WFP

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vam
food security analysis

VAM assesses and analyzes gender differences in food access, food availability and food utilization, in order to determine who is the most vulnerable and ensure that no one is left behind.

PROJECT DESIGN

Literature review and secondary data analysis inform the analysis plan, including gender-related questions in the questionnaire.

SURVEY TEAM SELECTION

A gender balance among enumerators ensures that the team will be able to also interview women. All enumerators, regardless of gender, are also trained to understand any gender-related questions.

FORMATIVE RESEARCH

(Qualitative)

Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews help identify any gender-related barriers to participation in assessments and ways to resolve them.

SENSITIZATION

Any potential barriers to women's participation (e.g. protection issues, timing, hygiene, access to resources, education) are addressed through sensitization and community engagement.

DATA COLLECTION

(Quantitative)

Given their knowledge of household economy, feeding practices, food preparation and household nutrition, women are uniquely placed to provide information on food access, availability and utilization. This information helps identify disparities between women, men, girls and boys where food access is often not uniform within a household.

2-WAY COMMS

In areas where there is phone access, 2-way communications systems can allow women to start conversations with WFP at times and places that are convenient to them. These systems also allow WFP to share information that can be targeted to the needs of specific groups (such as nutrition information) or which empowers people to make informed decisions (such as market prices). Data collected from 2-way communications systems feeds into various parts of vulnerability analysis and mapping.

DATA ANALYSIS

Disaggregating data by gender, sex of head of household and age helps to identify trends and whether certain groups are over-represented or more vulnerable than others.

INFORMING PROGRAMME DESIGN

Gender-sensitive insights extracted from the analysis help WFP to better design programs to ensure women and girls are able to participate equally and receive the assistance they need. These insights also help to inform the development of assessment guidelines, allowing WFP to continue to improve on its analysis.

INDICATORS DERIVED FROM GENDER STATISTICS ON FOOD ACCESS

- Household (HH) purchasing power by HH income, by sex of head of HH;
- Average earnings of female-headed HH as a % of average earnings of male-headed HH;
- Differences in access to (or control over) productive assets between male and female-headed HH;
- Participation in local food-agriculture committees, by sex and age
- HH assets and savings in times of duress, by sex of head of HH;
- Mean number of meals consumed in the last 7 days, by women, men, and girls and boys
- Coping Strategies Index, by sex of head of HH
- Average education level of children or level achieved of adults, disaggregated by sex
- % share of food expenditure over total HH expenditure, by sex of head of HH
- Access to credit/markets, by sex of head of HH
- % of HHs where both men and women are contributing to the HH income
- Division of (paid and unpaid) labour among different members of the HH and time constraints, by sex and age, including statistics for young girls, as this group tends to be integrally involved in productive and reproductive work, but undercounted and undervalued, leading to inadequate interventions).

INDICATORS DERIVED FROM GENDER STATISTICS ON FOOD AVAILABILITY

- Household (HH) production; storage; purchase, by sex of head of HH
- Women's and men's ability to own, inherit and practice ownership over land
- Share of women participating in political meetings as the community level
- Differences in access to credit between male and female-headed HH
- % of women or men employed in different sectors

INDICATORS DERIVED FROM GENDER STATISTICS ON FOOD UTILIZATION

- Prevalence of stunted/wasted/underweight children under 5 years of age, by sex
- Prevalence of non-pregnant adult/reproductive-aged women who are mildly, moderately or severely undernourished or overweight
- Prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia in reproductive-aged women and children under 5 years of age, by sex
- Disease prevalence, by mean number of episodes, by sex and age group
- Mortality rate, by age and sex
- MUAC, disaggregated by sex of children age 12-59 months and/or BMI of reproductive-age women