



Does a gender-sensitive integrated poultry value chain and nutrition intervention in Burkina Faso impact women's empowerment?

Jessica Heckert, Elena Martinez, Abdoulaye Pedehombga, Armande Sanou, and Aulo Gelli

Presented at ANH Academy Week |
July 1, 2021



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health

Led by IFPRI



SELEVER Intervention

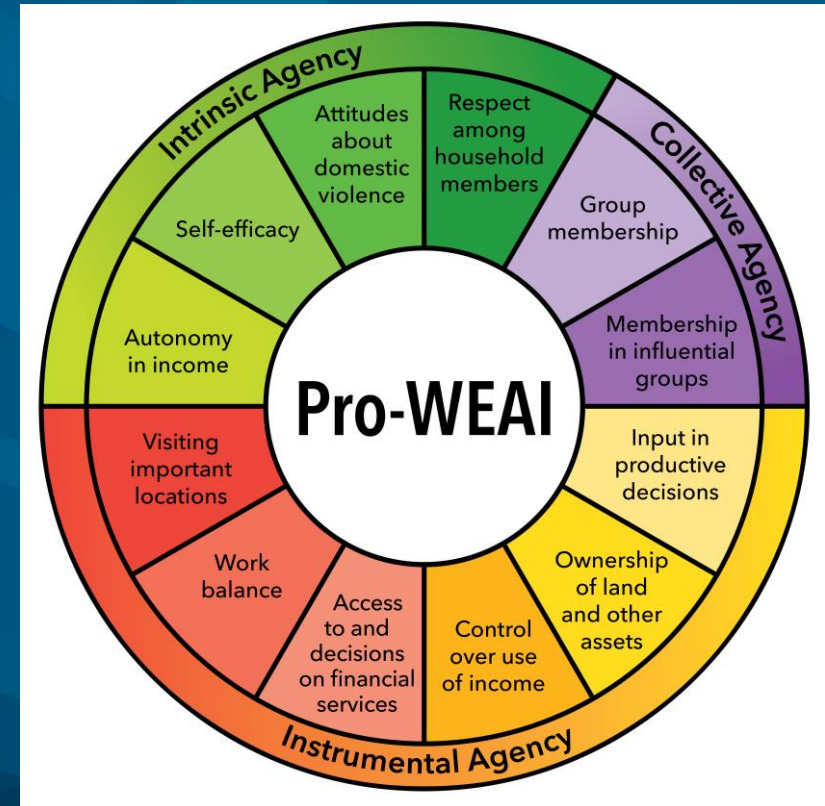
- Soutenir l'Exploitation Familiale pour Lancer l'Élevage des Volailles et Valoriser l'Économie Rurale
- Nutrition-sensitive poultry value chain intervention implemented by international NGO Tanager
- Primary trial outcomes focus on
 - Diets of women and children
 - Poultry production, sales, and profits
- Secondary trial outcomes include **Women's empowerment** (this presentation)
- Strategies related to women's empowerment
 - Community sensitization on women's empowerment, including time use, ability to manage resources for their microbusiness
 - Women are targeted by the poultry value chain activities and nutrition BCC: credit, small groups, and one-on-one visits
 - Training of women village vaccinators (role models)





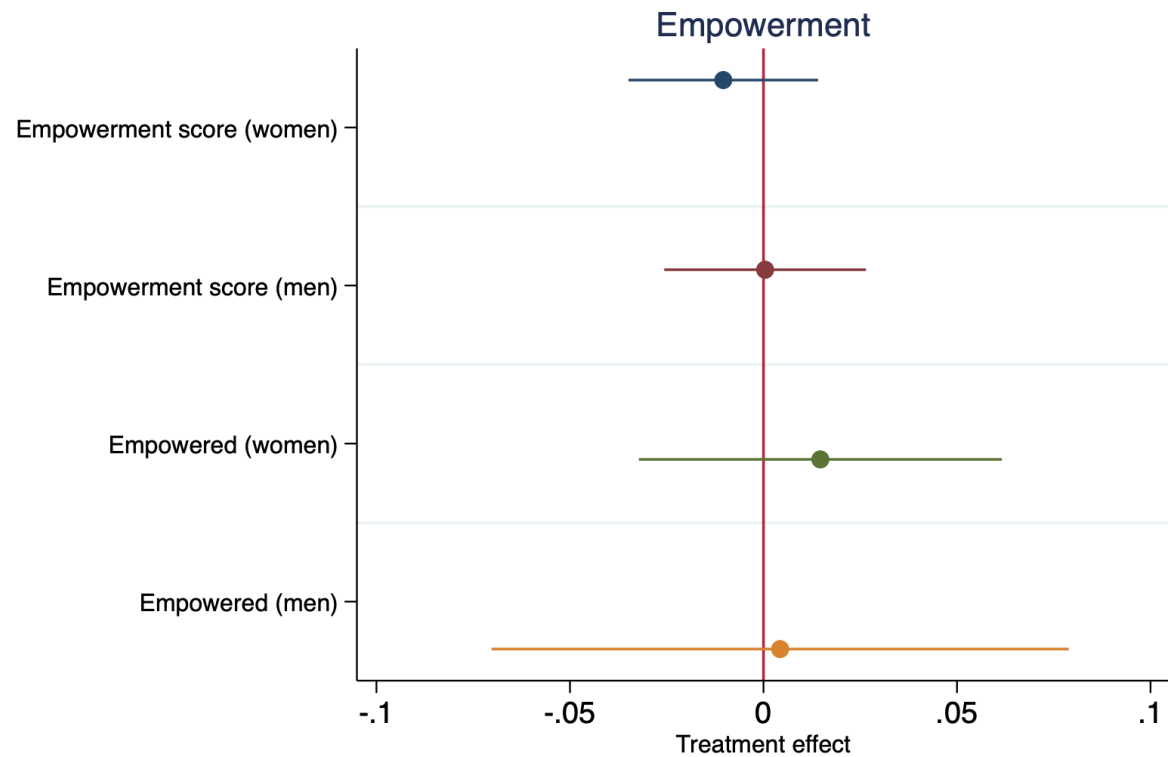
Study Design

- Cluster-randomized controlled trial
- SELEVER and SELEVER+WASH intensive treatment arms (present pooled results)
- Baseline data were collected in March 2017 (post-harvest season)
- Endline data began in March 2020, paused in April due to COVID lockdown, resumed in June and completed in August
- Lean season data collected in September 2017 and 2019 from a random sub-sample
- Program impact estimated using ANCOVA
- Treatment on the treated effects estimated with propensity score weighted regression analysis

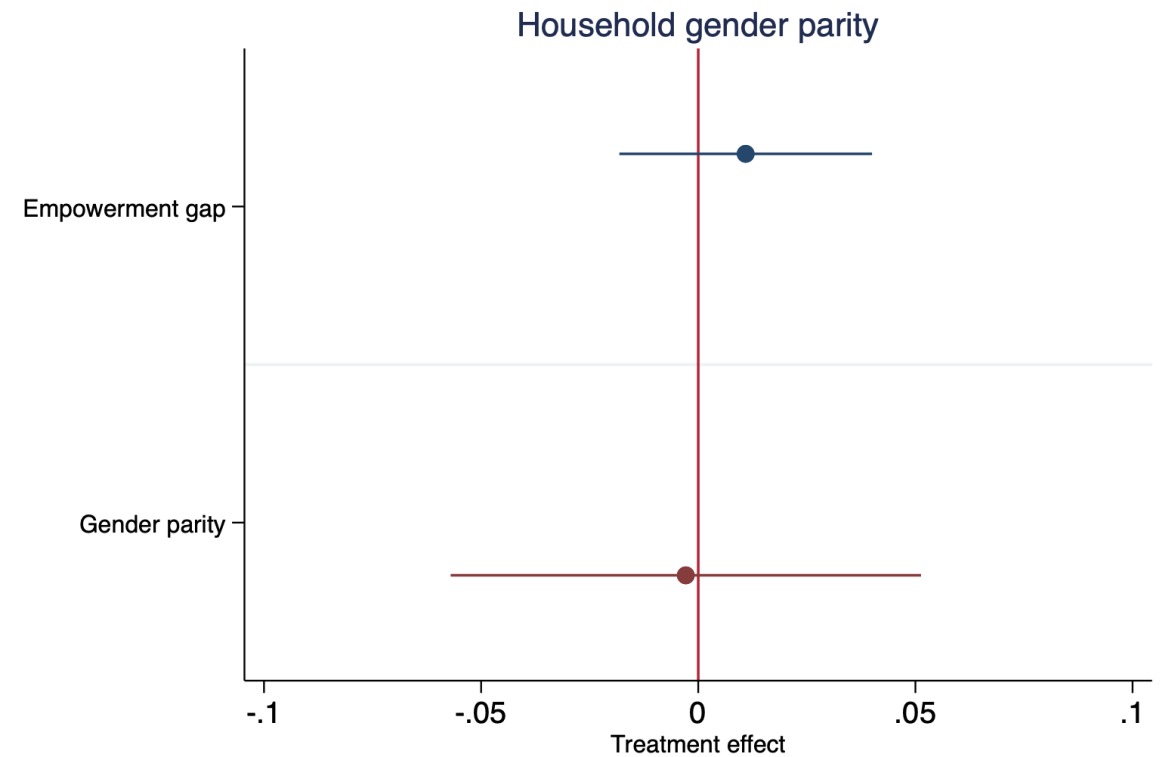




Treatment effects on (i) empowerment score (ii) empowerment status for men and women and (iii) gender parity



Empowerment score = Proportion of pro-WEAI indicators for which the respondent achieved adequacy
Respondent is empowered if they achieve adequacy in 9 or more of 12 pro-WEAI indicators

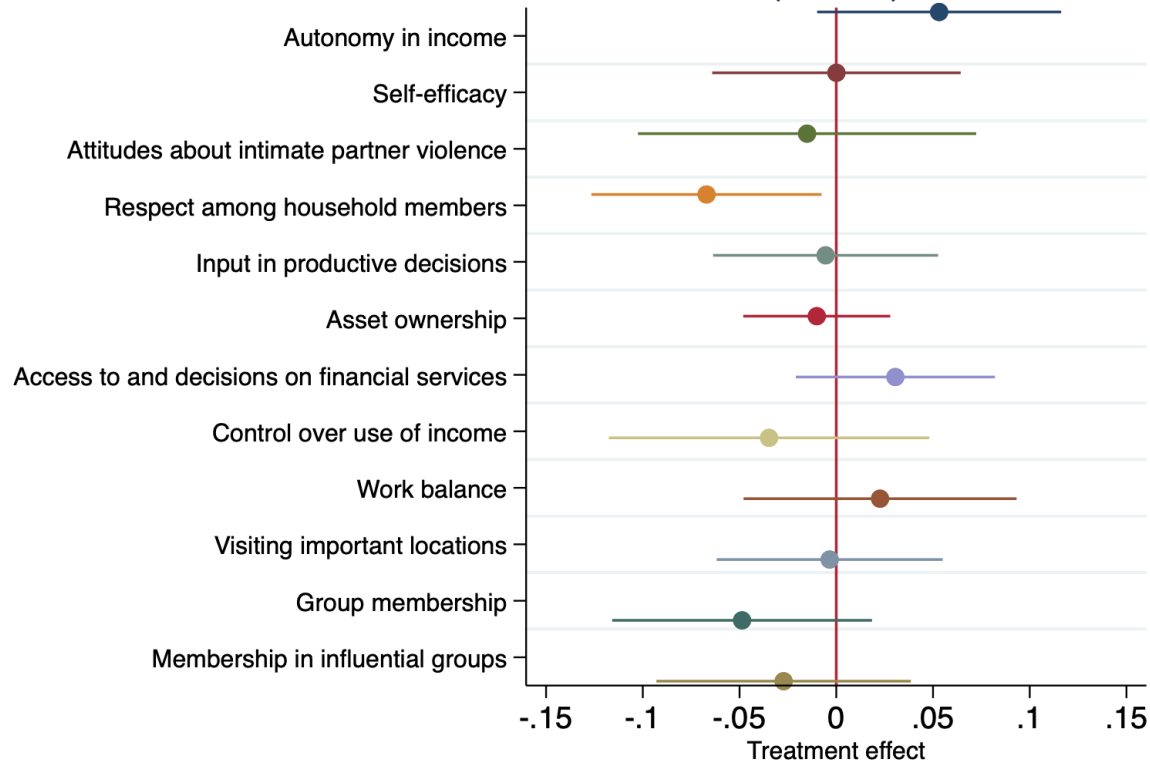


Household empowerment gap = man's empowerment score - woman's empowerment score
Parity = woman in household is empowered or at least as empowered as man in household

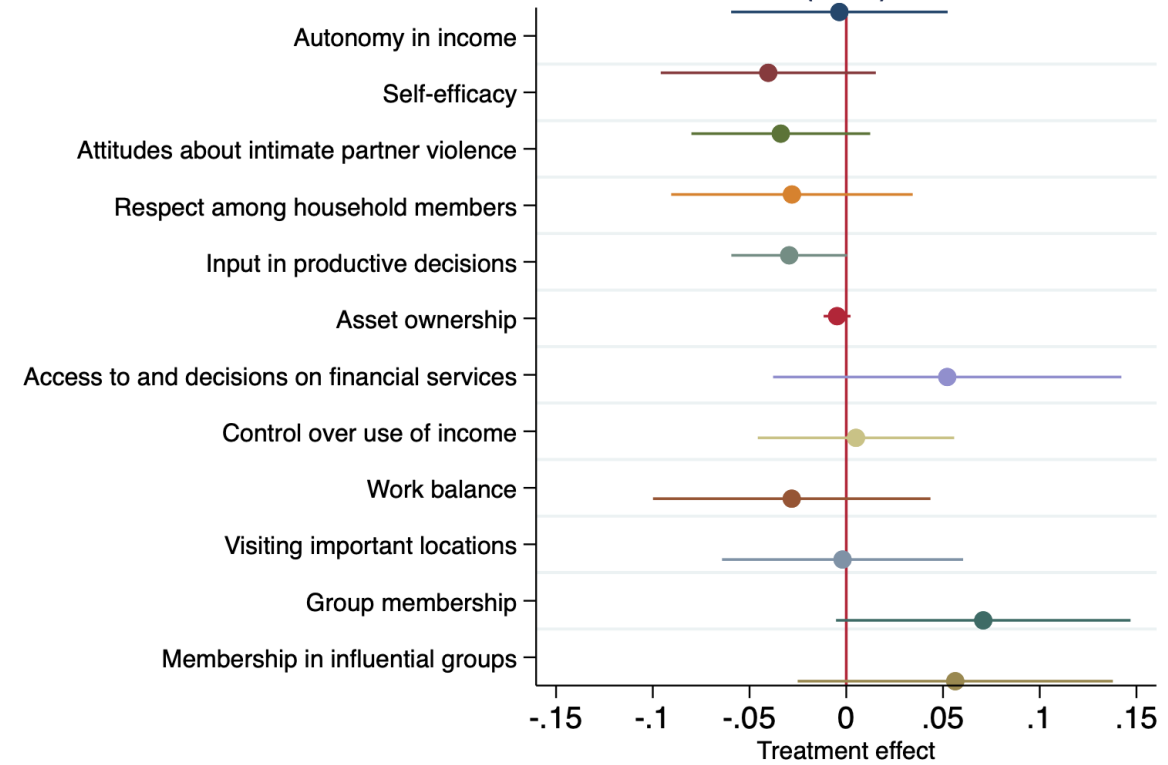


Treatment effects on empowerment of women and men by indicator

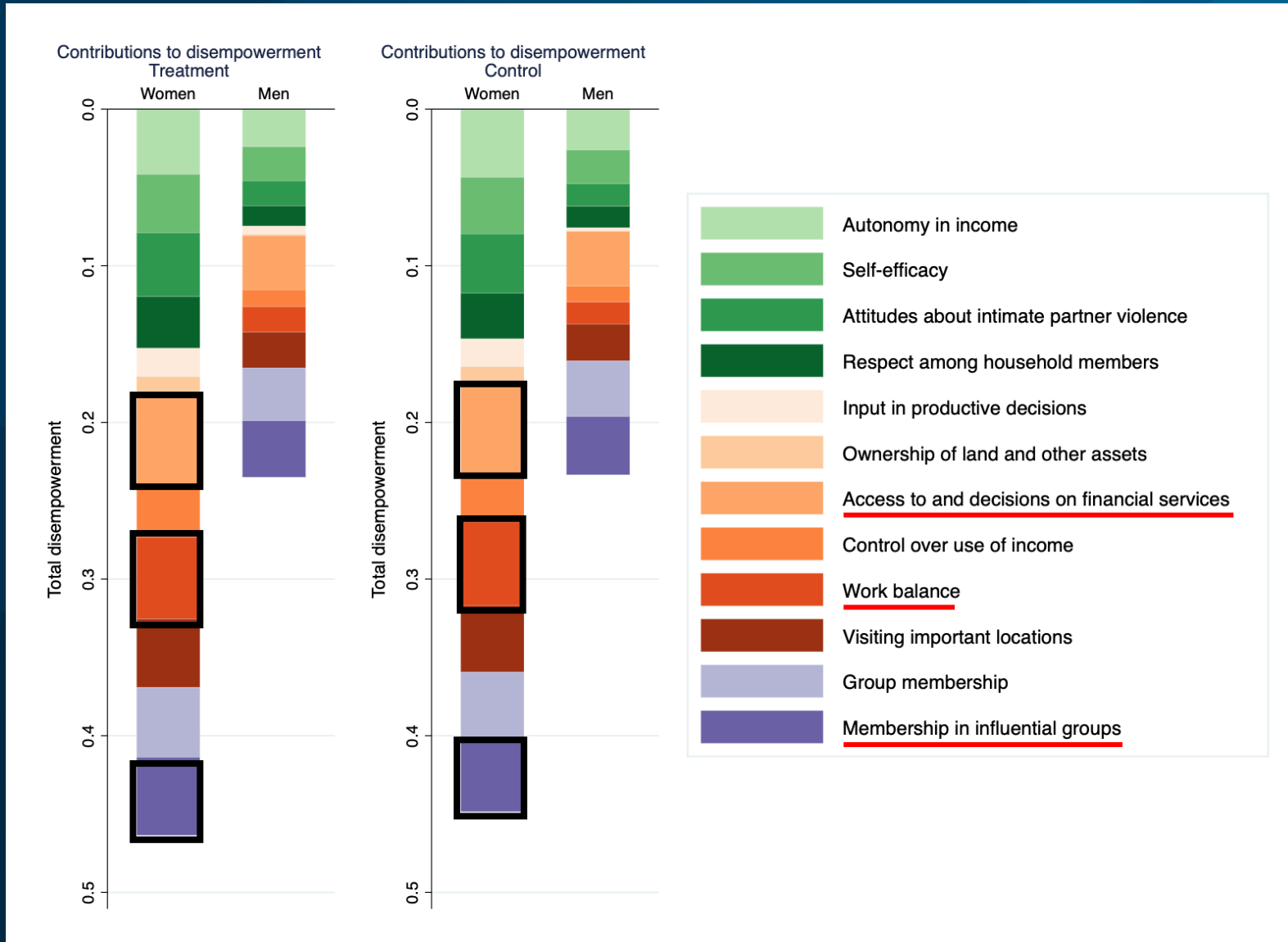
Indicators of empowerment (women)



Indicators of empowerment (men)



Pro-WEAI diagnostics for strengthening the intervention





Discussion

- Why were there no significant impacts on women's empowerment?
 - Intervention used a light-touch, information-only approach centered on strengthening market/VC linkages.
 - No **asset transfers** in a resource poor context.
 - Productive asset transfers have previously been shown to be **essential, but not sufficient** in agricultural development programs that aim to empower women
- Important to consider the **asset transfer debate** alongside market-based interventions, particularly for “poorer” households, as funders and implementors often resist “give-away” programs
- Pro-WEAI diagnostics suggest focusing on (i) access to credit and financial accounts, (ii) improving work balance, and (iii) membership in influential groups could lead to impacts on women's empowerment



Thank you!

- Acknowledgements:
 - This research was supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Additional support was from the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), led by IFPRI.