



# An Evidence and Gap Map of interventions shaping economic agency for women in Sub-Saharan Africa

## The research

Across Africa, attention to inequalities suffered by women has increased significantly. This has led to several policies aimed to supporting women's economic growth and exercise of agency. Interventions are supported by a growing corpus of research. However, the research tends to congregate around certain aspects of the issue while ignoring others. This Evidence and Gap Map (EGM) reviews existing research on policy interventions targeting Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) with a view to mapping what we know and what is missing.

## Objectives

The EGM seeks to provide a foundation for policy, research, and investment decisions aimed at creating equitable, inclusive, and enabling economic environments for women. By mapping areas of research focus, and knowledge gaps, it provides much-needed on where research and intervention attention must focus and opportunities for leveraging documented evidence.

## What the evidence shows

- Fiscal reforms and gender budgeting- initiatives have improved social service delivery to women.
- Unpaid care policies- such as public childcare or time-saving infrastructure, positively affect women's labor force participation.
- Access to finance and land rights- initiatives are associated with increased business ownership among women.
- Advocacy and public awareness campaigns-- are key in shifting policy narratives and enabling reforms.

## Evidence Gaps- What we need more research on

- Evaluations on the long-term impact of monetary and trade policies on WEE
- Macro-level interventions for informal economy workers
- WEE outcomes from digital financial inclusion and new care economy models
- Disaggregation of results by age, disability, and other intersecting identities

## Protocol Reference:

Ameyaw, D. S., Manuh, T., Oppong, S. A., & Nyan, C. P. (2025). Gender-Responsive Macro-Level Policies and Women's Economic Empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Evidence and Gap Map. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 21(2), e70035  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/cl2.70035>

## Data Sources and methodology

Evidence resources included: Peer-reviewed articles, working papers, grey literature, dissertations, protocols  
Timeframe: 2000–2024  
Geography: Sub-Saharan Africa  
Study design Types: Quantitative - experimental, non-experimental, qualitative, systematic and Scoping reviews



## What this means for policy

- Expand investments in care-supportive infrastructure to reduce women's time burdens
- Institutionalize gender budgeting and ensure fiscal transparency and accountability
- Strengthen labor protections, particularly for informal and domestic workers
- Increase support for WEE-focused advocacy to influence structural policy change
- Promote better data systems and disaggregated research to guide inclusive economic policy