41.8-million-project-to-boost-food-security-and-rural-resilience>

The project, known as the Sustainable Agriculture Development Project (SADEP), will provide a major investment in building long-term resilience and addressing the root causes of fragility through increased agricultural productivity, food security, resilience to climate shocks and reinforcing rural institutions.

SADEP will focus on developing climate-resilient and sustainable sorghum and fisheries value chains, reducing post-harvest losses, and expanding access to markets, finance, and agricultural services.

The project will target high-poverty and high-vulnerability areas, with a particular focus on women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, through a community-driven approach that promotes local ownership and social cohesion.

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7. From seeds to scale to sustainability: A visit to Kimatwa women's SACCO

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/seeds-scale-sustainability-visit-kimatwa-womens-sacco>

In Makueni County, Kenya, Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) AICCRA's partnership with Kimatwa Women Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO) shows how climate-smart agriculture can move from training into farmer-led scaling. Women farmers facing erratic rainfall, drought, poor soils and limited seed access are using - and teaching - practical climate-smart bundles to build resilience and improve food security.

The women of Kimatwa clearly expressed their needs, and AICCRA in partnership with the Women Farmers Association of Kenya (WoFaAK) responded with a co-designed capacity-building program. The journey began with a large-scale sensitization workshop with over 300 members covering: climate-smart agriculture (CSA), climate information services (CIS), financial literacy, and gender inclusion and social safeguards (e.g., safe chemical application). Crucially, leadership and governance training were embedded from the start, strengthening the SACCO's internal structures.

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8. Invasive Prickly Pear Turned into Food, Clean Energy Source

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/07/invasive-prickly-pear-turned-into-food-clean-energy-source/>

An international academic partnership is helping turn one of Laikipia County's most destructive and invasive plants, the prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia stricta*), into a source of food security and clean energy while also helping end perennial resource conflict in the region.

The project, which began in 2017, is already giving communities in Laikipia new hope in their struggle against a destructive plant that is known for swallowing grazing land and injuring livestock. The partnership is led by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), in collaboration with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Families in Laikipia are now getting new ways of feeding their livestock, cooking meals, and harnessing energy. The project also has the potential to help bring to an end the never-ending fight over grazing land in the region.

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9. Landmark Ruling Could Redefine Divorced Women's Property Rights in Pakistan

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/07/landmark-ruling-could-redefine-divorced-womens-property-rights-in-pakistan/>

A landmark Islamabad High Court ruling that recognised marriage as an economic partnership and awarded a divorced woman an equal share of assets acquired during marriage has triggered a legal and religious backlash, with Pakistan's law ministry challenging the judgment before the Federal Shariat Court, a constitutional court empowered to determine whether laws and judicial rulings conform to the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Pakistani women, in general, spend years raising children, managing households and helping build family wealth but have little legal claim to assets accumulated during marriage.

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10. Women Building Futures: Advancing Inclusive, Climate-Resilient Housing

<https://habitat.ca/en/stories/women-building-futures-advancing-inclusive-climate-resilient-housing>

In May 2026, Habitat for Humanity Canada convened Women Building Futures, a landmark housing forum in Suva, Fiji. The event brought together leaders and practitioners from across Canada and the Pacific to explore how housing systems can better reflect the needs of women, people living with disabilities, Indigenous communities, and regions on the frontlines of climate change. Among the nine priority recommendations from the event, advocacy for women's land tenure is one focus.

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11. How a National Organic Strategy is Connecting Malagasy Farming to the World

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/success-story/national-organic-strategy-madagascar>

Farmers in Madagascar have been practicing organic methods for decades, but without formal certification, they have struggled to compete in international markets. New initiatives spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty are providing opportunities for smallholder farmers to achieve the scale and integrity required to get their foot in the door—and more than 60,000 farmers are benefiting.

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12. Canada relies on Black farm workers. So why are there so few Black farm owners?

<https://thenarwhal.ca/canada-black-farmers-farmland-prices/>

- While Black and racialized farm workers make up a large chunk of the country's agricultural workforce, Black farm owners are still a slim minority in Canada. In Ontario, only five per cent of farmers are from diverse ethnocultural groups, which includes racialized groups.
- This wasn't always the case, and historical Black Canadian settlements, like the Black Settlement in Oro Township near Barrie, Ont., provided land and housing for Black farmers in the early 19th century.
- One of the primary barriers to farm access and ownership is the high cost of land; programs like farm rentals and urban farms are trying to bridge the gap.

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13. World Rural Development Day: challenges and opportunities (Part I) | Expert's Opinions

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208318/world-rural-development-day-part1>

Rural development has the goal of increasing the quality of life and economic well-being for those living in rural areas, who many times find themselves in isolation and precarious conditions. Aside from that, rural development is key for reducing the gaps between villages and cities, contributing to food security, poverty reduction, and the preservation of cultural heritage. By creating workplaces and attracting investments in infrastructure, rural development is at the core of development for every country. However, in practice, limited access to education and healthcare, unemployment, climate vulnerability, and inadequate infrastructure continue to affect the rural population worldwide. Today, as the world marks World Rural Development Day, take a moment to reflect on this issue and read experts' opinions in this regard.

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14. World Rural Development Day: challenges and opportunities (Part II)

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208440/world-rural-development-day-part-2>

Key Takeaways

- World Rural Development Day is observed globally on 6 July, with the purpose of raising attention to fighting rural poverty, promoting sustainable agriculture, and improving the livelihoods of rural communities.
- Agricultural production accounts for nearly 10 billion tonnes in global primary crop output, even as this key sector transitions to meet rising environmental and urbanization demands.
- International development partners can support rural transformation most effectively by moving beyond short-term projects and focusing on sustainable rural economic systems. The United Nations data shows 80% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas, earning less than \$2.15/day, and half of rural populations lack health coverage.
- According to experts, rural communities face interconnected challenges, such as critical infrastructure deficits, severe digital divides, and low social protection coverage, which heighten their vulnerability to climate shocks and economic volatility.
- International development partners can support rural transformation by adopting inclusive, community-driven, and sustainable approaches in their work, addressing the root causes of rural poverty and inequality.

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15. FAO scales up cash assistance for Gaza Strip farmers to feed 100,000 people

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208836/fao-scales-up-cash-assistance-for-gaza-strip-farmers-to-feed-100000-people>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has scaled up its conditional cash assistance program to support 1,500 small-scale farmers in the Gaza Strip, each cultivating at least 1 dunum (0.1 ha) of land, according to a press release. The initiative is expected to produce enough fresh vegetables to meet the recommended annual vegetable intake for approximately 100,000 people, based on dietary recommendations from FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO). The program was announced on 16 July 2026 from Jerusalem and Cairo. It is funded by Belgium, the European Union, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and other FAO resource partners. The cash assistance is conditional on farmers using the support to cultivate their land.

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16. EBRD and EU partner with Palestine Investment Bank to support women-led businesses

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208601/ebrd-and-eu-partner-with-palestine-investment-bank-to-support-women-led-businesses>

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is extending a €2 million loan to Palestine Investment Bank (PIB) to expand access to finance for women-led businesses in the West Bank, according to a press release published on 9 July 2026. The financing targets a critically underserved segment of the local economy and is supported by European Union (EU) funded technical assistance and first-loss risk cover. It is being deployed under the EBRD's Women in Business programme. The facility aims to increase access to finance for women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and to promote gender inclusion. The partnership reflects a joint commitment by the EBRD and the EU to advance economic opportunities for Palestinian women entrepreneurs.

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17. How women are reshaping the fisheries sector in Belize

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/success-story/turning-tides-how-women-are-reshaping-fisheries-sector-belize>

For decades, the vital contributions of women in Belize's fisheries sector have gone unrecognized. But after years of dedication and advocacy, women are now charting a new course for the country's small-scale fisheries. And with the establishment of Belize's National Women in Fisheries Association, they are claiming their rightful place in fisheries governance.

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18. How rainwater harvesting is feeding Mexico City's gardens and homes

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/jul/20/rainwater-harvesting-mexico-city-transforming-lives>

Thousands of low-income households are benefiting from a simple system that captures and filters rainfall from the city's roofs. Like many informal settlements across Mexico, Aparicio Bahena's metal-roofed home is not connected to the water network, and for years she had to collect water from a well about 30 minutes away. With such water scarcity, gardening wasn't a priority. That was until a rainwater harvesting system, which captures water from the roof and filters it, was installed in her garden four years ago. It stores 2,500 litres of water, while a smaller tank, used only for watering plants, holds 1,100 litres.

The system is provided by Isla Urbana, an organisation dedicated to tackling water scarcity. It creates rainwater harvesting systems that provide mainly low-income households with sustainable water access for five to eight months of the year (during the dry season rainfall is insufficient). Founded in 2009, it aims to reach 1 million people who would previously have had to collect water themselves, by next year. While most users are based in Mexico City, Jalisco and the State of Mexico, it has installed systems nationwide, mainly for Indigenous communities, who lack access to water due to geographic, economic or sociopolitical reasons.

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19. Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst to lead the Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

<https://umtoday.ca/stories/annemieke-farenhorst-lead-riddell-faculty-environment-earth-and-resources>

The University of Manitoba is pleased to announce the appointment of Annemieke Farenhorst as Dean of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, effective September 1, 2026.

Dr. Farenhorst currently serves as Associate Vice-President (Research) and is a Professor of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba. She joined UM in 1997 and, in 2003, became the first woman in the Department of Soil Science to earn tenure. Dr. Farenhorst holds a Doctorandus in Physical Geography and Soil Science from the University of Amsterdam and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Toronto.

A highly respected researcher, Dr. Farenhorst specializes in research on the fate of current-use pesticides on microbial communities in environmental and engineered systems. Her work has informed practical solutions to improve drinking water distribution systems and contributed to national discussions on water security.

Dr. Farenhorst has supervised more than 100 natural and social science research trainees and served as the Prairie NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering from 2011 to 2020.

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20. How geospatial AI is helping aid groups predict famine and deliver food

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-geospatial-ai-is-helping-aid-groups-predict-famine-and-deliver-food-112935>

Amid steep foreign aid cuts and rising food insecurity, a new geospatial AI project aims to help humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan see breaks in the system before they happen and reroute food aid to ensure it reaches people in time.

It's led by the World Food Programme in partnership with the REACH initiative, which provides data and analysis to humanitarians in crisis regions. The goal is to halve the four days it often takes between detecting a hazard that affects food access and mobilizing a humanitarian response to it.

Geospatial AI uses artificial intelligence to analyze location-based data such as satellite imagery, drone imagery, maps, and other geospatial datasets — then combines machine learning and spatial analysis to help users identify patterns and understand change more efficiently. The WFP-REACH initiative project also uses climate, food security, nutrition, and market data from Afghanistan.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Sustainable Value Chain Policy Navigator

<https://www.iisd.org/projects/sustainable-value-chain-policy-navigator>

The Sustainable Value Chain Policy Navigator maps out policies and regulatory measures that advance sustainability objectives in commodity production, directly or indirectly supporting producers who comply with sustainability standards and voluntary and mandatory market access requirements. Its main aim is to inform and inspire governments designing similar policies and measures in their own jurisdictions. By highlighting practical experiences, lessons learned, and evidence of impact, the navigator seeks to promote more inclusive and resilient value chains, support compliance readiness, and reduce transaction costs for producers and businesses.

Policies were selected using a structured methodology that prioritized active measures that

- address key sustainability challenges, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, climate impacts, and social inclusion, and
- support market participation among vulnerable groups, such as women and small-scale producers and businesses.

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2. The Sustainability Markets Hub: A platform for sharing and learning

<https://www.iisd.org/projects/sustainability-markets-hub>

IISD’s Sustainability Markets Hub brings together years of IISD research and services into one central resource to help policy-makers and value chain actors break down barriers preventing small-scale producers and businesses from accessing sustainability markets. The Hub is comprised of three main services:

- Provision of market intelligence: We offer insights on sustainability trends, voluntary and mandatory requirements, and market developments in key commodity sectors to highlight opportunities and challenges for advancing inclusive sustainability markets.
- Policy development support: We support governments and standard-setting bodies to develop and implement policies that advance sustainable production and trade while ensuring small-scale producers and businesses can comply with new requirements.
- Capacity and connection building: We equip small-scale producers and businesses with the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to better engage and compete in sustainability markets.

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3. A Decade of Climbing and Claiming Rights: Women’s land rights and the Kilimanjaro Initiative Campaign

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/policy-practice-oxfam-org-resources-a-decade-of-climbing-and-claiming-rights-womens-land-rights-and-the-kilimanjaro-621817/>

Overview

This evaluation report presents the experiences, achievements, lessons, and challenges of the Kilimanjaro Initiative, a rural women’s land rights campaign in Africa. The campaign was officially launched in 2016 with the adoption of the Charter of Demands and Aspirations of African Women on Land Rights. Over the past ten years, rural women organized through the Africa Kilimanjaro Women Forum (AKIWOF) have used the Charter as a key advocacy tool to advance women’s land and natural resource rights at local, national, regional, and global levels. The evaluation documents a decade of campaigning and collective action, assesses progress made, identifies emerging issues affecting women’s tenure rights, and provides recommendations to strengthen future strategies for mobilizing and empowering rural women across Africa to advocate.

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4. Small Businesses in Northeast India are Ditching Diesel and Thriving with Solar Power

<https://efficiencyforaccess.org/updates/access-to-reliable-energy/>

Across Meghalaya, Assam, and Nagaland, unreliable electricity is a daily reality for small business life, forcing small food processing enterprises to depend on costly, polluting diesel just to keep running. This short film follows the entrepreneurs and collectives taking part in clean energy pilots led by CLASP, through Efficiency for Access, and Beyond Purpose Social Ventures (BPSV), and what shifts when solar-powered solutions replace uncertainty with reliability.

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5. Over 23 million more children at risk of poverty amid Middle East conflict | Report

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208815/over-23-million-more-children-at-risk-of-poverty-amid-middle-east-conflict-report>

Up to 23.4 million additional children could fall into monetary poverty by the end of 2026, as ongoing tensions in the Middle East and related shipping disruptions continue to have a damaging and potentially irreversible impact on children, according to a new analysis released on 16 July 2026 by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The report warns that years of progress could be reversed, deepening inequality worldwide. It highlights how rising food and energy prices are eroding household purchasing power. Children in the poorest households are disproportionately affected. The findings signal an urgent call for coordinated policy responses.

The report, *The Impact of the War in the Middle East on Children in Monetarily Poor Households*, draws on data from over 167 countries. It links broader economic shocks to escalating hostilities, including disruptions tied to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The analysis focuses on how these shocks affect what families can afford to buy. It notes that only a fraction of Middle Eastern countries are included in the global totals due to conflict and data limitations. Middle Eastern countries with available data are reported within their respective continental aggregates.

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6. Afghanistan: 3.7 million children under five face heightened malnutrition risk | Report

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/208712/afghanistan-3-7-million-children-under-five-face-heightened-malnutrition-risk-report>

Some 3.7 million children under five in Afghanistan are at heightened risk of malnutrition due to food insecurity, poor diets and inadequate access to basic services as the peak season for life-threatening wasting looms, according to a new report published in July by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The document, titled *Too Little, Too Late: The Diet Crisis Facing Young Children in Afghanistan*, was released as the country enters the peak wasting season, which runs from July to September. UNICEF identified child food and nutrition insecurity as a main driver of undernutrition. The warning highlights an early and deepening crisis. Wasting remains the most immediate, visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition.

Wasting is caused by recent food deprivation, illness, or both, and leaves affected children too thin for their height. Their weakened immune systems make them vulnerable to developmental delays, disease and death.

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7. AICCRA | A living legacy of climate science, partnership and impact in Africa

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/aiccra-living-legacy-climate-science-partnership-and-impact-africa>

From 2021 to 2025, Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) AICCRA's work with CGIAR center teams, national and regional partners and key local stakeholders has reached 11.6 million people across Africa with validated climate-smart agriculture innovations and climate information services.

Because of these partnerships, national agriculture and meteorological systems are collaborating more closely; agribusiness investment pathways are being unlocked; African-led research and adaptation efforts are gaining speed; and most importantly, small-scale farmers - particularly women - and their communities are benefitting from improved harvests and food security.

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) will lead the next project phase: Accelerating Innovation and Catalyzing Capacity for Resilience in Africa x Food System Resilience Program (AICCRA-FSRP4). AICCRA-FSRP4 will continue to scale agricultural innovations, raise productivity, and support economic and job opportunities in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, and Zambia, with expected benefits beyond these countries.

Reaching more than 1.5 million farmers and food-system actors, AICCRA-FSRP4 builds on earlier phases of FSRP and AICCRA to bridge the gap between research institutions and farmers by expanding access to climate-smart agriculture and climate information services.

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8. Experts ‘rewild’ British Sign Language with new environmental terms
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/11/british-sign-language-created-climate-and-biodiversity-terms>
Online Glossary <https://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/BSL/environmenthome.html>

Scientists and British Sign Language users have created new signs for greenhouse gases, carbon footprint, and more than 200 other environmental terms. It is hoped the effort to “rewild” BSL will make climate and biodiversity science more accessible for deaf people. Scientists and BSL users from the Royal Society and Scottish Sensory Centre worked together to create signs for common environmental terms. The first 200 signs were themed around biodiversity, ecosystems, pollution and the physical environment.

Dr Audrey Cameron, the project coordinator at the University of Edinburgh, said the signs would allow BSL users to participate in “the conversation about the current threats to biodiversity and the environment”. The glossary could, for instance, enable deaf people to attend global climate and biodiversity summits and participate in discussions.

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9. How food systems advocates can reach Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end hunger by 2030
<https://sdg2advocacyhub.org/latest/from-fragmentation-to-focus-a-shared-agenda-for-the-last-mile-to-2030/>

The SDG2 community faces a decisive moment. Despite decades of progress, the world is not on track to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. The problem is not a lack of evidence or solutions but a failure to align, finance, coordinate and deliver at scale amid a more complex geopolitical and fiscal landscape.

In a new discussion paper, the SDG2 Advocacy Hub team shares their advice for how the SDG2 Advocacy community can unite to galvanise support for ending hunger and malnutrition.

With conflict, climate shocks, rising costs, shrinking ODA and constrained national budgets, urgent, coordinated and scalable action is essential to keep SDG2 within reach. The paper urges the community to focus on fewer, bigger priorities, making a stronger public and political case for action, and to use existing mechanisms more effectively rather than creating new initiatives. Now is the time to protect hard-won gains, prevent further backsliding and accelerate integrated investments in resilient food systems, nutrition and rural livelihoods.

10. Feminist philanthropy in practice: When solidarity becomes systems change

<https://thephilanthropist.ca/2026/06/feminist-philanthropy-in-practice-when-solidarity-becomes-systems-change/>

For a two-part series, The Philanthropist Journal interviewed leaders from eight organizations to learn more about feminist philanthropy and how it is responding to current threats, including authoritarianism, funding cuts, and anti-rights backlash. This second part focuses on how feminist philanthropy works in practice, from establishing funds and investment strategies to grant making practices and long-term movement-building. Although just a snapshot of the sector, these leaders' experiences demonstrate how feminist philanthropy enables movements to not just meet the moment but also catalyze generational change.

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11. Evidence to Inform the Future of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy – Full Report

<https://cooperation.ca/documents/holding-the-line-on-gender-equality-evidence-to-inform-the-future-of-canadas-feminist-international-assistance-policy-full-report/>

This report analyzes the impact of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) since its launch in 2017. It highlights successes like prioritizing gender equality, supporting women's rights organizations, and fostering institutional changes. The report also addresses challenges such as policy incoherence, bureaucratic hurdles, and insufficient funding. It provides recommendations for strengthening FIAP and ensuring its continued relevance in a changing global context.

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12. Canada's National Food Security Strategy

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/national-food-security-strategy>

The National Food Security Strategy outlines new initiatives to address the structural causes of food insecurity that are affecting Canadians across the country, particularly the most vulnerable.

Canada's future food security will be based on our ability to build a system where food is more affordable, where we reduce our dependence on other countries, and where we are less affected by external circumstances. To do that, we need three things:

First, we need more choice: Farmers need more places to sell their products. Smaller independent grocers need more places to source product for their stores so that they can compete with large retailers. Consumers need more affordable choices when they shop, and people in rural, remote and northern communities need better access to fresh produce at reasonable prices.

Second, we need more control: We need to reduce our dependence on other countries by processing more of the food we grow, and to use new technologies to grow the foods we cannot currently grow at scale year round. Farmers need more control by having access to the crop input products they need for productivity, and the ability to have greater control of transferring their farms to the next generation.

Finally, greater choice and control will mean More Canada. More food that is grown here. More food that is processed here. More food on store shelves here. And more workers in the Canadian agri-food sector.

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13. The Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards 2026 Now Published

<https://cog.ca/guide-to-cos/>

To round out the revision of the Canadian Organic Standards, the Organic Federation of Canada (OFC) and Canadian Organic Growers (COG) have collaborated to update the Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards. The OFC and COG announce that the Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards 2026 is now published and available for use.

This online publication is designed to help producers, processors and other stakeholders to understand the 2026 Canadian Organic Standards. The revised Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards incorporates the many changes made to the Canadian Organic Standards in terms of both required practices and permitted substances. The 2026 Canadian Organic Standards came into force in March 2026, however current farmers, processors and other operators have a grace period of one year to adapt their practices to meet the new standard.

We also hope this will enable consumers to better understand and appreciate the work of the farmers, market gardeners and processors who are committed to producing nutritious food while respecting the Canadian environment.

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14. Wildfire experiences among Indigenous Peoples in Canada

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/16-002-x/2026001/article/00002-eng.htm>

Statistics Canada has published a new article, "Wildfire experiences among Indigenous Peoples." It examines the short-term and long-term impacts of wildfires on daily activities of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit across Canada and how Indigenous communities and individuals tend to be disproportionately impacted.

This descriptive analysis integrates results from the 2024 Survey Series on First Nations People off reserve, Métis and Inuit - Emergency Preparedness and Extreme Weather (SSFNPMI-EPEW) and the 2021 Census Indigenous population data, along with spatial data on forest fires, wildfires and air quality from 2023.

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15. Advancing Women magazine

<https://www.farms.com/awc-spotlite-on-women/2026/summer/>

The Summer 2026 edition of Advancing Women in Agriculture & Food Conference AWC Spotlight on Women is now available online. Read about 'The New Generation of Women in Agriculture and Food', and articles featuring the speakers and presentations that took place at AWC WEST2026.

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