

Women's Working Group on Financing for Development

Webinar Series:

Macro Solutions for Women, the People and the Planet

A series of action-oriented dialogues on the macro agendas and the current crises.

Concept Note

Webinar Focus: **Financial and gender impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 9:00 – 10:30am

Online platform: GoTo Meeting

Organizers: Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) – Feminist Task Force and Equidad de Genero: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, in collaboration with the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office and UN Women.

Introduction:

The current coronavirus pandemic has caused havoc worldwide creating not only a global health crisis but straining health infrastructures and national budgets, while exacerbating an existing debt crisis and downturn of a global economy and financial markets. Recent global outlooks by global institutions are showing the global economic recession and financial turmoil from COVID-19 are derailing advances in financing for development, collapsing trade and investment, and spurring flight of capital out of emerging markets. The result is multiple layered crises with coronavirus impacts weakening already fragile systems, basic services and social protection measures.

What is becoming clear is the gendered nature of this crisis. As COVID-19 plateaus in some countries, research is surfacing to show that women are bearing a disproportionate brunt of the healthcare costs through sustaining the care-economy and as high percentage sellers in the informal sector and as a majority of small-scale farmers in the agriculture economies of many countries. Recent articles by women activists, feminist economists and experts are painting a fuller picture of the COVID-19 impacts on women and girls, one in which the landscape shows the burden disproportionately on their shoulders.

The recently updated Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020 has forecasted a dire global economic and financial situation due to the coronavirus pandemic. While it has proposed immediate actions and medium-term policy solutions to minimize impacts, a deeper dive is required to provide a more gendered analysis to the crisis itself or the response to it doesn't create further inequities and additional setbacks for women. While the dimension of unpaid domestic and care work is by far the greatest obstacle for women to access to the economic rights and potential, the outcome of the coronavirus pandemic has the potential to exacerbate inequalities stemming from the sexual division of labor.

Event description:

The COVID-19 Impacts on Women webinar will act as a kick-off to a series of webinars to discuss, explore and dissect current scenarios and expound on solutions in response to the pandemic in the framework of the current global financial situation. Members of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Report will present current information on the updated Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020 as well as a gendered perspective of the impacts of COVID-19. Moreover, panelists and a discussant will expand on the current situation, shifting landscape and potential pitfalls in addressing multiple crises.

Key themes for discussion will include:

- Impact of COVID-19 on the global economic system and financial implications of coronavirus pandemic;
- Main messages from the updated 2020 Financing for Sustainable Development Report by key member of the Inter-Agency Task Force;
- A gendered perspective of the impacts of COVID-19 and the political will needed to reverse economic inequalities;
- Pathways and barriers to addressing the impact on women and girls due to multiple crises, i.e. health, debt, food crises;
- Steps the UN, governments and institutions can take to ensure an equitable and transformative post-COVID-19 care economy.

Format: Panel

Presenters:

1. Cornelia Kaldewei, Economic Affairs Officer, *Financing for Sustainable Development Office*
2. Katherine Gifford, Policy Specialist, *UN Women*
3. Crystal Simeoni, PanAfrican Feminist Activist

Discussant:

4. Maria Jose Romero, Policy and Advocacy Officer, *Eurodad*

Moderator: Rosa G. Lizarde, Global Director, Feminist Task Force, and Co-Convenor - Women's Working Group on FfD

Q & A:

Closure

Preview of WWG on FfD Webinar Series and schedule. Save the Date for the full series:

Session 1. Financial and gender impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.
Wednesday, May 27th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 2. The time is now to act on debt.
Wednesday, June 10th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 3. Intellectual Property Rights: whom will benefit by the new solutions for the pandemic and the upcoming famine?
Wednesday, June 17th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 4. Redistributive justice: taxation and the key to unlocking wellbeing.
Wednesday, July 1st. 9:00 am EST.

Session 5: NO to a climate emergency. YES to a just and equitable transition.
Wednesday, July 15th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 6: Unpacking the dimensions of “work” as women are upholding the world.
Wednesday, July 29th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 7: Global processes and the future of humanity
Wednesday, August 12th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 8: Capital versus life? Corporate Capture: Financialization and financial extractivism.
Wednesday, August 26th. 9:00 am EST.

Session 9: Human rights and public good: preconditions to the digitalization of economy.
Wednesday, September 9th. 9:00 am EST.

The WWG on FfD is an alliance of women’s organizations and networks who advocate for the advancement of women’s human rights and gender equality in the Financing for Development related UN processes. If you want to join us, send us an email to: rosa.lizarde@feministtaskforce.org, telling us about your work, the topics you address, and why you would like to join the WWG on FFD.

Contacts:

- Rosa Lizarde, Global Director, Feminist Task Force, Global Director; and Co-Convenor, Women's Working Group on FfD. rosa.lizarde@feministtaskforce.org
 - Emilia Reyes, Program Director, Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, at Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family; and Co-Convenor, Women's Working Group on FfD. emilia@equidad.org.mx
-