

The Darwin Initiative



The Importance of Gender in Darwin Projects



Department
for Environment
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What is gender?



- *Gender is a social construct referring to the economic, social, political and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being men and women*
- When considering “gender” it is also important to consider broader aspects of social inclusion:
 - Men and women are not homogenous groups
 - Consider other vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, or people with disabilities

What is gender?



When incorporating gender into your projects, it is important to consider that total equality might not be feasible – interventions should respect and consider cultural differences, whilst not reinforcing traditional gender roles. Context analysis is essential.



Gender equality vs gender equity



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).



Gender equality vs gender equity



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.



Gender in your projects



4 steps to integrate gender into your projects:

1. Understand and examine gender dimensions of the project and setting
2. Develop project elements and activities
3. Develop project indicators for monitoring gender integration
4. Develop broader institutional process to further gender integration

Source: Conservation International's "Guidelines for integrating gender into conservation programming"

Do no harm



- Consider not only the benefits but the potential **costs** of project activities
- Are there any project components that could potentially make life harder – for men or women?
- If so, how will this risk be mitigated?



Exploring gender dimensions



- Speak with people living in communities where project implemented
- Focus groups and interviews
- If you aren't working directly with communities – who are your stakeholders? Who will be benefiting from the project?



Ask questions on these themes:

Practices and participation *e.g. what work do men and women do?*

Access to resources *e.g. what natural resources (relevant to the project) do men and women have access to? What other resources (e.g. credit or information) are available for men and women, and who uses these resources?*

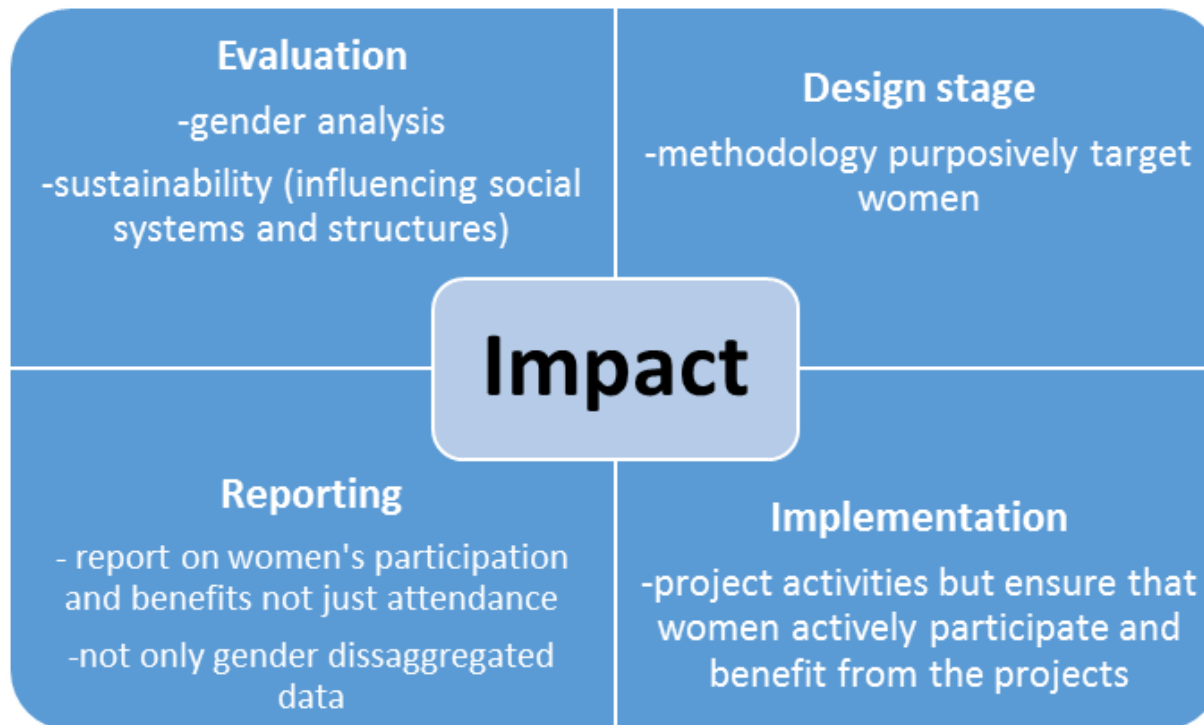
Knowledge, beliefs and perceptions *e.g. how do men and women receive and share information in a community? Do women tend to voice their opinions during community decision making? Why or why not?*

Legal rights and status *e.g. who can own land or other property? Do formal codes differ from customary codes?*

Power *e.g. who has the power to make decisions at the household and community level? Who controls how money is spent within a household?*

Impact *e.g. how might the project affect the daily lives of men and women? What benefits does the community receive from the project, or what costs (e.g. time and labour)? How are these benefits/costs shared between men and women?*

Where gender fits in



Case Study: Suklaphanta



- Project led by ZSL
- Working in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in Nepal
- Very strong gender component
- Overgrazing in reserve threatens wildlife; livelihoods dependent on the natural resources of the park
- Set up women-led dairy cooperatives
- Provided direct benefits for a traditionally marginalised group
- Additionally led to indirect capacity building and empowerment impacts



Questions?



Additional resources:

- IUCN’s “How to incorporate gender into conservation” <https://www.iucn.org/content/how-incorporate-gender-conservation>
- Conservation International’s “Guidelines for integrating gender into conservation programming” http://www.conservation.org/publications/Documents/CI_Gender-Integration-Guidelines-EN.pdf