EMPOWERMENT INDICES

February 23, 2016

**Moderator:**  Chiara Kovarik, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Presenters:**  Caroline Kabiru, Research Scientist, African Population and Health Research Center  
                   Aluisio Barros, Technical Director, International Center for Equity in Health, Federal University of Pelotas
### SCHEDULE FOR TODAY’S SESSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>Introduction and overview of session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15-11:45</td>
<td>Short presentations on three indices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Caroline on GEAS</td>
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<td>• Chiara on WEAI</td>
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<td>• Aluisio on DHS</td>
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<td>11:45-12:20</td>
<td>Breakout discussions in small groups</td>
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<td>12:20-12:30</td>
<td>Wrap up and conclusion</td>
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**But first….**
- Introduction of presenters
- Audience assessment
OVERVIEW OF INDICES

• **What is an index?**
A composite measure that reflects multiple data items. In today’s discussion, we are referring to tools that pull together various gender data points to provide one measure of women’s empowerment status.

• **Why might you want to use an index to measure gender empowerment?**
  - Gender empowerment is challenging to measure and interpret; using an index helps to simplify things
  - Gender empowerment is multi-dimensional and thus requires data on various topics to be pulled together
PROS AND CONS OF INDICES

**Pros**
- Generates a “score” that is easy to communicate
- Provides a benchmark against which progress can be measured
- Comparability across projects/sites

**Cons**
- Cannot be easily interpreted – only tells part of the story
- Weighting the components of the index relies on subjective judgment

**Both**
- Standardization allows for comparability but also restricts adaptations

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SMALL-GROUP BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

- Group #1 – Developing the questionnaire for an index, field testing, and adaptations. (Led by Caroline)
- Group #2 – Data analysis and constructing an index. (Led by Aluisio)
- Group #3 – Measuring empowerment in different contexts. (Led by Chiara)