

eS4W SDG Mapping Research Project

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What are the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and why are they relevant to Australia?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the current dominant world development strategy agreed at the United Nations in 2015. There are 17 measurable [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), ranging from ending world poverty to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls by 2030. The achievement of these 17 Goals are measured by 169 Targets and 230 Indicators.

The SDG’s key focus is economic development and leaving no-one behind

The important part of the SDG’s is that they are Universal – this means that they influence both national and international policy in Australia. Measurement of the SDG’s is across the Australian population as well as measured through the Australian International Aid and Development Program.

The SDGs are relevant to developed countries like Australia in two ways.

First, they represent goals and targets that can make Australia itself more prosperous, fair and sustainable. Examples include improving gender equality and reducing non-communicable diseases.

Second, they encourage actions by Australia that will contribute to global sustainable development. Examples here are more sustainable consumption and production, reduced carbon emissions, and support for overseas development.

2. Why should I complete this survey?

As a member of eS4W you are invited to participate in eS4W SDG Mapping Research Project being conducted by eS4W. The outcomes for an individual is their ability to contribute to, positively influence and strengthen policy advocacy through their expertise, knowledge and experience. This will add value to their member organisation, eS4W, civil society domestic advocacy and the Australian government obligations.

It is recognised that assisting eS4W members to articulate organisational priorities around the SDGs will allow a collective action for supporting the Australian Government to scale up its priorities and commitments to gender equality and the SDGs.

3. My organisation is not yet discussing the SDG's. How can I contribute to this survey?

As Australia prepares for its first Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the SDGs in 2018, and in the lead-up to the 4-year review of the SDG's in 2019, this project is both timely and progressive. The outcomes will also contribute into other government and civil society reporting commitments in 2018 and 2019.

Hence the need to begin the conversation at organisational level now, to assist that eS4W and its members are prepared and informed to actively engage and contribute to their fullest extent.

This is a great opportunity to begin the discussion with your organisation, and to add your personal knowledge to this survey.

4. Not all indicators are relevant in each Target - how will we be addressing this

This survey covers only Goals, Targets and Indicators with a gendered application. We will not be asking you to read or examine all 17 Goals, 163 Targets and 230 Indicators – only those with a specific gender target.

We recognise that many organisations will be working on Goal 5, the Goal to achieve Gender Equality, however, it is important that we also recognise the other areas of policy where gender can be strengthened.

5. What might I be asked to do after I complete the survey?

Following the accumulation of this information, you may be contacted by eS4W or JERA International for clarification or further information on what you have written in the survey; If you are reluctant to be contacted as an individual you can state this on the survey or you can identify who can speak on behalf of your organisation.

6. What will it mean if I am contacted for clarification?

If you are contacted for clarification or further information this is to clarify what is written on the survey. Or to expand on something you may have commented on. You will not be required to undertake any further surveys or questioning on unrelated topics.

7. Will we be left behind in the political agenda if we do not engage with the SDG's?

The SDGs are already playing into strategic direction of national and international policy. The SDG's key focus is economic development and leaving no-one behind.

eS4W and its member organisations are clearly working and already engaging in multiple areas of the agenda. Thus, it is important to not only be aware of the SDG's it is important to also be able to work towards their achievement across all constituents in Australia.

8. How will my organisation benefit by my participation?

The report from this survey will be shared with all eS4W member organisations. If you are completing this survey as an individual, you will be strengthening your organisations capacity to act upon and interact to the SDGs.

Your organisation will be listed with eS4W as having expertise in specific areas of the SDGs and this can be shared (with approval) with the Office for Women or other government departments to raise the profile of your organisation.

9. How will Australian women benefit

Australia still has a long way to meet the goals and targets for inequality within Australia. The gender-equality goal includes a target of ensuring that women have "full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political and economic decision-making" (goal 5.5). This has proved elusive in Australia. In addition, gender equality is reflected in most of the other goals and targets.

It is key for eS4W to work towards full gender equality in Australia, especially in the area of lifelong economic wellbeing. The SDGs seek to raise incomes of the bottom 40% of the population faster than the rest – the opposite of what has been happening in Australia, and where the gender imbalance leans towards women.

Perhaps one of the most significant applications of the SDGs to Australia will be in helping reduce the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. A core principle underpinning the SDGs is that "no one is left behind": the goals and targets are to be met for all income and social groups, particularly disadvantaged groups. Indigenous Australians, especially women and girls, have been well and truly left behind on health, education and employment indicators. The SDGs provide an opportunity to redress this.

10. Which events and actions will this survey feed into?

The results from this survey will be primarily used for mapping eS4W organisations and mapping where each organisation sits with regards to the SDG's and the 2030 agenda.

It will also be used to feed into a submission for the Australian Voluntary National Report (VNR) being prepared for presentation at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2018. Other areas the survey may feed into are:

eS4W submissions for:

- CSW 63rd Session (2019) – Beijing + 25 Review
- CEDAW Reporting procedures & Shadow Report (2019)
- Australia Report on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2019
- SDG's 4 year review 2019
- eS4W National submissions on relevant areas covered by this survey

11. What other issues should I be aware of before deciding whether to participate?

This survey uses the internet, which is an unsecure public network. Once the survey is completed, data will be imported to the eS4W server where it will be stored securely for a period of seven (7) years. The data on the host server will then be deleted and expunged.