



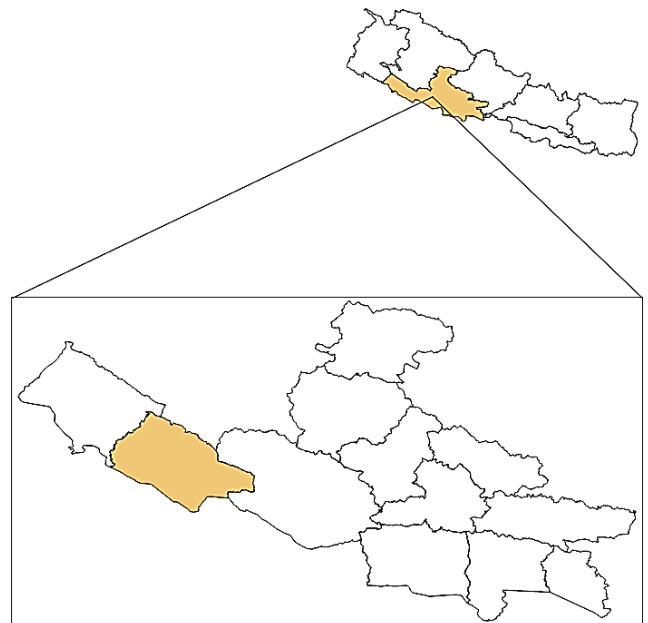
# How do household members share tasks across the agrifood system in Banke, Nepal?

Data Note 22

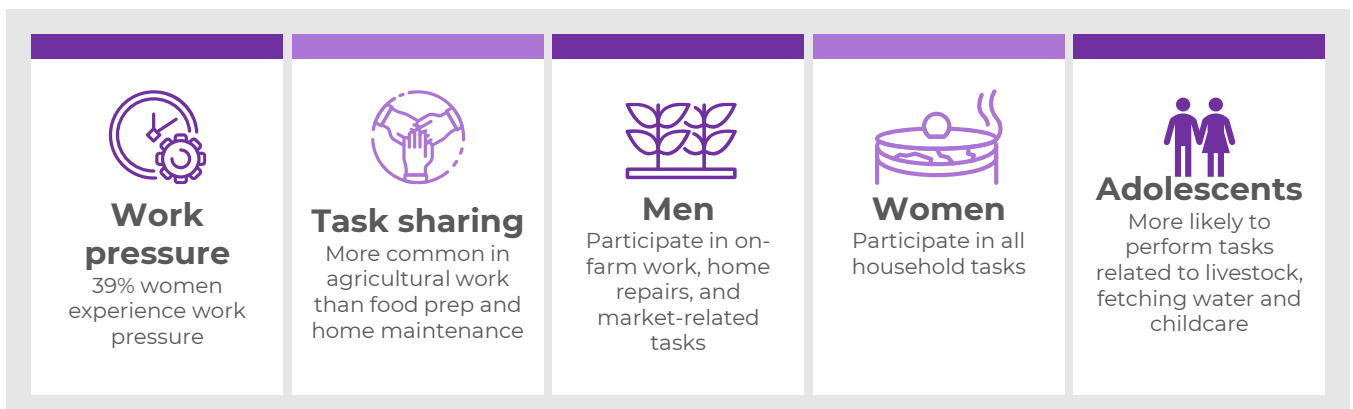
December 2023

**ABOUT THIS DATA NOTE** | The Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA) district agrifood systems assessment aims to provide a reliable, accessible, and integrated evidence base that links farm production, market access, dietary patterns, climate risk responses, and natural resource management with gender as a cross-cutting issue in rural areas of Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. It is designed to be a multi-year assessment. Using data collected in March–April 2023, this data note describes how different tasks are performed and shared within the household and how female respondents within these households perceive the notion of leisure, work pressure, and support with chores from other household members. This is one of a set of data notes that, together, provide a holistic picture of the agrifood system in the district.

**Figure 1. District location in Nepal**



**Figure 2. Highlights from this data note**



## OVERVIEW OF CONTENTS

TAFSSA's district agrifood systems assessment aimed to interview three respondents per household: a female adult (aged 20+ years), a male adult (aged 20+ years), and an adolescent (aged 10-19 years). Information on the household and respondent sampling strategy is provided at the end of this data note.

In this data note, you will first find information on background characteristics of the households and their adult and adolescent members. This is followed by information on *daily available time for leisure and rest* of female respondents and the nature of *work pressure* they face. Additionally, you will learn about the female respondents' perception about availability of *support with chores* from other household members when they fall ill.

The data note then delves into the various *agricultural, food preparation, maintenance, and care-related tasks* that households are involved in, to what extent these tasks are performed by a single household member, equally shared between two members, in conjunction with hired help, or by hired help exclusively. In addition, the data note also explores the *household gender dynamics* of such tasks and how they are performed by *different age groups*. You will get information on the pattern of adult female, adult male, and adolescent engagement with respect to selected tasks.

Finally, you will find *comparative insights* into the gender dynamics of selected task engagement between households with and without any adult male members. This provides a sense of the impact of adult men's presence or absence on intrahousehold workload sharing, specifically with respect to women's and adolescents' workload. More detail about the measurement methods are found in the following pages.

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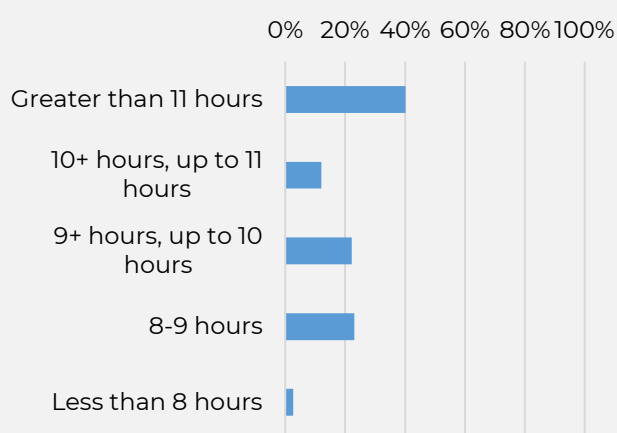
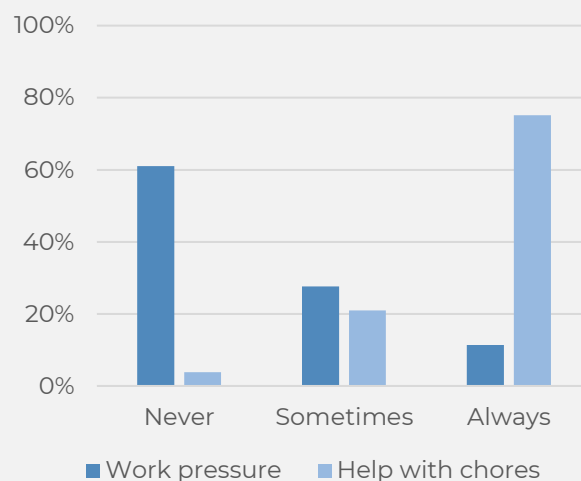
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**Table 1. Household and individual characteristics**

Household characteristics		Individual characteristics			
			Adult female	Adult male	Adolescent
Number of surveyed HHs (n)	500				
Female-headed, %	39				
Education of head (years)	5	Number	747	492	814
Average household size, members	5	Age, yrs. mean (range)	40 (20-85)	43 (20-80)	14 (10-19)
Involved in agriculture, %	95	Education, yrs. mean (range)	4 (0-17.5)	6 (0-17.5)	6 (0-11.5)
Has improved toilet, %	94	Married, %	82	85	4
Drinking water source		Employed, %	26	66	6
Tube well or borehole, %	77	Primary occupation			
Piped into yard or plot, %	6	Unpaid household work, %	46	5	7
Main source of income		Farming, %	36	27	3
Remittance, %	27	Casual non-farm labour (paid), %	3	21	3
Crop cultivation, %	18	Student, %	3	3	84
Salary, %	18				
Type of fuel used for cooking					
Wood, %	91				
LPG/natural gas, %	79				
Dung, %	6				

**Figure 3A. Hours of rest in a day for women (N=500)****Figure 3B. Women's perception of work pressure and support (N=500)**

Note: The figure presents information about the daily duration of rest for women respondents. The figure also depicts their perception of the work pressure they face and about availability of support with chores from other household members when they fall ill.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Most women rest for more than 8 hours per day.
- ✓ Around 40% of women “sometimes” or “always” feel work pressure and 75% women “always” have support from family members when they fall ill.



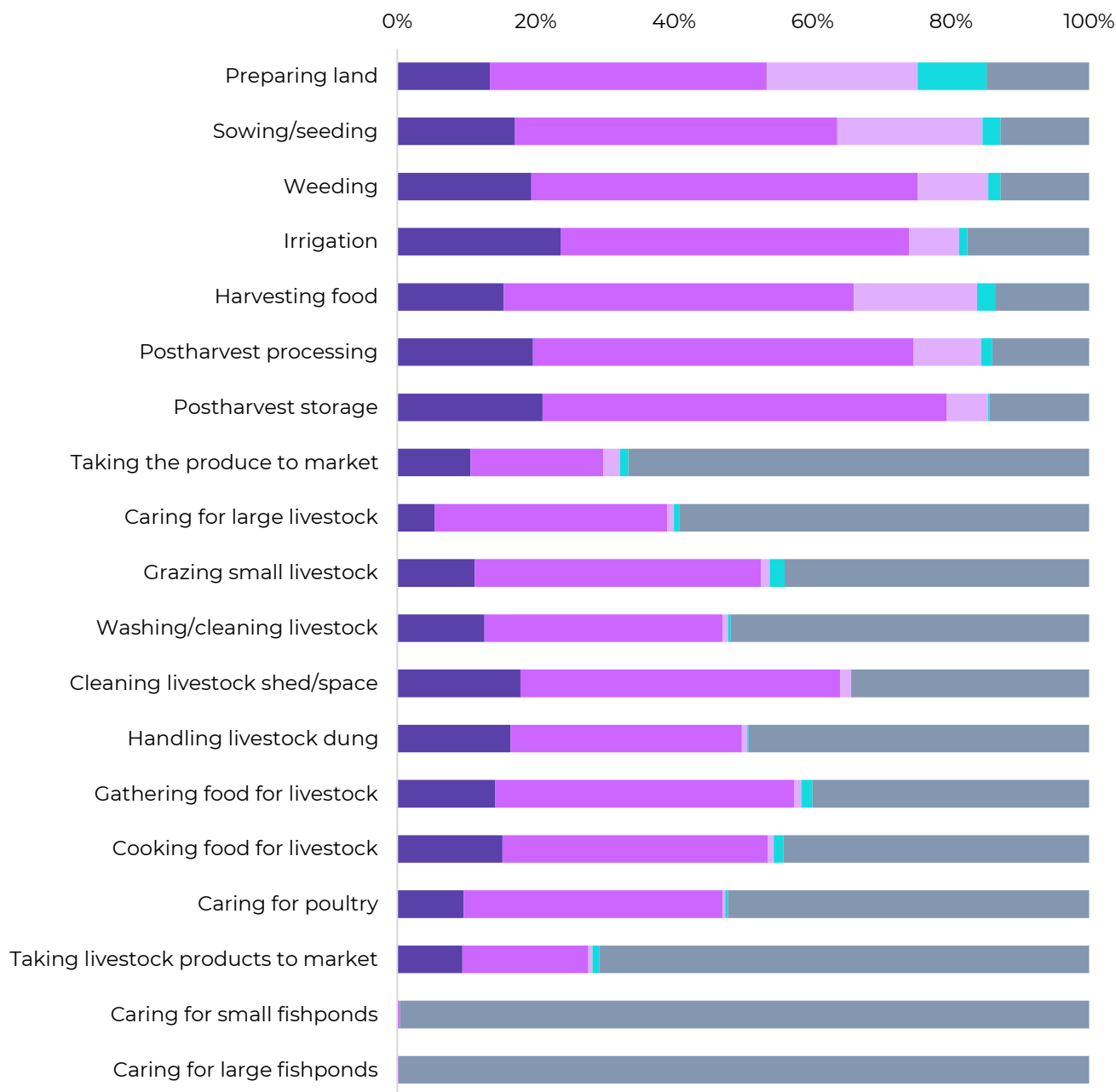
## ***Work pressure***

Around 40% of women “sometimes” or “always” feel work pressure



**Figure 4. Agricultural tasks performed by households (N=500)**

■ One member ■ Equally shared ■ One member + hired help ■ Hired help only ■ Non-performing household



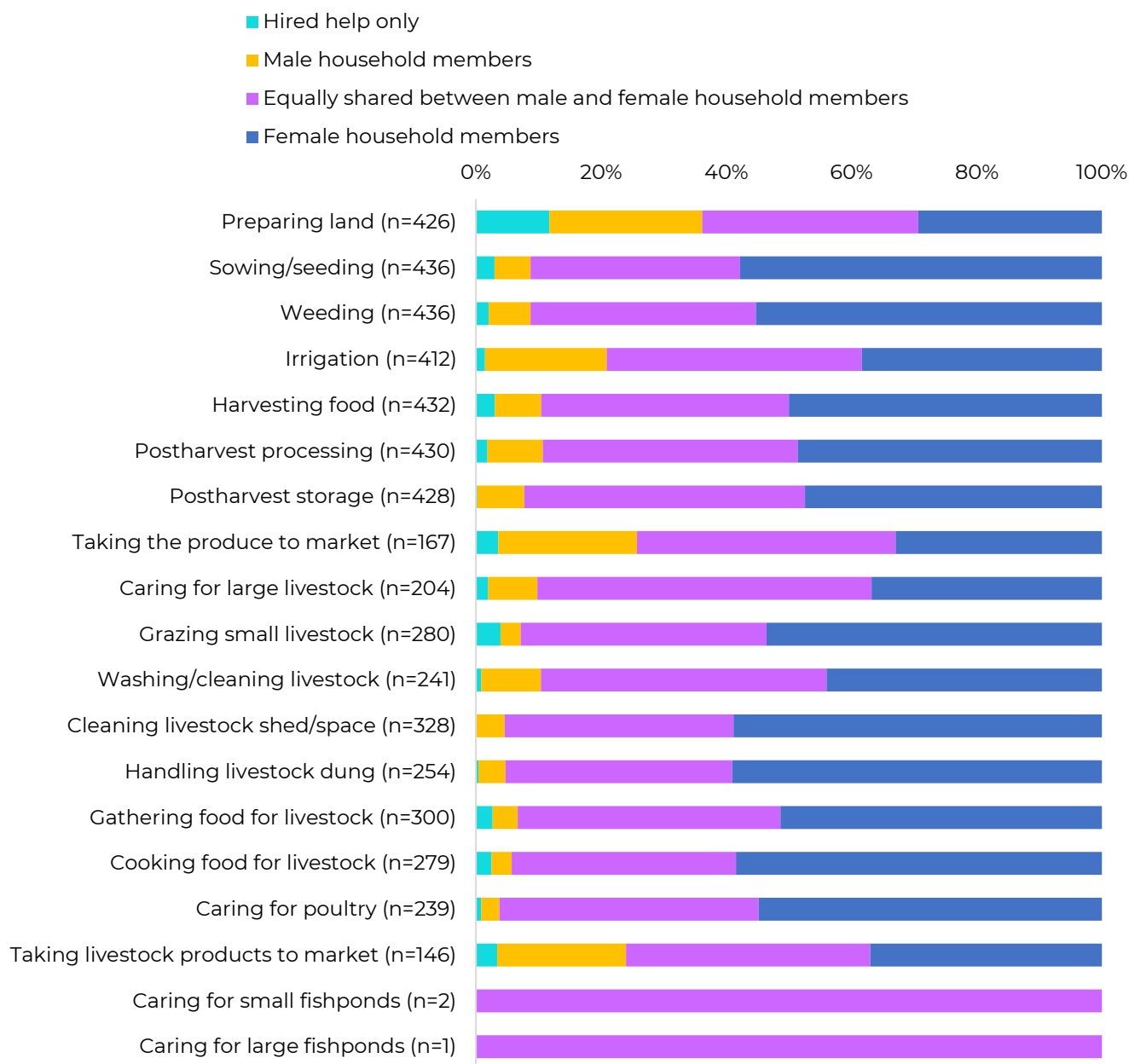
Note: This figure shows the percentage of households that perform various agricultural tasks. Each bar also shows who performs the task, whether it is performed by one household member, shared equally between two household members, shared between a household member and hired help, or performed entirely by hired help.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Agricultural tasks are often shared by household members but, depending on the task, only one member does the task in around 5-24% of households.
- ✓ The primary agricultural task for which households hire external help is land preparation.
- ✓ Households have extremely limited or no participation in fish rearing activities.



**Figure 5. Division of household agricultural tasks between hired help, male household members, and female household members**

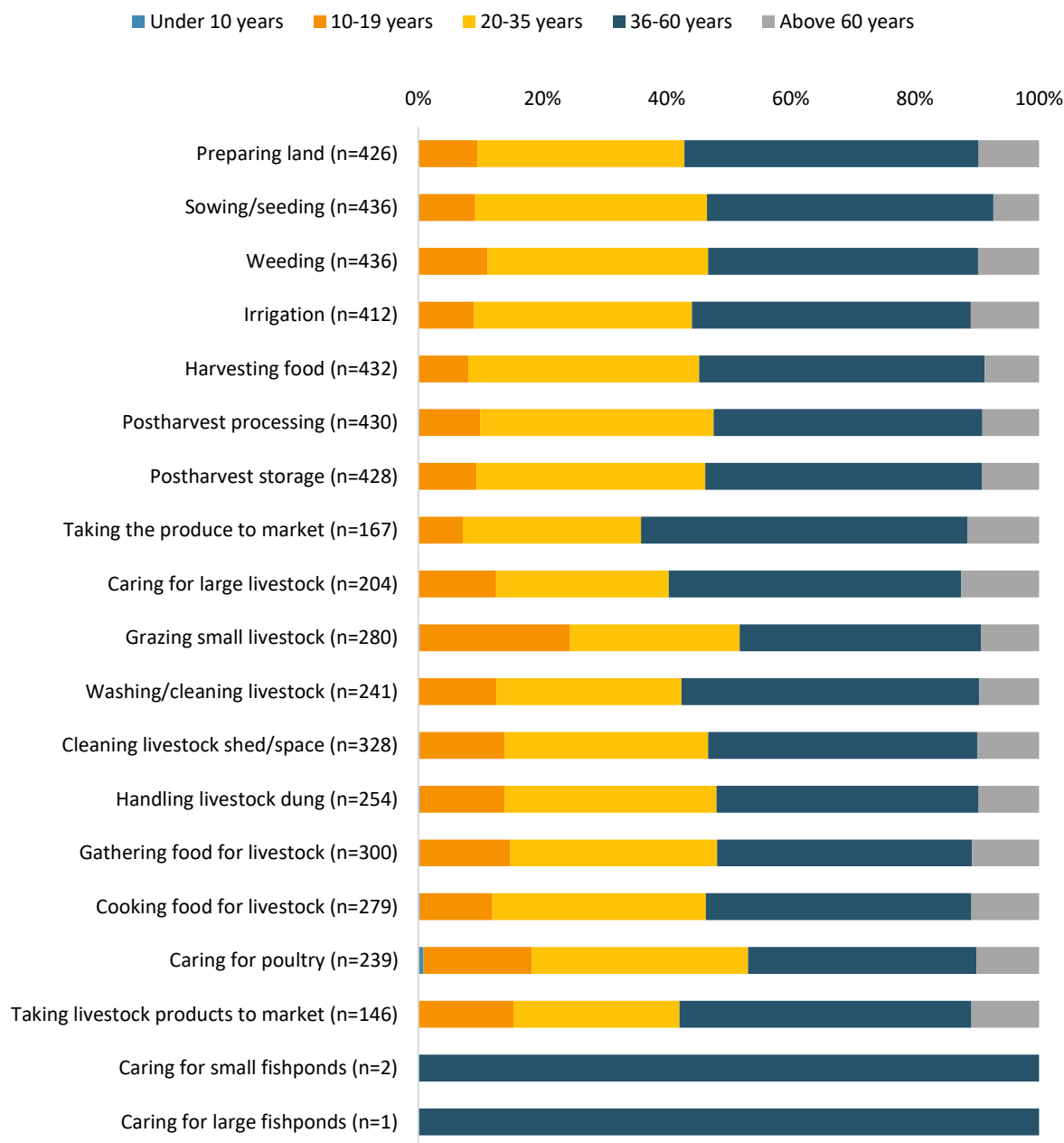


Note: Each bar in this figure represents the rate of involvement of male household members (including both adult and adolescent males), female household members (including both adult and adolescent females) and hired help in an agricultural task for households that performed that task. The figure also presents the degree of equal sharing between male and female household members for each task.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ In around 29-59% of households, female household members are solely responsible for agricultural tasks, while in around 33-53% of households, these tasks are shared among males and females.
- ✓ Involvement of male household members is higher in land preparation, irrigation, and marketing of produce and livestock products.

**Figure 6. Division of household agricultural tasks by age group of household members performing the tasks**



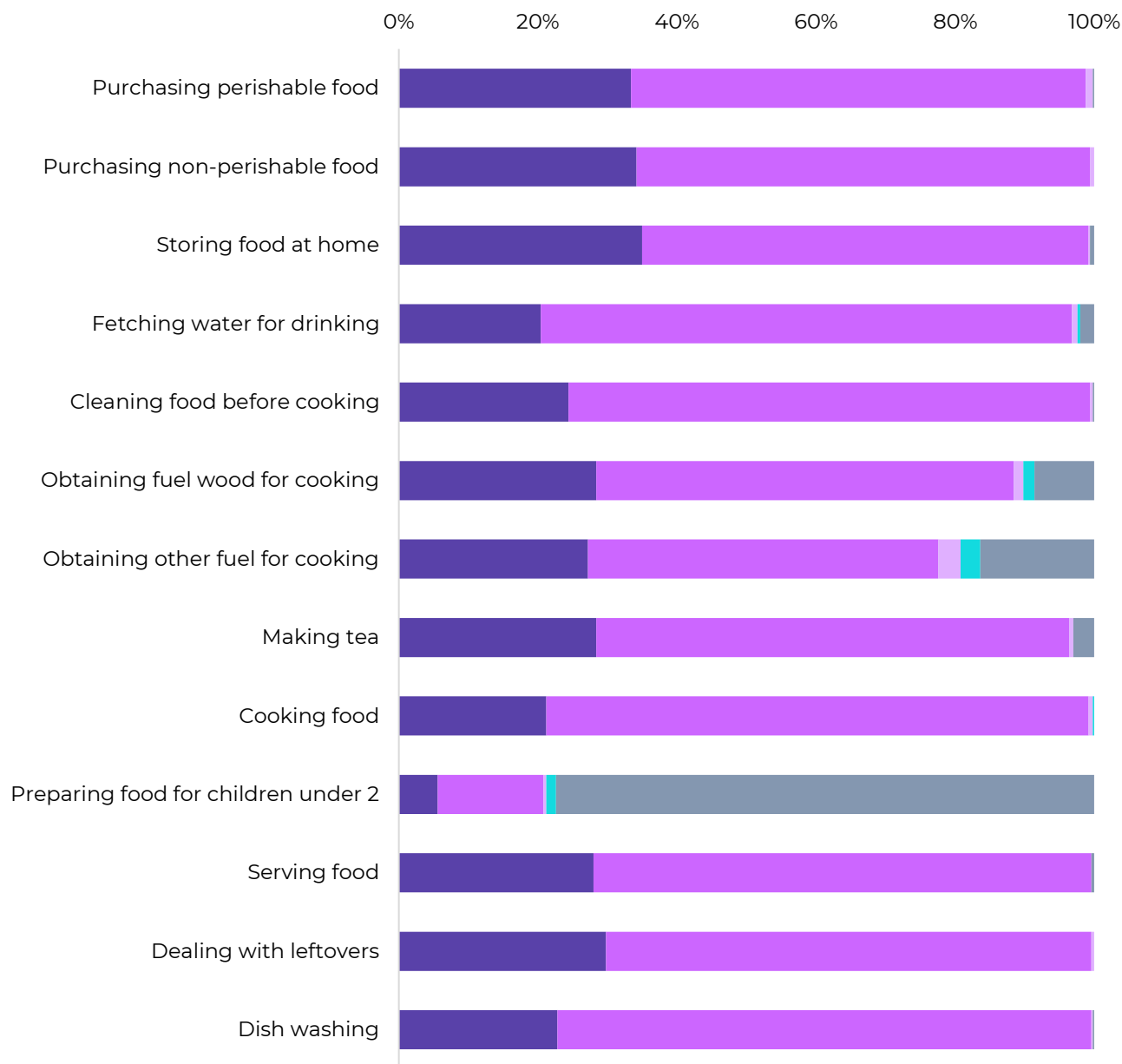
Note: This figure shows the extent of different age groups' participation for households that perform various agricultural tasks. We used five age groups to capture the age differences in the engagement of each task: under 10 years, from 10 to 19 years, from 20 to 35 years, from 36 to 60 years and above 60 years.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Agricultural tasks are primarily performed by the “36 to 60 years” age group, followed by the “20-35 years” age group.
- ✓ The “10 to 19 years (adolescent)” age group’s participation increases in livestock and poultry rearing activities.
- ✓ Young children (<10y) involvement in agricultural tasks is limited.

**Figure 7. Food preparation related tasks performed by households (N=500)**

■ One member ■ Equally shared ■ One member + hired help ■ Hired help only ■ Non-performing household



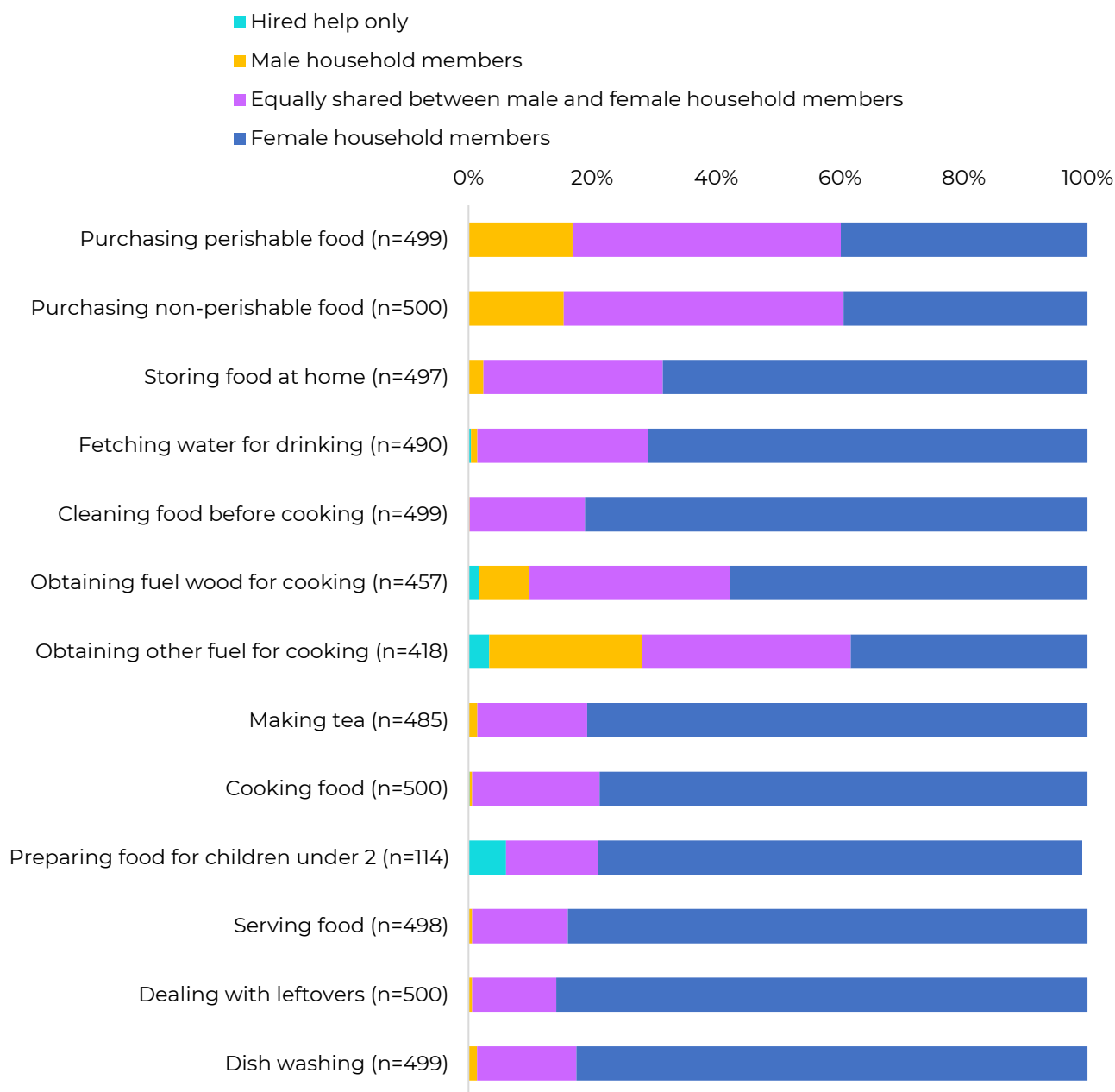
Note: This figure shows the percentage of households that perform various food preparation related tasks. Each bar also shows who performs the task, whether it is performed by one household member or shared equally between two household members. A very low percentage of households reported hiring help to perform these tasks.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Food preparation tasks in households are typically carried out either by a single household member or shared among multiple members.
- ✓ In approximately 3-6% of households, external assistance is employed to acquire cooking fuels.



**Figure 8. Division of household food preparation related tasks between hired help, male household members, and female household members**



Note: Each bar in this figure represents the rate of involvement of male household members (including both adult and adolescent males), female household members (including both adult and adolescent females) and hired help in a food preparation related task for households that perform that task. The figure also shows the degree of equal sharing between male and female household members for each task.

## FINDINGS

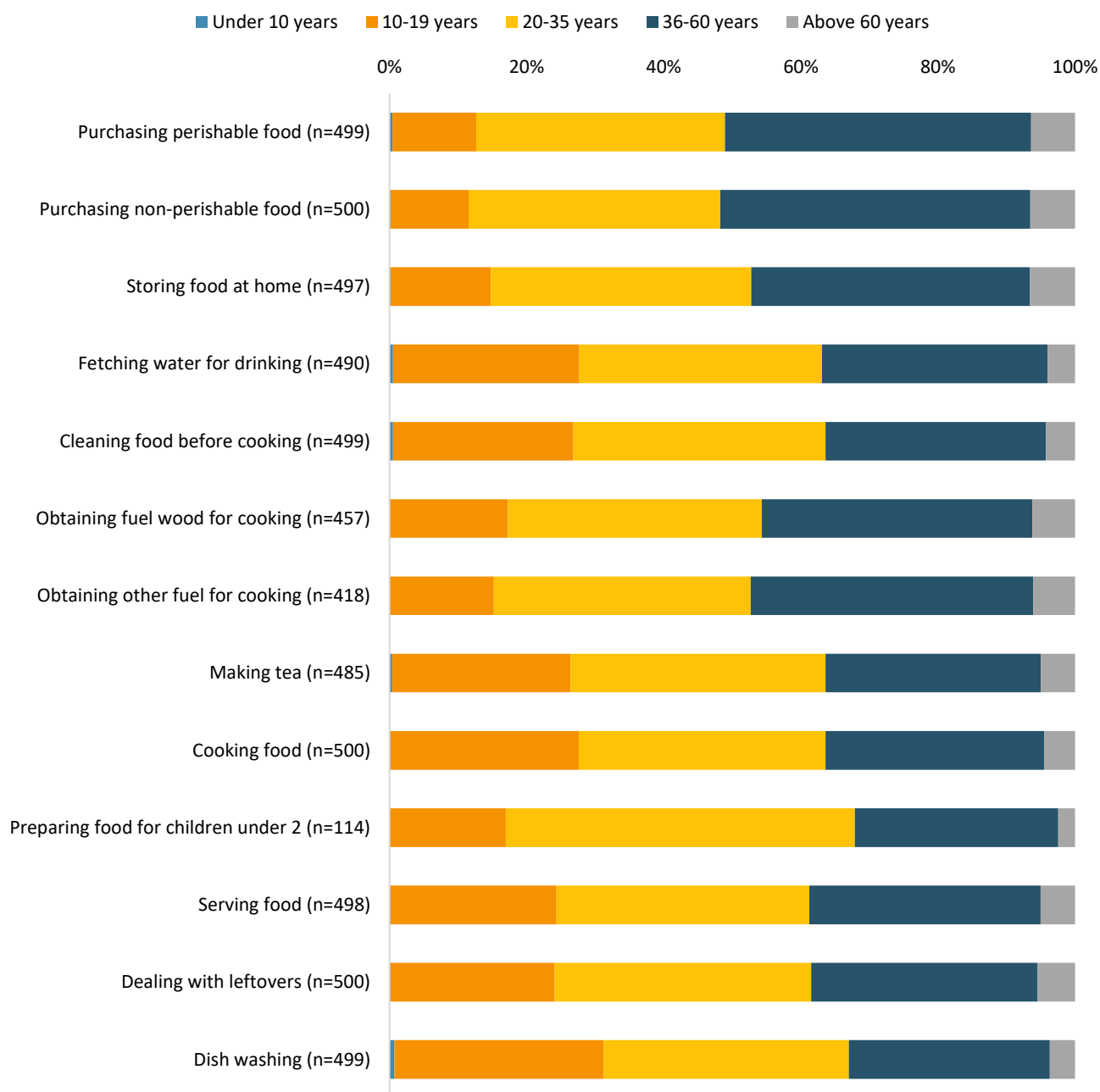
- ✓ Food preparation tasks are typically the sole responsibility of female household members, while in an average of 25% of households, these tasks are equally shared between male and female household members.
- ✓ Male engagement, as exclusive task performers, increases in activities involving obtaining food and fuel.

## ***Fetching water***

Women are solely responsible for fetching water in 71% of households



**Figure 9. Division of household food preparation related tasks by age group of household members performing the tasks**

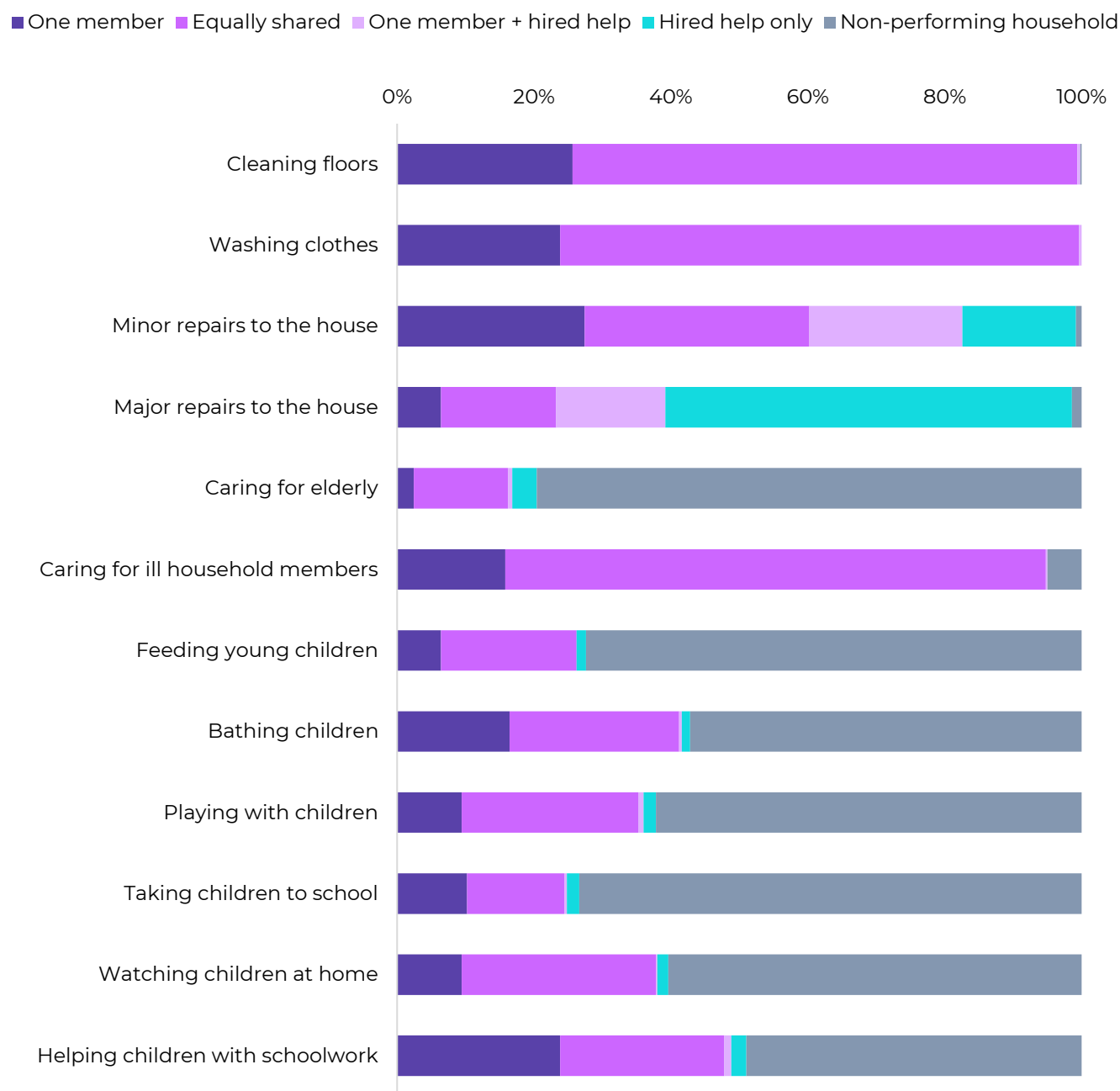


Note: This figure shows the extent of different age groups' participation for households that perform various food preparation tasks. We used five age groups to capture the age differences in the engagement in each task: under 10 years, from 10 to 19 years, from 20 to 35 years, from 36 to 60 years and above 60 years.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Food preparation related tasks are primarily performed by the “20-35 years” age group, followed by the “36-60 years” age group.
- ✓ Overall, the “10-19 years (adolescent)” age group's participation in food preparation related tasks is high as compared to their involvement in agriculture tasks, except for food storage and market related tasks.

**Figure 10. Maintenance and care-related tasks performed by household members (N=500)**



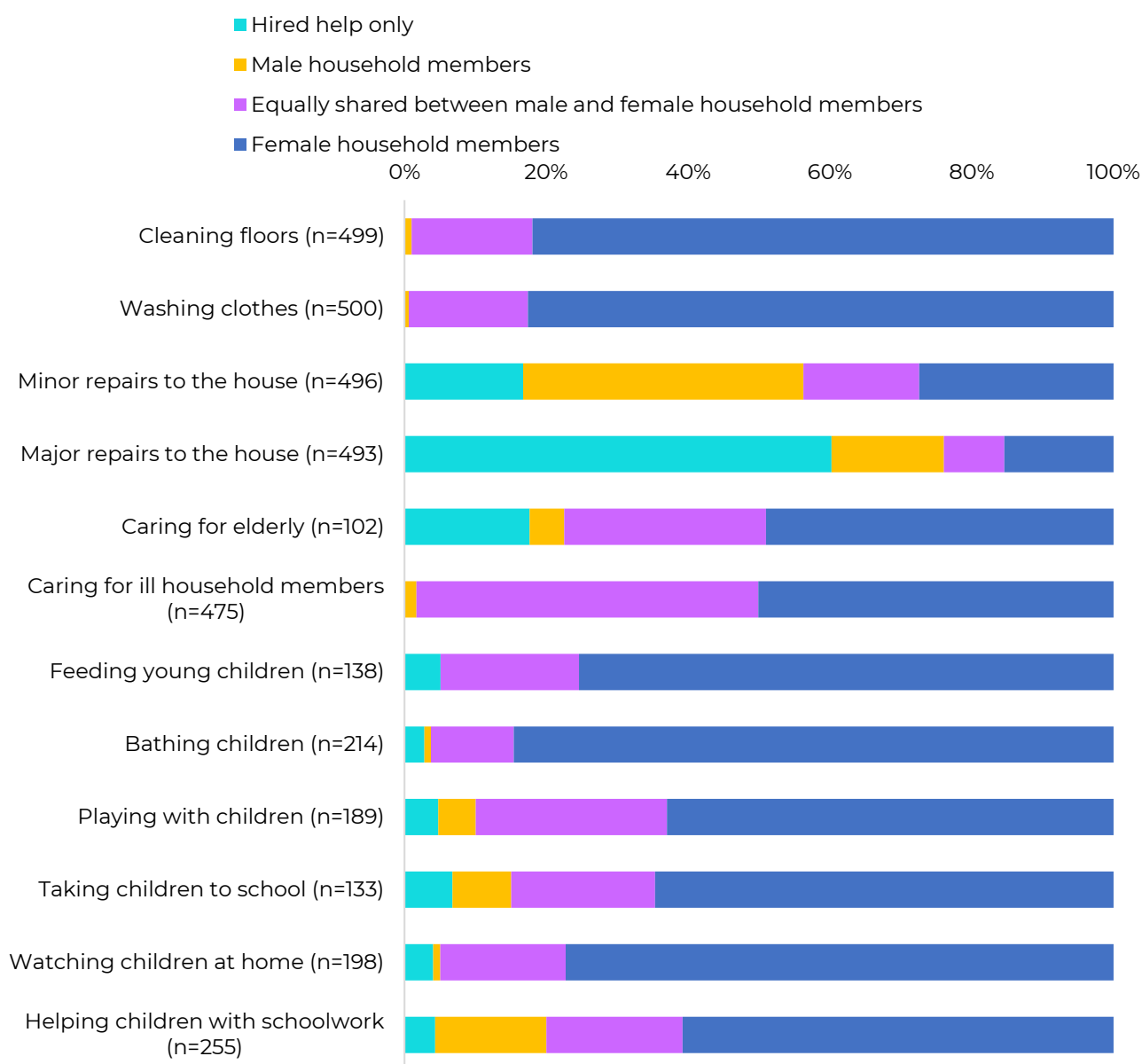
Note: This figure shows the percentage of households that perform various maintenance and care tasks. Each bar also shows who performs the task, whether it is performed by one household member, shared equally between two household members, shared between a household member and hired help, or performed entirely by hired help.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Maintenance and care-related tasks are often shared by household members, but some tasks are performed by only one member in around 2-27% of households.
- ✓ Households do not hire external help very often for maintenance and care-related tasks other than home repair activities (approximately 59% households employ external assistance for such tasks).



**Figure 11. Division of household maintenance and care-related tasks between hired help, male household members, and female household members**



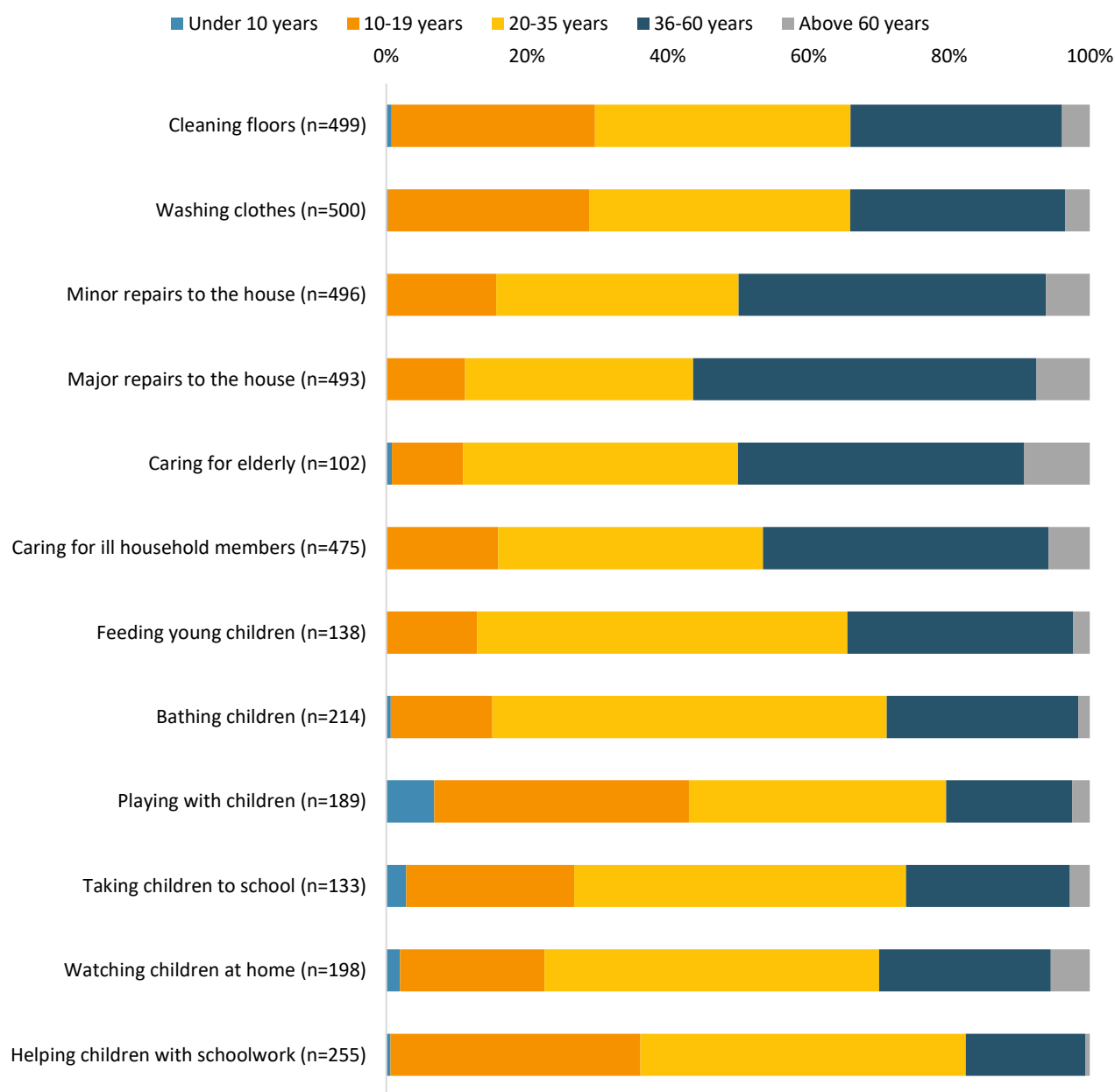
Note: Each bar in this figure represents the rate of involvement of male household members (including both adult and adolescent males), female household members (including both adult and adolescent females) and hired help in a maintenance or care-related task for households that performed that task. The figure also presents the degree of equal sharing between male and female household members for each task.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Female household members are usually in charge of maintenance and care-related tasks apart from house renovation tasks.
- ✓ House repair tasks are predominantly carried out by hiring external help, although in approximately 16-40% of households, male household members take primary responsibility for such tasks.
- ✓ In approximately 12-48% of households, tasks related to the care of children, the sick, and the elderly are equally shared between male and female household members.



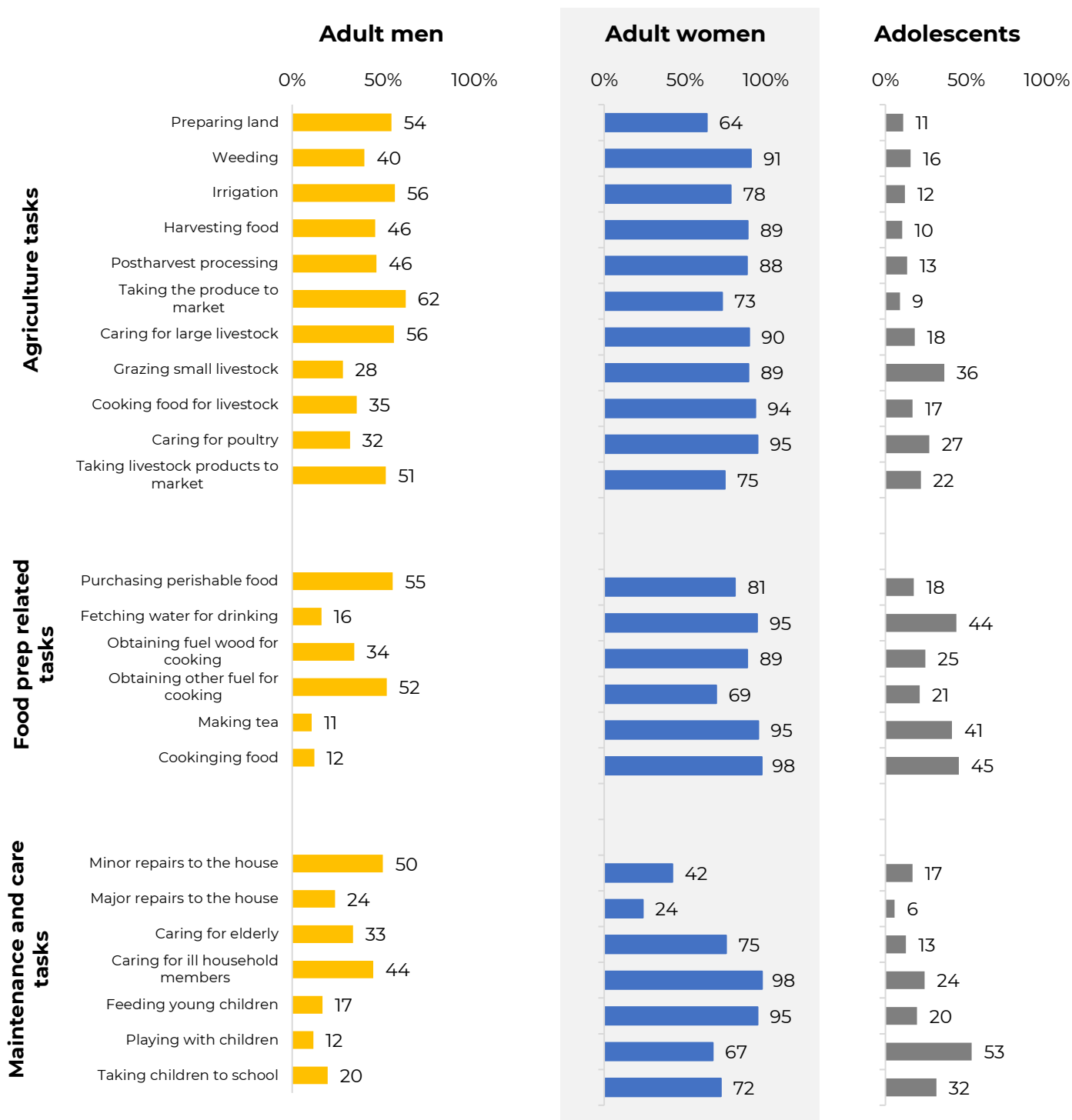
**Figure 12. Division of household maintenance and care-related tasks by age group of household members performing the task**



Note: This figure shows the extent of different age groups' participation for households that perform various maintenance and care tasks. We used five age groups to capture the age differences in the engagement of each task: under 10 years, from 10 to 19 years, from 20 to 35 years, from 36 to 60 years and above 60 years.

## FINDINGS

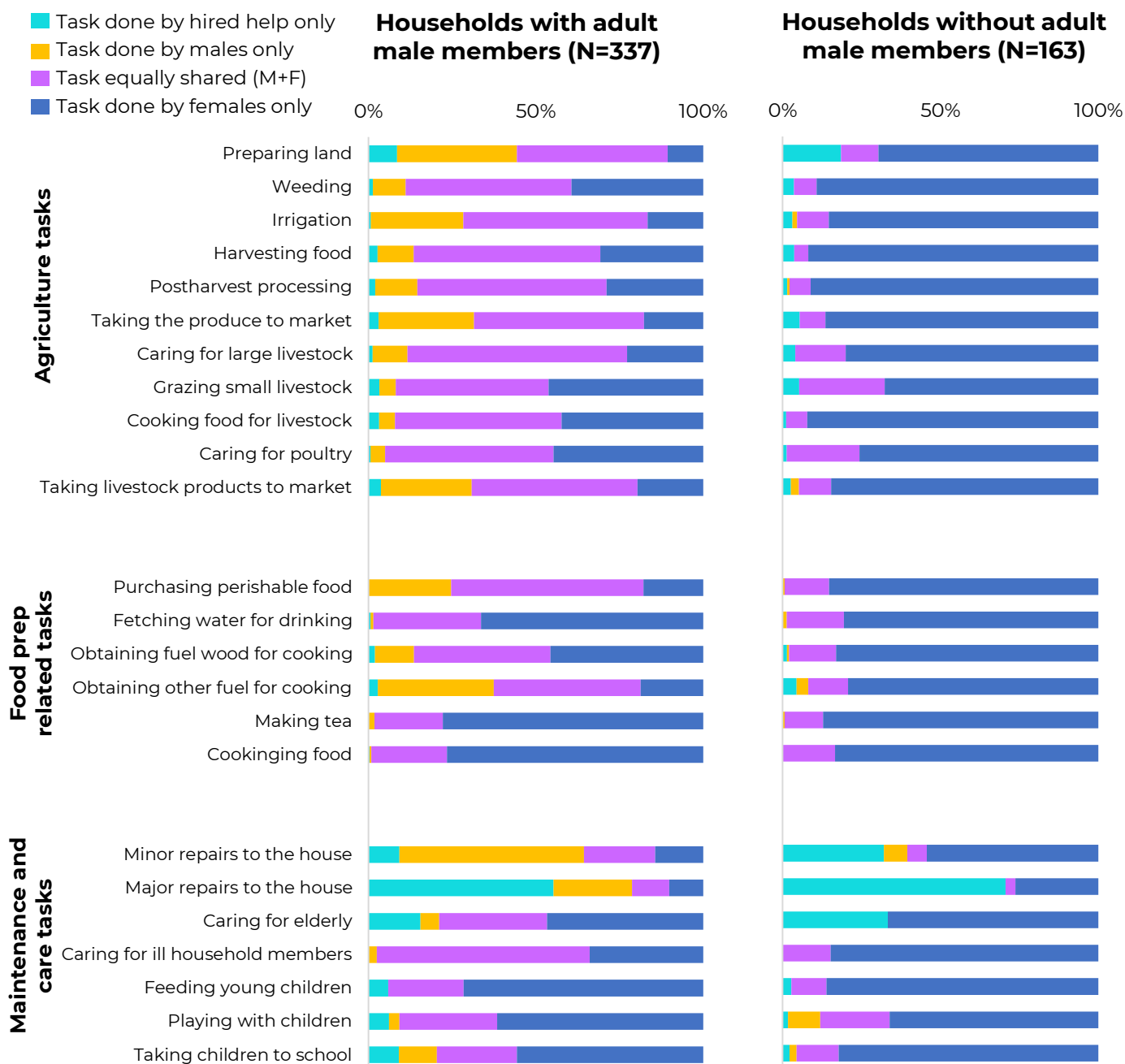
- ✓ With the exception of home repair and tasks related to the care of the sick and elderly, the age group of "20-35 years" typically assumes primary responsibility for maintenance and care-related tasks. On the other hand, the age group of "36-60 years" often takes charge of these four tasks.
- ✓ Adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years primarily participate in childcare tasks as well as tasks related to cleaning floors and washing clothes.
- ✓ For young children (<10 years old), playing with other children is their main form of participation.

**Figure 13. Household tasks performed by type of task and type of household member (%)**

Note: This figure shows the rate of involvement of adult women, adult men, and adolescents as either the primary or secondary person responsible for doing the task in the household.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Adult women typically assume responsibility for tasks other than home renovation in households.
- ✓ Typically, adult men bear the primary responsibility for preparing land, taking products to market, purchasing food, and, carrying out household repairs.
- ✓ Adolescents participate more in fetching drinking water, cooking, livestock rearing and child-care related activities.

**Figure 14. Household tasks performed in households with and without any adult men (%)**

Note: This figure provides an overview of how the presence or absence of adult male household members impacts household gender dynamics related to engagement in selected tasks. Each bar figure shows the rate of involvement of male household members, female household members, and hired help in selected tasks for households with and without adult male members. The figure also presents the degree of equal sharing between male and female household members for each task.

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Women are primarily responsible for all the tasks in the majority of households that have no adult men; in addition.
- ✓ Home repair and elderly care tasks are performed exclusively by hired help in about 32-71% and 33% of households with no adult men, respectively. Households with adult male members are less likely to get external help for these tasks.



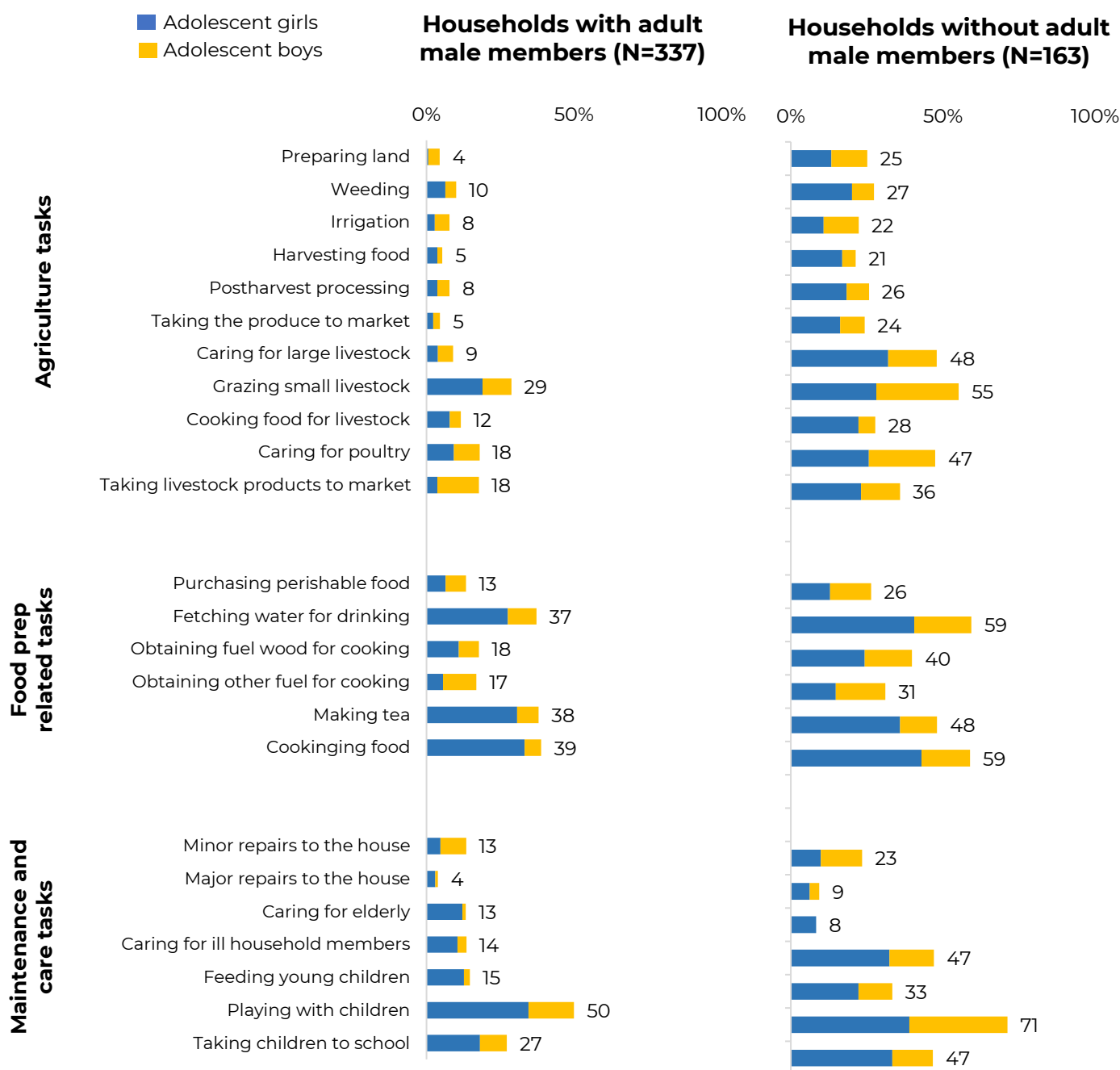
## ***Greater workload for women when men aren't around***

Women do postharvest processing alone in 91% of households without adult men<sup>1</sup> vs. 29% of households with adult men

<sup>1</sup>Male migration for work for extended periods is common in South Asia



**Figure 15. Household tasks performed by adolescent girls and boys in households with and without any adult men (%)**



Note: Numbers shown are the cumulative (adolescent boy + adolescent girl) percentages

## FINDINGS

- ✓ Adolescents play a more prominent role in households with no adult male members, particularly in tasks concerning agriculture, food preparation, and the care of sick individuals and children.
- ✓ Adolescent boys, in particular, demonstrate an increased level of task involvement across various activities when there are no adult men present in the household.
- ✓ In households without adult male members, adolescent girls shoulder an intensified workload in terms of agricultural activities and food preparation tasks.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. While the majority of women report obtaining adequate rest, approximately two-fifths of them experience work pressure, and a significant proportion receive household assistance when they are ill.
2. Women lead agricultural tasks, but there is still a certain degree of gendered task sharing present. Men, with limited involvement in agricultural tasks, primarily participate in land preparation, irrigation, and marketing of agricultural produce or livestock products.
3. Men's exclusive engagement in food preparation, household care, and maintenance tasks, excluding external purchases, home renovation, and childcare, is very limited.
4. In general, task sharing within households is more prevalent for agricultural tasks compared to food preparation and household chores.
5. Overall, adolescents are engaged in a range of activities, including livestock and poultry rearing, fetching water, cooking, various cleaning and washing tasks, and taking on caregiving responsibilities, especially when it comes to children.
6. In households without adult men, there is a greater reliance on external assistance and the participation of adolescents in various tasks, alongside an increased workload for women.

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR ACTION

1. What strategies can be implemented to encourage men's increased involvement in household tasks – agricultural, food preparation, household care, and maintenance tasks – beyond their current limited engagement?
2. How can we empower adolescents in households to align their task engagement with developmental needs and responsibilities, while addressing challenges like limited education and increased workload?
3. Is there a case for safety nets to alleviate the household task burden on women in households without adult male members?

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### Ward and household sampling

We selected 25 wards in the district with a probability proportional to the number of households that reside in each ward. Within each ward, we conducted a household listing to identify eligible households, that is, those with adolescents (10-19 years old). From the households with adolescents, we randomly invited 20 households to participate in the survey. If a household refused, we replaced that household with another randomly selected eligible household, to retain a total of 500 households in the district. Thus, the findings reported in this data note are representative of rural households from this district that include an adolescent.

### Respondent selection

Within households, one adult female aged 20+ years, one adult male aged 20+ years, and one adolescent aged 10-19 years were selected as the respondents for the survey. When multiple adolescents were living in a household, the oldest adolescent was selected. In some households, an adult male was not available (often due to migration for work). In such households, the female was the only adult respondent (see Table 1 for respondent sample sizes). At the beginning of the interview, the adult in the household primarily involved in agriculture (either male or female) and the adult primarily responsible for food purchasing (either male or female) were identified as the primary respondents.

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## ABOUT TAFSSA

TAFSSA (Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia) is a CGIAR Regional Integrated Initiative that supports actions improving equitable access to sustainable healthy diets, that boosts farmers' livelihoods and resilience, and that conserves land, air, and water resources in a climate crisis.

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