

Africa Gender and Development Evaluators Network (AGDEN)

Gender equality: Strengthening collective efforts through excavating gender data

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- Mapping EIDM landscape of Gender Equality assessments and use of information in Africa
- Main role players:
 - Research Production:
 - Universities, research and evaluation institutions, consultants
 - Research Translation:
 - Commissioners of Research and Evaluation studies (on global to national levels), Evaluation networks (African Evaluation Association –AfrEA and International Development Evaluation Association-IDEAS, etc.) and Gender and Women’s networks, EvalGender+ and other EvalPartner groups.
 - Research Use:
 - Universities and training institutions , consultants.
 - Overlap between different aspects:
 - NGOs (from global, continental, regional, national and local level). Civil society plays a major role in collecting relevant data, doing research on specialised topics in gender, advocating for studies and the use of information.
 - Government Departments range from those involved more in production of knowledge (e.g. statistics), using evidence such as Departments of Planning and Performance (including the Treasury) and those involved in a wider range of research tasks such as the M&E department. Some departments (e.g. Women, Health, Education and Safety and Security) rely on the information produced. Constitutional institutions such as the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in South Africa has a critical role to play.
- Gaps: There is limited interaction between gender (especially Women’s Organisations and Government Departments) and M&E departments to gather data and information and to use the evidence optimally to ensure gender mainstreaming. As evident from AGDEN study in South Africa, Uganda and Benin.
- There is data collected (e.g. on employment of women and health indicators), but it is not used optimally to effect policy changes. Other data is not disaggregated according to gender or other variables that would make it more relevant.
- Networks are very important as knowledge brokers. This include the role of UN bodies such as UNWomen and UNICEF. The role of EvalGender+ as part of EvalPartners (and other subgroups such as EVALSDG, EvalYouth, EvalIndigenous, Parliamentarians Forum, etc.) is critical at present for development of engendered indicators for the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Research Production

Research Translation

Research Use

Universities
E.g. Univ. of Nairobi

Research +
Evaluation
Institutions

Consultants
Research/Evaluation

Commissioners of
Research + Evaluation
(Global, National)

NGOs (Global, Continental, Regional, National, Local)

Universities +
Training
institutions
E.g. CLEAR

Consultants
Research/Evaluation

Eval.
Networks
AfrEA,
IDEAS...

EvalPartners
EvalGender+,
EvalSDG....

Gender
Networks

UN (UNWomen, UNICEF)

Stats

Governments

Planning, Policy

DoW

DSD

M&E

Constitutional Inst. E.g. CGE

Other (re Gender)
DoH, DoE, DoS&S,
Treasury.....

Conclusions

- From research conducted by AGDEN it is clear that there is interest in gender data and information, especially to ensure that the evidence can lead to policy changes and more targeted interventions and gender mainstreaming in governments throughout Africa.
- Despite very valuable capacity development materials and other resources from institutions such as UN Women the offering of gender related M&E and research is limited for the African context.
- There is a lack of co-operation between organisations and government departments working on gender and those working with knowledge generation (such as M&E departments). The lack of clear mandates on gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting affects the collection of information, interventions across departments and role players and policy development and changes.
- The role of Civil Society in ensuring that relevant evidence is gathered and used is critical.
- AGDEN works on Gender Equality, specifically through measurement and capacity development. This map related to the engagement of different role players needed for optimal gender equality interventions in all African countries. The latest research study conducted for CLEAR AA in South Africa, Uganda and Benin initiated a process of understanding the different contexts and the link between the M&E policies and systems and the engendering of the M&E frameworks to ensure gender mainstreaming and optimally the impact on gender equality.
- The main strength, as illustrated in the map, lies in the contribution of different role players in data management. Many institutions (especially civil society and government departments) routinely collect data. This data can easily make a major contribution to gender assessments if there is more focus on gender disaggregated data.