

## USAID FEED THE FUTURE ADVANCING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (AWE) PROJECT SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

### Overview

The USAID Feed the Future Advancing Women's Empowerment (AWE) Program was a five-year activity implemented from 2018-2023 with the goal of enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality in agricultural systems and programming. AWE provided targeted technical assistance to missions, implementing partners, the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS), and other USAID offices to increase women's participation, productivity, profit, and benefit in agricultural systems.

AWE's objectives were:

1. to apply evidence-based analysis and learning on gender to Feed the Future project designs, Activity designs, and work plans
2. to support activities to address women's empowerment deliberately and at scale, emphasizing one or more Gender Integration Framework domains
3. to expand evidence on good practices to address women's empowerment in agriculture and food systems

AWE promoted a cycle of learning by capturing technical best practices, generating practical resources for gender equality and women's empowerment, building the capacity of practitioners, and widely sharing information and resources.

In 2019, the AWE team developed [a two-page menu](#) of services to inform potential USAID clients of the types of support the AWE consortium can provide to BFS and missions. The menu groups services into four categories: (1) monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), (2) gender analysis and studies, (3) program cycle support, and (4) capacity building. The menu also includes illustrative examples for each category to help clients envision the services in action. Examples of types of support include:

- Support mission staff with training in gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture
- Conduct gender and agriculture assessments and analysis, including gender-sensitive Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting assessments
- Provide gender technical assistance to implementing partners in activity design and implementation, including application of the Women's Empowerment Agricultural Index and the Gender Integration Framework
- Provide short-term gender technical assistance to meet a wide range of design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning needs
- Facilitate workshops on unintended consequences to promote learning from USAID investments
- Initiate in-person and online learning opportunities to disseminate tools, resources, and best practices

A consortium comprised of EnCompass (Prime), ACDI/VOCA, and MarketShare Associates implemented AWE.



Prime: Overall award management; expertise in gender, learning and capacity building, research



Primary technical expertise in gender and agriculture/MSD, social inclusion; learning and capacity building, research



MEL lead; technical expertise in gender/MSD, research

**Figure 1. AWE by the Figures: Key Metrics.**



For an overview of the program, see the [AWE Activity Factsheet](#).

For a comprehensive overview of the five-year program, see the [AWE Final Report](#).

### Key Project Successes

- **The USAID/Ghana Women's Empowerment to Food Security and Youth Assessment** (FY2019) informed the development of USAID/Ghana's upcoming five-year Global Food Security Strategy Project Appraisal Document and subsequent activities, identifying and prioritizing six core behaviors that can encourage or hinder women's and youths' engagement and empowerment in food security, agriculture, and nutrition-sensitive programming.
- **Gender Integration in USAID's Agricultural Research Investments: A Synthesis of Key Findings and Best Practices** (FY2020) identified tools and examples of gender integration in research among 20 USAID-supported agriculture and food security research activities and was accompanied by four case studies to inform best practices.
- **Good Practices for Women's Empowerment in Beyond Production Agriculture Interventions: A Gendered Landscape Analysis** (FY2020) was conducted to increase understanding of the nature, scope, and scale of women's participation, benefit, and empowerment in beyond production interventions (e.g., in agro-processing, retail, trade, input, financial service provision, and transport and logistics).

- **The Toolkit to Address Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development (MSD) and other resources** (FY2021) is a groundbreaking resource that supports USAID Mission staff and stakeholders in agriculture and market systems development programs in better identifying and implementing actions to address GBV where it arises in their programming.
- **The USAID/Bangladesh Gender and Inclusive Development Analysis of the Feed the Future Portfolio** (FY2023) informed the development of future USAID Feed the Future programming in Bangladesh in the areas of aquaculture, livestock, horticulture and cereals, nutrition, access to finance, private sector engagement, climate smart agriculture, and food security.
- **The gender and social inclusion training for the USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)** (FY2023) trained RFS staff on how to apply gender, social inclusion, and intersectionality (GSI/I) lenses in development programming by building awareness about these concepts and to encourage RFS staff to understand and address the needs of vulnerable populations beyond women in their day-to-day work.
- **Youth, Women, and Market Systems Development in Agriculture and Supporting Markets: Landscape Analysis and Case Studies Report** (FY2020) is a high-value resource that identified strategies to integrate women and youth into agriculture and market systems programs, accompanied by best practice case studies.
- **Increasing Women's Roles in Agricultural Decision-Making** (FY2021) is resource to support USAID Missions and implementing partners to enhance women's decision-making power in their programming by providing evidence of specific programmatic approaches and their outcomes, as well as methodologies and metrics to measure women's decision-making.
- **The Digital Finance and Women's Economic Empowerment in Beyond Production Roles in Agriculture and Food Systems report and menu of tools** (FY2022) addresses knowledge gaps on how agriculture and food systems programs can address women's financial exclusion through accessible and useful financial platforms and promote economic empowerment.
- **The AWE Learning Seminar Series** (FY2021–2023) was a highly successful series that first engaged USAID Missions from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), then expanded to engage USAID Missions and stakeholders globally, to share best practices, lessons learned, and resources structured on increasing women's empowerment in agriculture and market systems through co-creation and private sector engagement. The series engaged more than 1,000 participants globally. Missions shared that they found the discussions and resources highly valuable to their work.

### Applying a Robust Learning and Knowledge Management Approach

Early in the program in 2018, the AWE team conducted a **rapid learning needs assessment** to better understand USAID staff's gender equality and women's empowerment capabilities related to agriculture in Feed the Future's target countries. Soon afterwards, a **knowledge management plan** was developed, which categorized AWE's primary audiences in four "learning loops," guiding the ways the project targeted messaging, facilitated learning, and promoted information sharing for each of those audiences. The learning loops helped ensure that the right stakeholders received the right information at the right time. Each tier, or "loop," had a unique learning process; engagement activities were tailored to their needs as part of an integrated learning strategy.

In 2019, the AWE team developed a **research and learning agenda** based on needs articulated by USAID mission staff, which was vetted by additional USAID staff and implementing partners. The learning and research agenda was intended to guide the generation of new knowledge within AWE that addressed continuing

See [Highlights from AWE's Rapid Learning Needs Assessment](#) to learn more about this study and how it informed AWE's approach.

impediments to gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture and Feed the Future programs. After reviewing data from the rapid learning needs assessment and in consultation with the contracting officer's representative (COR), the team identified three prioritized areas of inquiry for the AWE learning agenda: **women's empowerment in agriculture beyond production, addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in agriculture, and increasing women's decision-making.**

The AWE team created a robust continuous learning environment to promote knowledge sharing and uptake of best practices. In addition to a variety of webinars and publications, **AWE published a quarterly newsletter** that shared thought-provoking blog posts, announced new AWE products and tools, and disseminated useful resources from a wide variety of industry partners and experts. In addition to sharing the latest AWE research and learning, the newsletter offered opportunities to share resources and support in response to current events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of climate change, and newly released policies and strategies.

AWE's activities, organized by learning agenda area are presented below, along with hyperlinks to all publications, and a host of associated resources such as webinars, blog posts, and workshop agendas. These are also available on Agrilinks at [Feed the Future Advancing Women's Empowerment \(AWE\) Program » Resources \(agrilinks.org\)](https://www.feedthefuture.gov/Feed-the-Future-Advancing-Women's-Empowerment-AWE-Program-Resources).

#### AWE Newsletters and Blog Posts

##### *Climate Change*

##### [Gendered Implications and Effects of Climate Change](#) (November 2022)

- [Want to Build a More Climate-Just and Gender-Equitable World? Focus on Youth!](#)
- [Weather Variability, Extreme Shocks and Women's Participation in African Agriculture](#)
- [Protecting Women Farmers from Climate Risk in Rural Kenya](#)
- [At COP27, a Call to Root Climate Action and Justice in Land Rights for Women and Rural Communities](#)
- [New Hotspot Mapping Reveals Where Climate Change Hits Women the Hardest](#)

##### *COVID-19 Pandemic*

##### [Gender and Agriculture in the Time of COVID-19](#) (May 2020)

- [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture is Essential to COVID-19 Survival and Recovery](#)
- [Continuing Monitoring and Evaluation Efforts During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Q&A with i-APS](#)
- [Resources for a Gendered Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning During COVID-19](#)

##### [In Wake of COVID-19, Bangladesh Banks Pivot Toward Community and Digital Solutions](#) (November 2020)

##### *Policies & Frameworks*

##### [AWE Tool Highlight: Feed the Future Gender Integration Framework](#) (May 2019)

##### [Twenty-five Years of Progress Since Beijing](#) (February 2020)

- [25 Years of Progress Since Beijing](#)
- [Integrating Gender in Agriculture Research Investments](#)

##### [Revisiting the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\)](#) (June 2022)

- [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index: The Experience of USAID Bangladesh](#)
- [Validating Measures of Women's Empowerment for High-Quality, Comparable Results](#)

##### [Placing Women's Economic Empowerment Front and Center](#) (March 2023)

- [The First-Ever Interagency Strategy on Women's Economic Security Places Women Front and Center in Development Goals](#)

## Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Beyond Production

### AWE Learning Series on Increasing Women's Empowerment in Agriculture and Market Systems through Co-Creation and Private Sector Engagement

The AWE Learning Series was initially developed to meet the needs and interests of USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) and Mission staff for advancing women's empowerment and inclusion outcomes in agriculture and market systems program. The design of the Learning Series was informed by a needs assessment that identified a strong interest in resources and practices for inclusive capture and shared lessons learned and best practices on how to advance inclusion outcomes in programs through co-creation and private sector engagement. In 2021 and 2022, AWE piloted the Mission Learning Seminar Series focused on USAID Missions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Facilitated as a set of virtual participatory workshops with opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, the Missions shared learning and resources on how to intentionally integrate women's empowerment and social inclusion as part of private sector engagement and co-creation across the project life cycle of agricultural and market systems programming. After the pilot, AWE expanded the Learning Series to a global, virtual learning series to offer more Missions and stakeholders the opportunity to learn from each other in innovative ways that are easy to access across a variety geographic locations and time zones and accommodate differing workloads and schedules. (2021-2023, led by ACDI/VOCA)

- [Women's Economic Empowerment: Mission Learning Seminar Series \(2021\)](#)
- [Learning Series Kickoff Recap: How Can We Increase Women's Empowerment Through Co-creation and Private Sector Engagement?](#)

#### LAC USAID Mission Learning Seminar Series Learning Briefs (2021-2022)

- [Learning Brief Seminar 1: Getting to Shared Value: Creating Alignment with the Private Sector to Achieve Inclusive Development Results](#). In this seminar, AWE explored ways for USAID to find alignment with the private sector to co-define shared value and to find economic incentives for inclusion and empowerment. (led by ACDI/VOCA)
- [Learning Brief Seminar 2: Designing a strategy for private sector engagement: Conducting and using inclusive market research](#). This Learning Series aimed to provide guidance to USAID missions and practitioners on how to intentionally integrate inclusion research across the project life cycle of agricultural growth and MSD programs. (led by ACDI/VOCA)
- [Learning Brief Seminar 3: Measuring transformational results: Engaging the private sector to capture and apply evidence](#). In the third seminar, AWE provided actionable insights for USAID missions to capture and apply evidence from engaging with the private sector.

#### Global Virtual Learning Series (2022-2023)

- Kickoff Webinar [Overview](#) and [Slides](#) (led by ACDI/VOCA)
- [Learning Burst 1: Getting to Shared Value: Creating Alignment with the Private Sector to Achieve Inclusive Development Results](#) (led by ACDI/VOCA)
  - [How Do You Find "Common Ground" for Women's Empowerment with the Private Sector?](#)
  - [Creating Private Sector Alignment for Women's Empowerment in Colombia: The Cacao Effect](#)
  - [PSE and Gender Profile: Kenya Macadamia Export Initiative](#)
  - [Ask the Expert is Underway!](#)
  - [Thank you for a Successful and Informative Ask the Expert!](#)
- [Learning Burst 2: Using Inclusive Market Research to Advance Business and Development Outcomes](#) (led by ACDI/VOCA)
  - [Learning from Private Sector Approaches to Inclusive Market Research](#)
  - [Interview Insights – Inclusive Market Research Methods of the Private Sector](#)
  - [Week 1 Roundup](#)
- [Learning Burst 3: Engaging the Private Sector to Capture and Apply Evidence](#)
  - [Engaging the Private Sector to Capture and Apply Evidence: Measurement Approaches to Inclusion](#)
  - [How the Private Sector Measures Social Inclusion Outcomes](#)



### [Good Practices for Women's Empowerment in Beyond Production Agriculture Interventions: A Gendered Landscape Analysis](#)

To better comprehend the gender gap for women's empowerment in beyond-production activities, the AWE team conducted a landscape analysis on the nature, scope, and scale of women's empowerment in beyond-production interventions, and also how outcomes are monitored, analyzed, and reported. The analysis presents key findings and recommendations on building the evidence base on which beyond-production interventions are most effective at promoting women's empowerment, closing gender gaps, or promoting female participation, and benefit in beyond-production activities. (June 2020, led by ACIDI/VOCA)

Findings from the Beyond Production Landscape Analysis were shared in a [webinar in March 2021](#).

### [Women's Empowerment in Beyond Production Impact Assessment](#)

AWE examined the Feed the Future Malawi Agriculture Diversification (AgDiv) Activity's soy kit intervention as a case study to assess the impact of beyond production interventions on women's empowerment. The objectives of the research were to investigate how beyond-production components of the selected USAID Activity have affected women's empowerment and to identify the drivers of empowerment outcomes and the extent to which a package of beyond production agricultural interventions has proved impactful for the selected USAID Activity. (2022)

### [Youth, Women, and Market Systems Development in Agriculture and Supporting Markets: Landscape Analysis and Case Studies Report](#)

AWE conducted a landscape analysis of 15 agriculture-related market systems development activities to better understand the strategies they used to integrate women and youth into their programs. We also developed four case studies focusing on women's roles in market systems programs, levels of intensity for youth inclusion in market systems programs, strategies on inclusive partner engagement, and strategies to develop effective business cases for inclusion when working with the private sector. (2020, led by ACIDI/VOCA)

- [Case Study 1: ELAN RDC: Advancing Women's Roles in Agricultural Market Systems](#)
- [ELAN RDC Visualization](#)
- [Case Study 2: Facilitation Intensity in Youth Market Systems Development in Uganda](#)
- [Case Study 3: RisiAlbania: Inclusive Partner Engagement Strategies](#)
- [Case Study 4: PRISMA: Developing an Effective Business Case for Inclusive Private Sector Partnerships](#)
- [Visualization: Connecting the Dots in Private Sector Partnerships](#)

The report was launched through a MarketLinks [webinar](#) in which AWE and USAID/RFS co-presented the research findings followed by a moderated panel discussion with two of the case study partners (RisiAlbania and ELAN RDC). This took place on August 6, 2020, with 420 participants. The Q&A session spilled over into online content that was published on Marketlinks in a Q&A style blog, [Practical Approaches to Youth and Women's Inclusion in Market Systems](#).

On January 19, 2021, AWE presented a summary of the findings and recommendations from the Youth, Women, and Market Systems Development in Agriculture and Supporting Markets report to 24 members of the USAID Employment Working Group (EWG), a cross-agency group that meets to discuss employment issues. The group was interested in hearing about the report findings because it had an interest in both youth and women's employment in the context of

The AWE Youth, Women, and MSD Landscape Analysis and Case Studies report was assessed as the most useful and frequently referenced resource developed under AWE. It had high value because of the new insights it generated for the AWE audience – with the landscape analysis being one of the **top 10 resources used by Mission staff!**

RFS shared that the “Study on market systems development is generating new and interesting insights for our audience, but also it had useful case studies that people look at and infographics that people still refer to” and AWE “did an excellent job on women and market system development...I liked how they were able to create a document that had some strong analysis and structure to it, that spoke to patterns and findings. That was useful.”

agriculture and supporting markets. Participants were particularly interested in tools identified through the research as well as indicators and measurement processes, such as standards to improve some of the gaps in data around youth and women's inclusion, as well as social norms and how approaches to social norms change can be integrated effectively in market systems development work.

#### [Digital Finance and Women's Economic Empowerment in Beyond Production Roles in Agriculture and Food System](#)

To better understand the outcomes of women's increased access to digital finance, the lending policies, practices and regulations that are necessary to extend digital finance to women, and the enabling environment necessary for women's increased economic empowerment, AWE conducted a desk review and a series of consultations with donors, implementers and digital financial service providers. The report presents key findings and recommendations on the impact of digital finance on women's economic empowerment and key programmatic approaches donors, implementers, service providers and financial institutions should consider in expanding women's access to and use of digital financial services. (2022)

#### **Women's Empowerment in Beyond Production Newsletters and Blog Posts**

##### [Advancing Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Sharing Our Vision](#) (May 2019)

- [Advancing Women's Empowerment: Sharing Our Vision](#)
- [What Would You Do if You Had 80 Minutes of Additional Free Time Every Day?](#)
- [Leveraging Gender Norms and Private Sector Partnerships to Increase Women's Use of Agricultural Inputs](#)

##### [Deepening our Engagement with Gender Dimensions in Agriculture](#) (November 2019)

##### [Youth and Women in Market Systems](#) (August 2020)

- [Youth Inclusion in Market Systems](#)
- [Agricultural Development: Youth, Women, Market Systems](#)
- [Practical Approaches to Youth and Women's Inclusion in Market Systems](#)

##### [Digital Finance for Women's Empowerment](#) (November 2020)

- [Empowering Women Farmers: How Digital Finance Products Can Meet Their Potential](#)
- [Digital Finance: Enhancing Women's Participation in Village Savings and Loan Associations](#)

##### [Women's Empowerment in Beyond-Production Activities: Landscape Analysis Findings](#) (November 2020)

##### [Scaling Women's Economic Empowerment](#) (February 2021)

- [What Does It Take to Achieve Scale in Women's Empowerment Activities?](#)
- [Leveraging the Enabling Environment to Achieve Scale in Women's Economic Empowerment: An Interview with USAID's Wade Channell](#)
- [Are We There Yet? The Quest for Women's Economic Empowerment at Scale in Agricultural Market Systems, Part 1: Incentivizing the Private Sector](#)
- [Are We There Yet? The Quest for Women's Economic Empowerment at Scale in Agricultural Market Systems, Part 2: Beyond Partnerships](#)
- [Women's Empowerment Collectives are Critical to Reaching Scale](#)

##### [Land Rights and Women's Empowerment](#) (May 2021)

- [Securing Women's Land Rights: Challenges and Solutions](#)
- [Increasing Women's Access to Land through Public-Private Partnerships in Ghana](#)
- [Securing Land Rights for Female Farmers in India](#)
- [Resources for Women's Land and Property Rights](#)

##### [Increasing Women's Empowerment through Private Sector Engagement](#) (March 2022)

- [Q&A: Working with PepsiCo to Build the Business Case for Private Sector Investment in Women's Empowerment](#)
- [Using Inclusive Market Research to Increase Women's Empowerment](#)

- [Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment through Private Sector Engagement](#)

[Women's Empowerment in Beyond Production Activities: Impact Assessment](#) (October 2022)

[Placing Women's Economic Empowerment Front and Center](#) (March 2023)

- [Beyond Production: A Critical Part of Promoting Women's Global Economic Security](#)

[Working with the Private Sector to Engage Women and Youth](#) (June 2023)

- [What Have We Learned About Working with the Private Sector to Engage Women and Youth in Agricultural Development?](#)
- [Amplifying the Power of Inclusive Development through Private Sector Partnerships](#)
- [Lessons Learned from the AWE Virtual Learning Series on Engaging the Private Sector for Inclusive Development Outcomes](#)

## Addressing Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Agriculture

[Gender-Based Violence Resource List and Good Practices in Agriculture and Other Sectors](#)

This resource captures and synthesizes existing GBV resources and promising practices in agriculture and other technical sectors. (2020, supported by ACDI/VOCA)

[Pilot Testing of the Toolkit to Address Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development: Learning Brief](#)

This learning brief tells the story of piloting the GBV in Ag Toolkit with the Feed the Future Uganda Inclusive Agriculture Markets (IAM) Activity. (2022)

[Toolkit to Address Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development \(GBV Toolkit\)](#) provides practical, how-to guidance for agriculture and MSD project technical staff and gender and social inclusion advisors. This toolkit specifically focuses on GBV within the context of day-to-day agriculture programming. (2022, supported by ACDI/VOCA)

Annexed worksheets to the GBV in Ag Toolkit in Word format for adapting to a specific project:

- [Worksheet: Learn About and Identify GBV in Project Activities](#)
- [Tool: GBV Safety Mapping](#)
- [Tool: GBV Mapping Across a Project and Applied to a Value Chain Assessment](#)
- [Worksheet: Organizing GBV-related Information](#)
- [Worksheet: Prioritizing GBV Concerns in Agriculture and MSD Projects](#)
- [Worksheet: Prioritizing Potential Project Actions to Address GBV](#)
- [GBV Tip Sheet Template](#)
- [Worksheet: Collecting Community Information and Developing Referral Lists](#)

The AWE GBV Toolkit has become a "go to" resource for agriculture and market systems development implementers seeking to address gender-based violence. It has now been referenced in the following resources:

[U.S. Global Food Security Strategy Activity Design Guidance: Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#)

[USAID Collective Action to Reduce Gender-based Violence \(CARE-GBV\) Foundational Elements for Gender-based Violence Programming in Development](#)

[Resource Compendium: Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Other Sectors](#)

This list of resources provides a practical, easy to use collection of resources that contain tools for preventing, mitigating, and responding to GBV in agriculture and other sectors. (2022, supported by ACDI/VOCA)



The GBV Toolkit and resources were disseminated in various events including:

- Agrilinks Webinar [Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development](#) on July 14, 2022
- CGIAR Webinar [Project-level experiences in addressing gender-based violence in agriculture](#) on August 18, 2022
- CRS *Community of Practice on Gender-Sensitive and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Presentation* on November 17, 2022
- [USAID Feed the Future Advancing Women's Empowerment \(AWE\) Program and DAI Present GBV in Agriculture for 16 Days of Activism](#) on December 8, 2022
- CGIAR Webinar [Toolkit to Address GBV in Agriculture and Market Systems Development: AWE/CGIAR Roundtable](#) on March 7, 2023

A [video testimonial](#) of the Benefits of using the Toolkit to Address GBV in Agriculture and Market Systems Development in the Colombia IPACE Activity.

#### *GBV Roundtables*

As part of closeout activities, AWE conducted two GBV Roundtable events to continue to promote awareness and uptake of the GBV Toolkit. The first roundtable was held with the USAID GBV Community of Practice on March 1, 2023, and the second roundtable was conducted in partnership with CGIAR on March 7, 2023. Both roundtable discussions focused on identifying actionable ways in which a GBV lens can be applied to USAID and CGIAR's agriculture and market systems research and programming, respectively.

#### **Addressing GBV in Agriculture Newsletters and Blog Posts**

[Partnership is the Key: A Conversation on Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture](#) (November 2018)

[Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture](#) (March 2019)

*Agrilinks Theme Month: Reducing Gender-based Violence in Agriculture* (October 2019)

- [This October on Agrilinks: The Role of Gender in Agriculture](#)
- [Cash transfers and intimate partner violence](#)
- [Context matters: Programming reflections on gender-based violence and land rights](#)
- [Fortifying life: Responding to economic violence in a food security project](#)
- ["Hidden Figures": Take the Quiz to See How Much You Know about GBV in Agriculture](#)
- [The Private Sector: An Ally in the Fight Against GBV in Agriculture?](#)
- [Responding to gender-based violence in environmental projects](#)
- [Time diaries: How a methodology change empowered a community and sparked the fight against GBV](#)
- [Want to empower women in agricultural systems? Engaging men is part of the equation](#)
- [What does child marriage have to do with agriculture?](#)
- [A "win-win" for women's empowerment, gender equality, food security, and economic well-being in Burundi](#)

[Engaging with Gender Dimensions in Agriculture](#) (November 2019)

- [Responding to Gender-Based Violence in Environmental Projects](#)

[Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Communities Affected by Migration](#) (December 2019)

[Understanding and Addressing GBV in Agriculture](#) (December 2020)

- [Practical Lessons on Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development](#)
- [Identifying Social Norms to Address Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Programs](#)
- [Lessons from a Program with Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Understanding GBV and Ag/MSD Development](#) (August 2022)

- [Understanding Economic Violence within the Agriculture and Market Systems Development Sector](#)
- [Relevance: Why Agriculture and Market Systems Development \(MSD\) Programs Should Consider Economic Violence](#)
- [A Conversation with Annet Namunane on the Use of the Gender-Based Violence Toolkit for Agriculture and Market Systems Programs](#)

[Placing Women's Economic Empowerment Front and Center](#) (March 2023)

- [Addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Agriculture Sector to Achieve Women's Economic Security](#)

## Increasing Women's Decision-making

[Increasing Women's Roles in Agricultural Decision-making: Evidence Scan Report and Summary Deck](#)

In seeking to better understand women's decision-making roles in agriculture and food systems, AWE conducted an evidence scan of peer-reviewed and gray literature in agriculture, food, and market systems programming. The scan focused on evidence of specific programmatic approaches and their outcomes, as well as methodologies and metrics to measure women's decision-making and changes through programs. This evidence scan was intended to inform the design and development of capacity support resources to support USAID Missions and implementing partners to enhance women's decision-making power in their programming. (2021, supported by ACIDI/VOCA)

As part of an effort to promote more equitable roles in agricultural decision-making, AWE developed a series of resources on women's decision-making power in USAID agriculture systems programming (2022, supported by ACIDI/VOCA)

- [Note 1, "Why Focus on Women's Decision-Making Power in Agriculture Systems Programming?"](#) explains what decision-making is, why it matters in Feed the Future programming and how USAID can address imbalances of power and agency for better food security outcomes.
- [Note 2, "How to Integrate Women's Decision-Making Considerations into Agricultural Programming"](#) provides guidance on how to integrate women's decision-making into the USAID Program Cycle.
- [Note 3, "Measuring and Assessing Women's Decision-Making Power in Agriculture Systems Programming"](#) provides recommendations on monitoring, evaluation, and learning approaches.

## Increasing Women's Decision-making in Agriculture Newsletters and Blog Posts

[Income Alone Is Not Enough: The Importance of Increasing Women's Decision-Making in Agriculture](#) (March 2021)

[Women's Decision-making in Agriculture](#) (November 2021)

- [How to Engage Agricultural Organizations in Increasing Women's Decision-Making Power](#)
- [Measuring Women's Decision-Making Power in Agriculture](#)
- [Q&A: Approaches to Understanding Women's Decision-Making Power in Agriculture](#)

[Revisiting the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\)](#) (June 2022)

- [Women's Decision-Making Power in Agriculture: Through the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\) Lens](#)

## On-demand Support

In addition to pursuing this ambitious learning agenda, AWE offered on-demand support to USAID missions and operating units, including the following:

### **USAID Webinar: Challenges and Opportunities of Working with and for LGBTI Populations in Agriculture/MSD Programs**

USAID initiated a special request for AWE to provide a sector-specific presentation to representatives in USAID/Washington on LGBTIQ+ inclusion approaches. AWE developed an internal USAID webinar that was delivered to 20 USAID staff. First, AWE presented challenges and opportunities of working with and for LGBTIQ+ populations in agriculture and MSD programs. Then an implementing partner shared about USAID/Guatemala's experience working in the field with and for LGBTIQ+ populations. (2021, led by ACDI/VOCA).

### [Ghana Women's Empowerment to Food Security and Youth Assessment](#)

The AWE team was contracted to conduct an assessment to inform the development of USAID/Ghana's upcoming five-year Global Food Security Strategy Project Appraisal Document and subsequent activities. The assessment identified and prioritized six core behaviors that can encourage or hinder women's and youth's engagement and empowerment in food security, agriculture, and nutrition-sensitive programming. The assessment report included recommendations to USAID/Ghana on promising practices to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in future food security, nutrition, and agriculture investments in country. (2019)

### [RFS Feed the Future Gender Integration in USAID's Agricultural Research Investments Synthesis](#) (with accompanying infographic)

The study summarized the extent and nature of gender integration across 20 USAID-supported agricultural research activities—16 Feed the Future Innovation Labs and four other research investments. The synthesis catalogued a list of more than 30 tools and approaches for gender analysis, project design and planning, capacity development, and MEL. AWE also developed four case studies focused on gender integration approaches in the Peanut, Horticulture, and Integrated Pest Management Innovation Labs and the Africa RISING Activity. Emerging research themes of this study were shared out at the September 2019 Feed the Future Innovation Lab Annual Meeting during an interactive session co-facilitated by ACDI/VOCA and USAID/RFS to gather feedback on the themes and promote peer exchange and learning. (2019-2020, led by ACDI/VOCA)

RFS called this report “a masterpiece” with “a lot to learn from these findings.” Subsequently, the AWE CO3 report was useful in advocating for an increased budget to expand the gender scope of the Innovation Labs.

### **Bangladesh Gender and Inclusive Development Analysis**

The AWE Team was contracted to conduct a Gender and Inclusive Development Analysis of agriculture activities for USAID Bangladesh. This gender and inclusive development analysis examined Feed the Future activities in the areas of livestock, aquaculture, horticulture, mechanization, and nutrition to assess gender gaps, challenges, opportunities, and gender integration in USAID Bangladesh's Feed the Future portfolio. In addition, the analysis gave special attention to understanding the prevalence and forms of GBV in society and how GBV limits people's rights to determine their own lives and influence their community's or country's development using USAID's Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development and AWE's approaches as stated in the AWE toolkit to address GBV in agriculture and market system programming. (2023)

### **Bureau of Resilience and Food Security Gender, Social Inclusion, and Intersectionality Training Series**

AWE designed and delivered two virtual trainings to USAID Bureau of Resilience and Food Security (RFS) staff focused on applying a gender, social inclusion, and intersectionality (GSI/I) lens in development programming. The overall goal of the two sessions was to build awareness among RFS staff about these concepts and to encourage RFS staff to go ‘beyond gender’ in their day-to-day work. The first training, “Introduction to GSI/I in Food and Water Systems” was delivered during a one-hour All-Hands meeting. It provided an overview of basic concepts and entry points for applying them in their work. The second training, “Applying a GSI/I Lens to Food and Water Systems,” was a half-day technical workshop facilitated virtually to 24 RFS staff, including AORs, CORs, activity managers and technical staff.

The goal of the technical workshop was to deepen RFS staff's understanding of power dynamics, familiarize them with models for analyzing intersecting forms of inequality and how they show up in food and water systems, and enable them to apply these concepts in their day-to-day work. (2023, led by ACDI/VOCA)

## Project Closeout Activities

### *Closeout Interactive Forum*

In the three weeks leading up to closeout webinar in July 2023, AWE held a [virtual, interactive forum](#) event to engage USAID staff and stakeholders in conversations on topics AWE has explored over the years. Participants and experts shared reflections on improving women's decision-making, promoting inclusion in beyond-production activities and preventing and addressing GBV in food and market systems programming. AWE shared key takeaways, lessons learned and crucial resources each week to guide and continue to improve future programming to advance women's empowerment in agriculture and market systems. The three weeks were structured along the three major tracks of the AWE Learning Agenda:

- Improving decision-making in food and market system programs
- Improving gender and social inclusion in beyond production activities (led by ACDI/VOCA)
- Addressing and preventing GBV on food and market system programs

Learning from the information shared throughout the interactive forum was shared in the blog post [Lesson Learned on Women's Empowerment in Agriculture](#).

### *Closeout Webinar*

On July 25, 2023, AWE hosted a closeout webinar that brought together experts and stakeholders from USAID, CGIAR, implementing partners, and the private sector to share their experiences with women's empowerment in market systems, exploring why women's empowerment in market systems is important and what strategies can be used to promote that empowerment.

A summary of highlights of the discussion, including practical examples of empowering women in market systems for development practitioners and the private sector was shared in the blog post [Why Women's Empowerment in Market Systems Matters: Lessons from the Feed the Future Advancing Women's Empowerment \(AWE\) Closeout](#).

### **AWE Closeout Newsletter**

#### [It's Our Final Newsletter](#) (August 2023)

- [Lessons Learned in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture](#)
- [Bookmark this Page of Resources!](#)
- [Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Market Systems: Lessons and Experiences](#)