

Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19 Workshop (90 mins)

Global South Women's Forum

December 2020

TIMETABLE AND AGENDA

5 minutes	Welcome and Introductions	Zoom
5 min	About the project	Miro + Zoom
15 mins	Sense-making with Global Trends + Privileging Forces	Miro + Breakout Rooms
05 min	Futures Wheel Explainer with worked example	Miro + Zoom
25 min	Futures Wheels Exercise	Miro + Breakout Rooms
15 min	Report back and instructions for next steps	Miro + Zoom
10 min	Futures Wheel Discoveries	Miro + Breakout Rooms
5 min	Imagining Feminist Futures Scenario Writing	Miro + Breakout Rooms
05 min	Close	

This workshop is part of Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19, a project coordinated by IWDA with support from actors across the feminist movement, including FWRM. This methodology has been designed for feminist organisations, networks and activists who wish to explore ways that different futures could develop, given what we know now about present-day trends, power structures, and our collective desire for a better world.

In keeping with the Global South Women's Forum theme, today we will be exploring macroeconomic trends through three interactive exercises.

The materials in the workshop were designed for a global audience. We invite you to bring your knowledge and experience to this process by considering the trends, bringing up issues that may have been missed, and contextualising them within your experience.

After this workshop, the final Miro board will be captured as a PDF to be shared with all participants and published online alongside the outputs of other workshops to build a diverse, vibrant and multifaceted picture of possible feminist futures. The outcomes will be attributed to the Global South Women's Forum, but participants will not be named. Participation in this workshop indicates your consent for the outcomes to be used in this way.

Finally, we invite you to come to the workshop with the principles of respect and assumed good intentions. Remember to create space for everyone to have a say, including participants who are not working in their first language, or have other access requirements.

Our hope is that this methodology can support you to explore new ways of thinking and consider new possibilities for multiple, possible feminist futures in our post-COVID world.

1. Blue Team

For 15 mins share with your group:

- Your name,
- organisation,
- what country you are joining from, and
- how you see this trend playing out in your work

Capture your discussion on the sticky notes provided

TREND | ECONOMIC

Post-COVID Economics

The long tail of post-recession austerity has meant not only a restructuring of public services, but has spurred a generational rethink around economic models and social contracts. Reconsideration of large scale public investment now sits alongside consideration of new relationships between public and private, the re-emergence of social models like cooperatives, universal basic income, and post-capitalist economics of sustainability and balance, such as with doughnut economics theory.

In PNG, dual economy-dependent on land, powerful corporate extractives. PNG govt gets funding from IFIs and introducing SMES and encouraging women to be part of the market

Because of pandemic, PNG economy has been in recession for 18 months. Women are finding it difficult to get to the market. Now things are slowly going back to normal.

Countries are taking on loans with austerity conditions - concerns about how this will impact funding for social services, environmental protection, women's rights

Pushing for human-rights based, gender just economies

I have been based in Malaysia throughout the pandemic and witnessing the crackdown on migrants rights here under the guise of COVID-19- related to nationalism and xenophobia. Migrants are also excluded from basic social protections. Increasing incidence of COVID 19 cases on factory floors and workers dormitories.- ID

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TREND | ECONOMIC

Support Sources Dry Up

Widespread recession or depression will create cash flow pressures on orgs. Organizations will be required to do more with less as resources are shifted away from community-based causes to broader climate- or pandemic-related missions. Recruitment for volunteers dries up as people lose income and means to volunteer. To remain viable, organizations will have to make difficult decisions around their investments and other activities as pandemic and climate programs become more important for both developed and developing countries.

HK
Drying up of resources, esp for NGO's

community-based fundraising an alternative way to access flexible/core resources

Response in HK: Consortium of NGOs to raise concerns and advocate for more flexibility, reach new donors, etc.

How to raise funds without burdening groups with administrative/finance compliance requirements

Fewer resources can potentially build resilience

Locking in inequalities of access—existing partners of donors better off than those who are not yet affiliated

This year has accelerated/exacerbated what was already going on

Sex-worker and trans organisations experiencing this badly; core funding is scarce, mostly project-based funds

Reframing or reallocating resources. New ways of being a movement.

Doing differently with less. We were part of the problem

money-saving measures have become more viable (convening/hotel-based meetings not necessarily needed)

1. Blue Team

Consider the possible post-COVID impacts of your trend from now to 2030.

What might happen next year?

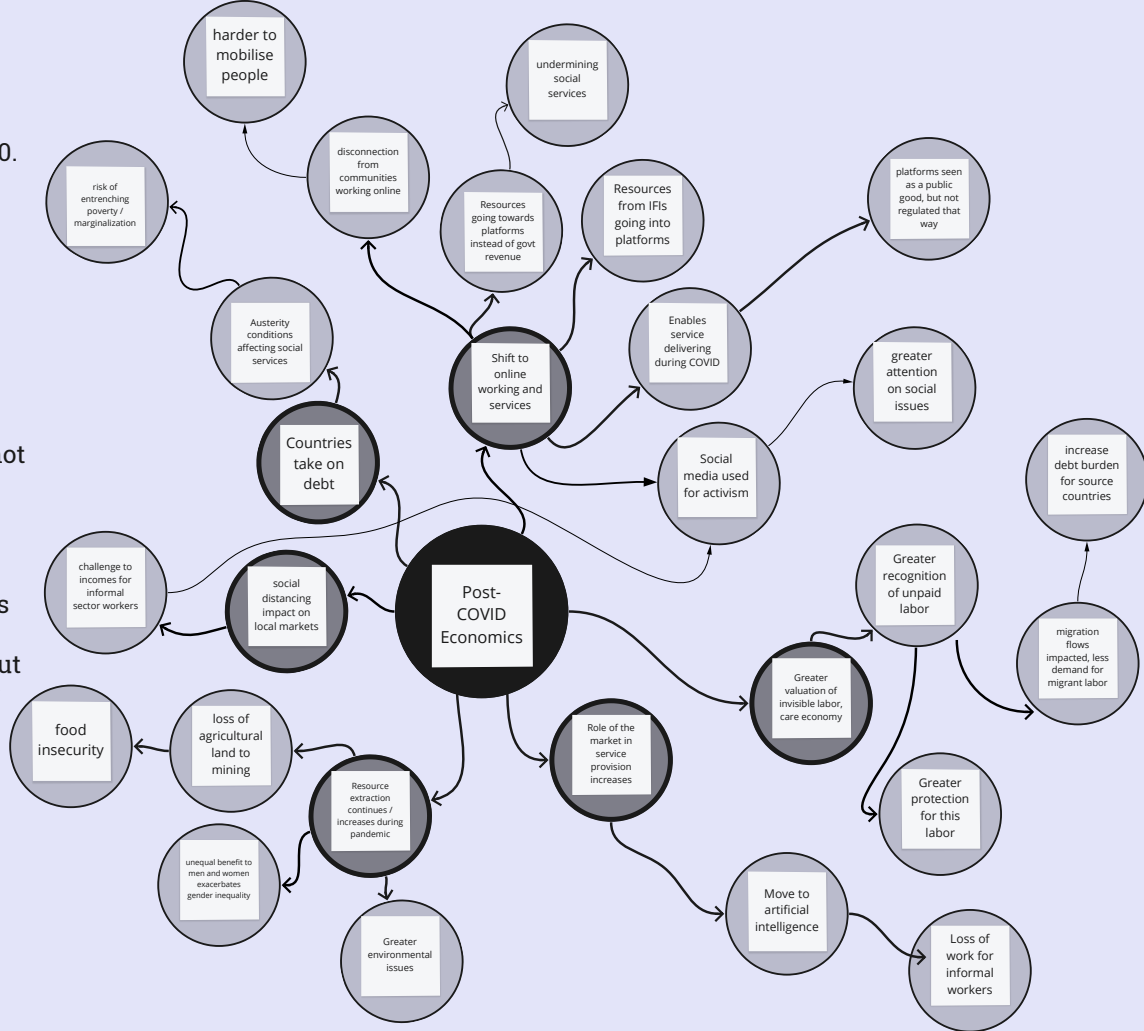
What happens after that, in 3-5 years?

What might it look like by 2030?

Remember, some impacts are positive, some negative. There can be multiple impacts from each level, and they do not have to exist in the same possible future.

Think about each thread of connected impacts as possibilities. What happens if the initial impact has an opposite effect? What if someone good comes out of something terrible, or the other way around?

Start with first level impacts and work your way out from the center. You can add more sticky notes if needed.



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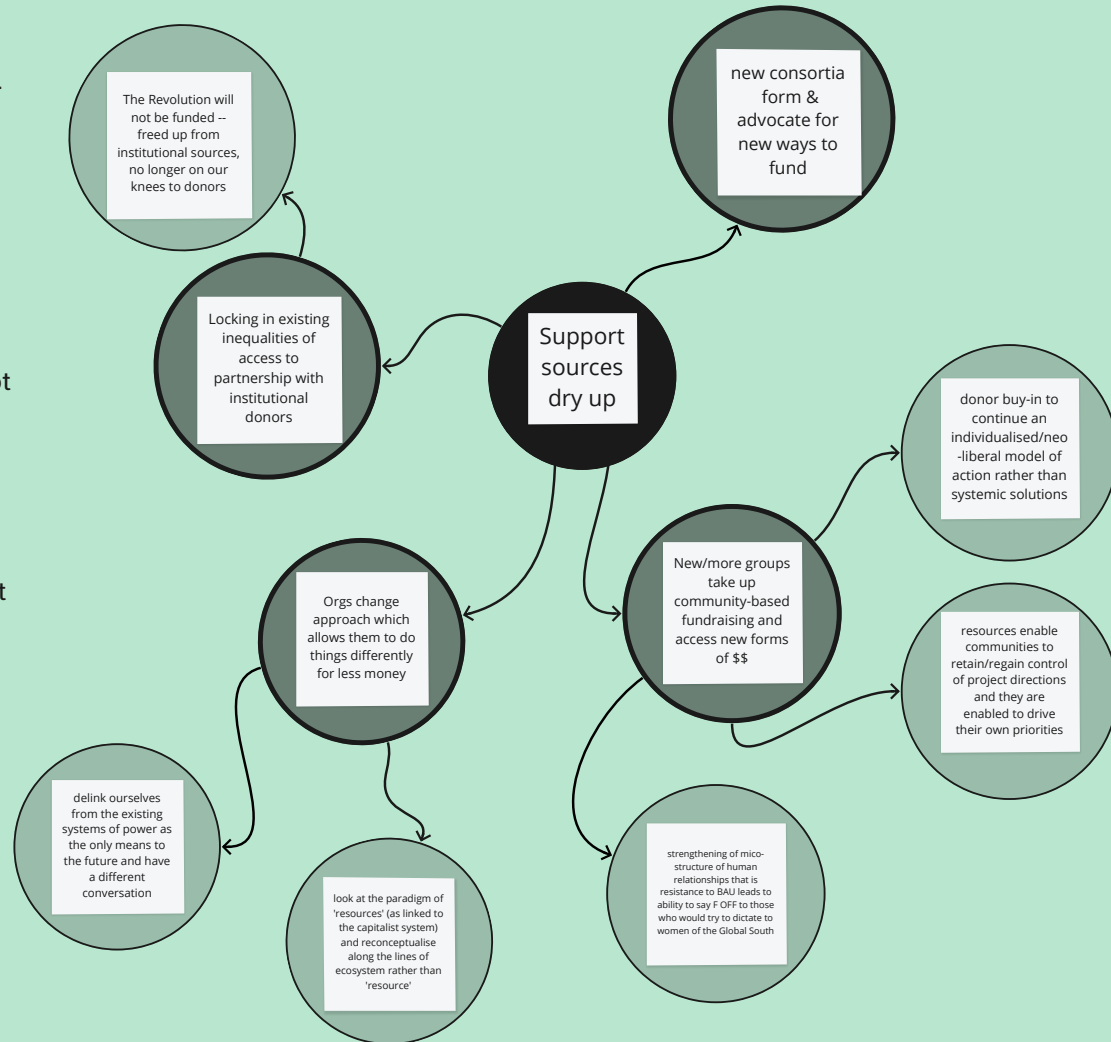
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Were there any surprising outcomes that surfaced in your Futures Wheel?

- We managed to find some positive things within negative trends
 - unpaid care
 - organising of domestic workers
 - new potential from online platforms

The futures are hopeful even when the trend looks potentially challenging.

Gives us a new frame for the transformative potential of failure and opportunities for re-birth and renewal

We have been complicit in the current system. We (feminist movements) have been part of the problem.

Privilege to fail. Who is in a position to risk the transformative potential of failure

Did any threads on your Futures Wheel surface a path to a more feminist future?

Change in what labor is considered essential - unpaid care and undervalued work (eg: wasteworkers in India)

Each thread did when a framing around the potential to strengthen/change how we are in relation to one another was applied

In that thread, what was the main difference in 2030?

Individuals are valued not based on the work they do. Work not tied to gender, caste, class etc.

Focus on the relational and micro-systems of human relationships rather than the instrumental value of person-to-person interactions

What change was necessary to lead to a more feminist future?

Redefining our relational understandings of how we relate to each other, our communities, and recreate a new understanding of the ecologies of care and inclusion.

Women go on STRIKE!

Change in workplace laws and entitlements - women in power to stand in solidarity with women workers

More relational focus within and between movements and a willingness to step into the cracks of system failure not just to challenge dominant paradigms but to build the relationships needed to 'step away'