



GrOW Newsletter

Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women Program

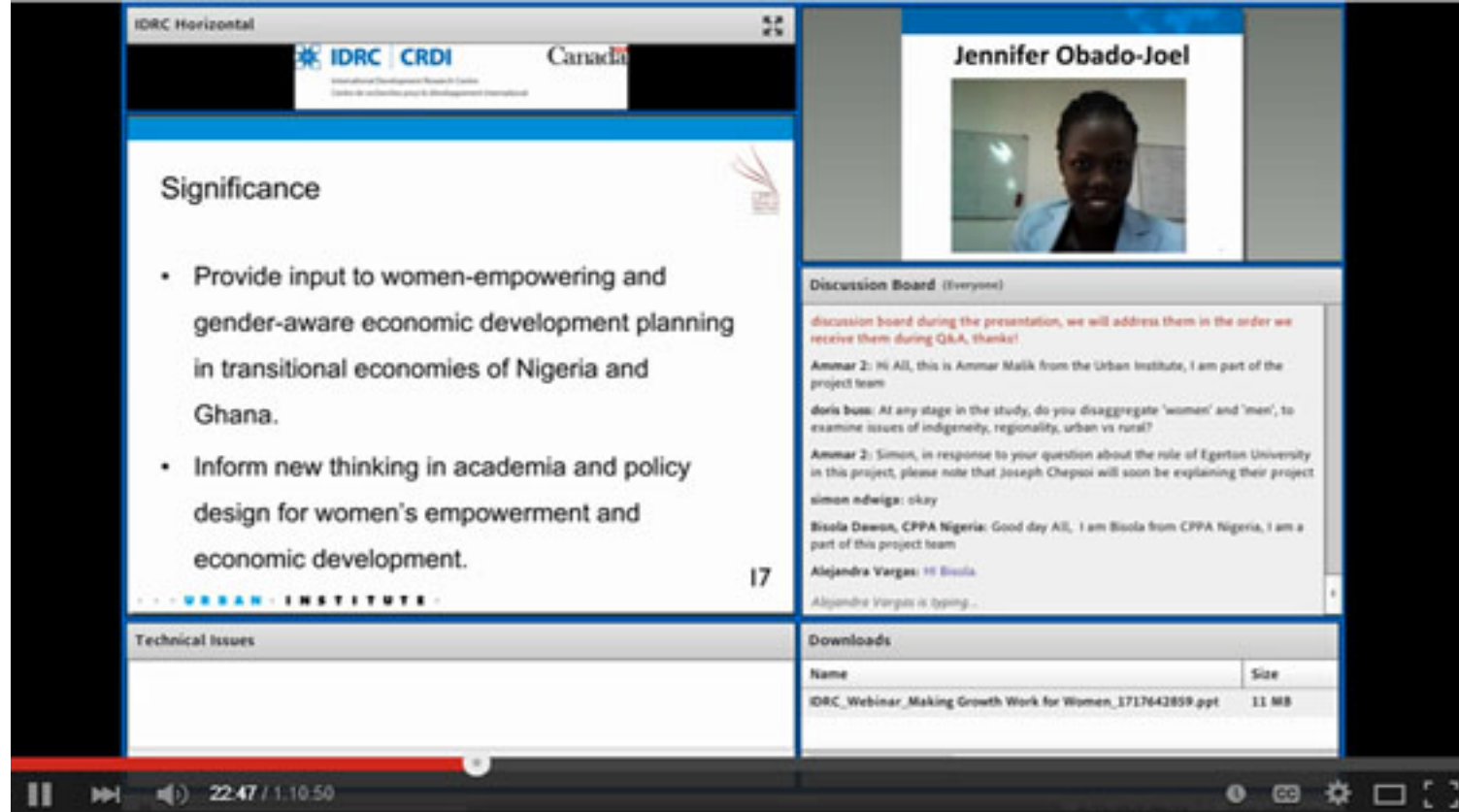
Welcome to the GrOW newsletter!

This tool is meant to encourage learning, knowledge sharing and network development among partners by providing links to resources, program and project updates, and news on work done on women's economic empowerment and economic growth around the globe.

Please email us at grow@idrc.ca with any information you wish to include and feedback. We want to hear from you!

Best regards,
The GrOW Team

NEWS & EVENTS



Researcher Jennifer Obado introducing her GrOW-funded project via webinar.

GrOW Cohort Is Expanding: Meet Them Via Webinar!

After a long competitive process with over 100 applications, we are pleased to formally welcome four new projects to the GrOW cohort. The new research teams will study how specific patterns of growth impact women's economic empowerment, and explore the links between women's economic empowerment and economic growth. We are certain that these new partnerships with 14 research institutions working in 50 countries around the world will greatly contribute to program and project learning.

GrOW organized open webinars for each of the new research teams to introduce their intended work, methodology, and expected outcomes. You can access the recordings online:

Pathways for shared prosperity: Understanding the links between women's economic empowerment and growth.

This webinar led by Profs. Janneke Pieters (Wageningen University) and Stephan Klasen (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen) hosted 95 active participants. Access the webinar recording [here](#).

Making growth work for women in low-income countries.

This webinar was led by 7 presenters from the Urban Institute, LEAD Pakistan, Egerton University, and the Center for Public Policy Alternatives. Access the webinar recording [here](#).

The impact of women's political representation in Africa on economic growth and women's economic empowerment.

This webinar led by Prof. James Robinson (University of Chicago) discusses how traditional women's political representation influences how growth can economically empower women. Access the webinar recording [here](#).

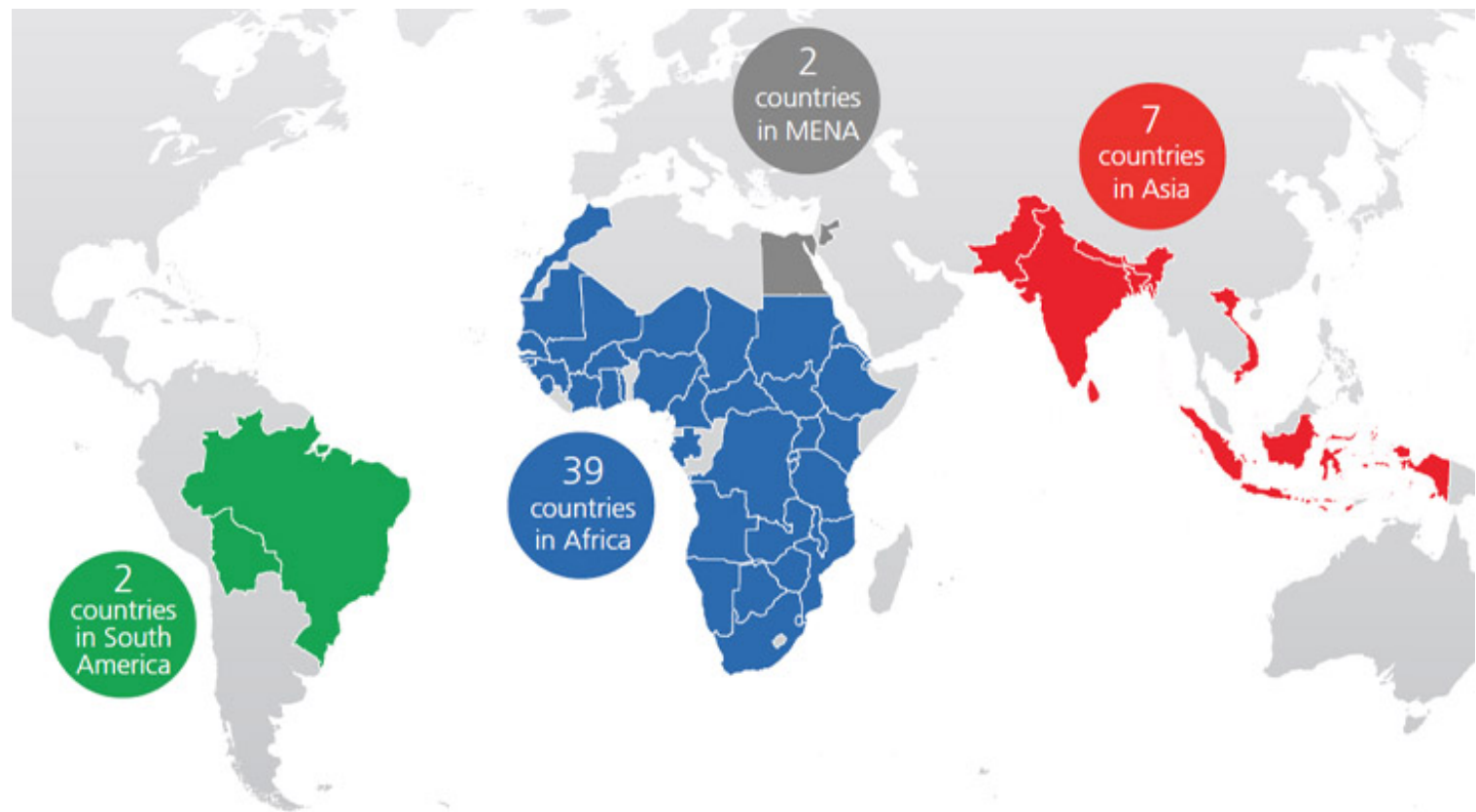
Bringing to light the role of the extractive industry on women's economic empowerment in

Cote d'Ivoire & Ghana

This webinar led by Profs. William Baah-Boateng, International Institute for the Advanced Studies of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise and Sylvère Yao Konan, Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales examined the impact of regulatory frameworks in the extractive industry in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire for women's labor participation. Access the webinar recording [here](#).

Want to access recordings from previous [webinars](#)?

- Learn more about GrOW's monitoring framework [here](#).
 - Learn more about Photo Voice, a tool for research and community engagement [here](#).
 - Kindly provide input on future discussion topics at grow@idrc.ca
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GrOW researchers are working in 50 countries around the world.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Women's Economic Empowerment

On September 25, 2015, the UK's Secretary of State for International Development and the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women hosted the event titled, ***Transforming Economies: Empowering Women and Girls***. The event attracted over 200 attendees and generated over 150 personal and organisational commitments to national and global actions on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets on women's economic empowerment. GrOW and UKAID representatives attended the event and agreed to the following:

GrOW reaffirmed its commitment to invest in the provision of new evidence to improve women's

economic lives while promoting economic growth. GrOW will aim to further develop the capacities of researchers to conduct high quality work, and promote the use of that research by policy makers and practitioners. At UNGA, the UK's Secretary of State announced increased research funding, including an £800k contribution to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law (WBL) survey to expand the WBL from 143 countries to all 189 countries in the world. A second commitment was a £1m programme with the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation to develop new approaches for looking at gender in business environment reforms.

GrOW Joined the SEEP Network Annual Conference

GrOW joined the 30th Anniversary of the SEEP Network in Washington, D.C. SEEP is a global network of over 300 top international development practitioners dedicated to combating poverty. GrOW's objective was to ensure that our research teams could join and actively participate in SEEP's women's economic empowerment working group. This online group provides a megaphone to speak at online discussions and events, exchange resources, and liaise with a large network of professionals invested in GrOW-related themes such as unpaid care work and monitoring and evaluation of women's economic empowerment.

Over the next months, we will liaise with teams to ensure those interested in presenting their work can access this space. If you have any questions, please contact avargas-garcia@idrc.ca.

Project Highlights: *Daycare in Slums Video*



GrOW partners running the project Improving childcare options to create better economic opportunities for women in Nairobi slums have developed a new project page in the African Population And Health Research Centre (APHRC) site. The page features a video titled, ***Daycare***

in Slums, which provides a comprehensive overview of the project through the eyes of Mary Nduta, a mother of 5 children in the Korogocho slum and Angeline Ayuma, a daycare center owner. The 4 minute video features APHRC project staff and provides a poignant look at the many barriers women face to balance work with providing a safe space for their children to play and learn. See the project [website](#) and [video](#).

RESOURCES



Taking Stock of Progress on Women's Equality

With financial support from The Hewlett Foundation, among other contributors, UN Women introduced ***Progress of the World's Women: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights 2015-2016***. This report provides a counterpoint to the Beijing+20 findings, and distills the existing gaps between the laws and policies that ensure equality of rights for women and girls and the reality on the ground. The report also includes recommendations to inform public action towards substantive equality. The use of case studies might be noteworthy for projects looking to communicate their own stories of influence. Learn more about the report [here](#).

Guidance to Strategize and Assess Policy Influence

New projects will soon face the challenge of developing a research uptake strategy. For ongoing projects, the challenge is assessing if their strategies for policy influence remain valid and adapting accordingly. The following online guides from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) can provide some value:

- ***ROMA: A Guide to Policy Engagement and Influence***. With support from IDRC, ODI released an online guide with specific tools that might help new projects develop a strategy for impact. Learn more about ROMA [here](#).

- ***A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Policy Influence*** will provide valuable food for thought in this, the year of evaluation. Author Harry Jones begins by defining policy and policy change and outlines several approaches to influence policy. The paper then sets out challenges of assessing this influence and frameworks for monitoring and evaluating influence that can respond to these challenges. Learn more about the guide [here](#).
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The Power of Parity

McKinsey's Global Development Institute (MGI) recently published a report titled: ***The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women's Equality Can Add \$12 trillion to Global Growth***. In this report, MGI explores the economic potential available if the global gender gap were to be closed. The research finds that, in a full-potential scenario in which women play an identical role in labor markets to men's, as much as \$28 trillion or 26% could be added to global annual GDP in 2025. Learn more about the report [here](#).

IDRC's Open Access Policy

With the expansion of the GrOW cohort, this is an opportune time to inform all teams of IDRC's open access policy for all its funded project outputs. The policy, supported by the Government of Canada, is based on the belief that full social and economic benefits of research in support of development should be available to everyone who could use it, and build on it, to improve people's lives. Learn more about the policy [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT

Meet Prof. James Robinson
University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy



What first attracted you to research on women's economic empowerment? I was attracted to research when I was a teenager growing up in Thatcher's Britain where there was endless debate about monetarism and "supply side economics" and she got her ministers to read Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek. My interest in women's economic empowerment came much later doing research in rural Sierra Leone where in some parts of the country women can be paramount chiefs but in others they cannot. This seemed to have important implications for the role of women in local society but there was no real explanation for why women only had power in some parts and not others. This made me think this issue needed to be explored much more systematically.

What is your research about and what are your desired outcomes? My research is mostly about what determines long-run economic and political development and what the relationships between these two things are. What makes a society prosperous and what stops poor countries from doing the same? To what extent are changes in political institutions, in the state and in democracy essential for economic development or are caused by it?

We hope to first just document the facts about the empowerment of women under traditional political institutions in Africa since they are just not known. We then hope to explain this variation and show that this is importantly related to the empowerment of women in economic and social life.

What does policy influence mean to you and how will you aim to achieve it? Policy influence means coming up with new ideas and new perspectives on the way the world works, which will help policymakers understand the problems they face better and formulate better solutions. We hope this research will get policymakers to come up with new ideas on the roots of women's disempowerment in Africa and find new solutions to it. We will achieve this by presenting the findings widely, engaging with international institutions involved with development policy and talking with policymakers.

What are the main knowledge constraints or challenges to women's empowerment and where do you think research has the potential to make a difference? We lack basic

knowledge on the facts regarding the empowerment of women in traditional political institutions. To our knowledge there has been no research showing the importance the role of women in traditional political institutions has for their broader social and economic roles in Africa. We hope to make contributions on both these broad topics.

When I am not doing research, I love to spend time with my wife and sons and read anything I can get my hands on, poetry, history, archaeology, anthropology...

Follow James' blog at: whynationsfail.com



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Questions or comments? Send us your feedback at grow@idrc.ca.

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