



WFP EVALUATION



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The Impacts of Cash for Work on Food Security and Gender Equality in Haiti

Impact evaluation report

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Executive summary

1. Haiti faces one of the world's most severe food insecurity crises. Since 2016, the number of people without enough food has tripled.¹ Today, 5.4 million Haitians – nearly half the population – struggle to access sufficient food, with 2 million in a state of food emergency and 6,000 facing catastrophic levels of hunger.² Haiti's worsening wider security crisis has further intensified food, economic, and humanitarian challenges, with gang violence and instability disrupting essential services and aid access. Women are particularly vulnerable. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranks Haiti among the lowest in gender equality, placing it 169th out of 191 countries in the Gender Development Index (GDI) and 163rd in the Gender Inequality Index (GII). To address this crisis, the World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing initiatives aimed at alleviating food insecurity, strengthening communities, and promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

2. In 2022, WFP launched the Expansion of Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations project to support Haitians affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative, backed by the Economic and Social Assistance Fund (FAES) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), aims to provide social protection to vulnerable communities. A key component of the project is Food Assistance for Assets (FFA), which focuses on public works to create, restore, and maintain essential community assets. The impact evaluation examines how the FFA programmes influence food security and women's economic empowerment in Haiti.

3. This impact evaluation of the FFA³ programme was implemented by the WFP Office of Evaluation in partnership with the World Bank's Development Impact (DIME) department. The evaluation contributes to both the Cash-Based Transfers and Gender window, and the Climate and Resilience window – two multi-country evaluation portfolios. These windows are designed through extensive literature reviews and stakeholder consultations to identify priorities for new impact evaluations to address key evidence gaps.

4. The main impact evaluation questions are:

Evaluation Question 1: What is the impact of the FFA programme on household food security and resilience?

Evaluation Question 2: Can targeting women through the FFA programme promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women?

¹ WFP. (2025) [Haiti Country Brief](#).

² Ibid.

³ While the term FFA is used throughout this report, the country office has transitioned to cash-based modalities for asset creation (e.g., Cash for Work). The use of FFA reflects the original design and terminology of the programme.

5. The impact evaluation uses a cluster Randomized Control Trial (RCT) design to compare 78 communities across three groups:⁴

- **FFA for Women group:** Beneficiaries received conditional cash transfers of up to USD 140 per cycle, with a maximum of about USD 560 across four cycles. Payments were linked to participation in community asset creation, with each cycle requiring up to 20 days of work per month. The programme registered the household's primary female decision maker to receive the transfer and contribute to the work.
- **FFA group:** Beneficiaries received conditional cash transfers of up to USD 140 per month, with a maximum of about USD 560 across four cycles. Payments were linked to participation in community asset creation, with each cycle requiring up to 20 days of work per month. The primary male decision maker of the household is registered to receive the transfer and work on the asset.
- **Comparison group:** These households did not participate in the programme or receive cash transfers during the study. They were provided with a small stipend (USD 5.34 per household) for completing surveys. All of these households later joined the programme after the second payment cycle. As a result, the main focus of the comparison group is on the first two cycles of asset creation.

6. The impact evaluation measurement strategy included a baseline survey conducted in April-May 2023 (pre-intervention), followed by the **first midline** survey in December 2023 (during the intervention, after one cycle of asset work). The **second midline** survey took place in February-March 2024 (after two cycles of asset work), and the endline survey was carried out in August-September 2024 (two months after the final cycle of asset work) to compare outcomes between the FFA for Women group and the standard FFA group. Additionally, qualitative data was collected after the project finished to gain more insights.

7. The impact evaluation covered 78 localities within three communes – Jean Rabel (Nord-Ouest), Petites Rivières, and Fonds de Nègres (Nippes).⁵ A sample of 1,125 households was selected from the 78 localities for the survey. Initially, 26 localities were assigned to each group (FFA-Men, FFA-Women, and comparison), but at the request of the WFP Country Office, six comparison localities were randomly selected and re-assigned to the FFA programme (to increase the number of project beneficiaries. This resulted in 29 localities per **programme group** (FFA and FFA for Women) and 20 for the comparison group. In addition, the comparison localities were phased into the programme after the second cycle of asset creation (after the collection of midline data). Security conditions deteriorated significantly from the start of the project until its completion, affecting the implementation timeline and data collection activities. This also potentially had an impact on participation rates.

⁴ For future reference, the evaluation refers to both the FFA for Women and the FFA groups as the "programme group".

⁵ In Haiti, *localités* are small administrative or geographical units, often corresponding to villages, neighbourhoods, or hamlets within a larger communal section (*section communale*). They are smaller than a commune (municipality) but larger than individual households. The exact size and characteristics of a *localité* can vary, but in rural areas, they typically function as villages or clusters of households.

8. The baseline survey revealed that targeted households were vulnerable, experiencing high levels of food insecurity, poor food consumption, and diets lacking in nutritional diversity. Gender inequality within households was also widespread. The data showed that women had limited control over how they spent their time, likely influenced by household attitudes and societal norms. Their earnings were only 64.7 percent of men's earnings. Additionally, many women reported experiencing psychological, physical, and sexual intimate partner violence. Mental health challenges were also prevalent, with nearly 50 percent of women reporting moderate to severe depression.

9. After the first cycle of asset work, only half of the beneficiaries reported participating in asset creation activities (44 percent in the FFA for Women group and 56 percent in the FFA group). Participation rates continued to rise steadily, reaching 53 percent and 64 percent, respectively, by the end of the second cycle. By the endline, most beneficiaries reported participating in asset work, with participation rates at 72 percent for the FFA for Women group and 79 percent for the FFA group. Additionally, by the endline, nearly 88 percent of respondents across both groups reported receiving cash transfers.

Summary of findings

10. At midlines, when comparing the two FFA programme groups with the comparison group, the evaluation found that the project improved the food security⁶ level after two cycles of asset work significantly (+13 percent increase of the Food Consumption Score), in addition to some financial outcomes such as access to credit and family financial assistance. However, the project did not have impact on other productive livelihoods. Comparing both the FFA groups with each other, women in the FFA for Women group spent less time on self-employment but more time on asset work compared to the FFA group. Households in the FFA for Women group also saw higher WFP earnings, and women maintained greater agency over time use than those in the FFA group.

11. At endline, when comparing the FFA for Women group with the FFA group a few months after the project ended, the evaluation found that targeting women through FFA relatively improved women's earnings through increased women's participation in asset creation activities. Also, it slightly increased women decision-making power in the household. It also improved men's attitude over women's time-use and lowered instances of intimate partner violence (particularly sexual violence) relative to the FFA group where women were not particularly targeted. The evaluation cannot confirm whether the two FFA programme groups performed better than the comparison group along these same measures because the latter was phased into the project after the second FFA cycle.

⁶ As measured by WFP's Food Consumption Score.

Summary of key considerations

12. To enhance the effectiveness of future FFA programmes, three key considerations could be addressed.

13. Efforts should focus on boosting overall participation rates – especially among women – by clearly communicating programme benefits to both men and women, (potentially offering greater compensation), and restricting men’s involvement in FFA projects designed specifically for women.

14. While some gains in women’s agency and shifts in male attitudes were observed, both FFA variants were linked to increased violence against women during implementation, highlighting the need for complementary programming. Interventions such as gender equality training, community discussions, and awareness campaigns may help mitigate backlash and foster a more supportive environment for women’s empowerment.

15. Future initiatives can aim to improve food access and dietary diversity (measured through the Food Consumption Score), as gains in diversity were not matched by improvements in access. This may require additional activities such as nutrition education and diverse food sourcing, especially in the FFA for Women group, where lower participation also meant reduced cash support. Longer-term evaluations are also recommended to determine the sustainability of these outcomes (maintaining a stable comparison group for longer).

1. Introduction

1.1. Country context

16. Haiti has one of the highest population densities in the Caribbean, with 433 people per square kilometre.⁷ The country is highly prone to natural hazards, including cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and landslides.⁸ The combination of political unrest and natural hazards has significant economic and social impacts, with a large portion of the population exposed to recurrent risks.⁹ Climate change and low income levels exacerbate the vulnerability of households, increasing their exposure to natural hazards that disrupt lives and livelihoods.¹⁰ This results in heightened vulnerability, food insecurity, and malnutrition, which hinder Haiti's efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.¹¹

17. Haiti is facing a severe food insecurity crisis in 2025, with nearly half of its population – approximately 5.4 million people – experiencing acute hunger. Among them, 2 million are at emergency levels (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4), and 6,000 are enduring catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). Women and girls are disproportionately affected. The situation has been worsened by multiple factors, including economic instability, climate-related shocks, and widespread violence. In 2024 alone, gang violence led to at least 5,600 deaths, which is 1,000 more than the previous year. This violence has further disrupted food production and distribution. The COVID-19 pandemic also intensified the crisis, leaving an estimated 1.3 million people in severe hunger due to its economic impact. Food prices in Haiti remain significantly higher than in the rest of the Latin America and Caribbean region, adding another layer of difficulty for vulnerable households.^{12,13,14,15,16,17}

18. Haiti's security situation has further compounded the country's food, economic, and humanitarian crisis. Escalating gang violence, political instability, and a breakdown in law enforcement led to mass displacement, restricted access to essential services, and disruptions in

⁷ Macrotrends. (2025) [Haiti Population Density 1950-2025](#).

⁸ World Bank Group. (2025) [Haiti – Vulnerability. Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#).

⁹ Europa. (2021) [Haiti Country Risk Profile](#).

¹⁰ Bacarreza, G.C. and others. (2024) [Household Vulnerability and Preparedness for Disasters in Haiti](#). World Bank Group.

¹¹ WFP. (2025) [Haiti Country Brief](#).

¹² Birkbeck, T. and others. (2024). [Hunger in Haiti reaches historic high with one-in-two Haitians now in acute hunger](#). World Food Programme.

¹³ IPC. (2025) [Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for August 2024 - February 2025 and Projection for March - June 2025](#)

¹⁴ Food Security Information Network, Global Network Against Food Crises, and FAO. (2021). *Global Report on Food Crisis*; WFP. (2021) Annual Report 2021.

¹⁵ WFP. (2025) [Haiti Country Brief](#).

¹⁶ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (2025) [Populations at Risk. Haiti](#).

¹⁷ WFP. (2025) [Haiti Country Brief](#).

food supply chains. Armed groups gained control over large parts of the country and its capital, limiting humanitarian access and exacerbating vulnerabilities, particularly for women and children. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Haiti ranks 169th in the Gender Development Index (GDI)¹⁸ and 163rd in the Gender Inequality Index (GII)¹⁹ out of 191 countries. The low ranking on the GDI and the GI reflects Haiti's persistent disparities in health, education, and economic participation.^{20,21,22,23,24,25}

19. Women in Haiti face significant challenges across multiple dimensions, including access to education, health care, and economic opportunities. Gender-based violence and discrimination remain widespread, with limited legal protection and high rates of abuse. Only 16 percent of women are formally employed, while 48 percent work in the informal sector, earning on average 30 percent less than men. Early marriage is also prevalent, with 14.9 percent of women aged 20–24 married or in a union before age 18. These inequalities contribute to heightened vulnerability, particularly in the context of food insecurity, where women and girls are disproportionately affected. The risks of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation are further intensified by the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

20. Various organizations, including WFP, are working to address the challenges. For example, to combat economic instability, climate-related shocks, and violence that disrupt food production and distribution, WFP implements programmes that support local agriculture and markets, such as the Home-Grown School Meals Programme, which sources food from local farmers.²⁶ Additionally, WFP addresses gender inequality by promoting gender-sensitive strategies and providing nutrition education and support to vulnerable groups, including women and children.²⁷ These efforts aim to reduce food insecurity, improve resilience, and promote gender equality in Haiti.

1.2. Evaluation features

21. In response to the crisis in Haiti, WFP is actively contributing through numerous interventions and programmes to mitigate shocks, enhance community resilience, and address gender disparities. WFP Haiti implemented the Expansion of Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations Affected by the Socio-Economic Consequences of the Coronavirus project, supported by the Economic and Social Assistance Fund (FAES) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), with the aim of providing social protection to vulnerable communities in Haiti. A major component of the project constitutes public works for the creation, restoration, and maintenance of environmental community assets,

¹⁸ UNDP. (2025) Gender Development Index (GDI).

¹⁹ UNDP. (2025) Human Development Reports. Gender Inequality Index (GII).

²⁰ World Bank. (2014) *Investing in People to Fight Poverty in Haiti*.

²¹ World Bank. (2024) Open Data. Female salaried workers: % of the female population in employment.

²² OCHA. (2023) Food Crisis & Gender Inclusion.

²³ United Nations Women. (2025) Haiti. United Nations Women Count Data Hub.

²⁴ [Ibid.](#)

²⁵ The Borgen Project. (2020) [10 Facts about Gender Inequality in Haiti](#).

²⁶ WFP. (2025) [Haiti Country Brief](#).

²⁷ WFP. (2023) [Haiti Country Strategic Plan](#).

also called Food Assistance for Assets (FFA). The impact evaluation aimed to study the impacts of participating in the FFA programme on food security and women's empowerment in the context of Haiti.

22. In 2022, WFP Haiti requested the Office of Evaluation to conduct an impact evaluation to understand how participating in the asset creation programme (referred to it in this report as FFA)²⁸ affects household resilience, women's social and economic empowerment, and gender equality.

23. The impact evaluation aimed to identify: a) the impact of WFP's FFA programme on food security and household resilience; and b) the extent to which the FFA programme can promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

24. The first underlying hypothesis suggests that giving households the opportunity to engage in productive activities and providing cash transfers will help ensure that shocks and negative coping strategies do not have lasting adverse consequences. The second underlying hypothesis suggests that providing women with the opportunity to receive cash and work outside their homes will strengthen their autonomy and control over finances, leading to greater social and economic autonomy.

25. WFP's [Impact Evaluation Strategy](#) (2019-2026)²⁹ aims to ensure that impact evaluations contribute to global knowledge and organizational learning. The evaluations are organized around key evidence needs identified through literature reviews and consultations. Each evaluation follows a pre-analysis plan to help understand what works across different countries. Impact evaluation windows provide evidence for future WFP programming and global efforts aligned with the themes of each window beyond WFP. This impact evaluation is part of two windows: the Cash-based Transfers and Gender window examines how cash transfers affect gender equality and women's empowerment in various WFP programmes; and the Climate and Resilience window measures how WFP programming can contribute to increasing resilience capacities against shocks and stressors.

26. The impact evaluation followed a three-arm cluster Randomized Control Trial (RCT) design across 78 localities and 1,125 households, incorporating a baseline survey conducted before the intervention, two midline surveys – one after the first cycle of asset creation activities and a second shorter midline after the second cycle – and an endline survey conducted two months after the final cash distribution. Four waves of panel surveys captured a wide range of outcomes, including women's social and economic empowerment, food security, gender equality, and household decision-making dynamics. In addition to quantitative data, the evaluation also included qualitative insights to enrich the understanding of programme impacts.

27. The main audience for this evaluation includes the WFP Haiti Country Office and its partners. It is also intended to be useful for policymakers and organizations focused on gender equality, food security, and women's empowerment, especially in Haiti and similar regions. The results are

²⁸ While the term FFA is used throughout this report, the country office has transitioned to cash-based modalities for asset creation (e.g., Cash for Work). The use of FFA reflects the original design and terminology of the programme.

²⁹ WFP. (2019) WFP [Impact Evaluation Strategy](#) (2019-2026).

expected to help design future cash transfer programmes in Haiti and align with the goals of the 2023 WFP Cash Policy, particularly in enhancing the economic power of food-insecure women.

28. The report starts by describing the project itself, the evaluation methodology and design, including limitations and ethical considerations. Next, it describes the data sources and tools used, followed by a discussion of programme implementation. The report then presents the results, combining findings from the baseline (before the intervention), midlines (short-term, during the intervention), and endline (after the intervention) data using regression analysis on key outcome variables. It also includes qualitative results that support the quantitative findings. Finally, the report discusses the main findings and provides conclusions and recommendations based on the results.

29. This impact evaluation was implemented by the WFP Office of Evaluation in partnership with the [World Bank's Development Impact \(DIME\)](#) department.

2. Programme description

30. In Haiti, WFP started the Expansion of Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations project, supported by the Economic and Social Assistance Fund (FAES) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). Part of the project provided cash transfers to people who participated in public works to create, restore, and maintain community resources, known as Cash for Work.³⁰

31. The project aims to:

- i. **Strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households** by improving their food security through conditional cash transfers linked to their participation in community work.
- ii. **Provide a minimum income for food needs** by encouraging households to participate in activities that create and/or rehabilitate community assets.
- iii. **Reduce territorial and socioeconomic vulnerability** by creating assets that decrease this vulnerability and generate positive effects for the community.
- iv. **Reach 75,000 beneficiaries** (15,000 households) in the Grand Sud (Nippes and Grand 'Anse) and Nord-Ouest departments through activities that create and/or rehabilitate community assets in exchange for cash transfers.

The project targeted 15,000 households across 11 communes in three districts (Nord-Ouest, Nippes, and Grand'Anse) with the collaboration of five cooperating partners. The Impact Evaluation study took place in a subset of three communes (Fonds des Nègres, and Petite Rivières des Nippes in Nippes, and Jean Rabel in Nord-Ouest) within these areas.

³⁰ While the term FFA is used throughout this report, the country office has transitioned to cash-based modalities for asset creation (e.g., Cash for Work). The use of FFA reflects the original design and terminology of the programme.

Figure 1: Map of project locations



32. The WFP Haiti country office's criteria for targeting households included:³¹

1. households with malnourished children under 5 years old;
2. households with school-age children not attending school;
3. families with a lack of food reserves;
4. those not receiving any social assistance from government programmes or humanitarian agencies;
5. families with a higher number of vulnerable people (children, elderly, disabled);
6. families with a higher dependency ratio (more dependents than working adults); and
7. families willing to meet the project's work requirements.

33. Under WFP supervision, the cooperating partners conducted a mobilization exercise where eligible households were registered, and the lists were verified by WFP within the target areas. After the targeting process, the country office (beneficiary information team or SCOPE team) registered the beneficiaries.³² This step is crucial to ensure that Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) beneficiaries do not receive other assistance from organizations, including WFP, non-governmental organizations, or other humanitarian entities. Within the departments, the asset sites selected for FFA work were determined based on the prioritization of government authorities in terms of risk and disaster management and the environment (*Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) and Ministère de l'environnement*) as well as through a participatory community consultation process.

34. The FFA programme covered various activities, including the construction of water infrastructure, reforestation, agroforestry, rehabilitation of watershed and agricultural land, creation of irrigation facilities, and construction/renovation of road infrastructure. Under the supervision of cooperating partners, groups of beneficiaries were organized to perform these activities at 21 designated sites for four cycles. Each cycle lasts about one month, with 20 working days. At the end of each cycle, beneficiaries were paid based on the number of days they participated. A day's work is compensated at 900 Haitian Gourdes, thus totalling a maximum attainable transfer of 18,000 Haitian Gourdes (~USD 140) per cycle (for 20 days worked), or approximately USD 560 for the four cycles. The first cycle of asset work began in October 2023, and the last cycle ended in May 2024.

³¹ In addition to all these criteria, the impact evaluation team requires households to have both a male and female adult present who make decisions about the household, and are able to participate in the programme. Households that do not meet this criterion may still be eligible to participate but would not be surveyed as part of the study.

³² SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform.

3. Evaluation design and methodology

3.1. Evaluation theory

35. The evaluation framework has two complementary aspects. First, the short-term focus is on documenting the impacts of participating in Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) on household food security, resilience, and welfare. The evaluation directly assesses how the programme affects households' ability to mitigate the effects of shocks on their food security and welfare. Building on proposals from Barrett and Constan (2014)³³ and Cissé and Barrett (2018)³⁴ to conceptualize resilience as avoidance of poverty in the face of shocks and stressors, each evaluation in the Climate and Resilience window directly measures welfare dynamics to understand resilience outcomes. These measures are calculated from a minimum set of indicators collected at higher frequencies in each country supported.³⁵

36. Second, the evaluation examines the impact of providing women with cash transfers and work opportunities, aiming to create immediate and long-term changes in labour supply, household decision making, and gender norms. One direct effect, known as the "wage effect", occurs when women receive cash transfers for their labour, balancing increased income with the costs of working outside the home, such as reduced leisure time or home production.

37. Research shows that women often continue household duties despite working for wages. This creates a "second shift",³⁶ while men do not significantly increase their participation in household chores.³⁷ Traditional household models explain this through differences in men's and women's roles or home production functions. However, research challenges the idea that households act as a single unit, suggesting that men and women have distinct areas of influence in decision making.³⁸

38. Beyond short-term income gains, the programme may have lasting impacts on women's involvement in the labour market, decision-making power within the household, attitudes towards

³³ Barrett, C. and Constan, M. (2014). Toward a Theory of Resilience for International Development Applications. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 111 (40):14625–14630.

³⁴ Cissé, J. and Barrett, C. (2018). Estimating Development Resilience: A Conditional Moments-Based Approach. *Journal of Development Economics* 135:272–284.

³⁵ Haiti was not formally enrolled in the Climate and Resilience window and the full evaluation design of the window was not carried out – only two rounds of follow-up surveys were conducted prior to the phase-in of the comparison group, compared with 6-24 surveys in Climate and Resilience window countries. However, outcome indicators related to climate and resilience were collected and reported on.

³⁶ Hochschild, A. and Machung, A. (2012). *The Second Shift: Working families and the revolution at home*. Penguin.

³⁷ Bertrand, M., Kamenica, E. and Pan, J. (2015). Gender identity and relative income within households. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2):571–614

³⁸ Lundberg, S. and Pollak, R.A. (1993). Separate spheres bargaining and the marriage market. *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(6):988–1010.

work and gender roles, and social norms about women's employment.^{39,40,41,42} Changes in these areas could lead to more women in long-term work, even after the programme ends. Increased earnings from paid work could shift household power dynamics, giving women more control over their time, decisions, and household spending, and potentially changing men's attitudes towards gender roles.^{43,44}

39. The evaluation tested key hypotheses, including the direct impacts of programme participation on women's time use and earnings, and medium-term effects on economic empowerment, such as changes in perceptions of gender norms, attitudes, agency, consumption patterns, and well-being.

40. Overall, the evaluation aimed to determine if providing women with economic opportunities through cash transfers and work experience led to longer-term social and economic changes, enhancing women's empowerment and altering household and community norms.

3.2. Evaluation questions

41. The main impact evaluation questions were:

Evaluation Question 1: What is the impact of the FFA programme on households' food security and resilience?

Evaluation Question 2: Can targeting women through the FFA programme promote gender equality and economic empowerment?

3.3. Evaluation design

42. The impact evaluation mirrors the impact evaluation designs from the multi-country Cash-based Transfers and Gender window, with similar evaluations completed in [El Salvador](#), [Rwanda](#) and [Kenya](#). It uses a cluster Randomized Control Trial (RCT) design to assess the effects of being invited to participate in the programme. (More details on the design and the estimation model can be found in Annex 6.)

43. In a cluster RCT, randomization occurs at a geographical level larger than individual households, reducing contamination, better reflecting real-world implementation, improving logistical feasibility, and addressing ethical concerns. In Haiti, the chosen unit for randomization – determined in consultation with the WFP Country Office – was the "locality".

³⁹ Dhar, D., Jain, T. and Jayachandran, S. (2018). *Reshaping Adolescents' Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a school-based experiment in India*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research.

⁴⁰ McKelway, M. (2019). *Vicious and Virtuous Cycles: Self-efficacy and employment of women in India*. Unpublished manuscript.

⁴¹ Beaman, L. and others. (2009). Powerful Women: Does exposure reduce bias? *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(4):1497–1540

⁴² Bursztyn, L., González, A. L. and Yanagizawa-Drott, D. (2018). Misperceived social norms: Female labor force participation in Saudi Arabia. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research

⁴³ Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and Nunn, N. (2013). On the origins of gender roles: Women and the plough. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2), 469–530.

⁴⁴ Goldin, C. and Olivetti, C. (2013). Shocking labor supply: A reassessment of the role of World War II on women's labor supply. *American Economic Review*, 103(3), 257–262.

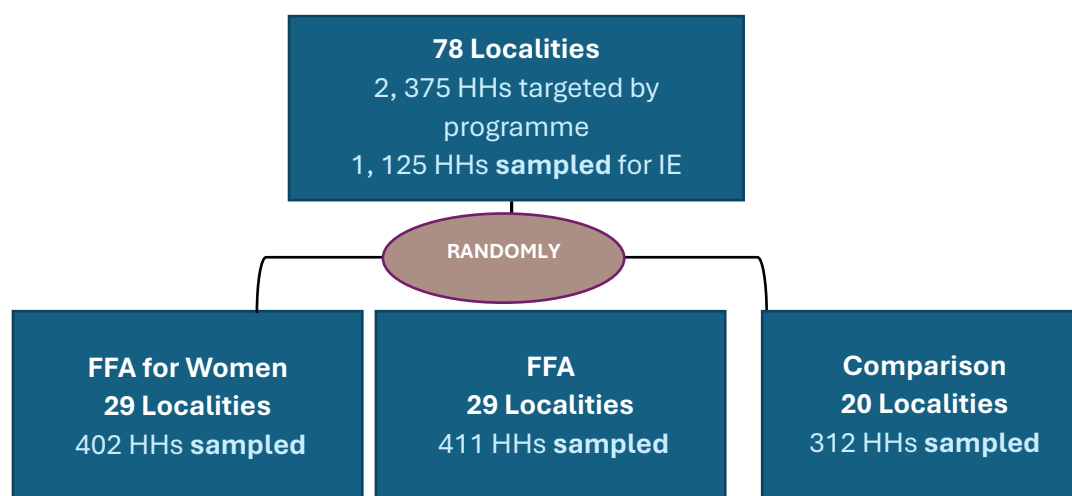
44. A list of 78 localities was randomized into three groups:

- **FFA for Women group:** Beneficiaries received conditional cash transfers of up to USD 140 per cycle, with a maximum of about USD 560 across four cycles. Payments were linked to participation in community asset creation, with each cycle requiring up to 20 days of work per month. The programme registered the household's primary female decision maker to receive the transfer and contribute to the work.
- **FFA group:** Beneficiaries received conditional cash transfers of up to USD 140 per month, with a maximum of about USD 560 across four cycles. Payments were linked to participation in community asset creation, with each cycle requiring up to 20 days of work per month. The primary male decision maker of the household is registered to receive the transfer and work on the asset.
- **Comparison group:** These households did not participate in the programme or receive cash transfers during the study. They were provided with a small stipend (USD 5.34 per household) for completing surveys. All of these households later joined the programme after the second payment cycle. As a result, the main focus of the comparison group is on the first two cycles of asset creation.

45. The randomization resulted in 29 localities assigned to each FFA programme group and 20 localities to the comparison group.

46. Within each selected locality, depending on the locality's size, up to 30 households were randomly chosen to be surveyed as part of the impact evaluation. For the comparison group, non-evaluation participants can't be enrolled in the programme, to avoid spill-overs and also tension between communities. Therefore, the WFP Haiti Country Office asked the evaluation team to exclude some comparison localities from the evaluation. These localities were enrolled in the project to reach all the caseload planned for the initial stage of the project's implementation. This resulted in having a slightly larger programme/FFA group compared with the comparison group.

Figure 2: Impact evaluation design/randomization



After the baseline, the start of the programme was subject to many delays due to several challenges, including social unrest that meant it was difficult for the country office to access the programme sites. Therefore, to avoid tensions in the communities, the country office requested to not keep the comparison localities for long (for four cycles) without intervention, and to enrol the comparison localities after only two cycles of work. Thus, this design only allows comparisons between all households that were targeted with the programme – both men and women – and those in the comparison group, up to the second cycle of asset creation (where the comparison group was a valid counterfactual). The comparisons between the two programme groups (FFA for Women and FFA) to evaluate differences in resilience and women's empowerment outcomes could be conducted for the midline and endline.

3.4. Data collection

47. Quantitative data for this impact evaluation were collected in multiple rounds (baseline, first midline, second midline, and endline) using a multi-module survey instrument.

48. The survey instrument was administered to households that included both male and female adults. The questionnaire was only administered if a woman was present, making her the primary respondent. If a man was available during the interview, he was asked a reduced set of questions.

49. Baseline data were collected in April and May 2023 through a comprehensive household survey with multiple modules. The survey captured outcomes relevant to the Cash-based Transfers and Gender window, the Climate and Resilience window, and project-specific indicators. Households headed by both a male and female were selected for the baseline. Of the 1,183 households surveyed (95 percent of the target of 1255), 1,166 included men (98.5 percent of surveyed households) who completed their respective modules.

50. After the first programme cycle, the impact evaluation team conducted the first midline data collection in December 2023. Following a second programme cycle, a second (shortened) midline survey was completed in February 2024 in Nord-Ouest, and in March 2024 in Nippes. The main goal

of this second midline was to provide a snapshot of the programme's impact on food security and other key outcomes after households had received more than one payment. This was monitored across both programme and comparison groups, and before the comparison group was phased into the programme. The second midline questionnaire was shortened to an average of 35 minutes and included modules on participation in FFA, earnings and wage income (women only), food security, agency and decision making (women only), attitudes toward consumption and time use, and well-being indicators such as female stress, mental health, and overall well-being. An overview of the modules employed in the midlines can be accessed in Annex 9 of this document.⁴⁵

51. As agreed with the country office, endline data collection took place two months after the fourth cash distribution cycle (mid-June 2024), between August and September 2024. Since the comparison group began receiving the programme, they no longer served as a valid counterfactual and so were excluded from the endline survey. Focusing on the remaining programme/FFA groups, the endline sample size was reduced to 726 households, with 687 households (94.6 percent of the target) surveyed and 637 men (93 percent) completing their modules.

52. In addition to the quantitative data collection, qualitative methods were also used, including focus group discussions with beneficiaries of both the programme groups (FFA and FFA for Women). Qualitative data were collected at the same time as the quantitative endline survey to compare the perspectives of different intervention group beneficiaries. A total of six focus group discussions were conducted (three for FFA for Women and three for FFA), each with at least ten beneficiaries from participating project households.

53. Endline data collection focused on all households in the sample, except the comparison group. Since comparison localities were phased into the programme after the second cycle of asset creation (after the collection of midline data), there was no comparison group at endline. This decision was based on a request from the country office.

⁴⁵ The second midline questionnaire was shortened to 35 minutes on average, covering the following modules: Participation in FFA, Earnings/wage income – women only, Food security, Agency (who makes decisions in the household) – women only, Decision making over consumption – women only, Decision making over time use – women only, Attitudes (who should decide?), Attitudes over consumption, Attitudes over time use, Well-being: (female stress, female mental health and female well-being).

Figure 3: Cash for Work programme implementation and data collection timeline

		Nippes			Nord Ouest		
	Month	Survey	Work Cycle	Transfer	Survey	Work Cycle	Transfer
2023	April	Baseline			Baseline		
	May						
	June						
	July						
	August						
	September						
	October	1st Cycle			1st Cycle		
	November						
December	1st midline	2nd Cycle	1st transfer	1st midline	2nd Cycle	1st transfer	
2024	January		3rd Cycle	2nd transfer	2nd midline	3rd Cycle	2nd transfer
	February						
	March	2nd midline	4th Cycle			4th Cycle	3rd transfer
	April						
	May		3rd & 4th transf.			4th transfer	
	June						
	July	Endline			Endline		
	August						
	September						

3.5. Limitations

54. The evaluation faced some challenges that affected its implementation and interpretation of findings.

55. Socio-political instability in Haiti: The country experienced significant socio-political instability that deteriorated further during the programme, disrupting the first two cycles of fieldwork and cash transfer activities. Since the midline and endline surveys were conducted during this period, the situation significantly influenced key indicators such as food security, coping strategies, and women's empowerment. The findings should be interpreted with this context in mind.

56. At the request of the country office, six control localities were moved from the comparison to the programme group before the programme began, reducing the comparison group from 26 to 20 localities. This reduced the statistical power of the study.

57. As mentioned, the evaluation team agreed to phase in the comparison group to the programme after the midline survey. As a result, the final comparison at endline was only between the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) localities. This approach does not allow for long-term outcome analysis in the report, including household resilience.

58. As part of the 2020 Disability Inclusion Road Map, WFP is building on continued efforts to mainstream and standardize disability data collection methodologies, aligning with international standards and best practices. In 2024, the Haiti [WFP Annual Country Report](#) estimated that 125,990

beneficiaries had disabilities out of a total of 2,038,015 beneficiaries (6.2 percent). Although this represents an important population, the size is too small for this evaluation to estimate any differential impacts for disabled beneficiaries.

4. Programme implementation

59. This section gives an overview of the programme's implementation based on data from the impact evaluation surveys. It looks at receipt of cash transfers and participation in the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, and the FFA for Women programme.

60. Table 2 shows participation rates by group during the midline and endline surveys, summarizing responses to: "Did anyone in the household participate in FFA programme work since registration?" Table 3 presents cash transfer reception rates by programme arms over the survey rounds, summarizing responses to: "Has anyone in your household received cash/food transfers from the FFA programme since registration?" All survey respondents across all three groups were asked this question.⁴⁶

61. The programme participation rate and cash transfer receipt rate across FFA groups increased over survey rounds. During the first midline data collection, 44.2 percent of households in the FFA for Women group reported participating in asset work, with 33.2 percent confirmed receipt of cash transfers, and 35.0 percent reporting the participation of a woman. In the FFA group, 56.4 percent of households reported participating in the FFA programme, and 49 percent confirmed receiving cash transfers, with 25.0 percent reporting the participation of a woman. This translates into 133 households where a woman participated in asset work in the FFA for Women group, and 97 households in the FFA group.

62. At the time of the first midline survey, the average value of all the transfers received by all households that received a transfer, regardless of participation in the asset work, was of USD 157 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in the FFA for Women group, and USD 166 PPP in the FFA group after one or two work cycles and one transfer cycle.⁴⁷ Only 3.6 percent of the respondents in the comparison group stated that they participated in the asset work, with 5.6 percent reporting that they received cash transfers, and 2.3 percent reporting the participation of a woman. The differences in reporting on cash transfers and asset work could be explained by delays experienced by the participants in receiving the payments. Including those who did not report participation or receipt of a transfer, women's average WFP earnings in the FFA and FFA for Women groups after one transfer cycle were USD 18.39 (about USD 73.56 for those who report participating) and USD 44.64 (about USD 127.54 for those who participated), respectively, compared to the comparison group (see also section 5.5 for more details).

63. At the second midline (one month after the first midline), the participation rate in asset work in the FFA for Women group increased to 53 percent, of which 54.8 percent reported having received cash transfers from the programme. In the FFA group, 64.2 percent of the respondents stated that they participated in the asset work, of which 63.4 percent had received cash transfers. Only 5.8

⁴⁶ See more on how the projects boosted women's participation rate in American Economic Association (2025). [Does Gender Tagging Public Works Increase Women's Participation? Experimental Evidence from Haiti, Kenya, and Rwanda.](#)

⁴⁷ The corresponding values in dollars and Haitian Gourde (HTG) are USD 126/ HTG 16,636 for FFA for Women and USD 133/ HTG 17,568 for the FFA group.

percent of the comparison group households reported having participated in asset work, of which 3 percent reported having received cash transfers.

64. At endline, after the programme had been completed, the respondents were asked if they had participated and received cash transfers through the programme: 72.4 percent of the households in the FFA for Women group and 79 percent of households in the FFA group reported participation in asset work. Additionally, 88.0 percent of households in the FFA for Women group and 89.2 percent of those in the FFA group confirmed receiving cash transfers.

65. The remaining results in the report present the impacts of the programme as differences in outcomes across the groups as the result of introducing the programme and encouraging people to participate – also called the Intention-to-Treat approach. However, this approach does not capture the Treatment-on-the-Treated effect, which measures the impact on those who *actually received* the intervention. This limitation might bias the results downwards, as it includes individuals who were assigned to the programme/FFA group but did not fully engage with or receive the intervention.

Table 1: Programme participation rates

Programme groups	Percentage of households that participated in FFA			Percentage of households where a woman participated in FFA		
	Midline 1	Midline 2	Endline	Midline 1	Midline 2	Endline
FFA for Women	44.2%	53.0%	72.4%	35.0%	NA	50.6%
FFA	56.4%	64.2%	79.0%	25.0%	NA	36.3%
Comparison	3.6%	5.8%	NA	2.3%	NA	NA

Table 2: Percentage of households that received cash transfers

Programme groups	Percentage of households that received cash transfers		
	Midline 1	Midline 2	Endline
FFA for Women	33.2%	54.8%	88.0%
FFA	49%	63.4%	89.2%
Comparison	5.6%	3%	NA

Figure 4: First midline: Women’s average weekly days working in WFP

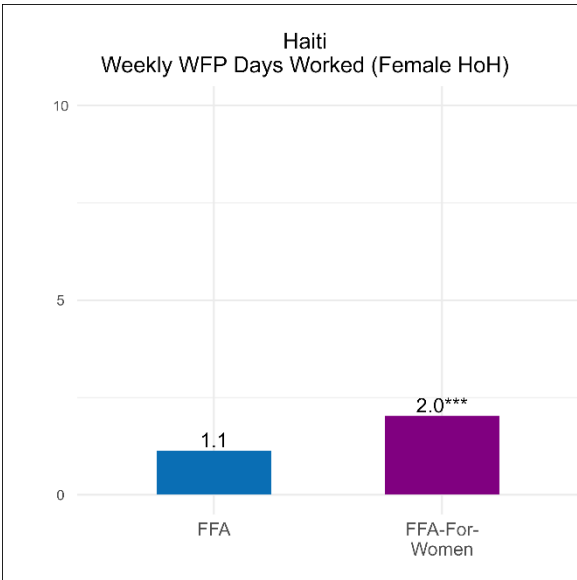
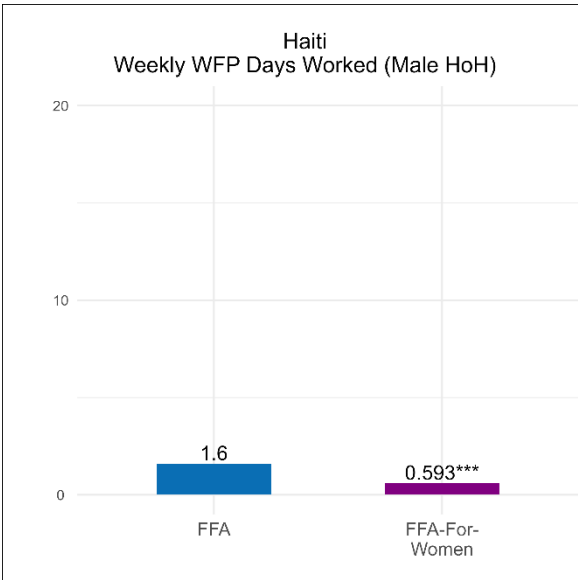


Figure 5: First midline: Men’s average weekly days working in WFP



5. Main findings

66. The analysis assesses the impact of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) for Women and FFA programmes on various food security, resilience, and gender-related indicators. For midlines, both the FFA for Women and FFA groups are compared to the comparison group. At endline, the FFA for Women group is compared only to the FFA group for gender-related outcomes (as the comparison group had been phased into the project by this point).

67. The results section is structured according to the expected impacts outlined in the Theory of Change, beginning with the most direct effects of programme participation and progressing to more indirect effects. It includes baseline findings as well as midline and endline outcomes for each indicator.

Table 3: First and second (*) midline results

	Any FFA vs. Comparison	FFA vs. Comparison	FFA for Women vs. Comparison	FFA for Women vs. FFA	Comparison Mean	Num. of Observations
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
Any Cash for Work*	0.519*** (0.070)	0.515*** (0.076)	0.521*** (0.071)	0.006 (0.043)	0.058	1,066
Any WFP Transfer*	0.555*** (0.079)	0.560*** (0.082)	0.551*** (0.082)	-0.009 (0.044)	0.037	1,068
Female Transfer*	0.354*** (0.055)	0.191*** (0.054)	0.495*** (0.066)	0.304*** (0.058)	0.027	1,068
Female WFP Work	0.289*** (0.043)	0.221*** (0.046)	0.359*** (0.057)	0.138*** (0.052)	0.023	1,071
Female Non-WFP Work	0.060*** (0.021)	0.056** (0.022)	0.065** (0.026)	0.008 (0.024)	0.046	1,070
Monthly Predicted Household Consumption	-8.415 (10.941)	-4.228 (11.304)	-12.790 (13.234)	-8.562 (11.188)	231.049	1,061
Women's Non-WFP Wage Income	8.654*** (2.779)	8.120*** (2.460)	9.205** (3.721)	1.085 (2.996)	2.985	1,053
Women's WFP Wage Income	10.449*** (2.323)	6.129*** (2.271)	14.876*** (2.930)	8.747*** (2.408)	0.000	1,053
Men's Non-WFP Wage Income	6.148** (2.557)	7.760** (3.326)	4.503* (2.611)	-3.257 (3.091)	4.544	1,038
Food Consumption Score* (S.D.)	0.260*** (0.058)	0.335*** (0.095)	0.195*** (0.062)	-0.139 (0.107)	-0.004	1,068
Food Insecurity Experience Scale (Inverted)	-0.030 (0.109)	-0.028 (0.107)	-0.032 (0.132)	-0.004 (0.100)	0.462	1,063
Reduced Coping Strategy Index	0.174 (0.590)	0.347 (0.752)	-0.001 (0.640)	-0.348 (0.762)	20.128	913
Time Spent						
Outside the Home (Women) (Hours per Day)	1.062*** (0.246)	1.150*** (0.277)	0.972*** (0.299)	-0.178 (0.305)	4.628	1,069
Outside the Home (Men) (Hours per Day)	0.294 (0.286)	0.346 (0.327)	0.242 (0.317)	-0.105 (0.295)	9.750	1,045
Working (Self Employment, Women) (Hours per Day)	-0.305** (0.149)	-0.143 (0.157)	-0.471*** (0.158)	-0.329** (0.137)	1.540	1,069
Working (Self Employment, Men) (Hours per Day)	-0.185 (0.244)	-0.225 (0.291)	-0.144 (0.259)	0.081 (0.258)	5.478	1,045
Working (Paid, Women) (Hours per Day)	0.084 (0.057)	0.054 (0.060)	0.114 (0.077)	0.059 (0.077)	0.153	1,069
Working (Paid, Men) (Hours per Day)	-0.133 (0.113)	-0.342*** (0.112)	0.079 (0.124)	0.421*** (0.093)	0.634	1,045
Working (Chores, Women) (Hours per Day)	-0.660*** (0.235)	-0.599** (0.281)	-0.722*** (0.266)	-0.122 (0.268)	7.974	1,069
Working (Chores, Men) (Hours per Day)	-0.248* (0.148)	-0.170 (0.175)	-0.327** (0.158)	-0.157 (0.156)	2.558	1,035
Women's Agency over						
Consumption* (S.D.)	-0.003 (0.061)	-0.069 (0.076)	0.055 (0.067)	0.124 (0.079)	0.003	967
Time Use* (S.D.)	-0.047 (0.060)	-0.112 (0.076)	0.010 (0.062)	0.122* (0.063)	0.013	993
Women's Attitudes towards						
Women's Agency over Consumption* (S.D.)	-0.099* (0.058)	-0.168* (0.085)	-0.041 (0.065)	0.127 (0.099)	-0.000	970
Women's Agency over Time Use* (S.D.)	-0.112** (0.052)	-0.170** (0.066)	-0.062 (0.059)	0.109 (0.069)	0.012	995
Men's Attitudes towards						
Women's Agency over Time Use (S.D.)	0.043 (0.056)	0.032 (0.061)	0.055 (0.067)	0.023 (0.061)	-0.012	1,022
Women's Agency over Consumption (S.D.)	0.068 (0.063)	0.051 (0.069)	0.085 (0.079)	0.034 (0.077)	0.002	1,025
Well-Being						
Stress* (0-40)	0.265 (0.275)	-0.106 (0.305)	0.583* (0.322)	0.689** (0.317)	21.527	1,050
Depression (PHQ9)* (0-27)	0.157 (0.281)	0.229 (0.348)	0.095 (0.334)	-0.135 (0.385)	4.206	1,050
Life Satisfaction* (5-35)	0.295 (0.370)	0.260 (0.374)	0.325 (0.449)	0.065 (0.382)	12.679	1,050
Subjective Well-Being Index* (S.D.)	-0.009 (0.065)	0.024 (0.072)	-0.038 (0.078)	-0.061 (0.077)	-0.007	1,050
Intimate Partner Violence						
Psychological Abuse Index (S.D.)	0.075 (0.079)	0.099 (0.086)	0.051 (0.090)	-0.048 (0.077)	0.006	716
Physical Abuse Index (S.D.)	0.075 (0.063)	0.109 (0.080)	0.040 (0.081)	-0.068 (0.099)	-0.023	717
Sexual Abuse Index (S.D.)	0.202** (0.084)	0.176* (0.102)	0.227** (0.101)	0.050 (0.115)	-0.001	726
IPV Index (S.D.)	0.126* (0.073)	0.133* (0.079)	0.118 (0.090)	-0.015 (0.087)	-0.003	692

* Variables stemming from second midline survey. The full table notes are added in Annex 11. Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. On the right side of the panel, a single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$). S.D. = Standard deviation

Table 4: Endline results

	FFA for Women vs. FFA	Comparison Mean	Num. of Observations
	(1)		
Any WFP Work	0.009 (0.012)	0.023	680
Any WFP Transfer	0.002 (0.009)	0.009	680
Female Non-WFP Work	0.039 (0.014) **	0.038	678
Female WFP Work	0.004 (0.012)	0.020	680
Female WFP Transfer	0.005 (0.005)	0.003	680
Monthly Predicted Household Consumption	8.288 (5.674)	141.287	669
Women's Non-WFP Wage Income	1.235 (1.069)	2.974	667
Women's WFP Wage Income	1.199 (0.895)	2.140	669
Men's Non-WFP Wage Income	1.901 (1.637)	6.030	641
Food Consumption Score (S.D.)	-0.090 (0.083)	-0.000	679
Food Insecurity Experience Scale (Inverted)	-0.030 (0.170)	0.726	660
Reduced Coping Strategy Index	1.404 (0.849) *	21.296	566
Time Spent			
Outside the Home (Women) (Hours per Day)	-0.135 (0.367)	5.055	680
Outside the Home (Men) (Hours per Day)	-0.573 (0.258) **	11.014	658
Working (Self Employment, Women) (Hours per Day)	-0.126 (0.140)	0.817	680
Working (Self Employment, Men) (Hours per Day)	-0.677 (0.235) **	5.613	641
Working (Paid, Women) (Hours per Day)	0.149 (0.105)	0.160	680
Working (Paid, Men) (Hours per Day)	0.144 (0.110)	0.533	658
Working (Chores, Women) (Hours per Day)	0.040 (0.260)	7.085	680
Working (Chores, Men) (Hours per Day)	0.194 (0.236)	1.742	658
Women's Agency Over			
Consumption (S.D.)	0.024 (0.077)	-0.000	591
Time Use (S.D.)	-0.048 (0.072)	-0.000	609
Women's Attitudes towards			
Time Use (S.D.)	0.064 (0.074)	0.000	646
Women's Agency over Time Use (S.D.)	-0.013 (0.065)	-0.000	610
Women's Agency over Consumption (S.D.)	-0.040 (0.074)	0.000	587
Men's Attitudes towards			
Time Use (S.D.)	0.099 (0.058) *	-0.000	619
Women's Agency over Time Use (S.D.)	0.164 (0.079) **	-0.000	600
Women's Agency over Consumption (S.D.)	0.051 (0.072)	0.000	604
Well-being			
Stress (0-40)	0.000 (0.294)	22.498	661
Depression (PHQ-9) (0-27)	-0.052 (0.424)	6.288	662
Life Satisfaction (5-35)	-0.289 (0.613)	14.970	662
Subjective Well-Being Index (S.D.)	-0.021 (0.077)	-0.081	661
Intimate Partner Violence			
Psychological Abuse Index (S.D.)	-0.057 (0.145)	0.000	226
Physical Abuse Index (S.D.)	-0.117 (0.109)	0.000	232
Sexual Abuse Index (S.D.)	-0.276 (0.105) **	-0.000	231
IPV Index (S.D.)	-0.233 (0.112) **	-0.000	223

Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$). S.D. = Standard deviation.

5.1. Food security

Summary of findings: By the second midline, there was a significant improvement in an important measure of food security among the FFA groups (but no differences between them). Specifically, households in the FFA groups experienced an increase in their Food Consumption Score (+13 percent or 0.26 standard deviations) compared to the comparison group. There were no meaningful changes across groups in their Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Once the programme ended (endline), there were no differences between the FFA group and the FFA for Women group across these two measures of food security.

68. The Theory of Change showed that an increase in household earnings from participation in either FFA group or FFA for Women group can improve food security. Food security is measured using two indicators – the [Food Consumption Score \(FCS\)](#) and the (inverted) [Food Insecurity Experience Scale \(FIES\)](#). The FCS assesses food security by measuring caloric availability, dietary diversity, and the nutritional value of food groups consumed. The FIES is used to measure the severity of food insecurity experienced by individuals or households. It consists of eight questions that capture a range of food insecurity experiences, such as worrying about not having enough food, skipping meals, or going a whole day without eating.

69. Baseline data showed that the average FCS score was around 32, which is considered "borderline". At baseline, 62 percent of households showed borderline or poor food security (FCS under 42).⁴⁸ Only 22 percent of households had a highly diverse and nutritious diet, while 63 percent had a moderately diverse and nutritious diet. The FIES indicated that more than three-quarters of households experienced severe food insecurity in the past 12 months.

70. At the time of the **first midline**, the (inverted) FIES scores were comparable, and extremely low, across the FFA and FFA for Women groups and the comparison group, with a score of 0.432 (out of 8) for the FFA groups and 0.462 for the comparison group. The differences between the groups were not significant. The same holds for the FCS, possibly indicating that not enough time had passed for impacts to materialize.

71. At the time of the **second midline**, during the programme intervention, there was a positive impact on food security. Households in the FFA group saw a 13 percent increase (33 compared to 29.2 in the comparison group; 0.335 standard deviations). For households in the FFA for Women group, the FCS increased by 7.5 percent (+2.2 FCS points; or +0.195 standard deviations). Combining both FFA groups for the analysis yielded a score of 32 – an effect size of 0.26 standard deviations. This difference was statistically significant. However, there were no statistically significant differential effects between the two FFA groups.

72. The positive impacts of the FCS results are shown in Figure 10 for the specific sub-categories. The figure is a stacked bar chart that compares the proportions of three different FCS categories: poor, borderline, and acceptable across three groups: Comparison, FFA for Women,

⁴⁸ WFP. (2024). [WFP Indicator Compendium 2022-2025](#). The analysis uses the adjusted thresholds for the FCS for contexts where consumption of oil and sugar is high.

and FFA. The comparison group has the highest proportion of poor (53.2 percent), followed by borderline (35.8 percent) and acceptable (11.1 percent). The FFA for Women group shows a slightly lower proportion of poor (48.5 percent) and borderline (34.4 percent), but a higher proportion of acceptable (17.2 percent). The FFA group has the lowest proportion of poor (30.1 percent), the highest proportion of borderline (39.1 percent), and the highest proportion of acceptable (30.8 percent). At the second midline, the proportion of households in the poor category in FFA group (30.1 percent) was statistically significantly lower than the proportion of households in the poor category in the comparison group (53.2 percent). Similarly, the proportion of households in the acceptable category was statistically significantly higher in the FFA group (30.8 percent) compared with the comparison group (11.1 percent). This indicates that the FFA and FFA for Women group had better food consumption outcomes than the comparison group.

73. By the **endline**, after the programme ended, (see Figure 11), there were no significant differences between households in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group (-0.09 standard deviations). While still very low, the inverted FIES was slightly higher at endline for both FFA groups when compared to the second midline measure. However, given that there was no comparison group at endline, this could not be causally attributed to the project. There were also no differential impacts on FIES for households in the FFA for Women group (0.705) compared with the FFA group (0.726).

74. The qualitative data collection exercise indicated that participants from both programme/FFA groups reported an increase in the amount of food they could purchase and consume during the programme. For example, a woman from the FFA group illustrated how their food ration basket improved during the FFA programme:

“Yes, we've improved the way we eat. I used to cook a bowl of rice with a few leaves, olive oil and no beans. But now, with SIKSE [WFP cooperating partner], things have changed. I can eat normally, I buy oil, rice, sardines, etc. I used to eat white rice, but I don't anymore.”

- Woman beneficiary, FFA group

Figure 6: Second midline: Food Consumption Score

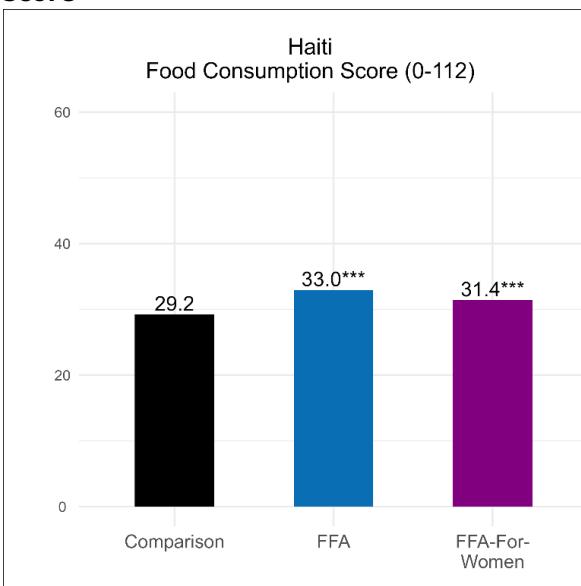


Figure 7: Endline: Food Consumption Score

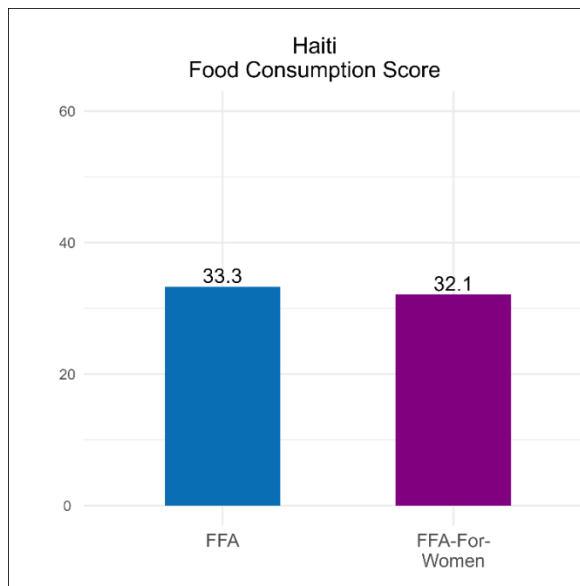


Figure 8: First midline: Food Insecurity Experience Scale

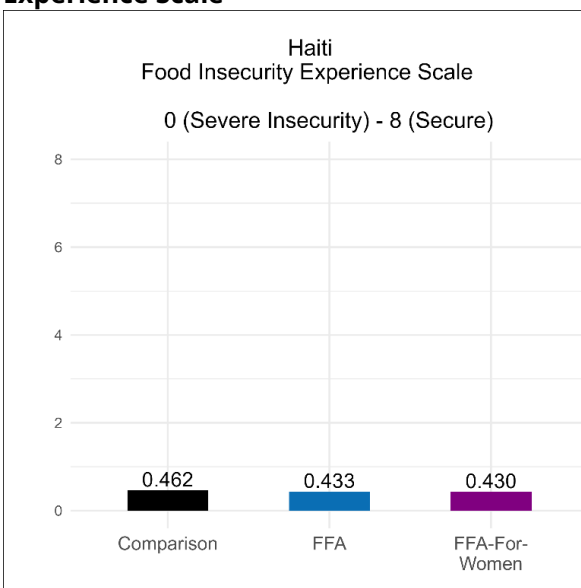
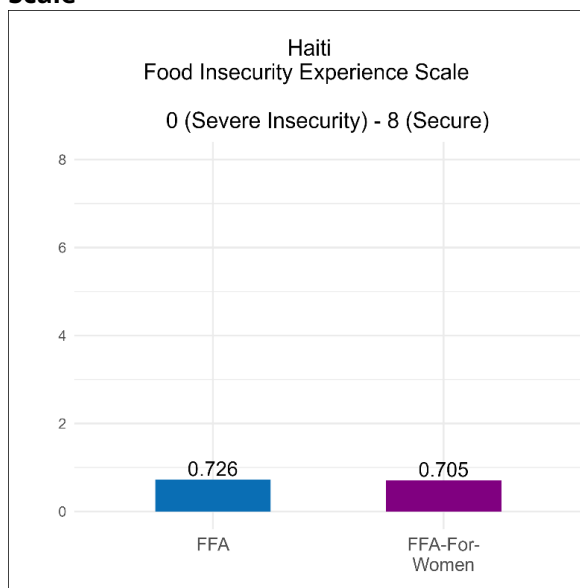


Figure 9: Endline: Food Insecurity Experience Scale



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk () denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).*

Figure 10: Second midline: Food Consumption Score by category

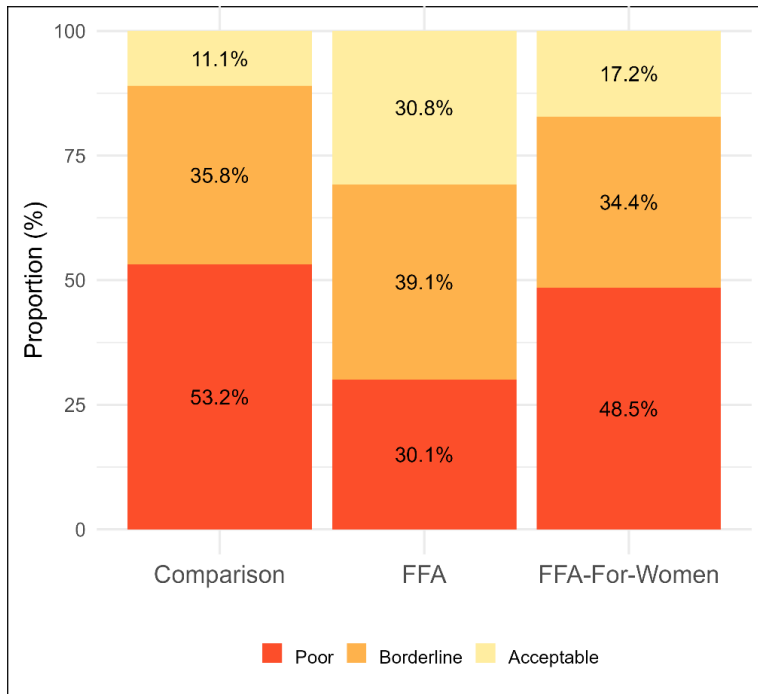
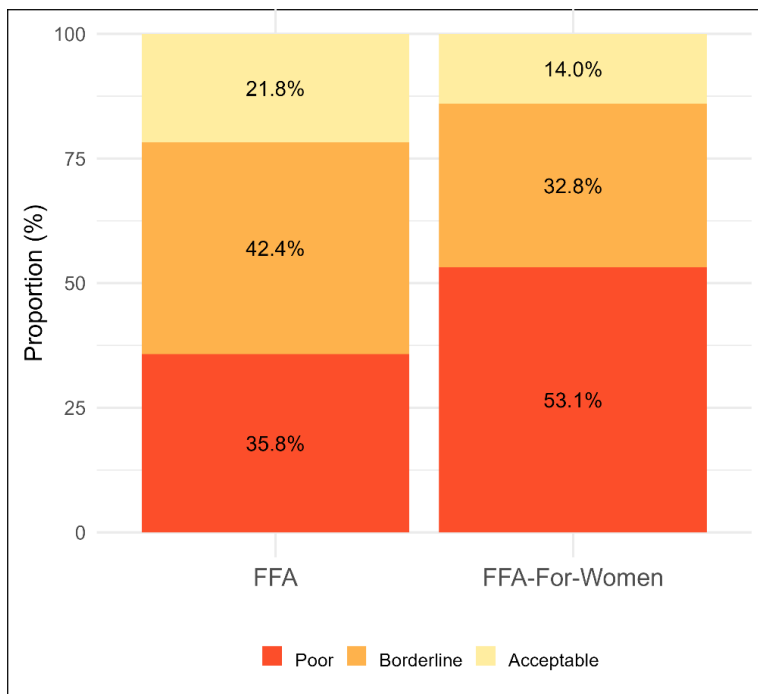


Figure 11: Endline: Food Consumption Score by category



5.2. Livelihood coping strategies

Summary of findings: Households were assessed on their exposure to a number of predefined shocks over the past year. At the first midline, a higher proportion of households in the FFA for Women and standard FFA groups used crisis and emergency coping strategies compared to the comparison group. However, these differences were not statistically significant. By endline, the standard FFA group continued to report higher use of emergency coping strategies (43 percent) compared to the FFA for Women group (31.8 percent). Both groups showed slight reductions in the use of crisis coping strategies from midline to endline, but no statistically significant differences were observed.

The [Reduced Coping Strategies Index \(rCSI\)](#) measures the stress households experienced due to food shortages over the past seven days. At midline, there was no impact on rCSI between FFA and comparison groups. At endline, rCSI increased for both FFA groups, with a statistically significant higher score for the FFA for Women group.

5.2.1. Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

75. To explore how food insecurity and poverty are affected by shocks, respondents were asked whether their household had been negatively affected by a list of 11 coping strategies in the previous 12 months.⁴⁹

76. At **the first midline**, households in both the FFA for Women and FFA groups reported using a greater proportion of crisis and emergency coping mechanisms, compared to the comparison group. 33.9 percent households in FFA for Women and 36.8 percent households in the FFA group faced emergency scenarios while 25.6 percent households in FFA for Women and 26.7 percent households in the FFA group faced crisis scenarios. The corresponding numbers were lower for the comparison group – 32.5 percent of households faced emergency situations and 20.7 percent experienced crisis situations. However, the differences were not statistically significant across any of the groups. The LCSI module was not included in the second midline (see sections above).

77. At **endline**, after the programme ended and the comparison group was included in the programme, the standard FFA group continued using a greater proportion of emergency coping mechanisms (43 percent) compared to the FFA for Women group (31.8 percent). The proportion of households using emergency coping mechanisms in the FFA for Women group reduced to 31.8 percent in endline (from 33.9 percent in the first midline, but the differences were not statistically significant. Similarly, the proportion of households using crisis coping mechanisms in the FFA group

⁴⁹ Stress strategies include: purchase of food on credit or borrowing food; borrowing money; selling household assets or goods; and reducing household expenditures such as health or education. Crisis strategies include: consuming seed stocks meant for the next season; selling productive assets or means of transport (e.g., sewing machine, bicycle); and selling food stock. Emergency strategies include: selling a house or land; selling livestock; and begging. Neutral strategies include: reducing food consumption, such as decreasing portion size or the number of meals per day.

reduced to 20.1 percent in endline (from 26.7 percent in the first midline). Again, the differences were not statistically significant.

Figure 12: First midline: Livelihood coping mechanisms

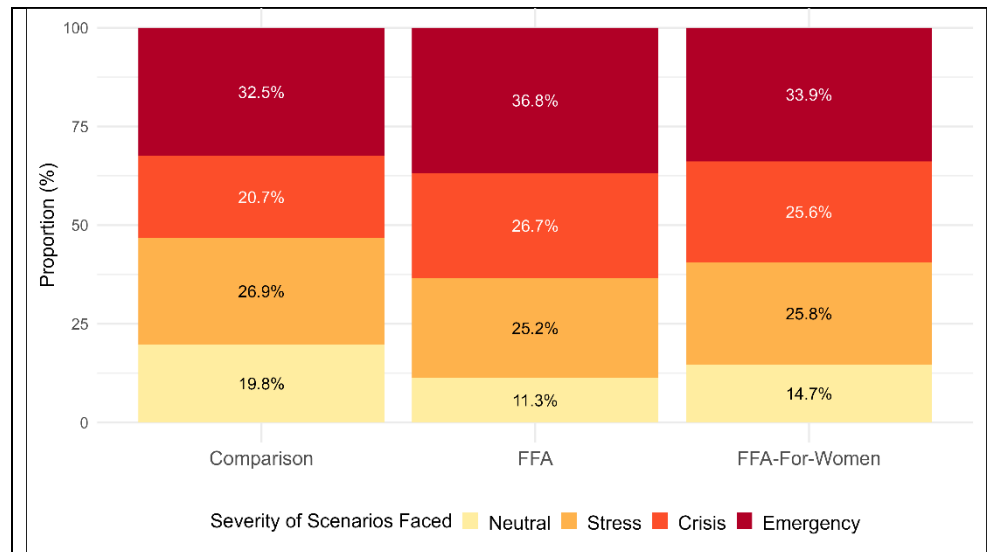
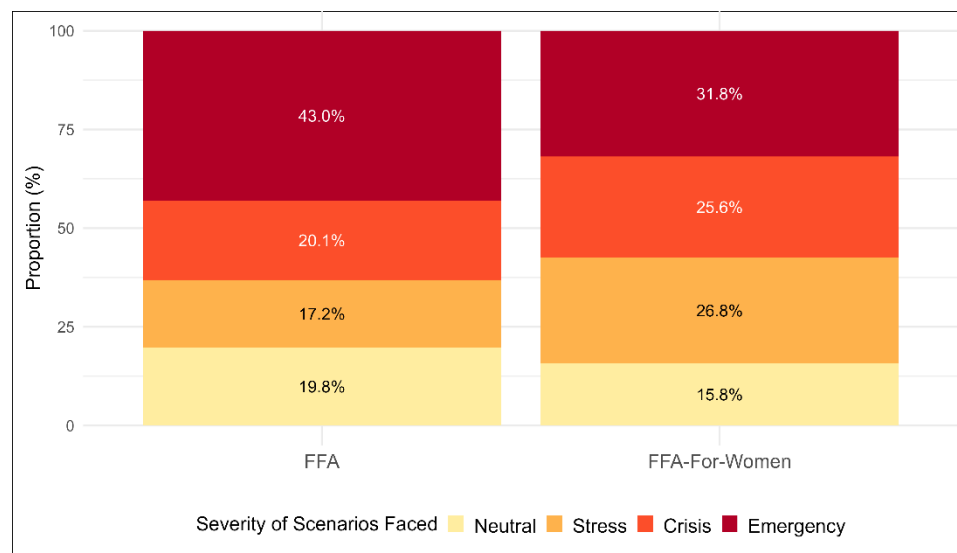


Figure 13: Endline: Livelihood coping



5.2.2. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

78. The rCSI measures the stress households experienced due to food shortages over the past seven days. It shows how households cope when they don't have enough food or money to buy food. A higher score means more reliance on negative coping strategies.

79. The livelihood coping module was excluded during the baseline survey due to time constraints, but it was included during the first midline survey after discussions with the country office.

80. During the first **midline**, while the programme was ongoing, there were no impacts for the FFA for Women and FFA groups on coping strategies when compared with the comparison group. The average rCSI was comparable for households in the FFA programme (20.3) and those in the comparison group (20.1), indicating that the project had no impact on the rCSI. There were no significant differences between the two programme/FFA groups. (This module was not included in the second midline.)

81. At **endline**, after the programme ended and the comparison group was included in the programme, the rCSI increased for both FFA groups relative to the first midline (22.5 index score for FFA for Women, and 21.1 for FFA groups). The rCSI was slightly higher (worse) in the FFA for Women group (statistically significant).

Figure 14: First midline: Reduced Coping Strategies Index

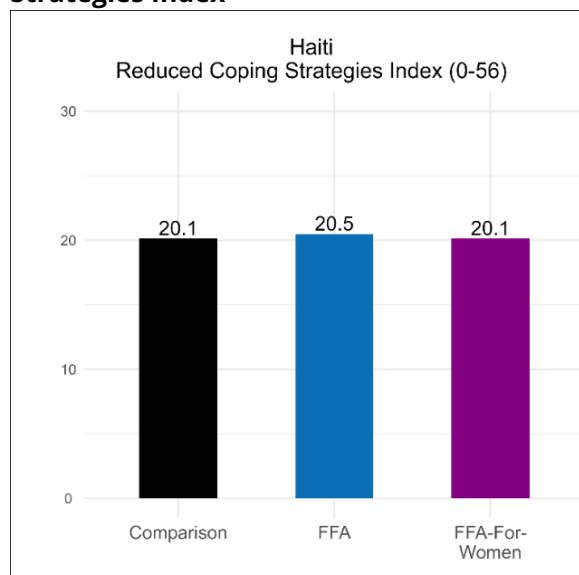
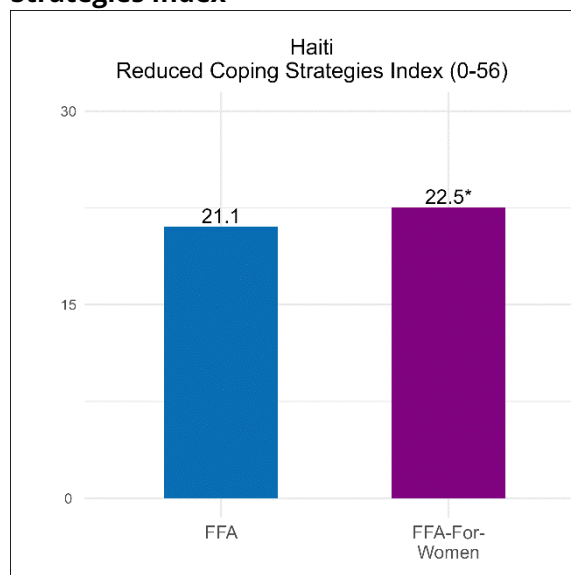


Figure 15: Endline: Reduced Coping Strategies Index



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).

5.3. Time use

Summary of findings: At the first midline, women in the FFA for Women group spent more time outside the home and less time on chores and self-employment compared to the comparison group. The women in the FFA for Women group also spent less time on self-employment compared with the FFA group. Among those who participated in asset work, women in the FFA for Women group dedicated more hours to this activity than women in the FFA or comparison groups. At endline, after the programme ended, there were no impacts on women's time use.

82. An important measure of agency across genders is how much time is spent on productive activities and chores daily. In the literature, a striking stylized fact about gender differences in time use is that, when women work for a wage, they reduce leisure time, whereas men do not shift any time into home chores.^{50 51}

83. At the first midline, households' participation rates in the WFP project were relatively low: 44.2 percent for the FFA group; and 56.4 percent in the FFA for Women group. Women's participation rates were lower, namely 25 percent (FFA) and 35 percent (FFA for Women), respectively. Thus, like other [countries' findings from this window](#), targeting women with FFA reduced overall household participation rates, but boosted women's participation in FFA.

84. At **midline (first midline)**, women in the FFA for Women group reported to have spent more time outside the home ("on a typical day") than the comparison group, with an estimate of 0.97 hours (58 minutes) per day, which is statistically significant. The women in FFA for Women group also spent less time on chores than the comparison group, with an estimate of - 0.72 hours per day (- 43 minutes). The women in FFA for Women group also worked less on self-employment than the comparison group by 0.47 hours (28 minutes) per day, which is statistically significant. Women in the FFA group also spent more time outside the house than the comparison group - 1.15 hours (69 minutes) per day, which is also statistically significant.

85. The study found that the FFA for Women programme variant led to an increase in time spent by women on asset work. While there was an increase by 0.67 hours (40.2 minutes) by women in the FFA group compared with the comparison group, the increase was much larger for the FFA for Women group, with 0.99 hours (59.5 minutes) per day on average. This suggests that targeting women achieved the programme's intended goal of increasing the number of women who work outside the home, and also increasing the time women spent at work outside the home. The time-use module was not included in the second midline.

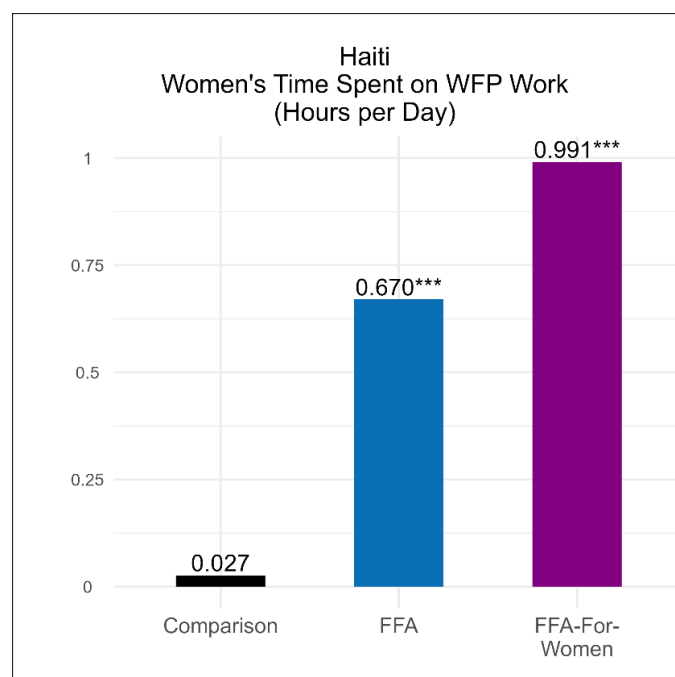
86. At **endline**, after the programme was completed, there were no impacts on time use across the FFA for Women and FFA groups. While there were statistically significant reductions in time spent by men outside the home (-0.57 hours or -34.38 minutes per day) and in time spent on self-

⁵⁰ Hochschild, A. and Machung, A. (2012). *The Second Shift: Working families and the revolution at home*. Penguin.

⁵¹ Bertrand, M., Kamenica, E. and Pan, J. (2015). Gender identity and relative income within households. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2):571–614.

employment (-0.68 hours or -40.62 minutes per day) in the FFA for Women group when compared with the FFA group, the impacts were relatively small. There were no impacts on other time use variables for women in the FFA for Women group compared with the FFA group, including chores and productive activities.

Figure 16: First midline: Women's time spent on WFP work



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).

5.4. Accessing credit

Summary of findings: At first midline, households in the FFA group and FFA for Women group were more likely to apply for a loan compared to those in the comparison group. A higher proportion of households sent money to family members. The effect was more pronounced in the FFA group. At endline, the percentage of households that applied for loans and sent money to support family was marginally lower in the FFA for Women group than in the FFA group.

87. Savings, loans, and financial transfers play a vital role in helping households manage shocks and break the cycle of poverty. To assess the role of FFA on these outcomes, households were asked whether they had applied for a loan, and whether they were sending or receiving transfers/remittances to support family members.

88. At baseline, approximately 13 percent of households applied for a loan, averaging USD 188.16, in the 12 months before the survey. Additionally, 8 percent of households received assistance from other household members, and 6 percent sent money to family members outside the household.

89. During the intervention, the first **midline** data showed that 16.5 percent of households in the FFA group and 14.4 percent in the FFA for Women group, respectively, applied for a loan in the last 30 days, compared to 10.6 percent of the comparison group. Both differences with respect to the comparison group were statistically significant at the 10 percent level. Additionally, 7.2 percent of households in the FFA group sent remittances to family members, compared to 3.6 percent of the households in the comparison group – a difference significant at the 5 percent level. Of the households in the FFA for Women group, 5.9 percent sent remittances to family members, although the difference with the comparison group was not statistically significant. (The module was not included in the second midline.)

90. At **endline**, as there was no comparison group, the results only compare the FFA group with FFA for Women. Households in the FFA for Women group were slightly less likely to take a loan (by 3 percent) and significantly less likely to make transfers to other households (by 3.8 percent) than households in the FFA group.

91. During qualitative interviews, women reported that the programme significantly improved their economic situations, making it easier for them to borrow money, purchase food, and enhance their living conditions. For example, a participant from the FFA for Women group highlighted her ability to get credit thanks to the programme:

“When I didn't have any money, I had to borrow, and that was difficult to do. But thanks to the programme, I could borrow more easily when I needed to [...]”

- Woman beneficiary, FFA for Women

Figure 17: First midline: Household transferred money to family members

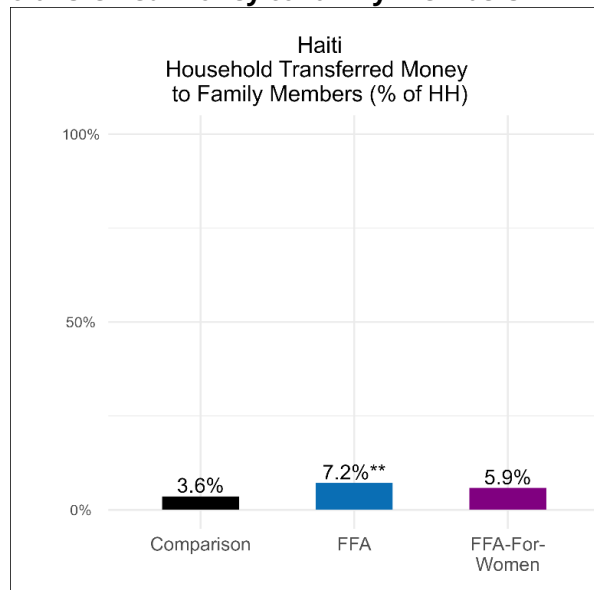


Figure 18: Endline: Household transferred money to family members

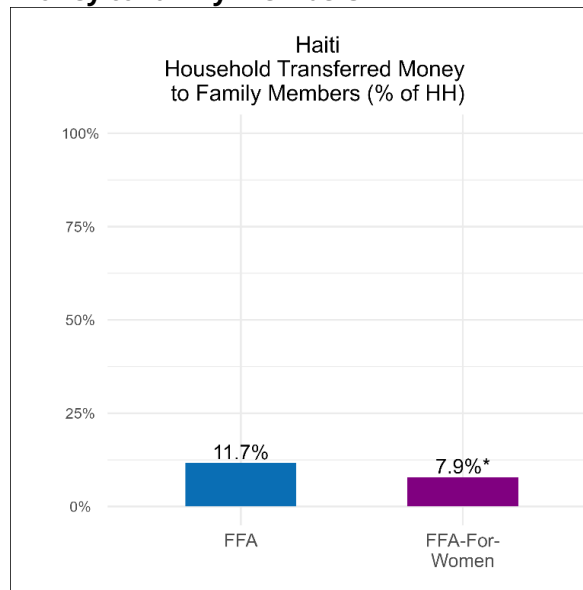


Figure 19: First midline: Household applied for a loan in the last 30 days

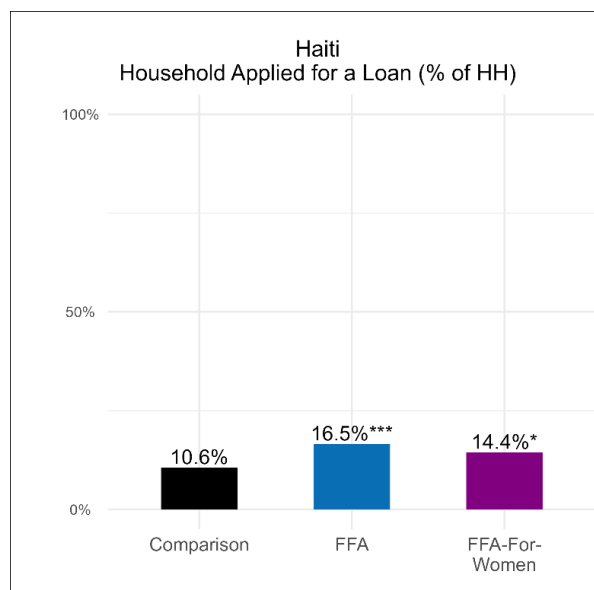
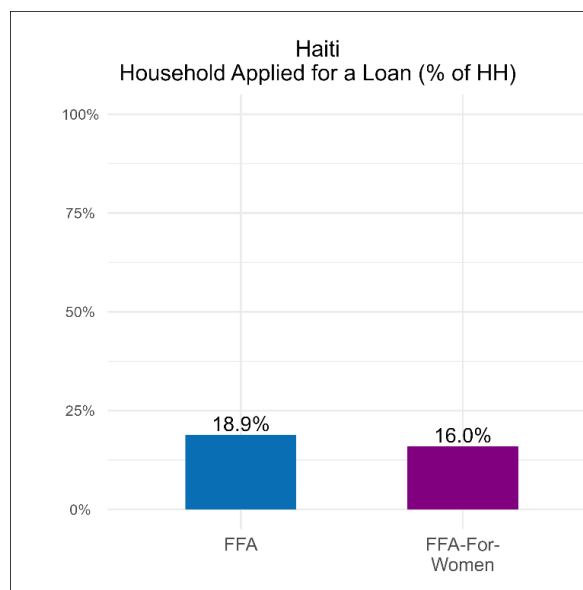


Figure 20: Endline: Household applied for a loan in the last 30 days



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk () denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).*

5.5. Earnings

Summary of findings: At first midline, there was a statistically significant positive impact on earnings (WFP and non-WFP) for households in the FFA and FFA for Women groups compared to the comparison group. There was also a statistically significant positive impact on FFA for Women group when compared with the FFA group. At endline, after the programme ended, there were no impacts on women's and men's WFP and non-WFP earnings in the FFA for Women group compared with the FFA group.

92. The theory outlined in Section 3.1 suggests that there may be a 'wage effect' on women's agency over household decisions. To test this, the evaluation examined whether participating in the FFA programme changed households' earned income (both WFP and non-WFP earnings).

93. At **baseline**, women's annual earnings from wages (in 2019 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) USD) were USD 52.11, significantly lower than men's earnings of USD 80.52.

94. During the first **midline**, while the second cycle of the programme was ongoing, the FFA and FFA for Women programmes had a positive impact on women's WFP earnings (as expected). Women's WFP earnings in the FFA and FFA for Women groups after one transfer cycle were USD 18.39 PPP and USD 44.64 PPP, respectively, compared to the comparison group.⁵² (For households where women did not work and did not receive transfers, the value inputted was 0.) This difference was statistically significant. Thus, women in the FFA for Women group earned USD 26.25 more as part of the programme (driven by higher participation rates of women), up to the first midline, compared to those in the FFA group, a statistically significant difference.⁵³ The earnings module was not included in the second midline.

95. The programme also led to large increases for non-WFP earnings. Women's non-WFP earnings increased for both the FFA for Women and FFA groups compared to the comparison group, by USD 8.12 and USD 9.21 per month, respectively (from USD 2.99 for the comparison group). Men's non-WFP earnings also rose in both programme groups relative to the comparison group, increasing significantly by USD 7.76 per month in the FFA group and USD 4.50 per month in the FFA for Women group.

96. At **endline**, after the programme had ended and the comparison group had joined, there were no observed impacts on women's or men's earnings from either WFP or non-WFP sources.

⁵² In the main regression table these values are divided by 3, which results in USD 6.13 and USD 14.88 per month for the three-month period that has passed since the first day of the first work cycle and the first midline survey. At the point of the first midline, households had received one transfer and had completed one work cycle (while some households had already started the second of four work cycles).

⁵³ These numbers are lower than the overall transfer value maximum as household attendance rates were relatively low. Women's attendance was also imperfect, even among participating households that could send men.

Figure 21: First midline: Women's monthly WFP income

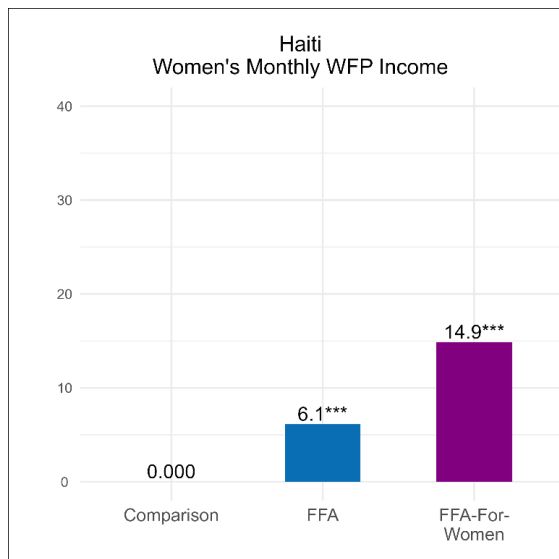


Figure 22: Endline: Women's monthly WFP income

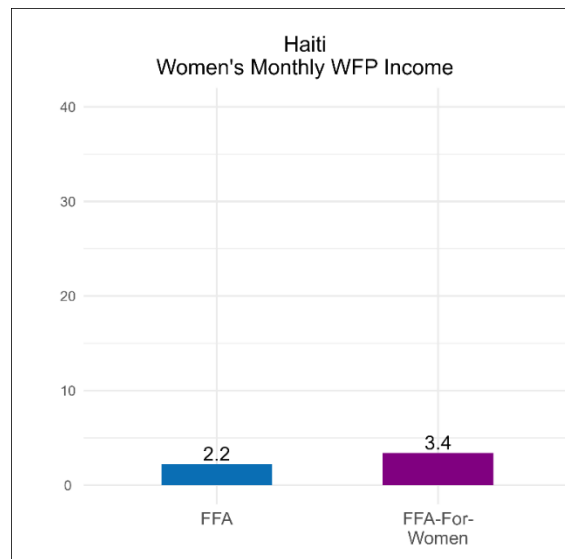


Figure 23: First midline: Women's monthly non-WFP income

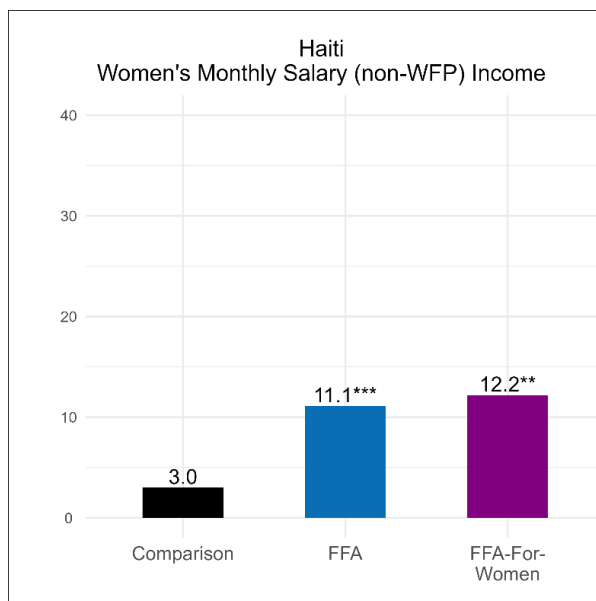
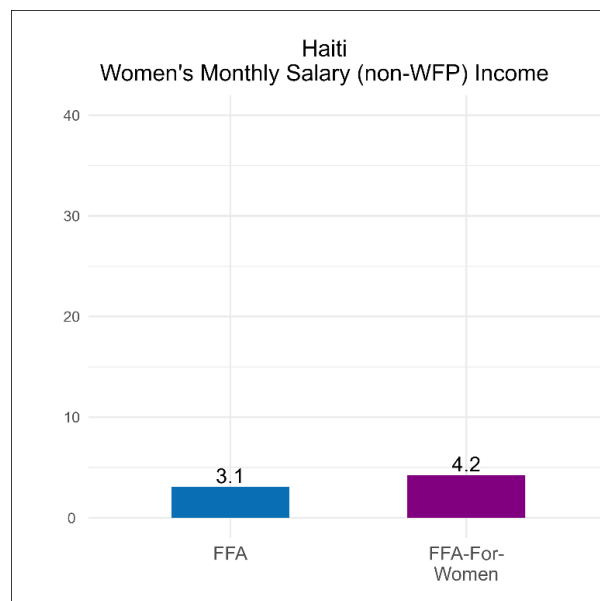


Figure 24: Endline: Women's monthly non-WFP income



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk () denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).*

5.6. Consumption

Summary of findings: At midline, there were no significant impacts on consumption for the FFA for Women group or the FFA group when compared with the comparison group. At endline, after the programme ended, there were no observed impacts on consumption for FFA for Women group when compared with FFA group.

97. According to the evaluation framework, an increase in earnings may lead to higher consumption (as measured by consumption expenditure in the last month). However, at the first midline, while the programme was ongoing, there were no significant impacts on consumption in either the FFA or FFA for Women groups compared to the comparison group. However, measuring consumption accurately is difficult, and the FCS results suggest that consumption patterns did shift, leading to improved food security for households. (The module was not included in the second midline.)

98. At endline, after the comparison group joined the programme, comparisons were only possible between the FFA and FFA for Women groups. No significant differences in consumption were observed, which aligns with expectations, since both groups received the programme.

Figure 25: First midline: Monthly household predicted consumption

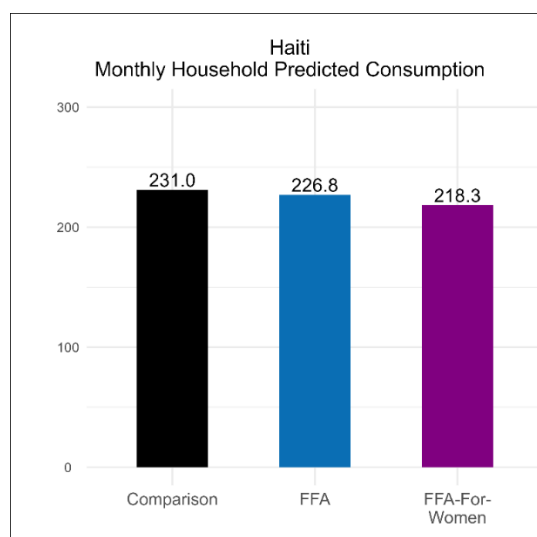
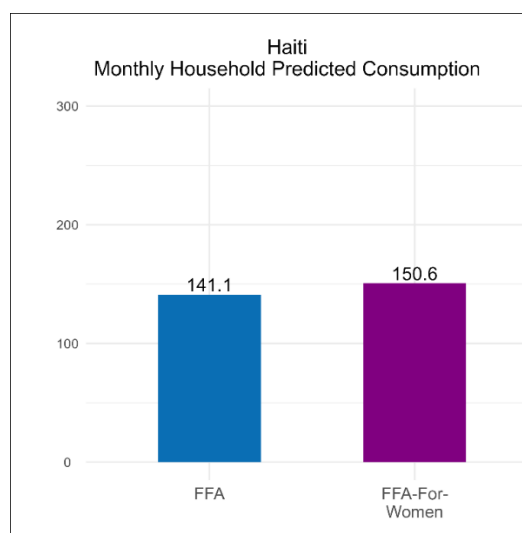


Figure 26: Endline: Monthly household predicted consumption



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).

5.7. Agency – decision making

Summary of findings: At the second midline, while the programme was ongoing, there was a positive impact on women's agency over time use in the FFA for Women's group when compared with the FFA group. There were also positive impacts on women's agency over consumption in the FFA for Women group compared with the FFA group, but the difference was not statistically significant. At endline, there were no impacts on women's agency over consumption or women's agency over time use when comparing the FFA for Women group with the FFA group.

99. According to theory, when women become earning members of a household, their decision-making power and agency may increase. In this analysis, agency refers to a woman's ability to set and act on personal goals, and make independent decisions. This includes control over how she allocates her time – whether for self-employment, salaried work, household chores, or leisure – as well as influence over household consumption decisions.⁵⁴

100. To measure agency, women were asked who decides on their time use for four activities:

- self-employed work
- salaried work
- household chores
- leisure

The possible response was either: “the woman head of household”; “the man head of household”; or “both [man and woman] heads of household”.

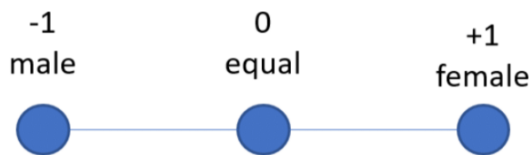
101. Women were also asked who decides on household spending for:

- large purchases;
- purchases by the male head of the household;
- purchases by the female head of the household; and
- health-related purchases by the female head of the household.

102. The responses were averaged on a scale from -1 to +1. A score of -1 when the man has all the decision-making power, +1 when the woman has all the decision-making authority, and 0 when they share it equally.

⁵⁴ Lundberg, S. and Pollak, R.A. (1993). Separate spheres bargaining and the marriage market. *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(6):988–1010

Figure 27: Agency index scale



103. At **baseline**, women reported having relatively balanced agency over key consumption decisions, with an overall index score of 0.183, indicating a tendency toward greater agency. Yet, employed female heads of households had greater decision-making power over consumption choices compared to those who were not employed. This suggests that an intervention such as FFA for Women could significantly improve women's agency.

104. By the first **midline**, there were no significant effects observed, possibly due to the fact that only one cycle had been completed, and not enough time had passed for impacts to materialize. However, by the second **midline**, while the programme was still ongoing, women in the FFA for Women group experienced an increase in their agency over time use relative to the comparison group (but it was not significant). Conversely, women in the FFA group experienced a statistically significant decline in their agency relative to the comparison group. As a result, agency over time use was 0.122 standard deviations larger in the FFA for Women group compared to the FFA group (0.250 to vs. 0.194 index points).

105. Similarly, women's agency over consumption increased by 0.127 standard deviations in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group, although this result was not statistically significant. This relative difference was mainly driven by the decline in agency that women in the FFA group experienced. This result was consistent with other countries in the window, and a pooled analysis across all countries showed that women significantly retained their agency when they were targeted with FFA.

106. At **endline**, the evaluation compared women's agency in the FFA group with women's agency in the FFA for Women group. However, there was no significant difference between the two groups regarding agency over consumption or time use. This contrasts somewhat with the other countries where women's agency over consumption continued to improve even after the programme ended.

107. During the focus group discussions (qualitative interviews), most participants reported that the programme increased their autonomy in decision making while it lasted, particularly regarding financial decisions and time management. Participants felt more empowered to make decisions about household purchases and activities. For example, in the FFA for Women groups, one participant illustrated how the programme empowered her to make significant financial decisions and manage their time more effectively:

"The programme enabled me to decide to make major purchases with the money I'd earned."

- Woman beneficiary, FFA for Women

Figure 28: Second midline: Women's agency over time use

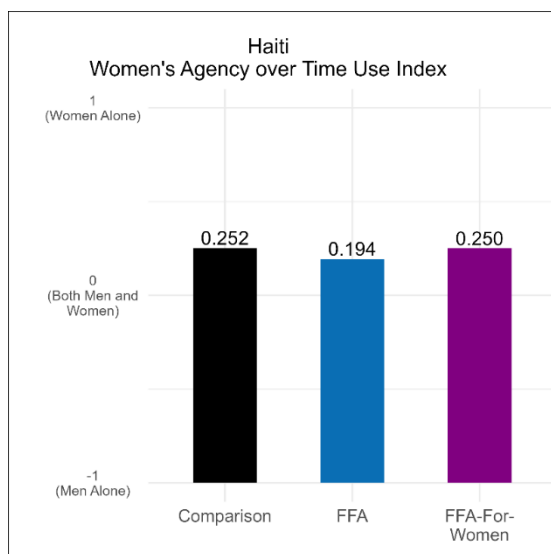


Figure 29: Endline: Women's agency over time use

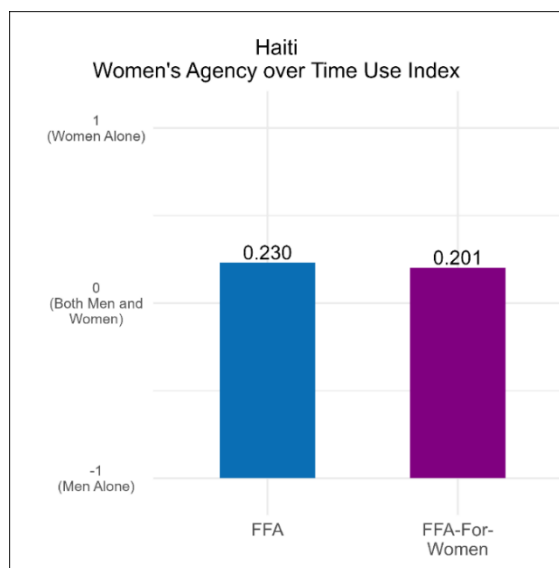


Figure 30: Second midline: Women's agency over consumption

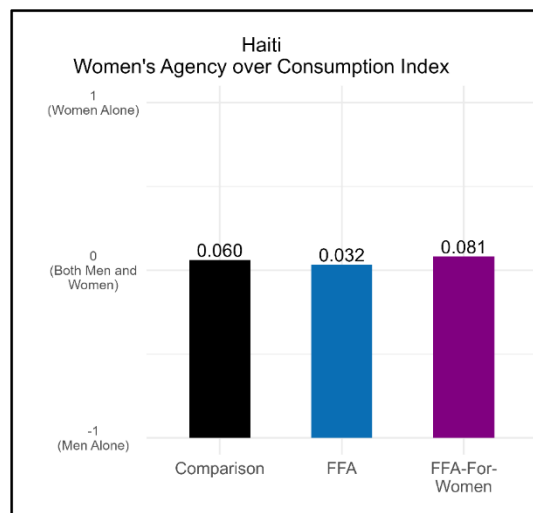
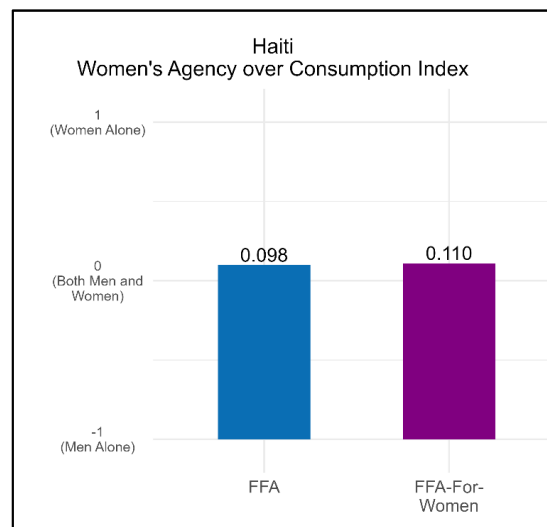


Figure 31: Endline: Women's agency over consumption



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).

5.8. Attitudes

Summary of findings: By the second midline, women's attitudes towards women's agency in the FFA group fell relative to the comparison group, while they were maintained in the FFA for Women group. This indicates that the programme had a stabilizing effect. Men's attitudes were unchanged at midline, but at endline, their attitudes improved in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group (which is consistent with results from other WFP impact evaluations).

108. Having considered actual time use and who makes decisions about time use, this section explores **who should make decisions**, specifically: (1) who men and women think should make decisions about time spent on each of the four activities specified earlier; and (2) who should make decisions about consumption. This can be understood as: (1) attitudes towards agency over time use; and (2) attitudes towards agency over consumption.⁵⁵

109. As above, the index in this section considers attitudes on time use for self-employed work, salaried work, chores, and leisure, and takes values -1 to 1. For time use, 1 means that women should spend more time on a particular activity. For agency over time use, 1 means that women should make decisions about time spent on a particular activity.

110. At **baseline**, data showed that women think that they should have more agency over their time use, with an overall index score of 0.165 for female heads of households (from both groups) and 0.018 for male heads of households. Women think they should have greater agency over paid work (0.124), chores (0.432), and relatively equal agency for self-employed work (-0.081) and leisure (0.087). However, men think they should have equal agency over women's time use, except for household chores.

111. Similar to the agency findings, by the first midline, there were no significant effects observed, possibly due to the fact that only one cycle had been completed, and not enough time had passed for impacts to materialize. However, by the second **midline**, women's attitudes in the FFA group declined relative to the comparison group. Specifically, women's attitudes over consumption fell by 0.168 standard deviations in the FFA group relative to the comparison group, and women's attitudes over time use fell by 0.170 standard deviations relative to the comparison group. Both results are statistically significant.

112. There were no significant changes in the women's attitudes in the FFA for Women group relative to the comparison group (the point estimates are negative but not significant). As a result, women's attitudes in the FFA for Women group were more progressive than those in the FFA group, although the result is not significant (p-value = 0.2). There were no significant changes in men's attitudes. Overall, these results are broadly in line with findings from other impact evaluations under

⁵⁵ Dhar, D., Jain, T. and Jayachandran, S. (2018). *Reshaping Adolescents' Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a school-based experiment in India*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research.

the window. There was some progression of women’s attitudes while men’s attitudes remained unchanged, at least at midline.

113. At the **endline**, after the programme had ended, there were no significant impacts on women's attitudes. However, men’s attitudes over women’s time-use agency were higher for men in households in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group by 0.164 standard deviations (the evaluation cannot say how men’s attitudes in the FFA group compared to the comparison group as the comparison group was already phased in). Men’s attitudes towards time use were also higher for men in FFA for Women group households by 0.099 standard deviations relative to the FFA group. Men’s attitudes over how much decision making women should have over consumption was also higher for men in households in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group by 0.051 standard deviations, although this result is not significant. These results are comparable to findings in other countries ([El Salvador](#) and [Rwanda](#)).

114. According to the qualitative data collected through focus group discussions with women across programme groups, some women participating in the FFA programme expressed diverse attitudes towards women's agency, breaking some traditional views on women's roles. However, traditional views were also expressed, with some participants believing that men should spend more time working while women manage household chores. For example, a woman from FFA for Women groups, said:

“Men should spend more time working, while I should take more responsibility at home. The programme enabled me to make decisions on my own.”

- Woman beneficiary, FFA for Women

Figure 32: Second midline: Women's attitudes towards women's agency over consumption index

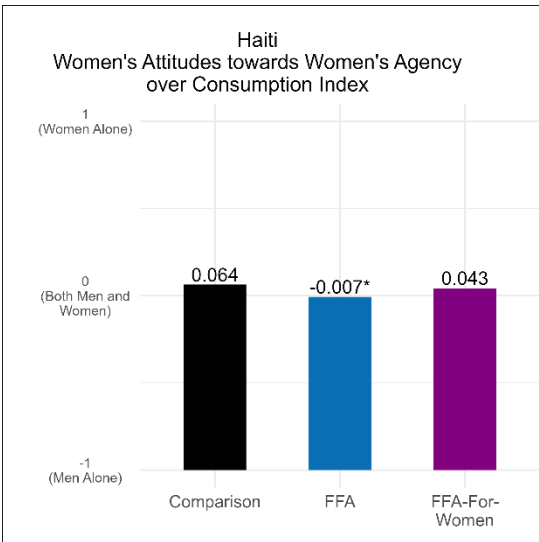


Figure 33: Second midline: Women's attitudes towards women's agency over time use index

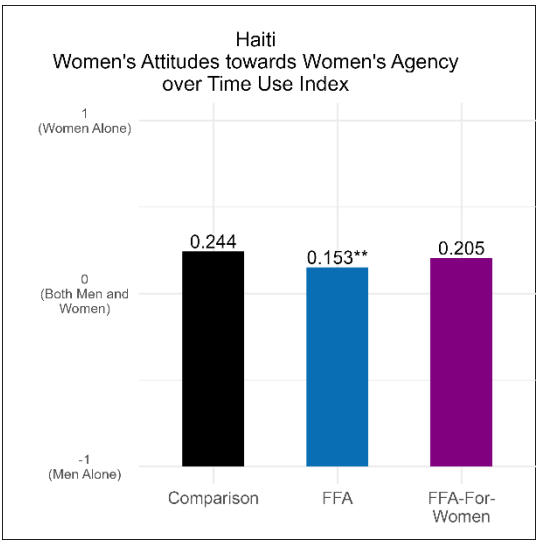


Figure 34: Endline: Women's attitude towards women's agency over time use

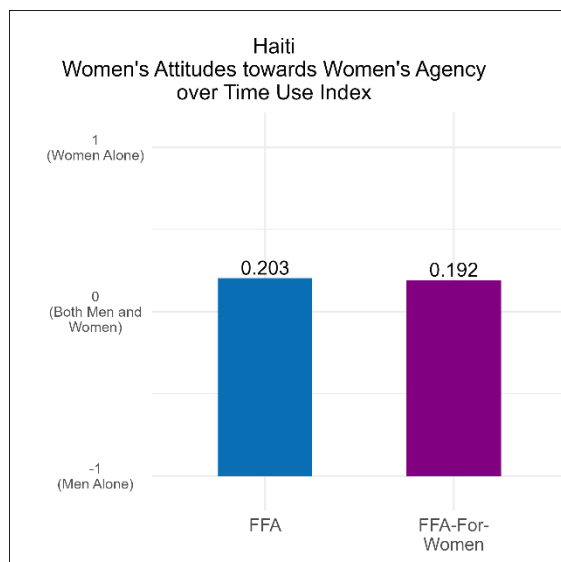


Figure 35: Endline: Women's attitudes towards women's agency over consumption

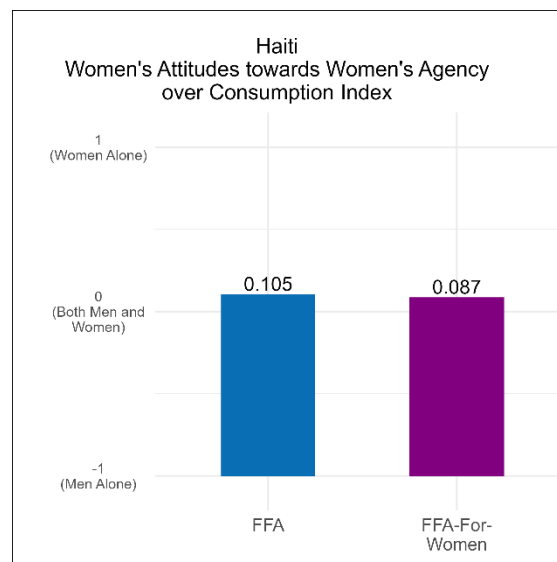
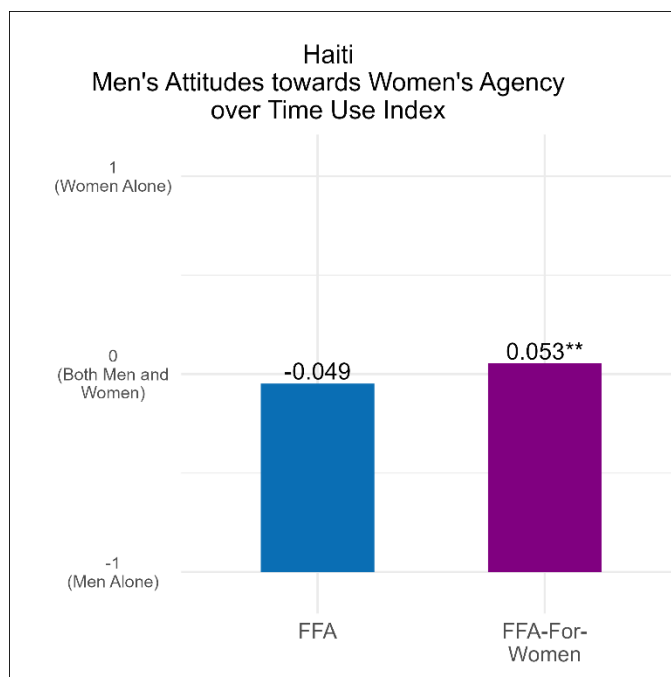


Figure 36: Endline: Men's attitude towards women's agency over time use



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).

5.9. Intimate partner violence

Summary of findings: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is measured using three separate outcomes – psychological abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. These issues are also combined into an index to measure abuse holistically. At first midline, increases in IPV are observed for both FFA groups when compared to the comparison group, mainly for sexual abuse and overall IPV index. At endline, a reduction in sexual abuse and the IPV index can be seen when comparing the FFA and the FFA for Women groups, which is statistically significant.

115. Intimate partner violence and abuse are serious issues faced by many women around the world. Women with limited agency or living in poor households are disproportionately affected. It has been suggested that improvements in economic outcomes of the household, such as receiving cash transfers, may reduce intimate partner violence.⁵⁶

116. At baseline, 51 percent of women in our sample said they experienced some form of abuse. Specifically, 49 percent reported psychological abuse, 8 percent reported physical abuse, and 9 percent reported sexual abuse.⁵⁷

Table 5: Baseline: Intimate partner violence

	Mean	Standard deviation	No. of households responded
Suffered any of the below abuses	0.51	0.5	518
Panel A: Psychological abuse	0.49	0.5	518
He gets jealous or angry if you talk to other men	0.34	0.47	512
He tries to limit your contact with your family	0.1	0.3	517
He does not permit you to meet your female friends	0.18	0.39	517
He frequently accuses you of being unfaithful	0.11	0.31	516
He insists on knowing where you are at all times	0.27	0.44	515
He said or did something to humiliate you in front of others	0.1	0.3	516
He threatened to hurt or harm you or someone you care about	0.05	0.22	516
He insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself	0.12	0.33	517
Panel B: Physical abuse	0.08	0.26	518
He pushed you, shook you, or threw something at you	0.05	0.22	517

⁵⁶ Haushofer, J. and others. (2019). *Income Changes and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kenya*. Working Paper 25627, National Bureau of Economic Research.

⁵⁷ It must be noted that, because data collection on IPV involves raising sensitive questions that require respondents to recollect trauma, all efforts were made to ensure that the interviewers were trained in this regard. A half-day training on how to approach sensitive questions about gender-based violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) was provided to enumerators by a specialized international consulting firm. If the respondent reported a case of IPV, enumerators had to follow a strict protocol that included providing a set of referral services.

	Mean	Standard deviation	No. of households responded
He slapped you	0.03	0.16	516
He twisted your arm or pulled your hair	0.03	0.18	515
He punched you with his fist or with something that could hurt you	0.03	0.17	511
He kicked you, dragged you, or beat you up	0.01	0.12	514
He tried to choke you or burn you on purpose	0.02	0.12	516
He threatened you or attacked you with a knife, gun or other weapon	0.01	0.11	516
Panel C: Sexual abuse	0.09	0.29	516
He physically forced you to have sexual intercourse with him when you did not want to	0.08	0.28	514
He physically forced you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to	0.05	0.22	513
He forced you with threats or any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to	0.04	0.2	515
These questions were asked to female heads of household who reported being in an active relationship at the time of the survey.			

117. During the first **midline**, sexual abuse was higher for FFA households (only) compared to the comparison group (0.176 standard deviations), and FFA for Women households compared to the comparison group (0.227 standard deviations). All the results are statistically significant. Overall IPV increased by 0.126 standard deviations for any FFA group compared to the comparison group, and by 0.133 standard deviations for FFA group (only) compared with the comparison group. There were no significant differences between the FFA group and the FFA for Women group. (This module was not included in the second midline.)

118. At endline, following the conclusion of the programme, households in the FFA for Women group experienced a notable reduction in sexual abuse compared to those in the standard FFA group, with a decline of 0.276 standard deviations. Overall, IPV also decreased by 0.233 standard deviations in the FFA for Women group compared to the FFA group. These improvements may reflect shifting household dynamics – potentially due to women no longer working outside the home, or greater acceptance by men of women's evolving roles. Since the comparison group had already been phased into the programme, the evaluation cannot assess how these trends compare to a valid counterfactual.

Figure 37: First midline: Intimate Partner Violence Index

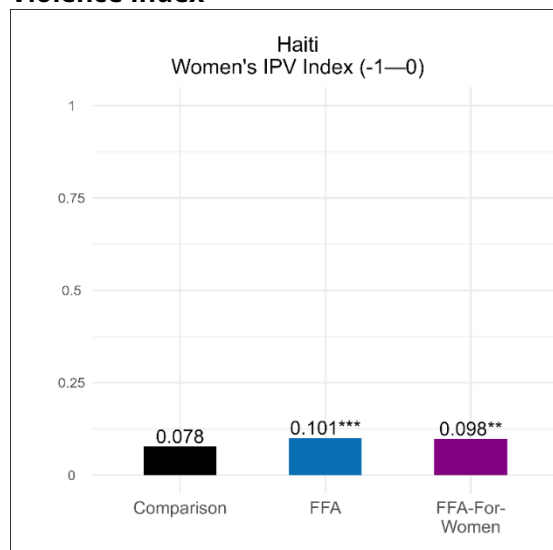


Figure 38: Endline: Intimate Partner Violence Index

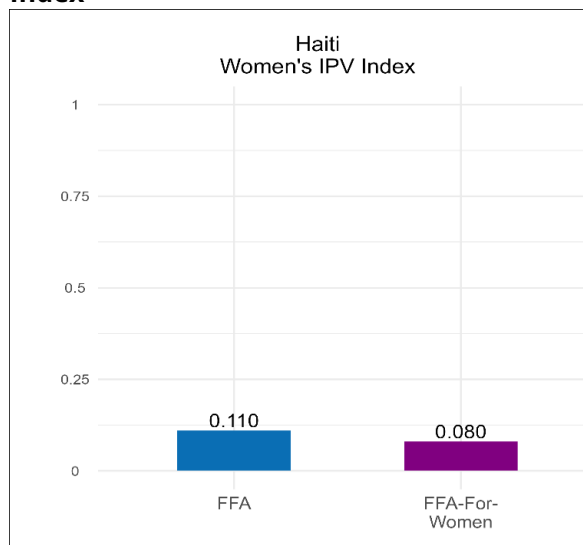


Figure 39: First midline: Sexual Abuse Index

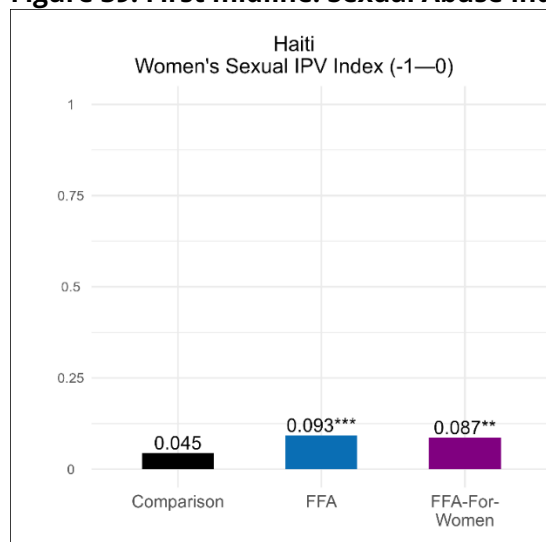
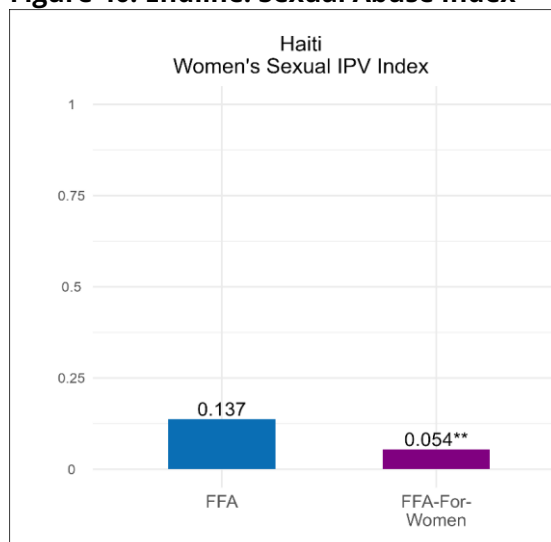


Figure 40: Endline: Sexual Abuse Index



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk () denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).*

5.10. Well-being

Summary of findings: At second midline, there were no impacts on the well-being index for households in the FFA groups compared to the comparison group. There were no impacts on the FFA for Women group when compared with the FFA group. Also, at endline, no impacts on well-being were observed when comparing the FFA for Women group with the FFA group.

119. As a result of the programme, households receiving assistance may experience higher subjective well-being, decreases in stress, and increases in life satisfaction. Well-being is measured in multiple dimensions:

- The “subjective well-being index” was constructed by combining three different measures (life satisfaction, stress, and mental health).
- “Life satisfaction” was measured as a score using the Diener et al. (1985) method.⁵⁸
- The stress scores were calculated using the “Perceived Stress Scale” from Cohen, Kamarck and Mermelstein (1983).⁵⁹
- A significant aspect of (measuring) agency is understanding whether the respondents perceive a sense of control over their life and are able to initiate actions. This is referred to as “locus of control”. The locus of control score was computed using the Rotter’s (1954) method.⁶⁰
- Mental health was measured using the standard Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9).

120. **Baseline** data showed high levels of reported depression, with about 50 percent of women experiencing moderate to severe depression in the last seven days before the interview. Additionally, 9 percent of women reported high stress, and 90 percent reported moderate stress. Also, 32 percent of women were extremely dissatisfied with their lives, and 33 percent were dissatisfied. Overall, there was a high prevalence of distressed subjective well-being in the target community.

121. At the **second midline**, most women in the FFA for Women, FFA, and comparison groups reported experiencing moderate stress (scores between 14 and 26). On average, women in the FFA for Women group had a slightly higher stress score of 22.1, compared to 21.4 for women in the FFA group and 21.5 for women in the comparison group, though the difference was minimal. At the second midline, there were no significant impacts on women’s subjective well-being index for either the FFA for Women group (-0.038 standard deviations) or the FFA group (0.024 standard deviations) when compared to the comparison group. Similarly, no significant differences were observed

⁵⁸Diener, E. and others. (1985). The Satisfaction with Life Scale. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 49(1): 71–75.

⁵⁹Cohen, S., Kamarck, T. and Mermelstein, R. (1983). A Global Measure of Perceived Stress. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 24(4): 385–396.

⁶⁰ Rotter, J.B. (1954). *Social Learning and Clinical Psychology*. Prentice-Hall, Inc.

between the FFA for Women and FFA groups, with an estimate of -0.061 standard deviations. Similarly, there were no significant impacts on depression (PHQ-9), life satisfaction, or locus of control. These modules were included in both midlines, however, by the first midline there were no significant effects observed. This is possibly because only one work cycle was completed, and not enough time had passed for effects to materialize.

122. At **endline**, after the programme was completed, there were no impacts on the well-being index and other measures such as stress, depression, life satisfaction and locus of control for households in FFA for Women group compared with the FFA group, with a subjective well-being index estimate of -0.021 standard deviations.

123. The **qualitative** survey reported that participation in the FFA programme enhanced the well-being of its participants, making them feel happier, healthier, and more motivated. However, these positive effects were often short-lived and did not persist after the programme concluded. For example, a woman from the FFA for Women group illustrated how the programme provided a sense of purpose and improved mental and physical health. Yet, the temporary nature of these benefits underscores the need for more sustainable interventions to ensure long-term well-being:

“Since I've been working, I'm happy, and so is my husband. I felt good going to work.”

- Woman beneficiary, FFA for Women

Figure 41: Second midline: Stress

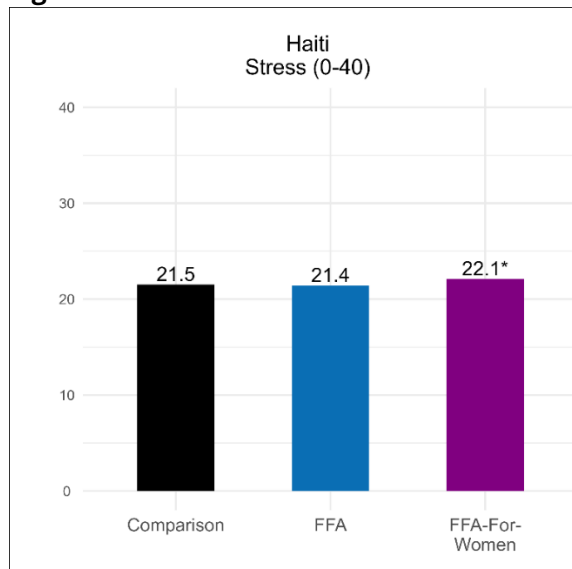


Figure 42: Endline: Stress

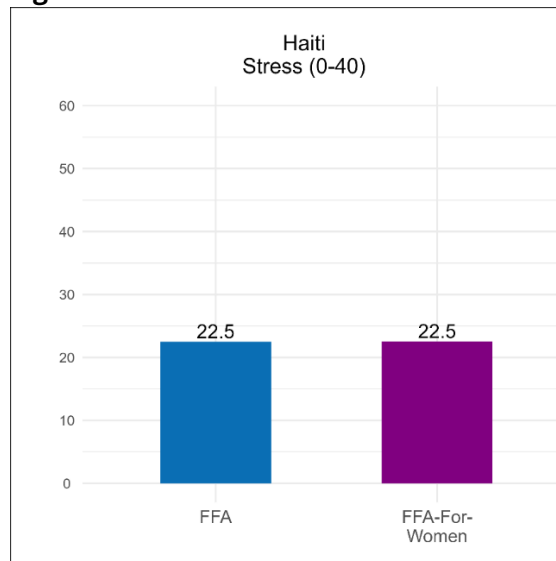


Figure 43: Second midline: PHQ-9

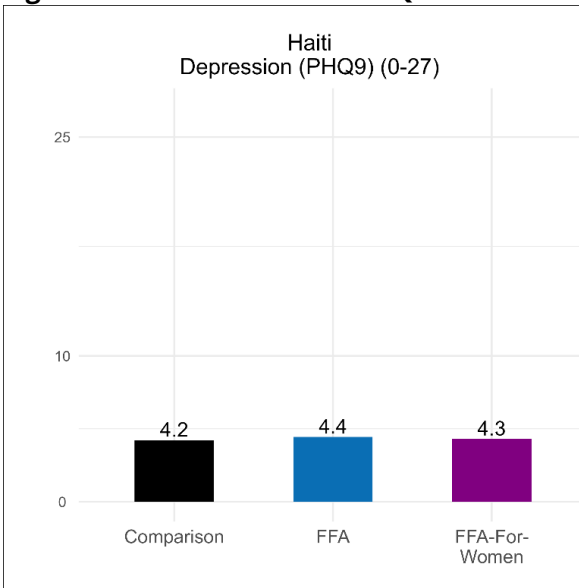


Figure 44: Endline: PHQ-9

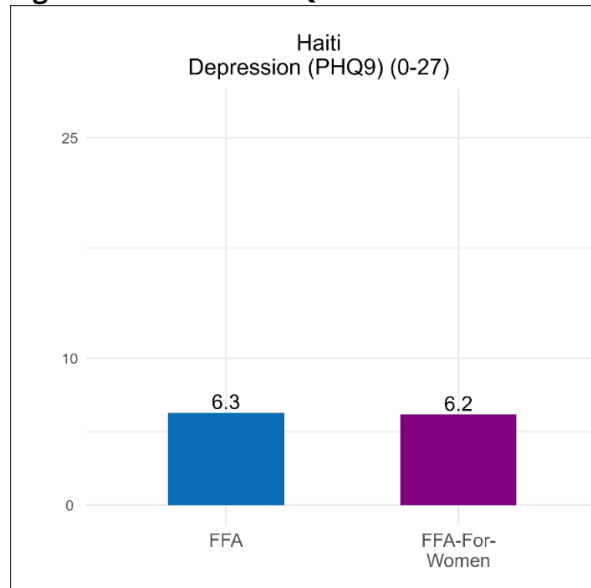


Figure 45: Second midline: Women's Subjective Welfare Index

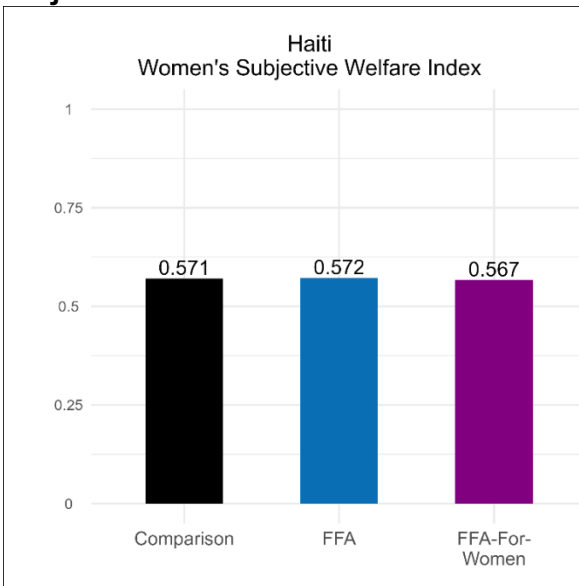


Figure 46: Endline: Women's Subjective Welfare Index

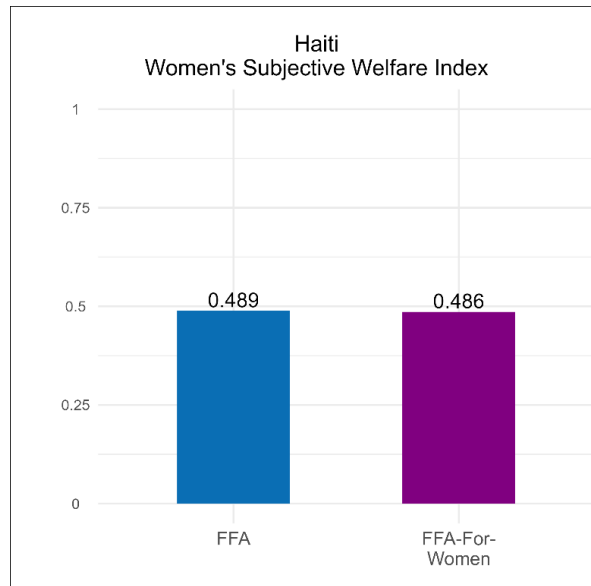


Figure 47: First midline: Locus of Control

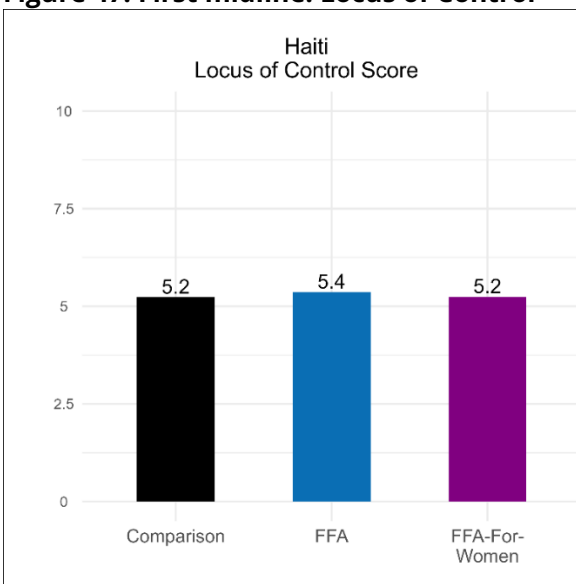
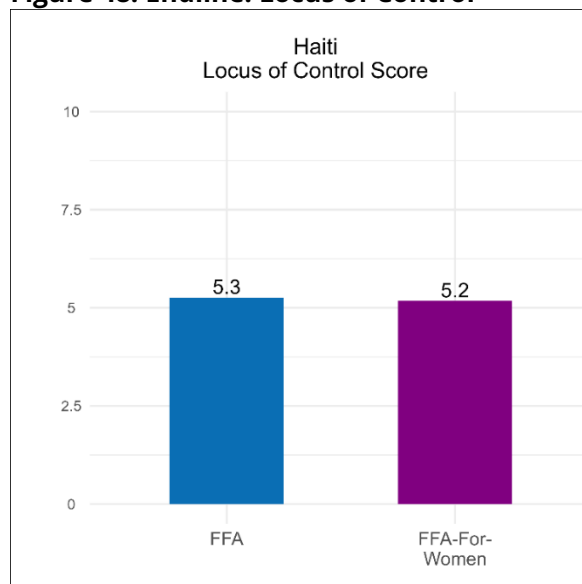


Figure 48: Endline: Locus of Control



Note: Asterisks indicate statistical significance levels. A single asterisk () denotes significance at the 10 percent level ($p < 0.10$), two asterisks (**) at the 5 percent level ($p < 0.05$), and three asterisks (***) at the 1 percent level ($p < 0.01$).*

6. Conclusions and considerations for future programmes

124. Persistent challenges in Haiti include food insecurity and malnutrition, along with recurring natural disasters, persistent gender inequality, slow economic growth, high public debt, and a high homicide rate. Also, only half of all Haitian women work outside the household.

125. Against this backdrop, the impact evaluation found that WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme had a significant positive impact on households' food security during the interventions (+13 percent Food Consumption Score (FCS)), and that participating in FFA for Women had a modest impact on women's agency relative to those participating in regular FFA.

126. These results support the theory tested by the evaluation and suggest that offering women an opportunity to receive cash transfers in exchange for participating in activities outside the house can support women's economic empowerment. The findings are broadly in line with the results from evaluations that tested the same design in other countries such as [El Salvador](#) and [Rwanda](#).

Evaluation Question 1. What is the impact of the FFA programme on households' food security and resilience?

127. The evaluation shows some evidence that participating in FFA improves food security while the programme is ongoing. The second midline results showed that, while there was a significant decline in food security across all households relative to baseline, the decline was less severe for households in the FFA programme groups compared to the comparison group. During the project, the FCS was significantly higher for households assigned to the FFA group (by 13 percent or 3.7 FCS points), and for the FFA for Women group (by 7 percent or 2.2 FCS points), compared to the comparison group. The evaluation does not find meaningful changes among FFA recipients along other dimensions of food security, such as the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This evidence supports the hypothesis that FFA can improve households' food security – especially the amounts consumed – in extremely vulnerable contexts, while the assistance programme is ongoing. It is also worth noting that the estimated impact may be reduced due to relatively low participation rates; with higher coverage, the Intention-to-Treat effect could have been even stronger.

128. Other measures improve for households receiving FFA, such as their ability to take loans and make monetary transfers to others. This effect was particularly pronounced in the FFA for Women group. However, there were no observed changes across other productive activities.

129. The evaluation cannot determine the longer-term impacts on food security and resilience as the comparison group was phased into the programme after the first and second midline assessments. However, several months after the project ended, there were no differences between

the FFA for Women and the FFA group on food security. While the standard FFA group showed a slight reduction in use of crisis coping strategies, it also reported higher use of emergency coping strategies than the FFA for Women group, but with no statistically significant differences observed throughout. Similarly, except for a statistically significant and higher Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) for the FFA for Women group compared to standard FFA at endline, there was limited impact of the intervention on the coping strategies.

Evaluation Question 2. Can targeting women through the FFA programme promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women?

130. The results show that, during the programme, women's agency and attitudes are stabilized among households assigned to FFA for Women relative to FFA (as agency decreases for the latter). FFA increased women's participation in asset work and women's WFP and non-WFP earnings and improved women's agency over time use while the programme was ongoing.

131. However, there is increased reporting of intimate partner violence (IPV) among women in the FFA for Women group and the FFA group when compared to the comparison group. There are also slightly elevated stress scores for the FFA for Women group.

132. Once the programme ends, men's attitudes over how much decision making women should have over time use is higher for households participating in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group. Instances of IPV, particularly sexual abuse, are lower in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group. The absence of a comparison group prevents us from determining whether men's attitudes and IPV are better in the FFA group relative to the comparison group.

133. Targeting women as recipients of cash transfers and offering them opportunities to participate in activities outside the house can improve their earnings and stabilize agency over consumption and time use while the programme is ongoing. However, there is some backlash in the form of increased IPV. When the programme ends, men's attitudes over women's time use are positive in the FFA for Women group relative to the FFA group, and there is significantly lower IPV (particularly sexual abuse), when comparing the FFA for Women group to the standard FFA group – but also relative to baseline values. This finding is unique to Haiti in our series of Cash-based Transfers and Gender impact evaluations.

Consideration #1. Improve the focus on both food access and dietary quality in future initiatives

134. A key programme consideration is the need to address both food access and dietary quality in future interventions. Participation in the FFA programme contributed to improved dietary diversity, as indicated by gains in the Food Consumption Score (FCS). However, it did not lead to significant improvements in food access, as measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This suggests a need to strengthen access-focused components of programming – for example, by adjusting transfer size and timing to better align with household needs and seasonal gaps, or by combining different assistance modalities (cash, vouchers, in-kind support) during periods of acute need. Complementary activities such as nutrition education can help sustain improvements in dietary quality but are unlikely to address food access constraints on their own.

Consideration #2. Explore strategies to increase overall participation rates, with a particular focus on women

135. At both midlines, household participation rates ranged from 56 percent to 64 percent in the FFA group, while household participation rates in the FFA for Women group were lower (between 44 percent and 53 percent). There was even lower participation among women within these households. Future WFP programmes should identify why participation rates might be low. Programmes should focus on effectively conveying the benefits of these initiatives to both men and women within the targeted communities. Strategies should be developed to enhance women's willingness and ability to engage in FFA when they are the intended beneficiaries. Additionally, increasing compensation may help boost participation rates, and measures should be put in place to restrict men's involvement in FFA projects that are specifically tailored for women.

Consideration #3. Explore additional programming to reduce the backlash women encounter during programme implementation

136. While there are short-term agency gains for women and long-term positive changes in attitudes among men in the FFA for Women group, participation in either FFA and FFA for Women can lead to an increase in violence against women during the programme's implementation. This indicates that the FFA programme alone is insufficient for fully enhancing women's empowerment in the short term.

137. Future programmes should explore additional complementary interventions, including those aimed at men. Programmes could test the effectiveness of interventions such as: gender equality training; community discussions on shared household decision making and public safety; and campaigns to raise awareness about reducing gender-based violence and promoting healthy relationships. These efforts could create a more supportive environment for empowering women.

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8. Acronyms

DIME	Development Impact Evaluation (World Bank)
FAES	Economic and Social Assistance Fund
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
FGD	focus group discussion
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GDI	Gender Development Index
GII	Gender Inequality Index
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IPV	intimate partner violence
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
PHQ	Patient Health Questionnaire
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategies Index
RCT	Randomized Control Trial
SCOPE	WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme

Annexes

Annex 1. Theory and hypotheses

138. This annex expands on the shorter version of the details presented in [Section 3.1 \(Evaluation theory\)](#) and [Section 3.2 \(Evaluation questions\)](#) in the main report.

139. The programme theory evaluated in Haiti aligns with literature examining the impacts of providing women with opportunities to work outside the household. Research shows that female employment can delay marriage, increase work aspirations, improve child health, and reduce the male-to-female sex ratio. In the United States, the rapid growth in female labour force participation preceded significant changes in gender role norms in both the economy and the household.⁶¹ Recent experimental work has shown that attitudes^{62, 63} and norms^{64, 65} shape women's agency and, in turn, their labour supply.

140. While the asset-building component of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme has proven effective for economic development through increased income,⁶⁶ there is less evidence on the impacts for men and women, especially for short-duration projects.

141. The first primary channel of potential impact is the **wage effect**. Receiving cash transfers during the FFA project directly impacts household labour supply decisions. Household members balance consumption gains with the opportunity costs of working outside the home, such as giving up leisure and home chores. Notably, women working for a wage often substitute away from leisure, creating a "second shift",⁶⁷ while men do not take on more home chores.⁶⁸ This is explained by differences in men's and women's utility functions or home production functions. However,

⁶¹ Field, E.M. and others. (2019). *On Her Own Account: How Strengthening Women's Financial Control Affects Labor Supply and Gender Norms* (No. w26294). National Bureau of Economic Research.

⁶² Dhar, D., Jain, T. and Jayachandran, S. (2018). *Reshaping Adolescents' Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research.

⁶³ McKelway, M. (2019). *Vicious and Virtuous Cycles: Self-efficacy and employment of women in India*. Unpublished manuscript.

⁶⁴ Beaman, L. and others. (2009). Powerful Women: Does Exposure Reduce Bias? *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(4): 1497–1540.

⁶⁵ Bursztyn, L., González, A.L. and Yanagizawa-Drott, D. (2018). *Misperceived Social Norms: Female Labor Force Participation in Saudi Arabia*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research.

⁶⁶ Imbert, C. and Papp, J. (2015). Labor market effects of social programs: Evidence from India's employment guarantee. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(2), 233–263; Gazeaud, J., Mvukiyehe, E. and Sterck, O. (2019). *Public Works and Welfare: A randomized control trial of the Comoros Social Safety Net Project: Endline report*; Adjognon, G. S., Van Soest, D. and Guthoff, J. (2021). Reducing hunger with payments for environmental services (PES): Experimental evidence from Burkina Faso. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 103(3), 831–857.

⁶⁷ Hochschild, A. and Machung, A. (2012). *The Second Shift: Working families and the revolution at home*. New York, Penguin.

⁶⁸ Bertrand, M., Kamenica, E. and Pan, J. (2015). Gender identity and relative income within households. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2): 571–614.

empirical work rejects the unitary household model,⁶⁹ showing that men and women have agency over separate spheres of household decisions.⁷⁰

142. The second expected impact is a lasting **empowerment effect**. Temporary participation of women in FFA can lead to long-term changes in their involvement in the labour market by altering household roles, attitudes, and norms. Research shows that attitudes⁷¹ and norms⁷² influence women's decision making and work participation. These factors are interconnected, so changes in women's participation in FFA can also affect household decisions. These impacts can build up, leading to lasting changes in women's labour supply in response to temporary job opportunities.⁷³

143. During the programme implementation, as shown in Figure 49, cash transfers to women participating in the WFP programme are expected to affect their earnings and how they use their time. Increased income from the programme could also lead to changes in consumption, food security, and potentially overall well-being.

⁶⁹ Browning, M. and Chiappori, P.A. (1998). Efficient intra-household allocations: A general characterization and empirical tests. *Econometrica*, 1241-1278; Ashraf, N. (2009). Spousal control and intra-household decision making: An experimental study in the Philippines. *American Economic Review*, 99(4), 1245-1277.

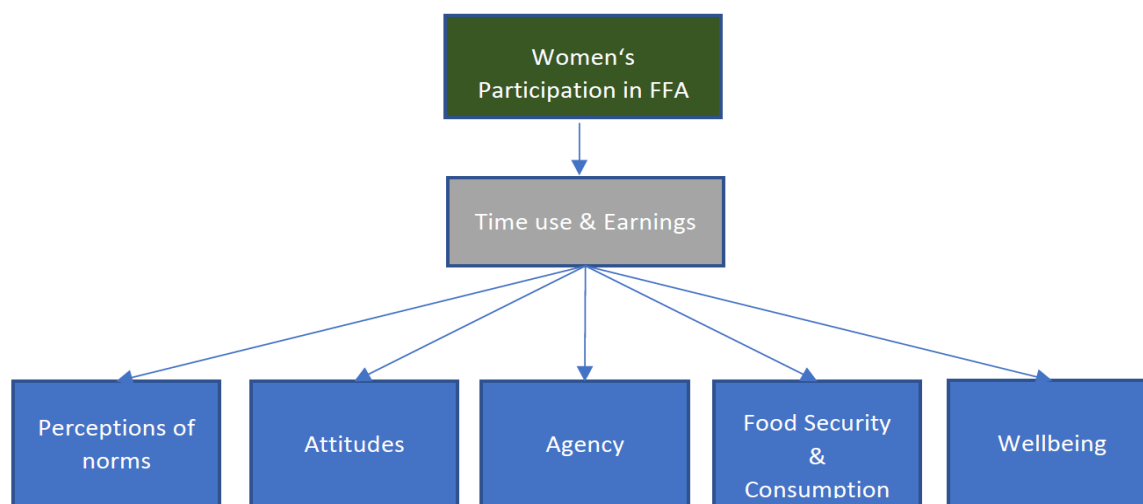
⁷⁰ Lundberg, S. and Pollak, R.A. (1993). Separate Spheres Bargaining and the Marriage Market. *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(6): 988-1010.

⁷¹ Dhar, D., Jain, T. and Jayachandran, S. (2018). *Reshaping Adolescents' Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research; McKelway, M. (2019). *Vicious and Virtuous Cycles: Self-efficacy and employment of women in India*. Unpublished manuscript.

⁷² Beaman, L. and others. (2009). Powerful Women: Does exposure reduce bias? *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(4): 1497-1540; Bursztyn, L., González, A.L. and Yanagizawa-Drott, D. (2018). *Misperceived Social Norms: Female Labor Force Participation in Saudi Arabia*. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research.

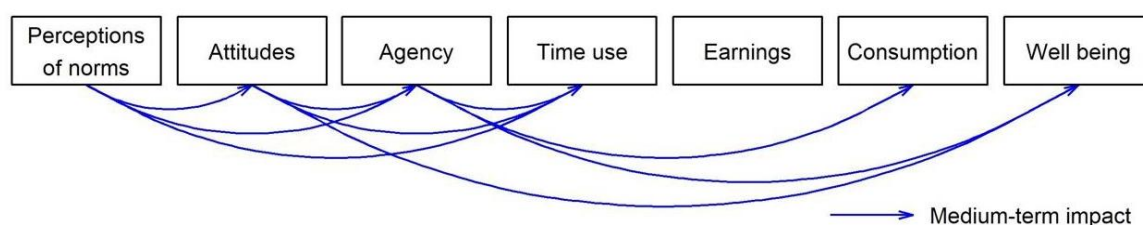
⁷³ Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and Nunn, N. (2013). On the origins of gender roles: Women and the plough. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2), 469-530; Goldin, C. and Olivetti, C. (2013). Shocking labor supply: A reassessment of the role of World War II on women's labor supply. *American Economic Review*, 103(3), 257-262.

Figure 49: Short-term evaluation theory (changes expected during the programme)



144. As women start earning, their increased income could enhance their decision-making power and control over their time and spending. This shift in authority could also influence men's attitudes towards women's roles. Additionally, seeing other women working outside the home could change social norms about women working.

Figure 50: Medium-term theory (changes expected after the programme ends)



145. When the programme ended, women were expected to maintain greater decision-making power over their time and spending. Observing other women working and proving their earning potential could encourage them to continue seeking job opportunities outside the home, leading to higher earnings for women.

146. Increases in women's earnings could improve household food security and consumption. A women's continued income could also change men's attitudes towards women's decision-making power. Ultimately, these gains, along with more supportive attitudes from men, could enhance the psychological well-being within the household.

147. In the long run, the hypothesis is that targeting women for cash transfers and involving them in work outside the home could create a "virtuous cycle". Changes in women's perceptions of norms,

attitudes, and agency could further increase their participation in paid work. This would positively impact their earnings, which could improve consumption and well-being even after the FFA intervention ends. While the programme focuses on women, it could also change men's and the wider community's perceptions of gender norms, contributing to gender equality.

148. Based on this theory, the evaluation tests two hypotheses:

- The first hypothesis is that involving women in activities (asset creation through the FFA for Women programme) and educational sessions will directly impact:
 - their time use (shifts towards paid work outside the home); and
 - their earnings, as they are paid directly for their work.
- The second hypothesis is that, in the medium term, these combined shifts in time use and earnings could impact women's economic empowerment by changing:
 - perceptions of gender norms;
 - attitudes;
 - agency;
 - consumption patterns; and
 - well-being (physical, social, and psychological).

149. In conclusion, by targeting women for cash transfers and involving them in work activities, the programme could start a transformative process that goes beyond immediate benefits. Testing the two hypotheses provides valuable insights into how targeted interventions can create lasting positive change and promote a more equitable society.

Annex 2. Quantitative surveys

150. Surveys achieved a high response rate of 94 percent and above for all rounds of data collection.

151. The team did not find significant differential attrition between intervention groups.

152. While specific outcomes are discussed in detail in the results section, the main outcome categories of interest for the impact evaluation are set out in Table 6.

Table 6: Main outcomes of interest⁷⁴

Outcome type	Outcome name	Definition	Measurement level
Primary	Consumption	Expenditures over reference period on ten goods	Household
Primary	Earnings	Total earnings from WFP plus total earnings from other paid permanent and temporary work	Household
Primary	Time use	List of activities from 24-hour recall over past two days; asked separately of men and women	Individual
Primary	Agency	How much the woman's opinion would be considered in a series of decisions	Individual
Primary	Attitudes	The woman's belief of how much time she should spend on productive activities, relative to men	Individual
Primary	Perceptions of norms	The woman's perception of the time use, agency, and attitudes of women in her community	Individual

⁷⁴ During the baseline survey, following discussions with the country office and due to time constraints, the following modules were excluded: Time use; Male well-being; Livelihood coping.

Outcome type	Outcome name	Definition	Measurement level
Primary	Well-being	Psychosocial well-being, life satisfaction, mental health, and intimate partner violence	Individual
Primary	Food security	Food Consumption Score, Food Insecurity Experience Scale	Household
Primary	Shocks and coping	Shocks experienced by the household; livelihood coping strategies used; Reduced Coping Strategies Index	Household
Primary	Financial	Savings, loans, financial and in-kind transfers given and received	Household

153. **Consumption:** Expenditures over a standard reference period for up to ten goods are asked. Five goods are selected as the goods that most strongly predict household consumption in a household survey from the same context. Five goods are selected as the goods that most strongly predict women's income, controlling for total household consumption, in a household survey from the same context. Expenditures on education, men's clothing, and women's clothing are included.

154. **Earnings:** Earnings for each household member are collected for the previous six months for the baseline survey, the time since the baseline survey for the midline survey, and the minimum of the previous six months, or two weeks after the intervention was completed, for the endline survey. Earnings are measured as total earnings from WFP plus total earnings from other paid permanent and temporary work.

155. **Time use:** The female respondent is asked for a 24-hour recall of her activities over the past two days, following the approach of the American Time Use Survey.⁷⁵ When the primary male decision maker in the household is available, he is asked about his activities over the past two days; when he is not, the female respondent is asked about his activities.

156. **Agency:** The female respondent is asked, relative to the primary male decision maker in the household, how much her opinion would be considered in a series of decisions. These questions follow the Demographic and Health Survey on consumption ("major household purchases", "purchases from the primary male decision maker's income", "purchases from the female respondent's income", "the female respondent's health care"), and include additional questions on decision making over both men's and women's time in three productive activities ("work in self-employment", "work for a salary", "work on household chores").

⁷⁵ US Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). [American Time Use Survey](#).

157. **Attitudes:** The female respondent is asked how much time she should spend, relative to the primary male decision maker in the household, on the three productive activities listed above.

158. **Perceptions of norms:** The female respondent is asked how much time she believes women, relative to men, in her community spend on three productive activities. Next, the female respondent is asked how much the opinion of women in her community would be considered, relative to primary male decision makers in their households, on the same set of decisions as the agency questions. Finally, the female respondent is asked about the attitudes of people in her community. These questions mirror the above questions on attitudes towards time use and attitudes towards agency.

159. **Well-being:** Modules to measure locus of control, psychosocial well-being, life satisfaction, intimate partner violence, and depression (Patient Health Questionnaire 9) are administered. Two modules are used to assess any unintended consequences of the intervention on women. First, the time use module reveals whether the programme has contributed to a “second shift” for women: as women pick up more work outside the home, this may not be accompanied by reduced domestic labour burdens. The share of time spent on domestic and care work duties between men and women is an important indicator of gender equality in the analysis. Second, questions from the Demographic and Health Survey module on intimate partner violence are included, with the adaptation of approved questions.⁷⁶ This allows the impact evaluation to identify any unintended consequences of a direct transfer of cash to women on the intra-household dynamics and her experience of intimate partner violence.

⁷⁶ Haushofer, J. and others. (2019.) *Income Changes and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kenya*. Working Paper 25627, National Bureau of Economic Research.

Annex 3. Qualitative surveys

160. In addition to quantitative data collection, the impact evaluation also employed qualitative methods in the form of focus group discussions (FGDs). These were conducted during the endline data collection and a week after data collection began. The aim of the FGDs was to triangulate the perspectives of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) intervention across different beneficiary groups.

The focus group discussions centered on the following thematic areas:

- Uptake of and participation in the project
- Perceived changes and benefits of the project
- Feedback and recommendations for improving the project

161. For the thematic module on perceived benefits of the project, beneficiaries were asked about any changes or lack thereof they might have experienced due to project participation. These included resilience capacity, time use, agency, personal attitudes, community norms about time use, household earnings, consumption patterns, individual well-being, and intra-household relationships.

162. Qualitative research was carried out in all three impact evaluation communes: Jean Rabel; Fonds des Nègres; and Petite Rivière des Nippes. In total, six FGDs were conducted in Haitian Creole with women from both FFA groups. Specifically, one FGD was conducted per FFA group and per commune, resulting in two FGDs in Jean Rabel, two in Fonds des Nègres, and two in Petite Rivière des Nippes.

163. The impact evaluation team randomly selected an average of 20 households per commune (to ensure replacements in case any participants were unavailable or refused to participate) across at least three communities per commune and shared this information with the survey firm. It was required that at least ten primary respondents (women from FFA groups) participate in each FGD, ensuring that each community was represented by at least 30 percent.

164. Next, the survey firm, in collaboration with the cooperating partners (SIKSE) and community leaders, contacted the participants either in person or by telephone. They explained the objectives of the research and asked if the participants were interested in being interviewed. If participants agreed, they were informed about the date and place of the scheduled meeting.

165. To analyse the focus group transcripts, the evaluators used Microsoft Copilot, an artificial intelligence tool, to assist with summarizing transcripts. The process involved several key steps to ensure accuracy and consistency.

166. **Query run on Copilot:** The initial query involved putting the anonymized transcripts from six focus groups into Microsoft Copilot. The transcripts included detailed responses from participants on various themes such as decision-making powers, attitudes, perceptions, revenue, consumption, well-being, relationships at home, and feedback on the programme. The goal was to extract meaningful insights and summarize the data by thematic areas.

167. **Information included for analysis:** The information included for analysis was the anonymized text from the FGDs. This text was carefully prepared to remove any personally identifiable information, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the participants. The transcripts contained rich qualitative data, including direct quotes from participants that illustrated their experiences and the impact of the programme.

168. **Verification for consistency and avoidance of hallucinations:** To ensure that the analysis was consistent with the original text and free from hallucinations (fabricated information), several verification steps were taken:

- **Cross-referencing:** The summarized data were cross-referenced with the original transcripts to ensure that the key points and quotes accurately reflected the participants' responses.
- **Thematic consistency:** The themes identified in the summaries were checked against the recurring topics in the transcripts to ensure that they were representative of the discussions.
- **Quote accuracy:** Direct quotes from participants were carefully selected and verified to ensure that they were accurately transcribed and contextually relevant.
- **Iterative review:** The analysis underwent iterative reviews to refine the summaries and ensure that they aligned with the original data. This process involved multiple passes through the transcripts to capture all relevant information and ensure that no critical details were overlooked.

169. By following these steps, the analysis is thorough, accurate, and reflective of the participants' experiences and perspectives. This approach provided a robust and reliable summary of the FGDs, which can be confidently shared with stakeholders and donors.

170. Table 7 shows the background characteristics of study participants by project beneficiaries. As above, all participants are women, with 50.8 percent from FFA for Women groups compared to 49.2 percent from FFA group. About one-third of beneficiaries who participated in the qualitative study were from each commune (33.9 percent from Fonds des Negres and Petite Rivières des Nippes, and 32.2 percent from Jean Rabel).

Table 7: Qualitative survey: Demographic characteristics of beneficiaries

	Participants (Impact Evaluation) (n=59)	
Gender	Col	Number
Female	100%	59
Programme groups		
FFA for Women	50.8%	30
FFA	49.2%	29
Commune		
Petite Riviere des Nippes	33.9%	20
Fonds des Negres	33.9%	20
Jean Rabel	32.2%	19

Annex 4. Baseline characteristics

171. Due to the impact evaluation's design and baseline inclusion criteria, all 1,183 households included had both a woman and a man co-heading the household. As shown in Table 8, about 80 percent of the 1,180 women in the sample are either married or in a civil union. The average ages of the female and male household heads were 45 and 47 years, respectively. The average education level was approximately three years for women and four years for men. The average household size was five members, with at least one child under the age of 18.

Table 8: Demographics

	Mean	Standard deviation	N
Panel A: Female head of household			
Age	45.62	14.94	1,181
Years of education	3.24	3.83	1,180
Panel B: Male head of household			
Age	47.66	15.32	1,132
Years of education	3.99	4.28	1,127
Panel C: Household			
Household size	4.7	1.93	1,181
Number of children (<18)	1.5	1.41	1,181
Female head of household – marital status			
Single	0.1	0.3	1,180
Married	0.4	0.49	1,180
Civil union	0.39	0.49	1,180
Divorced/separated	0.03	0.16	1,180
Widowed	0.09	0.28	1,180
Other	0	0.03	1,180
For each variable, N refers to the number of households that answered the corresponding question.			

172. The descriptive baseline analysis highlights the potential of participating in FFA (engaging women in paid work outside the home) to generate impacts on households' livelihoods and well-being. The data show that targeted households are highly vulnerable, experiencing significant food insecurity, low food consumption, and poor nutritional diversity. With an average annual household income of just \$161, 40.8 percent of households reported "poor" food consumption scores, and 77.5 percent experienced "high" food insecurity, indicating they are low-income households with low food security. This shows the potential for reliable sources of income, such as from public works and diversified livelihoods from asset creation, to meaningfully increase household resilience.

173. Gender inequality within these households is substantial. Women have limited control over their time, earn only 64.7 percent of what male heads of household earn, and frequently face psychological and physical intimate partner violence. High rates of depression were also reported, with half of the women experiencing at least moderate depression. Employed female heads of households reported greater agency compared to those not employed, suggesting that employment might help address the gender gap in autonomy.

Annex 5. Baseline balance

174. Baseline data were collected in April 2023. The random assignment of the sample into three groups was completed before the baseline survey. Neither the WFP team (Programme team, Office of Evaluation, etc.), the cooperating partner, nor the survey firm knew which community belonged to the programme/ Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) or comparison group before the impact evaluation team conducted the baseline data collection. The households across the three groups should be comparable in both observable and unobservable characteristics at the baseline. Randomization ensures that any differences observed at endline can be attributed to the project as “causal impacts”.

175. Tables 9 shows the "balance" by comparing the mean values of the three groups for key outcomes of interest. Tests were conducted to identify any statistically significant differences between the groups. There were no significant differences at the 5 percent level, indicating successful implementation of the cross-community randomization, sampling, and baseline survey.

Table 9: Balance of key variables

Variable	(1) Control Mean (SE)	(2) Standard Mean (SE)	(3) Female Only Mean (SE)	(1)-(2) Mean diff	(1)-(3) Mean diff	(2)-(3) Mean diff
Food Consumption Score (0 to 112)	31.085 (0.991)	32.334 (1.729)	33.850 (1.333)	-1.249	-2.764*	-1.515
Yearly Female HoH Earnings (2019 PPP USD)	41.231 (16.816)	90.516 (28.319)	51.909 (18.029)	-49.286	-10.679	38.607
Yearly Male HoH Earnings (2019 PPP USD)	66.167 (12.822)	141.435 (34.298)	85.050 (19.055)	-75.269**	-18.884	56.385
Annual predicted Consumption (2019 PPP USD)	3165.039 (271.782)	2861.510 (300.842)	3443.378 (319.959)	303.529	-278.339	-581.868
PHQ-9 Score (0 to 27)	10.555 (0.613)	10.586 (0.442)	10.310 (0.440)	-0.031	0.244	0.275
Life Satisfaction Score (5 to 35)	13.026 (0.732)	12.625 (0.612)	11.549 (0.486)	0.401	1.477*	1.076
Female HoH Suffered IPV Abuse	0.556 (0.054)	0.497 (0.047)	0.477 (0.040)	0.058	0.078	0.020
Agency over Men's Time Use	-0.233 (0.068)	-0.058 (0.045)	-0.103 (0.054)	-0.175**	-0.130	0.045
Agency over Women's Time Use	0.144 (0.047)	0.242 (0.045)	0.223 (0.034)	-0.098	-0.079	0.018
Agency over Consumption	0.122 (0.035)	0.252 (0.037)	0.180 (0.025)	-0.131**	-0.058	0.072
Women's Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	0.113 (0.045)	0.194 (0.043)	0.193 (0.038)	-0.082	-0.080	0.001
Men's Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	0.075 (0.060)	-0.053 (0.049)	0.028 (0.062)	0.129*	0.047	-0.082
Women's PoN towards Agency over Women's Time Use	0.188 (0.066)	0.089 (0.054)	0.070 (0.059)	0.098	0.118	0.019
Men's PoN towards Agency over Women's Time Use	0.154 (0.056)	0.039 (0.049)	0.004 (0.071)	0.115	0.150*	0.036
Women's PoN of Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	0.214 (0.068)	0.114 (0.056)	0.132 (0.057)	0.100	0.082	-0.018

Variable	(1) Control Mean (SE)	(2) Standard Mean (SE)	(3) Female Only Mean (SE)	(1)-(2) Mean diff	(1)-(3) Mean diff	(2)-(3) Mean diff
Female HoH age	45.432 (0.913)	44.586 (0.946)	46.882 (0.884)	0.847	-1.450	-2.296*
Male HoH age	47.966 (0.912)	46.283 (0.680)	48.701 (1.281)	1.683	-0.735	-2.418*
Female HoH education years	2.836 (0.316)	3.587 (0.256)	3.356 (0.333)	-0.751*	-0.520	0.231
Male HoH education years	3.680 (0.357)	4.364 (0.246)	3.971 (0.282)	-0.684	-0.292	0.392
Female HoH employment	0.091 (0.021)	0.123 (0.026)	0.090 (0.024)	-0.032	0.001	0.033
Male HoH employment	0.189 (0.031)	0.219 (0.034)	0.142 (0.032)	-0.030	0.047	0.077
Household size	4.608 (0.104)	4.784 (0.122)	4.733 (0.108)	-0.177	-0.125	0.051
Number of children	1.390 (0.095)	1.616 (0.104)	1.513 (0.085)	-0.226	-0.123	0.103

Note: HoH: head of household; IPV: intimate partner violence; PHQ-9: Patient Health Questionnaire 9; PoN: perception of norms; PPP: Purchasing Power Parity; USD: United States Dollar.

Annex 6. Estimation

176. This Annex describes the quantitative and qualitative results measured during the impact evaluation. The impact evaluation analysis is aligned with the [pre-analysis plan](#) registered with the American Economic Association's registry for Randomized Controlled Trials. The pre-analysis plan includes detailed information on primary outcomes, research design, randomization method, randomization unit, clustering, sample size (total number, number of clusters, and units per intervention group), and regression specifications. The purpose of the pre-analysis plan is to outline the set of hypotheses and analyses that will be performed on the data before collection, ensuring transparency of the process.

177. The evaluation estimates the following model in each country (c) and survey wave (t). Letting Y_{hct} be outcome Y for household h in country c in survey wave t (0 for baseline, 1 for midline, and 2 for endline), the following equation is estimated:

$$Y_{hct} = \beta_{1,ct} FFA_{hc} + \beta_{2,ct} FFA_{for\ Women\ hc} + X'_{hc0} \gamma_{ct} + \varepsilon_{ct}$$

178. (1) where X_{hc0} is a vector of controls, which includes the value of the outcome of interest at baseline and any stratifying variables used for randomization.

179. In Haiti, the controls also include enumerator fixed effects. The primary coefficient of interest is $\beta_{1,ct} - \beta_{2,ct}$ – the estimated impact of shifting household participation from men to women through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) for Women. The evaluation is also interested in $\beta_{1,ct} - \beta_{1,ct}$ – the estimated average impacts of programme participation (receiving either type of assistance). Standard errors are clustered at the community level, in accordance with the clustered randomization design.

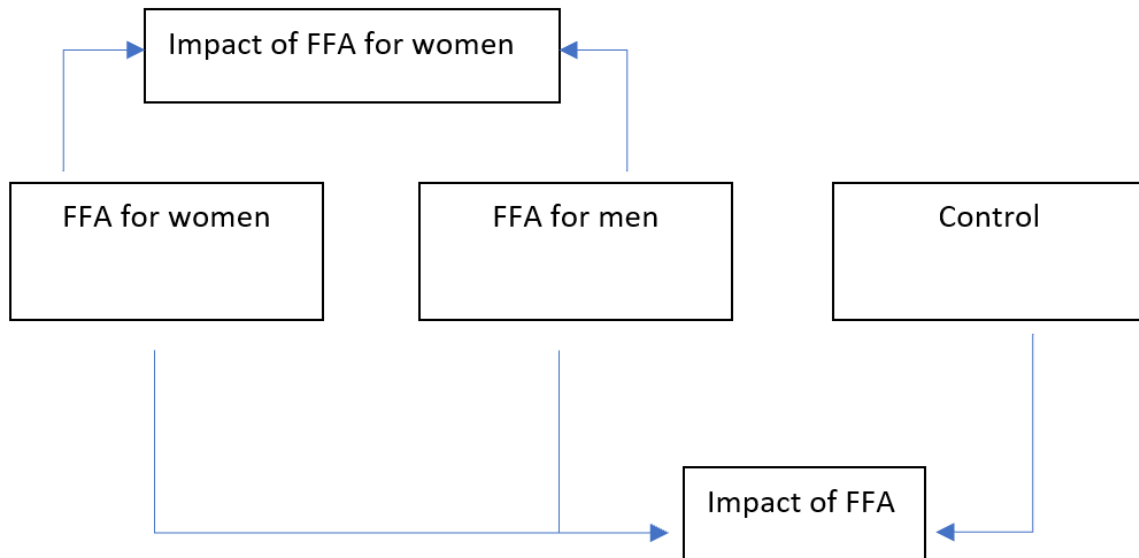
180. In the case of Haiti, households in the comparison group were incorporated into the programme before the end of the intervention in FFA households. For this reason, the analysis at endline identifies only the estimated impact of shifting household participation from men to women, but not the average impacts of programme participation.

181. Figure 51 provides an illustration of the two types of primary comparisons that are being made.

182. The impacts of offering women participation in the FFA for Women versus the FFA (Men working) group. This comparison holds the transfer amount equal between the two groups, with the difference being that, in the FFA for Women group, women work outside the home and receive a direct transfer, whereas for the FFA group, men work outside the home (and the head of household is often a man).

183. "Pooled" FFA for Women and FFA groups compared with the comparison group provides the joint impacts of receiving any type of WFP assistance versus not receiving the assistance. Each of the types of assistance are also compared individually to the comparison group.

Figure 51: Illustration of comparison of programme groups for analysis



184. A feature of the clustered Randomized Control Trial design is that all selected beneficiary households within a community will receive the same intervention to avoid any spill-over concerns that might arise from a within-community household randomization approach. The household identification process in all 78 communities was the same regardless of “intervention” assignment to avoid any biases.

Annex 7. Ethical considerations

185. WFP impact evaluations adhere to the 2020 United Nations Evaluation Group ethical guidelines. The Office of Evaluation and World Bank's Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) department are responsible for ensuring ethics throughout the evaluation cycle. This includes

- ensuring informed consent;
- protecting privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity of participants;
- ensuring cultural sensitivity;
- respecting participant autonomy;
- fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups); and
- ensuring no harm to participants or their communities.

186. **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**: The impact evaluation design and the Haiti study received ethical approval on 24 March 2023 from Solutions IRB, a fully accredited Institutional Review Board.

187. **Programme exclusion**: All impact evaluation participants were WFP beneficiaries, selected through a community consultation process to identify the most vulnerable households. All intervention groups were eligible for cash payments, with the possibility of the comparison group receiving the transfer after the evaluation concluded.

188. **Informed consent**: Participants had to consent to be part of a WFP programme and then provide informed consent to be surveyed. Refusal to respond to the survey did not exclude them from WFP programming. Informed consent was collected separately for each survey round (baseline, midline, and endline).

189. **Privacy during interviews**:

190. The primary respondent for the survey was a woman eligible for the FFA programme, with some questions directed to the "primary male decision maker".

191. Interviews were conducted outside of earshot of others, to ensure privacy and comfort.

192. Enumerators were trained extensively to follow best practices and ensure questions were asked appropriately.

193. For sensitive questions related to intimate partner violence, WFP gender experts trained enumerators on how to handle these cases.

194. These ethical issues were monitored and managed throughout the evaluation. Any additional ethical issues were recorded and managed in consultation with the Office of Evaluation and DIME.

Annex 8. Index construction for agency, attitudes and norms

195. For each individual question that is part of an index, the responses were then coded as values +1, 0, or -1, respectively for each respondent.

196. Table 10 illustrates the three concepts (left-hand side) and how the corresponding questions are phrased in the questionnaire.

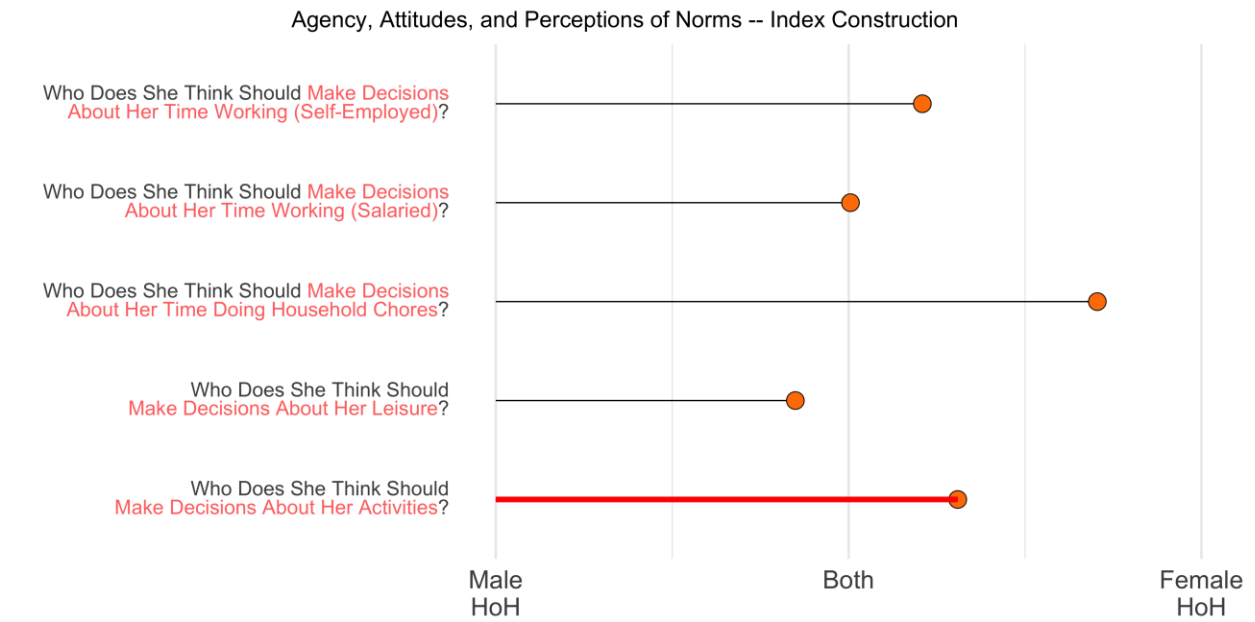
Table 10: Agency, attitudes and norms question design

Indicator	Question
Agency	
Agency over Women's Time Use	Who makes decisions about women's time spent...?
Agency over Men's Time Use	Who makes decisions about men's time spent...?
Agency over Consumption	Who makes decisions about purchases for...?
Attitudes	
Women's Attitudes towards Time Use	Who does she think should spend more time...?
Men's Attitudes towards Time Use	Who does he think should spend more time...?
Women's Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	Who does she think should make decisions about women's time spent...?
Men's Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	Who does he think should make decisions about women's time spent...?
Perception of Norms	
Women's Perception of Norms of Time Use	Who does she think spends more time... in her community?
Women's Perception of Norms of Agency over Women's Time Use	Who does she think makes decisions about women's time spent... in her community?
Women's Perception of Norms of Attitudes towards Time Use	Who does she think people in her community think should spend more time...?
Women's Perception of Norms of Attitudes towards Agency over Women's Time Use	Who does she think people in her community think should make decisions about women's time spent...?

197. To complete the index, a weighted average across responses was calculated that takes values between -1 and +1, where -1 would suggest the male head of the household has total agency, +1 would suggest the female head of the household has total agency, and 0 would suggest both have equal agency.

198. Figure 52 is a visual example of how the index is constructed for agency over time use at baseline.

Figure 52: Visual example of agency index



Annex 9. Modules collected by survey round

	Baseline	First midline	Second midline	Endline
Female WFP work	x	x		x
Female non-WFP work	x	x		x
Any WFP work	x	x	x	x
Any WFP transfer	x	x	x	x
Female transfer	x	x	x	x
Monthly predicted household consumption	x	x		x
Women's non-WFP wage income	x	x	x	x
Women's WFP wage income	x	x		x
Men's non-WFP wage income	x	x		x
Food security				
Food Consumption Score	x	x	x	x
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	x	x		x
Reduced Coping Strategies Index	x	x		x
Livelihood Coping Strategy Index		x		x
Accessing credit	X	X		x
Time spent				
Outside the home		x		x
Working (self-employment)		x		x
Working (paid)		x		x
Working (chores)		x		x
Men's attitudes towards:				
Women's agency over consumption	x	x	x	x
Women's agency over time use		x		x
Women's agency over:				
Consumption	x	x	x	x
Time use		x	x	x
Women's attitudes towards:				
Women's agency over consumption	x	x	x	x
Women's agency over time use		x	x	x
Well-being				
Stress	x	x	x	x
Depression	x	x	x	x
Life satisfaction	x	x	x	x
Subjective well-being	x	x	x	x
Locus of control	x	x		x

Psychological Abuse Index	x	x		x
Sexual Abuse Index	x	x		x
Physical Abuse Index	x	x		x
Intimate Partner Violence Index	x	x		x

Annex 10. Timeline

Years	2023										2024							
Activities\ months	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Survey rounds	April 25– May 20 Baseline Nippes & NO								Dec 11– Jan 04 Midline NO & Nippes								Aug 12– Sept 18 Endline Nippes & NO	
										Jan 27– Feb 03 Midline 2 NO		Mar 02– 09 Midline 2 Nippes						
Cash for work cycles							Oct 16– Nov 15 1st work cycle Nippes & NO			Jan 15– Feb 09 3rd work cycle NO		Mar 11– April 05 4th work cycle NO						
								Nov 22– Dec 23 2nd work cycle Nippes		Jan 08–April 27 3rd work cycle Nippes								
								Nov 22–Jan 12 2nd work cycle NO				Mar 01– April 02 4th work cycle Nippes						
Cash transfer									Dec 01– 13 1st transfer	Jan 20– 24 2nd transfer NO	Feb 27– Mar 01 2nd transfer Nippes		April 26– 27 3rd transfer NO		Jun 03– 14 3rd & 4th transfer			

									Nipp es & NO						Nipp es			
															Jun 03- 07 4 th tran sfer NO			

Annex 11. Regression table notes

This Annex includes the notes that accompany the regression tables in Section 5.

*** represents p-value of less than 0.01, ** represents p-value of less than 0.05 and * represents p-value of less than 0.10. Standard errors were clustered at the village level. Enumerator-level fixed effects and a control for baseline value of the indicator were included when available.

The indices and Food Consumption Score (FCS) were standardized relative to the control mean at midline, and the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) group mean at endline. The FCS ranges from 0 to 112. Values were winsorized at the 5th and 95th percentiles. Predicted consumption was created using a set of goods and the coefficients produced by a Lasso regression. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) values were calculated using monthly Consumer Price Index data from the Bank of the Republic of Haiti and the World Bank's PPP conversion factor for private consumption. Individual earnings from farming, livestock, and business were calculated by taking their respective profits and subtracting the value of other household members' labour, splitting the remaining profits between the farming, livestock, or business managers. Households that did not possess a given earning source were considered to have earned \$0 from that source. Consumption and income indicators were winsorized at the 99th percentile.

Subjective well-being is constituted by measures of stress, life satisfaction, and depression. A higher locus of control score implies a feeling of less control over one's environment. The stress score was calculated using the Perceived Stress Scale from Cohen, Kamarck and Mermelstein (1983). The depression score was calculated using the standard Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9). The life satisfaction score was calculated using Diener et al. (1985).

Time use is measured as hours per day – the weekly average calculated using respondent's time diary of two most recent workdays and most recent rest day. Women's agency, men's attitudes, and women's attitudes indexes are created on the basis of questions about the four displayed activities: self-employed work; paid work; chores; and leisure. For time-use questions, the respondent was asked who they thought should accomplish each of these activities: the male head of household, the female head of household, or both.

The consumption index was based on questions about large household purchases, purchases made using each head of household's income, and the female head of household's health-care expenses. The indices were constructed using inverse covariance weighting. Values are between -1 and 1, with 1 roughly meaning perception of full agency for female head of the household and -1 meaning no agency for female head of the household. The indexes presented in the table are standardized as described above.

Questions about intimate partner violence (IPV) were addressed to female heads of household who reported being in a relationship at the time of the survey. The IPV index is the weighted sum (using inverse covariance weighting) of the psychological abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse indices.

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