Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

This sex disaggregated data collection guide provides details and videos on the need to collect sex disaggregated data as an important step towards serving women smallholders better and increasing their agency.

The guide also provides tips on how to collect data while avoiding gender biases as much as possible.

The guide provides a sample of categories and indicators that organizations should consider while collecting sex disaggregated data to ensure that the data exhaustively represents the different realities faced by men and women smallholders.

The sample indicators are primarily external focussed, however the data collected can be used to inform internal strategic and business analysis.

Directions to use the sex disaggregated data collection guide:

1. If your organization is new to the concept of collecting sex disaggregated data it is recommended you start with the linked resources and videos to understand the importance of collecting sex disaggregated data.

2. Go through the tips on data collection to ensure that at each step of data collection any unintentional gender bias is avoided or at least acknowledged.

3. Use the sample questions in the categories given to further build out questions to enable data collection. Attempt to collect data across various indicators to ensure realities and needs of women and men smallholders are accurately represented.

4. Use various channels such as internal company reports, surveys, focus group discussions, interviews (in-person, telephonic, SMS based) to collect a wide range of data.

5. Collect the data in a centralised excel sheet and ensure that it can only be edited by those collecting data to avoid any data issues.

6. At the end of the tool we have provided a glossary of some commonly used terms which will aid in better understanding of some of the indicators.

Primary audience
Gender unintentional and intentional organisations

Tool type
Guide

Personnel
Farmer-facing teams, field agents

Duration
3-4 hours

GOALS
(1) Understand why sex disaggregated data is collected and how to collect it while avoiding bias.

(2) Understand how to collect data such that it reflects gendered realities.

REQUIREMENTS
(1) If you are already collecting data, use of this tool will require minimal financial and human resource investment to include questions around sex and gender and training and how to collect that data.

(2) If you do not already collect data you will require material investment to develop and institute data collection tools.

(3) If there are terms which are unclear we suggest referring to Gender concepts glossary tool or consult your Gender Advisor if you have one

Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

INTRODUCTORY PRIMER ON SEX DISAGGREGATED DATA

Even before beginning to collect sex disaggregated data it is important to understand one of the most commonly confused concepts in this space - sex and gender. You may encounter phrases such as "gender-disaggregated data" or "data disaggregated by gender" which are in fact incorrect and should not be used. While collecting and disaggregating data it is only possible to do so through identifiable characteristics i.e. sex and not gender which is a social construct.

The gender gap in agriculture is one of the more significant areas of gender disparity across the globe, yet one of the less well documented ones. The sector is characterized by stark gender inequalities in the form of women's lack of or limited access to productive assets, inputs, advisory services and discrimination in the labour market. Collecting sex disaggregated data can make these differences visible and provide opportunity areas for action.

The FAO has produced short films about the need for gender equality in the agricultural sector and how to measure it which can be accessed through the below links:

Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender Indicators to Better Understand the Status of Rural Men and Women

To produce relevant and accurate sex disaggregated data and gender insights, at a preparatory stage it is key to:

- **Ensure a common understanding of terms and taxonomy related to gender before gathering data**. This can help avoid confusion among data providers, collectors and users on key indicators. For further details on common gender, agriculture and climate concepts, refer to a list of useful resources at the end of this guide.
- **Be aware of gender bias in data collection methods**. Gender bias in data collection refers to underreporting or misreporting of demographic, social or economic characteristics associated with one of the sexes. In agriculture, gender bias in data collection could lead to undervaluing or even missing women's contribution to the sector. For example, even though women might be undertaking informal income generating activities like gathering and selling local plants they may be referred to an 'unemployed' as it wouldn't align with a stereotypical employment norm of formal, monetized work. More often than not gender bias is unconscious and a result of commonly held and understood perceptions of gender norms and gendered roles. As such it is important to frequently revisit any assumptions while collecting sex disaggregated data.
- **Remember sex disaggregated data collection should not be limited to issues of the family or topics generally perceived to be pertaining to women**. Even seemingly neutral topics such as climate change induced crises or armed conflict can have gendered dimensions and severely impact women. Thus all topics should have data collected and disaggregated by sex, wherever possible.

Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

SAMPLE INDICATORS AND QUESTIONS TO START COLLECTING SEX DISAGGREGATED DATA

To collect sex disaggregated data which will eventually support gender analysis and gender transformative approaches, it is important that indicators and questions cover the diverse and varied realities of women in the agriculture sector.

A non-exhaustive set of sample indicators, questions, and units of analysis are listed below. It is recommended that organizations use these indicators as starting points and expand on the questions based of the nature of their business, key stakeholders and ease of data availability.

Indicator: Agriculture population and households		
Data from these questions will help you understand who to target for various agriculture products, services, and innovations	Men	Women
1. Average size of the smallholder's household, by sex of the smallholder *(number of members)*		
2. Average age of the smallholder and members of the household, by sex of the smallholder *(year in numbers)*		
Indicator: Access to productive resources		
Data from these questions will help you understand who owns what resources	Men	Women
1. Acreage under crop farming by sex of the smallholder *(number of acres)*		
2. Number of livestock owned and species, by sex of the smallholder *(number by each species)*		
3. Ownership of machinery and other farming equipment *(number by equipment type)*		
Indicator: Decision making power and agency		
Data from these questions will help you understand who controls decision making and how decisions are made	Men	Women
1. Education level beyond a certain level by sex of the smallholder *(number of years of education at various levels of formal education)*		

Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

Indicator: Decision making power and agency		
Data from these questions will help you understand who controls decision making and how decisions are made	Men	Women
2. Participation in farmer organizations and cooperatives, by sex of the smallholder *(yes or no answer)*		
3. Access to credit for agriculture, by sex of the smallholder *(yes or no answer and type of credit accessed)*		
4. Access to agriculture extension services, by sex of the smallholder *(yes or no answer and type of service accessed)*		
Indicator: Climate change		
Data from these questions will help you understand who will get more adversely impacted by climate change induced crises	Men	Women
1. Acreage of holdings in vulnerable geographies, by sex of the smallholder *(number of acres)*		
2. Acreage of rain-fed holdings, by sex of the smallholder *(number of acres)*		
Indicator: Digital devices		
Data from these questions will help you understand who will most likely benefit from digital innovations	Men	Women
1. Ownership of individual mobile phone, by sex of the smallholder *(yes or no answer)*		
2. Average airtime expense per month, by sex of the smallholder *(dollar value)*		
Indicator: Time and labour		
Data from these questions will help you understand who does what activity on a daily basis within a household and how much time they spend at it	Men	Women
1. Distribution of agriculture tasks performed, by sex of the smallholder *(list of activities)*		
2. Time spent on agriculture and household tasks performed, by sex of the smallholder *(number of hours)*		

Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

COMMON SEX DISAGGREGATED DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Below are some of the common ways to collect qualitative and quantitative sex disaggregated data:

- Company data - use sex disaggregated data collected by the organization during core business activities to understand the gender composition and orientation of internal organization and business activities
- Focus group discussions - discussions of target beneficiaries or other key stakeholders in a moderated environment
- In-person surveys - one on one interviews with stakeholders to allow for exploring more complex questions
- Mobile surveys - SMS or IVR short surveys
- Diaries / journals / log keeping - records of activities of target stakeholders / beneficiaries or other key stakeholders over time to understand the changes in behaviour and impact

While collecting data through any of the above methods, it is key to be aware of inherent gender biases in various data collection methods, some examples of which are mentioned below.

- Company data - some companies may not have complete or accurate sex disaggregated data or there might be potential bias in the way the data was collected in the first place
- Focus group discussions - if men's and women's value are not equally valued in a community then in a mixed gender group discussion women may be hesitant to voice opinions and there might be a need to have separate group discussions for men and women participants
- In-person surveys - due to time poverty, women respondents may not be able to devote as much time and attention as needed for in person surveys.
- Mobile surveys - women may lack ownership of devices or may not be able to use them as much as men and thus may not be able to respond to surveys through devices

Sex disaggregated data collection guide

Best practices and indicators for data collection

RELEVANT GLOSSARY

As you work through this tool, you may have come across terms that are unfamiliar or confusing. Below is a list of some terms, knowing which would aid in better understanding of the tool. If there still are terms that you do not understand, it is recommended to refer to the Gender Glossary and other linked sources or consult with your Gender Advisor (if your organization has one).

> **Gender** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, it varies across societies and over time. Gender is a relational concept that is best understood by examining interactions between individuals and social groups.

> **Sex** refers to a person's biological status and is typical categorized as male, female, or intersex. It is typically assigned at birth and refers to physical and biological indicators including hormones, sex chromosomes, internal reproductive organs, and external genatilia. Sex and gender are often conflated leading to the erroneous notion that gender norms and roles are bilogically determined and cannot be changed.

> **Gender analysis** refers to the critical examination of the differences between men and women, boys and girls, in their access to and control of resources, their roles and responsibilities, and the constraints they face in a given situation or context relative to each other. For instance, an assessment of the differences in access to and control of digital agricultural solutions between women and men smallholder farmers.

> **Sex disaggregated data** refers to quantitative and qualitative data collected and presented by sex that allows for measurement of socio-economic and socio-cultural differences between men and women. For example, collection of data on the number of women and men smallholder farmers that use digital tools for agriculture separately in order to measure the gendered differences.

> **Gender bias** refers to the conscious or unconscious, explicit or implicit prejudiced actions or thoughts that could lead to unfair treatment of people based on their perceived gender. For instance, male farm laborers hired by women farm owners are likely to be less hardworking and reliable due to the lower perceived strictness of women.

> **Gender gap** refers to the disparity in men and women's social, political, intellectual cultural and/or economic condition or position in society, often based on underlying socio-cultural norms. It reflects the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities and outcomes across genders. For instance, women smallholder farmers have less access to digital financial services indicating a gender gap in access to resources.