Outcomes Statement

ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshop, 9 June 2016

Measuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The June 2016 ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshop focussed on data, monitoring and evaluation of gender programming in the age of the SDGs. The workshop explored the way DFAT, NGOs and researchers *currently* collect data and monitor, evaluate and learn from their work on gender equality, and identified gaps in our efforts towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This outcomes statement summarises the key issues arising from the day, and presents some ideas that ACFID, Gender Equality Community of Practice members, and DFAT can take to further progress in the area of data, monitoring and evaluation of gender sensitive targets and indicators of the SDGs.

What are the shortfalls between what we do and what the SDGs require?	How can we bridge these gaps?
- The number and scope of the indicators mean that many countries (particularly in the Pacific) currently lack either the technical skills or resources to collect data on many of the indicators.	- DFAT can build on its existing work building the capacity of statistical bodies in the Pacific, with a focus on increasing capacity to report against the SDGs.
- For all countries, the scope of the indicators brings with it the potential for trade-offs between the depth and scope of reporting – countries may choose to report on a larger number of indicators without disaggregating, rather than providing disaggregated data on fewer indicators.	- DFAT and NGOs could play a complementary role to the official reporting process by aligning data and M&E systems to the SDGs, so we can see how our work is contributing to global progress in parallel with the official process. Additionally, by keeping a focus on the stories behind the data.
- There are shortfalls in the indicators themselves – for example, the indicators on child marriage/sexual violence only capture women aged 15 and above.	- In areas where the indicators fall short, there is scope for NGOs and others (private sector, academia etc) to capture data and monitor progress in a complementary way.
- For both DFAT and the NGOs, the issue of *which* women are benefiting from our work is at the heart of the SDGs. We will need to ensure M&E looks at underlying power structures which may prevent particular groups of women from accessing the benefits of development programs, and continue to collect gender sensitive, sex-disaggregated data.	- DFAT and NGOs need to utilise individualised, disaggregated methods like the Individual Deprivation Measure, which allows for gender sensitive data collection across a range of indicators. In this way, we will be able to track *which* women are benefiting from our programs.
- Making good use of M&E outputs to inform future work will continue to be necessary from	- NGOs and DFAT need to ensure learning is built into program design cycles. Additionally, we need

both DFAT and NGOs to effectively work towards the SDGs.	to do more evaluation of the impact of this learning on future work, and ask the hard questions around whether the learning we do actually makes a difference in terms of how we go about our work.

What are ACFID and DFAT already doing to begin to bridge some of these gaps?

1. ACFID and members to undertake exploratory discussions on the extent to which the data we capture may be relevant to the SDGs, whether our current systems would benefit from greater alignment with the SDGs framework.

2. Through work currently being undertaken by ACFID's Development Practice Committee, ACFID will provide guidance to help members take the SDGs (particularly their interconnectedness) into account in the design and planning phase of program cycles.

3. DFAT to continue to lead Australia's international engagement on the SDGs, in the context of a whole of government approach to implementation of the SDGs, coordinated by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

4. DFAT gender team to engage with initiatives through the innovationXchange and Gender Equality Fund to promote solutions to the issue of gender sensitive data for the SDGs, including technological solutions.

5. Integrate the SDGs into DFAT's funding mechanisms, by encouraging all partners (including NGOs, private sector, contractors and multilaterals) to demonstrate how their work will or align with the SDGs.

6. DFAT to continue to pursue the 80% target of programs addressing gender in their implementation through increased disaggregated reporting and a strengthened Aid Quality Check process

What more could we do together to bridge some of these gaps and work towards the SDGs?

7. We could expand every second ACFID-DFAT Gender Workshop to include domestic organisations such as the Office for Women and the National Women's Alliances networks, and focus on aspects of gender and the SDGs that are relevant for both international and domestic focused agencies.

8. ACFID, DFAT and NGOs could jointly develop resources on gender and the SDGs, to:

    a. Provide guidance on the Australian Government's approach to the SDGs, and assist international and domestic NGOs in aligning their own work to the SDGs.

    b. Engage with DFAT Posts on national reporting on the SDGs led by partner governments.

The ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshops are held twice-yearly. Through shared learning around a topic of mutual interest, the workshops provide an opportunity for DFAT and NGOs to gain a better understanding of their respective priorities and the opportunities to work together towards gender equality.