



Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance: Programme Effectiveness Review

Summary Report



**Oxfam GB
Women's Empowerment Outcome Indicator**

December, 2012

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Oxfam Nigeria and JDPC team for being so supportive during the exercise. Particular thanks to Tunde Ojei, Brenda Bepeh, Boyowa Roberts, Mojisola Fayemi, and Mike Taiwo.

Photo credit: David Bishop

Executive summary

Under Oxfam Great Britain's (OGB) Global Performance Framework (GPF), sufficiently mature projects are being randomly selected each year and their effectiveness rigorously assessed. Nigeria's 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' project was randomly selected for an Effectiveness Review under the women's empowerment thematic area. The project aims to increase women's leadership and participation in agricultural decision-making and governance. This is to be achieved through building women's skills and capacity in improved production techniques and by influencing local government and community leadership structures to enable greater involvement of women.

The project is being implemented in two different regions in Nigeria – the North/Central region covering Plateau and Benue states, and the South-Western region covering Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states. Due to security concerns, it was agreed to focus the review on the activities implemented in Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states by a local partner organisation, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC).

To assess the effectiveness of the project in empowering women and reducing poverty a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design was implemented. This involved administering surveys to 354 women in 23 women's groups – 13 from communities targeted by the project and 10 from neighbouring comparison communities. To reduce bias, propensity score matching (PSM) and multivariable regression (MVR) were used in the statistical comparison of the two groups. Progress of the project towards a number of key outcomes was assessed through this process. These outcomes include the extent to which women are empowered, as measured by a women's empowerment index adapted from that developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The particular index used comprises of four dimensions and 10 constituent indicators, covering issues relating to household decision-making, control of resources, public engagement and self-perception.

The effectiveness review found evidence that the 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' project successfully affected several of the key outcomes, but not others. In general, there is some evidence that it has worked to both empower women and increase household wealth. However, this is primarily restricted to the supported women in Ogun state. In particular, significant differences in this state were identified on several of the measures that contribute to the overall women's empowerment index. These include those related to: a) women's perceived role in influencing community affairs; b) women's participation in community groups; and c) attitudes towards the rights of women in the wider society. That being said, a positive effect was identified in Oyo state in relation to attitudes towards the position of women in the household. The project appears to have brought about the greatest positive change in both women's participation in community life and in their ability to influence affairs at the community level. Where no evidence of change in empowerment was detected, it tends to be in those areas affecting issues at a more personal or household level, such as women's involvement in household decision-making and attitudes towards gender roles in the household.

The Nigeria country team in general and JDPC in particular are encouraged to consider the following as a follow-up to this effectiveness review:

- Critically review and assess how the project can more effectively increase women's empowerment at the household level.
- Review intervention implementation and uptake in both Ogun and Oyo to identify why there are reported differences in impact between the two states.

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- Explore the reasons for the significant improvement in asset wealth in Ogun state.

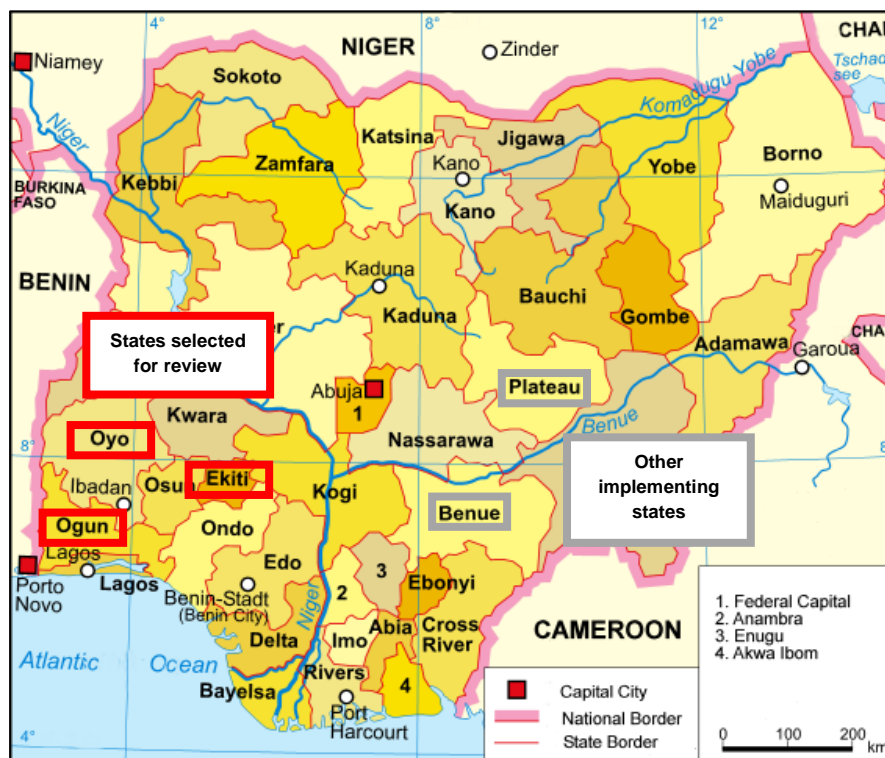
Introduction and purpose

Oxfam GB has put in place a Global Performance Framework (GPF) as part of its effort to better understand and communicate its effectiveness, as well as enhance learning across the organisation. As part of this framework, a modest sample of mature projects (e.g. those closing during a given financial year) associated with each thematic indicator is being randomly selected each year and rigorously evaluated. One key focus is on the extent they have promoted change in relation to relevant OGB global outcome indicators.

One of the projects randomly selected for the effectiveness review under the women's empowerment thematic area in 2012/13 is entitled 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' (NGAA54). The project aims to increase women's leadership and participation in agricultural decision-making and governance, through building women's skills and capacity to improve production, and in influencing local government and community leadership structures to enable greater involvement of women.

The project is being implemented in two different regions in Nigeria – the North/Central region covering Plateau and Benue states and the South-Western region covering Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states. Due to security concerns, it was agreed to focus the review on the activities implemented in Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states by a local partner organisation, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), which focuses its work in 25 communities across the three states.

Figure 1: Location of Project Effectiveness Review



Evaluation approach

The Improving Women’s Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance Project, as implemented in Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states, attempted to empower and improve the productivity of members from 25 women’s agricultural groups.

From a rigorous impact evaluation perspective, the best way to evaluate such an intervention would have been to restrict the project’s implementation to randomly selected geographical areas, leaving others sites for comparative purposes, i.e. as controls. This impact evaluation design is known as a clustered randomised control trial. If it was successfully implemented, the impact of the project could have been assessed by directly comparing the women of the intervention and control sites in relation to relevant measures of outcome. This is specifically because the randomisation process would have made the women in the two sites comparable in every way, save their participation in the project.

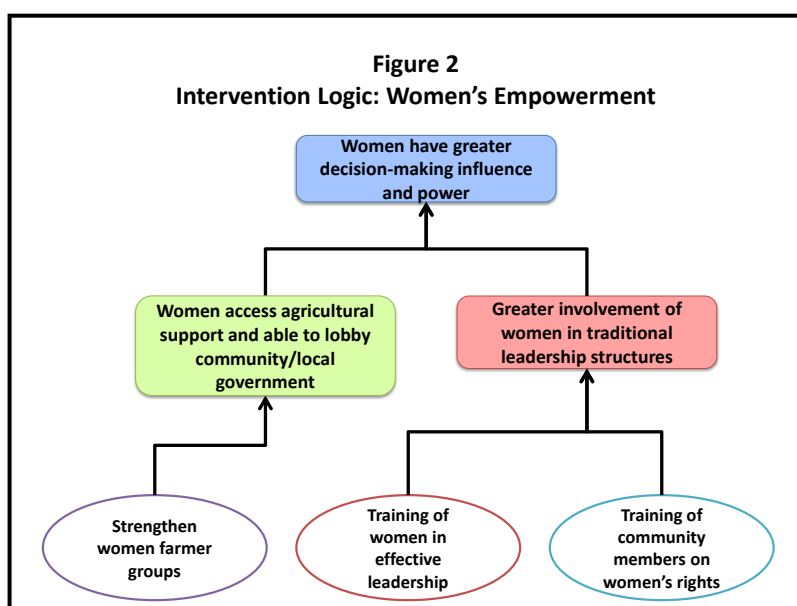
However, Oxfam and its district partners did not implement the project in randomly selected geographic areas; the communities were purposively chosen. An alternative impact assessment design was consequently pursued. This design is referred to as a quasi-experiment because it attempts to “mimic” what a randomised control trial does by purposively identifying a comparison group that is similar to the intervention group, and then statistically controlling for any measured differences between the two.

To implement the design, communities in Ogun, Oyo and Ekiti states, both where the project was implemented and not implemented were mapped out. Due to budget constraints and logistical difficulties in reaching all 25 groups in each of the communities, a random selection of 13 of the project groups was selected for review. From these groups, 152 women were randomly selected for interview. A further 10 groups not supported by the project were selected across the three states for comparison, where a total of 202 women were interviewed. The numbers of women interviewed from each of these groups was calculated through proportionate stratified sampling.

Intervention logic of the project

The primary aim of the project assessed under the effectiveness review was to empower women in the areas of agricultural decision-making and governance. Figure 2 presents the intervention logic of how the activities carried out under the project were to achieve this particular aim.

As is evident from the diagram, considerable training has been carried out through the project in the supported communities. One key purpose of this training has been to increase community awareness about women’s rights. Together with periodically holding community discussions on gender norms and practices in the communities targeted by the project, the training is also intended to increase the involvement of women in traditional leadership structures, thereby also increasing their decision-making and influencing power.



Additionally, agricultural practice and individual leadership training has been delivered to women farmer groups in each of the supported communities. Supporting and liaising with these groups has been a key thrust of the project, and it is the primary mechanism by which training and other interventions have been carried out. Significant work has also been undertaken to encourage the individual groups to act collectively in influencing local and national government policy. This collective grouping is known as the Association of Small-Scale Agro-Producers in Nigeria (ASSAPIN), and it is supported by a total of 16 NGOs across 16 states. However, assessing the effectiveness of the groups in influencing government policy was not a focus for this review.

A second objective of the project is to improve the livelihoods of the communities in which JDPC works. As mentioned above, this was done through supporting existing women's farmer/community groups. These groups were the focus of training in improved agricultural methods in order to improve productivity, together with training in marketing and budgeting skills and collective organisation to improve their bargaining power with potential buyers. This training is intended to result in increased income derived from their crop production, leading to improved household income.

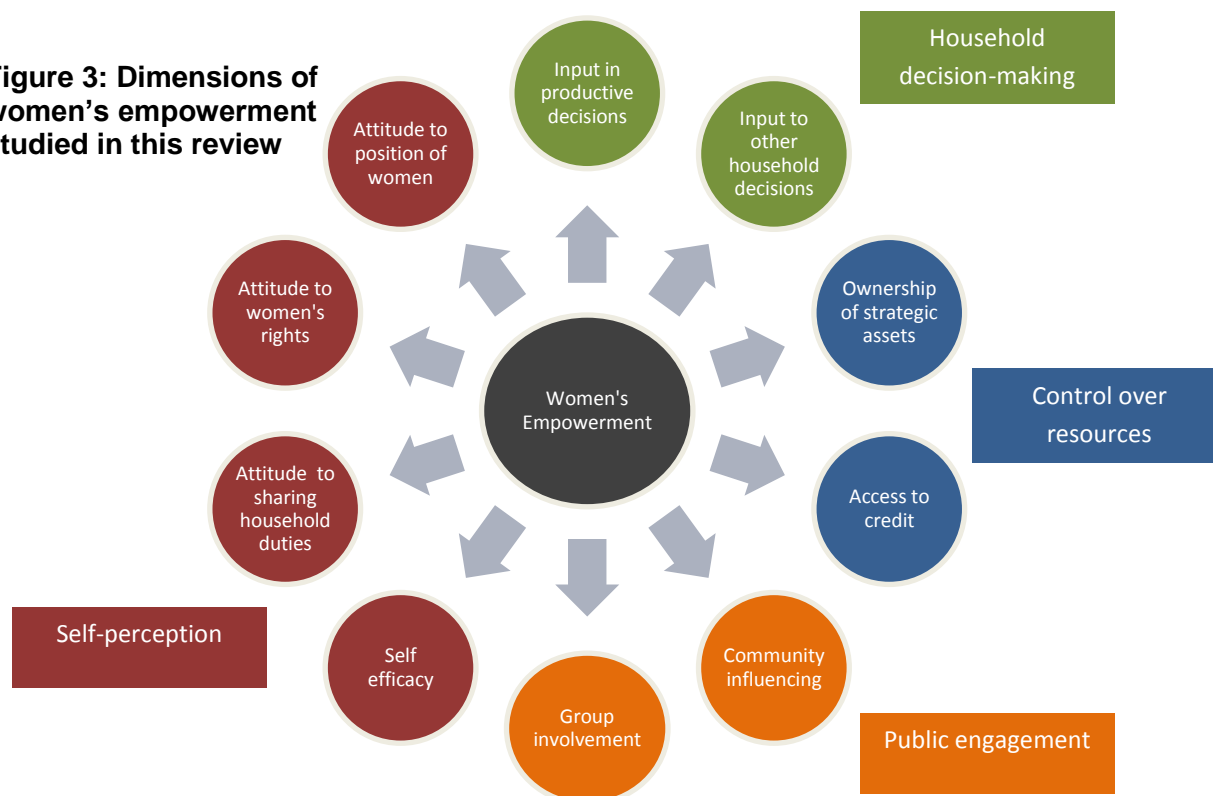
Measuring women's empowerment

In order to assess a multi-dimensional concept such as women's empowerment, we have adopted and adapted an approach that assesses several dimensions of women's empowerment. This approach builds on the 'Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index'¹ (WEAI) developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Using the WEAI approach, the index used in this effectiveness review assesses **four dimensions of women's empowerment**. The dimensions relate to women's involvement in household decision-making, access to and control over resources, public engagement and self-perception. A total of ten indicators were specified across the four dimensions (see Figure 3).

¹ <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index>

Figure 3: Dimensions of women's empowerment studied in this review



The indicators within each of the dimensions are based on the following definitions:

- **Household decision-making:** Involvement in decisions related to production, use of income and other domestic activities.
- **Resources:** Ownership, access to, and decision-making power over productive resources, such as land, livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables and credit
- **Public engagement:** Ability to influence affairs at community and institutional levels and membership in economic or social groups.
- **Self-perception:** Level of self-confidence in dealing with a range of situations and attitudes towards women's rights, position and responsibilities.

In order to bring all of these different elements together to produce the overall women's empowerment index, each dimension is weighted equally, as are each of the indicators within a particular dimension. The rationale for this is each of the four dimensions is considered equally important from a women's empowerment perspective.

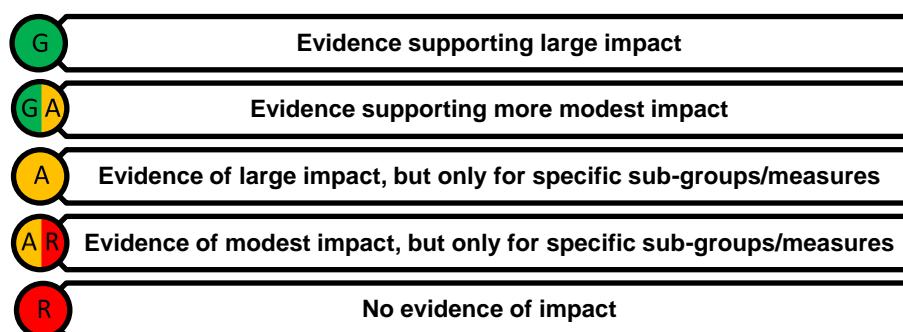
Using these weighted indicators, the overall women's empowerment index is then constructed using a multidimensional measurement methodology known as the Alkire–Foster Method.² The next step in this method is to define an overall binary cut-off for the entire weighted index, with the women above this cut-off considered to be empowered. For the purposes of measuring women's empowerment under the Global Performance Framework, **a woman is defined as empowered if she scores positively on at least three-quarters of the indicators.** The justification is that three-quarters is equivalent to three of the four dimensions used to construct the index, i.e. a woman needs to score positively in the percentage of the indicators that is equivalent to at least three dimensions to be considered multi-dimensionally empowered. The cut-offs that determine whether a

² Sabina Alkire and James Foster (2011) 'Counting and multidimensional poverty measurement.' *Journal of Public Economics* 95: 476–487: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272710001660>

woman scores positively in a particular indicator, are summarised in Table 1 below and described in more detail in subsequent sections, where each indicator in the Index is examined in turn.

Summary results table

The following summary table provides a snapshot of the key findings of the effectiveness review – both in relation to the measures of women's empowerment described above and in changes to household wealth. A short narrative description related to each outcome then follows to unpack each key finding. A separate report is also available that provides a more detailed and technical description of the evaluation design, process and results. Table 1 summarises the extent to which there is evidence that the project realised its targeted outcomes in the form of a simple five-point 'traffic light' system. The key below illustrates what the various traffic lights represent.



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Table 1: Impact Assessment Summary Results

Dimension	Outcome / indicator	Cut-off	% supported women above cut off*	Impact (difference with comparison group)	Impact rating
Women's Empowerment	Overall Women's Empowerment Index – global outcome indicator	Respondent has a WEI score at or above the median score for comparator women	Overall: 60.5% Oyo: 64.4% Ogun: 57.1%	Evidence of modest impact on the overall women's empowerment measure. However, this is restricted to supported women in Ogun state.	
Household decision-making	Input in productive decisions	Respondent involved in decision-making to at least a medium extent in all productivity-related areas in which she is active	Overall: 75.7% Oyo: 72.9% Ogun: 79.2%	No evidence of project impact in relation to supported women's involvement in productive decisions.	
	Input in other household decisions	Respondent involved in decision-making to at least a medium extent in other household activities in which she is active	Overall: 53.3% Oyo: 55.9% Ogun: 50.6%	No evidence of project impact in relation to supported women's involvement in other household decisions.	
Control over resources	Ownership of strategic assets	Respondent has at least joint ownership and joint participation in decisions related to sale or trade of at least one strategic asset	Overall: 74.3% Oyo: 81.4% Ogun: 63.6%	No evidence of project impact in relation to supported women's ownership of strategic assets.	
	Access to credit	Respondent has access to a source of credit, and she participated in decisions regarding whether to borrow or how any loan is used	Overall: 53.9% Oyo: 45.8% Ogun: 54.5%	Modest evidence of impact on women's access to credit, although just in Ogun state.	
Public engagement	Community influencing	Respondent agrees with at least eight of the 11 statements regarding opportunities to influence her community	Overall: 60.5% Oyo: 62.7% Ogun: 59.7%	Evidence of impact on women's perception of their ability to influence affairs at a community level – although just in Ogun state.	
	Group participation	Respondent is an active member, and is involved to at least a medium extent in decision making, in at least two community-based groups	Overall: 76.3% Oyo: 76.3% Ogun: 75.3%	Strong evidence of impact on supported women's involvement in community-based groups – although just in Ogun state.	
Self-perception	Self-efficacy	Respondent agrees with all of the statements regarding self-efficacy	Overall: 94.1% Oyo: 94.9% Ogun: 92.2%	No evidence of project impact on supported women's self-efficacy.	
	Attitude to traditional position of women in the home	Respondent agrees with at least two of the four statements regarding the position of women in the home	Overall: 5.3% Oyo: 6.8% Ogun: 3.9%	Evidence of project impact in Oyo state that the attitudes of supported women to their position in the home are changing.	
	Attitude to women's rights in wider society	Respondent agrees with both of the women's rights statements	Overall: 82.2% Oyo: 78.0% Ogun: 85.7%	Modest evidence of a positive change in supported women's attitudes to women's rights in wider society.	
	Attitude to sharing of household responsibilities	Respondent agrees with all three of the sharing responsibilities statements	Overall: 52.0% Oyo: 50.8% Ogun: 49.4%	No evidence of project impact on supported women's attitudes to sharing of household responsibilities.	
	Increased household wealth			Strong evidence of project impact on household asset wealth – although just in Ogun state	
<p>Applicability: These results apply to those women who are members of the 13 surveyed women's groups randomly selected for review. These groups were selected from three of the five states where the 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' project is implemented. The results therefore do not necessarily reflect the effectiveness of the project in other geographical areas and other women's groups.</p>					

*Unadjusted. Also, results for Ekiti state are not shown separately due to small sample size

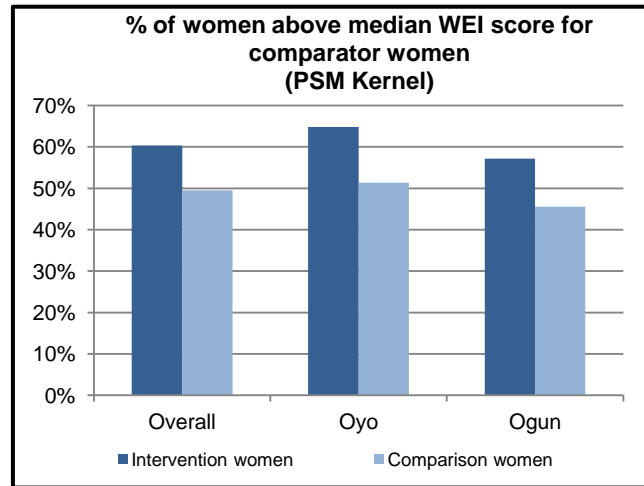
Impact assessment findings

Outcome 1 – Women's empowerment



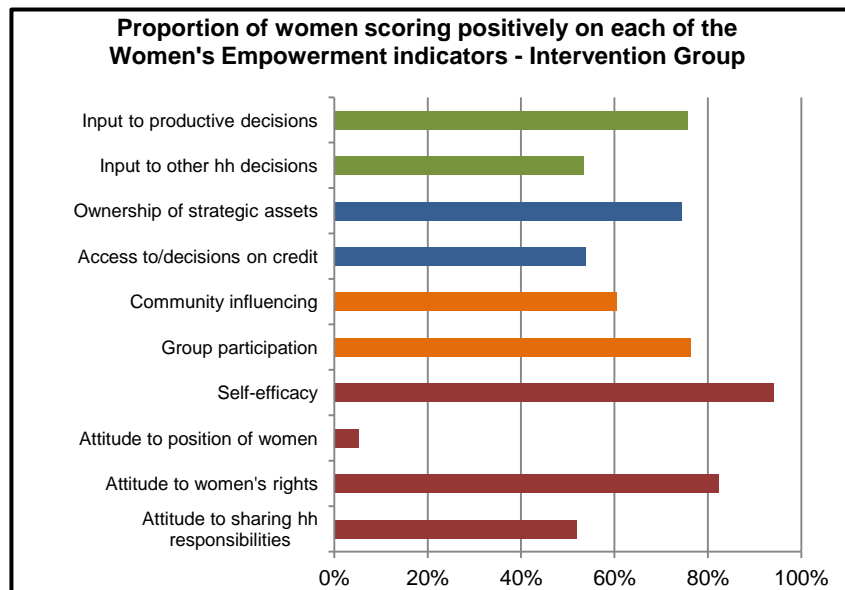
OGB's women's empowerment indicator is informed by the Women's Empowerment Index described above. The constituent indicators that make up the overall index are weighted and combined. The index score is then defined to take a value of 1 (the maximum) where the woman was above the cut-off in at least three-quarters of the indicators. Otherwise the index score is the proportion of indicators in which the respondent is above the cut-off.

Women score positively on the global indicator if they have an empowerment index score greater than the median of the comparison group and zero if otherwise. In this way, the global indicator reflects whether a woman is empowered in more characteristics than a "typical" woman of the comparison group. It is clear that there are positive differences in the percentage of supported women above the average WEI score of their comparators. The various models used to generate estimates of the difference between the supported and comparison women – after controlling for demographic and baseline differences –



estimate that overall, between 11 and 16 per cent more women in the intervention group have greater empowerment than the average for their comparators. When the results are disaggregated by state, however, this difference is only significant in Ogun state. A similar pattern emerges when the average WEI scores in the intervention and comparison group are compared. This indicates some evidence of a positive project effect on women's empowerment, although this is restricted to supported women in Ogun state.

While the measures related to the overall women's empowerment index provide a useful overview, a key interest is to look at the factors driving empowerment in the sample. To do this we focus our attention on the 10 constituent indicators and the varying role that these different factors play in empowerment.

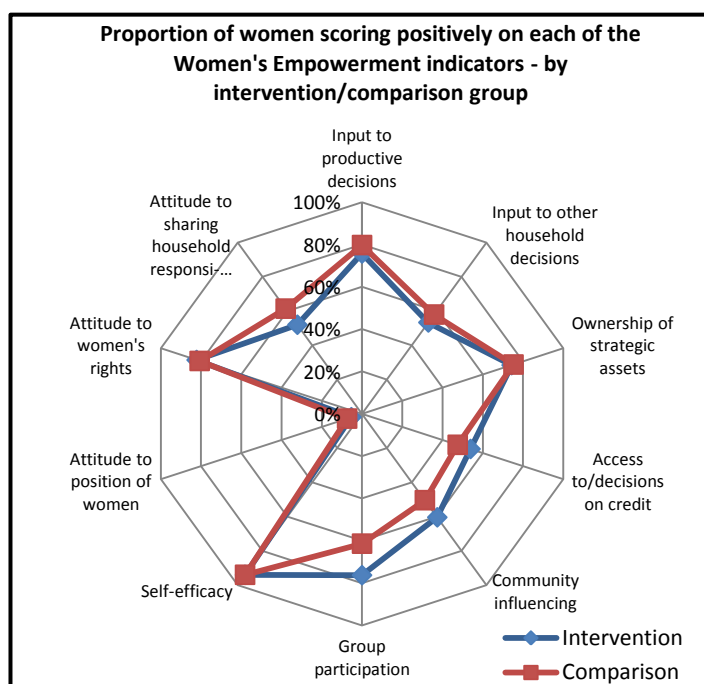


The chart opposite presents the percentage of women in the intervention group who scored positively (i.e. were above the cut-off) in each of the ten indicators. The differences between the indicators are clear. Over 90 per cent of women score positively for self-efficacy, whereas less than five per cent score positively for their attitudes to their position in the home. Further, it is interesting to note the difference in the proportion of women scoring positively in the two indicators related

to household decision making, with a greater proportion scoring positively in productivity-related decisions.

The chart opposite illustrates the differences between the intervention and comparison groups in the percentage of women scoring positively for each of the indicators. The 'spider' chart helps to quickly illustrate the differences in empowerment across the 10 indicators between the intervention and comparison women.

Where the intervention line (blue) is outside the comparison line (red), this indicates greater empowerment in the intervention women for those particular indicators. What is immediately apparent is the similar overall pattern in the proportion of women scoring positively for the various indicators. However, some differences are apparent, for example, there appears to be greater empowerment in supported women in the areas of access to credit, community influencing and group participation. These differences will be assessed in greater detail in subsequent sections.



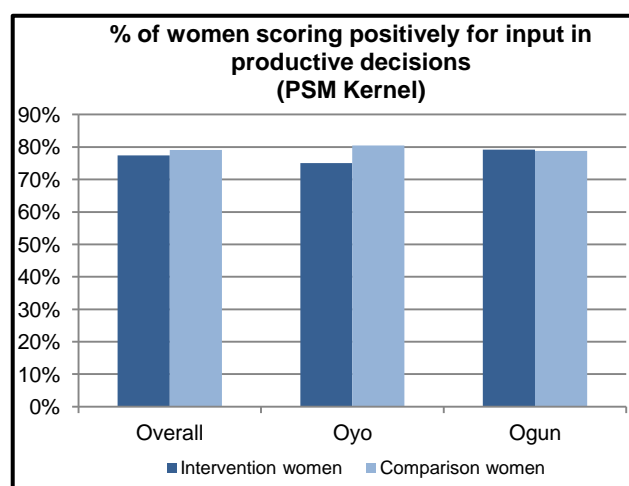
Outcome 2 – Input in productive decisions

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The first constituent indicator in the women's empowerment index considers the level of involvement of the respondent in key household decisions related to productivity. The four decision-making areas used to assess this indicator are those related to:

- Crop cultivation
- Selling of harvested crops
- Running of off-farm businesses
- Purchasing or selling of livestock.

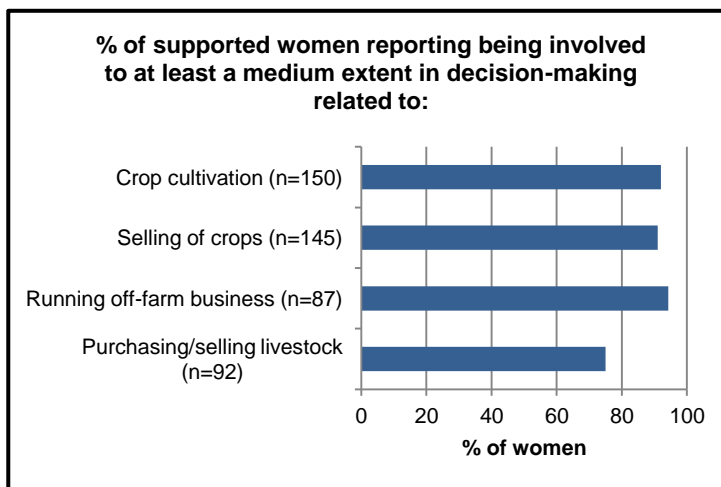
For each of these decision making areas, the respondent was first asked whether she was involved in some activity related to each of the areas and then, if so, to what extent, on a scale from 'not at all' to 'a large extent'. For a woman to be above the cut-off on this measure, she has to be involved to at least a medium extent in all the decision-making areas in which she is active.



The chart presents the proportion of women scoring positively for this indicator. It is clear from the chart that the differences between the intervention and comparison women are negligible, indicating there is no evidence that the project increased women's decision-making power in productive and spending-related decisions in their respective households.

While there is no evidence to suggest the project has increased women's involvement in productive decisions, the results indicate a high level of involvement in these decision-making areas. Overall, over three-quarters of the women interviewed reported being involved to at least a medium extent in those productive decision-making areas in which they were active.

The chart provides a breakdown of the four decision-making areas that comprise this indicator. This shows a very high proportion of involvement across three of the four decision-making areas. The proportion of women involved in decisions related to purchasing or selling livestock, while still high, is lower than the other productive decision-making areas.



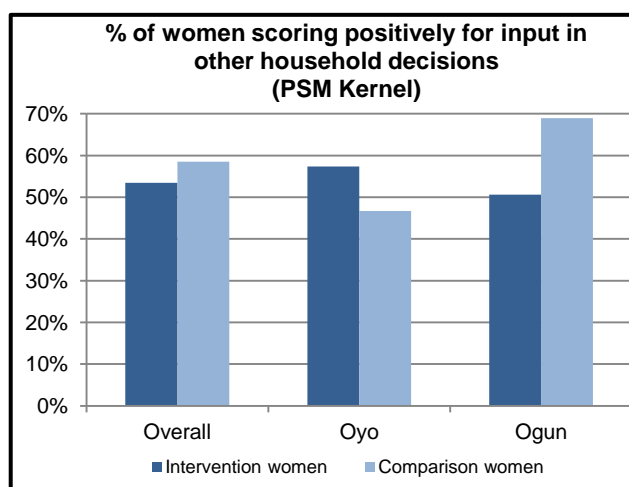
Outcome 3 – Input in other household decisions



The second indicator in the household decision-making dimension considers the level of decision-making involvement of the respondent in other key household activities. The six decision-making areas used to assess this indicator are those related to:

- Travelling outside the community
- Caring for sick children
- Buying of basic necessities
- Buying more major household assets
- Participation in community initiatives
- Family planning.

For a woman to be above the cut-off on this measure, she has to be involved, to at least a medium extent, in all the decision-making areas in which she is active.



The chart shows that just over half of supported women scored positively on this measure. While there is a positive difference between the intervention and comparison women in Oyo state, it is not significant. Further, there is some evidence to suggest that supported women in Ogun state are *less* empowered in this measure than their comparators. In summary, therefore, there is no evidence that the project has increased women's decision-making power in non-productive household activities.

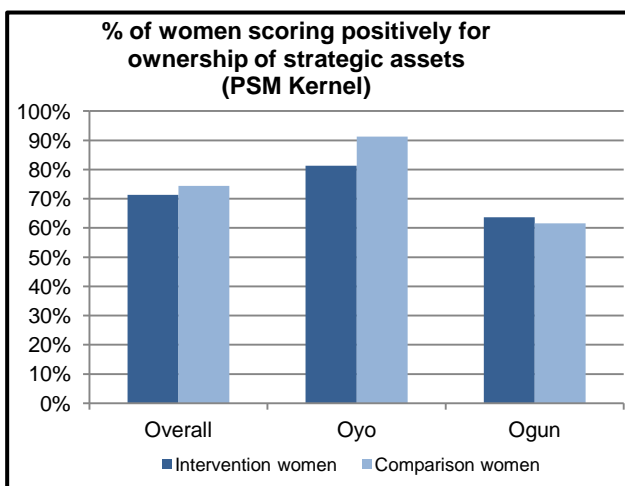
It is interesting to note that the proportion of supported women scoring positively for this decision-making indicator (53%) is lower than the proportion for the productive decision-making indicator. This suggests less decision-making power in the non-productive household decisions. The data, in particular, reveal less decision-making power in a woman's choices regarding travelling outside the community, buying major assets, and participation in community initiatives, such as development committees, savings groups, and the like.

Outcome 4 – Ownership of strategic assets



The first indicator in the 'Resources' dimension considers a woman's ownership of strategic assets, such as land, livestock and agricultural equipment. The questionnaire asks the respondent to report on various assets the household owns, and then asks who owns most of that particular asset, as well as who can say whether to sell, trade or give that item away if need be. The assets included in this measure are:

- Large livestock (oxen, cattle)
- Small livestock (goats, pigs, sheep)
- Tractor
- Sewing machine
- Milling machine
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle
- Car
- Agricultural land
- Other land not used for agricultural purposes.



In order for a woman to score positively on this measure, she has to have at least joint ownership and joint participation in decisions related to the sale/trade of at least one of the strategic assets listed above.

The chart above shows that overall, a high proportion of women reported at least joint ownership of one strategic asset. However, there is no significant difference between the women from the project supported groups and their comparators, indicating there is no evidence that the project has increased women's overall ownership of strategic assets. In fact the supported women in Oyo state are actually slightly *worse off* than their comparators on this measure.

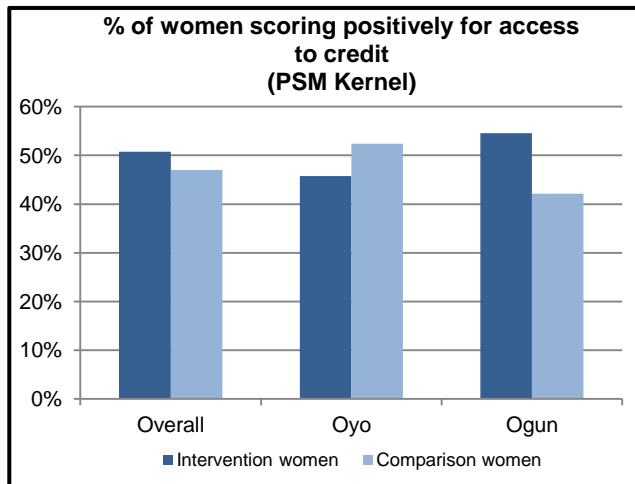
Interestingly, there is a difference between Ogun and Oyo states in the proportion of women owning at least one strategic asset. Women from both the intervention and comparison groups in Ogun state are significantly less likely to own a strategic asset than those in Oyo state. In terms of the average number of strategic assets owned, the results show a similar pattern. Women in Oyo state own an average of 1.7 assets compared to 1.2 assets in Ogun state.

Outcome 5 – Access to credit



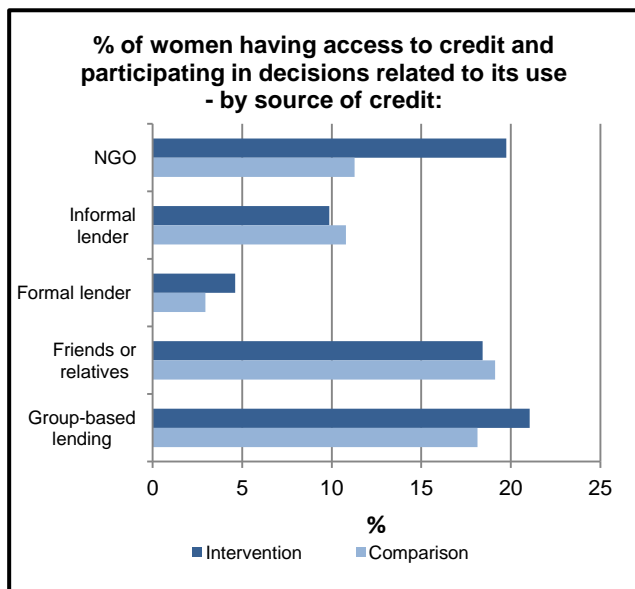
The second indicator in the 'Resources' dimension considers a woman's access to credit and her involvement in decisions regarding its use. The questionnaire asks the respondent to report on whether anyone in the household has taken any loans or borrowed cash/in-kind items from various lending sources, including non-governmental organisations (NGO), formal or informal lenders, group-based schemes, and friends or relatives. If the household did borrow from any of these sources, follow-up questions were asked to find out who made the decision to borrow and who made the decision about how the money or items borrowed were used. For a woman to be score positively in this measure, her household has to have access to at least one source of credit, and she must have at least jointly participated in the decision regarding whether to borrow or what to do with the money/items borrowed.

The results from the comparison of intervention and comparison women on this measure are presented in the chart opposite. Overall, just over half of the supported women interviewed had access to credit, as well as involvement in decisions regarding whether to borrow or how the credit is used. A higher proportion of the supported women in Ogun state (55%) reported having access to credit and participating in decisions regarding its use than their comparators (42%) – a difference that is statistically significant in one of the estimation models. This provides very modest evidence that the project has increased women's access and participation in using credit in Ogun state. There is no evidence of impact in Oyo state. Exploring the reasons for the difference in impact between Ogun and Oyo states forms one of the follow-up learning considerations emerging from this report.



Interestingly, the project's theory of change highlighted that the provision of micro-credit support was one of the interventions implemented by the project. However, there is only weak evidence that this has increased women's access to credit, and this applies to only one of the states.

The chart opposite presents the proportion of women having access to credit and participating in decisions related to its use, broken down by source of credit. The proportions of intervention and supported women accessing credit are similar for the different sources, with the exception of credit accessed from NGOs, where supported women report greater access to this particular source.

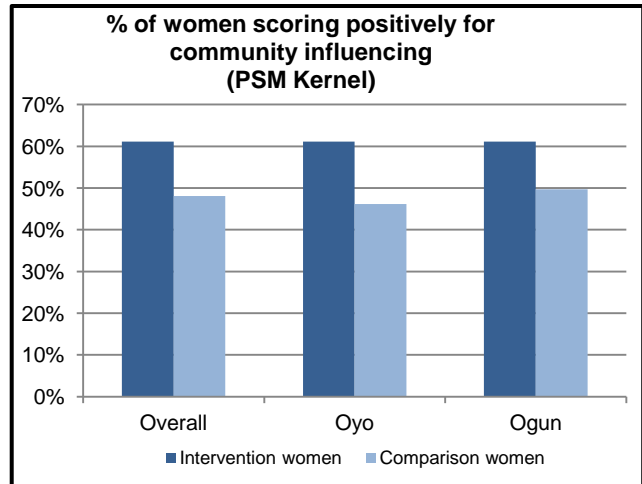


Outcome 6 – Community influencing

A

A key activity of the project was to provide leadership training for the supported women, while influencing community leadership structures to recognise the rights and contribution of women to these decision-making bodies. The first indicator in the public engagement dimension assesses the extent to which the respondents perceive they are able to influence the course of affairs in their communities. The female respondents, in particular, are asked the extent they agree or disagree with a series of 11 statements regarding opportunities to influence their communities. For a woman to score positively on this indicator, she has to agree with at least eight of the 11 statements.

The chart opposite shows that overall, approximately 60 per cent of supported women were found to be above the cut-off in this indicator, compared to 50 per cent of women from the comparison group. All four of the estimation models find this difference to be significant, estimating that between 9 and 13 per cent more women in the intervention group are empowered in this indicator. However, when the results are disaggregated by state, statistically significant differences only hold for Ogun state.



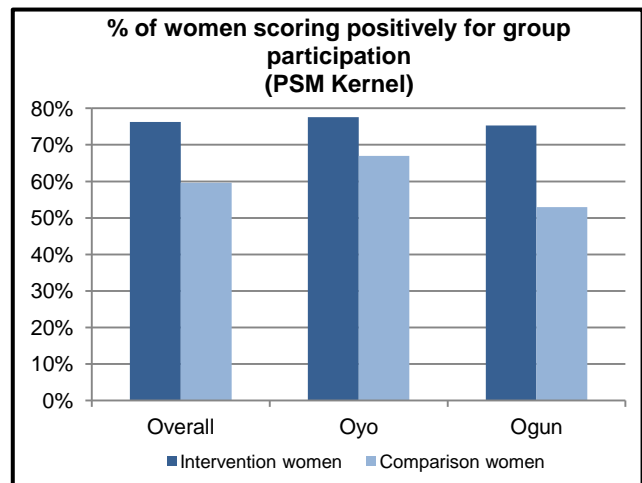
Therefore this provides evidence that the project has increased the supported women's perception of their ability to influence affairs at a community level, but only for Ogun state. As was the case for women's access to credit, exploring the reasons for these differences between Ogun and Oyo states forms one of the key learning considerations emerging from this report.

Outcome 7 – Group participation

A

The second indicator in the public engagement dimension considers a woman's involvement in various community groups, including agricultural producer groups, savings groups, local government forums, and civic and religious groups. As the project is already working through women's groups, for a woman to score positively in this measure, she has to be an active member in at least two community groups and be involved to at least a medium extent in decision making in both.

The chart opposite presents the proportion of women empowered in the intervention and comparison groups for this indicator. As can be seen, approximately three-quarters of supported women are active members of at least two community groups. Additionally, significant differences were identified between the intervention and comparison women. The various models estimate that between 16 and 21 per cent more women from project-supported groups are actively involved and participating in decisions in two or more community groups than their comparators. These differences are even greater for women in supported groups specifically in Ogun state. Unfortunately, the difference is only significant for one of the estimation methods for supported women in Oyo state. Therefore, there is strong evidence that the project has increased women's active membership and contribution to decision making in community groups, but again, this finding applies particularly to Ogun state. This pattern of differential impact in Ogun and Oyo states suggests differences in project implementation in these two areas, which will require follow-up analysis with the project team to determine whether this is indeed the case.

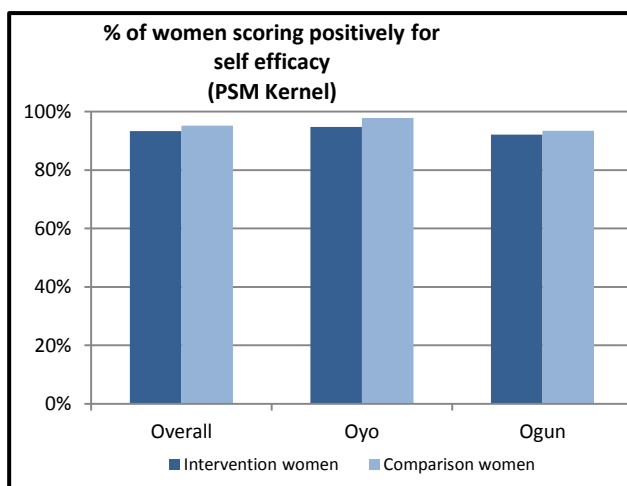


Outcome 8 – Self-efficacy

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The final dimension in the Women's Empowerment Index considers four different elements of women's self-perception. The first element is self-efficacy – a person's belief in their own competence. Is there any evidence that the project has elevated women's self-efficacy? To investigate this, an adapted version of the General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSE) was incorporated into the questionnaire administered to the interviewed women in both the project and non-project areas. This is a four-point Likert scale that asks the respondent the extent to which she agrees or disagrees with a series of 10 statements related to her confidence with dealing with a range of situations.

For a woman to be score positively in this measure, she has to agree with all 10 of the statements. The results of the comparison between the intervention and comparison women are presented in the chart opposite. What is immediately apparent is that there are very high levels of reported self-efficacy for both intervention and comparison women. Over 90 per cent of women in the total sample agreed with all of the self-efficacy statements. No significant differences were identified between the intervention and comparison women.



Interestingly, when additional analysis of the factor score is carried out (see separate technical report for details), the results indicate some differences – although not consistently significant – between the intervention and comparison women, showing at least some positive direction of travel for Ogun state. No such differences occur in Oyo state. Nevertheless, what can be said with confidence is that there is insufficient variability in the data to draw any firm conclusions about the project's impact (or lack thereof) on women's self-efficacy.

Unfortunately, then, the results are inconclusive, although it does appear that with such a high proportion of women reporting strong self-efficacy, it is unlikely that the project could have significantly contributed to improvements in this regard.

Outcome 9 – Attitude to traditional position of women in the home

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The final three indicators in the women's empowerment index examine specific attitudes of women to the role of men and women both in the home and outside the home.

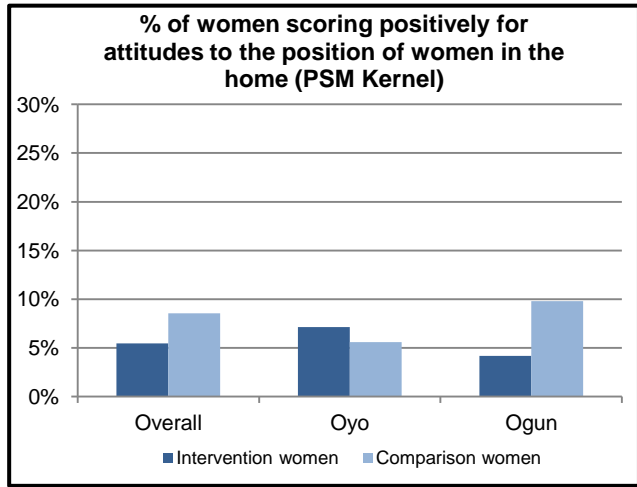
Each of these indicators is informed by the respondent's answers to a subset of statements from the 'gender attitude' section of the questionnaire. The first indicator looks at the extent women agree or disagree with the following statements relating to the 'position' of women in the home:

1. A woman's role is taking care of her home and family.
2. A man should have the final word about decisions in his home.
3. A wife should obey her husband, even if she disagrees with him.
4. If a child falls ill, it is the mother's duty rather than the father's to take time away from productive activities to look after the child.

For a woman to be score positively in this measure, she has to *disagree* with at least two of the statements above.

The chart opposite presents the proportion of women above the cut-off. It is of interest to first note that only a small number of women scored positively on this indicator. This implies that women from both the intervention and comparison groups have quite conservative attitudes towards gender roles in the domestic sphere.

Scores were also allocated to the responses to each of these statements, with a score of one being attributed if the woman strongly agreed with the statement, through to a score of four if she strongly disagreed. Factor analysis on the responses to the four statements was also carried out.



While the proportion of women above the cut-off for this indicator is very low, when the percentage score and factor score are considered in isolation, the supported women in Oyo score significantly higher than their comparators. There is therefore strong evidence in Oyo state that such attitudes of supported women are more positive than their comparators.

This difference between the states raises interesting questions, particularly as in the analysis so far, any positive differences have been found in Ogun state – not Oyo state. Eliciting the reasons for this disparity will be a key part of the follow up to this report.

Outcome 10 – Attitude to women’s rights in wider society

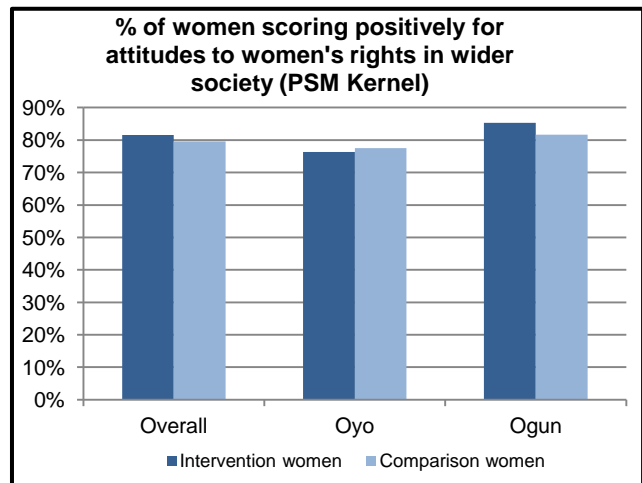


The third indicator in the self-perception dimension considers the respondents’ attitudes to women’s wider rights, by assessing their views on female participation in education and politics. As in the previous indicator, the respondents are asked the extent to which they agree with a series of statements. For this indicator, the statements are as follows:

1. It is important that sons have more education than daughters.
2. Women should leave the politics to the men.

For a woman to score positively in this measure, she has to *disagree* with both of the statements above.

The chart opposite shows that overall, over 80 per cent of supported women scored positively on this indicator. The results show a small positive difference between the women in the intervention and comparison groups in Ogun state. Unfortunately, only one of the estimation models shows this difference to be statistically significant. Therefore, we cannot say with confidence that the project has positively affected this particular indicator.



As with the previous indicator, percentage and factor scores were also calculated. When these are examined, statistically significant and positive differences were detected between the intervention and comparison women in Ogun state. This suggests that, while the project has not necessarily increased the proportion of women empowered in this indicator (i.e. percentage of women above the cut-off), there is some evidence of better attitudes towards women's rights in the supported groups in Ogun state. While no positive differences can be detected for Oyo state, it should be highlighted that the proportion of women judged to be empowered in this indicator is already high – at 82 per cent overall; 85 per cent in Ogun state; and 78 per cent in Oyo state.

Outcome 11 – Attitude to sharing of household responsibilities

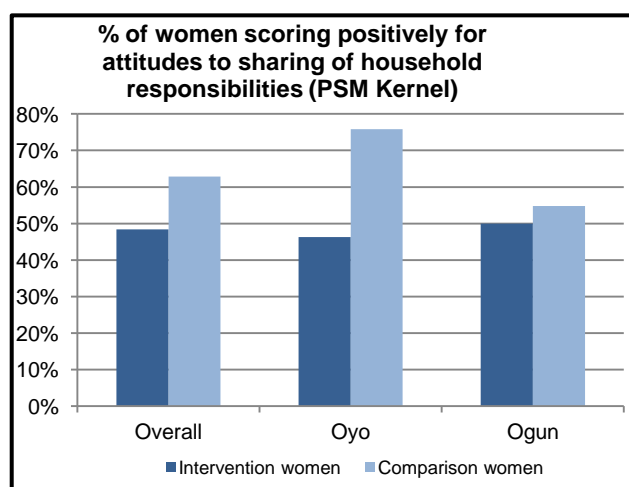


The final indicator in the index examines the respondents' attitudes towards the sharing of responsibilities in the home. As for the previous two indicators, the respondents are asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. Men and women should share household chores.
2. Women are as important as men in ensuring that the basic needs of families are met.
3. A man and woman should share responsibility for both earning money and caring for the home and family.

In order for a woman to score positively in this measure, she has to at least agree with all of the statements above.

The chart opposite shows that overall, 48 per cent of supported women were scored positively for this indicator, with the proportion being very similar when the data are disaggregated by state. There were no positive differences between the supported women and their comparators. In fact, there is evidence to suggest that supported women in Oyo state are significantly *worse off* in relation to this indicator than their comparators.



There is, therefore, no evidence that the project has made a positive difference to women's attitude to sharing of household responsibilities. These findings are supported by the analysis of the percentage and factor scores. While the percentage score for the constituent questions that make up this indicator is fairly high at approximately 77 per cent, there are no positive differences between the intervention and comparison women.

Outcome 12 – Increased household wealth



A complementary aim of the project was to support the women's groups with training in improved agricultural methods in order to improve productivity, together with marketing skills, budgeting skills and collective organisation to improve their bargaining power with potential buyers of produce. This training was intended to result in an increase in the income derived from their crop production, leading to improvements in household income.

In order to assess this element of the project, data were additionally collected on household asset possession to measure household wealth status. For each asset, the respondent was first asked whether their household owned it. For non-binary items, a follow-up question was asked on the precise number possessed/owned. The respondent was then asked whether their household possessed/owned the item in question in the baseline period and then the precise number, if relevant. This was done to ascertain household wealth status at baseline, in order to calculate changes in asset wealth.

If we first consider the change in assets between the baseline period (2009) and 2012, there are significant differences between the intervention and comparison groups. These positive differences are reported for both the overall sample and for Ogun state. The differences between the intervention and comparison women are particularly significant in Ogun state, and are likely to be driving the overall difference when the sample is considered as a whole. No significant differences were identified in Oyo state. There is evidence, then, that the project has positively impacted household income in the supported women's households in Ogun state. This latest analysis confirms a general pattern in the review that shows that where the project has had impact, it is largely just for supported women in Ogun state.

Programme learning considerations

While some of the findings of the effectiveness review are positive, at the time of writing this report there remained at least 18 months left to run in the project, so there is scope for strengthening it. Moreover, there are additional lessons that can be learned from this project that can be applied to other projects in Nigeria and elsewhere. The Nigeria country team and the project team in particular are encouraged to consider the following:

- ***Critically review and assess how the project can more effectively increase women's empowerment at the household level.***

While some modest positive differences were identified between the intervention and comparison women for the overall Women's Empowerment Index, when this is deconstructed by its constituent indicators and by state, and interesting patterns are revealed. The positive improvements are generally restricted to aspects of empowerment outside the household dimension. For example, the greatest evidence of change is in women's perceived ability to influence affairs at a community level and their activity and decision-making power in community groups. Where no evidence of change in empowerment has been detected, it tends to be in those areas affecting issues at a more personal or household level, such as women's involvement in non-productive household decisions or attitudes towards gender roles in the household. Are there particular barriers preventing women's involvement and role in household decisions, and if so, how can these be overcome? Is there scope to explore ways of more effectively promoting positive attitudes about the role of women in household affairs?

- ***Review intervention implementation and uptake in both Ogun and Oyo to identify why there are reported differences in impact between the two states.***

One of the striking findings of the effectiveness review is that the significant positive differences that were identified between the intervention and comparison women were, almost in all cases, only applicable to Ogun state. This is perplexing, given that no significant differences in project intervention exposure were reported between the states, yet the women of Ogun state appear to have benefited more. What is the reason for this? Is it solely down to context, or are there differences in the way the interventions are being implemented in the two states? If there are differences with regard to implementation, a short-term measure to improve the support is to harmonise the implementation between

the two states. If, on the other hand, it is related to contextual factors, action should be taken to adapt the nature of the support to take these into account.

• ***Explore the reasons for significant improvement in household wealth in Ogun state.***

The effectiveness review found significant positive changes in household asset wealth for the supported women in Ogun state. Given that this review focused more on measures of women's empowerment than on livelihood support dimensions, the potential underlying causes for this change were not examined. It is, therefore, recommended, that the project team further examine the nature of the livelihood support offered – particularly with regard to any differences that may exist in implementation between the states – to elicit potential replicable strategies that can be rolled out, both in Oyo and Ekiti states, and more widely where appropriate.