

The Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEE WG)

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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? [Working paper](#) 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 business-owners, 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**.



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**.

12.5 billion hours

of care work are **completed for free by women and girls** every day, representing at least

\$10.8 trillion

of value to the economy **every year**.





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.

 [Luisteren op Spotify](#)  [Bericht](#)


[Policy brief](#) produced, three [podcast episodes](#) launched and [online event](#) hosted.

For an Introduction
to Women's
Economic
Empowerment,
please click here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlffMU2gSKM>



Childcare Solutions for Women Micro and Small Enterprises



An illustration of a busy market stall. In the foreground, there are various fresh produce items: a pile of red tomatoes, green leafy vegetables, purple eggplants, green round fruits, and a pile of yellow onions. Behind the counter, a woman with orange hair and a white apron is writing on a notepad. Next to her, a young girl is looking at a bunch of yellow bananas. In the center, a man is holding a black briefcase. To his right, a young boy is standing with his hands clasped. Further right, a woman is looking at a bunch of white flowers. The background features a teal wall with yellow vertical stripes and a red scalloped valance at the top.

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 owners and workers in enterprises of less than 20 employees, including self-employed 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

1. 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.
 5. 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.
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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?
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