Gender Financing Project – project level assessment

About this document: This document contains the criteria and indicators used by the Gender Financing Project to assess the availability and quality of every top five donors' top five highest-disbursing gender equality projects (marked with a 1 or 2 gender equality marker score) for our focus countries, Kenya, Nepal and Guatemala in 2018.

Methodology: Although the assessment done for this project is not an index, some indicators have taken inspiration from Publish What You Fund's 2020 International Aid Transparency Index Methodology, which can be found here. Data assessments were conducted from March to August 2020, starting with searches for donors' top gender equality projects within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) for 2018, then searching for those same projects with the International Aid Transparency Initiative's (IATI) Development Portal (d-Portal). Where applicable, searches were made for the same gender equality projects within a focus country's national Aid Information Management System (AIMS), and donors' own websites or portals.

Next steps: These project level assessments conducted with this methodology will feed into the findings of our three country reports, as well as tailored recommendations to donors to improve their data publication for their gender equality projects.

Clear
Information is labeled as clear when the information provided is helpful in understanding this project (e.g., meets the proposed criteria of the relevant indicator).
Unclear
Information is labeled as unclear when the information provided is either incomplete, not specific enough to the activity, confusing, out of date (usually over a year old), or impossible to access through the provided link(s).
N.A.
Information is labeled as not available (N.A.) either because the provided platform does not allow this information to be published or the organization has not published it.

CATEGORY	PROJECT ATTRIBUTES
Indicator	1. Gender marker
Question	What gender (equality) marker has been applied to this project, if any?
Indicator	2. Title
Question	What is the title of this specific project/activity?
Definition & Notes	The title of the activity is its name. This is preferably the formal name of the activity but does not have to be. The title needs to be complete with any abbreviations/acronyms explained.
Indicator	3. Description
Question	What is the project description?
Definition & Notes	The description of the activity is a meaningful descriptive text, longer than the title (it cannot just repeat the title) explaining what the activity is.

	For child activities that sit underneath a main activity (parent-child), the description might be the most relevant place to explain the relationship between the parent and child activities. For example, explaining how and why the activity has been broken up in a certain way. In the past, some descriptions have been auto-generated by donors. The description must contain additional information to other indicators and cannot simply repeat data from other indicators.
Indicator	4. Status
Question	What is the status of the activity? (e.g., in pipeline, implementation, completion, post completion or cancelled)
Definition & Notes	This shows whether the activity is currently under design, being implemented, has finished or has been cancelled. The IATI reference for this indicator is Activity status. *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
Indicator	5. Contact details
Question	What are the contact details provided for the activity, if any?
Definition & Notes	This shows who can be contacted in relation to this activity. This does not have to be the contact information for an individual or project manager and could refer to a central contact or information desk. Contacts for either the funding organization or the implementing organization are accepted. This has to be stated alongside the activity or on an obvious "contact us" link alongside the activity. *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
Indicator	6. Planned dates
Question	What are the planned start and end dates for this activity?
Definition & Notes	The planned dates are the dates on which the activity is scheduled to start and end. The IATI reference for this indicator is Activity date (activity date type = start-planned and end-planned). Both month and year are required in recognition of recipient countries needing to be able to map activities to their own financial year rather than the calendar year. If the activity has started or has finished, the original planned start and end dates must be retained in addition to the actual dates. In the OECD-DAC CRS data, this information can expected to be found under 'ExpectedStartDate' and 'CompletionDate'. Given that the OECD-DAC CRS data does not clarify whether the CompletionDate is the planned or actual end date, we assume this is the planned date.

Indicator	7. Actual dates
Question	What is the project's actual start and end dates?
Definition & Notes	These are the dates that the activity actually started (and ended, if the activity has finished). If there is only one set of dates but they are not explicitly stated as planned or actual dates, then it is assumed they are planned dates. Actual dates are accepted where specific events occurred, e.g., the date the project/program agreement is signed, a board presentation or an appraisal date. The IATI reference for this indicator is Activity date (activity date type = start-actual and end-actual). Both month and year are required for this indicator in recognition of recipient countries needing to be able to map activities to their own financial year rather than the calendar year. *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
Indicator	8. (Expected) Duration
Question	Based on the previous status, planned, and actual dates information, what is the (expected) duration of this project?
Indicator	9. Sector(s)
Question	What specific areas or "sectors" of the recipient's economic or social development that the activity intends to foster, e.g., education, health or infrastructure?
Definition & Notes	The sectors of the activity explain whether this is, for example, a health or education project. It does not count if it is just mentioned incidentally within the title or description. It needs to be stated separately and explicitly. On d-portal, you can find this in the description of outgoing commitments or disbursements by searching 'SECTOR' (without DAC). In the OECD-DAC CRS data, the identifier is 'SectorName'. If projects are presented by sector on an organization's website, it must be clearly stated whether the organization works only in those sectors that are listed. *Note: on donors' websites, if a purpose code/name has been provided for a sector, it will qualify as a thematic focus and the sector can be deduced from this.*
Indicator	10. Thematic focus
Question	If applicable, has this project been labeled with any more specific sector/purpose codes indicating the thematic focus?
Definition & Notes	This indicator checks whether an activity is using one of the detailed "voluntary" CRS purpose codes.

	On d-portal, you can find this in the description of outgoing commitments or disbursements by searching 'SECTOR DAC'. However, the project XML has to be run through the [Data Quality Tester] to see whether these voluntary codes given by donors are actually accepted official voluntary codes – this is to ensure that partner governments can align their budgets accordingly. In the OECD-DAC CRS data, the identifier is 'PurposeName'.
Indicator	11. Sub-national location
Question	What is the sub-national geographic location for this activity?
Definition & Notes	The sub-national geographic location is information about where the activity is located within a country. This may be a province or city, or it could be geo-coded (whereby the precise longitude and latitude is published). It needs to be stated separately and explicitly. The IATI reference for this indicator is Location. The expected OECD-DAC CRS data reference for this indicator is 'Geography'. For activities that are relevant at a country or regional level, information on the location where the funds are sent or where the recipient is located are all accepted for this indicator. For example, capital city for a country, or location information of the implementing organization. This includes private sector investments, loans or debt relief payments, where the location of the relevant bank or organization is accepted. If the location is in the center of the country, this generally means the location is at national level only. If a location is listed such as "country-level for XX (country)" this is considered national level only. A project can have more than one sub-national location.
Indicator	12. Implementing organization(s)
Question	Which organization(s) implements/delivers the activity?
Definition & Notes	The implementer of the activity is the organization that is principally responsible for delivering it. The IATI reference for this indicator is Implementing organization (participating-org role = implementing). Alternatively, it may be understood that the accountable organization is the one responsible for delivering the activity, and that any implementing organization is a subcontractor. Therefore, both can be considered correct. In the OECD-DAC CRS 2018 data, this information should be included under 'ChannelName'. Note: we would expect to find more granular information from the 'ChannelReportedName' or organization Type (indicator 13).

	This information may not be available in all cases due to "legitimate exclusions." For example, humanitarian agencies may not be able to reveal who the implementing agencies are due to security reasons. Such exclusions are accepted but need to be explicitly stated (in order to distinguish these from cases of simple omission).
Indicator	13. Implementing organization(s) type
Question	What type of organization(s) is/are implementing this project?
Definition & Notes	This indicator helps us understand what types of organizations are implementing projects. Possible options: INGOs, national NGOs, consultants, local/grassroots movements or organizations. The IATI reference for this indicator is Type (participating-org type). The OECD-DAC CRS reference for this indicator is 'ChannelReportedName'. To ensure the proper information is referenced also look at projects' 'Channel ID' and the corresponding name available in the latest DAC and CRS list of codes, available to download here. *Important: The OECD-DAC 'Channel ID's are more granular than the types of organization available for IATI (see here). In that sense, reporting organizations may be limited by the IATI platform in providing more granular types of organizations.*
Indicator	14. Unique ID
Question	What is this project's unique activity identifier?
Definition & Notes	The activity identifier is a unique reference ID for the activity, e.g., a project number. It allows an activity to be referred to and searched for by a code, which can be used to retrieve the project from a database or filing system. The IATI reference for this indicator is IATI identifier. The OECD-DAC CRS reference is 'ProjectNumber'. The project ID must be stated clearly on the page. It is not sufficient if it is only stated in the URL. It must be numeric or alpha-numeric.
CATEGORY	FINANCE & BUDGETS
Indicator	15. Disbursement
Question	What are the organization's total expenditures/disbursements for this project in 2018?
Definition & Notes	There is no specific IATI indicator for a project's total annual expenditure or disbursement on d-portal, so for this indicator you must manually add up the different outgoing disbursements for 2018. The OECD-DAC CRS data reference is 'USD_Disbursement'. You must take the SUM of the USD_Disbursement for the activities with the same ProjectTitle.

Indicator	16. Commitment
Question	What are the organization's total commitments/budget allocations for this project in 2018?
Definition & Notes	There is no specific IATI indicator for a project's total annual commitment/budget on d-portal, so for this indicator you must manually add up the different outgoing commitments for 2018. The OECD-DAC CRS data reference is 'USD_Commitment'. You must take the SUM of the USD_Commitment for the activities with the same ProjectTitle.
CATEGORY	JOINING UP DEVELOPMENT DATA
Indicator	17. Flow type
Question	What is the project/activity's "flow type", i.e. is the activity is categorized as Official Development Assistance (ODA), Other Official Flows (OOF), private grants, private market flows, non-flows (e.g., GNI) or any other flows?
Definition & Notes	The flow type shows whether the organization states that this activity counts as ODA, OOF, climate finance or any other type of flow. This has to be explicitly stated per activity OR once in a country strategy paper OR in a single place on the organization's website if there is only one flow type for all activities, e.g., "all aid is ODA", or "we only provide private grants". The OECD-DAC CRS data reference is 'FlowName.'
Indicator	18. Finance type
Question	What is the type of finance given for this activity (e.g., grant, loan, export credit, debt relief)?
Definition & Notes	The type of finance shows whether the activity is a grant, loan, export credit or debt relief. This needs to be explicitly stated per activity OR once in a country strategy paper OR clearly on the organization's website if there is only one finance type for the whole organization, e.g., "all aid is grants". The OECD-DAC CRS data reference is 'Finance_t.' The full names of subcodes for the types of finance are listed in the latest DAC and CRS list of codes, available to download [here]. Investment type (e.g., loan, equity) can be interpreted as equivalent. Statements clarifying investment type published anywhere on the website count towards publishing finance type in the web format.
Indicator	19. Aid type
Question	What type of aid is given for this activity (e.g., budget support, pooled funds, project-type interventions, experts, scholarships, debt relief, or administrative costs)?

Definition & Notes	The type of aid shows whether the activity is classified as budget support, a project, technical assistance, debt relief, and/or administrative costs. This needs to be explicitly stated per activity OR once in a country strategy paper OR on a clear place on the organization's website if there is only one aid type for the whole organization, e.g., "all aid is project-type interventions". The OECD-DAC CRS data reference is 'Aid_t'. The full names of subcodes for the types of aid are listed in the latest DAC and CRS list of codes, available to download here. The advisory services business line/type of intervention (e.g., investment climate, public-private partnership) can be seen as broadly equivalent. Statements clarifying business line/intervention type published anywhere on the organization's website count towards publishing aid type in the web format.
Indicator	20. Tied vs. untied aid
Question	How much of this activity is (partially) tied or untied?
Definition & Notes	The tied aid status shows whether the organization states that this activity counts as "tied" (procurement is restricted to the donor organization country) or "untied" (open procurement). Specifying location requirements in activity documents such as procurement policies or tenders is accepted as publishing tied aid status. The IATI reference for this indicator is Default tied status. The OECD-DAC CRS data references are 'USD_AmountUntied', 'USD_AmountPartialTied', and 'USD_AmountTied'. The data entered can be considered to be clear if it is more than 0 for all three fields. For organizations' lending directly to national investment agencies, an explicit statement demonstrating their aid is not tied is required. For IFIs and DFIs, investment codes clarifying their position are accepted. For private foundations, grant-making policies are accepted. If these are not available, the organization's procurement policy must clearly state if there are any eligibility requirements for contracts based on country of origin.
Indicator	21. Tenders
Question	Does this organization publish all tenders?

Definition & Notes	Tenders are the individual contracts or proposals that have been put out to invite bids from companies or organizations that want to provide goods and services for an activity. They may be on a separate website, possibly on a central government procurement website. If you are linked through to a general website with tenders such as the UK contracts funder site, you can spend some time searching for that specific activity tender, but as a rule if you need to search for more than 5-10 minutes searching this is not really 'open' data. The IATI reference for this indicator is Tender (document code = A10). Investment codes or policies for IFIs and DFIs are accepted. For private foundations, calls for grant submissions are accepted. For humanitarian agencies, documents that provide guidance on securing funding are accepted. Due to the difficulty with manually finding tenders linked to current activities, rather than looking for the specific tender, a review of the organization's overall calls for tenders is completed to check it is publishing them consistently and in-line with their procurement policy. For organizations that do not issue tenders related to aid projects (e.g., if procurement is undertaken by grantees or other implementing agencies), a statement explicitly clarifying this is required. *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
CATEGORY	PERFORMANCE
Indicator	22. Objectives
Question	What are the objectives for this project/activity?
Definition & Notes	The objectives or purposes of the activity are those that the activity intends to achieve. The objectives need to include the target sector/group and expected outcomes. These (objectives) need to be specific to the activity and can be contained in a log frame or a narrative document. IATI reference for this indicator is Objectives/Purpose of activity (document code = A02) or Description (description type = 2). The most logical OECD-DAC CRS data reference for this indicator is 'LongDescription'. However, given that the LongDescription field is not exclusively meant to outline the objectives of an activity, any objectives mentioned with rough indicators will be accepted and seen as a bonus. This means that if the information is slightly different here than on other platforms, it won't be seen as inconsistent. However, this information alone would not be sufficient, as indicators are required.
Indicator	23. Reviews/evaluations
Question	Are (meaningful and up to date) evaluation documents or reviews published for this activity?

Definition & Notes	Evaluation and review documents consider what the activity achieved, whether the intended objectives were met, what the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives were and an assessment of the impact, effect, and value of the activity. This information may be on a specific evaluation section of the organization's website. This can be an annual review, a mid-term review, a completion review or some other qualitative evaluation document. Check that the document being reviewed is of the selected project. If the review is of an umbrella program that includes the selected project, it must specifically review the project. It should be up to date (no more than 18 months old), so check the publication date of the last document. If the activity under assessment is not completed but interim evaluation or review documents are available, these will be accepted. However, common sense should be applied here too: if a mid-term review was published two years into a ten-year project, this can be considered to be out-of-date/no longer relevant. Not all organizations carry out formal evaluations for all of their activities. The IATI reference for this indicator is Review of project performance and evaluation (document code = A07). *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
Indicator	24. Results
Question	Has the organization published some of the project's outcomes and outputs?
Definition & Notes	The results data and documents show whether the activities achieved their intended measurable (quantitative) outputs in accordance with the stated goals or plans. Results may be sampled as either a document, data or both. Results document information can often be found in a log frame, annual report or other document and may be within a specific results or evaluation section. Both current and completed activities are considered for this indicator. If the activity is ongoing then the expected results should be available. If the activity has ended then the actual results should be available within 12-months of ending (with some flexibility to allow for delay in results publication). If unsure, it is a good idea to check the publication date of the last/most recent document tagged as 'Results' to see if it is out of date. For instance, a set of documents does not pass if the publication date for the 17-18 annual review was in December 2017, so it was over a year ago. The IATI references for this indicator are: Result and/or Results, outcomes and outputs (Document code = A08). Log frames must be no more than 1 year old and must be checked to ensure they have been updated correctly. *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*

CATEGORY	GENDER EQUALITY
Indicator	25. Target gender(s)
Question	Which gender(s) does this activity target?
Definition & Notes	Since these projects are in one way or another labeled by the organization with a gender equality marker, we would expect organizations to specify which target group(s)/gender(s) they are trying to target with the project (whose gender equality they are trying to improve). We expect that the IATI reference for this indicator would be: Objectives/Purpose of activity (document code = A02) or Description (description type = 2). We expect that the OECD-DAC CRS data reference for this indicator would be: LongDescription. *Note: this indicator only applies if organizations have specified any target population(s) for a project with the previous title indicator (#2), description indicator (#3) or objectives indicator (#22).*
Indicator	26. Other characteristics
Question	Does the organization mention any other relevant identity characteristics of the target group(s)?
Definition & Notes	Following Kimberly Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality, we recognize that people with the same gender(s) are not homogenous groups, and that gender inequality may affect them in different ways. That is why in addition to specifying the target population's gender(s), we look for organizations to mention any other relevant characteristics of the group(s) they are trying to target with their projects. Examples of identity characteristics include age (group), race/ethnicity, able-bodied or non-able-bodied, social class, and religious affiliation. In cases where these additional characteristics are not mentioned due to sensitivity/privacy concerns, we would look for an organization to explicitly mention this in a project document/separate statement. We expect that the IATI reference for this indicator would be: Objectives / Purpose of activity (document code = A02) or Description (description type = 2). We expect that the OECD-DAC CRS data reference for this indicator would be: LongDescription or ProjectTitle.
Indicator	27. Gender analysis
Question	Has the organization done a gender analysis for this project to ensure that the project/program does no harm/reinforce gender inequalities?

Definition & Notes	According to the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Marker Handbook, all projects/programs are required to conduct a gender analysis, of which the findings should be used to ensure at minimum that the project/program does no harm/does not reinforce gender inequalities. While organizations are currently not required to publish this information, we hope to find a gender analysis in a project's pre-project impact appraisal/business case document. We expect that the IATI reference for this indicator would be: Pre and post-project impact appraisal (document code = A01). *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*
Indicator	28. Sex/gender-disaggregated objectives
Question	For activities with gender marker 1 (significant): is there at least one explicit gender equality objective published backed by at least one gender-specific indicator? For activities with gender marker 2 (principal): has the organization published its gender equality objectives with gender-specific indicators to track the outcomes/impact (e.g., in its results framework)?
Definition & Notes	The OECD-DAC Gender Equality Marker Handbook stipulates that all gender equality significant projects must meet the condition of having at least one explicit gender equality objective backed by at least one gender-specific indicator. If the results framework has not been elaborated at the time of marking the project, the Handbook stipulates that a firm commitment must have been made. As such, this commitment must be explicitly mentioned/published, for instance in another published document on the same database. We expect that the IATI reference for this indicator would be: Objectives/Purpose of activity (document code = A02) or Description (description type = 2). We expect that the OECD-DAC CRS data reference for this indicator would be: LongDescription. However, given that the LongDescription field is not exclusively meant to outline the objectives of an activity, any objectives mentioned with rough gender/sex-disaggregated indicators will be accepted. If the information is slightly different here than on other platforms, it won't be seen as inconsistent. However, this information alone would not be sufficient, as gender-backed indicators are required.
Indicator	29. Sex/gender-disaggregated results
Question	Where applicable, are the published results data and indicators for this activity disaggregated by sex/gender?

Definition & Notes	The OECD-DAC Gender Equality Marker Handbook stipulates that sex-disaggregated results data and indicators are a necessary condition for both significant and principal gender equality projects. As with the previous results indicator (24), the IATI references for this indicator are: Result and/or Results, outcomes and outputs (Document code = A08). *Note: this indicator does not apply to the OECD-DAC CRS data.*