

Gendered household power and decision- making

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History

- Recognition that
 - gender inequalities in the household reinforce, and are reinforced by, gender inequalities in society
 - Measures of poverty, deprivation and well-being tend to assume hh level equality
- Various existing approaches but no robust, standardized indicators
- Concept note; literature review; business case approved by Steering Group earlier this month

Rationale

- Public and private gender inequalities are mutually reinforcing
- Gender equality policies are more likely to work if they address causes as well as consequences
- Gender equality is an end in itself



Mandate for action



- CEDAW, ICPD, Beijing: Women in Power and Decision-making
- Beijing & ICPD: “from the most personal to the highly public”
- **SDG 5.4: “promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family”**
- New EC regulation: “promote equal sharing of responsibilities”

“the power relations that prevent women from leading fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public”



“Inequality in the public arena can often start with discriminatory attitudes and practices and unequal power relations between women and men within the family”

Decisions about what?



- Money & work
- Family formation/dissolution, partnering, reproduction
- Household responsibilities
- Recreation
- Health
- Education...

Delimiting scope

- Heterosexual couple relationships in households with or without children

X *how* individuals influence decision-making procedure, e.g. through persuasion, negotiation, bargaining

✓ ***who* finally takes decisions (*results* of bargaining), & extent to which spouses agree on decisions**

X actual expenditure, division of labour, reproductive outcomes, etc.

Results & added value

- **Identify & evaluate existing indicators**
- **Identify gaps**
- **Propose ways to fill gaps**

- **Inform policies to foster**
 - **Exercise of rights**
 - **Access to services & opportunities**
 - **Change in attitudes and behaviours**
- **Findings that outcomes alone could not reveal**

Actions

- Formation of task force
- Inventory of existing indicators
- 'Test' analysis
- ...?

