

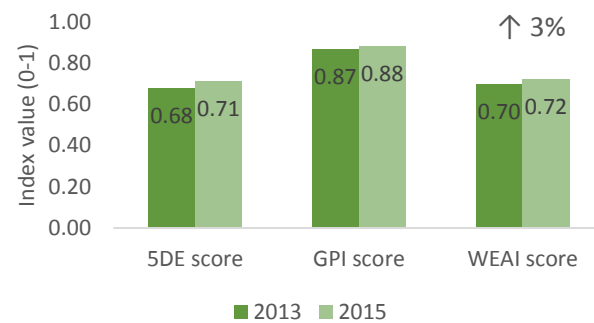
ETHIOPIA

2013 Baseline – 2015 Interim Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index Results

Key Findings

- Ethiopian women experienced very modest improvements in empowerment with the WEAI score increasing by 3 percent in 2 years.
- Women's GPI score increased by 1 percent, which indicates a slight rise in gender equality within a household.
- Group membership and speaking in public remain top contributors to women's disempowerment; group membership is also consistently a top contributor to disempowerment among men.
- Women's empowerment is positively related to children's and women's dietary diversity. Group membership, the amount of time spent on paid and unpaid activities, decisions on income and autonomy in production are positively associated with women's dietary diversity.

Figure 1: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture (WEAI), Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) and Gender Parity Index (GPI) Scores



The results of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) have informed the Ethiopian government's National Nutrition Program (NNP) which recognizes that women's lack of access and control over household resources, time, knowledge and social support networks are barriers to improving nutrition outcomes.

Sample

The interim sample for the Ethiopia Feed the Future interim survey consisted of 4,453 households from 250 kebeles and 84 woredas in the Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) and Tigray regions; 3,842 women were interviewed to calculate the WEAI. Data collection took place from June-July 2015 by the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The sample is longitudinal; the same households were interviewed at baseline in 2013.

WEAI Score

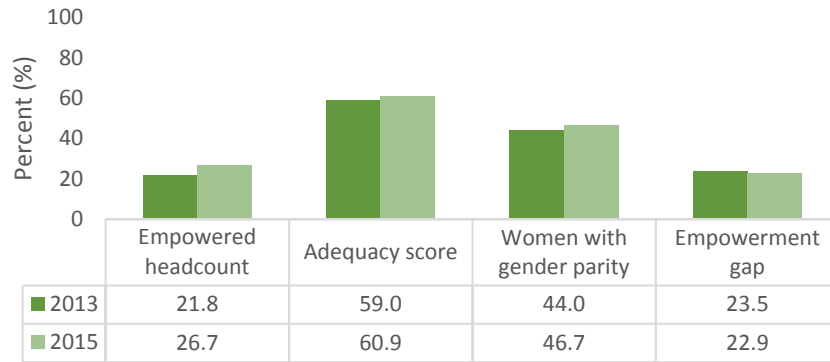
The overall WEAI score for Ethiopia in 2015 is 0.72. It is a weighted average of the Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) and Gender Parity Index (GPI) scores. This represents a 3 percent increase from Ethiopia's baseline score in 2013, illustrating that Ethiopian women are experiencing improvements in empowerment status.

5DE score

The 5DE score is 0.71. A total of 26.7 percent of all women are empowered. The remaining 73.3 percent who are disempowered have adequate¹ achievements in about 3 of the 5 domains (60.9 percent), which is approximately the same proportion as in 2013. These numbers indicate there is still widespread disempowerment of women in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZOI).

¹ Adequacy is defined specifically for each indicator as being at or above a set threshold. For instance, a woman achieves adequacy for the workload indicator if she works less than 10.5 hours per day. Women who work more than 10.5 hours per day do not achieve adequacy for the workload indicator. Aggregated, achieving adequacy in 3 of 5 domains is equivalent to achieving adequacy in 6 of 10 indicators.

Figure 2: Women's empowerment status

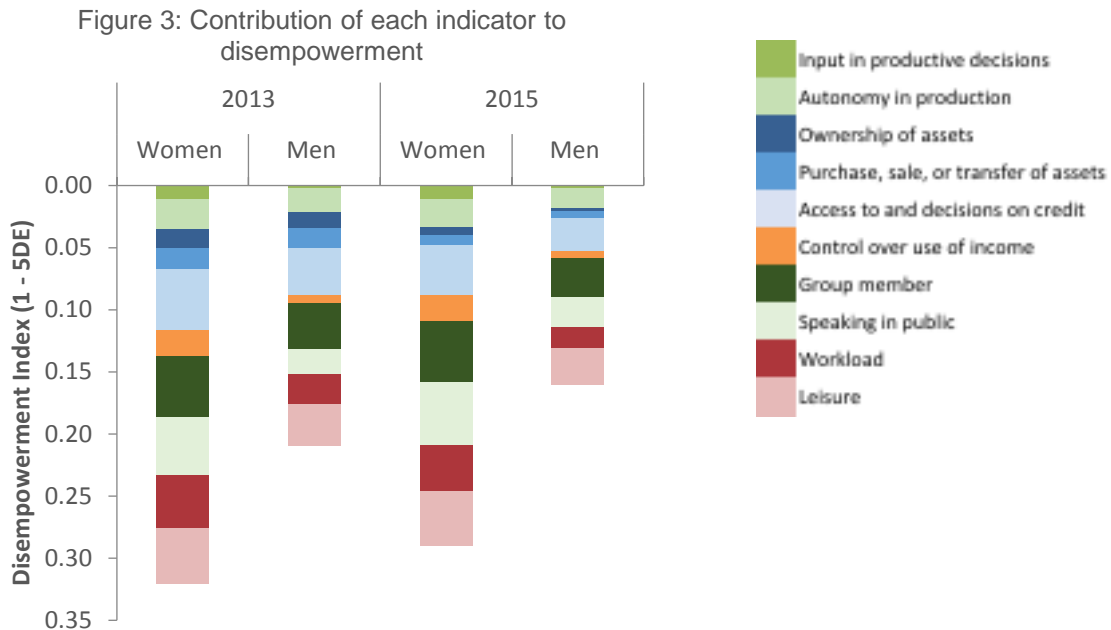


GPI Score

The GPI is 0.88. A total of 46.7 percent of women have gender parity with the primary male decision maker in their household. For the 53.3 percent who do not have gender parity, the empowerment gap between the primary female and male decision maker in the household is 22.9 percent. The percent of women that have gender parity increased by 6 percent from baseline while the average empowerment gap faced by women without gender parity declined by 3 percent. These factors contributed to a 1 percent increase in the GPI score, which indicates that there has been an increase in gender equality within a household.

Top Contributors to Disempowerment

Figure 3 compares male and female disempowerment showing that women are almost twice as disempowered as men; this gap has increased over time. Group membership and speaking in public remain top contributors to women's disempowerment; group membership is also consistently a top contributor for men.



In 2015, in all 10 indicators, a greater proportion of men achieve adequacy compared to the proportion of women. The indicators exhibiting the greatest gap in male versus female achievement are speaking in public, access to credit and workload. In terms of the contribution of each indicator to women's total disempowerment, there were no statistically significant changes for any of the indicators from 2013 to 2015.

WEAI Application in Programming

The results of the WEAI have influenced Feed the Future value chain activities in Ethiopia and led to a greater focus on targeting women entrepreneurs. The results of the WEAI have also informed the Ethiopian government's National Nutrition Program (NNP), which recognizes that lack of women's access and control over household resources, time, knowledge and social support networks are barriers to improving nutrition outcomes. Efforts are being made by the government to design and implement projects to increase women's engagement in and control over economic activities.

Additionally, the UN's Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Ethiopia has adopted a multi-sectoral and comprehensive approach to reduce gender inequalities in pastoralist communities related to increasing women's access to resources, credit, and financial services, decision-making within the household, and participation in the community.

Going forward, group membership and speaking in public remain important areas to prioritize in designing programs to increase empowerment, because they consistently rank as top contributors to women's disempowerment (contributing 34 percent).

WEAI Research in Ethiopia

[Research on the WEAI in Ethiopia](#) finds that women's overall empowerment is positively related to children's and women's dietary diversity. Additionally, group membership, the amount of time spent on paid and unpaid activities, decisions on income and autonomy in production are positively associated with the number of food groups women consume.

WEAI Background

Early in the initiative, Feed the Future, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative created the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index — the first tool of its kind — to make empowerment measurable. Feed the Future has used it as a diagnostic to inform and shape programming as well as to monitor and measure impact. Today, partners around the world are using the tool to collect data in more than 47 countries.