

Measuring Women's Empowerment with Multidimensional Indices

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Presentation at the Global conference on the measurement of gender equality, leave no one behind, and intersecting inequalities, February 26-27, 2020, New York

Multidimensional poverty measurement and women's empowerment

- ▶ Many similarities between poverty measurement and women's empowerment
 - ▷ Intrinsically experienced by individuals
 - ▷ Multidimensional
 - ▷ Depending on type of indicator, can be disaggregated in meaningful ways to inform programs and policy
- ▶ One such index of women's empowerment is the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and related indices (pro-WEAI)
- ▶ In this presentation, I will:
 - ▷ Give an overview of the WEAI and pro-WEAI
 - ▷ Given an example of how WEAI diagnostics have been used to inform policy
 - ▷ Present emerging results from an impact evaluation using pro-WEAI

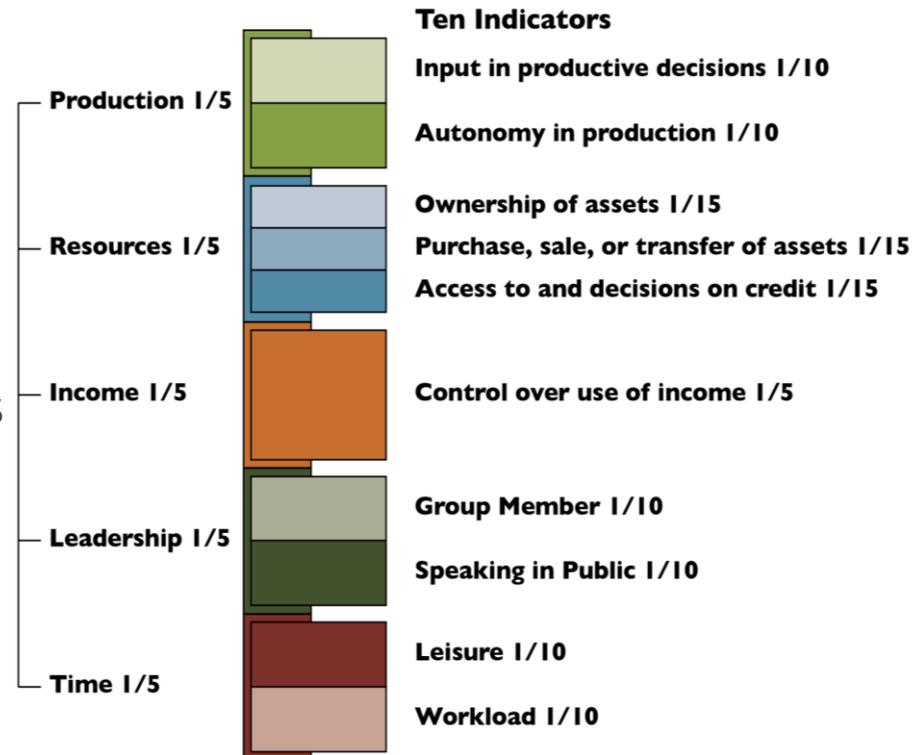
Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

- ▶ Measures inclusion and empowerment of women in the agricultural sector
- ▶ **Survey-based index** - interviews men and women in the same household
- ▶ Launched in 2012 by USAID, IFPRI, and OPHI
- ▶ Methodology:
 - ▷ Similar to multi-dimensional poverty indices (Alkire and Foster 2011) and the Foster-Greere-Thorbeck (FGT) indices
 - ▷ Details on index construction in Alkire et al. (2013)



WEAI & A-WEAI: For population-based surveys

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Original WEAI: 5 domains, 10 indicators
- ▶ Empowered if adequate in 80% of indicators
- ▶ An abbreviated version, A-WEAI, was developed using 6 out of the 10 indicators

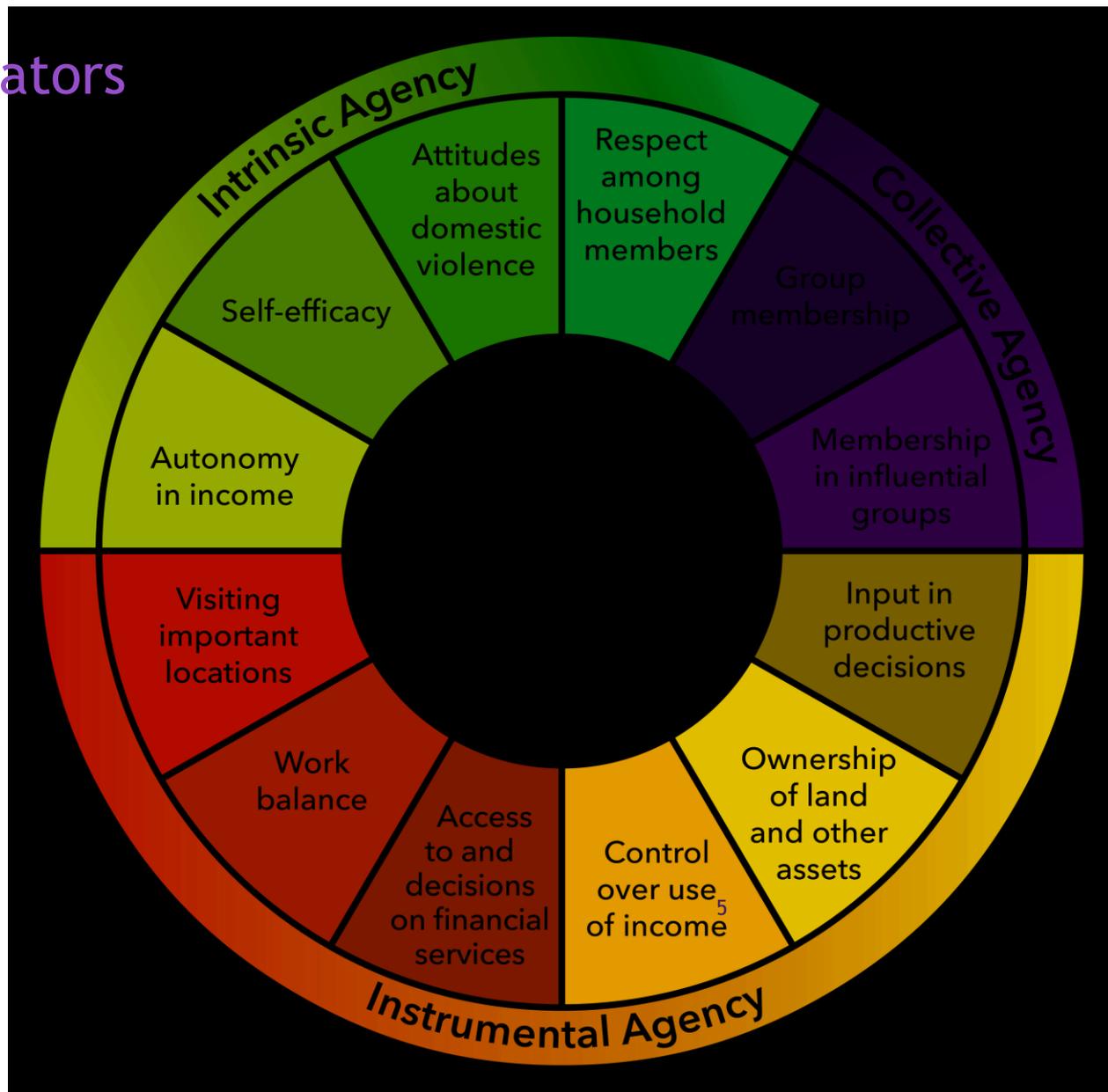


Pro-WEAI: For project use

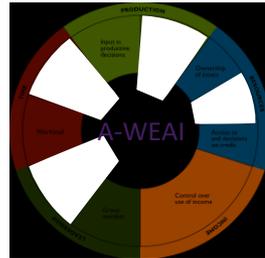
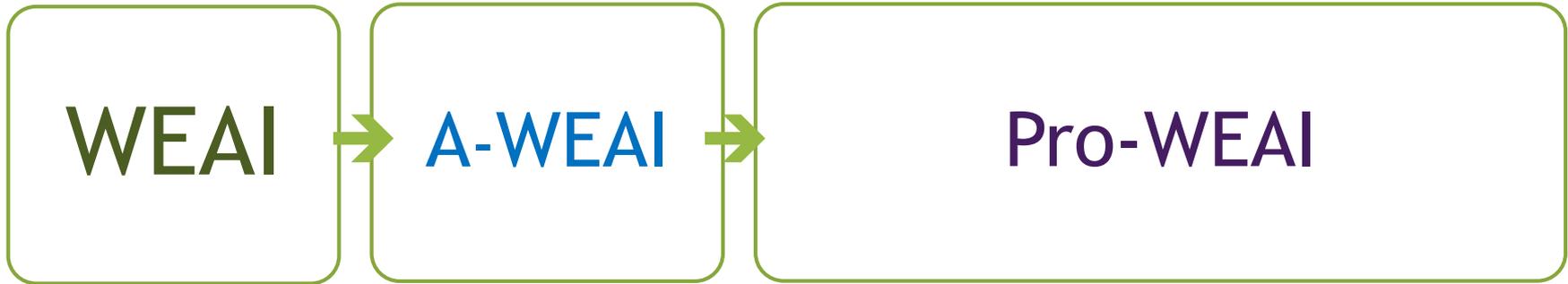
3 domains, 12 indicators

Each indicator receives an **equal** proportion (1/12) of the overall weight

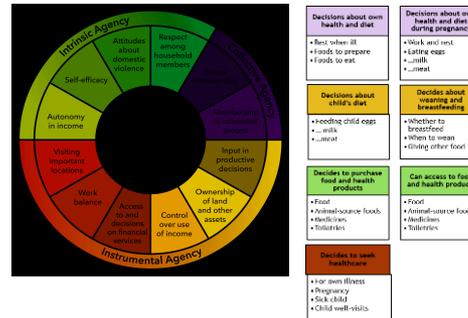
Empowered if adequate in 75% of indicators



Evolution of WEAI metrics

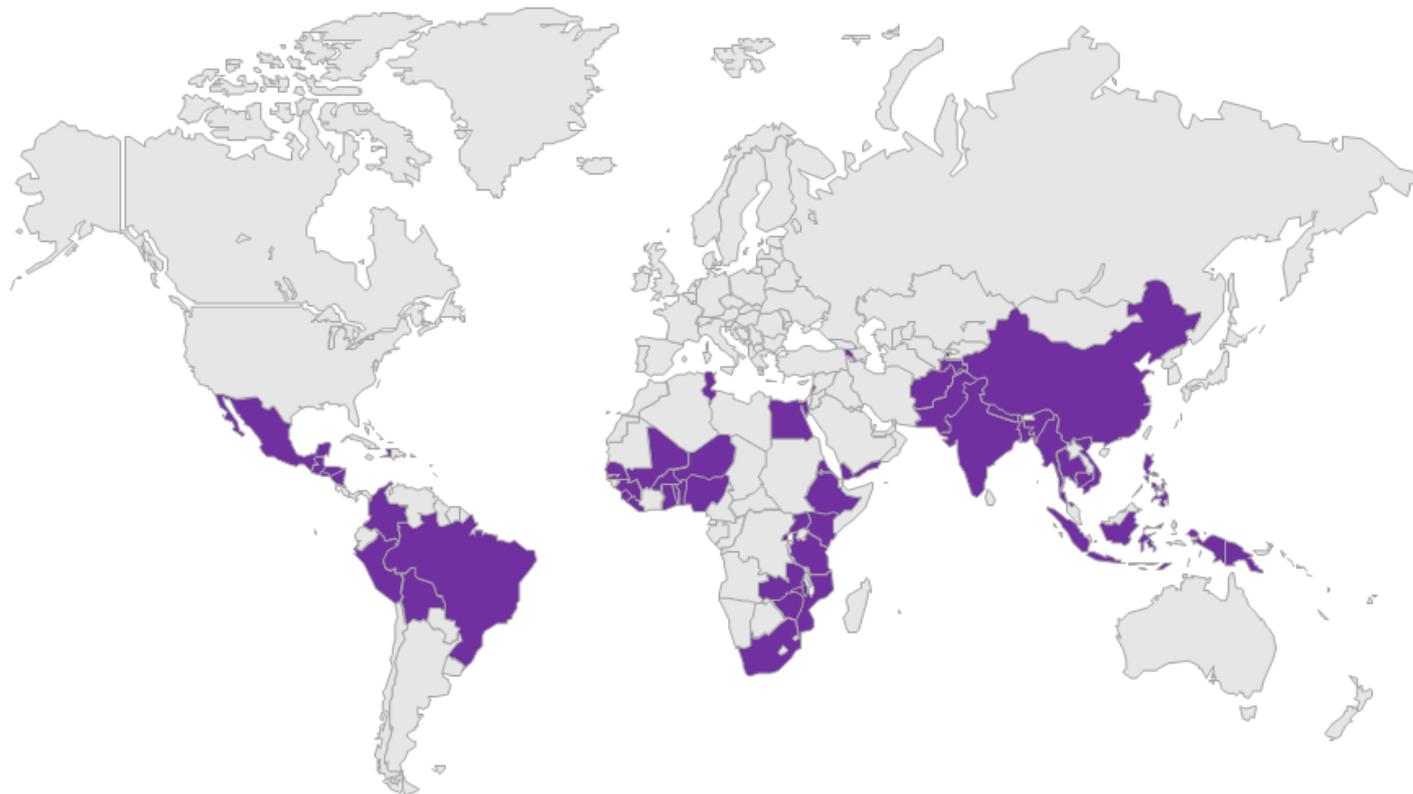


➤ Attention to domains related to health and nutrition, livestock, and market inclusion



WEAI used by 103 organizations in 54 countries

(as of February 2020)



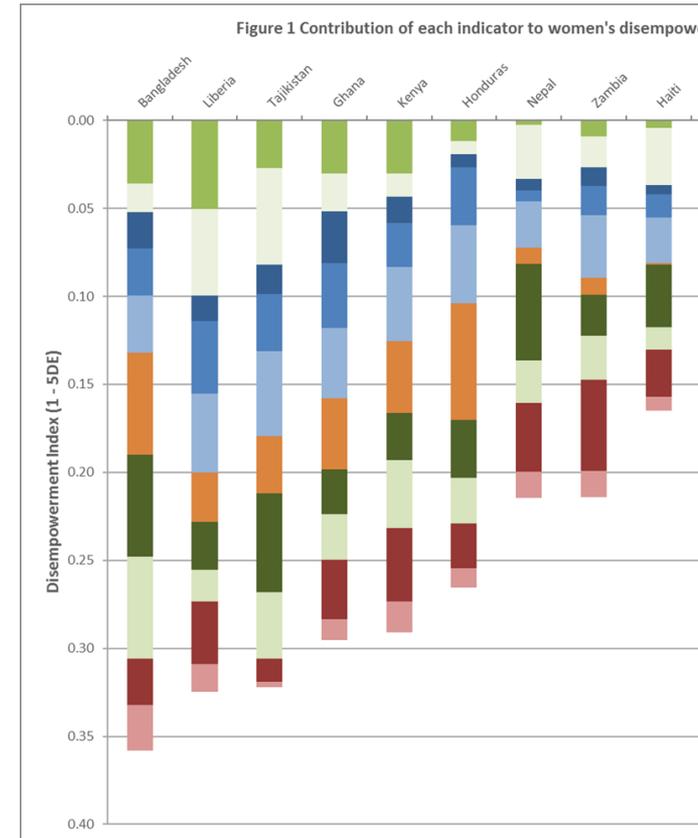
Total WEAI (54 countries)
Afghanistan, Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Vietnam, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe



From diagnostics to impact at scale: ANGeL in Bangladesh

The Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages Project (ANGeL)

- ▶ Findings from Feed the Future baselines show that Bangladesh had the highest proportion of disempowered women, among the 13 countries for which data were available (Malapit et al. 2014)
- ▶ Observational studies using BIHS 2011-2012 showed positive associations between production diversity, women's empowerment (measured using WEAI), and dietary diversity
- ▶ IFPRI and GoBangladesh designed a cluster-RCT to test whether combined impacts of agricultural extension, nutrition BCC, gender sensitization on desired outcomes > impacts of separate interventions



Results

- ▶ All treatments significantly improved agriculture production knowledge and adoption of improved production practices, more so in arms with agriculture training (T3, T4, T5), and for women than men
- ▶ All treatments significantly improved nutrition knowledge, more so in arms with nutrition training, and for women than men
- ▶ Household diet quality and child diet diversity significantly improved only in T2 and T4.
- ▶ Women's empowerment significantly improved in all treatments, and men's gender attitudes improved in T1, T4, T5, more so in the gender arm (T5).
- ▶ No impacts were expected or found on child anthropometry.

Bottom line

- ▶ Based on these results, the GoBangladesh is scaling up ANGeL nationally
- ▶ Multidimensional indices of empowerment can be used to design and evaluate gender-sensitive agricultural programs at scale.



For more information:

<http://weai.ifpri.info>

