

Workshop Gender Equality for sustainable development
in Nexus sectors in the Drin River Basin

Measuring women empowerment in agriculture: An evidence-based research for effective policy implications

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Outline

- **Evidence – based research** for for decision-making in economic and policy analysis
- **Methodology to observe the behaviour and elicit the decision-making - Experimental economics methods (field experiments)** - increasingly accepted as a standard approach by academics and policymakers as valuable tool to effectively improve the design and implementation of governmental policies and programs
- **Bottom-up** participatory approach – identification of the women's needs
- **Inclusion and vertical coordination** of the institution on every level (governmental institutions, academia, NGOs, civil organization etc...)

- Cooperation between **UN Women** and **Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – Skopje** 2018/2019, 2021/2022
- Evidence – based research for effective policy analysis



Starting point– *bottom up approach* to estimate the condition of the women in agriculture and rural areas



Vertical integration and *cooperation* of relevant institutions (MAFWE, MLSP, MF, AFSARD, NEA) NGO (NFF) and academia (FASF) – Advisory body of the projects



Experimental economics method- **Abbreviated Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI)** and provide **evidence on status and inclusion of women in the agricultural sector** (hypothetical method) and modified “Experimental economics game -Dictator game” – **to quantify the level of Women’s Decision-making Power in each agricultural household** (non-hypothetical method) (464 agricultural households (NUTS 3, FADN sample classification))

Evidence-based approach and recommendations for improvement of the design and implementation of government policies and programs for agriculture and rural development to better access gender inequalities.

Project outcome:

- Recommendations were accepted by the policy makers
- **Working group of gender equality and women empowerment within Ministry of Agriculture** (representatives of the Project Advisory body)
- Criteria for the first gender-sensitive measure 115 from the National program for support of the rural development
- Gender analysis and monitoring of the different programs for support of the agriculture and rural development



How the Index is constructed?

Standardized measure jointly developed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (IFPRI)

Five domains of empowerment (5D)

Direct measure of women's empowerment in 5 dimensions
multidimensional empowerment profile for each man and woman (90%)

1. Input in productive decisions Ownership of assets (weight 1/15)
2. Access to and decisions on credit (weight 2/15)
3. Control over use of income (weight 1/5)
4. Group membership (weight 1/5)
5. Workload (weight 1/5)

Abbreviated Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI)

Range: from zero to one
Higher values- greater empowerment

$$\text{AWEAI} = 90\% \times 5DE + 10\% \times \text{GPI}$$

(The total AWEAI score is the weighted sum of the country or regional level 5DE and GPI)

Gender Parity Index (GPI)

Women's achievement relative to the primary male in hh
intra-household inequality in these same profiles (10%)

Experimental economics method -The Allocation game

Lab-in-the-field experiment



Choice	Option A		Option B	
	Self	Other	Self	Other
1	200	200	50	550
2	200	200	100	500
3	200	200	200	400
4	200	200	300	300
5	200	200	400	200
6	200	200	500	100
7	200	200	550	50

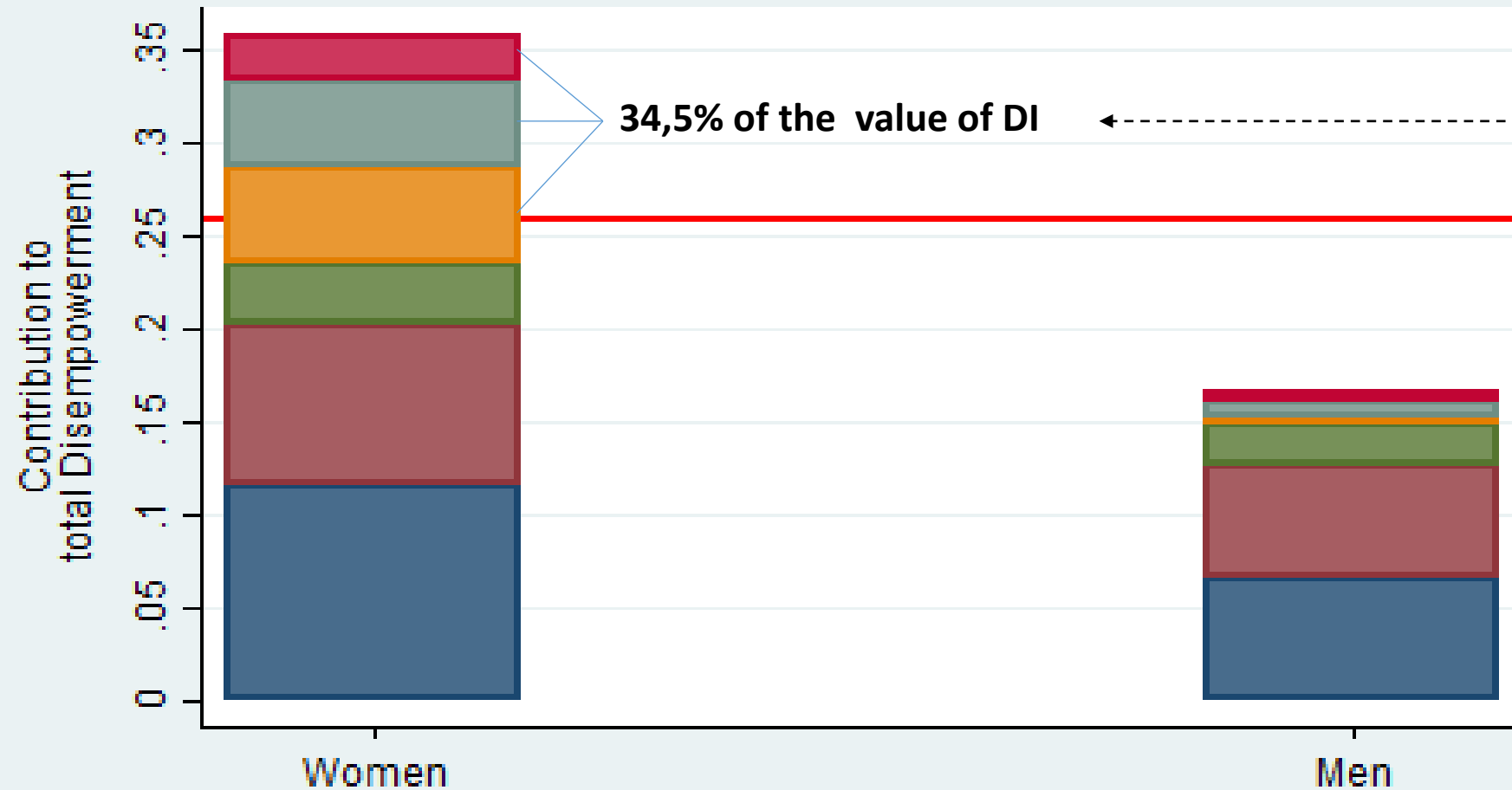
Develop agricultural index and correlation with money metric measures can serve as a baseline to compare women status and empowerment over time

- Played when woman in isolation
- Played when man in isolation
- Played when together - Joint decision; they had to agree in a joint decision

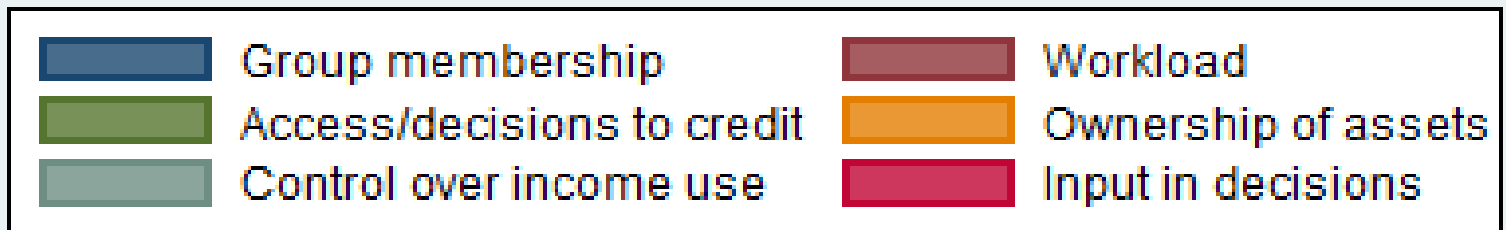
A-WEAI results

Indexes	Women	Men
5DE index	Empowered in 64.3% of the indicators	Empowered in 83.5% of the indicators
Disempowerment index (1-5DE)	Disempowered in 35.7% of the indicators	Disempowered in 16.5% of the indicators
Share of disempowered individuals	58 out of 100 women are disempowered	33 out of 100 men are disempowered
Average Gender Parity Index (GPI)	Women exhibit empowerment scores that are 75.4% of those of men	
Empowerment gap (1-GPI)	The percentage difference in empowerment scores between women and men is 24.6%	
Share of individuals not achieving parity	66.6% of women do not achieve parity with their partner	33% of men do not achieve parity with their partner
Gender Parity Index of sub-sample disempowered individuals	Women exhibit empowerment scores that are 62.7% of those of man	
Empowerment gap (among those without parity)	The percentage difference in empowerment scores between women and men is 37.3%	
Abbreviated Women's Empowerment Index in Agriculture (A-WEAI)	The overall A-WEAI (0.654) exhibits significant potential for improvement either through improving 5DE or by reducing the empowerment gap between women and men	

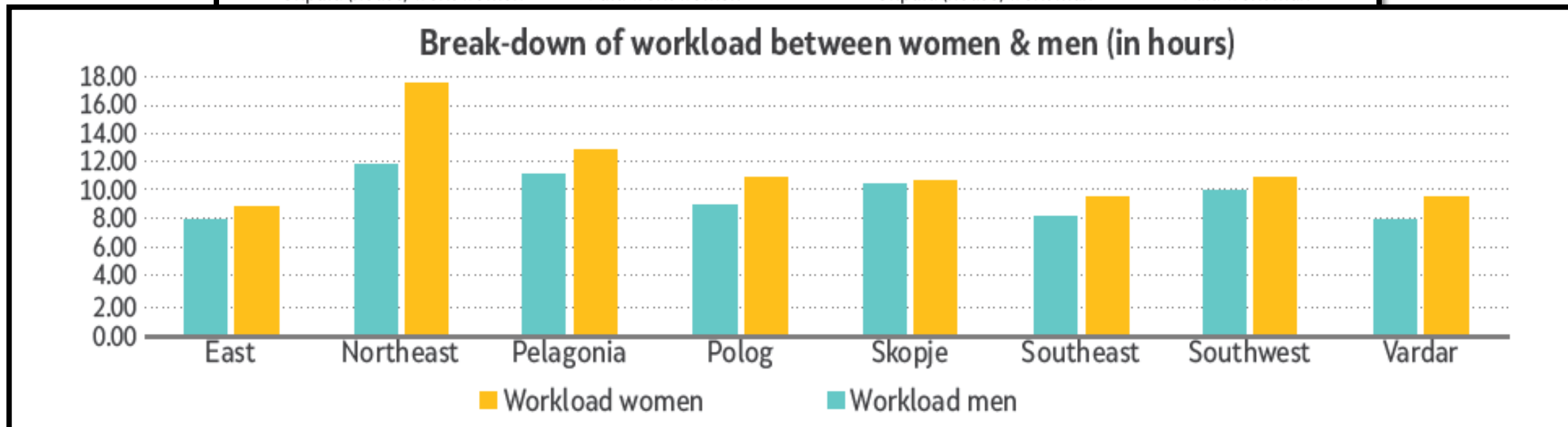
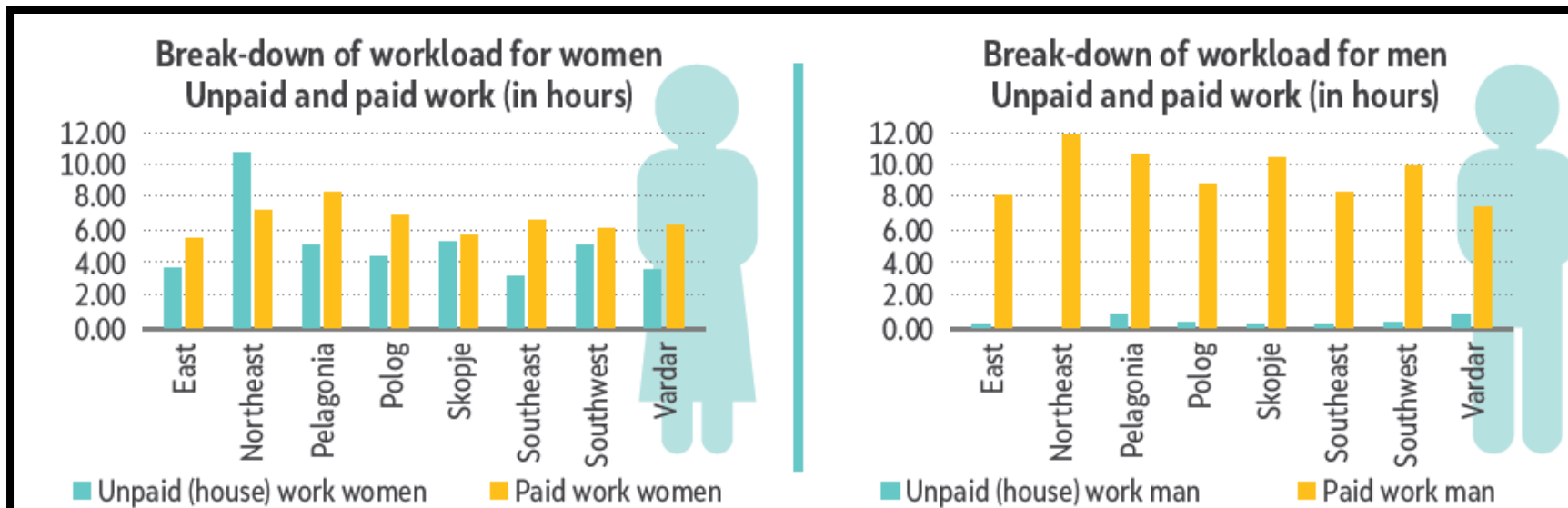
Contribution of the domains/indicators to the women's disempowerment



Ownership of assets,
Input in decision
making
Control over use of
income



- Women work in average 11.06 hours per day (41,7% of the total workload belongs to unpaid work)
- Man work in average 9.68 hours per day - mainly paid work



Experimental economics game - key findings

- **Men have a higher bargaining power for intra-household decision-making**
- **When they make joint decisions for the income allocation, women more often subdue to the demands of men in maximizing men's income** instead of the household's
- **Women do not seek to maximize their individual income when they jointly decide with the partner how to allocate the money**
- Male partners of disempowered women are not likely to maximize the efficiency of the household but rather their own.
- Male partners of highly empowered women are more likely to contribute to the efficiency of the household by allocating more money to the woman and the household, even though they get less money themselves.
- **When the woman is responsible for farm accountancy (FAND or individually), the woman and the household is significantly more empowered**

TO CONCLUDE...

When the women is empowered the men is less individualistic and work more for a household efficiency!!

Questions arose...

- Are the measures adequate to provide long-term economic and social empowerment? Or additional intervention are needed?
- Do giving disempowered women **more money would help** unless they are given more empowerment?
- Do we lack *Ex ante* assessments of programs **that will ensure that interventions do no harm, such as by increasing women's workloads or transferring decision making or control of income from women to men?**

“One reason for the failure of well-intentioned policies is that they are often designed by responsible who do not face the same constraints as the populations the policies are meant to serve” – lack of participatory approach

CONCLUSIONS

- Giving disempowered women **more money would not necessarily help** unless they are given more empowerment (Ha in our ongoing project, testing interventions and women risk and time preferences)
- **EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY ANALYSIS** for the new measures
- **Creating evidence for policy making** should be top priority of any government – **participatory approach of identifying the needs of vulnerable groups**
- Methodology to provide **high-quality evidence on the causal impact of policy interventions** (Banerjee, Duflo & Kremer, 2019), **gender-segregated data** and **randomized sample!**
 - “evidence can show if there is large variation in the impact and cost-effectiveness of policies and thus, **shifting public (and donor) spending from less to more cost-effective programs and policies can significantly improve outcomes and target women’s needs within a given budget**”

Thank you for the attention!

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