



International Women's Day Webinar: Using Data to Close the Gender Gap

All biographies have been provided by the speakers.

Panelists:



Petronella Chigara Dhitima
Program Leader, Toronto Centre

Petronella is the Founder and Managing Director of Mustard Seed Advisory. She brings more than 29 years of experience in microfinance/financial inclusion in Southern, East, and West Africa. She has worked in more than 30 countries, most of which are from Sub-Saharan Africa.

She is the former Accion Africa Hub and Project Manager (based in Ghana) and has recently worked with international agencies such as the ILO, the FAO, and DAI managed EU programs in Gambia and Zimbabwe.

Petronella is a Master Trainer for the ILO, the ITCILO, and has taught at Boulder MFT for the past 20 years. She is a certified SMART assessor for the Smart Campaign, a certified RIM assessor, a member of the Ministry Impact Committee, and sits on the Vision Fund International board. Petronella holds a BBS (Honours) from the University of Zimbabwe and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, UK.



Verónica Herrera
Chief Executive Officer, MiCrédito

Verónica Herrera is MiCrédito's Chief Executive Officer. She holds a degree in Public Accounting with a concentration in finance from the National University of Managua, Nicaragua.

She has completed additional studies in Bank Management and has comprehensive knowledge of banking in Nicaragua. More recently, Verónica completed The Strategic Leadership for Microfinance Program at the Harvard Business School.



Verónica's experience ranges from overseeing the financial and managerial operations of MiCrédito, preparing financial statements, raising \$2-\$5 million in capital funding from national and international organizations, establishing procedures for branch networks and monitoring compliance, ensuring branch compliance with internal and external standards, and managing and coordinating external audits. For 11 years, she worked for Nicaragua's People's Bank and then began a career working with MEDA. She served as Finance Manager at CHISPA (a MEDA micro-credit program) and later at CONFIA/Procredit (the result of a merger).

Moderator:



Lindsay Wallace
Senior Vice President, Strategy & Impact,
Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

Lindsay brings over 25 years of experience working in international development and leading economic analysis, impact measurement, program design, and strategy.

Most recently, Lindsay has been working as the Director of Strategy at Limestone Analytics, an international consulting firm, where she supports strategy development, market analysis, business development, and growth.

Lindsay spent eight years at the Mastercard Foundation in various roles, including as Head of Impact/Director of Strategy and Learning, where she led the development of their new strategy. Lindsay has been a strong advocate for private sector growth and business solutions to poverty throughout her career.

Lindsay earned her M.A. in Public Administration and Policy from Carleton University. She also holds an M.A. in Economics, specializing in Environmental Studies from the University of Toronto, and a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from McGill University.