ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY
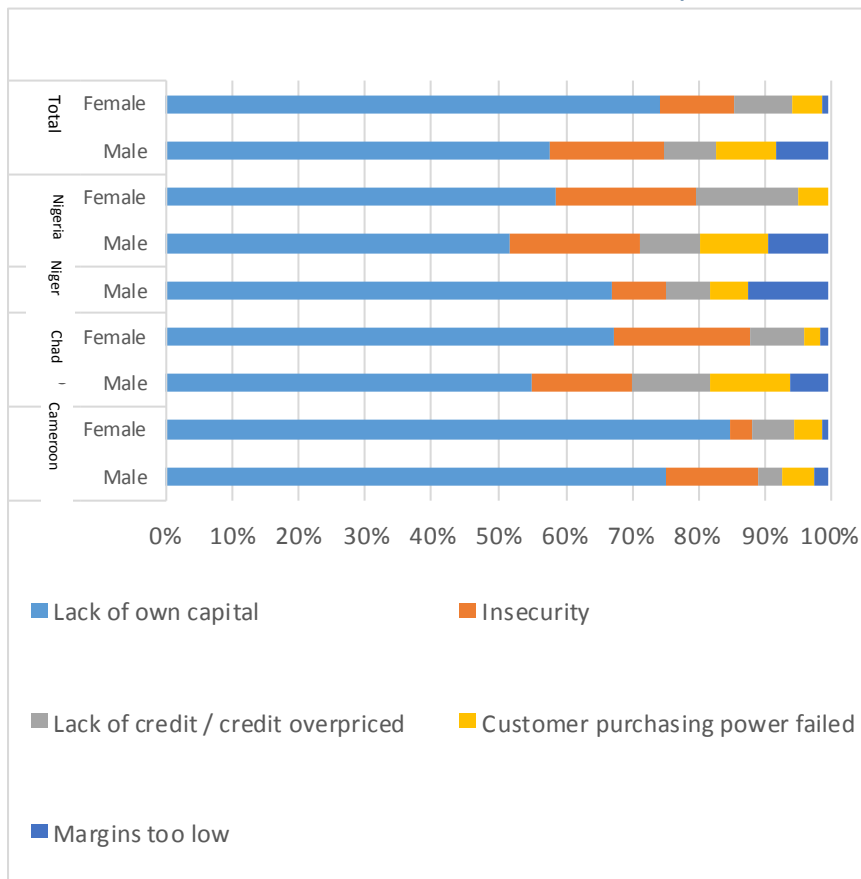
VAM GENDER AND MARKETS BRIEFING #2

MAY 2017

VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN (LCB)

KEY MESSAGES :

- The security issue in North Nigeria led to massive displacement of population in the Lake Chad Basin countries, affecting nearly **7M people** (2016) and increasing protection risks and food insecurity.

- Women constitute up to **79%** of the rural work force in the region. **They suffer more from shocks related to food insecurity because of their limited access to resources and capital.**

- Women are marginalized in cereal supply chains even though they play a larger role in value chains of seasonal and perishable commodities, although they remain less resilient.

- Cassava, maize, sorghum, millet and rice are the most significant agricultural crops of the region. Nigeria is the 1st cereal producer of the region and the 1st worldwide producer of cassava.(2016)

FIGURE 1 : TOP 10 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY TRADERS, BY GENDER

Legend:
- Lack of own capital
- Insecurity
- Lack of credit / credit overpriced
- Customer purchasing power failed
- Margins too low

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS ARE NOT GENDER NEUTRAL : DISCRIMINATORY GENDER NORMS IN LCB VALUE CHAINS

LACK OF CAPITAL AND INSECURITY are the two main constraints faced by traders, men and women in the LCB region. However, the prevalent perception that women's reproductive and domestic responsibilities constitute their main role, significantly limit women's access to markets and capital. Women face unique barriers and disproportionate responsibility for unpaid, household work that limit their time to invest in profitable activities. Insecurity poses also a major protection risk to women and girls who are more exposed to sexual and gender based violence (See Fig.1).

SELF FINANCING is the main funding source in each country, while the second is family and friends. Social networks and ethnicity play an important role in credit provision. In Niger, 34% of traders depend on credit from their suppliers. Informal credit supply constitutes a strategy for traders to retain customers.

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL capacities are limited within women's organizations to the detriment of rural women and their access to the agricultural sector. Other issues identified include lack of access to market information, lack of entrepreneurial skills and limited capacity to identify profitable value chains and to link cooperatives to potential agro-dealers and export markets.

VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT

IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

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LCB GENDER AND MARKETS DATA *

PRIMARY SECTOR EMPLOYS MORE THAN 80% OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION

30% OF WOMEN'S TRADERS ABOVE 50 ARE WHOLESALERS IN NIGERIA. AGE PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN VALUE CHAINS

86% OF WOMEN ARE ILLITERATE IN CHAD

TAKING ACTION

EMPOWERMENT is multidimensional/intersectional and varies depending on the stage of the value chain. Empowerment incorporates income earnings activities but also **SOCIAL ASPECTS** (household, education). Since vulnerabilities are exacerbated in conflict zones, **GENDER ANALYSIS** is even more necessary to ensure that assistance is more inclusive, people centered and empowering for women and girls, as food security and nutrition are at the heart of the humanitarian response.

IN TERMS OF DATA COLLECTION, gender and market analysis, the following recommendations will allow WFP VAM to improve its work in assessing and monitoring empowerment to achieve gender equality goals :

⇒ Reinforce WFP capacities and **ACCOUNTABILITY** so that assessment teams can analyze and report on gender responsive data and information.
⇒ Introduce supplementary **ENUMERATOR TRAINING** modules on how to deliver questions.
⇒ **USE THE WEMI** (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture index) as a valuable tool for WFP to achieve its mandate to help women and vulnerable populations to achieve their potential within food systems (see Table 1).

Table 1. reflects the gender sensitive WEMI questions integrated in the EFSA (Emergency and Food Security Assessment) and serves as a good practice example to capture information on the relevant gender dimensions of food markets. Gender sensitive surveys require several strong tools for defining a clear framework in evaluating and analyzing women's empowerment.

TABLE 1 : GENDER SENSITIVE ADAPTED WEMI QUESTIONS FROM THE EFSA

QUESTION	OPTIONAL RESPONSES
Who decides most of the time whether you will take out credit to finance trade activities	1=self 2=partner/spouse 3=other household member 4=self and other household member(s) 5=partner/spouse and other household member(s) 6=someone (or group of people) outside the household 7=other
Who decides most of the time how much of your generated income will be spent on food for your household?	
Who decides most of the time whether you will sell?	
Who decides most of the time what price you will sell at?	
Who decides most of the time whether you will give away?	
Who decides most of the time from whom/where you will purchase?	
What will be the biggest challenge/obstacle for your business in the future?	(Open response)
Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to help decide on marketplace issues?	(1=no, not at all comfortable; 2=yes, but with a great deal of difficulty; 3=yes, but with a little difficulty; 4=yes, fairly comfortable; 5=yes, very comfortable)