



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY

VAM GENDER AND MARKETS BRIEFING #11

TRANSFER OF EMPOWERMENT FROM MARKETS TO HOUSEHOLDS IN NIGER

KEY MESSAGES:

- This study conducted under the gender and markets initiative aims to understand how economic empowerment can be transferred to households and contribute to the empowerment of marginalized women and populations in Niger.
- According to 69% of women interviewed, one of the reasons for which their economic empowerment is not translated in their households results from the conservatism of their spouse.
- According to the shopkeepers in the Allakaye commune, about 50 % of the husbands refuse to let their wives undertake business outside the house. half of the traders identified during the study have been widowed or divorced.

Multiple challenges faced by women

Within the communities interviewed, women depend on men who dominate decision-making in households. The normative role of men is generally to provide for the family and to run the household. The role of women is to ensure its functioning (household, domestic and agricultural tasks).

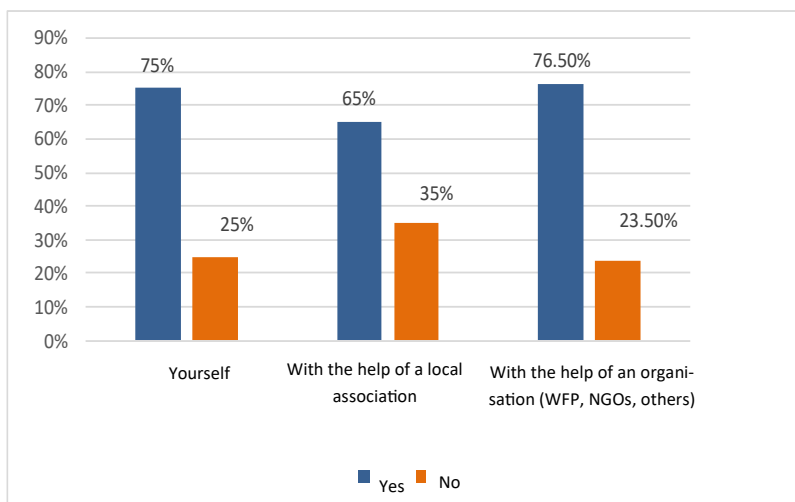
It is important to highlight that 84% of women declare they "do not think" about the issue of empowerment within households, when 39% of them say they are "not interested". According to the study, marital status, presence of children and age are the main determinants of women's

financial autonomy, with age reflecting, for example, young women's work experiences.

The study reveals that the lack of financial and material means is the main socio-economic obstacle to empowerment. Access to credit is limited or nonexistent in the communities studied. A lack of demand persists, due to the Nigerian context being less favourable to trade in general, Niger being one of the poorest countries of the world. Poor infrastructures also have a negative impact on women's access to markets.

The lack of skills and knowledge of current legislations make export difficult, particularly to Nigeria.

GRAPH 1 : WOMEN'S ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION: HOW DID YOU GAIN YOUR ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY ?



96.7% OF HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED
CONSIDER ACCESS TO EDUCATION AS A
RELEVANT FACTOR FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

93% OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS
ARE SUPERVISED BY MEN

ACCORDING TO WFP NIGER, 54% OF
HOUSEHOLDS ARE DEFINED AS
« VERY POOR »

PROMOTE GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION	SUPPORT GROUP- INGS AND WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS	SUPPORT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN MARKETS	INCLUDE ALL MALE AND FEMALE ACTORS IN SOCIETY TO ENGAGE A DIALOGUE ON EMPOWERMENT	INFORM, RAISE AWARENESS AND EXCHANGE
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TAKING ACTION

It is important to consider political, ideological and cultural contexts to implement the recommendations that will follow. It will also be necessary for these recommendations to be sustainable for greater effectiveness.

Strengthening women's capacity for action by promoting girls' access to education at the local and national levels will be required in the long term.

Supporting and scaling up the capacity of women's groups and associations by increasing access to capital, equipment, seeds and livestock are recommendations flagged by the study.

Facilitating access to micro credit and strengthened institutional support, through management or leadership training would be required.

Supporting income-generating activities (IGAs) for women in the markets through technical training, and better access to arable land, would promote the creation of job opportunities.

Finally, informing and sensitizing collectively women, men and key community actors (women's groups, women leaders, husbands, local and religious authorities) would initiate and / or deepen actual conversations on the roles and attributes of women and men, maternal and reproductive health, early pregnancy, early marriage and girls' education.

Positive consequences such as increased income, increased knowledge and higher social status are expected. In addition, these recommendations would have a positive impact on living conditions, education, community resilience and cohesion within households.

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 NIGERIA:

<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/nigeria>

SOURCE(S) :

WFP REPORT, 2017. Empowering Women in West African Markets Case Study of Street Food Vendors in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

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Photo page 1: WFP/Karolina Greda