

The Darwin Initiative



Gender



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Introduction



- What comes to mind when you think about **gender**?
- **Definition of gender**

'Gender is the characteristics used to differentiate between male and female. These characteristics can be biological and/or social. '

- **What is gender equality?**

Gender equality is the view that women and men should receive equal treatment, and should not be discriminated against based on their gender. They should receive equal access to social goods, services and resources. For example, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 gives women and men equal rights to own land and overrules any cultures that are opposed to this (Kenya is patriarchal and so this right has been denied to women in the past).

- **What is gender equity?**

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. Here the different life experiences and needs of men and women are taken into consideration and compensation is made for women's historical and social disadvantages. For example, in Kenya the cut off point for University intake is lower for girls than it is for boys. This is based on the fact that girls tend to face more difficulties in education.

Introduction (cont.)



- In the past gender has focused mainly on women. This is due to the fact that in a large number of developing countries women have been highly vulnerable due to discriminatory cultural practices, traditions and historic injustices.
- However, now gender recognises other vulnerable groups; children, youth and people with disabilities.
- For your projects, the statutory requirements according to the UK Gender Equality Act 2014 focuses mainly on women and not the other categories.

International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014



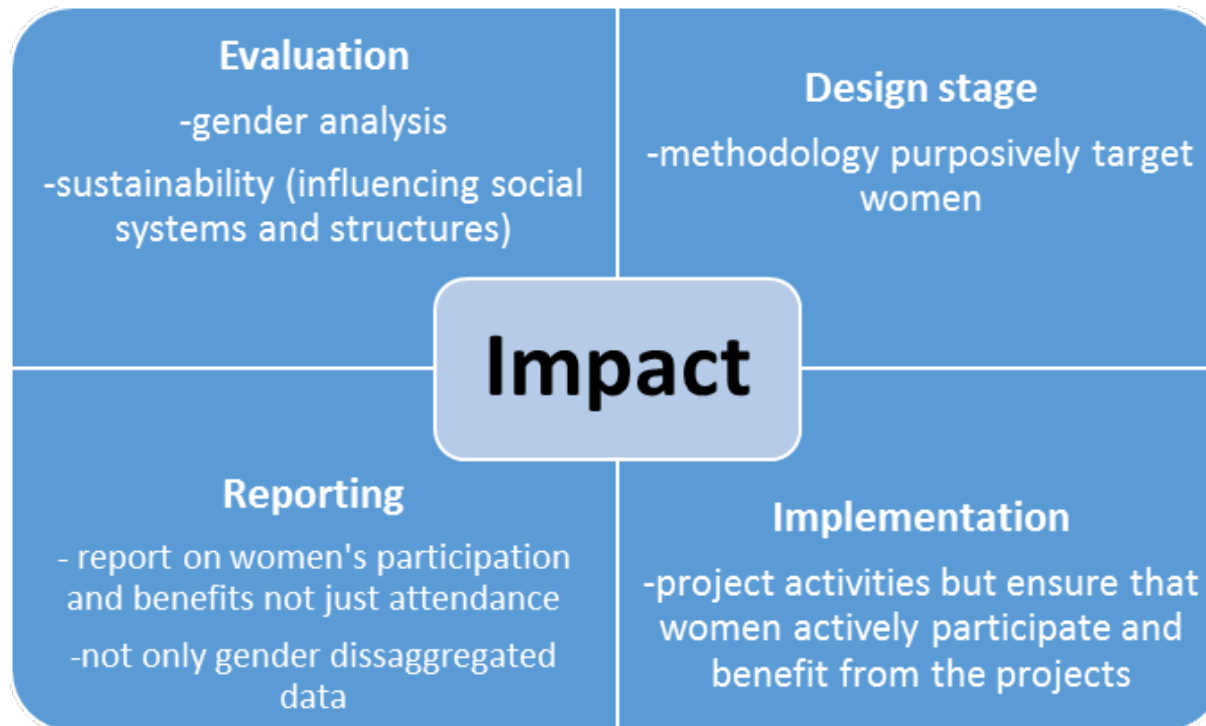
(1A)

“Before providing development assistance under subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall have regard to the desirability of providing development assistance that is likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender.”

Gender in your projects



- How do you integrate gender into your projects?



Questions?

