

NOURISHING EQUALITY: How can gender equality be strengthened in food and economic security programming?

TOP TIPS

These **9 Top Tips** are designed to guide you towards making food and economic security programmes more gender-responsive and transformative. They offer practical suggestions for integrating gender considerations into our work to increase both impact and equity.



1 Support women's economic empowerment:

Why: Empowering women economically leads to better food security outcomes.

How: Support skills development and economic diversification to increase women's collective and individual resilience, boosting their food security.

Best Practice: Facilitate women's access to financial services and markets, while supporting the entire value chain in which they are involved.

2 Promote gender-transformative approaches:

Why: To challenge discriminatory gender roles, norms and dynamics that make women more vulnerable across all dimensions of food security.

How: Include specific activities that are designed to drive gender transformation.

Best Practice: Implement community-led methodologies and peer action learning (e.g., Gender Action Learning Systems) which inspire participants to envision and pursue change.

3 Make gender justice a routine, not an event:

Why: Gender justice is a complex and slow process that may meet with resistance and must be nurtured over time.

How: Adopt a long-term, integrated approach that links gender justice with other areas of work, creating socio-economic conditions that enable lasting change.

Best Practice: Invest in gender training for all staff to build a shared understanding and ensure ongoing engagement with gender issues.

4 Include boys and men:

Why: To encourage community and household ownership and avoid suspicion or household rifts.

How: Work with men, boys, elders, and leaders in the communities.

Best practice: Promote positive masculinities and engage community leaders in conversations about gender transformation, while raising awareness in communities about the value of women's participation.

5 Adopt a Do No Harm approach:

Why: To prevent unintended negative impacts.

How: Ensure targeting processes are inclusive, conduct gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive risk analyses, and ensure robust and inclusive feedback and accountability mechanisms are in place.

Best Practice: Address issues related to gender-based violence and time poverty of women, and make sure to address the specific needs and constraints of other marginalised groups.

6 Contextualise programmes, projects and activities:

Why: To ensure relevance and effectiveness in different contexts.

How: Systematically include women, girls and other marginalised groups in project design and monitoring, contextualise theoretical concepts, and adopt a gender-responsive conflict-sensitive approach.

Best Practice: Use local languages, user-friendly tools, and materials available in the communities.

7 Invest in learning and knowledge-building:

Why: To improve our understanding of gender-responsive or transformative programming and adapt our approaches based on experience.

How: Ensure ample learning opportunities and provide the necessary resources to document both successes and challenges, sharing insights internally and externally in an accessible way.

Best Practice: Incorporate gender-transformative learning goals into programme design and allocate specific budget lines to support continuous learning and the adaptation of our approaches.

8 Collect, analyse and use appropriate gender-sensitive data:

Why: To understand the diverse impacts on different genders and ensure programmes address their unique needs and vulnerabilities.

How: Use a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative assessments, to better understand gender-specific needs and include individual-level data in baseline and endline assessments.

Best Practice: Involve household members of all ages and genders in surveys, interviews, and focus groups, and provide enumerators of different genders and gender-segregated spaces.

9 Standardise gender-sensitive data collection:

Why: To assess longer-term gender-transformative change between programmes and contexts.

How: Standardise data collection across programmes, ensuring gender-sensitive data collection is systematically included in baseline and endline studies to facilitate comparisons and improve data quality.

Best Practice: Ensure consistent follow-up with individuals involved in multiple projects within the same geographical area to track progress and changes over time.