

The logo for GAAP2 phase, with 'GAAP2' in large white letters and 'phase' in smaller white letters to the right. The background of the logo is a photograph of a man in a white shirt standing in a field with two oxen.

# GAAP2<sup>phase</sup>

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project



Led by IFPRI

## Using the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) for nutrition sensitive programming

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and Agnes Quisumbing

Accra, Ghana  
June 26, 2018

# Measuring empowerment?



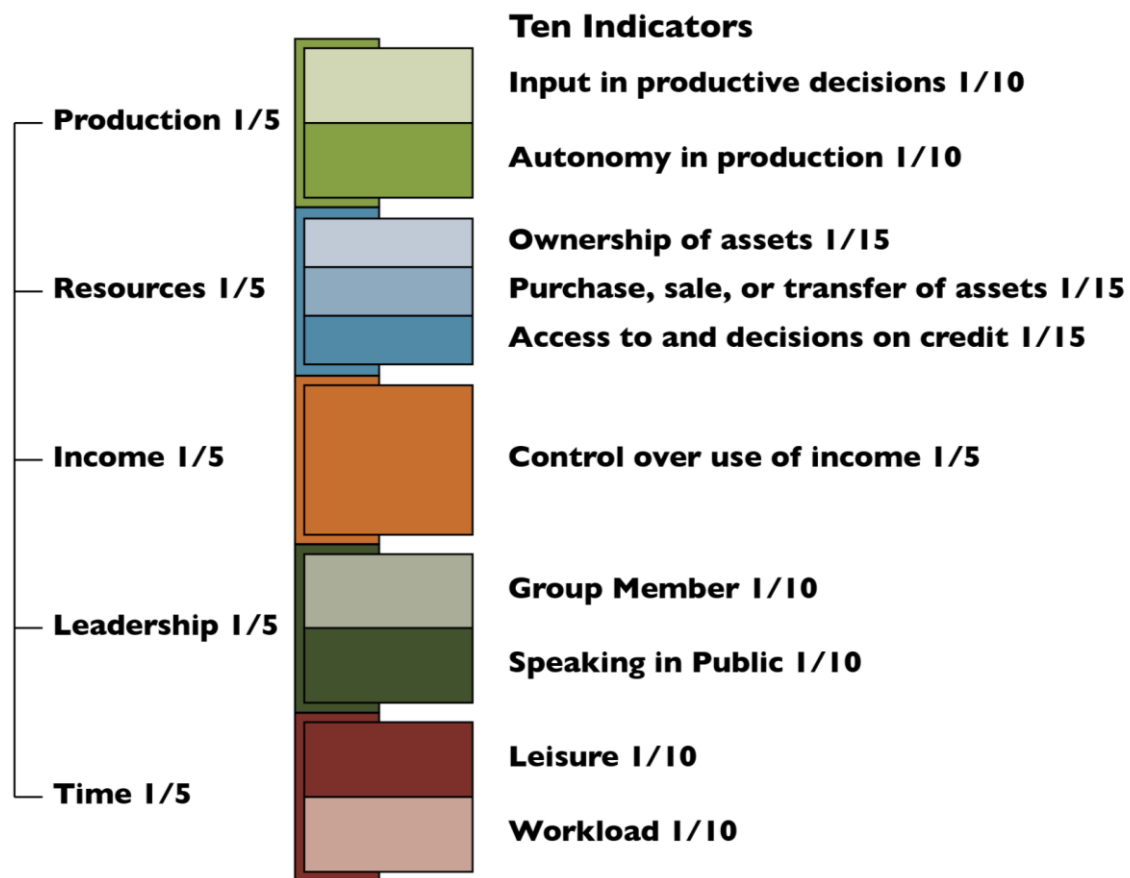
# Starting point: the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

- ▶ Developed by USAID, IFPRI & OPHI
- ▶ Launched in 2012
- ▶ Measures inclusion of women in the agricultural sector
- ▶ **Survey-based index** - interviews men and women in the same household

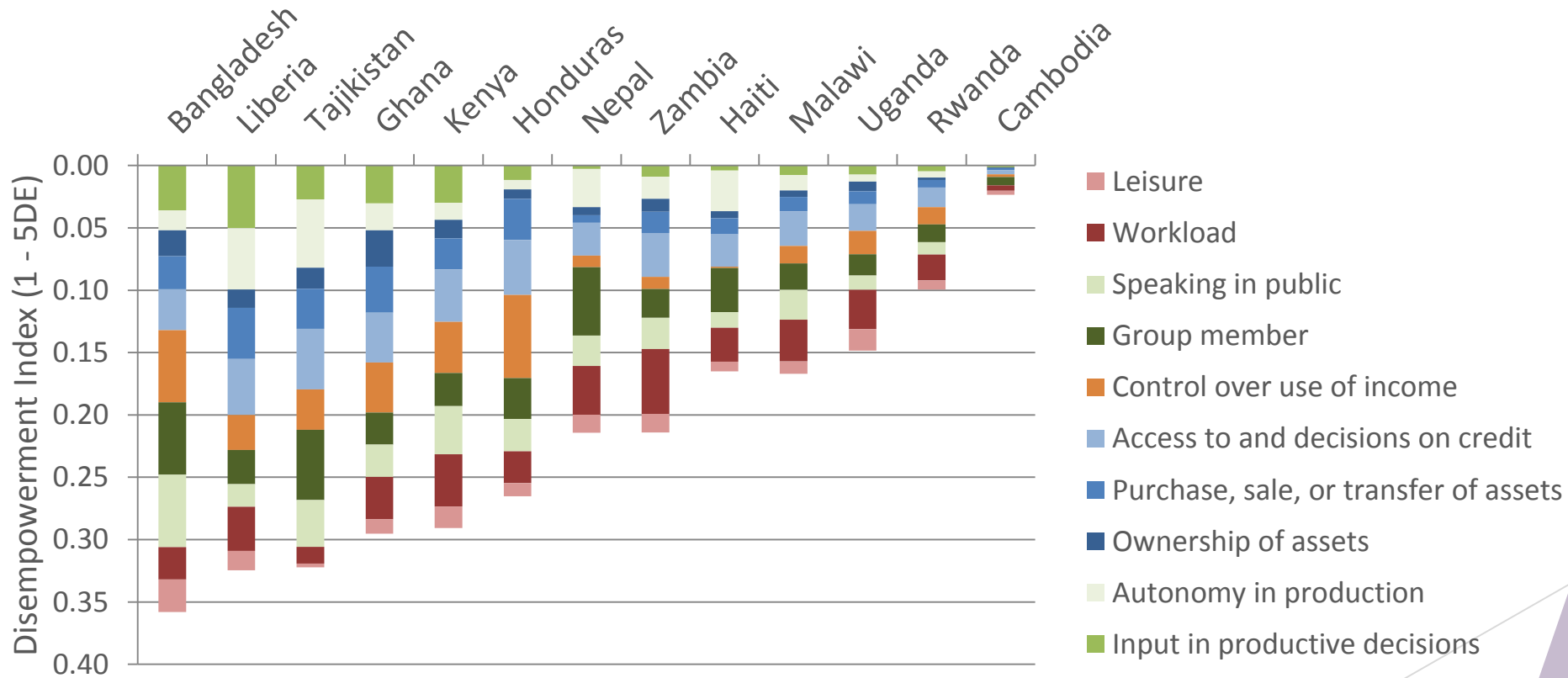


# How is the Index constructed?

- ▶ 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



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



Source: Malapit et al. (2014)

## 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

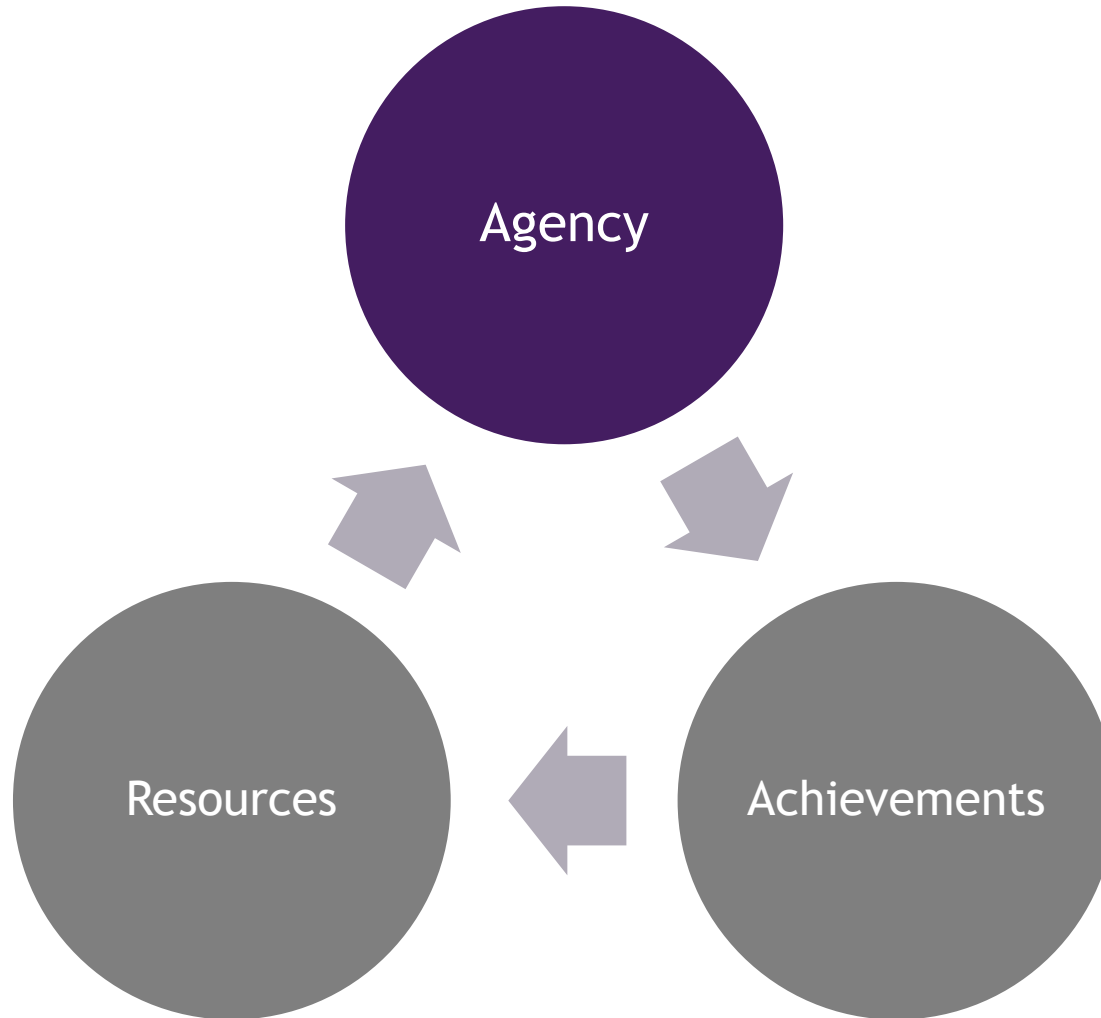
- ▶ Quantitative survey
- ▶ Qualitative protocols

+

Standardized add-ons depending on project needs:

- ▶ Nutrition and health
- ▶ Livestock-enhanced

# How WE(AI) define empowerment





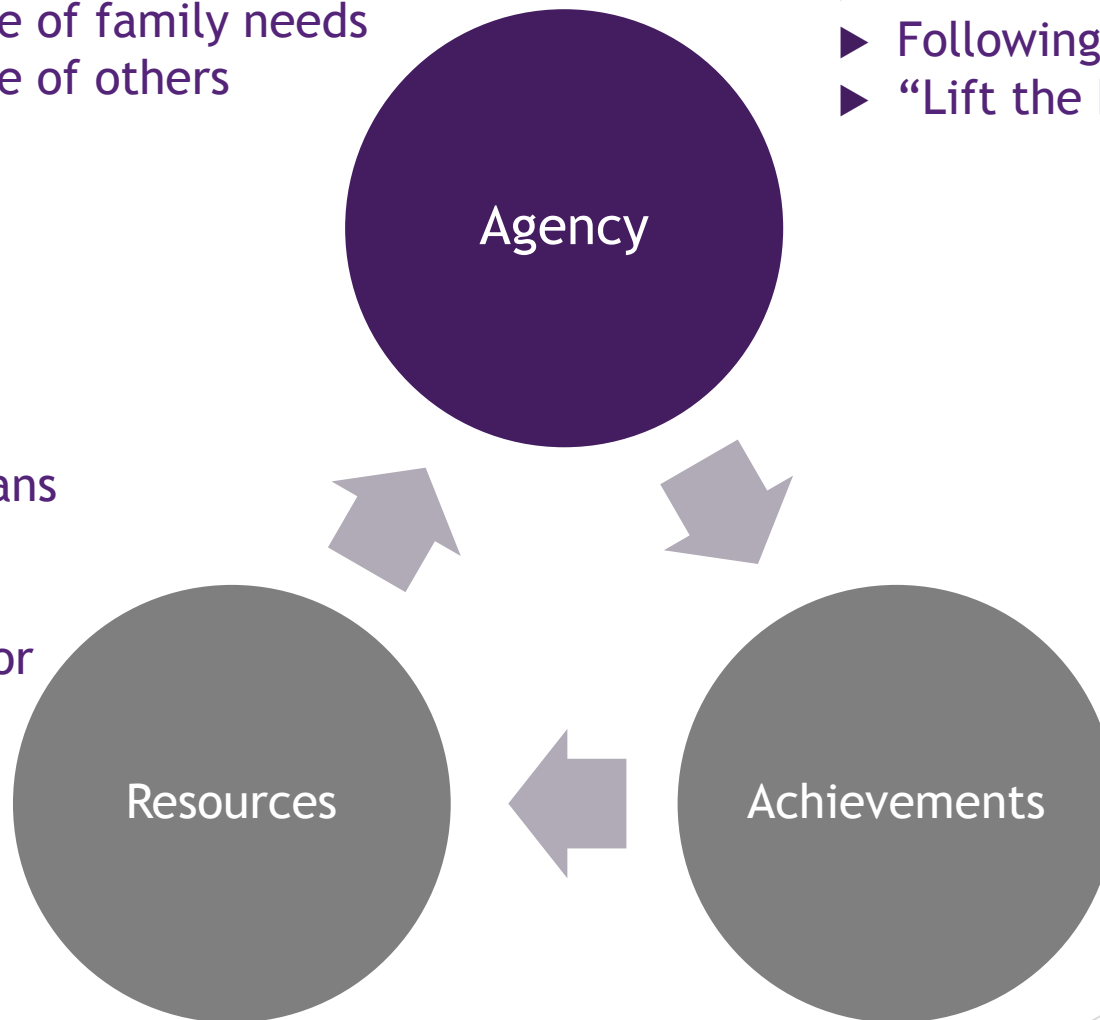
# How communities define empowerment

- ▶ Taking care of oneself
- ▶ Taking care of family needs
- ▶ Taking care of others


- ▶ Active
- ▶ Following social norms
- ▶ “Lift the burden”

- ▶ Economic means
- ▶ Connections
- ▶ Confidence
- ▶ Help with labor

- ▶ Well dressed
- ▶ Good skin
- ▶ Admired

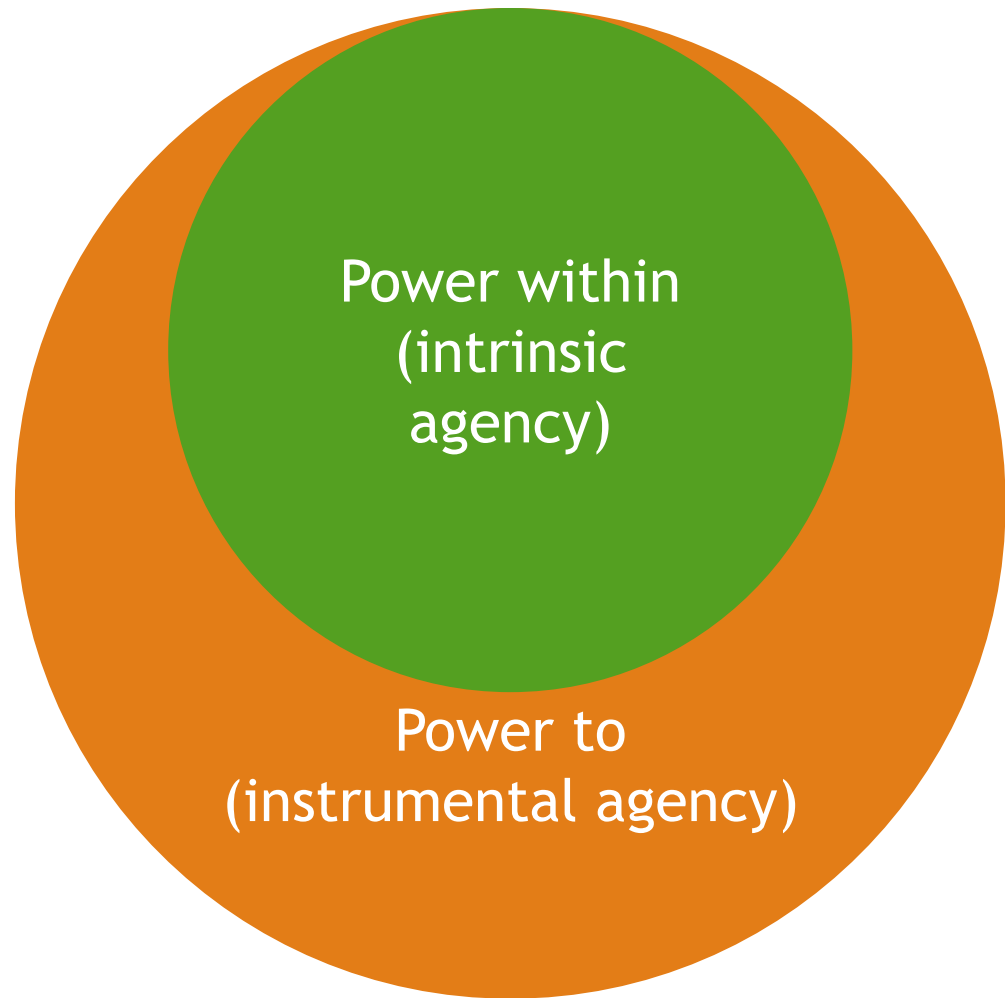


Three types  
of agency  
measured  
in all  
versions of  
the WEAI

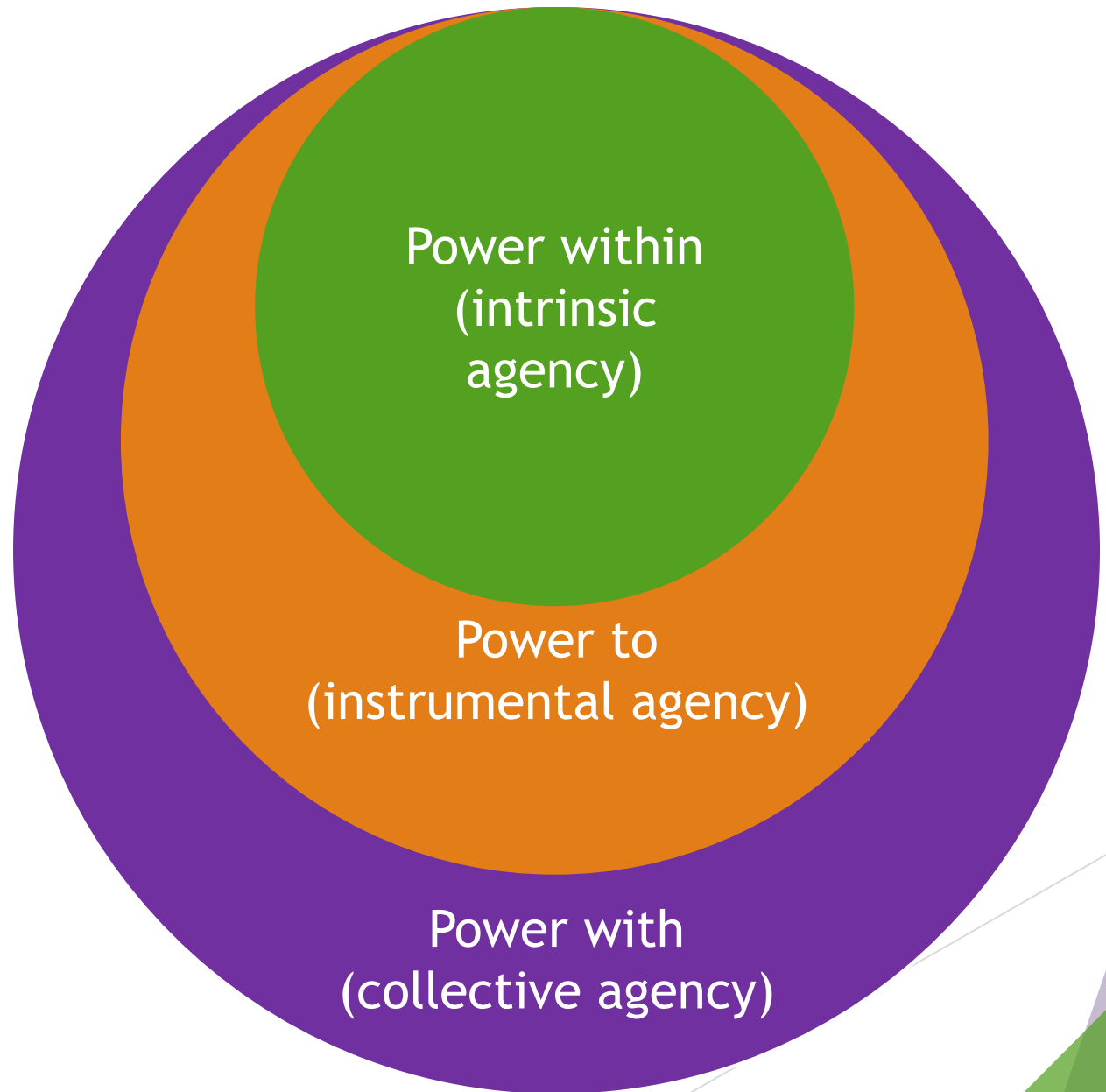


Power within  
(intrinsic  
agency)

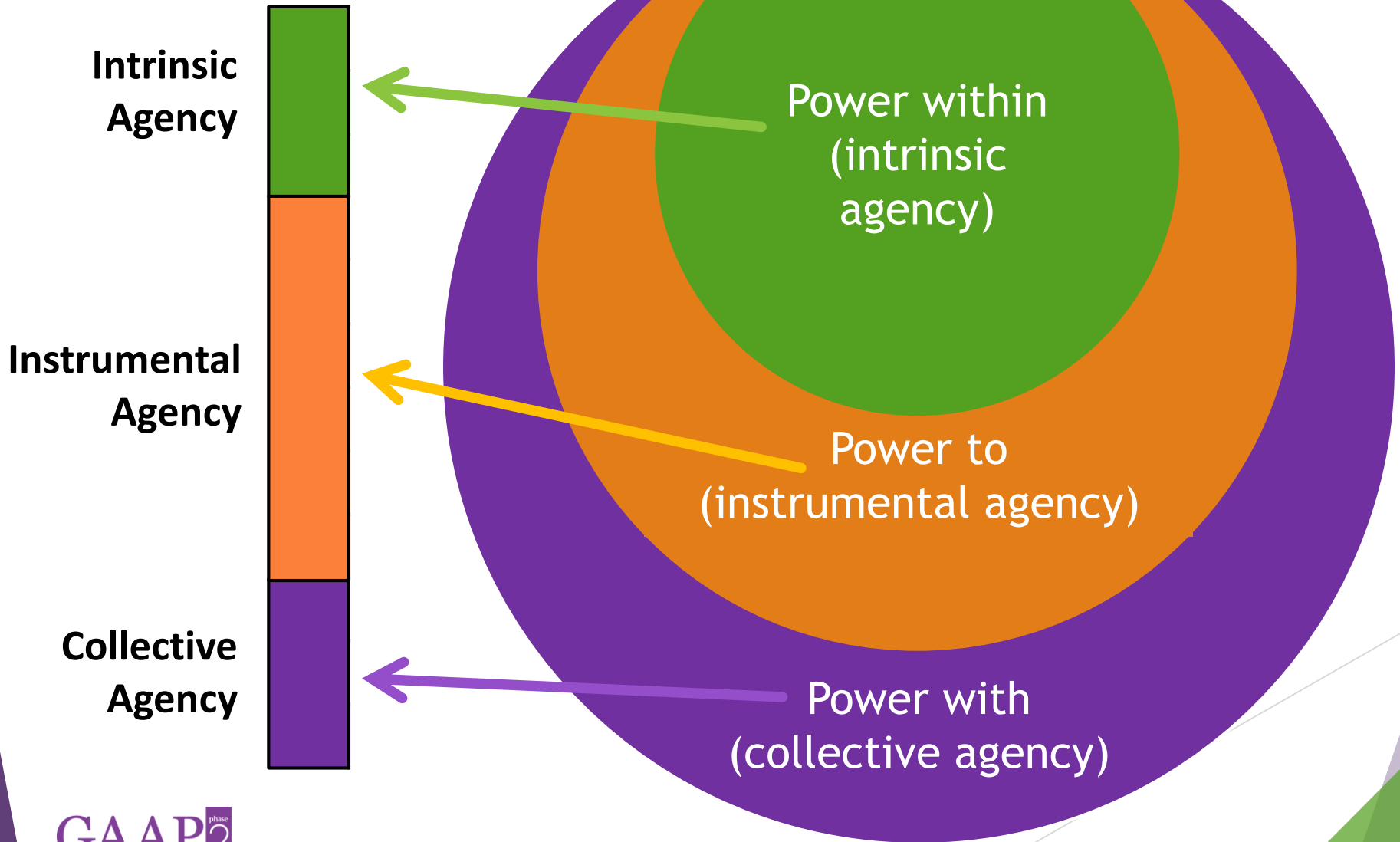
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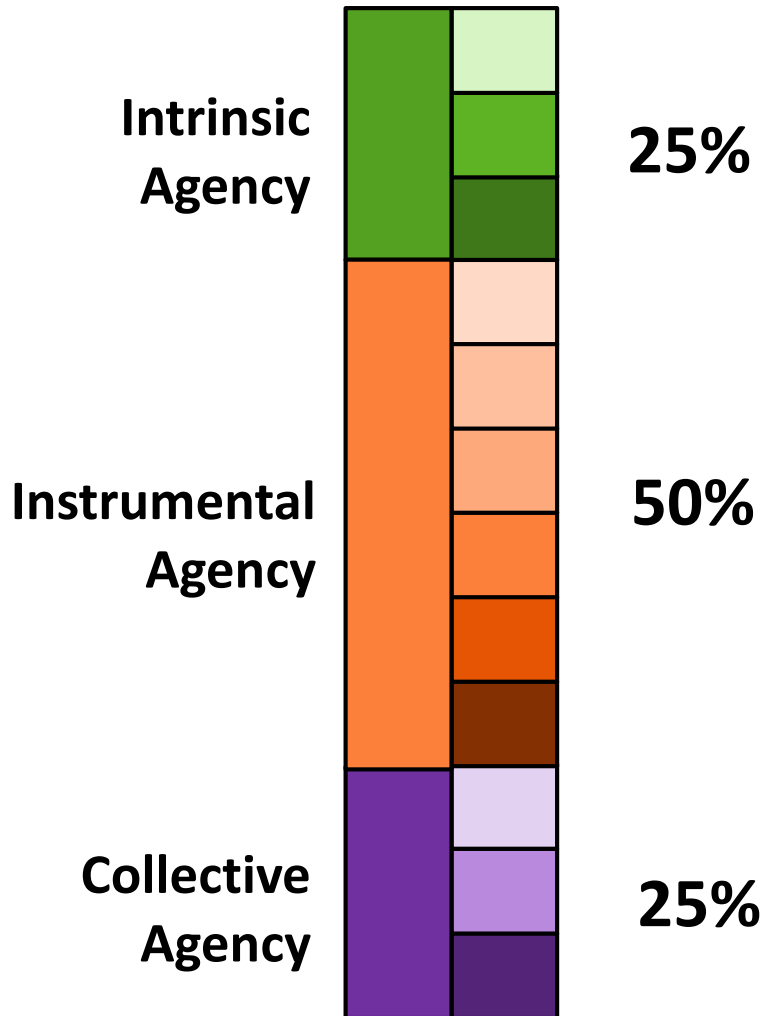
# Three types of agency measured in all versions of the WEAI



# Core pro-WEAI

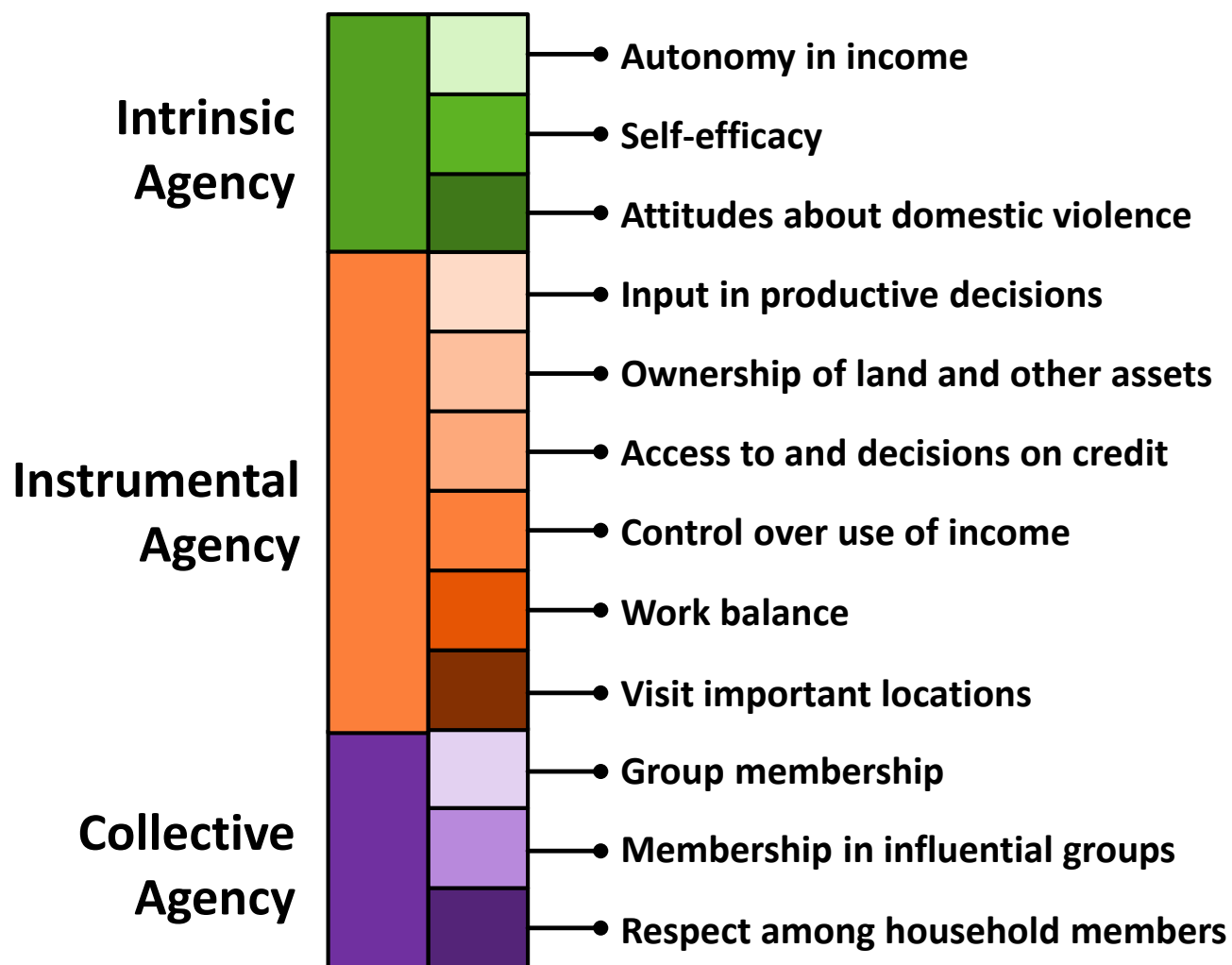


# New domains and weighting structure



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

# New domains and weighting structure



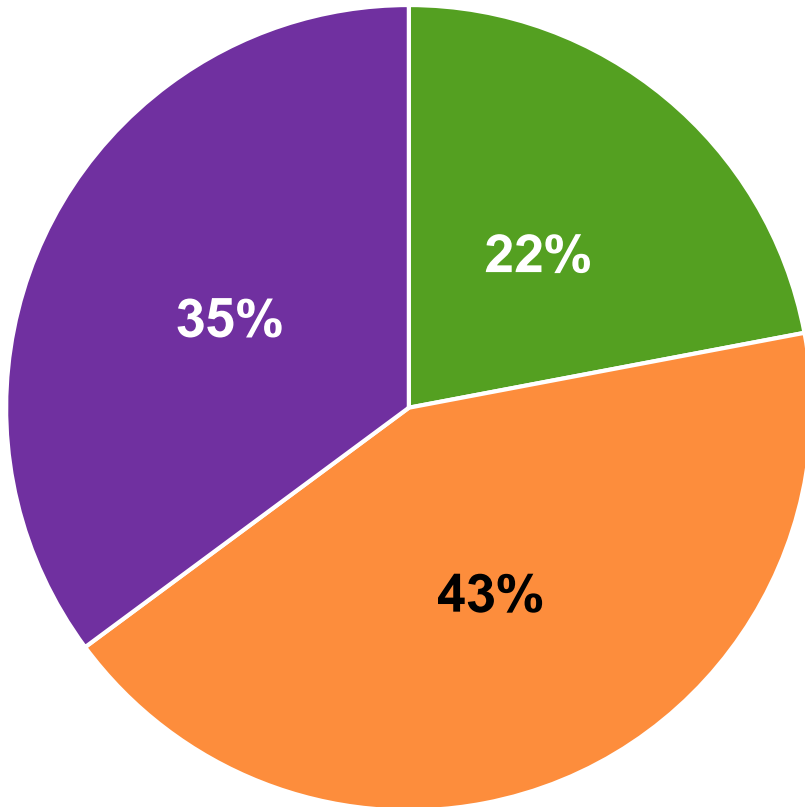
# Draft pro-WEAI quantitative survey modules

- ▶ Module G1: Individual identification
- ▶ Module G2: Role in household decision-making around production and income
- ▶ Module G3(a): Access to productive capital
- ▶ Module G3(b): Access to financial services
- ▶ Module G4: Time allocation
- ▶ Module G5: Group membership
- ▶ Module G6: Physical mobility
- ▶ Module G7: Intrahousehold relationships
- ▶ Module G8(a): Autonomy in decision-making
- ▶ Module G8(b): New general self-efficacy scale
- ▶ **Module G8(c): Life satisfaction**
- ▶ Module G9: Attitudes about domestic violence
- ▶ **Module GX: Decision-making about nutrition and health**

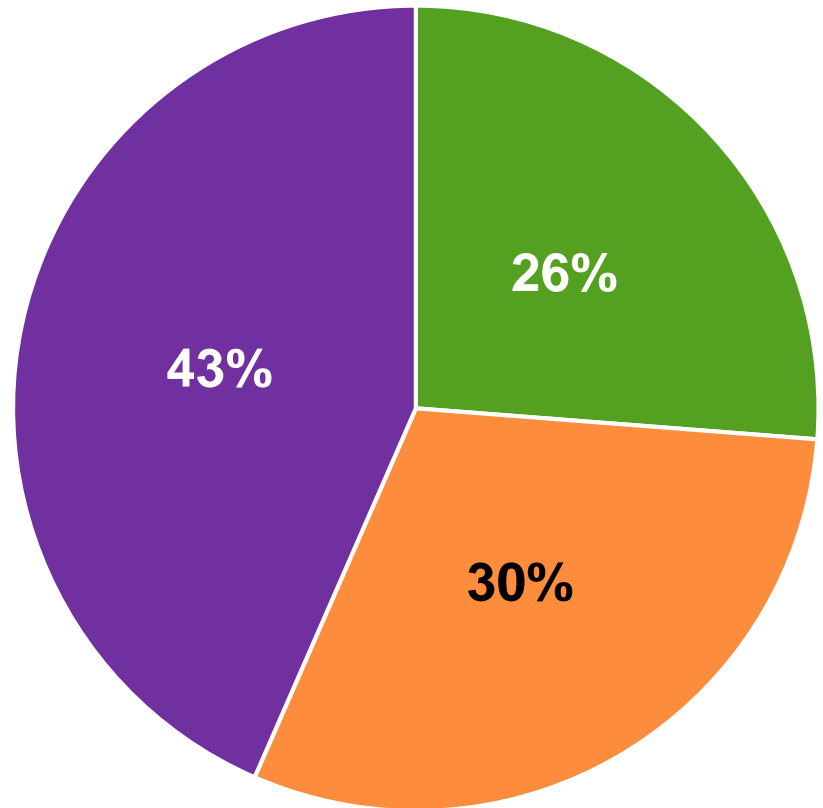


# Pro-WEAI: Contributions to disempowerment

Women

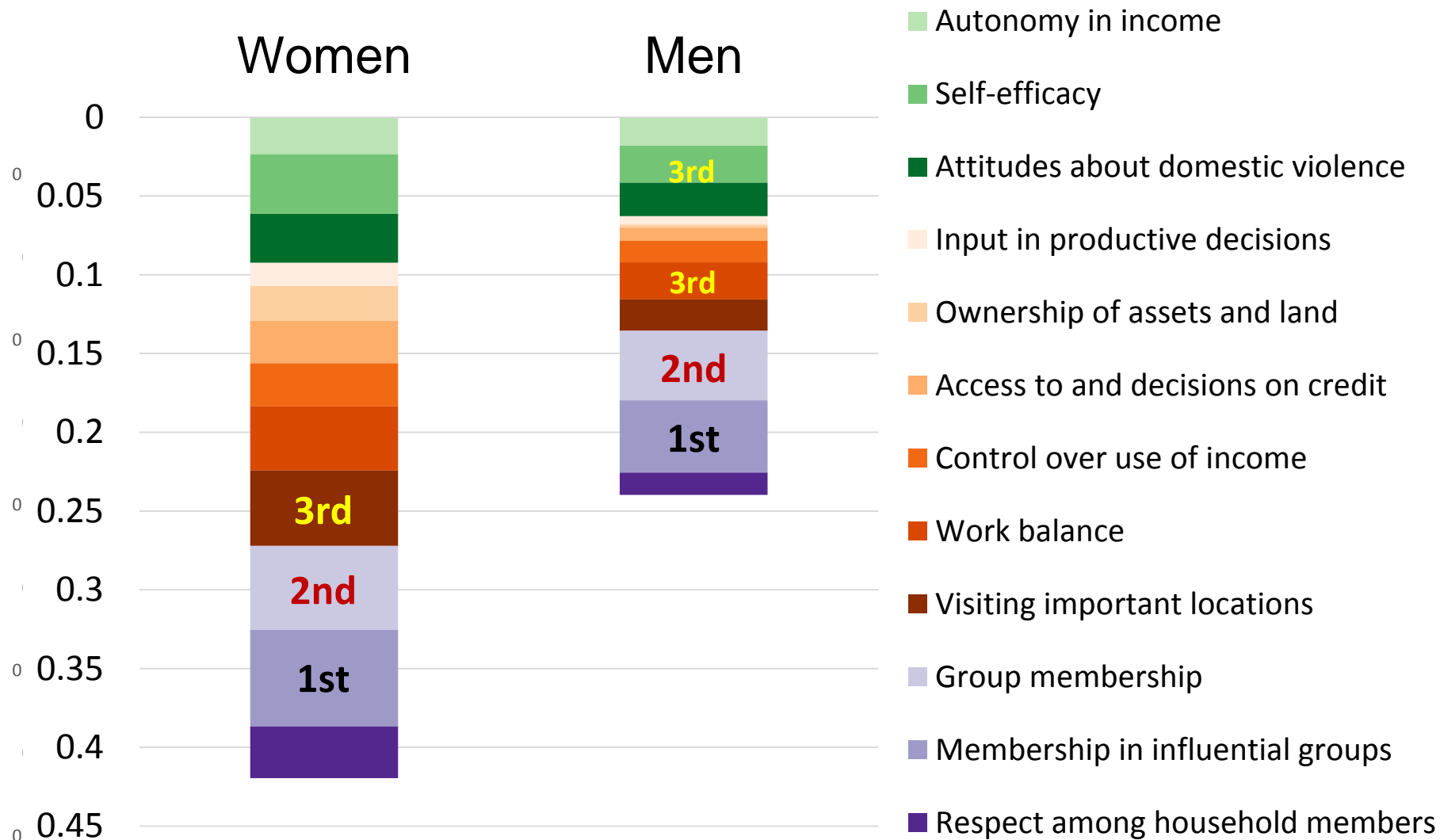


Men



■ Intrinsic ■ Instrumental ■ Collective

# Pro-WEAI: Contributions to disempowerment



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# GAAP2<sup>phase</sup>

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project



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# Qualitative Research & the pro-WEAI

# Purpose of qualitative methods

- ▶ **Validation of pro-WEAI**
  - ▶ Emic meanings of “empowerment”
  - ▶ Individual domains and indicators
- ▶ **Explaining project impacts from participants’ perspectives**
- ▶ **Contextualizing quantitative pro-WEAI and other findings**
  - ▶ Presentation of the overall context, not just the person
  - ▶ e.g. seasonality diagrams to identify how the timing of survey fits with agricultural cycle, time use
  - ▶ e.g. broader description of the project itself and how it relates to other development efforts

# 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



# Local meanings of empowerment

## Common elements

- ▶ Difficulty in translating “empowerment”
  - ▶ “emancipated”, “admired”, “dignified”, “lift up”, “enable”
- ▶ Economic status:
  - ▶ Taking care of oneself and family needs
  - ▶ Well dressed, good skin
- ▶ Relational, not individualistic:
  - ▶ Taking care of others (family and community)
  - ▶ Having means or status to do so, connections,
- ▶ **Not power over** (especially not over men)

## Differences, tensions

- ▶ Ambivalence of men, women to empowered women
  - ▶ “Lift the burden” vs threat to men
- ▶ Following social norms, ideals of femininity (“submissive”) vs Strong, able (sometimes stand against norms)
- ▶ Age (young and old)

# Interconnections between indicators

- ▶ Time as a tether: workload limits mobility, income generating ability
- ▶ Lack of transport (asset) limits mobility, income generation
- ▶ Intrahousehold relations → trust → mobility → income generation
- ▶ Group membership requires mobility, time, support of husbands, family
- ▶ Income generation supports greater decision-making (and vice versa)
- ▶ Nepal: whether women hide income, assets depends on autonomy, intrahousehold relations
- ▶ “Male dominance over information was pointed out when answers were provided about things such as cell phone ownership, the person to whom extension workers talk, the consent of whom to look for before traveling, the ownership and access to means of transportation, and topics covered by extension workers when they visit villages. **This access and control over information is facilitated by men’s status as owners of resources.**“ (Worldveg, Mali)

# Unpacking “jointness” in decision-making

- ▶ Not just spouses, but extended families (in-laws, co-wives, natal family)
- ▶ Final say // Consultation // Influence behind the scenes
- ▶ Women exercise more decision-making on small livestock, assets, income; Men on larger
- ▶ Showing “respect”, not challenging masculinities may affect answers (including on survey)
- ▶ Women may not want sole decision-making responsibility
- ▶ “The down side of women's control over their own income is that if they have too much and do not help others they are said to be witches or to be engaging in prostitution or other inappropriate behavior” (Trias)



# Domestic violence

- ▶ One man describes his rights to beat his wife as follows: "Corporal punishment is very good because she will do what I tell her to do. Always, women are not comfortable without punishment." (Trias)
- ▶ "Even a small boy has more value than a woman, because women are afraid of threats from men. At a single occasion she is treated of rude and is threaten to death. That is not the case for men" (Worldveg woman's life history)
- ▶ "The other day when there was a meeting of Self-Reliance (Swabalanban), my husband used the meeting as a pretext to beat me so I did not go to the meeting. Then the samuha members humiliate my husband. I also let them humiliate my husband because it was necessary to humiliate him for him to change his habit." (Ranjana Mahato, Nepal)

# Contributors to empowerment

- ▶ Money, “success”
- ▶ Mobility, ability to work outside the home
- ▶ Someone else to lift the labor burden
- ▶ Groups that provide for savings, financial benefits and shift norms
- ▶ Connections to outside groups
- ▶ “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“ (Worldveg)
- ▶ Marriage (Mali Fulani) or liberation from marital duties (Burkina)

# How projects affect empowerment

- ▶ Multiple pathways to empowerment: projects could:
  - ▶ Give women something that enables them to increase income, take care of others
  - ▶ Train women—increase skills, confidence, capacities
  - ▶ Affect social norms (including on domestic violence)
  - ▶ (check for validation of project strategies and TOC)
- ▶ Does the mechanism by which women get the means of empowerment matter?



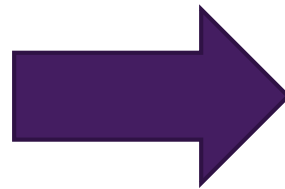
# GAAP<sup>2</sup> phase

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

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## The pro-WEAI Health & Nutrition Module

# Many agricultural development projects have nutrition-sensitive objectives





# pro-WEAI Health and Nutrition Module



# Content of the Health and Nutrition Module

- ▶ Instrumental agency (power to) as tied to health and nutrition outcomes

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- ▶ Instrumental agency (power to) as tied to health and nutrition outcomes
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Women's own nutrition and health
  - ▶ Child nutrition and health



# Content of the Health and Nutrition Module

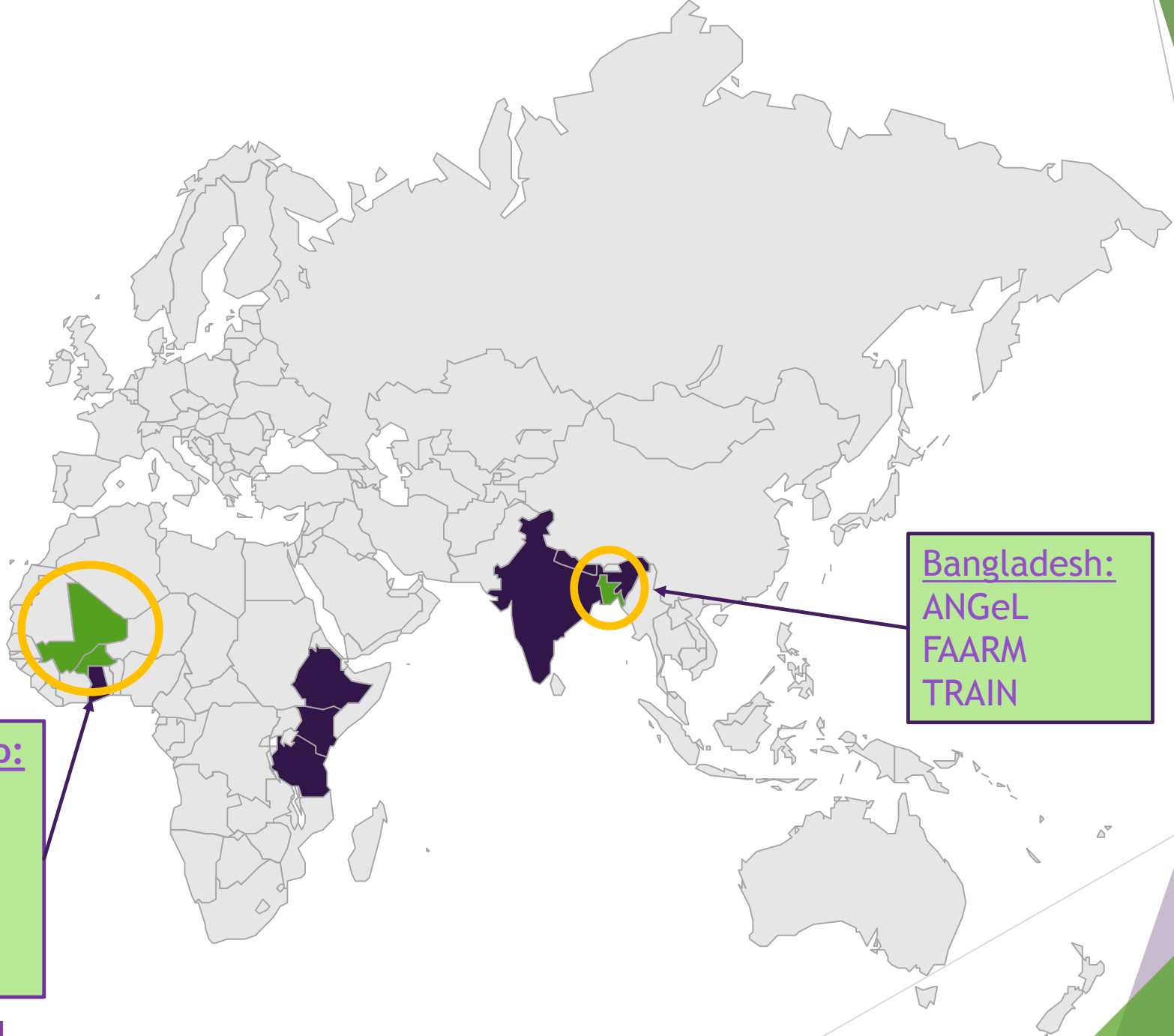
- ▶ Instrumental agency (power to) as tied to health and nutrition outcomes
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Women's own nutrition and health
    - ▶ Animal-source foods; healthcare; rest/work; diet and health during pregnancy and lactation; family planning-related decisions
  - ▶ Child nutrition and health
    - ▶ Animal-source foods; healthcare; breastfeeding/weaning

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  - ▶ Who makes the decision
  - ▶ To what extent she participates in the decision

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- ▶ Types of questions
  - ▶ Who makes the decision
  - ▶ To what extent she participates in the decision
- ▶ Decisions to purchase key foods and health products
- ▶ Usually acquire key foods and health products when needed



**Burkina Faso:**  
Grameen &  
SE LEVER

**Mali:**  
WorldVeg

**Bangladesh:**  
ANGeL  
FAARM  
TRAIN

# Our Road Map



Cognitive  
Interviewing

Identifying  
Indicators

Cutoffs for  
adequacy

# Cognitive Interviewing



Emory University  
DATA Bangladesh



# Cognitive Interviewing Lessons

- ▶ Change the wording of questions so that respondents can better understand which part of the question is prompting a response
  - ▶ OLD: Who in the household generally makes decisions about whether to purchase [PRODUCT]?
  - ▶ REVISED: When decisions are made whether or not to purchase [PRODUCT], who generally makes the decision?

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- ▶ Reorder questions
  - ▶ Similar themes together
  - ▶ Sensitive questions later



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- ▶ Clarify confusing terms
  - ▶ Milk or milk products → added “other than breastmilk”

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  - ▶ Sensitive questions later
- ▶ Clarify confusing terms
  - ▶ Milk or milk products → added “other than breastmilk”
- ▶ Feedback from DATA field teams
  - ▶ Enumerator and respondents find the questions easier
  - ▶ Sequence is more relevant and natural

# Our Road Map



Cognitive  
Interviewing

Identifying  
Indicators

Cutoffs for  
adequacy

# Identifying Indicators



Exploratory factor analysis  
Confirmatory factor analysis



Different indicators in  
Bangladesh and West Africa

# Health and Nutrition Indicators

## Bangladesh

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products

## Burkina Faso & Mali

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products

# Health and Nutrition Indicators

## Bangladesh

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products
  - ▶ Women's health—including during pregnancy and breastfeeding

## Burkina Faso & Mali

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
  - ▶ Purchase of food and health products
  - ▶ Women's diet, work, and rest while pregnant and breastfeeding

# Health and Nutrition Indicators

## Bangladesh

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
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  - ▶ Women's health—including during pregnancy and breastfeeding
  - ▶ Child health/diet and breastfeeding/weaning

## Burkina Faso & Mali

- ▶ Ability to acquire food and health products
- ▶ Decisions about:
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  - ▶ Women's diet, work, and rest while pregnant and breastfeeding
  - ▶ Child health/diet
  - ▶ Breastfeeding/weaning

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  - ▶ Healthcare seeking & family planning

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  - ▶ Healthcare seeking & family planning

Control over own  
health and diet

Input into:

Rest when ill  
Foods to prepare  
Foods to eat

Control over  
health and diet  
during  
pregnancy

Input into:

Work and rest  
Eating ♦eggs, ♦milk,  
♦meat

Control of child's  
diet

Input into:

Feeding child ♦eggs,  
♦milk, ♦meat

Control over  
weaning and  
breastfeeding

Input into:

Whether to breastfeed  
When to wean  
Giving other foods

Freedom to seek  
healthcare

Input into:

Doctor for ♦illness,  
♦pregnancy, ♦sick child,  
♦child well-visits

Freedom to  
purchase food  
and health  
products

Input into purchasing:

Food, animal-source  
foods, medicines,  
toiletries

Access to food  
and health  
products

Can acquire-some means:

Food, animal-source  
foods, medicines,  
toiletries

# Our Road Map



Cognitive  
Interviewing

Identifying  
Indicators

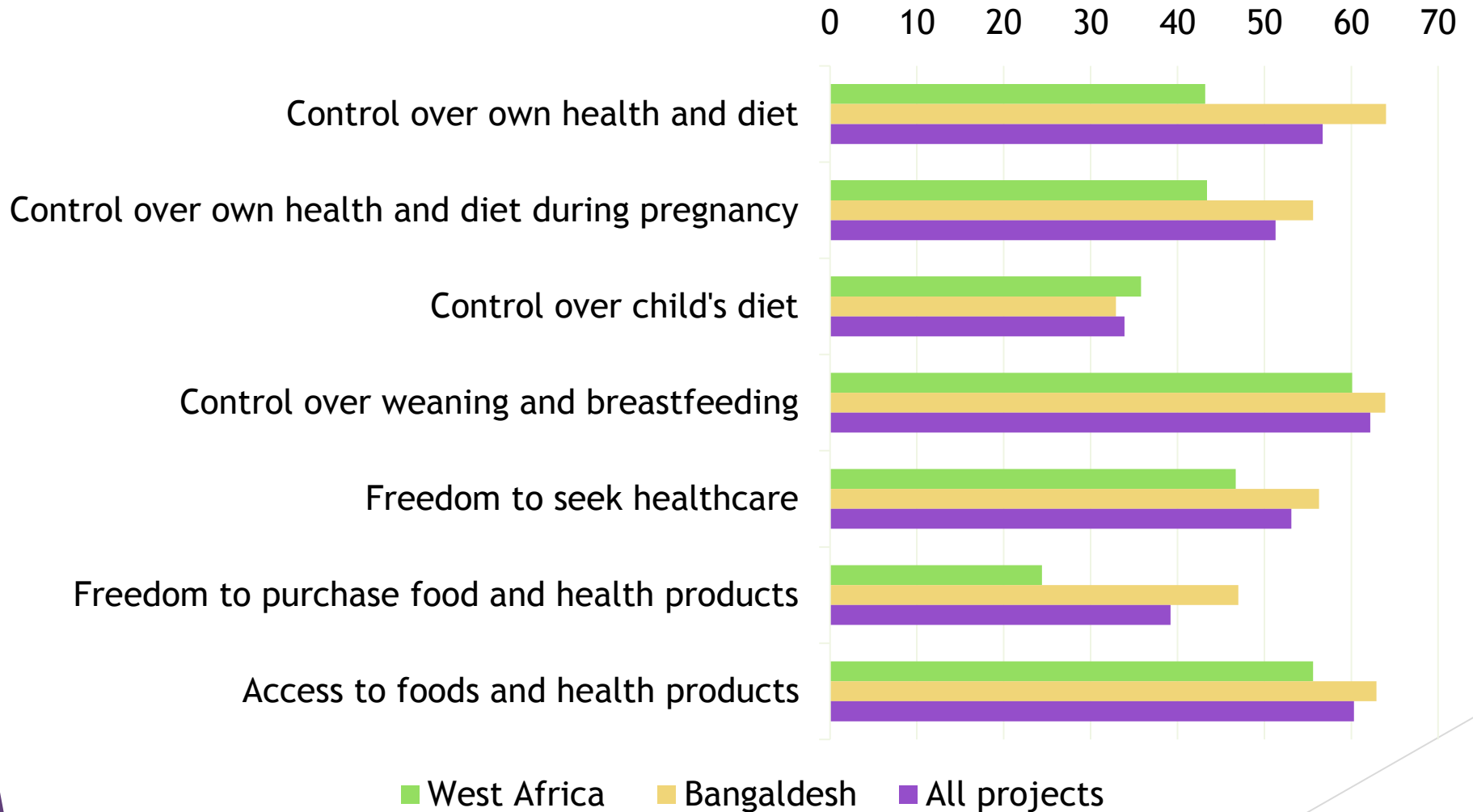
Cutoffs for  
adequacy

# Developing Cutoffs and Definitions of Adequacy



Normative approach  
Sensitivity comparisons

# Percent Achieving Empowerment



# Questions??

We will have a Q&A session at the end of the learning lab. Please write down any questions you have now on a note card.

# Breakout sessions

- 1) Role playing: conducting the pro-WEAI survey modules
- 2) Data analysis: analyzing pro-WEAI data using Stata



## Exercise: Role playing

- ▶ Think of a typical household in a nutrition project you are working on, or would like to work on
  
- ▶ On a piece of paper, write down some keywords describing this household:
  - ▶ Who are the primary decisionmakers in this household?
  - ▶ What is their livelihood/s or main source/s of income?
  - ▶ What are their key assets?
  - ▶ Where do they fit in the value chain?
  - ▶ Any other important gender-relevant details?

# Exercise: Role playing

- ▶ Choose a partner to work with, you'll take turns being the enumerator or the respondent
- ▶ **Enumerators:** read the instructions, read the questions, and mark the questionnaire based on your partner's responses
- ▶ **Respondents:** play the role of the female respondent in the example household you wrote down, and respond as you would expect them to respond
  
- ▶ Select sub-modules to practice in addition to GX:
  - G2: Role in household decision-making around production and income
  - G3(a): Access to productive capital
  - G3(b): Access to financial services
  - G4: Time allocation
  - G5: Group membership
  - G6: Physical mobility
  - G7: Intrahousehold relationships
  - G8(a): Autonomy in decision-making
  - G8(b): New general self-efficacy scale
  - G8(c): Life satisfaction
  - G9: Attitudes about domestic violence
  - ✓ **GX: Decision-making about nutrition and health**

# Report back on exercise

- ▶ **Make sure to keep the recorded responses!** We will use them later to construct empowerment scores.
- ▶ How was your experience?
- ▶ What difficulties came up?
- ▶ Any suggestions on how to improve implementation?

# Questions??

# Join our community of practice!

## weai.ifpri.info



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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.

[LEARN MORE](#)



# Quiz and prizes!

- ▶ How many indicators are there in pro-WEAI?
- ▶ What three types of agency does pro-WEAI measure?
- ▶ What type of power does the pro-WEAI nutrition and health module represent?
- ▶ What year was the original WEAI launched?
- ▶ Name one qualitative method used in pro-WEAI.
- ▶ Name one country where pro-WEAI has been piloted.