

Women RISE

Addressing the gendered impacts of COVID-19 for an inclusive, sustainable and equitable recovery

Women and girls around the world have disproportionately suffered the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, threatening to roll back recent gains in gender equality.

Women make up 70% of the healthcare workforce worldwide and are at the forefront of the COVID-19 response. In 11 countries where sex-disaggregated data is available, women account for 71% of confirmed cases among healthcare workers. On many fronts, the limited gains made on gender equality in recent decades are at risk of being eliminated. The COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to control the disease have shocked local and global labour markets, threatened livelihoods, introduced new workplace risks and made unstable work relationships even more precarious.

The COVID-19 pandemic was particularly difficult for women, who lost jobs and livelihoods in larger numbers, and shouldered the burden of caregiving. Women RISE, or Women's Health and Economic Empowerment for a COVID-19 Recovery that is Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable, was launched as a CAD24 million research initiative to address the issue. Led by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SHRC), the initiative is funding 23 collaborative action research projects between Canada and low- and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia.

Objectives

Women RISE activities are designed to

- support action-oriented, gender transformative research on how women's health intersects with their paid and unpaid work when preparing, responding or recovering from COVID-19
- identify how economic changes disproportionately affect women and develop inclusive, gender transformative recovery strategies in line with priority 3.5 of the [UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery](#)
- identify the factors that affect the relationship between women's health and work before, during and after COVID-19
- find solutions for improving women's health and well-being that can be included in policies and interventions that advance preparedness for future health emergencies



IDRC / TOMMY TRENCARD

- generate evidence to include gender equality and health equity in immediate and medium-term solutions for recovery post-COVID-19

Next steps

We welcome collaborations on this important pillar of the UN Roadmap. Currently, the Women RISE funded research projects involve 18 Canadian institutions and 17 low- and middle-income countries, including Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uganda. Researchers and decision-makers are collaborating to carry out research to demonstrate how their findings will inform solutions and strategies to improve women's health and socioeconomic well-being during and through the recovery from COVID-19.

The research will focus on three specific areas:

- Infectious diseases
- HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections
- Pandemics and other health emergencies

In addition to the 23 funded projects, Women RISE is creating a Health Policy and Research Organization to

support capacity strengthening, knowledge translation and networking among the 23 projects.

Learn more

Visit idrc.ca/en/initiative/women-rise to find out more about Women RISE and explore additional resources, including a partnership tool, webinar and more.

Partners



Social Sciences and
Humanities Research
Council of Canada

Canada

Conseil de recherches
en sciences humaines
du Canada



CIHR IRSC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

