



# GAAP<sup>phase</sup>2

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

Led by IFPRI

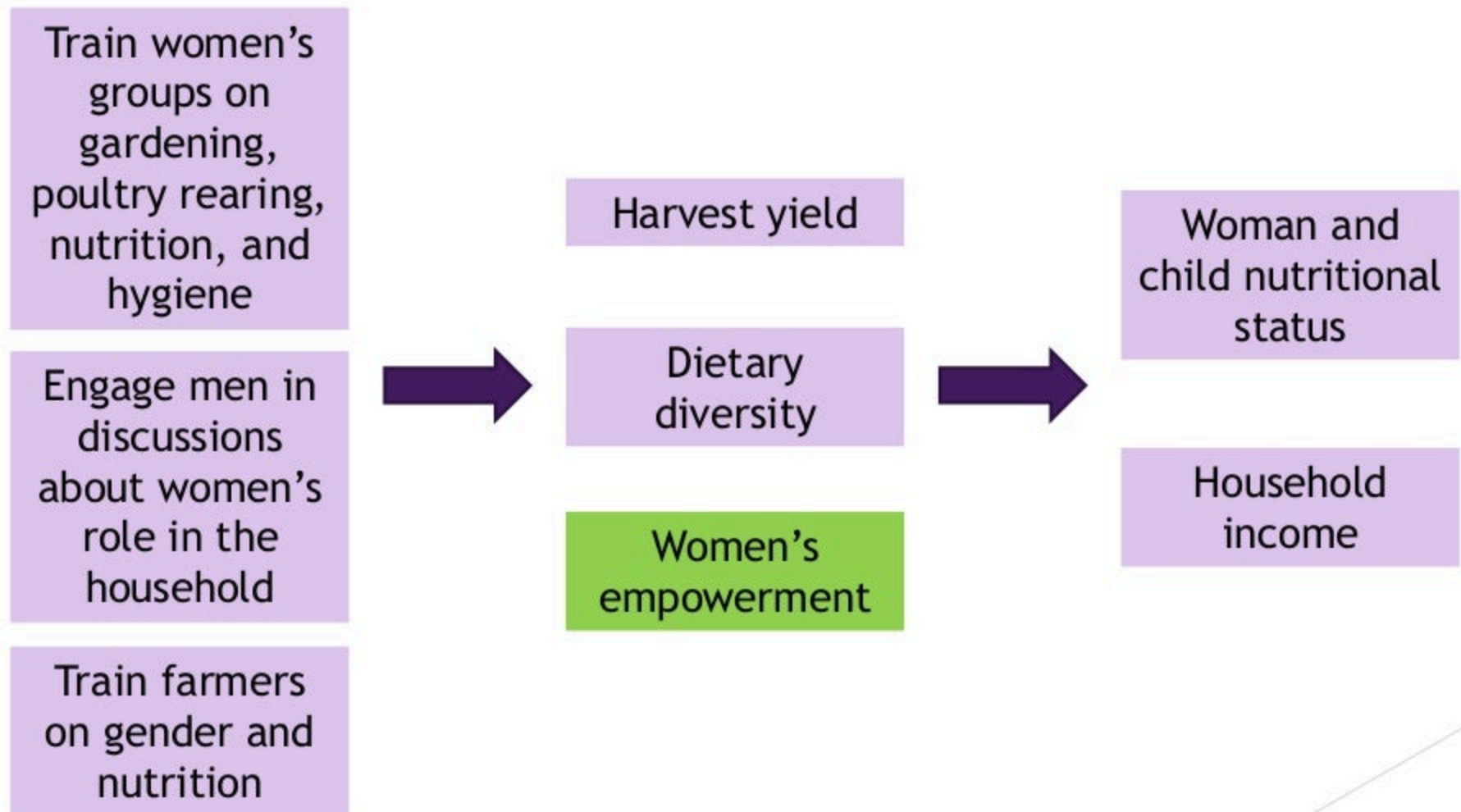
## Using the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) for nutrition sensitive programming

Hazel Malapit, Jessica Heckert, and Elena Martinez

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
September 27, 2018

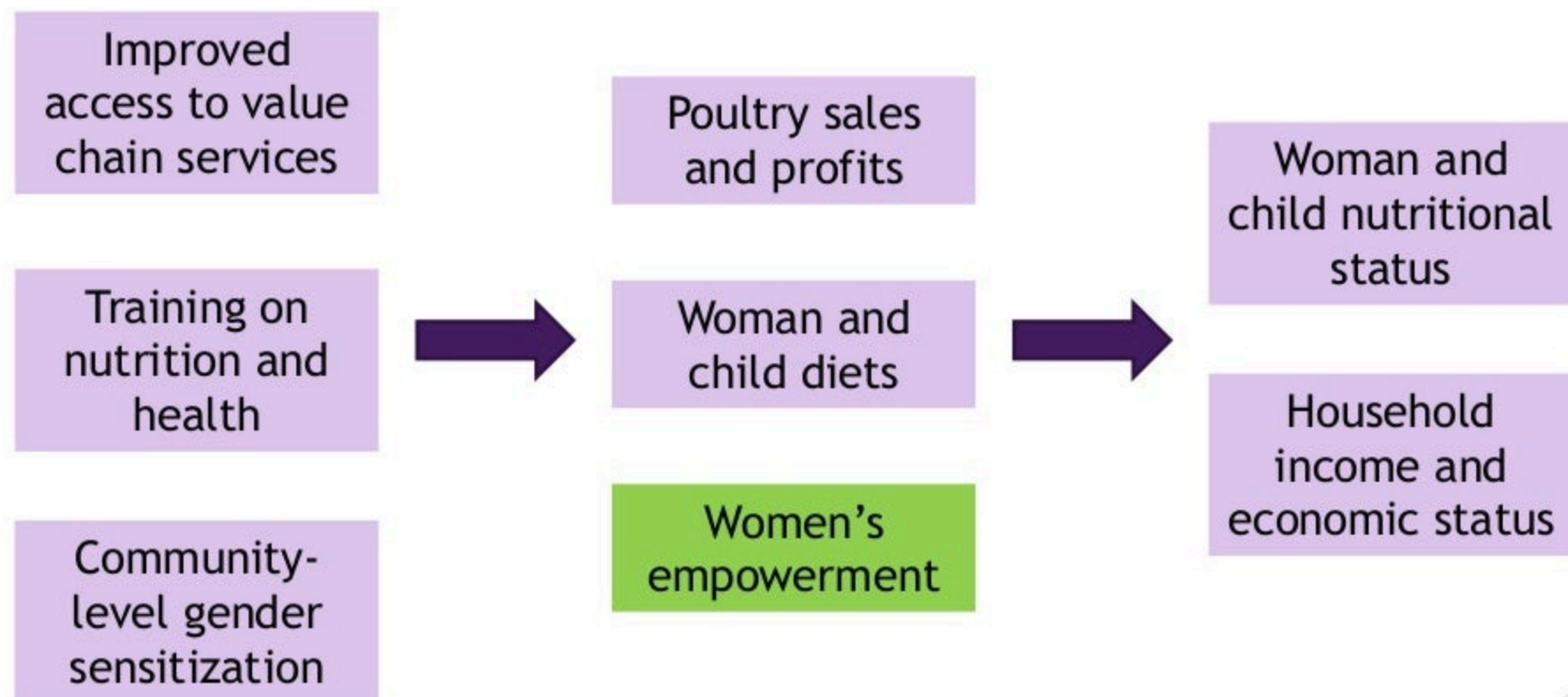
What are your gender  
research questions?

# FAARM: Food and Agricultural Approaches to Reducing Malnutrition in Bangladesh





# SE LEVER: An integrated poultry value chain and nutrition intervention in Burkina Faso





# Measuring empowerment?





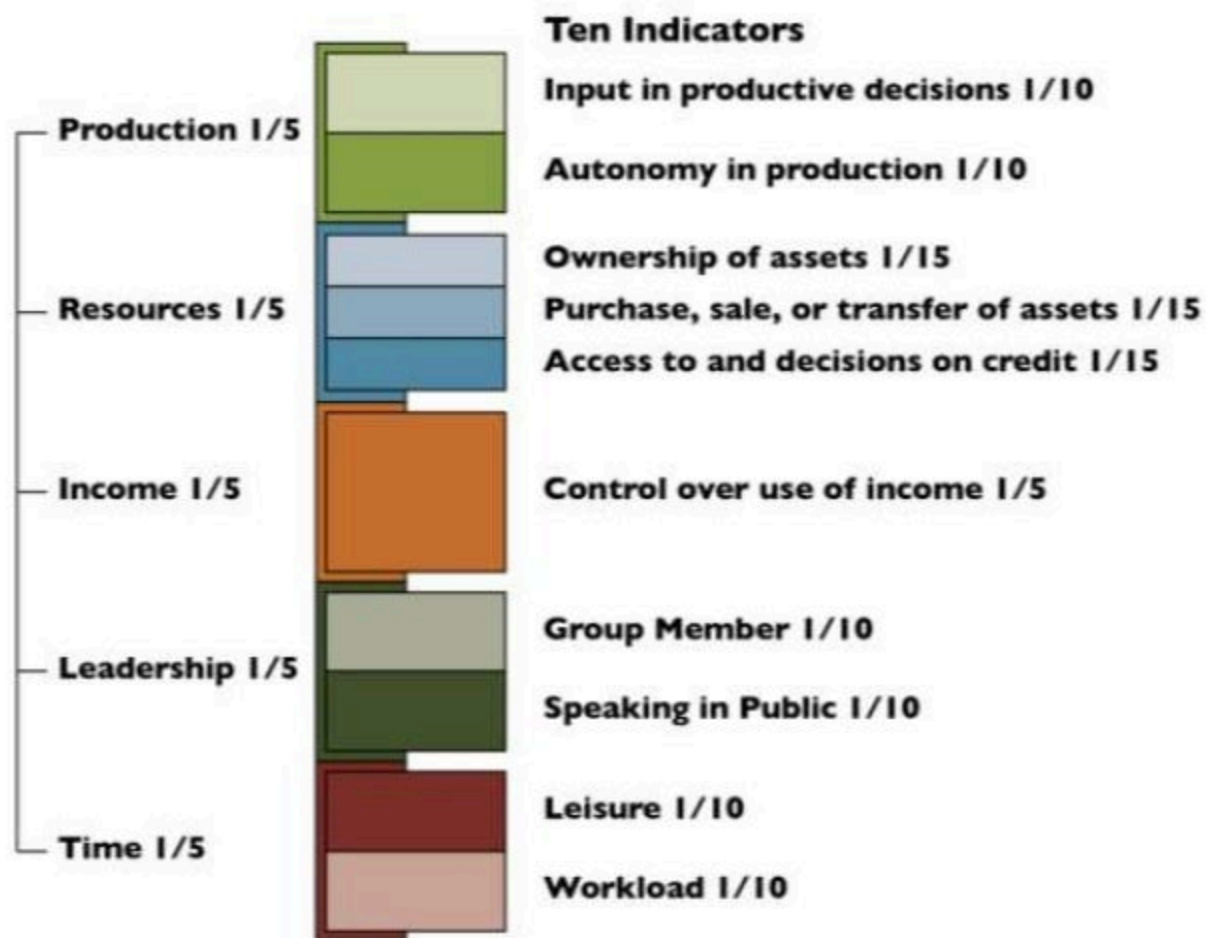
# Starting point: the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

- ▶ Developed by USAID, IFPRI & OPHI
- ▶ Launched in 2012
- ▶ Measures inclusion of women in the agricultural sector
- ▶ **Survey-based index** - interviews men and women in the same household

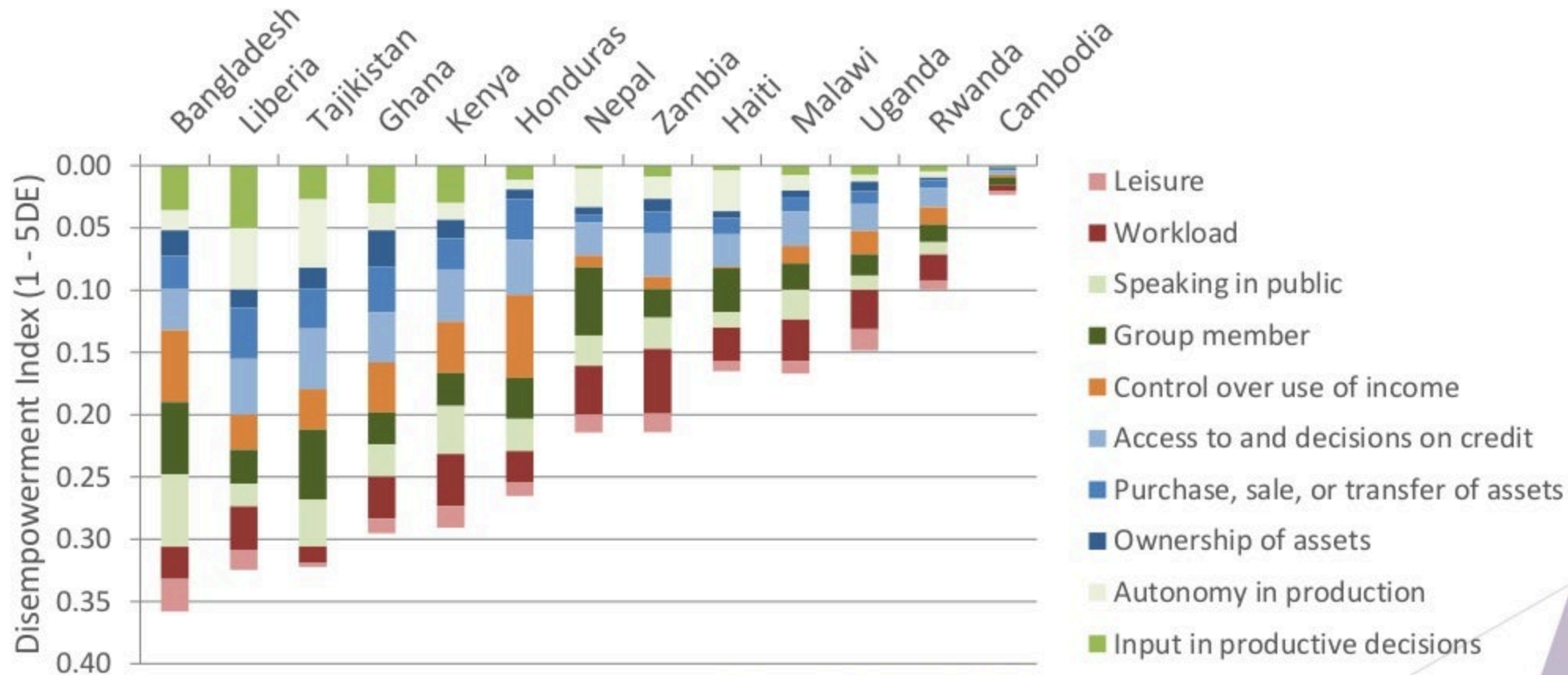


# How is the Index constructed?

- ▶ An aggregate index in two parts:
  - ▶ Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE)
  - ▶ Gender Parity Index (GPI)
- ▶ Constructed using interviews of the **primary male** and **primary female** adults in the same household



# Cross-country baseline findings: credit, workload and group membership are constraints across countries



Source: Malapit et al. (2014)



## What WEAI had ... what projects wanted

- ▶ Women's and men's empowerment across 5 domains in agriculture
- ▶ Standardized measure, internationally validated
- ▶ Ability to diagnose empowerment gaps
- ▶ More adaptability to project context
- ▶ Attention to domains related to health and nutrition
- ▶ Issues of intrahousehold harmony, mobility, control of income from projects, domestic violence
- ▶ Shorter interview time

# Developing a “Project-level” WEAI (pro-WEAI)

Comparable metrics for empowerment:

Core set of pro-WEAI empowerment modules

- ▶ Quantitative survey
- ▶ Qualitative protocols

+

Standardized add-ons depending on project needs:

- ▶ Nutrition and health
- ▶ Livestock-enhanced



# How WE(AI) define empowerment



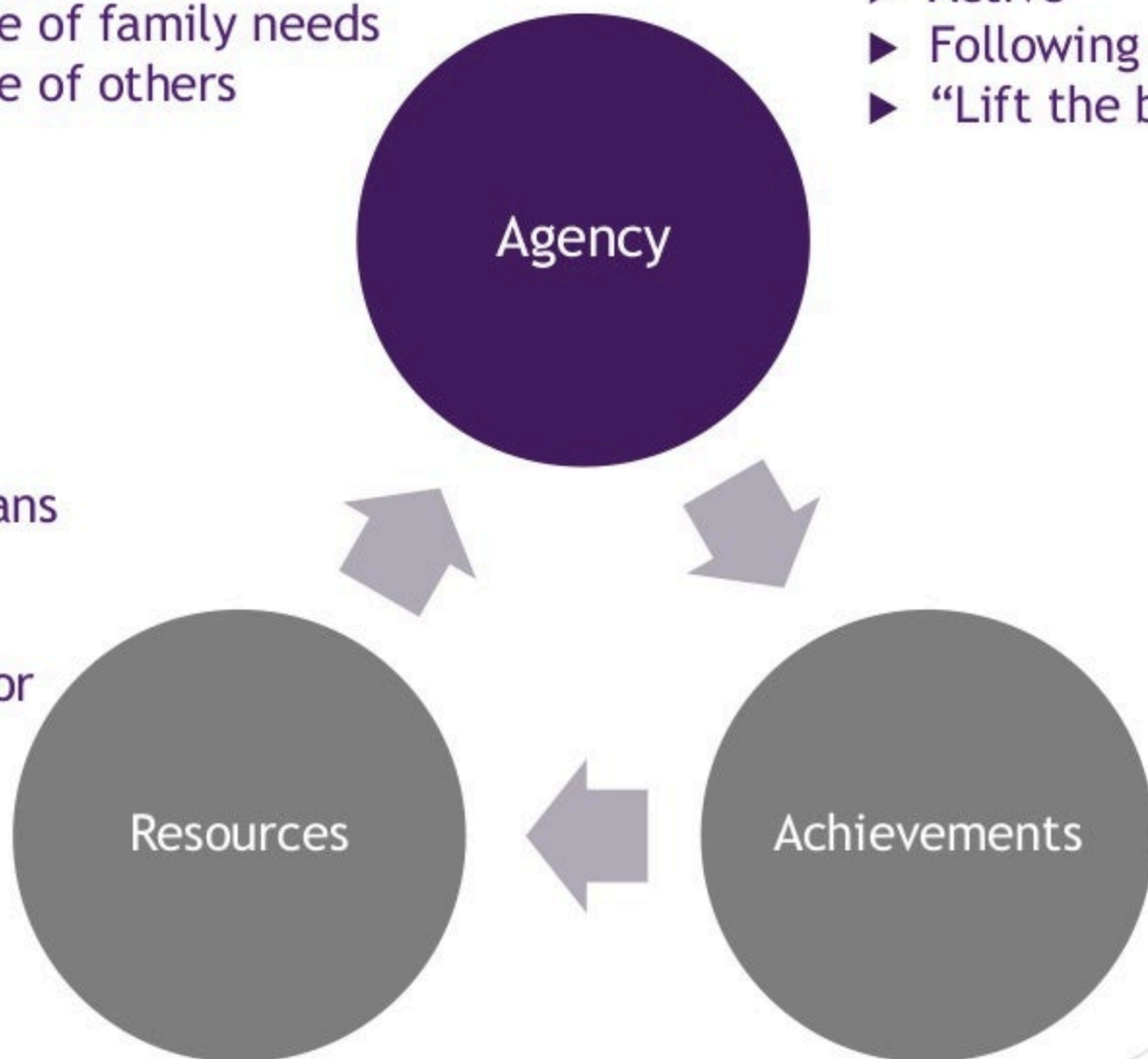
# How communities define empowerment

- ▶ Taking care of oneself
- ▶ Taking care of family needs
- ▶ Taking care of others

- ▶ Active
- ▶ Following social norms
- ▶ “Lift the burden”


- ▶ Economic means
- ▶ Connections
- ▶ Confidence
- ▶ Help with labor

- ▶ Well dressed
- ▶ Good skin
- ▶ Admired



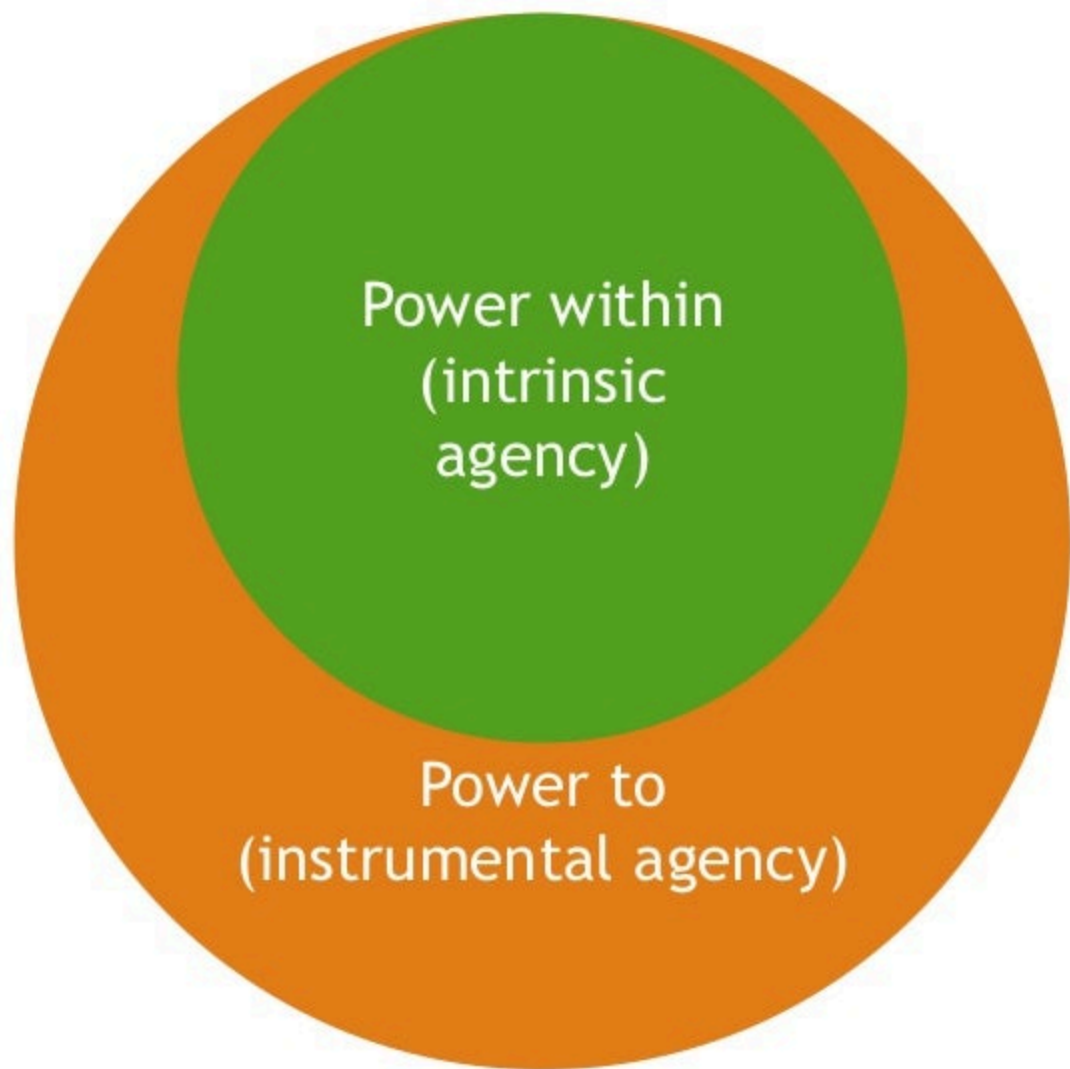


Three types  
of agency  
measured  
in all  
versions of  
the WEAI



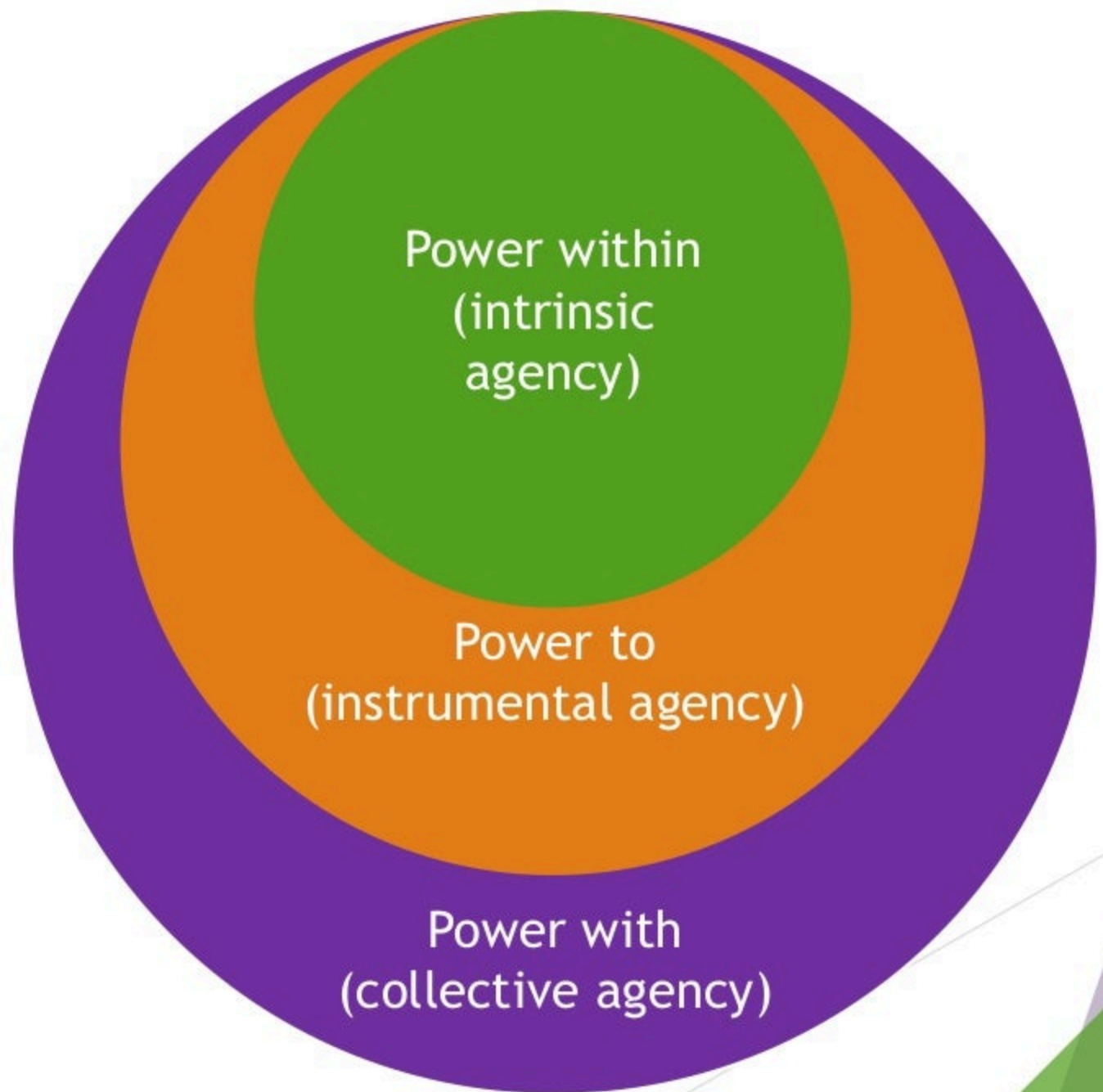
Power within  
(intrinsic  
agency)

Three types  
of agency  
measured  
in all  
versions of  
the WEAI

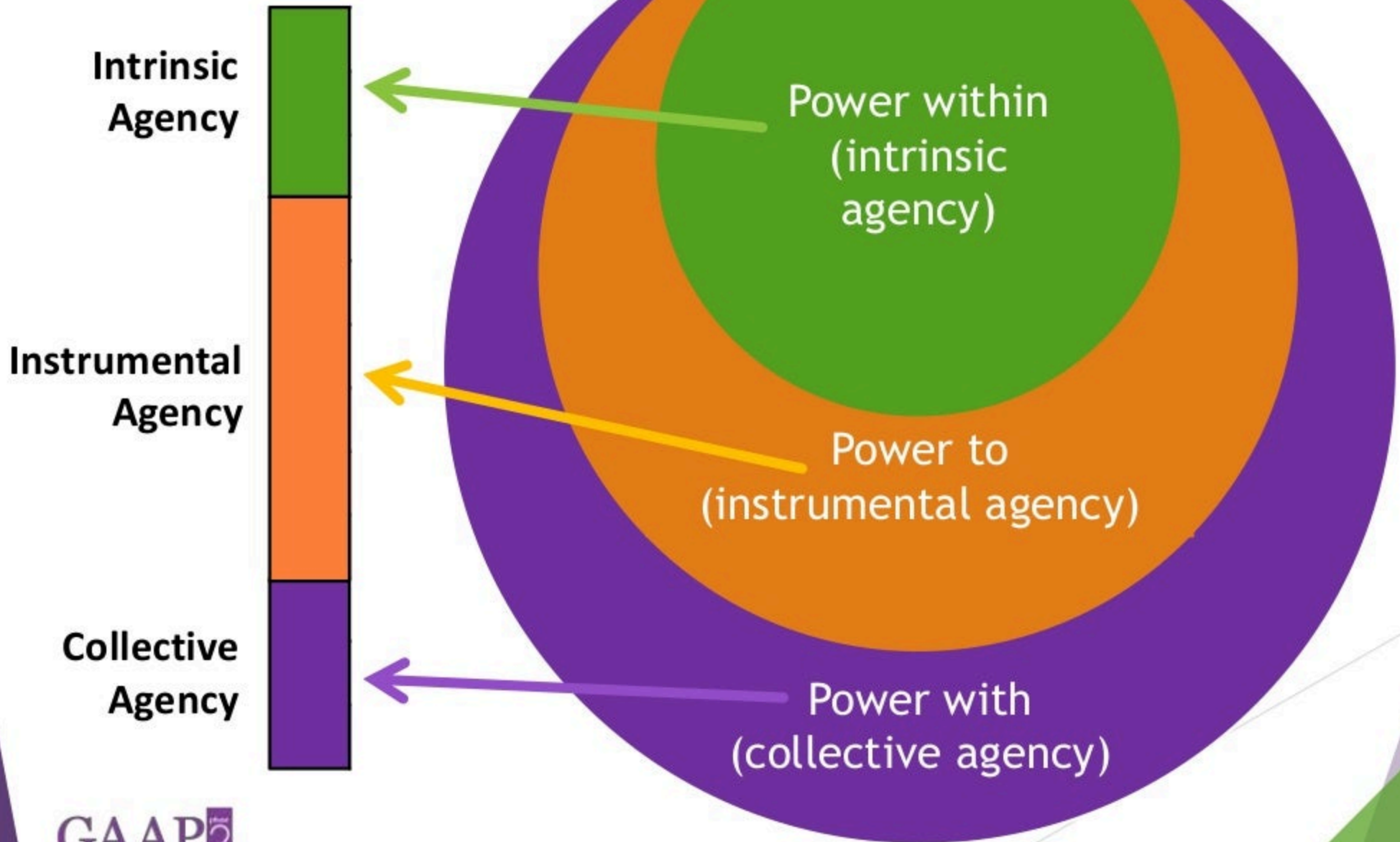




Three types  
of agency  
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versions of  
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# Core pro-WEAI





# 12 indicators of empowerment



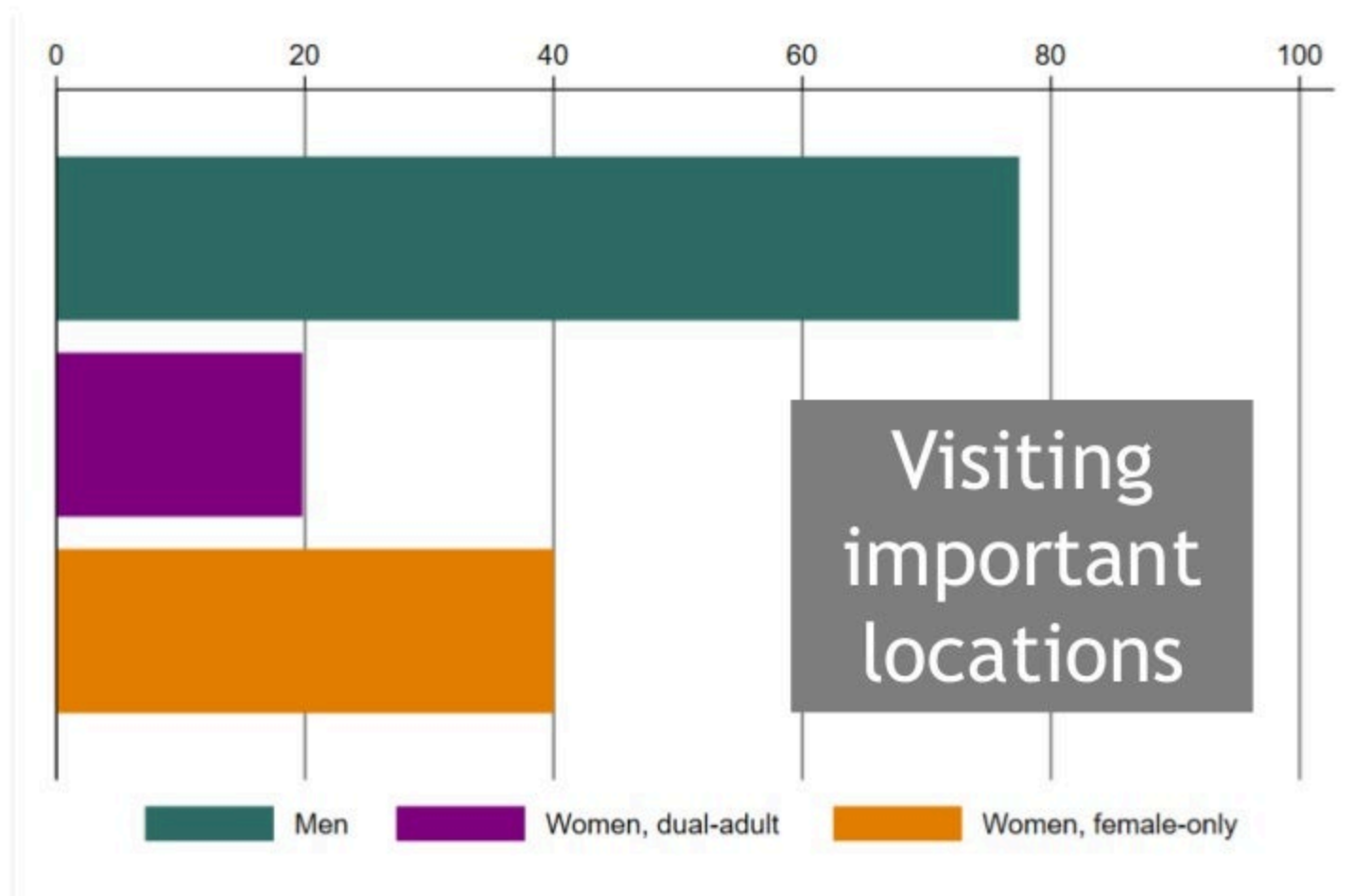


**3 Domains of  
Empowerment  
Index (3DE)**

**Project-level  
Women's  
Empowerment  
in Agriculture  
Index  
(pro-WEAI)**

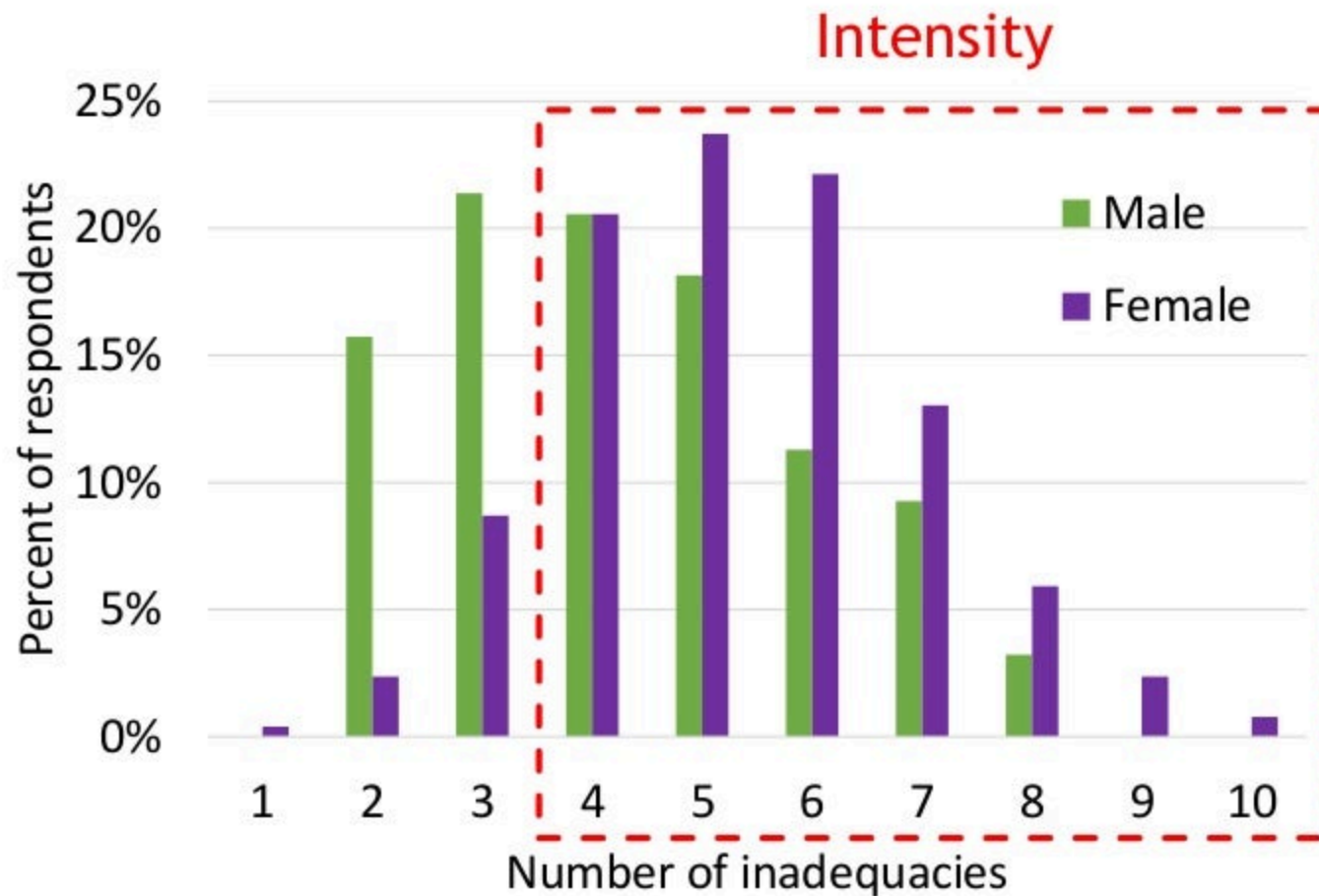
**Gender Parity  
Index (GPI)**

# Percent adequate by indicator





# In how many indicators are they inadequate?



## Pro-WEAI pilot results

Indicator	Women	Men
Three Domains of Empowerment (3DE) score	0.58	0.72
% achieving empowerment	0.12	0.37
Mean 3DE score for not yet empowered	0.53	0.56
Gender Parity Index (GPI)	0.84	
% achieving gender parity	0.38	
Average empowerment gap	0.27	
Pro-WEAI score	0.61	

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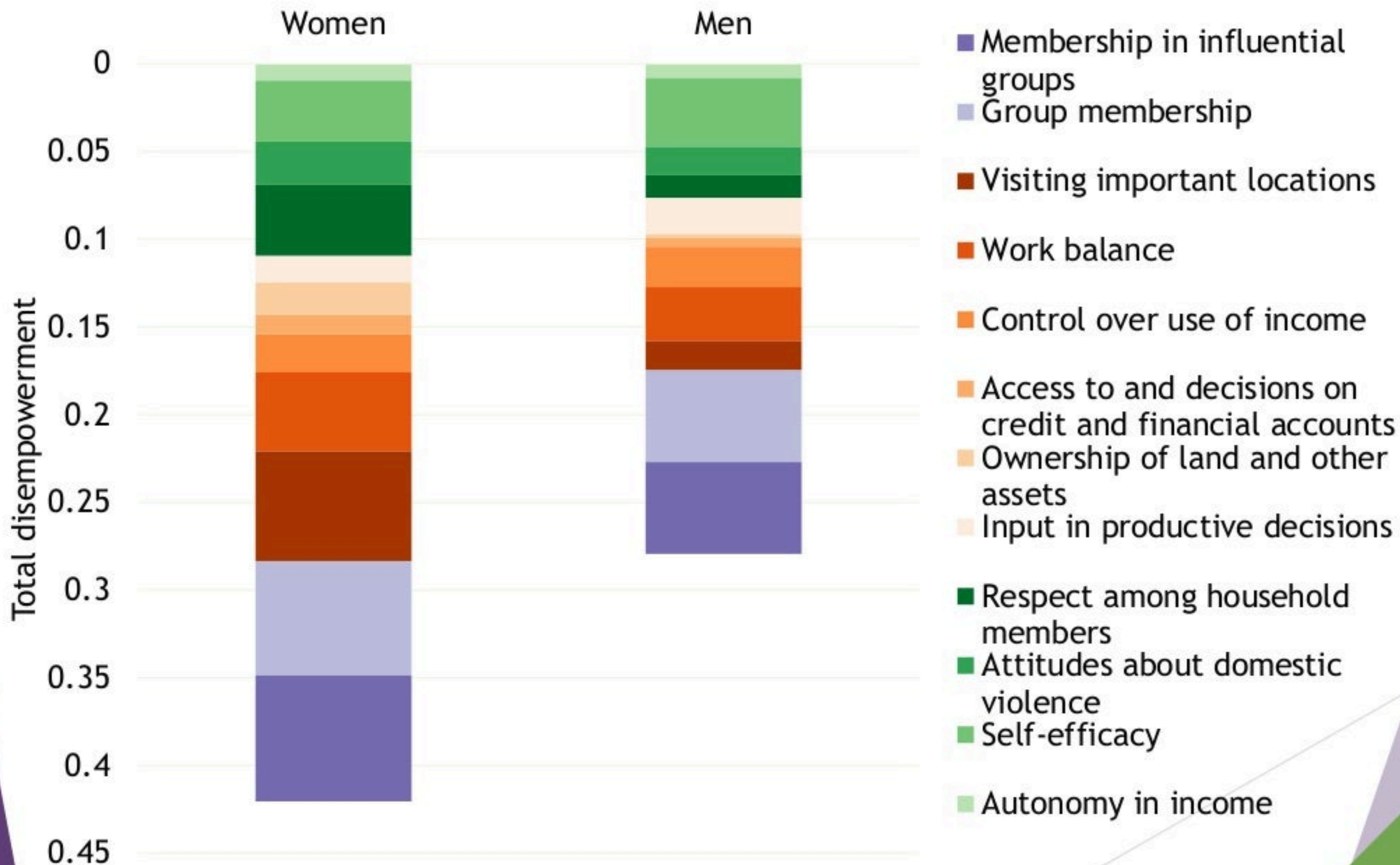
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# Contributions to disempowerment





# GAAP<sup>phase</sup>2

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

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## The pro-WEAI Health & Nutrition Module



# Many agricultural development projects have nutrition-sensitive objectives







## pro-WEAI Health and Nutrition Module

# Content of the Health and Nutrition Module

- ▶ Instrumental agency (power to) as tied to health and nutrition outcomes



# Content of the Health and Nutrition Module

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- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Women's own nutrition and health
  - ▶ Child nutrition and health

# Content of the Health and Nutrition Module

- ▶ Instrumental agency (power to) as tied to health and nutrition outcomes
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Women's own nutrition and health
    - ▶ Animal-source foods; healthcare; rest/work; diet and health during pregnancy and lactation; family planning-related decisions
  - ▶ Child nutrition and health
    - ▶ Animal-source foods; healthcare; breastfeeding/weaning

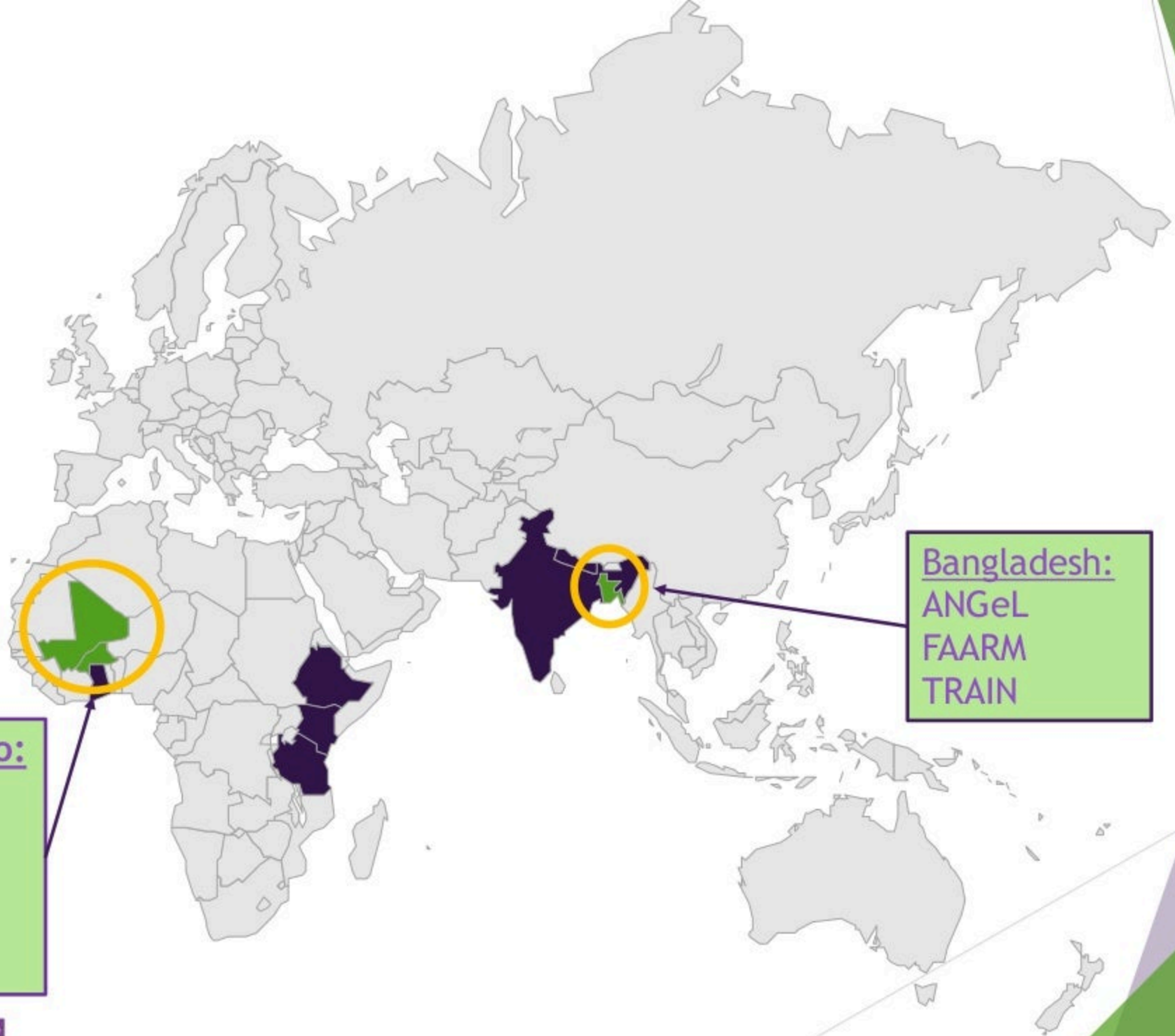
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- ▶ Types of questions
  - ▶ Who makes the decision
  - ▶ To what extent she participates in the decision



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- ▶ Types of questions
  - ▶ Who makes the decision
  - ▶ To what extent she participates in the decision
- ▶ Decisions to purchase key foods and health products
- ▶ Usually acquire key foods and health products when needed

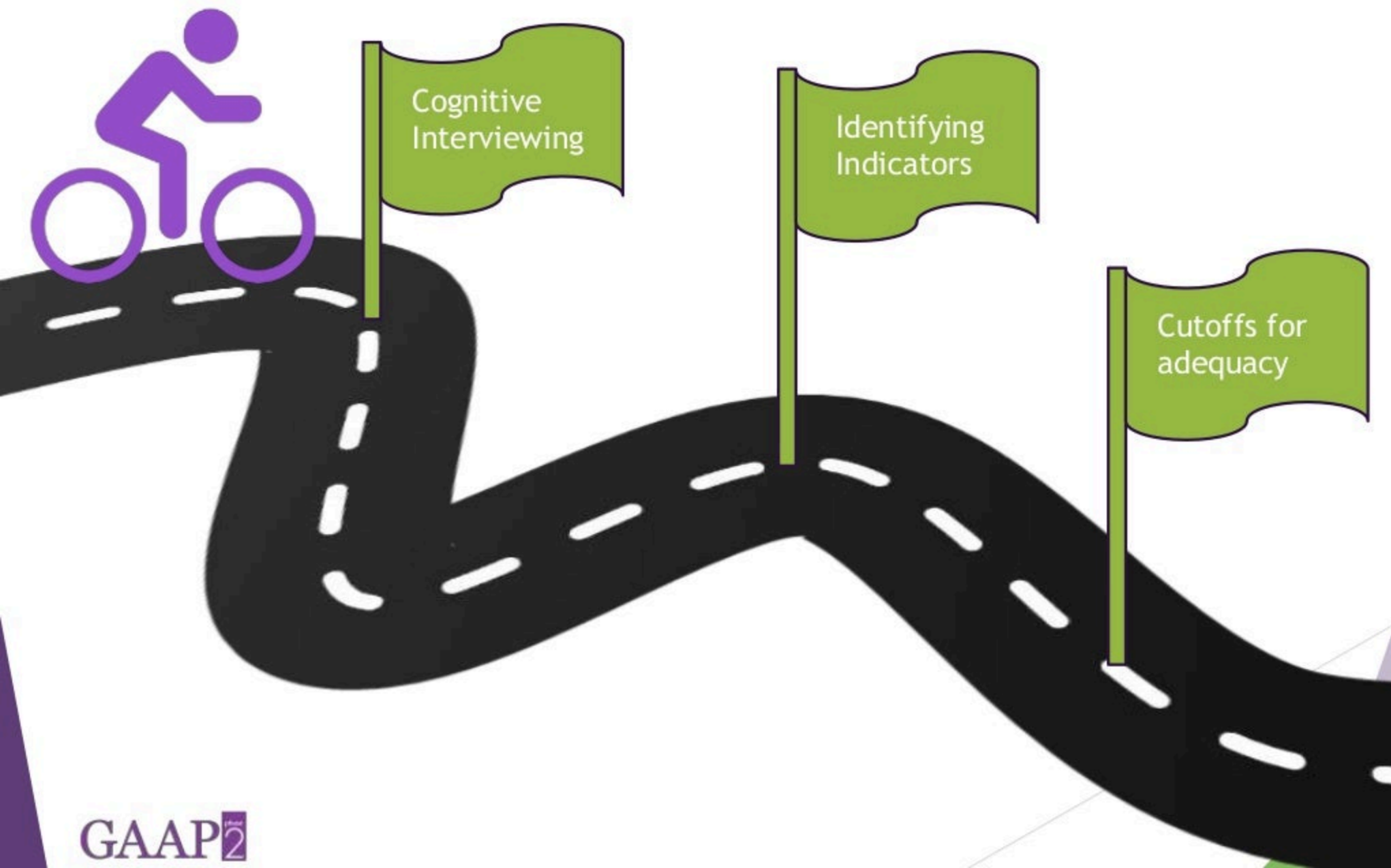


Burkina Faso:  
Grameen &  
SE LEVER

Mali:  
WorldVeg

Bangladesh:  
ANGeL  
FAARM  
TRAIN

# Our Road Map



# Cognitive Interviewing



Emory University  
DATA Bangladesh





# Cognitive Interviewing Lessons

- ▶ Change the wording of questions so that respondents can better understand which part of the question is prompting a response
  - ▶ OLD: Who in the household generally makes decisions about whether to purchase [PRODUCT]?
  - ▶ REVISED: When decisions are made whether or not to purchase [PRODUCT], who generally makes the decision?

# Cognitive Interviewing Lessons

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- ▶ Reorder questions
  - ▶ Similar themes together
  - ▶ Sensitive questions later

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  - ▶ Sensitive questions later
- ▶ Clarify confusing terms
  - ▶ Milk or milk products → added “other than breastmilk”

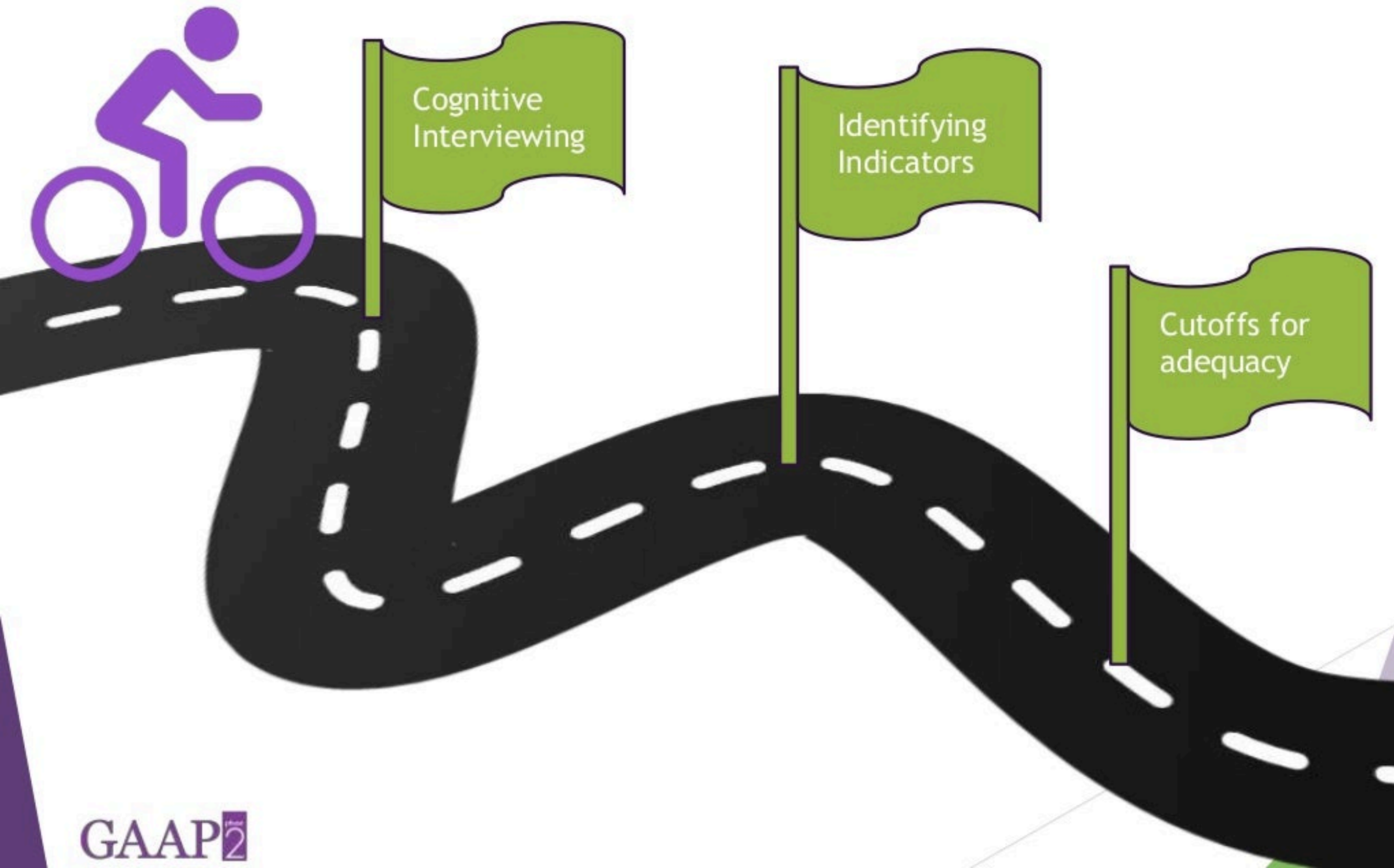


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  - ▶ Sensitive questions later
- ▶ Clarify confusing terms
  - ▶ Milk or milk products → added “other than breastmilk”
- ▶ Feedback from DATA field teams
  - ▶ Enumerator and respondents find the questions easier
  - ▶ Sequence is more relevant and natural



# Our Road Map



# Identifying Indicators



Exploratory factor analysis  
Confirmatory factor analysis



Different indicators in  
Bangladesh and West Africa

# Health and Nutrition Indicators

## Bangladesh

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products

## Burkina Faso & Mali

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products



# Health and Nutrition Indicators

## Bangladesh

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products
  - ▶ Women's health—including during pregnancy and breastfeeding

## Burkina Faso & Mali

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products
  - ▶ Women's diet, work, and rest while pregnant and breastfeeding

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- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
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## Burkina Faso & Mali

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  - ▶ Child health/diet
  - ▶ Breastfeeding/weaning

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  - ▶ Healthcare seeking & family planning

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Control over own  
health and diet

Input into:  
Rest when ill  
Foods to prepare  
Foods to eat

Control over  
health and diet  
during  
pregnancy

Input into:  
Work and rest  
Eating ♦eggs, ♦milk,  
♦meat

Control of child's  
diet

Input into:  
Feeding child ♦eggs,  
♦milk, ♦meat

Control over  
weaning and  
breastfeeding

Input into:  
Whether to breastfeed  
When to wean  
Giving other foods

Freedom to seek  
healthcare

Input into:

Doctor for ♦illness,  
♦pregnancy, ♦sick child,  
♦child well-visits

Freedom to  
purchase food  
and health  
products

Input into purchasing:

Food, animal-source  
foods, medicines,  
toiletries

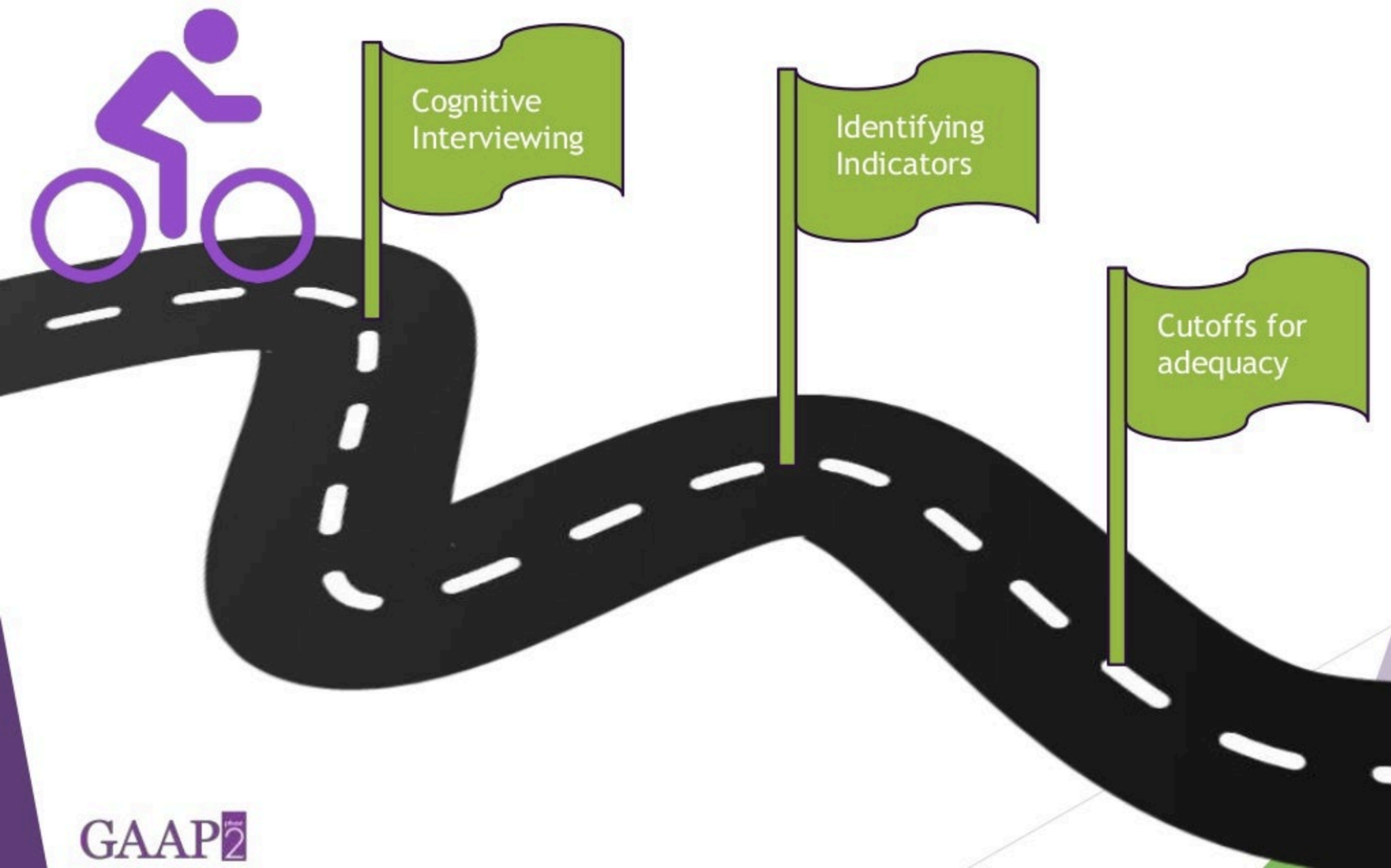
Access to food  
and health  
products

Can acquire-some means:

Food, animal-source  
foods, medicines,  
toiletries



# Our Road Map



# Developing Cutoffs and Definitions of Adequacy



Normative approach  
Sensitivity comparisons

# Percent Achieving Empowerment





# Questions?



# GAAP<sup>phase</sup>2

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

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## Qualitative Research & the pro-WEAI

# Purpose of qualitative methods

- ▶ **Validation of pro-WEAI**
  - ▶ Emic meanings of “empowerment”
  - ▶ Individual domains and indicators
- ▶ **Explaining project impacts from participants’ perspectives**
- ▶ **Contextualizing quantitative pro-WEAI and other findings**
  - ▶ Presentation of the overall context, not just the person
  - ▶ e.g. seasonality diagrams to identify how the timing of survey fits with agricultural cycle, time use
  - ▶ e.g. broader description of the project itself and how it relates to other development efforts



# Methods

- ▶ Review of project documents
- ▶ Community profile
- ▶ Seasonality patterns
- ▶ Sex disaggregated focus groups on local understanding of empowerment
- ▶ Semi-structured interviews: Life histories
- ▶ Key informant interviews: Market traders
- ▶ Key informant interviews: Project staff



# Local meanings of empowerment

## Common elements

- ▶ Difficulty in translating “empowerment”
  - ▶ “emancipated”, “admired”, “dignified”, “lift up”, “enable”
- ▶ Economic status:
  - ▶ Taking care of oneself and family needs
  - ▶ Well dressed, good skin
- ▶ Relational, not individualistic:
  - ▶ Taking care of others (family and community)
  - ▶ Having means or status to do so, connections,
- ▶ **Not power over** (especially not over men)

## Differences, tensions

- ▶ Ambivalence of men, women to empowered women
  - ▶ “Lift the burden” vs threat to men
- ▶ Following social norms, ideals of femininity (“submissive”) vs Strong, able (sometimes stand against norms)
- ▶ Age (young and old)



# Interconnections between indicators

- ▶ Time as a tether: workload limits mobility, income generating ability
- ▶ Lack of transport (asset) limits mobility, income generation
- ▶ Intrahousehold relations → trust → mobility → income generation
- ▶ Group membership requires mobility, time, support of husbands, family
- ▶ Income generation supports greater decision-making (and vice versa)
- ▶ Nepal: whether women hide income, assets depends on autonomy, intrahousehold relations
- ▶ “Male dominance over information was pointed out when answers were provided about things such as cell phone ownership, the person to whom extension workers talk, the consent of whom to look for before traveling, the ownership and access to means of transportation, and topics covered by extension workers when they visit villages. **This access and control over information is facilitated by men’s status as owners of resources.**” (Worldveg, Mali)



# Unpacking “jointness” in decision-making

- ▶ Not just spouses, but extended families (in-laws, co-wives, natal family)
- ▶ Final say // Consultation // Influence behind the scenes
- ▶ Women exercise more decision-making on small livestock, assets, income; Men on larger
- ▶ Showing “respect”, not challenging masculinities may affect answers (including on survey)
- ▶ Women may not want sole decision-making responsibility
- ▶ “The down side of women's control over their own income is that if they have too much and do not help others they are said to be witches or to be engaging in prostitution or other inappropriate behavior” (Trias)

# Domestic violence

- ▶ One man describes his rights to beat his wife as follows: "Corporal punishment is very good because she will do what I tell her to do. Always, women are not comfortable without punishment." (Trias)
- ▶ "Even a small boy has more value than a woman, because women are afraid of threats from men. At a single occasion she is treated of rude and is threaten to death. That is not the case for men" (Worldveg woman's life history)
- ▶ "The other day when there was a meeting of Self-Reliance (Swabalanban), my husband used the meeting as a pretext to beat me so I did not go to the meeting. Then the samuha members humiliate my husband. I also let them humiliate my husband because it was necessary to humiliate him for him to change his habit." (Ranjana Mahato, Nepal)



# Contributors to empowerment

- ▶ Money, “success”
- ▶ Mobility, ability to work outside the home
- ▶ Someone else to lift the labor burden
- ▶ Groups that provide for savings, financial benefits and shift norms
- ▶ Connections to outside groups
- ▶ “I am a female leader in my community. All the members of the village respect me. I am always informed of the visits in the village and I participate in external meetings, on behalf of my village. I am influential in my village” (Worldveg)
- ▶ Marriage (Mali Fulani) or liberation from marital duties (Burkina)



# How projects affect empowerment

- ▶ Multiple pathways to empowerment: projects could:
  - ▶ Give women something that enables them to increase income, take care of others
  - ▶ Train women—increase skills, confidence, capacities
  - ▶ Affect social norms (including on domestic violence)
  - ▶ (check for validation of project strategies and TOC)
- ▶ Does the mechanism by which women get the means of empowerment matter?

# Interpreting pro-WEAI results

- ▶ From Elena: It may make sense to move this to right after Hazel's introduction to pro-WEAI so that we are not jumping around too much. I could expand on slides 19 and 20 and add a slide in between showing the bar charts of individual indicators (and then explain how the 5DE score expands on the individual indicators, how the contributions to disempowerment show important areas of disempowerment specifically among the disempowered).



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of green grass. The blades of grass are long and thin, with some showing small, developing seed heads. The lighting is natural, creating soft shadows and highlights on the grass. In the center of the image, there is a dark purple rectangular box. Inside this box is a white horizontal rectangle, which serves as a background for the text.

[weai.ifpri.info](http://weai.ifpri.info)



# WEAI Resource Center



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## WEAI RESOURCE CENTER

Released in 2012, the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is an innovative tool that measures women's empowerment in agriculture. This measurement tool helps diagnose areas of disempowerment and design development programs to address those areas. Since the WEAI's initial release, several versions of the WEAI have been developed. This site offers information about the WEAI and related research instruments, how to calculate empowerment using the quantitative WEAI surveys, WEAI-related publications, and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## LATEST FROM WEAI



**How can you tell if your survey questions work? Using cognitive testing to improve measurement of women's empowerment in nutrition and health**

April 16, 2018

In the second phase of the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP2), researchers are developing the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) to measure women's empowerment in agricultural development projects. The ...

[READ MORE](#)

# About

- ▶ Partners and Funders
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- ▶ Contact us
- ▶ FAQ

Here is a list of frequently asked questions. If your question hasn't been answered, please [contact us](#).

▼ Help! Which WEAI version should I use?

Choosing which WEAI to use depends on the needs of your project. The [WEAI Versions Table](#) compares the different versions of the index. Feel free to [contact us](#) to discuss.

- ▶ I have data only on females in the household. Can I calculate the WEAI?
- ▶ How were weights for each indicator assigned? Can they be modified once one modifies the tool kit used in data collection?
- ▶ We are not sure we have the time to collect the entire WEAI module. Is it possible to only measure particular domains of the WEAI and not administer the Index in its entirety without threats to validity and reliability?
- ▶ Can the WEAI be implemented as a separate survey from the rest of the Feed the Future Population-Based Survey (PBS)?
- ▶ Should the WEAI be administered to rural areas only since the focus is on empowerment in agriculture?
- ▶ Can we exclude non-agricultural households using a screening or filter question similar to the LSMS-ISA?
- ▶ How long does it take to administer the WEAI?
- ▶ How can we reduce interview fatigue?

# Versions



The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is an aggregate index, reported at the country or regional level, based on individual-level data collected by interviewing men and women within the same households. The WEAI comprises two sub-indices. The first assesses the degree to which respondents are empowered in five domains of empowerment (SDE) in agriculture. It reflects the percentage of women and men who are empowered and, among those who are not, the percentage of domains in which they enjoy adequate achievements. These domains are:

- Decisions about agricultural production
- Access to and decision-making power about productive resources
- Control of use of income
- Leadership in the community
- Time allocation

Ten composite indicators are used to construct the SDE.

The second sub-index, the Gender Parity Index (GPI), measures gender parity. The GPI reflects the percentage of women who are empowered or whose achievements are at least as high as the men in their households. For those households that have not achieved gender parity, the GPI shows the empowerment gap that needs to be closed for women to reach the same level of empowerment as men in their households.

This is the first, original version of the WEAI. It was piloted in 2011 in Uganda, Bangladesh, and Guatemala and was formally launched in 2012. It was included in 19 Food for the Future Baseline population-based surveys.

## RECENT FROM WEAI

Pro-WEAI: A New Tool for Measuring Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Development Projects

How can you tell if your survey questions work? Using cognitive testing to improve measurement of women's empowerment in nutrition and health

Measuring progress toward empowerment: Women's empowerment in agriculture index





Webinar: The Abbreviated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI)

Groundbreaking Index Launched to Empower Women and Fight Hunger






# Resources



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## RESOURCES

[Training Videos and Webinars](#)

[Guides and Instruments](#)

[Where we work](#)

IFPRI has created the following resource pages to share information and to help those interested in using the WEAI in their research projects. Please use our various WEAI (WEAI, A-WEAI, pro-WEAI, and WEAI4VC), training videos, instructional webinars, and more.

[Informational Resources](#)

[a those less the surveys guides, Stata files,](#)

# Training videos and webinars

## Training Videos

- **Introduction to the WEAI:** This video covers countries: Bangladesh, Guatemala, and
- **Calculating the WEAI – An Introduction:** This video introduces the WEAI and explains how the index is calculated.
- **Calculating the WEAI – Using Stata:** This video shows how to calculate the WEAI using stata .do files.
- **WEAI Time Use module:** In this tutorial (for Bangladesh) explains how the WEAI Time Use module works.
- **Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) Analysis and Technical Assistance (DATA) in Bangladesh.**



## Webinars

- **The Feed the Future survey module and indicator construction:** This webinar session provided information on how to calculate the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and its indicators. Emily Hogue of USAID and Hazel Malapit of IFPRI discussed the purpose of the index for Feed the Future, how it is used as a monitoring indicator and a diagnostic tool, and gave important information about resources to help with data collection and analysis.
- **A-WEAI webinar:** This webinar focuses on the newly-launched abbreviated version of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI). IFPRI's WEAI Research Coordinator, Hazel Malapit, joined by Farzana Ramzan and Emily Hogue from USAID's Bureau for Food Security, discuss the reasons for developing a shorter version of the WEAI, describe the development and piloting process, and highlight the differences between the AWEAI and the original WEAI.
  - **A-WEAI questionnaire**
  - **A-WEAI enumerator manual**

## WEAI Videos Playlist



# Guides and instruments

By WEAI version:



Guides and manuals



Quantitative  
instruments & CAPI  
codes



Stata code for  
Calculating WEAI (.do  
files)



Qualitative instruments

WEAI	Instructional Guide		Data prep file
	Cognitive Testing Guide	Feed the Future WEAI	Calculating WEAI file
	WEAI Tables with	module	Calculating WEAI with
	instructions		sample weights
Updated WEAI		WEAI Questionnaire	
A-WEAI	Enumerator manual	A-WEAI Questionnaire	
Pro-WEAI			GAAP2 qualitative protocol



# Blog Roll

## BLOG ROLL

The following presents an archive of all blogs written about the WEAI.

### 2012

- [The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (IFPRI Blog)
- [Release of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index and live webcast](#) (Agrilinks)
- [International Women's Day 2012](#) (IFPRI Blog)
- [Reader's Corner: WEAI Index, evidence-based decision making, and drought risk management](#) (Agrilinks)
- [Highlights from the #AskAg Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index Twitter Chat](#) (Agrilinks)
- [Welcome to the M&E Blog Series! First up: WEAI Twitter chat](#) (Agrilinks)
- [How does Feed the Future measure gender impacts?](#) (Agrilinks)
- [Fellowships on gender and agriculture awarded](#) (IFPRI Blog)

### 2013

## RECENT FROM WEAI

[Pro-WEAI: A New Tool for Measuring Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Development Projects](#)

[How can you tell if your survey questions work? Using cognitive testing to improve measurement of women's empowerment in nutrition and health](#)

[Measuring progress toward empowerment: Women's empowerment in agriculture index](#)

[Webinar: The Abbreviated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(A-WEAI\)](#)

# Publications



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The role of empowerment in agricultural production: evidence from rural households in Niger  
Wouterse, Fleur Stephanie. Article in Press

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Response to Garcia and Wanner "gender inequality and food security: lessons for the gender-

### RECENT FROM WEAI

Pro-WEAI: A New Tool for Measuring Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Development Projects

How can you tell if your survey questions work? Using cognitive testing to improve measurement of women's empowerment in nutrition and health

Measuring progress toward empowerment: Women's empowerment in agriculture index

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**Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) 2015**  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Washington, DC 2016

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only record,  
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**Women's empowerment in agriculture (WEAI) pilot II for Uganda**  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Associates Research Uganda Limited (ARUL) .  
Washington, D.C. 2015

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Webinar: The Abbreviated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI)

Groundbreaking Index Launched to Empower Women and Fight Hunger



# WEAI Community of Practice

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Join

# Questions?

## “Take home” exercises

- 1) Role playing: conducting the pro-WEAI survey modules
- 2) Data analysis: analyzing pro-WEAI data using Stata

Review: Friday, 3-4pm

[bit.ly/2NIPPLi](https://bit.ly/2NIPPLi)



# Friday: One-on-one research clinics

- ▶ 15 minutes each
- ▶ Time slots available between 2-5pm.
- ▶ Please indicate the topic of your question or issue and when you are available.