



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) 101 Workshop





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## WELCOME





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## U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNERS





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## INTRODUCTIONS

**Please share:**

- Your name
- Your organization, title and/or role



## OBJECTIVES

**By the end of this session, participants will be able to:**

- Articulate the WEAI measures including the 5 Domains of Empowerment
- Describe the methodology used in the WEAI and how it measures empowerment
- Demonstrate a foundational ability to interpret and explain your country's WEAI results
- Plan for one possible action to take using the WEAI as part of your role and responsibilities



## WORKSHOP AGENDA

### **Welcome**

**9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.**

- Introductions
- Objectives and Agenda
- Overview of the WEAI
- Empowerment & Purpose of the WEAI
- WEAI Construction
  - 5 Domains of Empowerment
  - Gender Parity Index
- Practice
- Planning

### **Close**

**1:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.**





## WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT?

Similar to Kabeer (2001), we define empowerment as:

*The expansion of people's ability to make strategic life choices within their households and their communities, particularly in contexts where this ability has been limited.*





## WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE?

### A person who:

- Has the resources and opportunity to engage in agricultural activities that are productive
- Has a role in deciding how to engage in agricultural management decisions
- Receives and controls the benefits and returns from their efforts in agriculture





## WHY A WEAI?

- Empower both men and women in agriculture
- There are gender gaps in overall empowerment and in particular “domains” of empowerment (FAO, State of Food & Agriculture 2010/11)

“The gender gap is found for many assets, inputs and services – land, livestock, labor, education, extension and financial services, and technology ... ”



## WHY A WEAI? CONTINUED

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that if women had the same access to resources as men, they could increase their yields by 20 to 30%
- Women could raise total agriculture output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4%
- Project design processes may unknowingly focus on the constraints that men face in increasing agricultural productivity without an awareness of the different needs of women and men farmers

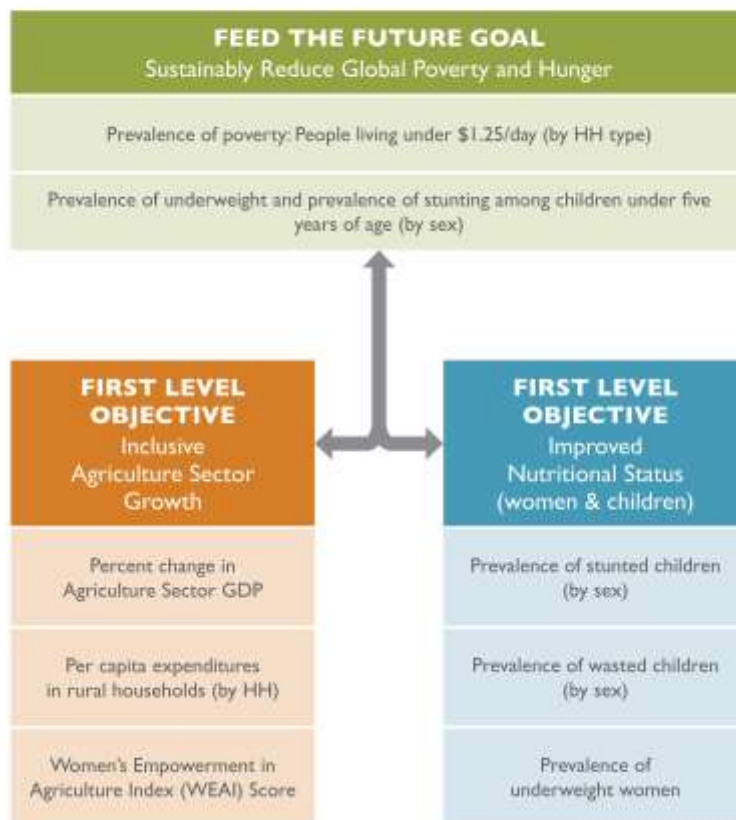


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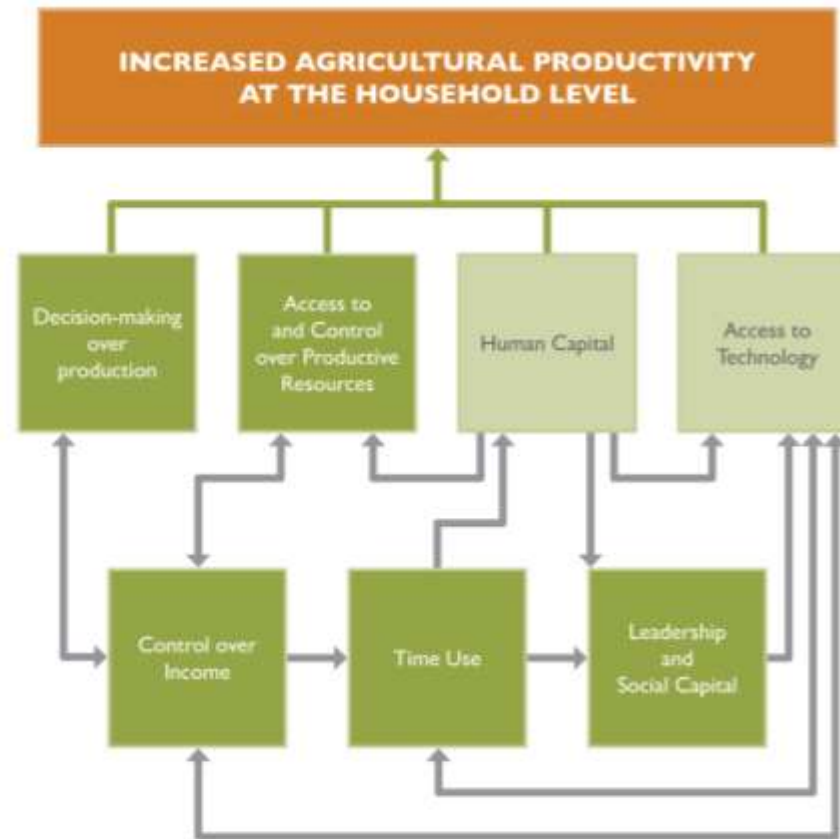
## WHY A WEAI – GREATER INCLUSION

### FEED THE FUTURE RESULTS FRAMEWORK





## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY



NOTE: WEAI domains are indicated in the darker green boxes.



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (WEAI)

- Measures women's and men's empowerment and inclusion in the agricultural sector
- Developed by USAID, IFPRI, OPHI
- Launched in early 2012
- It is a **survey-based** index, not based on aggregate statistics or secondary data
- Uses interviews of the **women and men in the same household**
- Index components designed to apply across countries and cultures



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## A LOOK AT BANGLADESH





## INDIVIDUAL TASK ... WORKBOOK, EXERCISES TAB, PAGES 7-8

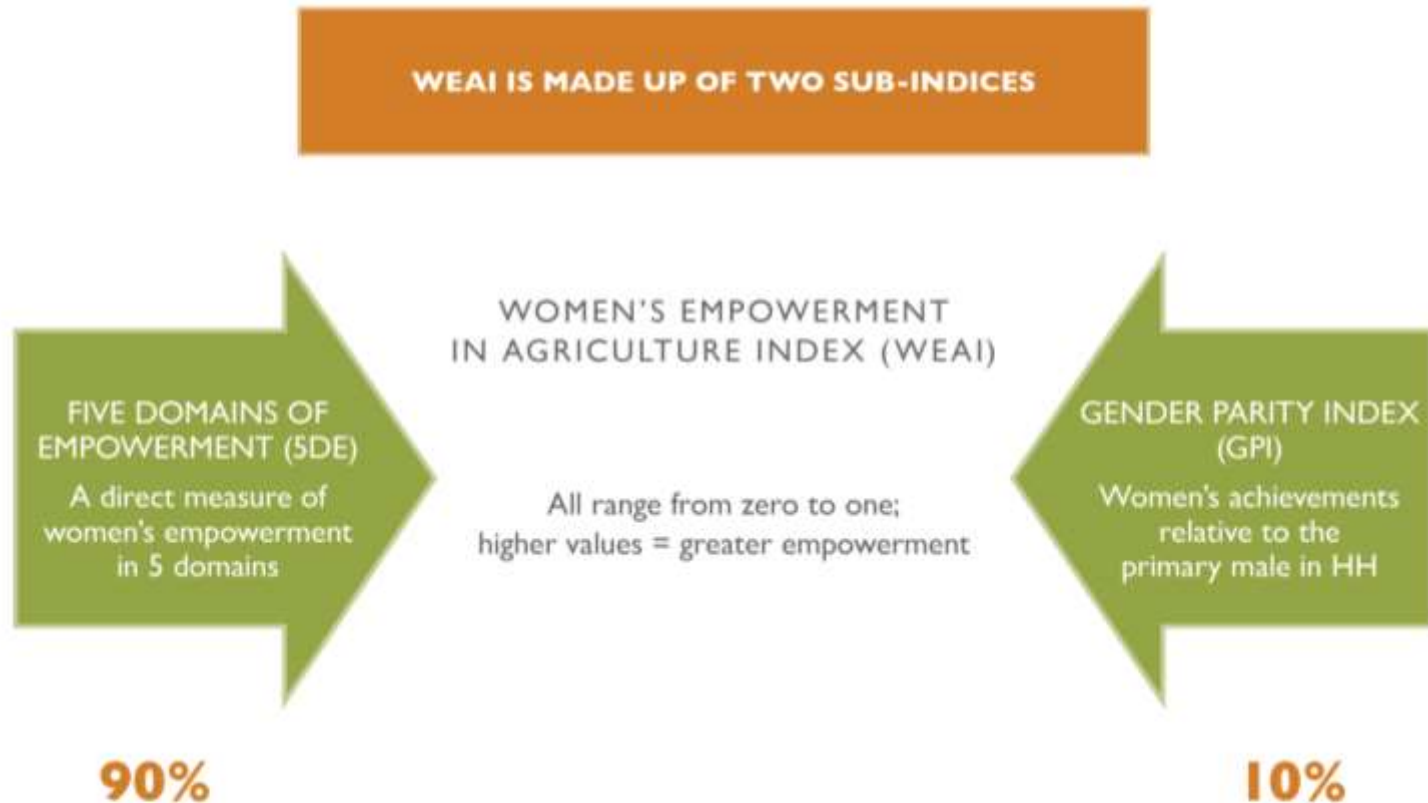
As you review WEAI results for Bangladesh, look at the two bars and write down:

- What are the Top 3 factors that disempower women?
- What are the Top 3 factors that disempower men?
- What else strikes you about these findings?



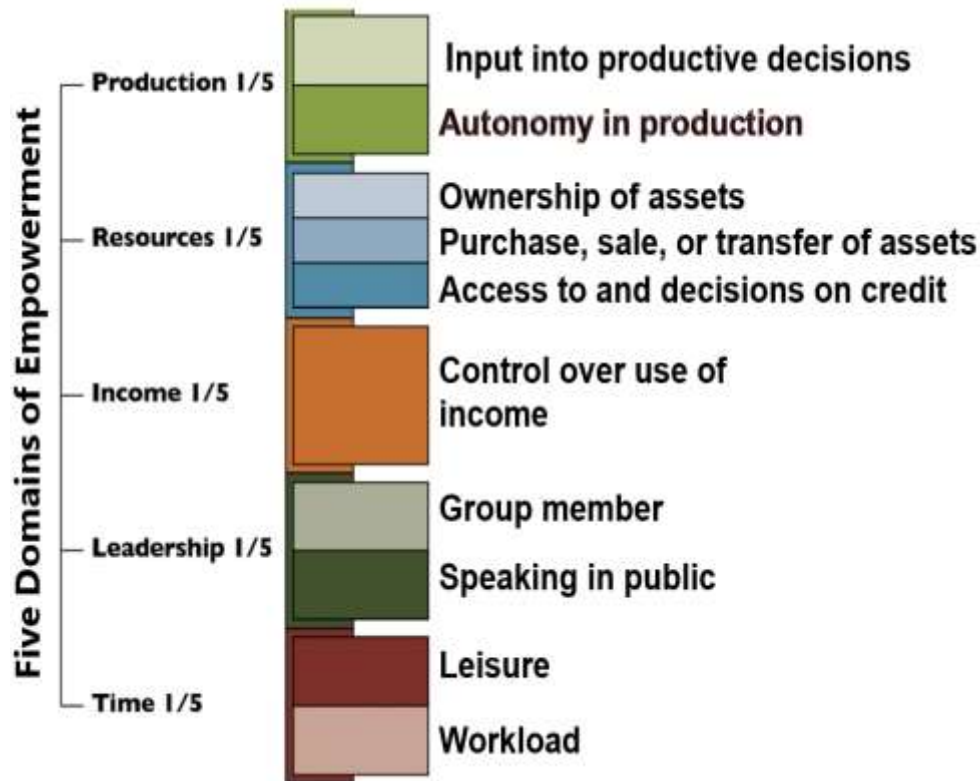


## HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?



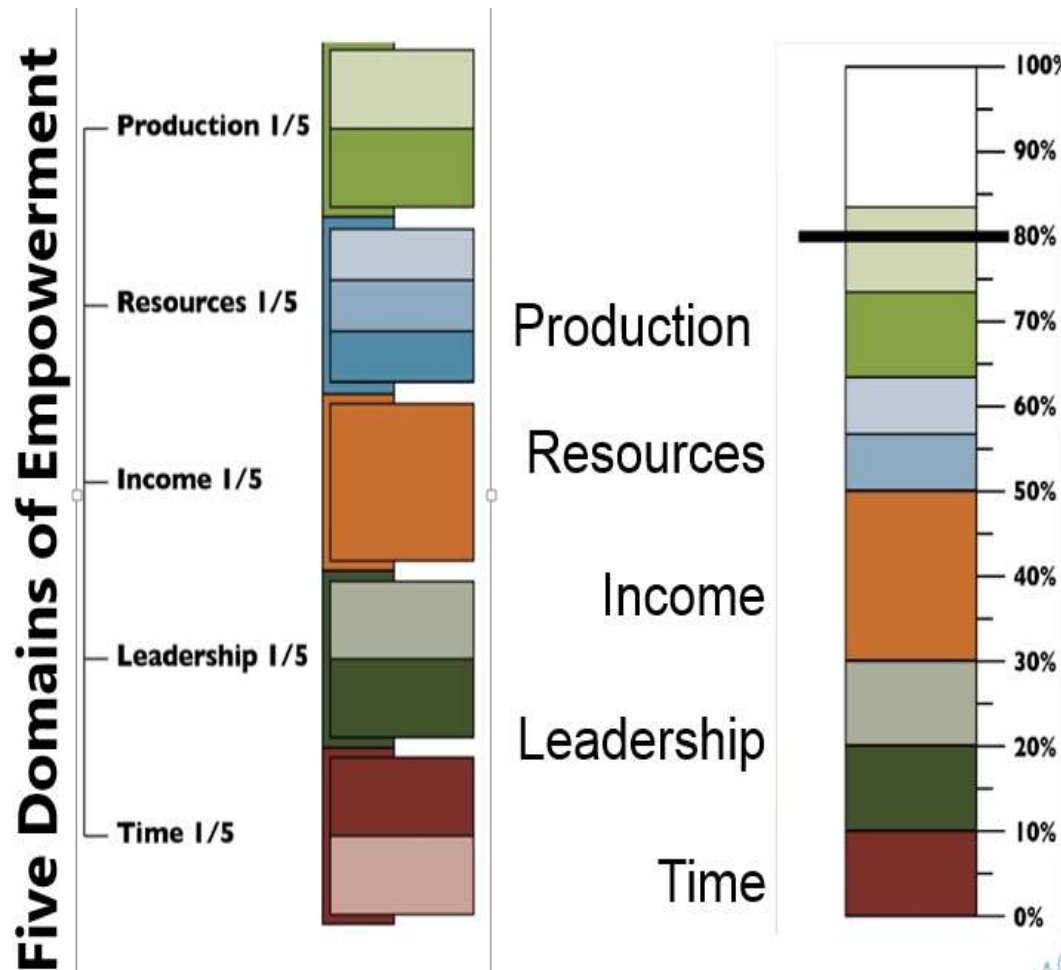


## 5DE: INDICATORS BUILD INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT PROFILES





## WHO IS EMPOWERED?



An individual who has achieved 'adequacy' in 80% or more of the weighted indicators



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## WHO IS EMPOWERED?



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## WHO IS EMPOWERED?

A 5DE score of 80 percent or more across all five domains indicates empowerment.

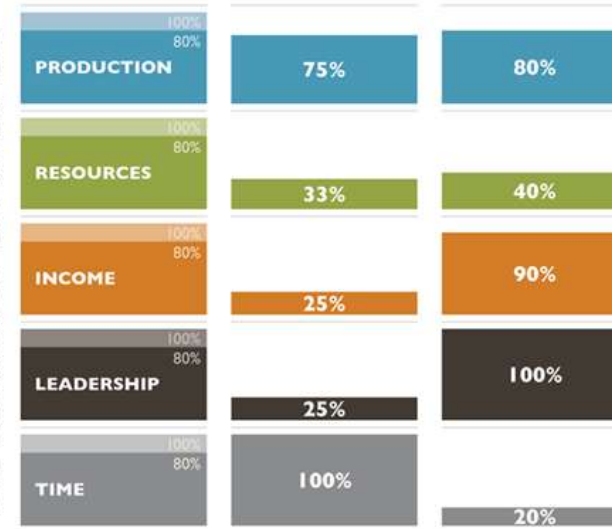


JANE



TOM

FIVE DOMAINS OF EMPOWERMENT



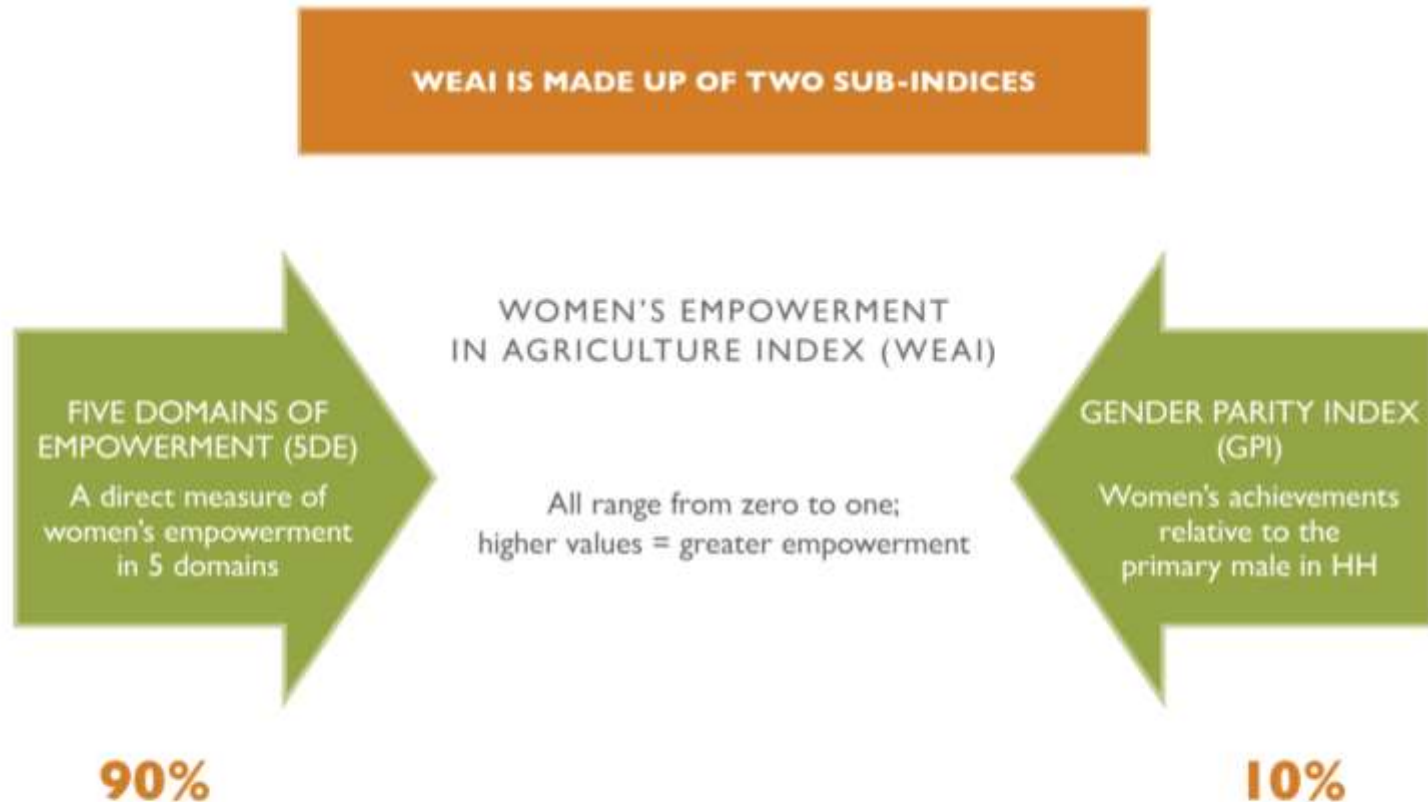
Overall 5DE

5DE Score: 52%

5DE Score: 66%



## HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?



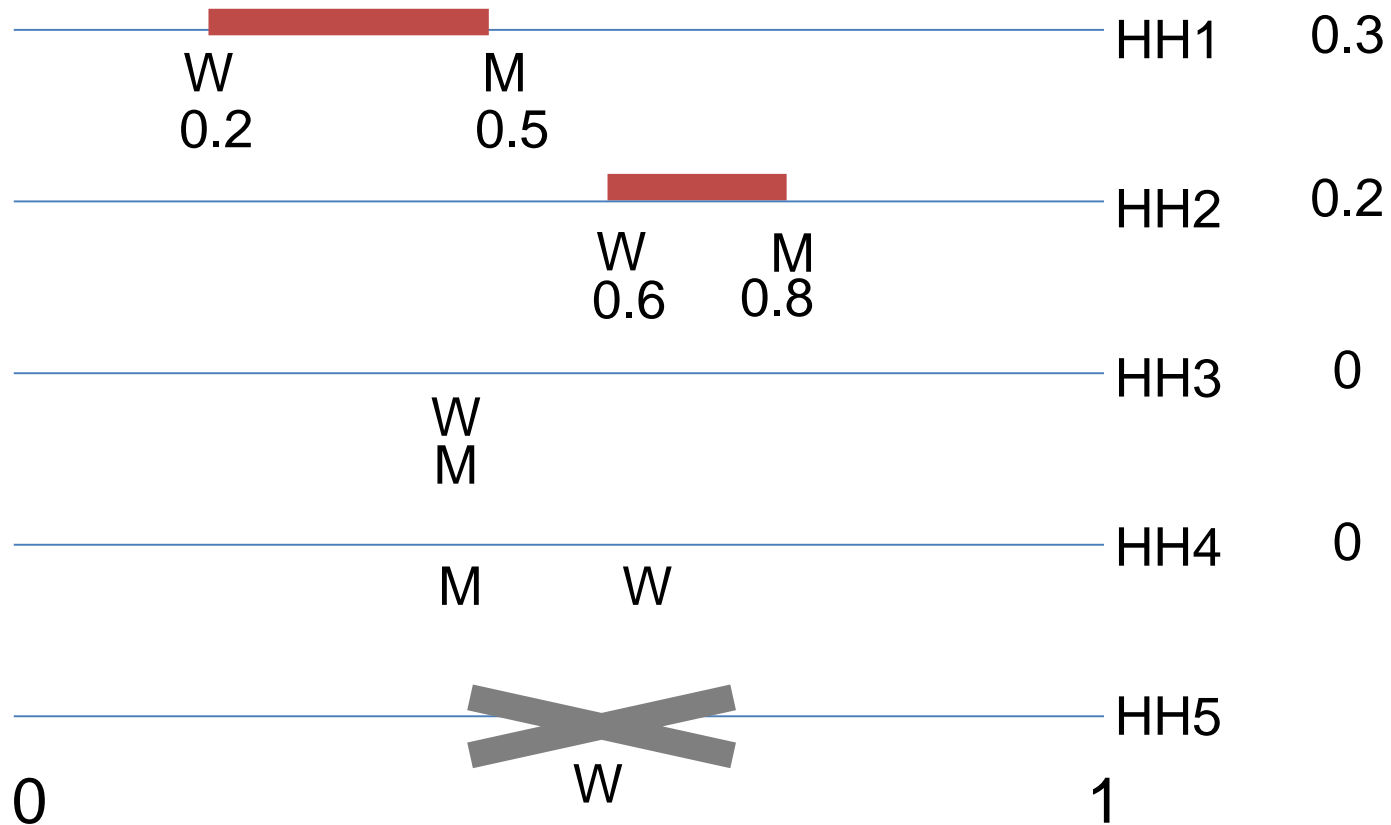


## GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)

- The GPI makes up only 10% of the WEAI score
- Compares how equal 5DEs are between women & men in the same household
- GPI is between 0-1
- Higher GPI scores mean greater equality between the woman and man interviewed



## 5DEs WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD







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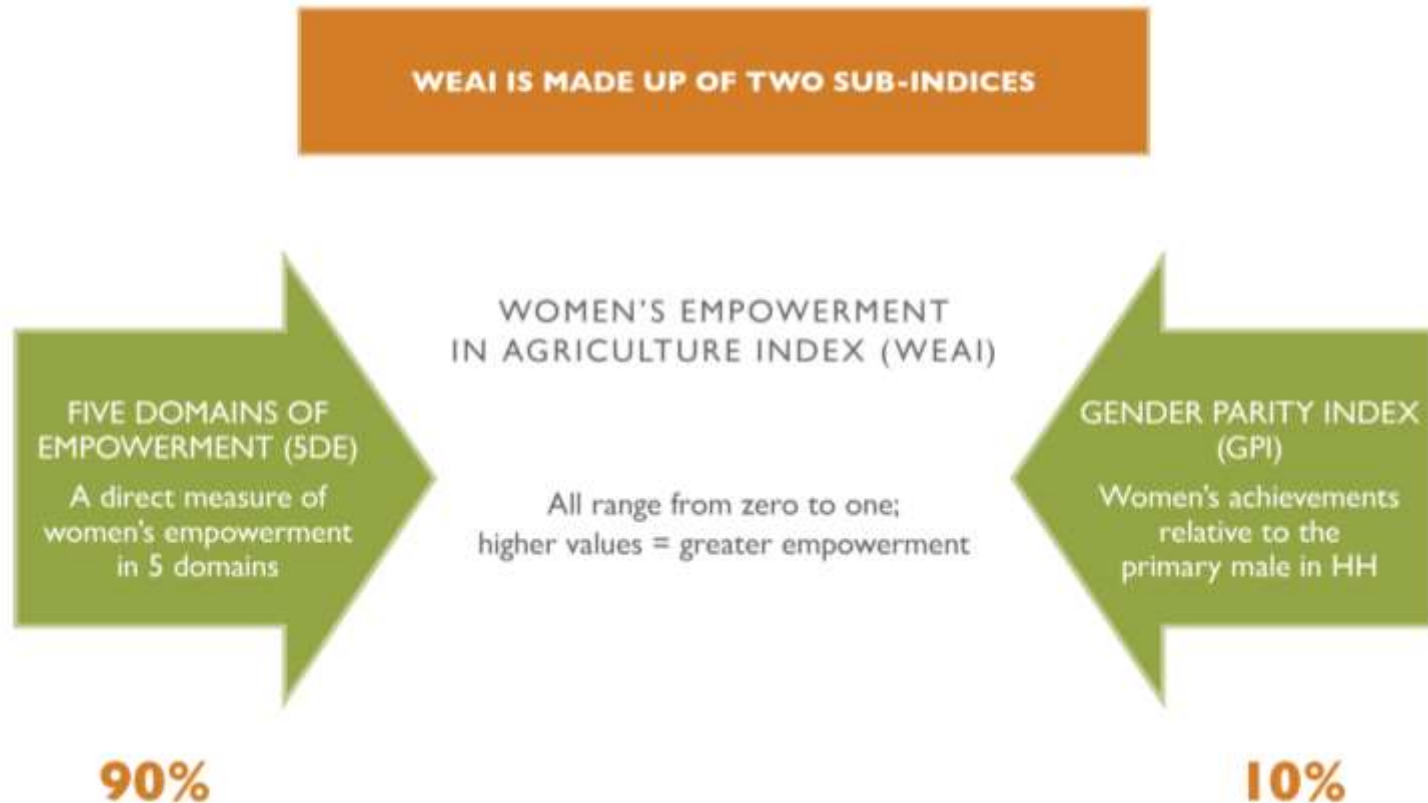
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## LET'S RETURN TO BANGLADESH





## HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?





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## QUESTIONS?





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## BREAK

## PLEASE RETURN IN 10 MINUTES





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## FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE WEAI

Please turn to your Participant Manual and  
review the instrument...



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## WEAI SURVEY EXERCISE... WELCOME TO OUR FARM!

Jane and Tom are a couple.

Their household has a small garden by the house and a larger plot just outside the village.

They grow maize, pigeon peas and a few vegetables. For these crops, the family uses machetes and other hand tools.





## MORE ABOUT OUR FARM

- Jane keeps some chickens and recently bought a goat with the money she earned from selling eggs. There are two other goats.
- Tom bought an ox that Jane takes care of and that their son takes out to the communal grazing area. There is no stall for the ox.
- Tom recently bought a plough so that he can rent ploughing services to his neighbors.





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## TABLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR VIEWING THE VIDEO

Table A: Agricultural land (pieces/plots)

Table B: Large livestock (oxen, cattle)

Table C: Small livestock (goats, pigs, sheep)

Table D: Poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons)



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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FEED THE FUTURE | **KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBxqxfEwAcM&feature=youtu.be>



## AT YOUR TABLE...

- Briefly discuss your questionnaire answers for the assigned WEAI asset
- Come to agreement on your table's responses
- Be prepared to have one spokesperson at each table give a **ONE-SENTENCE** summary of what your table concluded about your assigned asset



## TABLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR VIEWING THE VIDEO

Table A: How much control did Jane have over what she owns?

Table B: If this interview were to happen in your country, do you think Tom would respond similarly? Why or why not?

Table C: What is owned jointly? What is owned by Jane? What is owned by Tom?

Table D: How much control did Jane have over assets she said she owned or took care of? How much control did Tom have over assets Jane owned or took care of?



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## USING THE WEAI

- Monitoring: How are programs affecting women's and men's empowerment?
  - Global, regional, country, project-level
- Diagnostic tool: Identify aspects in which women & men are disempowered in order to guide programs and policies
- Analyses: Examine women's empowerment across countries, links with other topics



## VERSIONS OF THE WEAI

- Full WEAI
- Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI)
  - Takes 30% less time to administer than the Full WEAI
  - Does not include autonomy in production, transacting on assets, public speaking, or leisure, and adjusts weighting to maintain each domain as equally weighted
- Project-level WEAI (Pro-WEAI) – under development
  - Will create “modules” for different types of agriculture and food security projects (e.g., nutrition, livestock)

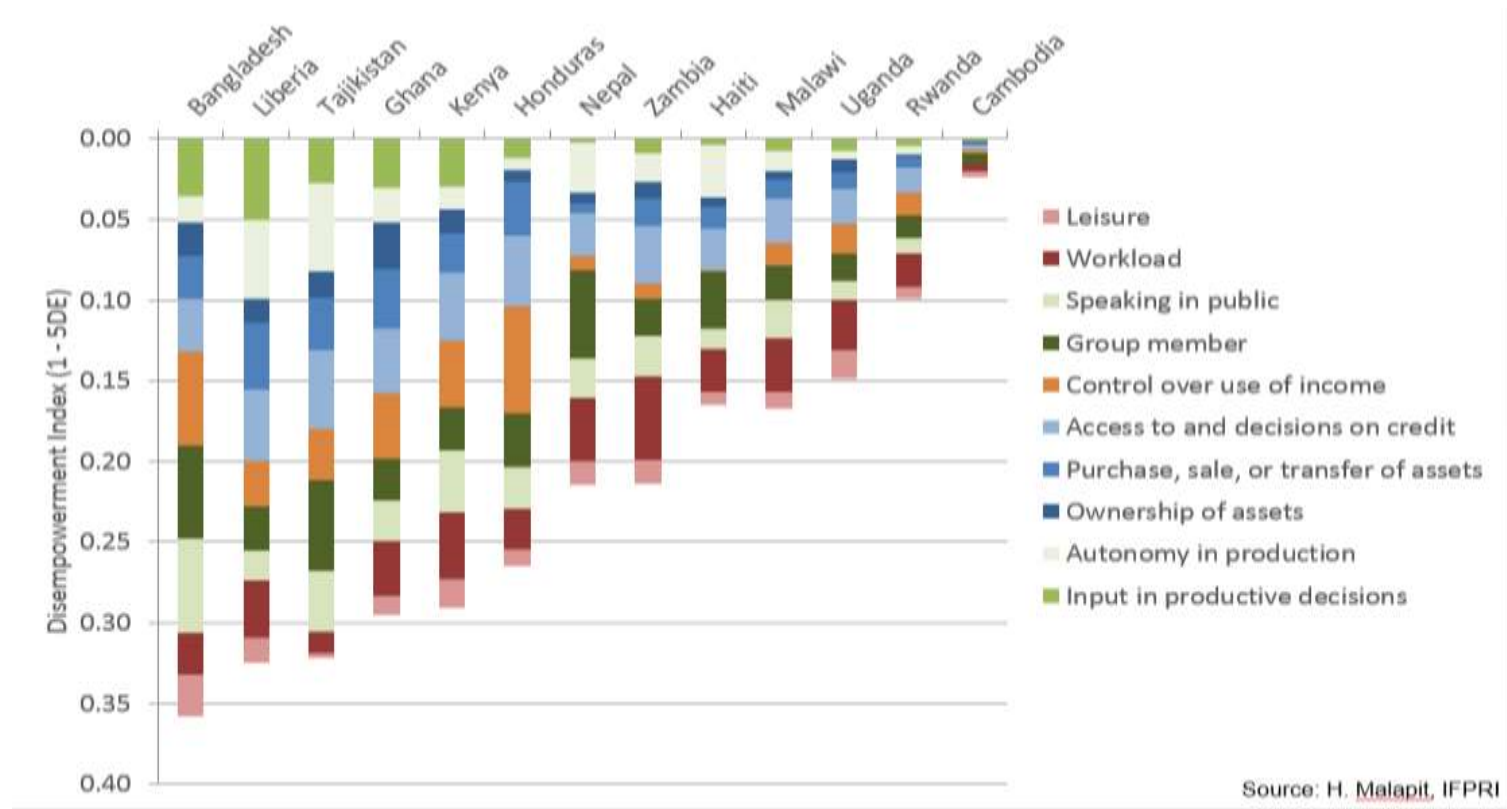




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## GLOBAL WOMEN'S DISEMPOWERMENT SCORES (1-5DE)

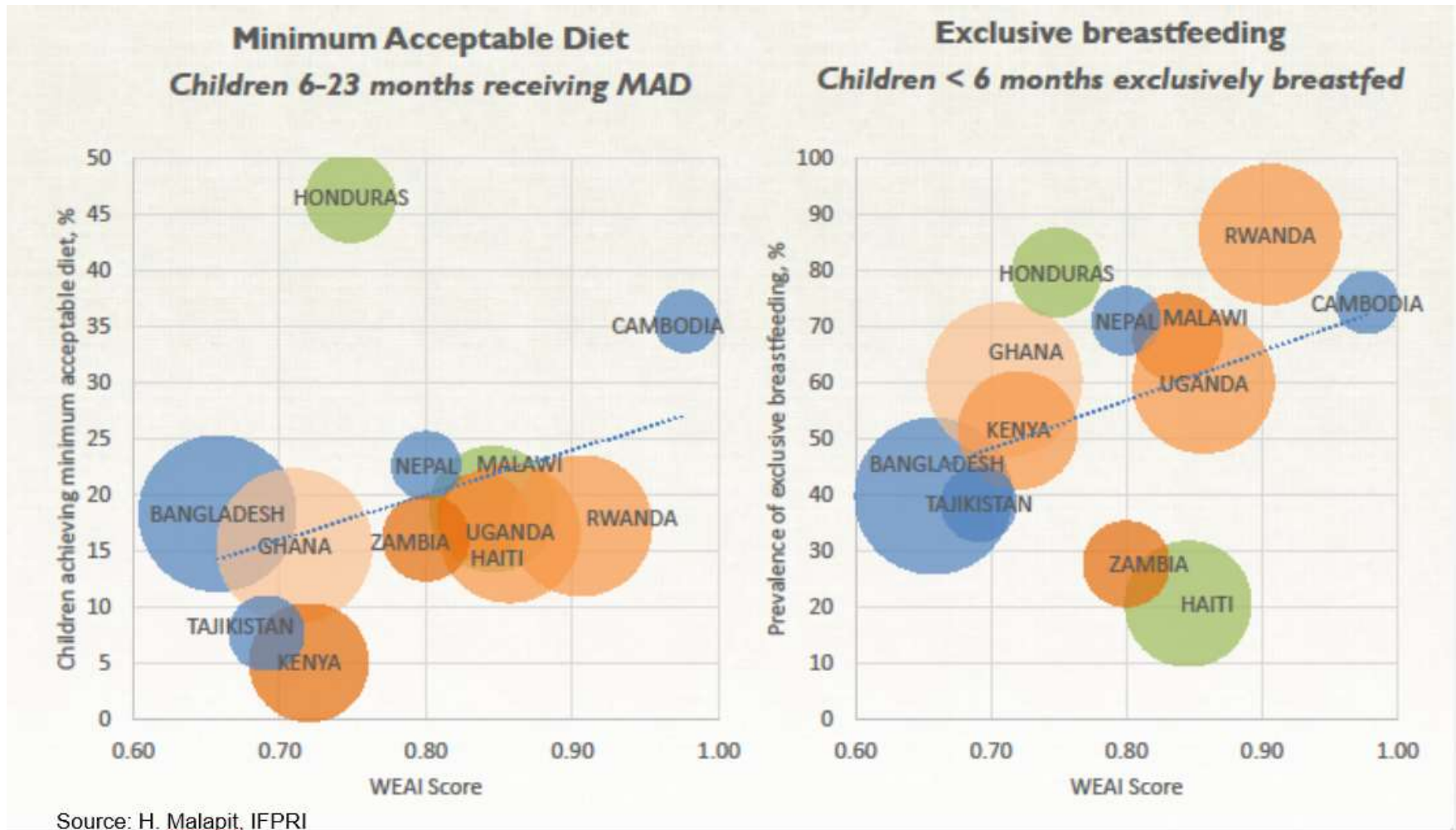




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## MATERNAL BEHAVIOR



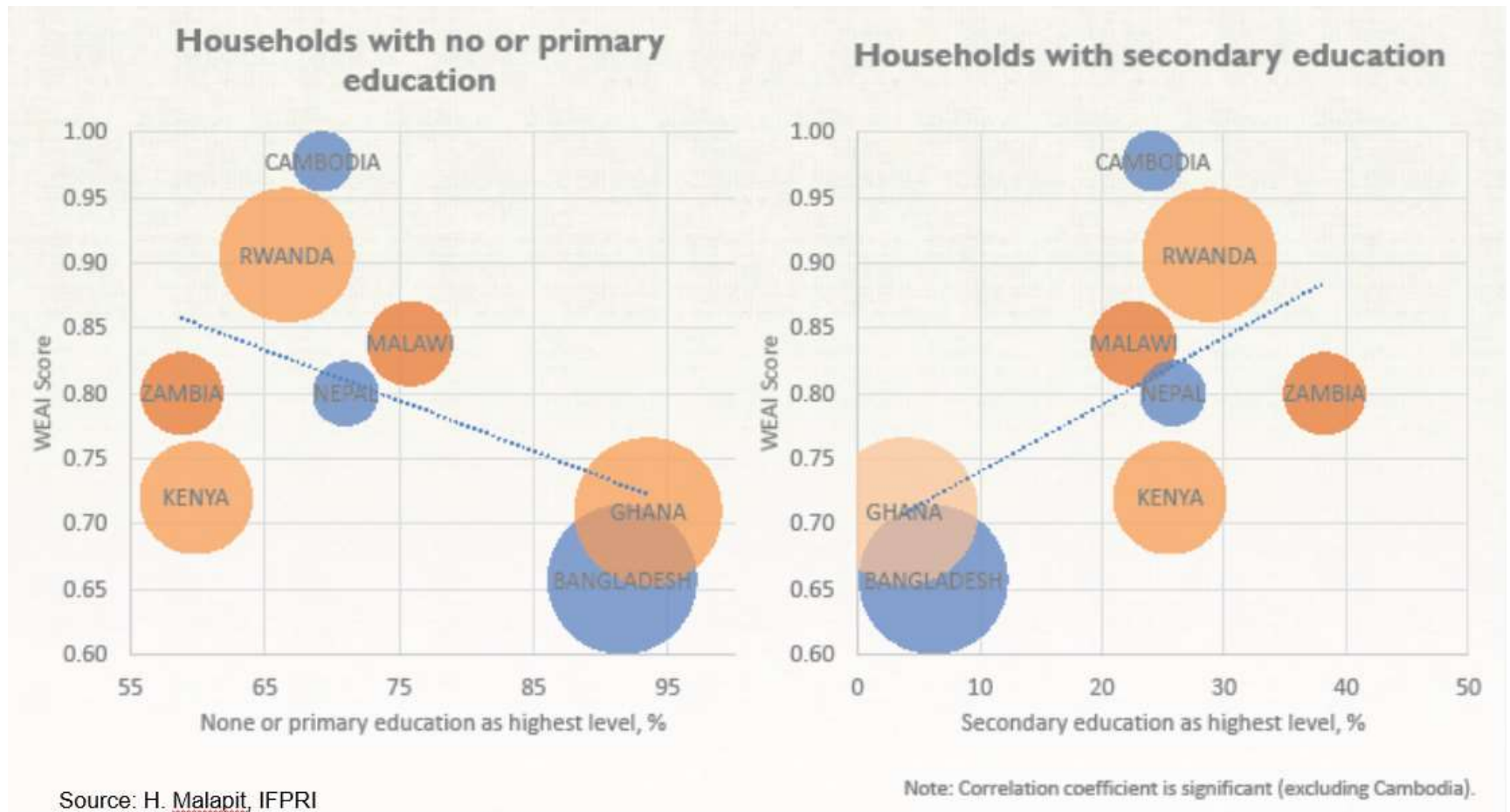
Source: H. Malapit, IFPRI



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## EDUCATION: HIGHEST HOUSEHOLD ACHIEVEMENT





## SUMMARY

### **Greatest constraints:**

- Too little credit, too much work and not enough groups

### **Comparison with men:**

- On average women are twice as disempowered as men
- Women are almost twice as disempowered as men in their ability to access and make decisions regarding credit, and over one and a half times as disempowered with respect to workload and group membership
- While the magnitude of women's disempowerment is greater, men are also disempowered in these domains





## SUMMARY CONTINUED

### **Geographic patterns:**

- Specific constraints dominate certain regions

### **WEAI and poverty, health and nutrition outcomes:**

- The WEAI is most strongly associated with household educational achievement, income and maternal behavior (prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding and children receiving a minimum acceptable diet)





## USING THE WEAI IN YOUR OWN PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

- Understand and track the domains relevant to your project/activity
  - Where are you starting from?
  - Is the project/activity moving that domain? That's part of telling the project's success story
- Break it down for use in parts
  - Assessments and impact evaluations have used WEAI survey questions for particular domains
- Modify it for your programs, topics of interest



## ADAPTATIONS – KENYA

### INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ILRI)

#### ORIGINAL 5 DOMAINS

	Domain/ Dimension	Indicators
1	Production	Input in productive decisions Autonomy in production
2	Resources	Ownership of assets Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets Access to and decisions on credit
3	Income	Control over use of income
4	Leadership	Group membership Speaking in public
5	Time	Workload, leisure

#### 6 DOMAINS

	Domain/ Dimension	Indicators
1	Production	Input in productive decisions Autonomy in production
2	Resources	Ownership of assets Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets Access to and decisions on credit
3	Income	Control over use of income
4	Leadership	Group membership Speaking in public Ownership of an identity card
5	Time	Workload, leisure
6 *	Health	Autonomy in making appropriate decisions on reproductive health Attitudes towards gender based violence



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## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC WEAI DATA





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## AT YOUR TABLE DISCUSS ...

- What is one headline from the data?
- What is one way you can envision putting this data to use?



## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Pro-WEAI
  - Partnership with Gates Foundation/GAAP2
  - Pilot testing 14 projects
  - Develop add-on modules
- Integrating WEAI into national surveys?
- WEAI data collected in the Feed the Future interim survey
- WEAI/GIF training with Feed the Future staff and partners
- Gender & M&E Guide (coming soon!)



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AND WEAI?

Open your Participant Manual to EXERCISES tab, page 13.

- Write ***at least*** one way you can imagine putting your country-specific WEAI data to use.
  - How would this change your programming?



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AND WEAI?

On a sticky note ...

- Write ***at least*** one way you can imagine putting your country-specific WEA data to use.
  - How would this change your programming?
- Post this on the flipchart entitled “WEAI Use” on your way out the door!



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## WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Your feedback is important and we welcome hearing how to make this workshop even better.

Please turn in your completed evaluation before leaving the workshop.





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## THANK YOU





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