Global Digital Health Network and Digital Health & Interoperability WG Deep Dive on Gender

September 2, 2020

Agenda

Introductions (Amanda BenDor)

Priorities and activities of the DH&I Gender Working Group (Amanda BenDor)

Gender Terminology - why this matters (Elizabeth Arlotti-Parish)

Discussion - Experiences with gender sensitive programming (Steve Ollis)

Activity - case studies (Steve Ollis, Alice Liu, Patty Mechael, Erica Troncoso)

Discussion - The dangers of being gender blind (Elizabeth Arlotti-Parish)

Taking action and making gender commitments (Elizabeth Arlotti-Parish)

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Priorities and activities of the DH&I Gender Working Group

Objectives of DH&I Gender SWG

- Develop guiding principles for the DH&I Working Group on gender sensitive programming
- Create a Call to Action for organizations to encourage gender representation in digital health
- Identify and catalogue existing Gender Committees, Working Groups, etc, as well as organizations and initiatives; Connect DH&I members with these groups as well as other networks such as GDHN
- Accelerate Socialization and Advocacy of Gender Messaging

Digital Health and Interoperability Working Group: Guiding Principles for Working Group Members and Small Working Groups

Actionable inputs for projects, organizations, individuals

Educate engage members on solutions, best practices and benefits of inclusion and greater representation

Encourage and raise awareness of the importance of equitable women's leadership and participation in all aspects of digital health programming & governance

Increase gender equality in representation through use of systematic assessment & monitoring frameworks

Support the inclusion of gender into digital health guidelines or tools

Promote best practices that encourage gender equality throughout digital health programs
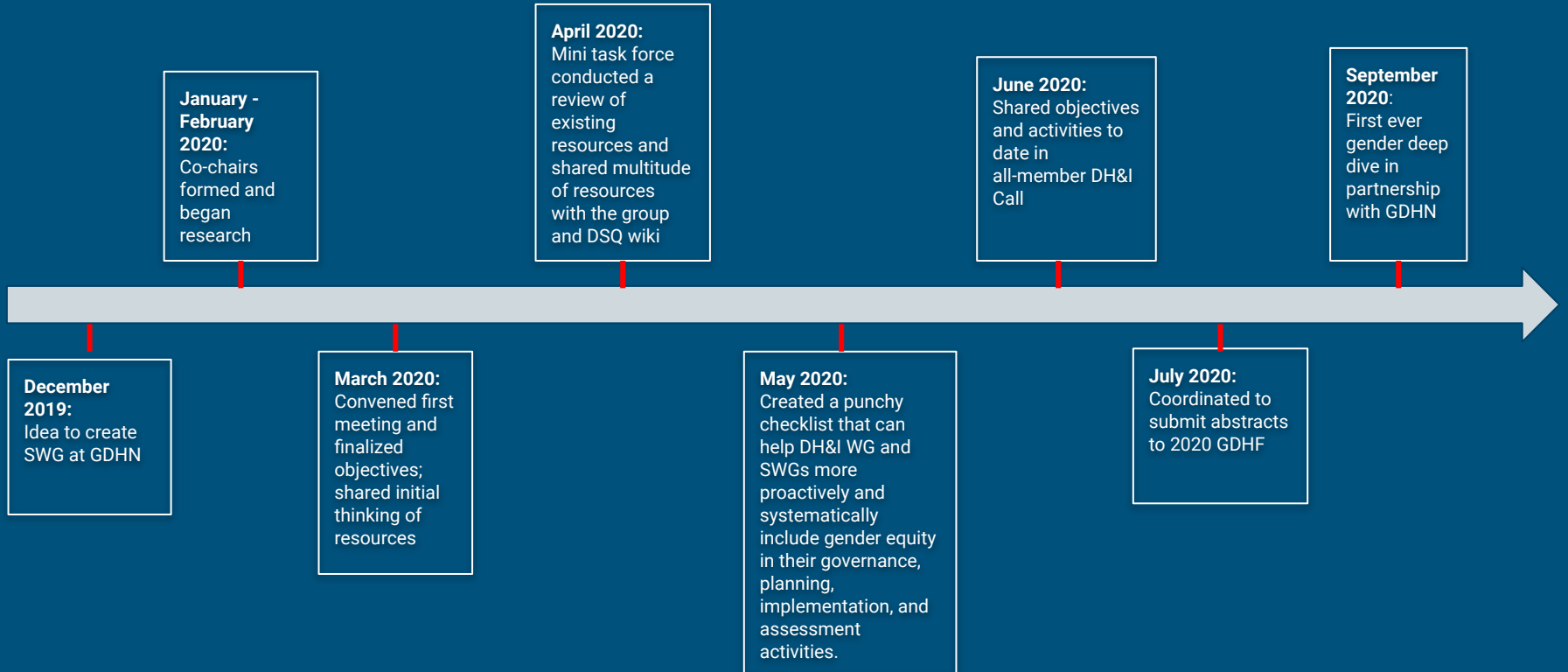
GOAL

To catalyze the DH&I WG to embrace gender equity, increase gender awareness, and to champion gender equity in action

Increasing Innovation   Increasing Productivity   Increasing ROI (Social and Financial)

DH&I Gender SWG Progress to Date

January - February 2020: Co-chairs formed and began research

April 2020: Mini task force conducted a review of existing resources and shared multitude of resources with the group and DSQ wiki

June 2020: Shared objectives and activities to date in all-member DH&I Call

September 2020: First ever gender deep dive in partnership with GDHN

December 2019: Idea to create SWG at GDHN

March 2020: Convened first meeting and finalized objectives; shared initial thinking of resources

May 2020: Created a punchy checklist that can help DH&I WG and SWGs more proactively and systematically include gender equity in their governance, planning, implementation, and assessment activities.

July 2020: Coordinated to submit abstracts to 2020 GDHF

Gender terminology

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Gender vs. Sex

Sex

- Biologically defined and genetically acquired differences between males and females, according to their physiology and reproductive capabilities or potentialities
- Universal and mostly unchanging, without surgery

Gender

- Social characteristics associated with being a man or a woman:
  - economic, social, political, and cultural attributes
  - opportunities, roles, and responsibilities
- Socially constructed, constituted differently across the world, and changing over time

Gender equality vs. Gender equity

Gender equality is the GOAL.

- Ability of men and women to have equal opportunities and life chances
- It does NOT mean that resources or benefits must be split evenly between men and women

Gender equity is the PROCESS used to achieve gender equality

- Fairness in representation, participation, and benefits
- Women and men have a fair chance of having their needs met:
  - equal access to opportunities for realizing their full potential

Gender equality does NOT mean that everyone is treated the same.
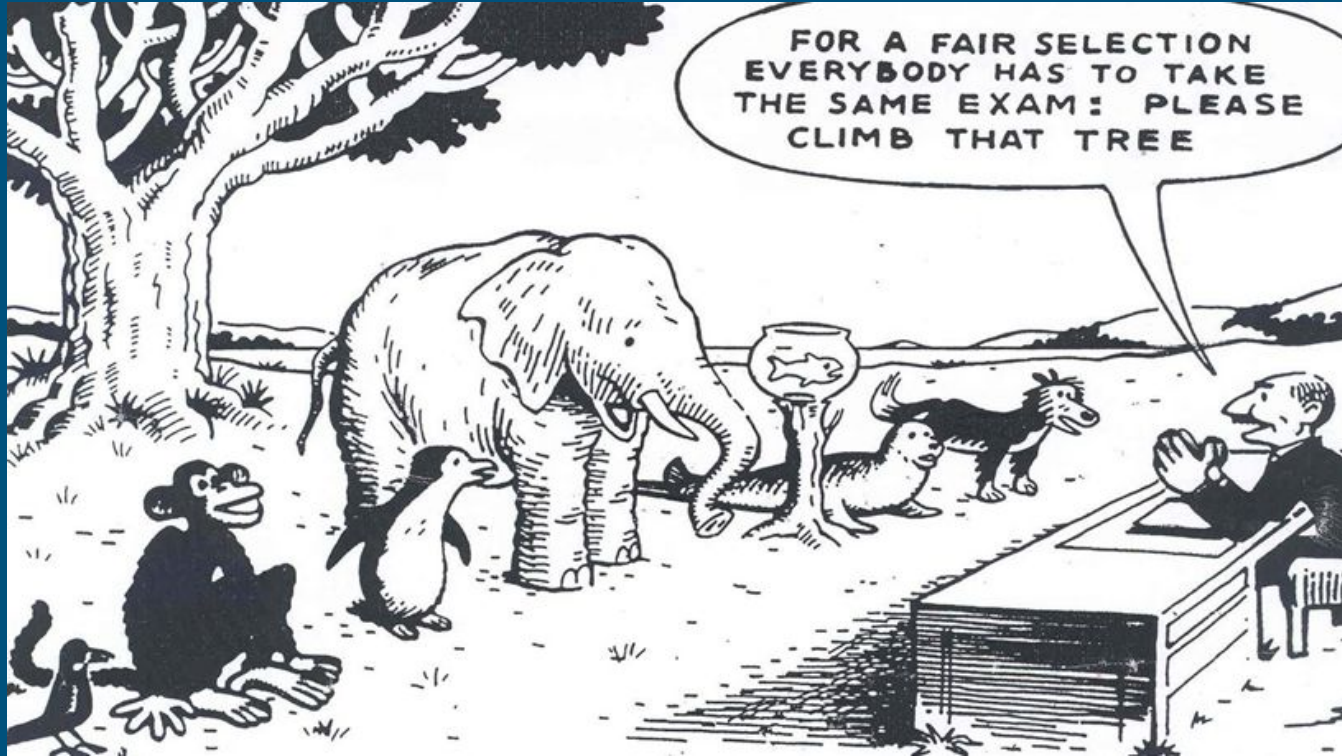
Equality ?

Everyone being treated the same is NOT what we mean by equality.

Equity

When people are treated with equity, they get what they need so everyone has the same opportunities.

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Justice

We use equity to help people overcome barriers. We can also work to remove the barriers themselves.

Gender integration vs. Gender mainstreaming

Gender integration

Strategies applied in programmatic design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation to take into account gender considerations and compensate for gender-based inequalities.

Gender mainstreaming

Process of incorporating a gender perspective into an organization's policies, strategies, administrative functions, institutional culture.

Gender Sensitive

Program that take into account the unique constraints, opportunities, and life circumstances pertaining to individuals of different genders, while aiming to eliminate inequalities and promote gender equality, including an equal distribution of resources.*

*Adapted from the European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Integration Continuum

Ignores:
- The set of economic, social, political roles; rights; entitlements; responsibilities; and obligations associated with being female & male.
- Power dynamics between and among men & women, boys & girls.

Gender Blind

Gender Aware

Exploitative	Accommodating	Transformative	GOAL
Reinforces or takes advantage of gender inequalities and stereotypes.	Works around existing gender differences and inequalities.	• Fosters critical examination of gender norms* and dynamics. • Strengthens or creates systems* that support gender equality. • Strengthens or creates equitable gender norms and dynamics. • Changes inequitable gender norms and dynamics.	Gender equality and better development outcomes.

* Norms encompass attitudes and practices.
* A system consists of a set of interacting structures, practices, and relations.

IGWG

Discussion - Experiences with gender sensitive programming

Case study activity

Case study activity

Each group has one case study.

For each case study answer the following questions:

1. Is this program gender exploitive, gender accommodating, or gender transformative? How do you know?
2. If the program is not gender transformative, how could the program be changed/adapted to make it gender transformative?

The dangers of being gender blind

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Why does gender integration in digital health matter?

- Men and women approach most things in work and life differently and are impacted by work and life differently.

- It is important that strategies, policies, and programs are a reflection of the populations they are intended to serve (inclusion).

- Multiple perspectives yield better results (diversity).

- Research is demonstrating that more women in leadership roles leads to better outcomes, innovation, and returns on investments.

- Gender empowerment accelerates economic and social development.

- Increased proactive contribution and accountability to donor priorities.

- Programs that meet the needs of all of their participants are more likely to achieve their intended results.

- It's the right thing to do!

Taking action and making gender commitments

What is one concrete action that GDHN can take to integrate gender into digital health programming?