

What is the programmatic application of gender-sensitive data collection and gender analysis in VAM?

Integrating gender-awareness into qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, and subsequent analysis and reporting ensures the development of comprehensive food security profiles, and supports design and implementation of gender-sensitive programming and activities. However, it is not always clear to staff how collected information (from household surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews) are relevant to programmes and interventions.

This tool is supplementary to the [2005 VAM Gender Thematic Guidelines](#) and other VAM gender-related resources, to support VAM staff and other WFP colleagues engaged in gender-sensitive data collection and analysis.¹ The 2005 Guidelines supports VAM staff to incorporate gender perspectives into food security analysis, but is limited in providing clear examples as to how the data and analysis inform programme design, and thus are relevant to WFP operations and programming. The current tool is meant to fill this gap by providing descriptions of programmatic applications of gender-sensitive data, accompanied by sample gender-sensitive data collection questions for different tools.

The below table includes a non-exhaustive list of sample data collection questions extracted from a range of tools, assessment types, and contexts to provide clear connections between data collection, analysis and application. Though they are associated with specific programmes and sample analysis in the table below, sample questions should not be interpreted as exclusive to a certain programme or analytical approach.²

The programmes and related activity areas covered include:

- General Food Distribution
- School meals
- Cash & Vouchers
- P4P
- Food Assistance for Assets/Livelihoods
- Nutrition
- Monitoring & Reporting

¹ The sample questions and analysis provided here are a mix of that best collected through a household survey, focus groups and/or key informant interviews. Different tools are required for each of these cases, as is different training of enumerators, and time to collect the information. The [2005 Guidelines](#) should be referred to for more case-specific and in-depth guidance.

² Because gender-sensitive data is highly context specific, provided here is a wide range of sample questions drawn from different types of assessments, data collection instruments, and food security scenarios to reflect the fact that these questions are relevant in all such areas, and not only, for example, in baseline assessments.

Programmatic and operational information needs	Gender-sensitive data collection questions	Data collection tool(s)
General Food Distribution		
<p>Within a household, nutrition levels may vary between members, particularly due to age and sex. Understanding the dynamics of food consumption within a household informs response actions to improve the well-being of all individuals.</p>	<p>How many meals were eaten yesterday? By girls/boys from 6-23 months old? By other male/female members of the family?</p>	<p>Household survey</p>
<p>During general food distributions, entitlements are often issued in women's names. However, women do not always have control over the food once they have left the distribution site. There may also be inequalities in community decision-making between men and women. Programmes should be aware of such challenges.</p>	<p>When food is scarce in the household, in what sequence do family members eat (men, women, both men/women, boys, girls, both boys/girls, boys/men, girls/women, etc.)? Who eats the biggest/smallest quantity?</p>	<p>Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>
	<p>Are you a member of a food management committee? If yes: What is the role of the committee? What role do you play in the committee? Do you feel you're your concerns are heard and that you can influence committee decision-making?</p>	<p>Household survey; Focus group discussion, separated by sex; Key informant interview with balance of male and female community representatives</p>
<p>Targeting women as entitlement holders has protection risks, including domestic abuse and gender-based violence. Risk reduction efforts rely on gender-sensitive vulnerability information on such protection-related concerns.</p>	<p>WFP often targets women as beneficiaries, participants and food entitlement holders. What do you think of such arrangements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the active targeting of women improve their decision making power inside the household? - Does the active targeting of women result in more positive or negative relations between men and women? - Does the active targeting of women provoke frustration among men/ domestic violence? 	<p>Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p> <p>*Focus group discussions should only elicit general information about safety concerns, as questions about personal experiences of safety problems should never be asked in front of other people due to privacy considerations.</p>
	<p>How many household members went (or tried to go) to the WFP programme site during the last 2 months? Have any of these household members experienced safety problems: 1) going to WFP programme sites; 2) at WFP programme sites; and/or 3) coming from WFP programme sites during the last 2 months? (Y/N) If yes, could you tell me where the problem occurred? (1/2/3) Which household member experienced safety problems? (Age group, sex) Could you briefly tell me what the nature of the problem was? What could be done to make it safer for you or other members of your household to access WFP programme sites?</p>	<p>Household survey, with female enumerator to female respondent, and male to male</p>
School Meals		

<p>In areas with a wide gender gap in school enrolment and/or retention (often girls have lower enrolment and retention than boys), understanding the reasons why one group is not sent to/kept in school are fundamental for assessing the appropriateness of ‘take-home’ rations as an incentive for school attendance for pupils of a particular gender.</p>	<p>Did ALL primary/secondary school-aged children regularly attend school in the past 6 months? (Y/N)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If no, what was the main reason for these children not attending regularly? (disaggregated by sex of child) Optional responses should be tailored to context, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No functioning school in this village/ area they can attend/school too far - No money for school fee / costs - Have to work in the family (gardening, fetching water, taking care of siblings) - Have to work for an income - Parents not interested in school - Children not interested in school - Sickness - Pregnancy - Marriage - School is located in insecure area - No school feeding in the nearest school - Other (specify) 	<p>Household survey</p>
<p>Cash & Vouchers</p>		
<p>Because of the different expenditure habits and preferences of men and women, and differences in who controls different resources in the household (cash vs. food vs. vouchers), some transfer modalities may be more appropriate, or more preferred than others (for example, women often report preferring in-kind food over cash, because they do not control household cash spending and/or are concerned that their husbands might use cash on alcohol/tobacco rather than food). Similarly, understanding the different expenditure priorities of men and women, helps to establish which modality is more appropriate for a population. Identifying these factors in the assessment phase and disaggregating by sex of respondent and/or head of household supports programmes in determining the most appropriate modality.</p>	<p>If you had to choose, what would you prefer to receive: Cash, vouchers, food, or a combination? Why?</p>	<p>Focus group discussions, separated by sex</p>
	<p>What are your priority expenditures, including for food purchases?</p>	
<p>WFP is expanding use of mobile phones, smart cards, e-vouchers delivered by text messaging and other innovative methods of addressing hunger. These modalities often rely on access to certain products (phones, etc.) which may be more limited for certain groups. Disaggregating access by sex and age supports future targeting efforts.</p>	<p>Is beneficiary targeting equitable and transparent, for example, the targeting of the most vulnerable population, or the groups most exposed to food insecurity? If not, why?</p>	<p>Focus group discussions, separated by sex; key informant interviews with community representatives, with balance of men and women</p>
	<p>Communication (telephone credit, internet, cell phone, etc.) (this is as an option to the question “In the last 30 days, did your household purchase the following products:”)</p>	<p>Household survey</p>

P4P

<p>Targeting crops for local procurement which are predominantly produced and/or sold by women can have a transformative impact on women's socio-economic empowerment and gender relations. This requires knowledge of which crops are produced either exclusively or predominantly by women (or men, if the objective is to empower men). Disaggregating the following questions by sex of head of household can provide this information.</p>	<p>What crops do your household produce? Who in your household mainly produces these crops?</p>	<p>Household survey</p>
	<p>What is the primary purpose of crop production (e.g. household consumption, market sales)</p>	
	<p>Do you or other members of your household have access to training on new agriculture techniques?</p>	
	<p>Can both men and women access/own/inherit land?</p>	<p>Secondary data collection; key informant interview (in interviews, questioning could include distinguishing between formal and informal barriers, if relevant)</p>

Food Assistance for Assets, Livelihoods

<p>FFA typically aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce hardships (e.g. collection of water, firewood, and fodder) - Increase access to food through improving access to markets or enhanced production (e.g. rehabilitation of degraded lands, irrigation schemes, etc.) - Increase the abilities and capacities of communities and households to interact, take decisions, provide their own contributions to change, and gain responsibility for the management of assets created. <p>Understanding the livelihood challenges and capacities of different groups helps target actions and achieve programme objectives.</p>	<p>Describe the typical daily schedules of men and women in your household (distinguishing between 2 seasons, if appropriate: season of high agricultural activity; and season of lower agricultural activity).</p>	<p>Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>
	<p>In your household, who contributes to household income? (Provide response in percentages, e.g. children 10%, male members 30%, female members 60%)</p>	<p>Household survey; Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>
	<p>What are the wage labour opportunities for men? For women? What do women/men, girls/boys usually earn per hour?</p>	<p>Key Informant interview; Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>
	<p>Have you heard of any cases of violence against women/domestic abuse? If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does this violence occur where women are looking for water or firewood? - Does this violence occur where women are going to or returning from the marketplace? 	<p>Household survey (female enumerator to female respondent/ male to male); Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p> <p>*Focus group discussions should only elicit general information about safety concerns, as questions about personal experiences of safety problems should never be asked in front of other people due to privacy considerations.</p>
<p>Because time spent on FFA activities impedes on time beneficiaries would otherwise spend on their normal activities (household chores, childcare, livelihood activity, education etc.), it is important to understand how the timing of activities (throughout the day and throughout the year) can affect women and men differently. This will help time activities and determine activity durations so as to minimize the disruption to women's often very busy schedules.</p>	<p>Are there protection concerns associated with collecting firewood for fuel/fetching water? Who are the groups primarily responsible for these tasks?</p>	<p>Household survey (female enumerator to female respondent/ male to male); Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>
	<p>What is the distance to, and time required to reach the nearest market?</p>	<p>Key informant interview (with equal male/female representation); Focus group discussion</p>
	<p>Which member(s) of the family regularly visit the market?</p>	<p>Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p>

Nutrition

<p>In order to ensure child nutrition programmes are successful, programme must identify the primary child caregiver(s) and decision maker(s) over child health.</p>	Who (women, men, both) in the household decides on what to do when a child falls sick?	<p>Household survey; Focus group discussion, separated by sex</p> <p>*When assessing decision-making roles: the questions included here reflect the information sought, but when actually phrasing questions in a survey or focus group, consider social and cultural context, power relations, and accountability to the respondent. Responding honestly may put a respondent at risk of reprisal, or due to cultural roles of older women or a mother-in-law in determining nutrients of pregnant women, only assessing decision-making between men, women, or both making fails to give a clear picture of some women's control over their own nutrition.</p>
	Who (women, men, both) in the household are primarily responsible for the care and feeding of small children (of 6-23 months)? Does this vary by season (e.g. during harvest)?	
	Who (women, men, both) in the household influences complimentary feeding and breastfeeding of small children 6-23 months)?	
	Who (women, men, both) influences what pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls eat?	
Monitoring and Reporting		
<p>The Strategic Results Framework 2014-2017 identifies indicators for each Strategic Objective (SO). In addition to these, the SRF includes cross-cutting indicators for gender, protection and partnership.</p> <p>The gender cross-cutting indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proportion of assisted women, men or both women and men who make decisions over the use of cash, vouchers or food within the household - Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees - Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash or voucher distribution.³ <p>Though post-distribution monitoring studies only make up a small portion of VAM work, VAM assessments can still provide important information to support SRF indicators and monitoring activities.</p>	Who (women, men, both) generally makes decisions over household resources or important household issues?	<p>Key informant (KI) interviews; focus group discussions of beneficiaries separated by sex.</p> <p>* KI interview questionnaires should be administered by female enumerators to women committee leaders (unless the context does not allow for this)</p>
	Are women leaders able to voice their concerns when decisions are made? (Y/N)	
	Who (women, men, both) tends to have more influence over decision-making? What are the reasons for this?	
	<p>Has there been any training provided to the members of the management committee during the past 6 months?</p> <p>If yes, how many men and women management committee members were trained in the past 6 months?</p> <p>How would you explain these results?</p> <p>Is there a local management committee for the assistance provided?</p> <p>If so, what is the gender composition of the committee's leadership positions? (# of women, # of men)</p>	

³ [WFP Corporate Crosscutting Indicators – Gender](#)