

UGANDA

2012 Baseline – 2015 Interim [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) Results

Key findings

- Women were over 2.5 times as disempowered as men at baseline.
- Access to and decisions on credit and workload continue to remain top contributors to disempowerment for women; these are also top contributors for men at baseline. These are also the two indicators exhibiting the greatest gap in male versus female achievement.
- In terms of the proportion of women reaching adequacy, there were statistically significant increases for ownership of assets, access to and decisions on credit, control over use of income and workload.
- The indicators with the largest increases in the proportion of women achieving adequacy are access to and decisions on credit and workload. These gains may be due in part to USAID interventions specifically designed to decrease women's work burden and increase access to credit, including the Community Connector program.
- Analysis using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture (WEAI) data suggests women's empowerment is related to household and child nutritional outcomes. Women living in households with moderate to severe hunger are significantly less likely to achieve adequacy on a number of empowerment indicators. There is a significant association between child wasting in households in which women exhibit low decision-making compared to households in which women exhibit high decision-making.

Figure 1: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture (WEAI), Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) and Gender Parity Index (GPI) Scores



Sample

The [Feed the Future interim survey](#) collected data on 38 districts across eight regions in the “core” Zone of Influence (ZOI),¹ which is distinguished from the expanded ZOI which includes the Karamoja region and its seven districts. The interim survey was conducted in 778 households across 42 clusters in the core ZOI of which 642 women completed a WEAI survey. The Feed the Future FEEDBACK project, in conjunction with its local data collection partner, Service for Generations (SFG), were responsible for the fieldwork conducted from March to April 2015.

WEAI Score

As part of the interim survey, the WEAI was not administered to men, and the autonomy in production indicator was not collected in 2015. Therefore, the full WEAI score could not be calculated at interim. However, changes in the percent of women achieving adequacy for individual indicators can be assessed. The baseline WEAI score is 0.86.

5DE Score

At baseline, the Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) score was 0.85. A total of 57.8 percent of all women were empowered. The remaining 42.2 percent who were disempowered had adequate² achievements in about three of the five domains (65.0 percent).

¹ In 2016, the number of districts increased to 116, 42 of which make up the “core” ZOI. While the area in the ZOI remains unchanged, the new districts that make up the ZOI are: Omoro, Rubanda, Kakumiro and Kagadi.

² Adequacy is defined specifically for each indicator as being at or above a set threshold. For instance, a woman achieves adequacy for the workload indicator if she works less than 10.5 hours per day. Women who work more than 10.5 hours per day do not achieve

GPI Score

The baseline Gender Parity Index (GPI) is 0.92. A total of 61 percent of women had gender parity with the primary male decision maker in their household. For the 39 percent of women who did not have gender parity, the empowerment gap between the primary female and male decision maker in the household was 20.0 percent.

Figure 2: Women's uncensored headcounts



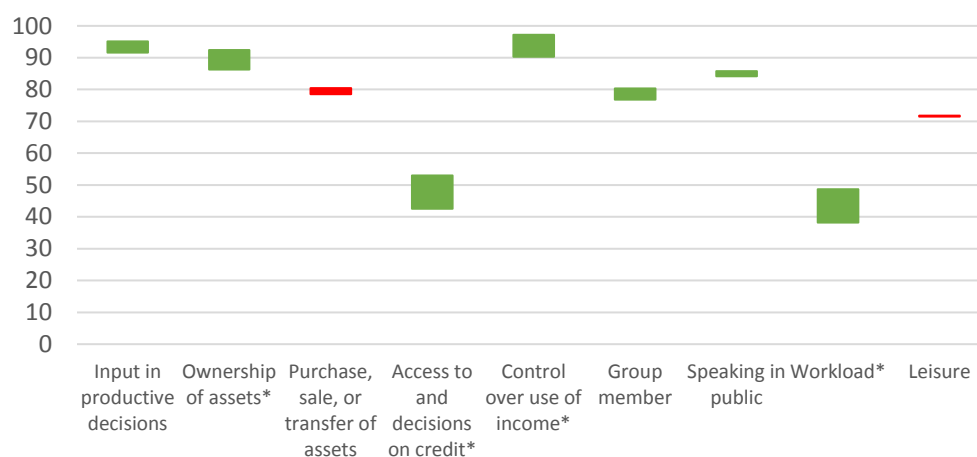
Note: Asterisk indicates statistically significant difference.

Top Contributors to Disempowerment

At baseline women were over 2.5 times as disempowered as men. The trend for men or women cannot be assessed over time as a men's survey was not conducted in 2015 and the women's survey was abridged.

At baseline, for all 10 indicators, a greater proportion of men achieve adequacy compared to the proportion of women. The indicators exhibiting the greatest gap in male versus female achievement are access to and decisions on credit and workload.

Figure 3: Changes in % of women with adequacy



Note: Asterisk indicates statistically significant difference.

adequacy for the workload indicator. Aggregated, achieving adequacy in three of five domains is equivalent to achieving adequacy in six of 10 indicators.

Comparing baseline to midline (Figures 2 and 3), in terms of the proportion of women reaching adequacy, there are statistically significant increases for four of the 10 indicators which include ownership of assets, access to and decisions on credit, control over use of income and workload. The two largest increases were for access to and decisions on credit and workload, which each increased by approximately 10 percentage points, indicating 10 percent more women achieved adequacy for each of these two indicators. Further research is required, but these gains may be due in part to Feed the Future interventions specifically designed to decrease women's work burden and increase access to credit, including the Community Connector activity which focuses on the role of women in the household decision making process, including the use and distribution of resources (USAID, 2011). More broadly, the Feed the Future strategy in Uganda is focused on gender equity in value chains, women's ownership and control of assets, supporting strategies to target women for technology transfer, promoting women in community leadership positions and supporting women's business organizations (USAID, 2011) which may have also contributed to these increases in women's empowerment.

WEAI Application in Policy/Programming Settings

The results of the WEAI in Uganda have been used to identify a measure for women's empowerment at the project level, particularly in resilience. Data generated from the WEAI is being used in Feed the Future activity design to better understand the potential intervention areas for inclusive market system development.

Access to and decisions on credit and workload are important areas to prioritize in designing programs to increase empowerment because they consistently rank as top contributors to disempowerment (contributing 36 percent at baseline).

WEAI Research in Uganda

While there have not been any peer-reviewed publications using the Uganda survey data to date, results from the [Feed the Future baseline survey report](#) find a number of associations between women's empowerment and various food security and child health outcomes. Women in households with moderate to severe hunger are significantly less likely to achieve adequacy in autonomy in production, ownership or control of assets, control over use of income and satisfaction with leisure. Additionally, there is a significant association between child wasting in households in which women exhibit low decision-making compared to households in which women exhibit high decision-making.

WEAI Background

Early in the initiative, Feed the Future, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative created the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index — the first tool of its kind — to make empowerment measurable. Feed the Future has used it as a diagnostic to inform and shape programming as well as to monitor and measure impact. Today, partners around the world are using the tool to collect data in more than 47 countries.