Briefing

Climate change, gender

Keywords:
Climate change adaptation, theory of change, Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD)

iied | Garama 3C Ltd | LTS AFRICA | ISET-Pakistan

Issue date
December 2014

Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development through a gender lens

The effectiveness of climate change adaptation must be considered through a gender lens, tracking and measuring changes for both men and women over time. Our experience of using the Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD) framework in several countries shows that it is possible for monitoring and evaluation processes and the indicators that track changes in climate risk management and resilience to be gender sensitive. This briefing shows TAMD practitioners how to capture elements of gender relations and climate change according to their context of work. Methods include using key gender-related questions and scorecard indicators to ensure equal participation in planning, considering gendered impacts in a theory of change, and tracking gender differentiated experiences of climate hazards.

Policy pointers

Men and women experience the effects of climate change in different ways, and this needs to be captured in a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system such as TAMD.

The process of collecting information for TAMD needs to be gender sensitive — whether that is including women in key informant surveys, separate focus groups or asking specific questions about gender relations.

TAMD scorecards should include aspects of gender relations and gender-sensitive/ responsive planning where relevant.

Theories of change and indicators of resilience or development also need to capture differences in outcomes and experiences for women and girls.

Men and women experience the effects of climate change and adaptation interventions in different ways. The TAMD framework seeks to assess the effectiveness of adaptive measures and to understand the resilience benefits of a development intervention. As such, it must take into account the gendered effects of climate change and the gendered responses to — and outcomes of — adaptation interventions. TAMD assesses two types of indicator: the climate risk management environment in place to support adaptation (Track 1) and the changes in a community's resilience and wellbeing (Track 2).

Track 1 indicators are assessed using scorecards and Track 2 may be approached through participatory methodologies, household surveys and secondary data. The two tracks are linked by a theory of change that ensures climate risk management is supportive of, and targeted at, the climate-vulnerable poor. All three aspects of the TAMD framework — the planning process, the changes in resilience and wellbeing, and understanding the theory of change that links these changes — need to be sensitive to gender and the experiences of different gender groups.[1]

Gender and climate change

There is increasing evidence that men and women have different needs for resilience and that they experience adaptation interventions in different ways. While policy discourse has tended to portray women as victims and inherently more vulnerable to global environmental change, such understandings of womens' positions and situations in disasters and climate change are often based on their supposed characteristics, not evidence.[2]

An M&E system such as TAMD needs to understand the context of gender relations and the gendered experiences of specific climate

hazards in order to design and use indicators that can track gender relations and ultimately support better climate change responses for both men and women.

Evidence shows that women are more likely to die than men in large-scale disasters.[3] This is due to social and cultural norms and the fact that women often have less access to assets that help individuals cope with extreme events. In extreme events, women and girls often experience intangible losses — for example, of health or wellbeing — and secondary effects such as increased gender-based violence, early marriage, family disintegration, increased child mortality and loss of education. Such elements need to be captured through an M&E system such as TAMD, but are very context specific.

Climate risk management should always be sensitive or responsive to gender

Box 1 shows some key questions to consider when applying TAMD. The information gathered through them can be used to adapt the different stages of the TAMD framework to local gender concerns.

The TAMD feasibility tests offer different experiences of considering gender with TAMD. In this part of the briefing we explore what they have taught us about using scorecards, theories of change and resilience indicators with a gender lens.

Scorecards

The TAMD operational paper[1] sets out eight dimensions of climate risk management, providing generic indicators that can be adapted to each context. Although climate risk management alone cannot address issues of gender equality in planning, it should always be sensitive or responsive to gender. Extra indicators that help shift attention to gender equality and climate change can be integrated into existing scorecards.

The level at which the indicators are developed will depend on the social and institutional context. For example, community forest user groups (CFUGs) in Nepal use indicators to track the percentage of Dalit and female participants at all CFUG meetings and the percentage of CFUG internal income spent explicitly on women, children, disadvantaged groups, ethnic groups, disabled and elderly people.

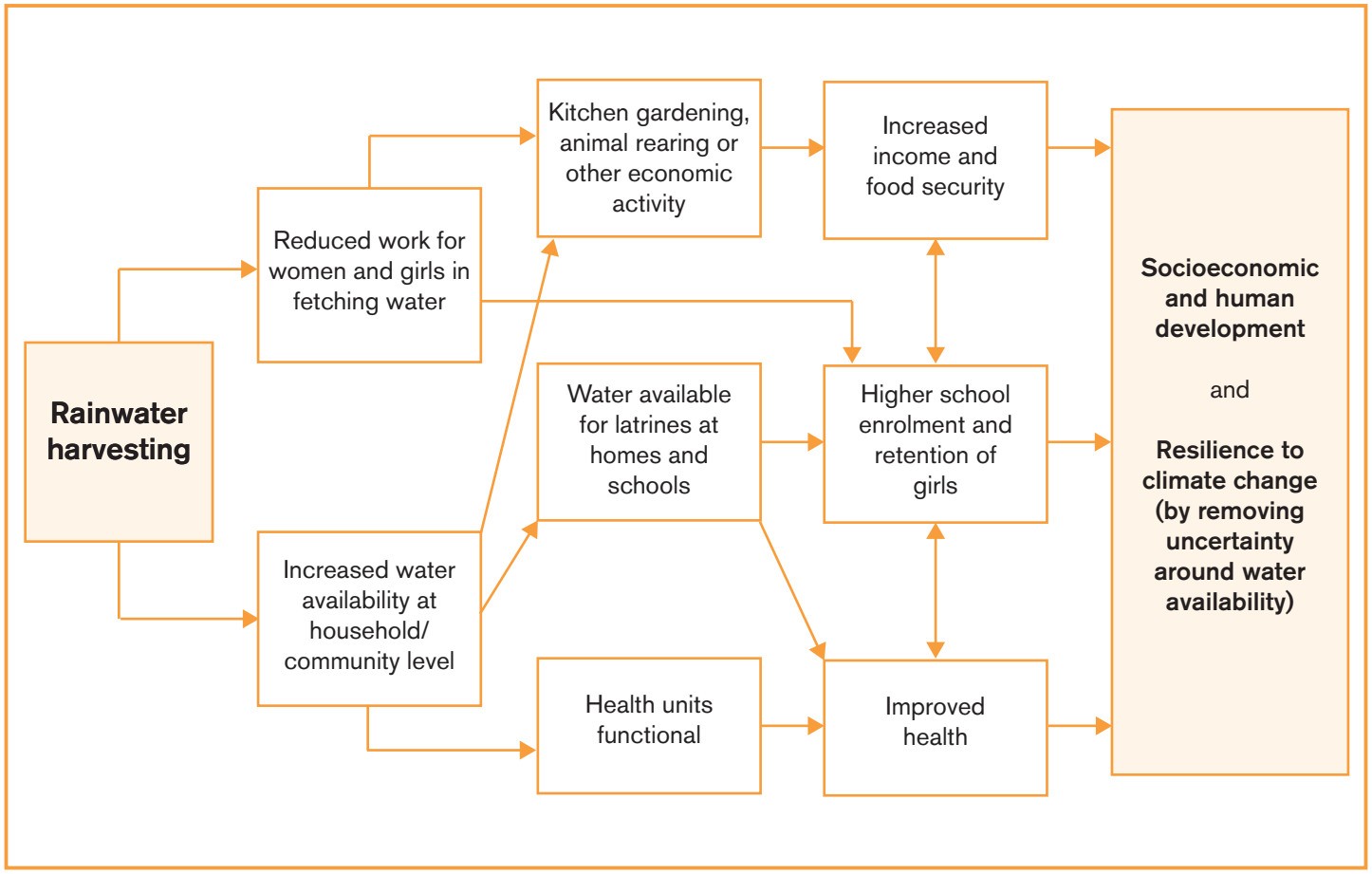
These types of local indicators can highlight gender inequality and may ultimately enable more transformative gender relations. Other potential indicators that can be integrated into the scorecards include whether:

- Women are included in climate planning processes (linked to scorecard indicator 7)
- Women are most likely to benefit from measures represented in planning or decision making (linked to scorecard indicator 7)
- The poorest and most marginalised women are represented (linked to scorecard indicator 7)

Box 1. Key gender-related questions to consider when applying TAMD

- How are women's voices included in climate risk management processes? Are they involved — as individuals or organised groups — in planning, decision making or prioritisation? Do women's groups represent the most marginalised women? Are issues of interest to women included in the allocated projects and funded decisions?
- How are women and girls affected by the area's current main climate hazard?
- How are women and girls affected by any slow-onset changes or likely to be affected by any predicted changes in climate?
- How will the adaptation intervention in question change women's and men's lives and alter the power dynamics between women and men, or the way they interact with each other? What impact does it have on women's and girl's lives in particular?
- Are there changes in resilience and wellbeing across all social groups, including women and girls? Do the data collected allow these differences to be tracked?
- What gender-disaggregated data are already collected through government systems and secondary data collection?

Figure 1. Theory of change of rainwater harvesting and its impact on women and girls in Pakistan



- Planning involves women with some awareness of climate change, or with formal training on climate change issues (linked to scorecard indicator 4)
- The climate change plan includes issues of gender equality and climate change (linked to scorecard indicator 1)
- The data collected allow a disaggregated picture of climate impacts by gender (linked to scorecard indicator 5)

Theories of change and resilience

A participatory M&E system needs gender-sensitive processes for collecting information. The TAMD feasibility studies in Nepal, Pakistan and Kenya ensured that women's voices were heard by having separate focus groups for men and women. In Kenya, including women in adaptation planning has been a central part of the Ward Adaptation Planning Committees' work.

There are many data collection methods including photography and video, oral testimonies, resilience assessments, community ranking and wellbeing exercises. It is vital these are used in a way that ensures their results represent women's voices from across the community, and that any indicators and theories of change developed from them reflect the gendered experiences of an intervention or climate hazard.

It is also important to consider gendered impacts when thinking through a theory of change. The TAMD work on a rainwater harvesting intervention in Pakistan, for example, developed a theory of change with the community that shows the intervention's potential impact on women and girls in particular, because they are often the ones who collect water.

The Pakistan feasibility study showed that the rainwater harvesting project significantly reduced the time women spent fetching water each day: on average by 162 and 60 minutes in the two study sites. The number of school-going girls fetching water also significantly decreased on both sites, contributing to higher school enrolment and retention for girls, who were more able to attend schools where latrines are available.

Indicators developed under Track 2 in Nepal, Pakistan, Mozambique and Kenya included indicators on gender relations and the experiences of women and girls such as the number of children enrolled in school disaggregated by gender, the time women and girls spend fetching water for domestic use, and access to livestock when women manage livestock in the home. Some focus groups identified gender equality as an outcome of their theory of change. In Ethiopia, groups identified financial stability as a way to improve gender relationships, while in Kenya women equated enhanced resilience with stable marriages.

It is also useful to disaggregate Track 2 indicators by gender, to enable changes in women's and men's resilience to be tracked and understood. If this is not practical, secondary data disaggregated by gender can offer some insight into gendered outcomes or participatory community rankings, while resilience assessments can collect qualitative data on gendered experiences and outcomes.

Although disaggregating impacts by gender and including gender-sensitivity in processes does not necessarily lead to gender equality, the evidence generated on gender relationships and underlying causes of vulnerability among different gender groups has the potential to be used in a gender-transformative way in adaptation planning.

Susannah Fisher

Susannah Fisher is a senior researcher in IIED's Climate Change Group (www.iied.org/users/susannah-fisher)

Notes

[1] To read more about the TAMD framework, see Brooks, N et al. (2014) An operational framework for Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD), IIED, London, and other publications at www.iied.org/tracking-adaptation-measuring-development / [2] Bradshaw, S and Linneker, B (2014) Gender and environmental change in the development context, IIED, London http://pubs.iied.org/10716IIED / [3] Bradshaw, S and Fordham, M (2013) Women, girls and disasters: A review for DFID, Department for International Development – DFID, UK. www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236656/women-girls-disasters.pdf

Knowledge Products

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) promotes sustainable development, linking local priorities to global challenges. We support some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in decision making.

Garama 3C Ltd is a small UK-based consultancy firm specialising in climate change and international development, focusing on adaptation, mainstreaming, M&E and the delivery of related training in the UK and globally.

The Institute for Social and Environmental Transition – Pakistan is a research organisation based in Islamabad and affiliated to ISET International. Their work concentrates on socioeconomic transitions.

LTS Africa is a leading provider of technical services in support of sustainable development in climate change, forestry, water and natural resource management. It operates in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Contact
Susannah Fisher
susannah.fisher@iied.org

80–86 Gray's Inn Road
London, WC1X 8NH
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 3463 7399
Fax: +44 (0)20 3514 9055
www.iied.org

IIED welcomes feedback via: @IIED and www.facebook.com/theiied

This research was funded by UK aid from the UK Government, however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK Government.