# Toward Bridging Gender Equality & Innovation



This guide provides a roadmap for practitioners, project officers, donors, innovators, and others interested in sustainable development to begin to address gender equality and innovation in a more holistic manner—whether or not they are specialists in gender or innovation.

Presenting an extensive collection of insights drawn from the experience of gender and innovation specialists from a wide range of bilateral, multilateral, philanthropic and civil society actors who came together in a Working Group facilitated by the Results for Development Institute under the **International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA)**, *Toward Bridging Gender Equality & Innovation* addresses the nexus of gender equality and innovation. Offering cross-cutting, indispensable approaches to development challenges that may limit the utilization or scaling of innovations, gender equality and innovation are complementary, critical drivers to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Designed to serve as a toolkit to promote reflection and provide guidance on how to embed gender strategies in innovation processes that will incrementally lead toward gender-transformative change. This paper includes:

#### **PART 1.** Principles for Advancing Gender and Innovation

PART 2. Gender Equality and Innovation in Practice

### **PART 3.** A Tool for Bridging Gender Equality and Innovation (included on the next page)

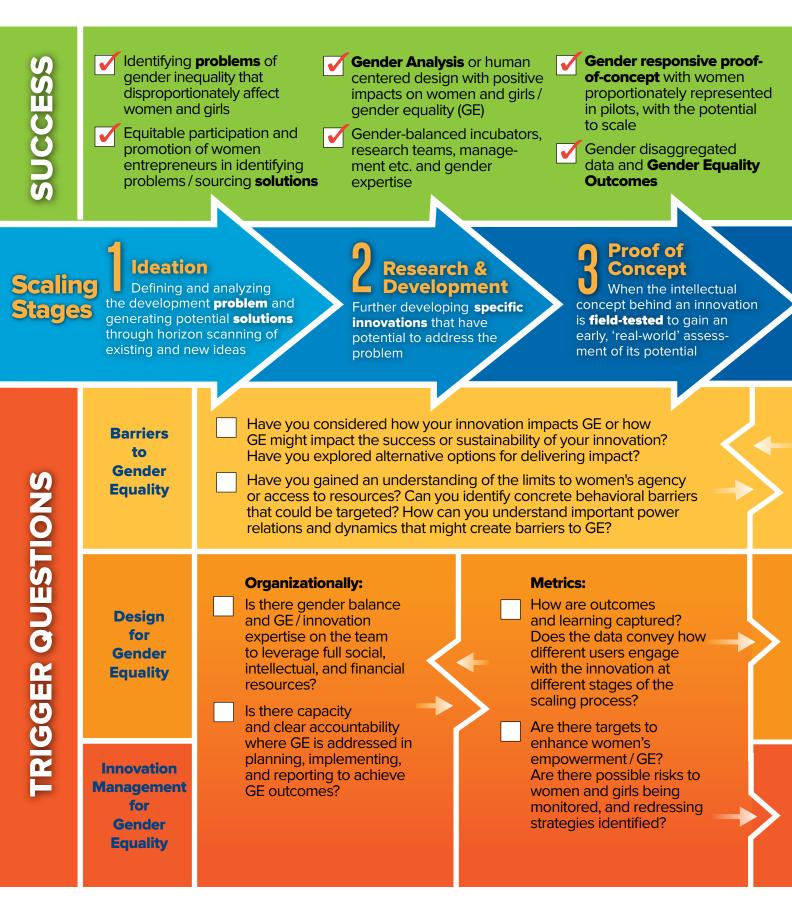
This tool outlines questions to trigger thought and action to support scaling innovations that advance gender equality.

Download the full guide at: www.idiainnovation.org

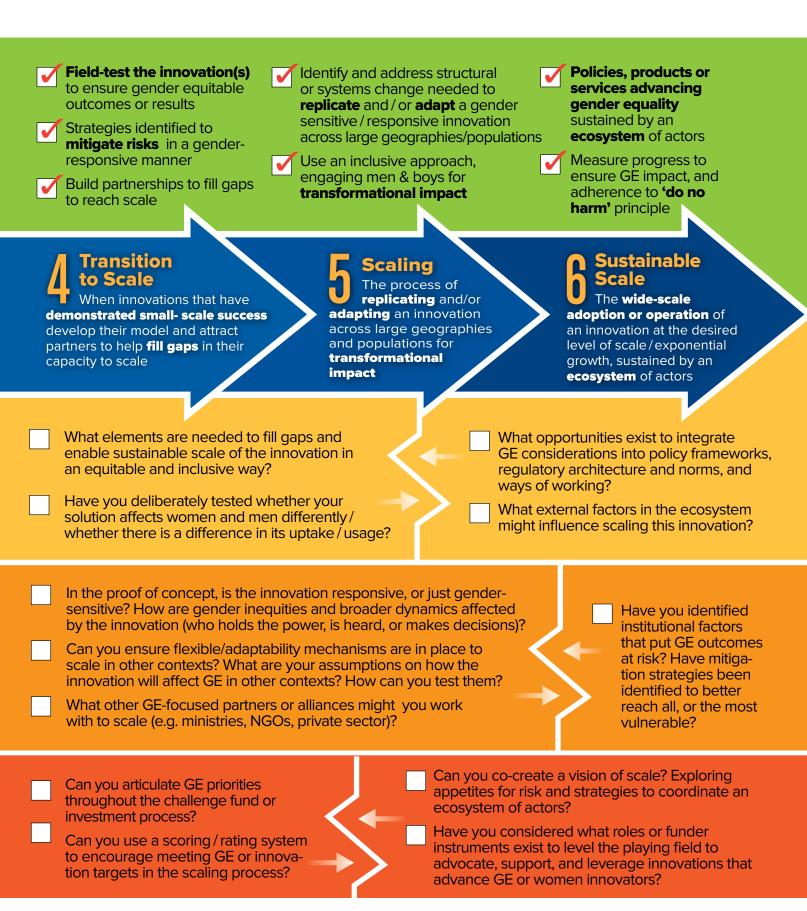
The International Development Alliance (IDIA) is an informal platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration to further understanding around the complex practice of development innovation. Established in 2015 with a shared mission of *"actively promoting and advancing innovation as a means to help achieve sustainable development"* including through the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This *Insight Guide* is one of a number of implementable, global public goods developed by IDIA. It builds on prior IDIA publications and has been collated from the extensive learning and experience of the IDIA development agencies below, among others:





Note: Given the complexity of the scaling process and gender dynamics, users should be aware that the 'trigger



questions' are not rigidly mapped to a particular stage, and users may need to revisit questions or do so in parallel.

## 7 Principles for Advancing Gender & Innovation

Defined by the IDIA Gender & Innovation Working Group as important parameters to help frame how gender equality and innovation can be brought together for more inclusive development outcomes, these 7 Principals can help steer discourses and serve as meaningful guidelines for conceptualizing innovation initiatives. **They build on Principals developed by IDIA in 2015** and later endorsed as the **Whistler Principals by the G7 in Canada** in June of 2018, drawing on the work of this Working Group to bring a more explicit focus to gender and inclusion.

#### Invest in inclusive innovations to advance gender equality

**ASK:** Does the innovation contribute to greater gender equality and inclusion, with women/girls actively engaged in designing, testing and scaling the innovation?

2. Take intelligent risks, experiment, and persevere to achieve gender- transformative change ASK: Does the initiative allow for experimentation

and flexibility to effectively enable genderresponsive innovation?

### **3.** Use evidence to drive gender-sensitive decision-making

**ASK:** Do the metrics, analyses, and data effectively and creatively convey the gender impact of the innovation?

### **4.** Promote diverse women's leadership and change agents

**ASK:** Does the investment advance women and girls as leaders and creative change agents for sustainable and scalable results?

## **5.** Address gender equality barriers and leverage ecosystems for scalable solutions

**ASK:** What are the points at which barriers to gender equality could be disrupted in this innovation process or ecosystem?

Facilitate collaboration and co-creation across sectors

**ASK:** Are we engaging an inclusive, leverage-able set of stakeholders in the co-creation process?

#### Address power and politics intersections • with gender

**ASK:** How can I better support innovators to address gender equality beyond only the binary of sex disaggregation, including broader power relations?

#### Download the guide to learn more about these 7 Principals and how to encourage active gender-responsive approaches



To access IDIA publications and learn more visit: www.idiainnovation.org