



# Agricultural Value Chains and Gender in Northern Cameroon

VAM Gender and Market Study #3

2016-2017



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The *Zero Hunger Challenge* emphasizes the importance of strengthening economic empowerment in support of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 to *double small-scale producer incomes and productivity*. The increasing focus on resilient markets can bring important contributions to sustainable food systems and build resilience. Participation in market systems is not only a means for people to secure their livelihood, but it also enables them to exercise agency, maintain dignity, build social capital and increase self-worth. Food security analysis must take into account questions of gender-based violence and discrimination in order to deliver well-tailored assistance to those most in need.

WFP's Nutrition Policy (2017-2021) reconfirms that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieve good nutrition and sustainable and resilient livelihoods, which are based on human rights and justice. This is why gender-sensitive analysis in nutrition programmes is a crucial contribution to achieving the SDGs. The VAM *Gender & Markets Initiative* of the WFP Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa seeks to strengthen WFP and partners' commitment, accountability and capacities for gender-sensitive food security and nutrition analysis in order to design market-based interventions that empower women and vulnerable populations. The series of regional *VAM Gender and Markets Studies* is an effort to build the evidence base and establish a link to SDG 5 which seeks to *achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*.

All rights reserved in all countries  
English edition, 2016-2017  
Copyright © **World Food Programme**  
**Bureau Regional Dakar**

**Author:** Yossa Thaddée  
**Edited by:** William Ndiaye

**For more information contact:**

**World Food Programme**

**Simon Renk** (Regional Markets Advisor): [simon.renk@wfp.org](mailto:simon.renk@wfp.org)

**Desiree Lwambo** (VAM Gender Specialist): [desiree.lwambo@wfp.org](mailto:desiree.lwambo@wfp.org)

# Table of Contents

List of Acronyms.....	4
Table of Figures.....	6
Acknowledgements.....	7
Executive Summary.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	12
I. Context and justification of the study.....	13
II. Objectives of the study .....	14
III. Methodology.....	15
IV. Limits of the study.....	16
1. Roles of women and men in agricultural value chains and food markets.....	19
2. Specific challenges to women and men in agricultural value chains.....	27
2.1 Common challenges to women and men .....	27
2.2 Challenges specific to women.....	30
3. The measure and tracking of women’s empowerment in agricultural markets in Cameroon.....	38
3.1 Participation of women and men in decision-making .....	39
4. Possible programmatic solutions to address identified challenges.....	50
4.1 Taking Gender into account in WFP interventions in Cameroon.....	50
4.2 Summary of challenges in food markets and recommendations .....	52
4.3 Suggested priority interventions.....	54
CONCLUSION.....	58
Bibliography .....	60
ANNEXES .....	62
Annex I – General characteristics of the country .....	62
Annex II – Characteristics of economic operators.....	67
Annex III – Survey questionnaire .....	73
Annex IV – Schedule of field data collection .....	82
Annex V – List of people consulted .....	85

## List of Acronyms

<b>ACAFIA</b>	Cameroonian Association of Female Agricultural Engineers
<b>ASBY</b>	Association of the Bayam Sellam of Cameroun
<b>CBT</b>	Cash Based Transfer
<b>CEFE</b>	Competency Based Economies Formation of Enterprise
<b>CEMAC</b>	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
<b>CTD</b>	Local and Regional Authorities
<b>DESA</b>	Direction of Surveys and Agricultural Statistics
<b>DGSN</b>	General Delegation for National Security
<b>ECAM</b>	Cameroonian Household Survey
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FERAFCAM</b>	Federation of Cameroon Women’s Associations Network
<b>FIMAC</b>	Investment Fund for Agricultural and Community Micro-Enterprises
<b>GIC</b>	Communal Initiative Group
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IRAD</b>	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
<b>MFE</b>	Micro Finance Establishment
<b>MINADER</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MINCOMMERCE</b>	Ministry of Trade
<b>MINEDUB</b>	Ministry of Basic Education
<b>MINEPAT</b>	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
<b>MINEPIA</b>	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
<b>MINPMEESA</b>	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
<b>MINPROFF</b>	Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Family

<b>PACA</b>	Agricultural Competitiveness Project
<b>PADMIR</b>	Rural Microfinance Development Support Project
<b>PAEJ</b>	Point Accueil Ecoutes Jeunes
<b>PDG</b>	Police, Gendarmes and Customs
<b>PDM</b>	Post Distribution Monitoring
<b>PIAASI</b>	Integrated Support Project for the Informal Sector
<b>PRRO</b>	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
<b>RGA</b>	Revenue Generating Activity
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SED</b>	Secretary of State for Defense
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>VAM</b>	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
<b>WEAI</b>	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## Table of Figures

Figure 1. Distribution of operators by sex and by region .....	17
Figure 2. Respondents by activity type, by gender .....	20
Figure 3. Speculations commercialized, by gender .....	23
Figure 4. Source of financing.....	27
Figure 5. Ownership of an asset to use as loan collateral, by gender .....	28
Figure 6. Housework - cooking, by gender .....	33
Figure 7. Housework – food purchase, per gender .....	33
Figure 8. Who usually decides on the choice of plots to cultivate? .....	39
Figure 9. Who usually decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate? .....	40
Figure 10. Who usually decides the quantity to stock and destock?.....	40
Figure 11. Who usually decides when to stock and destock? .....	41
Figure 12. Who keeps the keys to the shop?.....	41
Figure 13. Who sets the selling price of products?.....	42
Figure 14. Who decides where to sell the products? .....	43
Figure 15. Who decides when to sell the products?.....	43
Figure 16. Who decides how to spend revenue from sales?.....	44
Figure 17. Who usually decides which suppliers to use?.....	44
Figure 18. Who decides when to have a new birth in the household? .....	45
Figure 19. Person who influenced the choice of activity .....	45
Figure 20. Marital status of economic operators .....	68

## Acknowledgements

The World Food Programme (WFP) Bureau in Cameroon mandated Mr. Thaddée Yossa, a Consultant in management of development initiatives, to conduct the study “gender and market/value chain analysis in emergency situations” from March 3 to May 6, 2016.

The study was started on March 3, 2016, with a phase of conceptualization, documentary research and methodology preparation, which was completed on April 25. The field investigation covered the North and Far-North regions and took place from April 26 to May 6, 2016, with a strong involvement of economic actors from markets and other agricultural value chains. The consultant is grateful to the women and men who agreed to share with him their sometimes very personal experiences. These producers were always available and open for reflection and exchanges of information.

The consultant extends his strong gratitude to the administrative, religious and traditional authorities and to the heads of decentralized technical sector structures in the North and Far-North regions, who facilitated the Consultant’s access to structures, organizations and resource-people.

The consultant solicited a large network of resource-people from ministerial departments, international cooperation organizations, civil society organizations and research institutions. They all generally responded to him with constructive contributions. He seizes this opportunity to express his gratitude.

He finally thanks the staff of the WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar, the Cameroon Bureau and the Sub-Offices of Maroua and Garoua for their support in the completion of this study. They showed a remarkable will to collaborate.

On another note, it is important to make the following point: many critical formulas in the structure of the current study are not new for the actors. Good field practices were researched and critiques were formulated, with the perspective of applying lessons learned in the implementation of these actions to the next programming cycle, not to reduce the excellent quality of work already done by others, but to trace the paths of this work-in-progress, in the spirit of learning and capitalization.

Finally, the consultant takes entire responsibility for the opinions and ideas expressed in the report. He assures the reader that he always questioned the objectivity in the process of data collection and analysis and in the interpretation of received contributions.

## Executive Summary

The case study “Agricultural Value Chains and Gender in Northern Cameroon” had to answer the following questions:

1. What are the specific roles of women and men in markets and agricultural value chains in the North and Far-North of Cameroon?
2. What specific challenges do women and men face in terms of economic inclusion in the markets and agricultural value chain?
3. What are the limits and shortcomings under the gender analysis prism and WFP interventions in the markets and agricultural value chains in Cameroon?
4. What are the insufficiencies and current challenges in the assessment and follow-up of women’s empowerment in the markets?
5. What are the possible programmatic solutions to address the challenges and gaps identified?

The study was carried out in the months of April and May 2016, with methods that combined documentary research, individual and group interviews and an investigation into markets. The documentary research consisted of compiling and examining documentation associated with themes of the study, notably gender, food security and markets in Cameroon, empowerment of women and its measuring and monitoring and the examination of primary data on food security and the markets in Cameroon during these last five years. The individual and group interviews took place in Yaoundé, Maroua, Mokolo and Garoua, and allowed for the collection of information from: administrative, religious and traditional authorities; officials of decentralized technical sector structures; Civil Society Organizations (CSO); the staff of WFP and other resource people; and a visit to a community granary. The survey took place between April 26 and May 6, 2016 with a sample size of 170 economic operators from the following markets: Mokolo big market; Abattoir (big market of Maroua), Babba, Ouro Labbo, Ouro Tchede, Salack; Djefatou, big market of Garoua and Yelwa.

The results show that generally men are wholesalers while women are retailers. In certain markets, intermediaries, who are sorts of commissionaires who manage commercial transactions without owning stock, have a strong power of influence over buyers and sellers. They are always men. Gender roles exist and change according to commodity. For millet, for instance, land owners are generally men, weeding is a paid task for youth, harvesting is handled by older people, warehousing and transport are handled by men, and transformation into Bil Bil (local beer) is almost always reserved for women. Collectors, wholesalers and intermediaries are men and retailers are predominantly men for millet, and women for other products (groundnuts, beans...). Owners of rental shops in the markets are always men. Sorting is always handled by women, often with young children.

Common challenges to men and women are:

- Capital needs to expand trade (working capital);



- Equipment and logistics needs: weighing instruments, means of transportation, storage facilities, preservation equipment (mostly for fish);
- Interference and harassment from local authorities;
- Lack of warehouses and equipped stalls in the markets, which cause people and merchandise to be exposed to and affected by bad weather;
- Access to credit seems challenging for men as well as for women.

Women are confronted with other specific problems, essentially:

- Maternity management (leading almost always to the suspension of trade);
- Child care in the marketplace;
- Inadequate toilets and self-hygiene places for women;
- Conflicting timetables for domestic and commercial activities.

The case study acknowledges the significant efforts made by the WFP, notably taking into account the differences in the needs of men and women, as well as the disaggregation of data by gender. The implementation of focal gender points shows the willingness to go farther. However, these do not come with defined specifications or terms of reference for the post. They exercise their responsibilities in the context of other activities. Monitoring structures do not allow for the follow-up of social transformation and changes in gender relations resulting from these projects.

It is important to use the structures of university research centres and statistics institutes and the local CSOs to assure the promotion of the measuring and follow-up of women's empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chains. The major challenge remains local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in interventions in the food markets. The local CSOs could become relevant relays to work with communities and come up with adequate criteria and indicators to measure and assess the empowerment of women in food markets.

The study makes several recommendations, mainly:

1. Develop and implement in the middle-term, a joint programme of the United Nations system for a holistic approach to the question of women's empowerment in food markets, with specific components on (i) literacy, (ii) the set-up of gender-sensitive infrastructure, (iii) communication for behaviour change, (iv) strengthening of women's entrepreneurial capacities, (v) strengthening of women's associations, (vi) financing of economic activities, (vii) food security and (viii) education in nutrition.
2. Integrate into WFP's ongoing programmes a support component for market operators and a structuring of the agricultural value chain actors, with the objective of, among other things, identifying and contracting with medium-scale female wholesalers. The aim will be to consolidate their position within the industry, or within women's associations, mainly in the domains traditionally reserved for men. This will hopefully shake things up and create a lever effect for the emergence of a generation of female economic operators in the industry.

3. Consolidate material gains in terms of WFP gender-sensitive initiatives in markets and the agricultural value chain, mainly by implementing dedicated internal mechanisms and training in gender and female empowerment for managers of WFP and its partners. Such training should include the production and publication of a technical guide to measure and track women's empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chain.
  4. Utilize universities' structures and research centres and statistics institutes and local CSOs to develop and implement a tracing system, produce tools and train actors in in-depth assessment of female empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chain.
-



Photo: WFP/Jane Howard

# INTRODUCTION

Cameroon has had to face a brutal increase in the number of people made vulnerable by conflicts, food insecurity, malnutrition, natural catastrophes, epidemics and the significant reduction of their socio-economic circumstances. In December 2013, sectorial groups estimated that more than six million people were in need of humanitarian assistance (Plan of strategic response 2014-2016 in Cameroon; 2015). In December 2015, analysts noted that the number of people with severe food insecurity had multiplied by four in the last six months (Plan of humanitarian response: January – December 2016).

Poverty is heightened in rural areas where it affects about 90 percent of the population, compared with 8.9 percent in the urban setting. Domestic farmers (informal agricultural enterprises) make up the poorest group, with a rate of poverty close to 63 percent, according to the ECAM 4 Survey (NIS, 2016).

The current case study covers the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, mostly because of their exposure to risks of food insecurity due to the climactic context and the influx of refugees coming from Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR). Internal displacement of the population from terrorist actions led by the Boko Haram group has also worsened an already worrying situation especially with regard to poverty indicators. The choice of conducting this case study in those two regions was supported by the fact that not only they were kept as sample sites at the end of the regional study on gender and food markets in the Lake Chad basin (Regional Market Assessment – Lake Chad Basin Crisis, 2015), but they were also part of the zones covered during WFP's surveys on evaluations of food markets in Cameroon in 2014 and 2015. These provided comparable data and enabled a linkage between the national case study and the regional survey.

The two regions are cited many times by the DHS-

MICS (2011) as having the worst scores in socio-demographic and health statistics. Also, the results show that in the Far-North, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is the highest (45 percent), followed by the North (40 percent), Adamawa (40 percent) and the East (37 percent). In addition, one notes that this prevalence decreases tremendously when the level of education of the mother or the level of household economic well-being increases. The regions of the Far-North (27 percent), North (18 percent), Adamawa (18 percent) and the East (17 percent) are those where the prevalence of this severe form of malnutrition is the highest.

The results show a prevalence of acute malnutrition much higher in the Far-North (12 percent) and the North (10 percent) than in all the other regions (from 1 percent to 6 percent). The level of education of the mother positively influences the prevalence of acute malnutrition: 12 percent of children of mothers with no education are affected, versus 2 percent where the mother has reached a level of 2nd cycle secondary education or higher. Finally, one must note that children living in the poorest households are more affected (11 percent) than those in other households (2 percent for the richest).

In rural areas, one notes that one child out of five (20 percent) shows weight deficiencies versus 9 percent in other cities and towns and 3 percent in Yaoundé/Douala. One child out of three (32 percent) in the Far-North, one child out of four (24 percent) in the North and one child out of five (21 percent) in Adamawa show weight deficiencies. In other regions, this proportion is less, at 16 percent. As it is for the other indices, the proportion of children suffering weight deficiencies lowers as the level of education of the mother or the standard of living of the household increases.

In terms of poverty, it is in the regions of the Far-North and North that the percentages of the

population ranked in the poorest quintile are the highest (55 percent and 52 percent, respectively). More than nine households out of ten live in housing considered precarious. It is also in these regions that one records the highest level of people surveyed with no level of education. The net rates of school attendance are the lowest of the country: Far-North (52 percent) and North (67 percent). These regions record the lowest percentages of literate people in the country: Far-North (23 percent of women and 53 percent of men), North (31 percent and 65 percent, respectively); these parameters are 92 percent of women and 91 percent of men for the South, 89 percent and 92 percent, respectively, for the West, 88 percent and 92 percent, respectively, for the Centre, and 86 percent of women and 93 percent of men for the Littoral.

The proportion of women without access to media is high in the regions of the Far-North (77 percent) and the North (68 percent), compared with the low proportions in the cities of Yaoundé (6 percent) and Douala (7 percent). The same tendency is observed among men. Moreover, the level of education seems to influence in a significant way the level of exposition to media. Whether for women or men, exposure to the three types of media increases considerably with the level of education: from 2 percent to 21 percent among women and from 4 percent to 34 percent among men as soon as we go from primary school to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle level of secondary school or higher. 81 percent of women and 64 percent of men without education are not exposed to any media.

## I. Context and justification of the study

In Cameroon, for some time now, certain areas have found themselves in emergency situations, notably the regions of the Far-North, the North, Adamawa and the East. These emergency situations result, on one hand, from the security crisis created by attacks from the terrorist sect Boko Haram and, on the other hand, from a socio-political crisis in the CAR, which has led to a serious breakdown of the situation in

Adamawa and the East of Cameroon. Habitually afflicted by the severity of natural conditions, these regions face many hazards.

The displacement of populations and the influx of refugees coming from CAR have caused increased needs in matters of health, housing, nutrition, protection and sanitation. These emergency situations strongly affect the economic and social lives of the populations in these zones, disrupting systems of production and trade of food products, among other things. As a consequence, the food and nutrition security of these populations are an important stake.

Moreover, it is important to note that these needs are felt differently by men and by women among refugees and displaced populations as well among local populations.

The WFP Regional Bureau for West Africa mandated a regional initiative based on gender and a food assistance based on markets under the technical direction of the VAM (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) regional unit. The project's goal is to strengthen links between gender analysis and market evaluations, and to assist WFP and its partners in the conception and intervention in the markets, with the explicit objective of achieving gender equality. The WFP regional initiative, which studies the impacts of this crisis on the markets of Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, proposes to collect and analyze pertinent data to allow for the design of a complete framework serving to justify interventions adapted to the context, to the market realities and to the needs of the target population.

Given this context, Cameroon was chosen to be the subject of the case study. It involves understanding how the markets are adapted to crises situations and determining what the priority needs are and the appropriate formulas of response. One problem at the heart of this process is that, even if indicators are shared by both genders, the situation is lived in a different manner among men and women, with totally different impacts.

The goal of WFP's policy on the issue of Men-Women 2015-2020 is to allow the Institution to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into all its work and activities, but also to see to it that the different needs of women, men, girls and boys in areas of food and nutrition security are met.

In the VAM investigations in Cameroon conducted a few years ago<sup>1</sup>, the gender dimension was superficially taken into consideration and analyzed. The attention was given notably to the sex of the head of the household, the participation of men/women in the management or use of resources (food, in particular) in the household, and sometimes the representation of women within the households. Since 2014, efforts have been made to show the gender dimension in all analyses, mainly those relative to the markets. One also observes significant efforts in the taking into account of the different needs of men and women and the proposal of specific responses. Information is more than ever disaggregated by gender and questions of equal access to opportunities, equal access and control of resources and its results have been deepened.

Recent studies<sup>2</sup> show this positive evolution, even though improvements must still be made, notably in the measuring and follow-up of women's empowerment when evaluating gender impact.

The preliminary use of gender aspects in the database of the regional study<sup>3</sup> the WFP conducted in four countries of the Lake Chad basin in 2016 established the fact that, globally, wholesalers are 90 percent men and retailers are 92 percent women. Women have been in the markets for just as long as men. Men have a bit more recourse to the use of workers in their businesses than women. They generally have more stock (wholesalers), domestic

stock being more widespread among women (retailers).

The lack of capital is a greater constraint for women than for men, while insecurity is mostly men's concern. None of the women resorts to the bank for financing their business. The ownership of a bank account is not common for either sex. The buying of stock on credit is similar between the two sexes. The capacity to respond to high demand is relatively the same for men and women. Women face more ruptures in stock during harvest periods. These results remain to be confirmed and deepened by a national case study.

## II. Objectives of the study

The goal of the present study is to strengthen the links between gender analysis and market evaluations, in order to help WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations in the conception and implementation of interventions based on markets and integrating objectives linked to gender equality.

As such, due to the particular situation in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon with respect to the insecurity and prevalent poverty, the case study must answer the following questions:

- What are the specific roles of women and men in the agricultural value chain and markets in the North and Far-North of Cameroon?
- What specific challenges do women and men face in terms of economic inclusion in the agricultural value chain and markets?
- What are the limits and gaps under the gender prism of analyses and WFP interventions in the

---

<sup>1</sup> MINADER: Global Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA); May 2007

FAO; Analysis of subsistence crop products of Cameroonian markets: carried out under the framework of the global study on household food security and vulnerability (CFSVA); 2011; 89 pages

WFP/FAO/Cameroon: evaluation of humanitarian assistance and the situation of Central African refugees in Cameroon, July 2013

<sup>2</sup> WFP/PNSA; Evaluation of food security in the East, Adamawa, North, and Far North regions of Cameroon, 14-28 September, 2015 (EFSA 2015); HCR/International Solidarity; study of market systems in emergency situations: imported rice, cassava flour, and drinkable water- Bertoua-Garoua boulay axe, Cameroon, CAR Border; January 2015

<sup>3</sup> WFP; Regional Market Assessment in Lake Chad Basin Crisis; Cameroon, gender analysis, preliminary outputs; 2016

markets and agricultural value chain in Cameroon?

- What are the deficiencies and current challenges concerning the measuring and follow-up of the empowerment of women in the markets?
- What are the possible programmatic solutions to address identified challenges and gaps?

### III. Methodology

The study on “Agricultural Value Chains and Gender in Northern Cameroon” used a methodology structured in four phases: the exploratory phase; the field investigation; the data collection and processing; and the analysis and reporting.

#### The exploratory phase

The exploratory phase consisted in the research and review of an abundant literature of reports, and documents of orientation, projects, studies and surveys conducted with WFP, the Ministry of fisheries and animal industries (MINEPIA, *Ministère de la Pêche et des Industries Animales*), the Ministry of agricultural and rural development (MINADER, *Ministère de l’Agriculture et du Développement Rural*), the Ministry of the promotion of women and the family (MINPROFF, *Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille*), the United Nations Organisation for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (UNWOMEN), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT, *Ministère de l’Economie, de la Planification et de l’Aménagement du Territoire*). The study also used the VAM databases from Cameroon (Global study on food security and vulnerability in households, 2011), those of the regional study on gender and food markets in the Lake Chad Basin, and the agricultural sector statistics from 1998 to 2013.

These sources helped provide a better understanding of issues addressed by the study and

enabled the consultant to start formulating answers as well as outlining field surveys to carry out in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, in terms of identifying markets, people and structures to meet, defining criteria for selection, and so forth.

It was also during this phase that the different data collection tools were developed and tested to optimize their usability in the actual field survey.

#### The field survey phase

This consisted of data collection from economic operators, staff of WFP sub-offices in Garoua and Maroua and heads of public services concerned with the study. The consultant’s participatory observation completed the field survey phase. Also, the results of the case study were supported by (i) a database of surveys conducted from April 26 to May 6, 2016 with a sample of 170 economic operators; (ii) information received in the framework of group discussions with market operators and their partners (administrative, religious and traditional authorities; leaders of decentralized technical sector structures; CSOs; staff of WFP sub-offices; and other resource-persons, including a visit to a community granary and semi-structured interviews.

The general methodology called for the consultant’s visit of the sample regions and sites, and his meeting with regional and/or departmental heads of MINADER, Ministry of Commerce (MINCOMMERCE, *Ministère du Commerce*), MINPROFF or the Ministry of small and mid-size enterprises, social economy and arts and crafts (MINPMEESA, *Ministère des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, de l’Economie Sociale et de l’Artisanat*), depending on their availability and the availability of research data, and market managers. Group discussions and individual discussions were to take place subsequently.

#### Data collection and processing

Data collection was performed by six agents and processed using the CSPro software. Consistency tests in the database and correction of errors

detected in simple frequency tables of the SPSS software provided some validation to the data used. Pivot table analyses were handled with MS-Excel.

### **Analysis and reporting**

This phase allowed for cross-tabulation of the mass of information collected, the production of a provisory report, the taking into account of commentary and observations of the Project Manager, and the production of a final report.

## **IV. Limits of the study**

The investigation combined documentary research, individual surveys from economic operators, group discussions and semi-structured interviews.

The documentary research consisted of compiling and examining the documents associated with themes of the study, mainly those of gender, food security and food markets in Cameroon, the empowerment of women and its measuring and follow-up, and an examination of the primary data on food security and markets in Cameroon over the course of these last five years.

### **Sample markets**

To grasp the phenomenon studied in all its complexity, it was important to explore the main markets of the study area, notably those reputed to be significant in terms of volumes of transactions and their function of supplying the main cities and towns.

Also, at the base of the sample markets from the WFP surveys of 2014 and 2015, priority was given to those where women were active and which were found in the radius of 70 kilometers of the main cities of the North and Far-North regions.

This selection led to the choosing of the following nine markets in three main centers, Mokolo, Maroua and Garoua: Mokolo big market (town of Mokolo); Abattoir (big market of Maroua), Babba, Ouro Labbo, Ouro Tchede, Salack (town of Maroua); Djefatou, Big market of Garoua and Yelwa (town of Garoua).

The main products sold in these markets were millet/sorghum, onions, groundnuts, maize, fruits and vegetables, tubers, imported rice, local rice and beans.

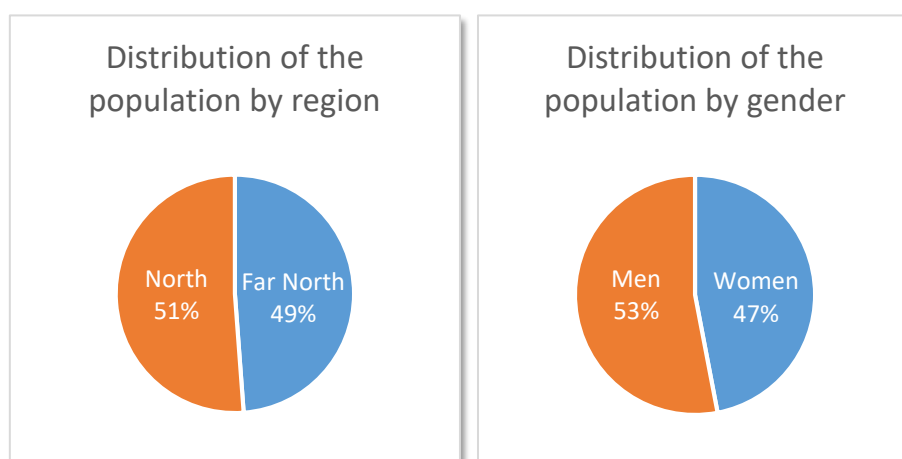
The Babba market (Maroua) was practically dedicated to women. Historically, it specialized in the sale of cooking utensils. Today, it offers food products, but women are still predominant.

The Salack and Ouro Tchede markets are satellite collection points of Maroua with collectors and producers coming from the fields. The Djefatou market is known as a collection and redistribution center. Ouro Labbo and Yelwa are urban markets in Garoua.

170 economic operators were interviewed, and the selection of this sample favoured gender balance and regional balance.



Figure 1. Distribution of operators by sex and by region



Source : Survey results, May 2016

Table 1. Distribution of operators, by gender and by market

Markets	Women	Men	Total	Percentage
Abattoir	8	10	18	11 percent
Babba	16	19	35	21 percent
Djefatou	11	15	26	15 percent
Garoua Big Market	5	2	7	4 percent
Mokolo	7	8	15	9 percent
Ouro Labbo	16	13	29	17 percent
Ouro Tchede	8	5	13	8 percent
Salack	4	6	10	6 percent
Yelwa	4	13	17	10 percent
Total	79	91	170	100 percent
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>46 percent</b>	<b>54 percent</b>		

Source : Survey results, May 2016

The results of the present study were confined to the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, which possess a specific context in the religious, economic, geo-climatic, historic, cultural and social spheres. Consequently, these results are not general to the whole of the country.

Moreover, it only covers the reality of nine markets from the two regions. Also, the sampling gave priority to activities and markets where women were the most active, outside of the sampling frame. This constitutes a methodological bias, but it should not invalidate the results obtained.

The absence of secondary data on the measuring and follow-up of women's empowerment in Cameroon food markets, and the fact that this is a relatively new theme and actors are insufficiently familiar with this concept prevented the in-depth investigation of this question.

Finally, without casting doubt on the sincerity of the respondents and the reliability of the responses, reserve should sometimes be used concerning certain personal or strategic judgments of the operators. Effectively, many operators mentioned the confidential nature of information linked to



Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud

## 1. Roles of women and men in agricultural value chain and food markets

To answer the question of the specific roles of women and men in the markets and agricultural value chain, the following elements were examined one by one: (i) the multiplicity of actors in the markets and agricultural value chain; (ii) the activity sections by gender; (iii) the commercialized crops by operator gender; and (iv) the average propensity to hire labor, per gender.

### **Multiplicity of actors**

Most agricultural products of basic necessities are exchanged in the food markets. The big urban centers each have at least one market, built and managed by the commune, that is held every day. However, the majority of markets are spontaneous, in dedicated spaces, and occur on a weekly basis.

A detailed analysis allows for the identification of a multitude of actors with specific and varied roles, from production to commercialization. In the case of millet/sorghum, for production purposes, field owners are generally men. The millet/sorghum market is structured. The small producers come from the villages to urban markets with small quantities

going from a cup of millet to a half-sack. As they get to the markets, the small producers are approached by agents playing the role of middlemen for the wholesalers or collectors. These middlemen are for the most part men but one also finds some women. The skill mostly sought here consists of identifying the small producer, running towards him and being the first to start the trading. Effectively, according to the customs of the region, it is forbidden to outbid or engage in a negotiation if the one in process hasn't ended in failure. Women, for whom the physical conditions are not favorable, or who have a baby, can therefore not succeed in this activity in the market.

Collectors and wholesalers get their supplies in rural markets with the help of middlemen or directly from producers, on local market days, generally once a week. Wholesalers sell directly to retailers. The latter generally buy on credit for one day, and payments for goods bought are made at the end of the day. Retailers come from neighboring villages, travelling by foot, sometimes for more than 5 km. They are generally women with relatively low revenues who are supplied by wholesalers or semi-wholesalers

with small quantities every day, depending on their market demand. The characteristics of the retail trade are largely shaped by the various units of measure used. Retail trade and retailers are identified by their sales in local units of measure (a pile, bowl, glass, cup, etc.).

For millet/sorghum markets, besides wholesalers and retailers, the known economic actors, the survey also highlighted intermediaries: those who present themselves to buyers as the owners of all wholesale shops. With knowledge of the minimum prices acceptable to wholesalers, they negotiate with buyers interested in large quantities. Wholesalers present these owners as “masters of the market”. In fact, these intermediaries make buyers believe they have the best information on the quality and price of the merchandise, from one wholesaler to the next.

In the commercialization of millet/sorghum, warehouse activities are important. As soon as millet/sorghum is placed in a 100/120 kg bag, it becomes the business of specialists. Its loading/unloading costs 100 to 200 CFA F per bag, depending on the market.

Transporters are in reality truck drivers who, knowing the flux of production, go back and forth in the zone, looking for millet/sorghum to transport. It is rare to find a wholesaler or collector who owns

vehicles dedicated to the transport of produce.

The main characteristic of wholesalers is possession of a shop. They are owners or renters of the said shops. Here, the observations are:

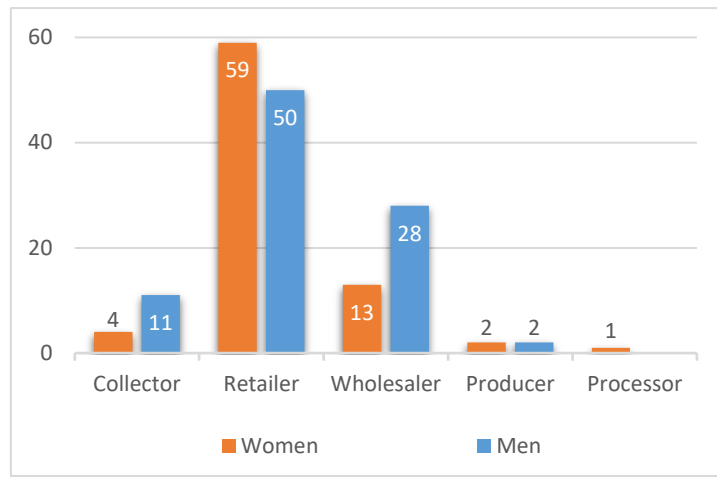
- No female owners
- No female lessors.

Market operators complain of harassment from traditional, communal and administrative authorities, and the forces who maintain order. Effectively, each market is placed under the leadership of a traditional chief who delegates his power to one or many representatives (generally butchers). To assure discipline in the market, the traditional authority takes out 100 CFA F/bag from the vendor and likewise from the buyer.

The communal agent takes out 150 CFA F per day and per vendor. At the entrance of markets, officials in charge of maintaining order take (without giving receipts) varied sums from one vehicle to the next, depending on the number of bags in the vehicle. Moreover, the control barriers have been multiplied on the roads with the advent of Boko Haram, and each post is another hassle for the operators.

The following table shows the disaggregation of the sample into collectors, retailers, wholesalers, producers and processors by gender.

*Figure 2. Respondents by activity type, by gender*



Source : Survey results, May 2016

In the absence of a survey baseline, the sample was not made to be representative of the structure of the markets, but to include as many men and women from one part or another of each activity section of the market, while they were present. For example, when we only got two (2) producers in one market, they were both surveyed.

Collectors are mostly men (73 percent) but there are some female collectors and wholesalers. Depending on commodities, retailers may be men or women.

Processing is seldom practiced, and the only ones notable are the processing of millet/sorghum into flour, dominated by men who own mills in markets, and the production of the local millet beer (bil-bil) which is essentially a woman activity.

These tendencies are the same as the ones noted in the regional survey, but the numbers are more distinct. Transportation remains exclusively men's activity.

Table 2. Specific roles in conducting certain activities

Activities	Men	Women	Children	Elderly
Weeding/ hoeing	XX	XX	XXXX	
Labor	XX	XX	XXXX	
Seeding	X	XXXX	XX	
Treatment	XXX	XXX		
Harvesting		XX	X	XXX
Deseeding		XXX	XXX	XXX
Drying		XXX	XXX	
Sorting		XXXX	XXX	XXX
Warehousing	XXXX			
Transport	XXXX			
Negotiation and sales	XXXX			

Source : Focus group May 2016

Note: X = low participation; XX = medium participation; XXX = strong participation; XXXX = very strong participation

## Why are there so few women wholesalers?

Group discussions led to the following reasons:

- The activity is deemed wearying, difficult and involves incessant trips sometimes under harsh physical, generally uncomfortable conditions;
- There are more difficulties for women in contracting business partners. Would the propensity to trust women be lower than that of trusting men operators? Effectively, men prefer dealing with other men, equal to equal, as with women partners, they would have fewer means of pressure (for example, one cannot arrest a woman and put her in a cell in case of failure to carry out her engagements, for fear of being socially scorned);
- Pregnancies lead to a suspension of activity for women. In the food markets, any prolonged absences of wholesalers could cause the loss of control of their commercial network. Because of strong competition, absentees are immediately replaced. It is thus difficult to build a commercial network under such conditions of strong competition.
- Women must manage household activities early in the morning before leaving the house and must return early at the end of the day to continue these activities. Women, therefore, spend less time in the market compared to men. Women live a true dilemma in harvest periods during which, because of the need to fill up stocks, wholesalers must wake up very early in the morning to buy from producers and deal with competition. A woman thus has to choose between abandoning her family activities or her economic activities.
- Female wholesalers are generally those who do not have spouses (single, widowed, divorced), or they have a spouse who gives them support. They are “not under pressure.”

- Cultural and religious factors are not the least either: many actors cited the Bible and said that the man has to take care of the needs of his wife. The latter must not be involved in economic activities except if the man is incapable. She is thus confined to household work. In certain tribes, she doesn't even go to the market to buy food. This position is contradictory for a minority of people consulted. The Koran mentions that the first wife of the prophet was a trader.
- The education level of a woman is definitely a barrier to her participation as a wholesaler in economic activities. Effectively, education from the family and from school, better prepare men over women to involve themselves in trade, mainly at the level where volume is important and could lead to large risks.

## How to encourage women to become wholesalers?

Participants to group discussions proposed the following paths:

- **Invest in the setup of women associations in the markets** with the goal of: pooling their means and achieving volumes by way of group transactions; and supporting the development of a culture of transparency and accountability in the governance of women's associations;
- **Invest massively in training and information of women** in the markets: the production and distribution of guides of female entrepreneurs in the food produce markets will be an efficient means of informing women, on condition that the guides are really practical and published in French, English and in local languages;
- **Reinforce the capacities of local NGOs**, especially in support of entrepreneurship. Training of trainers in CEFE methods will enable the equipping of workers of local NGOs to

develop the entrepreneurial competencies of women and the support for commercialization.

- **Put in place a mini-credit fund**

The community admits that on market days and on Sundays, children can work on weeding and clearing other people's fields, as a paid activity to generate money for part or all of their school tuition and fees. On other days, they work on family fields under the direction of the head of the family.

In vegetable cultivation, it is mainly men who prepare the soil, plant, transport and deliver to women who sell the produce on the market. Therefore, there are more men in the fields and fewer in the markets. Men that are in the markets are young and usually sell vegetables. Onions are planted by men, sold to wholesalers who are usually men, then resold by retailers, who are also usually more often men than women.

The extent of women's contribution in support of men's activities is not fully accounted for. In fact, one rarely takes into account the fact that she provides food to the workers in the field, for example. While

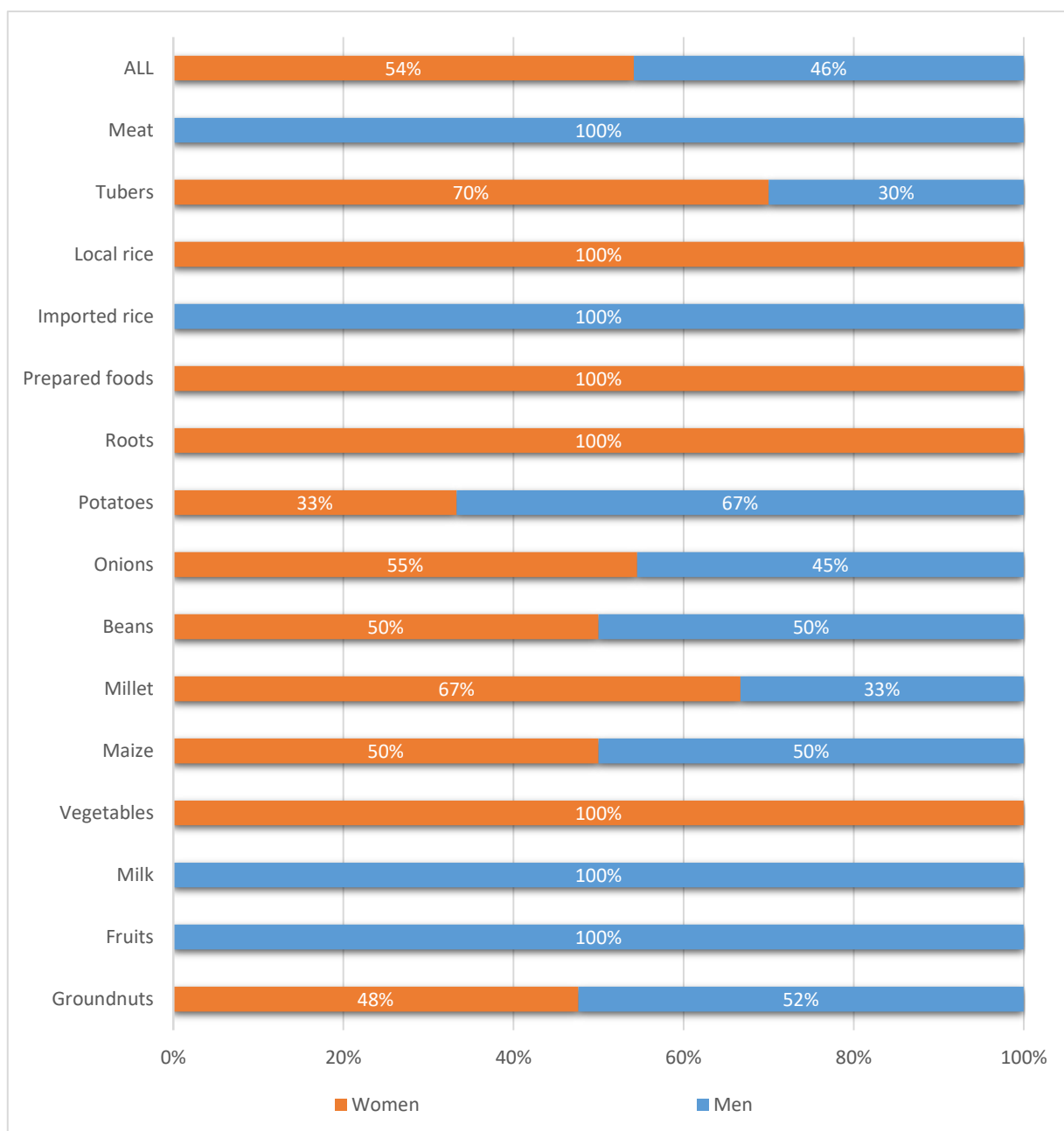
the woman works in the field of her husband, it is not described as the field of the husband and the wife. The woman has her field where she plants and harvests, but she has the social obligation of contributing to her husband's field.

The vocabulary is in itself relatively sexist. When one asks if it is men or women who produce the most cereals, the response is that it is the men. When looking closely into it, men have the land, which means the fields where they are installed belong to them, but it is women who mainly do the work, followed by children. "Women work a lot, but for their family, mainly their husband and their children," according to a participant in the focus group of May 4, 2016 in Garoua.

Whereas groundnuts traders are either women or men, fruits, milk, imported rice and meat retailers are men, while selling vegetables, roots and tubers, local rice and prepared food is entirely women's job.

The job "strictly reserved" for one sex is butchery, which is the exclusive domain of men. *It might be pertinent to encourage women to practice butchery. This could help defeat taboos and enable progress.*

*Figure 3. Speculations commercialized, by gender*



Source : Survey results, May 2016

The regional survey indicated that the majority of traders do not have employees (87 percent). Generally, the average propensity to employ others appears stronger among men (18 percent) than among women (6.5 percent). The case study confirms these results, with more nuanced figures: on average, about 2/3rds of the economic operators work without aides, with a propensity to employ lower among women for whom 73 percent work without aides.

If for the two sexes, approximately 22 percent to 25 percent of operators have at least one employee, the women tend to have only one employee (20 percent), while more men have two employees. This can be understood by the fact that either the women mainly take care of their business by themselves, or they devote less time to commercial activity, closing their businesses while they switch to the domestic sphere.



Table 3. Number of employees and assistants, per gender

Number of Employees	Women	Men	Total
0	73 percent	59 percent	66 percent
1	19 percent	15 percent	17 percent
2	3 percent	10 percent	6 percent
3	3 percent	3 percent	3 percent
4	0 percent	2 percent	1 percent
5	0 percent	2 percent	1 percent
8	0 percent	1 percent	1 percent
12	0 percent	3 percent	2 percent
13	0 percent	2 percent	1 percent
ND	2 percent	3 percent	2 percent
Total	100 percent	100 percent	100 percent

Source : Survey results, May 2016



Photo: WFP/Marco Frattini

## 2. Specific challenges to women and men in agricultural value chains.

Among the major challenges faced by economic operators in agricultural value chains of the North and Far-North of Cameroon, some are common to both sexes, while others are specific to women.

### 2.1 Common challenges to women and men

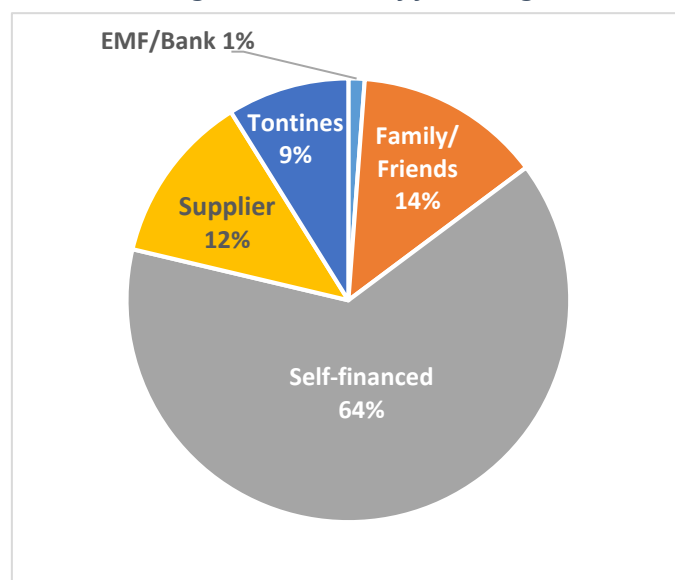
Among the challenges common to both sexes are: financial capital; the complex administrative procedures; the need for work equipment; and, the lack of market facilities such as warehouses or trading posts.

#### Need for capital and financing

Most of the retailers indicated that they would like

in the course of the coming years to become wholesalers (68 percent) or producers (10 percent). But one of the major challenges to economic operators remains financing. Among the causes of unsatisfactory evolution in their activity, and as already noted in the regional survey as the top position, is the absence or insufficiency of capital and financing. 87 percent of operators interviewed had never had a loan. They self-finance their projects (64 percent), are financed by friends and family (14 percent), suppliers (12 percent) and tontines (9 percent)

Figure 4. Source of financing

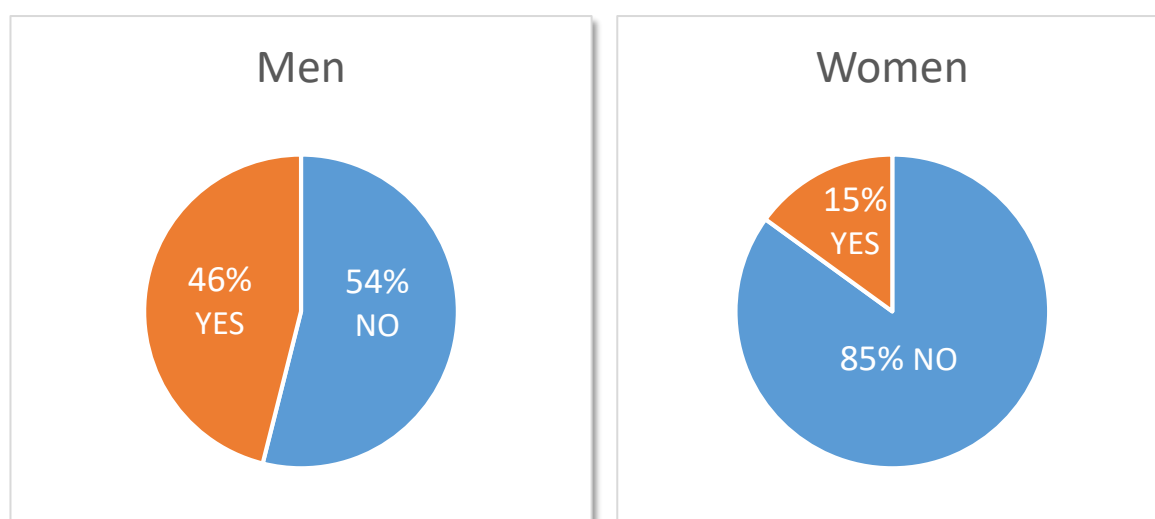


Source : Survey results, May 2016

31 percent of operators mentioned having an asset that could serve as a guarantee to obtain credit, versus 68 percent who did not. The gender disparity

is significant. Among men, 46 percent own an asset, while this parameter is at only 15 percent among women.

Figure 5. Ownership of an asset to use as loan collateral, by gender



Source : Survey results, May 2016

As revealed by the national survey, the need for capital is as crucial for men as it is for women. The seed capital for activities generally comes from products of agricultural activities (sale from harvests). The amount is thus generally inconsistent.

Facilitating women's access to credit to reinforce their opportunities is key. The MINEPAT planned on providing financial support to associations of maize producers through a financing to be made available at the start of the campaign. Unfortunately, according to consulted actors, the process experienced two main shortcomings: (i) regardless of

the project involved, the same amount of 756,000 CFA F was allocated per association; (ii) a significant administrative delay did not allow the finances to be available at the beginning of the campaign.

#### Complex administrative procedures

Among the most significant difficulties they face, collectors and wholesalers, both male and female, reported harassment on the roads and in the markets caused by agents of the authorities. They face levies, notably on cereals and vegetables, based on the number of bags they sold or transported.

Table 4. Main administrative harassments reported

Source of harassment	Roles	Comments
Law enforcement entities: Police, Customs, Gendarmerie (PDG) and Military	Securing roadways	<p>Increased roadblocks due to heightened security concerns. On average, 1 control every 10 kilometers, for example between Garoua and Adonwé.</p> <p>Each entity has its own hassling practices to extort funds. The tariffs go from 1,000 to 5,000 CFA F per control post.</p>

Collectors of traditional taxes (Lawan-Jarma – cereals chief; or Sarkipawa – butcher)	Represent the traditional authority; management of discipline and security	200 CFA F per bag, per actor, or 400 CFA F per transaction
Collectors of communal tax	Sale of tickets for market stalls and discipline and cleaning management	100 to 200 CFA F for one stall per day
Collectors of administrative taxes (Sub-Prefecture)	Management of discipline and security	Up to 300 CFA F per bag in some markets

Source : Focus group, May 2016

### Crucial need of professional equipment

The need for equipment and tools is crucial. Here

are selected needs for the following examples of equipment:

Table 5. Needs in equipment and tools

Activities	Equipment and tools needed	Current practices
Sale of cereals	Weighing tools; precision tools addressing product quality	Cups, bowls, buckets
Agricultural production	Plows, draught animals, tractors	Work by hand, very difficult
Fish trade	Cold chain (freezers, ice boxes, cold rooms, refrigerated vehicles); Weighing tools; smokers	
Processing	Grain mills	One pays 2,000 CFA F to grind a bag of millet
Transportation	Vehicles, carts, tricycles	
Wholesalers	Storage rooms	

Source : Focus group, May 2016

### Inadequacy of market spaces

The conditions of work are severe in the markets, mainly in the markets that come together spontaneously, and they are many. The markets built by local and regional authorities have warehouses, shops, trading posts and toilet blocks. Other markets do not have warehouses to offer traders secure spaces and security. Under the sun, the temperature sometimes gets to 45°, and women and men protect themselves by tying up pieces of cloth or plastic sheets to two posts clumsily planted in the dirt. The

trading posts are in pitiful states and hygienic conditions are calamitous.

None of the markets has a restaurant, which leaves men and women with the only choice of eating bread and donuts.

### Need for seeds and reliable information

In addition to the need for timely financing in the required amount, there is also a need for timely seeds of quality and in adequate quantity and a need for reliable technical and trade information.

Seeds improved with the help of the institute for agricultural research and development (IRAD, *Institut de Recherche Agricole et de Développement*) were distributed in 2014. Because of the lack of information flow, less than one fourth of producers received the seeds. The seeds were distributed only to associations, and very few women benefited from them due to their low presence in these associations. Actors who have privileged relationships with heads of agricultural posts are generally more advantaged.

### **Aggressions and physical abuse on roads to market**

Aggressions and physical abuse do not seem to occur frequently. In any case, only 23 percent of operators estimate that aggressions and physical violence are frequent. This percentage is however a bit higher for collectors and wholesalers (29 percent). In terms of gender, 27 percent of men perceive the frequency of aggressions to be high against 19 percent of women and, similarly, 81 percent of women consider not to be at risk of aggression on roads to markets against 73 percent of men.

Also, only 8.8 percent of operators declared having been physically attacked on roads to food markets, of which 6 percent are women and 11 percent are men.

### **Poor associative and cooperative lives**

The project of investment in and development of agricultural markets (PIDMA, *Projet d'Investissement et de Développement des Marchés Agricoles*) and its partners, primarily Guinness, offered to support the structuring of producers into cooperatives: SOCOSEN for sorghum, BARKA for maize and CROPSEC (regional cooperative). However, in spite of this project's efforts, the cooperative movement remains underdeveloped. There are almost no cooperatives in cereals, except for a few initiatives, even though the zone is an important basin for the production of maize and millet/sorghum.

### **Land ownership**

The land issue does not seem to come up in terms of ownership but uniquely in terms of rights of usage. The reflex of land securing is not common, land conflicts occur mainly in the renting of fields. Agro-pastoral conflicts linked to the wandering of animals are frequent. Most actors interviewed have access to a cultivated space not subject to conflict.

### **Other difficulties raised by actors**

Other reported difficulties were:

- Absence of support and assistance;
- Lack of information and training;
- Lack of equipment;
- Difficulties of transportation and communication;
- Natural disasters;
- Family difficulties/burdens;
- Physical fatigue;
- Irregularity in production;
- Scarcity of customers.

## **2.2 Challenges specific to women**

The main challenges specific to women have to do with the question of water, hygiene and sanitation in the food markets, maternity and child care, busy schedules filled with household tasks, the burden of traditions and other cultural factors.

### **Water, hygiene and sanitation**

Among the specific challenges presented in the markets, the problem of water, hygiene and sanitation in the food markets is of the most crucial. Effectively, the absence of infrastructure such as the conveyance of potable water, toilets and trash cans make the proper management of menstrual hygiene and other natural needs particularly difficult. As can be seen in the table below, the WASH (*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*) situation is unsatisfactory in the markets.

Table 6. Existence and operational capability of toilets in the markets

Market name	Existence and operational capability	Alternatives
Tacasco	Exist, but non-functional because the commune is still looking for a manager	We “manage”
Ourolabo	Non-existent	Bush; nature
Narsawo	Non-existent	We “manage”
Big market of Garoua	Exist, but in an insufficient number in relation to needs.	We ask neighbors for permission to use theirs
Yelwa	Exist; possibility to bathe there	
Chinese camp	Non-existent	We “manage”
Adoumri	Exist; clean but have to pay (50 CFA F)	
Market of the bridge	Non-existent	We “manage”

Source : Focus group results, May 4, 2016 in Garoua

One can add to these results, the observations of interviewers in the following markets:

- Salack: toilets in the market, but never used;
- Abattoir: toilets in the market, but seldom used;
- Mokolo: no toilets;
- Baba Market: no toilets;
- Djefatou: toilets exist and are not clean.

If one considers the differences in practices by gender, men can easily urinate “in the open”.

On the other hand, for women, the situation is more complicated. The need to urinate has to be done in total intimacy (which would explain the low use of toilets located in the markets that have stalls right near the toilet entrances, as in the case of the Salack market). The management of menstrual hygiene is thus difficult. Effectively, women need clean water, but also a secure and intimate space where they can take care of their menstrual hygiene with dignity.

Thus during menstrual cycles, in the absence of appropriate toilets, women’s choice is restricted to:

- Handling their menstrual hygiene behind shrubs with all the risks (security, health, etc.) involved;

- Not changing at all, with the health risks involved;
- Staying at home and being unproductive during menstruation.

UN WOMEN has put in place a gender-sensitive market at Kyo-essi and another one at Idenao. The strong recommendation here is the reproduction of this kind of market infrastructure, while ensuring they respond to specific needs of men and women.

### Maternity and the care of very young children

More than a quarter of the women in the Mokolo market had in their care at least one child when selling their merchandise, carrying the children like heavy loads while doing their work. In other markets, the percentage appears to be less, but the reality is the same. Many mothers work in the markets in the company of their babies. None of the markets provides day care.



## Women's agenda and housework obligations

The number of hours per day devoted on average to professional activity varies from 1 to 15 hours, with a prominence of 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 hours. The number of hours per day devoted on average to housework activities varies from 0 to 17 hours, with a strong prominence of 4 to 6 hours.

Family planning seems to be inexistent. The majority of operators interviewed believe that it is divine will which materializes in maternity. This causes frequent interruptions in work for several months for the woman: first during pregnancy from 3 to 6 months. Then, after birth and the breastfeeding period which can last up to six months. Finally, before she can bring the child with her to the market, it may be another 6 months, making it sometimes more than 12 months of suspension of work for maternity.

For 66 percent of men, a birth does not cause work interruption. This rate for women is 33 percent. At the same time, 35 percent of women have more than 60 days of interrupted work, following a period of maternity. The rate is 2 percent for men. Women talk about how they organize themselves during periods of maternity, and in general to be able to handle their housework obligations:

*"When I give birth, I know that I'll have at least 6 months without going to the market because my husband cannot let me go out with the baby, mainly because I take part in the bush market. From the sixth month on, I go out with the baby: he has to breastfeed and I can't leave him in the house; when I return in the evening, I know that he is very tired, I massage him with warm water. When he turns one-year old, I can start to leave him at home."* – A wholesaler (38 y.o.) from the May 4, 2015 focus group in Garoua.

*"When I give birth, I can no longer continue my market activities, so I sell cloth; one of my friends delivers them to me at home and I offer them to all those who come to see the baby; so, I don't get much impacted from the suspension of my market activity."* – A wholesaler (42 y.o.) from the May 4, 2015 focus group in Garoua.

Of all housework activities, the one that society has classified as dedicated to women is cooking. In general, men only cook if it is as a paid professional activity. Cooking is a task essentially accomplished by women. Thus, 75 percent of women say they do the cooking themselves, which is confirmed by close to 70 percent of men who say it is their spouse who cooks the meals. About 15 percent of interviewees said that cooking is done by another member of the household.

The testimonies received are the following:

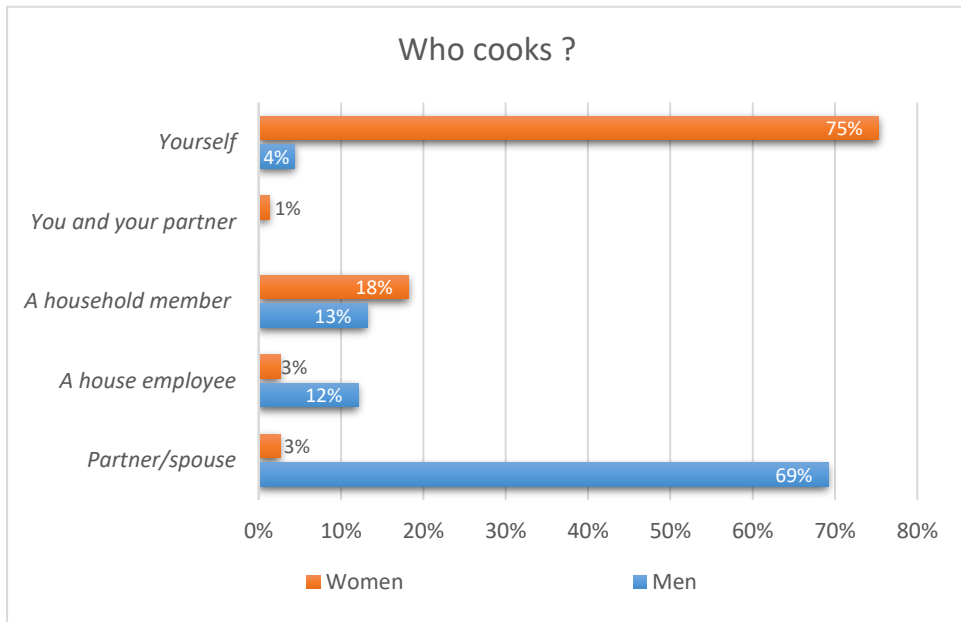
*"In the morning I get ready, I put in the thermos before going out very early; my husband and my children eat after me; I have three little girls who are still going to school, they return from school at 15:00 while I am still at the market; what they do, I don't know, it is behind me. I come back from the market at around 17:00; sometimes I find out that my husband has not eaten, he says it is not hot and that his wife should be there when he's eating."* – A wholesaler (40 y.o.) from the May 4, 2016 focus group in Garoua.

*"It is fine for a woman to look for money, but she has many roles to fulfil in the house; I only eat food prepared and served by my wife; if it is my children who present the food to me, I don't eat; if she works in an office or sells in the markets and correctly plays her wife role, then it's fine."* – A wholesaler (44 y.o.) from the May 4, 2016 focus group in Garoua.

*"I don't eat food from the freezer; I prefer to go to bed hungry. My wife works and has a housework help in the house; I pay her. But, it is my wife who must prepare the food I eat no matter what time she returns from work."* – A wholesaler (39 y.o.) from the May 4, 2016 focus group in Garoua.



Figure 6. Housework - cooking, by gender

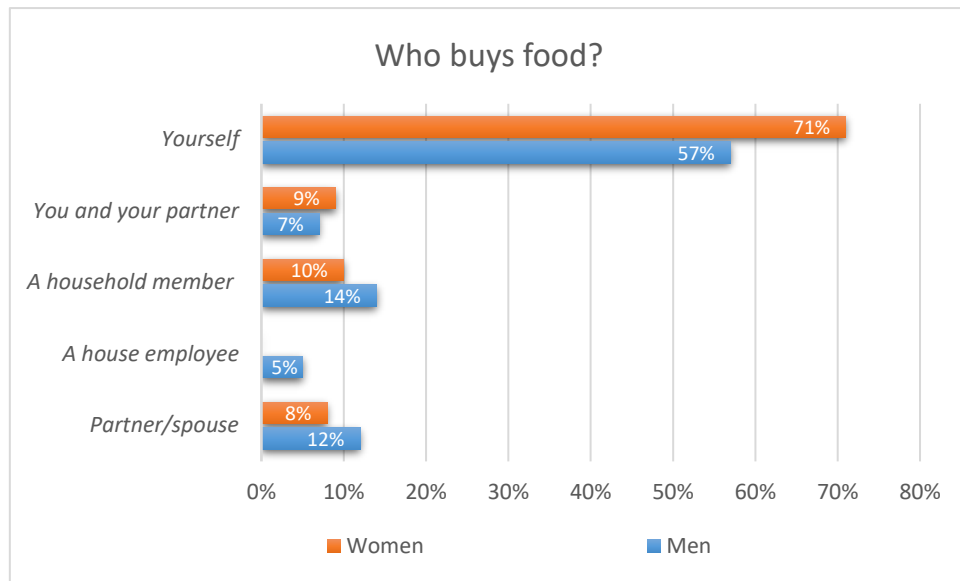


Source : Survey results, May 2016

In their household, economic operators, whether men or women, generally take care of buying food stock for the house (64 percent), with a gender disparity of 71 percent for women versus 57 percent for men. 12 percent of those going to the market are

household members, and 10 percent are the partner or spouse. This information seems to comfort those who believe that women should not handle money often, for a better balance of the household.

Figure 7. Housework – food purchase, per gender



Source : Survey results, May 2016

In general, housework activities carried out by men and women are: laundry (19 percent); cooking meals (15 percent); animal care (8 percent); children education (7 percent); and house cleaning (6 percent). One notes however that not one man declared cooking meals. If one considers these declarations as main activities, about 4 times more women than men declared laundry as their main activity and only one woman reported children education as her main household activity. Curiously, the percentage of men and women who indicated house cleaning as priority number one is about even.

The causes of interruptions in trade are mainly:

- Illness, which is the first cause at 65 percent or 111 declarations over 170;
- The second cause most reported is family ceremonies, followed closely by traveling.

#### Traditions and other socio-cultural factors

Traditions and socio-cultural factors are mostly as follows, according to regional authorities in charge of

gender, opinion leaders and local traditional authorities:

- The community encourages and values the situation in which the man assures entirely the financing of housework and material needs of his wife; it is a sign of success and social prestige if the woman doesn't work;
- The woman must stay in the background, in the back of the house;
- The woman must not talk in public in the presence of men;
- The woman must not eat certain dishes, at the risk of no longer being able to procreate (food taboos);
- The community's strong value of the "married woman" status, the woman uses all imaginable efforts to fulfill the family needs and keep her marriage afloat.

These testimonies<sup>4</sup> are consistent with the conclusions of many analysts<sup>5</sup> who are of the opinion

<sup>4</sup> These testimonies agree with the proposal of Jules Akeze in his article titled: "Far North of Cameroon – Question of gender: from cultural realities to sexual harassment"; published on <http://www.genreenaction.net>, 2015. The author writes: "Talking of the Far North of Cameroon, where I live and work, and of the precise case of populations originally from this region, the thoughts, or rather opinions, of the woman do not count; even worse, when it concerns girls. Only the thoughts/opinions of the man count. A woman only does what her companion/husband tells her to do. This is inculcated in children, girls and boys, from an early age."

<sup>5</sup> See notably Difo Tchoukama (under the direction of); "Gender, leadership and participation in Cameroon" (1931-2013); More Women

that socio-cultural factors influence decision-making. Effectively, the Far-North and North regions are still strongly under the weight of culture which can either favor or inhibit the development of food markets, notably with regard to women.

#### **Favourable factors:**

- *Solidarity*: many women form associations within their trades, in the markets and even outside of these activities. In these, they create tontines and develop systems of community credit at low rates. Savings and credit generally serve household needs and commercial activities.
- *Trust*: in markets and trades, women and men create circles of mutual trust. We may thus see a trader entrust his or her merchandise to a neighbor in his or her temporary absence.
- *Honor*: in the zones of interest, respect for an oral engagement is of utmost importance. Given that communitarianism is developed, people easily group themselves by affinity. Within these entities, honor is the element that bonds to or excludes one from the community.
- *Mentoring*: the society in these zones is highly hierarchical, respect for elders and authority is expected. Also, to succeed socially, one must be helped by elders who present themselves as models and mentors who help the less experienced to grow. Under such circumstances, even within markets and trades, one is initiated and fostered by elders who enlighten newcomers and help provide them with a head start while they haven't yet reached autonomy.

#### **Unfavourable factors**

- *Discrimination against women*: the society is patriarchal. Here, decision-making power goes

generally to men, which does not always give women the possibility to really decide what they want to do, even within associations. It is the same with responsibilities in trade. This can be a limiting factor in agricultural production, which is the basis of food market development.

- *The burden of religion*: Christian and Muslim religions are the most practiced in the area; they have legitimized rules and practices of discrimination against women, notably in limiting their access to certain spiritual functions and spaces or in prescribing to them specific postures towards men, such as submission. Sometimes, it is the interpretation men give to scriptures that is a subject of controversy, from the point of view of gender equality.
- *The burden of certain traditions*: according to the traditions in these areas, women must and cannot lead certain activities exclusively reserved to men. ECAM2 (NIS, 2001) established a link between the burden of traditions and gender discrimination and poverty for this zone. The results of the survey show that there is a strong correlation between practices that are deemed to be backwards or discriminatory and the incidence of poverty. A classification of households along their devotion or not to twelve customary practices identified as common in the area showed that the most widespread are those which predominantly affect women and tend to marginalize them. This is why, in markets for example, most wholesalers are men, women are rarely transporters and none does butchery.
- The traditional society recognizes *traditional marriages* upfront and without administrative formalities. Henceforth, divorces are easily pronounced before the traditional authorities without any further ado and, as such, the repudiated wife loses all she has produced.

---

in politics/Colorix; 2014. See also Saare Tabitha: "Analysis of the socio-cultural and economic situation of girls and women in North Cameroon", 2012

---



Photo: WFP/Jane Howard

### 3. The measure and tracking of women's empowerment in agricultural markets in Cameroon

The DHS-MICS (2011) tried to evaluate the role and level of women's involvement in decision-making at the household level. Women were asked questions to inform if they, or another person, had the final say in decisions such as women's healthcare, important household purchases and visits to her family. These questions only addressed women in a union.

No matter the decision to be made, women responded that it is the spouse who mainly decides. Effectively, 59 percent of women said that the husband/partner decides in healthcare-related issues, 49 percent for important household purchases and 44 percent for visits to the woman's family or parents. Decisions are made conjointly by the women and the husband/partner in 23 percent of cases concerning the women's healthcare, 31 percent for important purchases and 31 percent for visits to the woman's family. It is when it concerns their own healthcare that women participate less frequently in decisions: in only 16 percent of cases does the woman decide and in 23 percent of cases it is the woman with her spouse. These results show the vulnerability and the dependence of women, notably in issues concerning decision-making with respect to their own healthcare.

However, it is noted that a significant percentage of women are not involved in taking of any of the three decisions (30 percent). This percentage drops sharply with increase in age, but also the higher her level of education and the standard of the household life she lives. One observes significant differences of exclusion/marginalization of women in decision-making depending on certain socio-demographic characteristics. In terms of employment, women who do not work (47 percent) are more marginalized than those who work without pay (38 percent) and those who work and are paid (22 percent). This exclusion is higher in the rural areas (36 percent)

than in other cities (26 percent) and in Yaoundé/Douala (17 percent). This exclusion in taking decisions varies from a maximum of 52 percent in the Far-North to a minimum of 10 percent in the North-West.



Results by type of decision show that women participate more frequently in decisions when it involves family visits (53 percent) than those that concern important purchases (48 percent) and least of all concerning their own healthcare (38 percent). Variations depending on socio-demographic characteristics are practically the same no matter the type of decision: the involvement of women increases with age, the level of education and the standard of household life. Moreover, women who work and earn money, those in urban areas and those from the North-West are more frequently involved in taking decisions than others. At the opposite end, women from the Far-North are the least involved in decision-making, whatever those may be.

During the DHS-MICS 2011, it was asked of men who earned money for their work, who mainly decided on the use of this money. It was equally asked of women in unions in which the spouse earned money, who made decisions on the use of this money. One can

compare the points of view of the men and those of the women concerning the control of the man's revenue. Thus, 6 percent of men in union said it was mainly their wife/partner who decided on the use of their revenue. In 32 percent of cases, the woman is associated with the decision on the use of the money earned by the man, and in 62 percent of the cases, it is the man himself who mainly decides.

Among the men in union who earned money for their work, it is in the North (85 percent), Adamawa (81 percent), the Far-North (74 percent) and the West (70 percent) where the percentage of those who decide alone on the use of their money is the highest. Moreover, this percentage is also high among those 20-24 years old (75 percent), among those without children (71 percent) and those from the poorest households (74 percent). Finally, the higher the level of education of the man, the more decision-making on the use of money he earns is done conjointly: from 16 percent of men without education, this percentage rises to 32 percent among those with primary level education and gets to 36 percent among those who have secondary level 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle or more. When the man does not have an education, the woman is associated with decision-making in 17 percent of cases versus 45 percent when the man has secondary level 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle education or more.

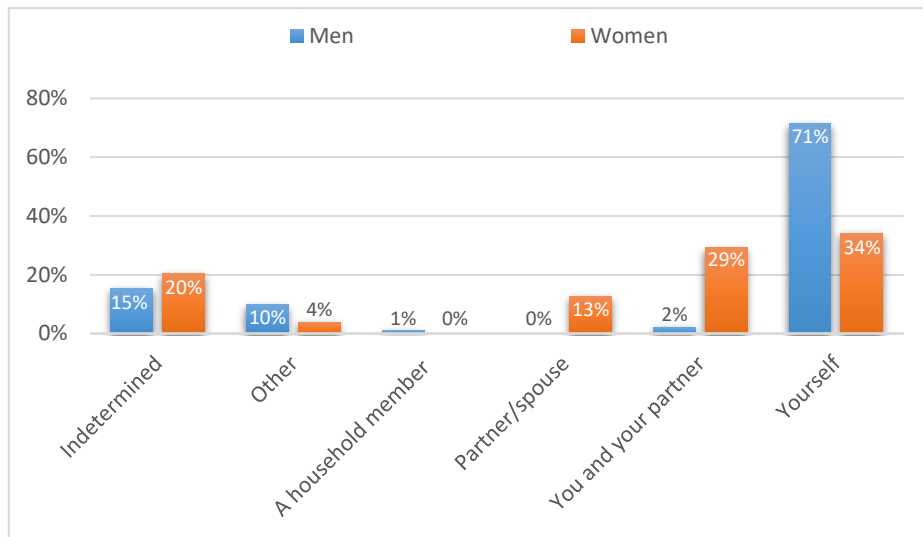
### 3.1 Participation of women and men in decision-making

The current study was inspired by questions developed in the WFP Technical Note on the interviews of market evaluations based on gender and empowerment, integrated in February 2016 (WFP/RBD/VAM, Feb. 2016). It is a series of internal questionnaires designed for the evaluation of the regional market of the Lake Chad Basin. These questionnaires serve as references of good practices for WFP and its partners' evaluations integrating gender and empowerment. These questionnaires have two main parts which serve as references in terms of gender and market analysis: they allow for the disaggregation of results by sex at many levels (traders, wholesalers, clients, employees, transporters, etc.), and integrates questions relative to the sub-themes of empowerment.

This tool allows analysts to go beyond aspects of reports on the number of female and male suppliers or transporters in a market, to examine the exact percentage of these sellers who exercise control of their supply chain, the selection of prices, the system of credit, etc. It also integrates questions on decision-making, control of assets, access and other key factors for which data may not otherwise be available in the context of food markets.

Also, in the framework of this case study, many questions were asked of the interviewed actors, which produced the following results.

*Figure 8. Who usually decides on the choice of plots to cultivate?*

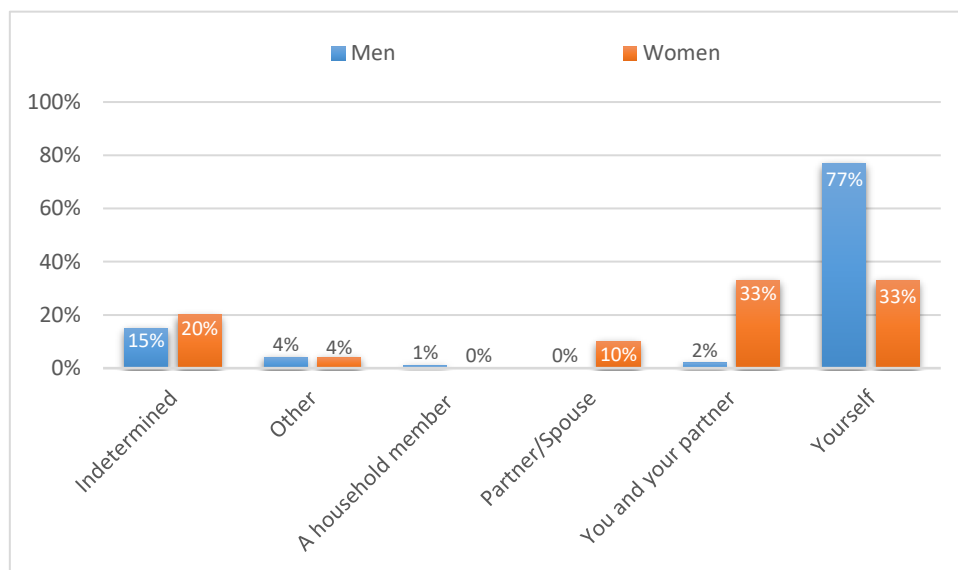


Source : Survey results, May 2016

71 percent of men make decisions on the choice of plots to cultivate alone, versus 34 percent for women. Close to a third of women make this decision with their spouse (29 percent). For 13

percent of women, husbands decide alone. 10 percent of men make this decision with people other than household members.

Figure 9. Who usually decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate?



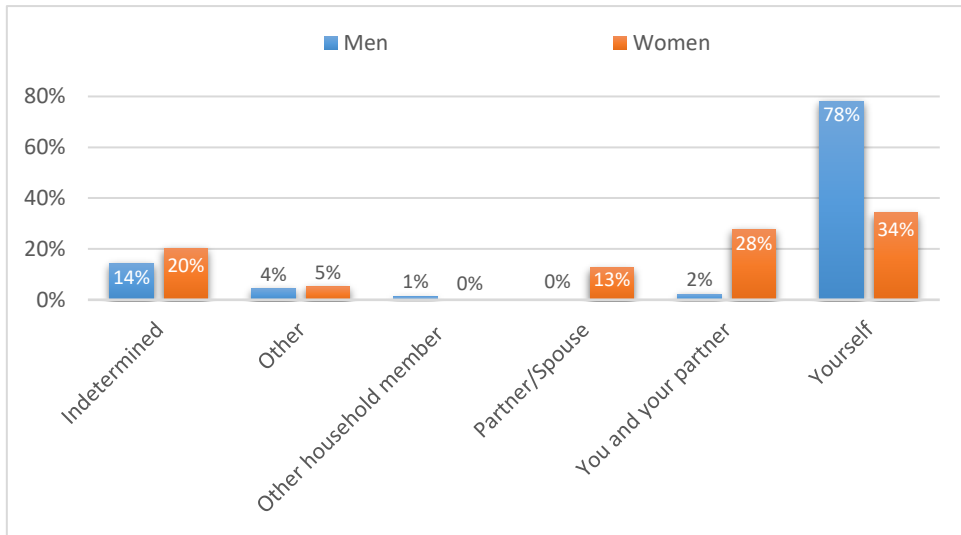
Source : Survey results, May 2016

77 percent of men make decisions alone on the choice of commodities to cultivate, versus 33 percent of women. About 33 percent of women make this decision with their spouse. Among 10

percent of women, the spouse decides alone. About 4 percent of men and women make this decision with people other than household members.

Figure 10. Who usually decides the quantity to stock and destock?



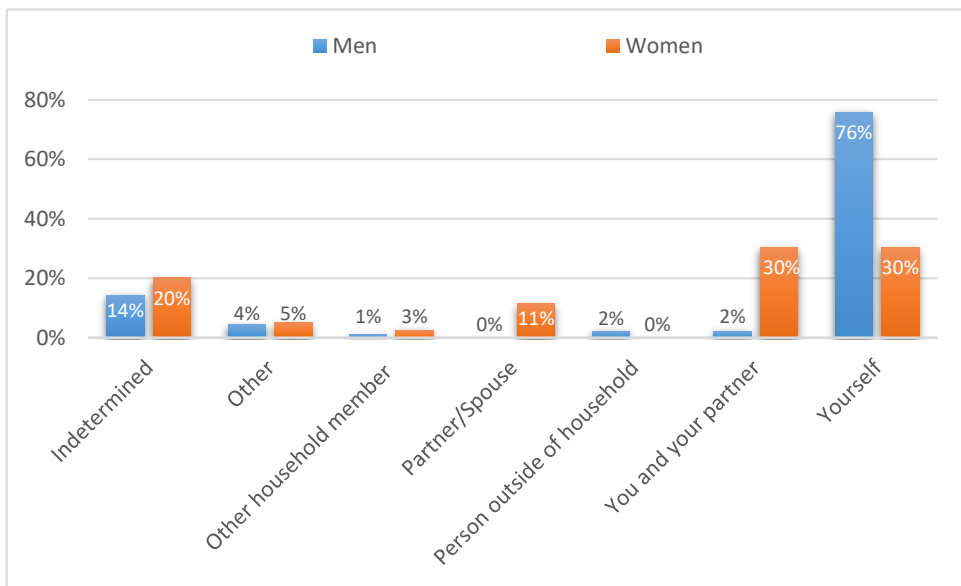


Source : Survey results, May 2016

78 percent of men make decisions on the quantities to stock and destock alone, versus 34 percent of women. Less than 1/3 of women make this decision with their spouse (28 percent). For 13 percent of

women, the spouse decides alone. 4 percent of men and 5 percent of women decide with people other than household members.

Figure 11. Who usually decides when to stock and destock?

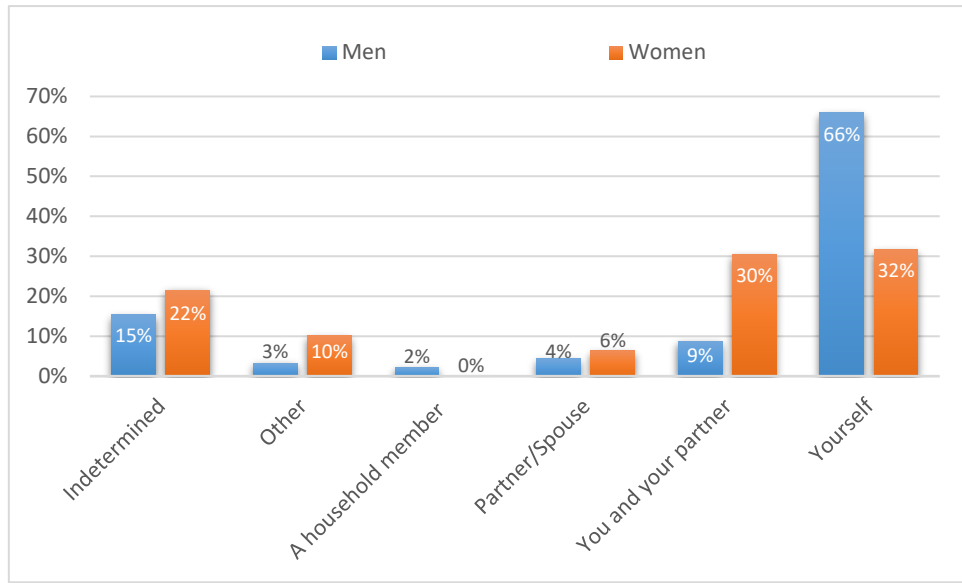


Source : Survey results, May 2016

76 percent of men make the decision on the choice of moment to stock and destock alone, versus 30 percent of women. A third of women make this decision with their spouse. Among 11 percent of

women, the spouse decides alone. 4 percent of men and 5 percent of women make this decision with people other than household members.

Figure 12. Who keeps the keys to the shop?

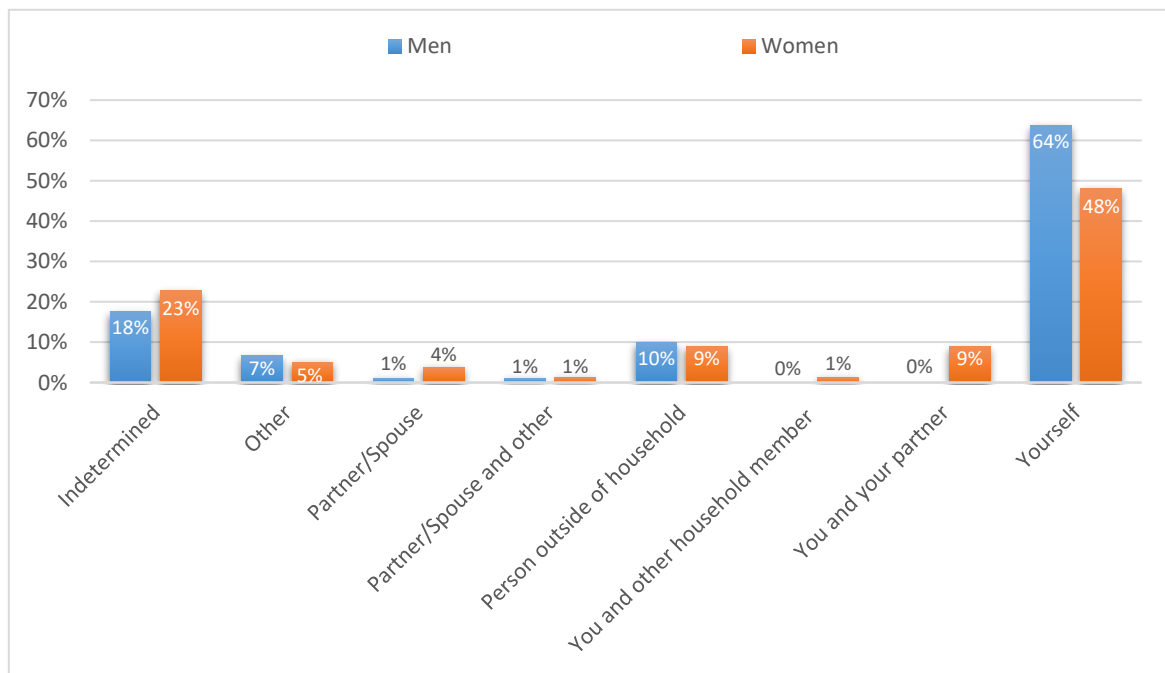


Source : Survey results, May 2016

66 percent of men keep the keys of the shop alone, versus 32 percent of women. A third of women keep this key with their spouse (30 percent). Among 6 percent of women, the spouse alone keeps the key.

This parameter is 4 percent among men. 3 percent of men versus 10 percent of women entrust the keys to the shop to people other than household members.

Figure 13. Who sets the selling price of products?

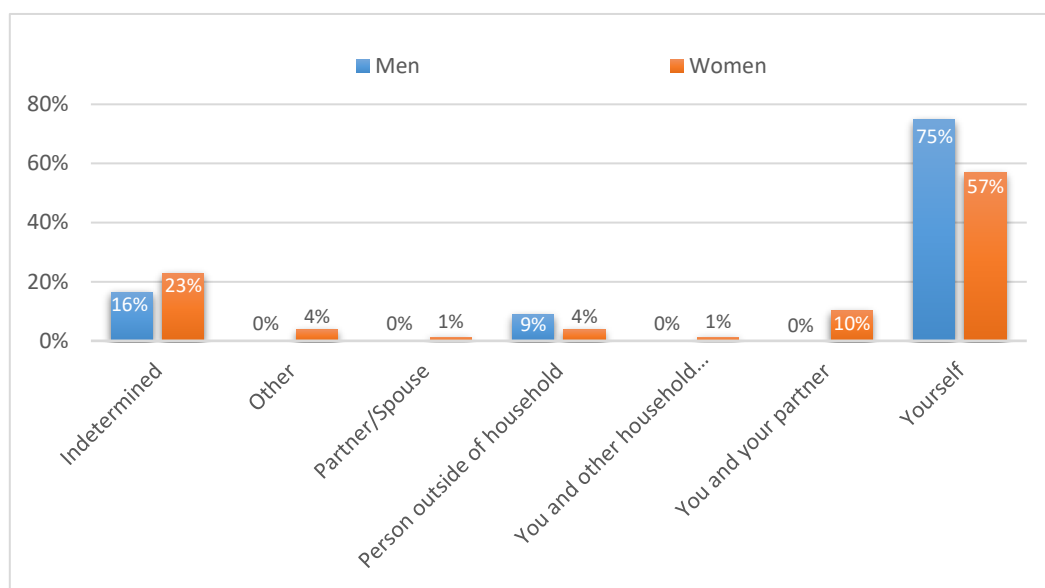


Source : Survey results, May 2016

64 percent of men make the decision on setting the selling price of products alone, versus 48 percent of women. 9 percent of women make this decision with their spouse. Among 4 percent of women, the

spouse decides alone. 7 percent of men and 5 percent of women make this decision with people other than household members. 20 percent didn't respond.

Figure 14. Who decides where to sell the products?

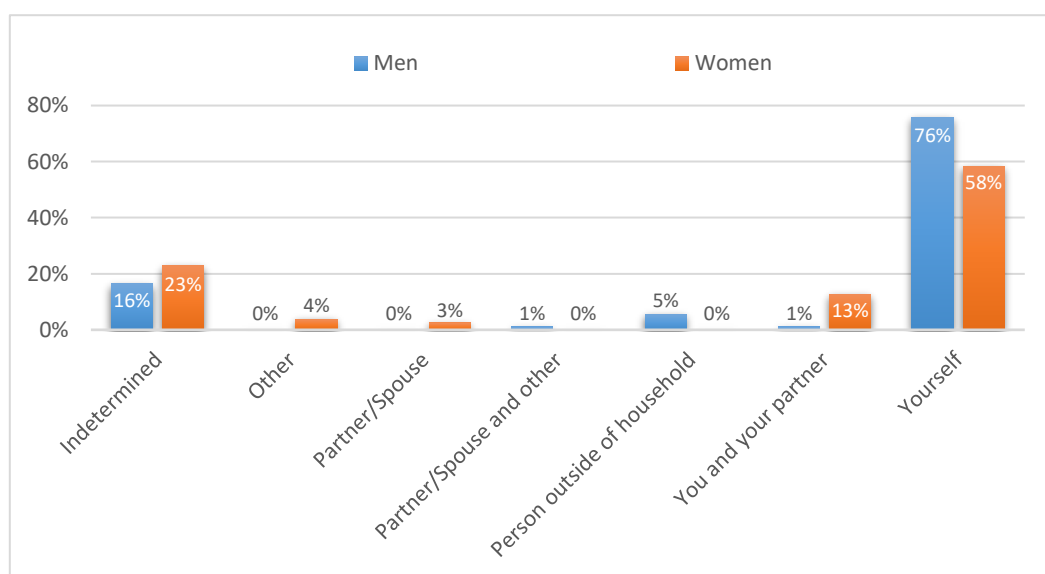


Source : Survey results, May 2016

75 percent of men make the decisions on where to sell the products alone, versus 57 percent of women. 10 percent of women make this decision with their

spouse. 4 percent of women make this decision with people other than household members. More than 20 percent did not respond.

Figure 15. Who decides when to sell the products?

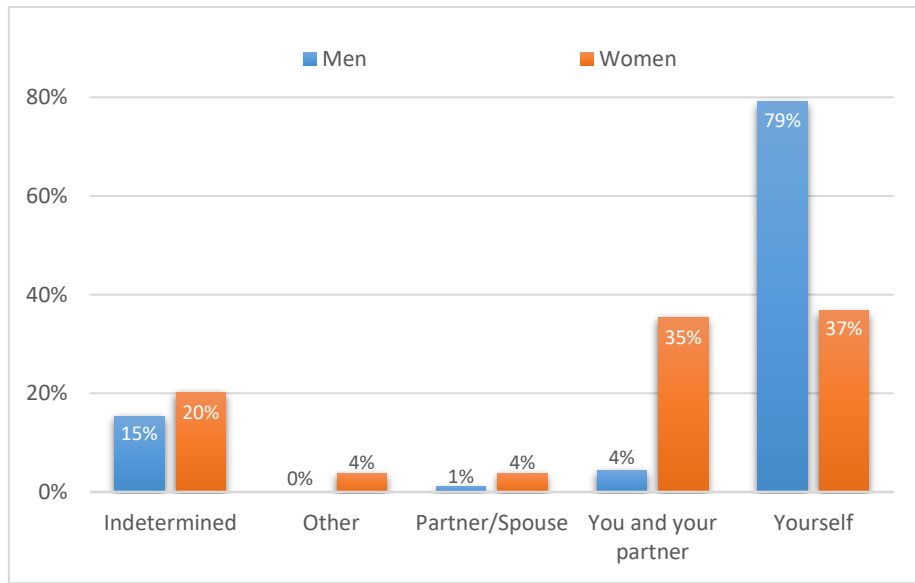


Source : Survey results, May 2016

76 percent of men make the decision of when to sell products alone, versus 58 percent of women. 13

percent of women make this decision with their spouse.

Figure 16. Who decides how to spend revenue from sales?

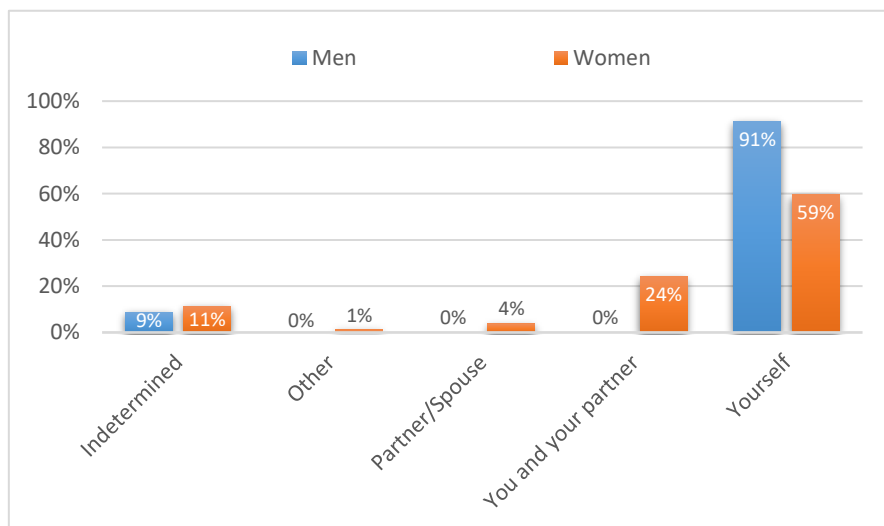


Source : Survey results, May 2016

79 percent of men make the decision on how to spend revenues alone, versus 37 percent of women. 35 percent of women make this decision with their spouse, versus 4 percent of men. 4 percent of

women make this decision with people other than household members. The rate of no response was about 20 percent.

Figure 17. Who usually decides which suppliers to use?



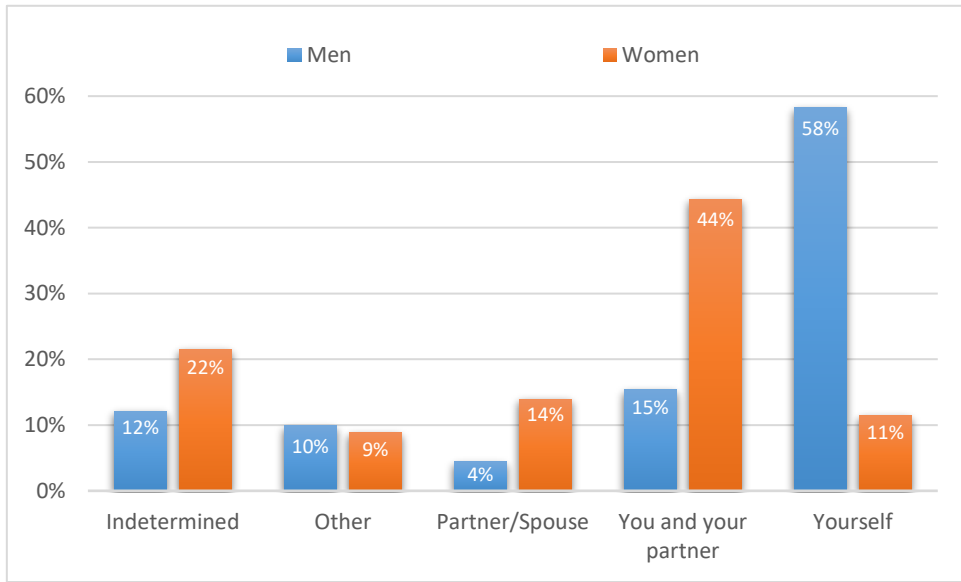
Source : Survey results, May 2016

91 percent of men make the decision on which supplier to use alone, versus 59 percent of women. 24 percent of women make this decision with their

spouse, versus 0 percent for men. Among 4 percent of women, the spouse decides alone. 1 percent of women make this decision with people other than

household members. The rate of no response is around 20 percent.

Figure 18. Who decides when to have a new birth in the household?

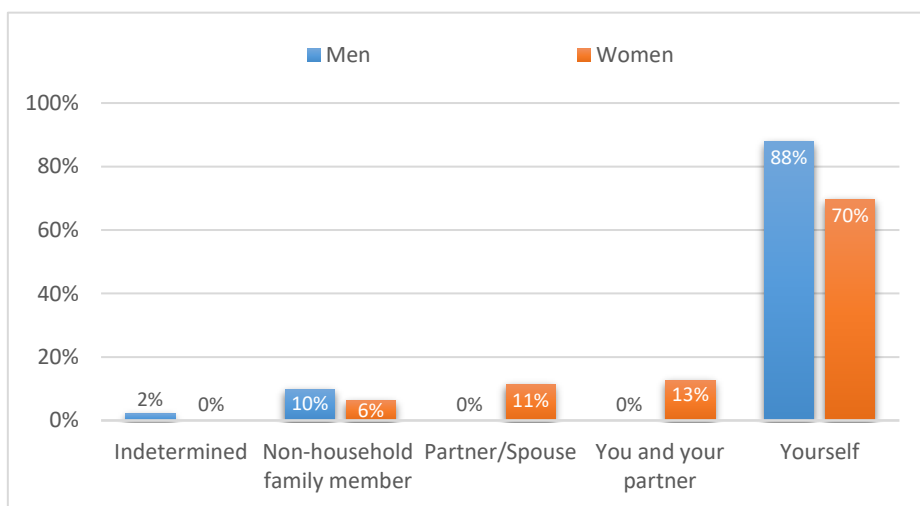


Source : Survey results, May 2016

58 percent of men make the decision on when to have a new birth in the household alone, versus 11 percent for women. 44 percent of women say they make this decision with their spouse, versus 15 percent for men. Among 14 percent of women, the

spouse decides alone, versus 4 percent of men. 9 percent of women and 10 percent of men make this decision with people other than household members. The rate of no response is around 20 percent.

Figure 19. Person who influenced the choice of activity



Source : Survey results, May 2016

Men make the decisions on the choice of activity alone (88 percent) or with the influence of members

of the family (10 percent). For this same decision, women also decide alone, but only at 70 percent. 13

percent make this decision with their spouse and 6 percent with members of the family. For 11 percent

of women, the spouse decides alone, versus 0 percent for men.

---

To conclude this section, it is clear that the identification of the person who makes decisions gives an indication of one of the factors measuring the empowerment of women. It also appears that, beyond the marital and family space, the empowerment of women operators in the markets will have to overcome a certain number of major constraints/obstacles before they can thrive in the exercise of their activity.

An important question is that of knowing how to measure and follow-up on the empowerment of women in the market. This study proposes a contribution in thinking through this question. The group discussions reveal that empowerment is not an option all women consider. Those who operate in the food markets have opted for empowerment. They thus struggle all day to generate a revenue that allows them to contribute to family expenses, to access productive resources and to improve their living conditions and that of their family. The study indicates that, generally, women in the markets are not interested in political participation in community decisions.

Another finding is on decision-making in commercial activities. The survey results indicate that decisions appear to be taken in a collegial manner. However, it did also appear, repeatedly, that even when decisions are made unilaterally by the husband, the wife prefers to say that the decision was consensual.

One observes that when the operator is a man, he decides alone on ongoing commercial activities and does involve his wife only when the decisions have an impact on her presence in the household. For example, if he has to travel, it means he will spend the night outside the household. On the other hand, when the woman is an operator, her agency is more restricted and reduced. And the husband participates in her decision-making although he

doesn't impose on decisions such as the hours of opening and closure and even sales. Women, a bit more than men, suffer from the weight of traditions and under-schooling, which limit their activities in the market.

On access to resources in the markets, men and women experience the poor conditions of roads and harassment from the administration, including traditional leaders. The problem of transportation, storage and preservation is crucial. Market information is not shared/disseminated to actors.

Last, but not the least, the fact that the markets are not sensitive to gender is a strongly punishing factor; especially since a woman must manage maternity, childcare, her menstrual health and a reconciliation between her domestic and trade activities (she does not take part in information meetings because she has to return home).

More than knowing who decides, one must measure what changes are made regarding women; one can also measure the evolution of:

- Her degree of autonomy, which is to say the reduction of her financial dependence with regard to her husband; in other words, her capacity to take charge, via her savings in micro finance establishments, her volume of business and her generated revenues, and her financial contribution to household expenses;
- Her membership in tontines and mutual aid associations;
- Her capacity to provide assistance to family members when they are in need;
- Her participation in training seminars, information sessions and fairs at the regional, national and international level, which will

mean spending some days out of the home and out of the habitual work environment.

Based on group sessions, the ideal profile and the measure and tracking of women's empowerment should consider the following five parameters:

- Involvement in productive and economic activities;
- Schooling and access to training;
- Informed respect of traditions, notably distinguishing between good and harmful practices, avoiding "blindly" following counterproductive traditional norms;
- Openness and contact with others;
- Taking public positions and participating in activities of associations and networks of associations.

It is not certain that women are ready to discuss these questions, and more so with people foreign to their community; additionally, it is not surprising to find responses that contrast with those observed, when personal questions are broached.

For participants of group discussions, the woman who has not begun her process of empowerment is recognizable by the following characteristics:

1. She is not involved in domestic tasks, trade, agricultural activities, or salaried employment;
2. Her level of education is low and she has never taken part in technical or professional training;
3. She is submissive to traditions even when they are unfavorable to her (early marriage, male domination, traditional repudiation, etc.);
4. She does not have contact with "strangers";
5. She does not take position publicly; participates little in meetings and associations (mutual aid, community solidarity associations, etc.).

Nevertheless, the exchanges revealed that women's priority in this part of the country is their household,

that is, their spouse and children in the first place, but also members of the extended family. They therefore take up activities to generate revenue with the goal of meeting those needs in priority, and their own in a secondary manner.

Also, the economic activities of women remain dwarfed, because a large part of revenue generated is allocated to the charge of the household, by the autonomous decision of the woman. Effectively, due to a certain upbringing, some women see their marriages as a source of respect and social consideration. Consequently, to be married and to stay married become, to these women, a major goal; sometimes at the price of big sacrifices, among them total submission to their husband and to social constructs, even when these are to her own disadvantage. The economic activity of the woman allows her to satisfy her husband who is in charge of the security of the family. To strengthen his authority and his social standing, says one participant from the Garoua focus group of May 4, 2016, he has to show "that it is really he who's in charge." Therefore, he cannot carry out looked-down activities such as cooking, grinding condiments on stone, washing dishes, etc.

In a context where discussions on empowerment were stunted by the fact that the subject-matter is personal, even confidential, women were not always ready to discuss these questions, notably with people foreign to their community. It is important to mobilize universities' structures and research centers, statistical institutes and local CSOs to promote the measuring and tracking of women's empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chains. The major challenge remains that of local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in interventions in the food markets. The local CSOs could be important relays to work with the communities and produce the most pertinent criteria and indicators to measure and track women's empowerment in food markets.

---





## 4. Possible programmatic solutions to address identified challenges

To formulate recommendations and propose priority interventions, possible solutions must take into account the analysis of gender inclusion in WFP market-based interventions in Cameroon and persistent challenges in these food markets.

### 4.1 Taking Gender into account in WFP interventions in Cameroon

Activities identified as relative to the food markets are: support to village granaries; Food for Assets (FFA); Cash-Based Transfer (CBT); buying locally and distribution of food to populations, notably the interaction between beneficiaries and the markets.

At the nationwide level, the Country Office (CO) tracks data disaggregated by sex and age in all of its interventions. A real will to take into account gender in its interventions was observed. For instance, in the buying locally and the general distribution of food to populations initiatives, there is no doubt that WFP Cameroon has developed a practice of promoting women activities. In fact, having noted that the quota allocated to women is less likely to be embezzled than that given to men, there is an effort to get men to accept that women receive and manage food quotas.

In record-keeping of food beneficiaries, polygamous households are handled differently and each spouse holds a quota card for herself and her children, the man having his quota card of size 1. Even better, on the first day of distribution, vulnerable people or people with special needs are prioritized (people with a disability, people with reduced mobility, elderly people, who all need assistance in the delivery of food quotas). On the second and third days, priority is given to women. As a result, the wait time is much longer for men than for women; this pushes the men to delegate to women the collect of

the family's food quotas.

The WFP generally turns to partners for the delivery of food to refugees and displaced populations. The quota represents a food basket defined by WFP. This quota is handed to the head of the household or his representative upon presentation of the quota card. A local committee of internal distribution has been set up to ensure that quotas are distributed according to the rules. This local committee consists of different positions of which some are "gendered". As such, for instance, there are more men for the distribution of cereals, super cereals and legumes and more women for salt and cooking oil.

In buying local subsistence products, WFP and the Government turn to zones with surpluses. A brief examination of the procedure of local purchases does not reveal any gender-based discrimination (or sexual bias or positive discrimination).

Supporting the village granary has been a WFP Cameroon initiative since 2010, which supports communities' food product management for lean periods. Effectively, during harvests, products are abundant and the market prices are low, which causes producers to sell off harvests at low prices because they don't have storage rooms. In periods of shortages, prices are high in the markets and producers sell at exorbitant prices products they bought at low prices. The price increases go from single to double in periods of food shortage.

The initiative consists of supporting the creation of cereal granaries managed by farmer's organizations (FO). Priority is given to associations where women are active, taking into account the ratio of women groups to men groups and members disaggregated by sex as well as their role and responsibility in the group.

The WFP intervention consists of offering an initial endowment of 20 tons of cereals to the community who built a storage room, to be used as working capital. During shortages, the community opens the storage room and proceeds to sell the products. At the time of harvest, the community rebuilds the stocks for the next lean period.

Community granaries seem to have succeeded in the northern regions. The principle of the project remains relevant because of the difficulties experienced in lean periods. However, according to people consulted, the following problems remain:

- Interference from traditional authorities;
- Difficulty/slowness of money collection;
- Poor respect of service terms and conditions by organizations and lack of control of resulting conflicts.

However, one notes an excellent ownership of granaries by the beneficiaries.

Launched in 2011, the FFA initiative was conceived within the framework of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP support consists in helping the community recreate its means of subsistence. WFP relies on the support of a partner, the Government, an NGO or a FO to coach the populations. These organizations determine the sectors and activities with the best chances of success in the development of assets that will give back to the community their dignity. The project is developed by the populations, with the support of a technical partner, and submitted to WFP.

The FFA initiative has given rise to multiple achievements, among which the rehabilitation of irrigated perimeters and canals of irrigation, the implementation of silage fields, community piscicultural ponds, support for soya cultivation and support for agricultural activities. There is a sexual division of labor since, depending on the type of project in place, participants are primarily either men or women.

In the Cash-based Transfer initiative about to be introduced in Cameroon, feasibility studies have highlighted spousal relationships and the roles of women in the management of household goods. Although these studies conclude that, in general, women have access to and control over the goods, there are atypical situations. Thus, for example, among the Fulani of northern Cameroon, the woman does not “touch” money. Men delegate to them the management of foodstuff but rarely cash. It is therefore men who are in charge of market operations (buying, selling), including food products. Initiatives implemented in this zone focus on economic opportunities women would have if they had more management power. The initiatives also include awareness campaigns with the objective of improving women’s capacity in the management of household resources.

Gender impact evaluations of projects, before their trial and implementation, are conducted, though not in systematic way. For example, the Cash-based Transfer project has not been subjected to a gender impact assessment. There are no tracking tools to account for gender in the conception and implementation of its activity.

Tools used for taking gender into account, notably in reporting, seem relevant. It is the case for the *Gender-Related Activities* catalogue. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) reports are disaggregated by sex of the beneficiaries.

In general, it does not appear that WFP Cameroon has introduced in its guidelines project proposals, request for offers, or calls for partners, mandatory clauses to take gender into account, except for its instruction that female candidates should be prioritized in staff recruitment.

In contracting with implementation partners, there are no exigencies for taking gender into account in the evaluation of potential partners. This is also true concerning the control of taking gender into account in interventions. It would be wise, in the framework of evaluating potential partners, to verify the

existence or nonexistence of documents based on gender (internal policy documents, for instance); such evaluation should also emphasize the existence or nonexistence of gender-sensitive staff members. More generally, in standard operating procedures (SOP) and WFP project approval checklists, it would be wise to build in gender-related specifications.

We have not seen impact evaluations which would enable the tracking of social transformations and changes in gender relations resulting from projects.

The majority of people consulted have had at least one training or introductory session on gender; but many staff members are new, especially in the Maroua sub-office where this category represents close to 75 percent of the workforce.

Exchanges with members of staff in the sub-offices of Garoua and Maroua show the need to reinforce gender equality awareness among the personnel as, during informal exchanges, many staff members mentioned their opposition to women working.

One can point out that the focal gender point in the

CO has been newly introduced. Same for the Maroua sub-office which does not have the bill of specifications or terms of reference for the position of focal gender point. They carry out these responsibilities within the margins of other functions.

Without questioning the qualifications in gender matters of people encountered, it seems wise to plan a training session of consolidation and capacity building of CO staff and partners' personnel. More generally, training in gender and women's empowerment, urgently needed for the staff of the country office, the sub-offices and the NGO partners, could be rich in added value.

#### 4.2 Summary of challenges in food markets and recommendations

The following table lists the challenges faced by economic actors in food markets and makes recommendations on what could be done to address these challenges.

*Table 7. Summary of challenges in food markets and recommendations*

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Need for capital and financing	<p>Develop partnerships with MFEs to create and operate a fund for financing economic operators in food markets, mainly women (selection of MFEs, capacity-building of MFEs managers to understand specificities of the target audience; tools development in financing target, etc.)</p> <p>In partnership with IFAD and the FAO, initiate a fund to guarantee the financing of economic operators in food markets, especially women.</p>
2. Weak structuring of economic operators in food markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the grouping of female traders into cooperatives; training in governing of cooperatives, and in rooting a culture of transparency and accountability (ask for accountability, practice accountability).</li> <li>• Encourage women to practice jobs that still remain the exclusive domain of men, such as butchery. This can help shatter taboos and shake things up.</li> </ul>

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring organizational support to operators in the industry through production, processing, transportation, commercialization and storage of products coming from different value chains.</li> <li>• Include in all current initiatives on the markets and agricultural value chain, for projects similar to CBT or community granaries, support for the growth of medium-scale operators to and help shake things up.</li> </ul>
3. Weak entrepreneurial capacities of economic operators in food markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce the entrepreneurial capacities of women engaged in trade, including their skills in commercialization, negotiation and creation of a business plan;</li> <li>• Reinforce the capacities of associations and local NGOs in support materials for female entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Produce and disseminate a practical guide for female entrepreneurs in the agricultural value chain in northern regions of Cameroon.</li> </ul>
4. Harassment from representatives of government authorities	<p>Advocate with government agencies (MINATD, MINCOMMERCE, MINDEF, MINTRANSPORT, DGSN, CED, etc.) to support commercial agricultural activities on the roads and markets of the North and Far-North regions.</p>
5. Health and sanitary inadequacy of markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate with government agencies for the construction of gender sensitive markets in the regions of the North and Far-North;</li> <li>• Advocate to CTDs to improve conditions of sanitation and hygiene in existing markets;</li> <li>• Develop a partnership with UNWOMEN to promote the concept of “gender sensitive markets”;</li> <li>• Develop and implement a local awareness programme on water, sanitation and the management of menstrual hygiene.</li> </ul>
6. Challenges linked to maternity and the care of very young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring awareness to economic operators and their spouses for better family planning and gender-sensitive management in their households;</li> <li>• Advocate to relevant actors to establish daycare structures in existing markets.</li> </ul>
7. Feminine leadership, traditions and other socio-cultural factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct gender and empowerment trainings for men and women;</li> <li>• Contract with local media for the production of specialized programs on the change of behavior on empowerment. It is important to get men to support women involved in commercial activities.</li> </ul>
8. Insufficient capacity-building initiatives	<p>Organize trainings for managers of associations and local NGOs and decentralized technical sector structures on the development of programmes tailored to the needs of the target groups and on research and mobilization of financing for programmes supporting economic operators in food markets.</p>

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
9. Low level of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investing in the education and training of women and girls is the only way.</li> <li>Appeal for more investments in the education and training of women in partnership with MINEDUB, MINPROFF, MINEFOP, the CTDs and UNESCO</li> </ul> <p>It is suggested that WFP include in all its current initiatives on markets and the agricultural value chain, in programmes similar to CBT or community granaries, a component on functional literacy.</p>
10. Mobilization of existing structures to promote the measuring and tracking of women's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate a mobilization campaign among research centers, the university community, institutes of statistics and local CSOs for the promotion of the measure and tracking of women's empowerment in food markets.</li> <li>Seize the opportunity of the next programming cycle to largely integrate the measuring and tracking of women's empowerment into markets and the agricultural value chain and into programmes and projects of UN agencies and governments.</li> <li>Support the action of CSOs seeking local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in food markets interventions; the local CSOs could be important relays for working with communities and producing the most relevant criteria and indicators to measure and track women's empowerment in food markets.</li> </ul>

### 4.3 Suggested priority interventions

- Women empowerment programme**

**Strategic objective:** Pool resources and initiatives to support women empowerment in food markets.

The development and implementation of a joint programme of the United Nations system is justified by the need of a holistic approach to the question of women empowerment in food markets. In fact, certain aspects and major problems raised in the study fall in the domain of missions and capacities of many other agencies of the United Nations system. This is the case for questions such as literacy, the training of men and women in gender and empowerment, the building of gender-sensitive infrastructure, communication for changes in behavior, the fostering of agricultural commercial activities for women on the roads and markets in the North and Far-North regions, organization into cooperatives, financing of economic activities, food

security and nutritional education.

This programme could equally promote alternative economic activities for women in the markets and agricultural value chain during maternity periods or when taking care of very young children, in a manner such that they can continue to manage their maternity and not brutally feel the disruption of activity.

Efforts to reduce the impact of customs and traditions detrimental to women's economic empowerment could figure in this programme. For example, support to local CSOs in the conception and implementation of actions seeking to foster education at the community level to raise stakeholder awareness on unfavourable consequences of these practices and to help social norms evolve. The same goes for advocacy efforts and valuing models of women who have succeeded in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) without disrupting marital harmony.

To the best of our knowledge, the joint initiative at the global level of UNWOMEN, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which put in place a programme aimed at accelerating progress towards economic empowerment of rural women, is going in this direction and could present an opportunity.

This orientation will contribute to achieving the objectives of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), notably those linked with gender equality and the women's empowerment (SDG5), poverty (SDG1), quality education and permanent recurrent training (SDG4), decent labor and supported, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG8), reduced inequalities (SDG10), partnership (SDG17), etc.

UNWOMEN and other UN System (UNS) agencies initiated in 2014 in Cameroon a plan for the formulation of a joint UNS programme with the goal of accelerating the empowerment of rural women, through improvement of revenue, social resilience and participation in development and citizenship, all within the perspective of sustainable development.

The anticipated changes were the following:

1. Productive capacities, access to revenue and economic performances of rural women in production, preservation, processing and commercialization are improved, through better access to resources, assets and critical services to improve production and productivity in the rural world;
2. Rural women's access to the markets are improved, from three points of view: (i) infrastructure and equipment, (ii) managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities and (iii) financing of productive activities;
3. Capacities of economic and social resilience of rural women are improved and their vulnerability is reduced;
4. Participation of rural women in local governance is reinforced and Gender is taken into account in communal development plans and budgets is improved.

Despite the interest expressed by actors involved. Including from ministerial departments (MINADER, MINEPIA, MINPROFF) and United Nations System the agencies (FAO, UNDP, UN WOMEN), the initiative has not prospered to date.

Recommendation is made for the World Food Programme Country Office to join forces with UNWOMEN Cameroon in order to underline the relevance, merits and objectives of such a programme and, if need be, include it in the next cycle of programming.

- **Integration of market operators into current WFP programmes (short-term)**

**Strategic objective:** Support the upgrading of small enterprises and cooperatives of women in the markets and agricultural value chain and accelerate their empowerment, with the perspective of valorizing local models of successful women.

This support is based on the structuring into cooperatives of actors in the industry with whom the WFP can contract in the framework of its current

initiatives. This contracting could include support to small-scale women wholesalers to consolidate their position in the industry, in the framework of support for female entrepreneurship. For the structuring into cooperatives, the MINADER's Project of Investment and Development of Agricultural Markets (PIDMA) constitutes an excellent opportunity for the development of women's cooperatives and could be a partner for the WFP.

Moreover, the current programmes of the WFP must integrate training sessions designed specifically for

women into the domains of entrepreneurship and project management, in accordance with previously identified needs. This training could be completed by the popularization of a practical guide for women entrepreneur in the agricultural value chain and markets, which would provide key success factors and standard business plans of activities, with relevant advice specific to women entrepreneur.

With regard to the particular socio-cultural context of these two administrative regions, the option of technically and financially supporting a critical mass of women entrepreneurs (at least 100) in domains usually reserved for men (for example, a female butcher) could have a lever effect for the emergence of a generation of women economic operators in the industry (shaking things up). Under this hypothesis, the close support of these women operators could

be entrusted under specific contractual obligations, either to one or several Civil Society Organizations, or to specialized agencies, or yet to relevant public technical services.

Supporting women's small enterprises and cooperatives in the markets and agricultural value chain to enable them, among other things, to effectively respond to WFP's calls for food supply offers, is an action that will bring value-added and lead to significant results.

Exchanges with members of the WFP country office and sub-offices did not reveal difficulties in integrating assistance to market operators in current programmes such as support to village granaries, the food for assets initiative; Cash-based Transfer; local purchases and distribution of food to populations.

Recommendation is made to the WFP Country Office to revisit each of its programmes and identify the best way of integrating assistance and capacity-building of women's small enterprises and local cooperatives in order to turn them into partners capable of satisfying the demands of WFP's services of acquisition.

- **Training managers of WFP and its partners in gender and empowerment of women**

**Strategic objective:** Interventions of WFP and its partners respond to the needs of men and women (in their conception and their execution).

In order to sustainably integrate the gender approach into the conception and implementation of WFP programmes and projects, it is necessary to further train managers of WFP and its partners in gender and women's empowerment.

Such training would be supported by the production of a guide for taking gender into account in the markets and agricultural value chain, and include a module on measuring and tracking women's empowerment.

- **Measure and Tracking of women's empowerment**

**Strategic objective:** ensure the promotion of the measuring and tracking women's empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chain.

It is warranted to mobilize universities' structures and research centers, as well as statistics institutes, to develop a monitoring system, produce tools and train actors to measure women's empowerment in food markets.

On the individual level, measuring and monitoring women's empowerment in the market must include criteria that allow for the detection of changes in women over the course of time, notably:

- Her degree of autonomy, that is (i) the reduction of her financial dependence on her husband, (ii) her capacity to take care of herself, via her savings in micro finance establishments, (iii) her business numbers and revenue



generated, and (iv) her financial contribution to household expenses;

days outside the household and the daily work environment.

- Her membership in tontines and associations;
- Her capacity to come to the help of other family members when they are in need;
- Her participation in training and information seminars and in regional, national and international fairs, which means spending some

The main challenge remains that of local ownership of the concept and its execution in interventions in food markets. The local CSOs could be important relays for working with the communities and producing the most relevant criteria and indicators for the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in food markets.

---

## CONCLUSION

The case study “Agricultural value chains and Gender in Northern Cameroon,” had for goal to strengthen links between gender analysis and market assessments so as to help WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations, in the conception and implementation of market-based interventions integrating objectives linked to gender equality.

The case study of Cameroon confirms the main results of the regional survey, notably that the production and commercialization of subsistence crops calls for a large diversity of actors, women and men playing specific roles all along the agricultural value chains. The wholesalers are generally men, while women are often retailers. Gender-based roles exist and change depending on the commodity. Owners of rental shops in markets are always men. Sorting is always handled by women, often with young children. Women have been in the market for just as long as men. Their socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics put them in vulnerable groups, exposed to poverty and precariousness.

Economic operators of food markets are confronted with many challenges common to men and women, such as: need for capital to expand business (working capital); need of equipment and logistics (weigh instruments, means of transportation, storage rooms, equipment for preservation – notably for fish, fruits and vegetables); interference and harassment from local authorities; the absence of warehouses and equipped market stalls which translates into exposure of goods and persons to unfavourable weather conditions. Access to credit also seems difficult for both men and women.

Women are confronted to other issues specific to their gender of which the main ones are:

- Maternity management (leading almost always to the suspension of trade);
- Childcare in the marketplace;

- Inadequate toilets and toilets for women;
- Difficulty to handle both domestic and commercial activities.

The case study identifies good practices and limitations in terms of gender for WFP interventions in markets and the agricultural value chain of Cameroon. It also determines the paths for monitoring the dynamic of institutional integration of gender through the strengthening of gender-oriented capacities of actors in general, and in particular, gender focal points. It does so by clarifying this important post through the implementation of terms of references and a performance evaluation system for these focal points. The approach and tools for measuring and monitoring women’s empowerment in food markets are still new and need to be developed and owned by the actors.

Finally, the study proposes the following main recommendations:

- **The implementation of a programme to holistically take into account the question of women empowerment in food markets, with specific components** on: literacy, building gender-sensitive infrastructure, advocacy for change in behavior, entrepreneurial capacity-building for women, strengthening women cooperatives, financing economic activities, food security and nutritional education, etc.
- Integration into current WFP programs of a component on assistance to market operators and the structuring of actors in the agricultural value chain with, among others, the objective of **identifying and contracting low-scale women wholesalers to strengthen their position in the industry, or with cooperatives of women, notably in the domains reserved for men**, in order to shake things up and create a lever effect for the emergence of a generation

of female economic operators in the industry.

- **Reinforcing achievements in terms of taking gender into account in all WFP initiatives in the markets and agricultural value chain**, notably for the implementation of dedicated internal mechanisms and training in gender and women's empowerment for workers of WFP and its partners, **including the production and dissemination of a guide on measuring and**

**monitoring women's empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chain.**

- **The mobilization of university structures and research centers and statistical institutes and local CSOs** in order to develop and put in place a system of follow-up, produce tools and train actors in strengthening the measuring and monitoring of women empowerment in the markets and agricultural value chain.



## Bibliography

1. ACHANCHO, V. (2013), Review and analysis of the national investment strategies and agricultural policies in Central Africa: The Case of Cameroon, In: *Rebuilding West Africa's Food Potential*, A. Elbehri (ed.), FAO/IFAD.
2. ACP/FAO/IFAD/SEWA; The role of organizations of producers in the value chains of agricultural products: practical lessons taken from experiences in Africa and India; 2011; 73 pages
3. AFD, CTA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT INTER-NETWORK; Access to the market and commercialization of agricultural products: Valorization of initiatives of producers
4. African Bank of Development; Report on the evaluation of the Programme strategy of ABD for Cameroon (2004-2013); 2015
5. BUCREP; Vulnerable populations in emergency situations: Focus on the regions affected by the emergency situations in Cameroon; July 2015
6. BUCREP; Thematic report on Nuptials in Cameroon; 2007
7. Central Bureau for the Population Census, thematic report on nuptials in Cameroon, 2007
8. CAMEROON; Document of national gender policy
9. CAMEROON; Strategic response plan; 2015
10. CAMEROON; Humanitarian response plan: January – December 2016; December 2015
11. CAMEROON; Summary of humanitarian needs; 2015
12. CARE; Reach new heights: Measuring the empowerment of women
13. European Commission: agricultural markets and small producers: instruments of access and management of risks
14. DAVID-BENZ et al. Information systems on the agricultural markets in sub-Saharan Africa: from the first to the second generation.
15. DIFFO TCHUNKAM (under the direction of); Gender, leadership and participation in Cameroon (1931-2013); More Women in politics/Colorix; 2014.
16. Evelyne Sylva; Measuring the empowerment of women in food security programmes: Good practices and challenges of the Canadian cooperation in Senegal
17. FAO; Analysis of subsistence crop products of Cameroonian markets: carried out under the framework of the global study on household food security and vulnerability (CFSVA); 2011; 89 pages
18. IFAD; Study on the potentialities of commercialization of products derived from cassava in the CEMAC markets; 2008
19. IFAD; Rebuilding the food potential of West Africa: Market Policies and incentives for the promotion of food industries integrating small producers
20. FOFIRI NZOSSIE Eric Joël; The determinants of subsistence food supply in the cities of northern Cameroon; PhD Thesis in Geography, 2012-2013 academic year
21. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Republic of Cameroon Programme for the Promotion of Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship of Youth (PEA-JEUNES) Conception document.
22. HCR/Solidarity International; study of market systems in emergency situations: imported rice, cassava flour and potable water –Bertoua-Garoua boulaï axe, Cameroon, CAR Border; January 2015

23. NIS; Annual national statistics 2015; 2016
24. NIS; Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS); 2011
25. NIS; Cameroonian Household Survey (ECAM 2): conditions of life in households and poverty profile in the Far-North of Cameroon in 2001; 2002
26. NIS; Fourth Cameroonian Household Survey (ECAM 4): Trends, profile and determinants of poverty in Cameroon between 2001 and 2014; 2016
27. MINADER; Global Analysis of Food Security and Vulnerability (CFSAV); May 2005
28. MINEFI; Diagnostic study of the competitiveness of the Cameroonian economy: Phase I; 2005
29. MINPROFF; Study on the participation of women in Citizenship; 2012
30. NEPAD; African agricultures: Transformations and perspectives
31. NJOYA Aboubakar; comparative analysis of the process of implementation and transformation of operations of agricultural and rural training in three African countries: Cameroon, Morocco and Madagascar; October 2012
32. OECD – Network of CAD on male-female equality (GENDERNET); the economic empowerment of women, document of reflection; 2011
33. WFP; Country Programme Cameroon 200330 (2013-2017); 31 July 2012
34. WFP; Study of markets for feasibility of cash and voucher in the Adamawa and East regions of Cameroon, March 2015; 63 pages
35. WFP; Regional Market Assessment Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Cameroon – Gender analysis, Preliminary outputs; March 2016-08-21
36. WFP/FAP/Cameroon; evaluation of humanitarian assistance and the situation of Central African refugees living in Cameroon; July 2013
37. WFP/PNSSA; Evaluation of food security in the East, Adamawa, North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, 14-28 September 2015
38. Inter agency report on the situation in the Far-North of Cameroon (1-31 Jan 2016)
39. Activity reports of projects put in place by WFP in Cameroon (current collection).
40. Saare Tabitha; Analysis of the socio-cultural and economic situation of girls and women in North Cameroon; 2012
41. International Solidarity; Evaluation report, Minawao Camp, Far-North, Cameroon November 2015
42. UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health: SMART Nutritional Survey 2015
43. UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health: Nutritional survey and mortality retrospective based on SMART methods in 4 regions of Cameroon: Far-North, North, Adamawa and East (Cameroonian and refugee populations in the Adamawa and East regions); 2013
44. Consultation of web sites of the WFP, the World Bank, WorldVision, IFAD, FAO, NIS, MINADER, etc.)
45. Gender policy and strategy documents of WFP and activity reports of specialized agencies of the United Nations Systems (FAP, WFP, UNDP, UN WOMEN).

# ANNEXES

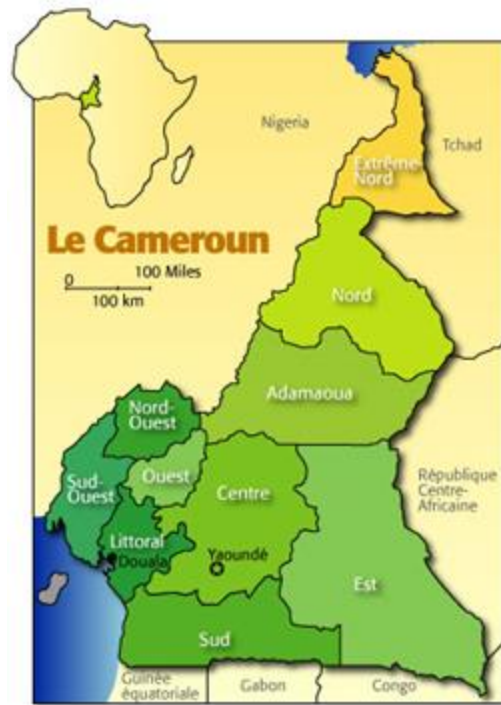
## Annex I – General characteristics of the country

Cameroon is a Central African country situated at the end of the Gulf of Guinea, between latitudes 2° and 13° north and longitudes 9° and 16° east. The country has a surface area of 475,650 km<sup>2</sup>, in a triangular form that stretches out from the south up to Lake Chad for about 1,200 km, while the base stretches from west to east over 800 km. In the south-west, it has a maritime frontier of 420 km along the Atlantic Ocean. A true crossroads, it is the only CEMAC country that shares a border with each of the five others, which are Chad to the north-east, Central African Republic to the east, the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the south. To the west, it shares a long border of 1,200 km with Nigeria, which goes from Lake Chad to the Atlantic Ocean.

Estimates based on results of the 3rd General Population and Housing Census (RGPH), place the Cameroonian population at about 23,894,602 in June 2016, with an annual growth rate of about 2.5 percent. There is mostly a young population (55 percent are under age 20), which is more and more urbanized (the urban population went from 48 percent in 2005 to 52 percent in 2010). The two main cities, Yaoundé (political capital of the country) and Douala (economic capital), contain more than 21 percent of the total population and 44 percent of the urban population.

In terms of the sex structure of the population, women make up the majority of the country (50.6 percent). In relation to place of residence, women make up 51.3 percent of the rural population while in the urban milieu they only make up 49.8 percent. The geographic distribution of the population over the national territory is very unequal, with the Far-North the most populated. The physical and climatic diversity is coupled with human diversity: Cameroon counts more than 230 ethnic groups and languages distributed into six big groups: Sudanic, Hamitic, Semitic, Bantus, Semi-Bantus and Pygmies.

On the political level, Cameroon is a decentralized



and bilingual unitary State, subdivided into 10 regions. The executive power is exercised by an elected President of the Republic with universal suffrage and a mandate of seven renewable years. A Senate and a National Assembly exercise legislative power. The regular and good performance of presidential, legislative and municipal elections give the country a socio-political stability, in a regional context of political and security crises.

Judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court. There are also an Economic and Social Advisory and an Auditor General. The decentralization sanctioned in the Constitution adopted in 1996, gives more responsibilities to the local and regional authorities (CTD), and more opportunities of involvement to beneficiary populations, in the conception, financing, programming and implementation of programmes and development programmes at the local level.

On the economic plan<sup>6</sup>, the country saw a hike in growth in the last decade (about 3 percent per year, with a leap to close to 5 percent in 2013), thanks to an increased interior demand, caused by the follow-through of big infrastructure programmes on the one hand, but also by boosts in production of many market branches. Nevertheless, this growth did not benefit all the strata of the population and the social performance fell short of the country's ambition to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for 2015. The country's world ranking in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) was 150<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries in 2012, compared with 142<sup>nd</sup> out of 186 countries in 2003.

In 2013, the structure of GDP remained characterized by the dominance of the tertiary sector (47.8 percent, while the primary and secondary sectors, relatively low, were respectively, 22.5 percent and 29.7 percent). According to the 2010 Survey into Employment in the Informal Sector (EESI), the 3.84 percent rate of unemployment masks the dominance of the informal sector—which makes up 90.5 percent of the active population—and chronic underemployment of 70.66 percent affects women more (78 percent) than it does men (64 percent). Women's activity is concentrated in the rural sector (75 percent) and the informal non-agricultural urban sector (70 percent) and the informal agricultural sector (58 percent).

The ECAM 4 Survey (NIS, 2016) shows that the incidence of poverty has reduced but still remains high. This survey estimates a 37.5 percent rate of poverty in 2014 compared with 39.9 percent in 2007 and 40.1 percent in 2001. Poverty is heightened in the rural areas, where it affects about 90 percent of the population, compared with 8.9 percent in the urban setting. Domestic farmers (informal agricultural enterprises) make up the poorest group, with a rate of poverty of close to 63 percent.

On the humanitarian front, in these last years, the country has had to face a brutal increase in the number of people made vulnerable by conflicts, food insecurity, malnutrition, natural catastrophes, epidemics and the significant reduction of their socio-economic circumstances. In December 2013, sectorial groups estimated that more than six million people were in need of humanitarian assistance

(Plan of strategic response 2014-2016 in Cameroon; 2015). In December 2015, analysts noted that the number of people with severe food insecurity had multiplied by four in the last six months (Plan of humanitarian response: January – December 2016).

### Geophysical framework

The current case study covers the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, mostly because of their exposure to risks of food insecurity due to the climatic context and the influx of refugees coming from Nigeria and from the CAR, and internal displacement of the population from terrorist actions led by the Boko Haram group, which has worsened an already worrying situation especially with regard to poverty indicators. The option of performing this case study in these two regions was supported by the fact that they were kept as sample sites at the end of the regional study on gender and food markets in the Lake Chad basin (Regional Market Assessment – Lake Chad Basin Crisis, 2015), and that they were also part of the zones covered during WFP's surveys on evaluations of food markets in Cameroon in 2014 and 2015. All these allowed having comparable data at hand and making links between the national case study and the regional survey.

The Far-North region's administrative center is Maroua and extends over a surface area of 34,263 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a Sudano-Sahelian climate, of the dry tropical type extending from the south to the center of the region and the Sudano-Sahelian type in the north.

This climate is characterized by recurrent droughts and the annual pluviometric averages are decreasing with time. Also, the inter-annual averages of the zone, which were greater than 850 mm before 1999, were only 700 mm in the 2000 – 2005 period.

The west of the region is dominated by a mountainous bend, including mounts Mandara (1100 m high) and Roumsiki (1224 m high).

Also, the region is bordered by particularly picturesque mountains in unstable forms in the Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga departments.

The soils of the Far-North have specific pedologic

<sup>6</sup> Source: Report of the evaluation of BAD Programme Strategy in Cameroon (2004-2013) in June 2015

forms and are adapted to different crops:

- Sandy soils in the plains favor sorghum and groundnut cultivation;
- Silty soils, rich in alluvium along river courses, favor cotton, sorghum and sweet potato cultivation;
- Clayey soils favor the cultivation of red sorghum.

The region's river system is made of two basins: the Niger basin and the Lake Chad basin. With the exception of Logone and Chari, which take their source from wetter regions and flow towards the Chadian basin, most of the river courses in the region are characterized by non-permanent flow.

One part of the North region is situated between latitudes 7° and 10° north, and the other part, between the 12° and 16° meridian. With Garoua as administrative center, the North has a surface area of 66,090 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 14.2 percent of the surface area of Cameroon. It shares common borders with the Far-North and Adamawa regions and with neighboring countries, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Chad. The climate is of the Sudanic type in general, which manifests itself with a relatively weak pluviometry (on average 70 days of rain per year) and high temperatures between March and May, with readings of up to 45°. The lowest temperatures are observed in December, with lows of 18°.

The relief is of two major types: plains and highlands. The big penplain, with 200 to 300 m of altitude, extends from the Faro department to that of Mayo-Rey, and covers a part of Benue and the Mayo-Louti plain. The highlands, however, rise up between the plains and constitute reserves for fauna.

### **Socio-demographic and health indicators**

According to BUCREP, the North was peopled with 2,152,740 inhabitants in 2012, of which 1,085,356 were women. The average density of the population is situated at about 32.57 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. This density hides enormous disparities between the departments of the region. The rate of urbanization of the region is estimated at 27.2 percent. Children under 15 years are the most numerous (49.1 percent of the total population of the region). The average age and median age of the population are 20 and

15.3 years, respectively. On the other hand, the demographic weight of persons of age is relatively low (4 percent). The Far-North region is the most populated of Cameroon (3,709,691 inhabitants in 2012). The Mayo Tsanaga department is the most densely populated with 190 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. Those under 15 years represent 51 percent of the regional population (against 43.6 percent at the national level) and this population is mostly rural (77.3 percent). The demographic birth rate is high and supported by a fertility which remains strong (on average 6.8 children per woman of 15-49 years). The rate of urbanization is at 19.7 percent, significantly lower than the national rate of 40 percent.

The two regions are cited many times by the DHS-MICS (2011) as having the worst scores in socio-demographic and health statistics. Also, the results show that in the Far-North, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is the highest (45 percent), followed by the North (40 percent), Adamawa (40 percent) and the East (37 percent). In addition, one notes that this prevalence decreases tremendously when the level of education of the mother or the level of household economic well-being increases. The regions of the Far-North (27 percent), North (18 percent), Adamawa (18 percent) and the East (17 percent) are those where the prevalence of this severe form of malnutrition is the highest.

The results show a prevalence of acute malnutrition much higher in the Far-North (12 percent) and the North (10 percent) than in all the other regions (from 1 to 6 percent). The level of education of the mother positively influences the prevalence of acute malnutrition: 12 percent of children of mothers with no education are affected, versus 2 percent, where the mother has reached a level of 2nd cycle secondary education or more. Finally, one must note that children living in the poorest households are more affected (11 percent) than those in other households (2 percent for the richest).

In rural areas, one notes that one child out of five (20 percent) shows weight deficiencies versus 9 percent in other cities and towns and 3 percent in Yaoundé/Douala. One child out of three (32 percent) in the Far-North, one child out of four (24 percent) in the North and one child out of five (21 percent) in Adamawa show weight deficiencies. In other regions, this proportion is less, at 16 percent. As it is for the other indices, the proportion of children



suffering weight deficiencies lowers as the level of education of the mother or the standard of living of the household increases.

In terms of poverty, it is in the regions of the Far-North and North that the percentages of the population classed in the poorest quintile are the highest (55 percent and 52 percent, respectively). More than nine households out of ten live in housing considered precarious. It is also in these regions that one records the highest level of people surveyed with no level of education. The net rates of school attendance are the lowest of the country: Far-North (52 percent) and North (67 percent). In these regions are recorded the lowest percentages of literate people in the country: Far-North (23 percent of women and 53 percent of men), North (31 percent and 65 percent, respectively); these parameters are 92 percent of women and 91 percent of men for the South, 89 percent and 92 percent, respectively, for the West, 88 percent and 92 percent, respectively, for the Centre, and 86 percent of women and 93 percent of men for the Littoral.

The percentage of women without access to media is low in the cities of Yaoundé (6 percent) and Douala (7 percent). It is, however, very high in the regions of the Far-North (77 percent), North (68 percent) and Adamawa (51 percent). The same is observed among men. Additionally, the level of education seems to influence in a significant way the level of exposition to media. Whether for women or men, being exposed to three types of media increases considerably with the level of education: from 2 percent to 21 percent among women and from 4 percent to 34 percent among men as soon as they pass from primary school level to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary school level or more. Moreover, it is important to note that 81 percent of women and 64 percent of men without education are not exposed to any media.

The Total Fertility Rate shows that women without any level of education have, on average, 3.7 more children than those who have attained 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle secondary level or more (TFR of 6.8 versus 3.1). At the same time, the average number of children per woman reduces from the poorest households to the richest, passing from 7.0 to 3.3 children: the TFR is therefore more than two times higher in the poorest households than in the richest. Additionally, the variations in TFR depending on the regions are

equally significant.

The North (6.5) and the Far-North (6.8) are part of the group with high fertility rates and also record the highest percentages of births produced after a short interval (less than 24 months). The median age of the first birth is the earliest in the Far-North (18.3 years) and Adamawa (18.4 years). Contraceptive prevalence is very low in the North (5 percent) and Far-North (4 percent). For the other regions, it varies from 11 percent in Adamawa to 40 percent in the South-West and 41 percent in Douala. The Far-North (86 percent) and North (82 percent) regions also possess the highest percentages of women who are not exposed to messages on family planning from the interventions of formal sources.

The national average of the percentage of women who received prenatal care given by trained persons is at 85 percent. This percentage stays relatively low in the Far-North region (59 percent). More than half (58 percent) of women did not receive any postnatal care; this percentage reaches 79 percent in the Far-North and 84 percent in the North. The coverage of prenatal care shows enormous disparities depending on different socio-demographic characteristics. The percentage of women who received prenatal care varies strongly depending on the regions: in the West, the Littoral and the North-West, almost all women received prenatal care (97 percent or more). On the opposite end, the Far-North (59 percent) and the North (72 percent) show the lowest percentages; one notes, however, between 2004 and 2011, an increase of seven percentage points in the North and stability in the Far-North.

The two regions also record the weakest inclinations towards searching for advice or treatment from health personnel – Far-North (13 percent) and North (15 percent). It is equally there that the use of antimalarials has been less frequently documented – Far-North (6 percent) and North (10 percent). The regions of the North and Far-North stand out from the other regions with a youth mortality higher than infant mortality. With regard to infant and youth mortality, one notes that globally, it is the North-West (68 percent) that has the lowest and the North (191 percent) where it is the highest.

During the DHS-MICS 2011, respondents were asked a series of questions to evaluate their knowledge of the means of preventing HIV. Approximately two

women out of three (68 percent) and three men out of four (75 percent) said one limits the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS by using condoms. Additionally, on the question of if limiting sexual relations to just one uninfected sexual partner permits the risk of contracting HIV, 78 percent of women and 85 percent of men responded in the affirmative. Globally, 60 percent of women and 68 percent of men knew both these means of prevention.

Knowledge of these two means of prevention varies

depending on different socio-demographic characteristics. It is in the urban settings, among the most educated and the richest, that the percentages of women and men who know these two means of prevention is the highest (more than 70 percent of women and men). The results according to regions also show significant differences: it is the regions of the North (29 percent of women and 61 percent of men) and the Far-North (38 percent of women and 42 percent of men) where these two means are less known.



## Annex II – Characteristics of economic operators

The socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics of operators of the agricultural industry and markets were explored starting from a series of questions, mainly those which brought out the following parameters according to gender:

- the highest level of education attained;
- marital status of economic operator;
- matrimonial regime of the economic operator;
- socio-economic profile of the spouse of the economic operator;
- household size of the economic operator;
- number of years of experience in business;
- activity section where the operator works;

From time to time, these characteristics will be presented with comparisons to the results of the regional survey.

### Schooling level of operators, by gender

If one considers the level of schooling, close to ¾ of economic operators of the markets and agricultural value chain (close to 70 percent) have at most the primary level; a third of this population did not go to school (30 percent); close to 4 percent went to Koranic school. Only less than 1 percent did university studies. 20 percent finished the first cycle of secondary school versus 3.5 percent for the second cycle of secondary school. The following statement can be made: half of the people who reached the primary level could continue to the secondary level; at the same time, less than only 1/5 of those who did the first cycle of secondary school could continue to the second cycle of secondary school.

The situation specific to women follows the same tendency, except that no woman went to university or Koranic school. They were slightly more than men in having done primary school (45.6 percent versus 34.1 percent).

Table 8. Schooling level of economic operators

	NR	None	Primary	Secondary 1st cycle	Secondary 2nd cycle	University	Koranic School	Total
Women	2,5 percent	27,8 percent	45,6 percent	20,3 percent	3,8 percent	0,0 percent	0,0 percent	100,0 percent
Men	2,2 percent	31,9 percent	34,1 percent	19,8 percent	3,3 percent	1,1 percent	7,7 percent	100,0 percent
<b>Together</b>	<b>2,4 percent</b>	<b>30,0 percent</b>	<b>39,4 percent</b>	<b>20,0 percent</b>	<b>3,5 percent</b>	<b>0,6 percent</b>	<b>4,1 percent</b>	<b>100,0 percent</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

These results corroborate those of the regional survey which established that, in general, the majority of the sample size had no scholar education (42 percent), at best, those who went to school stopped at the primary (40 percent) and secondary (13 percent) levels.

This data leads to many paths of reflection. First of all, the crucial importance of functional literacy for

the economic operators of the markets and agricultural value chain. Since the Decree of 9 December 2011 on the organization of the Government, the division of governmental competencies gave this function to MINEDUB. However, this activity figures in the duties transferred by MINEDUB in 2016, to the local and regional authorities (CTDs). UNESCO remains the privileged partner of the Government in this matter.

A suggestion to WFP is to include in all its initiatives on the markets and food industry, a component on functional literacy, which will be implemented in partnership with MINEDUB, the CTDs and UNESCO.

This component on functional literacy is relatively easy to include in projects such as supporting the implementation of community granaries, operations of food assistance by means of money transfers or even from other programmes and projects.

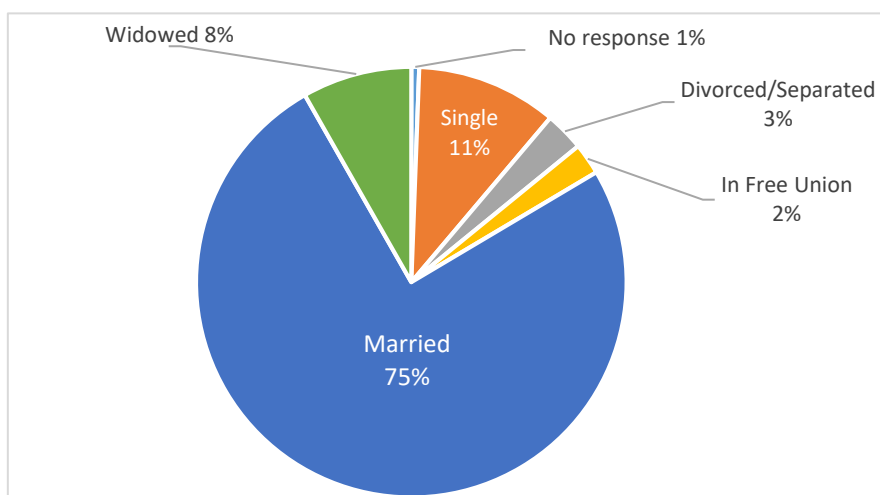
A path that may be more difficult to put in place, but that can be explored in the framework of pilot initiatives, will consist of promoting second chance schools. A slight hesitation, however, given that it risks of increasing the gulf between men and women, the latter already burdened with overly busy schedules.

In reality, the main problem remains that the rate of school dropouts is still high; the challenge is to substantially raise the percentage of people who complete the second cycle of secondary school. An appeal in this direction to political decision makers would be relevant.

#### Marital status of operators by gender

Most operators surveyed declared themselves married (75 percent), with a slight disparity between the sexes (69 percent for women versus 82 percent for men).

Figure 20. Marital status of economic operators



Source : Survey results, May 2016

It is important to mention that the group discussions show that the marriage being spoken about is mostly customary or traditional. In the next surveys in the

region, it would be wise to distinguish between marriages of a civil nature and those that are customary or traditional. They do not engender the

same rights, especially for women. Additionally, break-ups of each type of marriage do not have the same consequences for women and for men. More so, customary and traditional marriages begin and end before a traditional or customary authority, without formalities and without measures of

protection of the rights of the injured parties. It is thus why the Ministry of women and family is preoccupied with the great proportion of unions not legalized at the civil level and regularly organizes collective celebrations of marriage of a civil nature.

*Table 9. Marital status of economic operators, by gender*

	NR	Single	Divorced /Separated	In Free Union	Married	Widowed	Total
Women	0,0 percent	8,9 percent	5,1 percent	3,8 percent	67,1 percent	15,2 percent	100,0 percent
Men	1,1 percent	12,1 percent	1,1 percent	1,1 percent	82,4 percent	2,2 percent	100,0 percent
<b>Together</b>	<b>0,6 percent</b>	<b>10,6 percent</b>	<b>2,9 percent</b>	<b>2,4 percent</b>	<b>75,3 percent</b>	<b>8,2 percent</b>	<b>100,0 percent</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

The percentage of widowed persons is much higher among women. This result is in agreement with the conclusions of the thematic report on nuptials in Cameroon, produced by the Central Bureau of the Population Census in 2007 and from data from ECAM 4 (NIS 2014) for whom this situation has the following explanatory factors: life expectancy from birth is higher among women than among men; the society is patriarchic and has kept polygamy as a social norm, this leads to the fact that the death of one married woman leaves one widower, while the death of a married man leaves on average more than one widow; men who lose their spouses have much more social ease in remarrying than women. It is certainly with awareness of their vulnerable situation that MINPROFF initiated a reflection on the socio-economic situation of widows in Cameroon.

#### Matrimonial regime of operators, by gender

The prevalence of polygamy is at approximately 35 percent in the sample surveyed. According to the Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS, 2011), polygamy remains a widespread practice in Cameroon, since it affects 25 percent of married women. The Far-North and North regions are the most affected, respectively 42 percent and 41 percent, versus 9 percent for the South region. It must be said that ordinance n° 81/062 of 29 June 1981, on the organization and functioning of the civil state, states that the matrimonial system is either monogamy or polygamy.

*Table 10. Matrimonial regime, by gender*

Matrimonial Regime	Women	Men	Total	percent
No response	13	11	24	14,12 percent
Monogamy	48	38	86	50,59 percent
Polygamy	18	42	60	35,29 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100 percent</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>46,47 percent</b>	<b>53,53 percent</b>	<b>100 percent</b>	

Source : Survey results, May 2016

Close to 15 percent of economic operators preferred not to communicate their matrimonial system. It certainly is a domain that the interviewees consider private. This held both for men and for women.

### Socio-economic profile of operator's spouse

An actor's situation in the market can be influenced by the socio-economic profile of the spouse. Thus follows the operator's declarations of his/her spouse

Table 11. Socio-economic profile of the operator's spouse

Spouse's socio-economic profile	Women	Men	Together
Other inactive	13,9 percent	45,1 percent	30,6 percent
Unemployed	5,1 percent	6,6 percent	5,9 percent
Independent and professional sector	6,3 percent	1,1 percent	3,5 percent
Promoter of agricultural activities	15,2 percent	14,3 percent	14,7 percent
Promoter of non-agricultural activities	2,5 percent	1,1 percent	1,8 percent
Retired	7,6 percent	1,1 percent	4,1 percent
Salaried in the informal sector	16,5 percent	9,9 percent	12,9 percent
Salaried in the formal private sector	10,1 percent	1,1 percent	5,3 percent
Salaried in the public sector	6,3 percent	1,1 percent	3,5 percent
No response	16,5 percent	18,7 percent	17,6 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0 percent</b>	<b>100,0 percent</b>	<b>100,0 percent</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

If one wants to know what the spouses of male economic operators do—apart from the unavailable data (close to 20 percent), which suggests that this also is sensitive information—one notes that the inactive, unemployed, promoters of agricultural activities and the salaried in the informal sector make up the majority of the lot. Only 3 percent are in interesting careers such as professionals and the salaried in the private and public sector.

Close to 52 percent of male economic operators have inactive spouses. Group discussions revealed that economic activity of women is devaluing for the spouse, in a cultural context where, even if things are in the process of being shaken up, an indicator of social success is the capability of the husband to

totally meet the material needs of his wife, who should not have to engage in activities of production.

These observations suggest that actions to promote women's work need to be initiated. Strategies have to be put in place to fight against the weight of customs and traditions that hurt the economic empowerment of women. This was one of the conclusions drawn by MINPROFF (2012) following a study on the "participation of women in citizenship". Effectively, the patriarchal organization of society is characterized by the weight of traditions such as strong resistance to all initiatives destined to empower women. Efforts to reduce the weight of these customs and traditions which are harmful to women's empowerment must be integrated into the

understanding and support of the members of the community in general, but more specifically, community leaders.

To give these actions more chances of success, they must be initiated in an endogenous manner. One possible door of entry is accompanying local CSOs in the formulation and implementation of actions aimed at education at the community level, to raise awareness in the actors, of the harmful consequences of these practices and to help social norms evolve. Efforts to appeal and the valorization of models of women who succeed in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) that do not disrupt conjugal harmony could allow for the promotion of good practices and also thwart the ones harmful to the thriving of young girls and

women.

### Size of economic operators' households

The interviewees were asked to provide the size of their household and to indicate who decided on the moment for a new birth in the home. Among the men, their responses indicated that they took this decision by themselves at 58 percent and with their partner at 15 percent. As for the women, they took this decision by themselves at 11 percent and with their partner at 44 percent. More than half of the operators have more than seven people in their households. This data can be placed in relation with the propensity men and women have to apply family planning advice, in a context where the level of scholarly instruction is relatively low with respect to the national average.

Table 12. Size of economic operators' household

Size of Household	Total	percent	percent increasing	percent decreasing
0	2	1 percent	1 percent	99 percent
1	3	2 percent	3 percent	97 percent
2	6	4 percent	6 percent	94 percent
3	12	7 percent	14 percent	86 percent
4	14	8 percent	22 percent	78 percent
5	23	14 percent	35 percent	65 percent
6	13	8 percent	43 percent	57 percent
7	12	7 percent	50 percent	50 percent
8	17	10 percent	60 percent	40 percent
9	12	7 percent	67 percent	33 percent
10	17	10 percent	77 percent	23 percent
11	8	5 percent	82 percent	18 percent
12	6	4 percent	85 percent	15 percent
13	7	4 percent	89 percent	11 percent
14	2	1 percent	91 percent	9 percent
15 and more	10	6 percent	96 percent	4 percent
ND	6	4 percent	100 percent	0 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100 percent</b>		

Source : Survey results, May 2016

### Number of years of experience

Interviewees were asked to indicate the number of years of experience in business, specifying their experience in trade in general and their experience in their current activity, specifically. The data shows

that close to half of the traders have more than 10 years of experience, versus less than 20 percent who have under-three years of experience. Close to two traders over three have more than seven years of experience. This result doesn't vary fundamentally according to sex of the operator.

Table 13. Experience in trade

Experience in trade	Female		Male		Total	Together
	Number	percent	Number	percent		
No response	0	0	1	1,1	1	0,6
10 or more years	34	43,0	49	53,9	83	48,8
7 to 9 years	12	15,2	12	13,2	24	14,1
4 to 6 years	15	19,0	16	17,6	31	18,2
1 to 3 years	15	19,0	13	14,3	28	16,5
Less than a year	3	3,8	0	0	3	1,8
<b>No response</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

This result is consistent with that of the regional survey, presented in the next table, which establishes that the time spent in trade is generally greater than 3 years and that women are present in

the markets for just as long as men, most actors (close to 85 percent) practicing for more than 3 years.

Table 14. length of time in trade, by gender

Length of time in trade	Women	Men	Total
Less than 1 year	3,53 percent	3,85 percent	3,69 percent
1 to 3 years	11,76 percent	11,54 percent	11,65 percent
More than 3 years	84,71 percent	84,62 percent	84,66 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

Table 15. Experience in current activity

Experience in current activity	Women		Men		Total	Percentage
	Number	percent	Number	percent		
No response	0	0,00 percent	1	1,10 percent	1	0,59 percent
Less than a year	3	3,80 percent	0	0,00 percent	3	1,76 percent
Between 1 and 3 years	15	18,99 percent	13	14,29 percent	28	16,47 percent
Between 4 and 6 years	15	18,99 percent	16	17,58 percent	31	18,24 percent
Between 7 and 9 years	12	15,19 percent	12	13,19 percent	24	14,12 percent
10 or more years	34	43,04 percent	49	53,85 percent	83	48,82 percent



		percent		percent		percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100,00 percent</b>

Source : Survey results, May 2016

Nearly 50 percent of operators have practiced their current activity for over 10 years. Nevertheless, it is important to note that 91 percent of operators have never taken part in a technical or professional training in relation to their work and that nearly 80 percent have never benefited from technical assistance or support and advice to better run their businesses.

This can be translated into certain deficiencies in the implementation of programmes of accompaniment initiated by associations, local NGOs and decentralized technical sector structures of the State.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, with respect to socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics, it is urgent measures be taken to promote women's work. In a patriarchal context where the protection of women and the response to their needs are placed in men's charges, this phenomenon generally causes all sorts of violence to the place of women. Effectively, according to the Demographic, Health and Multiple Indicators Survey 2011, in the Far-North region, 44 percent of women mention sometimes being victims of conjugal violence versus 36.7 percent in the North. This parameter is 26.9 percent for the West region.

We suggest the WFP include in all its initiatives on markets and the agricultural value chain, a

component on functional literacy, which will be implemented with MINEDUB, the CTDs and UNESCO. An appeal for better schooling of the general population and of young girls and women in particular is in order.

It is important to develop and put in place for the benefit of the market operators, programmes to reinforce entrepreneurial competencies following, for instance, the CEFE (Competency Based Economies Formation of Enterprise) approach. The CEFE intervention proposed is particularly adapted for micro and small enterprises, since it offers a training curriculum on the management of activities and resources, and includes competencies in business for a public that is little educated, in the perspective of economic and social empowerment.

Efforts must be undertaken to reduce the weight of customs and traditions harmful to the economic empowerment of women. A suggestion is to accompany local CSOs in the formulation and implementation of actions aimed at education at the community level, to raise awareness in actors of the harmful consequences of these practices and to help evolve social norms. Also recommended is supporting the efforts to appeal and to valorize models of women who have succeeded in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) without breaking conjugal harmony, with the goal of promoting good practices and at the same time, thwarting those harmful to the thriving of young girls and women.

---

## Annex III – Survey questionnaire

### Presentation of the survey questionnaire

The survey was carried out by means of a questionnaire (see annex I), conceived from a critical appreciation of those used in the framework of the regional survey. The main points of improvement were the following:

Beyond the sex, age and level of education, were added parameters such as marital status, matrimonial regime, household size and socio-professional profile of spouse, to better understand the profile of the economic operator, in the context where socio-cultural factors are important. The parameters of ethnic group and religion were deemed too sensitive to analyze to be collected. The distinction between free union, legal union and traditional union was not made.

While the regional survey was interested in the numbers and in the sex of employees, the case study attempts to know what the tasks and assigned responsibilities of the employees are in terms of their sex, all along the industry. The regional survey understood, in a very interesting way, stocking, credit and financing. The case study asked interviewees about the access to and the control that women and men had on important resources such as property, technical support and other non-financial services (training, information, advice, etc.), inputs and technology.

The case study also asked about aggression and physical abuse the women and men are subjected to on the streets of the food markets, the budgeting of time given to certain activities with respect to the food markets, the distribution of time between professional life and domestic and family life, the participation of women and men in decisions to do with the management of the markets, and endogenous dynamics in the mobilization of men and women in the resolution of difficulties encountered (market associations, tontines and mutual aid dynamics and market solidarity).

The questionnaire consisted of the following sections:

- preliminary information describing the survey;
- socio-economic characteristics of the operator (sex, age, level of education, marital status, matrimonial regime, size of household, socio-economic profile of spouse, number of years of experience in trade in general and specifically in current activity, section of current activity and section of activity desired, produce sold, etc.);
- constraints and capacity of response (difficulties and ease);
- timetable devoted to professional, domestic and associative tasks;
- the inclination to resort to aides and employees and the perception of their roles;
- participation in socio-economic decision-making;
- access to financial and non-financial services;
- security on the roads of the food markets.

### **Conduct of the survey**

Data collection took place from April 26 to May 6, 2016. It used nine local interviewers of which five were women. For the town of Mokolo, two interviewers who had taken part in the regional survey were recruited. But it became quickly clear that they were rarely available and relatively costly. A second team, which was much younger and more dynamic, of four interviewers was recruited at Maroua to replace the experienced

interviewers previously chosen. Finally, it was this team of youth that moved to Garoua and who, with two interviewers recruited there, finished the work.

### **Group discussions and semi-structured interviews**

Rich information was received in the framework of group discussions with market operators and their partners (administrative, religious and traditional authorities; leaders of decentralized technical sector structures; Civil Society Organizations; staff of WFP sub-offices; other resource-persons), including a visit to a community granary (see list of persons consulted in Annex V).

### **Group discussions with market operators and their partners**

A group discussion took place in the Mokolo market, a second with the MINADER departmental delegation of Diamaré and a third with the regional delegation of MINPROFF in Garoua. The fourth group discussion took place while on a visit of a community granary in Ngong.

### **Group discussions with the staff of WFP Sub-Offices**

Two discussions of this type took place, one in Garoua and the other in Maroua. The staff members also took part in exchanges with the market operators.

### **Semi-structured interviews**

Semi-structured interviews took place mostly with administrative, religious and traditional authorities, the leaders of decentralized technical sector structures and Civil Society Organizations.


### **Visit to community granary**

The visit took place at the community granary of GIC NAROUBE, in the Ngong commune, Tchebaua district, in the village of Douka Longo, close to 20 km from Djefatou. It helped enlighten the Consultant, by means of his own observation of the realities of the field.

Same as from all the market sites visited, the Consultant was able to note certain points of the environment which contributed to feeding his reflections on the activities practiced by economic operators and the behavior of actors in the field.

---

## **GENDER AND EVALUATION OF FOOD MARKETS**

<p><i>The information collected from this study is <u>strictly confidential</u> under law N°91/023 of December 16, 1991 relative to census and statistical surveys which stipulates in article 5 that: “Individual information of economic or financial nature that appears on a survey questionnaire cannot, in any case, be used for control or economic repression”.</i></p>	
---	---

**SECTION 0 – PRELIMINARY INFORMATION**

**S0Q01a** Questionnaire Number |\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|

**S0Q01b** Name of interviewer

**S0Q01c** Date of collection |\_\_|\_\_|/|\_\_|\_\_|/2016

**S0Q01d** Interviewer code

**S0Q01e** Interviewer telephone number |6 |\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|

<p><b>S0Q02a</b> Region _____  __ __ </p>	<p><b>S0Q02c</b> Name of town or village:  __  1. Maroua 2. Mokolo 3. Garoua</p>
<p><b>S0Q02b</b> Department _____  __ __ </p>	<p><b>S0Q02d</b> Name of market (if different from S0Q02c) _____</p>

**S0Q03** Telephone number of economic operator |6 |\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|\_\_|

**To read for the presentation of interviewer and the survey, and to ask for consent**

My name is ..... I am the interviewer for the World Food Programme study on gender and markets. The goal of this study is to reinforce the links between gender analysis and the evaluations of markets, in order to help the WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations in the conception and implementation of interventions in the markets and to integrate objectives linked to gender equality. More specifically, this interview aims to identify the factors of exclusion of women in the markets, on the one hand, and the insufficiencies in the measuring and follow-up of by the Government and partners in the empowerment of women, on the other hand. I would like to ask you some questions relative to these topics. Our interview will last about thirty minutes.

Can we start? **YES** |\_\_| **NO** |\_\_|

**SECTION 1 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPERATOR**

<p><b>S1Q01</b> Sex of the operator 1=Male 2=Female  __ </p>	<p><b>S1Q02</b> Age of the operator  __ __ </p>
<p><b>S1Q03</b></p>	<p>What is the highest level of studies? 1 = None 2 = Primary 3 = Secondary 1<sup>st</sup> cycle 4 = Secondary 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle 5 = University 6 = Other _____  __ </p>
<p><b>S1Q04</b></p>	<p>Marital status of the economic operator 1. Single 2. Married 3. In free union  __  4. Divorced/separated 5. Widower/widow</p>
<p><b>S1Q05</b></p>	<p>Matrimonial regime of the economic operator</p>

	1. Monogamy	2. Polygamy	__
<b>S1Q06</b>	Size of household of the economic operator		__
<b>S1Q07</b>	Socio-economic profile of spouse Salaried public Salaried private formal Salaried in the informal Promoter of non-agricultural economic activities	Promoter of agricultural activities Independent or professional Unemployed Retired Other inactive	__
<b>S1Q08</b>	How long have you been in trading? 1. Less than a year      2. Between 1 and 3 years      3. Between 4 and 6 years 4. Between 7 and 9 years      5. 10 years or more		__
<b>S1Q09</b>	Since when have you been in your current activity? 1. Less than a year      2. Between 1 and 3 years      3. Between 4 and 6 years 4. Between 7 and 9 years      5. 10 years or more		__
<b>S1Q10</b>	What is your section of activities? 1 = Retailer      2 = Wholesaler      3 = Collector 4 = Processor      5 = Conditioner      6 = Transporter      7 = Other _____		__
<b>S1Q11</b>	What is the section into which you would like to evolve in the course of the next years? 1 = Retailer      2 = Wholesaler      3 = Collector 4 = Processor      5 = Conditioner      6 = Transporter      7 = Other _____		__
<b>S1Q12</b>	What difficulties prevent you from getting into this section of activities? 1 = _____      2 = _____		
<b>S1Q13</b>	What products do you sell? <i>[write down the 3 most sold products]</i>  Millet Sorghum Maize Imported rice Local rice Groundnuts Beans Ruminants Vegetables	Tubers Roots Prepared foods Fish Meat Fruits Other .....	1 <sup>st</sup> most sold product  __   2 <sup>nd</sup> most sold product  __   3 <sup>rd</sup> most sold product  __
<b>S1Q14</b>	Who influenced or determined the choice of activity you practice?		__

	1 = Yourself      2 = Partner/spouse      3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household      5 = Other _____
<b>S1Q15</b>	From what source do you generally get supplied for your main product? 1= Local field    2 = Neighboring village field    3= Local market    4 = Neighboring village market    5 = Neighboring country    6 = Other _____  __
<b>S1Q16</b>	What is the main destination of your products? 1 = Local market    2 = National neighboring markets    3 = Neighboring countries    4 = Other markets out of the continent     __

## SECTION 2 – CONSTRAINTS AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

<b>S2Q01</b>	<p><b>What difficulties do you face in the practice of your trade?</b></p> <p><i>Interference from family members</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of own capital</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of credit/credit too expensive</i></p> <p><i>Bad or variable quality of product (offer)</i></p> <p><i>Insufficient or irregular quantity of product (offer)</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of means of transport</i></p> <p><i>Bad state of roads, cost of transport too high.</i></p> <p><i>Too much insecurity</i></p> <p><i>Lack of storage structure</i></p> <p><i>Too low margins (sale price too low, cost price too high)</i></p>	<p><i>Low client power of purchasing (quantities bought too low)</i></p> <p><i>Lack of debt reimbursement from clients</i></p> <p><i>Severe competition</i></p> <p><i>Fees or taxes are too high</i></p> <p><i>Too much food aid</i></p> <p><i>Rate of change</i></p> <p><i>Too many social loads</i></p> <p><i>Exodus or transhumance of household</i></p> <p><i>Land problem</i></p> <p><i>Other _____</i></p> <p><b>Difficulty N°1</b>  __ __ </p> <p><b>Difficulty N°2</b>  __ __ </p> <p><b>Difficulty N°3</b>  __ __ </p>
<b>S2Q02</b>	<p>To be able to face difficulties, your partner/spouse helps you:</p> <p><b>materially</b> YES  __  NO  __  <b>financially</b> YES  __  NO  __  <b>morally</b> YES  __  NO  __ </p> <p><b>no help</b> YES  __  NO  __       another form of help YES  __  NO  __  _____</p>	
<b>S2Q03</b>	<p>What difficulties do you face that a person of the opposite sex would not in your situation?</p> <p>1 = _____ 2= _____</p>	
<b>S2Q04</b>	<p>What facilities do you have that a person of the opposite sex would not in your situation?</p> <p>1 = _____ 2= _____</p>	
<b>S2Q05</b>	<p>During what period of the year do you generally suffer ruptures in stock?</p>	<p>January  __     February  __     March  __ </p> <p>April  __     May  __     June  __ </p> <p>July  __     August  __     September  __ </p> <p>October  __     November  __     December  __ </p>
<b>S2Q06</b>	<p>What is the main cause of ruptures?</p> <p>_____</p>	

### SECTION 3 – TIMETABLE/DOMESTIC AND ASSOCIATIVE TASKS

S3Q01	How many hours on average/day do you devote to your professional activity?  _ _  hours	
S3Q02	Main professional activities (the 4 which take the most time)	
	1 _____ 2 _____	3 _____ 4 _____
S3Q03	How many hours on average/day do you devote to your household?  _ _	
S3Q04	Main <b>domestic</b> activities (the 4 which take the most time)	
	1 _____ 2 _____	3 _____ 4 _____
S3Q05	Who does the cooking in your household?  _  1 = Yourself 2 = Partner/spouse 3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household 5 = an employee of the house 6 = Other _____	
S3Q06	Who does the buying of foodstuff for the house?  _  1 = Yourself 2 = Partner/spouse 3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household 5 = an employee of the house 6 = Other _____	
S3Q07	What are the main causes of disruptions in work for you in your trade? 1= _____ 2= _____ 3 = _____	
S3Q08	How many births have you had within your household in the last three years?  _	
S3Q09	How many days of no work on average did a birth cause in your trade?  _ _	
S3Q10	How many days of no work did you have in your trade in 2015 due to illness?  _ _	
S3Q11	Does your spouse/partner replace you in your business when you stop work? 1. Yes 2. No  _	
S3Q12	Are you a member of tontine or mutual aid and solidarity association in the market or in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No  _	
S3Q13	Are you a member of tontine or mutual aid and solidarity association outside of your trade? 1. Yes 2. No  _	
S3Q14	Are you a member of office or committee of directors of a tontine or mutual aid and solidarity association in the market or in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No  _	
S3Q15	Are you a member of office or committee of directors of an organization or managing body of your trade or the market? 1. Yes 2. No  _	





<b>S5Q03</b>	Who generally decides on the choice of plots to cultivate?	__	SAME
<b>S5Q04</b>	Who generally decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate?	__	
<b>S5Q05</b>	Who generally decides on the quantity to stock and destock?	__	
<b>S5Q06</b>	Who generally decides on the moment of stocking and destocking?	__	
<b>S5Q07</b>	Who keeps the keys of the shop?	__	
<b>S5Q08</b>	Who fixes the sale prices of products?	__	
<b>S5Q09</b>	Who decides on the places for sales?	__	
<b>S5Q10</b>	Who decides on the moment for sales?	__	
<b>S5Q11</b>	Who decides on what is done with the receipts?	__	
<b>S5Q12</b>	Who decides on the source of supplies for the most part?	__	
<b>S5Q13</b>	Who decides on the opportune moment for a new birth in the household?	__	

## SECTION 6 –ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES

<b>S6Q01</b>	What is your main source of financing? 1=Own funds 2=MFE/Bank 3=Tontines 4 = supplier/client 7= family/friends 8=Other _____	__
<b>S6Q02</b>	Do you have a bank account? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q03</b>	If yes, name of financial establishment _____	__
<b>S6Q04</b>	At least once in life, have you had recourse to credit from a financial establishment? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q05</b>	What difficulties do you have in obtaining credit that a person of the opposite sex would not have in your situation? 1 = _____ 2= _____	
<b>S6Q06</b>	What facilities do you have in obtaining credit that a person of the opposite sex would not have in your situation? 1 = _____ 2= _____	
<b>S6Q07</b>	At least once in life, have you had recourse to technical assistance, advisory support, or help form a partner in your trade? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q08</b>	At least once in life, have you had recourse to technical or professional training in relation to your trade? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q09</b>	Do you have a title deed in your name? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q10</b>	Do you own land you can exploit without conflict? 1=Yes 2=No	__
<b>S6Q11</b>	Do you have access to land which doesn't belong to you, but which you can exploit?	__

	1=Yes	2=No	
<b>S6Q12</b>	Do you have goods you could give as guarantees to obtain credit?		1=Yes      2=No       __

**SECTION 7 – SECURITY ON ROADS TO TRADE CENTERS/MARKETS**

<b>S7Q01.</b>	Are aggressions or physical abuse on the roads of food markets frequent? 1=Yes      2=No	__
<b>S7Q02.</b>	Have you already suffered aggression on the market roads? 1 = Yes   2 = No	__

**SECTION 8 – NATURE AND SIZE OF ACTIVITY**

<b>S8Q01.</b> Description of the activity: _____ _____	
<b>S8Q02.</b> Size of the activity: Give two indications to describe the size (area cultivated, tonnage of harvested products, number of trucks owned, ...)	1 - _____ 2 - _____

**FINAL INFORMATION**

<b>S9Q05</b> Observations of interviewer _____ _____ _____ _____
--

**Thank you for your collaboration!**

Date /period	Activity to complete
Tuesday, 26 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip from Yaoundé to Maroua</li> <li>• Work session in the WFP sub-office of Maroua</li> <li>• Contact regional heads</li> <li>• Preparation of trip to Mokolo</li> </ul>
Wednesday, 27 (Mokolo market day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip from Maroua to Mokolo</li> <li>• Work session with departmental heads, administrative and decentralized services of Mokolo</li> <li>• Individual interviews with the manager of market of Mokolo</li> <li>• Individual interviews of actors in the markets/agricultural value chain (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo</li> </ul>
Thursday, 28 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up of individual interviews of actors in the markets/agricultural value chain (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo</li> <li>• Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) of Mokolo</li> <li>• Focus group with civil society NGOs</li> </ul>
Friday, 29 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip from Mokolo to Maroua</li> <li>• Work session with regional, departmental and communal heads and administrative and decentralized services in Maroua (MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINPROFF, MINPMEESA, MINEPAT, DEL GOV)</li> </ul>
Saturday, 30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing of enumerators and interpreters of Maroua. Individual interviews with the manager of Maroua market</li> <li>• Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Maroua</li> </ul>
Monday, 2 May (Maroua market day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual interviews of actors within the markets/agricultural value chain (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo</li> </ul>
Tuesday, 3 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up of group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Maroua</li> <li>• Work session with civil society ONGs at the regional level Maroua – Debriefing with the WFP sub-office</li> <li>• Trip Maroua - Garoua</li> </ul>

<p>Wednesday, 4 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work session in the WFP sub-office</li> <li>• Work session with regional, departmental and communal heads and administrative and decentralized services in Garoua (MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINPROFF, MINPMEESA, MINEPAT, DEL GOV)</li> <li>• Briefing of enumerators and interpreters of Garoua.</li> <li>• Focus group with civil society ONGs at the regional level</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday, 5 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual interviews of actors within the markets/agricultural value chain (producer, transporter, processors, wholesalers, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Garoua</li> <li>• Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Garoua</li> </ul>
<p>Friday, 6 May</p>	<p>Return to Yaoundé</p>

## Annex V – List of people consulted

	Last name & First name	Structure/Profession	Telephone	E-mail	City
1.	ADAMA Moussa	UNWOMEN			Yaounde
2.	ADAMOU Appolinaire	WFP-CO			Yaounde
3.	AMOUGOU Bertrand	NIS			Yaounde
4.	ATANGANA Elisabeth	PROPAC		-	Yaounde
5.	ATEBA Emmanuel	MINPROFF			Yaounde
6.	BAILAOU Philemon	Representative DR/MINPROFF/Nord	699479117		Garoua
7.	BEAT NSONGUE Paulette	UNWOMEN			Yaounde
8.	BEBKIKI Abraham	KEITEKOUKA	699988543		Garoua
9.	BILOA MBALLA	ASBY	679811391		Yaounde
10.	BISSAKONOU Judes	BAD			Yaounde
11.	BIYONG BIYONG Jean Pierre	FAO	699145029	<a href="mailto:jean.biyongbiyong@fao.org">jean.biyongbiyong@fao.org</a>	Maroua
12.	BOUBAKARY Bello	WFP	699560791	<a href="mailto:bello.boubakary@wfp.org">bello.boubakary@wfp.org</a>	Garoua
13.	CHACVOURNE Céline	Bayam Sellam	694138580		Garoua
14.	DAILING Rosalie	Agricultural technician	696196332		Maroua
15.	DAIROU Yaya	Agricultural technician	697726138		Maroua
16.	DEMAGAI Damaris	Civil Society	677281852		Mokolo
17.	DJILIE Francis	WFP -CO			Yaounde
18.	DJUIDJE Suzanne	Civil Society	678151778 691565132	<a href="mailto:franckylaroch@yahoo.fr">franckylaroch@yahoo.fr</a>	Maroua
19.	DONGMO Ghislaine	WFP	699202033	<a href="mailto:ghislaine.dogmo@wfp.org">ghislaine.dogmo@wfp.org</a>	Garoua
20.	FADIMATOU	Bayam Sellam	655158539		Garoua
21.	FOKA née DOUDOU Elisabeth	Chief of agriculture – Ngong	697083292 679173873		Garoua
22.	HAMADOU Paul	WFP	699800313	<a href="mailto:hamadou.paul@wfp.org">hamadou.paul@wfp.org</a>	Garoua
23.	HAMIDOU Falama	MINADER/Benoué	699998119		Garoua
24.	HAROUNA	Regional Delegation of the Far-North - MINPROFF			Maroua
25.	IBRAHIMA HAMADOU AMINOU	WFP -CO			Yaounde
26.	IBRAHIMA Gomis	WFP	696943252	<a href="mailto:ibrahimagomi@yahoo.fr">ibrahimagomi@yahoo.fr</a>	Maroua
27.	IBRAHIMA GONI	WFP			Maroua
28.	KABUGI Emery	WFP	699800006	<a href="mailto:emery.kabugi@wff.org">emery.kabugi@wff.org</a>	Maroua
29.	KATIALA Justin	Advisor GIC NAROUBE	661114044		Garoua
30.	LAKREO Djaotouang	Farmer			Maroua
31.	MAHAMADOU Illa	WFP -CO			Yaounde

32.	MANGYANG TAOUKISSAM Jacques	Civil Society	6796286326 96683974	<a href="mailto:taojackweben@yahoo.fr">taojackweben@yahoo.fr</a>	Maroua
33.	MEDEPE Alphonse	Farmer	694791993		Garoua
34.	MIAN DIANGONE	UNWOMEN			Yaounde
35.	MOHAMAT Souwa	Farmer	690285397		Maroua
36.	MOMEGNI GAKAM Martine Epiphanie	Civil Society	6705786356 93429023	<a href="mailto:martinemomegni@yahoo.fr">martinemomegni@yahoo.fr</a>	Maroua
37.	MOUCHOUMA Messeri	Woman Trader	694398044		Maroua
38.	NETOUTI Rahab	Association of Fresh Fish Saleswomen	690635973		Garoua
39.	NGOK Alain Emmanuel	Office Chief of Government Delegation from CUM			Maroua
40.	NGORO	UNWOMEN			Yaounde
41.	NYAGO DINGBA Justin	PNSA	694927033	<a href="mailto:inyagod@gmail.com">inyagod@gmail.com</a>	Maroua
42.	ONGOLA	MINPROFF			Yaounde
43.	OUMAROU	Support Centre for the Self-Promotion of Sustainable Development			Mokolo
44.	OUMAROU Ousmanou	MINADER	696055035		Maroua
45.	PRUSCINI Elvira	WFP -CO	690100570		Yaounde
46.	RAMATOU Nora Eps ALIA Toussou	Maize and cassava flour saleswoman	6950983856 71941044		Garoua
47.	SADJO	MINADER	678149694		Mokolo
48.	SAIDOU Pierre	Trader	694784051		Maroua
49.	TAICHO Juliène	Agricultural technician	694645439		Maroua
50.	TCHADIEU TCHAPYA Guilaine	Plan-International	696757522	<a href="mailto:gtchadieu@gmail.com">gtchadieu@gmail.com</a>	Maroua
51.	TCHATCHOUANG NANFANG Yannick Franck	Civil Society	694217453	<a href="mailto:nanfangyannick@yahoo.fr">nanfangyannick@yahoo.fr</a>	Maroua
52.	TCHILENA Yanoussa	Agricultural technician	699646137		Maroua
53.	WADJONRE Jacques Desire	GIC DEMRI	674111870 655108927		Garoua
54.	YAHANI ADA	Woman Trader	696289988		Maroua
55.	ZAINA Madelaine	GIC DEMRI	690534213		Garoua
56.	ZOUA Jeannette	Social Centre / Social Assistant	698878157		Garoua

