THE W+ STANDARD TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP

Terms of Reference: Responsibilities & Governance

1. Purpose of the W+ Standard Technical Experts Group (TEG)

The TEG is an independent ad hoc technical body of gender and monitoring and evaluation experts with experience in various sectors to which the W+ will be applied. The role of the TEG is to review and approve methods, review Project Design Documents (PDDs), and support the continuous improvement of the W+ Standard to respond to stakeholder needs. The work of the TEG is to be done in a transparent, credible and timely manner.

2. Responsibilities of the W+ Standard TEG

The main responsibilities of the TEG are:

1) Review and validation of W+ Standard methods, including approval of new methods for the existing six domains (Time, Health, Income & Assets, Leadership, Food Security, Knoweldge and Learning) as well as any new domains to be developed, and

2) Review PDDs submitted by project implementers and make comments and/or recommend actions to help improve project outcomes.

The review and validation of methods is to be based on:
- Suggestions and experiences from the global community of gender and development experts.
- Guidance given by the W+ Advisory Council, WOCAN staff, the W+ Standard Coordinator and the W+ Advisory Standard Sub-committee.
- Feedback and suggestions from project implementers and market actors submitted through the W+ Coordinator.

The review of PDDs is to be based on the W+ Program Guide, and other documents related to the W+ Standard, including the template for the PDD, as well as all related project documents provided by the project implementer.

2.1 Validation of Methods

The TEG members review and recommend any new methods, or revisions of existing methods for the W+ domains, which are submitted to the W+ Standard Sub-Committee for final approval.

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Requests for new method validations are received by the W+ Standard Coordinator and communicated to all TEG members. Each time a method validation review is initiated (for example, for the use of an existing method to a new project type) TEG members are alerted, and may express their interest to be considered for the selection. Members will be selected based on their expertise related to the specific project type and sector, as well as knowledge specific to the location of the project.

The assigned TEG member(s) have three weeks to review and reply to WOCAN with any recommendations. Any TEG member can provide input throughout the review process. They will be renumerated $400 for each validation.

The validation will be shared with the W+ Advisory Council, that has the final authority for decisions related to validation of methods.

2.2 Review of Project Design Documents

TEG members review all PDDs prior to the registration of projects, to ensure that all indicators of measurement and proposed activities are aligned to the W+ requirements. One TEG member reviews each PDD submitted to the W+ Coordinator with the W+ registration application. The TEG members reviewing the PDDs shall request further information and/or make recommendations for improvements to PDD information from project implementers, as necessary.

The assigned member(s) of the TEG will review and reply with any questions or comments on PDD documents within 2 weeks of assignment, to provide sufficient time for project implementers to consider and reply with corrections or additions and for the project to be registered by WOCAN within 6 weeks of PDD submission. TEG members will receive $400 for each completed PDD review.

3. Confidentiality, Transparency

Members of the TEG will be listed on the W+ Standard website with their names, country of residence and professional affiliations. All TEG members act in a personal capacity.

TEG discussions are confidential, but when the TEG validates new methods, those become available in the public domain and are made available on the W+ Standard website.

TEG members are obligated by a W+ policy to disclose all exiting or potential conflicts of interest[1] to the W+ Coordinator. TEG members will be asked to abstain from participating in the review of any method validation or PDD review where they may have a conflict of interest.

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[1] Conflicts of interest include but are not limited to: a professional, compensated association with a project implementer or with any organization with a financial interest in the outcome of a project seeking validation or approval; close personal ties (e.g. family relationships or business partnerships) with project implementer or with

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4. TEG Membership

The members of the TEG are recruited through the W+ Advisory Council, and WOCAN and its networks, and through an open call. TEG applicants must provide the W+ Coordinator with a CV for consideration that demonstrates their expertise and experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender and women's empowerment measurement frameworks and indicators. TEG members are contracted through a separate and individual service provision contract with WOCAN for their reviews of PDD and method documents.

WOCAN will strive to balance the members of the TEG by recruiting TEG members from among developed and developing countries, diverse geographies and professional/organizational backgrounds.

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any organization with a financial interest in the outcome of a project. In these situations, such a member of the TEG must abstain from the validation or PDD review opportunity. Undisclosed conflicts of interest, when identified, will result in disapproval of a project application and the dismissal of the member from the TEG group.

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