

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



GENDER, MARKETS & DATA CONFERENCE: Empowering West African Women through Market-based Food Assistance

August 2018



Contents

List of acronyms	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Foreword by Simon Renk, Regional Market Advisor WFP	6
Foreword by Mrs. Oulimata Sarr, Deputy Regional Director UN Women	7
The Gender and Markets Initiative.....	8
Gender, Markets and Data Conference.....	10
Panel 1: Gender, Food Security and Nutrition	10
Panel 2: Empowering Women	11
Panel 3: Protection in Food Security and Nutrition.....	12
Panel 4: Gender, Data and Innovation	13
Panel 5: Women's Entrepreneurship	14
Conclusions and recommendations	15
Market Place	16
Our 'Social Entrepreneurs'	17
Participants.....	18
Biographies and abstracts of the speakers	19

List of acronyms

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
CBT	Cash Based Transfers
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
RBD	Reginal Bureau Dakar
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WEMI	Women's Empowerment in Markets Index
WFP	World Food Programme

Acknowledgements

The World Food Programme (WFP) Bureau for West Africa (RBD) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) team would like to thank the Senegalese Ministry of Women, Family and Gender for its support to the Gender and Markets Initiative.

The WFP Bureau for West Africa (RBD) VAM-team would like to thank Simon Renk for his work on the Gender and Markets Initiative. This report is built on, and incorporates extracts from the Gender, Markets and Data Conference organised by WFP from 29th - 30th of June 2018 in Dakar, Senegal.

The WFP Bureau for West Africa (RBD) VAM-team would like to thank UN Women and in particular Mrs. Oulimata Sarr, Deputy Regional Director UN Women for her support and contribution to the Gender, Markets and Data Conference.

The WFP Bureau for West Africa (RBD) VAM-team would like to thank the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its financial support to the Gender and Markets Initiative.

Thanks also to the moderators of the conference, in alphabetical order: Analee Pepper (Gender Specialist), Simon Renk (Regional Market Advisor) and Desiree Zwanck (Gender Specialist). Gratitude is also extended to Karen Diop, regional VAM Gender and Markets Consultant and Tijs Magagi Hoornaert, Communications Consultant, without whom the development of this report would not have been possible.

Finally, special thanks go to the teams and partners at country and regional levels; the participants to the Market Place and the professionals present at the conference; who contributed, either directly or indirectly to the successful completion of the Gender, Markets and Data Conference.

Foreword by Simon Renk

Regional Market Advisor WFP RBD VAM



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Economies are more **resilient**, **productive** and **inclusive** when they reduce gender inequalities and actively support the equal participation of women and youth. Participation in markets is not only a means for women and youth to secure their livelihood, but it also enables them to **exercise agency**, maintain **dignity**, build **social** capital and increase empowerment.

It is increasingly recognized that gender equality is smart economics - but in order to engineer it, we need to understand the barriers and bottlenecks to achieving it.

To affect positive change through effective programming, it is essential to understand the complex social dynamics that govern food systems and the way they interlink with households, communities and markets. Better data can feed into better data-based solutions.

“ WFP undertakes food security analysis in close collaboration with partners worldwide. These partnerships ensure a shared understanding of food security problems and common priorities for action. ”

The role of women in ending hunger is well documented: women **feed** their families, produce and market **food**, and have essential roles in ending the intergenerational cycle of hunger. It is critical to understand how women can best be supported in this role and to choose an empowerment approach to build their agency and resilience. In Africa, 85.8% of employment is informal and agriculture is the sector with the highest level of informal employment. In the Sahel, women make up to 75% of the agricultural labor force while discrimination holds them back creating losses for up to 120 billion dollars per year in West Africa (OECD). Finally, agriculture is the sector where most of the women work, and are prone to risks directly linked to the poor decent conditions they are facing. Discriminatory family code, restricted physical integrity and restricted civil liberties all hinder women to develop their full **potential**.

Women and men generally face the same challenges and constraints in the agricultural value chain, though these tend to be more exacerbated for women than for men. Gender disparities are clearly observed through the comparative advantage men enjoy at most stages of the agricultural commodity value chain. This makes women farmers also more vulnerable to climate shocks.

However, large funding gaps persist especially in the public sector. It seems that we need a specific SDG just for data. This holds especially true in the Sahel and wider West Africa, where data availability, quality and management is among the biggest challenges across sectors. Gender statistics are rarely prioritized in data collection and resources remains inadequate. In the current Sahel crisis, we see data emerging as a crucial factor for a well-coordinated response.

At the government level and in line with the SDG 5 on Gender Equality, efforts are needed to work collaboratively towards developing government capacity to collect, analyse and report on key gender figures in markets and value chains. In helping countries develop the skills, know-how and policies to reach SDGs 2 and 5, WFP also contributes to SDG 17 (“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”)

Most importantly, there needs to be a deeper exchange between local civil society, local market actors and private sector actors for a truly participatory approach to market assessments and market-based interventions. Investments need to be made into innovation, fostering out-of-the-box thinking and identifying the best solutions for cost- and time-saving, gender-informed market analysis that leads into gender-informed response. Also, we need a better understanding of where to find women food retailers in markets, who they are, what they sell, and how to connect them to consumers.

Increasing conflicts combined with early pasture deficits and high food prices have had a strong negative impact on the food and nutrition situation in the Sahel. This also raises serious protection concerns. Population movement, price inflation and insecurity require collecting better data to understand who are the most food insecure population and what can be done to know them better and to support them better.

Foreword by Mrs. Oulimata Sarr

Deputy Regional Director UN Women



Gender equality in the 2030 agenda illustrates that in Sub-Saharan Africa for every 100 men 127 women (age 25-34) are living in food insecure conditions; that is more than half of the female population. Women in Mali spend 20% of their day on unpaid domestic and care work. These are facts that show that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Women in the Sahel region are the backbone of the agricultural sector, where they represent between 50% and 80% of the workforce. However, women's participation in agriculture is marked by a lack of access to market information, lack of ability to identify profitable value chains, limited entrepreneurial capacity, lack of skills in establishing strong linkages between cooperatives with commodity traders and markets export, lack of a place in public food supply markets, problems of processing and transport of crops, lack of storage facilities, of processing units, lack of packaging materials, labeling, etc.

A UNDP finding underscores important economic losses and missed opportunities related to gender inequality. Gender inequality in the labor market alone is costing Sub-Sahara Africa about **US\$95** billion annually, between 2010-2014, peaking at **US\$105**. That is 6% of region's **GDP**.

Furthermore, a recent report by McKinsey Global Institute estimates that "achieving equality in economic opportunities between women and men could spur US\$28 trillion in world GDP growth by 2025, about the equivalent of the size of the Chinese and US economies combined".

In order to achieve **women's economic empowerment**, UN Women supports programmes which have as a goal to contribute to women's income security, decent work opportunities, and economic autonomy. Among others, UN Women provides assistance for the implementation of several Flagships programmes on Climate Smart Agriculture in Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Niger, Mali and Senegal. More precisely, UN Women supports the agricultural value chains in West and Central Africa, to empower women producers and transformers to achieve secure and sustainable livelihoods (assist technically women in e.g. enhancing their skills in marketing, labelling and certification processes).

UN Women's AgriFeD programme, in Mali funded by the Governments of Denmark, Luxemburg and Sweden, is empowering rural women through a combination of skills

" We need men to become our 'he for she'. Stand up and say: I support my wife, I support my sister, I support my daughter. "

training and access to modern technology. The AgriFed programme is going to deploy innovative technological tools, such as the **BuyfromWomen** platform. The platform will be deployed as a One Stop Shop for farmers linking farmers' groups to seed producers, input suppliers, technology providers and reliable extension services to enable them to increase productivity of their crops.

Empowering women and girls, and gender equality are central in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. Women and girls are critical to finding sustainable solutions to the challenges of poverty, inequality and insecurities. The participation of women at all levels has never been so essential, working together with boys and men, to empower nations, build stronger economies and healthier societies. It is the key to making Agenda 2030 transformational and inclusive. Gender equality is not only about women, in order to achieve development, peace and security, we have to galvanize as many men and boys as possible to be advocates for gender equality, step up for their mothers, their sisters, aunts and wives. And we don't just want to talk about it, but make sure it is tangible.



The Gender and Markets Initiative

Empowering West African Women through Market-based Food Assistance

In September 2015, the WFP Regional Bureau for West Africa (RBD) Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) team, with support from USAID, launched the Gender and Markets Initiative with the objective to strengthen the collection and analysis of gender-informed data on the different roles of women and men in markets in the region, their challenges, and their empowerment. WFP works from the assumption that gender analysis is an essential aspect of any humanitarian assessment intended to inform programmatic action. Gender analysis is needed to achieve the Agenda 2030's objective of achieving Zero Hunger (SDG2) and leaving no one behind. The Initiative is being implemented in 3 phases.

“ The role of women in ending hunger is well documented: women feed their families, produce and market food, and hold essential roles in ending the intergenerational cycle of hunger. ”

The first phase (2015-2016) defined criteria for a better understanding of the regional challenges faced by women in markets. Results of this phase included: The main objectives of the second phase (2016—2017) were to make key findings, results, tools best practices and documentation about women's participation in West African markets accessible to WFP offices and their partners, to strengthen accountability for gender-sensitive food security and nutrition analysis within WFP and establish synergies with other Regional Offices and with Headquarters to sustainably improve the integration of gender, protection and empowerment into food security and nutrition assessments across Africa.

Finally, the **current third phase** of the Initiative focuses on the production of high-quality documentation and technical guidance on how to approach and support women's empowerment/integration of gender through analysis and programming in West African markets.

The culminating event of the “Gender, Markets and Data” conference took place from June 29th to 30th in Dakar, Senegal (location: Terrou Bi). It offered a platform for actors from different sectors to share and discuss findings, results and lessons learned on integrating gender into food security, nutrition and especially market analysis and informing policy and program design that supports men, women, boys and girls in realizing their potential for food security and greater resilience.

By bringing together actors from the humanitarian and development sector, governments, academia, the private sector and civil society, the conference goal was to foster partnerships that can positively influence women's empowerment and food insecure populations. WFP case studies, analysis and partners' expertise will be shared with a broader audience with the aim to positively influence knowledge, awareness, accountability, ownership and capacities of partners and actors influencing food insecure populations empowerment. This conference was also the occasion to discuss data innovation and its potential towards ending Zero Hunger and empowering food insecure populations.

At the end of the conference, participants and speakers were invited to exchange during our Market Place where entrepreneurs and women's organizations from the Senegalese ecosystem presented their work and products.



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Gender, Food Security and Nutrition

How to include gender in market analyses

SPEAKERS

Federica Marzo (IFC) - Miranda Morgan (Oxfam) - Tharcisse Nkunzimana (EU) - Boubacar Seydi (FAO) - Fanta Touré (ACF)

The participation of women in the food production is critical for the development of communities living in food insecurity. We must try to understand why and how food security and nutrition assessments can take into account the gender component.

KEY MESSAGES:

Tharcisse Nkunzimana: Equality of opportunity is a fundamental human right that should be promoted and defended around the world. It has a proven macroeconomic impact and contributes to reducing poverty through increased productivity and household income and the improvement of other human development outcomes such as education and labor earnings.

"If women and men were paid equally for the same job, we would benefit from US\$160 trillion more revenue."*

Tharcisse Nkunzimana - EU

Fanta Touré: It is increasingly accepted that women in Africa take on paid work, but they are still limited by a severe lack of agency. One reason is that care of the sick and disabled household members is the responsibility of the women. This affects their work outside of home, and limit their participation in networks with neighbors and family. However, social networks greatly enhance women's economic opportunities and are a stable factor for solidarity and insurance.

"As women are in charge of the household, they are in charge of the household's food security."

Fanta Touré - Action Contre la Faim

Miranda Morgan: Women's economic empowerment often refers to increasing women's participation in the labour market, increased income and access and control over productive assets. However, in order to enable sustainable and meaningful women's empowerment, we need to go beyond the economic dimension. We need to address the structural barriers, go beyond the individual to initiate systemic changes; and address and measure both intended and unintended outcomes.

"Addressing structural barriers is key to obtaining meaningful women's economic empowerment."

Miranda Morgan - Oxfam

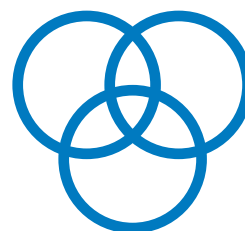
Federica Marzo: There are many challenges to achieving and sustaining change – particularly when it comes to influencing key government or private sector actors to address structural barriers restricting women from participating or benefitting from new opportunities. Governments should, in future analyses, include **a gender component**. In order to fight food insecurity, governments and their partners need to develop policies with an integrated approach.

"Social obligations weigh heavy on women's financial and time resources."

Federica Marzo - IFC

Key elements for policies with an integrated approach

Improve access to productive inputs



Act on discriminatory norms and laws

Eliminate market imperfections to improve the transition to productive employment

(IFC, 2018)

Boubacar Seydi: The gender approach needs to be integrated into food security and nutrition analyses because women and children tend to be more food insecure. The gender analytical approach prevents an increase in malnutrition and secures the livestock and livelihoods of food insecure populations.

(* Source: IFC, 2014)

Empowering Women

Women's employment in West Africa

SPEAKERS:

Thomas Allen (OECD) - Paul Melly (University of Denmark) - Georgette Pokou (Mercy Corps) - Johana Simao (WFP)

The current working conditions for women in the region often don't match the basic standards such as a secure workplace and healthy sanitary installations. Therefore, creating an environment where women and men feel safe to work without the constant pressure of losing income due to social norms is paramount.

KEY MESSAGES:

Paul Melly: Women's employment in West Africa is still influenced by strong social norms and traditions. These traditions shape the role of the women in the economy. These norms are about to be challenged as there are more and more female vendors. As they face many challenges, we need to better understand the role of women in the food value chain and to what extent it can contribute to food security.

Risks for female vendors in West Africa

Nigeria/Niger

FEMALE VENDORS

Côte d'Ivoire

DROUGHT



FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

POPULATION GROWTH



RISKS



EXPOSED RISK FOR CHILDREN

LIVESTOCK PRESSURE



UNSANITARY CONDITIONS

(WFP, 2017)

"Social traditions put the women in a vulnerable position: men have family land plot; women have a small land and therefore their production capacity is limited."

Paul Melly - University of Denmark

Thomas Allen: In West Africa the food industry employs 85 million people (OECD, 2015) which is 63 per cent of the overall economic activities in the region. Agriculture is the largest activity in the food production industry and makes up to 75 per cent (OECD, 2015) of total food production in West Africa. 51 per cent of the contributors are women.

"Women are the major actors of the urban street food sector, which is hardly profitable and physically challenging."

Johana Simao - Researcher & Consultant

Johana Simao: Female street vendors are crucial for ensuring food and nutrition security in urban centers, especially for young men and migrant workers. However, they work under precarious and risky conditions and are often overlooked. We need to reevaluate our understanding of market systems to better support these marginalized food entrepreneurs.



© WFP / Johana Simao

"Women have opportunities that should be seized. Let them decide on their turnover. Gave them the same conditions as men have."

Georgette Pokou - Mercy Corps

Georgette Pokou: When society is undergoing change, new opportunities and challenges present themselves. If women are included in the decision making on their economic activities, if they are connected as producers/consumers to the market, real empowerment can take place. These changes are an opportunity for local authorities, such as local politicians, to acknowledge this fast growing group with an increasing potential and voice.



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Protection in Food Security and Nutrition

Protection risks associated with income

SPEAKERS:

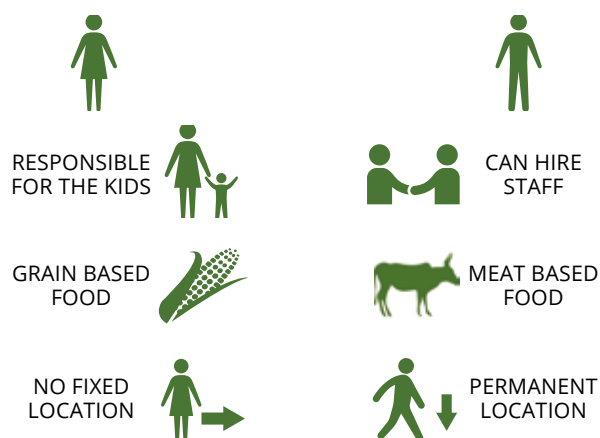
Melissa Hidrobo (IFPRI) - Silvia Moreira (WFP) - Ifeoma Omesiete (WFP) - Ali Abdou Salami (WFP) - Greg Sclama (WFP) - Harouna Tamboura (OXFAM)

In West Africa, as elsewhere, women play a vital role in the production, processing, purchase, sale, exchange and diversification of food. As such, women are often targeted to be recipients of assistance or offered activities that aim to 'strengthen' and 'empower' them, but which sometimes lose sight of their specific protection needs.

KEY MESSAGES

Silvia Moreira: As women are the cornerstones of food and nutritional security, protection is fundamental for supporting livelihoods in economic contexts strongly affected by conflict or shocks. A thorough understanding of context-specific gender roles is key for ensuring women's protection and empowerment.

Gender roles in street food vendors in Nigeria



(WFP, 2018)

Ifeoma Omesiete & Greg Sclama: Women that are living in areas affected by conflict, such as internally displaced female street food vendors in Maiduguri, have different motivations to enter the food market: they have to compensate for a loss of income, they have a basic knowledge of cooking and a low entry barrier. However, street food doesn't guarantee them a constant revenue.

"Some women are not even allowed to sell outside their house by their husband, but if you are a man no one will stop you."

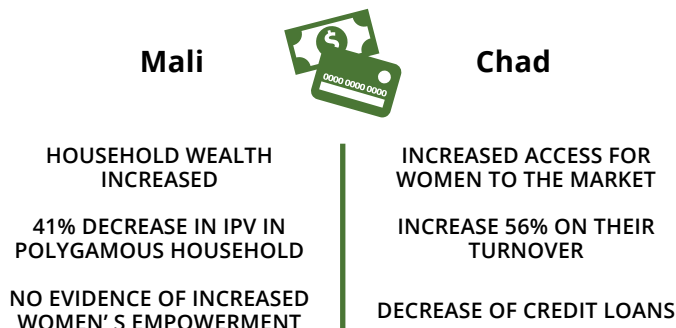
Ifeoma Omesiete - WFP

Melissa Hidrobo: Cash Based Transfers (CBT) programs can boost women's access and sustainable participation in markets. However, positive and negative effects on women's well-being must be taken into account. A study from Mali showed that 1 in 3 women are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV is the most pervasive form of violence globally (IFPRI, 2019). CBT has been shown to reduce IPV in certain contexts.

"Results showed that in polygamous household physical violence decreased by 41%. In monogamous household there was no impact."

Melissa Hidrobo - IFPRI

Effects of CBT at households



(IFPRI & WFP, 2017)

Ali Abdou Salami: Cash Based Transfer programs are not generalizable. When designing them we should take the following into consideration: what if the CBT were targeted primarily to men or women? What would be the impact on IPV? What would be the effect of CBT on women's access to local markets and their economic empowerment?

Harouna Tamboura: When women receive economic incentives, empowerment can take place: gaining autonomy in most decisions, building positive relationships, ability to provide for children, etc...

Gender, Data and Innovation

The potential of transformative data

SPEAKERS:

Pulikesh Naidu (PGS India) - Alison Thurston (VIAMO) - Pauline Vidal (Samuel Hall) - Desiree Zwanck (WFP)

Gender statistics are rarely prioritized in data collection and resources remains inadequate. Data collectors need adequate tools and mechanisms that can be adapted to different contexts and population groups (men, women, employers, employees, youths, seniors...).

KEY MESSAGES:

Alison Thurston: Women **have less time to participate**. By using yes or no questions (and more broadly, data collection that takes less time), and shorter questions, we can boost women's participation and representation in our data.

Challenges in market analyses



Ghana



WOMEN MAY HAVE DIFFERENT WORKLOADS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CHILDREN)



DIFFERING LEVELS OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION CAN MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO INCREASE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION



WOMEN ARE LESS LIKELY TO OWN A PHONE OR BE THE PRIMARY POSSESSOR OF A PHONE.

(VIAMO, 2017)

"We increasingly add women's data when it comes to food market analyses but we also need women's data when it comes to health, energy and GBV analyses."

Alison Thurston - VIAMO

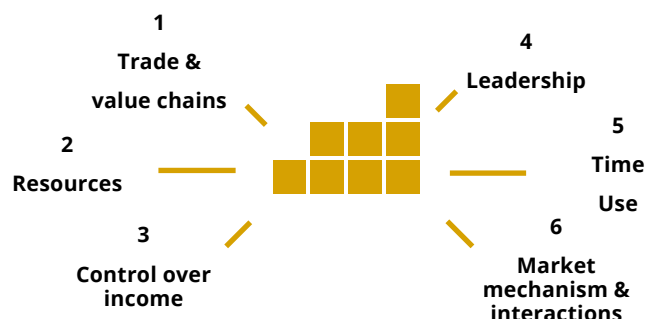
Pauline Vidal: Drawing from fieldwork observations, there is a need for a quantitative effort to understand perception gaps in youth job markets. These gaps are caused by societal and cultural factors, and lead to blurred understandings and expectations of key sectors and skills among youths, men and women. When designing a market analysis, we must integrate the distinct roles of men and women in business activities – and thus their distinct sets of skills.

"A better understanding of the ethical, conceptual, and linguistic "values" that dominate job markets can create a more refined understanding of youth's motivations and skills."

Pauline Vidal - Samuel Hall

WFP integrates women's empowerment and other associated social dynamics into quantitative and qualitative data collection. The goal of the Women's Empowerment in Markets Index (WEMI) is to capture the determining factors that increase gender equality, women's empowerment, as well as overall households and communities' empowerment through market-based approaches. WEMI measures empowerment through 6 domains:

6 domains of the WEMI



(WFP, 2017)

Pulikesh Naidu: In our study we find that strengthening small farmer holders' market access combined with consumer education at local levels contributes to local sustainable market development. Generally the urban rural divide is a barrier to smallholder farmers where service providers are needed to fill in the gaps. Whereas local niche market development includes producers as consumers, and thus creates a rural to rural and rural to urban markets.

"If women are given the same level of access to productive resources as men are, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 %, with potential rise in agricultural outputs up to 4 % (FAO)."

Pulikesh Naidu - PGS India

Women's Entrepreneurship

Partnerships with the private sector

SPEAKERS:

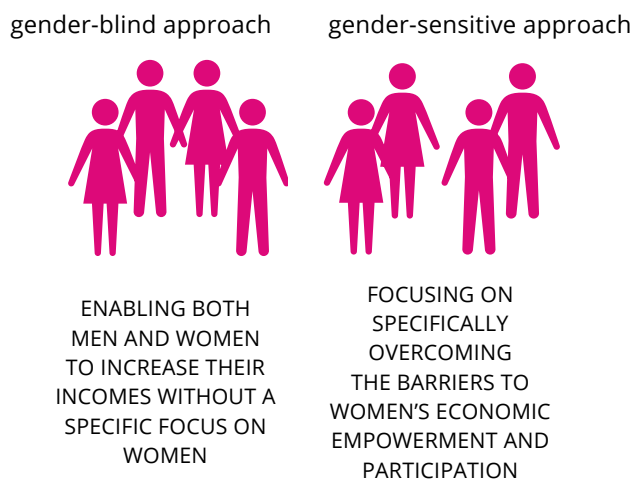
Awa Caba (Sooretul) - Sebastien Gregarek (IFC) - Victoria Peter (MakeSense) - Roisin Staunton & Odile De Brabanter (WYG)

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) is critical to poverty reduction. Yet, the barriers to women's economic empowerment are historical and sustained by social norms. Worldwide, men are five times more likely to own land, are often excused from household duties and paid more than women.

KEY MESSAGES:

Roisin Staunton & Odile De Brabanter: Evidence shows that early integration of specific strategies to secure women's participation in mainstream approaches can enable programmes to empower a larger number of women. Creating synergies between implementing partners and private sector partners can lead to a better recognition of women as consumers or beneficiaries. Identifying a gender sensitive approach is key to open up private sector opportunities to women:

Type of approaches



(WYG International, 2017)

Sebastien Gregarek: Everybody plays a role in enhancing women's empowerment. Not only is there a need of engagement, it demands a mindset shift that promotes an entrepreneurial culture. Pilot women-friendly banking programs have shown that African women have better reimbursement rates than men so the no-warranty-argument doesn't hold.

" Sooretul really intends to end poverty and to equal access and opportunities to women. "

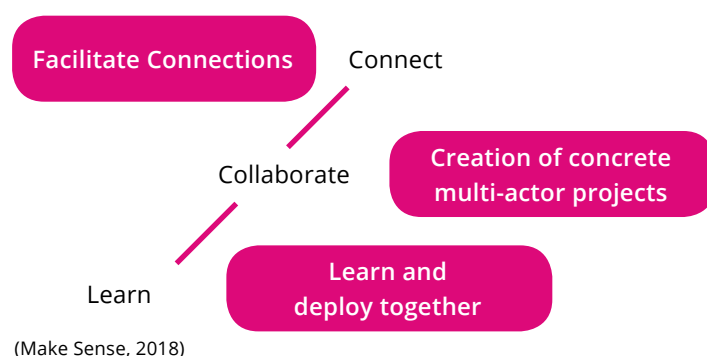
Awa Caba - Sooretul

" Almost a billion women are going to enter the economy in this century and more and more of them are excited to start businesses. "

Sebastien Gregarek - IFC

Victoria Peter: Empowerment can be a process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's right. We need a fresh outlook on innovation and co-creation.

3 phases of design thinking



Awa Caba: We acknowledge that there is a barrier for many female entrepreneurs in Senegal: lack of digital access, knowledge or training. We are offering our producers tailored training with the aim to give them more control over their stock and production process; and at the same time gaining access to new markets.

The work of WFP is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the 2030 Agenda, in particular **SDG 2** on ending hunger and **SDG 17** on revitalizing global partnerships for implementation of the SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals



SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER



PARTNER TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS

(WFP, 2018)

Conclusions and recommendations

In order to achieve women's economic empowerment we must acknowledge that we are the initiators. We need to be actively looking for and creating new business opportunities for women that are living in food insecure regions.

The discussions based on the presentations of **Panel 1 (Gender, Food Security and Nutrition)** made us aware of the need to ensure that newly designed policies are first integrated on local and regional level, before we scale up to the global level. We must first try to understand the local context's social norms and structures. Gender should not be an obstacle when striving for women's empowerment. Our starting point should be men and women.

Panel 2 (Empowering Women) made us reflect on our perception of women's paid work. We need to question gender specific roles among food insecure populations and organise tailored trainings to improve women's economic empowerment.

Panel 3 (Protection in Food Security and Nutrition) highlighted the effects of CBT on the IPV of women in food insecure regions. Actively reaching out to those women and giving them market access is a first step. The next step is to ensure their security. This cannot be done with a top-to-bottom approach but through actively engaging the whole community.

Panel 4 (Gender, Data and Innovation) showed us the importance of collecting data in our strive to develop tools that engage women's economic empowerment. We need to increase accountability for data quality and we have a responsibility to build partner capacities. The design of different strategies can offer new insights, which leads to different approaches in achieving women's economic empowerment.

Panel 5 (Women's Entrepreneurship) discussed our common objective: stimulating women's entrepreneurship. We must take into account that there are different approaches when designing new private sector opportunities while not forgetting the two main principles of empowerment: creating an entrepreneurial culture and respecting the organizational structure of the community.

As discussions with government, entrepreneurs, academia and humanitarian actors during the conference have shown, the dialogue around women's empowerment needs to continue, especially when it comes to strategies that foster self-directed and innovative strategies for fundraising and participation, and that create enabling environments that help all market participants thrive.



Market Place

Enhancing Collaborations



Market Place

Our “social entrepreneurs”



Agroproduct Consulting Group is a local organization specialized in Moringa transformation.

Françoise Marie Sène - francoismariasene@yahoo.fr



Fruitech is a local agribusiness start up.

Pape Ousmane Ndiaye - papouzugb@gmail.com



Le Lionceau is a baby food Senegalese company created by a Senegalese-French team of engineers in ag-ribusiness. Carrying strong values, it places the valorization of raw materials and in particular surpluses of cul-ture, the creation of jobs and the control of its environmental impact at the heart of its values.

Siny Samba - siny.samba@le-lionceau.com



MakeSense is a worldwide community of engaged citizens, passionate entrepreneurs and forward-looking organizations to solve social issues.

Mamba Soauaré - mamba@makesense.org



La Lumière is a local NGO that aims to develop agriculture in local collectivities while promoting human rights.

Kadia Camara - kadia.camara@onglumiere.org

The Women Farmers Network



The Women Farmers Network of the North is an association of women with more than 10,000 members working in the local rice market customers.

Korka Diaw - korkadiaw@yahoo.fr



Sooretul is the first digital platform for the promotion of agricultural products processed by women in Senegal.

Awa Caba - awa.caba@sooretul.com



SOS Agri is a digital solution offering technical assistance to agricultural actors.

Dicko Sy - dicko.sy@seysoo.com



The Union aims to improve women cooks working conditions and to modernize their work environment.

Maïmouna Diouf - unafres@gmail.com



USOFORAL's mission is to support the leadership of women and women's organizations to participate effectively in the realization of lasting peace in the Casamance region.

Seynabou Male - naboumale@gmail.com

Wātu Digital Lab is a leading strategic and operational communication consulting firm specialized in design-ing and implementing ICT projects with strong added value for digital inclusion in agriculture and sustainable development in Africa.

Mikaïlla Issa - info@watudigital.com

Participants

- Action Contre la Faim
- Arcolab
- Bank of Africa
- CARE
- Cash Learning
- Dalberg
- Délégation Générale à la Protection Sociale et la Solidarité Nationale
- GenCap
- Grow Africa
- HDX Data Lab
- Mercy Corps
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- OCHA
- OXFAM
- SEDIMA
- Save The Children
- Université Gaston Berger
- UNHCR
- WFP

We were honoured to take part in this open meeting. We reconnected with 'lost contacts' and made new ones. No other meeting would have been so beneficial for us. Thank you!

Seynabou Male - USOFORAL

I very much appreciated the diversity of the participants, in particular the women that represented the civil society. Congratulations to the team.

Brun Delphine - GenCap

A very stimulating network event!

Sadio Ba Gning - Université Gaston Berger



Thank you! Merci à vous!

Biographies and abstracts of the speakers



Thomas Allen is an economist at the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat at the OECD (SWAC/OECD). He has been working for the past twelve years on modelling issues related to food policies. Prior to joining the OECD, Thomas was a postdoctoral research fellow with Bioversity International (CGIAR).

The food economy is the biggest employer in West Africa accounting for 66% of total employment. While the majority of food economy jobs are in agriculture, off-farm employment in food-related manufacturing and service activities is increasing as the food economy adapts to rapid population growth, urbanisation and rising incomes. The food economy in general, and these off-farm activities in particular, play a particularly important role in women's employment. Sixty-eight percent of all employed women work in the food economy. Women dominate employment in off-farm segments including food-away-from-home, food processing and food marketing. The presentation quantified and de-scribed the structure of employment in the food economy across the four segments of activities, with a particular

focus on women and youth. It looks at the role of the food economy in employment creation for women and youth, and at the implications for employment and agricultural policies.



Awa Caba is co-founder and CEO of SOORETUL, a digital start-up that enables women in agriculture to have access to the market and sell their products. She obtained her Engineering Degree in Computer Science in 2012 at "Ecole Supérieure Polytechnique" of Dakar. She completed her studies with a certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship at the University of Iowa - United States upon the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program .

See: www.sooretul.com



Odile De Brabanter works as a data analyst and data gathering support as well as providing assistance and oversight of project management tasks on a range of DFID projects. Her Economic Background mixed with her experience at WYG has enabled her to a better understanding of the development world. Odile has a particular interest in data gathering and analysis through the use of statistical software to analyze changes across evaluations.

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) is critical to poverty reduction, yet, the barriers to WEE are historical and sustained by social norms in areas such as those included in this programme. Men are five times more likely to own land, are often excused from household duties, are regularly paid more than women and directly participate in economic transactions. Women on average own only 4% of land in North East Nigeria. Without land, women's access to credit is severely limited, as is their ability to weigh in on decisions affecting these assets. Women's day-to-day mobility is also restricted, meaning they often participate in markets through male proxies.



Sebastien Gregarek is an Investment Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group. He has been working in the Investment Team of IFC's Financial Institutions Group for the past 7 years, sourcing and executing new projects and working with Financial Institutions as portfolio clients across Sub-Saharan Africa. He is a Project Board member the Farm to Market Alliance, an WFP initiative and acts a regional champion for IFC's Banking on Women initiative. Prior to joining IFC in 2011, Sebastien worked in management consulting in Switzerland and in development finance in Africa. He has been based in Africa for the past 9 years. He holds Master's degrees in Management from ESCP-Europe in France, the UK and Germany.

Women entrepreneurs are changing the face of the global economy, helping to sustain job creation and economic growth. It is estimated that women-owned entities represent over 30% of registered businesses worldwide. Yet on average about 10% of women entrepreneurs have access to the capital needed to grow their businesses. Women have impact on sustainable economic growth, for instance although women comprise 50% of the population in Sub Saharan Africa they produce more than 80% of the food for the continent. Less than 12% of agribusiness investments are directed at women smallholder farmers. Yet, unfavorable business and regulatory environments are among the barriers that still impede women entrepreneurs from accessing finance. According to an IFC-McKinsey study this has resulted in a credit gap of approximately \$320 billion. The fact that many emerging markets financial institutions have yet to develop sustainable strategy to address this significant market gap represents a missed opportunity and constrains private sector development. IFC's Banking on Women program is playing a catalyzing role for partners and financial institutions to help them to profitably and sustainably serve women-owned businesses.



Melissa Hidrobo is a research fellow in the Poverty Health and Nutrition Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). She is an applied microeconomist working at the intersection of gender, early childhood development, agriculture, and social protection. Her gender research focuses on how social protection programs affect intrahousehold dynamics, and how intrahousehold dynamics affect agriculture production. She has investigated the impacts of cash transfers programs and food assistance programs through her work with the Bono de Desarrollo Humano Program and the World Food Program in Ecuador, and the Jigisemejiri program in Mali. Her current works involves impact evaluations of nutrition-sensitive agricultural and social protection programs in Mali, Ghana, and Senegal. Melissa holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most pervasive form of violence globally—with 1 in 3 women physically or sexually abused by a partner in her lifetime. IPV has multiple malign consequences for the physical and mental health of women, as well as a range of adverse effects on their children. While these consequences are well documented, there is less evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programs in reducing IPV in the developing world. Drawing mainly from Latin America, several recent studies find evidence that cash transfer programs, targeted primarily to women, can reduce IPV. Given that cash transfer programs are widespread around the world – implemented in over 130 countries and reaching approximately 718 million people globally – they represent a promising, scalable, globally-relevant approach to reducing IPV. However important questions remain as to the generalizability of existing findings. The presentation describes a framework for potential pathways through which transfers can affect IPV, then showcases 3 studies that explore important knowledge gaps on the impacts of transfer programs on IPV.



Federica Marzo is senior economist for the World Bank, specializing in issues related to poverty, inequality and gender. Since joining the Bank in 2010, Federica has led national surveys and multidimensional poverty analyses (Haiti), undertaken analytical work on the impact of migration (Mexico) and managed regional statistical capacity strengthening initiatives (Caribbean OECS and Jamaica). Federica has also published extensive analytical work on social protection, poverty measurement and gender equity. Based in Senegal since late 2015, Federica has been leading the country's first large-scale gender and labor market study and developed Senegal's first World Bank Strategic Country Diagnostic. She has also undertaken extensive technical and analytical support to the national institute of statistics to mine Senegal's household survey data to produce the evidence base for poverty and inequality reduction policy making. Prior to joining the World Bank, Federica worked at the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in where she led the African Economic Outlook (in partnership with the African Development Bank and the UN). Of Italian nationality, Federica undertook her graduate studies in economics and development economics in Italy, at the University of Trieste, and her post-graduate studies in France, at the Sorbonne.

Increasing women's empowerment will be critical for Senegal to achieve its objectives of emergence by 2035. Beyond considerations of social equity, evidence shows that increasing female economic participation contributes strongly to broad-based economic growth, poverty reduction and human development. Significant structural gender disparities distort Senegal's labor markets. The labor market in Senegal is difficult, with high inactivity and unemployment, and widespread informality and underemployment. Young women who marry very young and quickly have children are the most disadvantaged, despite their great need to provide for their families. Early marriage, a common practice in Senegal, pushes girls to drop out of school and become pregnant while still very young, driving down their lifetime labor trajectory. Women are significantly more likely to operate in the informal sector and, even when formal, they predominantly operate in low-skilled occupations. Many women in Senegal are, in fact, in a productivity trap. This new evidence again reaffirms the need to increase equality of access to education and productive assets, reform discriminatory legal frameworks and advocate for cultural change.



An Associate Fellow of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, **Paul Melly** is a reporter and researcher with a particular interest in development and political conditions in the Sahel and in West African economic integration, working through field research in villages, markets and other communities. Paul has written or co-authored research reports on food security early warning systems in the Sahel, Nigeria's informal trade with Niger and Benin, security in Niger and Chad, EU crisis mediation in the Great Lakes, and French policy towards Africa -- for Chatham House, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, NOREF and the EUISS. He is finalising a paper on Mauritania for Chatham House and also takes special interest in Madagascar.

The results of the study first showed that gendered roles exist around the farming and processing of nearly all crops, but with significant differences reflecting the type of agriculture – whether small-scale/grassroots smallholder farming or agriculture with a stronger commercial orientation. Women predominantly manage most farming activities for growing vegetables such as okra, peppers and tomatoes. but are also very involved in growing grains and cereals such as rice, beans, maize, millet, onions and groundnut. They often handle planting and weeding on small commercial farms, whereas planting, weeding and harvesting on larger farms is left to paid labour by young men. Light processing such as husk removal, sorting and bagging is done by women while warehousing, stocking and transport is generally always a man's task.



Silvia Moreira worked on women's initiation rites and the role of women in food production and the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and practices. She has collaborated in the implementation of self-determination processes in indigenous territories of Colombian Amazonia. Before moving to West Africa, Silvia led social-environmental and human rights programs in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Indonesia and West Africa.

In West Africa, as elsewhere, women play a vital role in the production, processing, purchase, sale, exchange and diversification of foodstuffs. As such, women are often targeted to be recipients of assistance or offered activities that aim to 'strengthen' and 'empower' them, but which sometimes lose sight of some essentials, often at the risk of putting them in danger. This intervention aimed to highlight some of the recurrent protection risks related to food insecurity and livelihoods in conflict / crisis situations and the need to address them in a systemic way. These risks result in exposure, particularly to women but also to men and young people in general, to negative coping strategies that lead to exploitation, sexual violence and abuse, compromising or undermining their ability to cope with shocks and finding dignified and secure livelihoods. As cornerstones of food and nutritional security, these themes are also fundamental when it comes to supporting the development of livelihoods in economic contexts strongly affected by conflict or shocks.



Miranda Morgan is the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Thematic Advisor at Oxfam GB. She supports Oxfam's programmes, staff and partners to strengthen their work on gender and WEE, and generates and shares learning on WEE to improve programme quality and thought leadership. Miranda is a gender specialist with professional and research experience in several countries and across sectors. She has worked with UNDP, LEAD International, ODI and, most recently, as a Scientist with the CGIAR (WorldFish), where she worked to integrate gender transformative approaches into agricultural research and development. She has a PhD in Human Geography (University of Manchester), an MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy (University of Oxford) and a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Political Studies and Development Studies (Queen's University, Canada). Her PhD research examined how gender relations shape the politics of large-scale agricultural land acquisitions.

This presentation discussed the results and lessons from a recently completed evaluation of the GEM programme implemented in Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Zambia. This innovative mixed-methods evaluation combined rigorous observation and analysis of change with maximizing opportunities for learning for a range of stakeholders. Like the programme, the evaluation aimed to provide a holistic view of change and shed light on the multiple levels (from individual to systemic) and interconnected dimensions (economic, social, personal and political) of change that enable and sustain women's increased participation and power over time. It also sought to capture any potential unintended outcomes of the programme, especially those that are well-known to manifest as negative outcomes in women's economic empowerment programmes (such as increased gender-based violence or amount of work).



Pulikesh Naidu (Pauli) is an organic farmer and, a food security & livelihoods expert. He holds a PhD in macroeconomics and, is the co-founder and CEO of Ethical Certification for Trading, LLP. He is involved in various working groups on sustainable agriculture, anti-desertification and climate change adaptation, cash transfer programming, pro-poor market development, income diversification and resilient livelihoods, participatory guarantee systems, and certification, in the capacity of research, training, management and consultancy.

Food prices, including organic products, generally do not reflect its true cost; the actual cost of production. This is a product of multiple layers of pricing and hidden costs, which though clear to the producers it does not get factored clearly into the prices. In order to be more sustainable economically, the price of a product must reflect the true cost of its production. Classical models of food price systems rely on supply-demand parameters and general trade variables. However, today's food production, value chain logics and markets have a deleterious impact on ecology, economy and social justice. These impacts are eventually calculated indirectly into the entire food system e.g. the health of the producers, health of consumers, soil ecology, carbon emissions, and environmental impacts. Classical pricing methods do not reflect the true cost of food if we take into account the overall impacts; opportunity costs.



Dr. Ir. Tharcisse Nkuzimana is a Scientific Officer working for the Joint Research Centre of European Commission (JRC-EC) in Ispra, Italy. Tharcisse has served as a Senior Researcher performing several applied researches and many investigations related to food and nutrition security analysis and agriculture information systems. From 2008 to 2011, he worked as post-doctoral and researcher assistant (Université Catholique de Louvain, Ghent and Antwerp Universities, Belgium) on various socio-economic researches with a focus on poverty dynamic, food security analysis and monitoring-evaluation of projects.

Despite the fact that women play important role in food and nutrition security at the household level, persistent underlying gender inequalities continue to impact and increase the exposure of women and girls to food insecurity and malnutrition. As reported by BRIDGE (2014), low status and lack of access to resources mean that women and girls are the most disadvantaged by the inequitable global economic processes that govern food systems and by the global trends such as climate change. It is recognized that women are pivotal to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty especially in developing countries. They comprise an average of 43 per cent of the agricultural labor force across the developing world making up the backbone of the agricultural sector and food production systems and the bulk of the agricultural laborers. Traditionally, the 'four pillars' of food security – availability, access, utilization and stability – have been used as entry point for a comprehensive gender analysis in food and nutrition security. However, today, food and nutrition security analysis is conducted with a focus on outcomes, which mobilize a mixed of area, household and individual indicators/variables.



Ifeoma Omesiete is a driven professional who joined the World Food Programme's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) team in January 2017 and acting as the focal point for ensuring gender-sensitivity in all VAM activities in Nigeria, including developing and integrating gender components to Food Security, Market and Livelihoods assessments, by and large strengthening the production of gender-informed data to influence programming and decision-making in WFP Nigeria. Prior to joining the World Food Programme, Ifeoma worked with the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria as a Project Coordinator, Midmark-Promotal Europe as a Research consultant for new and emerging markets and with Bollore Africa Logistics as an Office Manager. She is bilingual (French) and holds an MBA from ESC Rennes School of Business and a B.Sc in Sociology from University of Abuja. She is a travel enthusiast and loves handcrafting.



Analee Pepper is the former Regional Humanitarian Advisor for East & Central Africa at World Food Programme. Her work is consistently focused on devising dynamic and practical approaches to gender and areas of diversity. She has worked on institutional and operational gender mainstreaming across a range of industries and organizations. Her training is in international development, with specializations in gender and francophone countries. She is fluent in both policy-focused and theory-based research, as well as project M&E reporting, institutional capacity-building and needs assessments, and project management support.



Victoria Peter is in responsible for the Africa hub and a board member of makesense, a global organisation mobilising citizens, private and public sector to solve social and environmental issues through social business and multi-stakeholder collaboration. She is also developing a special focus on the transformation of development cooperation thanks to open innovation and collaboration – working with the French Foreign Ministry, the Agence Française de Développement (Afd) or the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). Victoria also develops the organisation's food security programs, connecting citizen and grassroots engagement with UN agencies, governments and the private sector. Victoria has been working with communities and entrepreneurs since the age of 19. After developing a social enterprise foundation in Amsterdam and building an entrepreneurs' network against food waste, she also placed social innovation within big companies, such as the Deutsche Bahn (DB). She holds a Masters Degree in International Development & Africa from Sciences Po Paris.

Makesense is a global organisation empowering citizens, entrepreneurs and organisations to connect and create their local and regional innovation ecosystems. Thanks to entrepreneurial culture. The presentation explains how entrepreneurship could be a powerful tool to sustainably transform mindsets and power relations amongst development stakeholders : entrepreneurship is more than just entrepreneurship, but a means to change attitudes, ways of working and perceiving one's surroundings for all actors involved. The presentation presents a concrete example from west-africa and highlights some of the highly scalable tools to diffuse such innovation ecosystems in your communities, sectors or inside of your organisations.



Georgette Pokou has over 25 years of experience with strategic programming and program management in the areas of Food Security, Gender, Health, Nutrition, Education, Community-based services, Institutional Capacity building and Performance Improvement. She fulfilled short term and long-term assignments in many countries including Benin, Eastern Caribbean Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United States of America. She is an accomplished program manager, an international development professional. During her rich and long-lasting career, she built strategic relationships in a variety of cross-cultural and organizational contexts and is recognized for her strategic thinking and sound leadership. She is fluent in English and French.

Mercy Corps Niger's six-year Sawki program is using a gender-lens and key market approaches to respond to the food security needs of more than 90,000 beneficiaries based on the criteria of social vulnerability, economic opportunity and agro-pastoral linkage potential. In 62 communities of the Maradi and Zinder regions, Sawki is implementing a package of interrelated activities that engage women, men, girls, boys, community and religious leaders to improve food production, access to markets, increase incomes, shift gender norms, and improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition. The program works to promote effective market analysis with a gender lens, to ensure women and men's needs, skills and potential are captured effectively to enhance their overall household income, food security and nutrition. Mercy Corps has taken several steps to ensure access to appropriate markets, business skills linked with strengthening value chains, especially for products and services that benefit women.



Since 2013, **Simon Renk** has been working as the VAM Officer (Regional Markets Advisor) at the Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa. In this function, he launched, with the support of USAID, the Regional Gender Markets Analysis Initiative and continues to support market and food security analysis activities. Prior that, he led the WFP VAM office in Somalia and supported Food Security and Market Analysis throughout West and East Africa. Simon holds a Master Degree in International Relations as well as a Diploma in Agricultural Engineering/Economics.



Ali Abdoul Salami, born on December 08, 1974 in Niamey, Niger, He attended primary and secondary school in Niamey. He completed his university studies at the National Agronomic Institute of Algiers, Algeria. Ali Abdoul Salami holds a diploma of agricultural engineer, specialized in Rural Economy, option agricultural and rural development. He has worked in the field of humanitarian assistance and rural development, in the management of programs and projects supporting the development of family farming. He has more than 11 years of experience in humanitarian work with the World Food Program. Ali has worked with WFP in various geographical areas, such as Bamako (Mali) as Program and Policy Officer. In the Democratic Republic of Congo as Project Coordinator. Ali was a senior program assistant at Zinder's PAM field office, and then at the Ministry of Agriculture Development in Niger as a national civic service appointee. Prior to that, he was a consultant for the Agricultural Market Information System (SIMA) in Niger. Currently, Ali Abdoul Salami is a WFP Adviser at the West and Central Africa Regional Office, in charge of the program. support to small agricultural producers

The Gender and Markets initiative of the Dakar Regional Office (RBD) has led to two studies in Chad. The objective of this study was to better understand the gender dynamics and women's empowerment induced by market-based interventions in Chad through which WFP assists refugees and returnees through the distribution of cash or vouchers. power. More specifically, the study aims to understand how cash transfers (CBTs) contribute to the empowerment of women and marginalized populations in Chad. 100% of participants stated that CBT has contributed to improving the living conditions of beneficiary populations by: mitigating the effects of food crises; improving access to health services; improving the social situation of the beneficiary. More than 75% of the women present say they have access to the productive resources of the household and the decision to use these resources is taken consensually between the husband and the wife.



Oulimata Sarr is the Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa since April 2018. With over 25 years' experience in finance and development, she served previously as the Regional Senior Advisor on Women Economic Empowerment for Central and West Africa. She has been instrumental in expanding the regional portfolio in economic empowerment with the launch of several flagship programs, resource mobilization and partnerships. Prior to UN Women, she spent 10 years with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in different roles ranging from finance, budgets, program management, partnerships and donor relations. IFC is an institution member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. A former auditor with Ernst and Young, she holds a Bachelor degree from HEC Montreal and a MBA from the University of Bedfordshire (UK).



Dr. Greg Sclama is an independent research consultant focused on issues of food security, nutrition, livelihoods, childhood well-being, and humanitarian response. He is currently working with UNICEF on the 2019 edition of their flagship report, the State of the World's Children, which seeks to re-examine approaches to childhood malnutrition in light of the latest science and emerging global nutrition trends. Previously, he completed a study of street-food livelihoods among women affected by the humanitarian emergency in Northeast Nigeria, as part of the World Food Programme's Gender and Markets Initiative. Dr. Sclama is a former faculty member of the American University of Nigeria, where he taught International Development, Economics, and Statistics, and worked as a Research Associate in the university's outreach center. He obtained his MBA from Assumption College and his PhD from Tulane University, in the United States. His doctoral research examined how novel approaches to household-level staple food processing can reduce the burden of zinc deficiency in sub-Saharan Africa.

This study identified opportunities for programmatic interventions by the World Food Programme. These include formation of women's groups, which can be targeted for training on business practices, health, and nutrition. These women's groups can be linked with improved access to financing, and can be leveraged to cook for school feeding programmes. WFP can identify partnerships to provide capital and infrastructure, integrate street food into cash-based transfers and voucher assistance programmes, and address protection and gender-based violence risks specific to food vendors. With a deeper understanding of the gendered roles and challenges faced by women, men, and youth in these markets, WFP can better respond to the food security and livelihoods needs of vulnerable people in Nigeria and other urban humanitarian settings.



Boubacar Seydi is a young engineer statistician in charge of the monitoring evaluation at the FAO sub regional team for resilience in West Africa and Sahel. He supports FAO countries office in the design and implementation of ME activities and other statistical activities. In that regards he provided a technical support to four resilience and humanitarian projects being implemented in Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger through the definition of gender and AAP sensitive indicators to ensure that Gender and AAP issues are effectively programmed and monitored.

Despite the fundamental role women play at all levels of the sub region's food systems, they are left behind in terms of decision making, access to production assets, access to education and they work longer than men. Women and children have especially suffered grave violations; they were subjected to violence. Insecurity sometime prevents humanitarians from carrying out adequate participative assessments and monitoring and ensuring that the assistance reaches the most vulnerable people. In that regard the FAO sub regional team for resilience (REOWA) was asked to provide programming and technical support to four resilience and humanitarian projects funded by SIDA in order to ensure that Gender, AAP and other thematic issues are effectively programmed and monitored in the 4 country projects (Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger) aiming at improving the resilience of agro-pastoral households affected by climate and man-made shocks.



Johana Simao is a Gender Specialist who conducted research and analysis on women's empowerment, agriculture, food security and in Sub-Saharan Africa. She worked as a consultant for the WFP Regional Office for West and Central Africa and for the FAO Regional Office for Africa and Country Office of Senegal, focusing on market analysis and rural development through a gender lens. She holds two Master's degrees (International Development, Columbia and Paris-Sorbonne Universities – African and Gender Studies, Paris I – Panthéon Sorbonne University)

The growing urbanization of Côte d'Ivoire increases food security challenges in urban areas and justified the focus of the study on urban street food, mostly managed by women. The case study demonstrated the massive contribution of urban street food to food and nutritional security in Abidjan, and its different challenges in terms of nutritional value, sanitation, work, accessibility and security. Also, cassava being a very important component of the Ivorian diet, the analysis of its – mostly female – value chain is part of the study and outlines the difficulty of cassava processing for women. Therefore, the study was conducted in all the districts of Abidjan in order to analyze the diversity of urban street food challenges and then the stratifications of the city. Regarding the cassava value chain, processing plants of attiéké have also been targeted.



Roisin Staunton - originally trained in Epidemiology, Roisin spent her early career prior in health research, conducting quantitative analysis on survey data relating to HIV and sexual behaviour. She has since brought her training to assist in evaluation projects, particularly in relation to agriculture and women in the rural market.

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) is critical to poverty reduction, yet, the barriers to WEE are historical and sustained by social norms in areas such as those included in this programme. Men are five times more likely to own land, are often excused from household duties, are regularly paid more than women and directly participate in economic transactions. Women on average own only 4% of land in North East Nigeria. Without land, women's access to credit is severely limited, as is their ability to weigh in on decisions affecting these assets. Women's day-to-day mobility is also restricted, meaning they often participate in markets through male proxies.



Harouna Tamboura is a Malian national and holds a Master's degree in Management Science from the University of Bamako. After working with the World Food Program (WFP) office in Mali - as a Food Security Analyst within the Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM) - between 2012 and 2015; he joined OXFAM's family as coordinator of food security and livelihood programs (EFSVL) in the Central African Republic - in October 2015 and since April 2018, as a food security and vulnerable livelihood adviser for West Africa for OXFAM regional platform based in Bamako.

The violent conflict over Boko Haram's actions and the military operations launched to combat it have led to a devastating humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin (BLT) region. In the BLT countries of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad, 17 million people are affected by the conflict that began in Nigeria. With more than 20,000 people killed, 10,000 people kidnapped, and nearly 2,000 women and girls kidnapped. There has been an alarming level of sexual violence, human rights abuses by all parties and forced recruitment, even of young children. The spread of conflict in neighboring countries has led to forced displacement and mass exodus, uprooting people from their homes, separating them from their livelihoods and income sources, exacerbating an already catastrophic situation. The EM-MA Methodology provides an overview of the situation and a report that presents clear and integrated, evidence-based options and recommendations for OXFAM, and other organizations as well as the Nigerian state.



Alison Thurston is a Regional Manager at Viamo, managing mobile data collection and informational campaigns throughout Francophone Africa. Her interests include gender equity and the intersections of technology and development. Alison holds a BA in Politics from Princeton University and has six years of experience managing international development projects throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

In April 2016, Viamo and the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) in Ghana set out to see whether crowdsourced citizen feedback about development priorities could help ensure District League Tables correspond with and are responsive to citizens' development priorities. The District League Table (DLT) is a social accountability tool that ranks Ghana's 216 Districts by their level of development and service delivery. Based on consultations with the Ministries and Agencies concerned, the DLT uses indicators from 6 key sectors - health, education, sanitation, water, governance, and security - to compile a single score for each District. With this ranking, it is possible to track which Districts are doing well in Ghana and can be learnt from, and which need greater support. To learn how best to maximize participation rates of both the general population and, more specifically, of rural women, VOTO performed a number of A/B tests. These tests involved providing half of the respondents with one survey treatment and the other half with another and to see the impact on survey completion rates.



Fanta Touré capitalizes on 15 years of experience in program management in health / nutrition and strengthening of health systems. She has proven expertise in the management and monitoring of prevention programs, care and reduction of the impact of HIV / AIDS, nutrition, malaria and the management of programs on maternal health, neonatal and infantile in several countries of West Africa (Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Chad, Niger, Mali, Ivory Coast) with particular attention to women. Fanta has been the regional health and nutrition advisor since 2016 for the regional office of Action Against Hunger for West Africa.

Action Against Hunger implements programs that explicitly aim to improve the nutritional status of children under five, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women. These groups are usually the final beneficiaries of our interventions. Thus, SAME interventions systematically identify the specific needs, vulnerabilities and skills of boys, girls, men and women for good quality programming; they also strengthen the decision-making power of women and other particularly vulnerable groups.



Pauline Vidal is a Researcher at the Migration Pillar of Samuel Hall, a social enterprise that specialises in migration research, policy design and monitoring and evaluations across Africa and South Asia. Based in Dakar, she conducts research with migrants and displaced people and communities across West Africa.

This presentation drew from data collected with IOM in Puntland and Somaliland through the Investing in So-mali Youth (2016) research project and in 11 countries in West Africa through the Study of Communities of Return (Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, Gambia). The objective of this presentation was to argue for the benefits of going beyond quantitative job market studies based on demand/offer analysis to capture perceptions, as well as meanings and roles attributed by job seekers and employees based on their gender and age. First, building on the case studies of Somaliland and Puntland, Samuel Hall designed three indices to show the disconnects of perceptions of valuable skills between youth and employers that create gaps in demand and supply on the job market. This presentation argues a better understanding of the ethical, conceptual, and linguistic "values" on the job market to create a more refined understanding of dynamics in the job market. This, in turn, will allow implementers to design projects that help integrate youth entering the job market both economically and socially.



Desiree Zwanck is a Social Impact and Gender Specialist with a twelve-year record of supervising and advising on international development and aid programs. She has designed gender equality research, training, policies and programming for UNICEF, Promundo, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, DFID, USAID and GIZ. Desiree Zwanck has extensive experience in analysing and reshaping policies and institutions as well as legal and regulatory environments from a gender and social inclusion perspective in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To affect positive change through effective programming, it is essential to understand the complex social dynamics that govern food systems and the way they interlink with households, communities and markets. Better data can feed into better data-based solutions. The adoption of more sophisticated metrics and operational tools to systematically measure access to markets, technology, capital and fairer trading can support program activities that are more cognizant of gender and women's empowerment. Building on the multi-composite WEAI (IFPRI) framework and index, the WFP RBD market analysis team seeks to work towards an adapted version (more relevant for agricultural production support and focus) to meet WFP humanitarian and market-based programming needs: the Women's Empowerment in Markets Index (WEMI) with the potential long term goal of building an inter-agency supported index as part of the broad data-sharing and pooling effort made by UN agencies and other humanitarian partners.

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