
Webinar on

“Gender in the Annual Reports 2018” – 26. September 2018

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

‘EFFECTIVENESS & RESULTS ON GENDER EQUALITY’ REPORT

Q: Do ‘Transversal’ projects contribute to structural changes?

Transversal projects do not distinguish between being gender sensitive, positive or transformative. However, with more gender specific projects tackling issues such as GBV etc. we can more objectively link project impacts as contributing to structural changes. When analyzing the results between gender specific versus transversal projects, 73% of gender specific projects contributed to structural changes, compared to 31% of gender transversal projects.

To increase potential for structural change, the report findings suggest the following improvements:

- 1) Shift toward more gender positive / transformative projects
- 2) Invest in gender capacity building
- 3) Keep thematic orientation: GBV, WEE and WPE
- 4) At least objective per thematic sector should be gender specific
- 5) Gender championing through policy dialogue
- 6) Institutional/ work place gender mainstreaming

INTEGRATING GENDER RESULTS INTO ANNUAL REPORTING

Q: How much gender information do we need to include in the report?

As a rule of thumb, it is recommended to include at least one key gender issue per section.

Q: New template requires outcome level reporting. How much flexibility do we have, especially that often we are guided by more ‘output level’ field-based analysis?

This common challenge is in part due to certain elements not being already integrated into the cooperation strategy guidance, therefore it can be to integrate. If ‘output level’ data has important implications for expected results, then it is recommended to include the results on gender as part of overall outcome as opposed to stand alone results. The format aims to provide flexibility, so we recommend using that flexibility. If questions remain, contact us to discuss further.

Q: Difficult to work on system level; how to manage time pressure?

Gender is often process driven which takes more time, and can be more challenging to monitor, assess and report on. Some key elements to integrate into the M&E framework are: what are enabling factors, obstacles, and identified milestones. Monitoring and doing a trend analysis in complement to more specific outputs and results which demonstrate and substantiate the more process driven data is also useful.

Q: Should each domain report on a gender ARI?

It is suggested to consider what is feasible and what is applicable. If the ARIs are relevant, they should be referenced. Gender ARIs are elaborated in relation to what other domains are doing to facilitate mainstreaming. One can also look beyond ARIs into the overall Gender equality monitoring framework indicators toward Strategic goal 7: Right, GBV, WEE and WPE, and other thematic sub-fields from where the gender ARIs come.

Q: Fragile context indicators tend to be at activity/ output level. What are recommendations to for more results/ outcome level relevant reporting?

In a fragile context difficult just to do the activities let alone report on gender at an outcome level. This is probably true for any topic or thematic. We differentiate between practical and strategic gender needs. In a fragile context, practical gender needs are by default more relevant and also crucial in such as context. To this end, the recommendation is to stress importance and contribution of more practical gender outputs toward outcome levels result in such a context.

Q: What are recommendations for avoiding ‘ticking the box’ on gender indicators at different levels?

The Annual Report process is an opportunity which can be leveraged leverage for presenting results at different levels e.g. management level, steering level etc. It is also important to report on difficulties and lessons learnt. Annual reports are internal steering reports, so important to gain insight and learn for all concerned. This also helps to avoid simply ticking the box when there is more joint reflection and analysis at different levels.

Q: SDC has many cross-cutting themes. What are recommendations for striking a balance in annual reporting?

We need to make strategic choices, prioritizing domains and which transversal topic is most relevant to report on in relation to the domain.

We are also working on more integrated instruments which address the interface between themes e.g. gender, CSPM and governance as an example. Therefore, one can also report from a more integrated perspective if it applies.

Q: What are recommendations in the case when despite doing a gender analysis, gender indicators were omitted in the planning stage, and therefore cannot be cross-checked and reported on?

If we don't have gender indicators in the planning, it will be a gamble in how we go about reporting on it in a meaningful way. Having recognized this important gap, it is recommended to do a gender analysis as soon as possible, considering positive and negative results and integrate relevant indicators into the M&E framework for follow up in the remainder of the project phase. This gap can also be reported on as a lesson learnt, outlining the implications observed and experienced for overall expected results.

Q: It is a challenge to avoid ‘box-ticking’ when incorporating gender indicators into cooperation strategy monitoring matrix. Do we have a checklist for gender integration into our cooperation strategy?

It is in the pipeline. We recognize the need for this and will include the many good practices already shared on engaging with partners on the topic of gender and related issues. We encourage to continue to work with colleagues and partners, promoting shared ownership and responsibility on gender.