



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY

### VAM GENDER AND MARKETS BRIEFING #2

#### VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN (LCB)

##### KEY MESSAGES:

- The conflict in northeastern Nigeria has shifted dramatically in the Lake Chad Basin, affecting nearly 7 million people (2016) and increasing the risks of protection and food security. Cassava, maize, sorghum, millet and rice are the dominant agricultural products of the region. Nigeria is the largest producer of cereals in the region and the world's largest producer of cassava (2016).
- Women constituting up to 79% of the rural labor force in the region. They are affected by shocks related to food security.
- Women are marginalized in grain value chains but play a larger role in the value chains of seasonal and perishable products. Despite their presence and the last value chain, they seemed less resilient.

##### **Agricultural value chains are not gender Neutral**

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

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

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

Primary sector employs more than 80% of the active population

30% of women's traders above 50 are wholesalers in Nigeria. Age plays a significant role in value chains

86% of women are illiterate in Chad

## TAKING ACTION

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

In terms of data collection, gender and market analysis, the following recommendations will allow WFP VAM to improve its work in assessing and monitoring empowerment to achieve gender equality goals :

- Reinforce WFP capacities and accountability so that assessment teams can analyze and report on gender responsive data and information.
- Introduce supplementary enumerator training modules on how to deliver questions.
- Use the wemi (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture index) as a valuable tool for WFP to achieve its mandate to help women and vulnerable populations to achieve their potential within food systems (see Table 1).

TABLE 1 : GENDER SENSITIVE ADAPTED WEMI QUESTIONS FROM THE EFSA

Questions	Options of responses
Who decides most often to take a loan to finance commercial activities?	1 = self 2 = partner / spouse 3 = other household member 4 = self and other member (s) of the household 5 = partner / spouse and other household member (s) 6 someone (or group of people) out of the home 7 = other
Who decides most of the amount of your generated income that will be spent on food for your household?	
Who decides most often if you are going to sell?	
Who decides most often on the price at which you will sell your products?	
Who decides most often if you will give your products for free?	
Who decides most often or and who to buy?	
What is your biggest challenge / obstacle for your business in the future?	
Êtes-vous à l'aise pour discuter des problèmes d'activités commerciales en public ?	1=non, pas du tout à l'aise 2=oui, mais difficilement 3=oui, mais avec un peu de difficulté 4=oui, assez à l'aise 5=oui, très à l'aise

FIGURE 1 : TOP 5 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY TRADERS, BY GENDER

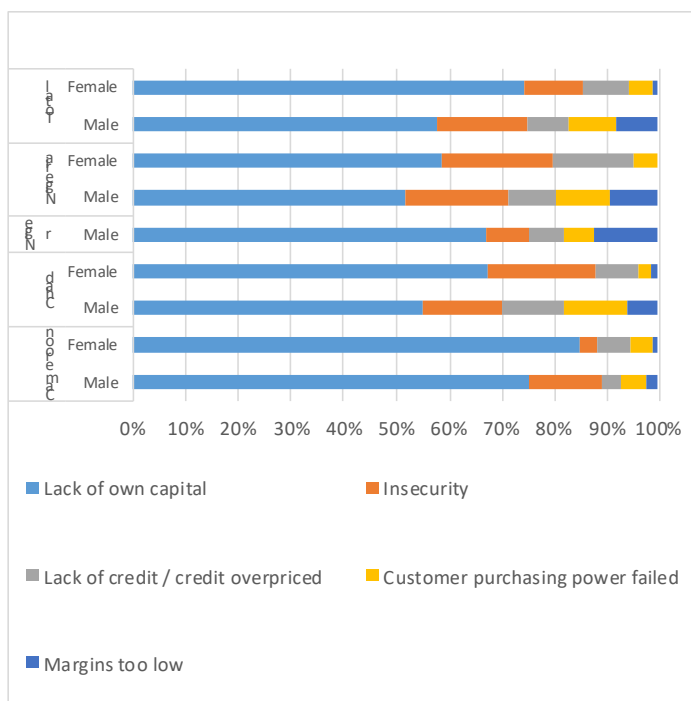


Table 1. reflects the gender sensitive WEMI questions integrated in the EFSA (Emergency and Food Security Assessment) and serves as a good practice example to capture information on the relevant gender dimensions of food markets. Gender sensitive surveys require several strong tools for defining a clear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

### TO GO FURTHER :

Gender and Market Initiative: Empowering West African Women through Market-based Food Assistance : <https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/106>

### FOR THE LATEST INFO ON LAKE CHAD BASIN:

<https://www.wfp.org/Situation-Reports/Lake-Chad-Basin>

### SOURCE(S) :

"WFP, 2016. Gender and Market Case Study #1 : Assessing Gender and Markets in the Lake Chad Basin Region".  
 "UNFPA, 2017. Regional Protection Group Meeting : Gender-based violence in the Lake Chad Basin"

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Photo page 1: WFP/Marco Frattini