



The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

IOE Evaluation Synthesis: What Works for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

99th Session of the Evaluation Committee - Thursday, 26 October 2017

Independent Office
of Evaluation



Investing in rural people

Synthesis objectives and scope

- Objectives

- Identify gender-transformative practices that can inform future IFAD interventions under Agenda 2030
- Identify key enabling (or hindering) factors

- Scope

- Focus on IFAD lending operations
- Practices documented in IOE evaluations since 2011

- Systematic review

- Extracting practices and results from a representative sample of 57 evaluations

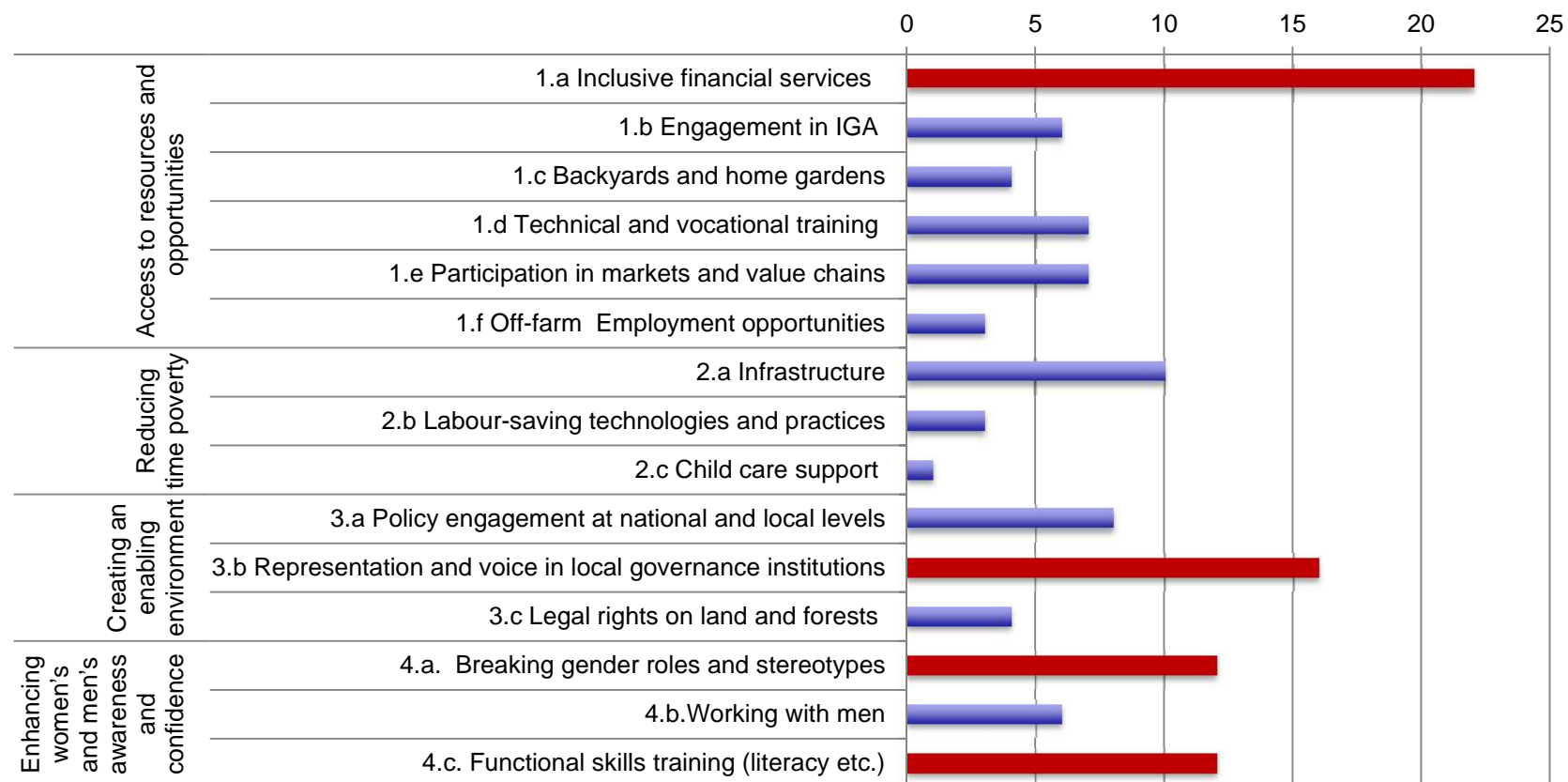
A working definition

Gender transformative approaches:

- Aim to overcome the **root causes** of inequality and discrimination through promoting **sustainable, inclusive and far-reaching social change**.
- Challenge existing **social norms** and distribution of **power** and **resources**.

Gender Practices

Number of GEWE practices in the sample



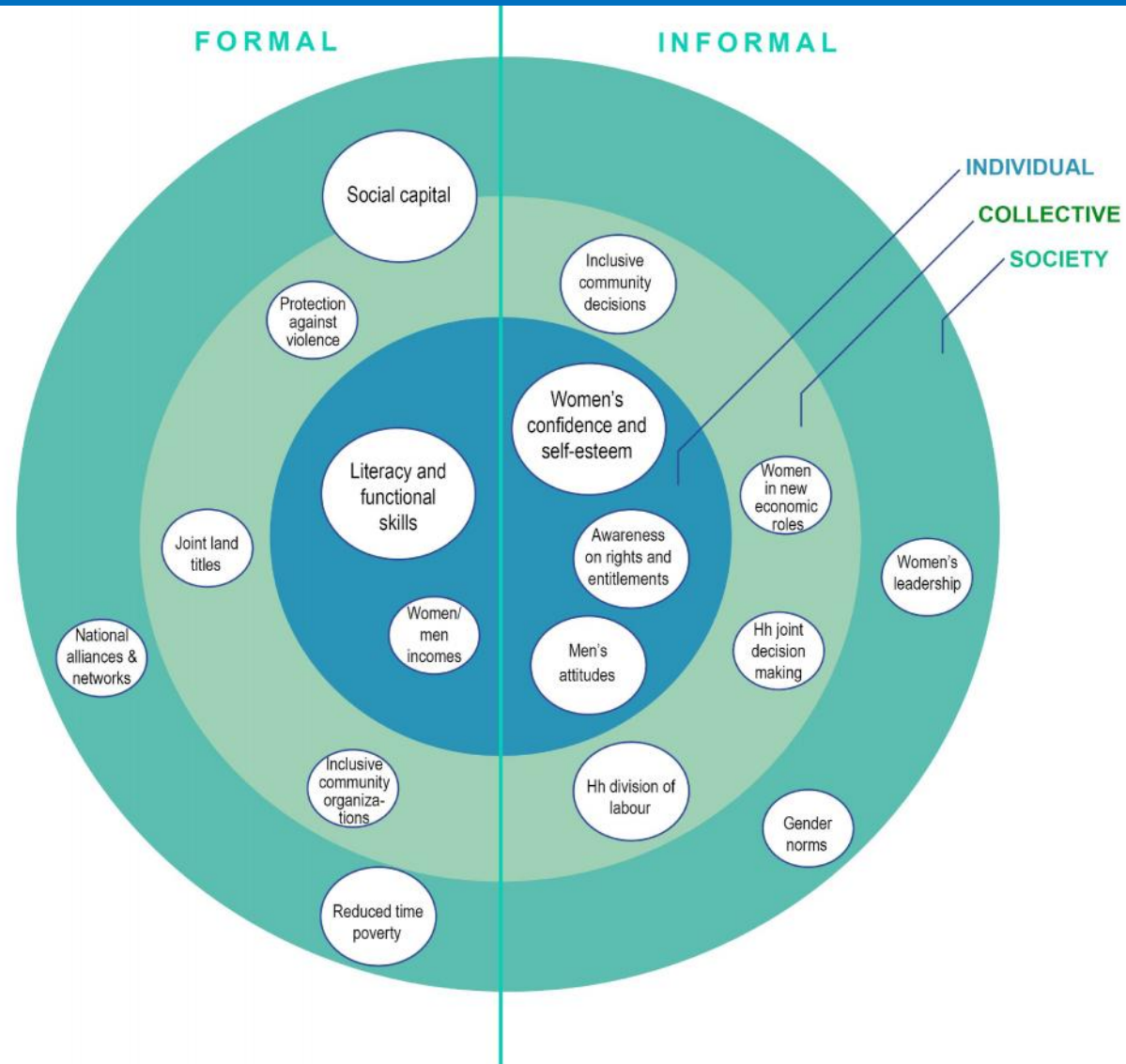
Gender effectiveness quadrant

	More effective (consistent results evidenced)	Less effective (mixed results evidenced)
More common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking gender roles and stereotypes Representation and voice in local governance institutions Functional skills training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive financial services Infrastructure
Less common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour-saving technologies and practices Off-farm employment Establishing value chains, access to markets Technical and vocational training Working with men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care support Backyard and home gardens Promotion of Income Generating Activities Policy engagement at national and local levels Legal rights on land and forests

Highly effective gender interventions

- Four highly effective projects in Viet Nam, Uganda, Brazil and Syria
 - Combination of practices to address all areas of gender policies
 - Part of well implemented and well targeted interventions
 - Multisectoral project using highly participatory approach to address multiple causes of poverty and exclusion,
- Three less effective projects in Moldova, Joran and Bhutan.

Gender impact spheres



Key lessons

- Empowering and gender transformative approaches need to be integrated into project design.
- Multiple and complementary practices are more likely to facilitate changes in gender roles and relations.
- Working with men as gatekeepers of customary practices is critical.
- Participatory approaches can facilitate gender-inclusive outcomes, if combined with specific strategies to target women.
- Promoting unconventional and new roles for women helps shifting mindsets and commonly held beliefs.

Key conclusions

- Guidance by IFAD gender policy and action plan ensured that interventions address key gender issues.
- IFAD has addressed root causes of gender inequality and women's powerlessness, in particular illiteracy, exclusion from access to resources and limited social capital.
- Explicit specific targeting strategies critical to ensure that women benefit equally and that their strategic needs are addressed.
- Diversity of women along lines of ethnicity, religion, and life cycle, not sufficiently targeted.
- Gender outcomes and impacts not well documented.

Recommendations

- Conceptualize and integrate the **gender transformative approach** for use throughout the organization for IFAD10.
- Develop explicit theories of change to underpin **targeting strategies** for different groups of women, together with indicators for monitoring; offer tailored interventions.
- Establish systematic **M&E of disaggregated benefits and gender outcomes** at corporate and project levels.
- Report consistently on **gender outcomes and impacts**; include sound contextual analysis to explain results.
- Replicate **good practices** for the three gender policy objectives; strengthen working with men.