

Changing the world
with **women and girls**
act:onaid

Valuing Women's Work

ActionAid UK

Annual Report 2022



Valuing Women's Work – summary of the work so far

Following the project inception workshop in June 2021:

Back to Basics Explainers

Development of a prototype explainer on gender responsive public services in collaboration with YUW colleagues, AA Malawi and FIA

Wellbeing Economy

Organised and delivered a roundtable on the feminist wellbeing economy as part of the hybrid IAFFE conference

Submitted proposal for CSPF 2021 that explored the viability of a feminist wellbeing economy in global South countries facing increased austerity on the back of IMF debt consolidation measures

Prepared an internal think-piece on where our key questions need to be on taking the wellbeing economy work forward

4th Industrial Revolution and the digital gig-economy

Development of an annotated bibliography of what research currently exists on this within the global south to identify themes, scope, and gaps

Plans to initiate a rapid mapping of which women's rights and feminist organisations are doing what on this theme



Back to Basics Explainer: Gender Responsive Public Services

The Process

- Consultative process with nominated colleagues from across YUW countries, AA Malawi, and FIA
- The collaborative & participatory process started from the inception call in July, 2021
- Five thematic issues are covered: Women and Water, Transport, Education, GBVAW Services and healthcare and how IFIs impact these services.
- Case study based (mix of fact-fiction) to cover insights from all these thematic issues shared by country teams
- 5 artists from the global south illustrated the case studies
- Packaged in 3 forms targeting 3 key audiences: General Public, NGOs, Activists and Youth Groups and Policymakers

The Output(s)

1. **Format 1:** Consists of all artworks in 5 thematic issues to be cross shared and used across different platforms
2. **Format 2:** Print format for NGOs, Communities, Activists and Youth Groups, has recommendations
3. **Format 3:** For Policymakers, has demands and asks



Exploring the Feminist Wellbeing Economy

29th IAFFE Virtual Conference 2021

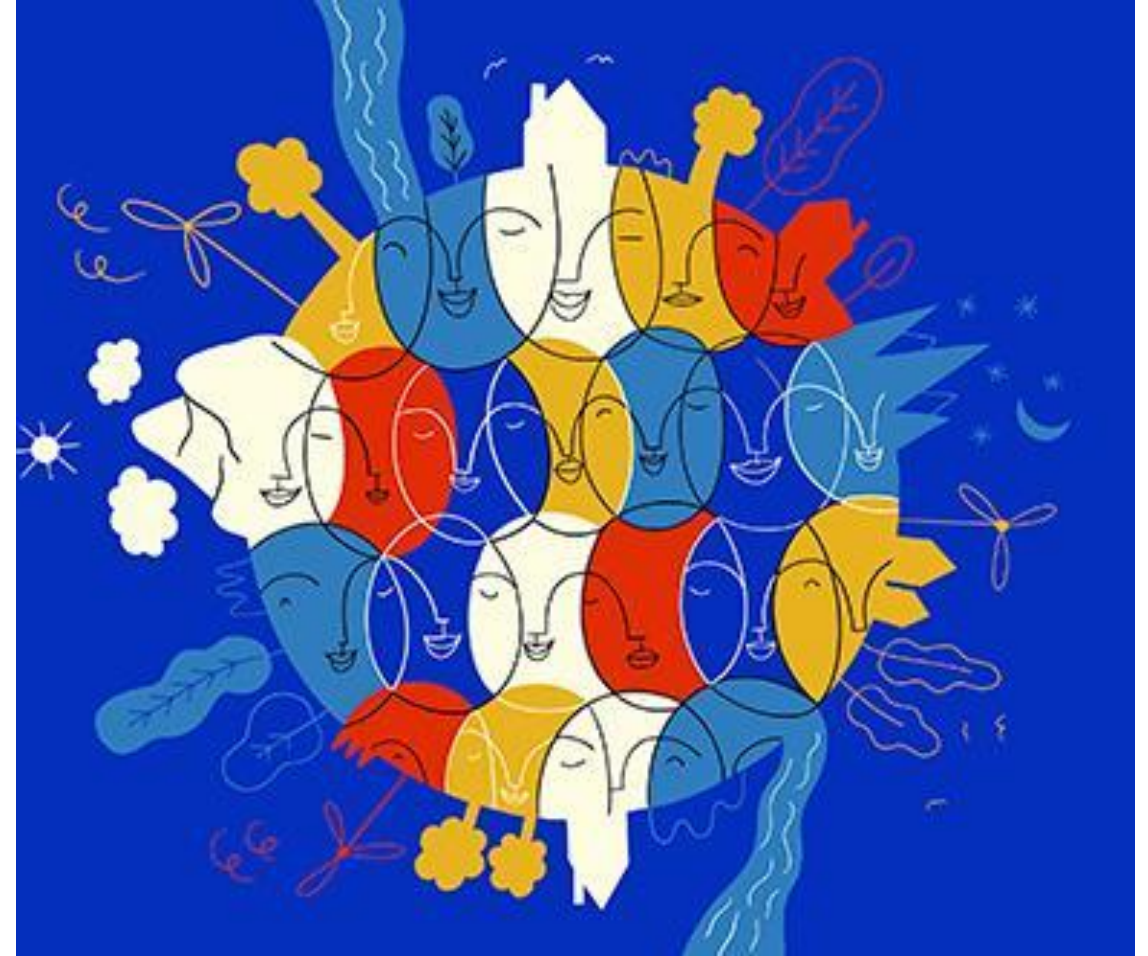
Roundtable

Wellbeing economy: exploring policy propositions through a feminist lens for post-pandemic systems change

- 1) Lebohang Liepollo Pheko, Trade Collective
- 2) Masego Madzwamuse, Southern Africa Trust
- 3) Amanda Janoo, Wellbeing Economy Alliance
- 4) Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Women International Peace Center
- 5) Marianne Asfaw, AWID

Areas of discussion and thought generation

- How does feminist economics intersect with wellbeing economy? What are the synergies and tensions
- Identifying a feminist wellbeing economy approach
- Recommendations in terms of values, at the structural level, and towards the promotion of local wellbeing initiatives.



4th Industrial revolution – the digital gig economy

- An initial exploration into **4th industrial revolution and the platform gig economy in relation to women's economic rights**
- Annotated Bibliography on the above has been developed, confirming / indicating the following:
 - Comparatively low levels of research on this issue in the global South, despite rapid proliferation of platform technologies
 - Existing research indicates that for global South (with high levels of worker informality), *platformization* has simply led to formalisation of informality
 - Serious questions over the future of women and work are therefore being raised, including:
 - Increased precarity and quality of work
 - The importance of regulatory frameworks
 - Ownership of digital tools and comms as a key to sovereignty
 - What space for women's rights and feminist organising and propositions around these issues? What is already happening?



Taking the work forward in 2022:

1. IMF Advocacy

- IMF Gender Strategy submissions
- CSPF Spring Meeting – confirmed session, young activists from Malawi, Ghana and South Africa participating
- CSO strategising (general, Annuals)
- Ongoing engagement, UK Executive Director

2. Feminist Well-being economy work:

- CSW panel on Feminist Economic Transformations (Oxfam)
- IAFFE roundtable: Feminist disruption of global economic governance
- Publishing a discussion note based on IAFFE roundtable
- Research: Explore how a feminist well-being economy could be realised - steps/policy frameworks/sociopolitical conditions needed to overcome neoliberal policy dogma (case study)



Taking the work forward in 2022:

3. Digital gig economy

- Rapid mapping of WROs/feminist orgs working on this theme
- Expert/progressive funder roundtable

4. Back to Basics Explainers

- Next Back to Basics Explainer:

5. Gender and trade

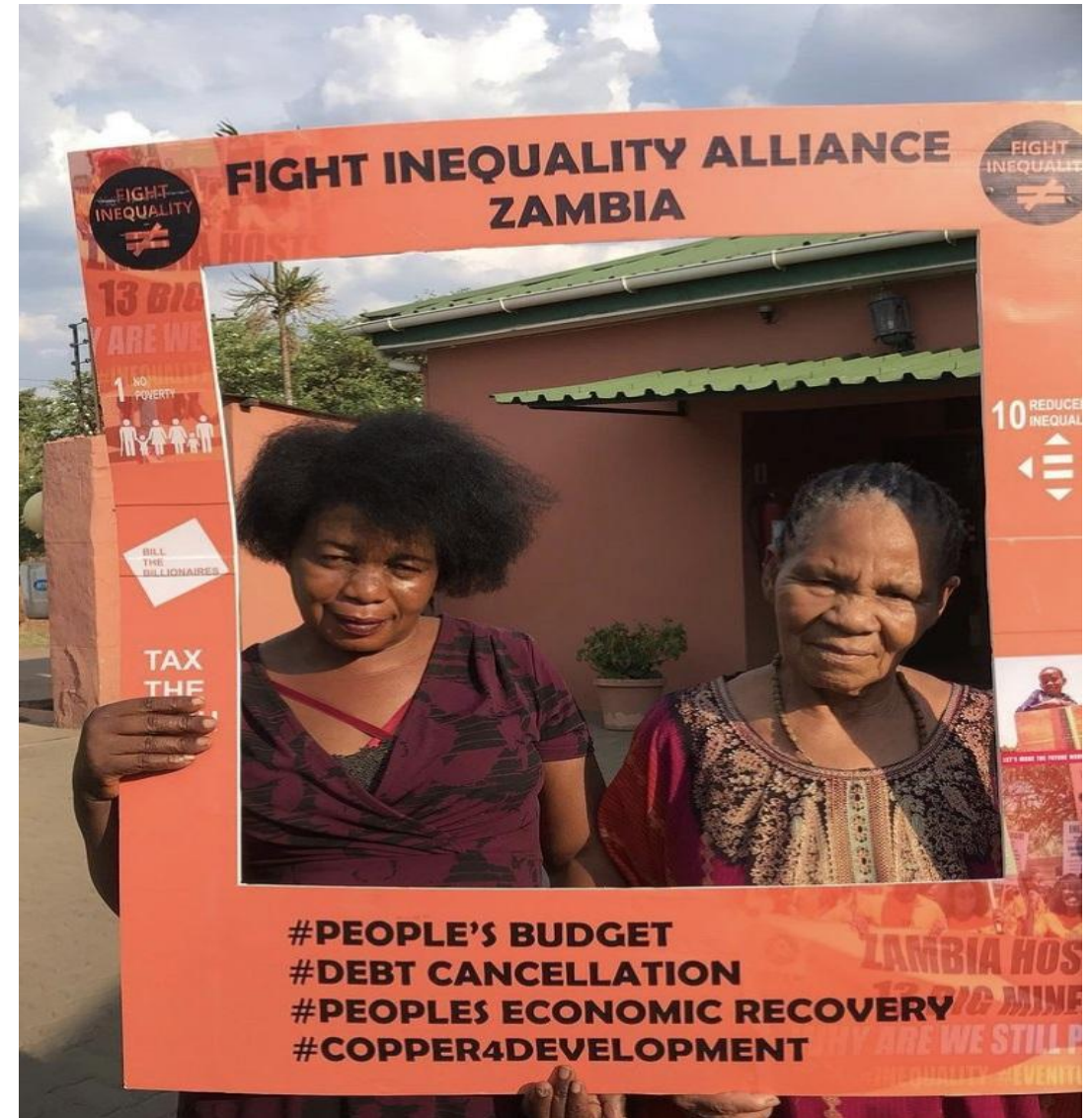
- Ongoing roll-out of *Unpacking the impact: setting UK trade policy on a gender-just track*
- Research: Rapid women's rights analysis of new UK FTAs to identify consistent shortcomings
- Engagement and collaborations with GTC and TJM
- CHOGM, WTO Ministerial/Public Forum



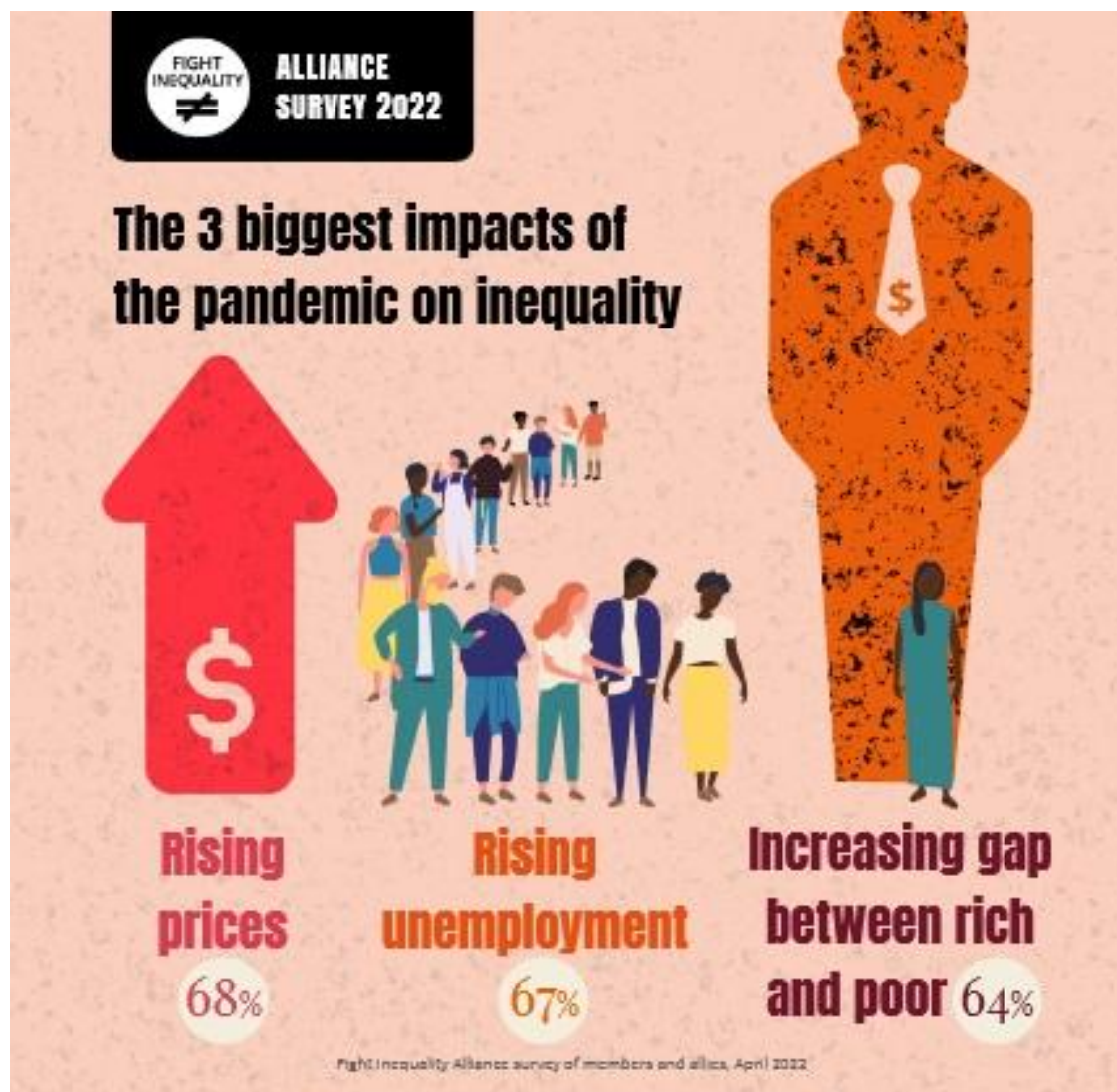
Fight Inequality Alliance – VWW 2021-22

Main approaches + activities

- Festival to Fight Inequality – virtual convening in August 2021
- Expanded staff team and steering groups in growing alliance countries – well over 50% female
- Hybrid virtual and physical Global Protest to Fight Inequality – January 2022
- Increased media and digital capacity
- Growing national alliances taking on key struggles e.g. debt, austerity, wealth taxes, budgets – some with IMF linkages
- International advocacy towards IFIs (virtual), GIMAC



What did our members say? Key findings from members survey 2022

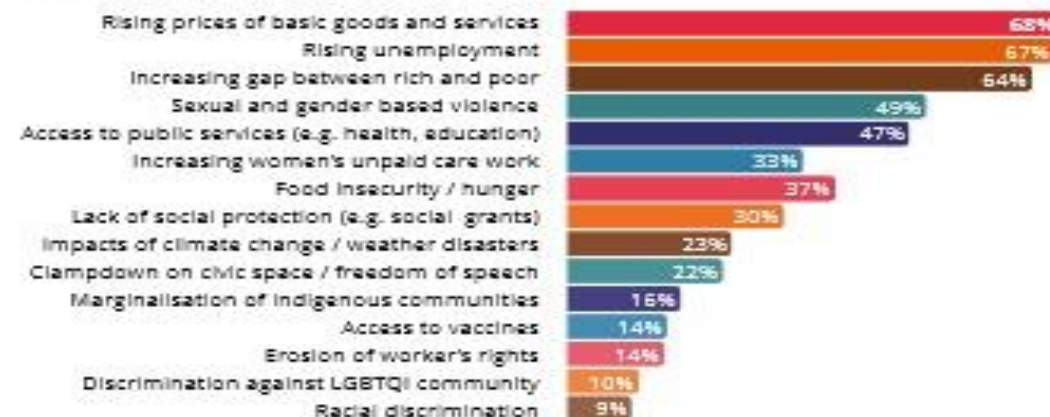


CONTEXT | Fight Inequality Alliance research 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted multiple economic and social inequalities

Inequalities have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most common impacts have been increased prices of basic goods, unemployment, gender violence, poverty, migration and problems with accessing public services, particularly healthcare.

Q. Over the past two years, which have been the most important inequality challenges for your community? (227 answers)



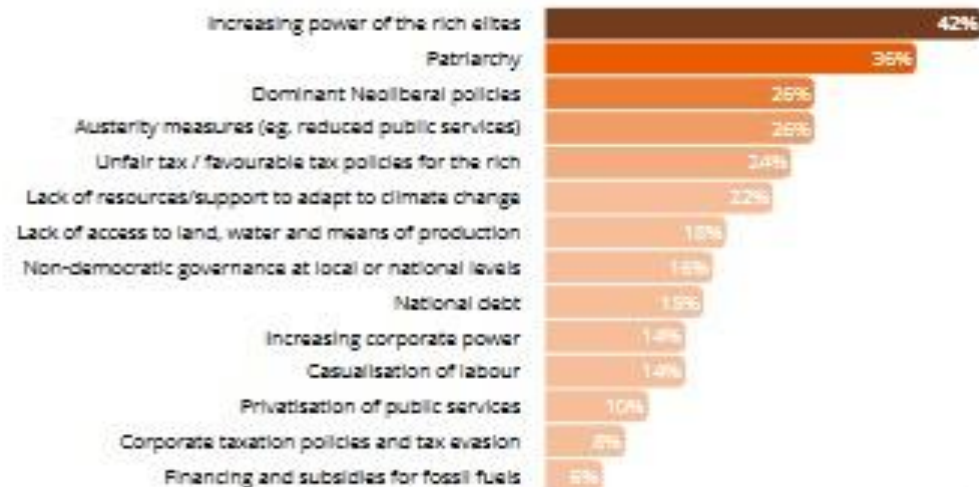
What did our members say? Members survey highlights - 2

CONTEXT | Fight Inequality Alliance research 2022

Power, patriarchy and neoliberal policies are the most important accelerators of rising inequalities

The pandemic has made existing problems more visible. Increasing power of elites, patriarchy and neoliberal policies are highlighted as the most important causes behind rising inequalities.

Q. What do you see as the most likely causes behind the inequalities your community or the community you work with face? (237 answers)



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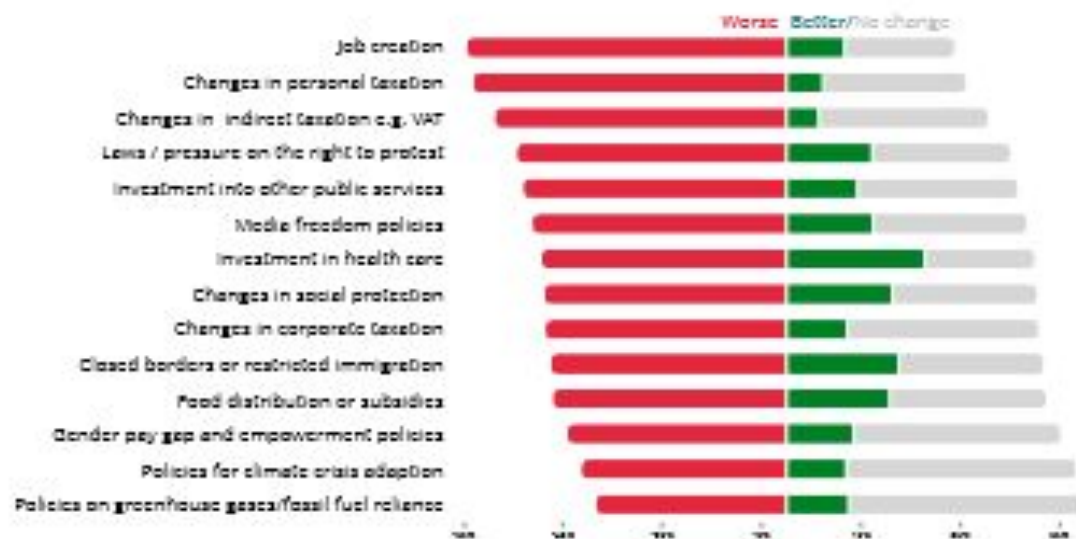
1 in 3 say patriarchy is a major cause of inequality



Many governments have implemented regressive policies that increase inequality, particularly around job creation and tax

While some respondents indicated positive pandemic responses from governments – eg building new hospitals – most have indicated a series of policies that have made inequality worse.

Q. How has your government responded to increased social and economic challenges in the last few years, particularly from the Covid 19 pandemic? (224 answers)



63% said **personal taxation policies got worse**, but only 28% saw more investment in healthcare

Unemployment and increasing indirect and personal taxation are key drivers of inequality, yet many governments have made these worse. Even in healthcare, where we might expect to see a better picture, less than 3 in 10 respondents have seen improvements in investment.

Coming up soon



Global Organising School
kicks off (August)



Core concepts and
explainers (digital comms)



Strategising with other allies
on IFI annuals

