Research Cycle — Seven Papers to Close the Accountability Gap

1) From Participation to Profit? Do Government Interventions Grow Women-Led Businesses? Not So Much

Reviews 33 peer-reviewed studies and builds country scorecards (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam + failure annex). Finding: programs recruit women, but measurable gains in profitability, scale, and sustainability are largely absent.
Accountability gap exposed: Participation ≠ performance.

2) They Never Measured It: How Governments Traded Results for Rhetoric in Women's Aid Programs

Canada + Southeast Asia case studies show RBM was promised but not embedded. Introduces a 7-Dimensional Performance Framework (profitability, sustainability, resilience, market access, leadership & scale, digital capability, post-program trajectory).
Accountability fix proposed: Measure outcomes, not activities.

3) Two Worlds – Two Visions: Why Women Entrepreneurs Were Never the Goal

Oxford Handbook chapter placing programs within institutional logics and technocratic feminism. Core claim: agencies pursued visibility and rhetoric rather than building real entrepreneurs; practice drifted away from lived business realities.
Accountability lens: Align goals with entrepreneurs' outcomes, not donor optics.

4) The Cost of Aid: Broken Promises and Shattered Dreams

Quantifies the opportunity cost of aid that delivers participation without profit: fiscal leakage, deadweight loss, and the human cost of time diverted from trade to trainings. Compares 'money-out' with 'results-in,' showing what could have been achieved under true RBM.
Accountability fix: Mandatory value-for-money audits tied to the 7-Dimensional Framework, published alongside budgets.

5) Aid Effectiveness and the Abandonment of Accountability

Assesses OECD/UN/donor frameworks and national practice (incl. Canada). Documents the shift from outcome measurement to narrative production and how reporting 'gloss' replaced performance.
Accountability fix: Reinstate RBM with enforcement (performance compacts, independent

verification, consequence management).

6) Neoliberalism and the False Promise of Microcredit and Fintech

Tracks the arc from microcredit to fintech: debt without profit for many women. Shows how financial products were sold as empowerment while unit economics of women-led MSMEs were ignored.
Accountability fix: Tie finance to viable business models with profitability milestones, not disbursement targets.

7) Gender Budgeting, Technocratic Feminism, and Donor Visibility: The Illusion of Progress

Combines gender budgeting practice with governance logics: budgets labeled 'gender' without mechanisms to track entrepreneurial outcomes. Technocratic feminism elevated visibility over transformation.
Accountability fix: Convert gender budgets into results contracts: each line item maps to one or more of the 7 dimensions, with targets and public reporting.

Closing the Cycle

Together, the seven papers expose the full accountability gap:
- **Symptoms:** Participation without profit.
- **Diagnosis:** RBM abandoned; optics over outcomes.
- **System critique:** Neoliberal finance, gender budgeting, and technocratic governance sidelined results.
- **Solution:** Enforceable 7-Dimensional Performance Framework + value-for-money audits + public reporting and consequences.