



MENAFEM

الحركة النسوية للعدالة الاقتصادية، الإيكولوجية و التنمية في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا
MenaFem Movement for Economic, Development And Ecological Justice

Feminist resistance, *economic justice*, and climate action in a time of global crisis.

January–June 2026

Building feminist alternatives in a fractured world

The first half of 2026 unfolded amid profound global uncertainty. Across the MENA region and the Global South, communities continue to bear the consequences of intersecting crises: unsustainable debt, austerity, climate breakdown, conflict, displacement, and growing inequality.

While governments are urged to cut public spending, privatize essential services, and prioritize debt repayments, women and marginalized communities continue to absorb the social and economic costs — while climate finance stays insufficient and militarization diverts resources from social and environmental priorities.

In this context, MENA Fem has continued to advance a feminist vision of economic and climate justice — through advocacy, research, capacity strengthening, and regional solidarity, centered on care, redistribution, sustainability, and human rights.

Key themes of the semester.

01 – DEBT JUSTICE

How debt burdens and austerity undermine gender equality, public services, and sustainable development.

02 – CLIMATE JUSTICE

Feminist approaches to climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, and a genuinely just transition.

03 – INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Challenging inequitable global economic structures and pushing for democratic governance.

04 – CARE ECONOMIES

Recognition and redistribution of unpaid care work as a pillar of economic transformation.

05 – MOVEMENT BUILDING

Strengthening feminist networks and collective action across the MENA region and beyond.



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Reclaiming economic governance through feminist perspectives.

As governments across the Global South face increasing debt distress, MENA Fem highlighted the disproportionate impacts of debt repayment obligations and austerity on women, care systems, and social protection.

Economic policies are not gender-neutral. Fiscal consolidation, subsidy reforms, privatization, and spending cuts have profound implications for livelihoods, labor rights, food security, and access to essential services. Through policy engagement, public communications, and coalition work, we advanced alternatives that prioritize social investment, public services, equitable taxation, and economic sovereignty.



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Inside the IMF & World Bank Spring Meetings

This year's Spring Meetings closed the way they opened: with polished statements and no structural shift. War in the Middle East, an oil shock, and Global South debt levels beyond anything seen since the 1980s formed the backdrop — yet financing kept arriving tied to the same fiscal consolidation conditions as always. Our reflection put it plainly: the system isn't failing, it is working exactly as designed, prioritizing creditor returns and energy security over the care economy and the survival of the Global South.

On the ground in Washington, MENAFem co-organized a side event with Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, ActionAid USA, and the Bretton Woods Project examining the gendered fallout of IMF- and World Bank-driven fuel subsidy removals, building on BWP's newly launched report *Fuelling Inequality*

→ [MENAFem Reflection on the 2026 IMF & World Bank Spring Meetings](#)

→ [All our Spring Meetings 2026 coverage](#)

→ [Side event recap: Fuelling Inequality \(Bretton Woods Project\)](#)



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From Bonn to global climate spaces.

As international climate negotiations intensified, our advocacy focused on exposing the limits of approaches that ignore structural inequalities — challenging narratives that frame climate action as purely technical while sidestepping questions of power, debt, extraction, and historical responsibility.

At the Bonn Climate Meetings and other international forums, MENA Fem contributed feminist analysis on climate finance and debt, just transition frameworks, energy justice, loss and damage, community-led solutions, and gender-responsive climate policy.



A feminist vision of just transition

Not simply a change of energy source — a transformation of the social, economic, and political systems that perpetuate inequality. It must ensure decent work and social protection, democratic participation, recognition of care work, protection of land and natural resources, respect for Indigenous and local communities, and equitable access to energy and public goods.



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MENA Fem Annual Feminist Economics School 2026

Bringing together participants from across the region, the School provided a space for collective learning, critical reflection, and movement-building — exploring feminist economic theory, debt and development, care economies, climate justice, international financial institutions, fiscal justice, and feminist alternatives to dominant economic models.



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The Road Ahead

As we enter the second half of 2026, the urgency of feminist economic and climate justice continues to grow.

Our priorities for the coming months:

- Reforming the international financial architecture
- Advancing debt justice
- Influencing climate finance discussions
- Strengthening feminist economic education
- Expanding regional alliances
- Supporting collective advocacy ahead of major international processes

A future where economies are organized around care rather than profit.

A future where climate action advances justice rather than extraction.

A future measured by dignity, equality, and collective wellbeing.

Thank you to our partners, allies, supporters, and movement members who continue to build this vision with us.



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