



# GAAP<sup>2</sup> phase

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

Led by IFPRI

## The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI): Quantitative and qualitative approaches

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Lilongwe, Malawi

# Roadmap

- ▶ Reach-Benefit-Empower: Types of gender-sensitive agricultural development programs
- ▶ Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) Basics: Overview and evolution
- ▶ What have we learned?
  - ▶ Quantitative
  - ▶ Qualitative
- ▶ WEAI for Value Chains in Malawi



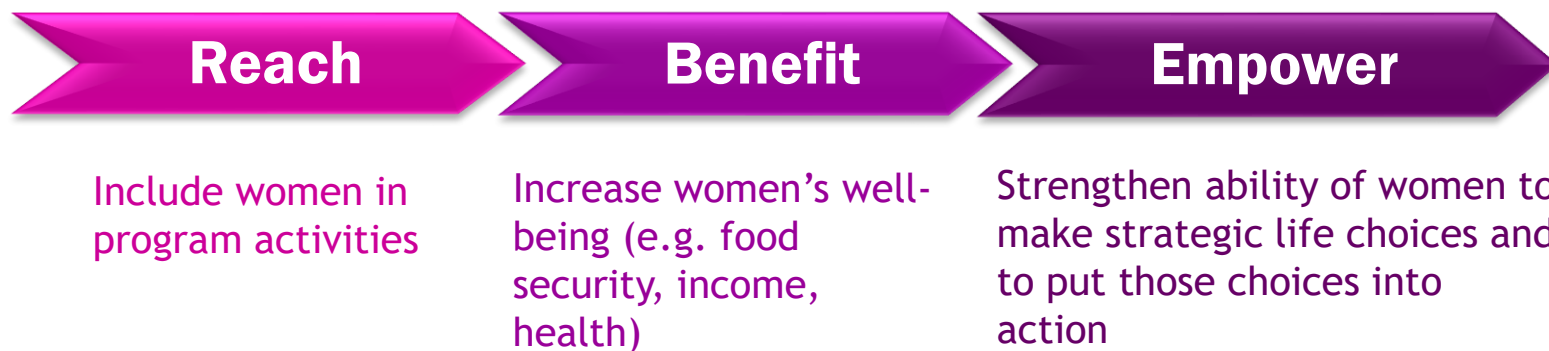
Photo credit: Kalyani Raghunathan (IFPRI)

# Reach-Benefit-Empower

Types of gender-sensitive agricultural development programs

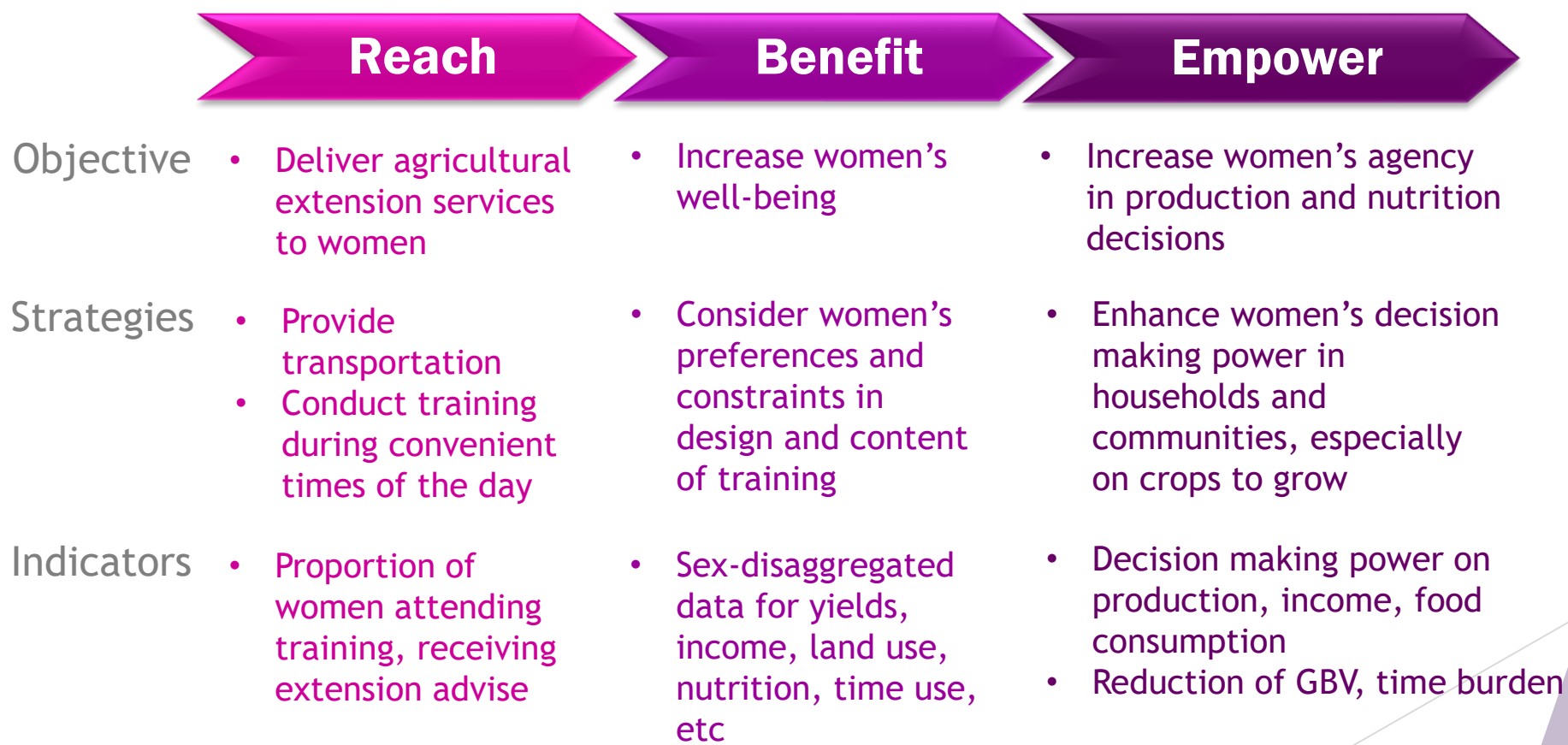
# Objectives of gender-sensitive agricultural development programs

- ▶ Three types of gender-sensitive agricultural development programs:



- ▶ The strategies and activities to achieve these aims will be different
- ▶ Need indicators to monitor these programs

# Example: Nutritious crop disseminated through agricultural extension



# Implications

## Projects

- ✓ Align objectives, strategies, tactics, indicators
- ✓ If seeking to empower, think about what tactics will affect what domains of empowerment

## Funders

- ✓ Check that objectives, strategies, tactics, indicators align

## Both projects and funders

- ✓ Need a suite of indicators that can **measure empowerment** at the project and at the portfolio level

No  
“empowerment  
bandwagon”  
with no motor

# WEAI Basics

Overview and evolution of the Index

# Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

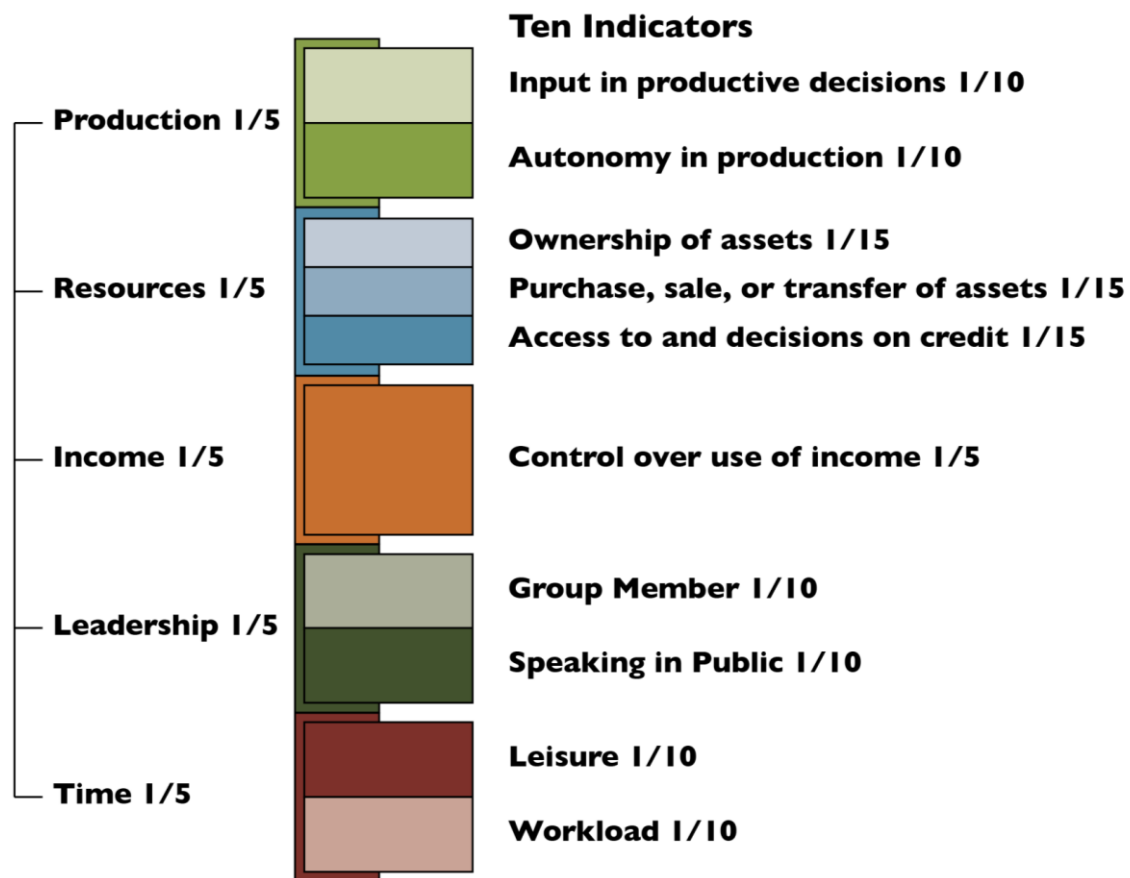
- ▶ Measures inclusion of women in the agricultural sector
- ▶ **Survey-based index** - interviews men and women in the same household
- ▶ Launched in 2012 by USAID, IFPRI, and OPHI
- ▶ Methodology:
  - ▶ Similar to multi-dimensional poverty indices (Alkire and Foster 2011) and the Foster-Greere-Thorbeck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






# 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



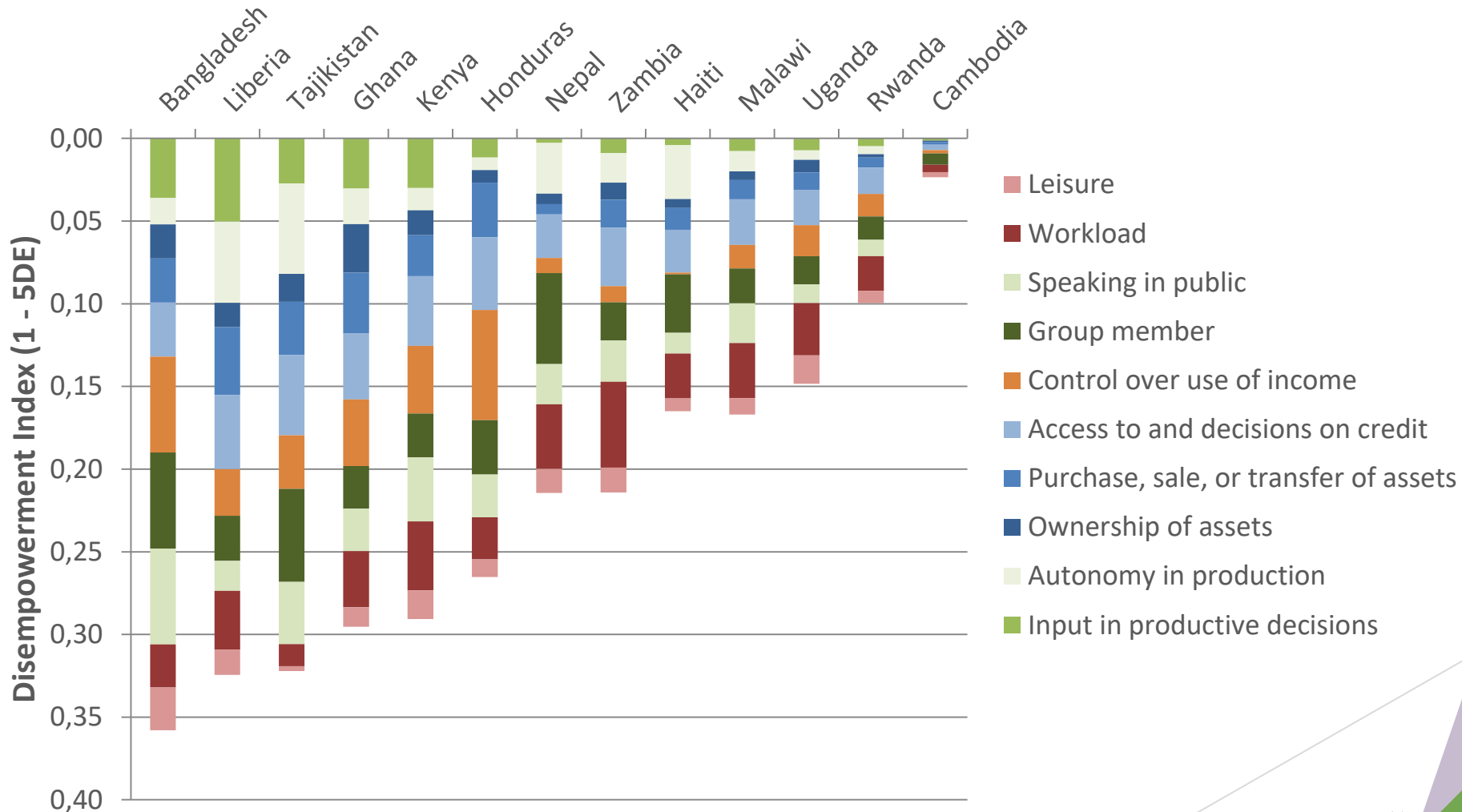
# Feed the Future Malawi results

- ▶ Baseline (2013) and Interim (2015) collected for women only for 9 out of 10 indicators (all except autonomy in productive decisions)

Domain	Definition of domain	Indicators	Percent with adequate achievement	n
Production	Sole or joint decisionmaking over food and cash crop farming, livestock, and fisheries, and autonomy in agricultural production	Input in productive decisions	90.7	891
		Autonomy in production	n/a	n/a
Resources	Ownership, access to, and decisionmaking power over productive resources such as land, livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables, and credit	Ownership of assets	87.4	891
		Purchase, sale or transfer of assets	75.2	891
		Access to and decisions on credit	 35.7	891
Income	Sole or joint control over income and expenditures	Control over use of income	98.7	891
Leadership	Membership in economic or social groups and comfort in speaking in public	Group member	76.1	891
		Speaking in public	68.0	891
Time	Allocation of time to productive and domestic tasks and satisfaction with the available time for leisure activities	Workload	76.6	891
		Leisure	88.1	891

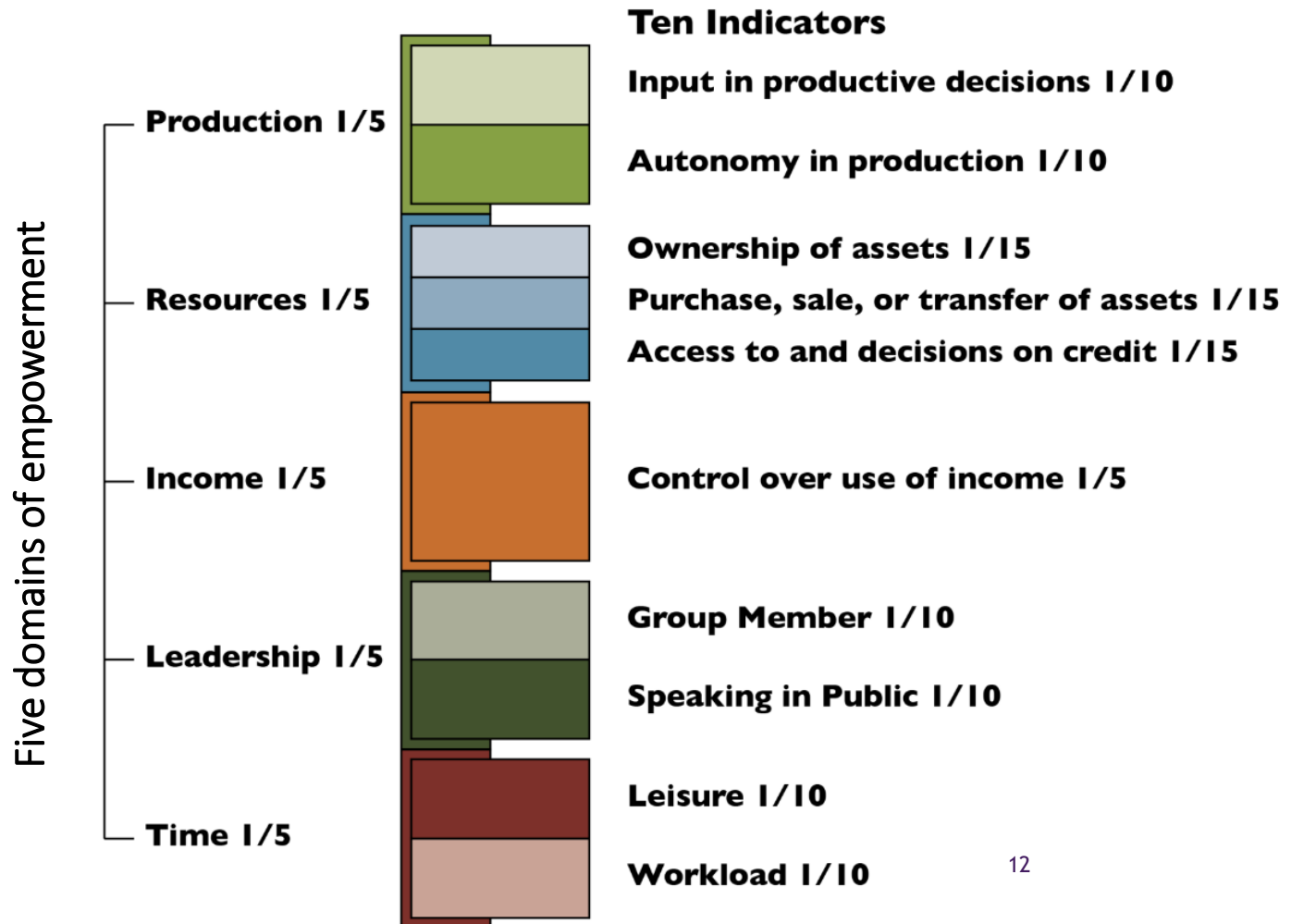
Source: Feed the Future FEEDBACK. 2015. Feed the Future Malawi 2015 Zone of Influence Interim Assessment Report. Rockville, MD: Westat.

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

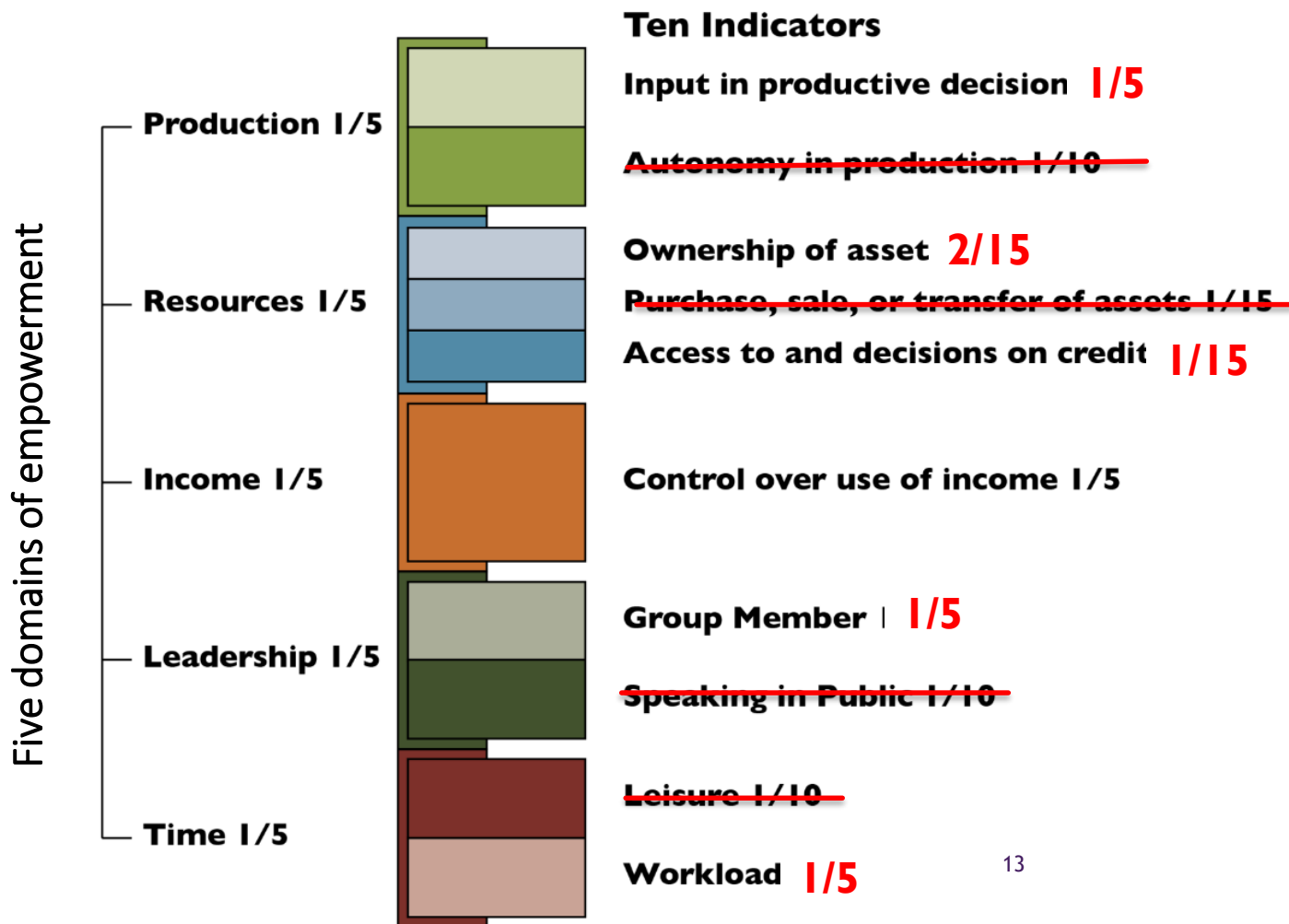


Source: Malapit et al. (2014)

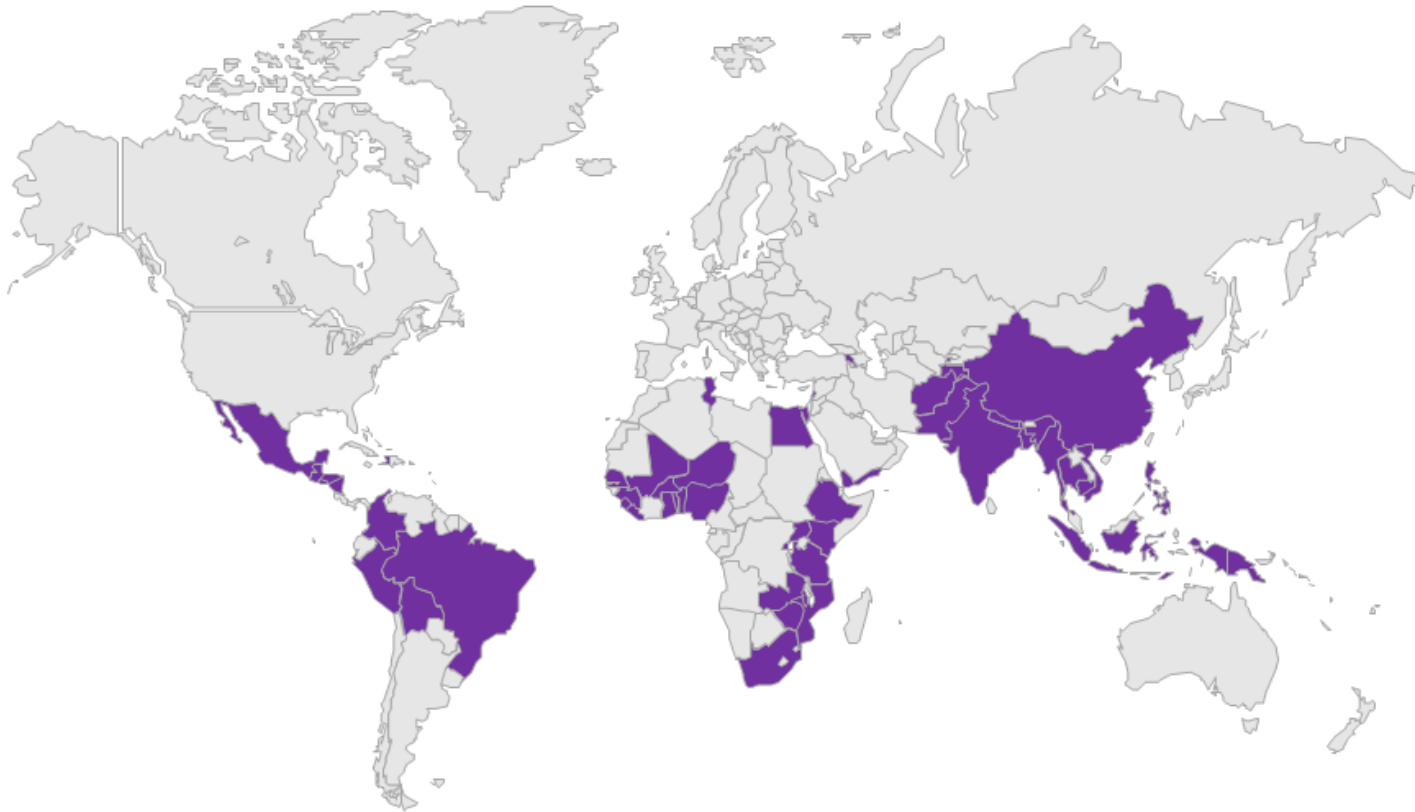
# Original WEAI



# Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI)



# WEAI used by 86 organizations in 53 countries



## Total WEAI (53 countries)

Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Vietnam, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

# Project-level WEAI

A portfolio approach

## What WEAI had...

- ▶ Women's and men's empowerment across 5 domains in agriculture
- ▶ Standardized measure, internationally validated
- ▶ Ability to diagnose empowerment gaps

## what projects wanted

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Market inclusion (WEAI4VC)

# GAAP2 for pro-WEAI: A portfolio approach to measuring empowerment



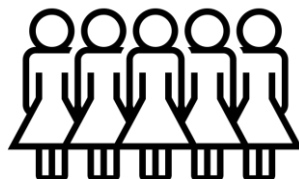
# Project strategies to empower women in GAAP2

## Provide goods and services



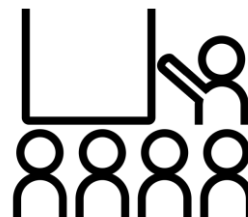
- Direct provision of goods/assets to beneficiaries
- Direct provision of services to beneficiaries
- Indirect provision by supporting availability, quality, or access

## Strengthen organizations



- Form/strengthen groups or other organizations (such as enterprises)
- Form/strengthen platforms or networks that link organizations

## Build knowledge and skills



- Agricultural training and extension
- Nutrition education
- Business and finance training
- Other training

## Influence gender norms



- Community conversations to identify community solutions to gender issues
- Awareness raising about gender issues and their implications

# Why GAAP2? What's measured matters

*A learning and capacity-development initiative working with a portfolio of 13 development projects in the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project Phase 2 (GAAP2)*

- ▶ Learning what works
- ▶ Learning what doesn't work
  - ▶ Particular gender strategies
  - ▶ Gender-blind approaches?
- ▶ Comparability across a portfolio

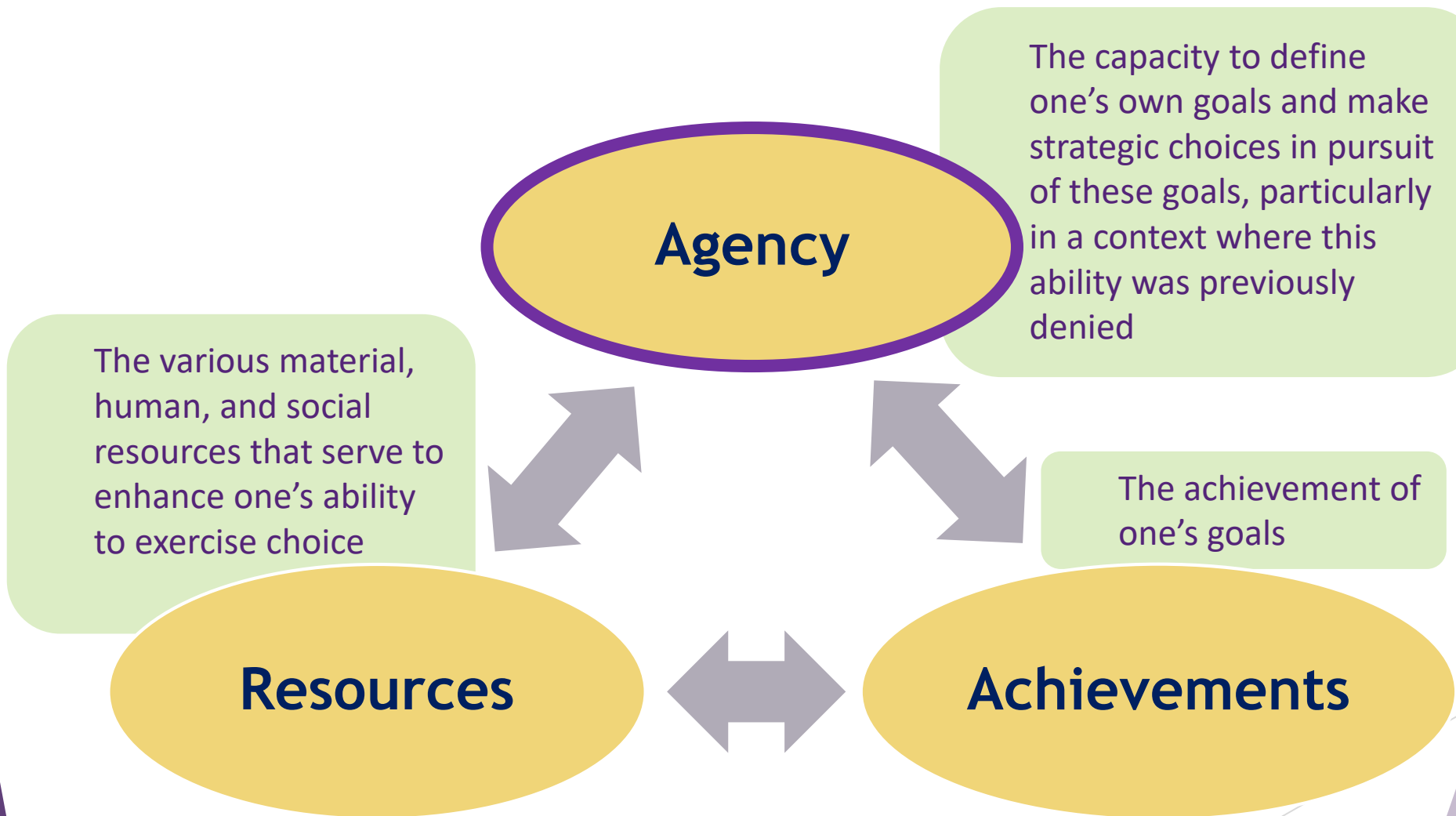


*Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, and A4NH*

# Project-level WEAI

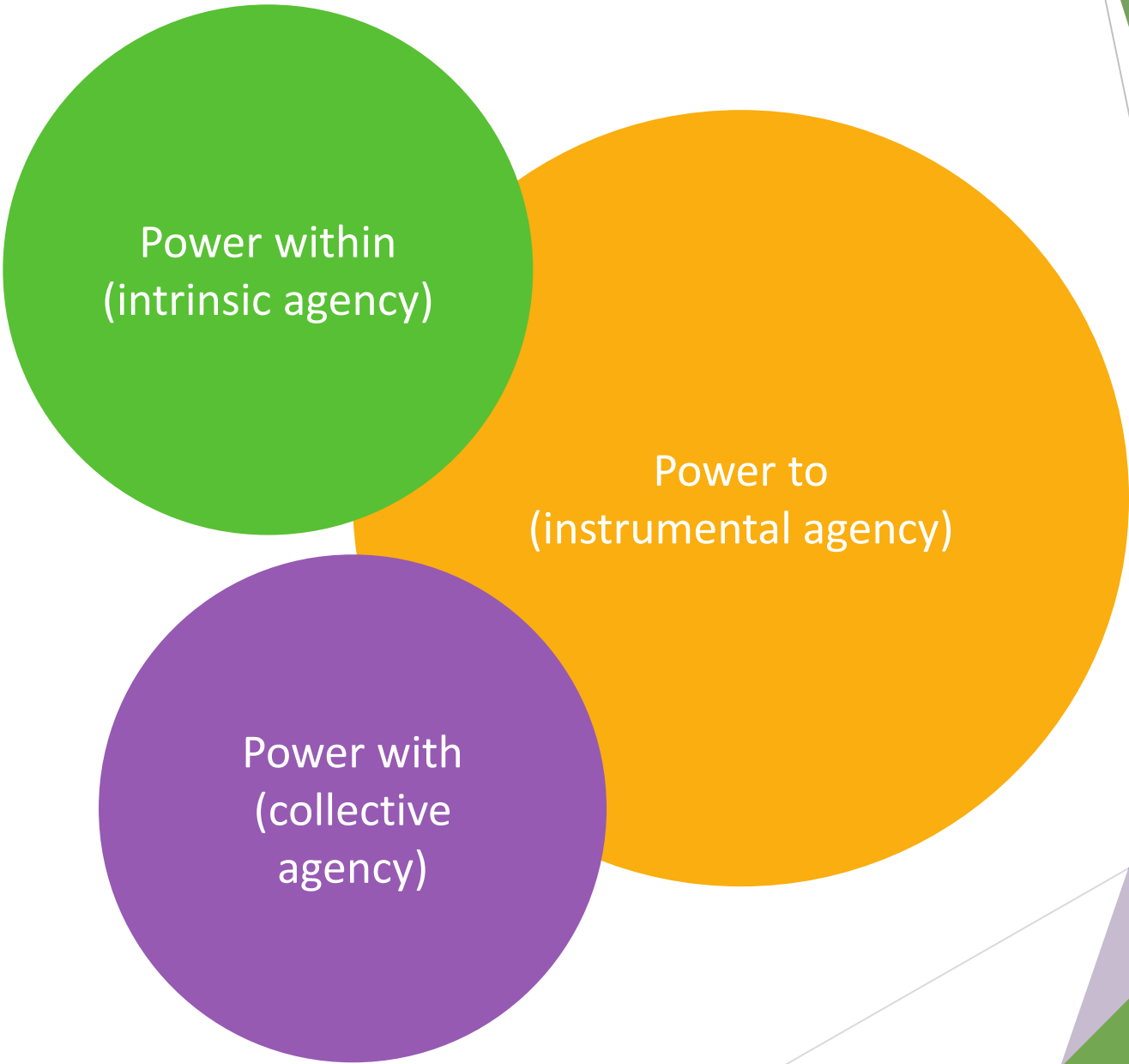
The index

# How WE(AI) define empowerment



Source: Kabeer (1999)

Three  
types of  
agency  
measured  
in all  
versions  
of the  
WEAI

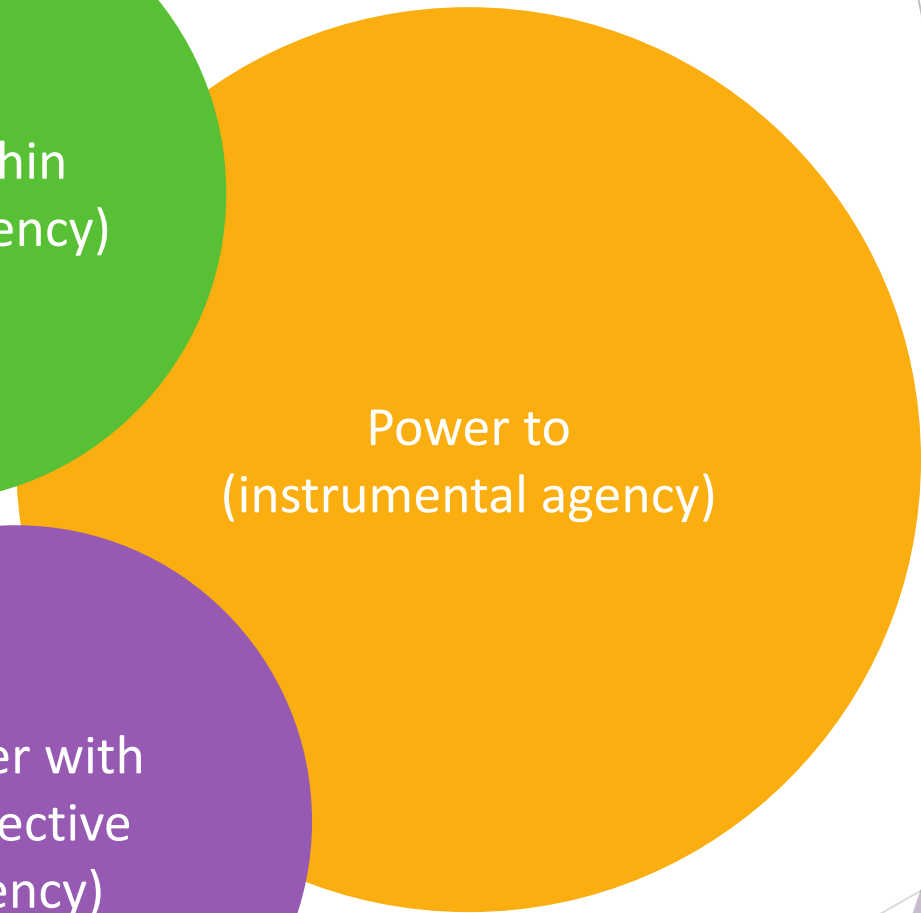
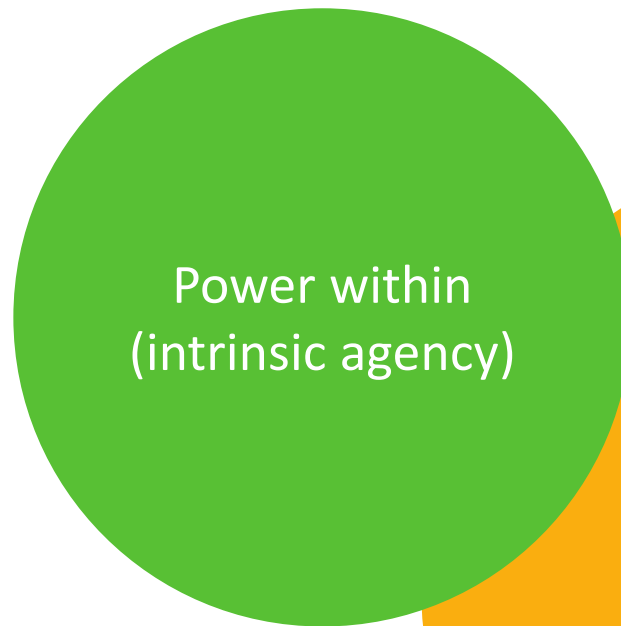
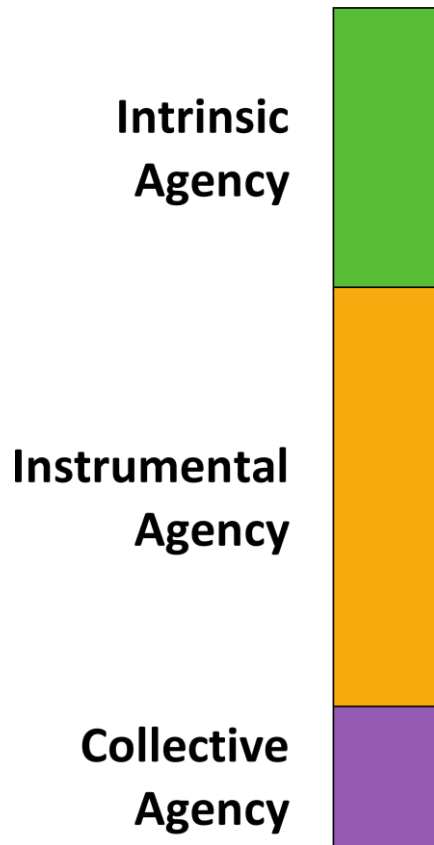


Power within  
(intrinsic agency)

Power to  
(instrumental agency)

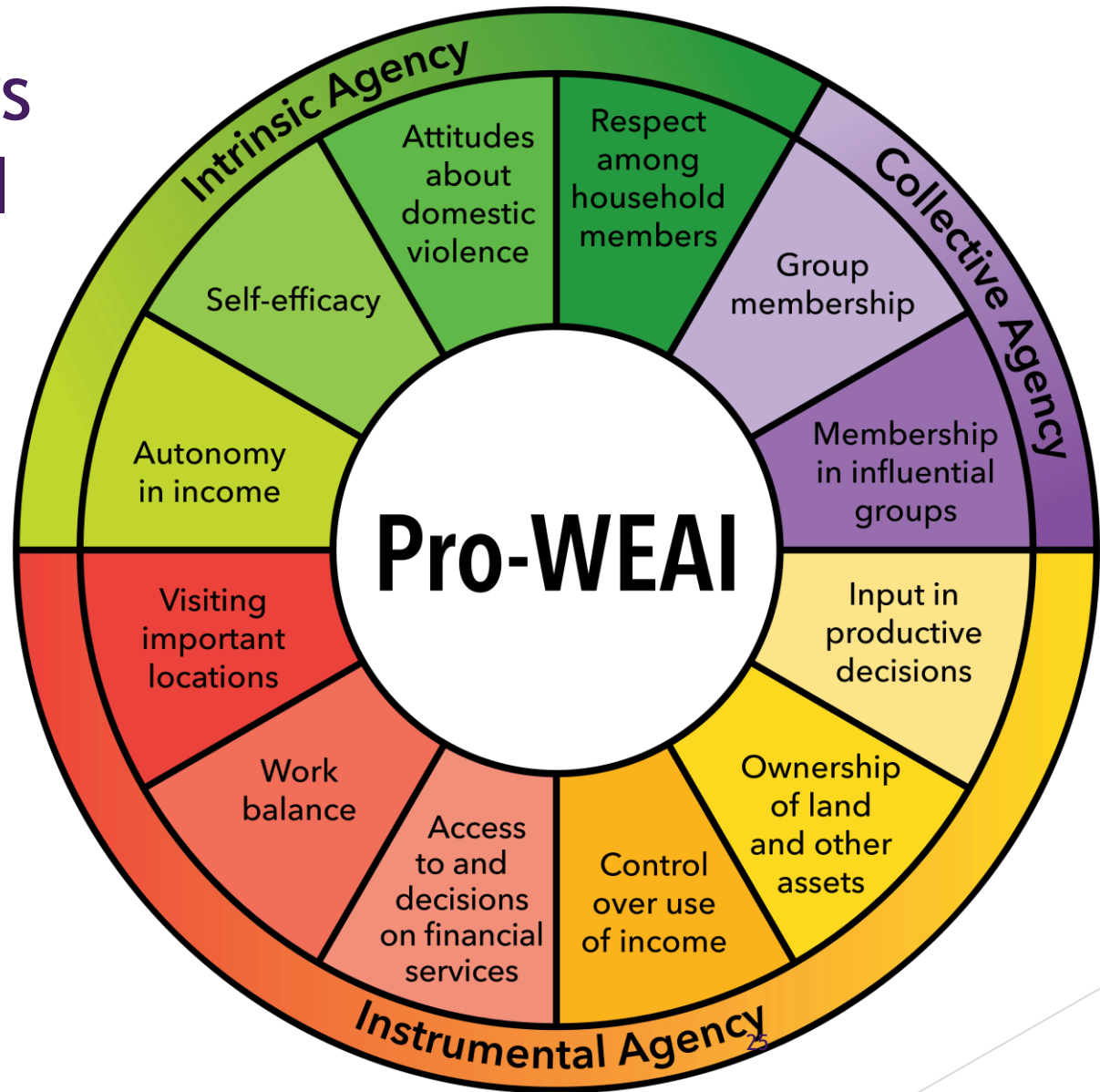
Power with  
(collective  
agency)

# pro-WEAI

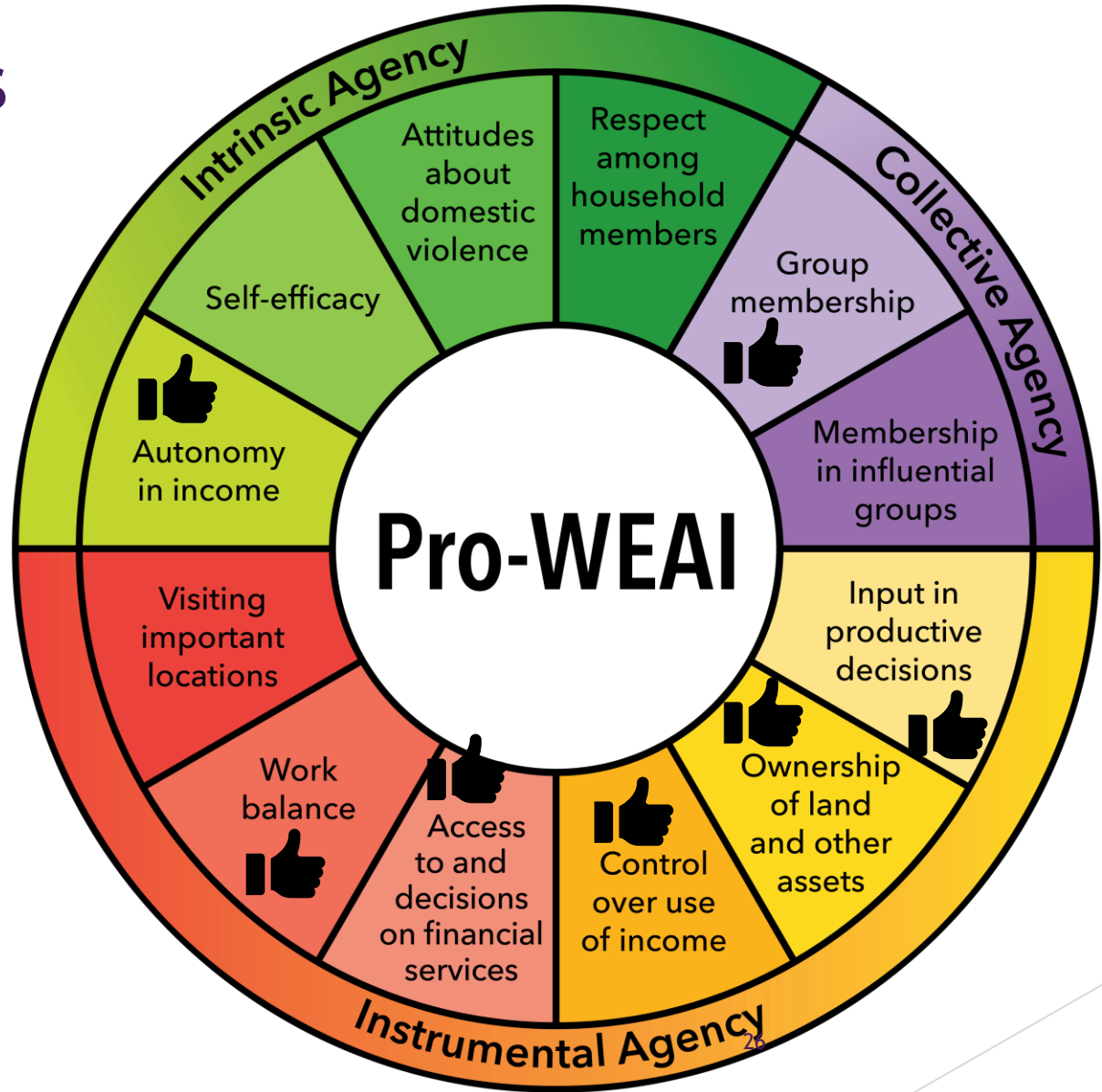




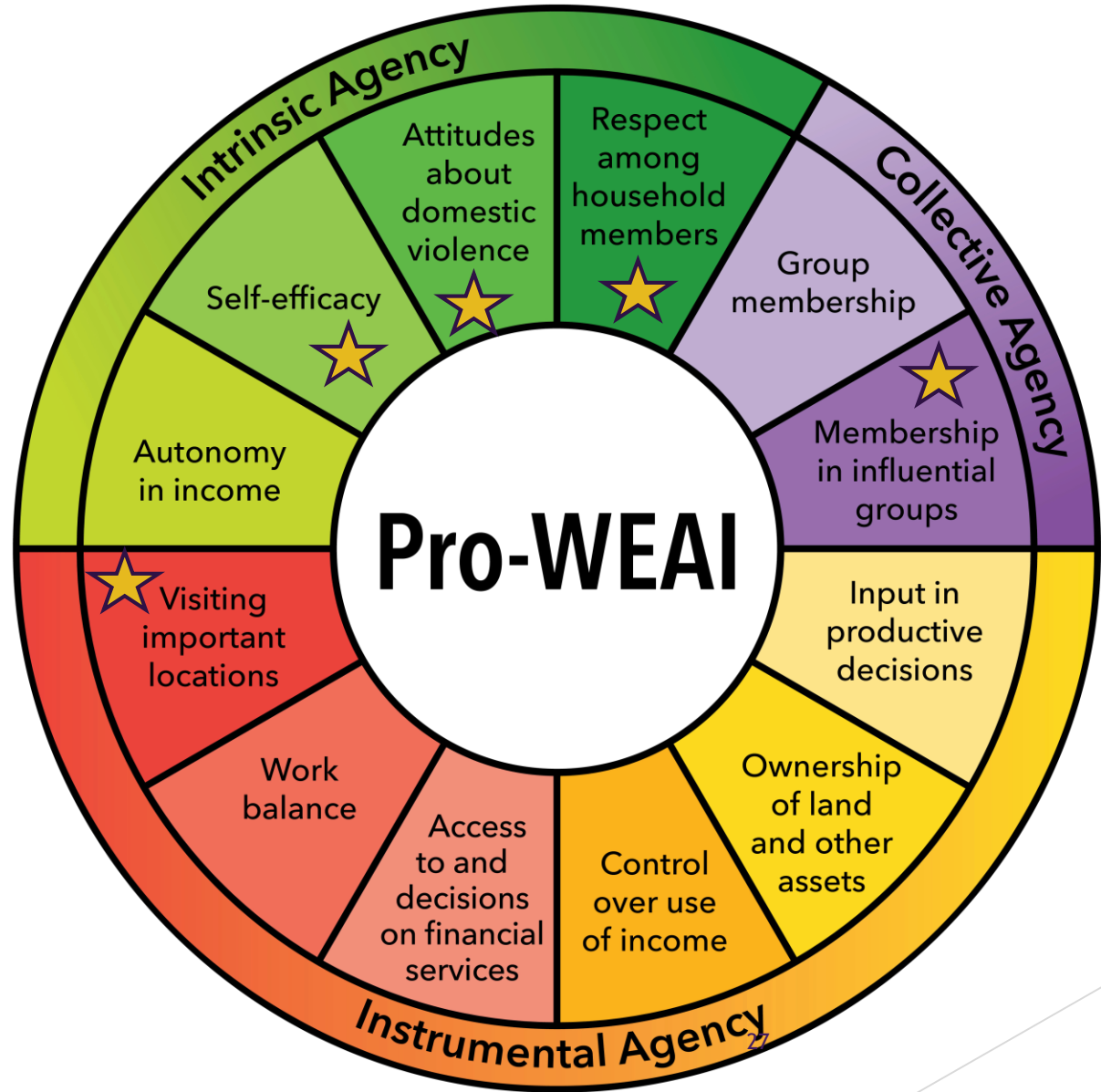
# 12 indicators in pro-WEAI



# 7 indicators build on original indicators

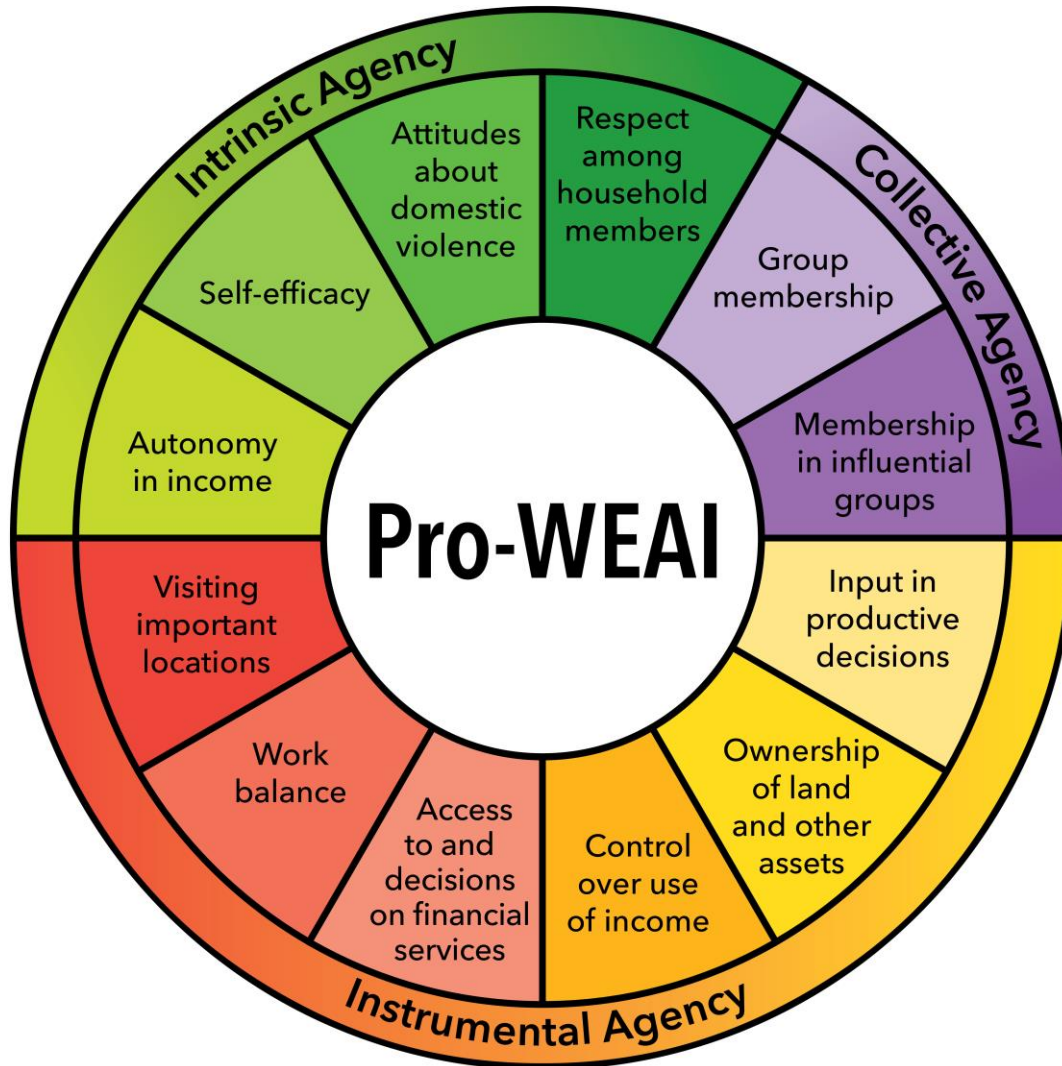


# 5 new indicators



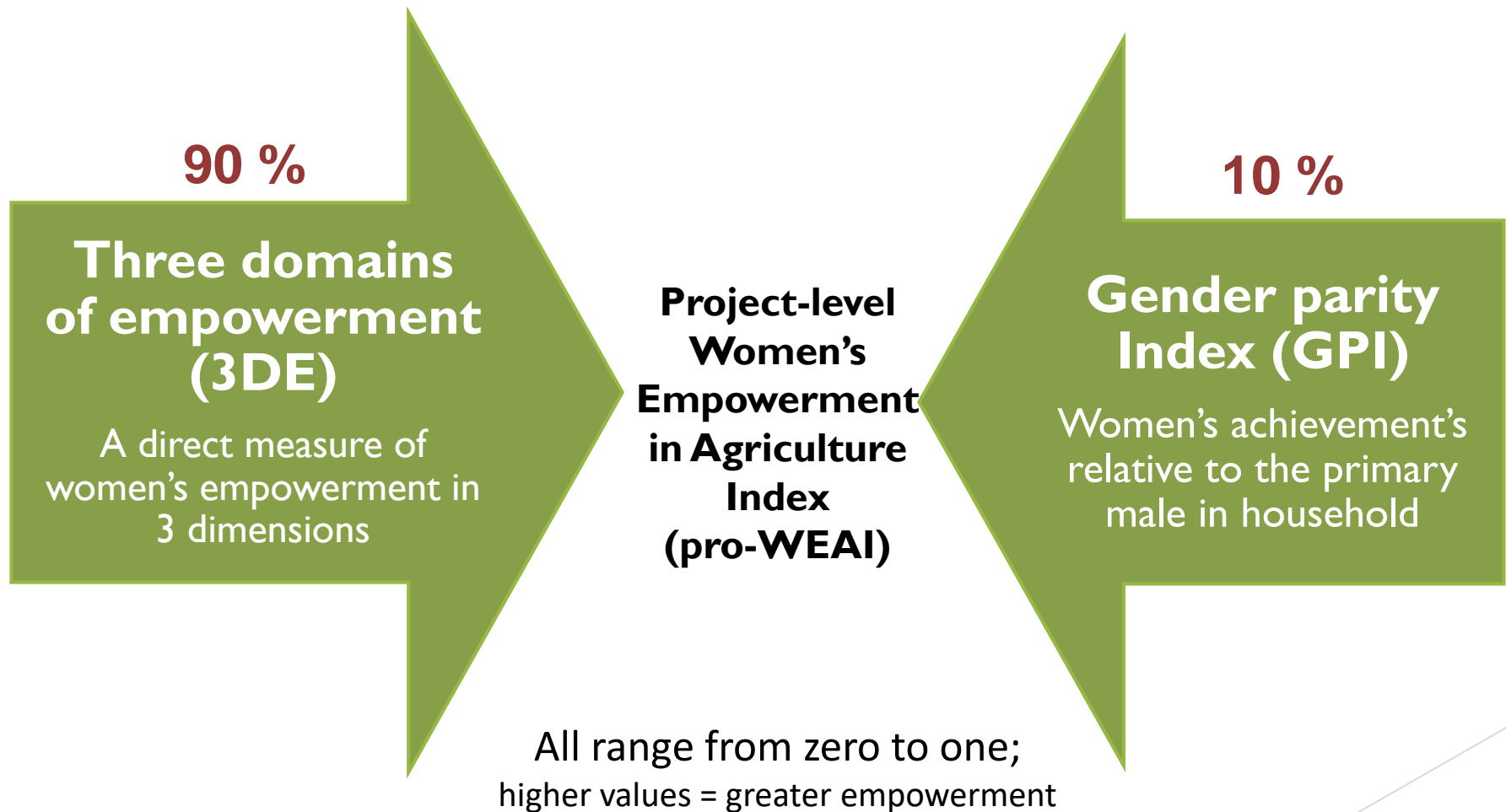
# 12 indicators of empowerment

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

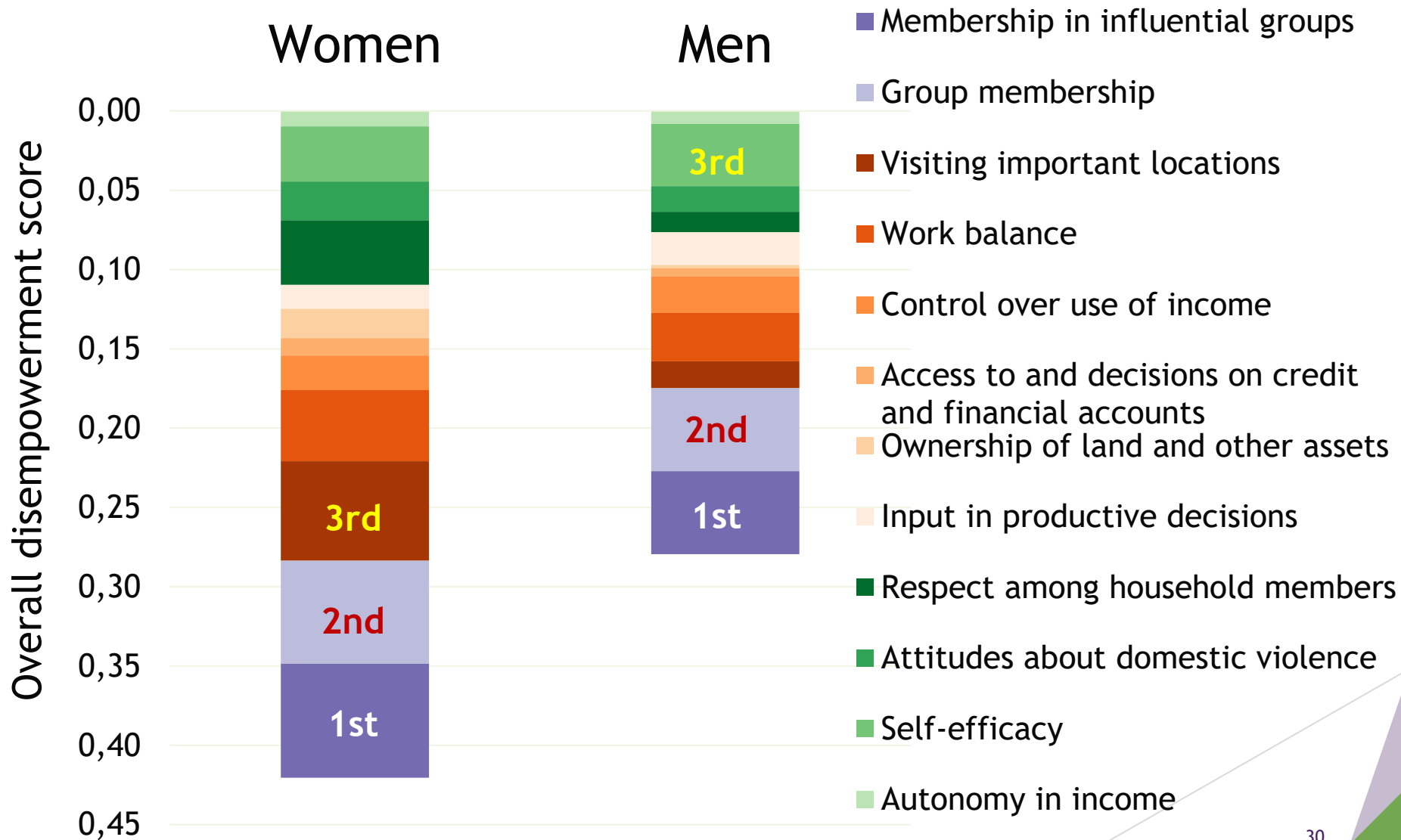


**Empowered** if adequate in 75% of indicators

# Pro-WEAI is made up of two sub-indices



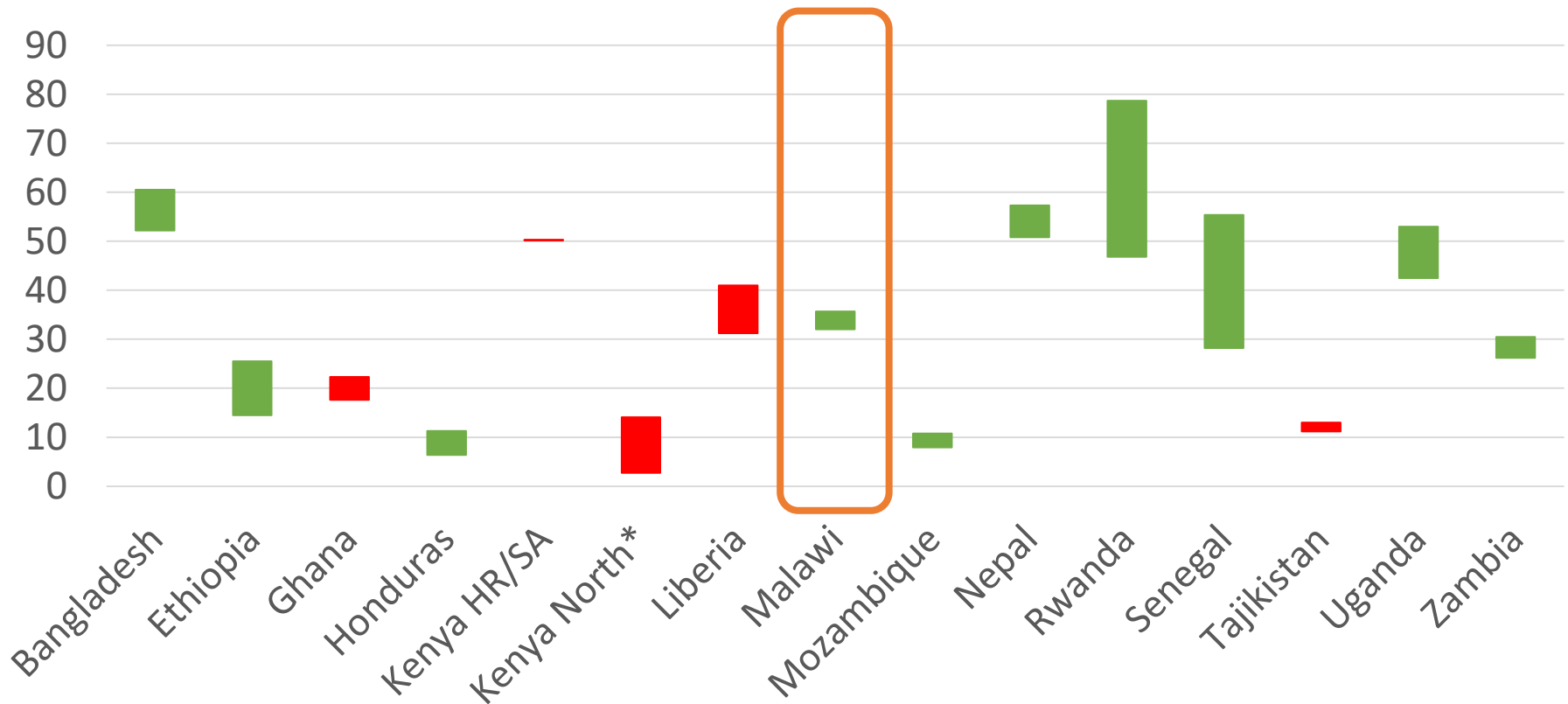
# Contributions to disempowerment



# What have we learned?

Quantitative cross-country analyses

# Change in % of primary female decision-makers with adequacy in Access to and control over credit

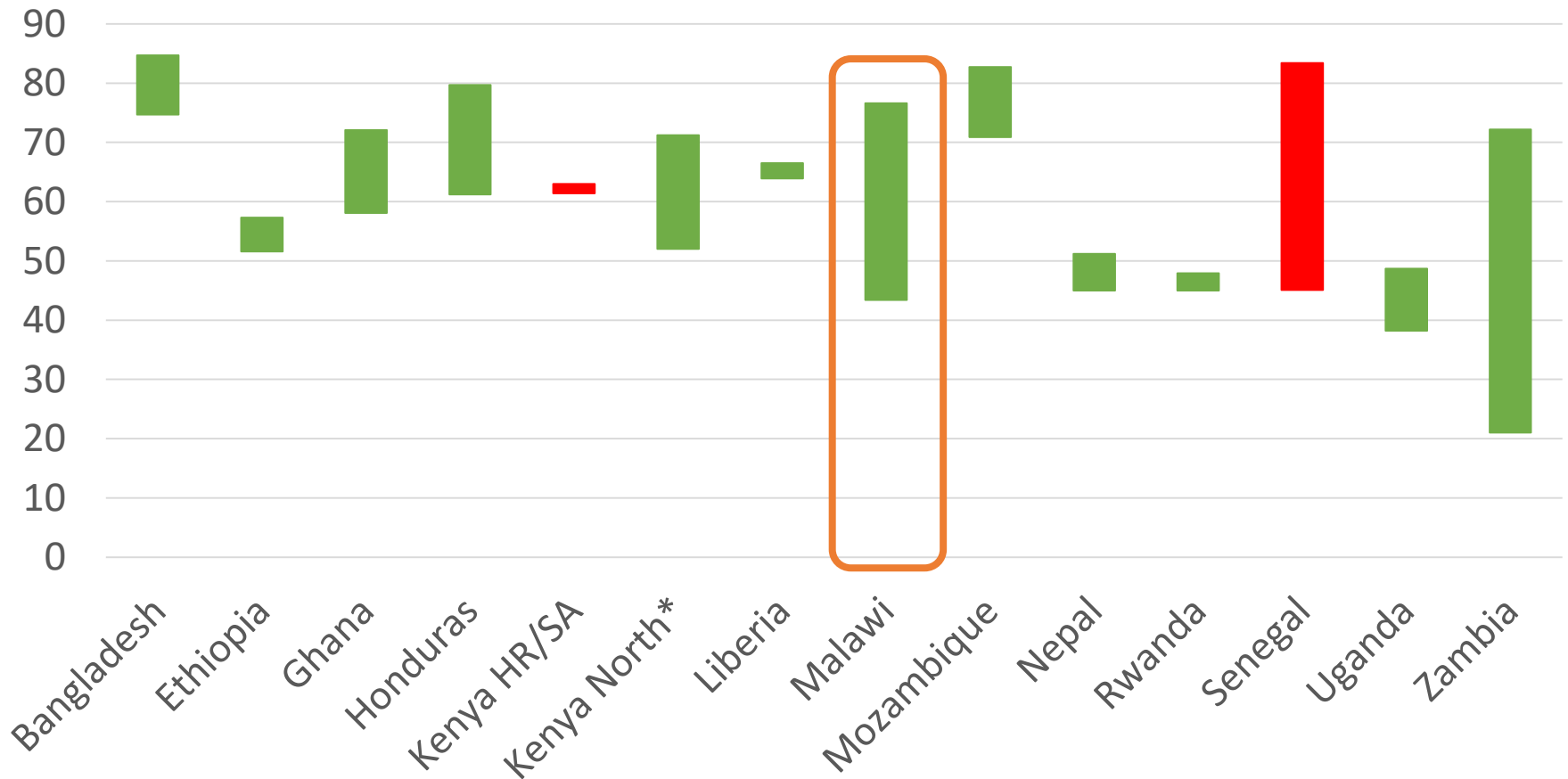


LEGEND: Indicator **INCREASED** or **DECREASED**  
between BASELINE and INTERIM

Source: USAID/BFS MEL Team



# Change in % of primary female decision-makers with adequacy in Workload

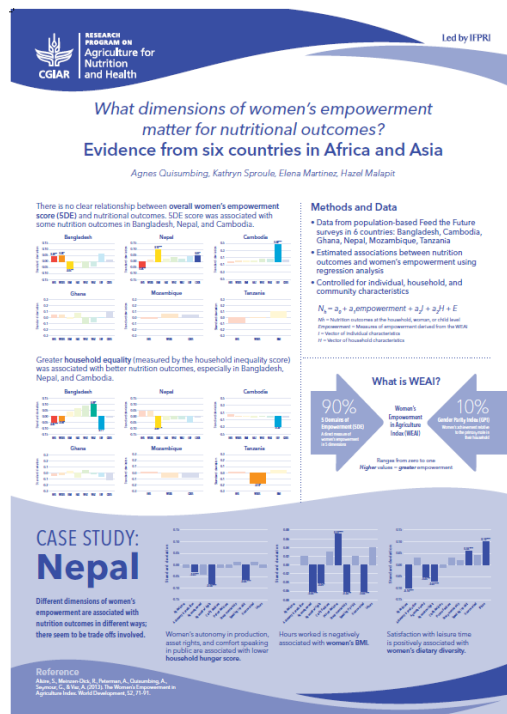


LEGEND: Indicator **INCREASED** or **DECREASED**  
between BASELINE and INTERIM

Source: USAID/BFS MEL Team

# What dimensions of women's empowerment matter for nutritional outcomes?

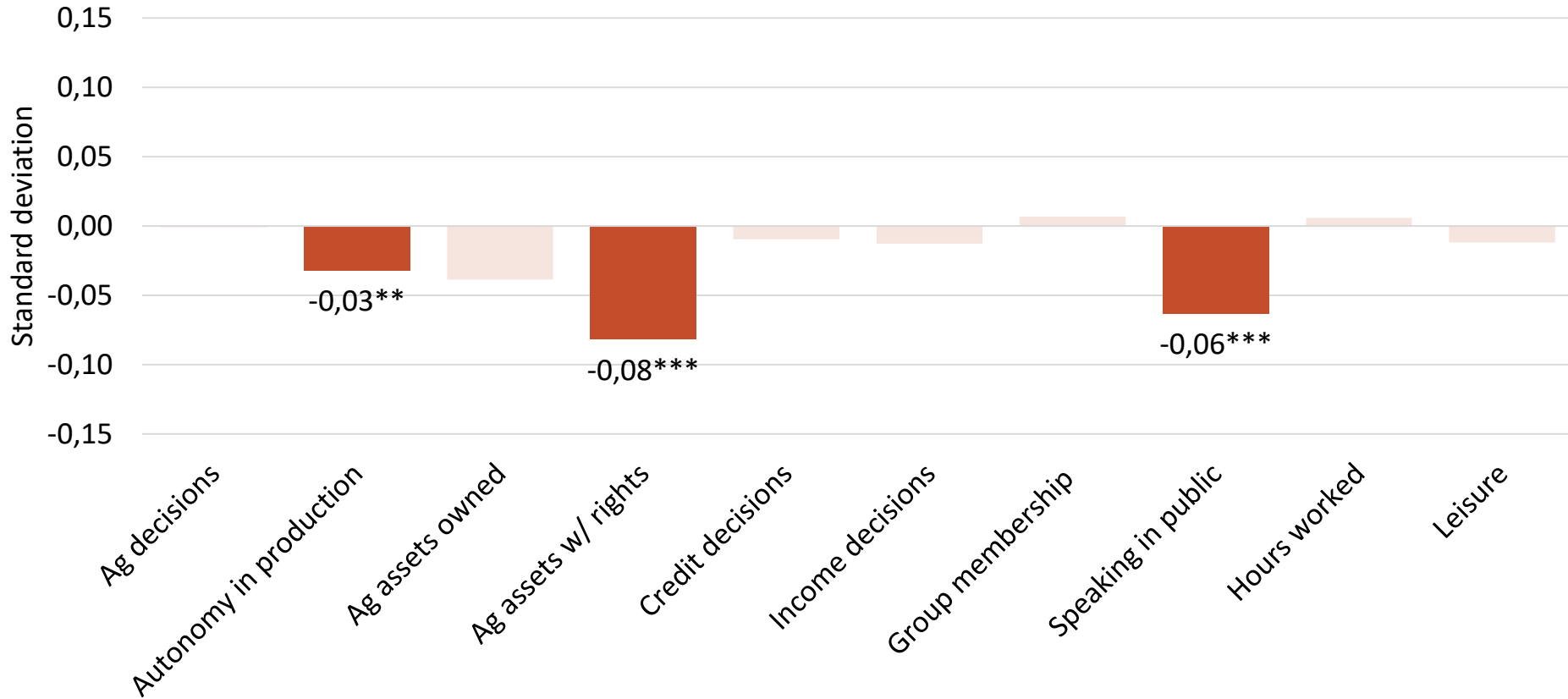
Quisumbing, Sproule, Martinez & Malapit (2017)



- ▶ Data from population-based Feed the Future surveys in 6 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Nepal, Mozambique, Tanzania
- ▶ Estimated associations between nutrition outcomes and women's empowerment using regression analysis
- ▶ Controlled for individual, household, and community characteristics

# Nepal:

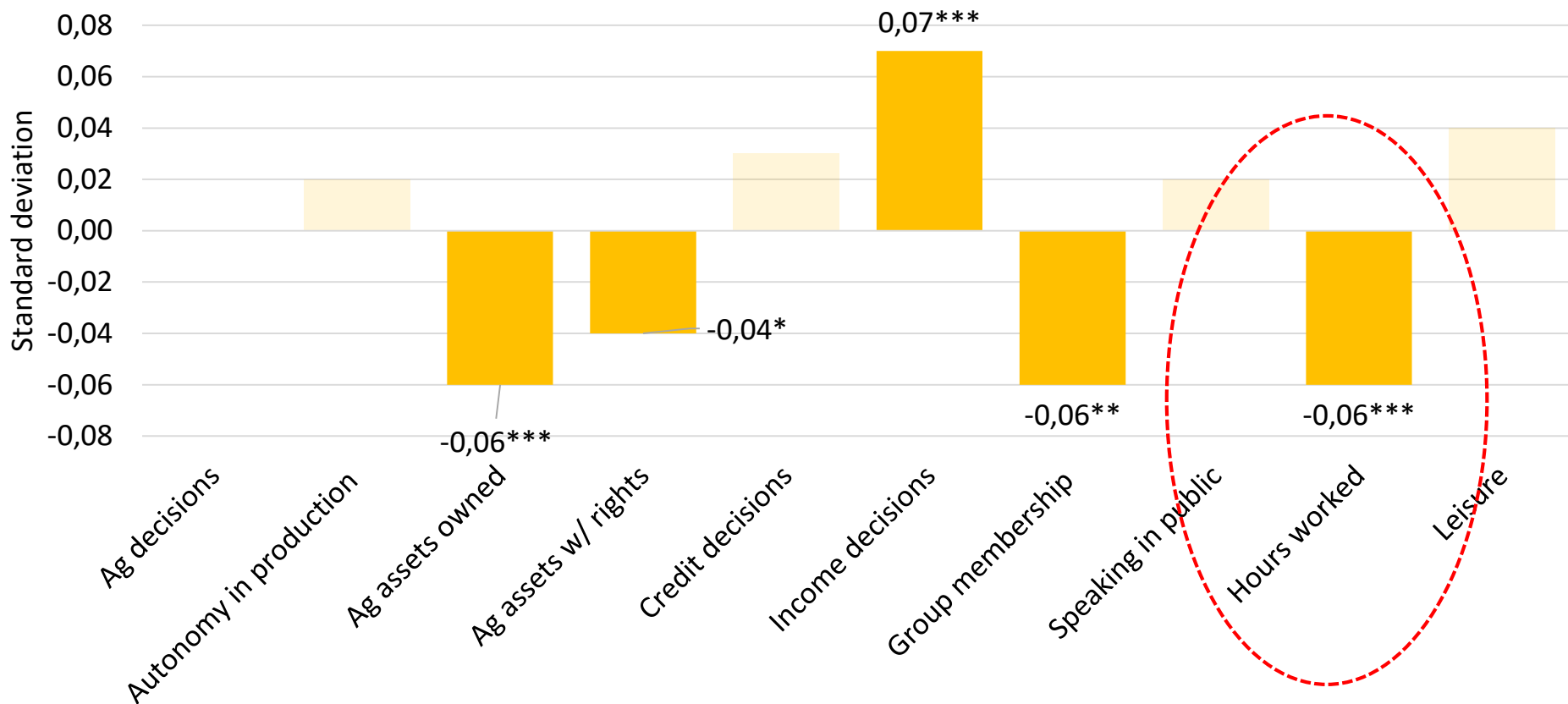
Women's autonomy in production, asset rights, and comfort speaking in public was associated with lower household hunger score.



Notes: Preliminary findings from A4NH report by Quisumbing et al (2017), "Gender and women's empowerment in nutrition-sensitive agriculture: New evidence and implications for programming". Charts report effect sizes, defined as the number of sample standard deviations in the household, maternal, and child nutrition variables that are associated with a 1.0-SD change in the empowerment measure. Stars indicate statistical significance at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) and 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

# Nepal:

## Hours worked was negatively associated with women's BMI.



Notes: Preliminary findings from A4NH report by Quisumbing et al (2017), “Gender and women’s empowerment in nutrition-sensitive agriculture: New evidence and implications for programming”. Charts report effect sizes, defined as the number of sample standard deviations in the household, maternal, and child nutrition variables that are associated with a 1.0-SD change in the empowerment measure. Stars indicate statistical significance at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) and 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

# What have we learned?

Lessons from qualitative research

# Purpose of qualitative methods

- ▶ **Contextualizing quantitative pro-WEAI and other findings**
  - ▶ Presentation of the overall context, not just the person
- ▶ **Validation of pro-WEAI from participants' perspectives**
  - ▶ Empowerment
  - ▶ Individual domains and indicators

# 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



SOURCES OF QUALITATIVE DATA			
Project name	Partner organization(s)	Country	In Synthesis
Food and Agricultural Approaches to Reducing Malnutrition (FAARM)	Helen Keller International (HKI) and University of Heidelberg	Bangladesh	
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages (ANGeL)	Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture, IFPRI	Bangladesh	
Targeting and Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition (TRAIN)	BRAC, IFPRI	Bangladesh	
Bangladesh Agriculture Value Chains (AVC)	Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), IFPRI	Bangladesh	*
Impact evaluation of an integrated poultry value chain and nutrition intervention (SE LEVER)	IFPRI	Burkina Faso	
Building resilience of vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso (Grameen)	Grameen Foundation, Brigham Young University	Burkina Faso	*
UN Joint Programme on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women in Ethiopia (JP-RWEE)	FAO/IFAD/United National Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women, WFP	Ethiopia	*
Small-scale irrigation and women's empowerment in northern Ghana (iDE)	International Development Enterprises (iDE), IFPRI	Ghana	*
MoreMilk: Making the most of milk	ILRI, IFPRI, IIED, Emory University	Kenya	*
Deploying improved vegetable technologies to overcome malnutrition and poverty (WorldVeg)	World Vegetable Center	Mali	*
Empowerment, Resilience, and Livestock Transfers (Heifer)	Heifer Project International, Montana State University, University of Georgia, IFPRI, and Nepa School of Social Sciences and Humanities	Nepal	*
Evaluation of women's food security program for impoverished Maasai households (Maisha Bora)	Savannahs Forever, University of Minnesota	Tanzania	*
Women Improving Nutrition through Group-based Strategies (WINGS)	Professional Assistance for Development Action, IFPRI	India	



# Types of Agency

- ▶ Intrinsic (Power within)
  - ▶ Strong, courageous, moral being
- ▶ Instrumental (Power to)
  - ▶ Hard work, good decisions
- ▶ Collective (Power with)
  - ▶ Lifting burden, helping others
    - ▶ Husbands, children, parents, other community members
- ▶ Coercive power (Power over) always negative

▶ ~~me... women (don't... law)~~

# Intrinsic agency: Intrahousehold relationships

- ▶ Other household members:
  - ▶ Tanzania + Mali: Co-wives' mutual support to attend meetings, diversify production
- ▶ Spouses
  - ▶ Kenya: Supportive
  - ▶ Burkina Faso + Ethiopia: Submission



# Instrumental agency: Decision-making on agricultural production

- ▶ Small vs. large
  - ▶ Tanzania: livestock
  - ▶ Ethiopia: quantity
- ▶ Intrahousehold dynamics
  - ▶ Mali: individual, not household production
  - ▶ Ethiopia: men have authority
  - ▶ Ghana: share responsibility was protective



Photo credit: Jawoo Koo

# Instrumental agency: Ownership and control over resources

- ▶ “Ownership” is context specific
  - ▶ Tanzania: decisions vs. legal
- ▶ Control over assets is a type of agency, not resource
  - ▶ Ethiopia: Public ownership vs. joint decision-making privately



# Instrumental agency: Time

- ▶ Seasonality, men's migration
- ▶ Changing household gender roles
  - ▶ Ethiopia: women take on men's, but men do not take on women's, but gradual change...

“...I this is a result of increased understanding about the situation of women, which came through various trainings” (Mulema 2018:9)



# Instrumental agency: Freedom of movement

- ▶ Ethiopia: Necessity vs. desire



# Collective agency: Leadership and group participation

- ▶ Tanzania: “leadership” informal; signified by helping others  
“act humbly, participate in community fundraisers and regularly report back to group members or the community” (Krause et al. 2018:28).
- ▶ Mali: Self-esteem  
“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” (Bagayoko 2018:36).



Photo credit: Katrina Kosec

# Interconnections among indicators and domains

- ▶ Intrahousehold relationships → group membership, income generating ability
  - ▶ Co-wives
  - ▶ Spousal support of businesses
- ▶ Decision-making on agricultural production → intrahousehold relationships
  - ▶ Shared responsibility
- ▶ Group membership → intrinsic agency
  - ▶ Self-esteem



# Implications for pro-WEAI: Emic views expand ideas of empowerment

- ▶ Each component of empowerment is relational, not simply individual
- ▶ Benefit of empowerment is also relational
  - ▶ “Lifting the burden” “Taking care of others”
  - ▶ Gender transformative

# Why are we in Malawi?

WEAI for Value Chains and ATVET for Women

# WEAI for Value Chains (WEAI4VC)

- ▶ Expands empowerment measure to cover multiple stages, different types of actors in the value chain
  - ▶ Pro-WEAI quantitative and qualitative protocols as starting point
  - ▶ Expands production module to livelihoods, including entrepreneurship and wage work

## Philippines WEAI4VC Pilot

- Supported by MCC
- Assess empowerment and gender parity of women across 4 priority value chains (**abaca, coconut, seaweed, swine**)
- Pilot survey with 1600 households in 4 provinces (Sorsogon, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte)

## Bangladesh WEAI4VC Pilot

- Supported by USAID
- Assess empowerment and gender parity of women as **producers, entrepreneurs, wage workers** across entire agricultural value chain
- Pilot survey on 1200 households in FTF ZOI (400/group)

# Empowering women through ATVET

- ▶ ATVET for Women aims to increase women's access to, benefits from, and empowerment from formal and non-formal training in the agri-food sector
- ▶ Malawi: It Takes Two!
  - ▶ Farming couples
  - ▶ Formal and informal training through agricultural training centers
  - ▶ Focus on aquaculture, mango, pineapple, and vegetables value chains
  - ▶ Gender-sensitive and gender-transformative
- ▶ ATVET is run by AUDA-NEPAD and funded by GIZ
  - ▶ IFPRI contracted to measure empowerment among beneficiaries

# Does ATVET for Women increase empowerment?

## Study objectives:

- ▶ Assess the state of empowerment of beneficiary women in the ATVET for Women program
- ▶ Assess gender parity, comparing with men in their households
- ▶ Develop and pilot survey instruments and qualitative protocols to assess empowerment of women beneficiaries

Tool for measuring empowerment: **WEAI for Value Chains**



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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.

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[#proWEAI](#) [#A4NHResearch](#) [#GenderInAg](#)

# Resources

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<http://ebrary.ifpri.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15738coll2/id/133060>