



GT4AFRICA

Gender Transformation for Africa: A Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Research Collaborative

Transformation du genre pour l'Afrique: Une recherche concertée sur la santé sexuelle, reproductive et maternelle

Summary notes

11th October

Tuesday 9-11am GMT

Assessing and measuring progress towards gender transformative change in health

Objectives:

- To support learning, sharing, dialogue and reflection around assessing and measuring progress towards gender transformative change in health.
- To facilitate networking and relationships across the cohort.

Welcome and informal conversation

The webinar started with a welcoming message from Kefilath, who then introduced a couple of ice-breaker exercises that test familiarity with partners in the cohort, and state of SRHR in the project sites across countries.

GT4Africa cohort

Countries (n = 8)	Partners (n = 13)	Projects (n = 6)
The Gambia	1/ The Gambia: Society for the Study of Women's Health (SSWH)	1/ Shifting gender norms for improved maternal and adolescent health in The Gambia and Ghana
Ghana	2/ Ghana: Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana (YHFG)	
Ghana	3/ Ghana Health Services	2/ Gender-transformative approaches to address unmet adolescent mental, sexual, and reproductive health needs in Ghana, Niger, and Burkina Faso
Niger	4/ Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL)	
Burkina Faso	5/ Institut Africain de Santé Publique (IASP)	
Nigeria	6/ University of Nigeria	3/ Gender-transformative and intersectional approach to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in Nigeria
Kenya	7/ African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC)	4/ Action to empower adolescent mothers in Burkina Faso and Malawi to improve their sexual and reproductive health
Burkina Faso	8/ Burkina Faso: Institut Supérieur Des Sciences De La Population (ISSP)	
Malawi	9/ Centre for Social Research	
South Africa	10/ University of the Western Cape (UWC)	5/ Learning partnerships to support gender-transformative innovations in adolescent and young people's sexual and reproductive health in South Africa
South Africa	11/ NACOSA	
Niger	12/ Association des Sages-Femmes du Niger (ASFN)	6/ Mazan Daga and adapted care for better maternal health in Niger
	13/ Direction Régionale de la Santé de Maradi	
Niger	14/ Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour le Développement - GRADE Africa	

Percentage of women (age 15-49) making their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Country	Year	%
Burkina Faso	2010	20.3%
The Gambia	2013	40.5%
Ghana	2014	52.0%
Kenya	2014	56.0%
Malawi	2016	46.7%
Niger	2012	7.3%
Nigeria	2018	46.3%
South Africa	2016	64.9%

Participant introductions

In this session, participants, in groups of 3, introduced themselves to members in their respective groups, and shared their views about what inspires them in their work.

Short project presentations

Representatives from all the six projects delivered presentations responding to a set of core questions.

Guiding questions	Presenters and projects
What gender transformation in health programmes are you assessing/measuring (focus on one example)? Why are you assessing/measuring this change? How are you assessing/measuring it? What are the assessment/measurement related issues from your project that you want to highlight?	Aminatou Issaka, Mazan Daga et les soins adaptés pour une meilleure santé maternelle au Niger Anne Khisa, Action to empower adolescent mothers in Burkina Faso and Malawi to improve their sexual and reproductive health (Project PROMOTE) Priscilla Nyaaba, Shifting Gender Norms for Improved Maternal and Adolescent Health in The Gambia and Ghana Paapa Asante, Gender transformative and responsive health systems to address unmet adolescent mental, sexual, and reproductive health needs in Ghana, Niger and Burkina Faso Karen Graaff, Learning partnerships to support gender-transformative innovations in adolescent and young people's sexual and reproductive health in South Africa Chinyere Mbachu, Gender-transformative and intersectional approach to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in Nigeria

Technical presentation: Assessing and measuring gender transformative change

Sundari delivered a presentation, which covered three major themes: 1/ conceptualizing gender transformation, 2/ what we measure, and 3/ how we measure.

Discussant: Anne Khisa

Against the backdrop of the above technical and project presentations, Anne shared her reflection focusing on *Beyond the technical aspects, what are the politics of measuring gender transformative changes and how to deal with it?*

[Access summary notes of Anne's reflection](#)

Break out group discussion

Participants, grouped into three language rooms (bilingual, French and English) discussed further how the preceding presentations relate to their projects; what questions/ learnings it further provoked.

Plenary feedback

At the plenary the different groups reported back the following key reflections.

- Achieving gender transformative changes will require sensitization and active engagement of key stakeholders, including health providers.
- Frameworks from Sundari's technical presentation could help in understanding change in the projects
- Diversity in the constituency of the cohort, combination of implementers and researchers, is generative and a key strength of the cohort.
- Reforms and policy changes do not guarantee improvement in agency. Projects can play a part in shifting power relations, and improving agency of participants

Closing comments

In the closing comments, Kéfilath thanked the participants for the great participation and provide a summary of key takeaways. All projects have clear measurement objectives as regards to gender

transformative changes and are using related tools and approaches. This webinar provided an opportunity to share these measurement approaches and relate them with key conceptual frameworks on measuring gender transformative change in health. This webinar was just the beginning of a continuous conversation and there is more experience and lessons sharing to come. A resource list on measuring changes is available for the cohort members to use and complement.