GOOD PRACTICES

in gender responsive evaluations

UN WOMEN

OBJECTIVES & APPROACHES

Promote gender responsive evaluations

as an agent of change for supporting enhanced implementation of gender equality commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda

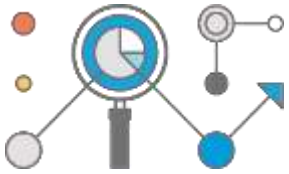
Showcase good and promising practices

on gender-responsive evaluation approaches and methods & highlight good practices on how evaluations with gender-lens are impactful

Intended audiences

Intended for UN system and national partners as well as broader evaluation communities who may wish to incorporate gender-responsive evaluations in their evaluation practices.

Approaches & methodology



- Based on a desk review of 35 UNEG partners evaluations, through a Call for Gender Responsive Evaluations (2019) & UN Women evaluations (on GATE) & a targeted web search for GRE/impact evaluations.
- Each evaluation was screened against a set of criteria to identify general trends and good, innovative practices.

BACKGROUND

SDG Gender Index

The SDG Gender Index provides a snapshot of where the world stands on gender equality linked to the vision set forth by the 2030 Agenda.

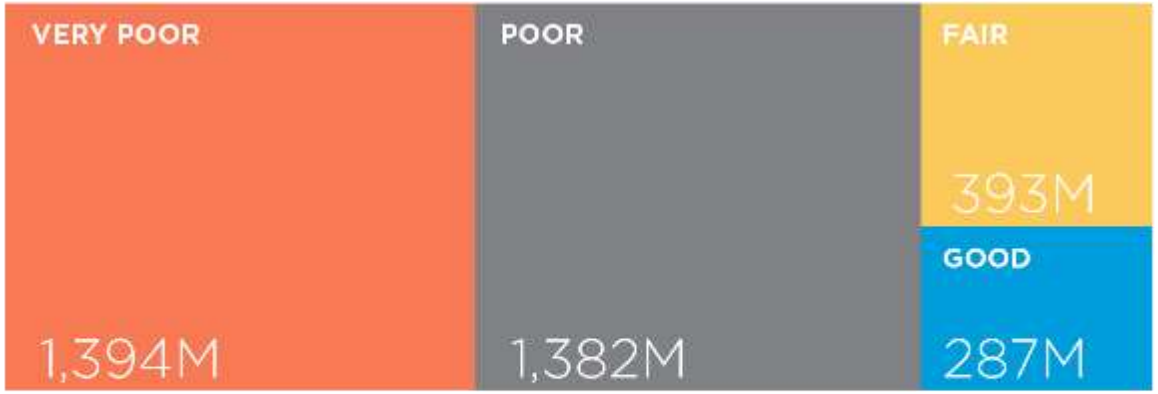
'Not one country is likely to achieve gender equality by 2030'[2]

62/100

global average 2019 SDG Gender Index score

SCORING SYSTEM*
Excellent: 90 & above
Good: 80-89
Fair: 70-79
Poor: 60-69
Very poor: 59 & below

Number of girls and women living in countries by 2019 SDG Index Score grouping

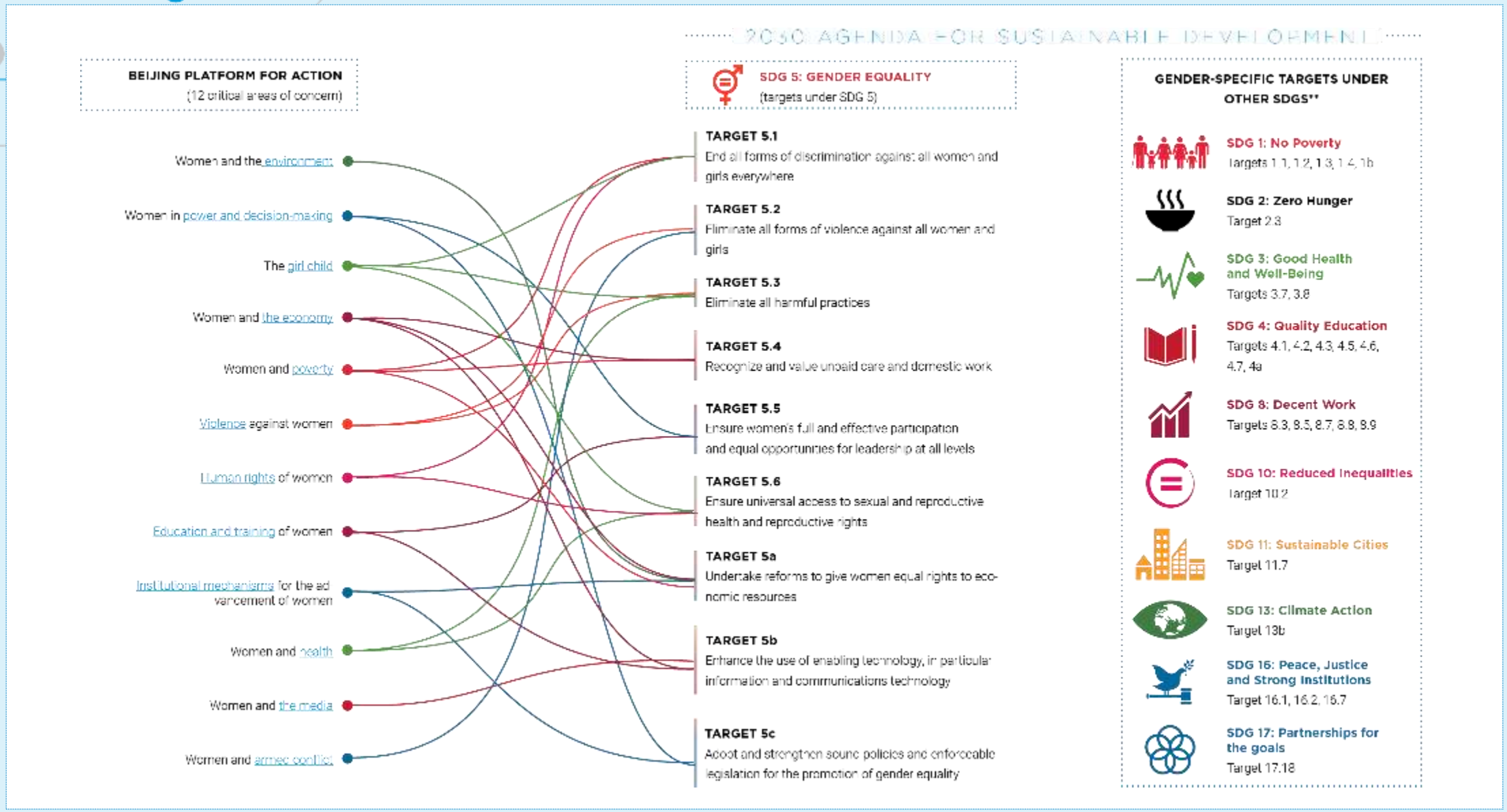


* A score of 100 reflects the achievement of gender equality in relation to the targets set for each indicator in the index

Source: Equal Measures 2030, 2019

- Beijing Platform for Action: blueprint for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).
- 2030 Agenda: SDG 5 and mainstreaming
- However, progress in closing gender gaps in politics; the economy and the world of work; violence against women; and unpaid care work to name a few, has lagged considerably behind the rhetoric.

INTER-LINKAGES BETWEEN THE BPFA AND 2030 AGENDA TARGETS



GENDER RESPONSIVE EVALUATION

A systematic and impartial assessment that provides credible and reliable evidence-based information about the extent to which an intervention has resulted in progress (or the lack thereof) towards intended and/or unintended results regarding GEWE.

TWO MAIN COMPONENTS

RESULTS

It assesses the “degree to which gender and power relationships – including structural and other causes that give rise to inequities, discrimination and unfair power relations – change as a result of an intervention.”

PROCESS

A gender-responsive evaluation entails a process that is inclusive, participatory and respectful of all stakeholders, especially in ensuring that women’s voices, including different groups, are prevalent throughout the evaluation.

Good Practices in Gender Responsive Evaluation

- Approaches
- Method and tools
- Impact Evaluation
- Country-led evaluations and partnerships for GRE evaluation

GENDER RESPONSIVE EVALUATION APPROACHES

Mainstreamed across the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and

APPROACHES FOR FOSTERING PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVENESS

Utilization-focused Promotes intended use by intended users.	Strong focus on participation of users throughout the evaluation process.
Appreciative inquiry Highlights good practice in association with evaluation.	Promotes a high level of stakeholder participation.
Feminist Addresses the gender inequities that lead to social injustice and examines opportunities for reversing gender inequities.	Prioritizes women's experience and voices, including women from groups discriminated against and/or marginalized.
Empowerment Programme participants conduct their own evaluations. An outside evaluator often serves as a coach or additional facilitator.	Most appropriate where the goals of the intervention include helping participants become more self-sufficient and personally effective; could therefore support capacity building of rights holders and duty bearers.
Most significant change Sharing stories of lived experiences and selecting those most representative of the type of change being sought.	Project stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the data.

GENDER RESPONSIVE EVALUATION APPROACHES

Linking theory-based approaches with gender analytical frameworks

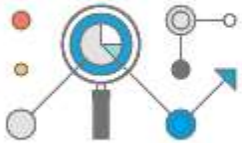
Longwe Women's Empowerment Framework

STRENGTHS

- Enables a feminist context analysis highlighting the political dimensions of gender inequality.
- Allows negative impacts to be located and analysed.

LIMITATIONS

- Assumes that women's empowerment follows a linear process.
- Treats women as a homogenous group. May lead to a de-contextualized perspective of women's empowerment.
- Excludes men and institutions from framework.



Harvard Analytical Framework

STRENGTHS

- Useful for mapping and identifying the gendered division of work as well as access and control over community resources.
- Highlights the need for gender disaggregation in measuring programme impact to identify if there are differential outcomes for men and women receiving the same programme intervention.

LIMITATIONS

- As resources, not power, are seen as central, it does not identify the source of power or inequality nor challenge existing gender relations.
- No mechanism for assessing pathways of change thereby limiting understanding of why an intervention works.

Social Relations Framework

STRENGTHS

- Highlights the systemic causes and structures of gender inequalities.
- Useful for mapping actors/stakeholders involved in gender power dynamics to understand the importance of social relations to systemic inequalities.
- Helps pinpoint the places where structural catalysts to inequality can be disrupted.

LIMITATIONS

- This approach uses an institutional lens to assess and improve policies, which may not include multiple voices or fully account for grassroots' experiences or the contextual specificities of particular minority groups within an institution.

GENDER RESPONSIVE EVALUATION APPROACHES

Systems thinking and complexity-responsive designs

Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for Gender Equality, Environments and Marginalized Voices: ISE4GEMs

Feminist evaluation approaches

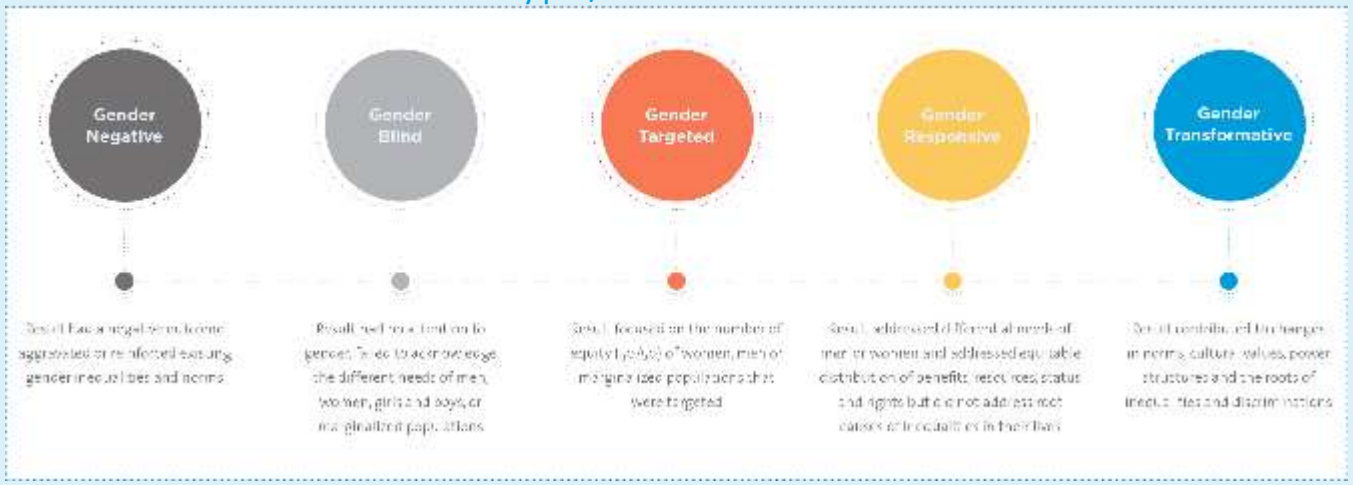
Applying feminist approaches to identify levers for transformative change

Participatory Democratic Evaluation

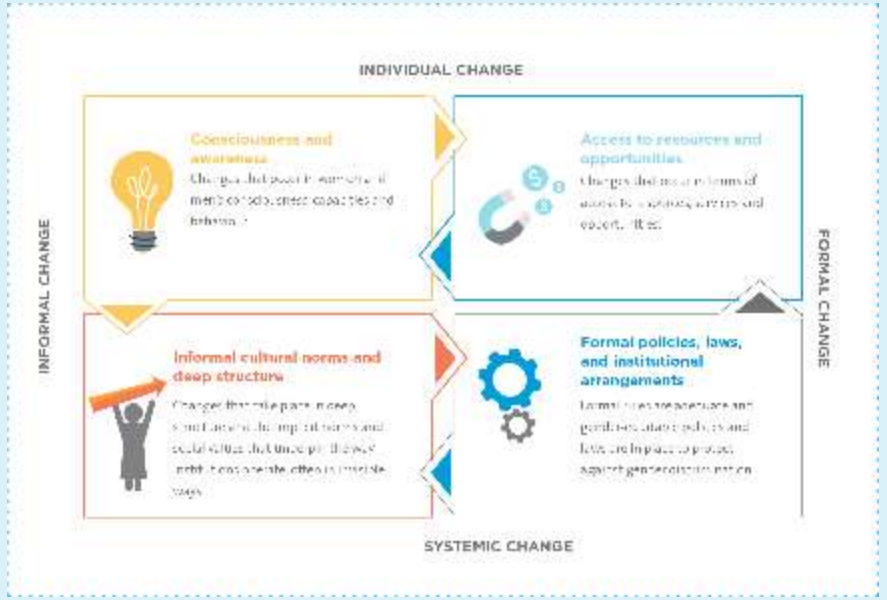
Engaging grantee communities (e.g. rights holders) in processes of dialogue and action and empowered them to monitor and evaluate their own performance

METHODS AND TOOLS

Development of Gender Results Effectiveness Scale to determine the type/nature of results



Gender@work quadrants of change



Contribution analysis table

Changes found by the evaluation	Link to UN Women (performance story)	Other contributing factors	Likely contribution of other factors	Plausible contribution of UN Women to this change	Summary of evidence	Gender and human rights implications

IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Impact evaluations

The majority of UN system evaluations tend to focus on the achievement or contribution to outputs, and short and medium-term outcomes. Few evaluations assess or measure the impact criterion of the OECD-DAC standard evaluation criteria, in part because impact evaluations are concerned with attribution (i.e. cause and effect chains) to show if an intervention has worked primarily through the establishment of a counterfactual ("what would have happened in the absence of the intervention(s)?").

Impact evaluations seek to address[60] the following questions:

Did the intervention make a difference?

What specific part of this difference can be attributed to the project?

How was the difference made?

Can the intervention be expected to produce similar results elsewhere?

GOOD PRACTICES

What works to reduce child marriage and adolescent pregnancy: UNICEF– IKEA Foundation Programme on Improving Adolescent Lives in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan (ongoing)

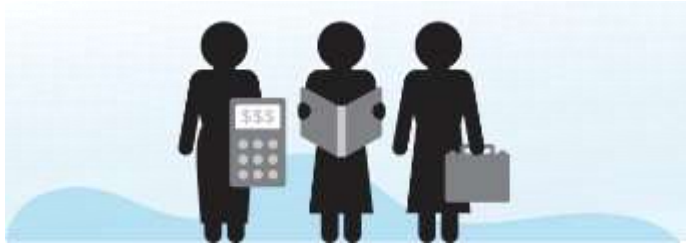
What works to promote women's economic empowerment: WB-ILO Unpacking the determinants of entrepreneurship development and economic empowerment for women in Kenya (2019))

What works to reduce intimate partner violence against women: Impact evaluation of an intervention with male partners of women survivors of conflict-related rape and intimate partner violence, Promoudo (2016)

NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & COUNTRY-LED EVALUATIONS

National Gender Equality Strategies and Actions Plans

Important role of country-led evaluations of National Gender Equality Strategies and Actions Plans (NAP) in building national evaluation capacity



Ownership for the generation and use of evaluative evidence

Ownership for the generation and use of evaluative evidence to support national-level follow-up and review processes of SDG progress.

Gender-responsive country-led evaluations

Summary of common findings & Lessons learned based on the country-led evaluations (Jordan, Serbia, Colombia and Nepal)

KEY INSIGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Gender-responsive evaluations can support the imperative shift to more systemic, complexity - responsive and adaptive evaluations needed to bring about the transformative changes for all as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.

MOST COMMON APPROACHES

Incorporation of gender equality and human rights as a stand-alone criterion or mainstreamed across the OECD-DAC evaluation., and combination of gender analytical framework as most common approach

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES

If any transformative changes were evidenced, they occurred at the level of the individual, household or in communities.

IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Impact Evaluations hold the promise of generating more rigorous evidence on gender equality approaches to take to scale, especially in areas where structural barriers or catalysing social norm and behaviour change need to be addressed.

COUNTRY LED EVALUATIONS

can foster greater national ownership of and accountability for realizing commitments to gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of women and girls

TRANSFORM Issue 18

CONTENTS

- **UN Women:** Good Practices in gender responsive evaluations (2020)
- **IFAD:** What works for gender equality and women's empowerment – a review of practices and results
- **UNECE:** Assessing gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **UNFPA:** Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of FGM (2008–2018)
- **African Development Bank:** Investing in Gender Equality for Africa's Transformation

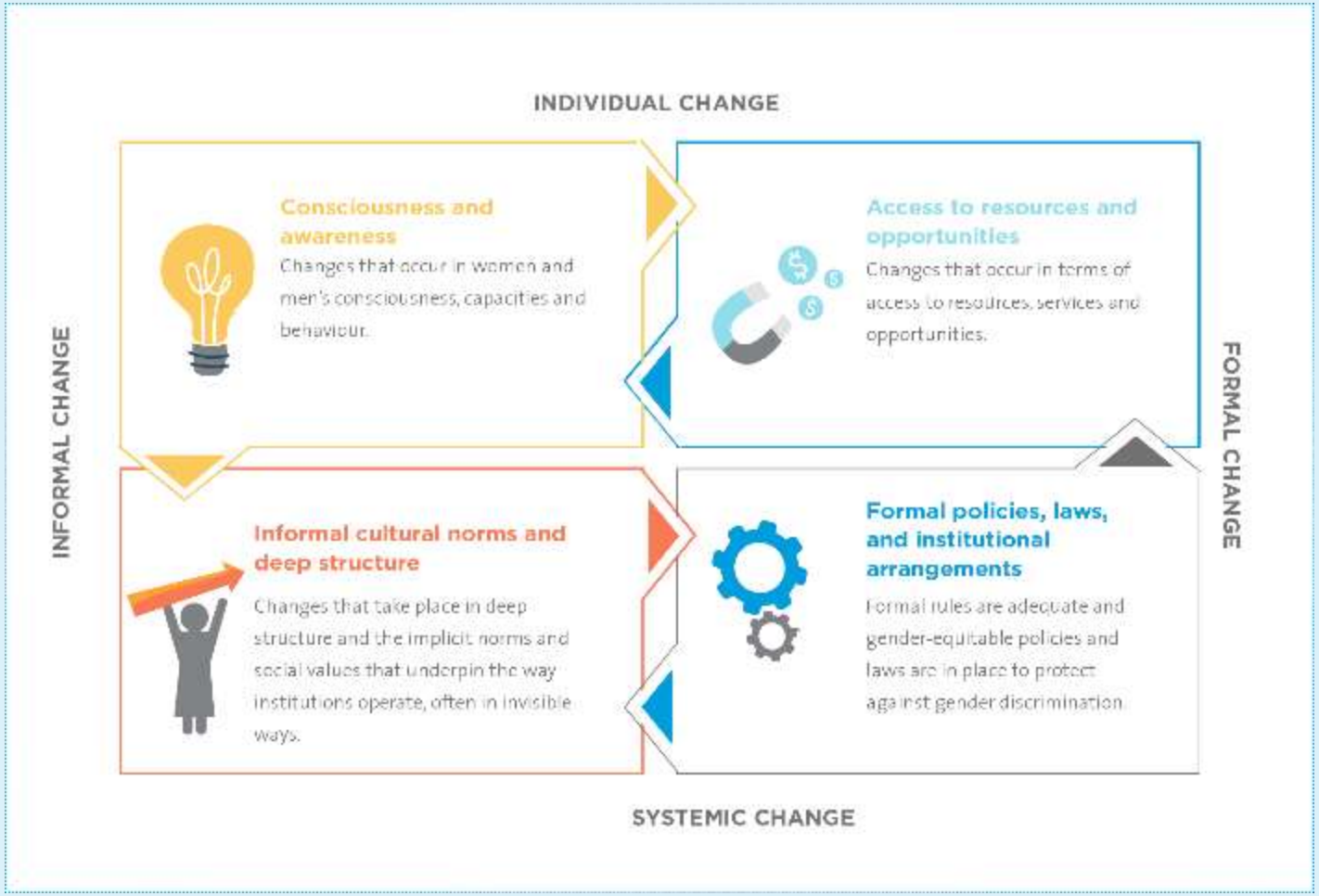
THANK YOU

LINKS TO THE PRODUCTS :

- https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/good-practices-in-gender-responsive-evaluations
- https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/transform-issue-18-june-2020
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OPdJ70eAnI

METHODS AND TOOLS

Gender@work quadrants of change



Use of contribution analysis to assess contributions to outcome-level, strategic GE results

Contribution analysis table

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