



Monitoring strategic gender change: sharing findings, challenges and recommendations

Session 1a

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The Gender and WASH Monitoring Tool (GWMT)

Two Aims:

- For project implementation staff and partners to: develop understanding of gender analysis; practical skills for gender monitoring; collect sex-disaggregated information
- For communities to: raise awareness about gender roles and relationships in household and community WASH activities; promote (aspirations for) gender equality



Principles that underpin the GWMT

Developed by IWDA, ISF-UTS, World Vision and Live and Learn

Principle	Description
Principle 1: Facilitate participation and inclusion	Focus on ways of working that enable women, men, girls and boys to be actively involved in improving their water, sanitation and hygiene situation.
Principle 2: Focus on how decisions are made	Use decision-making processes that enable women's and men's active involvement, within the project and activities.
Principle 3: See and value differences	See, understand and value the different work, skills and concerns of women and men related to water, sanitation and hygiene.
Principle 4: Create opportunities	Provide space and support for women and men to experience and share new roles and responsibilities.

Principles that underpin the GWMT

Gender outcomes associated with WASH initiatives can be classified across two intersecting dimensions:

- whether outcomes relate to **individual changes** or **changes in relationships**; and
- whether outcomes are experienced within the ***household sphere*** or in the ***wider 'public' arena***.

The public arena can be further broken down into:

- local arena (including social and community networks)
- broader public arena (including governance institutions and beyond).

From practical to strategic change: strengthening gender in WASH

- Supported under the Innovations and Impact Fund
- Collaboration between Plan International (Australia and Vietnam); ISF-UTS, Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), Vietnam
- Sought to determine whether the GWMT, above and beyond its two stated aims, *directly contributes to the achievement of strategic gender outcomes*



Photo: ISF-UTS

Approach and Scope

- Compared experiences of 187 people (51% women; 49% men) with different degrees of exposure to the GWMT in 7 villages
- Remote support and collaborative piloting and analysis workshops
- Utilised the gender outcomes framework, focusing on 7 Strategic Gender Outcomes in the household and local public arena



Photo: ISF-UTS

Approach and Scope – Framework

Strategic gender outcomes	Household sphere <i>Household and family networks</i>	Local public arena <i>Social and community networks</i>
<p>Changes in self/ individuals <i>Includes changes for women or men</i> <i>Includes changes relating to roles as well as self-perception and attitudes</i></p>	<p>SGO1-Changes in the distribution of household roles and labour between women and men</p> <p>SGO2-Changes in self-confidence, particularly for women</p>	<p>SGO4-Changes in the number of women occupying public and potentially influential roles in their community</p> <p>SGO5-Changes in self-confidence, including to participate in community meetings/forums, particularly for women</p>
<p>Changes in relationships <i>Includes changes in relationships between women/men and within gender groups</i></p>	<p>SGO3-Changes in communication between household members with relation to influencing decision making</p>	<p>SGO6-Changes in solidarity within and between women and men groups</p> <p>SGO7-Changes in the extent to which women’s perspectives are listened to at the community level.</p>

Approach and Scope

A qualitative approach was used through semi-structured interviews and analysis of interview transcripts. Using the strategic outcomes framework, a thematic analysis explored the types and depth of outcomes experiences in the context of rural Vietnam and the influencing factors for this change.

A quantitative approach was used as a method (pocket voting) and also during analysis to 'count' the frequency of gender outcomes reported by participants to see differences in the experiences of strategic gender outcomes across the different groups.

- 12 month study
- quasi-experimental design
- mixed methods



Photo: CRES

Findings - overview

- Most (81%) participants identified at least 1 strategic change over the previous 3 years
- Relatively little difference between women and men in terms of number of changes
- Younger age group reported more change than older group
- Ethnic minority groups reported more change than majority group
- Change at HH level more common than at community level
- Some negative changes (8 of 101)



Photo: ISF-UTS

Key Findings - most commonly reported changes

At HH level – communication related to decision making;
women's increased self-confidence

“Before, making decision who work what in the family belonged to me, my wife do all houseworking, and cut grass near the house, husband go to the forest, field. Now, I and my wife discuss all works, sometime she makes the decision” (Man in Ta Leng village)

At community level – women's
increased confidence to participate (but
not much evidence of leadership roles)



Key Findings- causes for gender outcomes

- Approx. 30% strategic gender outcomes reported directly linked to WASH processes, policies or outcomes
- Approx. 70% strategic gender outcomes reported attributed to a wide range of other factors:
 - access to information
 - individual attitudes and values
 - necessity or practicality
 - broad societal change



Conclusions and implications

- Gender equality outcomes were experienced by most participants in the study, regardless of their exposure to Plan's GWMT.
- GWMT processes and aims are valid and can reinforce efforts to support gender equality (but are not sufficient on their own)
- Change processes towards gender equality are complex, are not linear, are influenced by a range of factors



Key Recommendations

1. WASH practitioners need to incorporate processes to monitor strategic gender outcomes (as well as practical outcomes) within monitoring systems.
2. Maximising the use of gender monitoring and evaluation data to inform improved programming can take different and additional skills that need to be resourced



Key Recommendations

3. Make the most of the processes which were found in the research to positively affect gender equality:
 - Equipping women with information and knowledge, particularly technical knowledge
 - Identifying cultural and customary barriers to achieving gender equality.
 - Mitigating unintended negative impacts

4. Combining qualitative and quantitative methods is feasible and important for monitoring and evaluating gender outcomes





Thank You

Full and summary research reports can be downloaded from the CS WASH Fund website: www.cswashfund.org