

5.7 EMPOWER WOMEN'S AGENCY AND LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS

Promotion of women's assets and tenure rights, women's leadership in resilience programs and policies, and funding (fund) for gender transformative resilience programs.

What problem is the solution trying to address?

- Women have less access to capital and banking services
- There are fewer women in leadership roles
- Women have less independence and social mobility

All the above and more make women less resilient and more reliant on others in times of crisis and need.

What, in brief, is the solution?

Empower women's agency and their leadership in developing resilience solutions

What was/ were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

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Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?

The key goal is to create an environment in which women have agency: ie. The capacity to be independent, to pursue their goals and work on an equal footing with their male counterparts. By promoting agency, we will improve the resilience of half our population to shocks and stresses.

Beyond being important producers of food, women play vital roles in household nutrition. It is important to emphasize the need for women and girls to receive good nutrition.

How can this solution address that problem?

It is vital to have women in positions of leadership so they can develop and advocate for solutions that will speak to women's issues and unique hurdles.

We can consider three separate components that can be improved upon:

1. Women's assets and tenure rights
2. Women's leadership in resilience programs and policies
3. Funding (fund) for gender transformative resilience programs.

Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?

The UN FAO has said that women in rural areas have the potential to raise agricultural production to levels that would feed up to 150 million more of the world's hungry people if they had equal access to the means of production, including land, financial services, education and technology, according to a United Nations report released today.

Very few other levers exist that offer such a clear path to improving the ability of nations to be more resilient to shocks and stresses. Empower women to have agency, and it immediately improves a population's resilience.

What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

The Nordic countries, Canada, the European Union as a whole, and Switzerland are all particular advocates in this area.

A wide array of organizations would also enthusiastically embrace this effort. Groups such as GENDER, IFPRI, and ILRI have proven to be leaders in this sphere. The UN CFS has prepared Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure to address land tenure. UN Women works on multiple aspects. CARE, Poverty Action, and numerous CSOs.

Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?

This solution is especially relevant and would be most impactful in developing countries and rural areas, which have not experienced the same push toward gender parity as more developed, urban geographies.