

# Development of the project-level WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)

## AUTHORS:

Jessica Heckert, Hazel Malapit, Elena Martinez, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Agnes Quisumbing, Deborah Rubin, Greg Seymour, Ana Vaz, and Kathryn Yount

## What is pro-WEAI?

Pro-WEAI is a survey-based index for measuring women's empowerment and inclusion in agriculture for use in project-level impact evaluation, designed to help projects...

- 1 Diagnose areas of women's disempowerment
- 2 Inform strategies to address deficiencies
- 3 Monitor project outcomes

Pro-WEAI was developed jointly by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and thirteen partner projects in the GAAP2 portfolio, and builds on the original Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Alkire et al. 2013).



### Pro-WEAI Indicators

Pro-WEAI is composed of 12 binary indicators that measure intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to), and collective agency (power with).

Adequacy in an indicator (=1) is assigned based on a defined threshold of achievement. For example, a respondent is adequate in group membership if she or he is an active member of at least one formal or informal group in the community.

Pro-WEAI also includes optional add-on modules (not shown) for measuring women's empowerment in projects that focus on nutrition, health, and livestock outcomes.

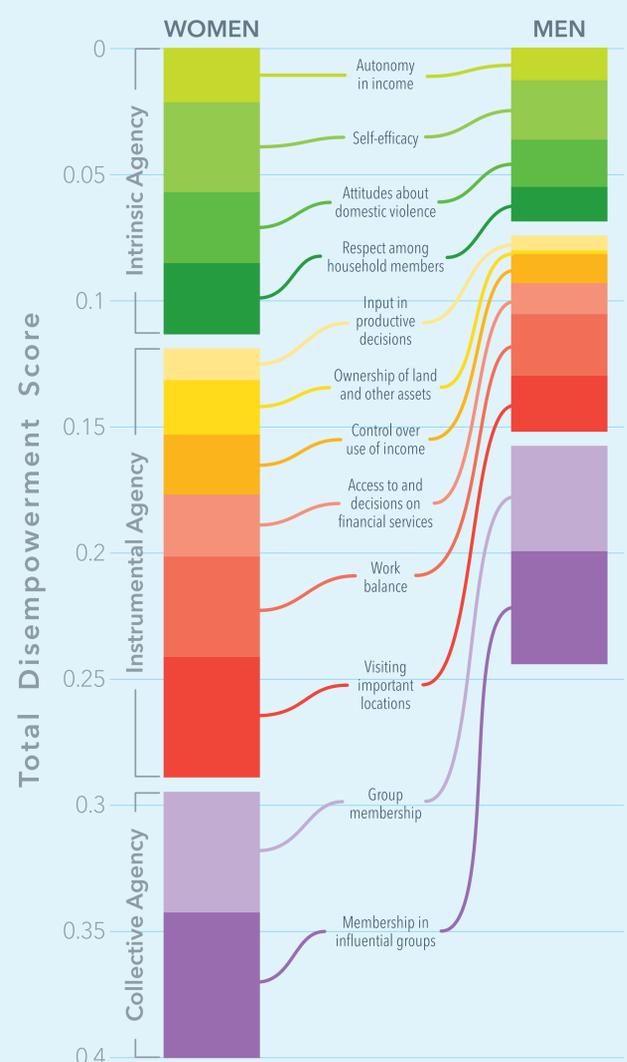
## Pro-WEAI Results

Indicator	Women	Men
<b>3DE score</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.76</b>
Number of individuals	11705	10872
Disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.40	0.24
% achieving empowerment	0.20	0.40
% not achieving empowerment	0.80	0.60
Mean 3DE score for not yet empowered	0.50	0.59
Mean disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.50	0.41
<b>Gender Parity Index (GPI)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	
Number of dual-adult households	10872	
% achieving gender parity	0.36	
% not achieving gender parity	0.64	
Average empowerment gap	0.32	
<b>Pro-WEAI score</b>	<b>0.62</b>	

Source: Data collected by 6 GAAP2 projects between April 2016 and June 2018.

- Women are more disempowered than men
- Largest contributors to disempowerment for both women and men are group membership and membership in influential groups
- Visiting important locations, work balance, and self-efficacy are also large contributors to women's disempowerment

Contributions of each indicator to disempowerment, weighted by project sample size



Source: Data collected by 6 GAAP2 projects between April 2016 and June 2018.

Notes: The overall depth of the bars shows women's and men's disempowerment scores. The size of the different colored bars shows how much each indicator contributes to disempowerment.

## How is pro-WEAI calculated?

### Domains of Empowerment Index (3DE)

- Measures women's achievement across the 12 equally-weighted indicators
- A respondent is considered empowered in the 3DE if she or he is adequate in at least 75 percent—or at least 9 out of 12—of the indicators.

### Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

- Constructed using interviews of the primary male and primary female adults in the same household.
- All three indices range from zero to one
- Higher values = greater empowerment

### Gender Parity Index (GPI)

- Assesses how empowered women are relative to the men in their households, based on a comparison of 3DE scores.
- A household achieves gender parity if the woman's score is greater than or equal to the man's score. It is calculated by comparing the 3DE scores for the primary woman and man in a household.

## Defining Empowerment

Kabeer (1999) defines empowerment as a process of change made up of three interrelated dimensions: **resources**, **agency**, and **achievements**.

Pro-WEAI focuses on the measurement of women's agency.

### RESOURCES:

The various material, human, and social resources that serve to enhance one's ability to exercise choice

### AGENCY:

The capacity to define one's own goals and make strategic choices in pursuit of these goals, particularly in a context where this ability was previously denied

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

The achievement of one's goals

## References

Alkire, S., Meinzen-Dick, R., Peterman, A., Quisumbing, A., Seymour, G., & Vaz, A. (2013). The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. *World Development*, 52, 71-91.

Kabeer, Naila. 1999. Resources, Agency, Achievements: Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment. *Development and Change*. 30(3): 435-464.

## Acknowledgements

The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2 (GAAP2) is led by IFPRI in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development, and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health.