

Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership and Entrepreneurship from a Gender Perspective

Lauren Pandolfelli
UNSD



United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women



Sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics
Helsinki, 24 October 2016

- Overview of EDGE initiative, incl. policy relevance
- Objectives of pilot studies
- Select findings
- Next steps

Overview of EDGE initiative

Objective:

- Develop methodological guidelines on measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective
 - Pilot proposed methodologies in select countries
 - Refine guidelines based on analyses of pilot data
 - Present guidelines to UN Statistical Commission

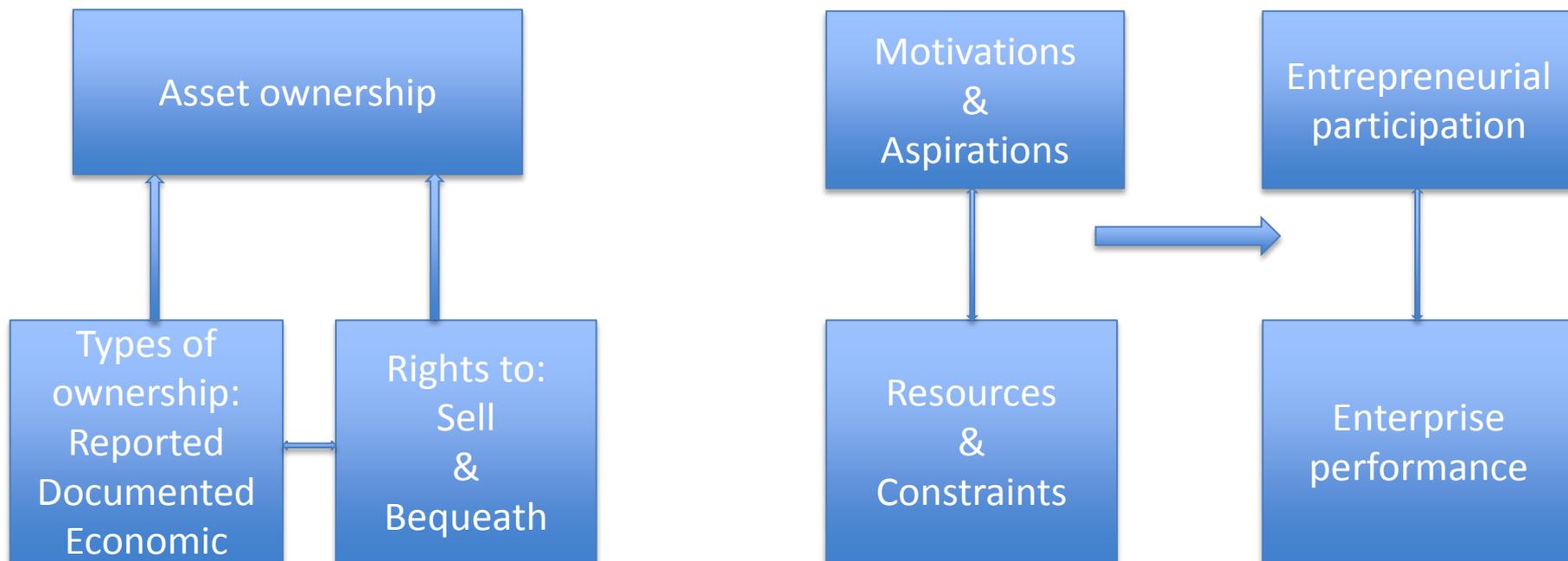
Policy relevance of EDGE mandate

- Individual-level data on asset ownership provide policy insights into:
 - Women’s empowerment, children’s well-being, and livelihood strategies
- Gender and entrepreneurship data provide policy insights into:
 - The determinants of women’s (men’s) entrepreneurship and the characteristics and performance of women’s (men’s) enterprises
 - How to foster entrepreneurship

Objectives of pilot studies

Objectives of EDGE pilots

1. Assess questionnaire design, incl. operationalization of key concepts



Objectives of EDGE pilots (2)

Assess questionnaire design (cont'd.)

- **Module appended to existing household survey**
 - Collects data on core set of assets (dwelling, agricultural land, non-farm enterprise assets, other real estate, financial assets)
 - Piloted by Maldives and Mexico
- **Stand-alone household survey**
 - Core assets + livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables, valuables, full entrepreneurship module
 - Piloted by Georgia, Mongolia, Philippines, and South Africa
 - In Uganda (under MEXA) we also tested different question phrasing

Objectives of EDGE pilots (3)

2. Identify most robust and implementable respondent selection interview protocols

- Up to 4 adult household members, proxy (Uganda/MEXA)
- Members of principal couple + a randomly selected 3rd member, proxy (Georgia, Mongolia, Philippines)
- Members of principal couple, proxy (Mexico)
- 1 randomly selected adult household member + spouse/partner, self-reporting only (South Africa)
- 1 randomly selected adult household member, self-reporting only (Maldives)

Interviewed separately and simultaneously, if applicable, by enumerator of same sex

Objectives of EDGE pilots (4)

3. Assess construction of key indicators

- EDGE guidelines to recommend core set of indicators for global and national monitoring
- Country tabulations of pilot data to contribute to the construction of indicators that:
 - ✓ best capture policy-relevant gender differences in asset ownership/control and entrepreneurship
 - ✓ facilitate cross-country comparability while retaining relevance to local country context
- Link to SDG Indicator 5.a.1: proportion of agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land

Select findings

Financial assets module asks about ownership and value of: commercial savings accounts, informal savings programs, microfinance accounts, equity, bonds, pension funds, and whole life insurance

- ✓ Categories not well understood by enumerators or respondents, despite focused training
- ✓ Few financial assets reported, suggesting confusion, low incidence and/or uncomfortableness disclosing
- ✓ Missing values on valuation of financial assets > 50%

Implications for redesign of module and appropriate host survey

Respondent Selection

- ✓ Standard practice of interviewing household head/most knowledgeable member likely to underestimate women's exclusive asset ownership while overestimating men's
- ✓ When multiple household members report on ownership status of all members, discrepancies are high and not easily reconciled
 - Respondents were identified as owners by others but did not consider themselves to be owners
- Because we expect behaviors related to ownership to be based on people's self-perceptions of ownership, EDGE recommends collecting self-reported data, only

Indicator ownership constructs

- Overlap between ownership and rights to assets exhibits clear gender differences
 - In Uganda, share of male owners w/ rights to sell and bequeath > share of female owners w/ these right across all forms of ownership/all assets
 - 78% of male exclusive **reported** dwelling owners also report the right to sell the dwelling vs 41% of female exclusive **reported** dwelling owners
 - Strongest overlap for **documented** ownership, but not 100%
 - Findings are being validated across EDGE pilots

Next Steps

- Continued analysis of pilot data
- Revision of methodological guidelines
- Submission of guidelines to UN Statistical Commission in March 2017
- Technical assistance to NSOs to build statistical capacities for collecting the data

Thank you!

For additional information:

edgestat@un.org

<http://unstats.un.org/edge>