

Household Transformation Model – February 2021

The Transformation Model is a differentiator for Heifer in the international development industry. While Heifer understands that income is vital in supporting vulnerable populations around the world reach a higher quality of life, Heifer also knows income alone will not alleviate all household challenges. Without a holistic approach, the impact generated by our projects are less likely to be sustainable. This is why Heifer focuses on three broad aspects of development: *People, Profit and Planet* when assessing household status, because together these factors create a unified vision of impact that has lasting influence on vulnerable households, communities, and market systems.

Overview

The Heifer Transformation Model is a three-phase assessment tool used to measure the status of a household toward achieving a *Sustainable Living Income*. Heifer is committed to measuring Living Income through a quality-of-life lens. Heifer builds on Anker's Living Income Benchmark approach, while targeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, 2, 8, 10, and 17, into its Transformation Model. However, Heifer understands that a holistic development approach is the key to supporting households transitioning, and then staying, out of poverty. Thus, based on implementation experience, Heifer expanded the Transformation Model to include the domains of gender equality and climate action, SDG 5, 13, and 16, to increase the likelihood that the change experienced through project implementation creates a *Sustainable Living Income* where households do not fall back into poverty.

A Sustainable Living Income, as defined by Heifer, is a consistent level of income that allows households to access nutritious food, comprehensive education, quality housing, and other essential needs but also includes correlated social and environmental outcomes. Where a Living Income is a monetary benchmark, a Sustainable Living Income is measured utilizing the Heifer's Household Transformation Model through three progress levels (A, B, and C) and across a potential five outcome domains, including: income, food, women's empowerment, climate smart agriculture, and social capital.

Domains

For the life of each project, Heifer collects a core set of Global Indicators annually to measure household progress towards a Sustainable Living Income. Each outcome domain contributes directly to an SDG and is measured by one of Heifer's Global Indicators. Additionally, each Global Indicator has a threshold that corresponds to an individual progress level. These thresholds are derived from analysis of past programming and best practices evidenced in the development industry. Project staff track the Transformation Model indicators periodically throughout the life of a project so they can assess household progress toward achieving a Sustainable Living Income. To account for the goals and context of each project, the Transformation Model allows for some flexibility within which domains projects track, The Household Transformation Model does this by requiring all projects to collect data on actual income, and a minimum of two of the other four global indicators to assess household statuses. All of these data points are captured at the household level through a household survey.

Metrics

1. **GI-01-Actual Income:** Actual income of a household is the total net earnings from all income sources (on-farm and off-farm) for all household members over the course of one year. The Actual Income is compared to the Living Income Benchmark to estimate how participants are closing the Living Income Gap. Actual Income will show movement of participants along the Transformation Model from surpassing the International Poverty Line at level B to surpassing the Living Income benchmark at level C.
2. **GI-03-Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP):** MAHFP measures the number of months, in a 12-month period, in which a household has adequate food provisioning to meet all their members' needs. It is a proxy indicator to measure household food access and is presented as a total number of months. MAHFP will show movement of project participant households along the Transformation Model from below 9 months of MAHFP at level A, to 9 to 11 months of MAHFP at level B, to above 11 months of MAHFP at level C.
3. **GI-04-Women Making Household Decisions Jointly:** This indicator measures women's equitable control over family income and assets (including asset acquisition and transfer) at the household level. The results will demonstrate if women in the project participant households have a high, medium, or low level of

empowerment in terms of control gathered by a standard list of five survey question given to the project participant. This indicator will show movement of participants along the Transformation Model from below three positive answers at level A. to between 3 and 4 positive answers at level B, to above 4 positive answers at level C.

4. **GI-11-Household adopting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA):** This indicator focuses on adoption of CSA at the household level. Though this indicator does not intend to capture the outcome or changes as a result of adoption of CSA, it does capture household implementation of CSA practices encouraged within the project’s strategy. This indicator will show movement of participants along the Transformation Model from below 40% of recommended practices adopted at level A, to between 40% and 70% of recommended practices at level B, to above 70% of project recommended practices adopted at level C.
5. **GI-13-Household Demonstrating Solidarity and Cooperation Among Community Members:** A measurement of household's trust and participation in the community to show a) Participation of family members in community-based organizations; and b) Solidarity demonstrated among members of the community. This indicator will show movement of participants along the Transformation Model from below 50% answers marked as positive at level A, to between 50% and 75% marked as positive at level B, to above 75% answers marked as positive at level C.

Heifer International's Transformation Model		A	B	C	LIVING INCOME SUSTAINABLE
People	GI-03: Months of Adequate Food Provisioning	< 9 months	9 to 11 months	> 11 months	
	GI-04: Women Making Household Decisions Jointly	< 3 <small>1 - No input 2 - Input into very few decisions 3 - Input into some</small>	3 to 4 <small>4 - Input into most decisions</small>	> 4 <small>Input into all decisions</small>	
	GI-13: Household Demonstrating Solidarity and Cooperative Amongst Community Members	< 50%	50% to 75%	> 75%	
Profit	GI-01: Actual Income	< \$1.90* <small>*World Bank International Poverty Line</small>	\$1.90 to Living Income Benchmark	> Living Income Benchmark	
Planet	GI-11: Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	< 40%	40% to 70%	> 70%	

Scoring

The Transformation Model is an individual household assessment tool. Each household’s overall score is governed by its scores for each domain. The household’s overall score corresponds to majority of domain scores, with ties being rounded up. For example, a household with two domains measured at the B level and two domains measured at the A level would have an overall household score of a B. To obtain Sustainable Living Income, each household needs to obtain 1) a majority of top scores in the categories being measured 2) no low scores in any individual category and 3) a top score in the income category. For example, a household with a C in actual income, a C in one other domains, and two B level domain scores would receive a C score overall.