JOINT PROGRAMME ON:
Accelerating Progress towards
Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

JP-RWEE IN NEPAL

Baseline Study Country Report

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FOREWORD

The Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE) is a global initiative forged from a unique UN partnership among the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the World Food Programme (WFP). JP-RWEE draws on the complementary knowledge and gender expertise of four UN agencies and a holistic approach is applied encompassing social, economic and political domains of empowerment to create the enabling environment for rural women's economic empowerment.

The overarching goal of the programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience in the context of sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The programme focuses on four interrelated outcome areas: a) improved food security and nutrition; b) increased income, decent work and economic autonomy; c) enhanced participation and leadership in rural life and institutions; and d) more gender-responsive policy environment.

The first phase of the programme was implemented in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2021, and the second phase of the programme is now being implemented in Nepal, Niger, Tanzania, Tunisia and the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga) from 2022 to 2027, with a view to further scale up to additional countries.

In Nepal, the programme is being implemented by four UN agencies in close collaboration with all three tiers of the government including the federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, provincial Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives and five Rural/Municipalities of Siraha (Laxmipur Patari and Sakhuwanankarakatti Rural Municipalities and Karjnaha Municipality) and Saptari (Chinnamasta and Tilathi Koiladi Rural Municipalities) Districts of Madesh Province. The programme aims to reach out to 6,000 people (5,500 women and 500 men) from the most marginalized groups and additional 26,000 indirect participants including household members, elected government representatives and officials. Its first phase was implemented in Sarlahi and Rautahat Districts of Madesh Province and achieved significant results in rural women's economic empowerment.

The baseline study of this programme (second phase) was jointly commissioned by IFAD (lead), FAO, WFP and UN Women with partnership with New Era, a research agency, from April to July 2023. The overall objective of the study was to assess the initial conditions of project participants enabling the programme team to set baseline and target values and provide actionable programmatic recommendations. The survey was conducted among 1,000 individuals (600 women and 400 men) from 600 households including 300 in each treatment and control

groups form both districts. The findings of this study suggest that women are disempowered in various aspects of their lives. Women have been facing significant challenges in terms of making independent decisions, visiting important locations, achieving a work balance, and exposed to intimate partner violence. Women are further burdened with a disproportionate amount of unpaid domestic and care work leaving them with less time for economic activities, which ultimately restricts their potential for economic autonomy, empowerment and well-being.

Survey findings show that most of the people engaged in agriculture (38% -men and 33%-women) are dependent on leased land while only 23 percent men and 21 percent women are farming on land owned by themselves or their family members. The main source of income for most of the households (36%) is unskilled wage labour on agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. On average, 50 percent of the households' monthly income is less than NPR 20,000 (USD 150 approx.). Food security is alarming in the intervention villages. A total of 44 percent households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, while 59 percent households spend more than 65 percent of their income on food (a proxy to measure economic vulnerability).

Only 16 percent women of the reproductive age (18 to 49 years) were able to achieve minimum dietary diversity (consuming at least five food groups). Further, only 22 percent women were empowered in the agriculture sector across 3 dimensions of empowerment measured by the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index and Gender Parity Index.

Based on the key findings and recommendations of this study, I would urge the programme to continue adopting a comprehensive approach in all interventions contributing towards women's empowerment in social, economic and political domains, thereby creating an enabling environment for rural women to address key challenges in a coordinated manner together with key stakeholders.

Roshan Cooke
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ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS

CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing
CCS	Climate Capacity Score
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FES	Food Expenditure Share
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HD	Household Density
HFES	Household Food Expenditure Share
HH	Household
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JP-RWEE	Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
MDD-W	Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
NPR	Nepali Rupee
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
Pro-WEAI	Project-Level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
SAMS	Smallholder Agricultural Market Support
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USD	United States Dollar
VDC	Village Development Committee
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index
WFP	World Food Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the findings of the baseline survey for the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE), Phase II. The main findings are:

- Only 22 per cent of women in intervention villages and 20 per cent of women in control villages have achieved empowerment. In contrast, 33 per cent of men in intervention villages and 41 per cent of men in control villages have achieved empowerment. This shows that there is a disproportionate distribution of empowerment between men and women. Additionally, in intervention villages, the proportion of women achieving empowerment in Saptari is double that of women in Siraha; however, in control villages, it is just the opposite. In control villages, more women in Siraha are empowered than women in Saptari (27 per cent vs. 12 per cent).

- Over 80 per cent of women are empowered in terms of their ability to offer input in productive decisions, ownership of land and other assets, as well as access to and decisions on credit. Over half of women are empowered in the rest of the 12 Project-Level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) indicators (e.g. autonomy in income, self-efficacy, attitudes toward domestic violence, input in productive decisions, control over use of income, work balance and visiting important locations). Meanwhile, women are least empowered in group membership and membership in an influential group.

- Women in the intervention villages are more likely to be empowered than women in control villages (22 per cent vs. 20 per cent).

- Like women, men are also more empowered in terms of their ability to offer input in productive decisions, as well as their ownership of land and other assets. In general, men are more empowered than women in all of the indicators, except in access to and decisions on credit. Although more than 75 per cent of men are empowered in this indicator, the percentage is still a little lower than that of women, but the difference is not significant. Men are also least empowered in group membership and membership in an influential group.

- The differences in empowerment between men and women are most likely being shaped by mobility limitations placed on women (i.e. their ability to visit important locations), their work balance and attitudes toward intimate partner violence.

- Very few women have achieved a secondary level education or higher (six per cent in intervention villages and four per cent in control villages), and very few have knowledge or understanding of legal rights (five per cent in intervention villages and nine per cent in control villages).

- Open defecation poses a significant threat to the health, safety and dignity of women, and it is a prevalent practice in both intervention and control villages. However, the practice is more widespread in intervention villages (51 per cent) compared to control villages (32 per cent).
- Achievement of minimum dietary diversity is also critically low at 16 per cent.
- Forty-four percent of the households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, while 10 per cent of the households experienced severe food insecurity. At an individual level, moderate or severe food insecurity is not significantly different between men and women; however, severe food insecurity is higher among women (15 per cent) than men (six per cent). Food insecurity is mostly influenced by household income and ethnicity. Households in low-income brackets have high food insecurity compared to households with high-income brackets, and Dalit households have higher food insecurity than other Madhesi caste households.
- Household food expenditure share, which is a proxy to measure economic vulnerability, is predominant in the surveyed communities. Almost three-fifths (59 per cent) of households spend more than or equal to 65 per cent of their total household budget on food. The study revealed a negative correlation between the high share of expenditure on food and the total monthly income of the household. High share of expenditure on food is also higher among Dalit households compared to other Madhesi castes.
- Twenty-six percent of female respondents from dual households and nine per cent of female respondents from single households were involved in farming/ cultivation during the last season. Currently, 57 per cent of the respondents own either household land (22 per cent) or rented land (35 per cent) for cultivation. On average, respondents possessed 12.79 katha (1.06 acres) of land, ranging from one katha (0.083 acres) to 2.40 bigha (4acres). Staple grain farming is most common, and the volume and value of sales are also very low.
- The involvement of women in off-farm activities is minimal (three per cent).
- The climate capacity score (CCS) for Siraha and Saptari was categorized as “Low CCS.” However, the CCS score for Saptari is even lower than that of Siraha (2.6 vs. 3.7).

1 INTRODUCTION

With a strong emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women are implementing a joint programme called "Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women Economic Empowerment" (JP-RWEE) in Nepal. Phase II of the programme aims to improve the overall conditions for advancing rural women's empowerment. The implementation of the programme is closely overseen by Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, while technical and financial support is provided by four United Nations agencies. The programme is being implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives in Madhesh Province and local governments.

JP-RWEE Phase II will be implemented in one municipality and four rural municipalities of two districts (Siraha and Saptari) within Madhesh Province. Madhesh Province holds the most fertile land in the country, yet inequalities among its population are high, including poor access to productive resources, high levels of food insecurity and disparities in wages between men and women (WFP, 2020)[1]. Madhesh Province also has a low Development Index and low Gender Empowerment Index[2]. The province has the highest number of economically and socially marginalized groups in Nepal, the highest prevalence of health issues, the highest concentration of landlessness and the highest prevalence of harmful traditional practices, such as dowry, child marriages and witchcraft.[3,4] In recent years, the effects of climate change have become increasingly apparent in this province, including more droughts, monsoon floods and water shortages, which have affected farming.

Embracing the concept of intersectionality, which aims to recognize how each individual's identity affects different areas of their lives,[5] the programme will ensure the inclusion of the most economically marginalized communities in Nepal, landless people, Dalit women and/or women labourers. As such, the programme will support local governments and other stakeholders to

1 https://www.wfp.org/publications/nepal-covid-19-economic-vulnerability-index

2 Madhesh Province has districts ranked in the lowest 23rd in terms of the HDI.

3 https://un.org.np/sites/default/files/doc_publication/2021-02/HP_perception_survey_0.pdf

4 https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117595/download/?_ga=2.224479130.1469225660.1691143677-248065448.1681222231

5 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Working Group, 2017

work with specific groups to address the range of barriers that lead to their exclusion.

A total of 5,500 rural women and 500 men will be targeted as direct project participants, which will include 1,000 single women, including female-headed households; 100 women with disabilities; 50 LGBTQI+ people; 1,500 lactating mothers; 500 pregnant women; 1,000 Madhesi women; 500 Dalit women; 500 Janajati women; and 350 gender-based violence survivors. A total of 500 men from excluded/vulnerable groups (150 each from Dalit, Madhesi and Janajati communities and 50 from Muslim communities) will also be targeted as project participants.

Building on lessons learned from the first phase of JP-RWEE, Phase II will work towards holistically strengthening the economic capacity and resilience of rural women in order to address the structural barriers preventing their social and economic inclusion while also responding to the negative effects of climate change. Phase II will seek to achieve four main outcomes by implementing strategies and approaches outlined in the programme's global framework. Specific attention will be placed on gender transformation and resilience building as cross-cutting themes. The programme has been designed to achieve four main outcomes and output-level indicators, which are detailed in the Logical Framework.

Logical Framework

GOAL:
To secure rural women's **livelihoods, rights, and resilience** to advance sustainable development, Agenda 2030, and the SDGs

Proportion of households with moderate or severe food insecurity.
→ **IG1: Food Insecurity Experience Scale, FIES) (adapted from SDG 2.1.2)**

Proportion of women being empowered in the agriculture sector across different dimensions.
→ **IG2: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)**

Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks
→ **IG3: Climate Capacity Score (CCS)**

OUTCOME 1:
Improved **food security and nutrition** for rural women and their households that contribute to equitable and **sustainable food systems**

- **% increase in production/ productivity of nutritious crops by rural women**
  - **IO1.1:** Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) Sub-Module B1: Crops Cultivated and Yields
- **Measure the proportion of women between 18 and 49 years old who reach minimum dietary diversity**
  - **IO1.2: MDDW**
- **Proportion of households spending 65% or more of their monthly budget on food**
  - **IO1.3: HFES**

OUTCOME 2:
Rural **women's income, decent work and economic autonomy** increased to secure their livelihoods and build **resilience**

- **% increase in income from production of crops**
  - **IO2.1:** Volume and value of sales of crops for female SHFs, contributing to SDG 2.3
- **Changes in off-farm incomes of rural women from self-employment or formal, wage employment**
  - **IO2.2:** Non-farm Employment and business activity module*
- **Proportion of rural women with control over the use of their income and expenditures**
  - **IO2.3:** Pro-WEAI (Control over income)
- **Household redistribution in the average number of daily hours spent on unpaid care and domestic work, by sex and age**
  - **IO2.4:** PRO-WEAI (Time allocation)

OUTCOME 3:
Rural **women's voice and agency** increased for full and equal **participation and leadership** in their households, communities, organizations and governance systems

- **Proportion of rural women with decision-making power over production and productive assets**
  - **IO3.1:** PRO-WEAI (access to productive capital)
- **Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain**
  - **IO3.2:** PRO-WEAI (leadership)
- **Proportion of women in elected local governance structures**
  - **IO3.3:** WEAI (group membership)
- **Proportion of women who are empowered or whose achievements are at least as high as men in their households**
  - **IO3.4:** PRO-WEAI (GPI)

OUTCOME 4:
Gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights and resilience

- **National or regional legal frameworks, policies, or strategies that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality**
- **Systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment**

IO4.1: Desk review

1.1 Purpose of the Baseline Study

The baseline study aims to illuminate the current conditions of the intended project participants in terms of GEWE in the fields of agriculture production, food security and nutrition, as well as in adaptation and resilience to shocks like climate change. The main objectives of conducting this baseline study include:

1. Measure and describe the initial conditions being experienced by project participants, especially in terms of specific indicators outlined in the programme's Log Frame, such as the Pro-WEAI.
2. Set the baseline to assess the extent to which JP-RWEE interventions will contribute to GEWE and create opportunities to actively change gender norms and engage men and women as agents of change.
3. Develop actionable programmatic recommendations based on the findings of the study.

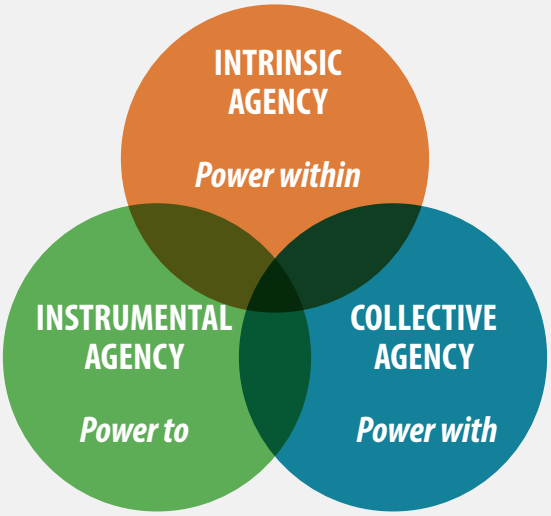
1.2 Methodology

The study employed a cross-sectional design that incorporated both quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative data was collected at both the household and individual levels. Two types of households were identified to be interviewed: dual households and single/female-headed households. In dual households, one household interview was conducted with an adult respondent (above age 18) and two individual interviews were conducted with one primary respondent and one secondary respondent, who were generally the opposite-sex spouse or opposite-sex household member. In single/female-headed households, which are households with no male members above age 18, interviews were conducted with only female respondents (both household- and individual-level interviews).

The main index used in the quantitative survey was Pro-WEAI, developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute. The pro-WEAI measured empowerment through 12 indicators categorized into three domains:

1. **Intrinsic agency** (power within), measured through four indicators: autonomy in income, self-efficacy, attitudes toward intimate partner violence and respect among household members.
2. **Instrumental agency** (power to), measured through six indicators: input on productive decisions, ownership of land and other assets, control over use of income, access to and decisions on financial services, work balance and mobility (ability to visit important locations).
3. **Collective agency** (power with), measured through group membership and membership in influential groups.

Pro-WEAI
Indicators and domains of empowerment



1. Autonomy in Income
2. Self-efficacy
3. Attitudes about intimate partner violence
4. Respect among household members
5. Input in productive decisions
6. Ownership of land and other assets,
7. Access to and decisions on financial services
8. Control over the use of income
9. Work balance
10. Visiting important locations
11. Group membership
12. Membership in influential groups

Domain	Indicator	Description
INTRINSIC AGENCY	**Autonomy in income**	Calculated from a vignette-based module, this indicator refers to decision-making on the use of income generated from both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. A person is considered empowered if he or she is more driven in his or her decision-making by his or her own principles than by what other people consider appropriate.
	Self-efficacy	The self-efficacy indicator is calculated from a module that asks the respondent about whether the individual agrees or disagrees with eight statements related to his or her life. The responses range on a scale from 1 to 5, in which 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree." A person is considered empowered if they believe in their capabilities and ability to reach their goals, and the sum of their responses is more than 32.
	Attitudes toward intimate partner violence	This indicator is determined based on whether the individual believes a husband is justified in hitting or beating his spouse in five scenarios. A person is considered to be empowered only if he or she believes the husband is not justified in hitting or beating his spouse in any situation.
	Respect among household members	This indicator is calculated from a module that asks the respondent about whether the individual respects his or her spouse or other relation in the household, whether his or her spouse or other relation respects him or her in return, whether he or she trusts his or her spouse or other relation to do things that are in his or her best interest, and whether the respondent feels comfortable disagreeing with his or her spouse or other relation. A person is considered empowered if they answer "most of the time" to all four of the questions.

Domain	Indicator	Description
INSTRUMENTAL AGENCY	**Input in productive decisions**	Empowerment in this indicator is determined by whether the person makes a decision about an agricultural activity on their own, jointly, with at least some input, or makes it, if they want to, in all agricultural activities. If the individual does not participate in an agricultural activity, they are not empowered.
	Ownership of land and other assets	Empowerment in ownership of land and other assets is measured by owning solely or jointly either (i) land, or (ii) at least three of the following: large livestock, small livestock, fishponds or fishing equipment, non-mechanized farm equipment, mechanized farm equipment, non-farm business equipment, houses or buildings, large consumer durables, small consumer durables, a cell phone, non-agricultural land, or a means of transportation.
	Access to and decisions on financial services	Empowerment in access to and decisions on financial services is determined by either (i) belonging to a household that used a source of credit in the past year and participated in the decision to take the loan solely or jointly with others, (ii) belongs to a household that could have taken out a loan in the last year even if it did not; or (iii) has access to a financial account, solely or jointly.
	Control over use of income	Empowerment over use of income means that for all agricultural activities the individual participates in, the individual has control over how any income earned from the activity is used and control over whether the output from the activity is used for home consumption. The individual also has control over income from any non-farm, self-employment activities and wage or salary employment in which they engage.
	Work balance	The number of hours worked is defined as the sum of the time the individual reported spending on work-related tasks as the primary activity and half the amount of time the individual reported spending on childcare as a secondary activity (i.e. workload = time spent on primary activity + (1/2) time spent on childcare as a secondary activity). The definition of work-related tasks includes wage and salary employment, own business work, farming, construction, shopping/getting services, fishing, weaving/sewing, textile care, cooking, domestic work, caring for children/adults/elderly and commuting. Childcare is considered a secondary activity if the individual is caring for children while performing other work-related activities. Empowerment in the work balance indicator means that the individual spends less than 10.5 hours a day on work, including employment and non-employment activities.
	Mobility: visiting important locations	Empowerment in mobility is determined by whether the individual (i) visits at least two locations—either the city, market, family or other relatives—most of the time, or (ii) visits a health facility or public meeting at least sometimes.

Domain	Indicator	Description
COLLECTIVE AGENCY	**Group membership**	Group membership is determined by being an active member in at least one of the following types of groups: agricultural, livestock, fishery producers' group; water users' group; forest users' group; credit or microfinance group; mutual help group; trade and business group; civic group or charitable group; religious group; or other group.
	Membership in influential groups	Being empowered in terms of leadership means the individual is an active member of at least one group that can influence the community to a medium or high extent.

Source: *Malapit et al. (2019)*

Additional components collected as part of the quantitative study included:

1. Household Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES): It captured information on the adequacy of people's access to food and the severity of food insecurity experience.
2. Household Food Expenditure Share (HFES): The HFES is a proxy indicator for the economic vulnerability of a household. The higher the expenses spent on food in relation to other consumed items/services, the more economically vulnerable the household.
3. Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W): MDD is a proxy indicator that measures diet diversity to predict the likelihood of micronutrient adequacy among groups of women of reproductive age (18 to 49 years).
4. Small Holder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) Sub-Module B1: Crops Cultivated and Yields: This captures information on the variety of crops produced by farmers, including yields, volume and the value of sales.
5. Off-farm employment module: This module looks at the participation of men and women in off-farm employment and business activities undertaken to supplement their income from farming and maintain their rural livelihoods.
6. Climate capacity score (CCS): The CCS captures the community's ability to manage climatic shocks and risks. Given to respondents, local village leaders and community farmers in the form of qualitative, thematic questions, this indicator explains the progress over time of communities targeted.

1.3 Sampling and Sample Size

Siraha and Saptari districts in Madhesh Province were selected as programme districts for JP-RWEE Phase II. Within each district, treatment and control villages were selected for the enumeration purpose.

The primary sampling unit was a household, which refers to a group of people living together and sharing food from the same pot.

Selection of Treatment Households:

Treatment households refer to the sample of households drawn from the intended programme intervention villages, which were identified during the targeting process. The villages selected as 'treatment villages' for programme implementation included 27 villages from Chhinnamasta and Tilathikoiladi rural municipalities in Saptari, along with 35 villages from Laxmipur Patari and Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipalities, as well as Karjanha municipality in Siraha. Detailed information on village profiling can be found in Appendix A.

First, five villages from each district were randomly selected from the list of villages using a probability proportional to size (PPS) method, which considered the estimated total number of target households within each village. Second, a separate list of target communities within the sampled villages was created. In Saptari, the sampled village had only one community each, while in Siraha, the sampled villages contained multiple communities within the same village. Consequently, the largest community in terms of the maximum number of target households within each sampled village was chosen. However, selecting only one community resulted in a small number of target households in two villages: Kharkuyahi tole in Laxmipur Patari rural municipality and Patana tole in Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality. As a solution, the two largest communities within these villages were merged and treated as a single community.

TABLE 1.1

Sample List of Treatment Villages and Communities

S.N.	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HHS	Total HHS
1	Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	Ward 5	Khatway tole	Khatway	300	300
2	Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	Ward 5	Musahar tole	Sada (Musahar)	250	250
3	Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	Ward 5	Paswan tole	Paswan	40	40
4	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi rural municipality	Ward 4	Mukhiya tole	Mukhiya	200	200
5	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi rural municipality	Ward 5	Roy tole	Sardar/ Mukhiya	125	125
6	Siraha	Karjanha municipality	Ward 5	Khola tole	Sada (Musahar)	100	100

7	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari rural municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/ Parsa tole	Danuwar	100	100
8a	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari rural municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi tole	Musalman	20	140
8b	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari rural municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi tole	Yadav	30	200
9a	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality	Ward 2	Patana tole	Sada (Musahar)	40	40
9b	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality	Ward 2	Patana tole	Yadav	40	80
10	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality	Ward 3	Mirjapur	Sada (Musahar)	85	120

Third, the field team compiled a distinct list of all the intended project participants within each community, classifying them as either dual or single/female-headed households. Using systematic random sampling, ten single/female-headed households and twenty dual households were selected whenever they were available. The field work prioritized communities with a lower number of target households, ensuring that single/female-headed households were chosen first. In cases where there was a shortage in the number of single/female-headed households, the deficit was fulfilled by selecting from communities with a higher number of target households.

Therefore, a total of 30 households were interviewed in each community, comprising 20 dual households and 10 single/female-headed households. This sampling approach resulted in interviews with 150 households in each district, which totalled 300 households from the treatment villages.

Selection of Control Households:

Control households were selected from villages where individuals do not receive programme benefits. These households were randomly chosen from different wards within the same municipalities of these two districts. However, the wards were purposively selected upon consultation with the municipality lead to ensure that they do note share a border with any of the treatment villages. The purpose of including control households is to establish a comparison group that serves as a counterfactual for the programme recipients. It is assumed that project participants households, in the absence of the intervention, would have experienced similar outcomes as the control group. By comparing the control group's outcomes with those of the project participants, the impact of the programme intervention can be estimated.

To strengthen the credibility of this assumption, control villages were selected from the same municipalities as the treatment villages. These control villages were chosen to ensure similarities in terms of socio-economic conditions compared to the treatment villages. Additionally, to control for potential spill-over effects, villages that were not adjacent to the treatment villages were specifically chosen as control villages. Previous wards of the village development committees (VDCs) under unitary government structure (municipalities) were used to identify the control villages.

TABLE 1.2

List of Control Villages/Communities

District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community
Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	6	Kochabakhari VDC 8	Mushahar/Dom
Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	6	Kochabakhari VDC 9	Mushahar/Khatway
Saptari	Chhinnamasta rural municipality	7	Muslim tole	Muslim
Saptari	Tilathikoiladi rural municipality	7	Sardar tole	Sardar
Saptari	Tilathikoiladi rural municipality	7	Bahangawa tole	Rajak Dhobi
Siraha	Karjanha municipality	9	Karjanha VDC 3	Paswan
Siraha	Laxmipur Patari rural municipality	6	Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 1	Ram, Das
Siraha	Laxmipur Patari rural municipality	6	Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 6	Paswan
Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality	5	Itarharwa VDC 3	Ram/Musalman,
Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality	5	Itarharwa VDC 4	Paswan/Das

Thirty households were randomly selected from each control village in a similar manner to the treatment villages. These households included 20 dual households and 10 single/female-headed households, and the selection process involved a separate listing of the households within each village. As a result, a total of 150 households were selected from each district, amounting to a total of 300 control households.

1.4 The Survey and the Data Collection

The survey questions were divided into three levels: household, individual and community. The household questionnaire was only administered to the primary respondents, while the individual questionnaire, which contained the Pro-WEAI questionnaires, was administrated to both primary and secondary respondents of dual households. The community-level questionnaire

was administered to local village leaders and community farmers. All questionnaires were translated into both Nepali and Maithili (the most spoken language in that area), and it was also ensured that all enumerators are fluent in both languages.

Household Level	Individual Level	Community Level
• Demographic characteristics • Household FIES module • Household FES module	• Pro-WEAI • MDDW • Employment and business activity module • Individual FIES module • Agricultural production module	• Climate capacity score

The survey was conducted simultaneously in the two districts from 21 April to 10 May 2023. Prior to the data collection, a group of eighteen enumerators underwent a five-day training session. Following the training, a one-day field pre-test and one-day review were conducted from 19 to 20 April. Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) was used for administering the survey. The survey questionnaires were uploaded onto a central data collection system called MoDA, allowing for offline data collection, immediate data visualization, simultaneous data verification and correction. To ensure a comfortable environment for respondents, enumerators were grouped in a team, typically consisting of two female and two male enumerators. This arrangement ensured that female respondents were interviewed by female enumerators, and male respondents by male enumerators. For community-level interaction, the team supervisor interacted with the community to identify local village leaders and/or knowledgeable community farmers. Enumerators strictly followed the “do no harm” principles while also ensuring a safe environment for all respondents. Further details on the data collection process can be found in Appendix B.

1.5 Data Analysis

The data was analysed using STATA 17.0 statistical software. Descriptive statistics were used to present data regarding household characteristics, respondent characteristics and Pro-WEAI and inferential statistics (chi square test, t-test, correlation) to understand the interaction between Pro-WEAI and different individual and household-level variables, such as district, gender, ethnicity, age, education, household types, FIES, MDDW, FES, etc.

1.6 Issues and Limitations

Due to the inability to list project participants in treatment villages prior to data collection, an alternative sampling strategy was devised. This involved selecting five villages from each district using the PPS method. In these villages, households were categorized as either dual or single/female-headed households. From the compiled list, 20 dual households and 10 single/female-headed households were randomly chosen for data collection.

However, it should be noted that in one of the intervention villages—Paswan tole of Chhinnamasta rural municipality, Ward 5 in Saptari district—the number of eligible households was less than 30. As a result, only 21 interviews were conducted in that village, and the remaining nine households were recruited from the next village that the team enumerated. Similarly, due to various factors, it was not always possible to interview 10 single/female-headed households as initially planned. Nevertheless, efforts were made to maintain the ratio of dual and single/female-headed households within each district between the treatment and control villages.

Again, in two villages in Siraha—Kharkuyahi tole, Laxmipur Patari rural municipality, Ward 5 and Patana tole, Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality, Ward 2—the number of targeted households was lower than the actual total number of households. To address this, teams from IFAD, UN Women and New ERA selected the targeted project participants in advance, in consultation with stakeholders and community members. The field team was provided with a list of project participants from which they chose dual households and single/female-headed households to be included in the enumeration.

2 PROJECT PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

This chapter presents information on characteristics of the survey respondents, such as gender; age; education; ability to read, write and speak in Nepali; disability status; knowledge about policy rights; whether the household is headed by a woman; housing characteristics; and income. This information is useful to understand the factors that affect Pro-WEAI and other important indicators of this baseline survey.

2.1 Basic Characteristics of the Survey Respondent

The baseline survey for JP-RWEE Phase II included interviews with a total of 600 households from Siraha and Saptari districts. In each district, 300 households were surveyed, with 150 being control households and 150 being treatment households. Within these 150 households, there were 50 single/female-headed households and 100 dual households. Overall, there were 1,000 respondents, with 600 women and 400 men participating in the survey *(Figure 2.1)*.

FIGURE 2.1

Distribution of the sample across districts, intervention groups and control groups

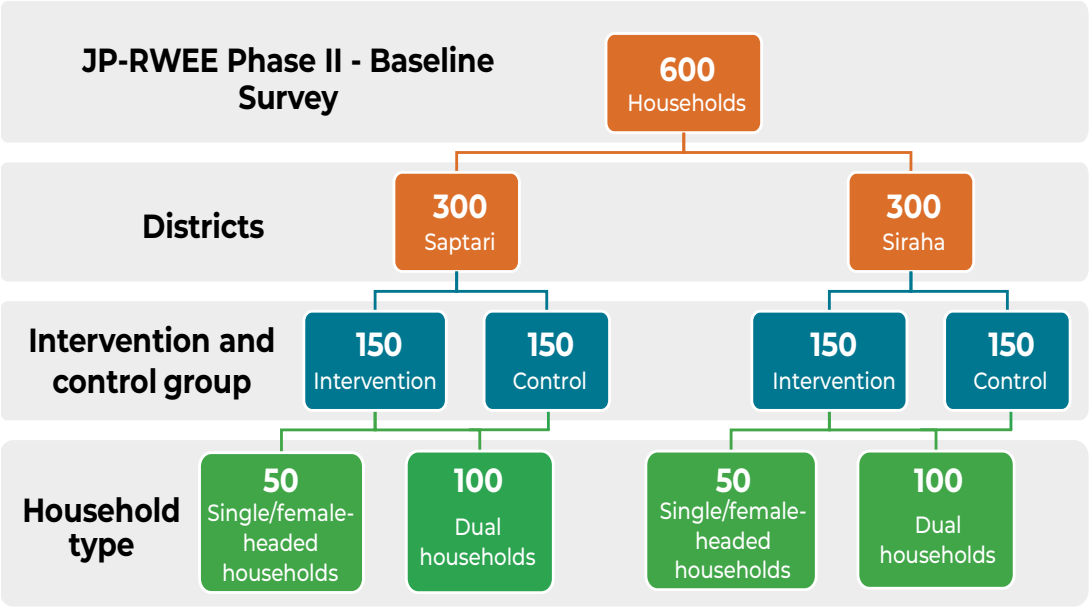


Table 2.1 displays the differences in characteristics of individuals based on district and gender, while *Table 2.2* examines the differences based on intervention and control groups and gender. In both districts, a higher percentage of women in the middle-age range (35 to 55 years) were included in the survey compared to younger or older women. This pattern also applied to men. When comparing the differences by gender and intervention and control group, the variations are minimal, indicating that similar age groups were included in both the intervention and control villages. Also, most of the respondents were Dalit rather than from other Madhesi castes.[6]

In terms of education, Nepal's Demographic and Health Survey 2022 showed that women are generally less likely than men to have attained some secondary or higher education. Specifically, women in Madhesh Province are the least likely to have completed at least some secondary education.[7] Likewise, the survey reveals that in both districts, women are more likely than men to have no education or low education.

TABLE 2.1

Characteristics of the respondent, by district and gender

	Saptari		Siraha	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Age of the respondents				
<35	20.5	39.3**	26.0	38.7*
35-55	59.0	54.7	50.5	51.0
>55	20.5	6.0**	23.5	10.3**
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	77.50	79.67	68.50	69.00
Other Madhesi caste	22.50	20.33	31.50	31.00
Education of the respondents				
None or below primary-level education	89.5	97.0*	76.5	92.7**
Primary education or above	10.5	3.0*	23.5	7.3**
Can read	20.5	4.3**	43.5	12.0**
Can write	21.0	4.7**	44.0	12.0**

6 "Other Madhesi castes," mentioned here and elsewhere in this report, refers to Pandit, Sharma, Danuwar, Mukhiya, Muslim, Nuniya, Sudi, Teli and Yadav.

7 Ministry of Health and Population [Nepal], New ERA and ICF. 2023. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health and Population [Nepal].

Can speak, write, or read Nepali	46.5	5.3**	74.0	15.3**
Minor disability[8]	52.0	39.7	24.5	37.3
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	18.0	3.0**	41.5	10.3**
Human rights	14.0	1.0**	38.0	3.3**
Women's human rights	10.0	2.0**	29.5	10.0**
Land rights	2.5	0.0*	12.0	0.3**
Care economy and agricultural policy	0.0	0.3	2.0	0.0
Banking, microfinance and cooperatives policy	2.5	0.3*	3.5	2.0
Participants of another programme	2.5	1.7	1.0	3.7
Observations	**200**	**300**	**200**	**300**

**p-value <0.05 **p-value<0.001*

When comparing the ability to read, write and speak the Nepali language among men and women in the two districts, it is evident that a lower proportion of women compared to men possess these skills in the intervention and control villages. However, when women from both districts are compared, a slightly higher percentage of women in Siraha can read, write and speak Nepali compared to women in Saptari (12 per cent vs. 4 per cent, 12 per cent vs. 5 per cent and 15 per cent vs. 5 per cent) *(Table 2.1)*. Comparing the intervention and control villages, a slightly higher percentage of women in intervention villages demonstrate the ability to read (10 per cent vs. 6 per cent), write (10 per cent vs. 6 per cent) and speak Nepali (13 per cent vs. 8 per cent) *(Table 2.2)*.

TABLE 2.2

Characteristics of the respondent, by gender and intervention and control group

	Intervention		Control	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Age of the respondent				
<35	24.0	39.0**	22.5	39.0**
35-55	55.0	51.0	54.5	54.7
>55	21.0	10.0*	23.0	6.3**

8 Minor disabilities, includes difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking, or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, providing self-care, or communicating with others.

Ethnicity of the respondent				
Dalit caste	60.50	60.67	85.50	88.00
Other Madhesi caste	39.50	39.33	14.50	12.00
Education of the respondent				
No or below primary level education	84.5	94.0**	81.5	95.7**
Education primary or above	15.5	6.0**	18.5	4.3**
Can read	32.0	10.3**	32.0	6.0**
Can write	31.0	10.3**	34.0	6.3**
Can speak, write or read Nepali	51.0	13.0**	69.5	7.7**
Minor disability	40.5	33.0	36.0	44.0
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	17.0	4.7**	42.5	8.7**
Human rights	12.0	1.3**	40.0	3.0**
Women human rights	9.5	4.3*	30.0	7.7**
Land rights	3.0	0.3*	11.5	0.0**
Care economy and agricultural policy	0.5	0.0	1.5	0.3
Banking, microfinance and cooperatives policy	2.5	2.0	3.5	0.3*
Participants of another programme	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.3
Observations	**300**	**300**	**200**	**200**

Like education and the ability to read and write, it is generally observed that more men have knowledge or understanding of legal rights compared to their female counterparts. Men in Siraha district exhibit the highest level of knowledge or understanding of legal rights compared to men in Saptari (42 per cent). When examining specific legal rights knowledge, a higher proportion of men in Siraha possess knowledge on human rights (38 per cent) and women's human rights (30 per cent) *(Table 2.1)*.

2.2 Basic Housing Characteristics and Household Population

2.2.1 Household Population

Table 2.3 provides basic information about the household population categorized by district, while *Table 2.4* presents the same information based on intervention and control villages.

TABLE 2.3

Household population, by district

	District	
	Saptari	Siraha
Percentage of households with children under age five	40.0	49.0*
Mean number of children under age five in the household	0.6	0.73
Mean number of female members in the household	2.46	2.6
Mean household size	4.69	4.77
Percentage of households with female heads	35.7	33.3
Percentage of households with economically dependent members (aged 18-59)	32.0	42.0
Percentage of households with children out of school in the past six months	8.7	10.0
Percentage of households with pregnant and lactating women	24.7	31.4
Percentage of households with members that need help due to chronic illness or disabilities	8.7	13.3
Mean number of household members who have been sick or chronically ill for at least three months over the past 12 months	0.1	0.0
Percentage of the households with disabled household members	3.3	4.0
Percentage of households with access to health services	95.0	95.0
Percentage of households with main income remittances	35.0	44.0
Percentage of households with main income wage in non-agriculture	31.0	20.0
Estimated value of monthly main income (NPR)	15,825.42	17,344.95
Relative contribution of the main income	78.39	77.46
Observations	**300**	**300**

In Siraha district, 49 per cent of households have at least one child under the age of five, whereas in Saptari district, this percentage is slightly lower at 40 per cent. On average, households in both Siraha and Saptari have three female members (*Table 2.3)*. Regarding female-headed households, Saptari district has a higher proportion at 36 per cent, compared to 33 per cent in Siraha district *(Table 2.3)*. Furthermore, there are more female-headed households in the control villages (40 per cent) compared to the intervention villages (29 per cent) *(Table 2.4)*.

The results of the baseline study indicated that 42 per cent of households in Siraha have economically active[9] individuals who are financially dependent,

[9] The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2056 (2000) in Nepal sets the minimum age for work at 14 years and 17 years for hazardous work. For our study, we focused on individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 as economically active.

while the percentage is lower at 32 per cent in Saptari *(Table 2.4)*. Additionally, the control villages showed a higher percentage of economically active individuals aged 18-59 years who are financially dependent within households (41 per cent) compared to the intervention villages (33 per cent) *(Table 2.4)*. When it comes to accessing health services, both Siraha and Saptari districts are nearly equal (95 per cent) *(Table 2.3)*. However, control villages have a higher percentage of households with access to health services (99 per cent) compared to intervention villages (91 per cent) *(Table 2.4)*.

In Saptari, 35 per cent of households reported remittances as their primary source of income, compared to 44 per cent of households in Siraha *(Table 2.3)*. Furthermore, 37 per cent of households in intervention villages and 42 per cent in control villages relied on remittances *(Table 2.4)*. The second most common main income source was wage income from non-agricultural work, with 31 per cent of households in Saptari and 20 per cent in Siraha depending on it *(Table 2.3)*. On average, the estimated monthly income value was around 16,000 NPR in Saptari, 17,000 NPR in Siraha, 15,000 NPR in intervention villages and 18,000 NPR in control villages. The main income source contributed approximately 80 per cent of the total income in both districts, while in intervention villages it accounted for 75 per cent and in control villages it accounted for 81 per cent *(Table 2.3 and Table 2.4)*.

TABLE 2.4

Household population, by intervention and control groups

Household Information	Intervention	Control
Percentages of households with children under age five	41.7	47.3
Mean number of children in the household under age five	0.61	0.72
Mean number of female members in the household	2.4	2.66
Mean household size	4.47	4.99
Percentage of households with female heads	29.3	39.7
Percentage of households with economically active members (aged 18-59)	33.3	40.7
Percentage of households with children out of school in the past 6 months	10.7	8.0
Percentage of households with pregnant and lactating women	24.7	31.4
Percentage of households with members who need help due to chronic illness or disabilities	7.7	14.3
Mean number of household members who have been sick or chronically ill for at least three months over the past 12 months	0.04	0.05
Mean number of household members who are disabled	0.04	0.03

Household Information	Intervention	Control
Percentage of households with access to health services	91.3	98.7
Percentage of households with remittances as main income	37.0	42.0
Percentage of households with wages in non-agriculture as main income	29.0	22.0
Estimated value of main income (NPR)	15,124.09	18,046.28
Relative contribution of main income	74.61	81.24
Observations	**300**	**300**

2.2.2 Housing Characteristics

Most households in Saptari and Siraha have exterior walls made of bamboo and mud: 67 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively *(Table 2.5)*. This pattern is consistent between control and intervention villages *(Table 2.6)*. However, there are notable differences in roofing materials between the two districts. In Saptari, a higher proportion of households use metal/galvanized sheets (82 per cent), while in Siraha, households use a combination of galvanized sheets (38 per cent), cement (26 per cent) and thatch palm leaf (18 per cent) *(Table 2.5)*.

Similarly, flooring materials differ between the districts. Around four in five households in Saptari have rudimentary flooring, while only around one in 10 households have concrete flooring. In Siraha, 67 per cent have rudimentary flooring and 25 per cent have concrete flooring *(Table 2.6)*.

Most households in both Siraha and Saptari reside on government-owned land: 38 per cent in Saptari and 24 per cent in Siraha *(Table 2.5)*. In intervention villages, 42 per cent of households live on government-owned land, compared to 20 per cent in control villages *(Table 2.6)*.

Household density (HD) is the ratio of people to bedrooms in the home. High HD was defined as a ratio >1.[10] In the intervention and control groups in both districts, HD is greater than one for over 90 per cent of households *(Table 2.5 and Table 2.6)*. A higher proportion of households in Siraha (56 per cent) have a separate kitchen facility at home compared to households in Saptari (39 per cent). Similarly, more households in control villages (58 per cent) have a separate kitchen compared to intervention villages (37 per cent) *(Table 2.5 and Table 2.6)*.

The main source of cooking fuel in both districts is firewood and dung cake: 54 per cent use firewood and 29 per cent dung cake in Saptari, and 59 per

[10] Chambers EC, Schechter C, Tow A, Torrens L, Kohlieber R, Calderon R. Household Density and Obesity in Young Black and White Adults. Ethn Dis 2010; 20:366–9.

cent use firewood and 19 per cent dung cake in Siraha. Additionally, almost all houses in the intervention and control groups in both districts use electricity for lighting *(Table 2.5 and Table 2.6)*.

TABLE 2.5

Household characteristics, by district

Housing Characteristics	District	
	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)
Exterior wall material		
Bamboo with mud	67.3	50.0**
Bricks and cement	24.0	25.0
Roofing material		
Metal/galvanized sheet	81.7	38.3
Cement	9.3	25.7
Thatch/palm leaf	5.0	18.0
Flooring material		
Rudimentary	81.3	66.7
Concrete	9.3	25.3
Dwelling unit		
House	88.7	91.7
Straw hut	11.3	8.3
Household tenure		
Government-owned land	38.3	23.7
Owner	21.3	33.0
Staying in family-owned house	21.3	17.0
Co-owner	18.7	18.0
Rooms used in the household		
One room	44.0	36.3
Two room	40.7	41.7
Three or more	15.3	22.0
Household density		
<=1	7.3	9.7
>2	92.7	90.3

Place for cooking		
No kitchen facility at home	6.3	6.0
No separate kitchen facility at home	55.0	38.0
Separate kitchen facility at home	38.7	56.0
Cooking fuel		
Firewood	54.0	58.7
Dung cake	28.7	19.3
Liquified petroleum gas	1.0	13.3
Straw	16.3	8.7
Lighting fuel		
Electricity	98.3	98.3
Able to buy hygiene products	82.0	68.3
Observations	**300**	**300**

TABLE 2.6

Household characteristics, by intervention and control group

Household Information	Intervention (%)	Control (%)
Housing Characteristics		
Exterior wall material		
Bamboo with mud	67.3	50.0
Bricks and cement	16.0	33.0
Roofing material		
Metal/galvanized sheet	58.0	62.0
Cement	11.3	23.7
Thatch/palm leaf	19.0	4.0
Flooring material		
Rudimentary	80.7	67.3
Concrete	10.3	24.3
Dwelling unit		
House	82.0	98.3
Straw hut	18.0	1.7
Household tenure		
Government-owned land	42.0	20.0
Owner	17.7	36.7
Staying in family-owned house	17.3	21.0
Co-owner	15.0	21.7

Household Information	Intervention (%)	Control (%)
Rooms used in the household		
One room	51.3	29.0
Two room	33.3	49.0
Three or more	15.3	22.0
Household density		
<=1	8.0	9.0
>2	92.0	91.0
Place for cooking		
No kitchen facility at home	7.0	5.3
No separate kitchen facility at home	56.0	37.0
Separate kitchen facility at home	37.0	57.7
Cooking fuel		
Firewood	68.0	44.7
Dung cake	17.3	30.7
LPG	4.3	10.0
Straw	10.3	14.7
Lighting fuel		
Electricity	98.3	98.3
Able to buy hygiene products	63.7	86.7
Observations	**300**	**300**

2.2.3 Household Sanitation Facilities

Improved toilet facilities include various types of non-shared toilets, such as flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems, septic tanks and pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs; and composting toilets.

TABLE 2.7

Household sanitation facilities, by district

Type of Toilet/Latrine Facility	District	
	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)
Improved sanitation	37.0	57.7
Flush to septic tank	7.3	17.0
Flush to pit latrine	11.7	38.3
Pit latrine with slab	18.0	2.3

Unimproved sanitation	63.0	42.3
Shared facility	9.3	13.0
Flush to septic tank	1.3	1.0
Flush to pit latrine	5.3	12.0
Pit latrine with slab	2.7	0.0
Open defecation	**53.7**	**29.3**
Observations	**300**	**300**

Use of improved toilet facilities, which are individual facilities that prevent direct contact with human waste, play an important role in mitigating the spread of infectious diseases like cholera and typhoid. The data reveals that only 37 per cent of households in Saptari use improved sanitation, while 54 per cent defecate openly. In comparison, 58 per cent of the households in Siraha used improved sanitation and 29 per cent defecate openly *(Table 2.7)*.

TABLE 2.8

Household sanitation facilities, by intervention and control group

Household Information	Intervention (%)	Control (%)
Type of toilet/latrine facility		
Improved sanitation	38.3	56.3
Unimproved sanitation	61.7	43.7
Shared facility	10.3	12.0
Open defecation/no toilet/bush/field	51.3	31.7
Observations	**300**	**300**

Between the intervention and control villages, a higher proportion of households in intervention villages defecate openly compared to control villages (51 per cent vs. 32 per cent) *(Table 2.8)*.

2.2.4 Household Drinking Water

In both Saptari and Siraha districts, as well as in both the intervention and control villages, the primary source of drinking water is tube wells or boreholes *(Table 2.9 and Table 2.10)*. Most households have access to water within their own compound or in close proximity to their compound. Specifically, 89 per cent of households in Saptari, 91 per cent in Siraha, 83 per cent in intervention villages and 98 per cent in control villages have water available on their own compound or nearby *(Table 2.9 and Table 2.10)*.

TABLE 2.9

Household drinking water, by district

Source and Location of Drinking Water	District	
	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)
Improved source		
Tube well or borehole	100.0	100.0
Location of the main source of drinking water		
Compound/nearby the compound	89.3	91
Observations	**300**	**300**

TABLE 2.10

Household drinking water, by intervention and control group

Household Information	Intervention (%)	Control (%)
Improved source of drinking water		
Tube well or borehole	100.0	100.0
Location of the main source of drinking water		
Compound/nearby the compound	82.7	97.7
Observations	**300**	**300**

2.2.5 Distance to the Nearest Facilities

Table 2.11 shows that approximately 58 per cent of households in both districts can access transport facilities within a 15-minute distance. However, a higher percentage of households in control villages (74 per cent) have the convenience of reaching transport facilities within this timeframe compared to intervention villages (41 per cent) *(Table 2.12)*. Regarding market accessibility, a significant proportion of households in Siraha (71 per cent) reported that the distance to the nearest market is within one kilometre, whereas in Saptari, this figure is significantly lower at four percent. Similarly, in terms of proximity to health facilities, only 28 per cent of households in Saptari reported that a health facility is within one kilometre, while a higher percentage of households in Siraha (65 per cent) reported such proximity to health facilities *(Table 2.11)*.

TABLE 2.11

Distance to nearest facility, by district

Facilities	District	
	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)
Households with transport facility within 15 minutes	57.3	58.0
Households within 1 km distance to main road	62.3	62.7
Households within 1 km distance to market	3.7	71.3
Households within 1 km distance to community hall	78.0	85.3
Households within 1 km distance to school	82.7	83.3
Households within 1 km distance to health facility	28.0	64.7
Households within 1 km distance to pharmacy	78.0	85.3
Observations	**300**	**300**

TABLE 2.12

Distance to nearest facility, by intervention and control group

Household Information	Intervention (%)	Control (%)
Distance to the nearest facility		
Households with transport facility within 15 minutes	41.0	74.3
Households within 1 km distance to main road	44.3	80.7
Households within 1 km distance to market	29.0	46.0
Households within 1 km distance to community hall	87.0	76.3
Households within 1 km distance to school	71.3	94.7
Households within 1 km distance to health facility	40.0	52.7
Households within 1 km distance to pharmacy	87.0	76.3
Observations	**300**	**300**

2.2.6 Household Income

Approximately 30 per cent of Nepal's gross domestic product relies on remittance money sent by Nepalis working abroad. This trend is particularly prominent in the Terai region and rural households, where 30 per cent of income is derived from remittances. This reliance on remittances is a result of various employment challenges in Nepal,[11] with outmigration being a significant factor that has led to a labour shortages in the region. The Terai

[11] Sah BN. Remittance and Economic Development of Nepal. Patan Pragya 2019; 5:196–208. https://doi.org/10.3126/pragya.v5i1.30475.

region, once known as Nepal's breadbasket, has seen a shift in its means of sustenance, with remittances now serving as the primary source of livelihood.

The baseline study also confirms this pattern, as households in the Terai belt and predominantly rural areas depend heavily on remittance income. According to *Figure 2.1*, remittances serve as the primary source of income for 40 per cent of households, followed by unskilled wage labour in non-agricultural sectors at 26 per cent. As for the second income source, unskilled wage labour in agriculture and small-scale agricultural production take precedence, accounting for 27 per cent. Among the few households with a third income source, unskilled wage labour in agriculture remains the predominant choice, making up 11 per cent.

FIGURE 2.2

Household income distribution, by type of work or income

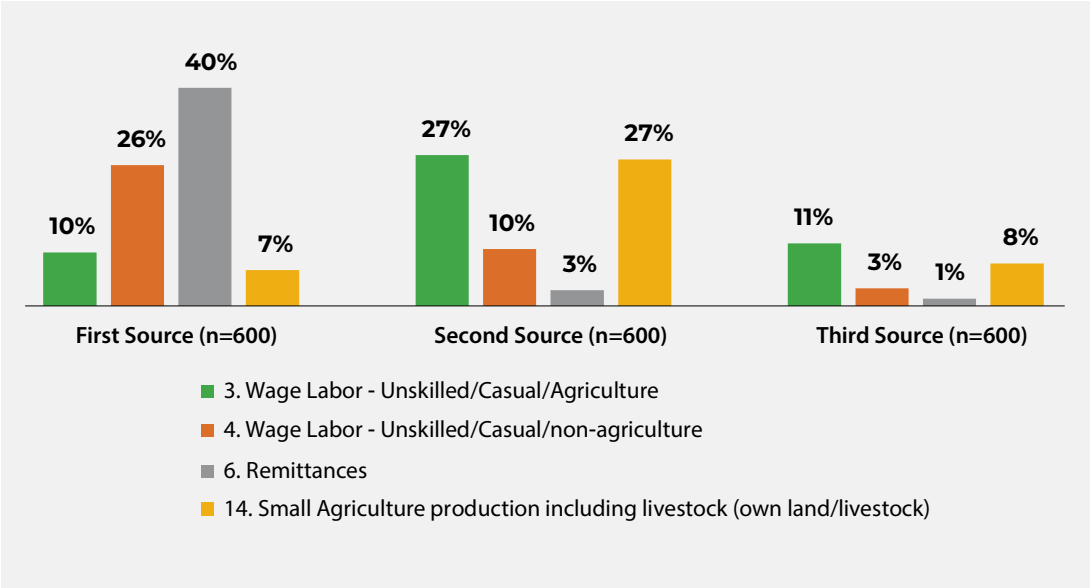


Figure 2.2 suggests that most households have a monthly income falling within the range of 10,000 to 20,000 NPR (34 per cent). In Saptari, a significant proportion of households (38 per cent) have a monthly income ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 NPR, while in Siraha, most households (33 per cent) have a monthly income exceeding 30,000 NPR. Around 16 per cent of households have a monthly income below 10,000 NPR. When considering women's contributions to household income, approximately half of women contribute 20 per cent or less *(Figure 2.3)*.

FIGURE 2.3

Household income distribution, by district

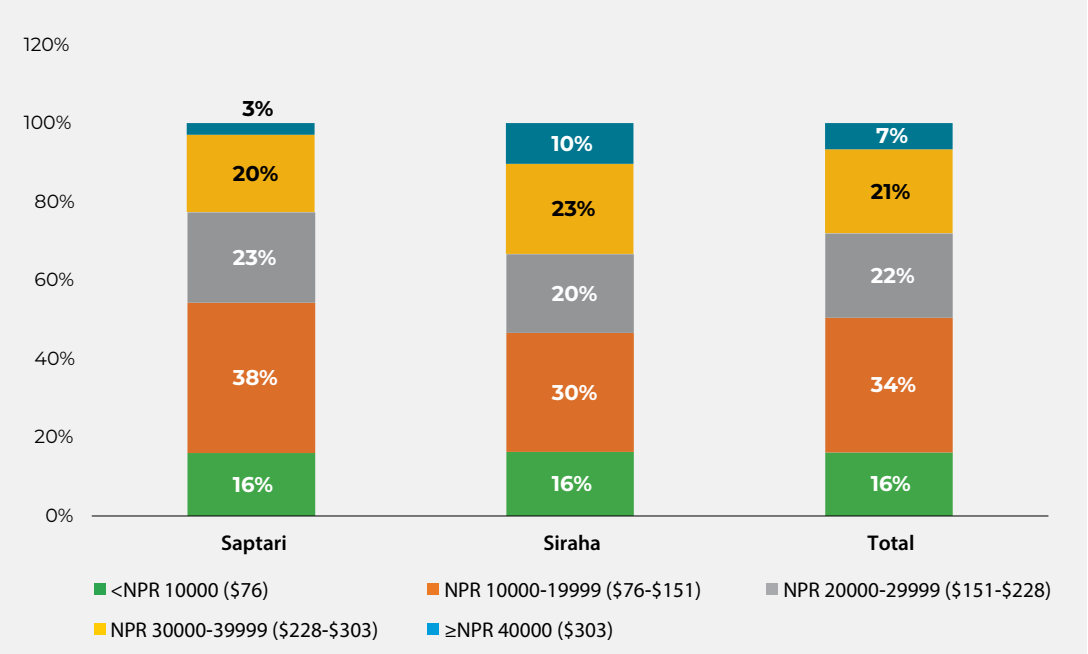
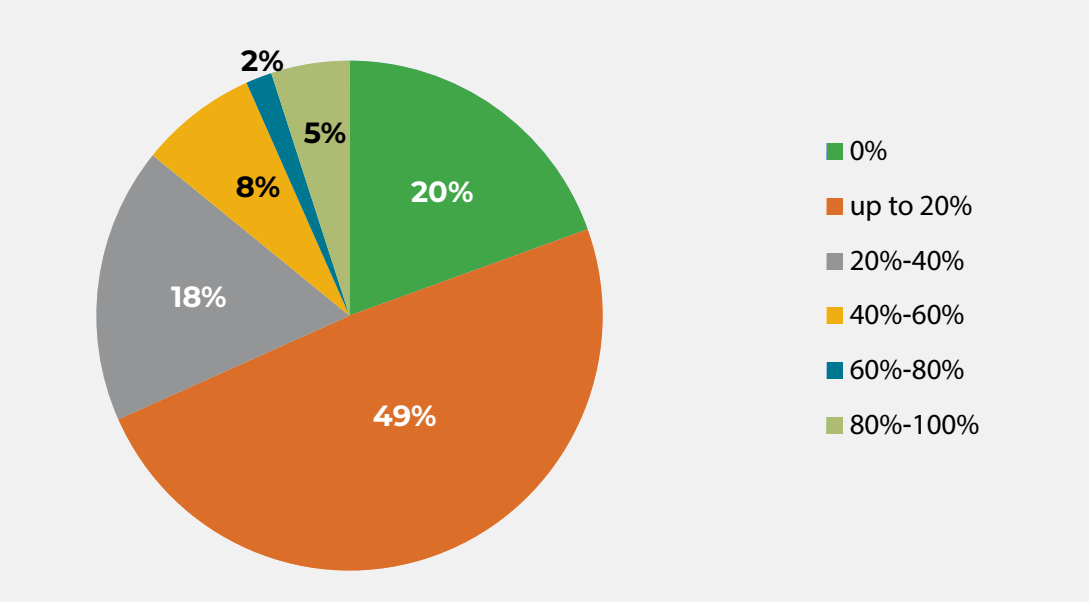


FIGURE 2.4

Women's contribution to household income



Around one-fifth of women do not contribute to the household income at all, while five per cent contribute most of their incomes to the household income. It is noteworthy that income distribution within dual households show a higher concentration in the low-income range, whereas single households skewed towards the high-income range *(Figure 2.4)*. In most of the single/female-headed households, men work abroad as migrant workers and send home remittances, which might have boosted the overall household income.

Likewise, the income distribution within Dalit communities is more prominent in the lower-income bracket, while other Madhesi castes skewed towards the high-income bracket *(Figure 2.5)*.

FIGURE 2.5

Income distribution, by type of household

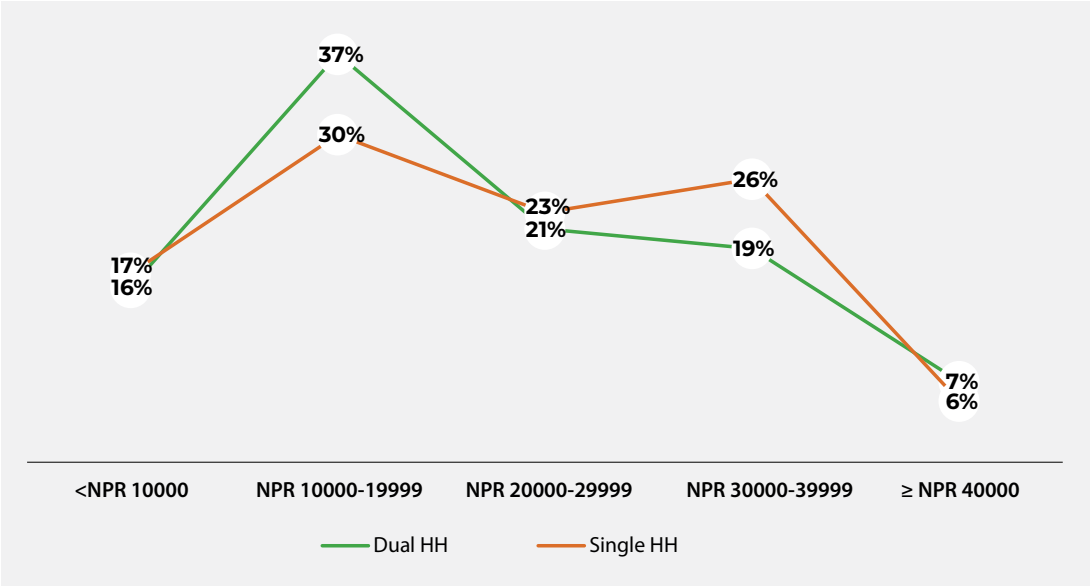
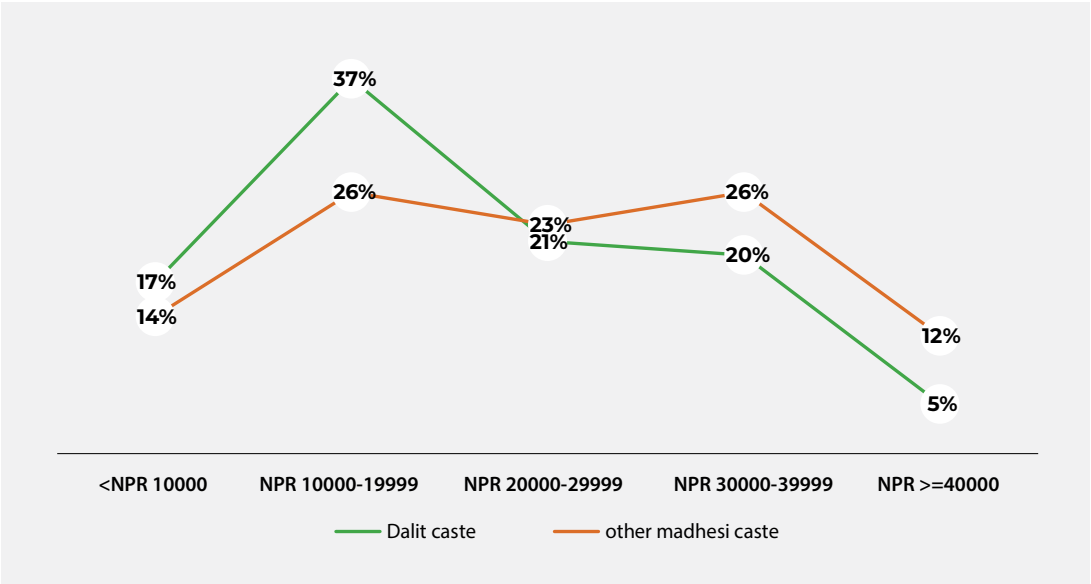


FIGURE 2.6

Income distribution, by ethnicity



3 FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE (FIES)

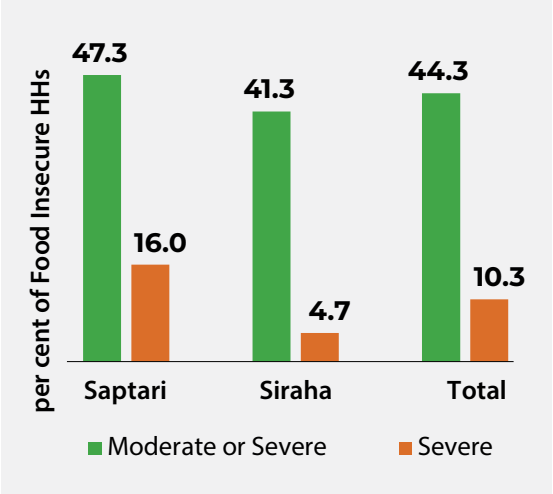
This section outlines the survey's findings in terms of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) at the household level, followed by the individual respondent level. The FIES is a measurement tool developed by the FAO to assess food insecurity at the household or individual level. The FIES methodology typically uses eight questions or statements (abbreviated as worried, healthy, few foods, skipped, ate less, run out, hungry and whole day[12]) meant to capture the experiences of the respondents related to food insecurity in the past 12 months. The questions cover issues such as worrying about running out of food, reduced quality or variety of meals and going without eating due to lack of resources. Each response was coded 1 (meaning the experience was indeed realized) or 0 (no such experience was realized). Following the standard FIES methodology, two questions (worried and healthy) were dropped in the household-level analysis and two questions (worried and few foods) were dropped in the individual (respondent) level analyses, as the associated infit and outfit statistics were out of acceptable range. Necessary equating was done to make the results comparable across different populations and countries.

FIES Results at the Household Level

Out of the 300 treatment households that were administered the FIES module, 44 per cent were found to have experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, and 10 per cent were found to have experienced severe food insecurity. Between districts, Saptari experienced higher food insecurity than Siraha by six percentage points in terms of moderate or severe food insecurity and by eleven percentage points in terms of severe food insecurity *(Figure 3.1)*.

FIGURE 3.1

Household FIES

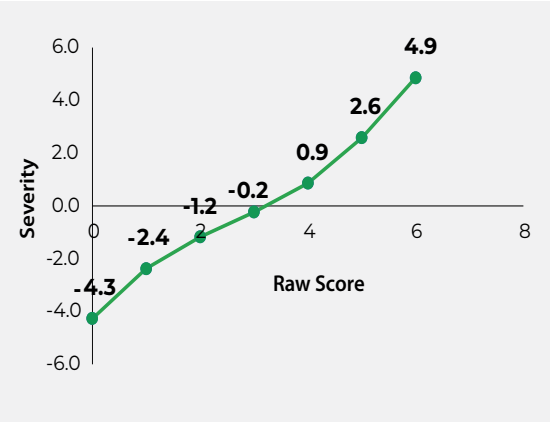


[12] Please refer to the survey questionnaire for the complete FIES questions/ statements.

As *Figure 3.2* shows, the severity of food insecurity increases with the raw scores (total "yes" responses by the households to the six FIES questions used in the scale after excluding the two questions based on fit statistics). As can be discerned from the figure, the difference in the severity between the neighbouring raw scores decreases up to a raw score of 3, and then increases gradually. In other words, the severities are relatively more alike at the middle raw scores than at the extreme raw scores.

FIGURE 3.2

Food insecurity severity and raw scores



Across income groups (measured by a household's monthly income in the past month), it is evident that the prevalence of both moderate or severe and severe food insecurities decrease as the household's income rises, with the former (moderate or severe) declining at a faster rate *(Figure 3.3)*. As *Figure 3.4* shows, food insecurity, particularly severe food insecurity, is more prevalent among larger household sizes. When examined in relation to a household's FES, food insecurity shows a mixed trend as the FES increases, showing a falling and rising trend *(Figure 3.5)*. This peculiar pattern can be partly explained by the data, which indicate that most of the low-income households (which are more food insecure) have higher FES, whereas a majority of the high-income households (which are less food insecure) have lower FES. Additionally, while moderate or severe food insecurity is slightly higher (by seven percentage points) among dual households (with both male and female adults present), severe food insecurity is marginally higher among the single/female-headed households (with no male adults) by two percentage points *(Figure 3.6)*. It should be noted that ambiguous patterns in some of these findings may have been influenced, among other factors, by the small sample size. Lastly, in terms of ethnicity, moderate or severe food insecurity and severe food insecurity is higher among Dalit castes (54 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively) compared to other Madhesi castes (29 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively) *(Figure 3.7)*.

FIGURE 3.3

FIES vs. HH income

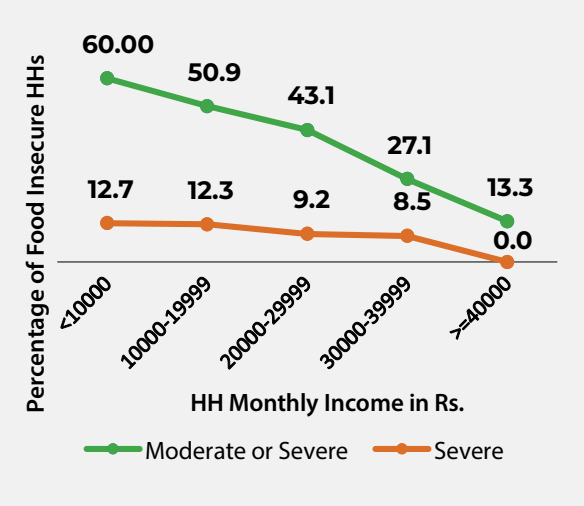


FIGURE 3.4

FIES vs. Household Size

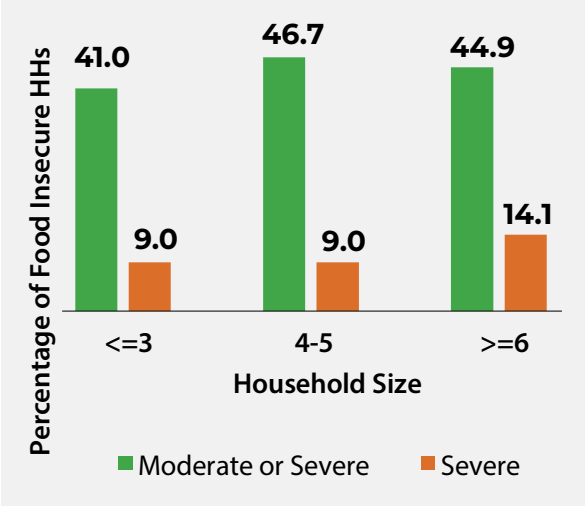


FIGURE 3.5

FIES vs. Food Expenditures Share

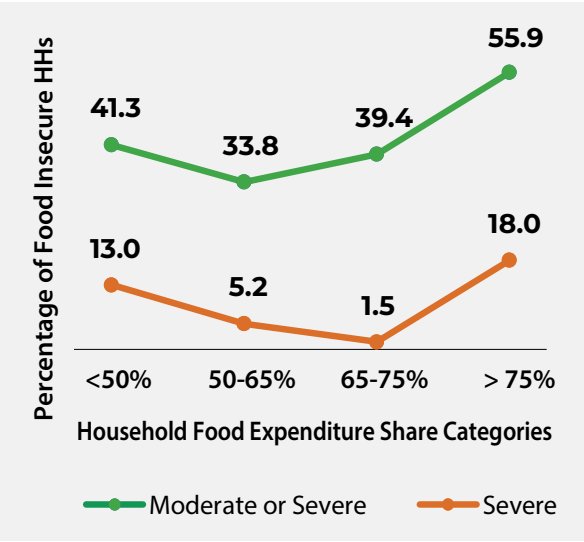


FIGURE 3.6

FIES vs. Type of Household

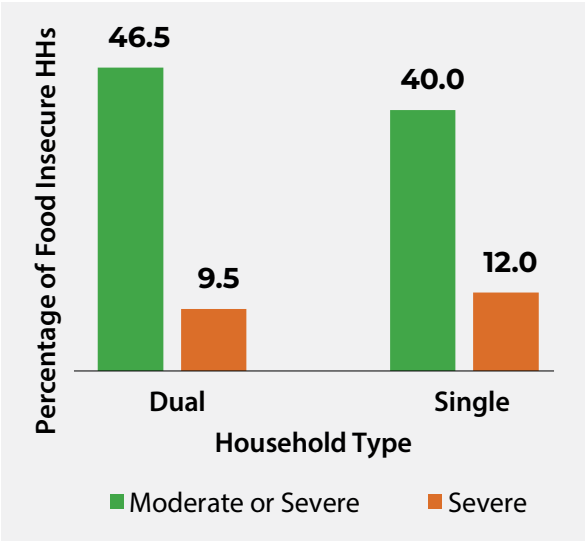
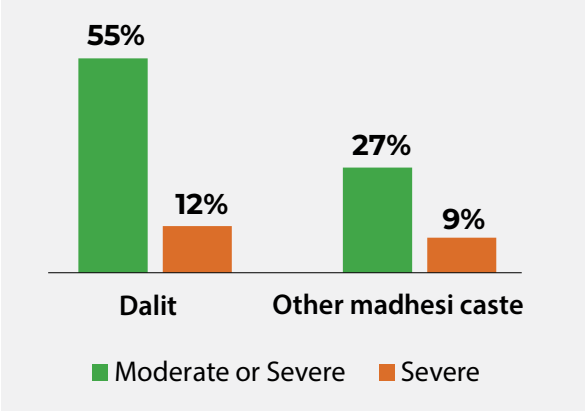


FIGURE 3.7

FIES, by ethnicity

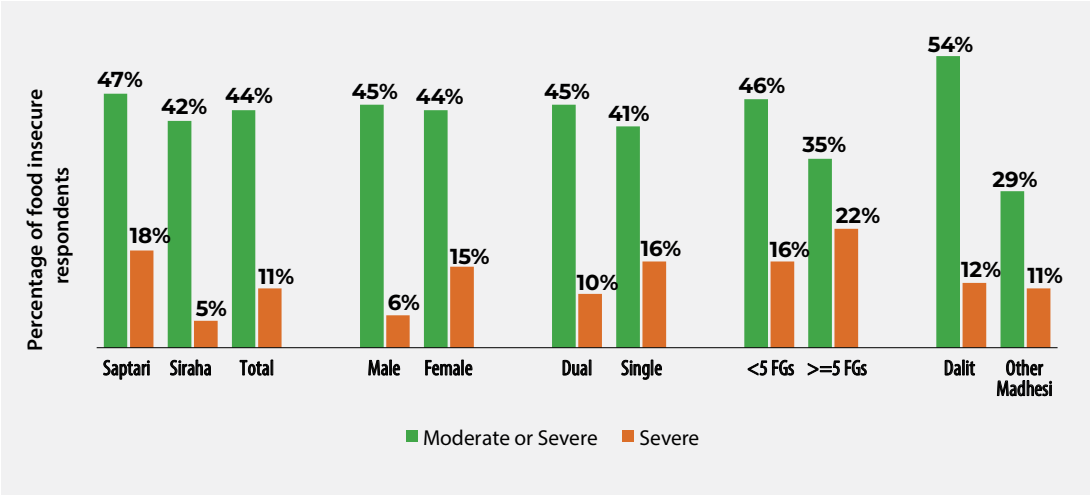


FIES Results at Individual Level

Out of the 500 individuals (300 female and 200 male) respondents who were administered the FIES module, 44 per cent were found to have moderate or severe food insecurity, and 11 per cent were found to have severe food insecurity. These results are very similar to the results at the household level *(Figure 3.8)*.

FIGURE 3.8

Individual-level FIES, by different categories and ethnicity



Individuals in Saptari experienced higher food insecurity than individuals in Siraha by five percentage points in terms of moderate or severe food insecurity and by thirteen percentage points in terms of severe food insecurity *(Figure 3.8)*. Women experience similar moderate or severe food insecurity as men but have much higher severe food insecurity (15 per cent versus 6 per cent). Similarly, women in single/female-headed households have higher severe food insecurity (16 per cent versus 10 per cent) than the male and female respondents in dual households.

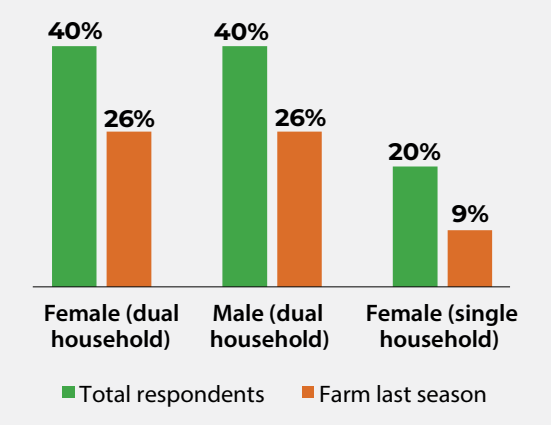
Lastly, out of the 235 women whose information on dietary diversity was available, those who are more dietary diverse (consumed five or more food groups during the previous day) have lower moderate or severe food insecurity but higher severe food insecurity. This ambiguous and somewhat counterintuitive finding may be partly attributed to the very small proportion (16 per cent) of women who consumed more than five food groups, while majority (84 per cent) consumed less than five food groups.

4 AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION RESULTS

SAMS Sub Module B1, focused on Crops Cultivated and Yields, was exclusively applied to intervention villages and primary respondents. For secondary respondents of dual households who reported their involvement in household decision-making regarding staple grain farming or high-value cash crop farming in the Pro-WEAI module, the data from SAMS Sub Module B1 was replicated for analysis purposes. Out of the 500 respondents, 40 per cent are male respondents and 40 per cent are female respondents from dual households, and 20 per cent are female respondents from single/female-headed households. Twenty six percent of female and male respondents from dual households, and nine percent of female respondents from single/female-headed households, were involved in farming in the past 12 months *(Figure 4.1)*.

FIGURE 4.1

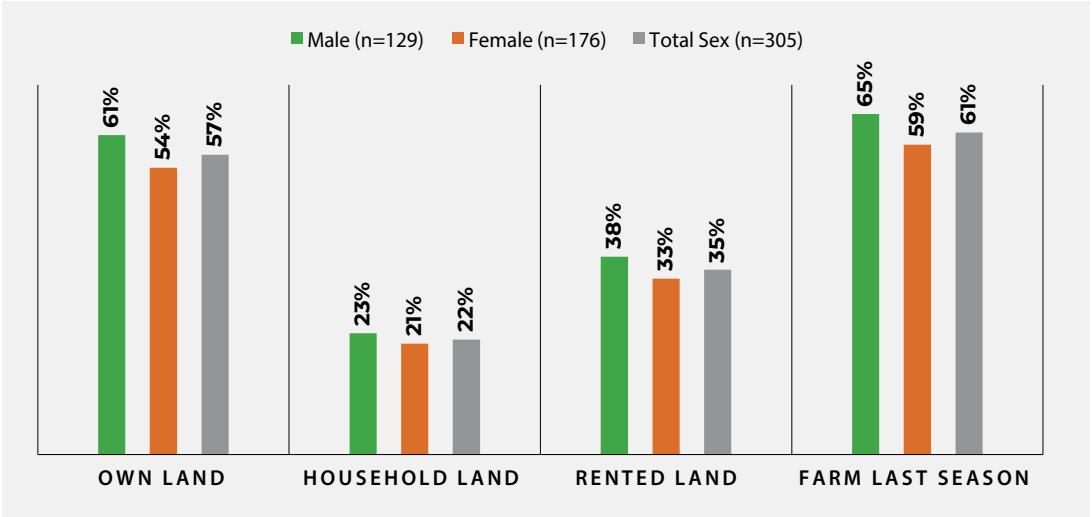
Farmer's Profile



Additionally, the baseline survey indicated that approximately three-fifths of the respondents owned land for farming or cultivation. A slightly higher percentage of male respondents own land for cultivation compared to female

FIGURE 4.2

Ownership of land and cultivation during the last season



respondents. Notably, the ownership to land is mostly through rental (38 per cent among men and 33 per cent among women), while only 23 per cent men and 21 per cent women are farming on their own household land.

On average, smallholder farmers in the surveyed areas possessed 12.79 katha (1.06 acres) of land, ranging from one katha (0.083 acres) to 2.40 bigha (four acres). A significant proportion of farmers (35 per cent) cultivated two types of crops, while 26 per cent focused on a single type of crop and 11 per cent focused on three types of crops. Given that rice is a staple food in Nepal, it is unsurprising that paddy was the most commonly grown crop. Among households who were engaged in cultivation, nearly all households in Saptari cultivated paddy in the past 12 months. Following paddy, wheat emerged as the second most cultivated crop, with 70 per cent of farmers in Siraha growing it. Additionally, lentils, oilseeds, potatoes and onions were also found to be cultivated by farmers in both Saptari and Siraha. Notably, farmers in Siraha cultivated a higher proportion of wheat, lentils, oilseeds, potatoes and onions compared to farmers in Saptari *(Table 4.1)*.

TABLE 4.1

Types of crops planted in the past 12 months

Crop type	Saptari			Siraha		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Paddy	100%	99%	99%	91%	93%	92%
Wheat	53%	48%	51%	73%	68%	70%
Lentil	21%	17%	18%	64%	57%	60%
Potato	5%	5%	5%	46%	42%	44%
Oilseed	4%	5%	5%	36%	27%	31%
Onion	0%	1%	1%	20%	21%	20%
Black gram	0%	0%	0%	13%	11%	12%
Pigeon pea	0%	0%	0%	7%	9%	8%
Maize	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Others	3%	2%	2%	9%	11%	10%

Table 4.2 presents the yield data for commonly grown crops. The average yield for paddy is 2.63 metric tons per hectare. Similarly, the average yield for wheat is 1.22 metric tons per hectare. Additionally, *Table 4.3* shows the volume and value of sales for paddy and wheat, which are the most sold crops by farmers. It is noted that only 32 per cent of farmers sold paddy, at an average price of 24.76 NPR (approximately 19 cents) per kilogram and the average earnings from paddy sales amounted to 17,451.11 NPR (approximately USD 131) for a

season. As for wheat, only 17 per cent of farmers sold it at an average price of 38.88 NPR (approximately 29 cents) per kilogram, and the average earnings from wheat sales amounted to 11,732.35 NPR per season.

TABLE 4.2

Yields per crop, by gender of the smallholder farmer.

Crops	n	Average yield in tons/hectares (Male)	n	Average yield in tons/ hectares (Female)
Paddy	123	2.579	164	2.597
Wheat	80	1.13	98	1.216
Lentil	52	0.229	59	0.242
Potato	30	5.003	38	4.403
Oilseed	23	0.186	27	0.181
Onion	11	2.088	18	2.243

TABLE 4.3

Volume and value of sales

Crops	n	Average price in kg (Male)	n	Average price in kg (Female)	Total earnings (Male)	Total earnings (Female)
Paddy	40	23.675	51	25.00	19,899.00	17,822.75
Wheat	14	39.357	17	38.88	12,853.57	11,732.35

5 MINIMUM DIETARY DIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

In this study, a total of 235 women were eligible for MDD-W: 129 women from Saptari and 106 from Siraha. The questionnaire was administered exclusively to respondents from intervention villages. The baseline study focused on assessing the consumption of 10 different food groups to determine this indicator. The information was captured through a 24-hour dietary recall, and a woman was recognized as achieving minimum diet diversity if she consumed at least five food groups out of 10 in the past 24 hours.

TABLE 5.1

Aggregation to determine MDD-W of reproductive age

10 food groups in MDD-W		Groups/items/rows on questionnaire
1.	Grains, plantains, and white roots and tubers	Food made from grains
		White roots and tubers and plantains
2.	Pulses	Pulses (beans, peas, lentils)
3.	Nuts and seeds	Nuts and seeds
4.	Dairy	Milk and milk products
5.	Meat, poultry and fish	Organ meat
		Meat and poultry
		Fish and seafood
6.	Eggs	Eggs
7.	Dark green leafy vegetables	Dark green leafy vegetables
8.	Other vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables	Vitamin A-rich vegetables, roots and tubers
		Vitamin A-rich fruits
9.	Other vegetables	Other vegetables
10.	Other fruits	Other fruits

Regrettably, the findings indicate that a mere 16 per cent women were able to attain the recommended minimum dietary diversity, as illustrated in *Figure 5.1*. There is no difference observed between women in Saptari and Siraha in terms of achieving minimum dietary diversity, as both districts have the same percentage of 16 per cent.

Most women between the ages of 18 and 49 had diets consisting of foods from three food groups (31 per cent), followed by two food groups (29 per cent), four food groups (21 per cent) and five food groups (11 per cent) *(Figure 5.2)*. Additionally, all women included grains, plantains, and white roots and tubers in their diet, while 73 per cent consumed pulses and 45 per cent consumed dark green leafy vegetables. In contrast, only 26 per cent consumed other vegetables; 23 per cent consumed dairy and dairy products; 20 per cent consumed meat, poultry and fish; and 20 per cent consumed fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin A. A small percentage – around five percent – consumed nuts and seeds, eggs and other fruits *(Figure 5.3)*.

FIGURE 5.1

Percentage of rural women who consumed more than five groups of food

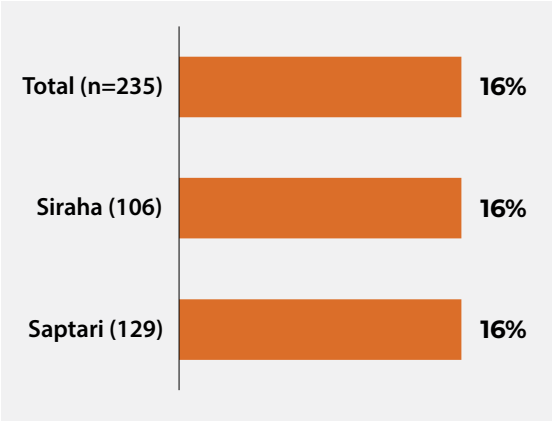


FIGURE 5.2

Percentage of food groups consumption

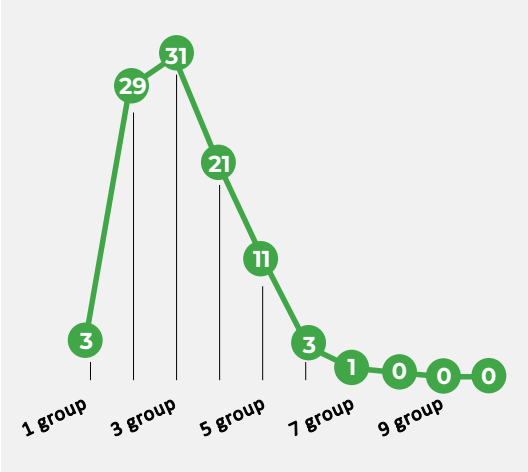
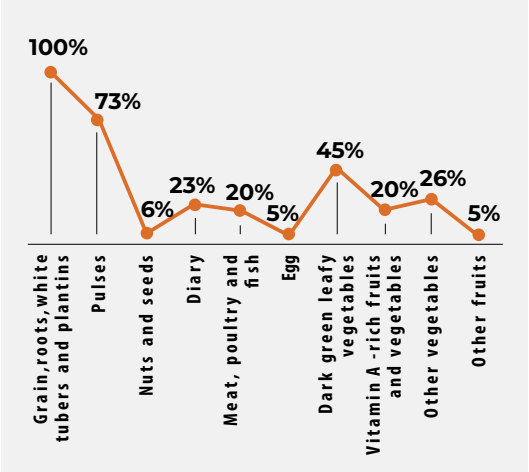


FIGURE 5.3

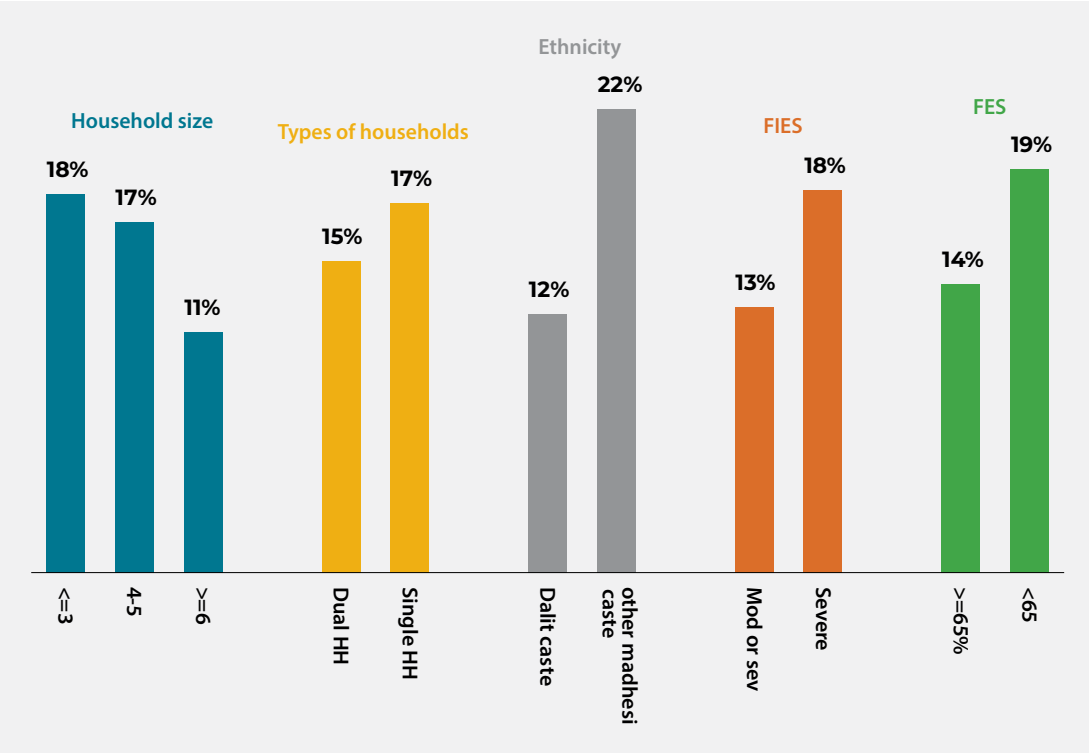
Percentage of women's consumption per food type



When the minimum dietary diversity indicator is disaggregated based on household size, type of household, ethnicity, FIES and FES, the difference based on these variables on achievement of minimum diet diversity is very slight, as shown in *Figure 5.4*. The data show that the percentage of women consuming five or more food groups decreases with increase in household size by seven percentage points. Similarly, more women from other Madhesi castes have achieved minimum dietary diversity (22 per cent) than Dalit women (12 per cent). Also, there is a six-percentage point difference between women with moderate to severe food insecurity and no food insecurity.

FIGURE 5.4

Percentage of women consuming five or more food groups, by household size, type of household, ethnicity, FIES and FES



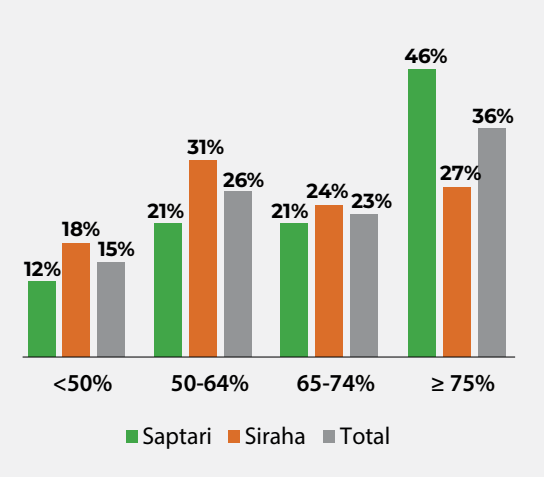
6 HOUSEHOLD FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE

HFES is an indicator used to measure the economic vulnerability of households. When a higher proportion of a household's consumption expenditures is allocated toward food (out of their total consumption expenditure), the greater the household's vulnerability to food insecurity.[13] In this survey, data on households' consumption expenditure was collected through three submodules: a food submodule (seven-day recall), a non-food submodule (30-day recall) and a non-food submodule (six-month recall). The non-food submodule, 30-day recall is used to collect information about less frequent but regular purchases like transportation, fuel, water supply, electricity, etc., while the non-food submodule, six-month recall is used to collect information about less frequent and occasional purchases like clothing, footwear, kitchen equipment, health services, etc. The FES indicator was constructed by dividing the total food expenditures by the total household expenditures. The guidelines provided by the WFP was used to construct this variable.[14] The FES was organized into four categories: households spending less than 50 per cent, 50 per cent to 64 per cent, 65 per cent to 74 per cent and more than or equal to 75 per cent of their total household expenditure on food. The percentage of households spending more than 65 per cent of their monthly budget on food are considered economically vulnerable.

Among the households in the intervention villages, the findings revealed that 36 per cent of them allocated more than or equal to 75 per cent of their household income to food. Notably, Saptari district had the highest percentage of households (46 per cent) spending more than or equal to 75 per cent of their income on food. The findings indicate that 59 per cent of the households allocated 65 per cent or more of their income towards food expenses. Notably, in Saptari, households spent a higher percentage compared to those in Siraha (67 per cent versus 51 per cent) *(Figure 6.1)*.

FIGURE 6.1

Household Food expenditure share



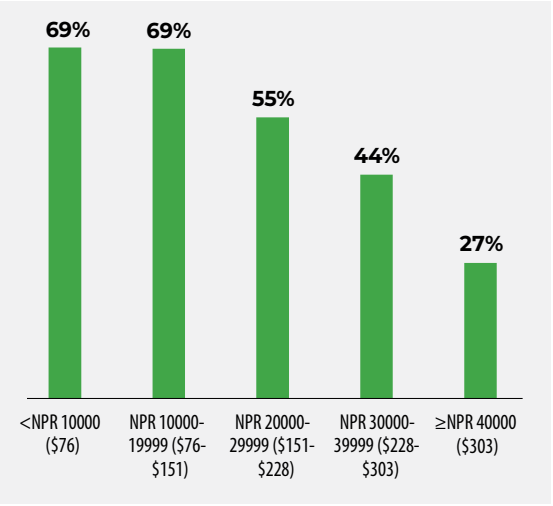
[13] Food Expenditure Share. https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/food-expenditure-share

[14] https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/technical-guidance-for-the-consolidated-approach-for-reporting-indicators-of-food-security-cari

The difference between the proportion of households spending greater than or equal to 65 per cent on food does not vary between dual and single/female-headed households. Almost three-fifths of both dual and single/female-headed households are found to be spending more than or equal to 65 per cent of their budget on food. Households with lower monthly incomes tend to allocate a larger proportion of their income towards food expenses, with 65 per cent or more of their income being spent on food (69 per cent). On the other hand, households with higher incomes allocate a smaller proportion of their income to food expenses, with only 27 per cent being spent on food *(Figure 6.2)*. However, when disaggregated based on ethnicity, Dalits are highly likely to spend more than or equal to 65 per cent of their budget on food (66 per cent) compared to other Madhesi castes (48 per cent) *(Figure 6.4)*.

FIGURE 6.2

Percentage of Household with FES of 65% and above, by household income



The study reveals a negative correlation between the share of expenditure on food and the total monthly income of the households. As the monthly income of the household increases, the proportion of income spent on food decreases. Conversely, as the monthly income of the household decreases, the proportion of income spent on food increases. This correlation is statistically significant, indicating a strong relationship between income and food expenditure.

FIGURE 6.3

Percentage of Household with FES of 65% and above, by household type

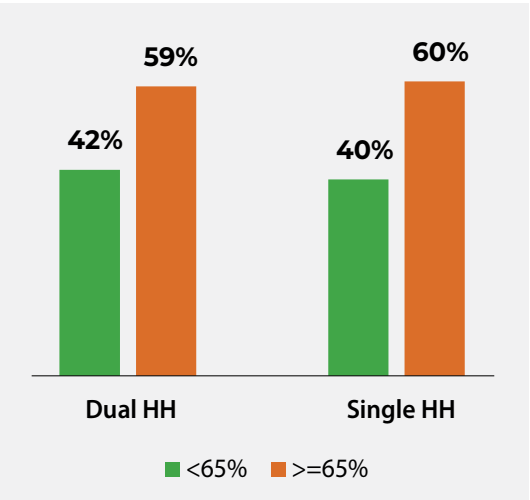
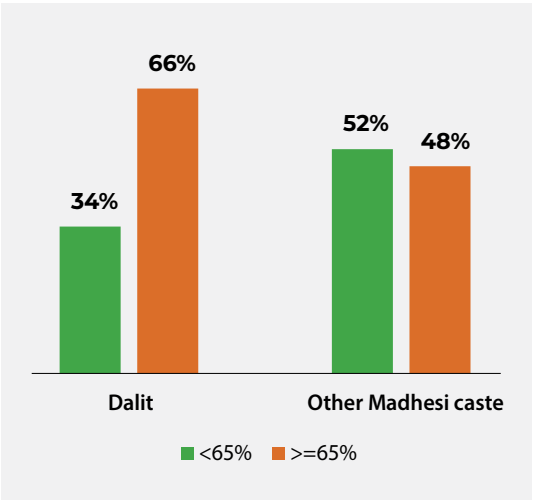


FIGURE 6.4

Percentage of Household with FES of 65% and above, by ethnicity



7 OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

The module on off-farm employment and business activity was used to assess the extent of non-agricultural involvement and the income generated from such activities by the participants in the study. This module was specifically administered to respondents in the intervention villages. Off-farm employment is defined here as all the remunerative work that individuals perform away from their own farms. These are divided into four main categories: casual labor, long-term salaried employment, self-employment in non-farm enterprises (e.g., petty trade, transport services, handicrafts production), and self-employment in natural resource extraction (e.g., collecting firewood, fishing).

FIGURE 7.1

Engagement in off-farm employment, by gender

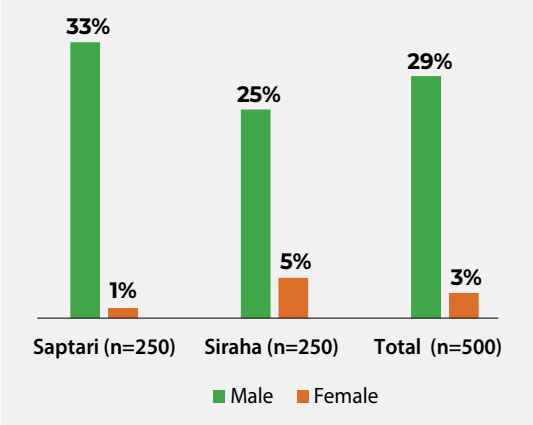


FIGURE 7.2

Types of off-farm employment

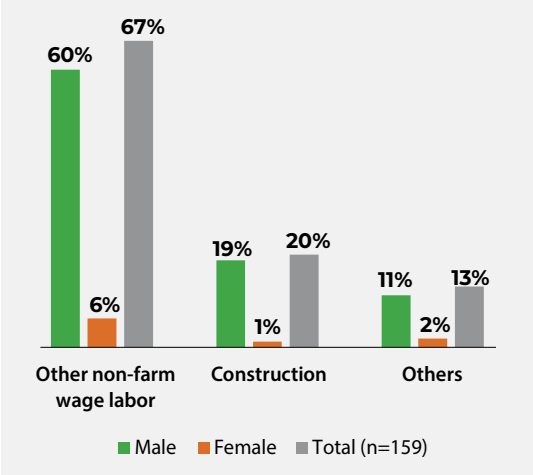


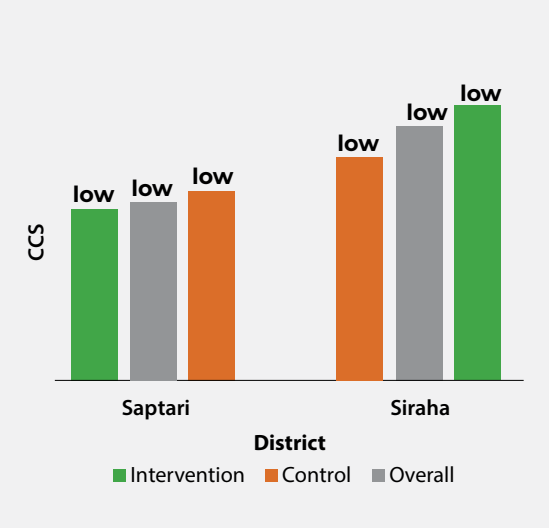
Figure 7.1 illustrates that only 32 per cent of the survey participants are currently engaged in off-farm employment. Notably, a higher percentage of men (29 per cent) are involved in off-farm employment compared to women (3 per cent). Slightly more men from Saptari (33 per cent) are engaged in these activities compared to men from Siraha (25 per cent). Furthermore, it should be noted that among the respondents, there were 13 individuals who were already employed in one occupation but are also found to be engaged in a second employment (specific details of this data are not shown here). Among those who were involved in paid employment, the majority (67 per cent) reported being engaged in non-farm wage labour, while 20 per cent were involved in construction work. Additionally, the data reveal that the average annual income from off-farm employment for men is more than double that of women. Specifically, men earned an average of 93,951.38 NPR annually, while women earned 39,806.67 NPR annually. Apart from this, two percent of men and women were also found to be engaged in self-employment. They had opened their own shops, engaging in petty trade or food and beverage services. Among them, two were also found to be engaged in a second business of their own. The profit turnover from their first business averaged 8,088.24 NPR per month: 8,611.11 NPR per month for men and 7,500 NPR per month for women annually (specific details of this data are not provided in this context).

8 CLIMATE CAPACITY SCORE RESULTS

The CCS assesses a community's ability to effectively handle and mitigate the impacts of climate-related shocks and risks. The indicator examines five thematic areas: (a) access to climate/weather information; (b) use of climate resilient livelihoods practices; (c) climate-resilient assets protecting the community against climate related shocks; (d) access to risk transfer mechanisms (micro-insurance); and (e) access to contingency funding mechanisms. Each sampled community is assigned a CCS value ranging from 0 to 15. To calculate this score, responses to five thematic questions were collected, which encompassed a total of 19 sub-questions. The sub-questions for each theme require "Yes," "No," or "Not applicable (NA)" responses. A "Yes" response received the score of 1, a "No" response received 0 and a "NA" response was considered missing. Each of the five thematic areas was scored from 0 to 3, following the CCS methodology so that the maximum total score possible for each community is 53 = 15. A total score of less than 5 is categorized as "Low CCS," a score greater than 5 and less than 10 is categorized as "Medium CCS" and a score of 10 or above is categorized as "High CCS."

FIGURE 8.1

CCS



During the baseline assessment, CCS was examined in a total of ten communities (three treatment and two control villages per district and one community per village). The ten communities in Siraha are: former Gautadi VDC 8 and Khola tole in Karjanha municipality, former Itaharwa VDC 4 and Patana tole in Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality and Pokharbinda/ Parsa tole in Laxmipur Patari rural municipality. In Saptari, the communities are: Musahar tole, Khatway tole, Muslim tole and former Kochabhakari VDC 9 in Chhinnamasta rural municipality, and Roy tole in Tilathikoiladi rural municipality. In each community, the questionnaire was administered to two local community leaders or knowledgeable individuals. The findings reveal that the overall CCS is 2.6 in Saptari and 3.7 in Siraha, putting both districts in the low CCS category. Considering the treatment status within the districts, treatment and control communities fared somewhat similarly in Saptari, while treatment communities (with a score of 4.0) showed a slightly better situation than control communities (with a score of 3.25) in Siraha *(Figure 8.1)*.

FIGURE 8.2

CCS categories

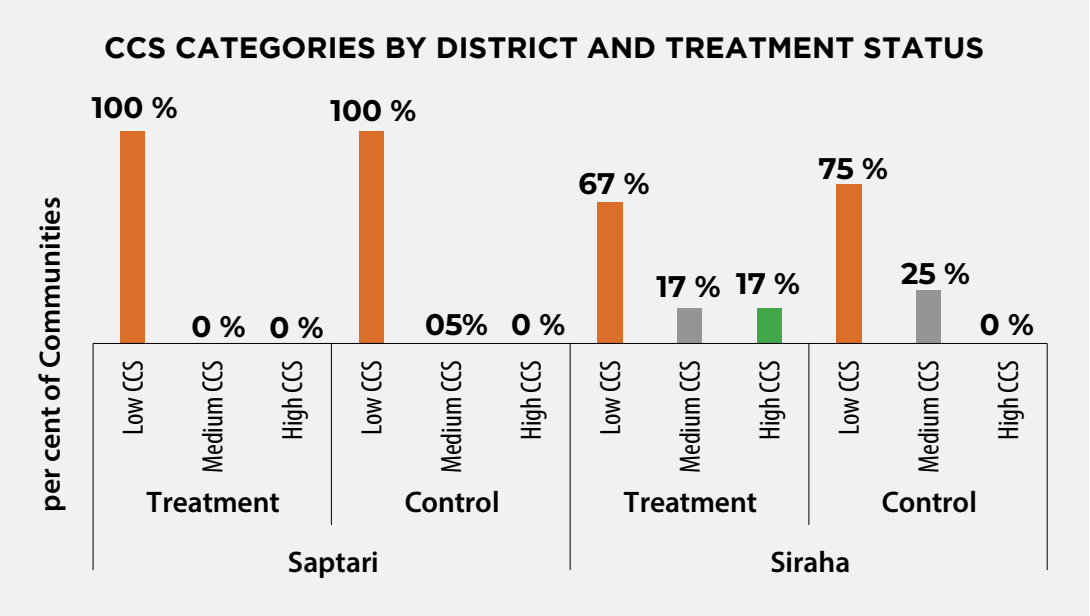
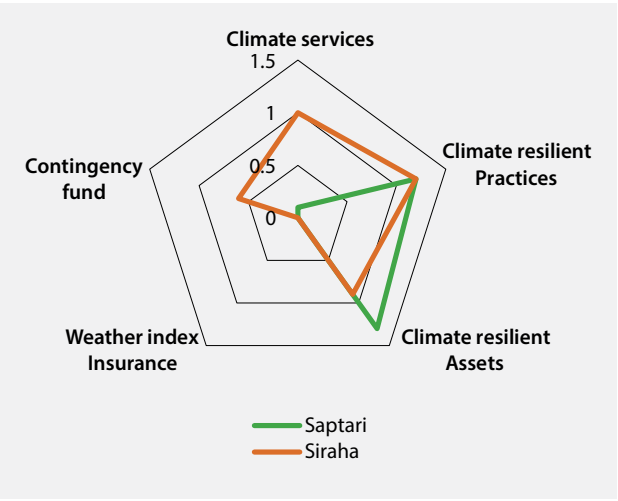


Figure 8.2 illustrates the CCS categories by district and treatment status. While all the five communities assessed were found to have low CCS in Saptari, a quarter of the control communities were identified as having medium CCS, about 17 per cent each had medium CCS and high CCS, and about one-third had low CCS in the treatment communities of Siraha.

The radar chart presented in *Figure 8.3* shows the contribution/intensity of specific CCS components in the two districts. The chart indicates that the communities' scores are lowest for the weather index, followed by contingency fund and climate services but slightly better for climate-resilient practices and climate-resilient assets. Because of the small sample size, the findings presented in this section should be understood as indicative and therefore interpreted cautiously.

FIGURE 8.3

Components of CCS



9 THE PROJECT-LEVEL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX RESULTS

As mentioned earlier, Pro-WEAI is a tool designed to measure and understand the empowerment of women in agriculture at the project level. It assesses various dimensions of women's empowerment, such as decision-making power, control over resources, access to and control over income, leadership and time use. Pro-WEAI has 12 indicators, which are mapped onto three domains: intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to) and collective agency (power with).

Following the standard Pro-WEAI methodology, the inadequacy status of each individual in a given indicator was first coded as 1 (inadequate) or 0 (adequate) based on the specific threshold used for that indicator. Then, the inadequacy score for each individual (measured between 0 and 1) was computed by summing the individual's inadequacy status in all indicators, each multiplied by their corresponding weight (1/12).[15] An individual was identified as disempowered if his or her inadequacy score exceeded the disempowerment cut-off of 25 per cent used in the analysis. This means that an individual was identified as disempowered if he/she was inadequate in more than three of the 12 indicators involved. Two key sub-indices – 3DE (three domains of empowerment) and GPI (gender parity index) – were computed using the inadequacy score and other necessary information. Of these, the first sub-index (3DE) captures the extent of empowerment in the sample and is measured between 0 and 1; a score closer to 1 indicates greater empowerment and a score closer to 0 indicates less empowerment. The second sub-index (GPI), which can only be computed at the household level (not at the individual level, like 3DE) measures two aspects of empowerment in the sample population: (a) the proportion of households that achieve gender parity (women are empowered or women whose achievements are at least as high as the men in their households across the three domains captured by the Pro-WEAI), and (b) the average empowerment gap among households that lack gender parity. The GPI is a composite index that reflects the extent (prevalence) and intensity (depth) of gender parity in the sample. Like 3DE, GPI is also measured between 0 and 1, in which 1 implies absolute parity (parity in all households) and 0 implies absolute imparity (parity in none of the households). In other words, the closer the GPI is to 1, the smaller the gender gap in empowerment within the households. The final Pro-WEAI score is then measured as the weighted average based on 90 per cent from the 3DE score and 10 per cent from the GPI score (Pro-WEAI = 0.9*3DE + 0.1*GPI). This

[15] The level of adequacy can be measured for each single indicator. For each indicator, an individual is considered adequate if the level of achievement is above a certain threshold (adequacy cut-off).

score also ranges from 0 to 1; higher values indicate greater empowerment.[16] It is worth mentioning that efforts to compare women and men should be done with caution in all the results (including those in this section), as the women's sample comes both from dual and single households, while the men's sample comes only from dual households. It is therefore more likely that women from single households will be more empowered than those in dual households (particularly in the context of decision-making), as there are no adult males in the single households.

Table 9.1 (also summarized in *Figure 9.1*) presents the share of women and men who are inadequate in each of the 12 Pro-WEAI indicators. An individual is considered empowered in an indicator only if the individual is separately adequate in that indicator based on its threshold. As panel A shows, women are less likely to be empowered in terms of collective agency (membership in influential groups and group membership). Only 20 to 30 per cent of the women are empowered in Saptari in this agency, and it is slightly higher in intervention villages and slightly lower in control villages of Siraha. Instrumental agency (work balance and mobility, i.e. the ability to visit important locations) and intrinsic agency (autonomy in income and attitudes toward intimate partner violence) have the next lowest share of empowered women. But there are some differences between the control and intervention villages and between the districts. For instance, only 20 per cent of the women in Saptari and 36 per cent in Siraha in the control villages are empowered in the indicator "respect among household members," but the percentages are much higher (63 to 92 per cent) in the intervention villages. Higher percentages of women are empowered in terms of their input in productive decisions, ownership of land and other assets, and access to and decisions about financial services, in comparison to other indicators.

TABLE 9.1

Percentage adequacy, by domain and indicator, region and intervention and control group

		Saptari		Siraha	
		Female	Male	Female	Male
A. Intervention Villages		**(1)**	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**
Intrinsic agency	Autonomy in income	55%	71%	69%	58%
	Self-efficacy	88%	76%	55%	66%
	Attitudes toward intimate partner violence	64%	77%	61%	75%
	Respect among household members	92%	78%	63%	95%

16 It should not be interpreted as a percentage.

Instrumental agency	Input in productive decisions	90%	96%	87%	93%
	Ownership of land and other assets	81%	95%	94%	88%
	Access to and decisions on financial services	87%	79%	78%	71%
	Control over use of income	87%	70%	70%	90%
	Work balance	60%	79%	68%	78%
	Visiting important locations	59%	69%	42%	64%
Collective agency	Group membership	31%	40%	17%	28%
	Membership in influential groups	30%	39%	15%	28%
	Observations	**150**	**100**	**150**	**100**
B. Control Villages					
Intrinsic agency	Autonomy in income	64%	99%	80%	48%
	Self-efficacy	63%	83%	67%	99%
	Attitudes toward intimate partner violence	30%	79%	89%	84%
	Respect among household members	20%	82%	36%	88%
Instrumental agency	Input in productive decisions	97%	90%	85%	99%
	Ownership of land and other assets	98%	99%	91%	97%
	Access to and decisions on financial services	86%	91%	87%	71%
	Control over use of income	95%	86%	62%	99%
	Work balance	55%	72%	56%	67%
	Visiting important locations	57%	76%	69%	68%
Collective agency	Group membership	21%	54%	36%	36%
	Membership in influential groups	20%	52%	28%	33%
	Observations	**150**	**100**	**150**	**100**

As in the case of women, men are also less likely to be empowered in collective agency, although the percentages are slightly higher (28 to 54 per cent). On the other hand, more men are empowered in terms of their input in productive decisions (except in control villages in Saptari) and ownership of land and other assets (except in intervention villages in Siraha). As for control over use of income, men are less empowered than women in Saptari, and the opposite is true in Siraha.

9.1 Pro-WEAI and GPI Scores

Table 9.2 shows the Pro-WEAI results of the 1,000 individuals surveyed in the study, disaggregated by gender, district and intervention status.

Overall, the 3DE score is much lower among women than men in both intervention and control villages, and the difference is higher in control villages. In the intervention villages, the 3DE scores are 0.64 for women and 0.71 for men, and 0.62 and 0.77 in the control villages. While the gap between the 3DE scores between men and women is as low as 0.03 points in intervention villages of Saptari, it is as high as by 0.21 points in the control villages of Saptari. On the other hand, the difference in 3DE scores between women and men are about the same size (0.08 and 0.09 points) in the intervention and control villages of Siraha.

The share of women who achieved empowerment is lower than men, at 22 per cent in the intervention villages and 20 per cent in the control villages, while the shares are 33 per cent and 41 per cent respectively for men. The difference between the shares of empowered men and empowered women ranges from five percentage points in the control villages of Siraha to 38 percentage points in the control villages of Saptari, while it is between 8 to 13 percentage points in the intervention villages of Saptari and Siraha districts, respectively. As expected, the mean 3DE scores for those who are disempowered are lower than the corresponding 3DE scores in both the intervention and control villages and across both districts and genders.

Looking at the GPI, the women in the control villages (GPI = 0.83) are more disadvantaged (meaning the difference between 1, which is perfect parity, and GPI score is higher) compared to men than in the intervention villages (GPI = 0.86). Across districts, while the disparity in favor of men is higher in Siraha (0.83) than in Saptari (0.89) in the intervention villages, the reverse is true in the control villages (0.82 in Saptari and 0.85 in Siraha).

The overall Pro-WEAI score is slightly higher (0.67) in the intervention villages compared to the control villages (0.64). Comparing the districts, the score is higher in Saptari than in Siraha by 0.09 points in the intervention villages, while it is higher in Siraha by 0.07 points in the control villages. The patterns observed in the Pro-WEAI scores by and large reflect the patterns in the 3DE scores and GPI.

TABLE 9.2

Women's and men's empowerment at baseline based on Pro-WEAI indicators, by district and intervention status.

	All Regions		Saptari		Siraha	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Intervention Villages					
Number of observations	**300**	**200**	**150**	**100**	**150**	**100**
3DE score	0.64	0.71	0.69	0.72	0.6	0.69
Disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.36	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.4	0.31
% achieving empowerment	22%	33%	30%	38%	15%	28%
% not achieving empowerment	78%	67%	70%	62%	85%	72%
Mean 3DE score for not yet empowered	0.54	0.57	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.58
Mean disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.46	0.43	0.45	0.44	0.47	0.42
Gender Parity Index (GPI)	0.86		0.89		0.83	
Number of dual-adult households	**200**		**100**		**100**	
% achieving gender parity	49%		54%		43%	
% not achieving gender parity	51%		46%		57%	
Average empowerment gap	0.27		0.24		0.29	
Pro-WEAI score	0.67		0.71		0.62	
	Control Villages					
Number of observations	**300**	**200**	**149**	**100**	**151**	**100**
3DE score	0.62	0.77	0.59	0.8	0.66	0.74
Disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.38	0.23	0.41	0.2	0.34	0.26
% achieving empowerment	20%	41%	12%	50%	27%	32%
% not achieving empowerment	80%	59%	88%	50%	73%	68%
Mean 3DE score for not yet empowered	0.53	0.61	0.53	0.61	0.53	0.62
Mean disempowerment score (1-3DE)	0.47	0.39	0.47	0.4	0.47	0.38
Gender Parity Index (GPI)	0.83		0.82		0.85	
Number of dual-adult households	**200**		**100**		**100**	
% achieving gender parity	0.42		0.34		0.49	
% not achieving gender parity	0.58		0.66		0.51	
Average empowerment gap	0.28		0.27		0.3	
Pro-WEAI score	0.64		0.61		0.68	

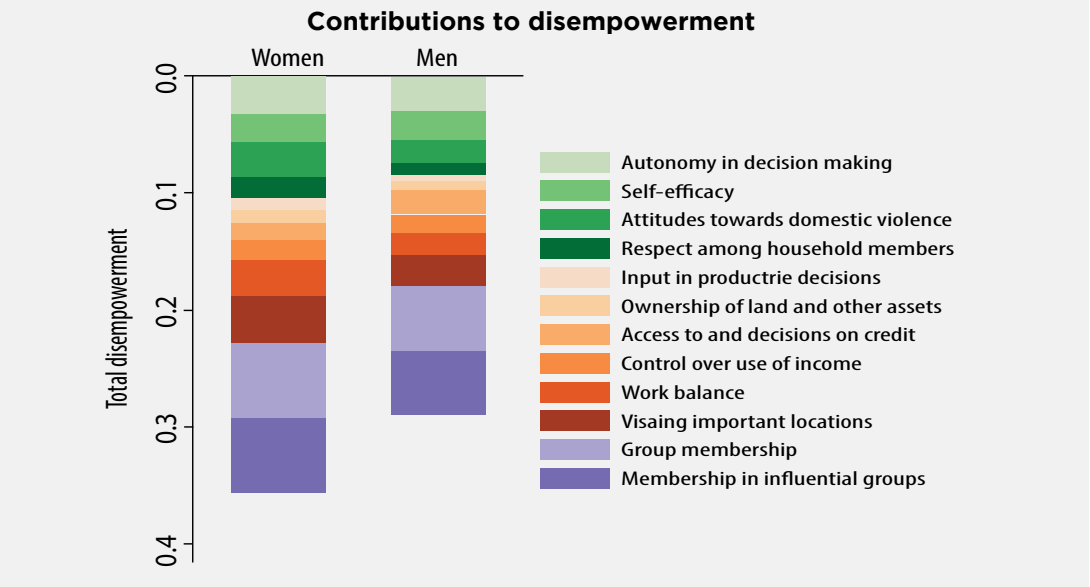
Note: *Author's calculations. Cut-off set at 30%.*

Figure 9.1 shows the contribution of each subindex to disempowerment in the intervention villages (left Panel A) and in the control villages (right Panel B). Group membership and membership in influential groups invariably have the greatest contributions to disempowerment across gender and the intervention/control villages. Respect among household members is a major contributor to disempowerment among the women from control villages. Visiting important locations and work balance contribute more to disempowerment for women than men, and so do attitudes toward intimate partner violence. Autonomy in decision-making has slightly greater contribution to disempowerment in the intervention villages. Input in productive decisions has the smallest contribution to disempowerment across both genders.

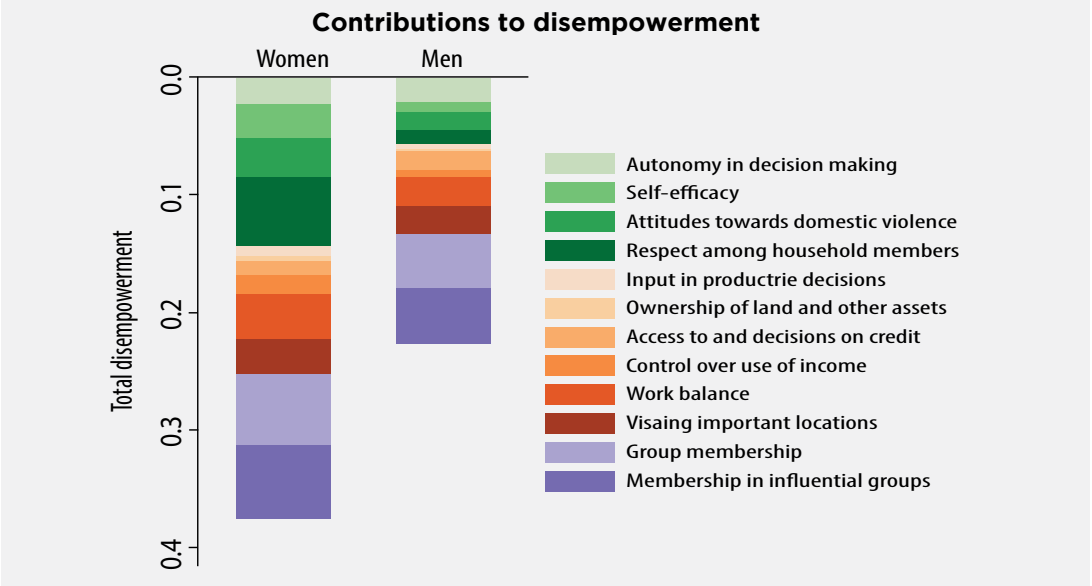
FIGURE 9.1

Contribution to disempowerment

Panel A: Intervention Village



Panel B: Control Village



Tables 9.3 and 9.4 present the Pro-WEAI results in the intervention and control villages respectively across key demographic and other characteristics. For women, the tables present the results in the 3DE score, percentage achieving empowerment (H), gender parity index (GPI), percentage with gender parity (HGPI) and Pro-WEAI scores. However, only the first two are presented for men, as the last three cannot be computed for men. The characteristics across which the results are presented are district (Saptari or Siraha); age of respondent (<35, 35-55 and >55); ethnicity of respondents (Dalit or other Madhesi castes); education of the respondent (none or below primary level, or primary level or above); whether the respondent can read or write; whether the respondent can speak, read or write Nepali; whether the respondent has any disability; whether the respondent has knowledge or understanding of legal rights; FES of respondent's household (<65 per cent or >=65 per cent); and food security status of the respondent (no food insecurity, or moderate or severe food insecurity). It is noteworthy that the results are mostly indicative at best, given that sample sizes are too small for many of the disaggregates being considered.

The tables indicate that the overall results are better in Saptari than in Siraha for both genders in the intervention villages. In the control villages, the results are better in Siraha for women and better in Saptari for men. Across the three age groups, the middle age group (35-55 years) for both women and men seem unambiguously better off, followed by older (>55 years) in the intervention villages. The fact that the two upper age groups have better results for both women and men compared to the youngest age group is still apparent in the control villages, although most of the results are usually better among the uppermost age group than among the middle age group. Similarly, the empowerment results are better among men from other Madhesi castes compared to Dalit castes in both the intervention and control villages. Overall, a somewhat similar conclusion can be drawn for women as well, except that GPI and HGPI are slightly better among Dalit castes in both village types.

How education level affects the overall results among women seems ambiguous, and the comparison does not seem meaningful because of the disproportionately higher share of individuals with below primary level education. However, the distribution of men between the two education categories is comparatively more even, and education seems to have positive effects on empowerment in both the intervention and control villages. The ability to read or write seems to have positively affected empowerment among only men from the intervention villages, while the results are the opposite for men and women from the control villages and somewhat ambiguous among women from the intervention villages. The information collected during the baseline does not help in deciphering these counterintuitive results, and special care needs to be taken in follow-up studies for more clarity. Similarly, the ability to speak, write or read Nepali have generally no effects (men from control villages) or reduced effects on empowerment (men from intervention villages and women from control villages). Except for men in the intervention villages, the men and women with some knowledge or understanding of legal rights are found to have better empowerment results. Another surprising

result is the association between the disability condition of individuals and their empowerment. While the men and women with no disability are generally more empowered in the intervention villages compared to those with minor disabilities, the opposite is true in the control villages.

As *Table 9.3* shows, individuals with a FES that is less than 65 per cent of their total expenditure have generally better empowerment results than those with FES of 65 per cent or more in the intervention villages. Similarly, individuals with no food insecurity have generally better empowerment results than those with moderate or severe food insecurities in the intervention villages. Comparable results do not exist for control villages, as these two modules were administered only in the intervention villages.

TABLE 9.3

Women's and men's empowerment at baseline based on Pro-WEAI indicators in intervention villages, by individual and household sociodemographic characteristics.

	Intervention Villages								
	Women						Men		
	Number of observations	5/3DE Index	% Achieving empowerment (H)	Gender Parity Index (GPI)	% with gender parity (HGPI)	pro-WEAI	Number of observations	5/3DE Index	% Achieving empowerment (H)
Districts									
Saptari	150	0.69	30.0	0.89	54.0	0.71	100	0.72	38.0
Siraha	150	0.60	14.7	0.83	43.0	0.62	100	0.70	28.0
Age of the respondent									
<35	117	0.61	19.7	0.81	32.5	0.63	48	0.64	20.8
35-55	153	0.68	25.5	0.90	58.3	0.70	110	0.73	37.3
>55	30	0.60	16.7	0.84	52.4	0.63	42	0.73	35.7
Ethnicity of the respondent									
Dalit castes	182	0.63	21.4	0.87	51.2	0.66	121	0.68	27.3
Other Madhesi castes	118	0.66	23.7	0.85	44.3	0.68	79	0.76	41.8
Education of the respondent									
None or below primary level	282	0.64	22.0	0.87	52.7	0.66	169	0.69	30.2
Primary level or above	18	0.69	27.8	0.88	37.5	0.71	31	0.79	48.4

Cannot read or write	269	0.64	21.9	0.88	53.4	0.67	136	0.70	31.6
Can read or write	31	0.65	25.8	0.82	37.5	0.67	64	0.73	35.9
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	261	0.64	22.2	0.88	52.6	0.66	98	0.72	35.7
Can speak, write or read Nepali	39	0.68	23.1	0.89	47.1	0.70	102	0.70	30.4
No disability	277	0.65	22.7	0.86	48.4	0.67	184	0.72	34.2
Minor disability	23	0.59	17.4	0.81	50.0	0.62	16	0.64	18.7
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	286	0.64	22.0	0.85	46.6	0.66	166	0.71	33.7
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	14	0.71	28.6	0.98	80.0	0.74	34	0.69	29.4
FES<65	123	0.67	26.0	0.86	45.8	0.69	83	0.74	38.6
FES>=65	177	0.63	19.8	0.86	50.4	0.65	117	0.69	29.1
No food insecurity	168	0.65	20.2	0.87	49.3	0.67	110	0.72	34.5
Moderate or severe food insecurity	132	0.64	25.0	0.85	42.0	0.66	90	0.69	31.1

TABLE 9.4

Women's and men's empowerment at baseline based on Pro-WEAI indicators in control villages, by individual and household sociodemographic characteristics

	Control Villages								
	Women						Men		
	Number of observations	5/3DE Index	% Achieving empowerment (H)	Gender Parity Index (GPI)	% with gender parity (HGPI)	WEAI/ A-WEAI/ Pro-WEAI	Number of observations	5/3DE Index	% Achieving empowerment (H)
Districts									
Saptari	150	0.59	12.7	0.82	34.0	0.62	100	0.80	50.0
Siraha	150	0.65	26.7	0.85	49.0	0.67	100	0.74	32.0
Age of the respondent									
<35	117	0.57	12.0	0.73	21.9	0.59	45	0.71	26.7
35-55	164	0.65	25.6	0.84	46.4	0.67	109	0.77	40.4
>55	19	0.67	15.8	0.88	21.4	0.69	46	0.84	56.5

Ethnicity of the respondent									
Dalit castes	264	0.62	18.9	0.84	42.7	0.64	171	0.76	38.6
Other Madhesi castes	36	0.65	25.0	0.83	34.5	0.67	29	0.84	55.2
Education of the respondent									
None or below primary level	287	0.63	20.2	0.83	39.0	0.65	163	0.77	39.9
Primary level or above	13	0.55	7.7	0.73	20.0	0.56	37	0.79	45.9
Cannot read or write	281	0.63	20.6	0.83	37.6	0.65	129	0.79	44.2
Can read or write	19	0.52	5.3	0.70	12.5	0.54	71	0.75	35.2
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	277	0.63	20.6	0.86	39.0	0.65	61	0.77	41.0
Can speak, write or read Nepali	23	0.55	8.7	0.74	23.1	0.57	139	0.77	41.0
No disability	257	0.61	18.7	0.83	39.8	0.63	166	0.77	39.8
Minor disability	43	0.68	25.6	0.88	50.0	0.70	34	0.79	47.1
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	274	0.62	19.0	0.84	40.9	0.64	115	0.76	39.1
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	26	0.66	26.9	0.90	60.0	0.68	85	0.79	43.5
FES<65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FES>=65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No food insecurity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

9.2 Intrinsic Agency

9.2.1 Autonomy in Income

In Pro-WEAI, autonomy in income is measured by the extent to which women and men make individual decisions driven by their principles rather than conforming to societal norms or others' opinions. This indicator is calculated from module G2 and is considered adequate in that dimension if they meet at least one of the following conditions for all the agricultural activities in which they participate: (i) make a related decision solel (ii) make the decision jointly but have at least some input into the decision, and/or (iii) feel they could decide if they wanted to (to at least some extent). In the intervention villages, over 60 per cent of the men and women are empowered in this indicator, while that figure is over 70 per cent of men and women in the control villages *(Figure 9.2)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari in both the intervention and control villages, while among men empowerment is higher among those in Saptari than in Siraha in both the intervention and control villages *(Figure 9.2)*. *Figure 9.3* shows data that suggest adequacy in autonomy in income is significantly higher among middle-aged men than younger men and older men in the intervention villages. However, in control villages,

FIGURE 9.2

Empowerment in autonomy in income, by district

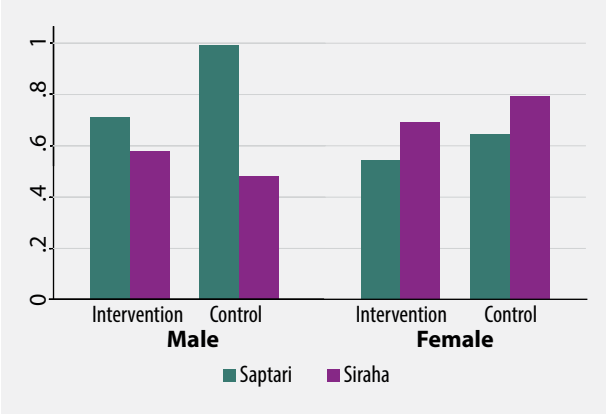


FIGURE 9.3

Empowerment in autonomy in income, by age

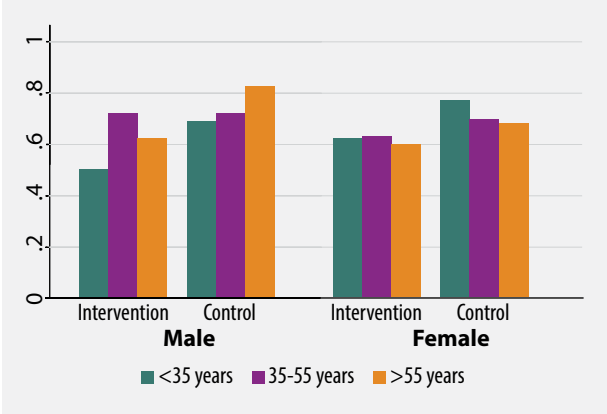
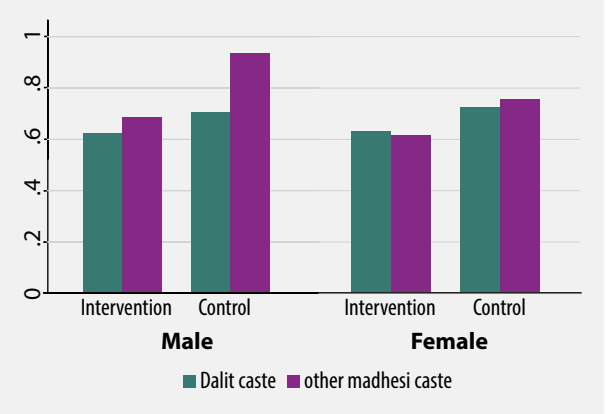


FIGURE 9.4

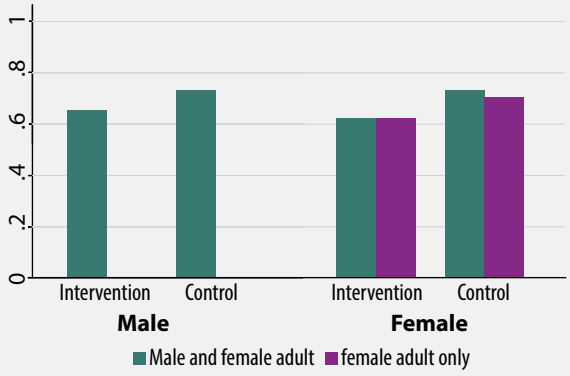
Empowerment in autonomy in income, by caste



adequacy is highest among older men and lowest among younger men. In the case of women, they are almost equally empowered across different age groups in intervention villages. However, in control villages, younger women have a higher tendency to be adequate than older women. Similarly, adequacy in autonomy in income is higher among men and women belonging to other Madhesi castes than Dalit castes, except among women in intervention villages, where it is slightly higher among Dalit castes than other Madhesi castes. *Figure 9.4* shows data indicating that in control villages, adequacy in tis indicator is significantly higher among Dalit men than men from other Madhesi castes. Again, between dual and single/female-headed households, women from dual households have higher autonomy in income than women from single/female-headed households in control villages, while adequacy is equal between them in intervention villages *(Figure 9.5)* (See appendix A: Table 1 for further information).

FIGURE 9.5

Empowerment in autonomy in income, by type of HHS

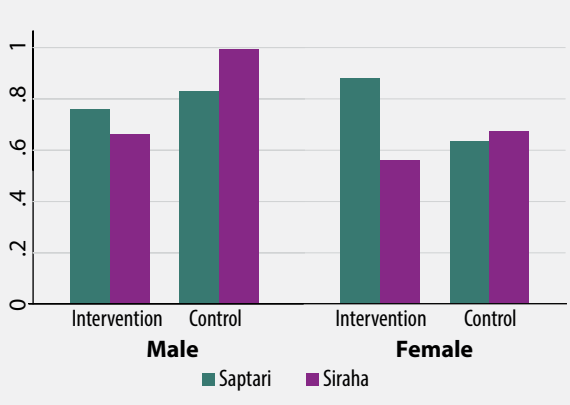


9.2.2 Self-Efficacy

The self-efficacy indicator is calculated from a module that asks the respondent whether the individual agrees or disagrees with eight statements related to their life. The response ranges on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree." A person is considered to be adequate if they believe in their capabilities and ability to reach their goals and the sum of the responses is more than 32.

FIGURE 9.6

Empowerment in self-efficacy, by district



The study shows that 72 per cent of women and 71 per cent of men in intervention villages and 65 per cent of women and 91 per cent of men in control villages are empowered in the self-efficacy indicator *(Figure 9.6)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in intervention villages, while in control villages, empowerment in men is significantly higher among those in Siraha than in Saptari *(Figure 9.6)*.

Older men and women in both control and intervention villages have lower adequacy in this indicator than men and women from other age groups, and the difference in empowerment among women from different age groups in intervention villages is statistically significant as well *(Figure 9.7)*. The study also reports that men and women with secondary or higher education are more empowered in self-efficacy than those with no or below primary level education *(Figure 9.8)*. In *Figure 9.9*, the data suggest that men and women from other Madhesi castes are more empowered than those from Dalit castes except in intervention villages, where men from Dalit castes are more empowered in self-efficacy than men from other Madhesi castes. Likewise, if we observe the disaggregation by type of households, women from single/female-headed households are more empowered than women from dual households in this indicator *(Figure 9.10)* (See appendix A: Table 2 for further information).

FIGURE 9.7

Empowerment in self-efficacy, by age

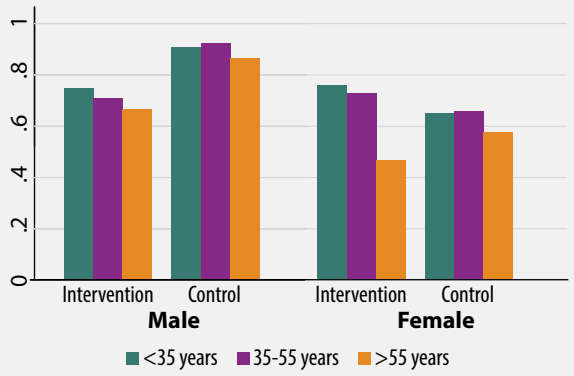


FIGURE 9.8

Empowerment in self-efficacy, by education

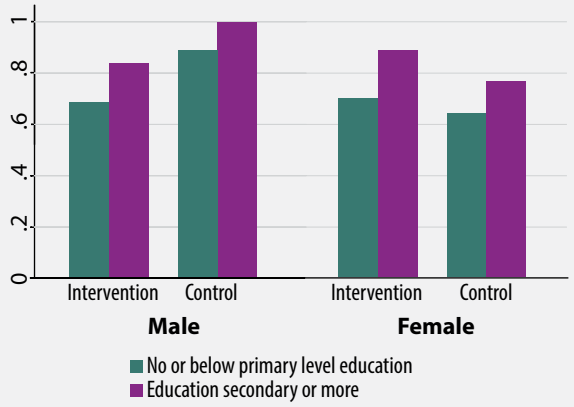


FIGURE 9.9

Empowerment in self-efficacy, by caste

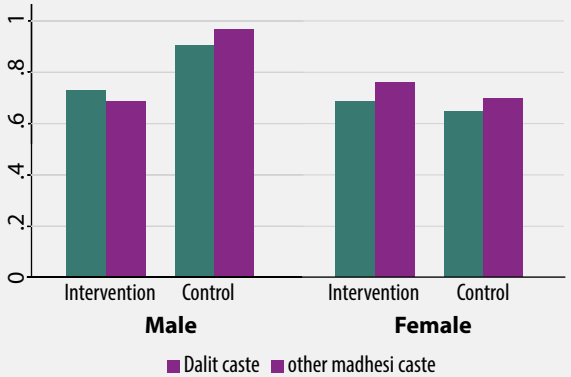
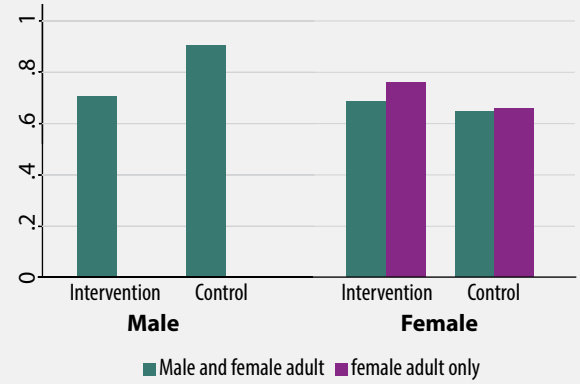


FIGURE 9.10

Empowerment in self-efficacy, by type of HHS

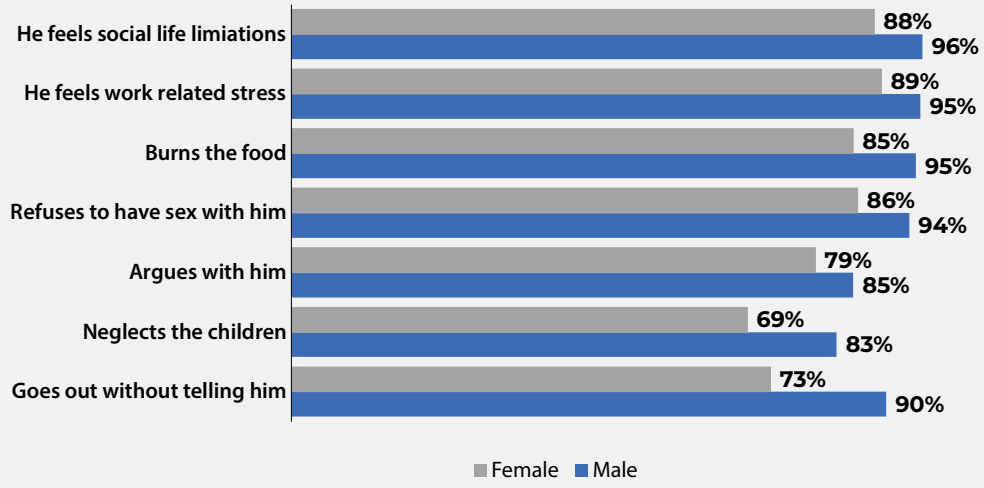


9.2.3 Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Attitudes about intimate partner violence were assessed based on whether the individual believes a husband is justified in hitting or beating his spouse in five scenarios (if she goes out without telling him, if she neglects the children, if she argues with him, if she refuses to have sex with him and/or if she burns the food). A person is empowered only if he or she believes the husband is not justified in hitting or beating his spouse in any situation. This study also collected information on whether a man feels justified in hitting and beating his wife if he feels work-related stress due to uncertainty and/or if he feels limitations in his social life. It is interesting to note that significantly higher percentages of men than women believe that a husband is not justified in hitting or beating his spouse in any situation *(Figure 9.11)*.

FIGURE 9.11

Attitudes towards intimate partner violence, by gender



On the empowerment level, over 60 per cent of women and over 75 per cent of men are empowered in this indicator *(Figure 9.11)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari in control villages, while the empowerment difference is not significant for other groups *(Figure 9.12)*.

The data in *Figure 9.13* suggest that older women and men are more empowered in this indicator compared to their counterparts. Similarly, by ethnicity, men and women from Madhesi castes are more empowered in attitudes towards IPV than Dalit castes; however, Dalit women in the control villages are more empowered than women from other Madhesi castes *(Figure 9.14)*. Again, if we compare the empowerment in this indicator by education, it is clear from *Figure 9.15* th men and women with secondary or higher education are more empowered than those with no education or below primary level education (See Appendix A: Table 3 for further information).

FIGURE 9.12

Empowerment in attitudes toward IPV, by district

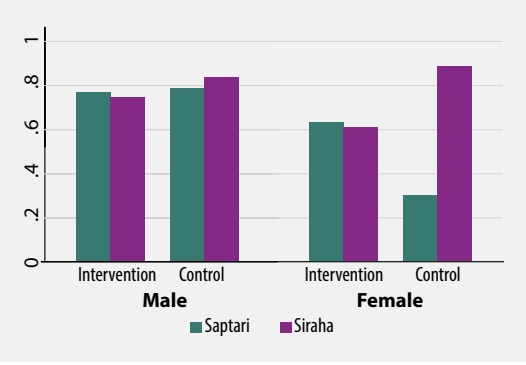


FIGURE 9.13

Empowerment in attitudes toward IPV, by age

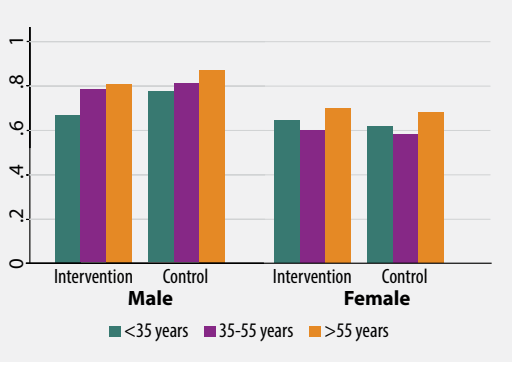


FIGURE 9.14

Empowerment in attitudes toward IPV, by caste

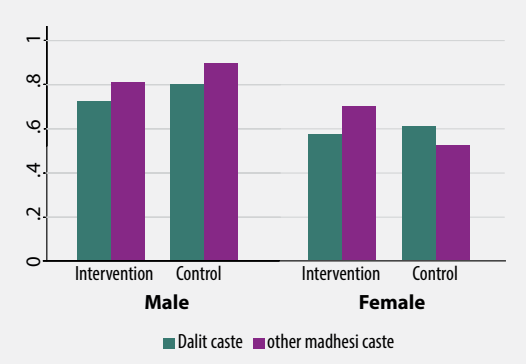
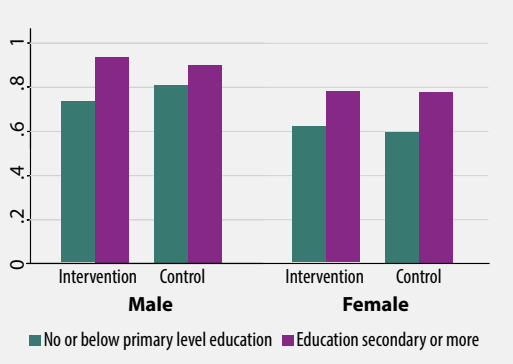


FIGURE 9.15

Empowerment in attitudes toward IPV, by education

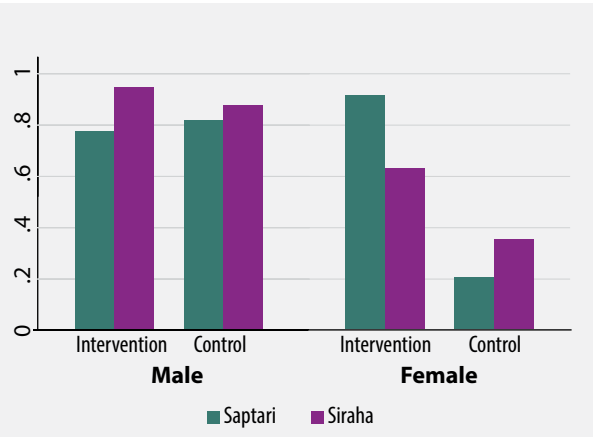


9.2.4 Respect among Household Members

The indicator of respect among household members is calculated from a module that asks the respondent about whether the individual respects his or her spouse or other relations in the household, whether his or her spouse or other relation respects him or her in return, whether he or she trusts that his or her spouse or other relations do things that are in his or her best interest, and whether the respondent feels comfortable disagreeing

FIGURE 9.16

Empowerment in respect among HH members, by district



with his or her spouse or other relations. A person is considered adequate if they answered "most of the time" to all four of the questions. Regarding respect among household members, over 75 per cent of women and over 85 per cent of men from intervention and control villages are empowered, while only 28 per cent of women from control villages are empowered *(Figure 9.16)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha and among men in Siraha than Saptari in intervention villages, while in control villages, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari but comparatively very lower than in intervention villages *(Figure 9.16)*. This finding is surprising, and no definitive answers can be gleaned from this survey alone. It is expected that follow-up studies might bring more clarity to this unexpectedly high difference between women in intervention and control villages. Empowerment in respect among household members is more prvalent among men and women from other Madhesi castes than Dalit castes; however, the difference is only statistically significant among men from intervention villages *(Figure 9.17)*. Likewise, there is a difference in the proportion of men and women empowered in this indicator by their level of food insecurity, as women who experienced moderate or severe food insecurity within the past year were significantly less empowered compared to women with no food insecurity *(Figure 9.18)* (See Appendix A: Table 4 for further information).

FIGURE 9.17

Empowerment in respect among HH members, by caste

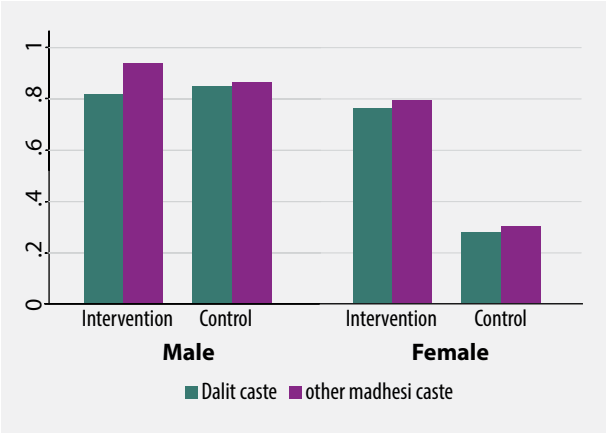
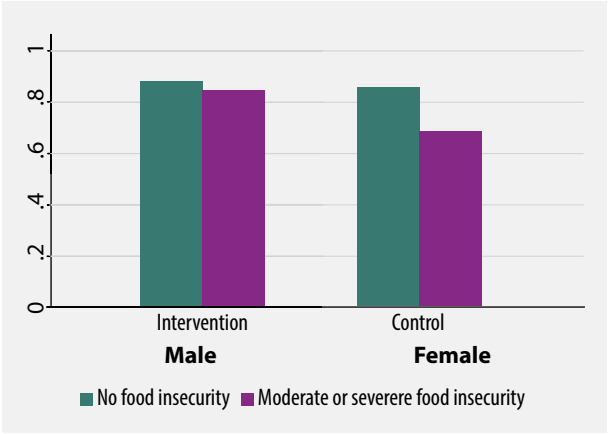


FIGURE 9.18

Empowerment in respect among HH members, by food insecurity status



9.3 Instrumental Agency

9.3.1 Input in Productive decisions

Adequacy in input in productive decisions in agriculture is determined by whether an individual makes the decision about the activity solely, makes it jointly but has at least some input into the decision, or makes it, if they want to, in all agricultural activities. If the individual does not participate in an agricultural activity, they are considered inadequate. Almost 80 per cent of men and women are empowered in this indicator in both intervention and control villages *(Figure 9.19)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in both intervention and control villages, while empowerment is significantly higher among men in Siraha than Saptari in the contr villages *(Figure 9.19)*. Furthermore, the data in *Figue 9.20* show that more middle-aged men and women are empowered in input in productive decisions than younger and older men. The level of empowerment is significantly higher among middle-aged women than younger women in both intervention and control villages. Also, while men and women with no or below primary level education tend to be more empowered than those who have primary or higher education, the difference is statistically significant in the case of women from control villages only *(Figure 9.21)*. We typically anticipate that individuals with higher levels of

FIGURE 9.19

Empowerment in input in Productive decisions, by district

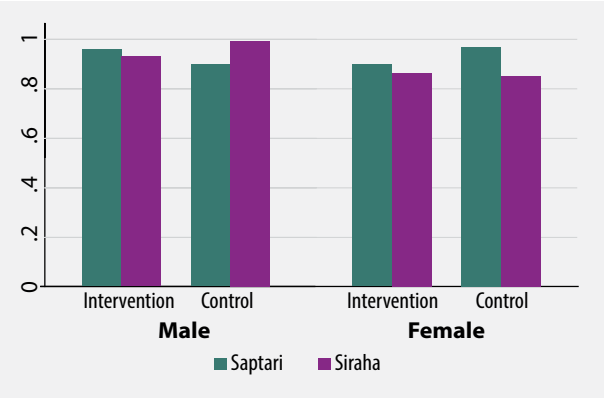


FIGURE 9.20

Empowerment in input in Productive decisions, by age

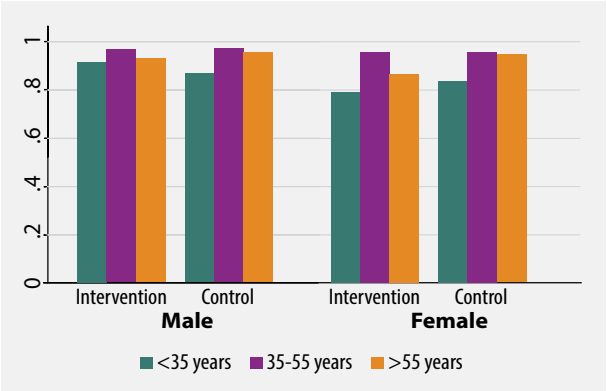
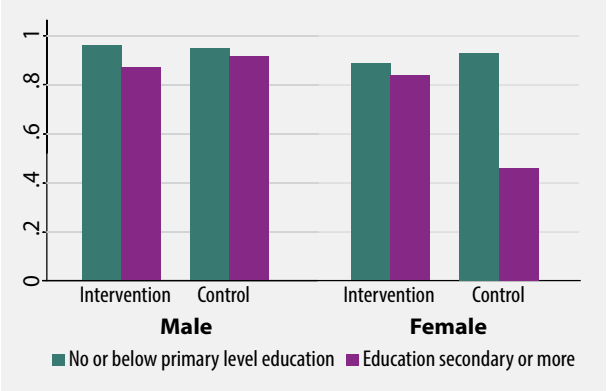


FIGURE 9.21

Empowerment in Input in Productive decision, by education



education will experience greater empowerment regarding their involvement in making productive decisions. However, the findings of this study suggest that the empowerment observed in this indicator contradicts our conventional assumptions (See Appendix A: Table 5 for further information).

9.3.2 Ownership of Land and Other Assets

Adequacy in ownership of land and other assets is measured by owning solely or jointly either (i) land, or (ii) at least three of the following: large livestock, small livestock, fishponds or fishing equipment, non-mechanized farm equipment, mechanized farm equipment, non-farm business equipment, houses or buildings, large consumer durables, small consumer durables, a cell phonenon-agricultural land, or means of trnsportation. The data show that overall, over 95 per cent of men and women in the intervention villages and over 85 per cent of men and women in the control villages are empowered *(Figure 9.22)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari in intervention villages, while empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in control villages *(Figure 9.22)*. *Figure 9.23* demonstrates that a greater percentage of middle-aged men and women are empowered than younger and older men and women. The proportion of empowered middle-aged women is significantly higher than younger women in intervention villages. Among both men and women, those with moderate or severe food insecurity are significantly less likely than those with no food security to be empowered in this indicator *(Figure 9.24)* (See Appendix A: Table 6 for further information).

FIGURE 9.22

Empowerment in ownership of land and other assets, by district

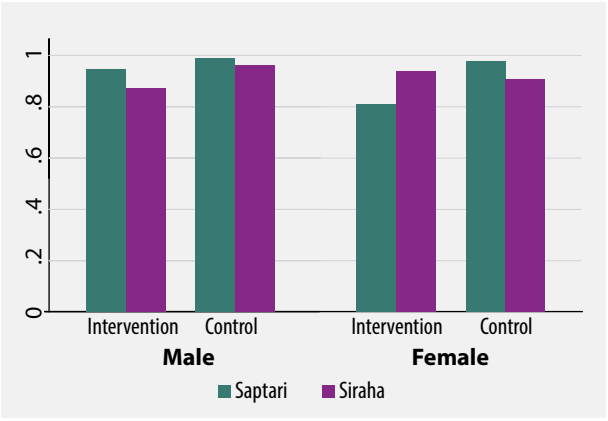


FIGURE 9.23

Empowerment in ownership of land and other assets, by age

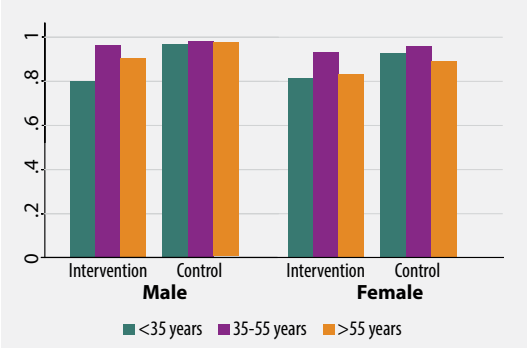
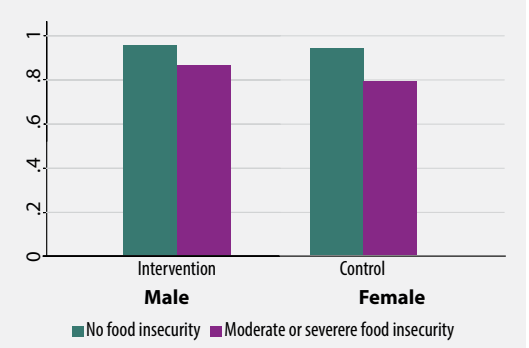


FIGURE 9.24

Empowerment in ownership of land and other assets, by food insecurity status



9.3.3 Access to and Decisions on Financial Services

Adequacy in access to and decisions on financial services is determined by either (i) belonging to a household that used a source of credit in the past year and participated in the decision to take the loan solely or jointly with others, (ii) belongs to a household that could have taken out a loan in the past year even if it did not, or (iii) has access to a financial account, solely or jointly. The study shows that three-fourths of men in intervention villages and four-fifths of men and women in control villages are empowered in access to and decisions on financial services *(Figure 9.25)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in intervention villages, and it is also significantly higher among men in Saptari than Siraha in control villages *(Figure 9.25)*. Empowerment in this indicator varies by age and caste group as well. The data in *Figure 9.26* suggests that the higher one's age group, the higher the likelihood of being empowered. However, in intervention villages, middle-aged women have higher empowerment than their counterparts. Furthermore, men and women from other Madhesi castes are more empowered than Dalit castes in this indicator *(Figure 9.27)* (See Appendix A: Table 7 for further information).

FIGURE 9.25

Empowerment in access to and decisions on financial services, by district

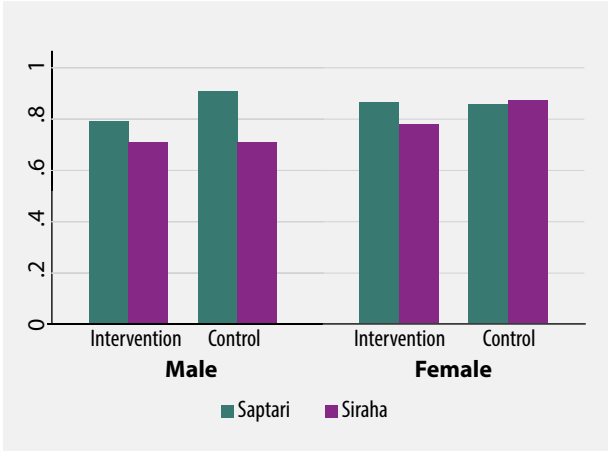


FIGURE 9.26

Empowerment in access to and decisions on financial services, by age

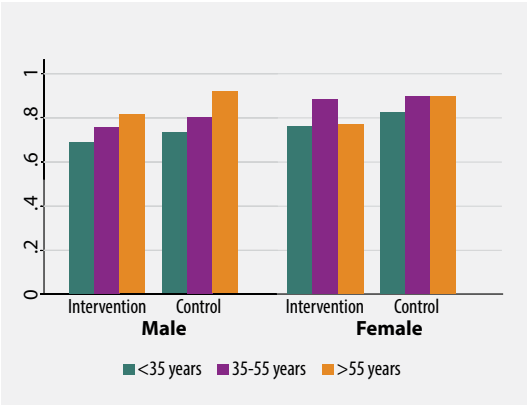
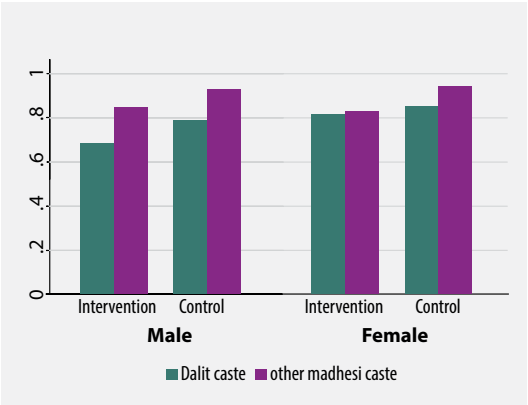


FIGURE 9.27

Empowerment in access to and decisions on financial services, by caste



9.3.4 Control Over Use of Income

Adequacy over the use of income means that for all agricultural activities the individual participates in, the individual has control over how any income earned from the activity is used; control over whether the output from the agricultural activities is used for home consumption; and/or control over their income from any non-farm, self-employment activities and wage or salary employment. The data from this study suggest that 93 per cent of men and 78 per cent of women in control villages and almost 80 per cent of men and women in intervention villages are empowered in this indicator *(Figure 9.28)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha, while empowerment is significantly higher among men in Siraha than Saptari in both intervention and control villages *(Figure 9.28)*. There is no clear pattern of association between empowerment in control over use of income and the age of the respondent; however, in control villages, middle-aged women are significantly more likely to be empowered than younger women *(Figure 9.29)*. It is interesting to note that, excluding men in intervention villages, men and women with secondary or higher education are less likely to be empowered than those with no education or below primary level education. This difference is particularly noticeable among women in control villages *(Figure 9.30)*. As in input in productive decisions, the same pattern of people with no education or below primary level education being comparatively empowered holds true for control over use of income (See Appendix A: Table 8 for further information).

FIGURE 9.28

Empowerment in control over use of income, by district

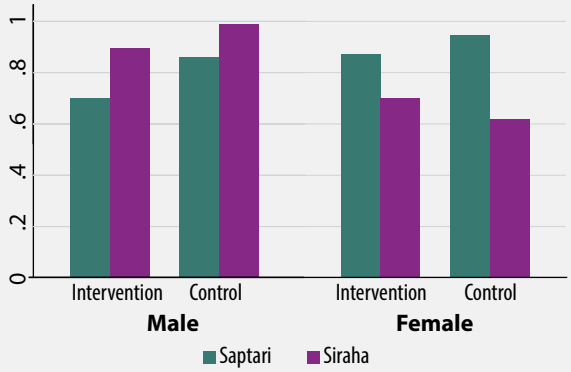


FIGURE 9.29

Empowerment in control over use of income, by age

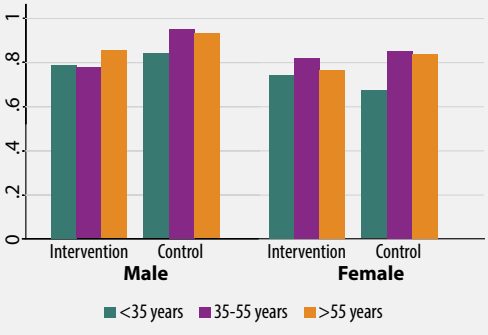
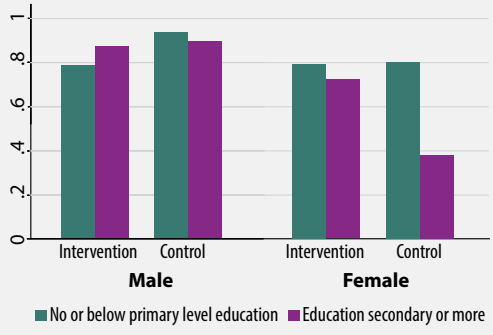


FIGURE 9.30

Empowerment in control over use of income, by education



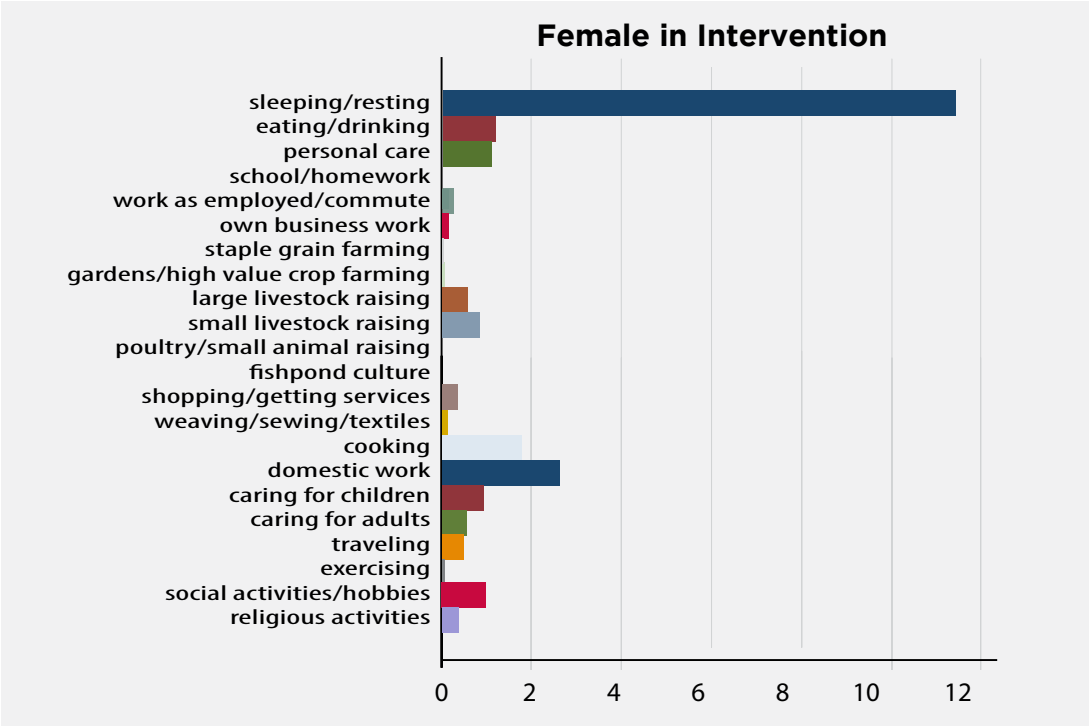
9.3.5 Time Allocation

Studies on work-life balance are of immense value, as they meticulously record an individual's actual activities and time spent on those activities, offering comprehensive data for comparing communities as well as differences between women and men.[17] In this baseline study, the module was eployed to examine disparities in time allocation across districts and gender. Our focus was on two specific variables: the time dedicated to work[18] and the time devoted to childcare.

Figure 9.31 presents the average time, in hours, that women and men spent during the 24 hours prior to the interview in both the intervention and control villages. Across both intervention and control villages, women and men allocated similar amounts of time to sleeping and eating/ drinking. When comparing the time allocation between intervention and control villages, the data show there is minimal difference in how time iallocated between the two. However, when comparing the time allocation between women and men, a larger proportion of women were found to engage in domestic work, cooking and childcare compared to men. Conversely, it was found that most men dedicate their time to work (including paid employment), commuting and running their own businesses, in both the intervention and control villages.

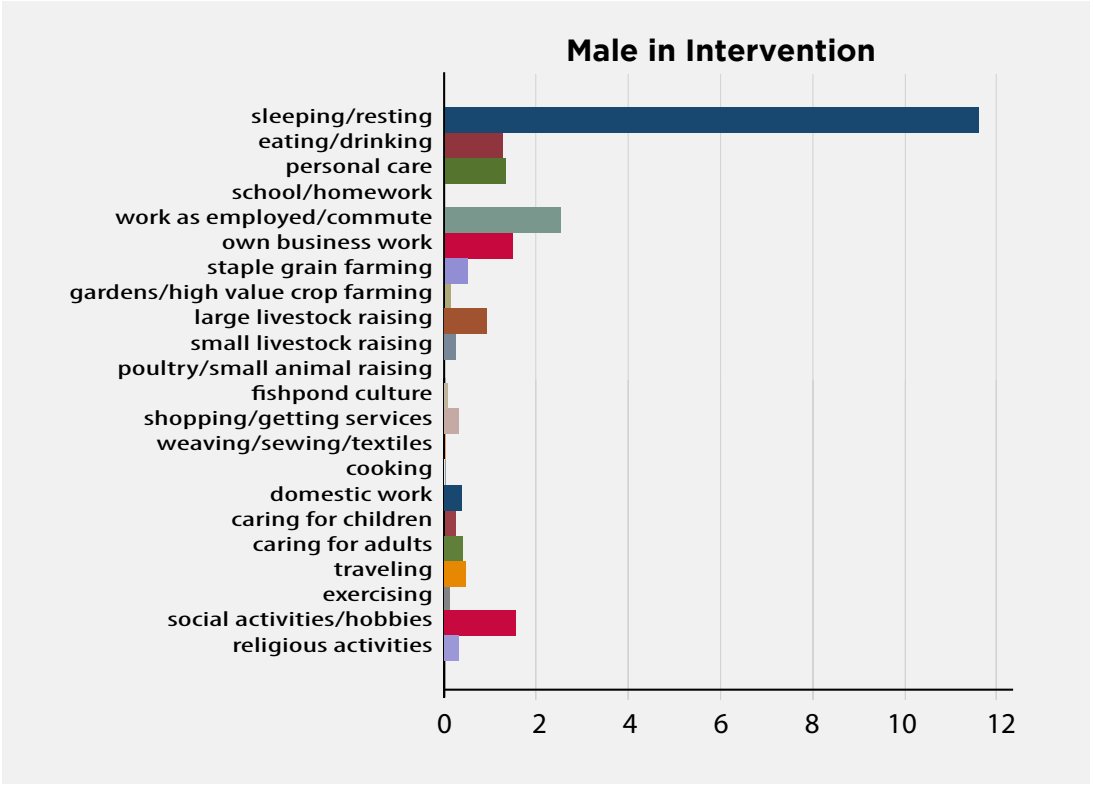
FIGURE 9.31

Time allocation for all activities



17 Colfer CJP. Time allocation studies: a methodological study. In: Feldstein, H. S. and Jiggins, J. (eds.). Tools for the field: methodologies handbook for gender analysis in agriculture., 1994, p. 163–70.

18 Time dedicated to work includes paid employment, commuting, own business work, staple grain farming, gardens/high-value crop farming, large livestock raising, small livestock raising, poultry/small animal raising, fishpond culture, commuting, weaving/ sewing/textiles, cooking, domestic work, caring for children, caring for adults. Childcare is considered a secondary activity if the individual is caring for children while performing other work-related activities.


Male in Intervention
sleeping/resting
eating/drinking
personal care
school/homework
work as employed/commute
own business work
staple grain farming
gardens/high value crop farming
large livestock raising
small livestock raising
poultry/small animal raising
fishpond culture
shopping/getting services
weaving/sewing/textiles
cooking
domestic work
caring for children
caring for adults
traveling
exercising
social activities/hobbies
religious activities
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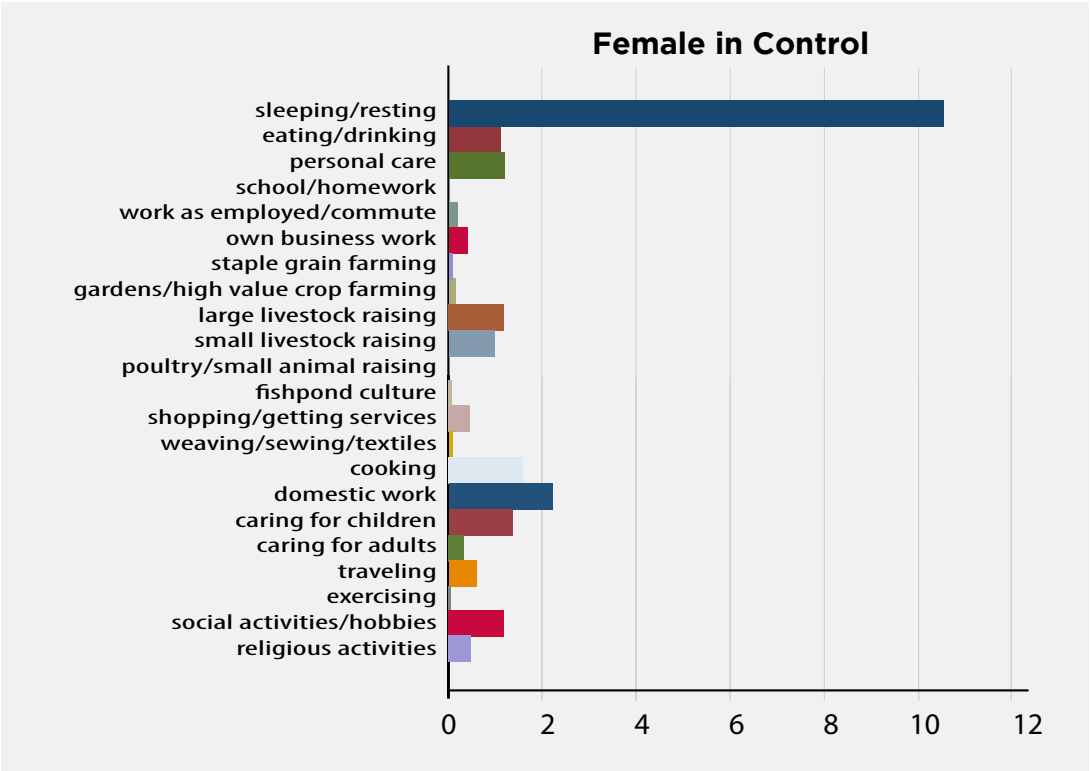
Female in Control
sleeping/resting
eating/drinking
personal care
school/homework
work as employed/commute
own business work
staple grain farming
gardens/high value crop farming
large livestock raising
small livestock raising
poultry/small animal raising
fishpond culture
shopping/getting services
weaving/sewing/textiles
cooking
domestic work
caring for children
caring for adults
traveling
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religious activities
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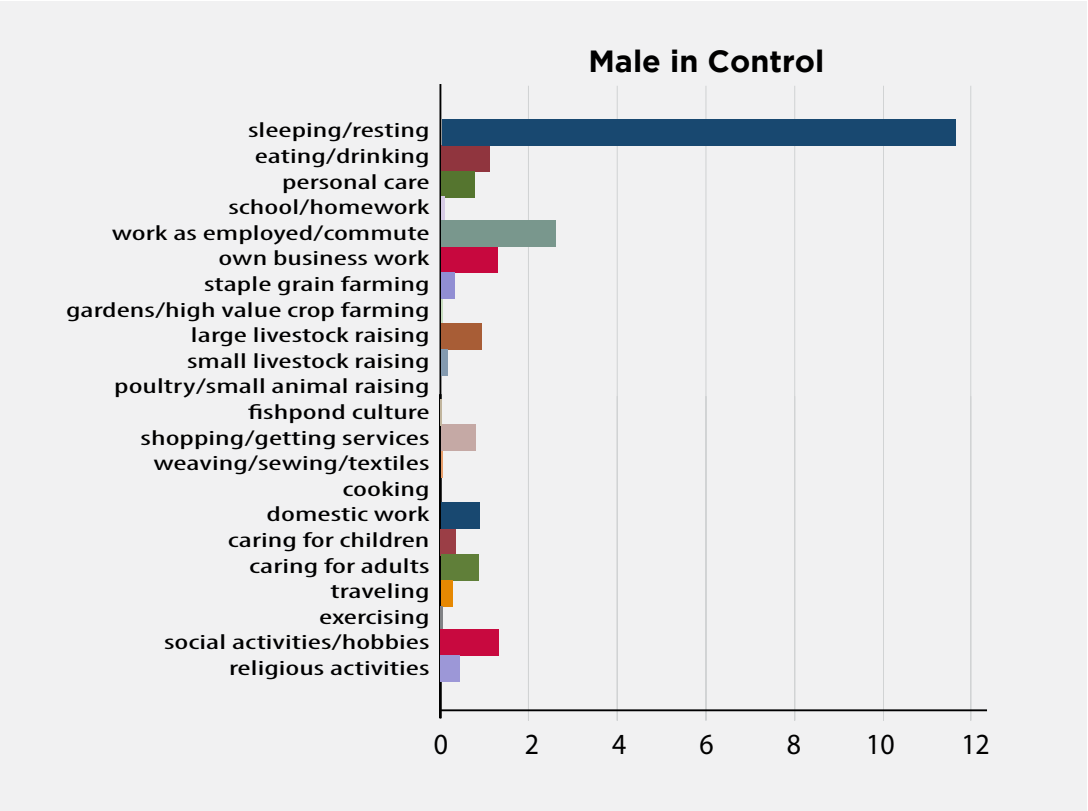
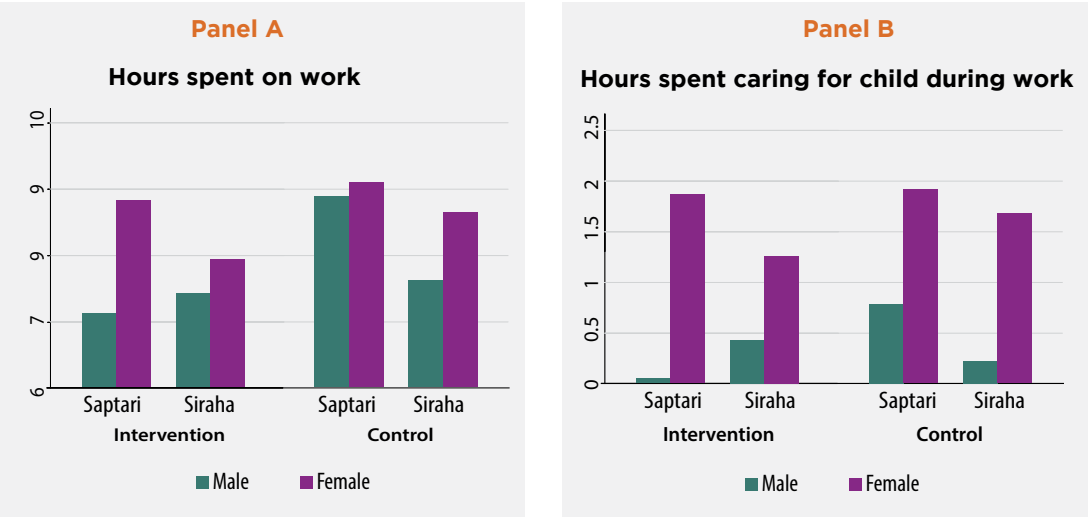


Note: *Total hours spent on each activity the day before the survey.*

Figure 9.32 presents the analysis of work-related activities and the time spent on childcare during work (as a secondary activity) for women and men in different intervention and control villages. The average time spent in each category is reported, along with the confidence intervals to assess statistical significance (non-overlapping intervals indicate significant differences). Panel A illustrates the differences in time allocated to work-related activities, while Panel B focuses on childcare as a secondary activity during work.

FIGURE 9.32

Hours spent on work and caring for a chld during work, by gender

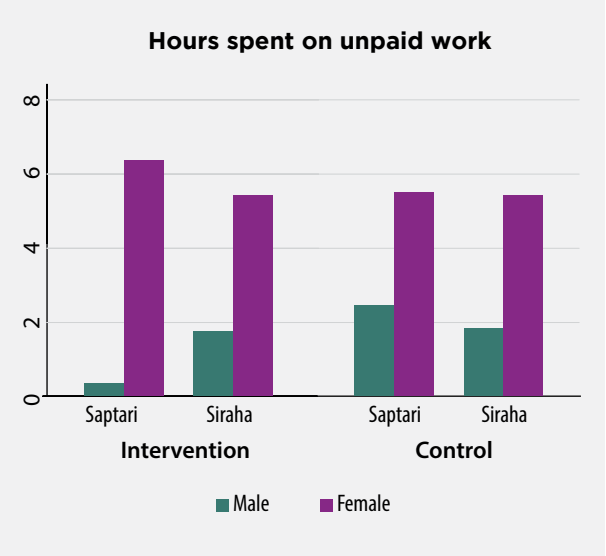


Overall, women tend to spend more time on work-related activities compared to men across intervention and control groups and districts. Notably, men in control villages from Saptari dedicate more time to work-related activities than men from other areas and districts. When it comes to childcare during work, women generally spend more time than men. However, there are variations within specific groups. Men in controlvillages from Saptari allocate comparatively more time to childcare during work compared to other men. On the other hand, women in intervention villages in Siraha spend less time on childcare during work compared to other women.

To assess the time allocation of men and women toward unpaid work, the time spent on activities such as cooking, domestic chores, caring for an adult, and caring for a child were combined. The findings clearly indicate that women devote a significantly greater amount of time to unpaid work compared to men. On average, women spend arund 5.7 hours engaged in unpaid work, whereas men spend only about 1.6 hours on average. Furthermore, women from the intervention villages in Saptari devote the highest amount of time to unpaid work, with an average of 6.3 hours, surpassing their counterparts *(Figure 9.33)*.

FIGURE 9.33

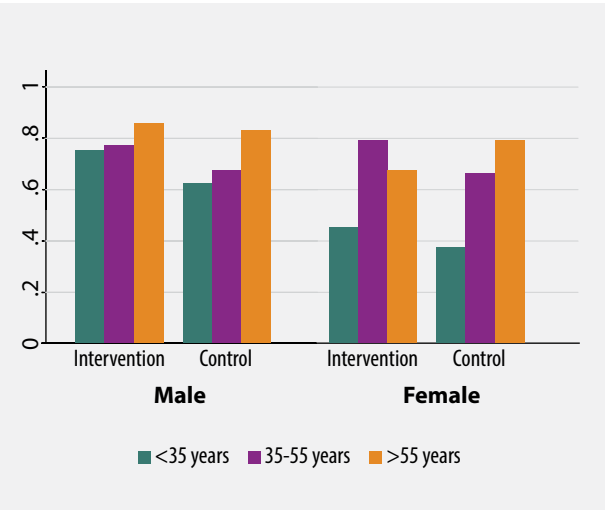
Hours spent on unpaid work, by gender



Regarding adequacy in this indicator, an individual is considered to be adequate if he or she spends less than 10.5 hours a day on work, including paid employment and non-employment activities. When a work activity includes childcare as a secondary work activity, the total time with the two activities is computed as 1.5 times the time spent in that work. This study revealed that men are more empowered in this indicator than women in both intervention and control

FIGURE 9.34

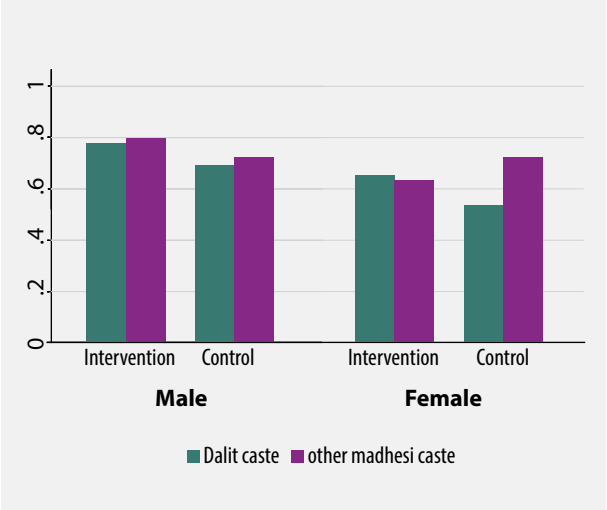
Empowerment in work balance, by age



villages, as 70 per cent of men in intervention villages and 79 per cent of men in control villages are empowered in work balance compared to only 56 per cent of women in intervention villages and 64 per cent of women in control villages *(Figure 9.35)*. Also, empowerment in work balance increases with age, except among women in intervention villages, where middle-aged women are more empowered compared to younger and older women. In both the intervention and control villages, younger women are significantly disempowered in work balance than middle-aged women *(Figure 9.34)*. In terms of work balance by caste group, while other Madhesi women from control villages are significantly more empowered than Dalit castes, no definite conclusion can be made among other groups *(Figure 9.35)* (See Appendix A: Table 9 for further information).

FIGURE 9.35

Empowerment in work balance, by caste

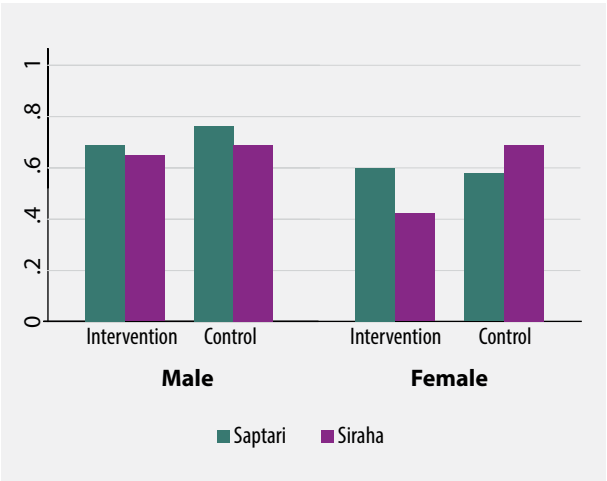


9.3.6 Mobility: Visiting Important Locations

Adequacy in mobility is determined by whether the individual (i) visits at least two locations—either the city, market, family, or other relative most of the time, or (ii) visits a health facility or public meeting at least sometimes. The findings of the study reveal that men are more likely to visit important locations than women. Almost 70 per cent of men from the intervention and control villages are empowered in this domain, compared to only half of the women from the intervention villages and three-fifths of women from control villages *(Figure 9.36)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari in both the intervention and control villages *(Figure 9.36)*. Furthermore, empowerment in mobility is found to be associated with caste, FES and food insecurity.

FIGURE 9.36

Empowerment in mobility, by district



9.4 Collective Agency

9.4.1 Group Membership

The group membership module involved questioning participants about the presence of various groups within their communities and their active participation in group activities. *Figure 9.37* presents the findings of group membership across both districts and the intervention and control villages. Across communities, microfinance and religious groups are the most common groups, while agriculture, livestock and/or fisheries groups are almost non-existent in the intervention villages in Saptari. Additionally, mutual help groups, civic groups and trade groups are generally scarce, except in control villages in Siraha where they have a slightly noticeable presence.

FIGURE 9.37

Groups in Intervention and control groups, by district

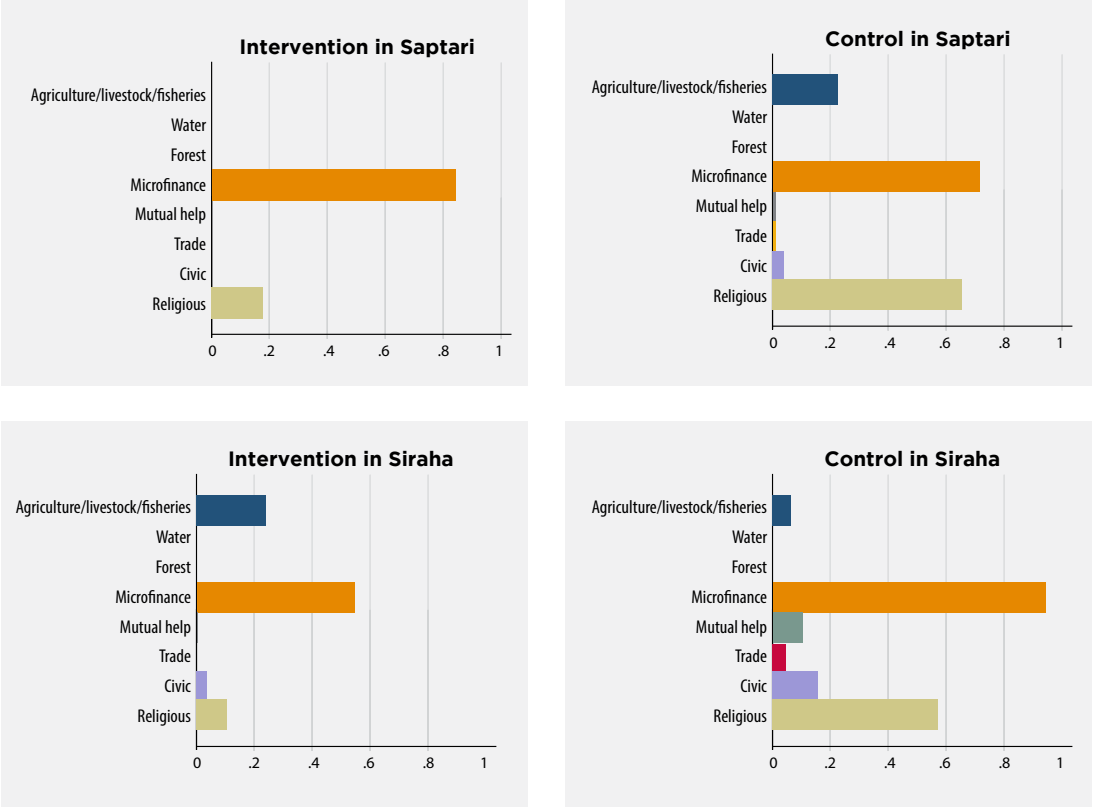
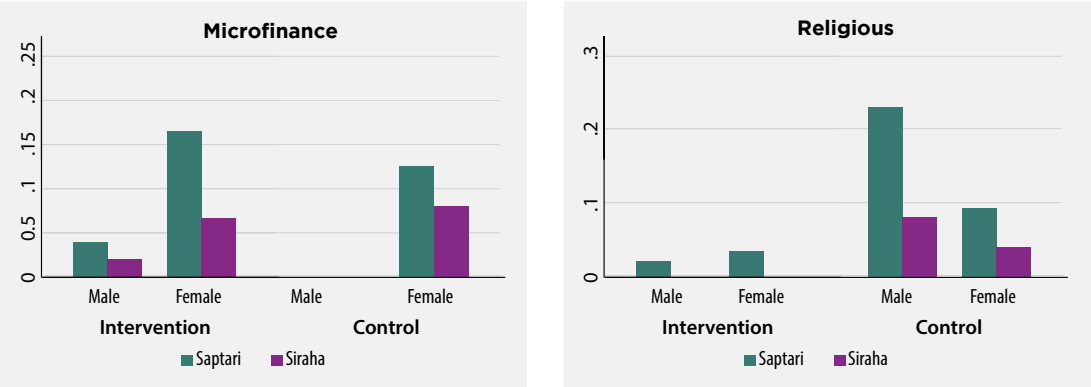


Figure 9.38 shows the disparities in group participation based on gender, district and intervention status, focusing on two common groups: microfinance and religious groups. The study found that more women are actively engaged in microfinance groups than men, while men specifically from a control group in Saptari were found to be more actively engaged in religious groups.

FIGURE 9.38

Active participation in microfinance and religious groups



Some women and men reported being active members of groups, and *Table 9.5* presents findings on the registration status and female leadership for those groups. The table reveals that most of these existing groups are informal and operate without formal registration. It is worth noting that although the percentage is very small, microfinance groups are more likely to be registered compared to other groups. Additionally, microfinance groups also exhibit a higher occurrence of female leadership, although the number of such cases is relatively low.

TABLE 9.5

Share of registered groups and women-led groups

	Intervention		Control	
	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)	Saptari (%)	Siraha (%)
Registered	**(1)**	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**
Agricultural/livestock/fisheries	0%	0%	2%	0%
Water users	0%	0%	0%	0%
Forest users	0%	0%	0%	0%
Microfinance	2%	2%	6%	4%
Mutual help	0%	0%	0%	0%
Trade and business	0%	0%	0%	0%
Civic group	0%	0%	0%	2%
Religious	0%	0%	0%	1%
Female Leader				
Agricultural/livestock/fisheries	0%	1%	1%	0%
Water users	0%	0%	0%	0%
Forest users	0%	0%	0%	0%
Microfinance	10%	4%	6%	4%

Mutual help	0%	0%	0%	0%
Trade and business	0%	0%	0%	0%
Civic group	0%	0%	0%	2%
Religious	1%	0%	13%	3%
Observations	**250**	**250**	**250**	**250**

Being adequate in group membership is determined by being an active member in at least one of the following types of groups: agricultural, livestock, fisheries producers; water users; forest users; credit or microfinance; mutual help; trade and business; civic group or charitable; religious; or other type. The study shows that men and women are less empowered in group membership compared to other indicators. Only 24 to 29 per cent of women and 34 to 45 per cent of men in the intervention and control villages are empowered in this indicator *(Figure 9.39)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in the intervention villages, while it is significantly higher among women in Siraha than Saptari and among men in Saptari than Siraha in the control villages *(Figure 9.39)*. Empowerment is significantly higher for older men than middle-aged and younger men in control villages and for other groups, although not significantly, and middle-aged men and women are more empowered than their counterparts *(Figure 9.40)* (See Appendix A: Table 11 for further information).

FIGURE 9.39

Empowerment in group membership, by district

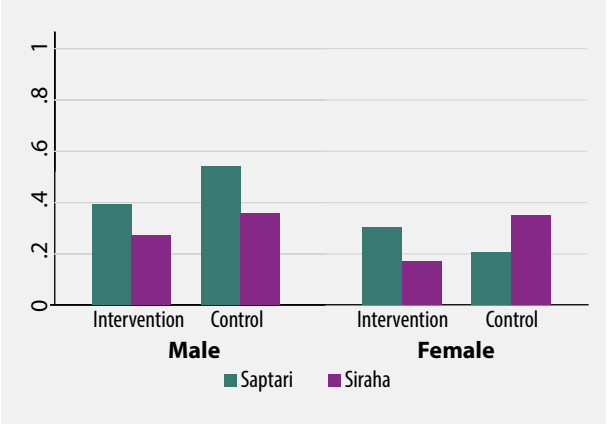
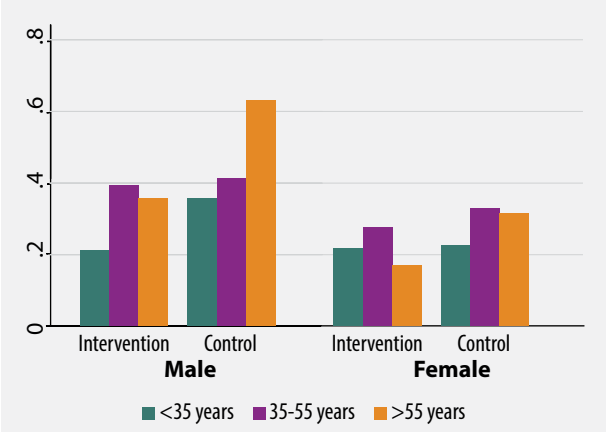


FIGURE 9.40

Empowerment in group membership by age

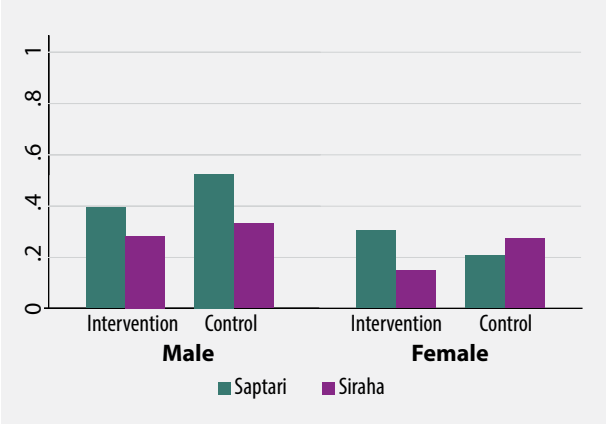


9.4.2 Membership in an Influential Group

Being adequate in terms of membership in an influential group means the individual is an active member of at least one group who can influence the community to a medium or high extent. Like group membership, the percentages of men and women empowered in this indicator are very low: only 22 to 24 per cent of women and 34 to 43 per cent of men in the intervention and control villages are empowered *(Figure 9.41)*. By district, empowerment is significantly higher among women in Saptari than Siraha in the intervention villages, and it is significantly higher among men in Saptari than Siraha in the control villages *(Figure 9.41)*.

FIGURE 9.41

Empowerment in membership in an influential group, by district



The empowerment in this indicator is significantly higher for older men in control villages compared to middle-aged and younger men. In other groups, empowerment is higher among middle-aged men and women, though it is not statistically significant *(Figure 9.42)*.

Also, in this indicator men and women belonging to other Madhesi castes are more empowered than those belonging to Dalit castes *(Figure 9.43)* (See Appendix A: Table 12 for further information).

FIGURE 9.42

Empowerment in membership in an influential group, by age

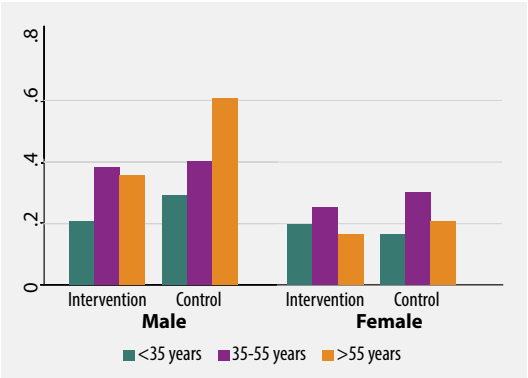
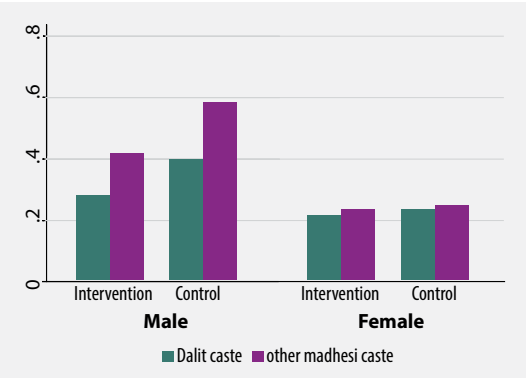


FIGURE 9.43

Empowerment in membership in an influential group, by caste



10 CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study suggest that women are disempowered in various aspects of their lives. Women face significant challenges in terms of making independent decisions to visit important locations, achieving a work balance and attitudes toward intimate partner violence. Women are burdened with a disproportionate amount of unpaid work, leaving them with less time for on-farm or off-farm economic opportunities, which restricts their potential for financial independence and empowerment.

Additionally, the gender gap in education persists, with women being less likely to be educated and read, write and speak Nepali compared to men. Their knowledge about legal rights is also lower, limiting their ability to exercise their own rights. Rural women could benefit from the various formal and informal groups in their communities. However, there is a lack of these groups in the selected districts, which has prevented women from accessing knowledge and skills on agricultural technologies, climate-resilient technologies, opportunities for self-help and finance options.

Women's ability to access opportunities is also complicated by household and community-level challenges. The minimal achievement of dietary diversity by women, high prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity and economic vulnerability is potentially affecting women's overall health and well-being. Additionally, no toilet facilities at home are compelling women to resort to open defecation, which not only has adverse effects on women's health but also compromises their safety and dignity. Lastly, the low CCS signifies a lack of awareness and preparedness among communities to cope with climate-related challenges, which is only complicating their existing vulnerabilities.

Addressing these challenges will help achieve economic empowerment for rural women. Interventions should adopt a comprehensive approach, placing women at the core, and policies and programmes must be designed to promote inclusivity and support.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, we have formulated recommendations to effectively address the disempowerment faced by women and to promote sustainable development in the community.

1) **Gender mainstreaming:** A gender mainstreaming approach should be achieved throughout the implementation of JP-RWEE Phase II. Programmes should be developed in the local language targeting skill development, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

2) **Awareness on intimate partner violence**: Domestic violence has been normalized in society, to some extent. Women's understanding and attitudes towards intimate partner violence are largely shaped by their communities and upbringing. Thus, programmes should also aim to improve women's awareness towards domestic violence and collaborate with local organizations and stakeholders to create safe spaces for women.

3) **Livelihood opportunities and means of sustenance:** Increasing women's involvement in diversified livelihood opportunities is important to reducing the disproportionate burden of unpaid work among women and to enhancing their economic independence.

4) **Sustainable farming practices and farmers' groups:** Farmers' groups can facilitate knowledge sharing, access to resources and improved market opportunities, leading to increased income and empowerment among women farmers. Thus, forming farmers' groups with equal representation of men and women in active roles is recommended.

5) **Nutrition and health initiatives**: Programmes aiming to improve dietary diversity and nutrition awareness among women is a must. Improving access to nutritious food sources is important, as is providing support to establish kitchen gardens that can promote overall health and well-being.

6) **Climate resilience and disaster preparedness**: Climate resilience and disaster preparedness training, with a specific focus on educating women, should be incorporated into the plan. Women's active participation should be encouraged in community resilience and adaptation efforts.

7) **Integrate qualitative research**: Quantitative research provided by this baseline study must be harmonized and complemented with focus group discussions and key informant interviews with households, women and communities. Qualitative research will elucidate the role that social norms and other challenges play in disempowering women, factors that cannot be identified through quantitative research alone.

12 DISSEMINATION PLAN

The above-mentioned key findings and recommendations will be further discussed, validated and disseminated with the key stakeholders, particularly the MoALD; provincial ministries, including the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Sports; and the Agriculture Knowledge Center in Siraha and Saptari districts. Further, the JP-RWEE team will also disseminate the results and discuss the recommendations with local government representatives as well as community members in the programme areas. All implementing partners and service providers of the four PUNOs will engage in these discussions so that they are able to develop and implement relevant action plans in response to these recommendations and contribute to tracking the progress against results indicators.

Who	How	When
Federal government (MoALD)	Validation meeting and sharing the draft report for review and inputs	July-August 2023
Provincial governments and representatives from the Agriculture Knowledge Centers in Siraha and Saptari	Dissemination workshop in Madhesh Province	September 2023
Local governments	Meetings with local government representatives in all five municipalities	September 2023
Community members	Interactions in the community	September - December 2023

13 MONITORING PLAN

After finalizing the baseline report, the Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) will be updated with baseline and target values for all results indicators. Progress against output results indicators will be tracked on a quarterly basis through the Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF), with some indicators and outcome indicators being monitored annually. Impact-level indicators will only be tracked during the mid-term review and endline survey. Annual progress review meetings will also be organized at the country level, involving all PUNOs, implementing partners/service providers, government representatives and other relevant stakeholders. Individual PUNOs will coordinate with their respective implementing partners/service providers for day-to-day monitoring of the programme activities. The MEAL Coordinator and National Coordinator will provide technical guidance and required support to all implementing partners/service providers in close collaboration with the global MEAL Coordinator. Additionally, joint monitoring visits will be carried out by PUNOs in coordination with government counterparts to better understand and discuss the challenges and opportunities for effective implementation. Lessons learned from the field and evidence of positive changes (quantitative and qualitative) will be documented and shared with key stakeholders for wider dissemination and to develop a common understanding.

APPENDIX A:
ADEQUACY IN INTRINSIC, INSTRUMENTAL AND COLLECTIVE AGENCY

TABLE 1

Adequacy in autonomy in income among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	54.67*	71.00	64.7	99.0**
Siraha	69.33*	58.00	80.0	48.0**
Age of the respondents				
<35	61.5	50.0*	76.9	68.9
35-55	62.8	71.8*	69.5	71.6
>55	60.0	61.9*	68.4	82.6
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	62.6	62.0	72.0	70.2*
Other Madhesi caste	61.0	68.4	75.0	93.1*
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	62.8	63.3	71.8	71.8
Education primary or above	50.0	71.0	84.6	81.1
Cannot read or write	63.6	64.7	71.9	75.2
Can read or write	48.4	64.1	79.0	70.4
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	61.3	68.4	71.1	72.1
Can speak, write or read Nepali	66.7	60.0	87.0	74.1
No disability	62.1	66.9*	72.0	71.7
Minor disability	60.9	37.5*	74.4	82.4
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	63.3*	66.9	70.8	80.0*
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	35.7*	52.9	88.5	64.7*
FES<65	65.9	72.3	-	-
FES>=65	59.3	59.0	-	-
No food insecurity	57.1	62.7	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	68.2	66.7	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	62.6	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	54.1	-	-	-
Dual Household	62.0	64.5	73.5	73.5
Single Household	62.0	-	-	70.0

TABLE 2

Adequacy in self-efficacy among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	88.0**	76.0	63.3	83.0**
Siraha	55.3**	66.0	66.7	99.0**
Age of the respondents				
<35	76.1*	75.0	65.0	91.1
35-55	73.2*	70.9	65.9	92.7
>55	46.7*	66.7	57.9	87.0
Ethnicity of the respondent				
Dalit caste	68.7	72.7	64.4	90.1
Other Madhesi caste	76.3	68.4	69.4	96.6
Education of the respondent				
No or below primary level education	70.6	68.6	64.5	89.0*
Education primary or above	88.9	83.9	76.9	100.0*
Cannot read or write	70.3	68.4	64.4	88.4
Can read or write	83.9	76.6	73.7	95.8
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	71.7	70.4	63.5	85.3
Can speak, write or read Nepali	71.8	71.6	82.6	93.5
No disability	72.6	72.3	63.0	90.4
Minor disability	60.9	56.3	76.7	94.1
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	70.6	71.7	63.5	87.0*
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	92.9	67.7	80.8	96.5*
FES<65	67.5	74.7	-	-
FES>=65	74.6	68.4	-	-
No food insecurity	76.2	71.8	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	65.9	70.0	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	73.7	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Dual Household	69.5	71.0	64.5	91.0
Single Household	76.0	-	66.0	-

TABLE 3

Adequacy in attitude towards intimate partner violence among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	64.0	77.0	30.7**	79.0
Siraha	61.3	75.0	89.3**	84.0
Age of the respondents				
<35	64.1	66.7	61.5	77.8
35-55	60.1	78.2	57.9	80.7
>55	70.0	81	68.4	87
Ethnicity of the respondent				
Dalit caste	57.7*	72.7	61	80.1
Other Madhesi caste	70.3*	81	52.8	89.7
Education of the respondent				
No or below primary level education	61.7	72.8*	59.2	79.8
Education primary or above	77.8	93.5*	76.9	89.2
Cannot read or write	61.3	72.1	58.7	79.1
Can read or write	74.2	84.4	78.9	85.9
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	60.9	72.4	59.6	77
Can speak, write or read Nepali	74.4	79.4	65.2	83.5
No disability	63.2	77.7	57.6*	81.3
Minor disability	56.5	56.3	74.4*	82.4
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	61.2*	74.7	57.7*	78.3
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	92.9*	82.4	84.6*	85.9
FES<65	65.9	81.9	-	-
FES>=65	60.5	71.8	-	-
No food insecurity	61.9	78.2	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	63.6	73.3	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	62.6	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	64.9	-	-	-
Dual Household	61.5	76	62	81.5
Single Household	65	-	56	-

TABLE 4

Adequacy in respect among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	92.0**	78.0**	20.7*	82.0
Siraha	63.3**	95.0**	36.0*	88.0
Age of the respondents				
<35	81.2	87.5	18.8	75.6
35-55	76.5	83.6	34.8	88.1
>55	70.0	92.9	31.6	87
Ethnicity of the respondent				
Dalit caste	76.4	81.8*	28	84.8
Other Madhesi caste	79.7	93.7*	30.6	86.2
Education of the respondent				
No or below primary level education	76.6	84.6	27.9	85.9
Education primary or above	94.4	96.8	38.5	81.1
Cannot read or write	76.6	84.6	28.1	86
Can read or write	87.1	90.6	31.6	83.1
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	77.8	83.7	28.5	88.5
Can speak, write or read Nepali	76.9	89.2	26.1	83.5
No disability	78.0	85.9	27.2	84.9
Minor disability	73.9	93.8	34.9	85.3
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	77.3	86.1	26.3*	81.7
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	85.7	88.2	50*	89.4
FES<65	82.9	88.0	-	-
FES>=65	74.0	85.5	-	-
No food insecurity	85.1*	88.2	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	68.2*	84.4	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	80.3	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Dual Household	77.0	86.5	30	85
Single Household	79.0	-	25	-

TABLE 5

Adequacy in Input in Productive Decision among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	90.0**	96.0	96.7**	90.0*
Siraha	86.7**	93.0	85.3**	99.0*
Age of the respondents				
<35	79.5*	91.7	83.8*	86.7*
35-55	95.4*	96.4	95.7*	97.2*
>55	86.7*	92.9	94.7*	95.7*
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	89.0	94.2	90.2	94.2
Other Madhesi caste	87.3	94.9	97.2	96.6
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	88.7	95.9	93.0*	95.1
Education primary or above	83.3	87.1	46.2*	91.9
Cannot read or write	90.0*	97.8*	93.2*	96.1
Can read or write	74.2*	87.5*	57.9*	91.5
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	88.1	99.0*	93.5*	95.1
Can speak, write or read Nepali	89.7	90.2*	60.9*	94.2
No disability	88.8	95.1	91.1	95.8
Minor disability	82.6	87.5	90.7	88.2
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	88.1	94.6	93.1*	92.2
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	92.9	94.1	69.2*	97.6
FES<65	84.6	94.0	-	
FES>=65	91.0	94.9	-	-
No food insecurity	90.5	93.6	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	85.6	95.6	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	88.9	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Dual Household	87.5	94.5	90.5	94.5
Single Household	90.0	-	92.0	-

TABLE 6

Adequacy in ownership of land and other assets among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	81.3**	95.0	98.0*	99.0
Siraha	94.0**	88.0	91.3*	97.0
Age of the respondents				
<35	81.2*	81.3*	93.2	97.8
35-55	93.5*	96.4*	96.3	98.2
>55	83.3*	90.5*	89.5	97.8
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	85.7	89.3	93.9	97.7
Other Madhesi caste	90.7	94.9	100.0	100.0
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	86.9	91.1	94.4	97.5
Education primary or above	100.0	93.5	100.0	100.0
Cannot read or write	87.0	90.4	94.7	97.7
Can read or write	93.5	93.8	94.7	98.6
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	85.8*	90.8	94.6	95.1
Can speak, write or read Nepali	100.0*	92.2	95.7	99.3
No disability	87.7	91.3	93.8	98.2
Minor disability	87.0	93.8	100.0	97.1
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	87.1	91.0	94.9	96.5
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	100.0	94.1	92.3	100.0
FES<65	91.9	91.6	-	-
FES>=65	84.7	91.5	-	-
No food insecurity	94.0*	95.5*	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	79.5*	86.7*	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	87.9	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Dual Household	87.5	91.5	96.5	98.0
Single Household	88.0	-	91.0	-

TABLE 7

Adequacy in access to and decisions on financial services among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	86.7*	79.0	86.0	91.0**
Siraha	78.0*	71.0	87.3	71.0**
Age of the respondents				
<35	76.1*	68.8	82.1	73.3
35-55	88.2*	75.5	89.6	79.8
>55	76.7*	81.0	89.5	91.3
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	81.9	68.6*	85.6	78.9
Other Madhesi caste	83.1	84.8*	94.4	93.1
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	81.9	72.8	87.1	81.6
Education primary or above	88.9	87.1	76.9	78.4
Cannot read or write	82.9	71.3	87.2	81.4
Can read or write	77.4	82.8	78.9	80.3
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	80.8	73.5	87	80.3
Can speak, write or read Nepali	92.3	76.5	82.6	81.3
No disability	81.9	73.4	86	81.9
Minor disability	87.0	93.8	90.7	76.5
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	81.8	73.5	86.1	86.1*
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	92.9	82.4	92.3	74.1*
FES<65	85.4	78.3	-	-
FES>=65	80.2	72.6	-	-
No food insecurity	83.9	78.2	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	80.3	71.1	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	83.8	-	-	-
Dual Household	79.5	75.0	84.5	81.0
Single Household	88.0	-	91.0	-

TABLE 8

Adequacy in control over use of income among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	87.3**	70.0**	94.7**	86.0**
Siraha	70.0**	90.0**	62.0**	99.0**
Age of the respondents				
<35	74.4	79.2	67.5*	84.4
35-55	82.4	78.2	85.4*	95.4
>55	76.7	85.7	84.2*	93.5
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	81.9	78.5	77.7	93.0
Other Madhesi caste	73.7	82.3	83.3	89.7
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	79.1	78.7	80.1*	93.3
Education primary or above	72.2	87.1	38.5*	89.2
Cannot read or write	79.9	78.7	81.1*	94.6
Can read or write	67.7	82.8	36.8*	88.7
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	78.9	81.6	81.2*	93.4
Can speak, write or read Nepali	76.9	78.4	43.5*	92.1
No disability	80.1*	81.5	78.6	93.4
Minor disability	60.9*	62.5	76.7	88.2
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	78.7	81.3	80.3*	89.6
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	78.6	73.5	57.7*	96.5
FES<65	74.8	81.9	-	-
FES>=65	81.4	78.6	-	-
No food insecurity	79.2	80.0	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	78.0	80.0	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	80.3	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	73.0	-	-	-
Dual Household	77.0	80.0	75.5	92.5
Single Household	82.0	-	84.0	-

TABLE 9

Adequacy in work balance among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	60.0	79.0	55.3	72.0
Siraha	68.0	78.0	56.0	67.0
Age of the respondents				
<35	44.4*	75.0	36.8*	62.2
35-55	78.4*	77.3	66.5*	67.0
>55	66.7*	85.7	78.9*	82.6
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	64.8	77.7	53.4*	69.0
Other Madhesi caste	62.7	79.7	72.2*	72.4
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	65.2	78.7	56.1	70.6
Education primary or above	44.4	77.4	46.2	64.9
Cannot read or write	64.7	80.9	57.3*	76.0*
Can read or write	58.1	73.4	31.6*	57.7*
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	65.1	79.6	58.1*	72.1
Can speak, write or read Nepali	56.4	77.5	26.1*	68.3
No disability	65.0	78.3	54.9	68.1
Minor disability	52.2	81.3	60.5	76.5
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	64.3	83.7*	56.9	71.3
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	57.1	52.9*	42.3	67.1
FES<65	68.3	78.3	-	-
FES>=65	61.0	78.6	-	-
No food insecurity	61.3	74.5	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	67.4	83.3	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	60.1	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	62.2	-	-	-
Dual Household	66.0	78.5	57.5	69.5
Single Household	60.0	-	52.0	-

TABLE 10

Adequacy in visiting important locations among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	54.67*	71.00	57.3*	76.0
Siraha	69.33*	58.00	68.7*	68.0
Age of the respondents				
<35	52.1	54.2	65.0	68.9
35-55	49.0	70.0	59.1	70.6
>55	53.3	71.4	84.2	78.3
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	46.7	60.3*	63.6	72.5
Other Madhesi caste	56.8	75.9*	58.3	69.0
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	49.6	64.5	63.4	72.4
Education primary or above	66.7	77.4	53.8	70.3
Cannot read or write	48.7*	66.2	64.1	74.4
Can read or write	67.7*	67.2	47.4	67.6
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	49.4	69.4	64.3	77.0
Can speak, write or read Nepali	59.0	63.7	47.8	69.8
No disability	50.2	66.3	60.7*	70.5
Minor disability	56.5	68.8	76.7*	79.4
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	50.0	64.5	62.4	65.2*
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	64.3	76.5	69.2	81.2*
FES<65	58.5*	69.9	-	-
FES>=65	45.2*	64.1	-	-
No food insecurity	44.6*	71.8	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	58.3*	60.0	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	48.5*	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	67.6*	-	-	-
Dual Household	51.0	66.5	63.5	72.0
Single Household	50.0	-	62.0	-

TABLE 11

Adequacy in group membership among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	30.7*	40.0	22.0*	54.0*
Siraha	17.3*	28.0	35.3*	36.0*
Age of the respondents				
<35	21.4	20.8	22.2	35.6*
35-55	27.5	39.1	32.9	41.3*
>55	16.7	35.7	31.6	63.0*
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	23.6	28.9	29.2	42.7
Other Madhesi caste	24.6	41.8	25.0	58.6
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	23.8	31.4	29.6	43.6
Education primary or above	27.8	48.4	7.7	51.4
Cannot read or write	23.8	33.1	29.9	48.1
Can read or write	25.8	35.9	10.5	39.4
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	23.8	37.8	29.2	44.3
Can speak, write or read Nepali	25.6	30.4	21.7	45.3
No disability	24.5	35.3	27.6	44.0
Minor disability	17.4	18.8	34.9	50.0
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	23.8	34.9	27.7	42.6
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	28.6	29.4	38.5	48.2
FES<65	29.3	39.8	-	-
FES>=65	20.3	29.9	-	-
No food insecurity	21.4	36.4	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	27.3	31.1	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	24.7	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	21.6	-	-	-
Dual Household	24.0	34.0	30.5	45.0
Single Household	24.0	-	25.0	-

TABLE 12

Adequacy in membership in an influential group among women and men in intervention and control villages

	Intervention		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
District				
Saptari	30.0**	39.0	20.7	52.0*
Siraha	14.7*	28.0	27.3	33.0*
Age of the respondents				
<35	19.7	20.8	16.2*	28.9*
35-55	25.5	38.2	29.9*	40.4*
>55	16.7	35.7	21.1*	60.9*
Ethnicity of the respondents				
Dalit caste	21.4	28.1*	23.9	39.8
Other Madhesi caste	23.7	41.8*	25.0	58.6
Education of the respondents				
No or below primary level education	22.0	30.8	24.7	41.1
Education primary or above	27.8	48.4	7.7	48.6
Cannot read or write	21.9	32.4	25.3*	45.7
Can read or write	25.8	35.9	5.3*	36.6
Cannot speak, write or read Nepali	22.2	36.7	24.5	42.6
Can speak, write or read Nepali	23.1	30.4	17.4	42.4
No disability	22.7	34.8	23.0	41.0
Minor disability	17.4	18.8	30.2	50.0
No knowledge or understanding of legal rights	22.0	34.3	23.7	40.9
Knowledge or understanding of legal rights	28.6	29.4	26.9	44.7
FES<65	26.0	39.8	-	-
FES>=65	19.8	29.1	-	-
No food insecurity	20.2	35.5	-	-
Moderate or severe FIES	25.0	31.1	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity not achieved	23.2	-	-	-
Minimum dietary diversity achieved	21.6	-	-	-
Dual Household	22.5	33.5	26.0	42.5
Single Household	22.0	-	20.0	-

APPENDIX B:
VILLAGE PROFILING

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Bel Tole	Sada (Musahar)	50	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Bel Tole	Kapar	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Bel Tole	Haluwai (Sah)	3	8
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Bel Tole	Teli (Sah)	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Dil Tole	Sada (Musahar)	45	45
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Dil Tole	Teli (Sah)	3	3
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Dil Tole	Sahani (Malah)	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Khola Tole	Sada (Musahar)	100	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Khola Tole	Tamang	15	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Khola Tole	Bishwakarma	4	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Khola Tole	Mahara (Chamar)	6	6
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Hinwani Tole	Bishwakarma	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Hinwani Tole	Rouniyar	10	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Hinwani Tole	Haluwai (Sah)	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Purbariya Tole	Sada (Musahar)	65	65
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Purbariya Tole	Mahara (Chamar)	40	45
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Purbariya Tole	Bishwakarma	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Purbariya Tole	Haluwai (Sah)	1	3
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Purbariya Tole	Musalman	2	2

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Rampur Tole	Sada (Musahar)	25	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Rampur Tole	Dom	7	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Rampur Tole	Chamar	22	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Rampur Tole	Others	25	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Pipra Tole	Sada (Musahar)	10	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Pipra Tole	Khatway (Mandal)	50	125
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Pipra Tole	Boutar	30	45
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Pipra Tole	Chamar	5	9
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Pipra Tole	Others	30	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Sano Pipra Tole	Chamar	30	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 1	Sano Pipra Tole	Kamat	15	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Chamar	30	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Kamat	50	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Haluwai (Sah)	15	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Hajam	7	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Musalman	25	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Danuwar	100	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Teli (Sah)	15	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Khatway (Mandal)	35	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Dhobi (Safi)	10	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Sada (Musahar)	1	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Tharu	35	

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Bishwakarma	2	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Rajdhobi	10	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Yadav	25	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Malah	35	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Sudi	2	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole	Kayastha	1	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Tatma	50	110
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Danuwar	30	60
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Dhanuk (Mandal)	60	120
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Chamar (Mochi)	15	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Sada (Musahar)	4	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Sah Sudi	6	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Teli (Sah)	3	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Dhobi (Safi)	10	30
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Sonar	2	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Musalman	3	20
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Laxmipur Tole	Others	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Malah	25	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Danuwar	30	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Amat (Roy)	10	40
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Paswan	15	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Sada (Musahar)	15	15

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Teli (Sah)/Sudi Sah	10	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Dhanuk (Mandal)	5	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Chamar	4	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Musalman	4	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Badahi (Thakur)	2	12
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Dhobi (Safi)	5	7
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Hajam	1	1
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Bramhpuri Tole	Dom	4	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Sada (Musahar)	50	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Tatma	25	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Amat (Roy)	15	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Chamar	15	25
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Teli Sah	2	7
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Badahi (Thakur)	1	1
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Giri	1	1
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Yadav	25	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Dhanchhabar Tole	Danuwar	25	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Sada (Musahar)	15	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Chamar (Ram)	4	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Dhobi (Safi)	10	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Malah	15	

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Yadav	30	200
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Chaudhary	15	60
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Musalman	20	140
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Bhedihar	2	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Thakur	3	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sisawa Tole	Chamar (Ram)	5	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sisawa Tole	Musalman	8	30
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sisawa Tole	Yadav	30	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sisawa Tole	Dom (Mallik)	1	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Tatma (Das)	65	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Yadav	25	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Teli Sah	3	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Chaudhary	3	6
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Sharma (Thakur)	3	6
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Patthargadha Tole	Hajam (Thakur)	2	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sundarpuri Tole	Khatway	25	40
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sundarpuri Tole	Chaudhary	5	8
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sundarpuri Tole	Sada (Musahar)	1	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Yadav	20	150
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Sada (Musahar)	60	60
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Khatway	25	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Tatma (Das)	5	6

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Chamar (Mochi)	10	13
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Musalman	25	25
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Malah (Mukhiya)	10	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Tharu	5	9
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Sothiyani	Mali (Bhandari)	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Yadav	40	80
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Koiri	7	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Sada (Musahar)	40	40
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Malah	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Kumhal	5	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Sonar	1	1
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Hajam (Thakur)	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Rajdhobi	8	8
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Badahi (Thakur)	4	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Makrampur	Yadav	15	40
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Makrampur	Kamat	20	20
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Makrampur	Badahi (Thakur)	2	6
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Jagatpur	Yadav	15	40
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Jagatpur	Tharu	20	30
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Jagatpur	Baniya (Gupta)	1	7
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Jagatpur	Tatma (Das)	25	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Jagatpur	Kamat	5	30

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Portaha Tole	Sada (Musahar)	85	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Mirjapur	Sada (Musahar)	85	120
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Maharupa	Mali	15	27
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Maharupa	Chamar (Ram)	15	25
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Maharupa	Hajam (Thakur)	2	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Khariyani	Yadav	25	75
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Pandubi	Paswan	6	12
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Pandubi	Mahato	1	6
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Pandubi	Yadav	10	30
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Dhati Tole	Mahato	4	4
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Dhati Tole	Giri	2	3
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Pariharpur	Yadav	50	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Pariharpur	Sada (Musahar)	2	2
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Sarahchinya	Yadav	25	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Sarahchinya	Chaudhary	15	35
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Sarahchinya	Ram	3	3
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Sarahchinya	Safi	8	8
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Dinajpur	Mahato	10	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Dinajpur	Yadav	20	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Sada (Musahar)	25	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Dhanuk (Mandal)	5	15
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Chamar (Ram)	5	

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Safi	6	
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Yadav	25	200
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Thakur (Sharma)	3	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Musalman	5	22
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Sakhuwa Tole	Haluwai (Sah)	5	7
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Paswan Tole	Paswan	15	30
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Paswan Tole	Mandal	14	20
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Paswan Tole	Badahi (Thakur)	10	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khatway Tole	Khatway	50	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Simraha Tole	Thakur	22	25
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Simraha Tole	Musalman	25	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Simraha Tole	Yadav	25	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Simraha Tole	Barahi	3	3
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Simraha Tole	Kalwar Chaudhary	3	5
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Dhanuk (Mandal)	5	10
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Gosai	2	7
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Kalwar Chaudhary	10	20
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Teli (Sah)	2	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Yadav	20	100
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Khairkhona Tole	Musalman	25	50
Madhesh Province	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Maheshbadi Mushar Tole	Sada (Musahar)	20	20

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Mansuri Mushari Tole	Sada (Musahar)	70	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Goryahi Tole	Sada (Musahar)	300	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Rajpur	Dhobi	30	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Odahan	Sada (Musahar)	100	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Hospital Tole	Sada (Musahar)	80	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Dhobiyahi Tole	Sada (Musahar)	100	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Ram Tole	Ram	80	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Muslim Tole	Musalman	50	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Ram Tole	Ram	40	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Paswan Tole	Paswan	40	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Dhobi Tole	Dhobi	20	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Musahar Tole	Sada (Musahar)	250	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Khatway Tole	Khatway	300	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Bhatotar Tole	Kamat	40	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Bhatotar Tole	Malah (Mukhiya)	25	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Lokhram Tole	Others	50	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Rabayarg Tole	Previous Ward 5	150	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Rabayarg Tole	Previous Ward 6	150	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Rabayarg Tole	Previous Ward 9	50	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Ram Tole	Previous Ward 2	25	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Paswan	50	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Sonar	20	

Province	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	Target HH (Tentative)	Total HH (Tentative)
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Musalman	25	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Dhanuk (Mandal)	5	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Jogi	5	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Chatti Tole	Mukhiya	5	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Telmari Tole	Teli	45	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Telmari Tole	Khatway	15	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Kusshah Tole	Khang Khatway	10	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Musahar Tole	Sada (Musahar)	125	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Mukhiya Tole	Mukhiya	200	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Ram Tole	Ram	25	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Roy Tole	Sardar/Mukhiya	125	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Sah Pandit Tole	Ram/Khang	50	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kusshah Tole	Khang	80	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Barsaini Tole	Ram Khang/Sadar	100	
Madhesh Province	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Dhati Tole	Sardar	50	

APPENDIX C:
DATA COLLECTION REPORT

Baseline Survey for UN Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Nepal, Phase II

DATA COLLECTION REPORT

Submitted to:

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and
UN Women

Submitted by:

New ERA
P.O. Box 722
Rudramati Marga, Kalopul
Kathmandu, Nepal

May 22, 2023

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1.0 Background

New ERA was contracted to conduct this baseline survey for the UN Joint Programme Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE) Nepal Phase II, beginning from 22 February 2023. In line with the survey implementation plan, New ERA organized a five-day training session, one-day field pre-test and one-day review meeting. The training involved a total of 18 participants who were selected based on their proficiency in the Maithili language and their experience in agriculture and women's empowerment projects. Among the participants, four served as supervisors, while the remaining 14 worked as enumerators. After the review meeting, teams were dispatched to specific villages, and the data collection commenced from 21 April to 10 May 2023.

2.0 Training

A comprehensive five-day training session took place at Sweet Banquet Hall in Kathmandu from 11 April to 17 April 2023. The training involved the core team of New ERA, along with representatives from IFAD and UN Women, who collaborated in delivering the training to the participants. The technical aspects of the tools were primarily covered by trainers from New ERA, namely Ms. Sajani Manandhar, Mr. Naveen Lama and Mr. Manoj Maharjan. Mr. Sajit Shrestha from New ERA facilitated the digital tool and data capture process in MoDA. Throughout the training period, Mr. Tribhuban Paudel from IFAD provided support and guidance, specifically on the technical aspects of the tools. Additionally, Ms. Rachana Bhattarai and Ms. Sama Shrestha from UN Women facilitated a session on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), as well as gender-inclusive interview techniques. Also, Dr. Pradhyumna Raj Pandey, Senior Agriculture Economist (Under Secretary) and Mr. Rabin Rai, M&E Coordinator (JP-RWEE Phase II) for UN Women attended the training to show their support and to motivate our enumerators.

The training provided a comprehensive overview of various topics related to JP-RWEE Phase II, including its background, survey methodology, sampling techniques, household listing and questionnaires (household, individual and CCS). The participants actively engaged in roleplays and mock interviews, allowing them to practice asking questions and addressing any misunderstanding among themselves.

Some important points discussed during the data collection training:

- Households should be listed as dual and single/female-headed households in each village. Dual and single/female-headed households should be selected maintaining the ratio of 2:1 in each district for the control and intervention villages separately.

- For both dual and single/female-headed households, data will be collected using a household questionnaire. Additionally, an individual questionnaire will be administered to one primary respondent and one secondary respondent who is usually the opposite sex spouse. If the spouse is not available in a dual household, then any opposite sex household member will be given the questionnaire. While in single/female-headed households, one primary female household member will be interviewed using the individual questionnaire.
- If the respondent is unable to sign the informed consent, we must identify a witness, read the consent to the witness and request the witness's signature.
- To be interviewed for the household and individual questionnaire, household members should be aged 18 or older.
- A group of people who live together and take food from the same pot is considered a household. A person is considered a household member if they have lived there for at least six months, even if they are not a relative. Additionally, a person is not considered a household member if they do not take food from the same pot and bear no costs for food or have lived elsewhere for more than three months out of the previous six months.

2.1 Assessment of the Field Staff

The understanding of the survey and survey methodology was assessed for each enumerator. Enumerators, including supervisors, took a test for the evaluation in the form of quiz. Additionally, they were also evaluated on how well they performed in the roleplays and mock interviews. Despite having 18 participants in the training session, we only intended to send 16 for the data collection, and two of those were backup enumerators. However, all 18 of them performed very well during the evaluation, so we decided to send everyone to the field. We arranged the team to include five participants each in two teams and four participants each in two teams, and we assigned intervention villages to teams with five members.

3.0 Pre-Test and Review

A comprehensive training was followed by a one-day field pre-test, which was conducted in Basajari, Lahan municipality, Siraha on 19 April 2023. The primary objective of the pre-test was to simulate the actual field to test the survey methodology and tools. Also, the pre-test enabled us to test the digital version of the tool as well as the data submission process. Each team had one supervisor and three to four enumerators, depending on whether they were assigned intervention or control villages. Each enumerator completed two household and two individual questionnaires, each with one primary and one

secondary respondent. Following that, a one-day review meeting was held on 20 April 2023 in Marwadi Sewa Sadan, Lahan municipality, Siraha to discuss the concerns encountered during the field pre-test.

Some important points discussed during the field pre-test:

- Obtaining informed written consent is an important part of conducting household and individual interviews, and interviews should not begin with only verbal consent.
- The household type, household ID and gender of the respondent should be recorded correctly and should be cross-checked against the assignment sheet and with fellow enumerators to avoid the risk of data duplication.
- Identifying the respondent for the interview is also an important step. If household members are correctly identified to answer for primary or secondary interviews, the entire process can be very simple. However, if they are not, the interview may take a very long time to complete.

Along with these considerations, some sections of the questionnaires were discussed, such as income, household FES, disability, autonomy in decision-making, intrahousehold relationship and FIES. Inconsistencies in Maithili language translation were also discovered and corrected. The field pre-test and review meeting were extremely beneficial in finalizing the household, individual and CCS questionnaire.

4.0 Data Collection

The questionnaires were finalized, including digital versions in both Nepali and Maithili, which were uploaded to the latest version in MoDA. It was ensured that all enumerators had the latest version of the questionnaire on their tablet. The field teams were also given field assignments and field schedules (see Annex 3). MoALD and the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperative in Madhesh Province provided a support letter, which was used to seek support from the relevant municipalities. The core team of New ERA conducted coordination meetings with the municipalities to ensure smooth data collection in the field. Data collection began on 21 April 2023 and ended on 10 May 2023. The team members arrived in their respective villages on 21 April 2023, held coordination meetings with ward leaders and then proceeded to list households. In each village, 20 dual households and 10 single/female-headed households were selected for interviews. Household interviews were conducted, and one primary respondent and one secondary respondent, preferably a spouse of the opposite sex, were selected for individual interviews. Interviews with male respondents were carried out by male interviewers and female respondents were interviewed by female interviewers.

Some of the challenges experienced by the field team during data collection:

- In Khatway tole, Chinnamasta rural municipality, ward 5, Saptari, the initial plan was to enumerate 30 households. However, only 21 households were found to be eligible for interviews. Thus, to compensate for the shortfall, 39 households were interviewed from Musahar tole, Chinnamasta rural municipality, ward 5, Saptari.
- In Kharkuyahi tole (Laxmipur Patari rural municipality) and Patana tole (Sakhuwanankarkatti rural municipality), the number of targeted households was lower than the actual number of households. To address this, teams of IFAD, UN Women and New ERA staff members selected project participants in advance. The teams were provided with a list of project participants from which they chose dual households and single/female-headed households to be included in the enumeration.
- In some villages, there were not even 10 single/female-headed households, so the ratio of dual and single/female-headed households was maintained only in treatment and control villages in each district.
- The Terai region typically experiences hotter weather in April and May compared to other parts of the country. Some enumerators fell ill due to the hot weather, but they eventually recovered and were able to complete their assigned tasks within the given timeframe.
- Obtaining time with male respondents posed a challenge, as they were mostly working and out of the house during the daytime. However, efforts were made to interview them once they returned from their work.

Field Monitoring and Supervision:

The New ERA core team accompanied the field teams throughout the field pre-test and review meeting. The first phase of field monitoring and supervision was carried out by the New ERA from 22 April to 24 April 2023. During this phase, the core team observed interviews conducted by each enumerator and provided individual and group feedback to the enumerators and their teams. The second phase of field monitoring took place from 26 April to 28 April 2023 and was conducted by IFAD, UN Women and New ERA.

Issues identified during field monitoring and supervision:

- Maintaining privacy was identified as a crucial challenge, as female respondents were hesitant to answer questions in the presence of any male household members, including their husbands. Enumerators were instructed to interview respondents in privacy, as some questions were very sensitive, and they would not be able to collect quality data without maintaining privacy.

- Respondents expressed impatience in continuing with the interview due to its lengthy nature and the need to complete their household tasks. Despite this, our enumerators were instructed not to be overwhelmed by the questionnaire's length and to prioritize maintaining quality in the data collection process.
- Certain topics in the questionnaires required more probing than others, such as autonomy in decision-making and income. Enumerators were instructed to allocate sufficient time to ensure that respondents fully understood these questions. The enumerators were encouraged to take the necessary time and effort to clarify any confusion and ensure accurate responses from the respondents.

Data Quality Monitoring

The New ERA core team downloaded the data on a daily basis and thoroughly checked for any inconsistencies. Regular feedback was provided to each enumerator and team based on an assessment of the data quality. This process ensured continuous monitoring and improvement in the data collection process.

Data inconsistencies identified by the core team in the central office:

- During the beginning stages of data collection, we discovered instances of duplication in household IDs. Upon identifying this inconsistency, we communicated the issue to the team responsible for the mistake and emphasized the importance of being careful to the rest of the team. Measures were taken to rectify the duplication.
- It was found that some enumerators mistakenly selected "No" in response to whether a respondent wanted to proceed with the interview. Those enumerators were sent back to re-interview.
- The texts provided in "Others (specify)" were regularly reviewed, and if text matched any of the given options, it was recoded accordingly. In cases where the texts were not clearly understood, the core team sought clarification from the enumerators.

Review Meeting

A second phase of the review meeting was held on 15 May 2023 at the New ERA premises. The purpose of this post data collection review meeting was to identify and resolve any data inconsistencies or errors and to determine training and support needs for future data collection activities.

Although it was intended to include all supervisors and enumerators in the review meeting, only one team was able to participate. Other enumerators faced difficulties returning to Kathmandu after completing their data

collection, while some had already started working on other projects. Mr. Tribhuban Paudel from IFAD and Mr. Rabin Rai from UN Women were also present at the review meeting.

Points discussed during the review meeting:

- Female household members were more responsive to questions regarding household FES, as they possess knowledge of the household's spending on both household and personal needs.
- A significant number of the households visited had at least one member working as a migrant worker, with remittances being the primary source of income.
- Hybrid seeds are commonly used by most households, resulting in higher yields compared to local seeds.
- Not all households seemed to face economic challenges; some had more land and were relatively economically stable.
- The cooperation from local government and authorities at the local level was excellent.
- There were inconsistencies in data regarding women mentioning the need to take care of a child, despite not having any children at home. It was found that these inconsistencies were mostly due to caring for grandchildren, who lived nearby but in a separate household.
- Respondents showed reluctance to answer questions about being a member of another programme/project.
- Some respondents became emotional while answering questions related to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).
- Certain households had multiple members working as migrant workers, resulting in comparatively higher remittance income.

ANNEX 1 LIST OF FIELD STAFF

Field Supervisors

Mr. Prahalad Prasad Mainali
Mr. Puspha Raj Lama
Mr. Khadka Raj Kharel
Mr. Basanta Kumar Purway

Female Enumerators

Ms. Lalita Sah
Ms. Monika Sharma
Ms. Gudiya Sah
Ms. Mina Maya Pakhrin
Ms. Nutan Deo
Ms. Daya Kumari Tamang
Ms. Usha Chaudhary
Ms. Sandhya Yadav
Ms. Sujata Vishwakarma
Ms. Sanju Yadav

Male Enumerators

Mr. Pramod Kumar Yadav
Mr. Subodh Ram
Mr. Gyanendra Kumar Prajapati
Mr. Ranjit Kumar Yadav

ANNEX 2 RAINING SCHEDULE

Baseline study for Joint Programme on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women (JP-RWEE Phase II) in Nepal

Main Training Schedule

(April 11 - April 17, 2023)

New ERA, Rudramati Marga, Kalopul

Time	Activities	Facilitator	Support
Day 1: April 11, 2023 (Tuesday)			
9:00-9:30	Welcome and Introduction	Sajani M	Core team
9:30-10:00	JP-RWEE project introduction	Tribhuban P	Core team
10:00-10:30	JP-RWEE survey briefing	Sajani M	Core team
10:30-11:00	Introduction to MoDA/webform	Sajit S	Core team
Tea Break (11:00-11:30)			
11:30-12:30	Household information/consent and demographics	Sajani M	Core team
12:30-1:00	Role play	Sajani M	Core team
Lunch Break (1:00-1:45)			
1:45-2:45	Food expenditure and Share	Sajani M	Core team
2:45-3:30	FIES	Sajani M	Core team
Tea Break (3:30-3:45)			
4:00-5:00	FIES cont…/Role play	Sajani M	Core team
Day 2: April 12, 2023 (Wednesday)			
9:00-9:30	Quiz + Revision	Manoj M	Core team
9:30-10:00	Introduction of the individual questionnaire/ respondent identification	Sajani M	Core team
10:00-10:30	Pro-WEAI G1E and G1H (Education/communication and disability)	Sajani M	Core team
Tea Break (10:30-11:00)			
11:00-12:30	GESI session	UN Women	Core team
12:30-1:00	Pro-WEAI G1E and G1H (Education/communication and disability) contd…	Sajani M	Core team
Lunch Break (1:00-1:45)			
1:45-2:45	Role in household decision making around production and income	Naveen L	Core team
2:45-3:30	Role Play/Feedback	Naveen L	Core team
Tea Break (3:30-3:45)			
3:45-5:00	Access to productive capital/Access to financial services	Manoj M	Core team
Day 3: April 13, 2023 (Thursday)			
9:00-9:30	Quiz and Revision	Manoj M	Core team
9:30-11:00	Time Allocation/Group Membership/Role play	Sajani M	

Time	Activities	Facilitator	Support
Tea Break (11:00-11:30)			
11:30-1:00	Physical Mobility/Intrahousehold relationship	Sajani M	Core team
Lunch Break (1:00-1:45)			
1:45-3:30	Autonomy in decision making	Udbodh R	Core team
Tea Break (3:30-3:45)			
3:45-4:45	New general self-efficacy scale/Attitude about intimate partner violence against women	Sajani M	Core team
4:45-5:30	Role play and feedback	Sajani M	Core team
April 14, 2023 Friday NEPALI NEW YEAR HOLIDAY			
April 15, 2023, Saturday (HOLIDAY)			
Day 4: April 16, 2023 (Sunday)			
9:00-9:30	Quiz and Revision	Manoj M	Core team
9:30-11:00	MDD-W/SAMS module	Sajani M	Core team
Tea Break (11:00-11:30)			
11:30-1:00	Off farm employment and income	Naveen L	Core team
Lunch Break (1:00-1:45)			
1:45-2:30	CCS for supervisor/Mock for enumerators	Udbodh R	Core team
2:30-3:30	Resource Person class	FAO	Core team
Tea Break (3:30-3:35)			
3:35-5:00	Mock Interview	Core team	Core team
Day 5: April 17, 2023 (Monday)			
9:00-9:30	Quiz and Revision	Manoj M	Core team
9:30-11:00	Mock Interview	Core team	Core team
Tea Break (11:00-11:30)			
11:30-12:30	Mock Interview	Core team	Core team
12:30-1:00	Mock Interview	Core team	Core team
Lunch Break (1:00-2:00)			
2:00-3:00	Mock Interview	Core team	Core team
3:00-3:30	New ERA Administration and Finance related issues	Finance Head	Core team
Tea Break (3:30-3:35)			
3:35-5:00	Mock continue/Logistics	Core team	Core team
April 18, 2023 (Tuesday) (Field Departure for pre-test)			
April 19, 2023 (Wednesday) (Field Pre-test)			
April 20, 2023 (Thursday) (Review)			
April 21, 2023 (Friday) (Field departure for data collection)			
April 22-May 19, 2023 (Data collection)			

ANNEX 3 FIELD SCHEDULE

Team 1

Team Member	Mobile Number	S.N.	District	Municipality	New Ward	Village/Community	HHs to Survey
Basant Kumar Purway	9854021087	1	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	6	Kochabakhari VDC 8	30
Pramod Kumar Yadav	9849639677 / 9807745124	2	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	6	Kochabakhari VDC 9	30
Lalita Sah	9844038580 / 9812172111	3	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	7	Muslim Tole	30
Monika Sharma	9765742185 / 9821749625	4	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	7	Sardar Tole	30
		5	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	7	Bahangawa Tole	30
							150

Date	Target Activities	Days	Field Remarks
April 18, 2023	Move to Lahan, Siraha	1	
April 19, 2023	Pre test	1	
April 20, 2023	Review	1	
April 21, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Tilathikoiladi RM, Ward 7, Sardar Tole	1	
April 22-24, 2023	Work in Tilathikoiladi RM, Sardar Tole	3	
April 25, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Tilathikoiladi RM,Ward 7, Bahangawa Tole	1	
April 26-28, 2023	Work in Tilathikoiladi RM,Ward 7, Bahangawa Tole	3	
April 29, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 7, Muslim Tole	1	
April 30-May 2, 2023	Work in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 7, Muslim Tole	3	
May 3, 2023	Travel, Coordination and listing in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 6, Kochabakhari VDC 9	1	
May 4-6, 2023	Work in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 6, Kochabakhari VDC 9	3	
May 7, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 6, Kochabakhari VDC 8	1	
May 8-10, 2023	Work in Chinnamasta RM, Ward 6, Kochabakhari VDC 8	3	
May 11, 2023	Travel to Kathmandu	1	
		24	

Team 2

Team Member	Mobile Number	S.N.	District	Municipality	New Ward	Village/Community	HHs to Survey
Pushpa Raj Lama	9843438788 / 9817802898	6	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	9	Karjanha VDC 3	30
Gudiya Sah	9845608590 / 9811285045	7	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	6	Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 1	30
Subodh Ram	9864016128	8	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	6	Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 6	30
Mina Maya Pakhrin	9844417871	9	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	5	Itaharwa VDC 3	30
		10	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	5	Itaharwa VDC 4	30
							150

Date	Activities	Days	Field Remarks
April 18, 2023	Move to Lahan, Siraha	1	
April 19, 2023	Pre test	1	
April 20, 2023	Review	1	
April 21, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Karjanha VDC 3	1	
April 22-24, 2023	Work in Karjanha VDC 3	3	
April 25, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 1	1	
April 26-28, 2023	Work in Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 1	3	
April 29, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 6	1	
April 30-May 2, 2023	Work in Sitapur Pra. Dha. VDC 6	3	
May 3, 2023	Travel, Coordination and listing in Itaharwa VDC 3	1	
May 4-6, 2023	Work in Ko. Itaharwa VDC 3	3	
May 7, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Itaharwa VDC 4	1	
May 8-10, 2023	Work in Itaharwa VDC 4	3	
May 11, 2023	Travel to Kathmandu	1	
		24	

Team 3

Team Member	Mobile Number	S.N.	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	HHs to Survey
Khadaka Raj Kharel	9845301599 / 9808214241	1	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Khatway Tole	Khatway	30
Gyanendra Kumar Prajapati	9845451765 / 9807132905	2	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Musahar Tole	Sada (Musahar)	30
Nutan Deo	9817756153	3	Saptari	Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Paswan Tole	Paswan	30
Daya Kumari Tamang	9849409046	4	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 4	Mukhiya Tole	Mukhiya	30
Usha Chaudhary	9808413835	5	Saptari	Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Roy Tole	Sardar/Mukhiya	30
								150

Date	Activities	Days	Field Remarks
April 18, 2023	Move to Lahan, Siraha	1	
April 19, 2023	Pre test	1	
April 20, 2023	Review	1	
April 21, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Khatway Tole, Khatway community	1	
April 22-24, 2023	Work in in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Khatway Tole, Khatway community	3	
April 25, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Musahar Tole, Sada (Musahar) Community	1	
April 26-28, 2023	Work in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Musahar Tole, Sada (Musahar) Community	3	
April 29, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Paswan Tole, Paswan Community	1	
April 30-May 2, 2023	Work in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, ward 5, Paswan Tole, Paswan Community	3	
May 3, 2023	Travel, Coordination and listing in Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality, ward 4, Mukhiya Tole, Mukhiya community.	1	
May 4-6, 2023	Work in Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality, ward 4, Mukhiya Tole, Mukhiya community.	3	
May 7, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality, ward 5, Roy Tole, Sardar/Mukhiya community.	1	
May 8-10, 2023	Work in Tilathikoiladi Rural Municipality, ward 5, Roy Tole, Sardar/Mukhiya community.	3	
May 11, 2023	Travel to Kathmandu	1	
		24	

Team 4

Team Member	Mobile Number	S.N.	District	Municipality	Ward	Village	Community	HHs to Survey
Prahalad Prasad Mainali	9841213843 / 9803103810	6	Siraha	Karjanha Municipality	Ward 5	Khola Tole	Sada (Musahar)	30
Ranjit Kumar Yadav	9815856950	7	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Pokharbhinda/ Parsa Tole	Danuwar	30
Sandhya Yadav	9845128621 / 9812272304	8a	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Musalman	15
Sujata Bishwokarma	9861965652	8b	Siraha	Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality	Ward 5	Kharkuyahi Tole	Yadav	15
Sanju Yadav	9817778989 / 9866037007	9a	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Sada (Musahar)	15
		9b	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 2	Patana Tole	Yadav	15
		10	Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	Ward 3	Mirjapur	Sada (Musahar)	30
								150

Date	Activities	Days	Field Remarks
April 18, 2023	Move to Lahan, Siraha	1	
April 19, 2023	Pre test	1	
April 20, 2023	Review	1	
April 21, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Karjanha Municipality, ward 5, Khola Tole, Sada (Musahar) community	1	
April 22-24, 2023	Work in in Karjanha Municipality, ward 5, Khola Tole, Sada (Musahar) community	3	
April 25, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality, Ward 2, Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole, Danuwar Community	1	
April 26-28, 2023	Work in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality, Ward 2, Pokharbhinda/Parsa Tole, Danuwar Community.	3	
April 29, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality, Ward 5, Kharkuyahi Tole, Musalman and Yadav Communities	1	
April 30-May 2, 2023	Work in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality, Ward 5, Kharkuyahi Tole, Musalman and Yadav Communities.	3	
May 3, 2023	Travel, Coordination and listing in Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality, ward 2, Patana Tole, Sada (Musahar) and Yadav Communities.	1	
May 4-6, 2023	Work in Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality, ward 2, Patana Tole, Sada (Musahar) and Yadav Communities.	3	
May 7, 2023	Travel, Coordination and Listing in Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality, ward 3, Mirjapur Tole, Sada (Musahar) Community	1	
May 8-10, 2023	Work in Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality, ward 3, Mirjapur Tole, Sada (Musahar) Community.	3	
May 11, 2023	Travel to Kathmandu	1	
		24	

APPENDIX D:
SUMMARY RESULTS ON PROJECT INDICATORS

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
Goal; ***To secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience to advance sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs***				
G1	Proportion of households with moderate or severe food insecurity.	Moderate food insecurity=44 % Severe food insecurity=10%	Food Insecurity Experience Scale, FIES) (adapted from SDG 2.1.2)	
G2	Proportion of women being empowered in the agriculture sector across different dimensions	22%	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)	
G3	Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks	3.2	CCS	
Outcome 1; Improved food security and nutrition for rural women and their households that contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems				
O1.1	Percentage increase in production/ productivity of nutritious crops by rural women	591 kg/hectare nutritious crops • Pulses (Food group 2): 225 kg/hectare • Nuts/Seeds (Food group 3): 167 kg/hectare (Aalas) • Other vegetables (Food group 3): 2243 kg/hectare (Onion)	Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) Sub-Module B1: Crops Cultivated and Yields	Around 60% rural women produce crops from 1 group of the MDD-W • Saptari: 63% • Siraha: 53% Nutritious crops include pulses (beans, peas, lentils), bio-fortified grains, roots, tubers, and plantains, nuts and seeds, dairy, meat, poultry and fish, eggs, Vitamin A-rich vegetables and fruits, dark leafy greens, and other fruits and vegetables. Excluded from the list are (non-bio-fortified) grains, roots, tubers and plantains ("starchy staples"), including maize, millet, rice, sorghum, wheat, cassava, potatoes, and foods derived from grains (e.g., bread, stiff porridges, pasta and noodles).

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
O1.2	Proportion of women between 18 and 49 years old who reach minimum dietary diversity.	16%	MDD-W	
01.3	Proportion of households spending 65% or more of their monthly budget on food	59%	HFES	
Outcome 2; Rural women's income, decent work and economic autonomy increased to secure their livelihoods and build resilience				
O2.1	Percentage of rural women's average annual farm incomes	Average annual farm income of rural women is NPR 13427.92	Volume and value of sales of crops for female SHFs, contributing to SDG 2.3	
O2.2	Percentage of rural women's average annual off-farm incomes (including from micro-enterprises and wage employment promoted by the project), disaggregated by employment type	Average off farm income of rural women is NPR 39,806.67 rupees annually.	Ad hoc survey (Employment and business activity module)	
O2.3	Proportion of rural women with control over the use of their income and expenditures.	79%	Pro-WEAI Module G2.07 A-H and G2.06 A-F	Rural women have very basic needs and not much money to meet them. This means they can make their own decisions about how to use their money because they don't have many choices and mainly focus on essential things. The level of education doesn't seem to impact women's control over their income. Additionally, the data suggests that women who are the primary decision makers in single/female headed households, they tend to have slightly more control over their income compared to women in dual households. Also Feed the future Nepal Zone of Influence baseline survey report the empowerment in control over income to be 96.5 which is much higher than the result from our study.

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
O2.4	Household redistribution in the average number of daily hours spent on unpaid care and domestic work, by sex and age	Women: 6 hours/day Men: 1 hours/day	Pro-WEAI module G4	
Outcome 3; Rural women's voice and agency increased for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organizations and governance systems				
03.1	Proportion of rural women with decision-making power over production and productive assets	86%	In Pro-WEAI (G2.03 A-F (production) and G3.07 A-M and G3.11 A-F)	Following dimensions in Pro-WEAI are considered: • Input into livelihood decisions: 88% • Ownership of land and other assets: 88% • Access to and decisions on credit: 82%
O3.2	Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain	24%	Pro-WEAI Module G5 (individual)	
O3.3	Proportion of women in elected local governance structures	42%	Secondary Data (Election Commission Nepal)	
O3.4	Proportion of participating women who are empowered or whose achievements are at least as high as men in their households.	49%	Pro-WEAI adapted to gender parity Index	
Outcome 4; Gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights and resilience				
O4.1	Number and type of revised or adopted national or regional legal frameworks, policies, or strategies that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality.	0	Desk review	For the purpose of measuring progress against this indicator, only those national or regional legal frameworks, policies, or strategies revised or adopted with support from JP-RWEE – Phase II, will be counted.

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
O4.2	Number of programme countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.	Yes	Desk review	Nepal has a system to track and make public allocations for GEWE. However, it lacks effective monitoring of this system at the local level. https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/12/gender-responsive-public-finance-management-in-nepal
OUTPUT LEVEL INDICATORS				
OP 1.1.1	Proportion of rural women with access to productive resources.	88%	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)	This indicator measures women's ownership of land or any three types of assets either solely or jointly. In this study, following resources are taken into consideration: large/ small livestock, poultry and other small animals, fishpond, non-mechanized farm equipment, mechanized farm equipment, non-farm business equipment, house or building, larger consumer durables, small consumer durables, cellphone, means for transportation. Cell phone, large livestock, small livestock, house or building ownership, non-mechanized farm equipment, large and small consumer durables were most common items owned by women.

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
OP1.1.4	Number of rural women with access to time- and labour-saving technologies	NA (data limitation)	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)	
OP1.2.2	Number of rural women accessing extension services, including weather information	NA (data limitation)		
OP2.1.1	Number of rural women with improved financial literacy and/or entrepreneurship skills	58% women have bank account (proxy)		
OP2.1.2	Number of rural women who initiate new agribusiness and/ or self-employment activities, disaggregated by sector	2% women are involved in self-employment		
OP2.1.3	Number of rural women with improved physical access to markets, processing and/or storage facilities	62% women go to market weekly; 11% women go less than once a week and 3% never go to the market.		
OP2.2.1	Number of rural women who enter employment in the formal labour market.	3% women are engaged in off-farm employment		
OP2.2.2	Number of rural women covered by social protection systems	NA (Data limitation)		

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
OP2.3.1	Number of rural women using gender-responsive financial services and products (including savings, credit, and insurance), disaggregated by type and total amount (USD)	11% women are active member of microfinance group (proxy)	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)	
OP3.1.1	Proportion of women members in community decision-making structures, (producer organizations, cooperatives, unions and local food security reserves)	12% women are members of any group (proxy)		
OP31.2	Proportion of women leaders in community decision-making bodies, producer organizations, cooperatives, unions and local food security reserves	0		
OP3.2.1	Number of informal rural women's groups which become formally registered producer organizations, cooperatives and unions	0	Desk review of project participants profile	Only those women's groups which become formally registered producer organizations, cooperatives, and unions, with support from JP-RWEE – phase II, will be counted.
OP3.2.2	Number of producer organizations, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/ strategy/ training/ women's quota	NA (Data limitation)	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI - multiple Survey modules)	
OP4.1.1.	Number of national women's machineries and policymakers with capacities to advocate for gender-responsive policies and budgets	NA (Data limitation)		

Target Indicator		Baseline Value/ Findings	Target Indicator tool	Remarks
OP4.1.2.	Number of rural women engaged in local and national-level government meetings on policy formulation, budget allocation and monitoring for gender commitments	0	Desk review of project participants profile	Only those rural women engaged in local and national level governance processes with support from JP-RWEE – phase II, will be counted.
OP4.2.2	Increase in the proportion of women's groups linked to advocacy networks and alliances, by network focus (e.g., gender, climate action, etc.)	0		Only those women's groups linked to advocacy networks and alliances with support from JP-RWEE – phase II, will be counted.
OP4.3.1	Increase in the number of policy briefs and/or knowledge products published on rural women's economic empowerment topics and measurement strategies.	0		Only those policy briefs and/or knowledge products developed and published with support from JP-RWEE – phase II, will be counted.
OP4.3.2	Increase in the number of regional and global policy dialogues on rural women's economic empowerment.	0		For the purpose of measuring progress on this indicator, only those regional and global policy dialogues will be counted which are contributed by the JP-RWEE – Phase II

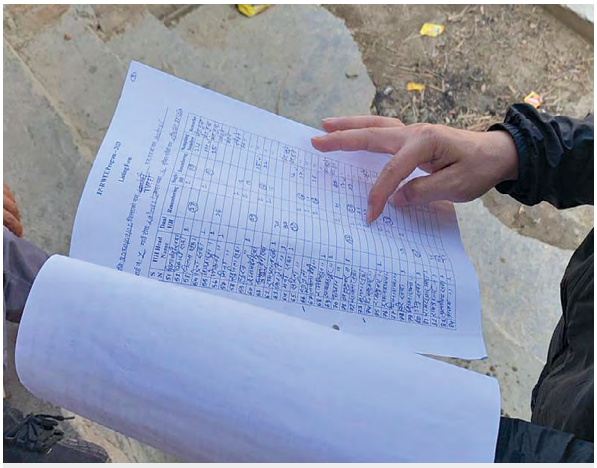
APPENDIX E:
SOME MEMORIES FROM BASELINE SURVEY OF JP-RWEE PHASE II IN NEPAL

Dr. Pradhyumna Raj Pandey, Senior Agriculture Economist, Under Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development motivating participants for the quality data collection

Ms. Sama Shrestha from UN Women facilitating a session on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH)

Role play during training session

Logistic distribution and preparation for field



Listing of the households before interview

Ms. Sandhya interviewing the women

Teams checking information with supervisor before they go to household visit for interview

Ms. Usha taking a consent for an interview

Mr. Basanta (supervisor) interviewing male respondent

Some fun moments of Mr. Naveen Lam during project participants selection

Mr. Prajapati interviewing male respondent in complete privacy

Child enjoying swing while mother was busy with the interview

The Joint Programme on 'Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women' (JP RWEE) is a global initiative aiming to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights, and resilience through a holistic approach encompassing social, economic and political domains of empowerment. Jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the programme builds on each agency's comparative advantage and strengths to improve the status of women in rural areas. JP RWEE is implemented in Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Tunisia and the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga).

The first phase of the programme was implemented in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda from 2014 to 2021, reaching 79,626 rural women and men (64,447 women and 15,382 men) and 407,667 household members.

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