

AFIDEP

African Institute for
Development Policy



About AFIDEP

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) is a non-profit policy and research institute established in 2010 to bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice in development efforts in Africa.

AFIDEP is registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Kenya, and has diplomatic status in Malawi. It is also recognised as a non-profit institution in the USA, with 501(c)3 status. We seek to contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development strategies by enabling the use of evidence in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes.

What we do:

- » Strengthen capacity and provide technical assistance in evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM)
- » Generate, synthesise and translate demand-driven evidence on SDGs
- » Advocate for greater use of evidence in policy and practice, and
- » Amplify African voices in national, regional, and global policy discourses.



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Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) and Macroeconomic Policy



Photo: TONL

Despite global and regional frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want outline strong commitments to gender equality, women in East and West Africa continue to face significant constraints in fully participating in the economy. Persistent barriers include disproportionate informal work, wage disparities, gender-blind fiscal and monetary policies, and restricted financial inclusion. These structural challenges continue to undermine women's economic empowerment (WEE) and inclusive development across sub-Saharan Africa.

Progress toward gender-responsive reforms has been slow, hampered by data gaps, weak institutional capacity, and limited political prioritisation. Global shocks such as debt distress, inflation, and climate change have further deepened women's economic vulnerabilities.

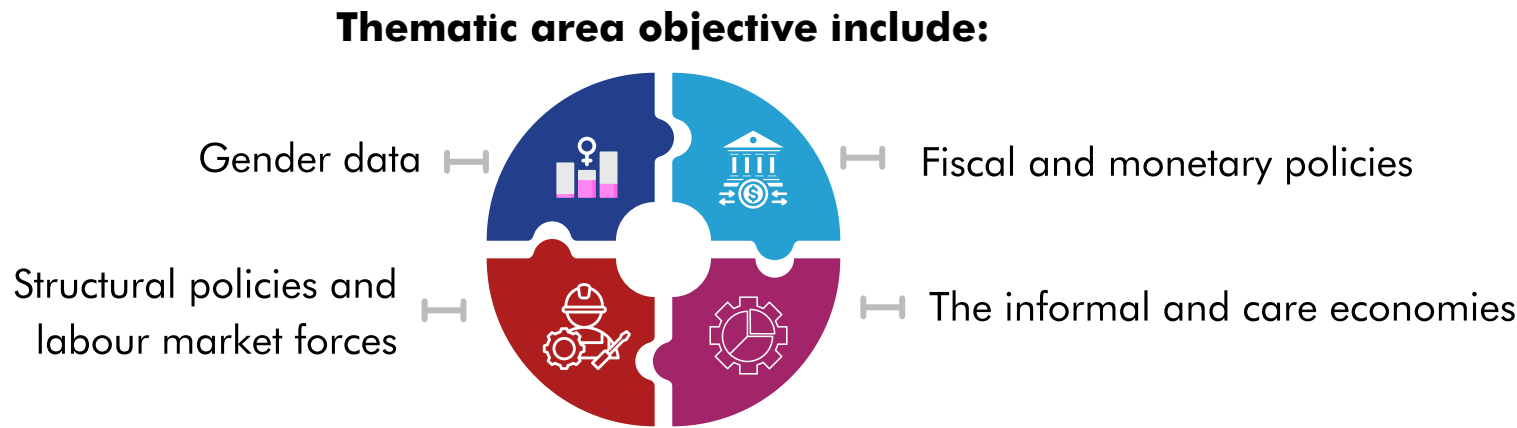
Embedding WEE into macroeconomic governance, through fiscal and monetary reforms, investments in social protection, and strengthened labour rights, remain essential for advancing equality and driving inclusive growth.



There is a pressing need for transformative macroeconomic policies that prioritise gender equality to truly advance women's economic empowerment.

Overall objective

The project seeks to understand how macroeconomic policies in sub-Saharan Africa (with a focus on East and West Africa) promote or hinder women's economic empowerment, and to identify opportunities for making these policies more gender-responsive.



Specific Objectives

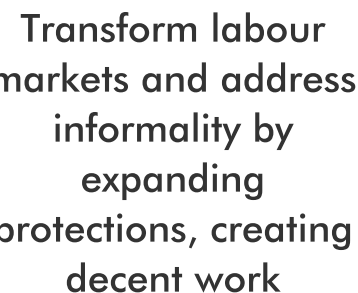
- » Strengthen systems for generating, synthesising, and using gender-disaggregated, macroeconomic, and time-use data to analyse the gendered impacts of macroeconomic policies and investments to inform decision-making.
- » Identify and address structural barriers to women's economic empowerment, including gaps in labour market participation, and access to resources, while promoting the integration of international labour and social protection standards.
- » Evaluate the effectiveness of existing initiatives and reforms (e.g., AGPO, small business formalisation, social protection schemes) and identify opportunities to strengthen gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and procurement at national and sub-national levels.
- » Generate and translate evidence to provide entry points for advancing gender-responsive macroeconomic reforms in fiscal, monetary, labour, and care policies, ensuring uptake by policymakers, civil society, and development partners.
- » Map and engage key stakeholders across government, civil society, and financial institutions, assessing their capacities, evidence needs, and advocacy priorities to enhance collaboration and accountability.
- » Leverage AFIDEP's expertise and networks to strengthen gender data systems, build technical capacity, and support evidence-informed advocacy for the design, implementation, and monitoring of gender-responsive macroeconomic policies.

Interventions

Promote gender-responsive fiscal and economic policies by strengthening planning, budgeting, procurement, and taxation systems to ensure equitable resource allocation and reduce women's economic burdens.



Enhance financial inclusion and economic opportunities through improved access to credit, digital finance, entrepreneurship, and incentives for women's involvement in trade.



Transform labour markets and address informality by expanding protections, creating decent work opportunities, and supporting pathways to formalisation.



Invest in gender data and evidence systems to strengthen intersectional analysis, inform policy reform, and improve accountability for WEE outcomes.

“ Policy, especially macroeconomic policy plays a crucial role in shaping development outcomes and must evolve from being gender-neutral to gender-transformative. These policies should actively promote gender equity and equality, as they impact men and women differently. ”

Rose Oronje, Ph.D.
Deputy Executive Director, AFIDEP