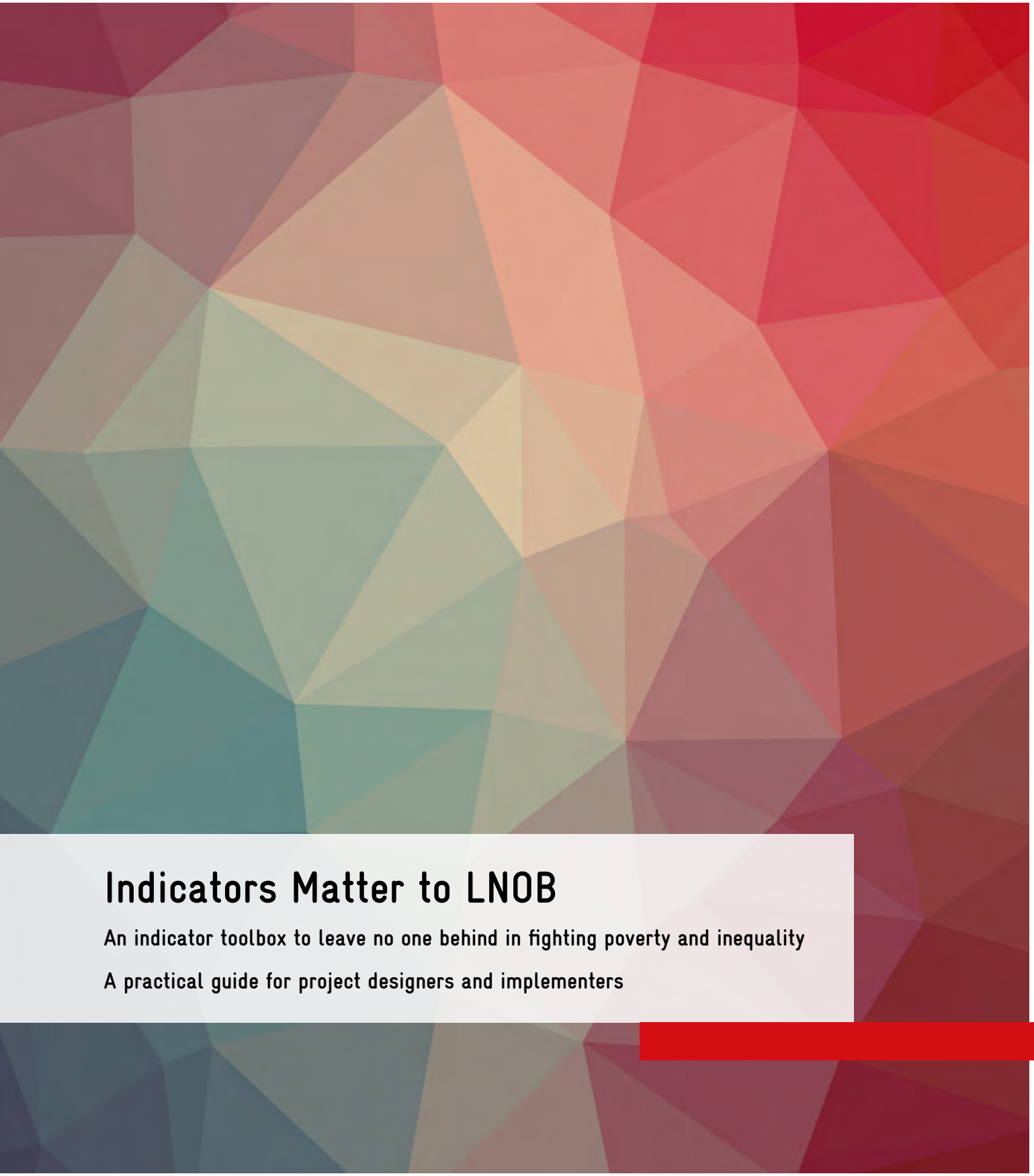

Indicators Matter to LNOB

An indicator toolbox to leave no one behind in fighting poverty and inequality

A practical guide for project designers and implementers

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

As a federally owned enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn

Address
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Authors:
Franziska Denz, Camilla Huys, Stefan Silvestrini

Design/layout:
DIAMOND media GmbH, Neunkirchen-Seelscheid, Germany

Photo credits/sources:
shutterstock.com

On behalf of
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Unit 410: Agenda 2030, Financing for Development, Poverty and Inequality Reduction
Johanna Hauf
Bonn

Printed on 100% recycled paper, certified to FSC standards.

Bonn, 2021

Acknowledgements:
This guide was commissioned jointly by the sector programs "Reduction of Poverty and Inequality as part of Agenda 2030" of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" (GIZ), as well as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is based on research conducted by Franziska Denz, Camilly Huys, and Stefan Silvestrini. It was coordinated by Maria Krisch (GIZ), Julia Debski (GIZ), Janine Gunzelmann (GIZ) and Lorenz Ullein (GIZ) and has benefitted from invaluable input, discussions with, and comments from Franziska Denz (GOPA) and Stephanie Guha (SDC).

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom), now: UK AID
EC (DEVCO)	European Commission (International Cooperation and Development)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
i.e.	that is
ILO	International Labour Organization
LCU	Local Currency Unit
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
ODI	Overseas Development Institute (London)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UK AID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom), former DFID
UN/ UNO	United Nations/United Nations Organization
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Indicators matter in achieving the international commitments of the Agenda 2030 to "leave no one behind" (LNOB-Principle) in the fight against poverty (SDG 1), and in reducing inequality (SDG 10). As quantitative or qualitative variables, indicators provide a simple and reliable way to measure the achievements of development efforts. They can therefore show and track whether aid spending is reaching the poor and the left-behind groups in various contexts. What is measured is more likely to get addressed, because indicators provide a solid basis for evidence-based decision-making in development projects as well as in politics.

However, there exists a need for additional efforts to design and use such indicators as measure the progress for left-behind groups in development projects. Therefore, this study provides a toolbox as a practical guide for project designers and implementers to strengthen their indicators by making them pro-poor- as well as inequality- and LNOB-sensitive. These improved indicators can track progress and facilitate gearing additional efforts to leaving no one behind in the fight against poverty and inequality.

5 STEPS AND TOOLS TO FORMULATE GOOD POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND LNOB INDICATORS:

STEP 1 — **Context analysis**
Definition of sector; intervention level; characteristics of people left behind, etc.

▶ **TOOL 1** — **Context and exclusion analysis**
Detailed target group analysis to identify who is (or is at risk of being) poor, excluded or left behind from what, why, when, where, and by whom.

STEP 2 — **Definition of results level**
Determining result chain indicators at output-, outcome- or impact-level.

▶ **TOOL 2** — **Results level identification**
Check-up questions to (re)define the intervention logic and results chain

STEP 3 — **Selection of indicator type**
Selection of appropriate indicator types such as absolute vs. relative, objective vs. subjective, one-dimensional vs. multidimensional, etc.

▶ **TOOL 3** — **Indicator type identification**
Identification of poverty/inequality/LNOB-sensitive indicator types as per several criteria.

STEP 4 — **Making indicators SMARTer**
I.e. making them specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and trackable.

▶ **TOOL 4** — **SMARTener**
Checklist to make sure the indicator is as SMART as possible.

STEP 5 — **Planning data collection & monitoring**
Planning of targets, monitoring, and selecting data sources or collection methods.

▶ **TOOL 5** — **Data collection and monitoring plan**
Spreadsheet to specify baselines, milestones, targets, monitoring responsibility, time frame, and sources for data collections.

Good practice examples: The growing corpus of existing indicators from different organizations (such as GIZ, SDC, UK AID, SIDA, World Bank, or the UN) has created a viable starting point for context-specific tailoring and refinement. Hence, these guidelines revolve around a selection of sector-specific indicator examples to measure progress that has been made in the three focus areas: poverty, inequality, and LNOB. These indicators are refined with examples to further enhance their significance and potential to measure poverty, inequality, and/or the LNOB-Principle.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLBOX

1. Readers with a **general interest in poverty, inequality, and LNOB** may start with
   - Chapter 1 for background information on the three concepts.
   - Chapter 2 for detailed information on how these concepts can be measured.

2. For **project designers**, this toolbox contains practical guidelines and tools to gear project activities towards the intended target group and to make sure intended results are logically connected to the planned activities. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 contain:
   - Steps and tools to help focus project activities on the intended target group and to set up the necessary conditions to measure results (Chapter 2).
   - Exemplary indicators, both for inspiration and further refinement, according to the respective project context (Chapter 3).
   - Recommendations for improving indicators (Chapter 4).

3. **Project implementers** may use this toolbox as a practical guide to monitor and evaluate whether and how a project reaches those who are furthest behind, eradicates poverty, and reduces inequality. Therefore, Chapters 2, 3, and 4 are set out as follows:
   - Steps and tools to design indicators that specifically measure in how far intended results are being achieved (Chapter 2).
   - Exemplary indicators, both for inspiration and further refinement, according to the respective project context (Chapter 3).
   - Recommendations for improving indicators (Chapter 4).

1. Introduction

Why Should We Measure Poverty, Inequality, and the LNOB-Principle?

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all 193 United Nations (UN) member states pledged to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere" (Sustainable Development Goal, SDG 1), to "reduce inequality within and among countries" (SDG 10) and in doing so to adhere to the principle of "leave[ing] no one behind" (LNOB) (UN 2015). As of today, there is still room to fulfil these pledges. Even before the outbreak of Covid-19 and despite significant progress in poverty reduction over the past decades, more than 700 million people were living in extreme poverty – a number that is expected to rise significantly as a result of the current pandemic. Both within and across countries, not everyone has benefited equally from recent development progress. Inequality has consistently risen globally, and this will be exacerbated due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, people are left behind systematically when they lack the choices and capabilities that enable others to live their lives in dignity.

Yet, how do projects designers and implementers within development cooperation know whether their actions are leading towards these desired goals as laid out in the 2030 Agenda? How can stakeholders make sure that poverty and inequality are sustainably reduced in a manner that leaves no one behind? How do we know that those left behind are actually progressing faster than the rest of the population? Indicators play a crucial role in achieving the commitments of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and leaving no one behind.

There is still room for improvement in formulating meaningful indicators within all three spheres of poverty, inequality, and LNOB – as well as their interplay. In light of the fundamental function that indicators fulfil within development cooperation, this room for improvement becomes a glaring void that this study aims to mitigate by offering a toolbox and practically-applicable guidelines for project designers and implementers in their LNOB-committed fight against poverty and inequality.

FUNCTIONS OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND LNOB INDICATORS

- "Indicators serve as variables that gauge the extent to which projects achieve their objectives." (GIZ 2014a: 5).
- Indicators reflect changes (progress or lack of progress) induced by an intervention or activity and help assess the performance of a development project in terms of quality, quantity, and timeliness, while providing information about specific groups within a population.
- Indicators turn complex non-measurables into observable units that provide solid decision-making bases both for project designers and implementers.
- Accurate measurement and timely statistics on poverty and inequality are critical to ensure that aid spending is reaching disadvantaged, left-behind groups.

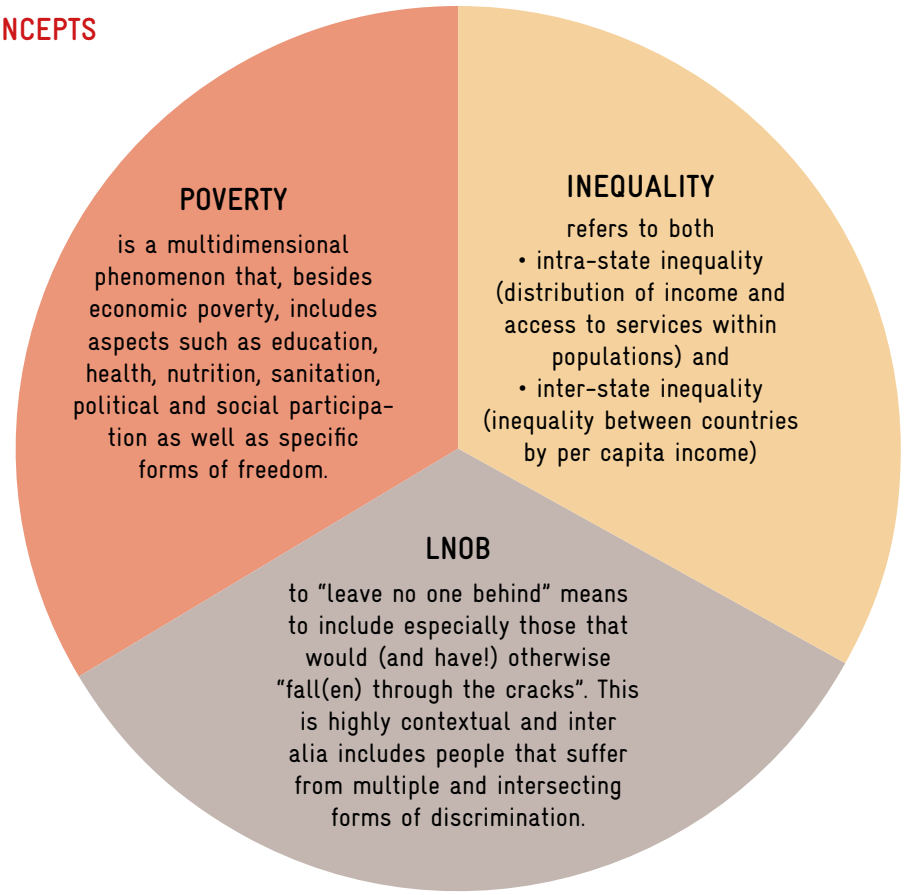
1.1 Methodology

These guidelines spring from a desk-based analysis of different databases, reports, and development cooperation project outlines. Moreover, interviews with development cooperation practitioners focusing on the need for indicators in their working reality informed the results of these guidelines. In particular, the GIZ-commissioned studies on pro-poor indicators (Huys 2020), social inequality indicators (Silvestrini 2019), and LNOB indicators (Denz 2019) served as a basis to carve out respective steps and tools.

1.2 Concepts

While poverty, inequality, and the LNOB principle may be defined separately, they are inextricably linked. Hence, the eradication of poverty, inequality, and the LNOB principle must, in practice, be considered jointly and as mutually reinforcing.

FIGURE 1: CONCEPTS



1.3 Gender Sensitivity

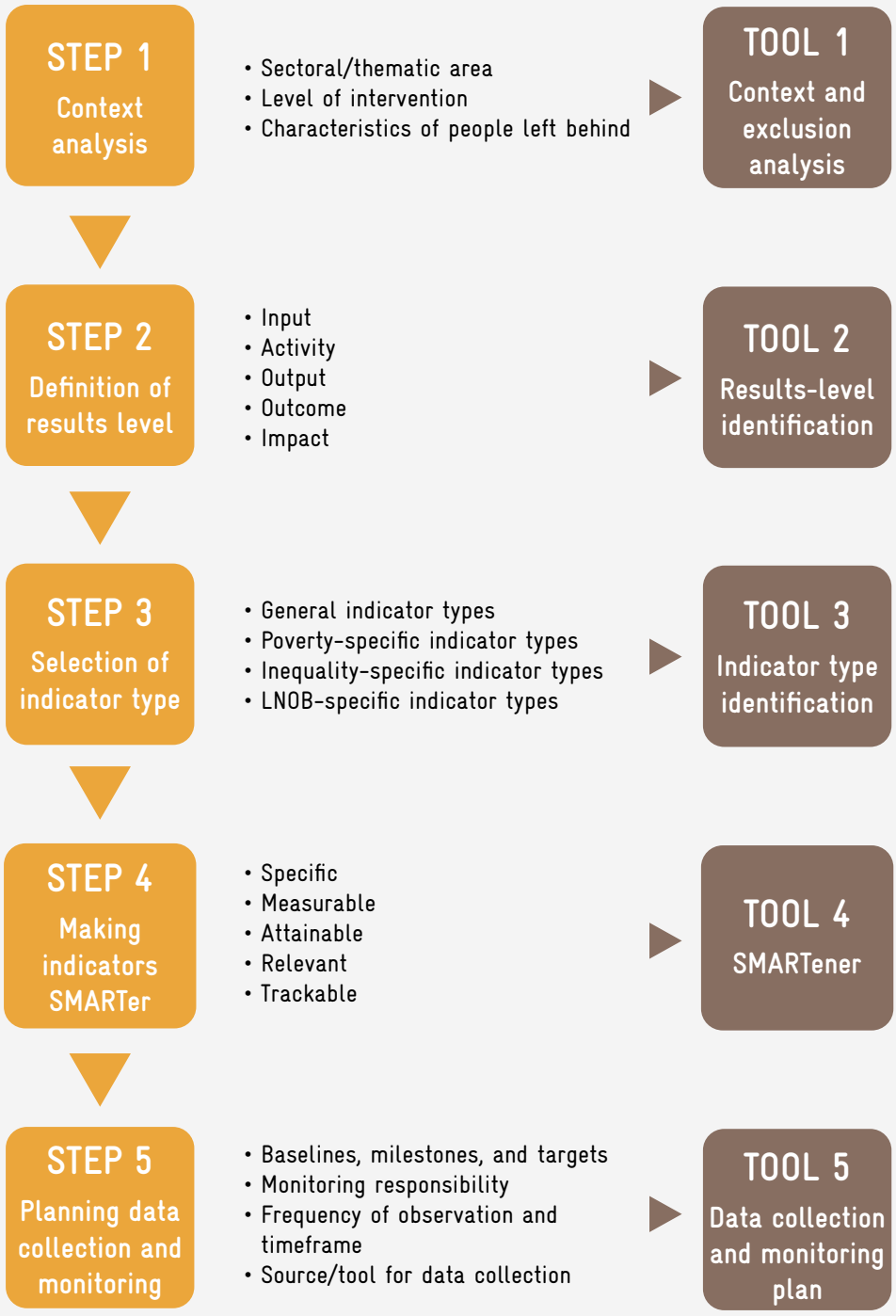
Gender has frequently been pushed to the sidelines within mainstream development. Yet, it is well known that different genders experience poverty and inequality differently. Any intervention that aims to reduce poverty and/or inequality as well as to apply the LNOB principle successfully must therefore pay attention to gender differences. Hence, the minimum requirement in terms of disaggregation of pro-poor, inequality, and LNOB indicators is gender sensitivity. "We need to measure and document gender inequality because what gets measured is more likely to get addressed [...].Gender-sensitive indicators can be used to evaluate the outcomes of gender-focused and mainstream interventions and policies, assess challenges to success, and adjust programs and activities to better achieve gender equality goals and reduce adverse impacts on women and men." (Moser 2007:7-8).

2.
How to Measure Poverty, Inequality, and the LNOB Principle

Steps and Tools for the Formulation of Good Indicators

The following section introduces and explains five steps to design and/or refine strong indicators that can adequately measure poverty, inequality, and the LNOB principle. Each step comes with a tool that supports the accomplishment of the outlined steps.

FIGURE 2: OVERVIEW OF STEPS AND TOOLS



2.1 Step 1: Context Analysis: Who Are the Poor, the Excluded, or the Left-Behind Groups?

To start with, the context of an intervention has to be defined clearly. Indicators can refer to all sectoral or thematic areas, such as social protection, health, education, agriculture, labor, governance, or human rights and at all intervention levels, e. g. the global, national, or subnational level.

A preliminary assessment provides a deeper understanding of relevant (intermediary) stakeholders and target groups, by identifying them as clearly as possible. Further core aspects for the context analysis are the dimensions and causes of poverty, inequality, and exclusion as well as their effects that require considering various dimensions and approaches that can serve to portray these complex phenomena. The shift away from single-axis definitions in purely economic, i. e. monetary, terms towards multidimensional definitions and respective indicators is widely accepted in theory but could be reflected in the practical application in development projects more often. Indicators based on one-dimensional measurements are a lot more common and aspects of social exclusion are often not reflected in the large number of existing approaches and indicators. Due to limited resources (time and money), a compromise between specific, but still measurable indicators must be found in practice.

A context and exclusion analysis should ideally be conducted to identify: Who is (or is at risk of being) poor, excluded, or left behind? From what? Why? By whom? When does poverty/inequality/exclusion occur? Where does poverty/inequality/exclusion occur? (SDC 2018a, 2018b, UNSDG 2019). If a detailed target group analysis is not possible, target group hypotheses or educated guesses using existing and easily available knowledge (like expert interviews) may help.

The multidimensional approach (versus a one-dimensional approach) finds its most prevalent manifestation in the **Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) (UNDP/OPHI 2019). This index captures multiple and overlapping deprivations and their intensity (covering three dimensions: Health, Education, and Standard of Living). One of the most important strengths of MPI – besides the systemic approach – is its flexibility in allowing national adaptations of the tool.

Tool 1: Context and exclusion analysis

How to apply this tool:	Use the table below as a template and fill it out; optionally, turn it into a short narrative summary
Duration:	Several hours up to several days, depending on prior knowledge and availability of information
Required skills:	Experience in/knowledge of online and on-site research (and interviewing relevant stakeholders and the target group)
Expected output:	Definition of target groups, stakeholders, and contexts they are living in

TABLE 1: TOOL 1 - CONTEXT AND EXCLUSION ANALYSIS

	Description	Questions	Examples
Level of intervention	Indicators can measure change on different levels	What is the intervention level of the project?	Global, national, sub-national, or project level
Sectoral or thematic area	Indicators can be used for various sectors or thematic areas	Which sector or thematic area is the project targeting?	Social protection, health, education, labor, agriculture, governance, or human rights
Exclusion diagnostic	Characteristics of poor/excluded/ left-behind people and further analysis	Who is (or is at risk of being) poor, excluded, or left behind? (Who is the target group of the intervention?)	Women and girls, people in rural areas, indigenous peoples, ethnic/ linguistic minorities, people with disabilities, migrants, gender/sexual minorities, youth, or elderly persons
		Are there regional differences?	Urban vs. rural areas, regional differences between districts or municipalities
		Which definition of poverty/inequality/LNOB is recommendable for the specific context? Which dimensions of poverty/inequality/ exclusions exist?	Absolute or relative, narrow or broad, (one-dimensional or multidimensional), vertical or horizontal dimensions (of inequality)
		What is the target group excluded from?	Specific markets, services, or spaces
		Why? What is the main (or underlying) cause of poverty/inequality/ exclusion?	Discrimination, shocks, and fragility, governance/power-relations, violence, socio-economic status, and/or geography
		By whom?	Characteristics of groups in power over groups left behind
		When does exclusion occur?	Timing or context
		Where does exclusion occur?	Intra-household exclusion
		What are the needs of the target groups?	Voice/participation in or access to markets, services, or spaces

Cooperation Partners	Occurrence and characteristics of possible cooperation partners for improved inclusion	Which partners are crucial for poverty/inequality reduction within a specific sector and how do they want to reduce poverty/inequality (potentials)? Which strengths and weaknesses do they have, and do they have necessary capacities to reduce poverty (at which level)?	Civil society organizations (CSO), communal governments, donor agencies
Absolute disadvantage	People left behind live in multidimensional poverty or below other minimally accepted standards of security, income, public services, infrastructure, or well-being	Do people left behind experience absolute disadvantage/exclusion?	Percentage of people (in general or of a specific sub-group) living below the absolute income poverty line of USD 1.90/day
Relative disadvantage	People left behind face exclusion, discrimination and/or entrenched inequalities compared to other people	Do people left behind experience relative disadvantage/exclusion?	Percentage of households (in general or of a specific sub-group) living below the relative poverty line, e. g., households receiving 50% less than the average household income

2.2 Step 2: Identify Stages of the Results-Oriented Intervention Logic: What Does the Results Chain with Indicators Look Like?

A complete Theory of Change (ToC) should define the logic of any development intervention and consists of input, activity/process, output, outcome, and impact. Depending on the use of indicators, these can measure progress along the whole ToC (including input and activity/process) or focus on results (outputs, outcomes, and impacts) only. It is crucial to visualize the links between the intended results in terms of poverty/inequality reduction/LNOB implementation. Therefore, the perspective of the target group (as well as intermediary stakeholders) should be integrated into the logic of results whenever possible. Tool 2 helps to specify the intervention logic, define concepts (conceptualization) and to formulate respective indicators for the measurement of the results (operationalization).

Tool 2: Results level identification

(based on Delorme and Chatelain 2011; EC 2012, 2015; EC DEVCO 2017; Gassmann 2010; UNAIDS 2010; UNDP 2003)

How to apply this tool:	Answer the questions in the table below and mark the (results) levels that are missing (adequate) indicators; discuss how these gaps can be filled and go through all 5 steps for each new indicator you add
Duration:	15min – 1h depending on the number of adequate indicators that already exist as well as length and depth of ensuing discussion
Required skills:	Knowledge of underlying Theory of Change
Expected output:	Overview of existing and missing indicators per (results) level.

TABLE 2: TOOL 2 - RESULTS LEVEL IDENTIFICATION

Result chain	Description	Questions	Examples
Input	Input indicators measure the financial, human, material, administrative, and regulatory resources needed to implement a policy or program	What are the input indicators of the project? Are these input indicators pro-poor- and/or LNOB/inequality-sensitive?	Expenditure on social protection disaggregated by function (sickness/health care, disability, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing, and social exclusion)
Process/ Activity	Process/activity indicators refer to the activities that turn inputs into outputs	What are the process or activity indicators of the project? Are these process/activity indicators pro-poor- and/or LNOB/inequality-sensitive?	Amount of legislation on non-discriminatory clauses on gender Number of conducted training sessions for illiterate women
Output	Output indicators measure the immediate and concrete consequences of the resources used and measures taken	What are the output indicators of the project? Are these output indicators pro-poor- and/or LNOB/inequality-sensitive?	Number of food-insecure people receiving assistance through social transfers, disaggregated by sex, age, and geographical location
Outcome	Outcome indicators measure the direct effects on beneficiaries	What are the outcome indicators of the project? Are these outcome indicators pro-poor- and/or LNOB/inequality-sensitive?	Proportion of population covered by social protection systems, disaggregation by sex and distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims, the poor, and the vulnerable
Impact	Impact indicators measure the consequences of the outcomes and the achievements towards the overall objective	What are the impact indicators of the project? Are these impact indicators pro-poor- and/or LNOB/inequality-sensitive?	Poverty headcount or gap reduction in percentage points by geographical location Gini coefficient for income inequality Number of severely food-insecure people Multidimensional poverty index (MPI) Human development index (HDI)

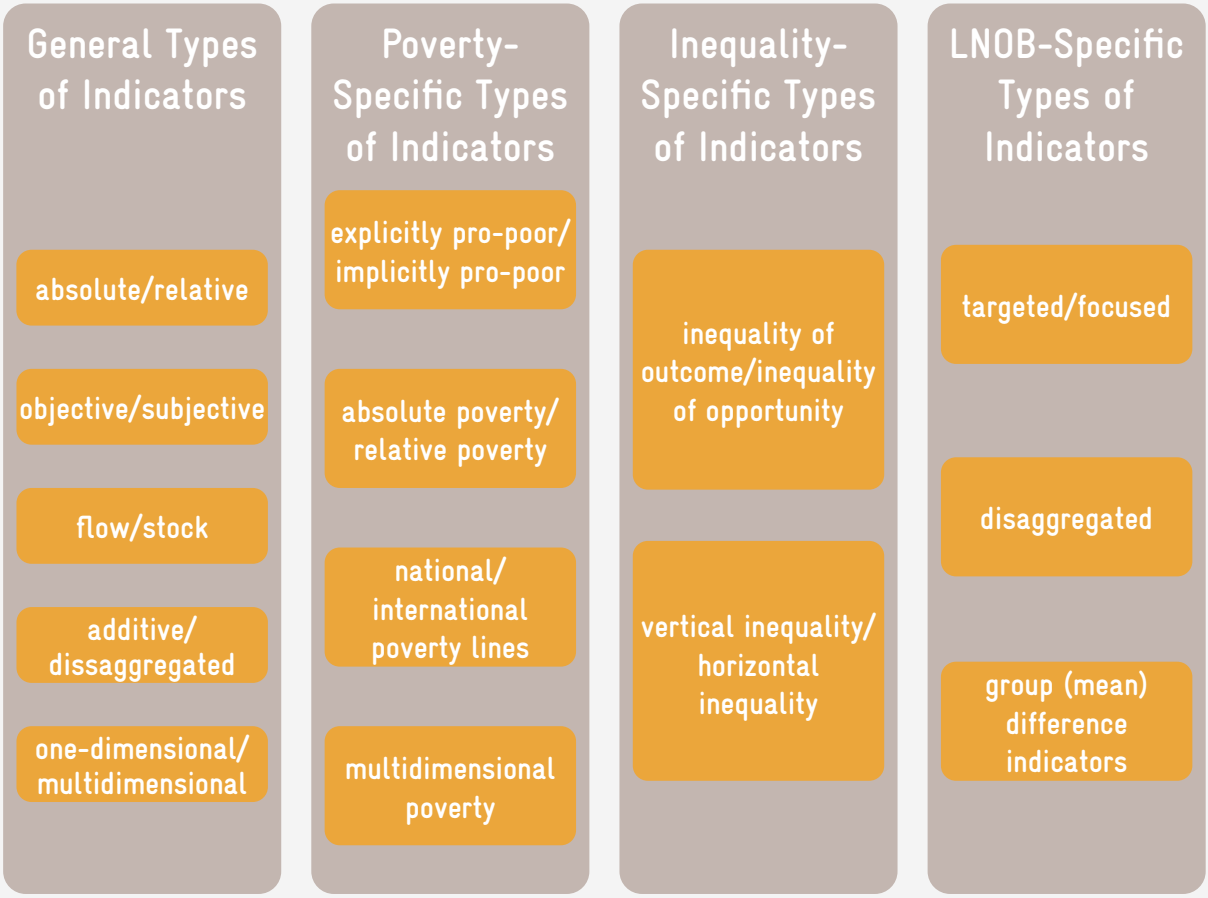
2.3 Step 3: Type of Indicator: What Kind of Indicator is Suitable?

Different types of indicators meet different kinds of requirements. Hence, it is important to select specific indicators based on a plausible definition and methodology to measure poverty, inequality, or the LNOB principle. Many organizations publish their development indicators, which can be used as a basis for the selection of indicators (operationalization). One major step towards an adequate depiction of poverty, inequality, and the LNOB principle is the disaggregation potential of available and newly collected data along several dimensions (such as gender, age, region, etc.). In recent years, there have been encouraging improvements in the availability of household survey data. Yet, especially low-income countries face several constraints in meeting their LNOB-commitments within their data collation (ODI 2019). Disaggregated data are often unavailable in contexts where they would be most relevant. In many cases, available data sets and official statistics cannot be disaggregated because respective (horizontal) categories (like characteristics of poor and/or left-be-

hind groups) were not captured during data collection. In some cases, disaggregated data collection can be unwanted by political leaders. Hence, all governments and international organizations should allocate resources to enhance availability of disaggregated data to monitor their progress towards LNOB, poverty eradication, and inequality reduction (OECD 2017).

All in all, it is crucial to ensure that the indicators are specific to the target group and/or target region as well as the measurement of poverty/inequality/exclusion. When selecting and designing target group-sensitive indicators, it is important to develop a methodology of how to capture and operationalize changes for the respective target group. Often, marginalized and/or discriminated against groups are hard to reach, for example because of previous bad experiences with authorities and/or public institutions or geographical constraints. Yet, it is crucial to actively involve and include these groups (as well as poor groups in general) in data collection processes and apply participatory approaches whenever and wherever possible. It is particularly important that respective target groups and stakeholders accept and approve data collection instruments and respective indicators. Ideally, target groups are included in the indicator formulation (UNDP 2006: 8; GIZ 2014a: 18).

FIGURE 3: OVERVIEW OF INDICATOR TYPES



Tool 3: Indicator type identification

How to apply this tool:	Use the table below as a template to review your indicator(s), add more questions/ criteria from the overview of indicator types (see figure 3 above) in case this is suitable and relevant for the project context
Duration:	10 – 30 min per indicator
Required skills:	None
Expected output:	Assessment of (existing/newly-drafted) indicator along several criteria

TABLE 3: TOOL 3 – INDICATOR TYPE IDENTIFICATION

Targeting	**Questions:** ▶ Does the indicator target or focus on one group/subgroups, e. g. women or men? ▶ Have left-behind groups been considered specifically, e. g. young mothers, people with disabilities, landless farmers, internally displaced persons? ▶ Has the "geography of poverty [/inequality]" (Shepherd 2019: 11) been considered? E. g. by considering especially marginal, arid, or flood-prone landowners or people's distance to public services? **Example:** Proportion of women who have undergone female genital mutilation, 2004-2006 (UN Women 2019).
Disaggregation	**Question:** ▶ Which level of disaggregation is needed to measure changes for relevant (sub-) groups affected by poverty/inequality/LNOB? ▶ Does the indicator provide information on subgroups, and enable comparisons? **Example:** Proportion of people living below 50% of the median income, by sex, age, and persons with disability (UN 2017, indicator 10.2.1).
Group (mean) difference	**Question:** ▶ Does the indicator compare left-behind groups with the mean of the whole population? ▶ Are left-behind groups catching up to the rest of the population? **Example:** Growth rates of household income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population (UN 2017, indicator 10.1.1).
Holistic approach	**Question:** ▶ Does the (set of) indicator(s) capture multidimensional deprivations (lack of money, resources, health, education, violence, participation, isolation/discrimination, etc.)?
Participatory approach	**Questions:** ▶ How can the target group(s) be involved in defining indicators? ▶ Are they given a direct voice or indirectly through an intermediary? ▶ Has the partner (e. g. country or organization) been involved in the indicator formulation?

2.4 Step 4: SMART Indicator: What Makes a Good Indicator?

A complete Theory of Change (ToC) should define the logic of any development intervention and consists of input, activity/process, output, outcome, and impact. Depending on the use of indicators, these can measure progress along the whole ToC (including input and activity/process) or focus on results (outputs, outcomes, and impacts) only. It is crucial to visualize the links between the intended results in terms of poverty/inequality reduction/LNOB implementation. Therefore, the perspective of the target group (as well as intermediary stakeholders) should be integrated into the logic of results whenever possible. Tool 2 helps to specify the intervention logic, define concepts (conceptualization) and to formulate respective indicators for the measurement of the results (operationalization).

Tool 4: SMARTener

How to apply this tool:	Answer questions below to review if the indicator(s) meets the smart criteria and refine where necessary
Duration:	15 – 30 min per indicator
Required skills:	None
Expected output:	SMART(er) indicator(s)

FIGURE 4: TOOL 4 - SMARTENER

Specific	An indicator is specific when it is precisely worded and measurable.	▶ Is it clear what is being measured? ▶ Has the appropriate level of disaggregation been specified? ▶ Does the indicator capture the essence of the desired result? ▶ Is the indicator specific enough to measure progress towards the result? ▶ Does it capture differences across areas and categories of people?
Measurable	The indicator must be (easily) measurable and deliver reliable data, no matter who does the measurement	▶ Are changes objectively verifiable? ▶ Will the indicator show desirable change? ▶ Is it a reliable and clear measure of results? ▶ Is it sensitive to changes in policies and programs? ▶ Do stakeholders agree on exactly what to measure? ▶ Is the indicator practical to monitor?
Attainable	The set aspiration level of the indicator must be achievable. If the aspiration levels are set too low they can suggest evident results, but do not demonstrate the effectiveness of the considered intervention. Meeting an indicator should require some effort.	▶ What changes are anticipated as a result of the assistance? ▶ Is/Are the result/s realistic?
Relevant	The information to be provided by the indicator must be important for the decision-makers. Only such indicators should be used whose results are relevant to the intervention.	▶ Does the indicator capture the essence of the desired result? ▶ Is it relevant to the intended outputs and outcome? ▶ Is the indicator plausibly associated with the sphere of activity?
Trackable/ Time-bound	The information provided by the indicator must be available in time. To achieve this, it is important to set deadlines for the achievement of the targets. These can be intermediary deadlines (like milestones) or the status at the intervention's finalisation.	▶ Are data actually available at a reasonable cost and effort? ▶ Are data sources known? ▶ Does an indicator monitoring plan exist?

2.5 Step 5: Planning Data Collection for Indicators: What Kind of Data Is Required?

Indicators require a baseline, target, and timeframe in order to be useful in verifying the results of a development intervention and demonstrating change over time. Furthermore, when data collections are planned for monitoring purposes, the frequency of observation, monitoring responsibility, and data source need to be specified. To this end, assistance may be provided by an indicator definition sheet or monitoring plan containing information about the sample size, collection procedures, limitations, and estimated costs of indicators (UNDP 2003).

The efficiency of the monitoring system has to be kept in mind from the beginning, i. e. during the design phase. Hence, various factors need to be considered thoroughly, such as added value and costs depending on which data will be collated and which data already exists. Generally, more detailed and disaggregated indicators can increase the cost of data collection and analysis. The use of existing indicators and available secondary data can reduce costs, time, and effort of primary data collection. However, existing data on indicators is sometimes outdated or not consistently available for all countries or the specific project area. Various potential data sources lead to rather time-consuming processes to identify and merge adequate secondary data. If the indicator is based on secondary data from partner systems, the scheduling and scope of periodic data collection should align with the project agenda. Furthermore, data or methodological triangulation represent desirable steps within data collation, such as a comparison of administrative data (by line ministries), with representative household surveys and/or data gathered through qualitative research tools (participatory assessments or sociological enquiries based on semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders or representatives of the target group).

Tool 5: Data collection and monitoring plan (based on UNDP 2003, UNAIDS 2010)

How to apply this tool:	Answer questions in the table below (as a team) and fill out the indicator definition sheet and monitoring plan, ideally when a project is planned or at the beginning of a new project (see annex 1)/or refine already existing data collection and monitoring plans as early as possible during project implementation
Duration:	2 – 3h
Required skills:	Detailed knowledge of project, context, and the team (members)
Expected output:	Data collection and monitoring plan

TABLE 4: TOOL 5 - DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring plan	Description	Questions	Examples
Baseline	Situation before a program or activity, and starting point for results monitoring	What is the situation before a program or activity starts, based on existing data or estimates?	Baseline of 65% enrolment of children living with a disability in 2002
Milestones	Between baseline and target there may be several milestones that correspond to expected performance at periodic intervals	What are the milestones that reflect the expected performance at periodic intervals?	70% enrolment of children living with a disability is a good result for the end of 2003, and 75% for the end of 2004
Target	Situation expected at the end of a program or activity	What are the targets for the end of the program (linked to respective target groups)?	80% enrolment of children living with a disability in 2005
Monitoring responsibility	Name of person or department responsible for measurement	Who will be responsible for poverty/inequality/LNOB measurements?	Name of person or department
Frequency of observation and timeframe	Observations taken at specified points in time or within a given period of time	What is the frequency of target group observations? What is the project's timeframe?	Annually from 2002 to 2005
Data collection source/tool	Primary or secondary data	What kind of data will be used for monitoring? Are diverse data sources and data collation methods quantifying and qualifying poverty/ inequality/ LNOB-related results? What is the added value of comparisons with control groups (see GIZ 2014a: 18ff)? Which multi-stakeholder-consultation processes already exist? Which kind of data (household surveys, censuses, reliable administrative data of national partners, etc.) is already collated and available (quality, scope, function, depth, timeframe)? How does collated secondary data support the development of the project? Will it be necessary to collect primary data?	Administrative records of client service, surveys, awareness/ attitude questionnaires, expert panels, trained observers, focus groups, and key informant interviews, behavioral surveillance, satellite/ drone images/data, management, and administrative data, data from CSOs, real-time cell phone data collection

3. Good Exemplary Indicators to Measure Poverty, Inequality, and the LNOB Principle

Many international institutions publish their indicators online. The underlying datasets are openly accessible in some cases, but often disaggregation possibilities are limited. Moreover, Official indicator names do not always mention disaggregation possibilities. Often, it is the indicator methodology notes or indicator definition sheets (DFID 2016; EC 2019) and underlying datasets that reveal the actual disaggregation potential. The following table provides good examples of pro-poor, inequality and LNOB indicators in different sectors based on existing indicators from different organizations (including the World Bank, various UN institutions, EU, GIZ, SDC, DFID, SIDA, and Save the Children). Please note that these examples are by no means comprehensive nor do they cover all sectors and/or levels, yet they provide a viable starting point and/or inspiration for the implementation and further development of meaningful indicators.

The following exemplary indicators are grouped into six sectors. Each indicator was selected as a good example indicator for at least one of the three focal topics: poverty, inequality, and LNOB. Furthermore, the following table specifies the intervention level and the unit of observation. The intervention level is the level at which you measure change and make conclusions, like the population at a national, regional, or local level or a specific target group at the respective project level. The unit of observation refers to the distinct unit from which data have been or will be collected, for example from individuals, households, the national or sub-national state. The unit of observation can provide indications on the disaggregation potential.

TABLE 5: EXEMPLARY SECTOR-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Social protection (incl. fiscal politics and governance)					
Poverty headcount reduction (based on poverty headcount ratio): The poverty headcount due to social protection programs has changed by xy% (from X% of the population (pre-transfer) to Y% of the population (post-transfer) living below the poverty line). ▶ Based on ASPIRE Database (World Bank 2020a)	Project level	Individuals/ households (people below the poverty line)	X		X This indicator is targeted and could be further disaggregated by characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. poverty headcount reductions for women, the elderly, or minorities).
Poverty gap reduction (based on poverty gap index): Due to social protection programs the poverty gap has decreased by xy% (from X% of the population (pre-transfer) to Y% of the population (post-transfer) living below the poverty line). ▶ Based on ASPIRE Database (World Bank 2020a)	Project level	Individuals/ households (people below the poverty line)	X		X This indicator is targeted and could be further disaggregated by characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. poverty gap reductions for women, the elderly, or minorities).
Urban and rural poverty headcount reduction in percent. Urban and rural poverty gap reduction in percent. ▶ Based on World Bank 2019b, 2019c, 2020a; EC DEVCO 2017	Regional level	Individuals/ households (people below the poverty line)	X	X	X This indicator is targeted and disaggregated by urban/rural areas. It could be further disaggregated by other characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/ collection (e. g. poverty headcount/gap reductions for women, the elderly, or minorities).
The average level of benefit for the target group of social protection measures, as a proportion of the median income, has increased by xy% (from X LCU to Y LCU). ▶ Based on ILO 2017: 201	Project level	Individuals/ households (beneficiaries)	X	X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted in case the target group consists of groups left behind). The target group could be further disaggregated by sub-characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. women/the elderly/ minorities/ultra-poor).

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Social protection (incl. fiscal politics and governance)					
Percentage of population covered by social security systems (level of remuneration/ scope of services/ benefits) disaggregated by age groups, gender, education, region, and income (horizontal dimensions of inequality). ▶ Based on Oxfam's CRI Index in Oxfam 2018	Project level	Individuals (beneficiaries)		X	X The target group of social security systems is not clearly defined. This indicator is disaggregating the beneficiaries by characteristics of left-behind group(s), in case of data availability/ collection (e. g. age groups, gender, education, region, and income).
Proportion of extremely poor and food insecure cash transfer beneficiary households in the target countries below the extreme poverty line. ▶ Based on World Bank 2016; EC DEVCO 2017	International level	Households (beneficiaries)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeting the extremely poor and food insecure beneficiaries. It could be further disaggregated by other characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/ collection (e. g. women, the elderly, or minorities).
Proportion of extremely poor and food insecure cash transfer beneficiaries who eat at least one meal a day. ▶ Based on World Bank 2016; EC DEVCO 2017	Project level	Individuals (beneficiaries)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeting the extremely poor and food insecure beneficiaries. It could be further disaggregated by other characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/ collection (e. g. women, children, or minorities).
Expenditure on social protection disaggregated by function (sickness/health care, disability, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing, and social exclusion). ▶ Based on Eurostats 2019; EC DEVCO 2017	National level	State (types of social protection expenditure)		X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted to various social protection types (aiming at targeting various types of groups left behind) and disaggregated because it differentiates different social protection types (and beneficiaries), which could be compared.

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Social protection (incl. fiscal politics and governance)					
Share of income and wealth groups (deciles or quintiles) of total income and wealth in country X per year (years). ▶ Based on World Bank 2020b; Alvaredo et al. 2018; Lakner and Milanovic 2013 and Oxfam 2017	National level	Individuals		X	X This indicator is disaggregated by multiple income/wealth groups (including the lowest ones).
Health					
The share of deprived households that use health facilities less than once a year (or other context-specific intervals) due to access constraints has decreased by xy% (from X to Y). ▶ Based on UNDP Pakistan/OPHI 2018: 92	Project level	Households/ Health facilities	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (deprived households) and could be further disaggregated by characteristics of left-behind household(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. age groups, gender, region, or minorities).
The infant mortality rate has reduced by xy% among women from the poorest wealth quintile (from X to Y deaths per 1000 live births). ▶ Based on WHO 2020	National level	Individuals (poor women)	X		This indicator is LNOB-targeted (poor women) and could be further disaggregated by characteristics of left-behind women in case of data availability/collection (e. g. age groups, maternal education levels, or minorities).
The health worker density and distribution has improved by xy % in poor districts (from X to Y per 10000 population). ▶ Based on UNSD 2020 (SDG Indicator 3.c.1); WHO 2018	Regional (district) level	Sub-national state (poor districts)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (poor districts).

▶

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Health					
The proportion of the target group spending more than 25% of household consumption or income on out-of-pocket health care expenditure (catastrophic health expenditure) has decreased by xy % (from X to Y households). ▶ Based on World Bank 2020c; GIZ Cambodia 2014	Project level	Household	X		X This indicator could be targeted on LNOB groups in case the target group was defined accordingly. It could also be further disaggregated by context-specific characteristics of left-behind household(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. household size, gender of household head, number of children, or minority affiliation).
Malnutrition: Percentage of underweight children. Percentage of children with growth retardation (stunted growth). ▶ Based on Global Hunger Index 2019	Project, international or national level	Individuals	X	(X)	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (focusing on the percentage of malnourished children in a population). It could also be further disaggregated by context-specific characteristics of left-behind individuals in case of data availability/collection (e. g. gender, age, or minority affiliation).
Percentage of wasted children under 5 years in project area, disaggregated by sex, age category, area (urban/ rural), wealth quintile (poorest/ second/middle/ forth/richest), and education of mother. ▶ Based on UNICEF 2016	Project level	Individuals	X	X	X This indicator is targeting a left-behind group (wasted children <5 years) and is disaggregated by multiple characteristics.
Number of school children receiving school meals in project area, disaggregated by sex and school type/ grade. ▶ Based on WFP 2016; DFID 2014	Project level	Individuals	X		X This indicator would be LNOB-targeted if food/ nutrition insecure children are targeted. The indicator is or can be further disaggregated by context-specific characteristics of left-behind (food/nutrition insecure) children.

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Health					
Number of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, and children under 5 reached by nutrition-related interventions with EC support, disaggregated by sex and by age (under five, 10–19, and 20+). ▶ Based on EC 2019	Project level	Individuals			X This indicator is targeted and disaggregated. If possible, disaggregation could cover further characteristics of LNOB groups (e. g. rural/urban area, wealth quintiles, or minorities).
Number of persons (at risk) reached through health education sessions related to the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), disaggregated by groups at risk. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (HLT_ARI_2)	Project level	Individuals			X This indicator is not clearly targeting a specific LNOB group. The trainings could target at-risk groups or be disaggregated by different at (higher) risk (of getting NCDs) groups (e. g. age or weight groups).
Proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied by modern methods, disaggregated by age group, marital status, religious, and ethnic group. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (HLT_TRI_4)	Project level	Individuals		X	X This indicator does not target a group left behind but might indirectly reveal information about women whose needs are not met. The indicator could be further disaggregated by context-specific characteristics of (non) left-behind groups.
Education					
The share of deprived households with at least one school-aged child not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete 8th grade have decreased by xy% (from X to Y households). ▶ Based on UNDP/OPHI 2019: 150	Project, international/national/regional levels	Households	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted but could also be further LNOB-disaggregated by context-specific characteristics of left-behind group(s) (e. g. gender, number of children, minorities, or regions).

▶

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Education					
Literacy rate among youth (% of people ages 15–24), in total and disaggregated by sex and wealth quintile. ▶ Based on World Bank 2020b	Project, international/ national/ regional levels	Individuals	X	X	X This indicator is not directly targeting LNOB groups, but indirectly reveals information about the illiteracy rate among young people. This indicator is LNOB-disaggregated by gender and wealth quintile.
Percentage of graduating children/youth who find decent economic opportunities, disaggregated by sex. ▶ Based on Save the Children 2014	Project, international/ national/ regional levels	Individuals			X This indicator does not directly target LNOB groups, but it might indirectly reveal information about graduating young people who do not find decent economic opportunities. This indicator is LNOB-disaggregated by gender and could be further disaggregated.
Number of children supported by DFID in primary education (per annum), disaggregated by sex. ▶ Based on DFID 2016	Project levels	Individuals	X		X This indicator could be LNOB-targeted (children in need of support could be left behind for various reasons). The indicator is LNOB-disaggregated by sex, but further context-specific disaggregation characteristics of left-behind children could be added.
Number of people benefiting from primary, secondary education, or continuing and alternative non-formal basic education and learning opportunities in an SDC project, disaggregated by ethnic group, literacy rate, gender, and geographical region. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (EDU_ARI_1)	Project level	Individuals (students)	X		X This indicator could be LNOB-targeted (people in need of additional education might be left behind otherwise). The indicator can be LNOB-disaggregated according to multiple context-specific characteristics.

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Education					
Number of children completing primary education supported by DFID (per annum), disaggregated by sex. ▶ Based on DFID 2016	Project levels	Individuals	X		X This indicator is most likely LNOB-targeted (children in need of support could be left behind for various reasons). The indicator is LNOB-disaggregated by sex, but further context-specific disaggregation characteristics of children left behind could be added.
The share of youth not in education, employment, or training has reduced by xy% (from X to Y young people). ▶ Based on World Bank 2020 and OECD 2019	Project, international/ national/ regional levels	Individuals	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted and not LNOB-disaggregated. Context-specific LNOB-disaggregation characteristics could be added.
The share of deprived households with no household member aged ten years or older having completed six years of schooling has decreased by xy%. ▶ Based on OPHI 2019: 150	Project, international/ national/ regional levels	Households	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted but could also be LNOB-disaggregated by context-specific characteristics (e. g. by wealth, location, ethnicity, language, or other minority group).
The share of the population aged 17 to 22 with fewer than 4 years of schooling decreased by xy%. ▶ Based on UNESCO 2010	Project, international/ national/ regional levels	Households	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted but could also be LNOB-disaggregated by context-specific characteristics, e. g. by wealth, location, ethnic, language, or other minorities.
Number of teachers or educational personnel trained in an SDC project. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (EDU_ARI_2)	Project level	Individuals/ profession (teachers/ educational staff)			(X) This indicator is not clearly LNOB-targeted but could be LNOB-disaggregated by context-specific characteristics (e. g. geographical region, school type, or special needs of students).

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Agriculture/Land Governance/Rural Development					
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of rural/urban population) for rural and urban areas. ▶ Based on World Bank 2019b	Regional level	Individuals	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted and disaggregated by rural/urban area. It could be further disaggregated by characteristics of left-behind group(s) in case of data availability/collection (e. g. the poverty headcount ratio of minority groups).
Bank location and costs of transport: Percentage of people who need 60 minutes or more to get to a formal bank, disaggregated by district and urban/rural area. ▶ Based on Ellis, Lemma, Rud 2010: 55	District level	Individuals	X		X This indicator is targeted (formal financial exclusion) and can be disaggregated by district, urban/rural area, etc.
The average income of small-scale food producers has increased by xy% (from X to Y LCU on average per household). ▶ Based on UNSTATS 2018; Agenda 2030 México 2018 (SDG 2)	Project level or national level	Households	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (small-scale food producers) and is not disaggregated yet. The indicator could be disaggregated (e. g. for women/male-headed households, indigenous households, or districts).
Number of poor smallholder farmers with increased incomes from agricultural production, disaggregated by size of farm and region. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (AFS_ARI_1)	Project level	Individuals/profession (farmers)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (poor smallholder farmers) and can be disaggregated (e. g. by size of farm and region).
Number of people receiving rural advisory services with EU support in country/project area X., disaggregated by sex and farm size. ▶ Based on EC 2015, 2019	Project or national level	Individuals			X This indicator is not explicitly targeted but can be disaggregated by characteristics of groups left behind (e. g. sex, farm size).

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Agriculture/Land Governance/Rural Development					
The share of women among owners or right bearers of agricultural land in the poorest quintile has increased by xy% (from X to Y women). ▶ Based on UNSTATS 2017	Project level or national level	Individuals	X	X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted at women from the poorest quintile and could be further disaggregated (e. g. by age groups or minorities).
Gini index based on size of land holdings. ▶ Based on GRAIN 2014	Project level	Individuals		X	
Rate of landless farmers: Population in rural areas divided by the number of land holdings. ▶ Based on FAO 2020	National/ regional level	Individuals/ land cadaster		X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted because it identifies the rate of landless farmers. The indicator could be further disaggregated (e. g. by sex or minorities) in case of data availability.
Percentage of farmers with access to high-quality seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, and credit in district/country/project area X, disaggregated by gender, size of farm, income, and region. ▶ Based on Silvestrini 2019	Project or regional/ national level	Individuals/ profession (farmers)		X	X This indicator is not explicitly LNOB-targeted, but it could be disaggregated by characteristics of groups left behind (e. g. gender, size of farm, income, and region).
Percentage of small-scale farmers involved in the processing of their harvest in district/country/project area X. ▶ Based on Silvestrini 2019	Project or regional/ national level	Individuals/ profession (farmers)		X	X The indicator is LNOB-targeted on small-scale farmers and could be further disaggregated (e. g. by gender, size of farm, income, or region)

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Inclusive Growth/Labor/Income/Wealth/Private Sector					
Households with at least one member between 15 and 64 years who is looking for work, available for work, and has not secured a job are reduced by xy% (from X1 to X2 households). ▶ Based on UNDP 2018c	Project level	Household	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted but could also be disaggregated further by characteristics of households left behind (e. g. access to savings or safety nets).
The promoted value chains enable X women from the poorest quintile to increase their average monthly income by 10%. (Baseline value: 0 women with an increased in income; target value: X women have increased their monthly income by 10%) ▶ Based on GIZ 2014b: 27	Project level	Individual (women from the poorest income quintile)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (women from the poorest quintile).
Share of employees receiving less than 60% of the median income for labor (whilst working a minimum of X hours weekly) has decreased/changed by xy% (from X to Y employees). ▶ Based on ILOSTAT 2020 If reliable hourly earnings data does not exist: Share of workers earning less than 60 per cent of the median income for labor. ▶ Based on Ostermeier et al. 2015: 27	National level	Individuals (employees)	X		X This indicator is LNOB-targeted and not further disaggregated yet. It could be disaggregated by other characteristics of people left behind (e. g. gender, educational background).
Comparison of income growth in different income groups (deciles/centiles) among themselves and with the growth rates of average/ national income. ▶ Based on Alvaredo et al. 2018; World Bank 2018	National level	Individuals/ income groups		X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted because it focusses on low income groups.

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Inclusive Growth/Labor/Income/Wealth/Private Sector					
Unemployment statistics, disaggregated by age groups, gender, education, and region (horizontal dimensions of inequality). ▶ Based on Silvestrini 2019	National level	Individuals (the unemployed)		X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (number of unemployed people) and can be disaggregated by various characteristics of LNOB groups in case of respective data availability/ collection (e. g. age groups, gender, education, and regions).
Time required to start a business, by sex and resident status. ▶ Based on World Bank 2019b	National level	Individuals (entrepreneurs)			X This indicator is not targeted but could be disaggregated by various characteristics of LNOB groups in case of data availability/ collection (e. g. sex and resident status).
Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/ rural). ▶ Based on UN 2017 (indicator 1.1.1)	National level	Individuals (people below the international poverty line)	X		X This indicator is targeted (people below the poverty line) and can be disaggregated in case of data availability/collection (e. g. by sex, age, employment status and geographical location like urban/rural areas).
Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities. ▶ Based on UN 2017 (indicator 8.5.1)	National level	Individuals (employees)			X This indicator could be disaggregated by characteristics of groups left behind, like sex, occupation, age, and disability in case of sufficient data availability/collection.

▶

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Inclusive Growth/Labor/Income/Wealth/Private Sector					
Number of people having access to and making use of formal financial products and services, disaggregated by sex, age group, location, and income/savings. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (IED_ARI_3)	Project level	Individuals (people with access to and using formal financial products and services)			X This indicator is not directly targeting LNOB groups, but it could indirectly reveal information about those left behind (financially excluded). The indicator could be disaggregated by sex, age groups, location, income/savings, etc. in case of sufficient data availability/collection.
Proportion of women with a positive perception of their influence on business and economic-related decision-making, disaggregated by age group, role in the household, and location. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (IED_TRI_5)	Project level	Individuals (women)			X This indicator LNOB-targeted and focusing on women. It could be disaggregated by age group, household position location, etc. in case of sufficient data availability/collection.
Governance and Human Rights					
Number of people from left-behind groups benefiting from projects to reduce exclusion, discrimination, and inequality. ▶ Based on SDC 2020 (POV_ARI_1)	Project level	Individuals (from groups left behind)			X This indicator is targeting "left-behind groups", but these have to be clearly defined (e. g. on an indicator definition sheet and sufficient data has to be collected).
Percentage of children that report incidents of abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect have significantly decreased. ▶ Based on Save the Children 2014	Project level	Individuals (children) or, for example, child welfare offices			X This indicator is LNOB-targeted and focuses on children reporting abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect. This indicator could theoretically be disaggregated further in case of sufficient data availability/collection (e. g. taking the sex of children into account).

▶

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Governance and Human Rights					
Percentage of reported cases of children, who experience any form of violence, receiving an age- and gender-appropriate response, disaggregated by age and sex. ▶ Based on Save the Children 2014	Project level	Individuals (children) or, for example, child welfare offices			X This indicator is LNOB-targeted and focusses on the adequate treatment of children reporting abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect. This indicator could be disaggregated further in case of sufficient data availability/ collection (e. g. taking the age and sex of children into account).
Proportion of seats in parliament held by women and members of the target groups. ▶ Based on OHCHR 2012	Local/ regional/ national parliament level	Individuals (parliamentarians)		X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted/focused on women and members of the target group, which needs to be defined in more detail, e. g. on an indicator definition sheet. It is not LNOB-disaggregated but the respective values for men and the non-target group can most likely be easily identified and compared.
Percentage of candidates on ballots in local, regional or national elections who are women. ▶ Based on SIDA 2010	Local, regional, or national elections level	Individuals (men and women on specific ballot types)			X This indicator is LNOB-targeted/focused on women. It is not LNOB-disaggregated but the respective values for men could easily be identified and compared.
Women's access to property other than land (index). ▶ Based on SIDA 2010	Project or regional/ national level	Individuals	X	X	X This indicator is LNOB-targeted/focused on women. It is not LNOB-disaggregated but the respective value for men could easily be identified and compared.
Law prohibiting child marriage (yes or no). ▶ Based on SIDA 2010	State/national level	State (national policy)			X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (married children) and not disaggregated further.

Indicator	Intervention Level (level at which you draw conclusions)	Unit of Observation (level at which data is collected)	Focal Topic(s)		
			Poverty	Inequality	LNOB
Governance and Human Rights					
X joint reports by selected CSOs, which address the gaps in the implementation of the rights of particularly disadvantaged groups in a conflict- and gender-sensitive manner, have been published or submitted to responsible state institutions. ▶ Based on GIZ 2018	Project level	Reports (published or submitted)			X This indicator is LNOB-targeted (reports revealing gaps in the rights of disadvantaged groups), which needs to be clearly defined e. g. on an indicator definition sheet.
Number of countries in region X having a policy proposal to harmonize the rights and social benefits of migrants. ▶ Based on GIZ 2016a	National level	State (national policy proposal)			X This is an LNOB-targeted indicator. Disaggregation could be possible in case subgroups of migrants are mentioned in the policies.
X measures to reduce the disadvantage of specific groups (women, young people and/or people with disabilities) were implemented annually in each of the Y municipalities on the basis of municipal investment or action plans. ▶ Based on GIZ 2016b	Municipality level	Municipalities		X	X This indicator in targeted/ focusses on LNOB measures and it could be disaggregated by the type of measure (e. g. for the benefit of which kind of specific group) especially in case of a large number of different kinds of measures.

4. Recommendations for Improving Indicators and Reflection Questions

1. Specify existing indicators

Use the frequent potential to specify existing indicators by making them more context-specific, through targeting a specific group or further disaggregating the data. The previously introduced five steps to formulate indicators (see chapter 2) may assist project designers or implementers in designing and monitoring pro-poor-, inequality-, and LNOB-sensitive indicators. The following table outlines further recommendations based on each of the five steps, functioning as a checklist for project designers and implementers, respectively.

2. Increase LNOB sensitivity and pro-poor/inequality focus

- **Targeted indicators can also be disaggregated:** Percentage of wasted children under 5 years in the project area, disaggregated by sex, age category, area (urban/ rural), wealth quintile (poorest/second/middle/forth/richest), and education of mother (UNICEF 2016).
- **Disaggregation by more than one characteristic helps to compare multiple groups within a population:** Many disaggregated development indicators differentiate between sex (World Bank 2019b; DFID 2016), yet further characteristics should be considered for disaggregation (UN Women 2015) such as the proportion of the population covered by social protection systems, the sex, the proportion that are children, unemployed persons, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable (UN 2017, indicator 1.3.1).
- **Disaggregation by multiple characteristics simultaneously can reflect intersectionalities and decompose averages:** Literacy rate in percent of subgroup, disaggregated by sex and age simultaneously (youth age 15-24 and adults age 15 and above) or Proportion of women aged 18-49 in Nigeria married before the age of 18 by location, wealth, and ethnicity (World Bank 2019b).
- **Compare groups left behind with the rest of the population (closing the gap):** Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population (UN 2017, indicator 10.1.1).

3. Collect and document good practices and enhance inter-sectoral/ international exchange on good indicators

- Find examples where (all) identified process steps are considered, target groups play a crucial role in systematically developing the logic of results and the formulation of indicators, and that engage with key stakeholders. Create ownership by giving the poor/ left-behind a voice.
- Form an **organization-wide knowledge platform** that systemically collects good practices for indicators and ensures regular updates.
- To exchange experiences (on monitoring, methodological questions, quality of indicators, etc.) create and make use of a **"Community of Practice"** among programs, modules and/or projects.
- Consider and learn from **international networks** such as OPHI's 'Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network'.

4. Develop exemplifying key indicators

- Analyze and find **more examples** for further subcategories and sectors.
- Experiment with MPI indicators by identifying **pilot-projects** for testing these indicators. Discuss what it means to work with multidimensional indicators.
- Collect experiences with **participative indicator formulation**.

5. Develop a comprehensive framework for pro-poor/ inequality/LNOB-sensitive indicator formulation based on a cross-departmental approach

- Establish an **interdisciplinary technical working group** to advise on and improve the quality and frequency of the available poverty, inequality, and LNOB-related data.

FIGURE 5: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT DESIGNERS AND IMPLEMENTERS

Recommendations for project designers	Recommendations for project implementers
Step 1: Context analysis	
Conduct a context and target group analysis in the respective sector and on a specific intervention level to identify the characteristics of poor/excluded/left-behind people Integrate vulnerable people's voices in this process if possible (participatory approach)	Check if the most important characteristics of poor/excluded/ left-behind people are correctly defined and included in project indicators Ensure that inequalities between groups are reduced and not reinforced (do no harm) Integrate vulnerable people's voices in this process if possible (participatory approach)
Step 2: Define results level	
Design appropriate indicators for the results logic of the project Specify at least one indicator for each level of the results logic	Monitor indicators as defined in the results logic across all results levels on a regular basis
Step 3: Select type of Indicator	
Design, improve, or select (existing) indicators See main indicator types in chapter 2.3 and desirable requirements under recommendation 2 of this chapter (4).	Monitor the different types of indicators Reconsider if selected indicators can be made pro-poor and/or more inequality- and/or LNOB-sensitive, e. g. by adding further disaggregation characteristics or considering multiple characteristics simultaneously See main indicator types in chapter 2.3 and desirable requirements under recommendation 2 of this chapter (4).
Step 4: Make indicator SMARTer	
Check and improve indicators to make them as SMART as possible Check if there are existing SMART indicators from national or international institutions, that align with the project context	If neccessary, improve indicators over time and make them SMARTer (Please do not adjust milestones and targets in the process of project implementation) Share successfully tested SMART indicators with other development practitioners
Step 5: Plan data collection and monitoring	
Fill out the indicator definition sheet and monitoring plan as soon as indicators are defined according to the steps outlined above Check if secondary data from existing datasets is available and accessible	Keep the indicator definition sheet or monitoring plan updated and consider the full disaggregation potential of the available data Identify a person responsible for pro-poor-, inequality-, and LNOB-sensitive results monitoring from the beginning of the project and onwards. This person should keep in touch with project designers. Compare any primary data on selected indicators with existing data from similar contexts

FIGURE 6: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Has a differentiated target group analysis been conducted? What are the characteristics of poor/excluded/left-behind people in the specific contexts? How can you make sure that inequalities are reduced and not increased (do no harm approach)?

Did you integrate vulnerable people's voices in this process to strengthen the context analysis (participatory approach)?

▼

What is the results logic of your project? Which risks related to the poor, the disadvantaged, or the left behind might break the results logic? Which assumptions are neccessary so that the results logic holds? On which results level do your indicators measure results (see step 2 in section 2.2)?

Are the indicators pro-poor/inequality/LNOB-sensitive irrespective of the level at which they measure results?

▼

Are you planning to consider subgroups during monitoring and evaluation to find out who benefits and who does not? Are your indicators targeted and/or disaggregated by one or more characteristics?

Did you take a holistic and participatory approach to select appropriate indicators?

▼

Are your indicators as SMART as possible (see step 4 in section 2.4) and do they meet the respective criteria/ characteristics (see step 3 in section 2.3)?

▼

Did you fill out an indicator definition sheet or monitoring plan? Have you specified the full disaggregation potential?

Did you define the baseline, milestones, and target of the indicator? Who has responsibility for monitoring? How often should the observations be collected, and in what time frame? What data source is used for the data collection of the indicator? What is your sample size? How do you create your sample? What are limitations of your indicators? What are the estimated costs of the indicator (see step 5 in section 2.5)?

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Annex

Annex 1: Indicator Definition Sheet and Monitoring Plan

INDICATOR DEFINITION

Intervention Level:

Intervention Level – Full wording:

Indicator – Full wording:

INDICATOR DEFINITION

Definition of term(s):

Measurement Unit:

Proposed differentiation/ disaggregation:

Time:	(Baseline)	(Milestones)	(Target)

Milestones / Target Values:

DATA COLLECTION

Responsibility:

Frequency of data collection/
Time of data collection:

Sources/ tools for data collection:

Sampling size and procedure:

DOCUMENTATION/CONSOLIDATION

Responsibility:

Frequency of data collection/
Time of data collection:

ANALYSIS

Limitations of the indicator:

Explorative question relates

Estimated costs of data collection and consolidation

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 – 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

On behalf of

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development