



Achieving Greater Collective Impact: Collaborative Development and Pilot Test of a Common Feedback Tool for Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality

Executive Summary

When the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015, one of three primary challenges identified to achieving them was the development of a monitoring framework for the Goals.¹ At that time, the Secretary-General specifically called for multi-stakeholder processes to identify the best metrics; many rigorous tools have been developed to measure progress, but the challenge is ongoing.

SDG5, Gender Equality, poses a particular challenge to evaluation. While many metrics tend to focus on high-level change (primarily at the national and regional level) much of the actual work towards equality happens at a grass-roots level. Furthermore, organizations doing work “on the ground” are often small and relatively isolated – effecting change in the lives of individuals or small communities, but in practical terms detached from the global effort to achieve gender equality.

A number of robust efforts to evaluate work for gender equality are currently in place. The third page of this document provides an abbreviated overview of the leading frameworks for M&E in this arena. Thousands of existing studies are reported online at datanavigator.ihsn.org. The challenge as previously noted, however, is that most of these tools either assess micro-results or aggregated data at a national or regional level, without linking the two in any meaningful fashion. Furthermore, the vast majority of this work provides quantitative data, which, while useful, offers only a partial picture.

The current project works to overcome this gap by developing a tool that adequately assesses grass-roots work in light of the specific goals of SDG5. Drawing on the diverse expertise of a small number of international NGOs, the initiative will prototype and test a tool that aligns local work with relevant SDG5 goals.

Project partners will work together to select SDG5 goals that they share in common, along with a “mix-and-match” assortment of relevant indicators. These elements will inform the development of a tool that will also include metrics to assess the contributory factor of agency, understood as “the ability to make decisions about one’s own life and act on them to achieve a desired outcome, free of violence, retribution, or fear.”² This tool will then be deployed worldwide, providing actionable feedback on the ground for globally-significant work.

For further reading about SDG5, evaluation, and practical tools for your work, please explore the links on the next page of this document.

¹ <http://unsdsn.org/news/2015/01/21/three-challenges-to-address-to-make-the-sdgs-work/>

² *Voice and Agency*, p.13 (attached)

For further reading:

In Google Drive:

Measuring Women's Empowerment: Dimensions of Empowerment

A brief and helpful summary of various aspects that might form the basis of gender-related M&E.

Gender Indicators

Very helpful overview of metrics re: gender equality. Slight outdated, in that it links gender equity to MDG rather than SDG, but nevertheless provides an excellent overarching introduction.

Gender Development Index Technical Notes

Background for understanding how gender inequality is measured. Charts and graphs that explain the process.

How to Manage Gender-Responsive Evaluation

Voice and Agency

(esp. chapters 1 and 7)

Capturing Change in Women's Realities

This document offers a critical overview of current gender-related M&E frameworks and approaches, noting especially the following 2 challenges: 1) Specifically, we found that very few M&E frameworks or approaches actually enable us to understand how change happens or how gender relations have been altered. 2) The second and related challenge is to know what to measure, particularly in relation to the assumptions or theory of change underlying the intervention or program. There seems to be a growing trend of questioning even long-standing indicators for their inability to tell us what is really happening on the ground in people's daily lives.

On the web:

Theory of Change/Outcome Mapping:

<http://katherinehaugh.com/outcome-mapping-considering-complexity-relationships-and-context-in-me-for-social-change/>

Data collection, analysis and use in the majority world:

<http://datanavigator.ihsn.org/>

Sample data collection tools

http://evaluationtoolbox.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=5

Gender indicators (database of nearly 700, divided by categories):

<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/indicators>