

**“What works for gender equality and women's empowerment – a conceptual framework for understanding transformational change”**

**Concept note**

“UN Evaluation Group SO2- Use of Evaluation”

**Background and focus**

**Background:** The focus of the 2013 Agenda for sustainable development is on transformative change. In its preamble the "Outcome Document" calls for bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, and it includes a number of goals that are of transformative nature. Transformative approaches aim to overcome the root causes of inequality and discrimination through promoting sustainable and far reaching change. But what does "transformative change" mean in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

IFAD has prepared an evaluation synthesis on "What Works for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" based on a systematic review of 57 reports prepared by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD since 2011. The report provides a working definition and a conceptual framework for identifying gender transformative practices that address root causes of gender equality and discrimination and promote sustainable, inclusive and far reaching social change. A common characteristic of transformative approaches is that they challenge existing social norms and the distribution of power and resources.

**Objectives of the webinar**

- To clarify the concept of ' gender-transformative change' through the conceptual framework and Theory of Change used for this evaluation synthesis report
- To present the synthesis methodology and its challenges
- To identify examples of transformative change processes and how they are captured in evaluation in the context of specific SDGs

**Target audience**

- UNEG members (evaluation office staff from within the UN system)
- Interested IFAD staff
- Interested evaluation users of UNEG member organizations

## Webinar set-up

- **Speakers:** Oscar Garcia, IOE Director (opening); Johanna Pennarz, Lead Evaluation Officer; Catrina Perch, Evaluation Officer; an IFAD Country Programme Manager and/or a Gender Desk officer from the Policy and Technical Advisory Division (to be selected).
- **Format for the webinar:** Presentation followed by questions and answers
- **Duration:** 1.5 hours
- **Technology:** Webex (recorded for future use by UNEG)
- **Proposed Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 15.00 to 16.30 (Central European time)