

The power of gender equality for food security

Gender equality – and empowerment, which is what takes us to gender equality – is essential to ending hunger because:

- empowerment reduces the probability of a person being food insecure
- the links between empowerment and food security are similar for women and for men
- women are less empowered than men
- women are more likely, than men, to be food insecure

What is the basis for these claims? A new quantitative measure in the making – the “Gender Equality for Food Security” (GE4FS) measure.

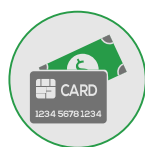
What is the GE4FS measure?

The GE4FS measure is a globally-applicable instrument that looks at the interconnectedness of dis/empowerment and food in/security. The GE4FS measure combines the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and a gender equality component.

The gender equality component is a set of 18 questions exploring five dimensions of personal empowerment:



Decision-making ability



Financial self-sufficiency



Freedom from violence



Reproductive freedom



Unpaid labour

Who

Persons aged 15 years and older were surveyed; with equal numbers of women and men.

How

The GE4FS is administered through the Gallup World Poll (GWP).

When

The GE4FS data were collected in 2018 and 2019.

Where

The GE4FS has been administered in 17 countries.

Why a new quantitative measure?

The gender data gap persists. And there is no quantitative measure that gathers data on a person's experiences of gender in/equality and of food in/security.

It is important to have this data because gender and food – and the associated inequalities and insecurities – are two elements of the daily lives of all persons.

And we need to know about the daily lives of different people for effective, efficient, equitable and empowering programming and policies.

View a brief video on the GE4FS measure
https://youtu.be/Pu90ff_eH7M

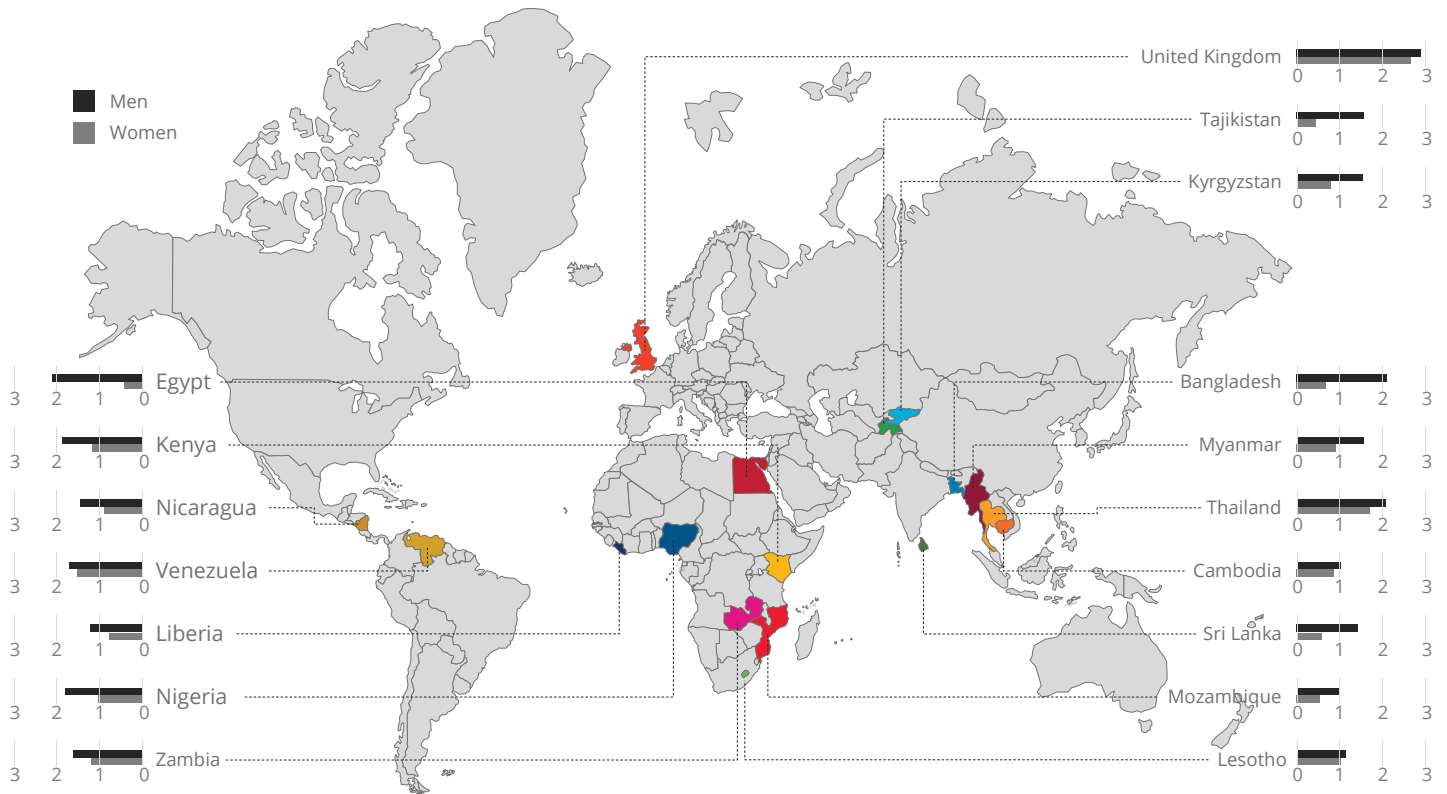
Read more about the GE4FS measure
in the full report here

<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112500/download/>



Empowerment scores of women and men, in the 17 surveyed countries

The 17 countries where the GE4FS measure was administered, along with the empowerment scores of the surveyed women and men. The higher the score, the higher the level of empowerment.



Women-men gap in the empowerment score

The relative 'gap' in empowerment between women and men in each of the 17 surveyed countries.

