Description:

In early 2021, CGD launched the COVID-19 Gender and Development Initiative with two objectives: increase the importance of gender equality on the policy agendas of global decision-makers in COVID response and recovery, and generate resources to ensure their decisions are evidence-based. Since then, our initiative's research has focused on three questions: How has the COVID-19 crisis exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities? To what extent have donor institutions and policymakers considered these effects in their response efforts? And what else is needed to ensure women and girls don’t get left behind in COVID recovery?

Now, nearly a year later, through CGD’s annual Birdsall House Conference, we invite researchers, practitioners, investors, and advocates to discuss the latest evidence on COVID’s gendered impacts and contribute to proposing and enacting a shared agenda for an inclusive recovery.

Proposed Agenda:

10:00 – 10:10 AM ET: Opening Remarks


The first session of the conference focuses on the latest research on the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, with an emphasis on low- and middle-income countries.

Presentation: Shelby Bourgault, Gender Research Assistant, CGD
Moderator: Charles Kenny, Senior Fellow, CGD
Panel: Ben Leo, CEO and Co-Founder, Fraym
Karen Garcia-Rojas, Head of the Differential and Intersectional Statistics Unit, DANE
Amy Oyekunle, Lead Consultant, Monii Development Consult
Isadora Quay, Gender in Emergencies Coordinator, CARE

5 min break

11:00 – 11:45 AM ET: Session 2 – Integrating Care, Cash, and Data into Crisis Response Efforts

How have donors and policy-makers responded to the mounting evidence that women and girls have disproportionately borne the negative impacts of the pandemic? In this panel we discuss how policy responses centered on “care, cash, and data” have been used to mitigate these impacts.

Moderator: Mayra Buvinic, Senior Fellow Emeritus, CGD
Panel: Pablo Zoido Lobaton, Education Lead Specialist, IDB
Daniela de los Santos, Programme Associate Officer – Inclusive Growth and Social Protection
5 min break


Our final session features representatives of donor institutions and speakers with on-the-ground knowledge of the evolving needs of women and girls for a discussion on how to ensure a more gender-inclusive recovery.

Moderator: Megan O'Donnell, Policy Fellow and Assistant Director of Gender, CGD
Panel: Nitya Nangalia, Coordinator – Social Enterprises and Central Team Member, SEWA Bharat
Roopa Hinton, Social Development Advisor, FCDO
Laura Alfers, Director – Social Protection Program, WIEGO
Andrew Hurst, Economic Growth and IFIs Division, Global Affairs Canada

12:35 – 12:45 PM ET: Closing Remarks