

# Akina Mama wa Afrika

- 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

**THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR UGANDA TO HAVE A HEALTH BUDGET CUT!**

According to the current budget framework paper, the government plans to slash the health budget to UGX 2.5 trillion, a huge reduction by UGX 258.29 billion (23.6%), from last year's allocations. This cut is despite the fact that the total resource envelope for this financial year is projected to increase by UGX 164 billion; to UGX45.6 trillion.



"It is unfathomable that the government of Uganda has proposed cuts to the health budget at such a time when the country is grappling with the devastating economic and health effects of the pandemic. This exemplifies how uncaring the government continues to act towards her citizens, especially women and other vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected. Times such as these call for leadership that cares for their citizens and prioritizes critical public sectors such as health, rather than funding sectors such as security that continue to serve as tools for oppressing and meting violence on citizens," Eunice Musiime, Executive Director, Akina Mama wa Afrika.

Feminist plan-for...pdf

# 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