



Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group Quarterly Call

Date: May 6, 2019

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am (EDT)

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Attendees (20)

Meeting Agenda

1. Review of Topics of Focus for the Year
2. Call for Resources
3. IWD Twitter Chat Recap
4. WEE & Innovation Blog Post: *10 Lessons on WEE and Technology*
5. Other Activity Updates
6. AWEF Learning Series
7. Women Deliver Side Event
8. 2019 Annual Conference (October 21-23, 2019)
9. Other thoughts and ideas from the group

Notes

1. Review of Topics of Focus for the Year
 - a. Gender-smart investing
 - b. Zombie statistics
 - c. Women's agency
 - d. Technology/STEAM
 - e. Addressing unintended consequences
 - f. Sexual harassment and violence
2. Call for Resources
 - a. The WEE WG is exploring tools, resources, and good practices to reduce and prevent unintended negative consequences in women's economic empowerment work, starting with a scan of available resources.
 - b. If you have a tool, resource, research, or case study on this topic, please submit to WEEWG@seepnetwork.org by **May 17**.
3. IWD Twitter Chat Recap
 - a. Key Highlights from IWD Twitter Chat: 402 posts, 65 users
 - b. 20+ resources shared

- i. Thanks to participating organizations: Fhi360 mSTAR Project, ICRW, Matontine, Nathan Associates, Pact, PCI
4. WEE & Innovation Blog Post: *10 Lessons on WEE and Technology*
 - a. This captures the key learnings and resources shared during the IWD Twitter Chat
 - b. Link: <https://seepnetwork.org/Blog-Post/Technology-and-Innovation-in-Women-s-Economic-Empowerment-10-Lessons-from-NWEECHAT2019>
5. Other Activity Updates
 - a. Gender-smart investing – this will be a four part series, starting with a blog, followed by a data visualization, webinar, and other deeper dive interview.
 - b. Zombie statistics – first identified zombie statistics (often quoted statistic that lacks a reliable and credible source). We want to ensure we are using good data to talk about WEE, and so people know which stats are well-backed and which are not, which could undermine support and programming in WEE. Plan to do a blog in the next two months (with the 4-5 most egregious statistics) and then a webinar.
 - c. Women’s agency – Women for Women Intl are investing in some resources on better tracking women’s agency. They will start with a background/lit review and then a blog post that captures key learnings.
 - d. Technology – focusing on blockchain and big data and how they apply to WEE. Will likely produce a blog and webinar.
 - e. Sexual harassment and violence – no updates.
6. AWEF Learning Series
 - a. The Arab Women’s Enterprise Fund (AWEF) is a DFID-funded program that aims to increase women’s participation in the workforce in Egypt and Jordan.
 - b. AWEF Practitioner Learning Brief – we are in final review phase of the brief!
 - i. Focused on building business case for WEE with the private sector
 - ii. Publication in June; Launch with Webinar in July
 - c. Upcoming 5th AWEF Webinar: Making the Business Case: Women’s Empowerment in the Apparel Industry
 - i. May 21st at 8.30 am EDT
 - ii. Will focus on how programs in Egypt, Pakistan and Ethiopia have engaged the private sector to build a compelling business case for women’s empowerment
 - iii. Speakers from Market Development Facility, AWEF, and PEPE Program in Ethiopia.
 - iv. Sign up here: <https://seepnetwork.org/Event/Making-the-Business-Case-Women-s-Empowerment-in-the-Apparel-Industry?calendar>
7. Women Deliver Side Event
 - a. Hosting a **partner side event** at the Women Deliver Conference on **Thursday, June 6 from 5-7 pm** in Room 213. More details here: <https://wd2019.org/partner-side-events/>

- i. The session will explore shifting social norms for women’s economic empowerment, with participation from Oxfam, Care, MEDA, IPSOS, World Vision, ICRW, MSA and Women for Women International.
 - ii. The session will highlight how members of the SEEP WEE WG have tackled gender norms in the context of their work in developing countries
 - b. Also looking to hold an informal/social gathering on the margins of Women Deliver. Please contact us if you are interested in attending.
 - i. Those who expressed interest in the side event and social event during the call:
 - 1. From Grameen: Bobbi Gray (bgray@gfusa.org), Bee Weuthrich, Cassie Chandler
 - 2. Lyn Messner from EnCompass LLC (lmessner@encompassworld.com)
 - 3. Joselyne from CRS (sindabizerajosee@gmail.com and joselyne.sindabizera@crs.org)
- 8. 2019 Annual Conference (October 21-23, 2019)
 - a. Will gather more than 400 participants for 3 days of collaborative learning and networking. Registration is open now:
 - b. This year’s event theme is building resilience through market systems
 - c. **Gender Equality as a Resilience Strategy** is one of four technical tracks
 - i. Will explore how gender relations are a critical factor in WEE and influence resilience strategies at the household and community levels
 - ii. Seeking gender approaches around:
 - 1. Increasing investment in the face of risk
 - 2. Strategies for risk reduction
 - 3. Facilitating risk preparedness
 - 4. Responding positively and proactively when a shock hits
 - iii. Proposals for peer learning sessions due May 31.
 - iv. Will also have a new format called the innovation challenge – this is an opportunity to share emerging approaches that are really in the early stages. There will be 5 finalists for this that will be presented on the conference floor and in a plenary session, where they’ll give a 7 minute pitch.
 - d. Will also have a WEE WG in person annual meeting on Day 1 of the conference
 - e. Annual Conference website: <https://seepannualconference.org>
- 9. Other thoughts and ideas from the group
 - a. Grameen Foundation is running a session at Women Deliver on a program around savings group and health centers.
 - b. MEDA just finished a 13-part learning series on a project in Northern Ghana with women in agriculture.
 - c. Barrier assessment to WEE in El Salvador (organization?).