

Strengthening Institutions And Prioritizing Financing Are Critical To Addressing Poverty

#CSW68



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Parallel Event: Sixty-Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



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Canadian Federation For Citizenship

- Aim is To Promote Active Citizenship.
- To Engage Citizens to Develop Homegrown Leadership.
- Principles:
 - Citizenship is a notable relationship that binds Citizens together
 - Citizenship requires one to be accountable for others
 - Forward looking policies can strengthen the merit of responsible citizenship
- To ensure that all residents/citizens are included to participate in the country's progress.
- Vision is to be a prominent voice on Inclusive Citizenship.



Parallel Events during CSWs

- Building Peaceful Societies through Inclusive Citizenship Policy Frameworks (2021)
- Inclusive Labour Markets and Citizenship to Address Workplace Shortages (2022)
- Education can provide the Preconditions for Inclusive and Active Citizenship (2023)
- Strengthening Institutions and Prioritizing Financing are critical to Addressing Poverty (2024)



Women make up half of our Citizenry!

- Strengthening Institutions and Prioritizing Financing are critical to Addressing Poverty (2024)
- Engagement of Women as Citizens to address Poverty
- Advancement of Leadership for Women at the highest levels
- Setting up Women as Decision Makers within our Citizenry
- Accountability towards Women living in Poverty
- Inclusion of Women with Lived Experiences
- Advocating for Inclusive Policy Frameworks



Agenda



- Current Environment: Nationally and Globally
- Outlook: Economic, Political, Social
- Perspectives: Vulnerable Populations
- Institutions: Structures and People
- Leadership: Citizens' Responses
- Setting the Urgencies: Decision Makers
- Inclusion: Policy Making, Reviewing
- Citizenship: Homegrown Leadership

Current Environment: Nationally



- Based on the 2021 Canadian Income Survey
In 2022, 18% of Canadian families (6.9 Million people) reported experiencing food insecurity in the past 12 months.

Families with a female major income earner were more likely to be food insecure compared to those with a male major income earner – 21% versus 16%.

Food insecurity was highest among female lone parent families (41%).

It is higher among Indigenous families (34%), racialized communities (23%) and immigrant families (26%).

Current Environment: Globally

- According to The World Bank (October 2023)
Almost 700 million people around the world live in extreme poverty – they subsist on less than \$2.15 per day, the extreme poverty line.
Over half of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Those in conflict-affected areas and in rural areas are hardest hit.
Children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty. They comprise more than half of those living in extreme poverty, yet their share of the total population is just 31%.



Economic Outlook



- Food prices increased in the second half of 2023, particularly in Africa, South Asia and Western Asia, due to limited pass-through from international prices to local prices, weak local currencies, and climate-related shocks. Poverty rates have remained well above pre-pandemic levels.
- High food prices have been a significant driver of food insecurity in developing countries, disproportionately affecting the poorest households, which spend a larger share of their income on food. The inflationary trend in developing countries has also aggravated poverty reversing some of the hard-won progress in poverty reduction.

Political Outlook

- Over 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritized education and family planning, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits.
- Governments must promote transparency and access to timely and accessible data and information, so that people, including women living in poverty, can take actions grounded in a knowledge of their rights.
- There is a need to invest in policies and programs that address gender inequalities and boost women's agency and leadership.
- Women's participation is essential to combat gender bias and stereotypes in both policymaking and policy outcomes.





Social Outlook

- Countries cannot adequately address poverty and inequality without also improving people's well-being, including through more equitable access to health, education, decent work, housing and basic infrastructure.
- In situations of poverty, women have the least access to training and opportunities for employment and other support services.
- Robust and disaggregated data are needed in order to effectively address women's poverty and the multidimensional deprivations women face.



Perspectives: Indigenous Women





Perspectives: Immigrants





Perspectives: Disabled (Physical/Mental)





Perspectives: Youth and Senior





Perspectives: Others



Institutions: Structures

- Strong, accountable institutions are essential to ensure that financing is mobilized equitably and spent in ways that support ending poverty for women and their families.
- State capacity to address women's poverty depends on technical expertise, availability of resources, organizational structures and the level of commitment to promoting gender equality.
- Public institutions need champions that can influence decisions made by important actors, such as ministries of finance, to allocate resources for the implementation of gender equality laws and policies.



Institutions: People

- Women's participation in economic institutions is essential to combat gender bias and stereotypes in both policymaking and policy outcomes.
- Women are often not represented in the leadership of ministries of finance and central banks.
- Of the 190 member countries of the International Monetary Fund, women serve as finance ministers in 26 and as central bank governors in only 17.
- The average proportion of women serving as cabinet ministers globally is meaningfully higher at 22.8%.



Leadership: Qualities

(Collected by CFC at the Inaugural Homegrown Leadership Symposium two weeks before the Federal Election in 2019 from a diverse group of Canadian Citizens)

Principled

Knowledgeable

Critical Thinker

Courageous

Compassionate

Committed

Inspire and Unite

Inclusive

Genuine Listener

Lead By Example

Approachable

Responsible





Setting Urgencies and Priorities



- Who is setting priorities when it comes to tackling poverty?
- How significant is “zero hunger” to those around the table?
- Are vulnerable populations represented in setting urgencies?





Forward Looking Inclusion Policies

- Policymakers can influence financial inclusion through regulatory frameworks that encourage gender-responsive policies.
- 44 countries have implemented national financial inclusion strategies that explicitly address women's financial inclusion.





Citizenship: Homegrown Leadership

- Strengthen citizen-generated data to shed light on the challenges faced by women living in poverty and strengthen opportunities to use data to demand accountability.
- Engage citizens, engage women, communities, schools, libraries, shelters, food banks, health institutions, mental health professionals and treatment centres.
- Create safe and inclusive spaces where story telling is valued and not stigmatized.
- Good Leaders Lead, Great Leaders Create More Leaders!



Thank You!!



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