



Gender and Food Security Resources

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Introduction

This document is designed to provide an overview of the current tools and guidelines used for ensuring a gender perspective in food security and nutrition programmes and assessments. It provides selected examples of guidelines, indices, case studies, reports and e-Learning courses produced by different organizations that may be of help to those conducting food and nutrition security analysis.

As noted by the 2015 BRIDGE report listed below there is “only a limited amount of gender disaggregated data” for food security analysis. Thus, clearly more needs to be done. Many of the organizations cited here are continually updating and improving their guidelines. For example, WFP is [planning to release](#) three key documents in response to the issuance of its 2015 Gender Policy. The topic is an important and evolving research area and two Masters theses are also included at the end to showcase new ideas on the subject from early-career professionals.

This document is a “work-in-progress” and is based on information readily available online. Therefore, if you wish to submit any additional relevant initiatives or resources, or comment on this paper, please email the FSIN Secretariat at fsin-secretariat@wfp.org.

Standards and Guidelines for Food Security Analysis

Standards for Collecting Sex Disaggregated Data for Gender Analysis

CGIAR (2015)

This [document](#) spells out some simple and achievable steps for CGIAR researchers collecting relevant sex-disaggregated data:

- Collect information about both men and women
- Collect information from men and women
- All data collections must be context specific
- Work with a gender expert early in the process to define the research question and methodology
- Ensure a confidentiality and consent agreement with participants
- Comparing male and female headed households is not gender analysis

Minimum Dietary Diversity- Women (MDD-W)

FAO & Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project FANTA (2014)

FAO in collaboration with FANTA and other nutrition experts in 2014 updated the Women’s Dietary Diversity Score (WDDS) based on new research findings. The new indicator “Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women (MDD_W)” has been developed. It comes with 10 food groups and a dichotomous indicator to measure minimum dietary diversity when consuming at least five food groups out of 10. It can be used in large-scale surveys, and it will facilitate nutrition assessment, monitoring and evaluation, target setting and advocacy. These new guidelines are yet to be available however a [report](#) about the MDD-W is available.

IASC Gender Marker Tip Sheet: Why Does Gender Equality Matter in Emergency Food Assistance Interventions?

Food Security Cluster (2016)

This [document](#) highlights the importance of using a gender sensitive, participatory approach at all stages of the emergency food assistance project cycle to ensure an adequate and efficient response. In order for a food assistance project to have a positive impact, women, girls, boys and men must be involved equally in the process. The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that codes on a 2>0 scale, whether or

not a humanitarian project is designed to ensure that women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally from it, and that it will contribute to gender equality.

Manual: Integrating Gender Statistics

United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)

The manual aims to foster a gender perspective in national statistics. It provides information needed to accomplish three main goals: (a) to achieve a comprehensive coverage of gender issues in data production activities; (b) to incorporate a gender perspective in the design of surveys or censuses, by taking into account gender issues and avoiding gender biases in measurement; and (c) to improve data analysis and data presentation and to deliver gender statistics in a format that is easy to use by policymakers and planners. The manual is available online, in the form of a [wiki platform](#). The manual contains a [chapter](#) on using gender statistics for defining, measuring and analysing the three key dimensions of food security: availability, access and utilization of food.

Integrating a Gender Perspective into Vulnerability Analysis

WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) (2005)

This [document](#) provides guidance to VAM Officers and Focal Points on how to mainstream a gender perspective into the design, implementation and analytic phases of WFP's food security analyses. Although generating gender disaggregated data is a key first step in mainstreaming gender into VAM analyses, integrating a gender perspective entails much more. It includes analyzing how gender roles and relations between genders are causally related to food insecurity and vulnerability.

Other Relevant Resources

Gender and Land Rights Database

FAO

The Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) provides policy makers and advocates of women's land rights relevant arguments and information to support more gender-equitable land tenure. It serves as a platform to address, discuss and provide information about gender and land issues, comprising three main sections: [84 Country Profiles](#), [Land Tenure Statistics disaggregated by gender](#), and a [Legal Assessment Tool for gender-equitable land tenure \(LAT\)](#). There is also a [resource section](#) that contains relevant news, online discussions and publications.

Gender Action Learning System (GALS)

OXFAM, IFAD

Gender Active Learning System (GALS) is a useful [methodology](#) for food security and nutrition programming. The main goal of the GALS process is to develop community-led gender justice movements that are sustainable. It uses voluntary 'pyramid marketing' to identify and certify the most effective community trainers to develop and combine the capacities, networks and ownership of programme participants at all levels. The system has already been implemented by IFAD in Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda, as documented in these [case studies](#).

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

USAID, IFPRI, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index is the first-ever measure to directly capture women's empowerment and inclusion levels in the agricultural sector. Developed by USAID, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, this

innovative tool is composed of two sub-indexes. One measures women's engagement in agriculture in five areas: Production, Resources, Income, Leadership and Time Use, and the other measures gender parity in empowerment within the household.

The index has already been piloted in Bangladesh, Guatemala and Uganda and a number of key WEAI publications have already been released: the baseline report, summary brochure, peer reviewed publications, a technical report and four discussion papers. These documents are all available on the [online resource centre](#).

Gender-Age Marker Toolkit

ECHO

The European Commission's humanitarian [Gender-Age Marker](#) is a tool that assesses to what extent each humanitarian action integrates gender and age considerations. It tracks gender and age sensitive actions and financial allocations, building on lessons learned from existing tools. The Gender-Age Marker uses four criteria to assess how strongly humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations:

1. Gender and age analysis/Sex and Gender Disaggregated Data (SADD)
2. Adapted assistance
3. Negative effects
4. Adequate participation

Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The purpose of these [guidelines](#) is to assist humanitarian actors and communities affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies to coordinate, plan implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions for the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) across all sectors of humanitarian response. The guidelines contain a chapter on Food Security and Agriculture. It offers guidelines on assessing and addressing gender issues that affect food security and agricultural livelihoods in emergencies as well as agricultural rehabilitation after a crisis.

Research Papers

Data Needs for Gender Analysis in Agriculture

IFPRI: Cheryl Doss (2013)

To support gender analysis in agriculture, household surveys should be better designed to capture gender-specific control and ownership of agricultural resources such as male-owned, female-owned and jointly owned assets. [This paper](#) offers guidelines on how to improve data collection efforts to ensure that women farmers are interviewed and that their voices are heard.

Gender Equality and Food Security: Women's Empowerment as a Tool against Hunger

FAO, Asian Development Bank (ADB) (2013)

This [publication](#) analyses gender inequalities that constrain women's roles in agriculture and food production and consequently undermine food and nutrition security in the Asia and Pacific region. It argues that traditional assessment methods such as focus groups and household surveys should be used to encourage women to express their preferences on prioritization and formulation of policies and programmes. It recommends priority interventions to enhance food and nutrition security in the region, arguing for policy reforms to advance gender equality and strengthen country-owned food security strategies.

Gender and Food Security: Towards Gender-Just Food and Nutrition Security

Institute of Development Studies UK (2015)

This BRIDGE Cutting Edge Overview [Report](#) makes the case for a new, gender-aware understanding of food security, arguing that partial, apolitical and gender-blind diagnoses of the problem of food and nutrition insecurity is leading to insufficient policy responses and the failure to realize the right to food for all people. By showcasing effective and promising strategies, the report suggests that in order to truly achieve food security for all in gender equitable ways, responses need to be rights-based, gender-just and environmentally sustainable.

Gendered food security in rural Malawi: why is women's food security status lower?

Menale Kassie, Jesper Stage, Hailemariam Teklewold, Olaf Erenstein (2015)

This [paper](#) examines the gendered food security gap and its causes in rural Malawi. It argues that gendered food security gaps between female- and male-headed households (FHHs and MHHs) can be divided into two components: those explained by observable differences in levels of resource use, and those from unobserved differences affecting the returns of the resource used. This is due to the methodology that uses an exogenous switching ordered probit and binary regression models. A counterfactual analysis was conducted; it found that the food security of FHHs would improve significantly if they had the same levels of resources as MHHs. However, even if FHHs had the same levels of resource use as MHHs, the gendered food (in-)security gap would remain because even with equal resources, FHHs still have lower food security levels.

How does women's time in reproductive work and agriculture affect maternal and child nutrition? Evidence from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Mozambique and Nepal

IFPRI: Hitomi Komatsu, Hazel Jean L. Malapit, Sophie Theis (2015)

This [paper](#) examines whether an increase in women's time spent in agriculture adversely affects maternal and child nutrition and whether the lack of women's time spent in reproductive work leads to poorer nutrition. Using data from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Mozambique and Nepal, the results illustrate that women's time allocation and nutrition responses to agricultural interventions are likely to vary according to socio-economic status and local context.

Using Household and Intra-household data to assess food insecurity: Evidence from Bangladesh

USDA (2015)

This [report](#) is an analysis of the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey and finds that many women and children in rural Bangladesh are undernourished in households where the male household is adequately nourished. It argues that intra-household surveying is necessary to accurately identify food insecure populations and that traditional measurement by household risks misclassifying undernourished populations, particularly women and children, as food secure.

E-Learning and Training

Gender in Food and Nutrition Security

FAO (2014)

This [course](#) provides guidance on how to design and implement agriculture policies and programmes that are gender-responsive, sustainable, contribute to gender equality, and therefore able to improve food and nutrition security. The course includes the following units:

- Overview of gender concepts and principles

- Gender in food and nutrition security policy and legislation
- Gender in food and nutrition security programming

Gender M&E

USAID

This e-learning [course](#) is designed to strengthen develop practitioners' understanding of gender and M&E. It defines what gender M&E is and describes why it is important and how it can be integrated in health and gender programming. It also explains the difference between sex-disaggregated indicators and gender-sensitive indicators, providing examples of gender considerations in data collection, data interpretation and data use. Finally it identifies specific tools and resources to further support gender M&E.

Training Guide: Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development

CGIAR, CCAFS, FAO

The purpose of this [guide](#) is to promote gender-responsive and socially-sensitive climate change research and development in the agriculture and food security sectors, through participatory approaches. The guide focuses on the household and community level, and provides a conceptual framework on the linkages between economic, environmental, social and institutional patterns that affect individuals in the agricultural sector within the context of climate change. It also illustrates how understanding gender, wealth, ethnicity, caste and other social differences in communities and households is fundamental to understanding livelihood strategies and priorities of different socio-economic groups. Finally, the guide provides tools specifically designed to support a gender-sensitive participatory process in analysing the current situation and planning for the future.

Postgraduate Research

Gender disparities in perceived life satisfaction within food insecure populations

McGill (Canada), Elizabeth Graham (2015)

This [Masters thesis](#) analyses whether gender is a global risk factor for experiencing food insecurity and explore the relationship between food insecurity and reported life satisfaction and how this relationship may be more pronounced with regards to gender. Using data from the 2014 Gallup World Poll (GWP) and the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) the study found that women are both more likely to be food insecure and have significantly higher odds of perceiving life satisfaction. It reinforces the need for restructuring typical food-security programs and measure individual well-being consequences that often precede physical consequences of food insecurity.

Measuring women's untapped potential for food security and market empowerment

Roma Tre University (Italy), Paige Enfinger (2015)

This [study](#) identifies key gaps in gender-responsive food security analysis and proposes alternatives to current practice. It uses human development ideologies of freedom and agency, theories of women's empowerment and a case study of the World Food Programme's operations in Senegal. The author suggests that an absence of relevant gender analysis from WFP data and food security analysis in Senegal can be attributed to an outdated conceptual framework and contributes to missed programming opportunities in the long term. She recommends a reorientation of the WFP conceptual framework to emphasize women's empowerment, and proposes an adaptation of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), from the production paradigm for agricultural development to the human development paradigm in which access and utilization are central for food security.