



Workshop Report

Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development: Asia Pacific Program



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October 17-19, 2023

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Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific Workshop - 3-Day Report

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Introduction

The Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific workshop, designed by the Vital Strategies' Data Impact Program (DIP) in collaboration with JHU Gender Equity Unit and implemented with the support of the International Institute of Health Management and Research (IIHMR), Delhi, is a pioneering initiative to empower government stakeholders. This workshop is tailored to guide participants in completing gender equity-related data analyses and projects through a combination of content-driven sessions and practical exercises.

Program Objectives

The overarching goals of the workshop are multi-faceted, aligning with the broader mission of promoting gender equity in public health. The program seeks to:

Promote Gender Analysis: In still a deeper understanding of the value of incorporating a gender lens in routine health data analysis. Participants are encouraged to appreciate the significance of gender considerations in defining and understanding public health priorities.

Build Analytical Skills: Equip participating teams with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct in-depth analyses on priority public health topics with a gender equity focus. The aim is to empower teams to apply their insights in shaping and informing policies in their respective countries.

Foster Peer-to-Peer Learning: Strengthen engagement and collaboration through peer-to-peer learning. The workshop's structure encourages participants to share experiences, insights, and best practices, creating a dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

Program Structure

Phase 1 (Month One): Virtual Introductory Sessions (20-29th September 2023)

The program commenced with virtual introductory group sessions and mentorship sessions, offering a foundational understanding of gender equity. These initial sessions set the stage for collaborative learning, allowing teams to connect with each other, their mentors, and the overarching objectives of the program.

Phase 2 (Month Two): In-Person Workshop (17th – 19th October 2023)

The three-day in-person workshop served as the centrepiece of the program, providing a comprehensive exploration of gender data analysis. Through lectures, interactive sessions, and group activities, participants engaged in practical exercises to deepen their understanding and apply gender analysis to their projects.

Phase 3 (Month 3): consists of two virtual mentorship sessions and a virtual group feedback session. The **aim** of these activities is to assist teams to bring their individual projects to completion and to allow for feedback on their findings as well as on their experience of the program.

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Reflecting on the Empowering Journey of the In-Person Workshop

The three-day in-person workshop, a cornerstone of the Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific program, stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of six dynamic teams and distinguished mentors hailing from various corners of the globe. Executed seamlessly by the Vital Strategies' Data Impact Program (DIP) and the JHU Gender Equity Unit, in partnership with the International Institute of Health Management and Research (IIHMR), Delhi, this workshop exemplifies the commitment to advancing gender equity in public health policies across the Asia Pacific region.

The heartbeat of the workshop resided in the vibrant participation of six teams, each consisting of three dedicated members, representing a diverse range of countries with a shared vision of fostering gender-responsive policy development. From the tropical landscapes of Sri Lanka to the Pacific archipelago of the Solomon Islands, the teams also included representatives from Papua New Guinea, India (Mumbai team), India (IIHMR Team), and the Philippines. This diverse assembly reflected a rich tapestry of cultures, perspectives, and public health priorities.

Guiding these teams on their transformative journey were mentors of exceptional expertise and experience. Hailing from the United States, Canada, and India, these mentors represented prestigious organizations such as Vital Strategies, the United Nations, John Hopkins University (JHU), and IIHMR Delhi. Their collective knowledge spanned the intricacies of gender data analysis, policy development, and global health, ensuring that each participating team received nuanced guidance tailored to their unique contexts.



Key Delegates & Mentors for Asia Pacific Program

This collaborative effort embodied the spirit of peer-to-peer learning, transcending geographical boundaries, and fostering a global community committed to advancing gender equity in public health policies. As the workshop unfolded between October 17 and 19, 2023, the collective energy and diverse perspectives of the teams and mentors created a dynamic and enriching environment, propelling forward the mission of informed, equitable, and impactful policy development in the Asia Pacific region.

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Team India (Mumbai) with Mentors



Team Sri Lanka with Mentors



Team India (IIHMR) with Mentors



Team Papua New Guinea with Mentors



Team Solomon Island with Mentors



Team Philippines with Mentor

Country Teams & Mentors

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Day 1: Building Foundations (October 17, 2023)

The first day of the Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific program, held on October 17, 2023, was marked by a dynamic and insightful agenda. The inaugural day of the workshop set a collaborative tone as participants engaged in introductions, fostering a sense of community. The day commenced with warm welcomes and introductions, setting the tone among participants.

An innovative icebreaker in Bingo format facilitated networking and introduced essential gender equity concepts. A deep dive into gender analyses, featuring the WHO Gender Analysis Matrix, enabled participants to explore the intersectionality of gender and health. The day concluded with dynamic group project presentations, laying the groundwork for integrating gender considerations into projects.



Glimpses from Day 1



The core sessions delved into the practical aspects of utilizing gender analyses, featuring a comprehensive lecture and a hands-on exercise with the WHO Gender Analysis Matrix (GAM). This tool enabled participants to explore the nuanced impact of gender on health conditions relevant to their projects. A productive tea and stretch break provided a brief respite.

The afternoon session focused on applying the day's insights to group projects. Participants evaluated their projects through a gender lens, incorporating newfound knowledge into the background and methodology sections. The subsequent group presentations encouraged shared learning and critical engagement, emphasizing the integration of gender considerations.

The day concluded with a concise recap by facilitators, summarizing key takeaways and highlighting the potential for enhanced gender responsiveness in policy development. The workshop's interactive

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format and emphasis on practical application left participants energized for the subsequent days, fostering a collaborative spirit in advancing gender-sensitive policies in the Asia Pacific region.

Day 2: Data Analysis Mastery (October 18, 2023)

Day 2 of the Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific program, held on October 18, 2023, continued to deepen participants' understanding of gender-inclusive data analysis. The morning began with a brief recap, ensuring a seamless connection with the previous day's content and addressing participant queries.

Participants were led through lectures on Gender Statistics, Sources of Data, and Tools for Data Analysis, fostering a comprehensive understanding. The day's first session delved into Gender Statistics in Data Analysis, providing a comprehensive lecture with active participation through Q&A. This equipped participants with insights into incorporating gender considerations into data analysis, emphasizing the role of gender statistics in public health.



Glimpses from Day 2



Following a discussion on Sources of Data, participants explored routine data sources and gained familiarity with publicly available repositories. A refreshing tea and stretch break prepared participants for the interactive Tools for Data Analysis session. A demonstration lecture was followed by group work, encouraging the application of equity measures to participants' projects.

The afternoon was dedicated to refining group projects, with participants incorporating newfound knowledge into the analysis/results sections. The day concluded with a recap and closure, emphasizing the integration of gender equity principles into data analysis practices. Overall, Day 2 provided a robust foundation for participants to enhance the gender responsiveness of their data analysis methodologies, contributing to the broader goal of informed and equitable policy development.

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Day 3: Impactful Insights (October 19, 2023)

On the concluding day of the Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific program, held on October 19, 2023, participants delved into the practical application. Sessions on Using Data for Policy Impact and Stakeholder Engagement provided practical tools for participants to influence policy decisions.

The session on Using Data for Policy Impact featured a short lecture and a reflective exercise, guiding participants to contemplate how their projects could influence policy. Stakeholder Engagement and Dissemination of Policy Briefs were explored in-depth, with participants gaining practical insights and engaging in reflective exercises to enhance their understanding of the process.



Glimpses from Day 3



After a rejuvenating tea and stretch break, participants continued to refine their projects during the Group Project Work session, focusing on avenues for dissemination and advocacy. The subsequent Group Project Presentations provided a platform for participants to share, learn, and engage critically with each other's projects, fostering a collaborative and enriching environment.

The day concluded with a final recap and closure, summarizing the cumulative learnings of the workshop. Participants were encouraged to reflect on how the knowledge gained over the days and weeks could be effectively harnessed for impactful contributions to policy development. The workshop successfully equipped participants with the tools and insights necessary to integrate gender considerations into their projects and advocate for positive policy changes in the Asia Pacific region.

Closing Thoughts:

The workshop successfully equipped participants with a holistic understanding of gender data analysis, emphasizing its application in policy development. The collaborative spirit and practical exercises

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ensured a transformative learning experience, empowering participants to contribute to gender-responsive policies in the Asia Pacific region.

Conclusion: A Pivotal Step Towards Sustainable Impact

As the three-day in-person workshop of the Gender Data Analysis for Policy Development Asia Pacific program culminates, it marks not just the end of an enriching event but the beginning of a transformative journey for the participating teams. The collective efforts, diverse perspectives, and collaborative spirit witnessed during this workshop lay a solid foundation for the impactful integration of gender considerations into public health policies across the Asia Pacific region.

Next Steps in Phase 3: Virtual Mentorship and Feedback Sessions

The imminent transition into Phase 3, featuring two virtual mentorship sessions and a group feedback session, signifies a commitment to sustained support and continuous improvement. The virtual mentorship sessions will offer targeted guidance, addressing challenges and refining methodologies to ensure that the individual projects are brought to completion with the highest standard of gender equity analysis. This personalized mentorship, provided by experts from Vital Strategies, the United Nations, John Hopkins University (JHU), and IIHMR Delhi, aims to empower teams with the necessary skills and insights for effective policy application.

Simultaneously, the group feedback session serves as a crucial platform for teams to showcase their findings and methodologies, fostering peer-to-peer learning. This collaborative exchange of insights will not only strengthen the projects but also contribute to the broader goal of enhancing gender-responsive policies. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their experiences, share key learnings, and provide valuable feedback on the program, ensuring continuous improvement for future initiatives.

Looking Towards a Sustainable Future

As we embark on the next phase, the momentum gained from the workshop propels us towards a sustainable future. The commitment of each participant and mentor to advancing gender equity in public health policies is a beacon of hope, promising enduring impact beyond the confines of this program. The success of this initiative lies not only in the knowledge gained but also in the collaborative relationships forged, creating a global community dedicated to effecting positive change.

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In the coming virtual sessions, the focus remains on refining projects, enhancing skills, and fostering a community of practitioners committed to advancing gender-responsive policies. The journey continues, and the ripple effects of this program are poised to contribute significantly to a future where gender equity is intrinsic to informed and impactful policy development in the Asia Pacific region.