



RESEARCH
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LED BY IFPRI

Management Response to the External Review of Equity in A4NH

CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

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Table of Contents

1. Background	3
2. Summary and main learnings from the external review (Harris and Mitchell, 2017)	3
3. Integrating equity into A4NH research: Our approach.....	3
Equity hubs.....	3
Strategic research	4
Capacity building.....	4
Implementation plan	4
4. Implementation Plan Stage 1: 2018.....	4
Set priorities. [Q1-Q4 2018].....	4
Build partnerships. [Q1-Q2 2018].....	5
Initial equity research at the CRP level [Q1-Q2 2018]	5
Initial equity research at the flagship level.....	5
Meetings, events, and outreach [Q1-Q4 2018]	6
Financial resources for equity work [2018]	6
5. Implementation Plan Stage 2: 2019-2020	6
Create an equity strategy. [Q1-Q4 2019].....	6
Mobilize resources to support equity research. [Q1-Q4 2019]	7
Expand the GEE unit to build capacity for equity research. [Q1-Q2 2019]	7
Engage A4NH researchers in the focus countries in equity research. [Q2 2019-Q4 2020].....	7
Build cross-cutting research on equity. [Q1-Q4 2020].....	7
6. Timeline.....	7
Reference	8

1. Background

In 2017, A4NH contracted Jody Harris and Becky Mitchell of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) to review existing research on equity issues in A4NH. The review focused on the planning and strategies from the first and second phases of the CGIAR Research Program (CRP) and the deliverables from the first phase, and provided recommendations for how to better incorporate equity into A4NH research during the rest of Phase II (Harris and Mitchell, 2017).

2. Summary and main learnings from the external review (Harris and Mitchell, 2017)

The external review found that equity is already a component of A4NH research. A4NH currently has research on a number of equity dimensions; the most common are gender, income, and poverty. Life stage, youth (a new CGIAR emphasis), and geography are less frequently included in A4NH research. Ethnicity and disability are not commonly addressed.

However, among these equity issues, A4NH has only systematically addressed gender. Some A4NH work has focused on income and geographic inequities, but little work has focused on youth, ethnicity, or disability. In addition, the A4NH deliverables from Phase I do not use consistent language to discuss equity. A4NH research also rarely acknowledges the intersectionality between different areas of equity.

Harris and Mitchell provide recommendations for incorporating equity into A4NH research in Phase II (see Box 3 in Harris and Mitchell [2017, p. 26]). Their short-term recommendations, or “quick wins,” include: (1) a literature review of equity in agriculture, nutrition, and health research; (2) one or more analyses of existing A4NH data with an equity lens; (3) a process evaluation to understand how A4NH program participation and attrition relates to aspects of marginalization; and (4) revision of the A4NH theories of change with an equity lens. Their medium-term recommendations include: (1) including comparison groups in A4NH-funded surveys (e.g., men versus women, high income versus low income); (2) looking at unintended consequences of A4NH research for different groups (e.g., changes in time allocation and/or food cost); (3) creating and integrating equity indicators in A4NH-funded household or community surveys; and (4) conducting cost analyses of reaching marginalized groups. Their long-term recommendations include: (1) research to understand the context and perspectives of marginalized groups; (2) multi-method research on the power relations underpinning inequities; and (3) multi-country analysis and indicators of intersectional inequity.

3. Integrating equity into A4NH research: Our approach

To integrate equity into its research, A4NH will follow a model similar to that used to integrate gender research, with some important modifications.

Equity hubs

To integrate and strengthen gender research, A4NH drew on a gender “hub” based at IFPRI composed of an existing network of gender researchers brought together by IFPRI’s Gender Task Force. The IFPRI-based Gender Research Coordinator oversees gender research in A4NH and links up A4NH researchers with gender research expertise at IFPRI. A4NH will create similar equity hubs, but these hubs will be based outside of IFPRI and will focus on the regions where A4NH research takes place (South Asia and Africa).

Strategic research

A4NH has led strategic research – developing tools and methodologies and addressing key evidence gaps in the field of gender and nutrition. In Phase 2, A4NH is testing and refining this work through a portfolio of nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects under the second phase of the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP2). (This portfolio approach was used in the first phase of the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project [GAAP] under the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets [PIM].) This research is supported by the Gender, Equity, and Empowerment (GEE) Unit of the Program Management Unit (PMU).

A4NH will also develop strategic research on equity using a portfolio approach. However, this research will be led by the flagships with support from the GEE unit. The PMU will commission a literature review to assess existing research on equity in agriculture, nutrition, and health, focusing on A4NH's flagship research areas. The reviewer will work with flagships to identify gaps and opportunities for equity research. Flagships will then develop plans for research to address priority gaps and opportunities based on the review and their theories of change and impact pathways. In 2018, flagships will carry out small formative or diagnostic research projects on equity. Subsequent projects will be developed based on the flagships' priorities, consultations on equity priorities in the A4NH focus countries, and A4NH's equity strategy.

Capacity building

A4NH has established a network of gender-nutrition researchers and has built capacity for gender research through outreach such as the monthly Gender-Nutrition Idea Exchange (GNIE) blog and workshops on gender and nutrition research at relevant conferences and meetings. Similarly, A4NH will build a network of experts who can contribute to and advise equity research. The PMU will convene workshops and other events to build capacity for equity research and facilitate discussion between A4NH researchers, possibly taking advantage of events like ANH Academy Week that bring together researchers with similar interests.

Implementation plan

The rest of this document lays out a plan for integrating equity into A4NH research during the remainder of the second phase of the CRP. A4NH will implement this plan in two stages. During the first stage, in 2018, A4NH will set priorities for equity research, build partnerships, conduct initial equity research at the CRP and flagship levels, and incorporate equity into select A4NH meetings and events. During the second stage, in 2019 and 2020, A4NH will create an equity strategy, mobilize resources to support equity research, build capacity for equity research, engage researchers in A4NH's focus countries in equity research, and build cross-cutting research on equity.

4. Implementation Plan Stage 1: 2018

Set priorities. [Q1-Q4 2018]

In Q1 2018, the PMU will develop an approach for integrating equity into A4NH research (outlined in this document) and solicit feedback on this plan from the Planning and Management Committee (PMC) and Independent Steering Committee (ISC). The PMC and PMU will then identify the areas of equity research that are important for A4NH's work – considering priorities at both the CRP and flagship levels – and prioritize three to four themes of focus for the first stages of implementation. Potential themes for equity research include gender, youth or life stage, income, and caste or ethnicity.

At flagship planning meetings in 2018, the flagships will use their theories of change and impact pathways for Phase II to set their priorities for equity research. Later in 2018, the PMU and PMC will consult with country teams and local partners to identify priorities for equity research in the A4NH focus countries during regional consultations. The Africa regional consultation – focusing on priorities in Nigeria and Ethiopia – will take place during or after the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Academy Week conference in Accra, Ghana, in June 2018. The South Asia regional consultation – focusing on priorities in Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam – will take place in South Asia in Q3 or Q4 2018.

Build partnerships. [Q1-Q2 2018]

A4NH will build strategic partnerships with external experts on equity who can guide and contribute to A4NH's equity work. In Q1 2018, the PMU and PMC will reach out to key partners outside of A4NH and IFPRI who may be interested in contributing to or advising A4NH or individual flagships' work on equity. They will focus on partners who have expertise in applying equity concepts to research in agriculture, nutrition, and health in the A4NH focus countries.

Some of A4NH's previous and current research partners have expertise in equity, including the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) (Jody Harris, Becky Mitchell, Nick Nisbett, Jim Sumberg), Cornell University (David Pelletier), Emory University (Kathryn Yount). A4NH will also establish partnerships with the public health community. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) has researchers focusing on global health equity. Jeff Waage and Jo Lines (FP5) will facilitate coordination with equity experts at LSHTM and other schools of public health. Several schools of public health have global health equity research programs, including the Harvard C. T. Chan School of Public Health, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, Yale School of Public Health, and UNC Gillings School of Public Health.

A4NH will seek partners with expertise in specific areas of equity. Jim Sumberg of IDS has expertise in research on youth. In 2017, HarvestPlus connected with a network of disability consultants in different countries through the MacArthur Foundation grant process. A4NH will also actively explore research and development partnerships in the A4NH focus countries.

By Q2 2018, the PMU will help each flagship identify one to two experts as external advisors on equity. Some advisors may work with multiple flagships. The PMU and flagships will contract other consultants as needed to help integrate equity in A4NH research.

Initial equity research at the CRP level [Q1-Q2 2018]

The PMU will commission a literature review (as described above), to be completed by Q3 2018, of existing research on equity in agriculture, nutrition, and health. The literature review will include both A4NH and non-A4NH research, with specific focus on our flagship research areas.

In 2018, the PMU will conduct a survey of datasets associated with A4NH research. The PMU will then work with managing partners and flagships to make these datasets publicly available in a user-friendly form, starting with equity-related datasets.

Initial equity research at the flagship level

Once they have identified their priorities for equity research, each flagship will develop one or two formative and/or diagnostic research projects on equity that can be carried out by flagship researchers and/or consultants during 2018. These projects should be strategic or analytical activities that help the flagships better understand their needs, priorities, resources, and/or capacity for equity research. In Q1

2018, the PMC and PMU will negotiate financial and human resources needed and GEE unit support for these projects. The PMU will tentatively provide \$15,000 per flagship for these projects.

Potential equity projects for each flagship include:

Flagship 1	(1) Conduct a strategic review to customize and add equity to the conceptual pathways between agriculture, nutrition, and health from a food systems perspective. (2) Analyze food systems data from the FP1 focus countries with an equity lens.
Flagship 2	(1) Revise the HarvestPlus monitoring and evaluation systems with an equity lens. (Devesh Roy will provide support.) (2) Assess the inclusivity of HarvestPlus value chains with an equity lens.
Flagship 3	(1) Analyze existing food safety data set(s) with an equity lens.
Flagship 4	(1) Write stories of change based on quantitative and qualitative results from FP4 focus countries with an equity lens. (2) Analyze existing SPEAR data set(s) with an equity lens.
Flagship 5	(1) Include analysis of life stage in research on infectious disease landscapes. (2) Include gender analysis in research on antimicrobial resistance.

Meetings, events, and outreach [Q1-Q4 2018]

A4NH will highlight and explore greater A4NH emphasis on equity at meetings and conferences. Below are potential equity-related events for 2018.

- March 2018, Hanoi: Discuss implementation of the management response during the in-person PMC meeting.
- April 2018, Rome: Engage with donors and Rome-based agencies around equity work.
- June 2018, Accra: Convene the Africa regional consultation on equity priorities during or after the ANH Academy Week.
- Q3/Q4 2018, South Asia: Convene the South Asia regional consultation on equity priorities.

In Q2 2018, the PMU will create a one- to two-page promotional document describing A4NH’s plans for expanding and deepening equity research during Phase II. This document will be used to aid communications with donors or other external partners on this issue.

Financial resources for equity work [2018]

The GEE Unit will commission a literature review on equity in ANH research; the PMU will allocate \$20,000 for this review. The PMU will provide \$15,000 per flagship to support equity consultants, including travel, for formative and/or diagnostic research projects on equity. The PMU will also fund two regional consultations on equity priorities, in South Asia and Africa, up to \$10,000 per event.

5. Implementation Plan Stage 2: 2019-2020

Create an equity strategy. [Q1-Q4 2019]

The PMU and equity advisors will write an equity strategy that is consistent with the A4NH Gender Strategy for discussion and approval by PMC. (In the longer term, the equity strategy will be revised to encompass the gender strategy.) The equity strategy will be informed by the flagships’ priorities for equity research, consultations on equity priorities in A4NH’s focus countries, and the literature review of equity in agriculture, nutrition, and health research.

Once the equity strategy is complete, the PMU and/or a consultant will write guidelines for equity research and definitions of equity and equality in A4NH. The PMU will create a strategy for monitoring and supporting equity work in A4NH, to be reviewed and approved by PMC, based on both our strategy for monitoring gender work and the needs and priorities of the flagships. The PMU will also update the promotional document about equity in A4NH created in 2018 to represent the equity strategy.

Mobilize resources to support equity research. [Q1-Q4 2019]

The PMU and PMC will raise funds to support further equity research at the CRP and flagship levels. This funding will hopefully comprise a portfolio of grants, including individual equity research projects, equity capacity development initiatives, and larger initiatives similar to the current GAAP2 project that combines support to individual projects and allows for cross-project learning.

Expand the GEE unit to build capacity for equity research. [Q1-Q2 2019]

A4NH will create two or three equity “hubs,” based somewhere outside IFPRI headquarters, to lead A4NH’s work on equity. The hubs will focus on equity research in A4NH focus countries, and will engage equity experts from A4NH’s managing partners and partners who were identified in stage 1.

Engage A4NH researchers in the focus countries in equity research. [Q2 2019-Q4 2020]

The flagships and focus countries will lead equity research in A4NH. Thus, A4NH will engage local researchers and building capacity for equity research. The flagships will utilize country team research analysts and program managers in the flagships’ equity research. In addition, the flagships and country teams will partner with local researchers and research groups with expertise in equity. A4NH will also conduct a review, with standardized guidelines and methods, of A4NH’s equity research in the focus countries and flagship research areas; the equity advisors will guide this review process.

Build cross-cutting research on equity. [Q1-Q4 2020]

As described above, A4NH will develop strategic research on equity using a portfolio approach. Strategic research projects will address the long-term recommendations listed in the external review on equity and/or address gaps in knowledge or tools for equity research across the flagships and focus countries. The projects will be led by the flagships and equity advisors with support from the GEE unit.

6. Timeline

Task	People Responsible	Date
STAGE 1: 2018		
Share management response with PMC	PMU	5 Jan 2018
Discuss and agree on management response at virtual PMC meeting	PMC and PMU	11 Jan 2018
Share management response with ISC	PMU	Feb 2018
Discuss implementation plans and equity strategy at in-person PMC meeting in Vietnam; identify areas of equity research important for A4NH and FPs	PMC and PMU	19-23 Mar 2018
Reach out to potential external partners	PMU and PMC	Q1 2018
Review equity priorities for each flagship at FP planning meetings	PMU, PMC, and/or consultant	Q1 2018

Task	People Responsible	Date
Choose 1-2 formative/diagnostic equity projects for each flagship	PMU and PMC	Q1 2018
Write guidelines for sharing equity data in A4NH	PMU	Q1 2018
Create one- to two-page promotional document about equity in A4NH	PMU	Q2 2018
Convene regional consultations on priorities for equity research (Africa in June 2018 in Accra; South Asia in Q3/Q4 2018 in India/Bangladesh)	PMU, equity advisors, country teams	June 2018 Q2-Q4 2018
Identify external advisors and consultants	PMU	Q2 2018
Discuss equity priorities with donors and Rome-based agencies in Rome	PMU, PMC, and equity advisors	April 2018
Conduct a literature review of existing research on equity in agriculture, nutrition, and health	Consultant or PMU	Q2-Q3 2018
Implement survey of equity-related data sets in A4NH	PMU	Q2-Q4 2018
Carry out formative/diagnostic equity projects	Flagships and RA support	Q2-Q4 2018
STAGE 2: 2019-20		
Create an A4NH equity hub	Equity advisors	Q1-Q2 2019
Engage partners in equity hub	PMU and PMC	Q2 2019
Write equity strategy	PMU and equity advisors	Q1-Q4 2019
Write guidelines and definitions for equity research in A4NH	PMU and/or consultant	Q4 2019
Create a strategy for monitoring and supporting equity work in A4NH	PMU	Q4 2019
Update promotional document on equity in A4NH	PMU	Q4 2019
Mobilize resources for equity work	PMU and PMC	Q1-Q4 2019
Utilize country team staff in equity research	Flagships	Q2 2019-Q4 2020
Partner with local researchers with expertise in equity	Country teams	Q2 2019-Q4 2020
Review A4NH's equity research in focus countries and research areas	Flagships, country teams, and equity advisors	Q3-Q4 2019
Build cross-cutting equity research	Equity advisors	2020

Reference

Harris J and Mitchell B. 2017. Equity in A4NH research: A review of current work and future opportunities. Institute of Development Studies.