



Context

- Women's empowerment in the livestock sector is essential to progress towards gender equity and to foster livestock development.
- Diverse strategies exist to empower women, yet they are difficult to assess or prioritize without a reliable and accepted means to measure 'empowerment'.
- ILRI and Emory University developed the WELI tool based on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) developed earlier by IFPRI.

Our innovative approach

- The WELI measures women's empowerment in livestock and crop farming.
- The index includes six domains of women's empowerment: decisions on livestock and crop production, decisions related to household nutrition, access to and control over resources, control and use of income, access to and control of opportunities, workload and control over own time – across animal health, genetics and feeds and forages.
- WELI data collection is comprised of both a quantitative and a qualitative component, providing complementary information.



GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Expanding use of the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI)

- The WELI is enabling programs, donors and other stakeholders to measure changes in the empowerment of women in livestock
- The growing body of data is providing the basis for a global conversation on the kinds of interventions that work best to empower women involved in livestock around the world



A chicken trader sells her chickens at a traditional market in Maputo, Mozambique. Photo S. Mann/ILRI



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Outcomes

By understanding which interventions can provide empowering opportunities and how, we can refine these interventions and provide more effective empowering opportunities for women involved in livestock.

Applying the tool also provides value in itself. By facilitating conversations on how gender dynamics affect the empowerment of women and men differently the WELI opens a space for both local communities and researchers to establish how development interventions affect change in their context.

Future steps

The WELI is being tested in various contexts, including 4 IDRC projects, for refinement.

- Together with these improvements, we are also aiming to shorten the tool.
- We are currently adapting the WELI, focused on livestock producers, to the business node of the value chain in order to assess changes in the empowerment of women in livestock business.
- We are developing a web-based resource on WELI.

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