The Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEE WG) Lisanne van Beek (RVO/CBI), Co-chair Claudia-Dominique Geiser (BMZ/GIZ), Co-chair



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

DCED Annual Meeting - Thematic Day, 9 June 2022



ABOUT THE DCED WEE WG

Strategic aim:

 Knowledge & experience sharing among DCED member agencies and PSD practitioners on how to integrate gender and WEE considerations more strategically and effectively into their work.

Main goals:

- To share knowledge on gender and WEE within the group and via the DCED website, and to explore sharing experiences in external fora and platforms.
- Actively promote developed tools, instruments and experiences from the WG and its members through webinars and podcasts via the WEE Talks brand.
- To continue and enlarge the podcast series, potentially to other DCED Working groups.



OVERVIEW OF CURRENT WEE WG WORK ITEMS

MSMEs and the Care Economy

- Investing in the care economy is a win-win-win for development outcomes, in terms of job creation, empowering women caregivers and healthy child development.
- Webinar organised, report on Childcare Solutions for WMSEs published in May 2022.

Gender Lens Investing (GLI)

- GLI is a 'hot topic'. How can donors position themselves in the landscape? And what can they do to make GLI more widespread? <u>Working paper</u> on donor agency engagement in GLI published.
- 2022/23: focus on capacity building for intermediary organisations in the financing landscape.

WEE and the Climate Crisis

- The intersection between climate and gender is an important one, as women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men yet have fewer decision-making powers.
- *Potential for collaboration with Green Growth Working Group.*



OVERVIEW OF CURRENT WEE WG WORK ITEMS

The Gender Digital Divide

- The WEE WG will seek to answer two questions with this new work:
 - What are the necessary conditions for digitalisation if we are to effectively tackle the gendered digital divide?
 - How are service providers making use of digital solutions to better serve women, including entrepreneurs and businessowners, and support reducing the digital divide?

Social Norms & systemic approaches for WEE – crosscutting

• Social and cultural gender norms play a huge role in development and are often a root cause of barriers to achieve WEE. This work item will be crosscutting in the Annual Plan. Task team members will ensure integration of this topic in work items.



!COMING SOON! -> THE WEE GATEWAY

- Aim: to provide PSD practitioners with an easy digestible, hands-on, interactive tool for practitioners to integrate a Gender lens in PSD Programmes.
- WEE Gateway content:
 - Video on why investing in WEE
 - Infographic on Gender in PSD
 - Definitions, descriptions and WEE-basics
 - Practical cases
 - Decision tree
 - A selection of useful resources
 - ➢ FAQ on WEE & PSD

The multiplier effect of empowering women

Every pay check to a woman is an investment in the human capital of the next generation. When women earn an income, this has a direct effect on the health, education and well-being of their families and communities..

Why it pays to invest in women

Where women made up at least 15% of senior managers, companies had more than 50% higher profitability.



12.5 billion

of value to the economy

of care work are completed for free by women and girls every day, representing at least \$10.8 trillion

hours

every year.

Improving gender diversity and equity at senior management levels is associated with **better business** and investment performance.

Tackling the global gender gap will **boost global GDP**.

Research found that if all countries would match the performance of the country in their region that has made the most progress toward gender equality:

\$12 trillion a year could be added to GDP in 2025.

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WEE & COVID-19: Podcast

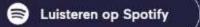


WEE Talks: Small chats, big topics

Van Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED)

WEE Talks is the podcast of the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group.

The first three episodes of WEE Talks specifically explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlight the need and opportunity for gender-responsive policies and development programmes. Subsequent episodes cover WEE-related topics more broadly.



🤇 🛨 Bericht

<u>Policy brief</u> produced, three <u>podcast episodes</u> launched and <u>online event</u> hosted.



For an Introduction to Women's Economic Empowerment, please click here: https://www.youtub e.com/watch?v=Dlff MU2gSKM



Childcare Solutions for Women Micro and Small Enterprises





Slides on Childcare prepared by Kate Grantham and Aatif Somji To explore the range of childcare solutions available to meet the needs of women MSE owners and workers in LMICs, with a particular focus on the informal sector.

Defining "Women MSEs"

Women <u>owners</u> and <u>workers</u> in enterprises of <u>less than 20</u> employees, including <u>self-employed</u> women.

Childcare as a Constraint for Women MSEs

- Time
- Multi-tasking
- Mobility
- Informality
- Enterprise Development
- Well-being

Barriers to Uptake of Childcare Services

- Cost
- Distance
- Operating Hours
- Quality
- Social Norms

Childcare Solutions for Women MSEs



Social Franchising

Cooperatives

Programmes supporting market-based

solutions

Partnerships

Recommendations

- Promote context-specific childcare solutions for women MSEs.
- 2. Keep scale and sustainability at the forefront of donor initiatives.
- 3. Focus on quality standards and assurance, but not prohibitively so.
- 4. Prioritise solutions that provide decent employment for childcare workers.

- Identify opportunities to serve rural women MSEs' childcare needs.
- 6. Continue to promote public investment in childcare.
- 7. Explore demand-side interventions to complement childcare supply.
- 8. Address underlying social norms around caregiving.
- 9. Conduct research into other dimensions of care from the perspective of women MSEs.

Discussion

Erin Tansey Director, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, IDRC

Merten Sievers Value Chain Development and Entrepreneurship coordinator, SME Unit, ILO

- Why has your organization contributed to this work item?
- How does the subject of WSMEs and the Care Economy, and outcomes of the report translate into IDRC's / ILO's approach to strengthening the care economy?
- How do you plan to further your work on MSME's and the Care Economy?