Nutrition, Gender Measurements: Background

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Metrics for Nutrition, Gender
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• Why all the talk about measurement?
• State of global conversations on nutrition, gender metrics
• Background on INGENAES-IAPRI collaboration
Nutrition-sensitive M&E in the context of agricultural development

• Traditional nutrition indicators not sensitive to agricultural interventions
  – e.g. anthropometric and biochemical outcomes rarely impacted (stunting, anemia, etc.)

• Several efforts underway to develop, disseminate appropriate M&E tools:
  – Feed the Future/SPRING, Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA), Food Security Information Network
M&E: Challenges in nutrition-sensitive agriculture

• Some tools intended for research, not program implementation

• Funders have different M&E requirements
The Context of Zambia

• Nutrition
  – High rates of low height-for-age (stunting)
  – Over-reliance on maize
  – Low dietary diversity

• Women’s Empowerment:
  – Zambia baseline WEAI survey found threshold levels of women’s empowerment (.80)
  – Yet gender equity not yet attained: women struggle to control income, access finance and extension services
Gender-responsive M&E in the context of agricultural development

- In the absence of tools to quantify gender equity, IFPRI, Feed the Future developed Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)
- A measure of parity within a household; not applicable in women-headed households
• Five domains of empowerment,
  – Decision making on agricultural production
  – Decision making on productive assets
  – Leadership within the community
  – Amount of time spent engaging in productive activity and leisure
  – Decision making on how to spend earned income
WEAI Strengths and weaknesses

- Measures empowerment of women likely to be engaged in agricultural production and agricultural enterprises
- Uses a gender parity index (GPI) that includes both men and women within the same household
- Completely based on Agriculture
- The use of gender parity ignores households with no primary male decision makers
- Perception of empowerment is context specific – difficult to compare across regions
Nutrition-related measures and Indicators

• Dietary Diversity
  • Household dietary diversity score
  • Individual dietary diversity scores
    • Minimum dietary diversity score for women (MDD-W)
    • Minimum dietary diversity for young children (CDDS)
Strengths and weaknesses of DDS

• **Strengths**
  - IDDS measure probability of an individual diet providing nutrient adequacy
  - HDDS assesses the ability of a household to access food

• **Weaknesses**
  – HDDS: non-uniformity in data collection – does not specify quantity, categorization
  – HDDS does not measure food quality
  – IDDS
  – timing of data collection can be misleading (misses seasonality)
What happens along the way?

• Monitoring: an opportunity for knowing “why” and “how”
  – But often just capturing outputs
  – Society for Implementation Research for Nutrition
  – Process Evaluation
Challenge:

• No clear “M&E toolbox” available for understanding how and whether AES is contributing to gender equity, improved nutrition

Response:

• IAPRI to survey, analyze and address gaps to ensure M&E tools appropriate for AES in Zambia
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