

# Guidelines to standardize women's economic empowerment measurement across a portfolio of evaluations

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# The Gates Foundation Is Investing in Women's Collectives as a Promising Platform to Achieve Women's Economic Empowerment

## 1. Support government led efforts to build and expand women's collectives in Nigeria, Uganda, and India



The Gates Foundation is driving increased participation and strengthening groups' abilities to add on the critical elements that, together, drive broad impact. We are investing in expanding the reach and amplifying the impact of collectives as a mechanism for achieving women's economic empowerment.

## 2. Build an evidence base on the cost-effectiveness and impact of women's collectives



The Gates Foundation is working with partners to build an evidence base on the cost-effectiveness and impact of collectives, drawing on our country-level work and global studies. This work includes supporting a consortium of researchers to generate rigorous empirical evidence on how women's groups can contribute to economic empowerment and gender equality.

# Findings of and Recommendations Based on Findings of Portfolio Evaluation of the Gates Foundation's Investments in Women's Groups

## Portfolio Evaluation Findings

1. Evaluations describe women's groups inconsistently and outcome measures vary considerably, limiting the ability to synthesize evidence on the impact of groups
2. Comparative cost-effectiveness analyses of groups are constrained by data and methodological limitations
3. Limited evidence on pathways that are specific to women's group interventions

## Portfolio Evaluation Recommendations

1. Improve measurement in research on women's groups through producing guidance on measuring women's empowerment; cost and cost-effectiveness, and health outcomes.
2. Examine costs and cost-effectiveness of women's group interventions implemented at scale, using secondary data and in-depth case studies
3. Conduct implementation research on women's groups through primary research and secondary analyses

# **Guide for measuring women's empowerment and economic outcomes in impact evaluations of women's groups**

# Measurement of Women's Empowerment: Different Empowerment Constructs Require Different Survey Tools

Indicator or Dependent Variable	Unit of Measurement	Description	Useful Survey Tools	
<i>Measurement of Empowerment Outcomes</i>				
Women's Empowerment	Women's psychological empowerment	Woman	Women's psychological empowerment index based on questions about self-efficacy	New General Self-Efficacy Scale
			Women's relative autonomy	Vignettes modeled after the Relative Autonomy index (RAI)
	Women's psychological well-being	Woman	Women's psychological well-being based on questions about emotional well-being	Quality of life index adapted from the WHO
	Women's economic empowerment	Woman and man	Women's economic empowerment index based on questions about decision-making over economic resources in the household	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
	Women's ability to engage in collective action	Woman	Index based on questions about ability to engage in collective action when incidents happen	Social Observatory Questionnaires
	Women's social support	Woman	Index based on questions about the quality and quantity of support women receive from friends, family, and significant others	Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support
	Women's mobility	Woman and man	Women's mobility index based on questions about mobility outside the household	Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)

# Measurement of Economic Outcomes: Inclusion of Intermediate and Final Outcomes

Indicator or Dependent Variable	Unit of Measurement	Description	Useful Survey Tools	
<i>Measurement of Economic Outcomes: Tables B-1 Through B-23</i>				
Credit/Savings	Formal credit	Woman and household	Total value (\$) of formal credit (including self-help groups, banks, microfinance institutions, etc.)	Social Observatory Questionnaires
	Informal credit	Woman and household	Total value (\$) of informal credit (including informal money lenders, friends, family, etc.)	Social Observatory Questionnaires
	Access to formal credit	Woman and household	Indicator of ability of woman to obtain formal credit based on questions about beliefs about access to credit	Social Observatory Questionnaires
	Savings from groups	Woman and household	Total value (\$) of savings of woman and household from groups	Social Observatory Questionnaires
	Other savings	Woman and household	Total value (\$) of other savings of woman and household	Social Observatory Questionnaires
Consumption/Poverty/Assets/Labor Market Participation/ Livelihoods	Women's and men's asset ownership	Woman and man	Asset indicators based on questions about individual-level asset ownership	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
	Total household consumption	Household	Total value (\$) of consumption (including value of gifts and own production consumed), classification of poor or extreme-poor as per national poverty lines	National expenditure surveys
	Poverty measures	Household	Index based on poverty scorecard	Poverty scorecards
	Household-level asset ownership	Household	Asset indicators based on questions about household-level asset ownership	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
	Time in productive and reproductive work	Woman and man	Time in productive and reproductive work, based on 24-hour recall	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
	Income	Woman	Self-reported labor income	Enterprises for Ultra Poor Women after War Survey

# Linking measurement to impact evaluation grants

# The Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups provides Guidance on the Outcomes to Include and Measurement Approaches to Use in Impact Evaluations focused on Women's Economic Empowerment in India, Nigeria, and Uganda

- **Economic**
  - Income
  - Asset Ownership
  - Access to Entitlements
  - Enterprise Income
- **Empowerment**
  - Decision-making power
  - Self-Confidence
  - Gender-Based Violence
- **Cost-Effectiveness Guidelines**
- **Implementation Research**



## Example: Guidance enables the inclusion of the standardized measurement individual-level asset ownership

Now I'd like to ask you about a number of items that could be used to generate income.	Does anyone in your household currently have any [ITEM]?	Do you [NAME] own any [ITEM]? USE CODE G1 ↓
ITEM	G3.06	G3.07
A Large livestock (cattle, buffaloes)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM B	<b>CODE G1</b> YES, SOLELY ..... 1 YES, JOINTLY ..... 2 YES, SOLELY & JOINTLY ... 3 NO ..... 4
B Small livestock (sheep, goats, pigs)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM C	
C Poultry and other small animals (chickens, ducks, turkeys)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM D	
D Fish pond or fishing equipment	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM E	
E Non-mechanized farm equipment (hand tools, animal-drawn plough)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM F	
F Mechanized farm equipment (tractor-plough, power tiller, treadle pump)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM G	
G Non-farm business equipment (solar panels used for recharging, sewing machine, brewing equipment, fryers)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM H	
H House or building	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM I	
I Large consumer durables (refrigerator, TV, sofa)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM J	
J Small consumer durables (radio, cookware)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM K	
K Cell phone	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM L	
L Other land not used for agricultural purposes (pieces/plots, residential or commercial land)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → ITEM M	
M Means of transportation (bicycle, motorcycle, car)	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 → NEXT MODULE	

Source: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, program version (pro-WEAI).<sup>1</sup>

# Objective: Reporting the Impact Evaluation Findings against the Theory of Change and Results Framework of the Gates Foundation Gender Equality Team

- **Report standardized results** of impact evaluations of a portfolio of investments
- **Consistent** use of the **same outcome measures** in each impact evaluation grant
- Use **consistent measurement approaches** while taking into consideration differences across contexts and program-specific theories of change

Data source	Final Outcomes	Measurement
Impact Evaluation at Woman and Group Level	Women's Asset Ownership	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
Impact Evaluation at Woman and Group Level	Household Asset Ownership	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
Impact Evaluation at Household Level	Total Household Consumption	Total value of consumption, classification of poor or extreme poor as per Nigerian poverty line, and/or Index based on poverty score card
Impact Evaluation at Household Level	Total Household Food Consumption	Total value of food consumption
Impact Evaluation at Woman, Household, and Group Level	Total Household Health Expenditures	Total value of health expenditures
Impact Evaluation at Woman Level	Total Household Education Expenditures	Total value of education expenditures

# More info on Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups: [www.womensgroupevidence.org](http://www.womensgroupevidence.org)

## 1 Portfolio Evaluation

*Evaluation of the BMGF's investments in women's empowerment collectives.*

## 2 Technical Assistance

*Function as an evaluation anchor for BMGF's Gender Equality team and provide technical assistance to build evaluation capacity and development of guidelines.*

## 3 Learning Hubs

*Strengthen the global evidence base and community of practice on women's collectives.*