

22nd Event of the Vienna Evaluation Network

# Inclusive evaluation for gender equality: Challenges and opportunities in ensuring inclusiveness in remote evaluations

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# INTENTION FOR THIS PRESENTATION

- Sharing our experience with a complex remote evaluation lasting almost two years.
- Discussing challenges we faced and solutions we found to make this evaluation as inclusive as possible under the current circumstances with the Covid19 pandemic.
- Reflecting our role and ambitions in the given time and budget frame.

# KEY INFORMATION ON THE EVALUATION

Sectoral evaluation on “Promotion of gender equality in partner organizations of Bread for the World and their projects”

Evaluation aims:

- to assess the gender work of BftW partner organizations and their projects and
- identify examples of good practices.

# Evaluation process – overview desk phase

- June 2020: Project start
- Rough analysis of **131 projects on 4 continents**: projects that aim to achieve gender equality and that promote girls and women, as well as projects that have gender as a cross-cutting issue
- Online surveys (one with BfdW HQ staff members, one with POs)
- In-depth document analysis of **30 projects**
- December 2020: Desk report (in German)

# Evaluation process – overview field phase

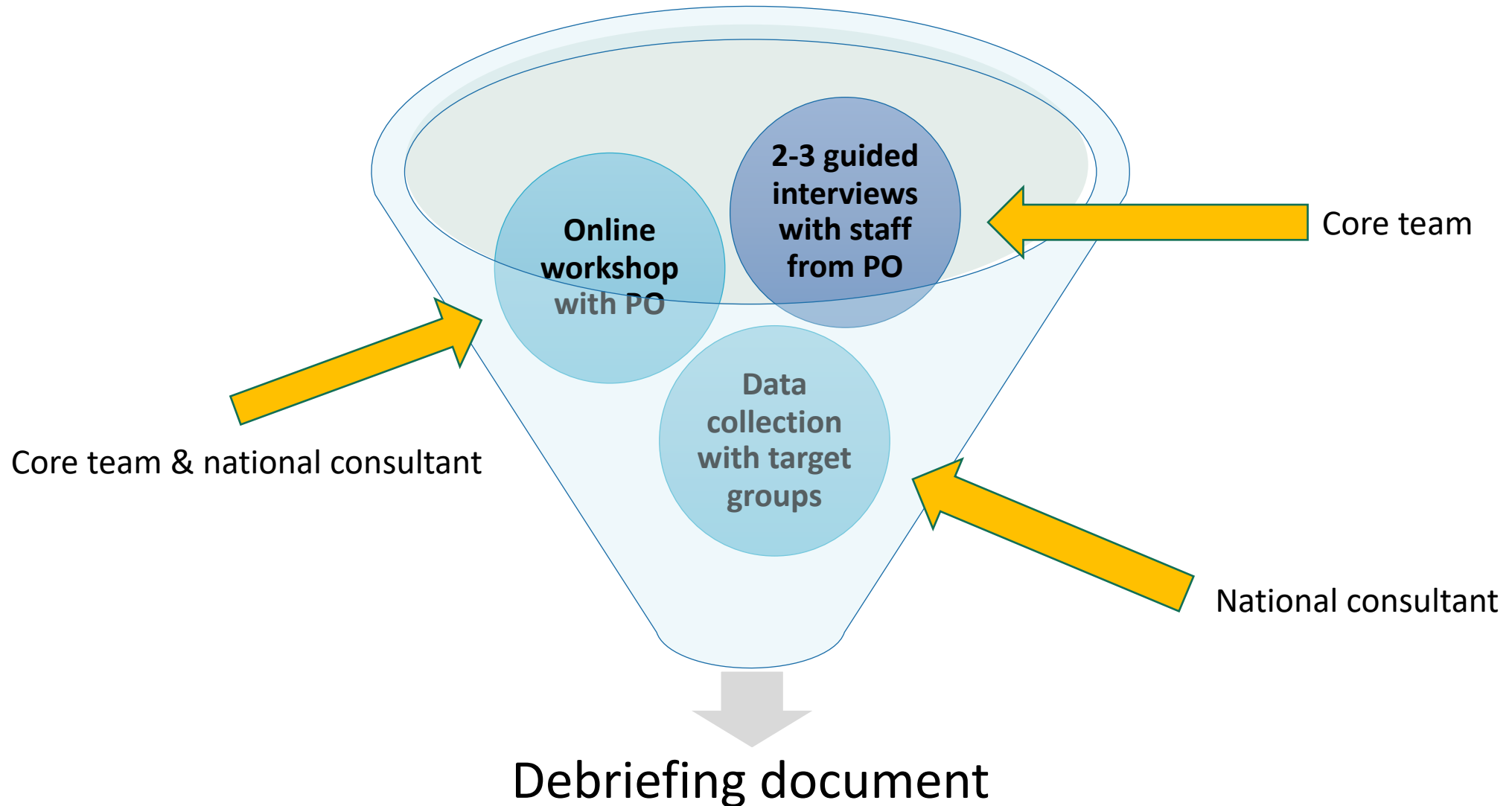
- **May/June 2021:** case studies in 10 countries (3 in Latin America, 3 in Africa, 3 in Southeast Asia, 1 in the Caucasus) - data collection among PO staff members and final beneficiaries/target groups
- **June 2021:** debriefing reports for each PO/project, data analysis
- **July/August 2021:** comparison/integration of analysis from desk and field phase
- **September 2021:** Final evaluation report (in German)

# Evaluation team

- Core team consisted of four evaluators from Germany and Austria
- For the field phase eight consultants from the region or the selected countries of the field phase were hired



# Elements of the evaluation per country



# Partner organisations included in field phase

**Africa:** Lesotho, Tanzania, Nigeria

**Latin America & Caribbean:** Nicaragua, Peru, Brazil

**Asia:** Philippines, India, Indonesia

**Europe/Middle East:** Georgia

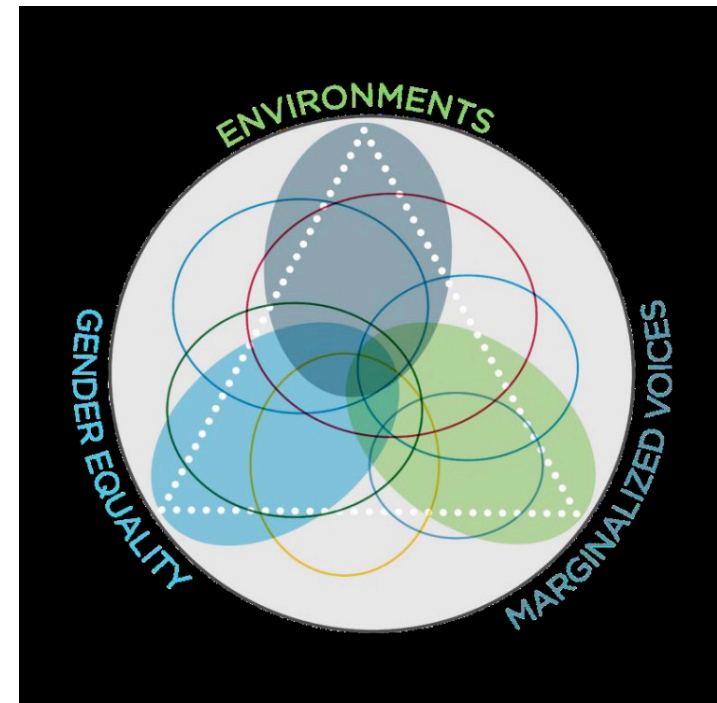




# Inclusive Systemic Evaluation

Our approach in the evaluation design in the beginning: applying Inclusive Systemic Evaluation (ISE4GEMS).

This approach seeks to integrate the GEMs dimensions (gender equality, environments, and marginalized voices) in an overarching inclusive systemic evaluation framework



# Inclusive Systemic Evaluation

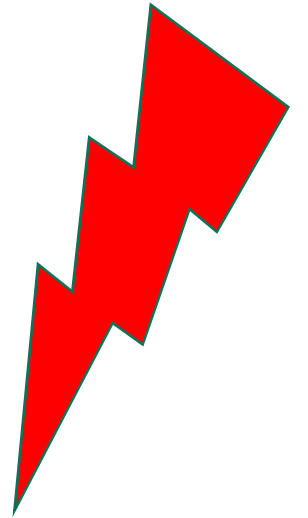
## Key elements:

- **Ethics** to empower and enable individuals and communities
- **Validity and rigour** through inclusive interpretation
- **Transdisciplinary mixed methods** for socio-environmental analysis
- **Capacity development** on systems thinking and GEMs

# Inclusive Systemic Evaluation

## ISE4GEMs approach and reality did not fit

- Approach rather new to us
- Documents provided by the contracting organisation did not provide the information necessary for the approach
- Project planning was not including elements of that approach
- Selection of interviewees not possible that way – selection was rather based on accessibility (physical or by communication means)
- Time constraints
- At the end: **as inclusive evaluation as possible**



# CHALLENGES during document review

- Lack of information on gender in the docs / few projects with gender equality as objective, mostly cross-cutting or women/girls only
- Lack of gender sensitive project planning
- Lack of a common understanding of gender equality

# **CHALLENGES working with evaluation practitioners from the target countries**

- Job ad
- Selection process
- Aligning methodology
- Time zones
- Access to internet (budget for internet costs)

# Challenges and opportunities for the practitioners from the target countries (Tanzania, Lesotho)

- Language and technology barriers- close collaboration with local translator or evaluated project staff
- Poor network connection especially when reaching rural community
- Field participant expectation- clarity on the objective of evaluation process and local partner expectations
- Privacy was compromised-sensitive topics such as gender based violence, sex worker issues and other SRHR

# Challenges and opportunities for the practitioners from the target countries (Latin Am.)

- The worst period of Covid 19 in the region = lack of vaccines (fundamentalisms, corruption, negligence), economic and health crisis. Brazil, Nicaragua and Peru suffering from high political instability.
- Partners and staff feeling isolated under the long period confinement and challenged to deal with increasing gender-based violence. Issues such as gender equality and sexual diversity not always easy to observe by remote contact. Evaluation from the Global north sometimes is perceived as “end of partnership”.
- Positive collaboration with the core evaluation team in general, expected tension regarding time = the use of more dynamics x more time to allow people to share.
- **Enriching evaluation experience:** always positive to visualize experiences from Latin America within a global perspective, space for real mutual learning and ... it is possible to have a high-quality remote evaluation!!

# CHALLENGES working with PO from the target countries

- Time zones
- Languages – working with two or more languages in the workshops
- Internet connection (especially in African countries)
- Access to computers/laptops by staff of partner organizations
- Ability using online tools
- (Covid 19) situation in each country



# CHALLENGES approaching the target groups

- Communication infrastructure
- Access to mobile phones
- Data for communication
- Covid19 situation / lockdown restrictions
- Talking about sensitive topics

# OPPORTUNITIES doing remote evaluations

- More flexibility (time, data collection period)
- Less travel – sustainability (CO2) and logistics
- Greater involvement of local evaluation practitioners / changing roles
- Exchange among evaluation practitioners from various continents / capacity-building
- Easier involvement of stakeholders (e.g. partner organisations) in various evaluation steps
- Data collection even where evaluators have no access (e.g. pandemic)

# Lessons learned

## Extra time needed for:

- ✓ proposal development with different scenarios due to pandemic situation,
- ✓ co-development of tools/methods with local consultants,
- ✓ recruitment,
- ✓ translation of documents

# Discussion

- > What is your experience with remote evaluations?
- > Where do you see the greatest challenges and opportunities?
- > Do you think that there are topics that can't or should not be evaluated remotely?
- > What are your suggestions to increase inclusiveness in remote evaluations?

# THANK YOU!

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