

**WORLD
FOOD PROGRAMME**



**GENDER AND MARKETS AND VALUE CHAIN
ANALYSIS IN THE NORTH AND FAR-NORTH
REGIONS OF CAMEROON**

Final report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The case study “Gender and markets and value chain analysis in Cameroon” had to answer the following questions:

1. What are the specific roles of women and men in markets and value chains in the North and Far-North of Cameroon?
2. What specific challenges do women and men face in terms of economic inclusion in the markets and value chains?
3. What are the limits and shortcomings under the gender analysis prism and WFP interventions in the markets and value chains in Cameroon?
4. What are the insufficiencies and current challenges concerning the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment in the markets?
5. What are the possible programmatic solutions to address the challenges and gaps identified?

The study was carried out over the months of April and May 2016, with methods that combined documentary research, individual and group interviews and an investigation into markets. The documentary research consisted of compiling and examining documentation associated with themes of the study, notably gender, food security and markets in Cameroon, women’s empowerment and its measuring and monitoring and the examination of primary data on food security and the markets in Cameroon during these last five years. The individual and group interviews took place in Yaoundé, Maroua, Mokolo and Garoua, and allowed for the collection of information from: administrative, religious and traditional authorities; officials of decentralized technical sector structures; Civil Society Organizations; the staff of WFP and other resource persons and a visit to a community granary. The survey took place between 26 April and 6 May 2016, with a sample size of 170 economic operators from the following markets: Mokolo big market; Abattoir (big market of Maroua), Babba, Ouro Labbo, Ouro Tchede, Salack; Djefatou, big market of Garoua and Yelwa.

The results show that generally men are wholesalers while women are retailers. In certain markets, intermediaries, commissionaires of sorts who manage commercial transactions without owning stock, have strong powers of influence over buyers and sellers. They are always men. Gendered roles exist and change according to commodity. For millet, for instance, land owners are generally men, weeding is a paid task for youth, harvesting is handled by older people, warehousing and transport are handled by men, and transformation into bil bil (local beer) is almost always reserved for women. Collectors, wholesalers and intermediaries are men and the retailers are predominantly men for millet, and women for other products (groundnuts, beans...). The owners of rental shops in the markets are always men. Sorting is always handled by women, often with young children.

Challenges common to men and women are based on:

- Capital needs to expand trade (rolling funds);
- Equipment and logistics needs: weighing instruments, means of transportation, storage rooms, preservation equipment (mostly for fish);

- Interference and harassment from local authorities;
- The absence of hangars and equipped trading posts in the markets, which allow for trading during bad weather;
- Access to credit seems to be as challenging for men as it is for women.

Women are confronted with other specific problems, of which the main ones are:

- Maternity management (leading almost always to the suspension of trade);
- Keeping children in the market;
- Few comfortable toilets and places of ease for women;
- Timetable and reconciliation of domestic and commercial activities.

The case study raises the significant efforts WFP has made, notably the taking into account of the differences in the needs of men and women and the disaggregation of data according to sex. The implementation of focal gender points shows the willingness to go farther. However, these people do not have the specific bill of specifications or the terms of reference for the post. They practice these responsibilities within the margins of other activities. Monitoring structures do not allow for the follow-up of social transformation and changes in gender relations resulting from these projects.

It is important to use the structures and centers of research in universities and statistics institutes and the local CSOs to assure the promotion of the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the markets and value chains. The major challenge remains local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in interventions in the food markets. The local CSOs could become important relays to work with the communities to come up with the most important criteria and indicators to measure and monitor women's empowerment in the food markets.

The study makes many recommendations, mainly:

1. Elaborate and implement in the medium term, a joint programme of the United Nations System, a programme that is justified by the holistic treatment of the question of women's empowerment in the food markets, with specific components on: literacy, the construction of gender-sensitive infrastructure, communication to change behavior, reinforcement of the entrepreneurial capacities of women, reinforcement of women's cooperatives, financing of economic activities and nutrition education, etc.
2. Integrate into WFP's programmes a component of accompaniment of market operators and a structuring of the value chain actors, in the aim of, among others, identifying and contracting with medium-scale female wholesalers, to consolidate their position within the industry, or with cooperatives of women, mainly in the domains usually reserved for men, in order to shake things up and to create a lever effect for the emergence of a generation of female economic operators in the industry.
3. Consolidate material gains in gender terms for WFP initiatives in the markets and value chains, mainly by the implementation of dedicated

internal mechanisms and training in gender and women's empowerment for the staff of WFP and its partners, including the production and dissemination of a guide to measure and monitor women's empowerment in the markets and value chains.

4. Use structures and research centers of universities and statistics institutes and the local CSOs to develop and put in place a system of monitoring, to produce tools and to train actors for the continuation and deepening of the measuring of female empowerment in the markets and value chains.

Acknowledgments

The World Food Programme (WFP) Bureau in Cameroon mandated Mr. Thaddée Yossa, a Consultant in management of development initiatives, to conduct the study “gender and market/value chain analysis in emergency situations” from 3 March to 6 May 2016.

The study was started on 3 March 2016, with a phase of conceptualization, documentary research and methodology preparation, which was completed on 25 April. The field investigation covered the North and Far-North regions and took place from 26 April to 6 May 2016, with a strong involvement of economic actors from the markets and other value chain actors. The consultant recognizes the engagement of the women and men who decided to share their sometimes very personal experiences with him. These producers were always available and open for reflection and exchanging information.

The consultant extends his strong gratitude to the administrative, religious and traditional authorities and to the heads of decentralized technical sector structures in the North and Far-North regions, who facilitated the Consultant’s access to structures, organizations and resource-persons and to pertinent and related information.

The consultant solicited from a large network of resource-persons from ministerial departments, international cooperation organizations, civil society organizations and research institutions. They all generally responded to him with constructive contributions. He takes the present occasion to show his gratitude.

He finally thanks the staff of the WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar, the Cameroon Bureau and the Sub-Offices of Maroua and Garoua for their support in the completion of this study. They showed a remarkable will to collaborate.

On another note, it is important to make the following point: many critical formulas in the structure of the current study are not new for the actors. Good field practices were researched and critiques were formulated, with the perspective of applying lessons learned in the implementation of these actions to the next programming cycle, not to reduce the excellent quality of work already done by others, but to trace the paths to this work-in-progress, in the spirit of learning and capitalization.

Finally, the consultant assumes whole responsibility for the opinions and ideas transmitted in the report. He assures that the question of objectivity was maintained throughout the process of data collection and analysis and during the interpretation of received contributions.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACAFIA	Cameroonian Association of Female Agricultural Engineers
ASBY	Association of the Bayam Sellam of Cameroun
CBT	Cash Based Transfer
CEFE	Competency Based Economies Formation of Enterprise
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CTD	Local and Regional Authorities
DESA	Direction of Surveys and Agricultural Statistics
DGSN	General Delegation for National Security
ECAM	Cameroonian Household Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FERAFCAM	Federation of Cameroon Women’s Associations Network
FIMAC	Investment Fund for Agricultural and Community Micro-Enterprises
GIC	Communal Initiative Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IRAD	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
MFE	Micro Finance Establishment
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINCOMMERCE	Ministry of Trade
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINEPAT	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries

MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Family
PACA	Agricultural Competitiveness Project
PADMIR	Rural Microfinance Development Support Project
PAEJ	Point Accueil Ecoutes Jeunes
PDG	Police, Gendarmes and Customs
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PIAASI	Integrated Support Project for the Informal Sector
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
RGAA	Revenue Generating Activity
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SED	Secretary of State for Defense
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPSS	Statistical Package for Socials Sciences
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WEAI	Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

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INTRODUCTION

General country characteristics

Cameroon is a Central African country situated at the end of the Gulf of Guinea, between latitudes 2° and 13° north and longitudes 9° and 16° east. The country has a surface area of 475,650 km², in a triangular form that stretches out from the south up to Lake Chad for about 1,200 km, while the base stretches from west to east over 800 km. In the south-west, it has a maritime frontier of 420 km along the Atlantic Ocean. A true crossroads, it is the only CEMAC country that shares a border with each of the five others, which are Chad to the north-east, Central African Republic to the east, the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the south. To the west, it shares a long border of 1,200 km with Nigeria, which goes from Lake Chad to the Atlantic Ocean.

Estimates based on results of the 3rd General Population and Housing Census (RGPH), place the Cameroonian population at about 23,894,602 in June 2016, with an annual growth rate of about 2.5%. There is mostly a young population (55% are under age 20), which is more and more urbanized (the urban population went from 48% in 2005 to 52% in 2010). The two main cities, Yaoundé (political capital of the country) and Douala (economic capital), contain more than 21% of the total population and 44% of the urban population.

In terms of the sex structure of the population, women make up the majority of the country (50.6%). In relation to place of residence, women make up 51.3% of the rural population while in the urban milieu they only make up 49.8%. The geographic distribution of the population over the national territory is very unequal, with the Far-North the most populated. The physical and climactic diversity is coupled with human diversity: Cameroon counts more than 230 ethnic groups and languages distributed into six big groups: Sudanic, Hamitic, Semitic, Bantus, Semi-Bantus and Pygmies.

On the political level, Cameroon is a decentralized and bilingual unitary State, subdivided into 10 regions. The executive power is exercised by an elected President of the Republic with universal suffrage and a mandate of seven renewable years. A Senate and a National Assembly exercise legislative power. The regular and good performance of presidential, legislative and municipal elections give the country a socio-political stability, in a regional context of political and security crises.



Judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court. There are also an Economic and Social Advisory and an Auditor General. The decentralization sanctioned in the Constitution adopted in 1996, gives more responsibilities to the local and regional authorities (CTD), and more opportunities of involvement to beneficiary populations, in the conception, financing, programming and implementation of programmes and development projects at the local level.

On the economic plan¹, the country saw a hike in growth in the last decade (about 3% per year, with a leap to close to 5% in 2013), thanks to an increased interior demand, caused by the follow-through of big infrastructure programmes on the one hand, but also by boosts in production of many market branches. Nevertheless, this growth did not benefit all the strata of the population and the social performance fell short of the country's ambition to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for 2015. The country's world ranking in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) was 150th out of 187 countries in 2012, compared with 142nd out of 186 countries in 2003.

In 2013, the structure of GDP remained characterized by the dominance of the tertiary sector (47.8%, while the primary and secondary sectors, relatively low, were respectively, 22.5% and 29.7%). According to the 2010 Survey into Employment in the Informal Sector (EESI), the 3.84% rate of unemployment masks the dominance of the informal sector—which makes up 90.5% of the active population—and chronic underemployment of 70.66% affects women more (78%) than it does men (64%). Women's activity is concentrated in the rural sector (75%) and the informal non-agricultural urban sector (70%) and the informal agricultural sector (58%).

The ECAM 4 Survey (NIS, 2016) shows that the incidence of poverty has reduced but still remains high. This survey estimates a 37.5% rate of poverty in 2014 compared with 39.9% in 2007 and 40.1% in 2001. Poverty is heightened in the rural areas, where it affects about 90% of the population, compared with 8.9% in the urban setting. Domestic farmers (informal agricultural enterprises) make up the poorest group, with a rate of poverty of close to 63%.

On the humanitarian front, in these last years, the country has had to face a brutal increase in the number of people made vulnerable by conflicts, food insecurity, malnutrition, natural catastrophes, epidemics and the significant reduction of their socio-economic circumstances. In December 2013, sectorial groups estimated that more than six million people were in need of humanitarian assistance (Plan of strategic response 2014-2016 in Cameroon; 2015). In December 2015, analysts noted that the number of people with severe food insecurity had multiplied by four in the last six months (Plan of humanitarian response: January – December 2016).

¹ Source: Report of the evaluation of BAD Programme Strategy in Cameroon (2004-2013) in June 2015

Presentation of the zone of study

Geophysical framework

The current case study covers the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, mostly because of their exposure to risks of food insecurity due to the climatic context and the influx of refugees coming from Nigeria and from the CAR, and internal displacement of the population from terrorist actions led by the Boko Haram group, which has worsened an already worrying situation especially with regard to poverty indicators. The option of performing this case study in these two regions was supported by the fact that they were kept as sample sites at the end of the regional study on gender and food markets in the Lake Chad basin (Regional Market Assessment – Lake Chad Basin Crisis, 2015), and that they were also part of the zones covered during WFP’s surveys on assessments of food markets in Cameroon in 2014 and 2015. All these allowed having comparable data at hand and making links between the national case study and the regional survey.

The Far-North region’s administrative center is Maroua and extends over a surface area of 34,263 km². It has a Sudano-Sahelian climate, of the dry tropical type extending from the south to the center of the region and the Sudano-Sahelian type in the north.

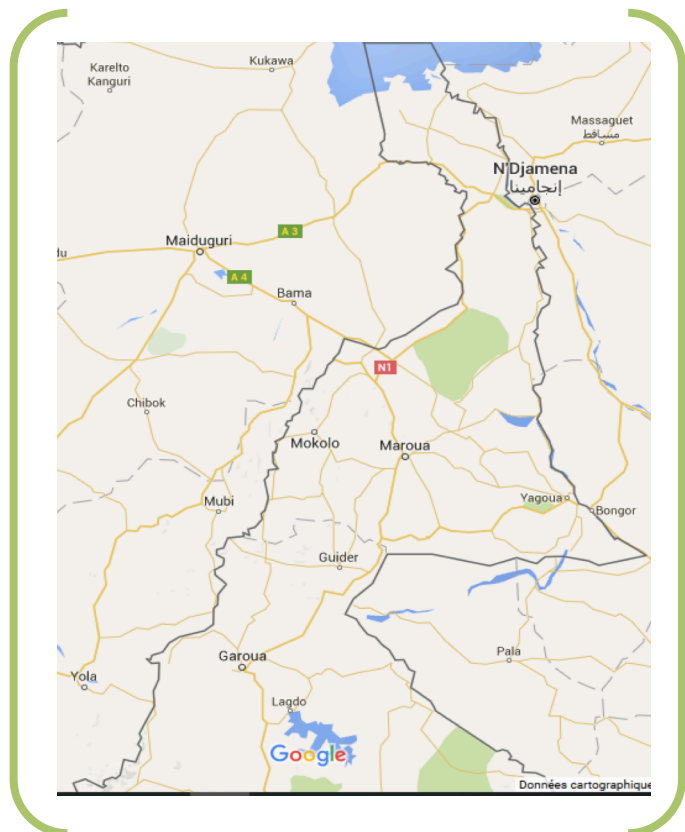
This climate is characterized by recurrent droughts and the annual pluviometric averages are decreasing with time. Also, the inter-annual averages of the zone, which were greater than 850 mm before 1999, were only 700 mm in the 2000 – 2005 period.

The west of the region is dominated by a mountainous bend, including mounts Mandara (1100 m high) and Roumsiki (1224 m high).

Also, the region is bordered by particularly picturesque mountains in unstable forms in the Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga departments.

The soils of the Far-North have specific pedologic forms and are adapted to different crops:

- Sandy soils in the plains favor sorghum and groundnut cultivation;
- Silty soils, rich in alluvium along river courses, favor cotton, sorghum and sweet potato cultivation;
- Clayey soils favor the cultivation of red sorghum.



The region's river system is made of two basins: the Niger basin and the Lake Chad basin. With the exception of Logone and Chari, which take their source from wetter regions and flow towards the Chadian basin, most of the river courses in the region are characterized by non-permanent flow.

One part of the North region is situated between latitudes 7° and 10° north, and the other part, between the 12° and 16° meridian. With Garoua as administrative center, the North has a surface area of 66,090 km², which is 14.2% of the surface area of Cameroon. It shares common borders with the Far-North and Adamawa regions and with neighboring countries, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Chad. The climate is of the Sudanic type in general, which manifests itself with a relatively weak pluviometry (on average 70 days of rain per year) and high temperatures between March and May, with readings of up to 45°. The lowest temperatures are observed in December, with lows of 18°.

The relief is of two major types: plains and highlands. The big peneplain, with 200 to 300 m of altitude, extends from the Faro department to that of Mayo-Rey, and covers a part of Benue and the Mayo-Louti plain. The highlands, however, rise up between the plains and constitute reserves for fauna.

Some socio-demographic and health indicators

According to BUCREP, the North was peopled with 2,152,740 inhabitants in 2012, of which 1,085,356 were women. The average density of the population is situated at about 32.57 inhabitants/km². This density hides enormous disparities between the departments of the region. The rate of urbanization of the region is estimated at 27.2%. Children under 15 years are the most numerous (49.1% of the total population of the region). The average age and median age of the population are 20 and 15.3 years, respectively. On the other hand, the demographic weight of persons of age is relatively low (4%). The Far-North region is the most populated of Cameroon (3,709,691 inhabitants in 2012). The Mayo Tsanaga department is the most densely populated with 190 inhabitants/km². Those under 15 years represent 51% of the regional population (against 43.6% at the national level) and this population is mostly rural (77.3%). The demographic birth rate is high and supported by a fertility which remains strong (on average 6.8 children per woman of 15-49 years). The rate of urbanization is at 19.7%, significantly lower than the national rate of 40%.

The two regions are cited many times by the DHS-MICS (2011) as having the worst scores in socio-demographic and health statistics. Also, the results show that in the Far-North, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is the highest (45%), followed by the North (40%), Adamawa (40%) and the East (37%). In addition, one notes that this prevalence decreases tremendously when the level of education of the mother or the level of household economic well-being increases. The regions of the Far-North (27%), North (18%), Adamawa (18%) and

the East (17%) are those where the prevalence of this severe form of malnutrition is the highest.

The results show a prevalence of acute malnutrition much higher in the Far-North (12%) and the North (10%) than in all the other regions (from 1 to 6%). The level of education of the mother positively influences the prevalence of acute malnutrition: 12% of children of mothers with no education are affected, versus 2%, where the mother has reached a level of 2nd cycle secondary education or more. Finally, one must note that children living in the poorest households are more affected (11%) than those in other households (2% for the richest).

In rural areas, one notes that one child out of five (20%) shows weight deficiencies versus 9% in other cities and towns and 3% in Yaoundé/Douala. One child out of three (32%) in the Far-North, one child out of four (24%) in the North and one child out of five (21%) in Adamawa show weight deficiencies. In other regions, this proportion is less, at 16%. As it is for the other indices, the proportion of children suffering weight deficiencies lowers as the level of education of the mother or the standard of living of the household increases.

In terms of poverty, it is in the regions of the Far-North and North that the percentages of the population classed in the poorest quintile are the highest (55% and 52%, respectively). More than nine households out of ten live in housing considered precarious. It is also in these regions that one records the highest level of people surveyed with no level of education. The net rates of school attendance are the lowest of the country: Far-North (52%) and North (67%). In these regions are recorded the lowest percentages of literate people in the country: Far-North (23% of women and 53% of men), North (31% and 65%, respectively); these parameters are 92% of women and 91% of men for the South, 89% and 92%, respectively, for the West, 88% and 92%, respectively, for the Centre, and 86% of women and 93% of men for the Littoral.

The percentage of women without access to media is low in the cities of Yaoundé (6%) and Douala (7%). It is, however, very high in the regions of the Far-North (77%), North (68%) and Adamawa (51%). The same is observed among men. Additionally, the level of education seems to influence in a significant way the level of exposition to media. Whether for women or men, being exposed to three types of media increases considerably with the level of education: from 2% to 21% among women and from 4% to 34% among men as soon as they pass from primary school level to the 2nd cycle secondary school level or more. Moreover, it is important to note that 81% of women and 64% of men without education are not exposed to any media.

The Total Fertility Rate shows that women without any level of education have, on average, 3.7 more children than those who have attained 2nd cycle secondary level or more (TFR of 6.8 versus 3.1). At the same time, the average number of children per woman reduces from the poorest households to the richest, passing from 7.0 to 3.3 children: the TFR is therefore more than two times higher in the poorest households than in the richest. Additionally, the variations in TFR depending on the regions are equally significant.

The North (6.5) and the Far-North (6.8) are part of the group with high fertility rates and also record the highest percentages of births produced after a short interval (less than 24 months). The median age of the first birth is the earliest in the Far-North (18.3 years) and Adamawa (18.4 years). Contraceptive prevalence is very low in the North (5%) and Far-North (4%). For the other regions, it varies from 11% in Adamawa to 40% in the South-West and 41% in Douala. The Far-North (86%) and North (82%) regions also possess the highest percentages of women who are not exposed to messages on family planning from the interventions of formal sources.

The national average of the percentage of women who received prenatal care given by trained persons is at 85%. This percentage stays relatively low in the Far-North region (59%). More than half (58%) of women did not receive any postnatal care; this percentage reaches 79% in the Far-North and 84% in the North. The coverage of prenatal care shows enormous disparities depending on different socio-demographic characteristics. The percentage of women who received prenatal care varies strongly depending on the regions: in the West, the Littoral and the North-West, almost all women received prenatal care (97% or more). On the opposite end, the Far-North (59%) and the North (72%) show the lowest percentages; one notes, however, between 2004 and 2011, an increase of seven percentage points in the North and stability in the Far-North.

The two regions also record the weakest inclinations towards searching for advice or treatment from health personnel – Far-North (13%) and North (15%). It is equally there that the use of antimalarials has been less frequently documented – Far-North (6%) and North (10%). The regions of the North and Far-North stand out from the other regions with a youth mortality higher than infant mortality. With regard to infant and youth mortality, one notes that globally, it is the North-West (68%) that has the lowest and the North (191%) where it is the highest.

During the DHS-MICS 2011, respondents were asked a series of questions to evaluate their knowledge of the means of preventing HIV. Approximately two women out of three (68%) and three men out of four (75%) said one limits the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS by using condoms. Additionally, on the question of if limiting sexual relations to just one uninfected sexual partner permits the risk of contracting HIV, 78% of women and 85% of men responded in the affirmative. Globally, 60% of women and 68% of men knew both these means of prevention.

Knowledge of these two means of prevention varies depending on different socio-demographic characteristics. It is in the urban settings, among the most educated and the richest, that the percentages of women and men who know these two means of prevention is the highest (more than 70% of women and men). The results according to regions also show significant differences: it is the regions of the North (29% of women and 61% of men) and the Far-North (38% of women and 42% of men) where these two means are less known.

Context and justification of the study

In Cameroon, for some time now, certain areas have found themselves in emergency situations, notably the regions of the Far-North, the North, Adamawa and the East. These emergency situations result, on the one hand, from a security crisis created by attacks from the Boko Haram sect, and on the other, from a socio-political crisis in the Central African Republic, which has led to a serious break down of the situation in Adamawa and the East of Cameroon. These regions are habitually confronted with the severity of natural conditions and have to face many different hazards.

The displacement of populations and the influx of refugees coming from the CAR have caused increased needs in matters of health, housing, nutrition, protection and sanitation. These emergency situations have a strong influence on the economic and social lives of the populations in these zones, notably a strong disruption of systems of production and trade, mainly of food products. Food and nutrition security of these populations, consequently, assume an importance and are of major stakes.

Moreover, it is important to point out that these needs are felt differently by men and by women and among refugee and displaced populations versus autochthonic populations.

The WFP Regional Bureau for West Africa ordered a regional initiative on gender and food assistance in markets under the technical direction of the VAM (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) regional unit. The project allowed for the reinforcing of links between gender analysis and market assessments, and the assisting of WFP and partners in the conception and performance of interventions in the market, with the explicit objective of achieving gender equality. The WFP regional initiative, which studies the impacts of this crisis on the markets of Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, proposes to collect and analyze pertinent data to allow for the forming of a complete framework serving to justify interventions adapted to the context, to the market realities and to the needs of the target population.

Given this context, Cameroon was chosen to be the subject of the case study. It involves understanding how the markets are adapted to crises situations and determining what the priority needs are and the appropriate formulas of response. One problem at the heart of this process is that of male-female equality, since even if the factors are shared by both genders, the situation is lived in a different manner among men and among women, with totally different impacts.

The goal of the WFP's policy on the issue of Men-Women 2015-2020 is to allow the Institution to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into all its work and activities, but also to see to it that the different needs of women, men, girls and boys in areas of food and nutrition security are met.

In the VAM investigations in Cameroon from a few years ago¹, the gender dimension was superficially taken into consideration and analyzed. The attention was given notably to the sex

¹ MINADER: Global Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA); May 2007

FAO; Analysis of subsistence crop products of Cameroonian markets: carried out under the framework of the global study on household food security and vulnerability (CFSVA); 2011; 89 pages

WFP/FAO/Cameroon: assessment of humanitarian assistance and the situation of Central African refugees living in Cameroon, July 2013

of the head of the household, the participation of men/women in the management or use of resources (food, in particular) in the household, and sometimes the representation of women within the households. Since 2014, efforts have been made to show the gender dimension in all analyses, mainly those relative to the markets. One also observes significant efforts in the taking into account of the different needs of men and women and the proposal of specific responses. Information is more than ever disaggregated according to gender and questions of equal access to opportunities, equal access and control of resources and its results have been deepened.

Recent studies¹ show this positive evolution, even if improvements are still possible, in the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment and the assessment of the gender impact of interventions in matters of social transformation, for instance monitoring the repercussions of these interventions on gender inequalities.

The preliminary use of gender aspects in the database of the regional study² the WFP effected in four countries of the Lake Chad basin in 2016 established the fact that globally, wholesalers are 90% male, while women are at 92%, retailers. Women have been in the markets for just as long as men. Men have a bit more recourse to the use of workers in their businesses than women. They generally have more stock (wholesalers), domestic stock being more widespread among the women (retailers).

The lack of capital is one of the biggest constraints for women and for men, while insecurity is most feared by men. None of the women has recourse to the bank for financing their business. The ownership of a bank account is not common for either sex. The buying of stock on credit is similar between the two sexes. The capacity to respond to high demand is relatively the same for men and women. Women face more ruptures in stock during harvest periods. These results remain to be confirmed and deepened by a national case study.

Objectives of the study

The present study has for its goal reinforcing the links between gender analysis and market assessments, in order to help the WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations in the conception and implementation of interventions based on markets, and integrating objectives linked to gender equality.

Also, due to the particular situation in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon with respect to insecurity and ambient poverty, the case study must answer the following questions:

- What are the specific roles of women and men in the value chains and markets in the North and Far-North of Cameroon?

¹ WFP/PNSA; Assessment of food security in the East, Adamawa, North, and Far North regions of Cameroon, 14-28 September, 2015 (EFSA 2015); HCR/International Solidarity; study of market systems in emergency situations: imported rice, cassava flour, and potable water- Bertoua-Garoua boulaï axe, Cameroon, CAR Border; January 2015

² WFP; Regional Market Assessment in Lake Chad Basin Crisis; Cameroon, gender analysis, preliminary outputs; 2016

- What specific challenges do women and men face in terms of economic inclusion in the value chains and markets?
- What are the limits and gaps under the gender prism of analyses and WFP interventions in the markets and value chains in Cameroon?
- What are the deficiencies and current challenges concerning the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the markets?
- What are the programmed solutions anticipated to handle the challenges and gaps identified?

Methodological approach of the study

1. The different phases of the study

The realization of the study on “gender and market and value chain analysis in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon” is based upon methods structured in four phases: the exploratory phase; the field investigation phase; the data input and treatment phase; and the analysis and reporting phase.

a. The exploratory phase

The exploratory phase was undertaken with research and reviews of documents linked with the study. In this framework, an abundant literature (reports, orientation, project, study and survey documents) was consulted from WFP, MINEPIA, MINADER, MINPROFF, UN Women, FAO and MINEPAT. To this must be added the use of the VAM databases from Cameroon (Global study on food security and vulnerability in households, 2011), and those of the regional study on gender and food markets of the Lake Chad basin, and statistics from Agricultural Sector from 1998 to 2013.

These allowed a significant understanding into the problematic of the study and the beginning of cohesion of elements in response to the goals of the study and, also, created markers for the field investigation to be carried out in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, in terms of identifying markets, people and structures to meet, defining criteria for selection, etc.

It was also during this phase that the different data collection tools were formulated and tested in view of their best use during the investigation phase.

b. Field investigation phase

This consisted of data collection from economic operators, staff of the Sub-Offices of the WFP in Garoua and Maroua and the heads of public services concerned with the study. The Consultant's participatory observation completed the field investigation phase. Also, the results of the case study depended on the use of (i) a database of surveys

led from 26 April to 6 May 2016, from a sample of 170 economic operators; (ii) information received in the framework of group discussions with market operators and their partners (administrative, religious and traditional authorities; leaders of decentralized technical sector structures; Civil Society Organizations; staff of the WFP Sub-Offices; other resource-persons), and a visit to a community granary and semi-structured interviews. The limits of the case study are equally mentioned in point 3 of the current section.

The general methods foresaw that the Consultant would visit the sample regions and sites, that he would meet regional and/or departmental heads of MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINPROFF or MINPMEESA, depending on their availability and the availability of research data, and the managers of the markets. Group discussions and individual discussions were to take place subsequently.

c. Data input and treatment phase

The input of data used six temporary input agents. The CSPro programme was used to input data. Some operation consistency tests in the database and the correction of errors detected in the simple frequency tables from the SPSS programme allowed for balanced documents. Pivot table analyses were handled with Excel.

d. Analysis and reporting phase

This phase allowed for cross-tabulation of the mass of information collected, the production of a provisory report, the taking into account of commentary and observations of the Project Manager, and the production of a final report.

2. Techniques and tools of field investigation

With respect to techniques and tools, the investigation combined documentary research, individual surveys from economic operators, group discussions and semi-structured interviews.

a. Documentary research

The documentary research consisted of compiling and examining the documents associated with themes of the study, mainly those of gender, food security and food markets in Cameroon, women's empowerment and its measuring and monitoring, and an examination of the primary data on food security and markets in Cameroon over the course of these last five years.

b. Individual surveys from economic operators

This part aims to present the sample markets, the distribution of sample operators by sex and by region, the survey questionnaire and the proceedings of the survey.

Sample markets

To grasp the phenomenon studied in all its complexity, it was important to explore the main markets of the study area, notably those reputed to be significant in terms of volumes of transactions and their function of supplying the main cities and towns. Also, at the base of the sample markets from the WFP surveys of 2014 and 2015, priority was given to those where women were very active and which were found in the radius of 70 kilometers of the main cities of the North and Far-North regions.

This selection led to the choosing of the following nine markets in three main centers, Mokolo, Maroua et Garoua: Mokolo big market (town of Mokolo); Abattoir (big market of Maroua), Babba, Ouro Labbo, Ouro Tchede, Salack (town of Maroua); Djefatou, Big market of Garoua and Yelwa (town of Garoua).

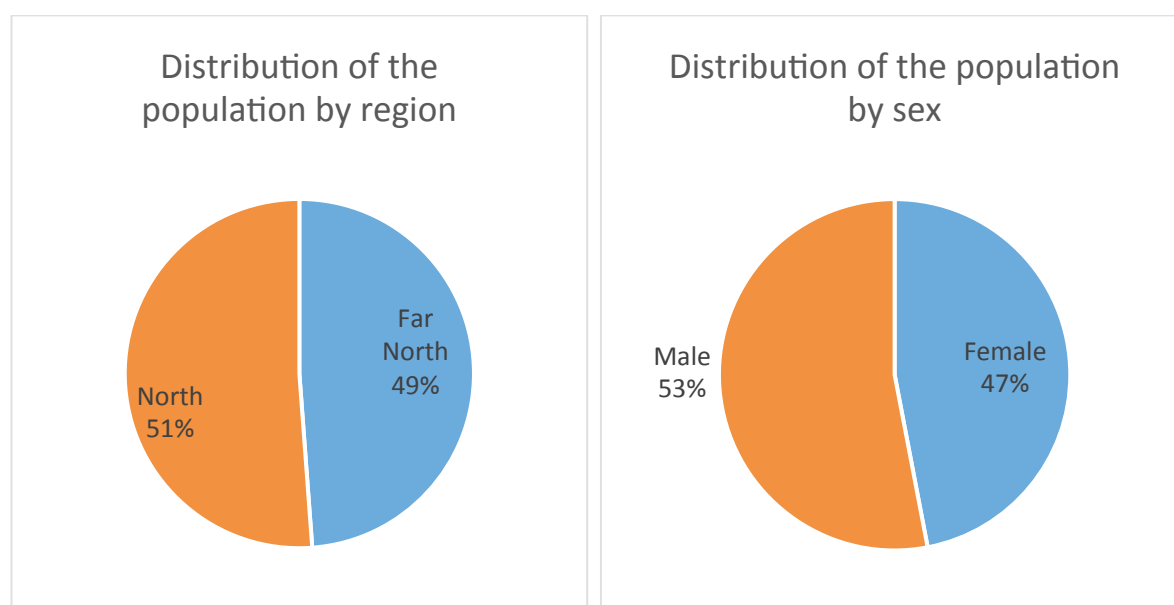
The main products sold in these markets were the following: Millet/Sorghum, Onions, Groundnuts, Maize, Fruits and Vegetables, Tubers, Imported rice, Local Rice and Beans.

The Babba market (Maroua) was practically dedicated to women. Historically, it was specialized for the sale of cooking utensils. Today, one finds there food products, but women still remain in their numbers.

The Salack and Ouro Tchede markets are satellite collection points of Maroua. There, one finds collectors and producers coming from the fields. The Djefatou market is known as a collection and distribution center. Ouro Labbo and Yelwa are urban markets in Garoua.

170 economic operators were interviewed. The sample composition favored a balance between the sexes and between the regions.

Graphic 1: Distribution of operators by sex and by region



Source: results of May 2016 survey

Table 1: Distribution of the sample of operators by sex and by market

Markets	Sex		Total	Percentage
	Female	Male		
Abattoir	8	10	18	11%
Babba	16	19	35	21%
Djefatou	11	15	26	15%
Big Market of Garoua	5	2	7	4%
Mokolo	7	8	15	9%
Ouro Labbo	16	13	29	17%
Ouro Tchede	8	5	13	8%
Salack	4	6	10	6%
Yelwa	4	13	17	10%
Total	79	91	170	100%
Percentage	46%	54%	100%	

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Presentation of survey questionnaire

The survey was carried out by means of a questionnaire (see annex I), conceived from a critical appreciation of those used in the framework of the regional survey. The main points of improvement were the following:

Beyond the sex, age and level of education, were added parameters such as marital status, matrimonial regime, household size and socio-professional profile of spouse, to better understand the profile of the economic operator, in the context where socio-cultural factors are important. The parameters of ethnic group and religion were deemed too sensitive to analyze to be collected. The distinction between free union, legal union and traditional union was not made.

While the regional survey was interested in the numbers and in the sex of employees, the case study attempts to know what the tasks and assigned responsibilities of the employees are in terms of their sex, all along the chain. The regional survey understood, in a very interesting way, stocking, credit and financing. The case study asked interviewees about the access to and the control that women and men had on important resources such as property, technical support and other non-financial services (training, information, advice,...), inputs and technology.

The case study also asked about aggression and physical abuse the women and men are subjected to on the streets of the food markets, the budgeting of time given to certain activities with respect to the food markets, the distribution of time between professional life and domestic and family life, the participation of women and men in decisions to do with the management of the markets, and endogenous dynamics in the mobilization of men and women in the resolution of difficulties encountered (market associations, tontines and mutual assistance dynamics and market solidarity).

The questionnaire consisted of the following sections:

- preliminary information describing the survey;
- socio-economic characteristics of the operator (sex, age, level of education, marital status, matrimonial regime, size of household, socio-economic profile of spouse, number of years experience in trade in general and specifically in current activity, section of current activity and section of activity desired, produce sold, etc.);
- constraints and capacity of response (difficulties and ease);
- timetable devoted to professional, domestic and associative tasks;
- the inclination to resort to aides and employees and the perception of their roles;
- participation in socio-economic decision-making;
- access to financial and non-financial services;
- security on the roads of the food markets.

Proceedings of the survey

The collection of data took place from 26 April to 6 May 2016. It used nine local interviewers of which five were women. For the town of Mokolo, two interviewers who had taken part in the regional survey were recruited. But it became quickly clear that they were rarely available and relatively costly. A second team, which was much younger and more dynamic, of four

interviewers was recruited at Maroua to replace the experienced interviewers previously chosen. Finally, it was this team of youth that moved to Garoua and who, with two interviewers recruited there, finished the work.

c. Group discussions and semi-structured interviews

Rich information was received in the framework of group discussions with market operators and their partners (administrative, religious and traditional authorities; leaders of decentralized technical sector structures; Civil Society Organizations; staff of WFP sub-offices; other resource-persons), including a visit to a community granary (see list of persons consulted in annex III).

Group discussions with market operators and their partners

A group discussion took place in the Mokolo market, a second with the departmental delegation of MINADER of Diamaré and a third with the regional delegation of MINPROFF in Garoua. The fourth group discussion took place while on a visit of a community granary in Ngong.

Group discussions with the staff of WFP Sub-Offices

Two discussions of this type took place, one in Garoua and the other in Maroua. The staff members also took part in exchanges with the market operators.

Semi-structured interviews

Semi-structured interviews took place mostly with administrative, religious and traditional authorities, the leaders of decentralized technical sector structures and Civil Society Organizations.

Visit to community granary

The visit took place at the community granary of GIC NAROUBE, in the Ngong commune, Tchebaua district, in the village of Douka Longo, close to 20 km from Djefatou. It helped enlighten the Consultant, by means of his own observation of the realities of the field.

Same as from all the market sites visited, the Consultant was able to note certain points of the environment which contributed to feeding his reflections on the activities practiced by economic operators and the behavior of actors in the field.

3. Limits of the present study

The results of the present study were confined to the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon, which possess a specific context in the religious, economic, geo-climactic,

historic, cultural and social spheres. Consequently, these results are not general to the whole of the country.

Moreover, it only covers the reality of nine markets from the two regions. Also, the sampling gave priority to activities and markets where women were the most active, outside of the sampling frame. This constitutes a methodological bias, but it is not of a nature to cast doubt on the results obtained.

The absence of secondary data on the measuring and the monitoring of women's empowerment in the food markets of Cameroon and the newness of the theme and insufficient familiarity of the actors with this concept was a handicap to the deepening of this issue.

Finally, without casting doubt on the sincerity of the respondents and the reliability of the responses, reserve should sometimes be used concerning certain personal or strategic judgments of the operators. Effectively, many operators mentioned the confidential nature of the information linked to decision-making, to volumes and prices chosen and to profit margins used.

Structure of report

The current report is structured in the following manner:

- Chapter 1 is dedicated to the characteristics of economic operators of the value chains and markets in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon;
- Chapter 2 deals with the roles of women and men in the value chains and markets in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon;
- Chapter 3 treats the specific challenges of women and men in the value chains and markets in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon;
- Chapter 4 tackles the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the food markets;
- Chapter 5 raises the deficiencies in the gender angle of WFP interventions in the food markets in Cameroon and outlines the options of foreseeable programmatic solutions to respond to the challenges identified.

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS IN THE VALUE CHAINS AND MARKETS OF THE NORTH AND FAR-NORTH REGIONS OF CAMEROON



The socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics of operators of the agricultural industry and markets were explored starting from a series of questions, mainly those which brought out the following parameters according to gender:

- the highest level of education attained;
- marital status of economic operator;
- matrimonial regime of the economic operator;
- socio-economic profile of the spouse of the economic operator;
- household size of the economic operator;
- number of years of experience in business;
- activity section where the operator works;

From time to time, these characteristics will be presented with comparisons to the results of the regional survey.

1.1. Level of schooling of operators according to gender

If one considers the level of schooling, close to ¾ of economic operators of the markets and value chains (close to 70%) have at most the primary level; a third of this population did not go to school (30%); close to 4% went to Koranic school. Only less than one percent did university studies. 20% finished the first cycle of secondary school versus 3.5% for the second cycle of secondary school. The following statement can be made: half of the people who reached the primary level could continue to the secondary level; at the same time, less than only 1/5 of those who did the first cycle of secondary school could continue to the second cycle of secondary school.

The situation specific to women follows the same tendency, except that no woman went to university or Koranic school. They were slightly more than the men in having done primary school (45.6% versus 34.1%).

Table 2: Level of schooling of economic operators

	NR	None	Primary	Secondary 1st cycle	Secondary 2nd cycle	University	Koranic School	General Total
Female	2.5%	27.8%	45.6%	20.3%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Male	2.2%	31.9%	34.1%	19.8%	3.3%	1.1%	7.7%	100.0%
Together	2.4%	30.0%	39.4%	20.0%	3.5%	0.6%	4.1%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

These results corroborate those of the regional survey, which established that in general, the majority of the sample size followed no scholarly education (42%), at best, those who went to school stopped at the primary (40%) and secondary (13%) levels.

This data leads to many paths of reflection. First of all, the crucial importance of functional literacy for the economic operators of the markets and value chains. Since the Decree of 9 December 2011 on the organization of the Government, the division of governmental competencies gave this function to MINEDUB. However, this activity figures in the duties transferred by MINEDUB in 2016, to the local and regional authorities (CTDs). UNESCO remains the privileged partner of the Government in this matter.

A suggestion to WFP is to include in all its initiatives on the markets and value chains, a component on functional literacy, which will be implemented in partnership with MINEDUB, the CTDs and UNESCO.

This component on functional literacy is relatively easy to include in projects such as supporting the implementation of community granaries, operations of food assistance by means of money transfers or even from other programmes and projects.

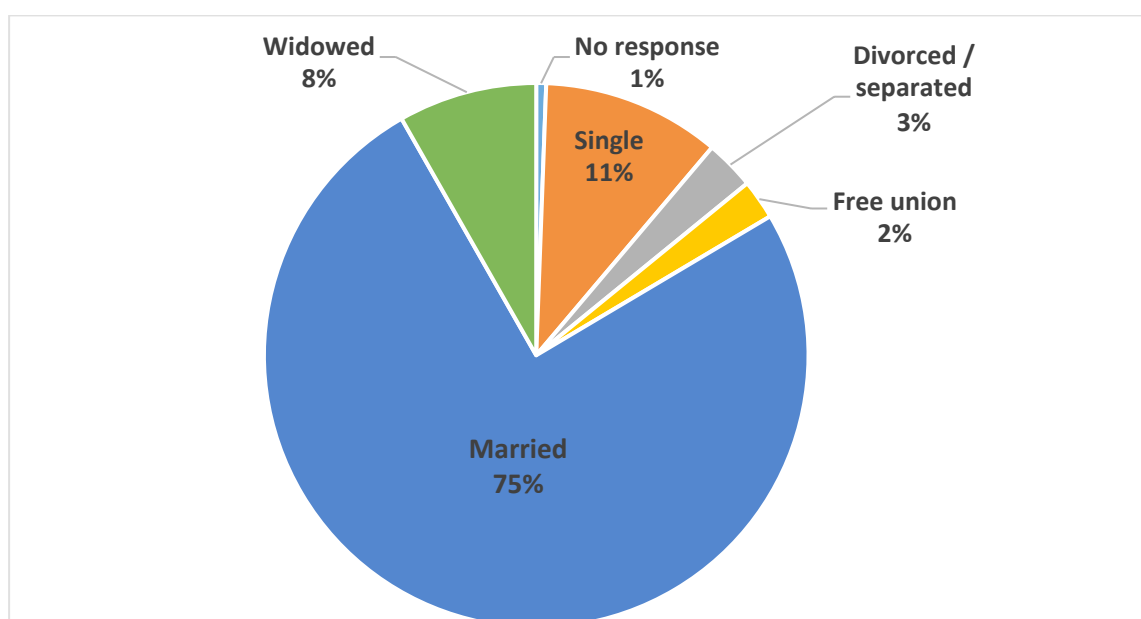
A path that may be more difficult to put in place, but that can be explored in the framework of pilot initiatives, will consist of promoting second chance schools. A slight hesitation, however, given that it risks of increasing the gulf between men and women, the latter already burdened with overly busy schedules.

In reality, the main problem remains that the rate of school dropouts is still high; the challenge is to substantially raise the percentage of people who complete the second cycle of secondary school. An appeal in this direction to political decision makers would be pertinent.

1.2. Marital status of operators according to gender

The majority of operators surveyed declared themselves married (75%), with a slight disparity between the sexes (69% for women versus 82% for men).

Graphic 2: Marital status of economic operators



Source: results of May 2016 survey

It is important to mention that the group discussions show that the marriage being spoken about is mostly customary or traditional. In the next surveys in the region, it would be wise to distinguish between marriages of a civil nature and those that are customary or traditional. They do not engender the same rights, especially for women. Additionally, break-ups of each type of marriage do not have the same consequences for women and for men. More so, customary and traditional marriages begin and end before a traditional or customary authority, without formalities and without measures of protection of the rights of the injured parties. It is thus why the Ministry of women and family is preoccupied with the great proportion of unions not legalized at the civil level and regularly organizes collective celebrations of marriage of a civil nature.

Table 3: Marital status of economic operators according to sex

	NR	Single	Divorced / separated	In free union	Married	Widowed	General total
Female	0.0%	8.9%	5.1%	3.8%	67.1%	15.2%	100.0%
Male	1.1%	12.1%	1.1%	1.1%	82.4%	2.2%	100.0%
Together	0.6%	10.6%	2.9%	2.4%	75.3%	8.2%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

The percentage of widowed persons is much higher among women. This result is in agreement with the conclusions of the thematic report on nuptials in Cameroon, produced by the Central Bureau of the Population Census in 2007 and from data from ECAM 4 (NIS 2014) for whom this situation has the following explanatory factors: life expectancy from birth is higher among women than among men; the society is patriarchal and has kept polygamy as a social norm, this leads to the fact that the death of one married woman leaves one widower, while the death of a married man leaves on average more than one widow; men who lose their spouses have much more social ease in remarrying than women. It is certainly with awareness of their vulnerable situation that MINPROFF initiated a reflection on the socio-economic situation of widows in Cameroon.

1.3. Matrimonial regime of operators according to gender

The prevalence of polygamy is at approximately 35% in the sample surveyed. According to the Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS, 2011), polygamy remains a widespread practice in Cameroon, since it affects 25% of married women. The Far-North and North regions are the most affected, respectively 42% and 41%, versus 9% for the South region. It must be said that ordinance n° 81/062 of 29 June 1981, on the organization and functioning of the civil state, states that the matrimonial system is either monogamy or polygamy.

Table 4: Matrimonial regime

Matrimonial regime	Sex		Total	Percentage
	Female	Male		
No response	13	11	24	14.12%
Monogamy	48	38	86	50.59%
Polygamy	18	42	60	35.29%
Total	79	91	170	100%
percentage	46.47%	53.53%	100%	

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Close to 15% of the economic operators preferred not to communicate their matrimonial system (polygamy or monogamy). It certainly is a domain that the interviewees consider private. This held both for men and for women.

1.4. Socio-economic profile of spouse of the economic operator

The situation of an actor in the market can be influenced by the socio-economic profile of the spouse. The survey thus recorded the operator’s declarations of their spouses.

Table 5: Socio-economic profile of spouse of economic operator

Socio-economic profile of spouse	Male	Female	Together
Other inactive	13.9%	45.1%	30.6%
Unemployed	5.1%	6.6%	5.9%
Independent and professional sector	6.3%	1.1%	3.5%
Promoter of agricultural activities	15.2%	14.3%	14.7%
Promoter of non-agricultural activities	2.5%	1.1%	1.8%
Retired	7.6%	1.1%	4.1%
Salaried in the informal sector	16.5%	9.9%	12.9%
Salaried in the formal private sector	10.1%	1.1%	5.3%
Salaried in the public sector	6.3%	1.1%	3.5%
No response	16.5%	18.7%	17.6%
General total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

If one wants to know what the spouses of male economic operators do—apart from the unavailable data (close to 20%), which suggests that this also is sensitive information—one notes that the inactive, unemployed, promoters of agricultural activities and the salaried in the informal sector make up the majority of the lot. Only 3% are in interesting careers such as professionals and the salaried in the private and public sector.

Close to 52% of male economic operators have inactive spouses. Group discussions revealed that economic activity of women is devaluing for the spouse, in a cultural context where, even if things are in the process of being shaken up, an indicator of social success is the capability of the husband to totally meet the material needs of his wife, who should not have to engage in activities of production.

These observations suggest that actions to promote women’s work need to be initiated. Strategies have to be put in place to fight against the weight of customs and traditions that hurt women’s economic empowerment. This was one of the conclusions drawn by MINPROFF (2012) following a study on the “participation of women in citizenship”. Effectively, the patriarchal organization of society is characterized by the weight of traditions such as strong resistance to all initiatives destined to empower women. Efforts to reduce the weight of these customs and traditions which are harmful to women’s empowerment must be integrated into the understanding and support of the members of the community in general, but more specifically, community leaders.

To give these actions more chances of success, they must be initiated in an endogenous manner. One possible door of entry is accompanying local CSOs in the formulation and implementation of actions aimed at education at the community level, to raise awareness in the actors, of the harmful consequences of these practices and to help

social norms evolve. Efforts to appeal and the valorization of models of women who succeed in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) that do not disrupt conjugal harmony could allow for the promotion of good practices and also thwart the ones harmful to the thriving of young girls and women.

1.5. Household size of economic operators

The interviewees were asked to provide the size of their household and to indicate who decided on the moment for a new birth in the home. Among the men, their responses indicated that they took this decision by themselves at 58% and with their partner at 15%. As for the women, they took this decision by themselves at 11% and with their partner at 44%. More than half of the operators have more than seven people in their households. This data can be placed in relation with the propensity men and women have to apply family planning advice, in a context where the level of scholarly instruction is relatively low with respect to the national average.

Table 6: Size of household of economic operators

Size of household	General Total	%	% increasing	% decreasing
0	2	1%	1%	99%
1	3	2%	3%	97%
2	6	4%	6%	94%
3	12	7%	14%	86%
4	14	8%	22%	78%
5	23	14%	35%	65%
6	13	8%	43%	57%
7	12	7%	50%	50%
8	17	10%	60%	40%
9	12	7%	67%	33%
10	17	10%	77%	23%
11	8	5%	82%	18%
12	6	4%	85%	15%
13	7	4%	89%	11%
14	2	1%	91%	9%
15 and more	10	6%	96%	4%
NR	6	4%	100%	0%
General total	170	100%		

Source: results of May 2016 survey

1.6. Number of years experience in business

Interviewees were asked to indicate the number of years of experience in business, specifying their experience in trade in general and their experience in their current activity, specifically. The data shows that close to half of the traders have more than 10

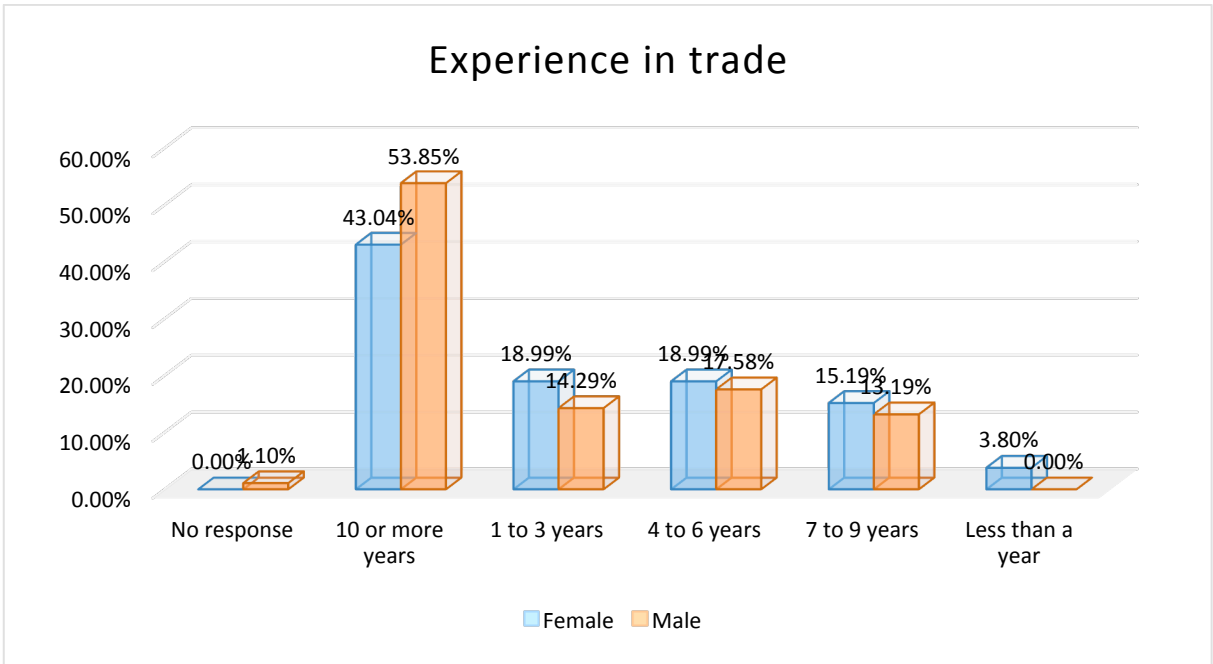
years of experience, versus less than 20% who have under-three years of experience. Close to two traders over three have more than seven years of experience. This result does not vary fundamentally according to sex of the operator.

Table 7: Experience in trade

Experience in trade	Female		Male		Total	Together
	Size	Female	Size	Male		
No response	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	1	0.6%
10 or more years	34	43.0%	49	53.9%	83	48.8%
7 to 9 years	12	15.2%	12	13.2%	24	14.1%
4 to 6 years	15	19.0%	16	17.6%	31	18.2%
1 to 3 years	15	19.0%	13	14.3%	28	16.5%
Less than a year	3	3.8%	0	0.0%	3	1.8%
Total	79	100.0%	91	100.0%	170	100%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Graphic 3: Experience in trade



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

This result is coherent with that of the regional survey, presented in the next table, which establishes that the time spent in trade is generally greater than three years and that women are present in the markets for just as long as men, the majority of actors (close to 85%) practicing for more than three years.

Table 8: Length of time in trade in terms of sex of respondent

Length of time in activity Sex	Women	Men	General Total
Less than 1 year	3.53%	3.85%	3.69%
1 to 3 years	11.76%	11.54%	11.65%
More than 3 years	84.71%	84.62%	84.66%
General total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Regional survey; March 2016

Table 9: Experience in current activity

Experience in current activity	Female		Male		Total	Percentage
	Size	Percentage	Size	Percentage		
No response	0	0.00%	1	1.10%	1	0.59%
Less than a year	3	3.80%	0	0.00%	3	1.76%
Between 1 and 3 years	15	18.99%	13	14.29%	28	16.47%
Between 4 and 6 years	15	18.99%	16	17.58%	31	18.24%
Between 7 and 9 years	12	15.19%	12	13.19%	24	14.12%
10 or more years	34	43.04%	49	53.85%	83	48.82%
Total	79	100.00%	91	100.00%	170	100.00%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Nearly 50% of operators have practiced their current activity for over 10 years. Nevertheless, it is important to note that 91% of operators have never taken part in a technical or professional training in relation to their work and that nearly 80% have never benefited from technical assistance or support and advice to better run their businesses.

This can be translated into certain deficiencies in the implementation of programmes of accompaniment initiated by associations, local NGOs and decentralized technical sector structures of the State.

Conclusion

In conclusion, with respect to socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics, it is urgent measures be taken to promote women's work. In a patriarchal context where the protection of women and the response to their needs are placed in men's charges, this phenomenon generally causes all sorts of violence to the place of women. Effectively, according to the Demographic, Health and Multiple Indicators Survey

2011, in the Far-North region, 44% of women mention sometimes being victims of conjugal violence versus 36.7% in the North. This parameter is 26.9% for the West region.

We suggest the WFP include in all its initiatives on markets and the value chains, a component on functional literacy, which will be implemented with MINEDUB, the CTDs and UNESCO. An appeal for better schooling of the general population and of young girls and women in particular is in order.

It is important to develop and put in place for the benefit of the market operators, programmes to reinforce entrepreneurial competencies following, for instance, the CEFE (Competency Based Economies Formation of Enterprise) approach. The CEFE intervention proposed is particularly adapted for micro and small enterprises, since it offers a training curriculum on the management of activities and resources, and includes competencies in business for a public that is little educated, in the perspective of economic and social empowerment.

Efforts must be undertaken to reduce the weight of customs and traditions harmful to women's economic empowerment. A suggestion is to accompany local CSOs in the formulation and implementation of actions aimed at education at the community level, to raise awareness in actors of the harmful consequences of these practices and to help evolve social norms. Also recommended is supporting the efforts to appeal and to valorize models of women who have succeeded in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) without breaking conjugal harmony, with the goal of promoting good practices and at the same time, thwarting those harmful to the thriving of young girls and women.

2. ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE VALUE CHAINS AND MARKETS OF THE NORTH AND FAR-NORTH REGIONS OF CAMEROON



This chapter presents a succinct view of subsistence crop production from the regions of the North and Far-North before addressing the question of the specific roles of women and men in the markets and value chains. Examined one by one are the diversity of actors in the markets and value chains, the activity sections according to sex, commercialized crops according to sex of the operators and the average inclination to get aides or employees, according to sex.

2.1. Succinct view of agricultural production of subsistence crops in the northern regions of Cameroon

According to the annual national statistics (2015), agricultural markets in the northern regions are dominated by sorghum (339,979 tons in the North in 2011 and 844,771 tons in the Far-North for the same period). This commodity is followed by maize (91,553 tons for the North in 2011 and 132,405 tons for the Far-North for the same period). Rice and groundnuts complete this enumeration with quantities fewer than 30,000 tons. Reports on the economic development of Cameroon in 2013 focused respectively on the Far-North and North regions give information on subsistence crop production volumes.

Table 10: Agricultural production of subsistence crops 2012 and 2013

Commodity	Production in the Far-North in tons in 2013	Production in the North in tons in 2012
Sorghum	716,847	254,058
Maize	229,038	282,688
Groundnuts	119,147	235,030
Onions	95,119	53,660
Rice	100,313	47,422
Beans	89,133	43,493
Cassava	55,566	39,732
Soya	55,660	18,955
Sweet potatoes	13,459	46,368
Potatoes	52,577	3,471
Yam	0	33,600
Okra	20,520	10,342
Taro/cocoyam	12,728	15,729
Millet	23,030	3,433
Bambara bean	20,934	2,241
Sesame	2,707	19,433

Source: Annual national statistics 2015 (NIS)

2.2. Diversity of actors in agricultural value chains and markets

The most essential subsistence produce is exchanged in the food markets. The big urban centers each have at least one market built and managed by the commune. They take place every day. However, the majority of sales are spontaneous, situated in dedicated spaces and occur on a weekly basis.

A thorough analysis allows for the identification of a multitude of actors with specific and varied roles, who intervene from production to commercialization. If one considers millet/sorghum, one realizes that the owners of fields are generally men. The market of millet/sorghum is very structured. The small producers come from the villages to urban markets with small quantities going from a cup of millet to a demi-sack. As they get to the markets, the small producers are approached by agents playing the role of middlepersons for the wholesalers or collectors. These middlepersons are, for the most part, men, but one also finds some women. The competency required the most here consists of identifying the small producer, running towards her/him and being the first to start the trading. Effectively, according to the customs of the region, it is forbidden to outbid or engage in a negotiation if the one in process has not ended in failure. Women, for whom the physical conditions are not favorable, or who have a baby, can therefore not succeed in this activity in the market.

Collectors and wholesalers are supplied in rural markets with the help of middlepersons or directly from producers, on local market days, generally once a week. Wholesalers sell directly to retailers. The latter generally buy on credit for one day, and payments for goods taken are made at the end of the day. Retailers come from neighboring villages, travelling by foot, sometimes for more than 5 km. They are generally women, with relatively low revenues and are supplied by wholesalers or semi-wholesalers with small quantities everyday, depending on the demand of their market. The characteristics of the retail trade depend in large part on the division of the sales measure. Retail trade and retailers are recognized by their sales in local units of measure (a pile, bowl, glass, cup, etc.).

Inside the millet/sorghum markets, between the wholesalers and the retailers who are the known economic actors, the survey also highlighted intermediaries; those who present themselves to buyers as the owners of all the wholesale shops. Knowing the minimum prices acceptable to wholesalers, they negotiate with buyers interested in buying in large quantities. The wholesalers present these owners as “masters of the market”. Effectively, these intermediaries make the buyers believe that they have the best information on the quality and price of the merchandise, from one wholesaler to the next.

In the commercialization of millet/sorghum, warehouse activities are very important. As soon as millet/sorghum is placed in a 100/120 kg bag, it becomes the business of specialists. Its loading/unloading costs 100 to 200 CFAF per bag, depending on the market.

Transporters are in reality truck drivers who, knowing the flux of production, go back and forth in the zone, looking for millet/sorghum to transport. It is very rare to find a wholesaler or collector who owns her/his own vehicles dedicated to the transport of produce.

Wholesalers have as a main characteristic, possession of a shop. They are owners or renters of the said shops. Here, the observations are:

- No female owners;
- No female lessors.

Market operators complain of harassment from traditional, communal and administrative authorities, and the forces who maintain order. Effectively, each market is placed under the leadership of a traditional chief who delegates power to one or many representatives (generally butchers). To assure discipline in the market, the traditional authority takes out 100 CFAF/bag from the vendor and likewise from the buyer.

The communal agent takes out 150 CFAF per day and per vendor. The forces who maintain order placed at the entrance of markets take (without giving receipts) varied sums from one vehicle to the next, depending on the number of bags in the vehicle. Moreover, the control barriers have been multiplied on the roads with the advent of Boko Haram, and each post is another hassle for the operators.

2.3. Gender and activity section

The following table allows the disaggregation of the sample into collectors, retailers, wholesalers, producers and processors according to sex.

Table 11: Distribution by activity section and by sex

	Collector	Retailer	Wholesaler	Producer	Processor	General total
Female	4	59	13	2	1	79
Male	11	50	28	2		91
General total	15	109	41	4	1	170

Source: results of May 2016 survey

In the absence of a sampling frame, the sample was not made to be representative of the structure of the markets, but to include as many men and women from one part or another of each activity section of the market, while they were present. For example, we only got two (2) producers in one market, and they were both surveyed.

Table 12: Percentage distribution by activity section and by sex

	Collector	Retailer	Wholesaler	Producer	Processor	General total
Female	26.7%	54.1%	31.7%	50.0%	100.0%	46.5%
Male	73.3%	45.9%	68.3%	50.0%	0.0%	53.5%
Together	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Collectors are mostly men (73%), but there are some female collectors and wholesalers. In function of commodities, the retailers are sometimes men and sometimes women.

Table 13: Specific roles in the accomplishment of certain activities

Activities	Participation ¹ of men	Participation of women	Participation of children	Participation of aged persons
Weeding/ hoeing	XX	XX	XXXX	
Labor	XX	XX	XXXX	
Seeding	X	XXXX	XX	
Treatment	XXX	XXX		
Harvesting		XX	X	XXX
Deseeding		XXX	XXX	XXX
Drying		XXX	XXX	
Sorting		XXXX	XXX	XXX
Warehousing	XXXX			
Transport	XXXX			
Negotiation and sales	XXXX			

Source: Focus group May 2016

At the question of understanding why there are so few women wholesalers, group discussions led to the following reasons:

- The activity is deemed wearying, difficult and involves incessant trips sometimes in physically taxing and generally uncomfortable conditions;

¹ X: low participation; XX: medium participation; XXX: strong participation; XXXX: very strong participation

- There are more challenges for women in contracting business partners; the inclination to trust in women, would it be weaker than with a male operator? Effectively, men prefer dealing with other men and thus equal to equal, while with partners of the female sex, there are fewer means of pressure (for example, one cannot arrest a woman and put her in a cell in case of failure to carry out her engagements, for fear of being badly viewed socially);
- Motherhood leads to a suspension of activity for the woman. In the food markets, any prolonged absences of wholesalers could cause the loss of control of their commercial network. Because of strong competition the absent are immediately replaced; one must take into account the difficulty in building a commercial network in conditions of strong competition. Female wholesalers are rarely in the activity of reproduction.
- Women have to manage household activities early in the morning before leaving the house and must return early at the end of the day to continue these activities. The woman, therefore, spends less time in the market compared with the man. She lives a true dilemma in harvest periods, during which, because of the need to fill up stocks, wholesalers must wake up very early in the morning to buy from producers and deal with competition; she has to choose between abandoning her family activities or her economic activities.
- Female wholesalers are generally those who do not have spouses (single, widowed, divorced), or they have a spouse who gives them support. They are “not under pressure.”
- Cultural and religious factors, last but not least; many actors cited the Bible and said that the man has to take care of the needs of his wife. The latter must not be involved in economic activities except if the man is incapable. She is thus confined to household work; in certain tribes, she does not even go to the market to buy food. This position is contradictory for a minority of people consulted. The Koran mentions that the first wife of the prophet was a trader.
- The level of education of the woman definitely places brakes on her participation as a wholesaler in economic activities. Effectively, education from the family and from school, better prepare men over women to involve themselves in trade, mainly at the level where volume is important and could lead to large risks.

How to encourage women to practice as wholesalers? Participants in the group discussions proposed the following paths:

- **Invest in the structuring of women’s cooperatives in the markets** with the goal of mutualizing their means, achieving volumes by way of group transactions; support the development of a culture of transparency and accountability in the governance of cooperatives;

- **Invest massively in the training and information of women** in the markets; the production and distribution of guides of female entrepreneurs in the food produce markets will be an efficient means of informing women, on condition that the guides are really practical and published in French, English and in local languages;
- **Reinforce the capacities of the local NGOs**, especially in manners of accompaniment in entrepreneurship; training of trainers in CEFE methods will allow: equipping the staff of local NGOs to develop the entrepreneurial competencies of women; to develop support for commercialization.
- **Put in place a mini-fund for credit**

The community admits that on market days and Sundays, children can work on weeding and clearing the fields of others, as a paid activity to generate means that allow them to ensure a part or all of the fees for the school year. On other days, they can take on family chores under the orders of the head of the family.

In vegetable cultivation, it is mainly the men who prepare the soil, plant, transport and deliver to the women who sell the produce in the market. Therefore, there are more men in the fields and fewer in the markets; when they are in the markets, they are young and generally sell vegetables. Onions are planted by men, sold to wholesalers who are usually men, then resold by retailers, who are also usually more men than women.

The extent of input of women in supporting the activities of men is not fully measured. Effectively, one rarely takes into account the fact that she provides food to the workers in the field, for example. While the woman works in the field of her husband, it is not described as the field of the husband and the wife. The woman has her field where she plants and harvests, but she has the social obligation of contributing to her husband's field.

The vocabulary is in itself relatively gendered. When one asks if it is men or women who produce the most cereals, the response is that it is the men. On analysis, men have the land, which means the fields where they are installed belong to them. On observation, it is the women who mainly work there, followed by children. "Women work a lot, but for their family, mainly their husband and their children," according to a participant from the focus group of 4 May 2016 in Garoua.

2.4. Commodity traded according to the sex of the operator

Table 14: Commodity traded according to the sex of the respondent

Commodity	Female	Male	General Total
Groundnuts	47.62%	52.38%	100.00%

Commodity	Female	Male	General Total
Fruits	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Milk	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Vegetables	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Maize	50.00%	50.00%	100.00%
Millet	66.67%	33.33%	100.00%
Beans	50.00%	50.00%	100.00%
Onions	54.55%	45.45%	100.00%
Potatoes	33.33%	66.67%	100.00%
Roots	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Prepared foods	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Imported rice	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Local rice	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Tubers	70.00%	30.00%	100.00%
Meat	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Together	54.13%	45.87%	100.00%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

The traders of groundnuts number as many women as men, the retailers of fruits, milk, imported rice and meat are men, while the traders of vegetables, roots and tubers, local rice and prepared food are women.

The job “exclusively reserved” for only one sex here is butchery, which is the exclusive domain of men. *It could be pertinent to encourage women to practice butchery. This could allow the shattering of taboos and encourage progress.*

Table 15: Men and women in different sections of the markets/value chains

	Collector	Retailer	Wholesaler	Producer	Processor	General Total
Female	5.1%	74.7%	16.5%	2.5%	1.3%	100.0%
Male	12.1%	54.9%	30.8%	2.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Together	8.8%	64.1%	24.1%	2.4%	0.6%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Retailers are mostly women while men are mostly wholesalers and collectors. These tendencies are the same for the regional survey, but the figures are more nuanced. Transport remains an activity exclusively for men.

Processing is seldom practiced, where the only times this was observed was the transformation of millet/sorghum into flour, dominated by men who own the mills in the markets, and the production of local beer from millet (bil bil) which is essentially done by women.

2.5. Average inclination to resort to aides and employees

This rubric allows for the presentation of significant tendencies to resort to labor, employed by men and by women in their respective domains of activity.

Table 16: Average inclination to resort to aides and employees

Number of employees	Female	Male	General Total
0	73%	59%	66%
1	19%	15%	17%
2	3%	10%	6%
3	3%	3%	3%
4	0%	2%	1%
5	0%	2%	1%
8	0%	1%	1%
12	0%	3%	2%
13	0%	2%	1%
No Response	2%	3%	2%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

The regional survey indicated that the majority of traders do not have employees (87%). Generally, the average inclination to employ others appears stronger among men (18%) than among women (6.5%). The case study confirms these results, with more nuanced figures: on average, about 2/3rds of the economic operators work without aides, with an inclination to employ lower among women, among whom 73% work without aides.

If for the two sexes, approximately 22 to 25% of operators have at least one employee, the women tend to have only one employee (20%), while more men have two employees. This can be understood by the fact that either the women mainly take care of their business by themselves, or they devote less time to commercial activity, closing their businesses while they switch to the domestic sphere.

3. CHALLENGES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN AND TO MEN IN THE VALUE CHAINS AND MARKETS OF THE NORTH AND FAR-NORTH OF CAMEROON



Among the major challenges that economic operators face in the markets and value chains of the North and Far-North of Cameroon, some are common to both sexes, while others are specific to women.

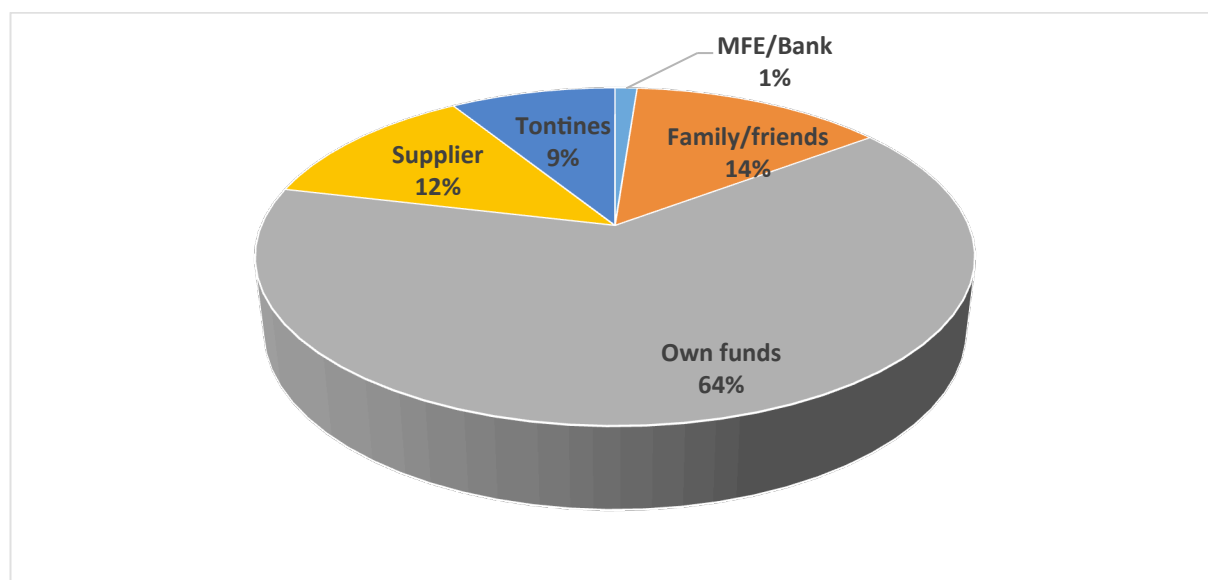
3.1. Challenges common to women and men in the value chains and markets of the North and Far-North of Cameroon

Among the challenges common to both sexes, there is the question of financing, of complex administrative procedures, the need for work equipment and the lack of comfort in markets without hangars or trading posts.

Need for capital and financing

Most of the retailers indicated that they would like to evolve in the course of the next years to become wholesalers (68%) or producers (10%). But one of the major challenges to economic operators remains financing. Among the causes of unsatisfactory evolution in their activity, as already raised in the regional survey, in top position, is the absence or insufficiency of capital and financing. Effectively, 87% of the operators interviewed had never benefited from credit. They self-financed their projects (64%), were financed by friends and family (14%), suppliers (12%) and tontines (9%).

Graphic 4: Source of financing of economic operators

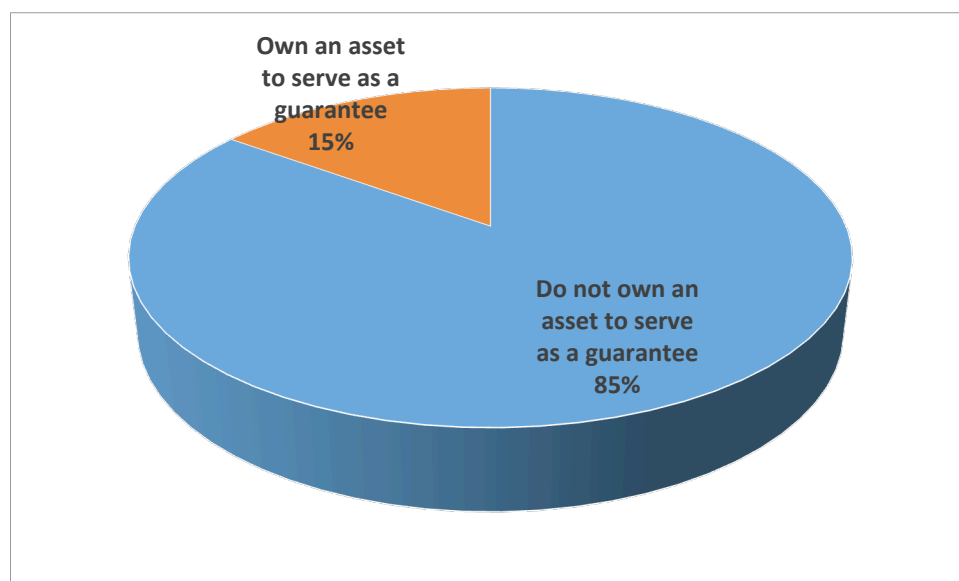


Source: results of May 2016 survey

31% of operators mentioned having an asset that could serve as a guarantee to obtain credit, versus 68% who did not. The disparity depending on sex is

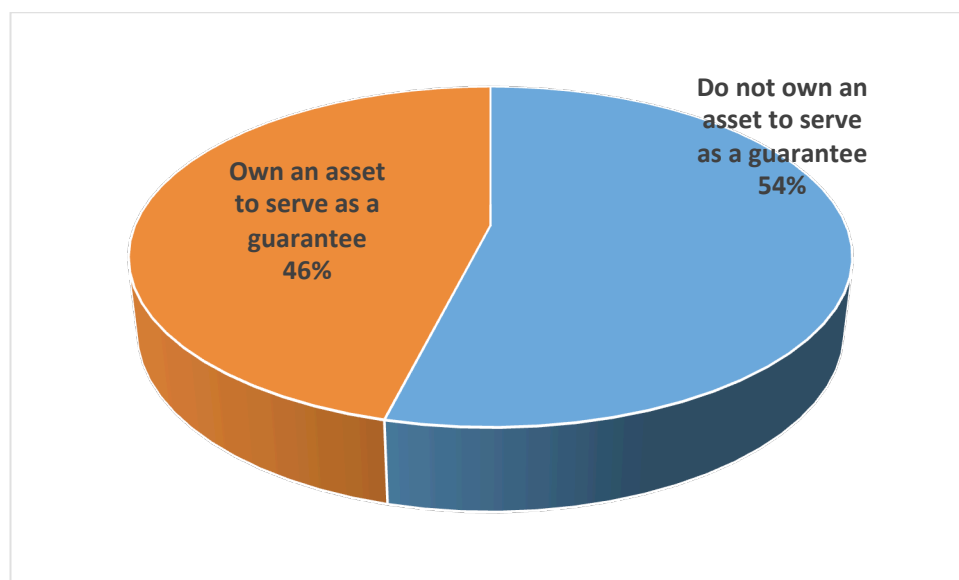
significant. Among men, 46% own an asset, while among women this parameter is at only 15%.

Graphic 5: Possibility of guaranteeing women



Source: results of May 2016 survey

Graphic 6: Possibility of guaranteeing men



Source: results of May 2016 survey

As also revealed by the national survey, the need for capital is as crucial for men as it is for women. The seed capital for activities generally comes from products of agricultural activity (sale from harvests). The amount is thus generally inconsistent.

Facilitating women’s access to credit to reinforce their opportunities is key; the Cameroonian Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development foresaw the according of financial support to associations of maize producers by financing which was to be released at the start of the campaign. Unfortunately, according to the opinions of consulted actors, the process met two main shortcomings: (i) no matter the project, the same amount of 756,000 CFAF was allocated per association; (ii) a significant administrative delay did not allow the finances to be available at the beginning of the campaign—the first association received their first financing on 4 August 2015.

Complex administrative procedures

Collectors and wholesalers, both male and female, signaled that among the most significant difficulties they face are the disagreements on the roads and in the markets, from the representatives of the authorities. They face levies, notably on cereals and vegetables, depending on the number of bags being sold or transported.

Table 17: Main disagreements cited

Sources of disagreements	Roles	Comments
Forces of order: Police, Customs, Gendarmerie (PDG) and Soldiers	Securing roadways	Multiplication of control barriers on roads because of reasons of security. On average, meet 1 control per 10 kilometers, for example between Garoua and Adonwé. Each body has its hassling practices to extort funds. The tariffs go from 1,000 CFAF to 5,000 CFAF per control post
Collectors of traditional taxes (lawan-Jarma – chief cereals-or Sarkipawa-butcher)	Represent the traditional authority; management of discipline and security	200 CFAF per bag, per actor or 400 per transaction
Collectors of communal tax	Sale of tickets for places and management of discipline and cleaning	100 to 200 CFAF for one place and 1 day
Collectors of taxes for the administration (Sub-Prefect)	Management of discipline and security	Up to 300 CFAF per bag in certain markets

Source: Focus group of May 2016

Crucial need for professional equipment

The need for equipment and tools is crucial; there are needs for the following examples of equipment:

Table 18: Equipment and tool needs

Activities	Equipment and tools needed	Current practices
Sale of cereals	Weighing tools; tools of precision where the quality of products is concerned	Cups, bowls, buckets
Agricultural production	Plows, draught animals, tractors	Work by hand, very difficult
Commercialization of fish	Cold chain (freezers, ice boxes, cold rooms, refrigerated vehicles); Weighing tools; smokers	
Processing	Grain mills	One pays 2,000 CFAF to grind a bag of millet
Transport	Vehicles, chariots, tricycles	
Wholesalers	Storage rooms	

Source: Focus group of May 2016

Lack of comfort in the markets

The conditions of work are severe in the markets, and mainly so in the markets that come together spontaneously, and they are many. The markets constructed by local and regional authorities have hangars, shops, trading posts and toilet blocks. Other markets do not have hangars to offer traders secure spaces and security. Under the sun, the temperature sometimes gets to 45°, and women and men protect themselves by clumsily attaching two posts in the soil, with pieces of cloth or plastic film. The trading posts are in pitiable states. And hygienic conditions are calamitous.



None of the markets has a restaurant, which only leaves the men and women with the choice of eating bread and donuts.

Other subjects of interest

Need for seeds and for reliable information

In addition to the need for timely financing and in the required amount, there is also the need for timely seeds of quantity and quality and a need for reliable information on technical aspects and aspects of commercialization.

Seeds improved with the help of IRAD were distributed in 2014. Because of the lack of fluidity of information, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of producers received the seeds. The seeds were distributed only to associations, and very few women benefited from this because of their low presence in these associations. The actors who have privileged relationships with the heads of agricultural posts are generally more advantaged.

Aggressions and physical abuse on the market roads

Aggressions and physical abuse do not seem to occur frequently. In any case, only 23% of operators estimate that aggressions and physical violence are frequent. This

percentage is however quite high if one considers only the collectors and wholesalers (29%). In terms of sex, more men estimate that the frequency of aggressions is high (27%).

Table 19: Perception of the frequency of aggressions on market roads

	No	Yes	General total
Female	81%	19%	100%
Male	73%	27%	100%
General total	76%	24%	100%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Also, only 8.8% of operators declared that they had been aggressed or attacked physically on the roads of the food markets, 6% of women and 11% of men.

Poorly developed associative and cooperative lives

The PIDMA project and its partners, primarily Guinness, offered to support the structuring of producers into cooperatives: SOCOSEN for sorghum, BARKA for maize and CROPSEC (regional cooperative). However, despite the efforts of the project, the cooperative movement remains underdeveloped. There are almost no cooperatives in cereals, except for some initiatives; the zone constitutes an important basin for the production of maize and millet/sorghum.

Land ownership

The issue of land does not seem to come up in terms of ownership but rather, uniquely in terms of rights of usage. The reflex of land securing is not common, and land conflicts occur mainly in the renting of fields. Agro-pastoral conflicts linked to the wandering of animals is recurrent. The majority of actors interviewed have access to a space used without conflict.

Other difficulties raised by actors

Other difficulties cited were diverse and are:

- Absence of support and accompaniment;
- Lack of information and training;
- Lack of equipment;
- Difficulties of transportation and communication;
- Natural catastrophes;
- Family difficulties/burdens;
- Physical fatigue;
- Irregularity in production;
- Rarity of clientele.

3.2. Challenges specific to female actors in value chains and markets of the North and Far-North of Cameroon

The main challenges specific to women have to do with the question of water, hygiene and sanitation in the food markets, maternity and child care, busy schedules filled with household tasks, the weight of tradition and other cultural factors.

3.2.1. Challenge of water, hygiene and sanitation in the food markets

Among the specific challenges presented in the markets, the problem of water, hygiene and sanitation in the food markets is of the most crucial. Effectively, the absence of infrastructure such as the conveyance of potable water, toilets and trash cans makes the proper management of menstrual hygiene and other natural needs particularly difficult. As one can see in the table below, the WASH situation is unsatisfactory in the markets.

Table 20: Existence and functionality of toilets in the markets

Name of market	Existence and functionality	Alternatives
Tacasco	Exist, but non-functional because the commune is still looking for a manager	"We do our best"
Ourolabo	Non-existent	Bush; nature
Narsawo	Non-existent	"We do our best "
Big market of Garoua	Exist, but in an insufficient number in relation to needs.	We ask for permission with the neighbors
Yelwa	Exist; possibility to bathe there	
Chinese camp	Non-existent	"We do our best"
Adoumri	Exist; clean but have to pay (50 CFAF)	
Market of the bridge	Non-existent	"We do our best "

Source: results of Focus group of 4 May 2016 at Garoua

One can add to these results, the observations of the group of interviewers in the following markets:

- Salack: toilets located in the market, but never used;
- Abattoir: toilets located in the market, but never used;
- Mokolo: no toilets;
- Baba Market: no toilets;
- Djefatou: toilets exist and are not clean.

If one considers the differences in practices in terms of sex, men can easily handle their urine problems “in the open,” and less easily, defecation. It is possible for them to organize themselves so that their defecation needs are taken care of early in the morning before leaving home and/or later in the evening when they return, noting that crises of the diarrhea type are handled case by case.

On the other hand, for women, the situation is more complicated. The need to urinate or defecate has to be done in total intimacy (which explains the low use of toilets situated in the markets, which have trading posts near the toilet entrances, such as in the Salack market). The management of menstrual hygiene is thus difficult. Effectively, women need clean water, but also a secure and intimate space where they can take care of their menstrual hygiene with dignity.



It follows that in their menstrual periods, in the absence of appropriate toilets, women have the choice of:

- Proceeding with their menstrual hygiene behind shrubs, with all the risks that could bring: security, health...
- Not changing at all with the risks this brings in terms of health;
- Staying at home and being unproductive during menstruation.

UN Women has put in place a gender-sensitive market at Kyo-essi and another one at Idenao. The strong recommendation here is the reproduction of this kind of market infrastructure, while ensuring they respond to the specific needs of men and women.

3.2.2. Challenges linked to maternity and the care of very young children

More than a quarter of the women in the Mokolo market had in their care at least one child while going to sell their merchandise. They carry the children like loads all through their work. In other markets, the percentage appears to be less, but the reality is the same. Many mothers work in the markets in the company of their babies. None of the markets has crèches or day care.



Family planning does not seem to be practiced. The majority of operators interviewed think that it is divine will which materializes in maternity. This causes interruptions in work for several months for the woman: first during pregnancy from three to six months. Then, after birth and the breastfeeding period which can last for up to six months; finally, she can bring the child with her to the market, which for some, can take up to another six months; which means sometimes more than 12 months of suspension of work for maternity. For 66% of men, a birth does not cause them to stop work. This rate for women is 33%. At the same time, 35% of women have more than 60 days of interrupted work, following a period of maternity. The rate is 2% of men. Women talk about how they organize themselves during periods of maternity, and in general, to be able to handle their domestic obligations:

“When I give birth, I know that I’ll have at least six months without going to the market because my husband cannot let me go out with the baby, mainly because I take part in the bush market. From the sixth month, I go out with the baby; he has to

breastfeed and I can't leave him in the house; when I return in the evening, I know that he is very tired, I massage him with warm water; as soon as he's a year old, I can start to leave him at home." *A wholesaler (38 years) from the focus group of 4 May 2015 in Garoua.*

"When I give birth, I can't continue my activities in the market so I sell cloth; one of my friends delivers them to me at home and I propose them to all those who come to greet the baby; so I don't feel closed off from my market activity." *A wholesaler (42 years) from the focus group of 4 May 2015 at Garoua.*



3.2.3. The woman's agenda and domestic obligations

The workday, according to sex (collector/wholesaler), market day.

Table 21: Workday according to sex

Male	Female
	4:00 wake up, chores, begin the preparation of evening meal
	5:30 preparation of breakfast,
	6:00 serve breakfast and prepare children for school
	6:30 leave for the market

6:00 installation at the crossroads in front of the markets to wait for the arrival of small producers	7:00 installation at the crossroads in front of the markets to wait for the arrival of small producers
Buying –supervision of bundling in bags, and of sewing-securing	Buying –supervision of bundling in bags, and of sewing-securing
Supervision of loading-Transport to shops-unloading-stocking	Supervision of loading-Transport to shops-unloading-stocking
Wait for retailers and sales	Wait for retailers and sales
17:00 Closing-If Muslim, return to the house and prayer	17:00 Closing and return to the house
17:00 to 20:00 Moment with friends, especially if the day went well	17:30 Bath
20:00 Return to the house, bath.	18:30 to 20:00 Cooking
20:30 Evening meal	

Source: Production of focus group participants from 4 May 2016 in Garoua.

The testimonies received are the following:

“In the morning I get ready, I put in the thermos before going out very early; my husband and my children eat after me; I have three little girls who are still going to school, they return from school at 15:00 while I am still at the market; what they do, I don’t know, it is behind me. I come back from the market at around 17:00; sometimes I find out that my husband has not eaten, he says it is not hot and that his wife should be there when he’s eating.” *A wholesaler (40 years) from the focus group of 4 May 2016 at Garoua.*

“It is fine when the woman is looking for money, but she has many roles to fill in in the house; I only eat the food prepared and served by my wife; if it is my children who present the food to me, I don’t eat; if she works in an office or sells in the markets and correctly plays her role of wife, it’s is fine.” *A wholesaler (44 years) from the focus group of 4 May 2016 at Garoua.*

“I don’t eat food from the freezer; I prefer to go to bed hungry. My wife works and has a domestic help in the house; I pay her. But, it is my wife who has to prepare the food I eat no matter the time of her return from work.” *A wholesaler (39 years) from the focus group of 4 May 2016 at Garoua.*

It is the women who are in charge of preparing meals. Men and women both buy foodstuff.

Table 22: Who prepares the meals?

Who prepares the meals	Female	Male	General total
Partner/spouse	2.6%	69.2%	38.7%
An employee of the house	2.6%	12.1%	7.7%
A member of the household	18.2%	13.2%	15.5%
You and your partner	1.3%	0.0%	0.6%
You yourself	75.3%	4.4%	36.9%
(empty)	0.0%	1.1%	0.6%
General total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Table 23: Who does the buying of foodstuff?

	Female	Male	Together
	3%	4%	4%
Partner/spouse	8%	12%	10%
An employee of the house	0%	5%	3%
A member of the household	10%	14%	12%
You and your partner	9%	7%	8%
You yourself	71%	57%	64%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of May 2016 survey

Time allocated to activities in the market

The number of hours devoted on average per day to professional activity varies from 1 to 15 hours, with a pronounced dominance for 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 hours.

Table 24: Distribution of time allocated to market activities by sex

Number of hours	Female	Male	General total
1	1	1	2
4		1	1
5	4	1	5
6	12	4	16
7	8	7	15
8	14	14	28
9	11	11	22
10	15	32	47
11	6		6
12	5	7	12
13		2	2
14		1	1
15	1	1	2

No response	2	9	11
General Total	79	91	170

Source: Results of the May 2016 survey

Time allocated to domestic activities

The number of hours devoted on average per day to domestic activities varies from 0 to 17 hours, with a strong dominance for 4 to 6 hours.

Table 25: Distribution of time allocated to domestic activities by sex

Number of hours	Female	Male	General total
0	3	2	5
1		2	2
2	1	4	5
3	2	4	6
4	14	21	35
5	12	15	27
6	11	6	17
7	3	3	6
8	7	4	11
9	3	3	6
10	4	6	10
12	1	4	5
13		1	1
14	4		4
15	2		2
17	2		2
No response	10	16	26
General total	79	91	170

Source: Results of the May 2016 survey

In general, domestic activities accomplished by men and women are: laundry 19%; cooking meals 15%; taking care of animals 8%; education of children 7%; cleaning the house 6%. One notes however that no man declared cooking of meals. If one considers these declarations as main activities, approximately 4 times more women than men declared laundry as her main activity and only one woman declared education of children as her main household activity. Curiously, the percentage of men and women who indicated cleaning the house as priority number one is balanced.

Cooking is a task essentially accomplished by women. Also, 75% of women said they did the cooking themselves, corroborated by close to 70% of men who said it was their spouse who cooked the meals. About 15% of interviewees said that cooking is done by another member of the household, as one can see in table 22 above.

Of all domestic activities, the one that society has catalogued as dedicated to women is cooking. In general, men only cook if it is for a paid professional activity.

In their chores, economic operators, whether they are men or women, generally take care of buying foodstuff to stock the household (64%), with a disparity according to sex of 71% for women versus 57% for men. A member of the household goes to the market at 12% while the partner or spouse only goes at 10%. This information seems to comfort those who think that women should not touch money often, for balance in the household.

The causes of interruptions in trade are mainly:

- Illness (which is the first cause at 65%, or 111 declarations over 170);
- The second cause most cited is family ceremonies followed closely by traveling.

3.2.4. Weight of traditions and other socio-cultural factors

Traditions and socio-cultural factors come to the fore notably for those who follow opinion leaders and local traditional authorities, according to the testimony received from local and regional authorities in charge of gender:

- The community encourages and champions the situation in which the man totally assures the financing of the domestic burden and material needs of his wife; it is a sign of success and social prestige if the woman does not work;
- The woman must stay in the background, in the back of the house;
- The woman must not talk in public in the presence of men;
- The woman must not eat certain dishes, at the risk of not being able to procreate anymore (food taboos);
- The community strongly values the status of the “married woman,” she uses all the imaginable efforts to assure the needs of her family are met and to keep the household afloat.

These testimonies¹ agree with the conclusions of many analysts² who are of the opinion that socio-cultural factors influence decision-making. Effectively, the Far-North and North regions are again strongly marked by the weight of culture, which can favor (1) or inhibit (2) the development of food markets, notably in matters concerning women.

a) Favorable factors

These, among others, are:

¹ These testimonies agree with the proposal of Jules Akeze in his article titled: Far North of Cameroon – Question of gender: from cultural realities to sexual harassment; published on <http://www.genreenaction.net>, 2015; the author writes: “Talking of the Far North of Cameroon, where I live and work, and of the precise case of populations originally from this region, the thoughts, or rather opinions, of the woman do not count; even worse, when it concerns girls. Only the thoughts/opinions of the man count. A woman only does what her companion/husband tells her to do. This is inculcated in children, girls and boys, from an early age.”

² See notably Diffo Tchunkam (under the direction of); Gender, leadership and participation in Cameroon (1931-2013); More Women in politics/Colorix; 2014. See also Saare Tabitha; Analysis of the socio-cultural and economic situation of girls and women in North Cameroon; 2012

- Solidarity: many women form associations within their trades, in the markets and even outside of these activities. In these, they create tontines and develop systems of community credit at low rates. Savings and credit generally serve in household needs and commercial activities.
- Trust: in the markets and trades, women and men create circles of mutual trust. We thus see a trader who confides his or her merchandise in the hands of a neighbor while he or she is absent.
- Honor: in the zones of interest, respect for a given word is of the utmost. Given that communitarianism is developed, people easily group themselves by affinity. Within these entities, honor constitutes a motive of anchorage or exclusion from the community.
- Tutorage: the society in these zones is highly hierarchical, respect for elders and authority is expected. Also, to succeed socially, one must be helped by elders who present themselves as models and tutors who help the less experienced to grow. In these circumstances, even within the markets and trades, one is initiated and fostered by the elderly. These elderly enlighten the newcomers and can help accord them with advantages while they have not yet reached the phase of autonomy.

b) Unfavorable factors

These consist of:

- Discrimination with regard to women: the society is patriarchal. Here, the power of decision-making goes generally to men, who do not usually give opportunities to women to decide on what they want to do, even within associations. It is the same with responsibility in trade. This can be a limiting factor in agricultural production, which is the basis of the development of the food markets.
- The weight of religion: Christian and Muslim religions are the most practiced in the zone; these have the legitimacy of rules and practices of discrimination with regard to women, notably in limiting women's access to certain spiritual functions and spaces or in their prescribing of specific postures of women with regard to men, such as submission. Sometimes, it is the interpretation the men give to scriptures that is a subject of controversy, from the point of view of gender equality.
- The weight of certain traditions: according to the traditions in these zones, women must and cannot lead certain activities that are said to be reserved for men. ECAM2 (NIS, 2001) established a link between the weight of traditions and gender discrimination and poverty for this zone. The results of the survey show that there is a strong correlation between practices that are deemed to be backwards or discriminatory and the incidence of poverty. The tasks to which interviewees devote themselves or not and twelve customary practices identified as being common in the zone showed that the most widespread were those which

predominantly affect women and which marginalize them. This is why, in the markets, for example, many wholesalers are men, rarely are transporters of the female sex. No woman does butchery.

- The traditional society recognizes traditional marriages very early without administrative formalities. Also, in the end of a relationship, break ups are easily pronounced before the traditional authorities without any other form of process. As such, the jilted woman loses all that she has produced.

4. MEASURING AND MONITORING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE FOOD MARKETS OF CAMEROON

4.1. Some results of the DHS-MICS on the participation of women and men in decision-making

The DHS-MICS (2011) tried to evaluate the role and the level of involvement of women in decision-making at the household level; women were asked questions to find out if they or another person had the final word in the taking of decisions on women's healthcare, important household purchases and visits to the woman's family. These questions only addressed women in unions.

No matter the decision to be made, women responded that it is the spouse who mainly decides. Effectively, 59% of women said that it is the husband/partner who decides in issues of their health care, 49% for important household purchases and 44% for visits to the family or parents of the woman. Decisions are made conjointly by the women and the husband/partner in 23% of cases concerning the women's healthcare, 31% for important purchases and 31% for visits to the woman's family. It is when it concerns their own healthcare that women participate less frequently in decisions: in only 16% of cases does the woman decide and in 23% of cases it is the woman with her spouse. These results show the vulnerability and the dependence of women, notably in issues concerning the making decisions with respect to their own healthcare.

However, it is noted that a significant percentage of women are not involved in the taking of any of the three decisions (30%). This percentage reduces strongly with increase in age, but also the higher her level of education and the standard of the household life she lives. One observes significant differences of exclusion/marginalization of women in decision-making depending on certain socio-demographic characteristics. In terms of employment, women who do not work (47%) are more marginalized than those who work without pay (38%) and those who work and are paid (22%). This exclusion is higher in the rural areas (36%) than in other cities (26%) and in Yaoundé/Douala (17%). This exclusion in the taking of decisions varies from a maximum of 52% in the Far-North to a minimum of 10% in the North-West.

The results depending on type of decision show that women participate more frequently in decisions when it involves family visits (53%) than those that concern important purchases (48%) and least of all concerning their own healthcare (38%). The variations depending on socio-demographic characteristics are practically the same no matter the type of decision: the involvement of women increases with age, the level of education and the standard of household life. Moreover, women who work and earn money, those in urban areas and those

from the North-West are more frequently involved in the taking of decisions than are others. At the opposite end, women from the Far-North are the least involved in decision-making, no matter who they are.

During the DHS-MICS 2011, it was asked of men who earned money for their work, who it was that mainly decided on the use of this money. It was equally asked of women in unions in which the spouse earned money, who made decisions on the use of this money. One can compare the points of view of the men and those of the women concerning the control of the man's revenue. Also, 6% of men in union said it was mainly their wife/partner who decided on the use of their revenue. In 32% of cases, the woman is associated with the decision on the use of the money earned by the man, and in 62% of the cases, it is the man himself who mainly decides.

Among the men in union who earned money for their work, it is in the North (85%), Adamawa (81%), the Far-North (74%) and the West (70%) where the percentage of those who decide alone on the use of their money is the highest. Moreover, this percentage is also high among those 20-24 years old (75%), among those without children (71%) and those from the poorest households (74%). Finally, the higher the level of education of the man, the more decision-making on the use of money he earns is done conjointly: from 16% for men without education, this percentage gets to 32% among those with primary level education and gets to 36% among those who have secondary level 2nd cycle or more. When the man does not have an education, the woman is associated with decision-making in 17% of cases versus 45% when the man has secondary level 2nd cycle education or more.

4.2. Participation of women and men in decision-making in the food markets in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon

The current study was inspired by developed questions presented in the WFP Technical Note on market assessment surveys based on gender and empowerment, integrated in February 2016 (WFP/RBD/VAM, Feb. 2016). It is a series of internal questionnaires designed for the assessment of the regional market of the Lake Chad basin. The revised questionnaires serve as good practice references for those actors who intend to design gender- and empowerment-integrated market assessments, either for WFP or cooperating partners. These questionnaires are made up of two major components which make them good practices in terms of gender and market analysis. First, they allow for sex-disaggregation at multiple levels (traders, wholesalers, clients, employees, transporters, etc.). Secondly, issues of empowerment are integrated into the questions.

This tool allows analysts to go beyond the point of reporting on the number of female and male vendors or transporters in a market, to examine the exact percentage of female vendors who exercise control over their supply chain, price selection, credit systems, etc. It also integrates questions on decision-making control, control over assets, access and other key factors for which data may not otherwise be available in the context of food markets.

Also, in the framework of this case study, many questions were asked of the interviewed actors, notably:

- Who generally decides on the choice of plots to cultivate?
- Who generally decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate?
- Who generally decides on the quantity to stock and destock?
- Who generally decides on when to stock and destock?
- Who keeps the keys of the shop?
- Who fixes the price on the sale of products?
- Who decides on the places for sales?
- Who decides on the moment of sales?
- Who decides on what is done with receipts?
- Who decides on the source of supplies most of the time?
- Who decides on the opportune moment for a new birth in the family?
- Who influences the choice of activity?

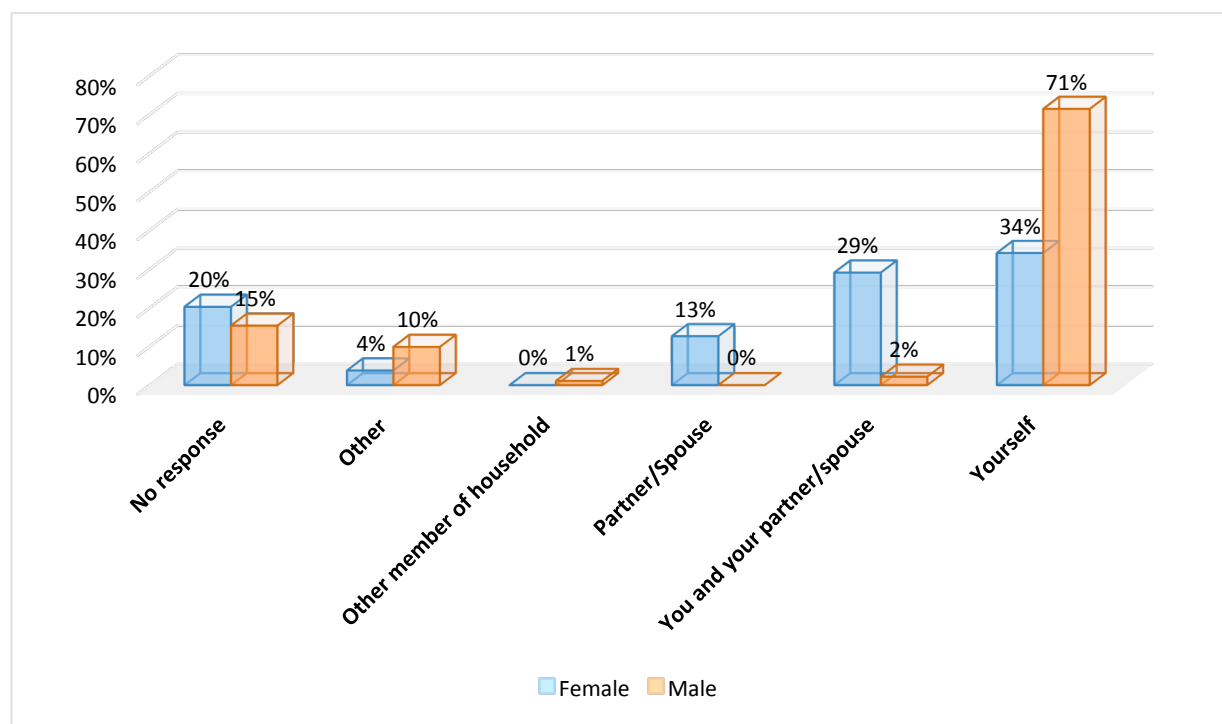
The respondent had the option of eight modalities: herself/himself; her/his partner/spouse; her/his partner/spouse and her/him together; another member of the household; another member of the household and her/him; her/his partner/spouse and (an)other member(s) of the household; someone (or group of persons) outside of the household, other.

Moreover, it was asked of them if they were or were not:

- adherent members of a tontine or association of mutual assistance and of solidarity within the markets or their trade;
- adherent members of a tontine or association of mutual assistance and of solidarity outside of their trade;
- members of office or the committee of directors of a tontine or association of mutual assistance within the markets or their trade;
- members of office or the committee of directors of an organization or of a body of trade management or of the market;
- members of office or the committee of directors of an organization, tontine or association of mutual assistance/solidarity outside of their trade;

Who generally decides on the plots of land to cultivate?

Graphic 7: Decision on the choice of plots to cultivate



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

71% of men make decisions on the choice of plots to cultivate alone, versus 34% for women. Close to a third of women make this decision with their spouse (29%); among 13% of women, the husbands decide alone. 10% of men make this decision with people other than the member of their household.

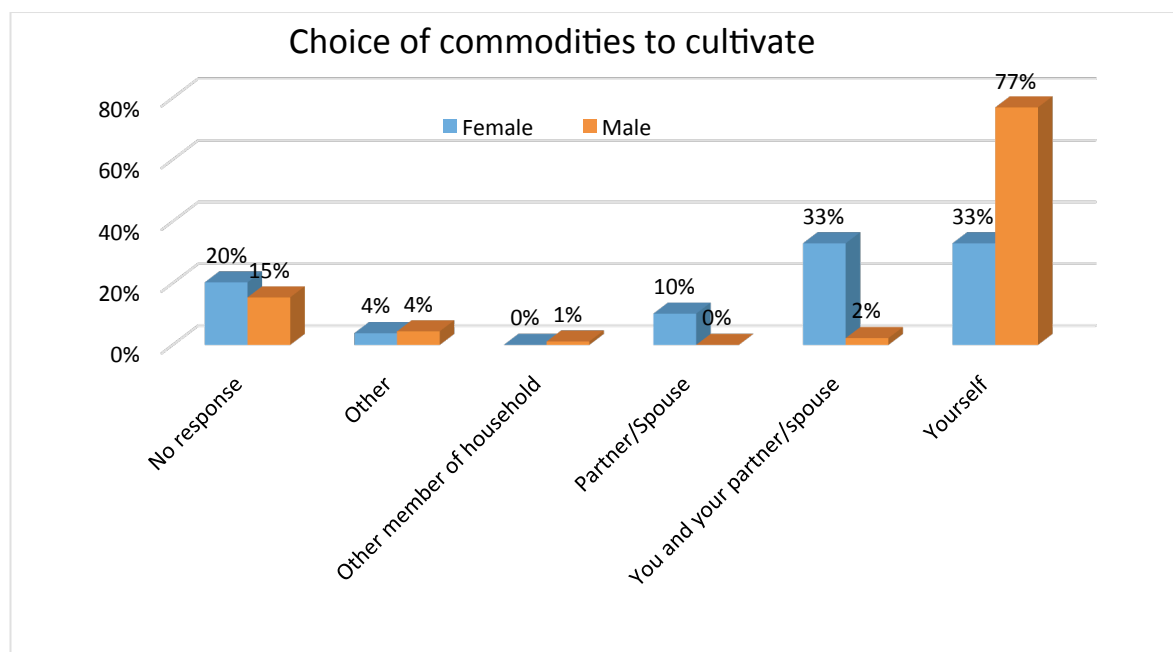
Table 26: Decision on the choice of plot to cultivate

Rubrics	Female	Male
No response	20%	15%
Other	4%	10%
Other member of household	0%	1%
Partner/Spouse	13%	0%
Your and your partner/spouse together	29%	2%
Yourself	34%	71%
General total	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who generally decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate?

Graphic 8: Choice of commodities to cultivate



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

77% of men make decisions on the choice of commodities to cultivate alone, versus 33% of women. A third of women make this decision with their spouse (33%). Among 10% of women, the spouse decides alone. 4% of men and women make this decision with people other than the members of their household.

Table 27: Choice of commodities to cultivate

Rubrics	Female	Male	General total
No response	20%	15%	18%
Other	4%	4%	4%
Other member of household	0%	1%	1%
Partner/Spouse	10%	0%	5%
You and your partner/spouse together	33%	2%	16%
Yourself	33%	77%	56%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

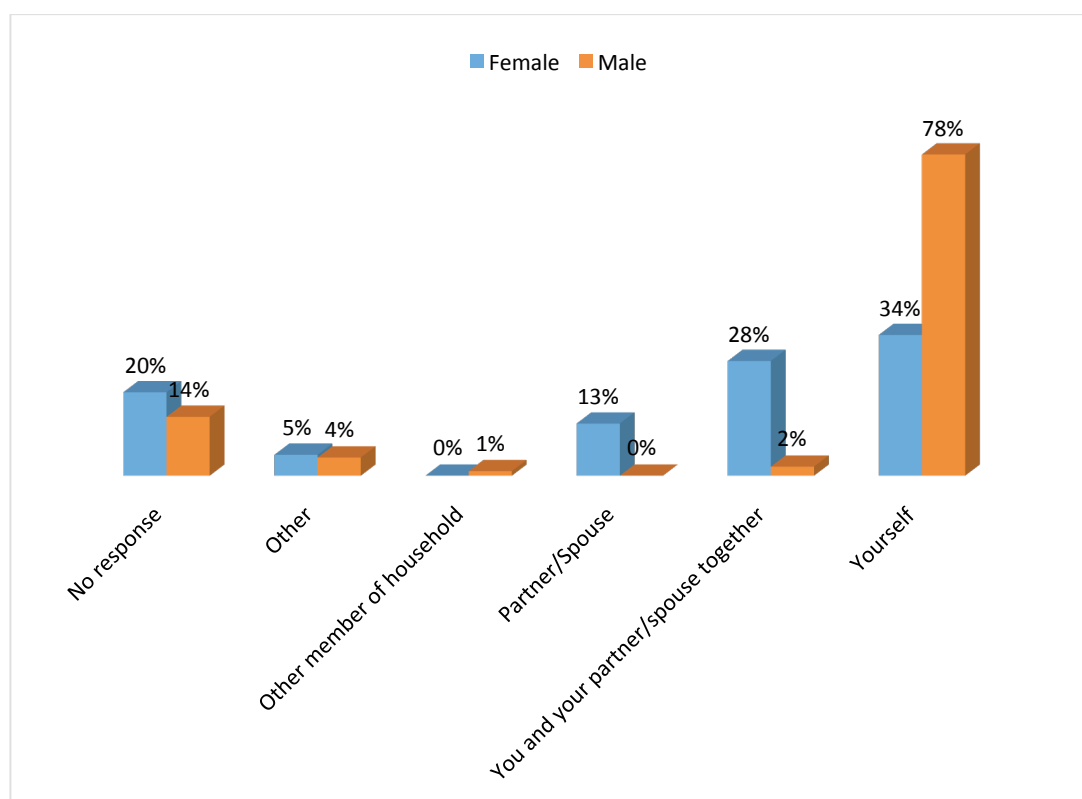
Who generally decides on quantities to stock and destock?

Table 28: Choice of quantities to stock and destock

Rubrics	Female	Male	General Total
No response	20%	14%	17%
Other	5%	4%	5%
Other member of household	0%	1%	1%
Partner/Spouse	13%	0%	6%
You and your partner/spouse together	28%	2%	14%
Yourself	34%	78%	58%
General Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Graphic 9: Choice of quantities to stock and destock

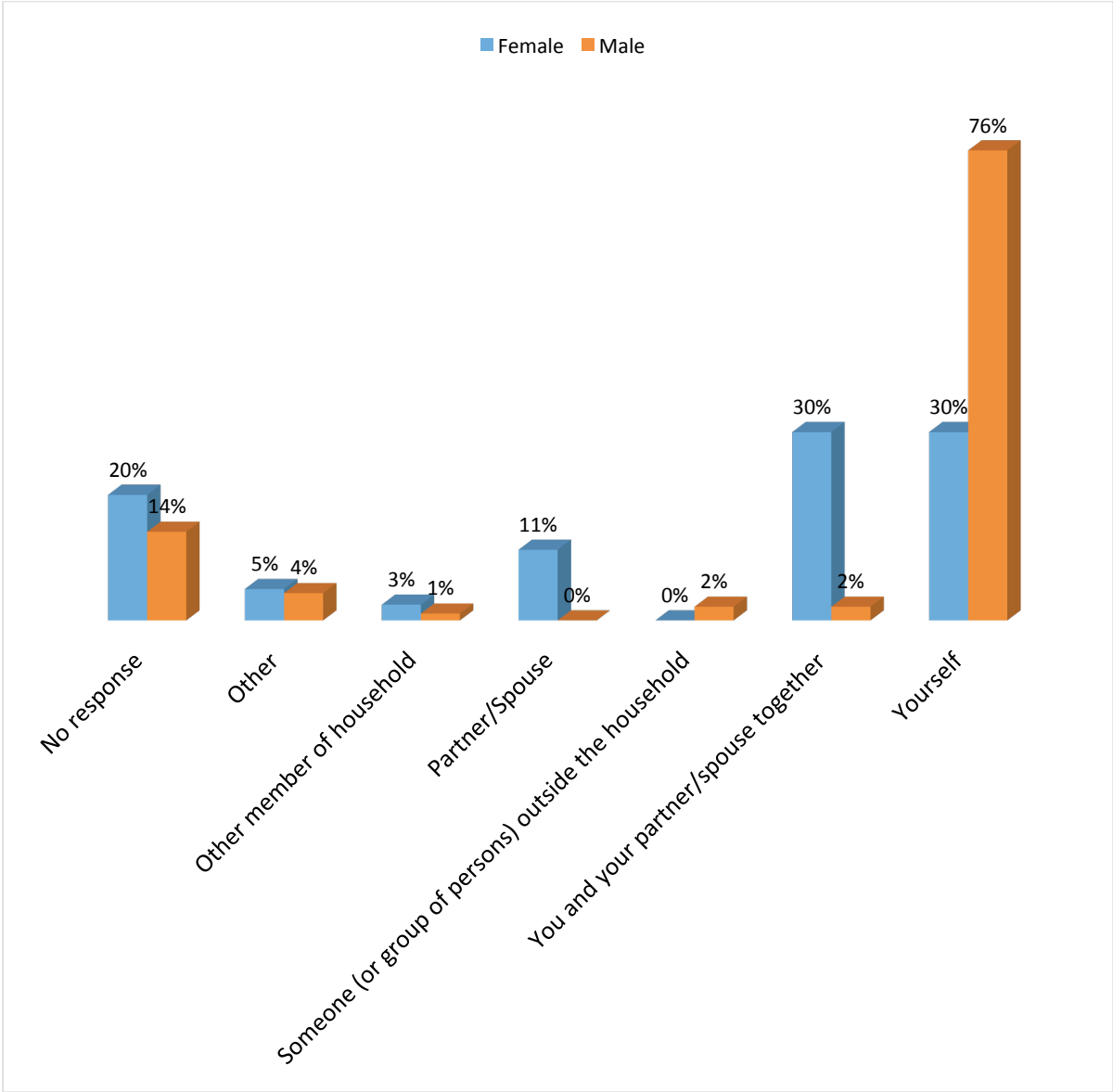


Source: results of the May 2016 survey

78% of men make decisions on the choice of quantities to stock and destock alone, versus 34% of women. Less than a third of women make this decision with their spouse (28%). Among 10% of women, the spouse decides alone. 4% of men and women make this decision with people other than the members of their household.

Who generally decides on when to stock and destock?

Graphic 10: Choice of moment of stocking and destocking



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

76% of men make the decision on the choice of moment of stocking and destocking alone, versus 30% of women. A third of women make this decision with their spouse. Among 11% of women, the spouse decides alone. 4% of men and 5% of women make this decision with persons other than the members of their household.

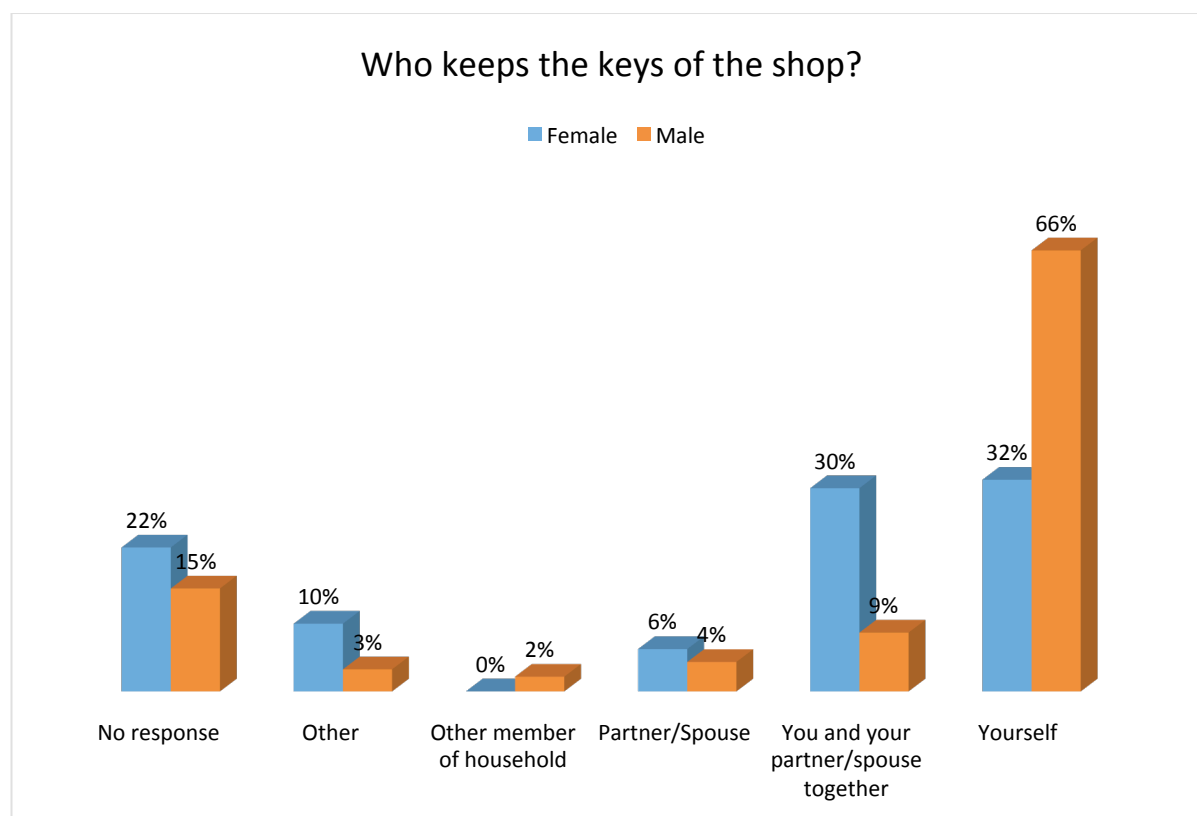
Table 29: Choice of moment of stocking and destocking

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
No response	20%	14%	17%
Other	5%	4%	5%
Other member of household	3%	1%	2%
Partner/Spouse	11%	0%	5%
Someone (or group of persons) outside the household	0%	2%	1%
You and your partner/spouse together	30%	2%	15%
Yourself	30%	76%	55%
General Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who keeps the keys of the shop?

Graphic 11: Keeping of keys of the shop



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

66% of men keep the keys of the shop alone, versus 32% of women. A third of women keep this key with their spouse (30%). Among 6% of women, the spouse alone keeps the key. This parameter is 4% among men. 3% of men versus 10% of women confide the keys with persons other than the members of their household.

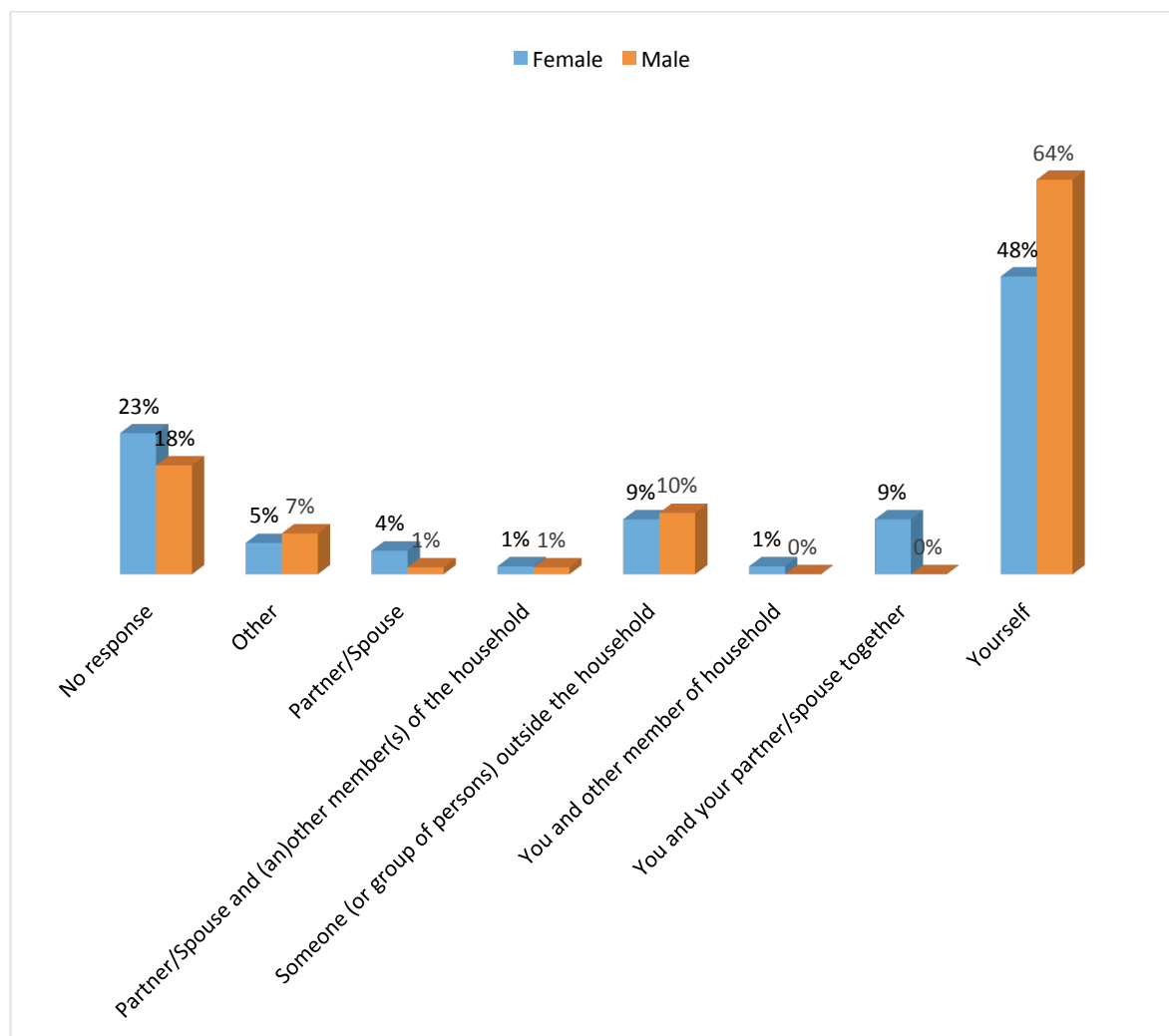
Table 30: Keeping of keys of the shop

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
No response	22%	15%	18%
Other	10%	3%	6%
Other member of household	0%	2%	1%
Partner/Spouse	6%	4%	5%
You and your partner/spouse together	30%	9%	19%
Yourself	32%	66%	50%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who fixes the price of sale of products?

Graphic 12: Fixing of price of sale of products



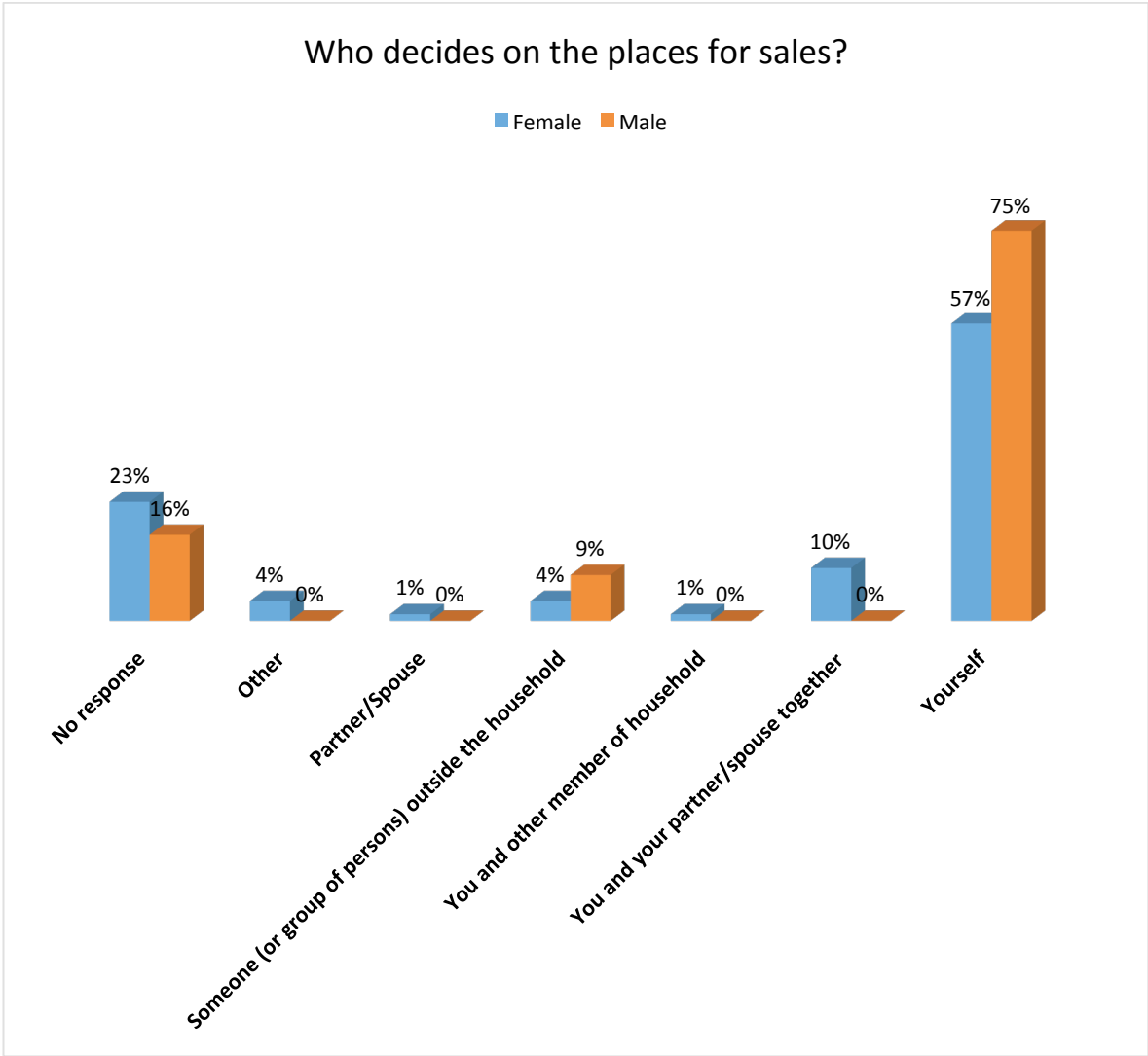
Source: results of the May 2016 survey

64% of men make the decision on the fixing of the price of sale of products alone, versus 48% of women. 9% of women make this decision with their spouse. Among 4% of women, the spouse decides alone. 7% of men and 5% of women make this decision with persons other than the members of their household. The rate of no response was at 20%.

Who decides on the places for sales?

75% of men make the decisions on places for sales of products alone, versus 57% of women. 10% of women make this decision with their spouse; 4% of women make this decision with persons other than the members of their household. The rate of no response was over 20%.

Graphic 13: Choice of places for sales



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

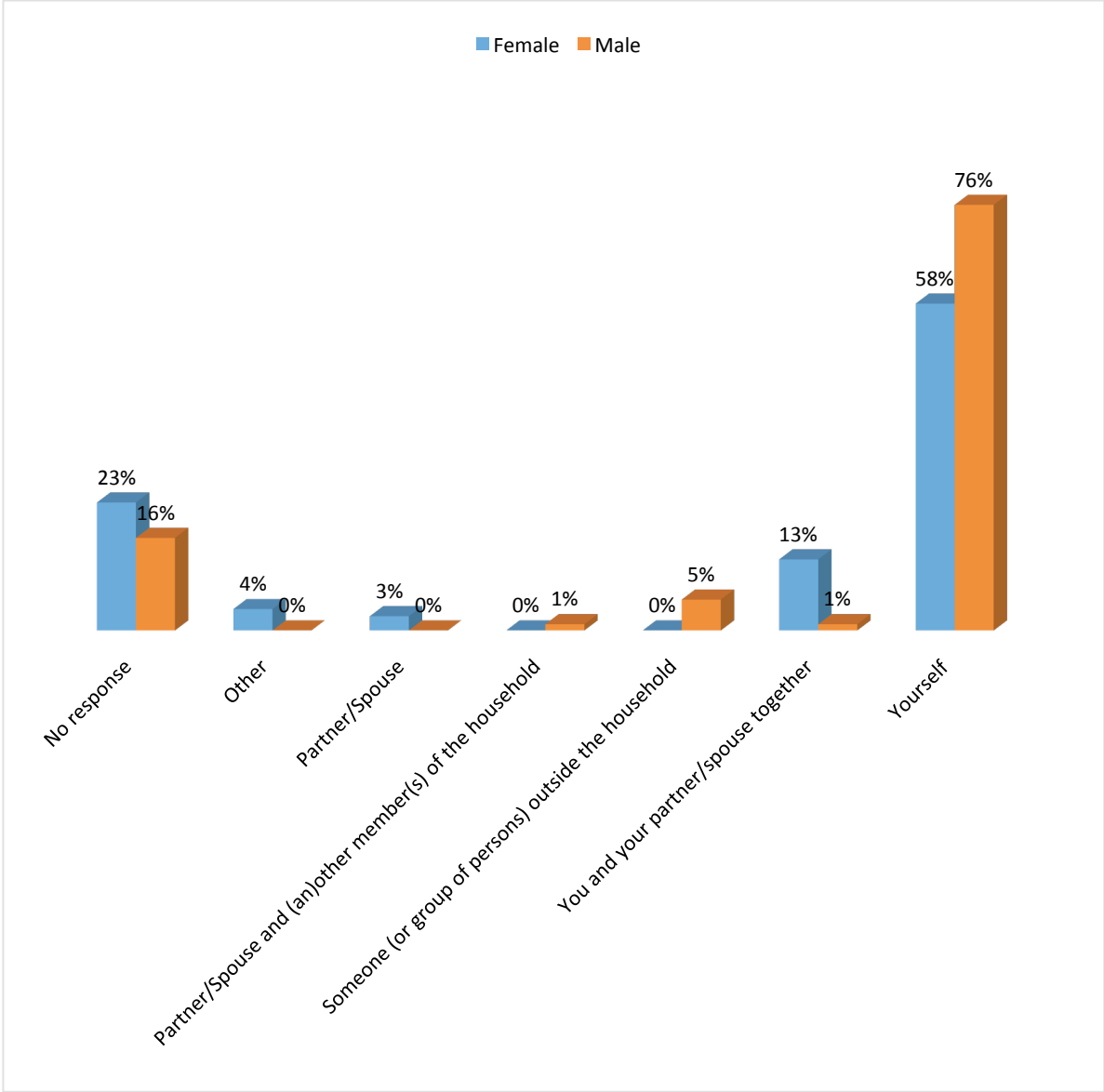
Table 31: Choice of places for sales

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
No response	23%	16%	19%
Other	4%	0%	2%
Partner/Spouse	1%	0%	1%
Someone (or group of persons) outside the household	4%	9%	6%
You and other member of household	1%	0%	1%
You and your partner/spouse together	10%	0%	5%
Yourself	57%	75%	66%
General Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who decides on the moment for sales?

Graphic 14: Choice of the moment for sales



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

76% of men make the decision on the moment for sales alone, versus 58% of women. 13% of women make this decision with their spouse.

Table 32: Choice of moment for sales

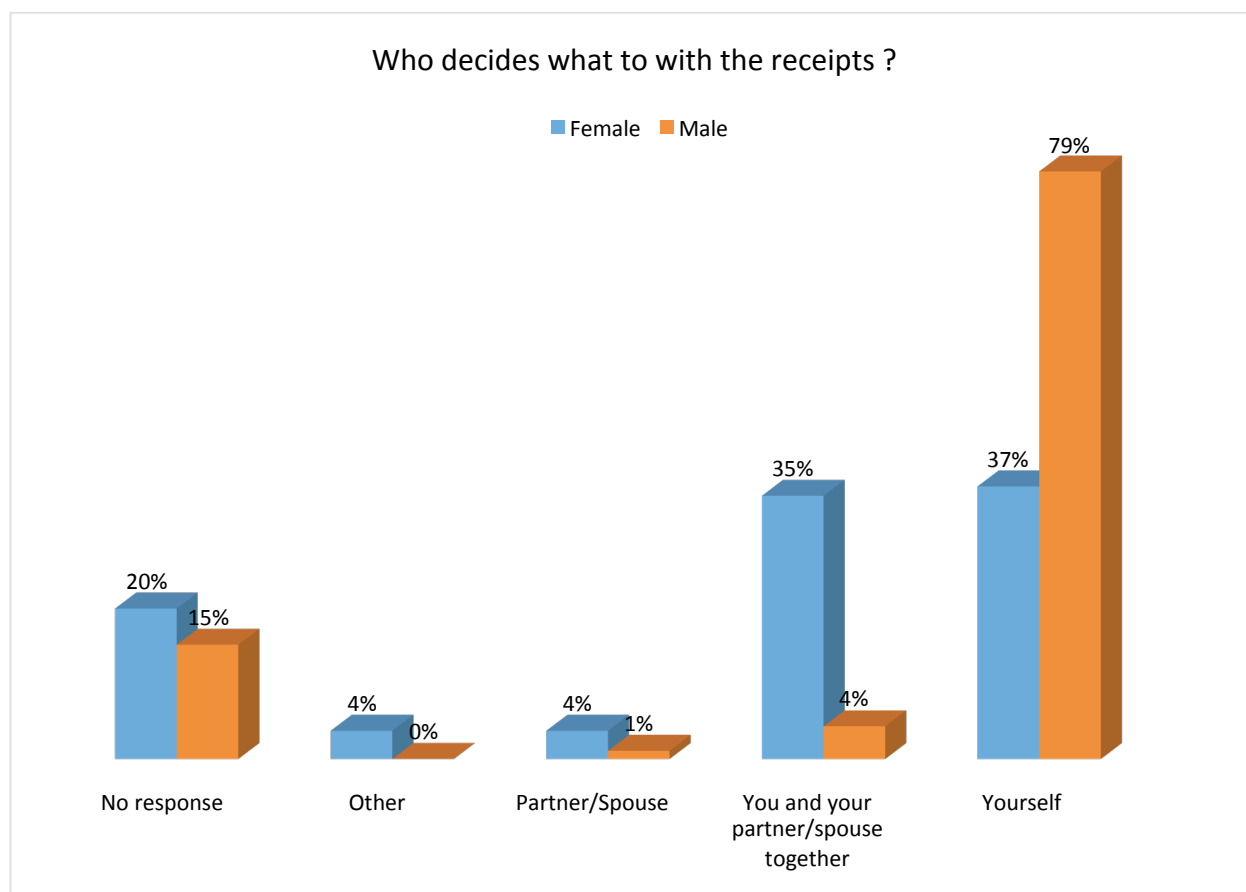
Modalities	Femal	Male	General
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	e		total
No response	23%	16%	19%
Other	4%	0%	2%
Partner/Spouse	3%	0%	1%
Partner/Spouse and (an)other member(s) of the household	0%	1%	1%
Someone (or group of persons) outside the household	0%	5%	3%
You and your partner/spouse together	13%	1%	6%
Yourself	58%	76%	68%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who decides what to do with receipts?

Graphic 15: Decision on the use of receipts



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

79% of men make the decision on the use of receipts alone, versus 37% of women. 35% of

women make this decision with their spouse, versus 4% of men; 4% of women make this decision with persons other than the members of their household. The rate of no response was about 20%.

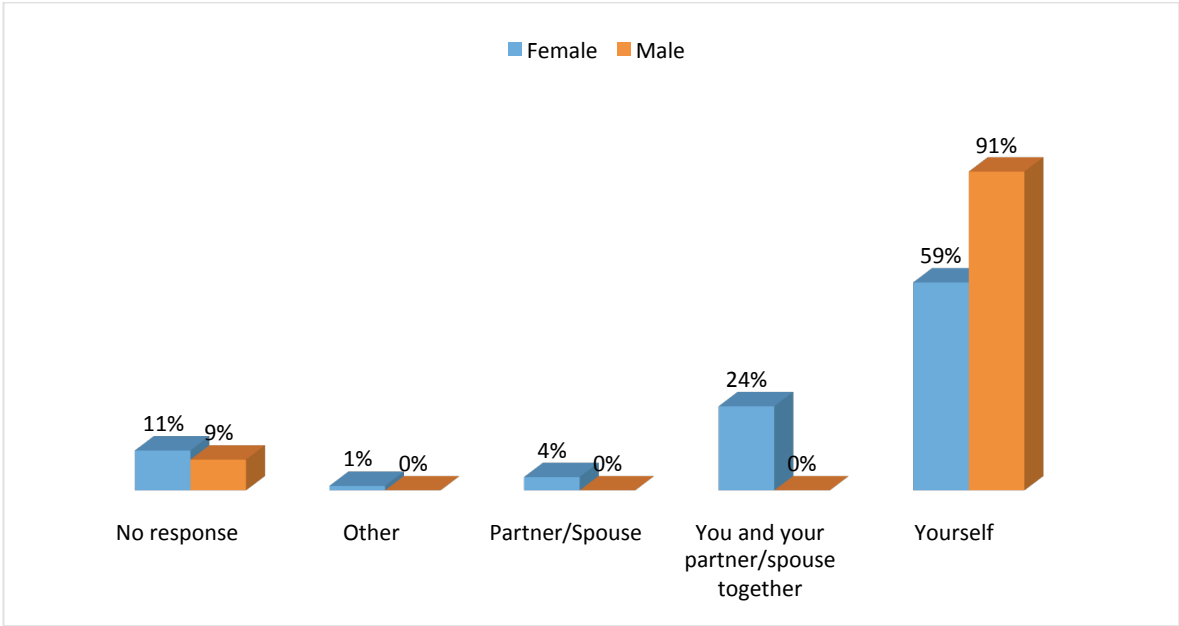
Table 33: Decision on the use of receipts

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
No response	20%	15%	18%
Other	4%	0%	2%
Partner/Spouse	4%	1%	2%
You and your partner/spouse together	35%	4%	19%
Yourself	37%	79%	59%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who decides on the source of supplies most of time?

Graphic 16: Choice of sources of supplies



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

91% of men make the decision on the source of supplies alone, versus 59% of women. 24% of women make this decision with their spouse, versus 0% for men. Among 4% of women, the spouse decides alone. 1% of women make this decision with persons other than the members of the household. The rate of no response is around 20%.

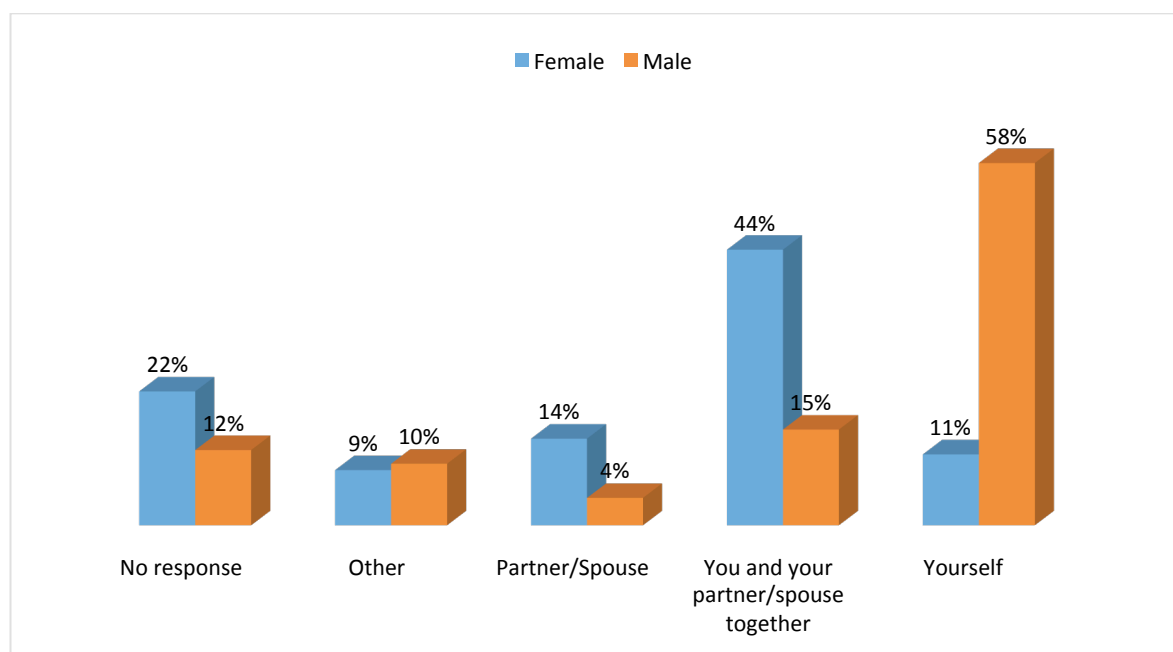
Table 34: Choice of sources of supplies

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
No response	11%	9%	10%
Other	1%	0%	1%
Partner/Spouse	4%	0%	2%
You and your partner/spouse together	24%	0%	11%
Yourself	59%	91%	76%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Who decides on the opportune moment for a new birth in the household?

Graphic 17: Decision on the opportune moment for a new birth



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

58% of men make the decision on the opportune moment for a new birth in the household alone, versus 11% for women. 44% of women say they make this decision with their spouse, versus 15% for men. Among 14% of women, the spouse decides alone, versus 4% of men. 9% of women and 10% of men make this decision with persons other than the members of their household. The rate of no response is around 20%.

Table 35: Decision on the opportune moment for a new birth in the household

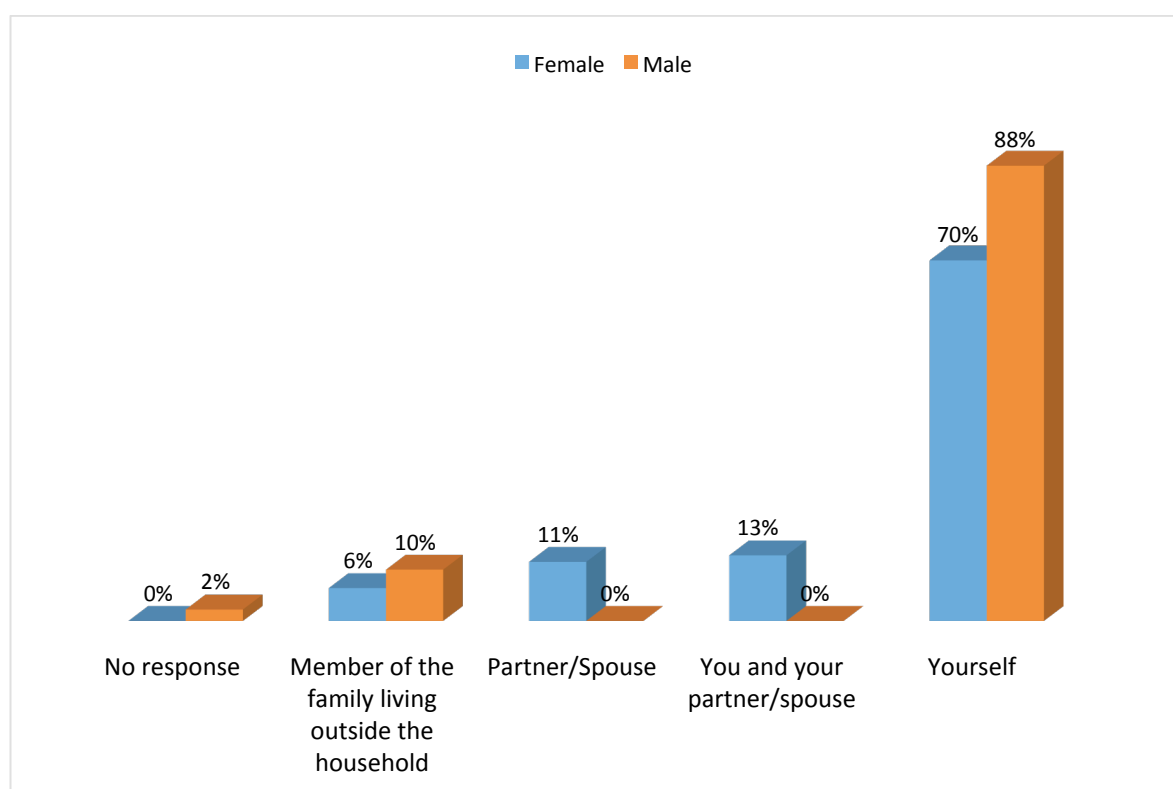
Modalities	Female	Male	General total
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No response	22%	12%	16%
Other	9%	10%	9%
Partner/Spouse	14%	4%	9%
You and your partner/spouse together	44%	15%	29%
Yourself	11%	58%	36%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Person with influence on the choice of activity

Graphic 18: Decision on the choice of activity



Source: results of the May 2016 survey

Men make the decisions on the choice of activity alone (88%) or with the influence of members of the family (10%). For this same decision, women also decide alone, but only at 70%. They make them with their spouse (13%) and the members of the family (6%). Among 11% of women, the spouse decides alone, versus 0% for men.

Table 36: Choice of activity

Modalities	Female	Male	General total
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No response	0%	2%	1%
Member of the family living outside the household	6%	10%	8%
Partner/Spouse	11%	0%	5%
You and your partner/spouse	13%	0%	6%
Yourself	70%	88%	79%
General total	100%	100%	100%

Source: results of the May 2016 survey

To conclude this section, it is clear that the identification of the person who makes decisions gives a look into one of the factors for measuring women's empowerment. It also appears this way beyond the conjugal and familial sphere. The empowerment of female operators in the markets will have to undergo the removal of a certain number of major constraints/obstacles before women can flourish in exercising their activity.

An important question is that of knowing how to measure and monitor women's empowerment in the market. This study proposes a contribution in thinking through this question. The group discussions reveal that empowerment is not an objective for all the women. Those who operate in the food markets have opted for empowerment. They subject themselves to the duration of the workday to generate the revenue that allows them to contribute to the load of the family, to access productive resources and to improve their standards of living and of their family. The exchanges allowed the indication of the fact that women in the markets are generally not interested in political participation in community decisions.

Another result applies to decision-making in commercial activities. Decisions seem to be taken in a collegial manner if one is to believe in the results of the survey. Nonetheless, it is clear, in quite a repetitive way, that even when decisions are made unilaterally by the husband, the woman prefers to say that the decision was consensual.

One observes that when the operator is a man, he decides alone on ongoing commercial activities and does not involve his wife, even though the decisions have an impact on his presence in the household. For example, if he has to travel, it means he will spend the night outside the household. On the other hand, when the woman is an operator, her margin of maneuvering is more restricted and reduced. And the husband participates in her decision-making although he does not impose on decisions such as the hours of opening and closure and even sales. Women, a bit more than men, suffer from the weight of traditions and under-schooling, which limit their activities in the market.

On access to resources in the markets, men and women experience the bad states of roads and harassment from the administration, including the traditional leaders. The problem of transport, stocking and preservation is crucial. Information on the market is not shared/disseminated to actors.

Last, but not the least, the fact that the markets are not sensitive to gender is a strongly punishing factor; so much that a woman must manage maternity,

childcare, her menstrual health and a reconciliation between her domestic and commercial affairs (she does not take part in informational meetings because she has to return home).

More than knowing who decides, one must measure what changes are made regarding women; one can also measure the evolution of:

- Her degree of autonomy, which is to say the reduction of her financial dependence with regard to her husband, in other words, her capacity to take charge, via her savings in micro finance establishments, her business figures and her generated revenues, and her financial contribution to the household load;
- Her membership in tontines and mutual assistance associations;
- Her capacity to come to the help of family members when they are in need;
- Her participation in training seminars, information sessions and fairs at the regional, national and international level, which will mean spending some days out of the home and out of the habitual work framework.

From the group sessions, the ideal or researched profile can be deduced and the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment must be organized around the following five parameters:

- Involvement in productive and economic activities;
- Schooling and access to training;
- Informed respect for traditions, notably distinguishing the good from harmful practices, avoiding "blindly" following counterproductive traditional norms;
- Openness and contact with others;
- Taking public positions and participating in activities of associations and networks of associations.

It is not certain that the women are ready to discuss these questions, and also with people foreign to their community; additionally, it is not surprising to find responses which contrast with those observed, when personal questions are broached.

For the participants of the group discussions, the woman who has not begun her process of empowerment is recognizable by the following characteristics:

1. Is not involved in a trade, nor in agricultural activities, nor in salaried employment, nor in domestic tasks;
2. Her level of education is very low and she has never taken part in technical or professional training;
3. She stays submissive to traditions even when they are unfavorable to her (early marriage, masculine domination, traditional repudiation, etc...);
4. She does not get in contact with "strangers";
5. She does not take up public positions and participates little in meetings and associations (mutual assistance and community solidarity associations, etc...).

Nevertheless, the exchanges revealed that the priority of the woman in this part of the country is her household, which is to say, her spouse and her children in first

place, but also members of the extended family. She therefore partakes in activities to generate revenue with the goal of meeting their needs in priority, and hers in a secondary manner.

Also, the economic activities of women remain dwarfed, because a large part of revenue generated is allocated to the charge of the household, by the autonomous decision of the woman. Effectively, due to a certain upbringing, some women see their marriages as a source of respect and social consideration. Consequently, to be married and to stay married become, to these women, a major goal; sometimes at the price of several sacrifices, among them total submission to her husband and to social constructs, even if these are to her own detriment. The economic activity of the woman allows her to satisfy her husband, who is in charge of the security of the family. To ensure his authority and his social standing, says one participant from the Garoua focus group of 4 May 2016, he has to show “that it is really he who commands.” Therefore, he cannot carry out devaluing activities such as cooking, grinding condiments on stone, washing dishes, etc.

In a context where discussions on empowerment were stunted by the fact that the material is very personal, confidential even, women were not always ready to discuss these questions, notably with people foreign to their community. It is important to mobilize the structures and centers of research in universities and statistical institutes and local CSOs to ensure the promotion of the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment in the markets and value chains. The major challenge remains that of local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in interventions in the food markets. The local CSOs could be important relays to work with the communities and produce the most pertinent criteria and indicators to measure and monitor women’s empowerment in the food markets.

5. POSSIBLE PROGRAMMATIC SOLUTIONS FOR A RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES



Possible solutions must take into account the analysis of gender inclusion in WFP interventions in the food markets in Cameroon and the persistent challenges in the food markets in formulating recommendations and making a proposal of priority interventions.

5.1. Appreciation for taking gender into account in WFP interventions in the food markets of Cameroon

Activities identified as relative to the food markets are: support to village granaries; food for productive assets initiative; Cash Based Transfer; buying locally; and, finally, the general distribution of food to populations, notably in the interaction between beneficiaries and the markets.

Globally, in the totality of its interventions, the country Bureau practices the monitoring of data disaggregated according to sex and age groups. A real will to take into account gender in its interventions was observed. If one considers, for instance, buying locally and the general distribution of food to populations, one realizes that WFP Cameroon has developed a practice of promoting the activities of women. Effectively, having noted that the ration conferred to women is less subject to the risk of embezzlement than that conferred to men, the idea is to lead the men to delegate to women the recuperation and management of food rations.

When recording the beneficiaries of food, one splits up the polygamous households where each spouse is the holder of a ration card for herself and her children, the man having his ration card of size 1. Even better, on the first day of distribution, vulnerable persons or with special needs are prioritized (persons living with a disability, persons with reduced mobility, aged persons, to whom assistance is offered in transport rations). On the second and third days, priority is given to women. As a result, the wait time is much longer for men than for women; this pushes the men to confer to women the care of recovering the family ration.

The WFP generally has recourse to partners to distribute food to refugees and displaced populations. This ration corresponds to a food basket defined by the WFP. This ration is given to the head of the household or his representative, the depositor of the ration card. A local committee of endogenous distribution is in place to assure that the distribution takes place according to the rules. This local committee consists of different posts of which some are “gender”. As such, for instance, there will be more men for the distribution of cereals, super cereals and legumes and more women for salt and cooking oil.

In buying local subsistence products, the WFP and the Government respond to calls with a goal of buying in the zones where there are surpluses. A brief examination of the procedure of buying locally does not reveal discrimination based on gender (or sexual bias or positive discrimination).

Supporting the village granary has been a WFP Cameroon initiative since 2010, which accompanies communities in the preventative management of lean periods. Effectively, during harvests, products are abundant and the market prices are low, which causes producers to sell off harvests at low prices because they do not have storage rooms. In moments of penury, prices are high in the markets and producers sell at exorbitant

prices that which they bought at low prices. The hikes in prices go from single to double in periods of food shortage.

The initiative consists of supporting the creation of cereal granaries managed by countryside organizations. The priority is given to associations where women are active, taking into account the ratio of groupings of women versus groupings of men and the disaggregated numbers, according to the sex of the members of the associations and their role/responsibility in the group.

The WFP intervention consists of offering an initial endowment of 20 tons of cereals to the community, to be built into a storage room. This initial endowment will serve as a rolling fund. During penury, the community opens the storage room and proceeds to sell the products. At the moment of harvest, the community reconstitutes the stocks for the next lean period.

Community granaries seem to have succeeded in the northern regions. The concept of the project remains pertinent, because of the difficulties of lean periods. There remain however, according to the opinions of persons consulted, the following recurrent problems:

- Intrusion and inference from traditional authorities;
- Difficulty/slowness of money collection;
- Weak mastering of terms of service of organizations by those responsible and the resulting conflicts.

However, one notes an excellent ownership of granaries by the beneficiaries.

The food for productive assets initiative, launched in 2011, is inscribed into the logic of prolonged interventions of help and recovery (PRRO). WFP support consists of accompanying the community to recreate its means of existence. WFP rests on the support of a partner, members of the Government, NGO or countryside organizations to coach the populations. These organizations determine the sectors and activities where there are better chances of success for the development of assets more likely to give back the community their dignity. The project is worked on by the populations, with the support of a technical partner, and submitted to the WFP.

The food for productive assets initiative has given rise to multiple achievements, among them the rehabilitation of irrigated perimeters and canals of irrigation, the implementation of silage fields, community piscicultural ponds, support for soya cultivation, and to vegetable farmers support for agricultural activities, etc. The sexual division of work is generally observed since, depending on the type of project done, participants are mainly either male or female.

In the Cash Based Transfer in the process of being introduced in Cameroon, feasibility studies have highlighted the relations between spouses and the roles of women in the management of household goods. If the studies conclude that generally women have access and control over the goods, those are atypical situations. Also, for example, among the Fulani of northern Cameroon, the woman does not “touch” money. The men delegate to them the management of foodstuff but rarely cash. It is therefore the men who are in charge

of market operations (buying, selling), including foodstuff. The initiatives executed in this zone are interested in the economic opportunities women would have if they had more power of management. The initiatives also foresee the actions of sensitization in view of improving the capacity of women in the management of household resources.

The gender notation of projects before their trial and implementation, even if observed, is not systematic. Also, the Cash Based Transfer project has not made gender notation its subject. In its conception and implementation, the tools of following up on the taking of gender into account are nonexistent.

The tools used for taking into account gender, notably in reporting, seem pertinent. It is the case of the *Gender-Related Activities* catalogue. The reports of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) are interested in the disaggregation of the number of beneficiaries, by sex.

More generally, it does not appear that WFP Cameroon has introduced in its texts of calls for proposals to projects, calls for offers, or calls for partners, exigencies to take gender into account, except for the indication that female candidates are prioritized in the recruitment of staff.

In contracting with implementation partners, there are no exigencies for taking gender into account in the assessment of potential partners. This is equally true concerning the systematization of the control of the taking gender into account in interventions. It would be wise, in the framework of evaluating potential partners, to verify the existence or nonexistence of documents based on gender (internal policy documents, for instance); this assessment must equally place an accent on the existence or nonexistence of a staff member sensitive to gender. More generally, in the standard operating procedures (SOP), with the project approval checklist of the WFP Bureau, it would be wise to foresee the lens of gender.

We have not seen the assessment of impact which would allow the following of transformations and changes in gender relations which the projects initiated.

The majority of persons consulted have at least followed one training or initiatory information session on gender; but many members of staff are new, mainly in the Maroua sub-office where this category represents close to 75% of the workforce.

Exchanges with members of staff in the sub-offices of Garoua and Maroua show the need to reinforce sensitivity to gender equality among certain personnel; effectively, during informal exchanges, many staff mentioned their opposition to the work of women.

One can point out that the focal gender point in the country office has been newly designed. Same for the Maroua sub-office. They do not have the bill of specifications or terms of reference for the position of focal gender point. They carry out these responsibilities within the margins of other functions.

Without putting into question the competencies in gender matters of the people encountered, it seems wise to plan a training session of consolidation and capacity building of staff of the country office and of personnel of the partners. More generally, training in

gender and empowerment of women, in urgent need for the staff of the country office, the sub-offices and the NGO partners, could be rich in added value.

5.2. Summary of challenges in the food markets and recommendations

Table 37: Summary of challenges in the food markets and recommendations

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>1. Need for capital and financing</p>	<p>Develop partnerships with MFEs to create and make function a fund for financing the economic operators in the food markets, mainly the women (selection of MFEs, reinforcement of the capacity of the staff of MFEs to understand the specificities of the target audience; development of tools of intervention in financing of the target,...)</p> <p>In partnership with IFAD and the FAO, initiate a fund to guarantee the financing of economic operators of the food markets, especially women.</p>
<p>2. Weak structuring of economic operators in the food markets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the structuring of female traders into cooperatives; train in the governing of cooperatives, and the establishment of a culture of transparency and accountability (ask for accountability, practice accountability). ▪ Encourage women to practice jobs that still remain the sacred domain of men, such as butchery. This can help shatter taboos and shake things up. ▪ Bring organizational support to operators in the industry through production, processing, transport, commercialization and storage of products coming from different value chains. ▪ It is suggested that the WFP include in all its current initiatives on the markets and value chains, in projects similar to CBT or community granaries, a component of accompaniment for the growth of medium-scale operators to create demonstrative effects and help shake things up.

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>3. Weak entrepreneurial competencies of economic operators in food markets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reinforce the entrepreneurial capacities of women engaged in trade, including their competencies in commercialization, negotiation and creation of a business plan; ▪ Reinforce the capacities of associations and local NGOs in materials of support for female entrepreneurship. ▪ Produce and disseminate a practical guide for female entrepreneurs in the value chains in the northern regions of Cameroon.
<p>4. Harassment from representatives of authorities</p>	<p>Appeal to competent administrations (MINATD, MINCOMMERCE, MINDEF, MINTRANSPORT, DGSN, CED, etc.) for the facilitation of commercial agricultural activities on the roads and in the markets of the regions of the Far-North and North.</p>
<p>5. Lack of comfort of the markets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appeal to competent administrations for the construction of gender sensitive markets in the regions of the Far-North and North; ▪ Appeal to the CTDs to reinforce conditions of sanitation and hygiene in the existent markets; ▪ Develop a partnership with UN Women to promote the concept of “gender sensitive markets”; ▪ Develop and put in place a programme of sensitization on water, sanitation and the management of menstrual hygiene in local development.
<p>6. Challenges linked to maternity and the care of very young children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sensitize economic operators such that their spouses have better family planning and gender sensitive management in their homes/households; ▪ Appeal to competent actors to put in place structures for daycare within the existing markets.
<p>7. Feminine leadership, weight of traditions and other socio-cultural factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold trainings for men and women on gender and empowerment; ▪ Contract with local media for the production of specialized programs on the change of behavior on empowerment. It is important to get men who support women involved in commercial activities.

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>8. Insufficient initiatives of reinforcement of capacities in the associations and NGOs and decentralized technical sector structures</p>	<p>Organize trainings for staff from associations and local NGOs and decentralized technical sector structures on the formulation of programmes adapted to the needs of the target groups and on research and mobilization of financing in view of programmes of accompaniment for economic operators of food markets.</p>
<p>9. Low level of education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investing in the education and training of women and girls is the only way. ▪ Appeal for more investments in the education and training of women in partnership with MINEUB, MINPROFF, MINEFOP, the CTDs and UNESCO <p>It is suggested that WFP include in all its current initiatives on markets and the value chains, in programmes similar to CBT or community granaries, a component on functional literacy.</p>
<p>10. Mobilization of structures of research in universities, statistics institutes and local CSOs to assure the promotion of the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment in the food markets and industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage an appeal and an action of mobilization in the research structures, the university community, the institutes of statistics and the local CSOs to ensure the promotion of the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment in the markets and value chains. ▪ Seize the opportunity of the next programming cycle to largely integrate the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment into the markets and value chains and into the programmes and projects of agencies of the United Nations System and governments. ▪ Support the action of the CSOs aimed at local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in the interventions in the food markets; the local CSOs could be important relays for working with the communities and producing the most pertinent criteria and indicators to measure and monitor women’s empowerment in the food markets.

5.3. Proposal of priority interventions

The axes of priority interventions are the following:

1) Elaboration and implementation of a conjoint programme from the United Nations System on women's empowerment in the markets and value chains (medium term)

Strategic objective: Mutualize means and group initiatives to support women's empowerment in the food markets

One such programme could be justified by holistically dealing with the question of women's empowerment in the food markets. Effectively, certain major aspects/problems raised in the study fall in the domain of the missions and competencies of many other agencies in the United Nations System. There are also questions such as: literacy, the training of men and women in gender and empowerment, the construction of gender sensitive infrastructure, communication for changes in behavior, facilitation of agricultural commercial activities for women on the roads and markets in the North and Far-North regions, organization into cooperatives, financing of economic activities, food security and nutritional education, etc.

This programme could equally promote alternative economic activities for women in the markets and value chains during maternity periods or when taking care of very young children, in a manner such that they can continue to manage their maternity and not brutally feel the disruption of activity.

The efforts to reduce the weight of customs and traditions harmful to female economic empowerment could figure in this programme. For example, support local CSOs in the formulation and implementation of actions aimed at education at the community level, to raise the awareness of actors on the harmful consequences of these practices and to help evolve social norms, and in addition, support efforts of appeal and valorization of models of women who have succeeded in their professional activities (salaried and non-salaried) without disrupting conjugal harmony.

To the best of our knowledge, the united initiative of the worldwide plan of UN Women, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which put in place a programme aimed at accelerating progress towards economic empowerment of rural women, is going in this direction and could present an opportunity.

This orientation will contribute to the achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), notably those linked with gender equality and the empowerment of women (SDG5), poverty (SDG1), quality education and lifelong learning (SDG4), decent work and supported, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG8), reduced inequalities (SDG10), partnership (SDG17), etc.

UN Women and other UNS agencies initiated in 2014 in Cameroon, a plan for the formulation of a conjoint UNS programme with the aim of accelerating the empowerment of rural women, via the improvement of revenue, social resilience and the participation in development and citizenship, with the perspective of sustainable development. The changes anticipated were the following:

1. The productive capacities and access to revenue and the economic performances of rural women in production, preservation, processing and commercialization are improved, via better access to resources, assets and critical services to improve production and productivity in the rural world;
2. Access of rural women to the markets is improved, from three points of view: (i) infrastructure and equipment, (ii) managerial and entrepreneurial competencies and (iii) financing of productive activities;
3. The capacities of economic and social resilience of the rural women are improved and their vulnerability is reduced;
4. The participation of rural women in local governance is reinforced and the taking of gender into account in communal plans and budgets of development is improved.

Despite the interest expressed by the actors involved from the ministerial departments (MINADER, MINEPIA, MINPROFF) and the agencies of the United Nations System (FAO, UNDP, UN Women), the initiative has to date not prospered.

Recommendation is made for the World Food Programme Country Bureau to link with UN Women Cameroon in order to underline the importance, the merits and the intention of such a programme and, if need be, inscribe it in the next cycle of programming.

2) Integration of the accompaniment of market operators into current programmes of the WFP (short term)

Strategic objective: Support the implementation of small enterprises and cooperatives of women in the markets and value chains and accelerate their empowerment, with the perspective of valorizing local models of successful women

This accompaniment is based on the structuring of actors in the industry into cooperatives with whom the WFP can contract in the framework of its current initiatives. This contracting could include support to women wholesalers of modest scale to consolidate their position in the industry, in the framework of support for female entrepreneurship. For the structuring into cooperatives, the Project of Investment and Development of Agricultural Markets (PIDMA) of MINADER constitutes an excellent opportunity for the development of cooperatives of women and could be a partner for the WFP.

Moreover, the current programmes of the WFP must integrate the organization of training sessions specifically for women into the domains of entrepreneurship and the management of projects, in function of the needs previously identified. This

training could be completed by the popularization of a practical guide on the female entrepreneur in the value chains and markets, which will present the key factors of success and standard business plans of activities, with pertinent advice specific to the female entrepreneur.

Taking into account the particular socio-cultural context of these two administrative regions, the option of technically and financially supporting a critical mass of female entrepreneurs (at least 100) in domains usually reserved for men (for example, a female butcher) could constitute a lever effect for the emergence of a generation of female economic operators in the industry (shaking things up). With such a hypothesis, the close accompaniment of these female operators could be given under certain contractual conditions, either to one or several Civil Society Organizations, or to specialized cabinets, or to competent public technical sectorial services.

The accompaniment of small enterprises and cooperatives of women in the markets and value chains in order for them to be capable, among others, of applying to the WFP's calls of offer, for food supply to be viewed as an action that brings added value and leads to significant results.

The exchanges with members of the WFP country office and the sub-offices did not reveal difficulties of integration in the accompaniment of market operators in current programmes such as support to village granaries; the food for productive assets initiative; Cash Based Transfer; buying local and distribution of food to populations.

Recommendation is made to the Country Bureau of the World Food Programme, in view of engaging reflection within each of its programmes, to identify the best way of integrating the accompaniment and elevation of small enterprises and local cooperatives of women in order to create partners with the capacity to satisfy the exigencies of WFP's services of acquisition.

3) Training in gender and women's empowerment for WFP staff and its partners (short term)

Strategic objective: Interventions of the WFP and its partners respond to the needs of men and women (in their conception and their execution).

In the issue of sustainably integrating the gender approach into the conception and implementation of programmes and projects of the WFP, it is necessary to anticipate the improvement of the staff of the WFP and its partners in gender and women's empowerment.

This training would be supported by the production of a guide for taking gender into account in the markets and value chains, and include a module on the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment.

4) Investigation and deepening of the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the markets (short term)

Strategic objective: ensure the promotion of the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the markets and value chains

It is pertinent to mobilize the structures and centers of research in the universities and statistics institutes in the aim of developing a system of monitoring, producing tools and training the actors to efficiently moderate the measuring women's empowerment in the food markets.

On the individual level, the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the market must include criteria that allow for the detection of changes in the women over the course of time, notably:

- Her degree of autonomy, which is to say the reduction of her financial dependence on her husband; in other words, her capacity to take care of herself, via her savings in micro finance establishments, her business numbers and revenue earned, her contribution to the household load;
- Her membership in tontines and mutual assistance associations;
- Her capacity to come to the help of other family members when they are in need;
- Her participation in training and information seminars and in regional, national and international fairs, which means spending some days outside the household and the framework of everyday work.

The main challenge remains that of local ownership of the concept and its operationalization in interventions in the food markets. The local CSOs could be important relays for working with the communities and for producing the most important criteria and indicators for the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the food markets.

CONCLUSION

The case study on “gender and markets and value chain analysis in the North and Far-North regions of Cameroon,” had for its goal reinforcing the links between gender analysis and market assessments, in order to help the WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations in the conception and implementation of interventions based on markets and integrating objectives linked to gender equality.

The case study of Cameroon confirms the main results of the regional survey, notably that the production and commercialization of subsistence crops calls for a large diversity of actors, women and men playing specific roles all along the markets and value chains. The wholesalers are generally men, while women are very often retailers.

Gendered roles exist and change depending on the commodity. The owners of rental shops in the markets are always men. Sorting is always handled by women, often with young children. Women have been in the market for just as long as the men. Their socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics put them in vulnerable groups, exposed to poverty and precariousness.

Many of the challenges that confront the economic operators of the food markets are common to men and to women, such as needs for capital to expand business (rolling funds); needs of equipment and logistics (instruments for weighing, means of transport, storage rooms, equipment for preservation – notably for fish, fruits and vegetables); interference and harassment from local authorities; the absence of hangers and equipped trading posts in the markets, which translates into exposure of goods and persons to the elements. Access to credit also seems difficult for both men and women.

Women are confronted with other specific problems, of which the main ones are:

- Maternity management (leading almost always to the suspension of trade);
- Keeping children in the market;
- Few comfortable toilets and places of ease for women;
- Timetable and reconciliation of domestic and commercial activities.

The case study identifies good practices and limits in gender terms of WFP interventions in the markets and value chains of Cameroon. It also determines the paths for following up on the dynamic of institutional integration of taking gender into account via the reinforcement of the gender capacities of actors in general, and specifically, gender focal points, together with the clarification of this important post by the implementation of a bill of specifications and a system of assessment of the performances of these focal points. The approach and tools of measuring and moderating women's empowerment in the food markets are still new and need to be consolidated and owned by the actors.

Finally, the study made the following main recommendations:

- **The implementation of a programme to holistically take into account the question of women's empowerment in the food markets, with specific components** on: literacy, the construction of gender sensitive infrastructure, communication for the change in behavior, reinforcement of entrepreneurial capacities of women, the reinforcement of cooperatives of women, the financing of economic activities, food security and nutritional education, etc.
- Integration into current WFP programs a component on the accompaniment of market operators and the structuring of actors in the value chains, with, among others, the aim of **identifying and contracting with women wholesalers of modest scale to consolidate their position in the industry, or with women's cooperatives, notably in the domains that are till now reserved for men**, in order to shake things up and create a lever effect for the emergence of a generation of female economic operators in the industry.

- **The consolidation of acquisitions in terms of taking gender into account in all WFP initiatives in the markets and value chains**, notably for the implementation of dedicated internal mechanisms and training in gender and women's empowerment for the staff of WFP and its partners, **including the production and dissemination of a guide on the measuring and monitoring of women's empowerment in the markets and value chains.**
- **The mobilization of structures and centers of research in universities and statistical institutes and local CSOs** in order to develop and put in place a system of monitoring, to produce tools and train the actors to continue and deepen the measuring of women's empowerment in the markets and value chains.

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ANNEXES

Annex I – Survey questionnaire

GENDER AND FOOD MARKET ASSESSMENT

The information collected from this study is strictly confidential under law N°91/023 of 16 December 1991 relative to census et statistical surveys which stipulates in article 5 that: “Individual information of the economic or financial order that appear on a survey questionnaire cannot, in any case, be used for control or economic repression.”



Section 0 – Preliminary information

S0Q01a Questionnaire Number |__|__|__|

S0Q01b Name of interviewer

S0Q01c Date of collection |__|__|/|__|__|/2016

S0Q01d Interviewer code

S0Q01e Interviewer telephone number |6

|__|__|__|__|__|__|

S0Q02a Region _____ __ __	S0Q02c Name of town or village: __ 1. Maroua 2. Mokolo 3. Garoua
S0Q02b Department _____ __ __	S0Q02d Name of market (if different from S0Q02c) _____
S0Q03 Telephone number of economic operator	6 __ __ __ __ __ __
To read for the presentation of interviewer and the survey, and to ask for consent	
<p>My name is I am the interviewer for the World Food Programme study on gender and markets. The goal of this study is to reinforce the links between gender analysis and the assessments of markets, in order to help the WFP, its partners and other humanitarian organizations in the conception and implementation of interventions in the markets and to integrate objectives linked to gender equality. More specifically, this interview aims to identify the factors of exclusion of women in the markets, on the one hand, and the insufficiencies in the measuring and monitoring of women’s empowerment by the Government and partners, on the other hand. I would like to ask you some questions relative to these topics. Our interview will last about thirty minutes.</p> <p>Can we start? YES __ NO __ </p>	

SECTION 1 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OPERATOR

S1Q01	Sex of the operator 1=Male 2=Female <input type="checkbox"/>	S1Q02	Age of the operator <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q03	What is the highest level of studies? 1 = None 2 = Primary 3 = Secondary 1 st cycle 4 = Secondary 2 nd cycle 5 = University 6 = Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		
S1Q04	Marital status of the economic operator 1. Single 2. Married 3. In free union <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Divorced/separated 5. Widower/widow		
S1Q05	Matrimonial regime of the economic operator 1. Monogamy 2. Polygamy <input type="checkbox"/>		
S1Q06	Size of household of the economic operator <input type="checkbox"/>		
S1Q07	Socio-economic profile of spouse Salaried public Salaried private formal Salaried in the informal Promoter of non-agricultural economic activities	Promoter of agricultural activities Independent or professional Unemployed Retired Other inactive	<input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q08	How long have you been in trading? <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Less than a year 2. Between 1 and 3 years 3. Between 4 and 6 years 4. Between 7 and 9 years 5. 10 years or more		
S1Q09	Since when have you been in your current activity? <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Less than a year 2. Between 1 and 3 years 3. Between 4 and 6 years 4. Between 7 and 9 years 5. 10 years or more		
S1Q10	What is your section of activities? 1 = Retailer 2 = Wholesaler 3 = Collector 4 = Processor 5 = Conditioner 6 = Transporter 7 = Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		

S1Q11	What is the section into which you would like to evolve in the course of the next years? 1 = Retailer 2 = Wholesaler 3 = Collector 4 = Processor 5 = Conditioner 6 = Transporter 7 = Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		
S1Q12	What difficulties prevent you from getting into this section of activities? 1= _____ 2 = _____		
S1Q13	What products do you sell? <i>[write down the 3 most sold products]</i> Millet Sorghum Maize Imported rice Local rice Groundnuts Beans Ruminants Vegetables	Tubers Roots Prepared foods Fish Meat Fruits Other	1 st most sold product <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd most sold product <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd most sold product <input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q14	Who influenced or determined the choice of activity you practice? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Yourself 2 = Partner/spouse 3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household 5 = Other _____		
S1Q15	From what source do you generally get supplied for your main product? 1= Local field 2 = Neighboring village field 3= Local market 4 = Neighboring village market 5 = Neighboring country 6 = Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		
S1Q16	What is the main destination of your products? 1= Local market 2= National neighboring markets 3 = Neighboring countries 4 = Other markets out of the continent _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		
SECTION 2 – CONSTRAINTS AND CAPACITY OF RESPONSE			

S2Q01	<p>What difficulties do you face in the practice of your trade?</p> <p><i>Interference from family members</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of own capital</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of credit/credit too expensive</i></p> <p><i>Bad or variable quality of product (offer)</i></p> <p><i>Insufficient or irregular quantity of product (offer)</i></p> <p><i>Insufficiency of means of transport</i></p> <p><i>Bad state of roads, cost of transport too high.</i></p> <p><i>Too much insecurity</i></p> <p><i>Lack of storage structure</i></p> <p><i>Too low margins (sale price too low, cost price too high)</i></p>	<p><i>Low client power of purchasing (quantities bought too low)</i></p> <p><i>Lack of debt reimbursement from clients</i></p> <p><i>Severe competition</i></p> <p><i>Fees or taxes are too high</i></p> <p><i>Too much food assistance</i></p> <p><i>Rate of change</i></p> <p><i>Too many social loads</i></p> <p><i>Exodus or transhumance of household</i></p> <p><i>Land problem</i></p> <p><i>Other _____</i></p> <p>Difficulty N°1 <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Difficulty N°2 <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Difficulty N°3 <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S2Q02	<p>To be able to face difficulties, your partner/spouse helps you:</p> <p>materially YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> financially YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> morally YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>no help YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> another form of help YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	

S2Q03	<p>What difficulties do you face that a person of the opposite sex would not in your situation?</p> <p>1 = _____ 2= _____</p>
S2Q04	<p>What facilities do you have that a person of the opposite sex would not in your situation?</p> <p>1 = _____ 2= _____</p>

S2Q05	During what period of the year do you generally suffer ruptures in stock?	January	<input type="checkbox"/>	July	<input type="checkbox"/>
		February	<input type="checkbox"/>	August	<input type="checkbox"/>
		March	<input type="checkbox"/>	September	<input type="checkbox"/>
		April	<input type="checkbox"/>	October	<input type="checkbox"/>
		May	<input type="checkbox"/>	November	<input type="checkbox"/>
		June	<input type="checkbox"/>	December	<input type="checkbox"/>
		S2Q06	What is the main cause of the ruptures?	_____	

SECTION 3 –TIME TABLE/DOMESTIC AND ASSOCIATIVE TASKS

S3Q01	How many hours on average/day do you devote to your professional activity? _ _ hours	
S3Q02	Main professional activities (the 4 which take the most time)	
	1 _____ 2 _____	3 _____ 4 _____
S3Q03	How many hours on average/day do you devote to your household? _ _ hours	
S3Q04	Main domestic activities (the 4 which take the most time)	
	1 _____ 2 _____	3 _____ 4 _____
S3Q05	Who does the cooking in your household? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	1 = Yourself 2 = Partner/spouse 3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household 5 = an employee of the house 5 = Other _____	
S3Q06	Who does the buying of foodstuff for the house? <input type="checkbox"/>	
	1 = Yourself 2 = Partner/spouse 3 = You and your partner 4 = A member of the household 5 = an employee of the house 5 = Other _____	
S3Q07	What are the main causes of disruptions in work for you in your trade? 1= _____ 2= _____ 3 = _____	

S3Q08	How many births have you had within your household in the last three years? <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q09	How many days of no work on average did a birth cause in your trade? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q10	How many days of no work did you have in your trade in 2015 due to illness? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q11	Does your spouse/partner replace you in your business when you stop work? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q12	Are you a member of tontine or mutual assistance and solidarity association in the market or in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q13	Are you a member of tontine or mutual assistance and solidarity association outside of your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q14	Are you a member of office or committee of directors of a tontine or mutual assistance and solidarity association in the market or in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q15	Are you a member of office or committee of directors of an organization or managing body of your trade or the market? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S3Q16	Are you a member of office or committee of directors of an organization, tontine, or mutual assistance/solidarity association outside of your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>

	SECTION 4: EMPLOYEES AND AIDES/PERCEPTION OF ROLES
S4Q01	How many aides and/or employees did you have in your trade in 2015? S2Q03a Male S2Q03b Female S2Q03c Total <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S4Q02	The female aides/employees, did they generally have a specific role in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
S4Q03	If Yes, what were the tasks they were generally assigned? How much did they earn per month in CFAF 1. _____ mean monthly salary: _____ 2. _____ mean monthly salary: _____
S4Q04	The male aides/employees, did they generally have a specific role in your trade? 1. Yes 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>

S4Q05	If Yes, what were the tasks they were generally assigned? How much did they earn per month in CFAF
	1. _____ mean monthly salary: _____ 2. _____ mean monthly salary: _____

SECTION 5 : PARTICIPATION IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING

S5Q01	Who decides most of the time if you should take a loan to finance your commercial activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Yourself 2. Partner/Spouse 3. You and your partner/spouse together 4. Another member of the household 5. You and another member of the household 6. Partner/Spouse and (an)other member(s) of the household 7. Someone (or group of persons) outside the household 8. Other
S5Q02	Who decides most of the time on the amount of revenue from your trade that is devoted to household food?	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAME as above

S5Q03	Who generally decides on the choice of plots to cultivate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAME
S5Q04	Who generally decides on the choice of commodities to cultivate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q05	Who generally decides on the quantity to stock and destock?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q06	Who generally decides on the moment of stocking and destocking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q07	Who keeps the keys of the shop?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q08	Who fixes the sale prices of products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	

S5Q09	Who decides on the places for sales?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q10	Who decides on the moment for sales?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q11	Who decides on what is done with the receipts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q12	Who decides on the source of supplies for the most part?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S5Q13	Who decides on the opportune moment for a new birth in the household?	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 6 –ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES

S6Q01	What is your main source of financing? 1=Own funds 2=MFE/Bank 3=Tontines 4 = supplier/client 7= family/friends 8=Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q02	Do you have a bank account? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q03	If yes, name of financial establishment _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q04	At least once in life, have you had recourse to credit from a financial establishment? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q05	What difficulties do you have in obtaining credit that a person of the opposite sex would not have in your situation? 1 = _____ 2= _____	
S6Q06	What facilities do you have in obtaining credit that a person of the opposite sex would not have in your situation? 1 = _____ 2= _____	
S6Q07	At least once in life, have you had recourse to technical assistance, advisory support, or help from a partner in your trade? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q08	At least once in life, have you had recourse to technical or professional training in relation to your trade? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q09	Do you have a title deed in your name? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q10	Do you own land you can exploit without conflict? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q11	Do you have access to land which does not belong to you, but which you can exploit? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>
S6Q12	Do you have goods you could give as guarantees to obtain credit? 1=Yes 2=No	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 7 –SECURITY ON THE TRADE ROUTES/MARKETS

<p>S7Q01. Are aggressions or physical abuse on the roads of food markets frequent? 1=Yes 2=No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>S7Q02. Have you already suffered aggression on the market roads? 1 = Yes 2 = No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 8 NATURE AND SIZE OF ACTIVITY

<p>S8Q01. Description of the activity:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>S8Q02. Size of the activity:</p> <p>Give two indications to describe the size (area cultivated, tonnage of harvested products, number of trucks owned,...)</p>	<p>1 - _____</p> <p>2 - _____</p>

FINAL INFORMATION

<p>S9Q05 Observations of interviewer</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Thank you for your collaboration !

Annex II – Calendar of field data collection

Date /period	Activities to achieve
Tuesday, 26 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trip from Yaoundé to Maroua ▪ Work session in the WFP sub-office of Maroua ▪ Contact regional heads ▪ Preparation of trip to Mokolo
Wednesday, 27 (Mokolo market day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trip from Maroua to Mokolo ▪ Work session with departmental heads, administrative and decentralized services of Mokolo ▪ Individual interviews with the manager of market of Mokolo ▪ Individual interviews of actors in the markets/value chains (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo
Thursday, 28 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up of individual interviews of actors in the markets/value chains (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo ▪ Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) of Mokolo ▪ Focus group with civil society NGOs
Friday, 29 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trip from Mokolo to Maroua ▪ Work session with regional, departmental and communal heads and administrative and decentralized services in Maroua (MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINPROFF, MINPMEESA, MINEPAT, DEL GOV)
Saturday, 30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing of enumerators and interpreters of Maroua. Individual interviews with the manager of Maroua market ▪ Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Maroua
Monday, 2 May (Maroua market day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual interviews of actors within the markets/value chains (producer, transporter, processor, wholesaler, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Mokolo
Tuesday, 3 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up of group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Maroua ▪ Work session with civil society ONGs at the regional level Maroua – Debriefing with the WFP sub-office ▪ Trip Maroua - Garoua

Wednesday, 4 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work session in the WFP sub-office ▪ Work session with regional, departmental and communal heads and administrative and decentralized services in Garoua (MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINPROFF, MINPMEESA, MINEPAT, DEL GOV) ▪ Briefing of enumerators and interpreters of Garoua. ▪ Focus group with civil society ONGs at the regional level
Thursday, 5 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual interviews of actors within the markets/value chains (producer, transporter, processors, wholesalers, semi-wholesalers, retailers, consumers) Garoua ▪ Group discussions with leaders of associations of operators (producers, traders, etc.) Garoua
Friday, 6 May	Return to Yaoundé

Annex III – List of Persons Consulted

	LAST NAME AND FIRST NAME	STRUCTURE/PROFESSION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	CITY
1.	ADAMA MOUSSA	UN Women			YAOUNDE
2.	ADAMOU Appolinaire	WFP-CO			YAOUNDE
3.	AMOUGOU Bertrand	NIS			YAOUNDE
4.	ATANGANA Elisabeth	PROPAC			YAOUNDE
5.	ATEBA Emmanuel	MINPROFF			YAOUNDE
6.	BAILAOU Philemon	Representative DR/MINPROFF/North	699479117		GAROUA
7.	BEAT NSONGUE Paulette	UN Women			YAOUNDE
8.	BEBKIKI Abraham	KEITEKOUKA	699988543		GAROUA
9.	BILOA MBALLA	ASBY	679811391		YAOUNDE
10.	BISSAKONOU Judes	BAD			YAOUNDE
11.	BIYONG BIYONG Jean Pièrre	FAO	699145029	jean.biyongbiyong@fao.org	MAROUA
12.	BOUBAKARY Bello	WFP	699560791	bello.boubakary@wfp.org	GAROUA
13.	CHACVOURNE Céline	Bayam Sellam	694 138 580		GAROUA
14.	DAILING Rosalie	Agricultural technician	696196332		MAROUA
15.	DAIROU Yaya	Agricultural technician	697726138		MAROUA
16.	DEMAGAI Damaris	Civil society	677281852		MOKOLO
17.	DJILIE Francis	WFP-CO			YAOUNDE
18.	DJUIDJE Suzanne	Civil society	678151778/691 565132	franckylaroche@yahoo.fr	MAROUA
19.	DONGMO Ghislaine	WFP	699202033	ghislaine.dogmo@wfp.org	GAROUA
20.	FADIMATOU	Bayam Sellam	655158539		GAROUA
21.	FOKA née DOUDOU Elisabeth	Chief of agricultural post of Ngong	697083292 /679173873		GAROUA
22.	HAMADOU Paul	WFP	699800313	hamadou.paul@wfp.org	GAROUA

23.	HAMIDOU Falama	MINADER/Benoué	699998119		GAROUA
24.	HAROUNA	Regional Delegation of the Far-North MINPROFF			MAROUA
25.	IBRAHIMA HAMADOU AMINOU	WFP-CO			YAOUNDE
26.	IBRAHIMA Gomis	WFP	696943252	ibrahimagomi@yahoo.fr	MAROUA
27.	IBRAHIMA GONI	WFP			MAROUA
28.	KABUGI Emery	WFP	699800006	emery.kabugi@wff.org	MAROUA
29.	KATIALA Justin	Advisor GIC NAROUBE	661114044		GAROUA
30.	LAKREO Djaotouang	Farmer			MAROUA
31.	MAHAMADOU Illa	WFP-CO			YAOUNDE
32.	MANGYANG TAOUKISSAM Jacques	Civil society	679628632/696 683974	taojackweben@yahoo.fr	MAROUA
33.	MEDEPE Alphonse	Farmer	694791993		GAROUA
34.	MIAN DIANGONE	UN Women			YAOUNDE
35.	MOHAMAT Souwa	Farmer	690285397		MAROUA
36.	MOMEGNI GAKAM Martine Epiphanie	Civil society	670578635/693 429023	martinemomegni@yahoo.fr	MAROUA
37.	MOUCHOUMA Messeri	Trader	694398044		MAROUA
38.	NETOUTI Rahab	Sellers Association of fresh fish	690635973		GAROUA
39.	NGOK Alain Emmanuel	Chief of Cabinet of Government delegation from CUM			MAROUA
40.	NGORO	UN Women			YAOUNDE
41.	NYAGO DINGBA Justin	PNSA	694927033	jnyagod@gmail.com	MAROUA
42.	ONGOLA	MINPROFF			YAOUNDE
43.	OUMAROU	Centre d'Appui à l'Auto Promotion Pour le Développement Durable			MOKOLO
44.	OUMAROU Ousmanou	MINADER	696055035		MAROUA
45.	PRUSCINI Elvira	WFP-CO	690100570		YAOUNDE

46.	RAMATOU Nora Eps ALIA Toussou	Seller of flour, maize and cassava	695098385/671 941044		GAROUA
47.	SADJO	MINADER	678149694		MOKOLO
48.	SAIDOU Pierre	Trader	694784051		MAROUA
49.	TAICHO Juliène	Agricultural technician	694645439		MAROUA
50.	TCHADIEU TCHAPYA Guilaine	Plan-International	696757522	gtchadieu@gmail.com	MAROUA
51.	TCHATCHOUANG NANFANG Yannick Franck	Civil society	694217453	nanfangyannick@yahoo.fr	MAROUA
52.	TCHILENA Yanoussa	Agricultural technician	699646137		MAROUA
53.	WADJONRE Jacques Desire	GIC DEMRI	674111870/ 655108927		GAROUA
54.	YAHANI ADA	Trader	696289988		MAROUA
55.	ZAINA Madelaine	GIC DEMRI	690534213		GAROUA
56.	ZOUA Jeannette	Social Center/Social Assistant	698878157		GAROUA