

Webinar Chat Box Transcript

**Increasing Feed the Future Impacts Through Targeted Gender Integration**

**August 20, 2014**

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**Presenters:** Emily Hogue, Krista Jacobs, Farzana Ramzan, and Sara Calvert

**Facilitator:** Julie MacCartee

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**Julie MacCartee:** Welcome, all! This is Julie MacCartee with the USAID Bureau for Food Security. I'll be helping facilitate today. Please go ahead and introduce yourself in the chat box

**Julie MacCartee:** Here is the WEAI landing page on Feed the Future's website: <http://feedthefuture.gov/lp/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index>

**Julie MacCartee:** Emily Hogue, Team Leader for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning at USAID/BFS is currently speaking.

**Cristina Manfre:** Can the presenters explain why human capital and access to technology were not included in the WEAI? Thanks

**Elise Young:** Since the WEAI does not allow for interviewing multiple women within a polygamous or multi-women household, will WEAI 2.0 explore using randomized interviewing processes to ensure that a more representative segment of households is represented?

**Liliana Gil:** In Guatemala, I have seen that when going to the field, women tell us that they do not go to the field to weed, clean and put the seeds into the land. They have more roles during the harvesting season. Therefore, their role in agriculture is based on the gender division of labor. How can these women increase productivity if they are not involved in all the process?

**Triphine Munganyinka:** Issues might be quite well identified, but addressing them in a proper way are sometime very challenging- IP not being equipped with knowledge and skills and Mission staff not really understanding how to address them**.**

**Triphine Munganyinka:** Women's workload is too heavy mostly in rural areas and division of labor at the household level is still problematic in Rwandan context, despite the fact that the Government is trying to promote gender equality.

**Emily Hogue:** Triphine, You are absolutely correct, and we are working on identifying those best approaches to address the problems identified. We're trying to compile good practices.

**Emily Hogue:** We'll talk about some today that the Bangladesh Mission is using.

**Emily Hogue:** We'd appreciate any ideas you have or any specific questions on approaches you have. If we can't address them via the webinar, we can try to follow up, as well, via email.

**Patricia Rwasoka-Masanganise:** We have to note that these issues are inter-linked.

**Kevin Fath:** Are all indicators weighted equally? If not, how are weights determined?

**Emily Hogue:** Kevin, all domains are weighted equally and all indicators are weighted equally within each domain.

**Emily Hogue:** So, each domain gets 20% of the weight, and then if there is only one indicator in that domain it gets 20%. If there are two indicators in the domain each get 10% etc.

**Triphine Munganyinka:** My understanding is that the women empowerment in agriculture is not just isolated; it also has to deal with natural resources management, such as water access and management for crop and factors of climate change that also might negatively impact on the productivity and household living conditions as a whole.

**Deborah Caro:** Are there written instructions on how to use the GIF?

**Emily Hogue:** Deborah, there isn't a written guidance piece on it yet. For now, the webinar will be recorded. We can look into creating the written instructions if there is interest.

**Kevin Fath:** Do I understand correctly, then, that indicators with a 20% weight will have more influence on the overall index than indicators that contribute 10%?

**Kevin Fath:** Written instructions would be great!

**Emily Hogue:** Kevin, yes, an indicator with 20% weight (the only one is the Control over the Use of Income indicator) contributes more to the score than, say, Workload which gets 10%. However, the overall domains (Income vs. Time Use) are weighted equally.

**Emily Hogue:** For some domains, we believed we needed more than one indicator to adequately capture/measure the domain. For Control over Income, we felt the one indicator we developed adequately captured the domain

**Kristine Hoffer:** How do we access the recorded version of the webinar?

**Julie MacCartee:** Kristine - we will send it out via an email to everyone who registered for this webinar. It will also be posted on this Agrilinks page: <http://agrilinks.org/events/increasing-feed-future-impacts-through-targeted-gender-integration>

**Reena Borwankar:** The control over use of income indicator - this is HH income correct? What was the rationale behind focusing on HH income versus individual income?

**Emily Hogue:** Reena, we focused on household income, because separating out individual income for household members is often hard to do methodologically.

**Emily Hogue:** If we look at overall HH production and sales, let's say, it is hard to say what should correspond to the woman and what to the man in many contexts.

**Liliana Gil:** Is joint decision making in the use of income good or bad? Women in Guatemala claim that they make the decisions jointly with their husbands.

**Krista Jacobs:** Thanks, Reena and Liliana for your questions. The WEAI uses household income instead of individual income for a few reasons. Not everyone has individual income, but they may still have a role in decisions about household income. Also, people do not always think of income as their own individual income, especially in agriculture where multiple household members may be working together/in different roles.

**Emily Hogue:** Liliana, Joint decision-making is considered positive (contributing to empowerment) for the WEAI. We discussed the idea of trying to collect individual income (increases in income and control) and it would have been problematic to impossible to collect. Krista provided even more to this answer.

**Emily Hogue:** If women are involved in the decision-making, jointly with another or alone, it counts toward the empowerment score. The main issue is just that they have input in some way.

**Maria Elisa Christie:** I know the Bangladesh Mission included mobility in their adaptation of the WEAI. Could you tell us about how this was done and what findings it produced?

**Emily Hogue:** Maria Elisa, USAID/Bangladesh may have collected data on mobility in their overall baseline survey, but it was not included in the tabulation of the WEAI. The Mission used the standard WEAI data and formulas.

**Triphine Munganyinka:** USAID/Rwanda trough activities have tried to challenge some cultural norms and beliefs through sensitization and education on gender equality and the importance of women empowerment - working with Agriculture cooperatives/associations has been so exciting and helped a lot in challenging societal expectations and this empowered women to speak in public; male cooperative members came to realize that women are key for the economic development of the household; etc.

**Lindsey Jones:** That's great Triphine, would love to learn more about that. Our program in Zambia has done similar trainings through farmers groups that have really seemed to change societal norms about gender norms and decision-making.

**Triphine Munganyinka:** Tackling gender issues through couples sensitization and community involvement has been successful in challenging cultural attitudes and taboos. It has also been useful to show benefits to men in supporting the empowerment of their spouses or daughters. However, we recognize more efforts are still needed to make more changes.

**Kristy Cook:** A gendered value chain analysis is a much better starting point for program design and development than the WEAI which is too general and does not capture the specific social context well.

**Krista Jacobs:** Kristy, there are multiple ways to do program design, and a gendered value chain analysis is a good approach. The aim of the GIF is to look across programming to identify current practices and gaps as part of the program planning process. Gendered value chain analyses should definitely be included in discussion around column E in the GIF - is this problem or constraint relevant to the context?

**Carol Jenkins:** In a FTF partners meeting held in Malawi the WEAI was presented at .84. Partners expected that the index would be much lower. How can we use the gender tools available to get a more nuanced approach to ensure that we see an increase in an index that is already fairly high in the longer term?

**Emily Hogue:** Carol, we often recommend additional qualitative data collection and analysis to more carefully examine some of the primary constraints in a given country context. You could also look at any other existing data/evidence sources to better understand that constraint.

**Triphine Munganyinka:** We would appreciate getting all key tools and resources that would still really support our gender integration into project design, RFA/RFP and M&E for Ag projects.

**Deborah Rubin:** Why are the outcomes only framed in terms of numbers of women rather than looking at improvements relative to men. For example, you might be increasing the number of women in a group, but if the numbers of men are increasing, you have not necessarily improved women's power relative to men or income, volume or produce, # of leadership positions, etc.

**Emily Hogue:** Deborah, if you are referencing what is in the matrix, you can certainly include information about women's advancements relative to men's. The examples here are mainly illustrative, not comprehensive but it is a good point.

**Kevin Fath:** Related to Emily's comment, if I were implementing the WEA I might consider using qualitative approaches to identify a weighting scheme that reflects local cultural context.

**Emily Hogue:** Good point, Kevin. Users can re-weight the index for their specific use if needed, although for FTF reporting, we keep the standard but we've had a lot of partners do analyses to understand how to reweight the index for their context.

**Kristy Cook:** Are you providing the WEAI descriptive data to missions and partners? The data in Index form is not useful for programming, but the data on specific questions would be very interesting. Open data availability does not help for statistically and software challenged users.

**Emily Hogue:** Kristy, the majority of baseline reports (which we are trying to make publicly available in the near future) do provide breakdowns of the index data by indicators for women and men as well as the index and sub-index scores.

**Kristy Cook**: I think so. I would like to know what types of organizations women are involved in or not - e.g. savings, etc.

**Lindsey Jones:** This is really useful, thank you for the Bangladesh team being willing to share their use of the framework in so much detail.

**Kristy Cook:** How does a country/office/partner know how to prioritize constraints, where to start?

**Emily Hogue:** Kristy, certainly the score from the WEAI indicators. Also constraints described in other analyses should be examined. The WEAI quantifies and makes it easy to see which the greatest constraints are, but judgment would need to be used for sources outside the WEAI that aren't quantified.

**Phanwin Yokying:** Given that there are so many NGOs in Bangladesh, why group membership is the major constraint for Bangladeshi women?

**Triphine Munganyinka:** We are very interested in getting more resources and guidance so that we can also share with implementing partners. Please keep sharing.

**Elise Young:** I have a question on measuring women's leadership. Group membership and public speaking seem to be the main ways to do so within the WEAI. I'm particularly interested in how to measure women's leadership within mixed farmer groups of men and women (especially in Sub-Saharan Africa or countries like Haiti.) Women might participate in these groups, but not have the leadership status they deserve or need. How do we assess?

**Emily Hogue:** Elise, again, I'd recommend qualitative methods as follow up. You can ask specific questions in a survey about leadership, but given a survey is representative of a broader population, it isn't as useful, because not all women (or men) can be in a leadership role. For that reason, we chose to not collect on leadership roles in the WEAI. We didn't want it to count against empowerment for all respondents, because it just isn't possible for a large portion of the population to serve in leadership roles

**Lindsey Jones:** Elise - or, we could use a survey to assess leadership within organizations separately and then track those organizations over time. We have a tool we use and I can send it to you.

**Whitney Kippes:** Just to be clear, WEAI is not measuring men's perceptions regarding these constraints?

**Emily Hogue:** Whitney, the WEAI collects the same data from men and women. Some indicators are use data from questions on perceptions, but not all.

**Alesia Hull:** Please give us you feedback by completing the webinar feedback survey. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WEAIwebinarfeedback.](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WEAIwebinarfeedback.%20) Your feedback will help us improve future FTF FEEDBACK webinars. It will take less than 10 minutes to complete the survey.

**Triphine Munganyinka:** Looking at the Baselines report across FTF countries, what is your impression and how do you think Missions could still do more?

**Krista Jacobs:** Triphine, it was interesting to see about 3 constraints rise to the top. I think the process of talking through the GIF is helpful. I know that several of the missions are doing great things around norms and technology that I think we need to put in some effort to collect and share with other missions. Looking forward to talking more!

**Elise Young:** Lindsey that would be great. Would love to see that tool!

**Kristy Cook:** Looking forward to seeing the outcome reports.

**Mike Colby:** The WEIA Baseline report isn't downloading right.

**Julie MacCartee:** Mike, not sure what the issue is. It's also available here: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/measuring-progress-toward-empowerment>

**Julie MacCartee:** THANK YOU all for joining!!