



PUBLIC SEMINAR on

Women's Economic Empowerment

May 9, 2012 in Bern, Switzerland

Experience and Challenges SDC's Employment and Income Work Faces (with Particular Focus on the Approach Making Markets Work for the Poor/M4P)

The 2012 edition of **SDC's e+i network annual series of seminars on employment and income** will focus on **"women's economic empowerment (WEE)"**. It is a one-day public seminar for development professionals concerned with the promotion of pro-poor economic development in developing countries.

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the greatest challenges of the "Millennium project" and remains a priority for all development partners. Women's economic empowerment and their access to markets and services is central to achieving MDG3 and widely recognised as essential for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

Yet, experience shows that many employment and income projects do not pay sufficient attention to the gender-specific systemic constraints faced by poor women and men and struggle to show robust results. The e+i network, together with its partners, has identified it as a timely opportunity to revisit the topic, giving a specific focus on the growing experience on M4P implementation.

The seminar will analyse the topic from different lenses: Emphasis will be put on experience in the field and useful practical guidance to strengthen WEE within M4P programmes, and SDC's employment and income activities in general. In particular it will

- **show case experiences from SDC financed projects (Bangladesh, South Caucasus, Honduras) as well as from partners like DfID Nigeria and ILO Cambodia**
- **present and discuss the work the M4P Hub is undertaking on WEE - among others the e+i network will organise an e-debate in March/April, based on previous analytical work**
- **debate the topic with international and Swiss experts – from the academia and the development world.**

The event will be a **joint effort with SDC's gender network, and with contributions from the M4P Hub** (financed by DfID, SIDA and SDC), ILO and other international and Swiss partners.

This seminar will be followed by an **internal in-depth workshop on May 10 about WEE** (open for SDC, M4P Hub staff and other invited partners only).

To attend, please register until April 20, 2012: [Register now](#)

For further information please contact SDC's e+i Focal Point: e-i@deza.admin.ch



PROGRAMME

Public Seminar ON Women's Economic Empowerment

Kongresshaus Allresto, Effingerstrasse 20, Bern

May 9, 2012

Morning:

08.30 – 09.00	Getting to know each other over coffee, croissants
09.00	Welcome and Introduction Sybille Suter, Head Latin America Division/e+i network, SDC
09.15	“Mehr. Wert.” - Gender equality and economic development - a contradiction? - Introduction: Annemarie Sancar, Focal Point Gender, SDC - What are potential added values of a gender equality perspective for M4P initiatives – insights from an expert paper: Sabin Bieri, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern
09.40	Questions & Answers
09.50	<i>Cases from practice:</i> Nigeria: PrOpCom – Examples of women's economic empowerment in a markets systems development project (including Q&A) Tiffany Urrechaga, Consultant
10.20 – 10.50	Break
10.50	Cambodia: Supporting women's entrepreneurship and changing societal attitudes (short video with explanations) Joni Simpson, Specialist on Women's Entrepreneurship, ILO
11.05	Panel discussion: Gender equality in economic development - gaps between research and practice: - Which gaps can be identified? - How do we overcome them? Susan Joekes, DCED Sabin Bieri, CDE Sohel Ibn Ali, NPO, Gender Focal Point, SDC Bangladesh Tiffany Urrechaga, consultant Audience
12.05	- Advertises and organisation of afternoon parallel session Presenters of afternoon sessions
12.15 – 13.45	Lunch

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Afternoon:

13.45	<p><i>Cases from practice:</i> <i>Parallel session (1):</i> Bangladesh: Samriddhi – Good practice in Gender Mainstreaming in a rural economic development project – (including Q&A) Archana Nath, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Bangladesh</p> <p>South Caucasus: A concept for mainstreaming gender at portfolio level (focus rural market development) Sophia Svanadze, NPO, Gender Focal Point, SDC South Caucasus</p> <p><i>Parallel session (2):</i> Cambodia: Outcomes from a women's entrepreneurship education process Joni Simpson, Specialist on Women's Entrepreneurship, ILO</p> <p>Honduras: PymeRural – Women's participation in local systemic market development: achievements and perspectives Orlando Mejía, Monitoring Specialist, Swisscontact, Honduras</p>
14.45-15.05	Break
15.05	<p>Making Markets Work for the Poor and WEE: A meeting of minds Linda Jones, consultant</p>
15.35	<p>Insights from an e-debate on M4P and WEE Maja Rüegg, Advisor Market Development, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation</p>
15.50	Questions & Answers
16.00	<p>Panel discussion: Towards practical WEE guidelines: Are we on the right track, what's needed, what's missing? Panellists: Linda Jones, consultant Annemarie Sancar, SDC Roger Oakeley, Manager M4P Hub Shahnewaz Karim, Gender Specialist, Katalyst Bangladesh Audience</p>
16.45 – 17:00	<p>Wrap up, Closing remarks Peter Tschumi, Focal point employment and income, SDC</p>

Logistics

May 9, 2012

Public Seminar

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Bern

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More information:

<http://www.allresto.ch/anfahrt.html>

Registration May 9, 2012

Until April 20, 2012 online - **Register now**

www.sdc-employment-income.ch

Hotels in Bern

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For SDC Gender f2f participants

You may register to this e+i Women's economic events as well.

However, the overall registration for the SDC Gender face-to-face event, along with the logistic support will be provided by SDC's gender Network, contact: Gowtham Durairaj: gowtham.durairaj@deza.admin.ch

Note

Accommodation, transport costs are to be paid directly by the participants.