

Example of Guidelines on How to Assess and Understand Differentiated Results by Gender and Other Cross-Cutting Issues

Samarth-NMDP

Gender and social inclusion

Samarth-NMDP adopts a gendered M4P systems approach, which aims to not only lead to women's economic advancement (through increased incomes, working towards an outreach target of 50% men and 50% women beneficiaries) but to also further women's economic empowerment as part of its broader focus on disadvantaged groups. The Samarth-NMDP **Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy** sets out the programme approach to enhancing equitable market access for women and disadvantaged groups. The core of this approach is to gather research and evidence and present a compelling business case for market players to address women and disadvantaged groups as significant emerging market segments.

Women and men, in particular, participate in rural sectors and especially in agriculture in different roles. There is an important trend towards women's greater participation in agricultural management (led in part by male out-migration), resulting in already high participation of women in accessing - but not necessarily equitably benefitting from - services. The programme seeks to continually improve its understanding on

- to what extent and how women are benefiting from interventions;
- if interventions affect the extent to which women and men are involved in household decisions, particularly over the use of income; and
- if and how interventions affect women's control over income.

The situations of women in Nepal are diverse. Women in different castes or in households with different mixes of livelihood activities have different experiences in terms of women's economic empowerment. There are a wide variety of situations and generalizations are very difficult. In addition, there are no clear and consistent correlations across sectors and situations between a woman's involvement in an income earning activity and her control over the income from that activity. While a woman's access to markets and sales in those markets and her control over that income does appear a bit more connected, it is still impossible to make generalizations on this point. The issues around access to income and control over income are also affected by the sector from which the income is earned. Finally, it cannot be assumed that an increase in household income will benefit the women in the household.

The potential for positive or negative gender impacts are considered at three points in the Samarth management cycle:

- At the sector strategy design stage, when both potential opportunities and risks (see Chapter 9 on assessing and tracking risk) are considered, but with an emphasis to date on ensuring that risks are identified so that the interventions "do no harm."
- Periodically during implementation, when the risks are monitored and discussed using staff observations and tacit knowledge gained through interaction in the sector.
- When assessing the impacts of interventions in a sector.

As a matter of efficiency and practicality, an integrated assessment of the effects of interventions on

women's economic empowerment with the assessment of the effects on livelihoods and vulnerability will be commissioned in selected sectors using structured case studies. Tentatively, Samarth will conduct 3 case studies per year. The generic research topics for the assessment can be seen in the following table.

	Research Topics
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in savings • Changes in debt • Changes in liquid assets • Security of income, particularly from sources affected by the program • Fit of program affected activities with other livelihoods activities • Changes in access to credit
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How significant is the income attributable to the interventions? • Have there been income increases from other sources? • How has the additional income been used?
WEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in income from women's economic activities affected by the program • Access to opportunities and life chances such as skills development as a result of program interventions • Access to assets, services and needed supports to advance economically as a result of program interventions • Changes in decision-making authority in different spheres, particularly household finances • Changes in workload