



Rome-Based Agencies' International Women's Day Event 2025

For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment

Thursday 06 March, 14:00 – 15:30 Rome time

WFP Headquarters Auditorium and Zoom

Background

International Women's Day on 08 March is a global day to commemorate and uphold women's achievements, raise awareness on the challenges and reconfirm commitment to gender equality. It also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality.

The United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2025 is “**For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment,**” emphasising the importance of ensuring rights, equality, and empowerment for all women and girls.

This theme is particularly relevant in a world facing multiple crises, including conflicts, climate disasters, and economic turmoil, which have disproportionately affected women and girls. For example, the United Nations estimates that 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women. And, in some crisis settings, more than 70 percent of women have experienced gender-based violence.

The Rome-based agencies come together annually for the International Women's Day event to demonstrate their joint commitment to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality through their work.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

International Women's Day

For ALL women and girls

RIGHTS. EQUALITY. EMPOWERMENT

Eliminating gender inequalities is crucial to tackling poverty and food insecurity, and empowering rural women is critical to building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems.

2025 theme

This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for women and girls so that no one is left behind.

This year is a pivotal moment in the global pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing, China, by 189 governments, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide. Under this year's global campaign to mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, "For ALL Women and Girls", this year's International Women's Day is a rallying cry to act in three key areas:

- 1 - Advance women's and girls' rights,
- 2 - Promote gender equality, and
- 3 - Foster empowerment.

On this occasion, the Rome-based agencies will focus on **resilience (physical, social, economic, environmental, etc.)** and will highlight the vital role women and girls play in building resilient communities. This focus aligns with the global theme and will underscore the need for inclusive and equitable societies. Achieving gender equality is more crucial than ever, as ensuring women's and girls' rights, equality and empowerment is the only way to enhance the well-being of women and their households, reduce hunger, boosting incomes and economies and strengthening the resilience of populations to climate change and other shocks and stressors.

The focus on resilience will also emphasise the intersectional nature of gender equality, recognising that women and girls from diverse backgrounds, ethnicity, including those with disabilities, marginalised communities, and those in rural or conflict-affected areas, face unique and compounding challenges. Addressing these disparities is critical to building truly inclusive and resilient societies.



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One of the key challenges in achieving gender equality by 2030 is the alarming lack of financing, with a staggering USD 360 billion annual deficit in spending on gender equality measures. Urgent action is required to mobilise resources and advocate for increased investment in gender equality and women's empowerment to address this critical shortfall and accelerate progress.

Event objectives

- Raise awareness of the multiple and crucial roles rural women and girls play in building and strengthening communities and societies at large.
- Highlight success stories, good policies and best practices.
- Reaffirm the Rome-based agencies' commitment to continue to invest in women and girls to ensure a more security and resilient future for all.

Messages

- **Let's celebrate our wins:** International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the progress we've made toward a gender-equal, food-secure world. Let's acknowledge the strides taken and renew our commitment to the work ahead.
- **Empowering women and girls through financial inclusion is not only essential for advancing gender equality but also crucial for building resilient communities.** By ensuring equal access to financial resources, services, and opportunities, we equip women with the means to protect and expand their livelihoods, which in turn strengthens the overall resilience of their communities. Financial inclusion enables women to contribute to and benefit from economic growth, fostering more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies.
- **Accountability matters:** The Rome-based agencies are committed to measurable outcomes and accountability. By tracking the impact of our operations, we demonstrate how investments focused on women and girls benefit everyone, contributing to stronger, more resilient societies.



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RIGHTS. EQUALITY. EMPOWERMENT

Agenda

Time	Event
14:00 – 14:15	<p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP Valerie N. Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director • IFAD Gérardine Mukeshimana, Vice-President (TBC) • FAO Beth Crawford, Assistant Director-General (TBC)
14:15 – 14:30	<p><i>Keynote address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim – Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Food Systems Coalition <p><i>How Indigenous women contribute to climate resilience</i></p>
14:30 – 15:10	<p><i>Discussion on resilience</i></p>
15:10 – 15:25	<p><i>Closing remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Partnerships – Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries
15:25 – 15:30	<p><i>Ending</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director

Notes

The event will be held in English with interpretation in Arabic, French and Spanish.

Please raise any accessibility requests with edward.johnson@wfp.org