

# Equality Insights

## Tool Summary

December 2025



## Background

Equality Insights, developed by the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), is a tool for measuring multidimensional poverty and inequality. It builds on earlier work with multiple partners on the Individual Deprivation Measure. Equality Insights was developed to overcome recognised limitations of household-level measurement of poverty and inequality, which often rely on household averages or income alone.

The measure collects individual-level data, ideally from every adult in a household, rather than only on a "household head." This makes it possible to reveal differences by gender, age, disability, or other characteristics. Equality Insights assesses multidimensional circumstances using 15 dimensions of life (*below*), and financial circumstances using assets—providing a holistic and integrated understanding of poverty. It also integrates gender-sensitive indicators, such as decision-making power, unpaid work, and access to menstrual hygiene.

By generating data that makes lived realities visible, including for women and marginalized groups, Equality Insights supports more accurate and comprehensive measurement, evidence-informed policymaking, resource allocation, and advocacy. Its ultimate goal is to ensure no one is left behind, advancing equality and accountability.

## Publications

### Equality Insights Rapid

Meinhart et al. 2022

### Equality Insights Rapid: Tonga Survey

Carroll et al. 2023

### Gender, environment & multidimensional poverty in Tonga Crawford et al. 2023

### Food & water insecurity & mental distress Bethancourt et al. 2025

### Improving data informing social protection Crawford et al. 2022

#### Two tools

- **Equality Insights Plus**, a comprehensive in-person survey
- **Equality Insights Rapid**, a shorter phone-based survey designed for timely data collection including when face-to-face surveying is difficult

More at [equalityinsights.org](https://equalityinsights.org)



Grounded in participation



Individual-level



Multidimensional



Gender-sensitive



Intersectional



Within household

### FINANCIAL INSIGHTS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INSIGHTS

ASSETS



CLOTHING



EDUCATION



ENERGY



ENVIRONMENT



FAMILY PLANNING



FOOD



HEALTH



RELATIONSHIPS



SAFETY



SANITATION



SHELTER



TIME-USE



VOICE



WATER



WORK



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