



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS



Counting What Matters: Making Women's Work Visible

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In the dense fields, overflowing public markets, and loving homes of the Global South, women are the unseen engines that propel local economies. They plough the fields, care for the sick and the elderly, operate informal businesses, and keep entire communities together, frequently, without acknowledgment, pay, or voice. Though they are invaluable to their economies, much of their work goes unobserved: missing from statistical accounts, overlooked in policy plans, and neglected by official institutions. This systemic invisibility reinforces deep-seated gender inequalities and undermines the very foundation of inclusive economic growth.

India's recent rise in the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) from 23.3 percent in 2017 to 41.7 percent in 2024 has generated significant attention and cautious optimism. At first glance, it suggests progress. But a closer look reveals that the jump is not merely the result of expanding job opportunities. Instead, it reflects a shift in how labour is measured, with improved survey techniques beginning to acknowledge women's unpaid family work and informal contributions. This statistical correction is a crucial first step. But visibility, on its own, is not enough, what's needed now is structural reform that values, supports, and invests in the work women have always done.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India Welcomes African Union to CDRI

India has reiterated its steadfast commitment to global disaster risk reduction and public health cooperation at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025, currently underway in Geneva. On the occasion of World Environment Day, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra, represented India at the G20

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group Roundtable held on the sidelines of the GPDRR. Addressing the forum, Dr. Mishra underlined the G20's critical role in fostering collective resilience and integrating economic capacities with development goals to address global disaster challenges.

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DAKSHIN Highlighted at the 4th_India-Central_Asia_Dialogue

The 4th meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6 June 2025 under the chairship of the External Affairs Minister of India. Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the meeting. Taking forward the South-South cooperation, the Ministers agreed to work closely with India's Global South Centre of Excellence "DAKSHIN" (Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative) to learn from each other's development experiences.

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India and Philippines Strive to Boost Fintech Cooperation

High-ranking officials from the Philippines and India have explored strategic partnership opportunities between the two nations during a recent meeting in Manila. Finance Secretary Ralph Recto had a meeting with Harsh Kumar Jain, ambassador of India to the Philippines, at the Department of Finance (DOF) office. India considers the Philippines as one of its important partners in Southeast Asia. In the next few months, the ambassador said he hopes to see further progress on these two areas.

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Brazil and ILO Reaffirm Commitment through South-South Cooperation

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of Brazil have vowed to deepen their longstanding cooperation and outlined future priorities to promote decent work and social justice in Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific, during the XII Brazil/ILO Annual South-South Review Meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference (ILC) on 10 June at the ILO's headquarters in Geneva. Discussions focused on strengthening the strategic Brazil-ILO Partnership Programme, with particular emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

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Jordan Discusses Cooperation with FAO

Minister of Environment Muawieh Radaideh met with Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Qu Dongyu to explore ways of enhancing cooperation in areas of environment, food security and sustainable development. Talks during the meeting addressed key environmental challenges in the Kingdom, foremost among them water scarcity and the effects of climate change. The two sides went over strategies to address these issues through joint environmental projects and initiatives, stressing the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices that conserve natural resources and reinforce food security.

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Guinea-Bissau and Malaysia Sign New Agreement to Strengthen Ties

President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of Guinea-Bissau embarked on an official visit to Malaysia focused on reinforcing diplomatic and economic ties. They first established diplomatic relations in November 1974. While ties have remained limited in scale, this visit signals a shift toward greater engagement. He and the Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim signed a cooperation agreement, marking a step forward in bilateral relations. The agreement covers agriculture, education, and commerce, reflecting both countries' shared intent to expand cooperation.

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Philippines and Egypt Seek to Expand Agri-Trade Opportunities

The Philippines is actively pursuing deeper agricultural trade ties with Egypt, with Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Nader Nabil Zaki to explore broader market access for high-value Philippine produce, particularly mangoes and bananas. The discussions form part of a larger effort by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to diversify export destinations and unlock new trade opportunities in strategically located and fast-growing markets such as North Africa. Egypt, Africa's second-largest economy, recently opened its doors to Philippine durian exports.

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African Leaders Call for Increased Investment in Agriculture

African leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders have renewed their call for greater investment and the accelerated adoption of agricultural technologies to boost food security across the continent. The second day of the African Conference on Agricultural Technology (ACAT) 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda, saw a convergence of high-level discussions from African leaders aimed at empowering farmers and driving inclusive innovation in agriculture. Former Nigerian President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan emphasised that no single actor or country can transform African agriculture alone.

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Singapore and Philippines Seek to Strengthen Ties

The Philippines and Singapore will intensify their collaboration in several areas, including renewable energy, sustainability, healthcare, and civil service development. A joint announcement was made by PM Lawrence Wong and Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on June 4, the first day of PM Wong's introductory visit to Manila. A bilateral meeting was held at the Malacanang Palace in Manila where the two countries agreed to deepen their bilateral and regional cooperation and accelerate efforts towards the establishment of an Asean power grid.

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Bolivia and Brazil Certified Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease without Vaccination

Bolivia and Brazil have been officially recognized as countries free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) without the use of vaccination. With this achievement, over 80 percent of cattle in the Americas now fall under the FMD-free without vaccination category. In South America alone, more than 65 percent of cattle are in areas with this status—up from 35 percent. Currently, only 1 percent of cattle in the region, located in Venezuela, do not yet have FMD-free status, although the country is actively working to be recognized as FMD-free with vaccination. It is a highly contagious viral illness that leads to reduced meat and dairy production and restricted international trade.

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Egypt Unveils Investment Plan for Healthcare Sector

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly chaired a high-level meeting to present the government's investment vision for the healthcare sector over the next decade. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Human Development and Minister of Health and Population, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Hassan El-Khatib, as well as senior officials from both ministries. Madbouly opened the session by reiterating the government's focus on

attracting investment to sectors with high growth potential. The Prime Minister announced a series of forthcoming meetings with officials from targeted sectors to ensure that investment plans align with specific national development goals.

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Papua New Guinea Finalizes DPI Policy Draft

The government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) has announced the completion of a draft policy that lays out a clear vision for the country's digital public infrastructure (DPI) implementation. The policy is anchored on the SevisPass digital ID platform which is expected to simplify access to banking, healthcare, government services including digital voting, and social media monetization programs, while ensuring robust privacy and compliance for Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC). This will pave the way for the official launch of the national digital ID system which is projected to happen before 2025 runs out.

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Sierra Leone Speeds up Digitalization

Sierra Leone says it has recorded a 93 percent civil registration and national ID issuance coverage rate, with at least 80 percent of services already digitized. An official of the country's National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) disclosed these statistics in an interview with Biometric Update on the sidelines of the ID4Africa 2025 AGM recently. The NCRA Deputy Director of ICT, Moses T.F. Vibbie said that the high digital ID coverage and service digitization rates in Sierra Leone reflect the country's steady drive towards a fully digital nation in the next few years.

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Guinea-Bissau Strives to Achieve Complete Digitalization

For civil registration, the digitization of existing records and services is happening through a new system dubbed Integrated System of Citizen Registers and Statistics (SIREC), the Head of the Civil Registration Office at the country's Ministry of Justice, Raul Gomes, told Biometric Update in an interview on the sidelines of the ID4Africa 2025 AGM. Considerable efforts are underway to ensure the complete digitization, integration and modernization of the civil registration and national ID systems of Guinea-Bissau as the West African nation advances its digital transformation agenda.

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DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations



Consultation Meeting on Activities of ISSCA: Strengthening South-South Collaboration in Agriculture

A consultation meeting was convened on 12 June 2025 to shape the long-term strategic directions and immediate activities of the ICRISAT Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA). The meeting brought together all founding partners—ICRISAT, DAKSHIN at RIS, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), and the Gates Foundation.

The session focused on identifying flagship initiatives, collaborative programmes, and aligning ISSCA's work with Global South priorities in agriculture and food systems. Partners emphasized the importance of leveraging digital agriculture, climate-smart practices, and inclusive value chains to foster impactful collaborations across regions.

DAKSHIN shared its vision of facilitating South-South exchanges, scaling best practices, and anchoring research-policy dialogues to strengthen resilience in agricultural systems. The partners committed to jointly developing a multi-year roadmap to operationalise ISSCA as a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and innovation transfer within and across Global South countries.

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