



THE CANOPY LAB · GEDSI DIGEST

The Canopy Cut

A curated list of GEDSI resources in economic growth, market systems development, and trade, for practitioners.

Edition 21 · July 2026

IN THIS EDITION



Market Systems & PSD
19 resources



**Digital & Financial
Inclusion**
13 resources



Climate Resilience
8 resources

How to read the Canopy Cut

Use this as a quick reference, a design prompt, or a starting point for team learning.

For scanning

Start with the six cards in each theme. They create a clean entry point without ranking or excluding other resources.

01

For depth

Move to the complete resource lists. These cover the full collection of resources.

02

For facilitation

Use the infographic pages as discussion starters in workshops, design sessions, and learning reviews. Ask: what would this change in our design, partnerships, or MEL?

03



SECTION · THEME 01

Market Systems & Private Sector Development

Resources on market systems, private sector development, trade policy, job quality, supply chains, social norms, positive masculinities, and women's economic empowerment.



Quickish Reads

8 resources

Guidance & Reports

11 resources

Market Systems & Private Sector Development



QUICKISH READ

Swisscontact's Approach to Positive Masculinities: Engaging Men as Allies for Women's Economic Empowerment

Swisscontact

How Swisscontact engages men as allies to advance women's economic empowerment.



QUICKISH READ

The GRO+ Framework: Assessing Commitments to Gender Equality in Trade Policy

Amrita Saha & Amrita Bahri, IDS

A diagnostic framework for how trade policy integrates gender equality commitments.



GUIDANCE

Unlocking HER Potential: Gender Equality Through Equitable Access to Assistive Technology

Nicholas Hoekstra, ATscale & UN Women

How equitable access to assistive technology advances gender equality for women and girls with disabilities.



GUIDANCE

Ideologies, Institutions and Power: Addressing Discriminatory Social Norms

UN Women

A framework for understanding and shifting the discriminatory social norms that sustain gender inequality.

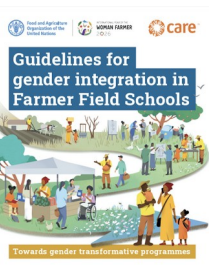


GUIDANCE

MVC Research Findings: Gender Dynamics of Decision-Making Amongst Smallholder Farmers in Mzimba and Thyolo

Adam Smith International

Findings on gendered household decision-making among smallholder farmers in Malawi.



GUIDANCE

Guidelines for Gender Integration in Farmer Field Schools

FAO & CARE

Practitioner guidance for integrating gender across the Farmer Field School cycle.



Market Systems & Private Sector Development

Quickish reads

- ▶ [From the Ground Up: How Kenyan Women Leaders Are Rewriting Gender-Responsive Nutrition Governance](#) · *Nutrition International*
- ▶ [Exclusion and Inequality Are Driven by Systemic Failure](#) · *Agnieszka Kroskowska, Helvetas*
- ▶ [Job Decency and Job Quality in Youth Employment](#) · *Emily Waters, Challenge Fund for Youth Employment*
- ▶ [Women Waste Workers: Sector Assessment](#) · *Palladium and Transform*
- ▶ [How Institutional Reform Is Reshaping Entrepreneurship Support for Women in India](#) · *ILO*
- ▶ [Markets Aren't Neutral: Why Competition Policy Needs to Pay Attention to Women](#) · *Yesim Elhan-Kayalar, Jessica Henn, Jinha Kim, ADB*

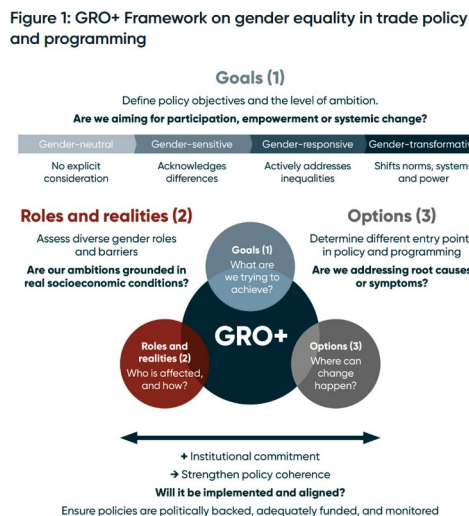
Guidance & reports

- ▶ [A Guide for Integrating GEDSI into the Agricultural Supply Chain](#) · *Ima Susilowati and Dati Fatimah, Yayasan SATUNAMA and GIZ*
- ▶ [Mainstreaming Gender in National Drought Plans, National Action Plans and National Policies](#) · *Mwale, Sievers, Bokal, Salman, Stefanski & Aich, FAO*
- ▶ [Adopted Not Embedded: AI, Productivity and Uneven Gains for Women Entrepreneurs](#) · *Malik, Naz, Javed, Seftel & Ramesh, Shared Pathways and Cherie Blair Foundation*
- ▶ [Social Norms Diagnostic Tool: Young Women's Economic Justice](#) · *Davies, Parvez Butt, Kidder & Cislighi, Oxfam*
- ▶ [Understanding Backlash Against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses](#) · *Tabbush, Turquet & Howell, UN Women and UNRISD*
- ▶ [Care for Growth: Making Industrial Jobs Work for Women](#) · *Buchhave, Nguyen, Vu, Nguyen & Zumbyte, World Bank*
- ▶ [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) · *FAO, NRI and AWARD*

Additional visual resources from the Market Systems & PSD section.

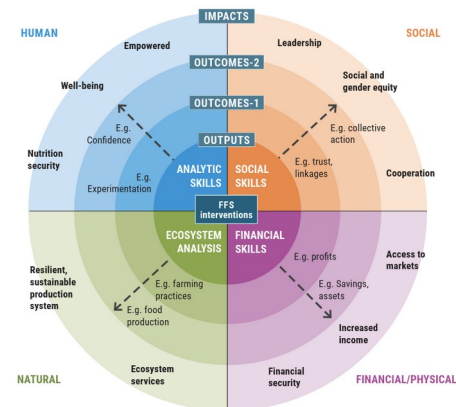


A Guide for Integrating GEDSI into the Agricultural Supply Chain



The GRO+ Framework: Assessing Commitments to Gender Equality in Trade Policy

Figure 6. FAO's monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for Farmer Field Schools interventions



Source: van den Berg, H., Phillips, S. & Morales-Abubakar, A.L.C. 2023. Monitoring, evaluation and learning in farmer field school programmes – A framework and toolkit. Rome: FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5160en>

Guidelines for Gender Integration in Farmer Field Schools

Market Systems & Private Sector Development Infographics

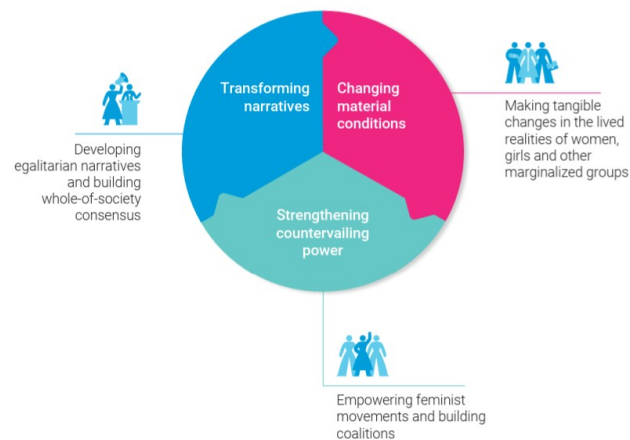
FIGURE 3

Indicators for measuring social norms change



FIGURE 2

Three pathways to changing discriminatory social norms implicated in gender equality and women's empowerment



Ideologies, Institutions and Power: Addressing Discriminatory Social Norms · UN Women



SECTION · THEME 02

Digital & Financial Inclusion



Resources on access to capital, inclusive insurance, consumer protection, jobtech, AI, technology-facilitated violence, and financial resilience.

Quickish Reads

8 resource

Guidance & Reports

5 resources

Digital & Financial Inclusion Resources

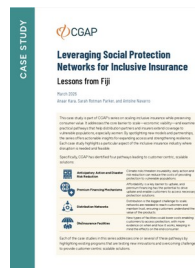


GUIDANCE

Jobtech for Refugees: Lessons from Building a n Inclusive Ecosystem in East Africa

R. Pillai & B. Nambatya, Mercy Corps & BFA Global

Lessons from building a digital-work ecosystem connecting refugees and host communities in East Africa.



GUIDANCE

Leveraging Social Protection Networks for Inclusive Insurance

A. Kara, S. Rotman Parker & A. Navarro, CGAP

Using Fiji's social protection systems to extend inclusive insurance to low-income households.



GUIDANCE

Promising Practices: Access to Finance for Vulnerable People

J. Leavy & V. Krishnan, Mercy Corps

Practical approaches for extending financial services to vulnerable people in fragile settings.



QUICKISH READ

The Hidden Levers Behind Better Jobs for Women in Africa

K. Beegle et al., World Bank

Why closing women's employment gaps requires addressing norms, agency and networks, not only finance.



GUIDANCE

The State of Gender Sensitive Consumer Protection

Alliance for Financial Inclusion

A toolkit on trends and regulatory practice for embedding gender in financial consumer protection.



QUICKISH READ

Climate Change and the Financial Resilience of Informal Economy Women Workers

N. Nneli, S. Sharma & N. Shroff, SEWA Bharat & SDDirect

How climate stress shapes borrowing, spending and resilience among informal women workers in India.

Digital & Financial Inclusion Resources

Quickish reads

- ▶ [Access to Capital & Women's Entrepreneurship: Insights from a Systematic Global Review](#) · Abebe, Cassidy, Ogba & Weis, World Bank Gender Innovation Lab
- ▶ [Explainer: What Is a Gender-Responsive Biodiversity Finance Solution?](#) · BIOFIN
- ▶ [How AI Is Exacerbating Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls](#) · Cerise, Lentz, Bates, Mingeirou & Osman, UN Women
- ▶ [Gender & AI at Work](#) · Hilde Nagell, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
- ▶ [Moving Forward in a Post-USAID World: Why Women Must Be at the Center of Financial Inclusion](#) · Julia Arnold and Sara Seavey
- ▶ [Who Is Excluded and Why?](#) · Hayat Abdulmalik

Guidance & reports

- ▶ [Policy Model for Gender Inclusive Finance](#) · Alliance for Financial Inclusion

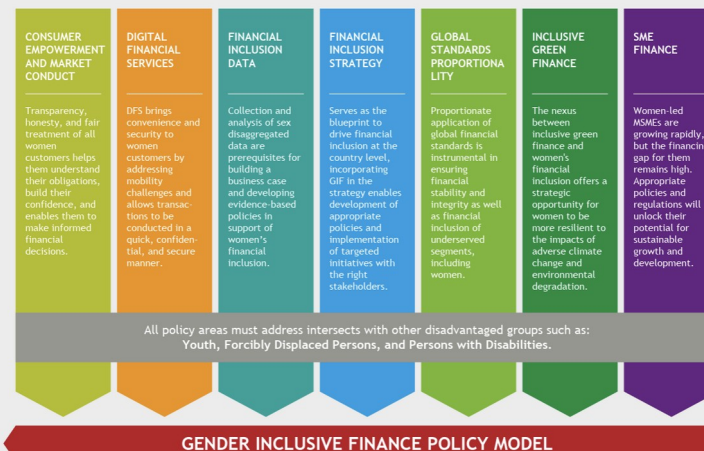
Digital & Financial Inclusion Infographics

TABLE 1
Access constraints (physical, financial and structural)

BINDING CONSTRAINT	HIGH-INTENSITY CONFLICT (HIC)	MEDIUM-INTENSITY CONFLICT (MIC)	INSTITUTIONAL & SOCIAL FRAGILITY	PROMISING SOLUTIONS
Distance, remoteness and high delivery costs for outreach in rural locations	●	●	●	- Recruiting existing community structures (shops, savings groups) as agents - Point-of-Sale and feature phone technology to reduce costs
Sparse agent networks and lack of interoperability, increasing costs for providers and end-users	●	●	●	Investments in interoperable platforms helps providers share operating costs
Weak digital and power infrastructure	●	●	●	- Design for basic technology such as feature-phone and e-cards - Include offline functionality and use satellite-linked internet to sync transactions
Post-shock contraction of credit	●	●	●	- Stimulus lending to banks - Recovery lending via Microfinance Institutions - Structured rescheduling tied to shocks
High transfer fees and expensive informal channels (often the only available option)	●	●	●	- Blockchain-technology with local NGO implementation support - Digitise informal settlement back-end - Integrate with mobile wallets
Gender and social norms preventing women's mobility and access to male-dominated agent networks	●	●	●	- Use informal community groups to introduce products - Recruit female agents to address women's access
Lack of collateral and credit history making lenders perceive clients as high risk	●	●	●	- Savings-first models - Digitised group records to improve provider confidence - Bundled advisory services - Agricultural extension services to improve productivity - Psychometric and agrifintech scoring
Nature-dependent livelihoods perceived as high-risk, impeding access to loans	●	●	●	- Bundled advisory services - Agricultural extension services - Market-actor linkages - Agri-fintech scoring
Lack of ID and strict KYC restricting access to basic financial services	●	●	●	- Tiered KYC - Alternative IDs - Partnerships with organisations helping refugees get ID

Promising Practices: Access to Finance for Vulnerable People

FIGURE 2: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICY MODEL AND THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION THEMATIC AREAS



Policy Model for Gender Inclusive Finance



SECTION · THEME 03

Climate Resilience



Resources on water stewardship, inclusive NDCs, climate and food systems, care infrastructure, green jobs, just transition, and clean cooking.

Quickish Reads

4 resources

Guidance & Reports

4 resources

Climate Resilience Resources

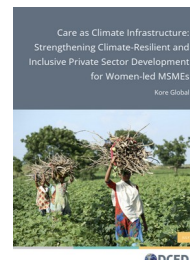


QUICKISH READ

Corporate Water Stewardship: Ensuring Companies Have a Fair Water Footprint

Hester Le Roux, IIED

Embedding gender equality and social inclusion into corporate water stewardship.



GUIDANCE

Care as Climate Infrastructure: Climate-Resilient and Inclusive PSD for Women-Led MSMEs

K. Grantham et al., Kore Global

How climate change intensifies unpaid care and how inclusive PSD can support women-led MSMEs.



GUIDANCE

Delivering on Gender Equality: The Missing Piece in Climate and Food Systems Policy

M. Rezaei & S. Alikhanova, ODI

Integrating gender equality into climate and food systems policy and finance.



QUICKISH READ

It's Not Gender or Climate. It's Both or It's Neither

Erin Anderson, Cowater International

An argument that gender equality and climate resilience are interdependent and must be addressed together.



GUIDANCE

Hidden Potential: Accelerating Inclusive Jobs in the Green Transition

F. Deininger et al., IFC / World Bank Group

How the green transition reshapes labor demand and how business can widen access to green jobs.



QUICKISH READ

SEE – Clean Cooking Thematic Brief: A Gendered Approach to Bioslurry Use and Trade in Africa

Magi Matinga, ENERGIA / SNV / OFVI

Why gender-responsive approaches are needed to expand use and trade of bioslurry in Africa.

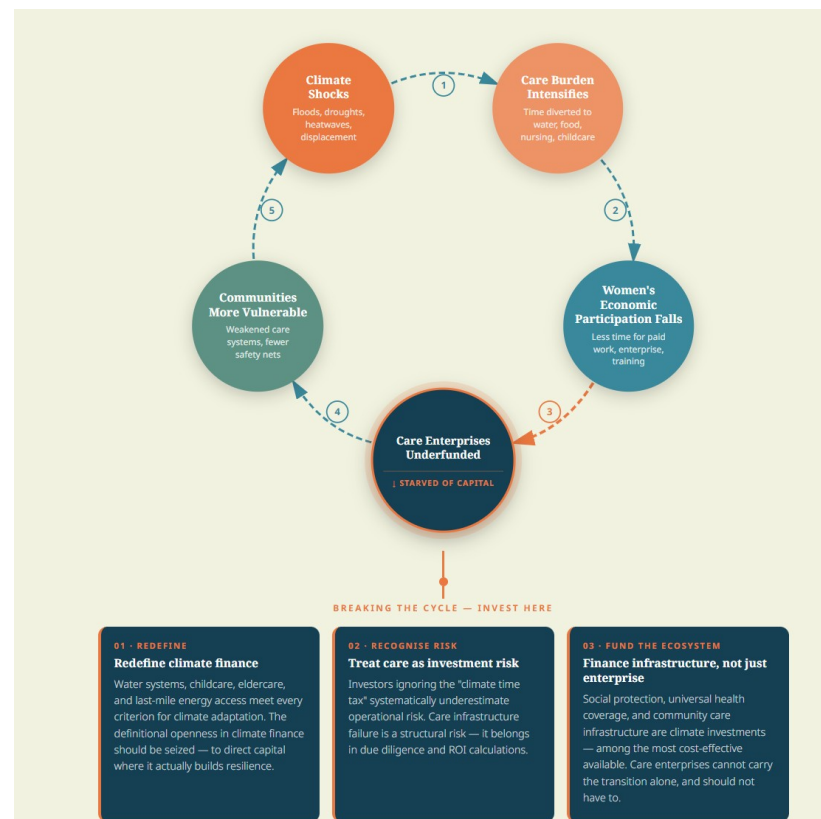
Climate Resilience Resources & Infographics

Quickish reads

- [No Just Transition Without Care: The Missing Infrastructure in Climate Finance](#) · Zelikson, Calder, Grantham, Holden & Duffy, Kore Global and DCED

Guidance & reports

- [Pathways to Gender-Responsive and Inclusive NDCs](#) · UNDP



No Just Transition Without Care: The Missing Infrastructure in Climate Finance



About the Canopy Cut

A quick reference for practitioners applying GEDSI in economic development, market systems, and trade.

About the Canopy Cut

The Canopy Cut is a quick reference resource for economic growth, market systems, and trade practitioners interested in the practical application of current trends in Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI). It features a curated selection of resources, from blogs and infographics to detailed guidance, published on public platforms such as the BEAM Exchange, DCED, and LinkedIn.

The Canopy Cut is not intended to be comprehensive; the emphasis on different aspects of GEDSI may vary from edition to edition.

About the Canopy Lab

The Canopy Lab, a US small business, works with diverse clients to address complex problems through a systems lens. We specialize in economic growth, the environment, finance, inclusion, market systems, monitoring, evaluation and learning, trade, and workforce development.

Our team comprises technical experts and systems practitioners with extensive experience implementing inclusive economic development programs around the world.



Don't miss the next Canopy Cut. Follow [The Canopy Lab](#) on LinkedIn for bite-sized insights, curated with care.



The Canopy Cut Library



Previous issues.

2026

[February 2026](#)

2025

[April 2025](#)

[January 2025](#)

2024

[October 2024](#)

[July 2024](#)

[April 2024](#)

[January 2024](#)

2023

[October 2023](#)

[July 2023](#)

[April 2023](#)

[January 2023](#)

2022

[July 2022](#)

[April 2022](#)

[January 2022](#)

2021

[October 2021](#)

[April 2021](#)

[January 2021](#)

2020

[October 2020](#)

[July 2020](#)

[March 2020](#)

A curated resource series from The Canopy Lab

We help teams think deeper and work smarter to solve complex problems.