



GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUTRITION INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (GCAN) NEWSLETTER | December 2020

New GCAN publication

Women's empowerment and farmland allocations in Bangladesh: Evidence of a possible pathway to crop diversification

Crop diversification is a form of adaptation to climate change that reduces exposure to climate-related risks and has also been shown to increase diet diversity, reduce micronutrient deficiencies, and positively affect agro-ecological systems. Despite these benefits, the level of crop diversification in Bangladesh remains extremely low, requiring an examination of the factors that support uptake of this practice, including the role of women's empowerment. The results reveal that some aspects of women's empowerment in agriculture, but not all, lead to more diversification and to a transition from cereal production to other crops like vegetables and fruits. These findings suggest a possible pathway for gender-sensitive interventions that promote crop diversity as a risk management tool and as a way to improve the availability of nutritious crops.

[Read the paper](#)

First results from the GCAN phone surveys results on impacts of COVID-19 on rural women available online

Phone survey results available for seven Feed-the-Future countries

On November 23, the GCAN team presented results from the first rounds of phone surveys at a USAID seminar. The phone surveys asked women and men about direct Covid-19 impacts, such as income losses, but also about resilience capacities, such as the WASH environment, as well as a series of coping mechanisms, such as use of savings, sale of assets, and borrowing, and outcomes, such as heightened food insecurity and conflict.

The phone surveys identified pervasive income shocks in rural areas, with lowest income shocks experienced in Niger; this is reflected in the lowest resulting change in food consumption in Niger; but Niger also appears nutritionally most disadvantaged, so starting from a low level of nutrition security. Access to food changed for about two thirds of all survey participants and women generally experience larger challenges. Reported food intake declined between 16% (Nepal-men) and 56% (Uganda-women) and dietary diversity was reduced due to the income shock. The poor WASH environment in many Feed-the-Future countries affects the fight against COVID-19.

The results suggest an immediate need to address the large food insecurity and nutrition challenges that affect rural households in Kenya and Uganda, but also Nigeria and Niger

through food banks, food-for-work or other programs that target poorer rural households. Second, credit support programs are needed at highly favorable rates as well as rural asset development programs (f. ex. through food-for-work) to counteract potential long-term indebtedness of rural households due to the COVID-19-related income shocks. Third, there is an immediate need to address the critical WASH environment situation in northern Ghana, but also Niger, Senegal and Nigeria. Finally, sufficient resources need to be made available for conflict resolution support in rural areas, such as in Ghana and Niger, for example, through phone messaging and direct support by local groups that bring women together.

The summary presentation can be found [here](#).

Results from the first phone survey round in Niger can be found [here](#).

Results from the first and second phone survey rounds in Nigeria can be found [here](#).

Results from the first phone survey round in Ghana can be found [here](#).

Results from the first and second phone survey rounds in Kenya can be found [here](#).

Results from three phone survey rounds in Senegal can be found [here](#).

Results from the first and second phone survey rounds in Nepal can be found [here](#).



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