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- Covid-19 Economic Recovery – Uganda Case Study
Background /Context

- Many Actors have opined that COVID-19 was a revealer! To who?
- Two Scenarios in Uganda’s economic story are of import to this conversation
  - Interpreting change in neoliberal Uganda
  - Uganda as a success story
  - The lived realities of Ugandans (The Wretched of the Earth)
- Gender Dynamics
COVID-19 Gendered Impact on the economy

- The Precarity of women’s jobs and livelihoods. Women in Uganda are overrepresented in the informal sector.
- For most women, they are either underemployed, unemployed and unemployable.
Gendered Impacts Cont

**Fiscal Support**

- At the beginning of the lock down in 2020, government distributed a relief packages to the urban poor.
- It also made provisions for stimulus packages. Stimulus packages were not gender responsive, the threshold was quite high for most women owned businesses.
- The criteria automatically left out women owned businesses, due to existing structural and systemic barriers such as registration, collateral, TIN number, Bank Account.
Why stimulus package didn’t deliver

- A business plan and all other documents that lay out the feasibility and viability of the business.
- The business must demonstrate expected development impacts such as job creation, tax revenue generation and import substitution.
- The business must have collateral if required. The businesses or projects must show a minimum lending requirement of 100m USD 27,000.
- The business must demonstrate its contribution to the business, in the form of equity, of between 10%-60%.
Gendered impact cont

- Coupled with High debt to GDP ratios- This leads to Austerity measures that disproportionately impact on women who are reliant on Public services.

- In Uganda Government announced health budget cuts amidst the Pandemic
Recommendations

- Structural and systemic transformation will not happen overnight but we need concrete building blocks
- Rights of women in the informal sector
- Putting care at the center of recovery
- Expanding social protection

- Progressive tax policies to ensure that the wealthiest people contribute the most
- Accountability – and also ensure we have strong and well resourced CSOs that are vital for counter balancing state and market power and bringing historically excluded groups into decision-making
- Genuine Progress Indicator as a promising approach