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TAAP Inclusion Workshop at World Learning’s iPACE, Myanmar

In August, World Learning’s Institute for Political and Civic Engagement (iPACE) in Myanmar piloted a four-day workshop on inclusive program design using TAAP tools and concepts. More than 20 civil society leaders participated, representing organizations that focus on empowering women, youth, people with disabilities, LGBT persons, members of ethnic and religious minority groups, as well as on community development and education. During the
workshop these activists reflected on the nature of power and exclusion, examined how to map the inclusion landscape in their own country and community, practiced integrating inclusive practices into project design, and discussed how to integrate inclusion into their own organizations. The workshop was well received with participants eager for more information about TAAP and tools for inclusive design. Participants also offered practical feedback as to how to improve the training in future which we are integrating into future iterations of this training. IPACE will host a follow-on event in December to launch the new TAAP toolkit and learn how participants used the skills gained during this workshop.

*Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Whatley, World Learning's Divisional Vice President for Civil Society & Governance, Myanmar 2016.*

**Closing the Gender Data Gap and the Promise of Inclusion Data**

At the core of the TAAP approach is the idea that development outcomes can be improved by closing inclusion gaps – and this means closing inclusion data gaps for people marginalized from power, including women, disability, LGBTI, racial, ethnic, and religious minority identity groups. There are important lessons to learn from the strides being made in closing the gender data gap. In May 2016 the Gates Foundation brought the gender data gap front and center with an $80 million commitment and a [*Closing the Gender Data Gap*](www.nytimes.com/section/world) resource in the New York Times.

A Devex article, [*When Gender Data Became Cool*](www.devex.com), provides 5 insights in to the challenges and opportunities for closing the gender gap, each of which provides food for thought for the broader inclusion imperative.

First, the gender data gap is huge. Plan International, the International
Women’s Health Coalition, KPMG, ONE Campaign and Women Deliver are developing an SDG Tracker Initiative that will monitor 30-40 quantitative and qualitative indicators. The Initiative will also work to ensure “the groups who need [the data] have it, whether that’s political decision-makers or women’s and girl’s rights organizations.”

Second, not all of the indicators of Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - are ready to be measured because “….only three of the 14 indicators for Goal 5 are being regularly collected in most countries and have accepted international standards for measurement.”

Third, gender data is complicated. The article highlights that “data is not only a technical issue, it’s also a values-based and a political issue…choices are made about what to measure, how to measure it and who is measuring — choices that can deepen a data divide and provide sexist or bad data.” The gaps in gender data suggests that in the decision-making process about data collection and analysis, women, girls, and gender equality allies have not a seat at the table to advocate for gender inclusion.

Fourth, there are countless partnerships working to close the gender data gap. Including larger development players like the Gates Foundation and UN Women, the article stresses that “initiatives of local actors will be just as important.”

Fifth, data is already changing the landscape for women and girls such as leading to the design of targeted development interventions in education and health.

Clear representations of how gender data is shining a light on advances and remaining challenges in ensuring girls access to education are found in a series of The Gender Data Gap You Don’t Know About videos produced by the Gates Foundation, and in UNESCO’s interactive report on the state of girls’ education in Africa, Left Behind: Girls Education in Africa. The UNESCO report provides data on school enrollment rates, poverty as a barrier to girl’s education, the persistence of illiteracy among women, poor school conditions and the need for teachers, especially women teachers.

*Photo photo of Dolgion Aldar, Executive Director, Mongolia’s Independent Research Institute in Mongolia (IRIM).*
Harnessing Data Innovation and Social Media to Advance Inclusive Development

Have you ever thought about social media as a tool to collect insights into development opportunities or to map discrimination? The UN’s Global Pulse Project Series is a flagship innovation initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and showcases how data analytics can support monitoring and progress towards sustainable development. Recent studies conducted by UN agencies involved monitoring Facebook data and public tweets to conduct real-time analysis of two important gender-related development issues – contraception and teenage pregnancy, and discrimination against women in the workplace. The results of the studies are intriguing. A UNFPA study, Attitudes Towards Contraception and Teenage Pregnancy explored the use of real-time digital data to monitor debate among Ugandans on contraception and teenage pregnancy, and to analyze perceptions towards different types of contraception. The project resulted in a real-time interactive dashboard that analyzes public Facebook posts and data from UNICEF’s U-report (a SMS-based polling system for Ugandan youth) for keywords related to contraception and teenage pregnancy. The dashboard allows for tracking of emerging and trending topics and perceptions related to family planning month by month. This project demonstrated the potential of using social data to supplement traditional means of gaining insights through less-frequent national surveys. An ILO feasibility study, Identifying Trends in Discrimination Against Women in the Workplace,
found that while identified tweets corresponded to discriminatory job requirements, weak signals from messages coming from directly affected populations may imply that it is common for women workers to keep silent about their experience related to discrimination and violence in the workplace. The silence can be for various reasons including fear of losing the job and facing further discrimination. If you have experience using social media to collect or monitor inclusive development, please let us know!

*Graphic from the UN Global Pulse, 2016*

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**Got Inclusion?**

We want to hear from you! Please share your inclusion activities, success stories, upcoming events, and intriguing resources. Send to TAAP@worldlearning.org.

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