

Best Practice Forum on Gender & Access

Objectives/Goals:

Since its beginning in 2015, the Best Practice Forum (BPF) on Gender and Access has focused on different aspects of women's meaningful access to the Internet: online abuse and gender-based violence (2015); barriers for accessing the Internet (2016); identification of the needs and challenges of diverse women's groups with respect to Internet access (2017); and the impact of supplementary models of connectivity on women's Internet access (2018) were the topics addressed by the community. During these years, the BPF Gender has worked in a bottom-up process that allowed to collect, from diverse stakeholders, valuable data and anecdotal evidence of the challenges that formed the digital gender gap.

While the work of the BPF Gender contributed to better understand the topics mentioned above, the community sees that there is still a lot of topics where the lack of evidence as regards not only women's access but also use of the Internet prevent us for properly understanding these issues. In that sense, during the BPF session at IGF 2018, the community highlighted the need to continue the work of the BPF Gender by moving beyond the focus on access to after-access issues. This need to study more in-depth what happens when women have access to the Internet was also stressed in the outcomes of the CENB 2018, that addressed, among other issues, the impact of the Internet on the future of work and economic growth.

In this context, and per suggestions of the community, the proposal of the BPF Gender 2019 will be to focus on the opportunities and also the challenges that women face to gain the necessary skills to benefits from the future of work in the framework of the digital economy. At the same time, grounded in the work of previous years, the BPF will also continue gathering information, when available, of the impact of these topics on non-binary persons.

Expected Output(s):

- An initial report that addresses after-access issues in relation to women's digital inclusion with a specific focus on digital skills and the future of work. The report will include:
 - A map of initiatives that are addressing these topics.
 - Guidelines/recommendations document for addressing women's challenges in the digital economy.
- Engagement of different stakeholder groups during the process of the BPF (this could be by inviting them to the calls, by designing a survey and by participating in the BPF Gender session at IGF 2019).

Outreach and dissemination:

As in previous years, the BPF Gender will continue to focus on taking its work outside the BPF community to stimulate and expand collaboration with more stakeholders. Saying that the BPF Gender aims to:

- Take the findings and outcomes of the BPF Gender to spaces and forums in and outside the IG ecosystem (e.g., W20) to present the work that has been done and identify synergies of work.
- Further collaboration with EQUALS Global partnership to which the Gender and Access BPF community has already made contributions in 2016 and 2017, with focus on non-replication of efforts (contact with the EQUALS Access Coalition leaders) and to amplify messages.
- Improve engagement with relevant DCs and other inter-sessional activities and NRIs.
- Outreach and engagement through various online platforms as identified as strategic (e.g., survey, twitter conversations, webinars)

Timeframe:

February: Community feedback on the proposal

March: Restarting the BPF meetings to discuss the methodology of work.

March-Sep: Community work (calls, surveys, outreach etc)

Oct: First draft of the report for comments.

Nov: BPF Session at IGF 2019

Dec: Output paper

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