

Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment During COVID-19

Wednesday 16th February 2022, 14:30 CET (08:30 EST, 19:00 IST)

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/63CxaDqdiBgAng1CA>

This webinar considers the role of donor and development agencies in promoting women's economic empowerment in developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, in part by shedding light on 'voices from the field'; representatives from women-owned businesses and cooperatives in hard-hit sectors of developing economies.

The economic risks and challenges for women during COVID-19 are broad and could lead to longer-term effects for women's economic empowerment (WEE). A key concern in this context is to implement gender-transformative economic programmes and policies to ensure that WEE is not permanently eroded, and to set the stage for a gender-equitable economic recovery. For donors and development agencies, responding to the gender impacts of the pandemic has generally required adjusting operations and programming, issuing new support, and contributing to global research efforts.

In this webinar, the highlights of a recent DCED policy brief, entitled *Donor Responses for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment* will be presented by the authors. We will then be joined by voices from the field; from Homenet India, a regional network of home-based worker organisations, Incluyeme, an organisation promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities, women and migrant people across Latin America, and Tiny Totos, a Kenyan social enterprise that works to transform the quality of preschool childcare services available to working mothers in Nairobi.

Provisional programme:

TIME (CET)	ITEM	SPEAKER
14:30	Welcome, introduction and objectives	Selina Haeny (SDC, DCED WEE WG)
14:35	Poll of participants	Selina Haeny
14:40	Presentation: Key learnings from the policy brief 'Donor Responses for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment During COVID-19'	Kate Grantham and Leva Rouhani (FemDev Consulting)
14:45	Interview with policy brief authors	Gillian Dowie (IDRC, DCED WEE WG), Kate Grantham and Leva Rouhani
15:00	Panel discussion sharing stories of voices from the field, particularly from high-hit sectors	Gillian Dowie, Navya D'Souza (Homenet), Clara Popeo (Incluyeme), Emma Caddy (Tiny Totos), Kate Grantham and Leva Rouhani
15:20	Participant Q & A	
15:35	Summary, conclusion and thanks	Selina Haeny

Moderators and speakers:

Selina Haeny, Policy Advisor, SDC

Selina Haeny works at the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) as a Policy Advisor on Gender Equality and Engagement with the Private Sector. Her field experiences in India and Uganda built the foundation for her thematic focus on women's economic empowerment and questions around closing the gap to financial inclusion for women.



Gillian Dowie, Senior Program Officer, IDRC

Gillian Dowie is a Senior Program Officer for Canada's International Development Research Centre's Sustainable Inclusive Economies team, based in New Delhi. She manages a portfolio of research on innovative social and economic development interventions with a focus on women's economic empowerment across South and Southeast Asia. Gillian is a member of the DCED Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group.

Dr Kate Grantham

Dr. Kate Grantham is a researcher, educator and consultant specializing in gender equality and women's rights. She is Founder and Executive Director of FemDev, a global development consulting firm passionate about feminist approaches to research, evaluation and analysis. Kate has a PhD in Women's Studies and Feminist Research from Western University in Canada.





Dr Leva Rouhani

Dr. Leva Rouhani is a feminist international development educator, researcher, and consultant, specializing in gender equality and women's empowerment issues. She has worked with Canadian and International development organizations on women's rights issues. Leva has worked and lived in sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and Latin America/Caribbean. She received her PhD from the University of Ottawa.

Navya D'Souza, Homenet India

Navya D'Souza is the Regional Coordinator of HomeNet South Asia. As Regional Coordinator, Ms. D'Souza is the Operational Head of the organisation and is responsible for planning, implementing, and coordinating HomeNet South Asia's work across the region. Ms. D'Souza has also led various project initiatives for The World Bank, SIDA, and Comic Relief, contributing to initiatives aimed at building the capacity of informal workers and their representative organisation, assessing the impact of livelihood projects, promoting digital literacy among workers, documenting value chains and strengthening the Network. She holds a PG Diploma from the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, India.



Clara Popeo, Includyeme

Clara Popeo is the Regional Project Manager of Includyeme.com. She is a Political Scientist with a Diploma in Protection of Migrants and Refugees and candidate for a master's degree in International Migration Policy and Administration. Clara has experience in projects with multilateral organizations and is currently carrying out projects for the inclusion of people with disabilities, women and migrant people.



Emma Caddy, Tiny Totos

Emma Caddy has 20 years' experience operating at the nexus between sustainable investment, financial innovation and social entrepreneurship. Building on experience running community development programmes in Central America, Emma founded Tiny Totos, a Kenyan social enterprise that works to transform the quality of preschool childcare services available to working mothers in Nairobi by helping transform informal babysitters into profitable childcare entrepreneurs. Tiny Totos' network has served almost 12,000 children and works with 130 childcare SMEs in Nairobi. Since 2021, they have been working with UNICEF in Rwanda to make the business case for childcare, and in 2022 they begin work with SOS Children's Village to replicate their market-based model elsewhere in Kenya and Somalia.

