

Gender, Agriculture & Assets Project

Led by IFPRI

Understanding Empowerment among Retailers in the Informal Milk Sector in Peri-urban Nairobi:

Informing an Adaptation of the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

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Overview: Gendered Opportunities and Constraints in Milk Trading in Periurban Nairobi

GAAP 2

- Understand how agricultural development projects empower women
- Develop measures of women's empowerment (pro-WEAI) for project impact



MoreMilk

- Sub-study is an intervention with peri-urban milk retailers
- Primary outcome: Improve child nutrition and health (via better milk quality)
- Secondary outcome: Empower milk retailers

Present study

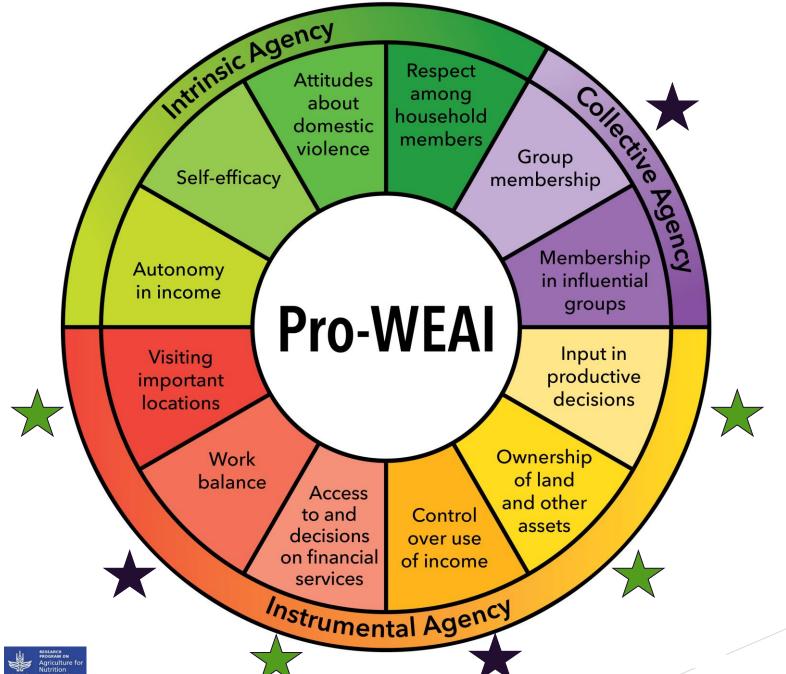
MoreMilk & GAAP2 Collaboration

Objectives

- **▶** Local understandings of empowerment
- ► Examine the experiences of milk retailers in relation to existing pro-WEAI indicators and the accuracy of those indicators
- ► Use qualitative findings to adapt pro-WEAI instrument and to evaluate intervention targeting milk retailers



Pro-WEAI







Methods

- ► Semi-structured in-depth interviews (SSIIs): 49
 - ▶ 27 women; 22 men
- ► Key informant interviews (KIIs): 4
 - ▶ 1 woman; 3 men
- ► Focus group discussions (FGDs): 6
 - ▶ 3 FGDs of women (2 current; 1 former)
 - ▶ 3 FGDs of men (2 current; 1 former)
- Sampled for traits of successful milk retailers
 - ▶ Current or former
 - ▶ Licensed (or not); Business type (shop, milk bar, milk ATM, street vendor, mobile vendor); Source (producers, processors, brokers)
- ▶ Coding: deductive and inductive



Results



Local understandings of empowerment

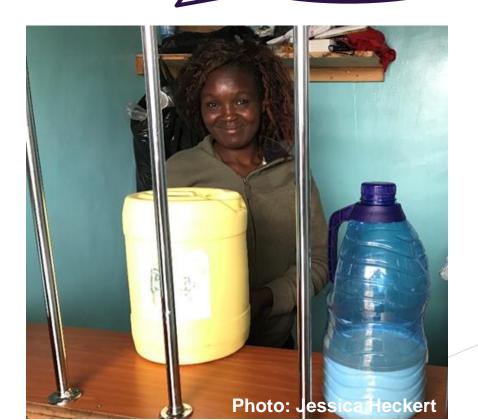
Women and men

- ► Economic success
 - Men: good business skills, own assets
 - Women: good business skills, own assets, soft skills
- Support family and community
 - Women: community leader
 - Men: benevolent patriarch

Retailers

- Additional and more valuable assets
- Women:
 - Soft skills (polite, cheerful)
 - 'Too friendly'

"Money is a matter of saving for you to be empowered." Woman





Indicator 1: Input in productive decisions

- Social networks: friends, family members, and those with business experience
 - ► Men talk to men only
 - ► Women talk to women, and anyone after entering business
- ► Collaborate with spouses
 - ▶ Some women were deferential to spouses
- ▶ No reprisal women's independent choices

"I have to make calculations...I do consult my husband.
We do sit down calculate, discuss and decide." Woman



Implications for pro-WEAI: Milk-specific productive decisions

"Handling, storing, and/or processing milk for sale, including boiling, making mala, etc."

"Buying and transporting milk from a farmer or supplier"

qu in an va	ow I'd like to ask you some lestions about your participation certain types of work activities of on making decisions on rious aspects of household life. ODE G2 TITLE TO NO INPUT IN DECISIONS	Did you [NAME] or another member of your household participate in [ACTIVITY] in the past 12 months in any way?	When decisions are made regarding [ACTIVITY], who is it that normally takes the decision? ENTER UP TO THREE (3) MEMBER IDs IF RESPONSE IS MEMBER ID (SELF) ONLY → G2.05 OTHER CODES: NON-HH MEMBER94		
A	CTIVITY	G2.01.	G2.02.		
A	Selling milk to consumers/interacting with consumers directly (for a business operated by you or a member of your household)	YES, RESPONDENT PARTICIPATED1 HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED, BUT NOT RESPONDENT	10 #1	10 %2	20 10
В	Handling, storing, and/or processing milk for sale, including boiling, making mala, etc. (for a business operated by you or a member of your household)	YES, RESPONDENT PARTICIPATED1 HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED, BUT NOT RESPONDENT			
С	Buying and or transporting milk from a farmer or supplier (for a business operated by you or a member of your household)	YES, RESPONDENT PARTICIPATED1 HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED, BUT NOT RESPONDENT			



Indicator 2: Asset ownership

General

- ▶ Not land (may rent premise)
- Gendered ownership
 - ► Men: borrow
 - ▶ Women: buy

"If one does not have a license, the authorities are constantly following them up, and they are not able to operate the business in peace. Sometimes one has to close shop and run away when the authorities come inspecting." Man

Licenses

- ▶ 3 types: City council, Kenya Dairy Board, Ministry of Health
 - ► Application and licensing fees
- Risk of loss of milk and assets without one (though not a strong deterrent)
- Confusing and costly licensing process



Implications for pro-WEAI: Milk Specific Assets, Licenses

Assets

- ► Aluminum milk cans
- ► Milk ATM
- ► Gum boots

Licenses

► knowledge questions



Now I would like to ask you some questions about fees you pay to run your milk business.		Do you have a current [LICENSE TYPE]?	How often do you renew the [LICENSE TYPE]?	
LICENSE TYPE		G11.01.	G11. <u>02.a</u>	G11. <u>02.b</u>
A	Business permit/license	YES	ONCE EVERY NOT RENEWED9999	DAY(S)
В	Milk bar license	YES	ONCE EVERY NOT RENEWED9999	DAY(S)
С	Local council license	YES	ONCE EVERY NOT RENEWED9999	DAY(S)
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Indicator 3: Access to and decisions on financial services

Repayment

- ▶ Milk spoilage
- ▶ Sell milk on credit

M-Pesa

- ▶ Secure
- ▶ Women and men

"If you apply for a loan and say the milk spoils...And, you know, in a week maybe you are supposed to pay 500. Where will you get that 500 to pay back?" Woman



Implications for pro-WEAI:

M-Pesa, Repayment

M-Pesa

► If they have an account

Repayment

▶ Credit questions

G3.36. How do you typically recover payment (cash and/or in-kind) of milk sold on credit?

G3.37. How often did customers fail to repay you for milk they bought on credit in the last 12 months?

G3.38. Are you able to refuse to sell on credit when you would prefer not to?

G3.39. Do you think it is good for your business to sell on credit?



Indicator 4: Visiting important locations

Gendered constraints

- Community perception of women's promiscuity
- ▶ Childcare obligations
- ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Bicycles
 - ▶ Motorbikes
 - ► Trucks

"I know of a lady who was not married and was selling milk...The elders had to intervene and take her back to the parents and stop the milk business." Woman



Implications for pro-WEAI: Constraints to visiting important locations

- ▶ Transportation too expensive
- ▶ Not enough time
- ► Forbidden to go by spouse/partner

G6.03. RESPONSE CODES			
1	TRANSPORTATION TOO EXPENSIVE		
2	I DID NOT HAVE THE PROPER DRESS/CREDENTIALS		
3	NOT ENOUGH TIME		
4	I THOUGHT IT WAS UNSAFE		
5	OTHERS TOLD ME IT WAS UNSAFE		
6	FORBIDDEN TO GO BY SPOUSE/PARTNER		
7	FORBIDDEN TO GO BY THE FAMILY OF MY SPOUSE/PATRNER		
8	FORBIDDEN TO GO BY OWN FAMILY MEMBER		
9	FORBIDDEN TO GO BY AN AUTHOIRTY		
10	(DO NOT READ ALOUD) SOCIETAL NORM		
11	OTHER, SPECIFY:		



Lessons learned

- Adapting pro-WEAI and other existing survey measures needs to be undertaken carefully
- Qualitative research is one approach that can systematically inform survey adaptations
- ► The topics addressed by the pro-WEAI indicators resonate with the lived experiences of milk retailers
- ▶ Revising some items will help make the pro-WEAI instrument more relevant for a nonproducer population

