

Inclusive Societies Department (DFID): Gender Equality Marker Analysis

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The Department for International Development (DFID) is a United Kingdom government department responsible for administering overseas aid. DFID leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty tackling global challenges such as conflicts, diseases and insecurity. Inclusive Societies Department (ISD) is a DFID's department responsible for leading work to build societies where everyone has voice, choice and control over their lives and where no one is left behind.

Working for 6 weeks in ISD involved two main tasks: 1) a data analysis and report of the *Gender Equality Marker*; 2) an analysis of the levels of data disaggregation within DFID's projects.

The first one resulted to be the most relevant for importance, complexity and potential impacts.

Objectives:

The main objective of the *Gender Equality Marker* task was to test accuracy and data quality within DFID's system.

The *Gender Equality Marker* is a useful statistical tool, created by OECD-DAC and adopted by DFID, to record aid activities that target gender equality as a policy objective.

Projects are divided into 3 categories, depending on how much a project is gender equality aid focused: 2 – *Principal*, when a project's main objective is to target gender equality; 1 – *Significant*, when gender equality is one of the main objectives; 0 – *Not Targeted*, when a project has no deliberate or explicit targets on gender equality.

My job was to assess whether DFID projects were marked correctly or not. Researching the reasons behind such an issue, I then added my personal suggestions on possible changes.

There was also time to critically analysing what could be improved in the future to ensure higher data quality and consistency.

At the end of the data analysis, I wrote a 13-page-long report thoroughly explaining my findings.

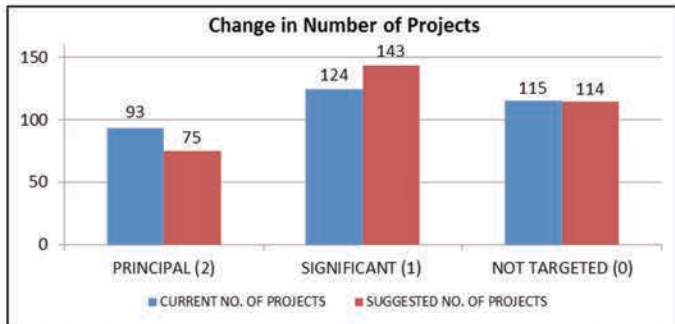
Methodology:

Starting from a data set in Excel, a sample of 332 DFID projects - out of 1252 - was analysed. The sample represents the projects with highest spend in year 2016 and those with high relevance on gender equality.

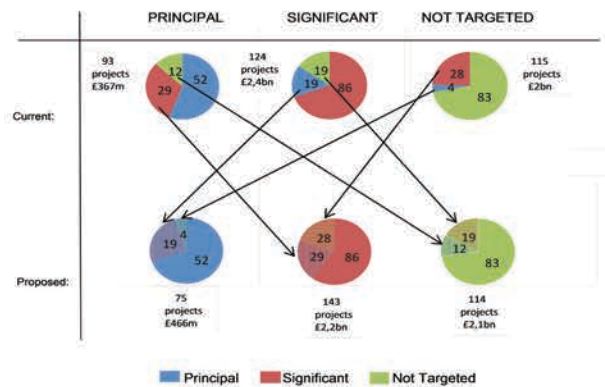
The guidance, essential to the analysis, was the "OECD-DAC Handbook on Gender Equality Policy Marker".

I used Excel, through tables and Pivot tables, to examine the marking of projects. Then I worked within DFID's intranet and database to study and analyse each of the 332 projects, reading business cases, logical frameworks and annual reviews. Having been a time-consuming process, I had the chance to ensure a good degree of accuracy and precision in the assessment of *principal*, *significant* and *not targeted* projects.

At the end, I elaborated charts, diagrams and tables in the report to illustrate the analysis conducted.



This chart illustrates the difference between the number of projects currently marked and the number of projects I suggested should be marked in each of the three categories.



This diagram represents 6 pie charts showing how DFID projects would move depending on my suggestions. And also to show how much different the amount of projects and spend would look like from current to proposed per category.

Results and Conclusion:

Findings show a high level of error in the marking with nearly 35% of projects being wrongly marked. These results were not expected by DFID staff. Therefore, this explains the crucial need for DFID to improve their coding system, ensuring good data quality.

Errors were found to be possibly due to language and information barriers.

Generally speaking, the analysis and report will be useful to DFID staff in taking several actions, such as changing the marks of inaccurate projects, offering better training to fellow staff and/or having further talks at OECD meetings regarding the *Marker*.