



OPINION IN LEAD
Supporting women in business

Women-led businesses tend to be smaller, less profitable, operating in less profitable sectors, necessity-based, more informal, limited to the domestic market and risk-averse. This is not by design but due to gendered inequality that underpins the interactions in social, economic and political spheres. Studies have shown that generally, women-led businesses remain small, and are prominent in highly competitive and less-profitable sectors due to women's desire to combine their household commitments with entrepreneurial activities. Moreover, women are disadvantaged compared to men as they do not have equal access to resources such as education, health and nutrition from an early age which compromises their capabilities in the economic sphere. Similarly, women do not have access to economic resources, such as property, which compromises their ability to be financially independent. Likewise, the threat of sexual and physical violence often limits women from taking risks. Moreover, socially-ascribed gendered roles mean women are socially conditioned to prioritize their care roles which leaves them with less time to contribute to economic activities.

Constraints related to time and finance make women more risk averse and satisfied with running a small and stable business as they provide them with flexibility. It needs to be realized that besides the obvious constraints faced by small businesses, women-led businesses are particularly inhibited by social and cultural barriers persisting due to gender discrimination. Women's role as the primary caregiver in the household, restricted mobility, and limited access to education and training, among others, limit their scope. As entrepreneurs, women face difficulty in accessing information about markets, innovations, technology, and credit. As a result, women entrepreneurs operate in smaller firms and less profitable sectors. Studies have shown that women-led enterprises find overcoming regulatory barriers more costly than men. These hurdles mean that more women entrepreneurs—especially those falling in micro categories—are informally operating.

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REPORT

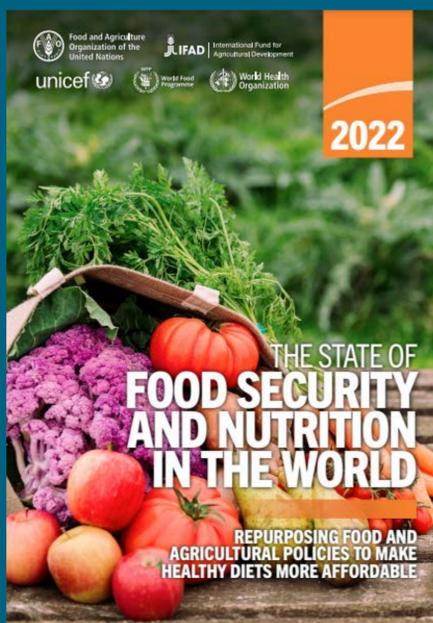
The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

With eight years remaining to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition (Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] Targets 2.1 and 2.2), the world is moving in the wrong direction, according to the latest issue of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. As argued in the last two editions of this report, to meet the targets of SDG 2 by 2030, healthy diets must be delivered at lower cost to contribute to people's ability to afford them. This implies both an expansion in the supply of the nutritious foods that constitute a healthy diet and a shift in consumption towards them.

Updated projections of the number of undernourished people suggest that nearly 670 million people will still be undernourished in 2030 – 78 million more than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred. Another crisis now looms that is likely to impact the trajectory of food security globally.

Most of the food and agricultural policy support currently implemented is not aligned with the objective of promoting healthy diets and in many cases is actually inadvertently undermining food security and nutrition outcomes. Furthermore, much of the support is not equitably distributed, is market distortive and environmentally harmful.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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NEWS



Border uncertainty in north troubles Nepali traders again

More than 300 Nepal-bound containers were stopped at the northern border after China imposed lockdowns in different cities following a surge in COVID cases.

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Sri Lankan economy projected to shrink over 8%

Revising earlier projected 7.5 % economic contraction for the year, the Central Bank fears that the economy could shrink by over 8 % this year due to the lasting impact of supply side disruptions.

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India hands over fertiliser to Sri Lanka

India on Monday handed over a fresh consignment of fertiliser to Sri Lanka under a special support programme to help farmers during the forthcoming paddy season.

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Qatar to invest \$3bn in Pakistan economy

The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has announced it aims to spend US\$3bn on various commercial and investment sectors in Pakistan, which is currently facing a dire economic crisis.

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Nepal extends import ban on 'luxury goods'

The government has continued restrictions on the import of automobile, mobile phones, liquor and motorcycles until October 14.

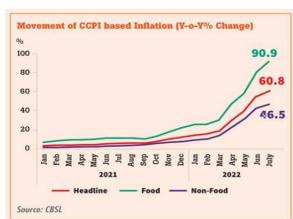
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Customs to start uniform risk-based scrutiny

The Customs department will begin a standardised risk-based faceless assessment system across the country for clearance of imported consignments in phases starting with metal

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Colombo inflation breaches 60%

Inflation in the Colombo district as measured by the year-on-year change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index breached 60% in July amid an economic crisis.

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Commodity prices in Bangladesh see fresh rise

The prices of essential commodities witnessed a fresh rise on the kitchen markets in the capital Dhaka on after the government raised fuel oil prices by almost 50%.

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Indian company entrusted with developing West Seti hydel projects

The Investment Board Nepal has signed an MoU with NHPC Ltd of India, entrusting it with the task of developing West Seti Hydro Electric Project and Seti River-6 Hydro Electric Project.

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Events

Export Potential to neighbouring States in India

SAWTEE in collaboration with The Asia Foundation and FNCCI- Province 1 organized a workshop "Export Potential to neighbouring States in India" on 17 August 2022 in Biratnagar. Policymakers, representatives from FNCCI and experts participated in the event.

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Role of Trade Facilitation: Promoting Women-Led Enterprises Access to International Markets

Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (FWEAN) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) co-organized a panel discussion on "Role of Trade Facilitation: Promoting Women-Led Enterprises Access to International Markets" in 6th International Women's Trade Expo and Symposium on 19 August 2022 in Kathmandu.

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