Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

Workshop on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
Manila, 12-14 December 2017
Respondent rules for data collection
Proxy vs. self-report

- **Proxy reporting** = selected respondent (head of HH or most knowledgeable on topic) provides info for assets owned by HH members

- **Self reporting** = selected respondent(s) provides info on assets he/she owns
  - Capture people’s self-perception of what they own rather than what somebody else (the proxy) believes they own.
No “gold standard” to assess accuracy of proxy vs self-reported information, but proxy reporting may be problematic due to:

- Incomplete pooling of information within household
- Disagreement among household members about who owns a given asset
- Prevailing gender norms that may bias proxy responses
Available research on other topics shows that:

- Tanzania = significant underreporting on male LFP when proxy is used;
- Malawi = women’s earnings significantly (45% lower on average) underestimated in 66% of HHs sampled;

=> EDGE-MEXA experiment in Uganda plus results from other pilots;
## Proxy vs self-report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sex of respondent owner</th>
<th>Percentage point increase, reported ownership of principal dwelling</th>
<th>Percentage point increase, reported ownership of agricultural land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (Cavite Province)</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unpacking household reporting dynamics

• Non-negligible share of individuals across pilots who do NOT consider themselves owners are identified as owners by proxy respondents

• Problematic from a gender perspective
Key recommendation

✓ NSOs are encouraged to collect *self-reported*, not proxy reported, data on individual-level asset ownership

- Rationale:
  ✓ Sizeable discrepancies in prevalence estimates of both women’s and men’s ownership of key assets, including dwellings, agricultural land and financial assets
  ✓ Assignment of ownership, by proxy, to people who do not consider themselves owners
Thank you

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