Members Update, 2022, Issue 2

Do you have any suggestions of what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org.

**WIDE+ Signs Civil Society Letter to the IMF Board Calling for Open Consultation on Upcoming Gender Strategy**

Over 90 global civil society organizations, including many women’s rights organizations like WIDE+, signed this letter, calling for the IMF Board to have a more open and robust public consultation on the IMF’s upcoming gender strategy. IMF’s new gender advisor, Ratna Sahay is due to present this gender strategy in early February and finalized in March.

The letter outlines concerns that civil society contribution will be in name only, and that feminist women’s rights organizations will be excluded from this process. While CSOs have been invited to a meeting, the IMF has not shown a real commitment to the process and documentation has not been shared ahead of the meeting. CSOs have been involved with the IMF’s gender work over the past years. A genuine commitment to advancing gender equality requires the meaningful, inclusive participation of women in the policy decisions that impact their lives, which include all areas of the IMF’s work.

For those who are interested to coordinate a civil society response to the Gender Strategy in the coming months, fill in your time in this When2Meet.

**Now Available: Webinar Recording of "Intersectional Gender Mainstreaming in Policymaking"**
An intersectional approach has been introduced in public policy. What are the key elements in an intersectional approach in policymaking? This webinar is the last of the series with four online seminars on Intersectional Feminisms, providing concrete ideas on how to work with an intersectional approach in feminist activism and public policy.

In this webinar, the invited speakers were Sabrina Saase, researcher and trainer, Moana Genevey, equality and gender expert from Equinet, Dr. Patricia Muñoz-Cabrera, feminist, researcher, and WIDE+ member, and moderated by Gisela Dütting, an expert in social movements, gender, and economic justice. To watch the recording and to check out Sabrina Saase’s slides, click here.

The speakers addressed the following questions:

- How can we gather data from an intersectional approach?
- What are common pitfalls when policymakers aim to introduce an intersectional approach?
- How do we deal with power relations between marginalized groups and policymakers or researchers?

**Upcoming International Women’s Day: Your Contributions Wanted!**
Trials of drought-tolerant beans in Malawi, which in 2016 was suffering from its worst drought in three decades. Photo: CIAT/NeilPalmer

To raise the visibility of our feminist actions in the past year of 2021, we would like to put together a photo collage with a collective feminist message for the upcoming International Women's Day (IWD2022), and would like to invite all members of WIDE+ to contribute your stories, experiences, actions, to this montage! Your contribution could be in the form of a picture, illustration, text, or other creative formats.

The theme for International Women’s Day this year (IWD 2022) is, “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66).

While it would be nice to align our message with this year's theme, we recognise that not all our actions are directly linked to climate change, even if all social justice actions are intrinsically interconnected to climate justice. Therefore, please do send in your contributions even if you feel it does not necessarily fit the theme!

The WIDE+ secretariat will do its best to put together a collective message for IWD2022. Kindly send your contributions to Nurhidayah Hassan (Hidayah) at hassan@wideplus.org by 25 February. Thank you in advance!

MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

CSO Champion case studies: Putting GRB in Practice in Western Balkans and Moldova
The Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) has put together a compendium of GRB (gender-responsive budget) champion case studies from across the Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova. WIDE+ members are involved in the Network.

This document showcases seven successful and already implemented GRB initiatives from local CSOs which have contributed to a more balanced distribution of public finances in various spheres such as sport, transport, participation in decision making, integration of persons with disabilities in public education system. In each example given, useful information about the CSO's experience, like GRB tools used, success factors, and main obstacles are explained, providing further insights as to how GRB can be used at the CSO level.

Also, read GBWN's latest newsletter on its members' work on analysing and monitoring the 2022 budgets of countries like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, and more.

Launch event of New Publication, "Lessons to Africa from Africa: Reclaiming Early Post-independence Progressive Policies" on 3 March

Join the launch event of this new publication, "Lessons to Africa from Africa: Reclaiming Early Post-independence Progressive Policies", happening on 3 March. For further information on the virtual launch's speakers and to join a reading group on 10 March, click here. The publication is prepared by Regions Refocus, a leading partner in the Gender and Trade Coalition, of which is a steering group
member.

The publication is a collection of articles which recovers insights from the revolutionary governments of early post-independence Africa to confront today’s development challenges. In today’s context, as the failures of neoliberalism around the globe become increasingly stark, this collection makes concrete and radical contributions to the search for development alternatives. Case studies from across the continent detail African development alternatives formulated in areas across development planning, finance, industrialization and more, re-examined for today through a progressive, feminist lens. It is a collective undertaking from the Post-Colonialisms Today project.

GENERAL NEWS

Online Tea Time with Saumya Dadoo and Shailza Sharma, 7 February

Feminist movements have been a political force since the late 19th century and have shaped the world as we know it today. The contemporary feminist discourse in Germany is dominated by prominent Western figures, from second-wave feminists like Gloria Steinem and bell hooks, to fourth-wave activists fighting against gender norms and for intersectionality. But what are the current feminist challenges outside of the West?

Both the speakers, Saumya and Shailza, are the co-founders of the online platform Detention Solidarity, which is an online space to critically engage with the structures and experiences of detention that constitute the carceral state in India. This event is organized by Polis180’s program Gender and International Politics. To join this discussion, go to this link.

A New Publication by ActionAid: The Public Versus Austerity

Report by Countdown 2030 Europe: European Donor Support to Sexual & Reproductive Health & Family Planning

This report analyses 2020 funding data and 2021 political stances adopted by twelve European governments and the EU institutions. As such, it assesses changes in SRH/FP funding pre- and post-pandemic for those specific donors and for the period at stake only - with other possible trends being observable.
Based on ground-breaking research, ActionAid's new report, published with Public Services International and Education International, exposes how IMF austerity cuts in just 15 countries have blocked the recruitment of over 3 million nurses, teachers and other essential public sector workers. Implementation of public sector wage bill cuts undermines progress on health, education and gender equality while blocking climate action in some of the world’s poorest countries. To ensure a more caring, feminist, green and just future, it is time for system change focused on economic justice with public services at its core.

**The World Inequality Report 2022**

**Upcoming Panel Discussion: Just Transition, Work and Solidarity, 17 Feb**

![Panel Discussion Poster](image)

**Policy Brief by the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy: Funding (in)Equality - A Comparative Look at the Funding Landscape for Pro-and Anti-Gender Initiatives & Campaigns in the European Union (EU)**

The impact of surveillance on women is particularly egregious and traumatizing given how governments have weaponized personal information extracted through spyware to intimidate, harass, and publicly smear the targets' reputations. As a result, women targets of surveillance live in a perpetual state of fear, become socially isolated and restricted in their social lives, work, and activism. Read the report [here](#).

**Upcoming Event: Unlocking Feminist Activism - A Dialogue on How Social Movements are Building Gender Justice, 10 Feb**

One key finding made is that European governments have in fact increased support in 2020: data collected indicates donors contributed **2.614 billion Euros to SRHR**. 12 out of the 13 European donors under review either increased or maintained funding compared to the previous year.