# GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE ILLUSTRATIVE INDICATORS

*Photo: USAID/ Naomi Logan*

Tool 4 is a suggested list of digital-related indicators that USAID staff and partners can use throughout the program cycle and across sectors—not just in programs that specifically target women and girls. The proposed indicators focus on mobile and Internet platforms. They are based on existing and accepted research and on indicators already in use, with awareness of the ongoing debate within the gender digital divide ecosystem (see Box 1). All proposed indicators and relevant data sources are derived from publicly available materials and align with the broader WEEGE illustrative indicators.

## BOX 1. UNDERSTANDING MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES RELATING TO THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE

### Lack of standardization

- There are currently no widely used standardized measurement methods for the gender digital divide. Different organizations use different methods, and these different methods lead to different results.

- There is no agreed definition or indicator of "meaningful" access or use: different organizations use this term with different meanings.

- Even though the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) collects data on both Internet access and use, the "use" indicators are narrowly focused on computer usage; indicators such as "copy and paste" and "transferring files" are not familiar to the majority of the world's ICT users, who use mobile phones.

- In 2020, the Alliance for Affordable Internet came out with a Meaningful Connectivity Standard, which is a major step forward in measuring meaningful access and use.

---

This resource is a companion piece to the Gender Digital Divide Risk Mitigation Technical Note. It is one of 18 documents exploring the role of information and communication technology in empowering women.

VIEW THE FULL SERIES >

**BOX 1. CONTINUED**

**Lack of global data for benchmarking**

- There is little statistically relevant data at a global level. Apart from the ITU, no other organizations regularly collate sex-disaggregated data on basic ICT and Internet access and use at a global scale.

- The private sector tends not to collect sex-disaggregated data on their user base, even in anonymized form (for privacy reasons); tech companies rarely know the gender split of their user base more broadly. If they do in fact have this data, the private sector very rarely shares it publicly.

**Almost all data is for adult women**

- Almost all the statistics around the gender digital divide that are publicly available are for adult women aged over 18. Many of these statistics come from Global System for Mobile Communication Association (GSMA), and their studies only sample adults aged over 18.

## USING TOOL 4 ILLUSTRATIVE INDICATORS

Click here to access the illustrative gender digital divide indicators spreadsheet.

### USE TOOL 4 IN PARALLEL WITH THE WEEGE TECHNICAL GUIDE TOOLS

Tool 4's gender digital divide indicators follow the same structure and suggested approach as the WEEGE Technical Guide and are designed to be used in parallel with the guide.

Readers who want more detail on how to implement Tool 4 can find this in Unit 6 of the WEEGE Technical Guide, which contains step-by-step guidance, tools, and templates on how to integrate WEEGE into monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

# DOCUMENTS IN THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE GENDER ANALYSIS TECHNICAL RESOURCE

**HOW TO USE THIS GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE GENDER ANALYSIS TECHNICAL RESOURCE**

**UNDERSTANDING THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE**

**TOOL 1: GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE ILLUSTRATIVE QUESTIONS**

**TOOL 2: CLOSING THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE TO IMPROVE USAID SECTOR OUTCOMES**

**TOOL 3: ADDRESSING THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE IN PROJECT AND ACTIVITY DESIGN**

**TOOL 4: GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE ILLUSTRATIVE INDICATORS**

**RESOURCES 1–4: KEY DATA AND DOCUMENTS**