

**Women-Adapt: Enhancing climate change adaptive capacity of smallholder farmer communities in Poro region, focusing on vulnerable women and youth**



*Figure 1: Nakaha Women's Grouping, Poro Region, Côte d'Ivoire*

**GENDER ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLAN**

Annex 4

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## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural/MINADER in French), the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable/MINEDD in French), and the World Food Programme (WFP) have partnered to develop a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Funding Proposal (FP) on the basis of the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) called: ***“Women-Adapt: Enhancing the climate change adaptive capacity of smallholder farmer communities in Poro region focusing on vulnerable women and youth”***.

This gender analysis and action plan aims to address gender dynamics in relation to the scope of the project, namely the impacts of climate change and climate shocks on agriculture and rural livelihoods of women, men, girls and boys in the Poro Region. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate shocks and stresses on women and youth, the scope of the analysis and subsequent project focus is on the main barriers and risks associated with a changing climate faced by women and youth. The analysis also aims at investigating aspects of vulnerability, exposure and other differences in roles and responsibilities between men and women (but also according to age groups) in agriculture in a changing climate; the extent of power held by men and women regarding access to agricultural land and other food production assets. The obstacles, constraints and opportunities induced by climate change affecting the Poro region are also analyzed. This report includes the methodology used, details of the field work carried out including communities' consultations and key findings. The analysis is complemented by the gender action plan, whereby a list of key gender actions/activities, targets, indicators and resources are detailed for project design and gender mainstreaming throughout this project life cycle.

## 2. Context

From 2008 to 2020, Côte d'Ivoire reported a decline in poverty at the national level; from 48.9% to 39.4% in 2020<sup>1</sup>. According to the World Bank, compared to 2019, Côte d'Ivoire made a slight jump in the World Bank's Human Capital Index ranking (0.38) in 2020. Côte d'Ivoire's 2022<sup>2</sup> Human Development Index stands at 0.550, placing the country right on the cusp of the "low human development" category and ranking 159 among 191 countries and territories. In terms of vulnerability to climate change, the country is ranked 142 among 181 countries.<sup>3</sup>

The agriculture sector is a major contributor to the national economy, representing 20.67 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2019<sup>4</sup>. The Ivorian GDP grew at an average rate of 9.5% between 2012

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1. [Côte d'Ivoire: présentation/ www.banquemondiale.org](https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/cote-divoire)

2. <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI>

3. ND GAIN INDEX

4. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/452068/share-of-economic-sectors-in-the-gdp-in-ivory-coast/>

and 2015 while the agriculture sector contributed 1.7% to GDP growth. This contribution is a significant improvement over 2010, when the agricultural sector contributed 0.9% to GDP growth<sup>5</sup>.

## 2.1 Country Gender Profile

In 2019, the population of Côte d'Ivoire was estimated at 25,716,544 with 12,974,201 (50.45%) men and 12,742,343 women (49.55%). Côte d'Ivoire ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> in the global gender gap index for year 2020<sup>6</sup>.

By ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995, Côte d'Ivoire committed itself to protecting women from sexual and other forms of Gender Based violence (GBV). This commitment resulted in the development of a gender policy that aims to establish a conducive national environment for gender mainstreaming in all sectors of public and private life, including reducing gender disparities in development (education, health, agriculture, manufacture...) and in terms of access to and control over resources (water, land, etc.). These objectives are achieved through the implementation of strategies such as capacity building sessions, awareness raising and advocacy, and resource mobilization.

The first gender policy document dates from 2009, currently a consultative updating process is underway, version 1 is available online<sup>7</sup>. In addition to this gender framework document, several measures have been taken:

- Decree 2007-569 of 10 August 2007, on the organization of the Ministry of the Family, Women and Social Affairs, created the National Council for Women
- adoption of Law No. 2013-33 of 25 January 2013 on marriage, which enshrines the principle of joint management of the household by the spouses and the abandonment of the concept of head of the family management of the household by the spouses and the abandonment of the notion of head of family
- creation of a National Observatory for Equity and Gender (ONEG) by decree N°2014-842, of 17 December 2014
- establishment in 2014 of a national strategy to combat gender-based violence
- Adoption of Law n°2015-635 of 17 September 2015, amending Law n°95-696 of 7 September 1995 relating to education, indicates the compulsory schooling of all children, girls and boys, from 6 to 16 years old. Inscribed in the new constitution of 08 November 2016, this law and the respect of commitments resulting from international commitments under international agreements are helping to significantly strengthen the fight against gender inequality in the school environment
- Adoption, in November 2016, of a new Constitution that ensures the protection of women against all forms of violence, strengthens their political rights and promotes parity in access to responsibilities in public and private administrations
- The Council of Ministers of 6 March 2019 adopted a draft law on the representativeness of women in elected assemblies. This bill imposes a minimum quota of 30% of women out of the total number of candidates presented for all elections with the objective of achieving parity.

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5. MINADER, Revue des dépenses publiques agricoles sommaire, Provisional Report, 2017

<sup>6</sup> [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://etatsgenerauxci.s3.eu-west-3.amazonaws.com/files/docs/8V50aUSIT1PvHJWu3ohRC90ea1ozmbtrmmnYyuyB.pdf>

- Côte d'Ivoire has 14 gender units in the technical ministries (implemented from 2008).

The Ivorian government has ratified most international and regional conventions promoting gender equality, including the 1995 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and adhered to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It has also ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (CEDAW). Rights in Africa (Maputo Protocol), as well as the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Côte d'Ivoire has also subscribed to the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the New Agenda for development agenda for 2030 (SDGs), in which gender equality plays an important role<sup>8</sup>.

However, although there is a legal and institutional framework that promotes equitable access to basic social services and resources, there are social norms that restrict such access. Ways of accessing and using resources vary from region to region. For instance, the acquisition of land ownership in Senufo societies (located in Poro region) is not an individual right, but rather a group, lineage or community-owned right. This right is closely linked to the function of the rural-farmer leader, usually a man, who embodies land authority. Land law is regulated by Law No. 2019-868 of 4 October 2019 amending Law No. 98-750 on rural land tenure and in 2016 the government set up the Rural Land Agency in charge of land management throughout the country. In general, the acquisition of this property right is based on two legal principles. These include the principle of the first occupant of the land and the principle of land transfer by a land-gift arrangement or by result of conquests between village chiefdoms. The effects of these land rights are evident, as throughout all of Cote d'Ivoire only 8% of women hold a land title compared to 22% of men.<sup>9</sup> Women's lack of access to land also restricts their ability to access credit, thus showcasing how access to land impacts women's access to other forms of productive assets and resultingly their ability to achieve economic empowerment and food security.

### **Food security and livelihoods' vulnerability**

Food insecurity affects a larger number of female-headed and rural households (14.3%)<sup>10</sup>, especially in the north, northeast, and west, where productivity and production are constrained by climatic shocks, unsustainable agricultural practices, environmental degradation, and high post-harvest losses (up to 40%). Access to food is constrained by limited infrastructure, poor market facilities and low dietary diversity<sup>11</sup>.

### **Health**

Regarding health, life expectancy at birth is 56 years for men and 57 years for women. The infant mortality rate is 69.7 per 1,000 newborns, the under-five mortality rate is 108.7 per 1,000 and the maternal mortality rate is 400 per 100,000. The total fertility rate is 4.3 children per woman and only 21 percent of

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<sup>8</sup> <https://cotedivoire.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Rapport%20Egalite%20Hommes-Femmes%20en%20C%3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire%20Mars%202019.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [UK AID, Women's Economic Empowerment in Cote d'Ivoire, 2020.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Cote d'Ivoire - Global Hunger Index 2020](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Cote d'Ivoire - Global Hunger Index 2020](#)

women use contraception. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the population aged between 15 and 49 is estimated at 3.7 percent. The prevalence is 4.6% among women and 2.7% among men<sup>12</sup> .

### **Unemployment rate**

Regarding unemployment in Côte d'Ivoire, statistics from February 2015 report that individuals who were unemployed represented 6.9% of the workforce, or about 554,008 unemployed people. The unemployment rate is higher in Abidjan (13.4%) and in other urban areas (7.7%), and among women (10.0%) and young people (12.8% for those aged 14-24 and 8.0% for those aged 25-35. Although the unemployment rate is higher among secondary school and higher education graduates (12.2% and 17.1%, respectively), 49.3% of the overall unemployed population are poorly educated and have no more than primary education, whereas 13.8% of the unemployed have received higher education. Most unemployed people are found in Abidjan (46.4%) with women representing 57.8% of the unemployed<sup>13</sup>. International Labor Organization (ILOSTAT, 2021) mention unemployment rate as male 2,99 and female 4,14.

### **Access to education**

The adult literacy rate is 40.5% for women and 53.66% for men (2018)<sup>14</sup> . Nearly one out of two women (51%) and slightly more than one out of three men (36%) have never been to school. Whatever the level of education, men are better educated than women: 33% of men have at least full primary education compared to 21% of women. On the other hand, the proportions are much lower at the secondary level: 8% of men have at least completed secondary school compared to barely 3% of women<sup>15</sup>. For higher education, in 2009-2010, 61% were men compared to 39% women, and in 2011-2012, 71% were men compared to 29% women.

### **Gender-based violence (GBV)**

Violence against women remains common and alarming in Côte d'Ivoire. Sexual and physical violence escalated with the socio-political crisis of 2011. In 2011, sexual and physical violence reached a peak of 12,493 incidents, compared to 478 incidents recorded between 2007 and 2010. Furthermore, 36% of women aged 15 to 49 are also victims of female genital mutilation. With respect to sexual violence against women, the Poro region is one of the regions with a high rate of violence (26%) after the Mountains region (41%), according to the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).<sup>16</sup>. To curb the magnitude of the phenomenon, a national strategy to fight against GBV was developed in early 2014 and officially launched on September 05, 2014, to promote a holistic and multisectoral harmonized approach to the issue of GBV at both the national and regional levels.

### **Youth and Development**

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<sup>12</sup> . National Institute of Statistics, Multiple Indicator Demographic and Health Survey (EDSIM), 2012

<sup>13</sup> Household Living Standards Survey, Cote d'Ivoire, National Institute of Statistics, 2015

<sup>14</sup> <https://fr.countryeconomy.com/demographie/taux-alphabetisation/cote-d-ivoire>

<sup>15</sup> Agence d'étude et de promotion de l'emploi, enquête sur l'emploi 2012

<sup>16</sup> Gender Country Profile, Cote d'Ivoire, African Development Bank, 2015

More than 20% of the population is between 10 and 19 years old, 2.6 million are between 15 and 19 years old (UNICEF, 2021) and 42% of the population is under 15 years old.<sup>17</sup> More than a third of 15-29 year-olds (35.7%) are neither in school, nor in employment, nor in training, including 36.2% of girls, 33.1% of boys, 44.6% of rural youth and 18% of urban youth. The 2016 National Employment Survey reports that the participation of young people (aged 14-24) in the labour force is low with an inactivity rate of 66.6% (compared to 48.1% for the overall population)<sup>18</sup>. The youth unemployment rate is 3.9%, while the over-60s unemployment rate is 1%.<sup>19</sup>

## 2.2 Gender equality, youth and climate change

The Poro region has been suffering from the effects of climate change since the 1980s. The impact of climate change is characterized by an increase of temperatures and by interannual rainfall variability.

The climatic analysis of the four previous decades in the Poro region showed an increase of temperatures. The average temperature has increased by 0.6°C. The forecasts further predict a temperature increase between 1.5° a 2°C for the period 2040-2080, compared to the reference period 1986-2005.

On the other hand, the effects of climate change are reflected in a decrease in rainfall and interannual variability. The fact is that the rain falling during the rainy season (June-August) has not been regular since the 1980s. In Côte d'Ivoire, the average annual rainfall decreases from south to north, hitting 1800 mm in upper Abidjan in the south and dropping to 1050 mm in the northeast. While rainfall in the country is likely to vary, the general trend is a reduction in total annual rainfall. Between 1940 and 2010, rainfall decreased by 28.9% in Abidjan and by 7.7% in Korhogo<sup>20</sup>. The recorded and observed increase in the incidence and strength of droughts and dry periods due to historical increase in temperature or higher variability of rainfall is more pronounced in the northern and central areas, characterized by a deficit in water volume between 500 and 300 mm (central), or more than 500 mm (northern), due to higher evapotranspiration<sup>21</sup>.

The effects of climate change in the Poro region have different impacts on women and men, depending on their social status, their ability to participate in decision-making and, their access to resources. The most affected sectors by the effects of climate change are: water resources and agriculture<sup>22</sup>. Indeed, for women and girls, reduced access to resources such as water, land and agricultural inputs will either increase the unpaid workload to be performed or make these tasks more time-

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<sup>17</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/cotedivoire/media/3106/file/Les%20adolescent\(e\)s%20et%20les%20jeunes.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/cotedivoire/media/3106/file/Les%20adolescent(e)s%20et%20les%20jeunes.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> République de Côte d'Ivoire. Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi des jeunes. Enquête nationale sur la situation de l'emploi et le secteur informel (ENSESI,2016) : Rapport descriptif sur la situation de l'emploi, Tome 1, page 23. [https://www.agenceemploijeunes.ci/site/themes/themeforest/assets/files/RAPPORT\\_FINAL\\_ENSESI\\_2016.pdf](https://www.agenceemploijeunes.ci/site/themes/themeforest/assets/files/RAPPORT_FINAL_ENSESI_2016.pdf), consulté le 25 Juin 2019 à 8.15 am.

<sup>19</sup> Plan d'action genre 2022 : [https://www.mcacotedivoire.ci/uploads/MCA-CI%20DGIS%20GIS%20PLA%2001%2003\\_PAGIS.pdf](https://www.mcacotedivoire.ci/uploads/MCA-CI%20DGIS%20GIS%20PLA%2001%2003_PAGIS.pdf)

20 . Climate-Smart Agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire, FAO, 2018

21. Pre-feasibility study, Cote d'Ivoire and WFP GCF SAP, Funding proposal, October 2020

22. Country Gender Profile, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, African Development Bank, 2015

consuming, such as fetching water and firewood for the household. This decrease in resources also contributes to women's exposure to protection risks and GBV.

In the Poro region, women are the main users of natural resources. They are indeed the ones responsible for providing the family with water, wood, and activities related to subsistence farming, etc. The effects of climate change, especially the depletion of such resources, force them to travel longer distances to fetch water, especially in dry seasons. This leaves them exposed to protection risks, including GBV. Prolonged droughts and the inter-annual variability of rainfall complicate their task and increase their vulnerability. In 2002, in order to ensure the effective participation of women in environmental activities, the new law "relating to the creation, management and funding of protected areas"<sup>23</sup> and the regulatory texts developed by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Water and Forests were adopted. The Law provides for equitable access to land for both men and women<sup>24</sup> and contribute to increase gender-positive opportunities.

### 3. Methodology

The gender analysis was carried out by an independent consultant recruited by the WFP Country Office between March and June 2021. The development of this gender analysis is based on a literature review including national strategy documents, and reports by different sources such as non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations. In addition, the gender analysis is based on the results of a field mission conducted from March 1 to 12, 2021. Throughout this data collection mission, interviews and focus group discussions with key contact persons and stakeholders were the primary techniques used:

- Conducting interview and focus group discussion while preparing the project with key informants and resource persons during a mission to the Poro project implementation region (Korhogo). These persons included local representatives of MINADER, ANADER, SODEXAM and members of local and international NGOs,
- Conducting interviews with potential institutional project partners in Abidjan
- Consulting the communities of potential project target groups (women farmers' groupings, youth, etc.)

At the community level, local authorities and members of the decentralized administration (prefecture, Regional Directorate of Agriculture, etc.) were consulted through semi-structured interviews. Women members of NGOs and associations, members of associations, and local representatives of banks and micro-credit institutions were also consulted.

This gender analysis carried out in the Poro region has a double objective: On the one hand it aims to analyze the impacts of climate change to rural communities on men and women' living in the Poro region; on the other hand, to inform the design of the project and define appropriate response strategies to the risks and impacts of climate change by building the capacity of women and youth to respond through a

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<sup>23</sup> Loi n° 2002-102 du 11 février 2002, relative à la création, à la gestion et au financement des parcs nationaux et réserves naturelles

<sup>24</sup>. Law No. 2002-102 of February 11, 2002 to establish, manage and finance national parks and nature reserves

tailored-made and contextualized action plan. The obstacles, constraints and opportunities induced by climate change are also analyzed (Page 16).

The issues addressed in the gender analysis are aligned with the issues demanded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF)<sup>25</sup>, including the exposure and other differences in roles and responsibilities between men and women in agriculture in a changing climate, the aspects of vulnerability, the extent of power held by men and women regarding access to agricultural land and other food production assets disaggregated impacts and shocks of climate change on agriculture and rural livelihoods of targeted communities in Poro Region, outlining main barriers and risks of women and youth. Specifically, the main issues guiding the gender analysis are summarized in the table below:

**Table 2: Chart summarizing the key items/questions of the gender analysis**

About the context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the roles and responsibilities of women and youth in agriculture?</li> <li>- What are the effects of climate change on the agricultural activities of women and youth compared to men?</li> </ul>
About the resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the position of women and youth in terms of access to resources?</li> <li>- What are the existing local mechanisms for the distribution of resources and means of production?</li> <li>- Are women and youth part of these resource and means of production management mechanisms?</li> <li>- Is there any difference between men and women in terms of access to resources (land, financial resources, formal employment, inputs, tools, technologies, etc.)? If yes, which difference?</li> <li>- In general, what types of resources (natural, man-made) and means of production (technologies, land, inputs, products and services, etc.) do women have access to in the region?</li> </ul>
About decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent do women and youth participate in decision-making processes regarding the allocation of land and other means of production?</li> <li>- What factors limit the participation of women and youth in decision-making compared to men?</li> <li>- What challenges face women and youth in their participation in decision-making compared to men?</li> </ul> <p>Are there strategies to promote women's and youth participation in such decision-making and climate risk management? If so, what strategies?</p>
Needs and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the specific needs of women and youth regarding access to resources and means of production?</li> <li>- What are the impacts of climate change on women and youth compared to men?</li> <li>- How differently does climate change affect women and men in their agricultural position?</li> <li>- How can their access to markets be improved? How can their access to technologies be improved? How can their access to resources be improved? How can their access to job be improved?</li> </ul>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/simplified-approval-process-annex-4-gender-assessment-and-action-plan.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Who is unable to meet his/her essential need because of CC effects? How many women are unable to meet their essential needs?</li><li>- Which needs should be considered for better climate change response and risk management?</li><li>- What strategies should be implemented at the local level to provide women with better access to resources?</li><li>- What are the livelihood-related adaptive strategies and how does this impact men/women, girls, youth?</li></ul>
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## 4. Access to resources by women and youth

Representing 90% of the agricultural labor force,<sup>26</sup> women play an essential role in Cote d'Ivoire's agro-economy. Their work ranges from staple food production and distribution of tasks, especially in farm fields preparation, seed collection, planting, harvesting, animal care, fodder collection, wood collection and land supervision. They are also involved in resource management and in the well-being of their families and communities.

Despite the significant presence of women in the agricultural sector, women's agricultural organizations are poorly articulated. In the same region of Poro, there is poor understanding of the value of professionalization and a **lack of organization** in the food crop market compared to cash crops such as cotton and cashew nuts. Women generally grow subsistence crops (gardening crops: eggplant, tomatoes, onions, chili. Lowland rice, maize and sorghum). Still, even within the farm organizations, activities are not carried out with a view to achieving professionalization.

### 4.1 Gender inequalities in relation to rights and access to land property

With regard to access to land and land property, **Law n°98 - 750 of December 23, 1998** relating to rural land (article 1), states that any Ivorian individual is entitled to own land. This law (adopted unanimously by the National Assembly in December 1998) enshrines equal access to land for both men and women holding Ivorian nationality. However, in reality, gender inequalities exist.

The issue of land tenure is linked to the implementation and sustainability of the project activities, since Ivorian women in general and women in the Poro region in particular, have limited access to land property. The project proposes different capacity strengthening activities among women and youth to increase their skills in terms of agricultural practices. Despite the enactment of the 2019 Marriage Law which affords women the same rights as their husbands over marital property, as well as ensuring widows do not lose their inheritance rights in favor of their husbands male relatives, cultural norms regarding the male as head of the family have created difficulties in practicing this in communities.<sup>27</sup>

Ivorian women have a limited access to land property, especially in rural areas, due to socio-cultural constraints based on customs, values and practices or their poor awareness of their rights and of existing laws. In fact, women gain access to land through the customary law system, which excludes the opportunity for women to grow perennial crops on the land they are given. Women food producers have easier access to land for off-season crop production, which is not the case for perennial crops<sup>28</sup>.

In the Poro region, customary rights continue to be applied in rural areas by local players, depending on their changing social needs. For example, in times of need, a woman may be dispossessed

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26. Impact Evaluation of the Empowerment of Teenage Girls and Young Women sub component of the Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend in the Sahel (SWEDD) project in Cote d'Ivoire

<sup>27</sup> [UK AID, Women's Economic Empowerment in Cote d'Ivoire, 2020.](#)

28. Country Gender Profile, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 2015

of land received from her husband or through any other means. The customary rights-based system of access to land is not permanent and is subject to change at any time.

Even when farmer groups secure the agreement of rural farmer-leaders and/or local land management committees, there is no written formalization of the outcome of such negotiations. In such a context, women's **land tenure status is poorly secured**. Very few women's groups have land deeds. Consequently, the agreement established with the farmer leader (generally a man) can be compromised and questioned at any time depending on land speculation.

As a result, the land registration process is abandoned in favor of bequests, gifts, or loans governed by the application of ancestral or customary rights to land. In this context, the allocation of land to women is subject to **negotiation** between the rural-farmer leader and the women. The women's grouping of Nakaha (sub-prefecture of Korhogo) received 2 hectares of land from the local management committee for food crops in this context. With their successful activities, they also secured the (verbal) agreement of the chief of the land for additional land if needed.

In addition to poor land tenure protection, there is also the challenge of **reduced arable lands**. As climate change and the fast urbanization process inevitably lead to a decrease in arable land, perennial crops, which are the main activities of men, are given priority in the allocation of arable land. The area allocated to women for agricultural activities is therefore more and more reduced. In the locality of Karakoro, for example, the area allocated to women is 2 ha for a grouping of 150 women. The situation in Karakoro (Poros Region) reflects the condition of women in many countries where most of the cultivable land is owned by men, with women owning only 20% of the arable land in the whole country. Despite this low percentage of land in their possession, women produce about 80% of food crops and represent 90% of the agricultural labor force in food processing, storage and transportation (Alyson et al., 2008).

Women's lack of access to land further restricts their ability to access credit – a service guaranteed by land ownership. Resultingly, many women are forced to rely on informal credit services and microfinance institutions, of which the latter has very low utilization throughout the country.<sup>29</sup> Despite the increase in mobile money services and subsequently women's access to financial services, gender gaps in mobile phone and mobile money accounts remain. Overall, there is a 15% gender gap in access to mobile phones in Cote d'Ivoire, rising to 23% in rural areas.<sup>30</sup> This is evidently a key barrier to women's inclusion in mobile financial services, which explains why women are 45% less likely than men to have a mobile money account in the country.<sup>31</sup>

## **Participation and decision-making**

In agriculture, women account for 21.8% of the country's farmers<sup>32</sup>, although they represent more than 90% of the labor force. Despite this important role in agriculture, women face challenges regarding

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/ETUDE-SUR-LES-FILIERES-ET-CHAINES-DE-VALEUR-PROMETTEUSES.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> UK AID, *Women's Economic Empowerment in Cote d'Ivoire, 2020*.

<sup>31</sup> Riquet & Bin-Humam, *Understanding Cote d'Ivoire's Financially Excluded Women, 2018*.

<sup>32</sup> Census of the agriculture sector. MINADER 2015/2016

access to agricultural land and other food production resources. The participation of women in the agricultural sector is a source of livelihoods opportunities as much as it contributes to improving agricultural productivity and food security. However, although the agricultural sector is marked by a strong involvement of women in terms of labor supply, they do face some challenges. These include limited access to infrastructure, productive assets, financial services, and lack of management and technical capacities, and organizational empowerment.

Cote d'Ivoire's parliamentary election system has legislated candidate quotas. For constituencies with more than two seats, the lists must include at least 30% of women candidates.<sup>33</sup> Therefore, regarding the involvement of women in decision-making bodies, as of 2022, 36 of 254 seats in the National Assembly are held by women.<sup>34</sup> However, inclusion of women in the National Assembly does not automatically convert to meaningful participation in these fora. In the Army, the first Woman General was appointed in 2012.

## 5. Challenges faced by women and youth in their participation in decision-making process

### 5.1 Limited access to markets

Several factors contribute to limiting women's access to markets: First, women face technical, institutional knowledge and financial barriers in agriculture. Small-scale producers don't have access to climate resilient practices and technologies. Furthermore, the advanced state of degradation of rural roads and the long distance to the land do not always facilitate the transportation of products under good conditions.

Even though the Poro region already has organizations in charge for providing economic information to operators, they are not sufficiently equipped. Thus, farmers lack information on producer prices (field prices). This limited access to market information among women and young people is related to the lack of climate, weather index-insurance to support Farmers organizations. Unlike cash crops, which have storage facilities and where the marketing route is planned ahead of time, food crops lack storage and processing facilities. The absence of packaging, storing, processing and marketing facilities results in significant post-harvest losses including those due to climate shocks which hinder the marketing of agricultural products under the best conditions.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> [Electoral Code, Art.78](#)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/gender-quotas/country-view/77/35>

<sup>35</sup> . Perception of women farmers' vulnerability to climate change and local response strategies, Kan estelle Marina, 2019.

## 6.2 Restricted access to credit

Women's access to financial resources such as credit to finance agricultural activities is limited due to the preconditions set by both communities and financing institutions. Socially, the management structure of farms, which favors men, limits access to credit for women farmers.<sup>36</sup> Due to sociological and economic constraints, access to financing is often impossible without the intervention of a man. In addition, women work mainly in the informal sector<sup>37</sup>. Therefore, the limited access to credit is one of the obstacles commonly raised by microfinance institutions and banks at the local level (Korhogo). Several factors determine whether or not women can secure credit for their agricultural activities. There is **little control over the marketing circuit** for food products due to the traditional organization of the market. As access to credit is contingent on land ownership, youth in Cote d'Ivoire, especially adolescent girls and young women face additional barriers in accessing credit because of low rates of land ownership.

Furthermore, the **absence of a micro-insurance system** for food crops is a second obstacle to access to loans. This system is important to reduce women's and young people vulnerability to climate shocks and sustainability on one hand, improve the resilience of food production systems on the second hand. An index-based micro-insurance system already exist for cash crops (cotton, cashew nuts, mangoes, etc.) where there is an easier access to credit because of better control of the marketing chain. This control of the cash crops marketing chain makes it easier to secure contracts and to involve the buyer in the chain. In addition, such crops have a better harvest storage mechanism. The arable land is more extensive than that available to women for food crops. Consequently, there is a better arrangement for protecting against the risk of crop loss due to climate change. Finally, the **small size of the areas** on which food crops are grown, the low level of technical skills, the lack of knowledge of the technical routes for the crops, and the absence of equipment for such areas do not convince the micro-credit agencies.

## 6.3 Weak access to production resources (inputs, equipment, techniques, etc.)

Women farmers have less access to adequate agricultural supervision than men involved in cash crops (cotton, cashew-nut etc.). This inequality in terms of agricultural supervision is linked to the choice of crops. In fact, women mainly opt for food self-sufficiency agriculture, particularly market gardening and (maize, yams, taro, cassava, bananas, lowland rice). In most cases, these crops are grown on relatively small areas, which has a negative impact on post-harvest yields.

In addition, the **level of equipment is very low**, and most food crop farmers practice extensive manual cultivation. Similarly, with limited financial resources, women cannot effectively access other factors of production (inputs, equipment, etc.).

In food crop production, there is a reluctance to practice organic agriculture because the prices are similar to those of chemical agriculture. In addition, the **availability of organic fertilizers** suitable for

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36. Vulnerability Assessment of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change in Côte d'Ivoire, UNDP, October 2018

37. The informal sector is the most important source of employment (93%, PND 2016 - 20205), and the income generated by such activities does not guarantee access to conventional sources of financing.

food crops is **low**. Women use fertilizers and pesticides intended for cash crops from their husband stocks, particularly cotton, because they are not aware of the mechanism for supplying bio-fertilizers. Moreover, the food crops sector lacks **mechanisms for providing women with climatic information** to help them adapt their cropping calendars. As a result, they have little knowledge of cultivation techniques adjusted to climate change.

## 6. Needs and priorities

Climate change contributes to exacerbating inequalities, which in turn widens the gender gap and affects their ability to respond to climate change. Gender inequalities are characterized by reduced access to water for agricultural activities, reduced productivity, and implementation of resilience techniques.

### 7.1 Involvement and capacity-building of youth and women in the agriculture sector

In Côte d'Ivoire,<sup>38</sup> in rural areas, 53.2 percent of young people are affected by long-term unemployment, including in the Poro region. Most of these young people no longer go to school and return to rural areas mainly following the failure to migrate to urban areas. The youth have little interest in agricultural work for several reasons: the diminishing productiveness of the soil in a context of increased pressure on land and therefore the need to promote sustainable agricultural systems. These young people are idle and generally do not know how to get involved in village life, leaving a whole workforce that could be available to fight against climate change. The older generations who have been involved in agricultural practices for years are persevering in order to find solutions. This active population in agriculture is ageing and it is important to find a way to support the new generations in taking over. Furthermore, women of all ages are particularly affected because they are generally in charge of subsistence crops with limited access to the market and technical support compared to cash crops such as cotton, which are mostly farmed by men.

The training of youth and women farmers is therefore a critical issue. Although such training opportunities are available, they only target limited number of young people. This means that there is a need to build the capacity of unemployed youth, including underserved young people through their professional competences and field experience in agricultural lands. Such capacity building sessions for youth and the provision of transformative technologies such as digitalization will help improve agricultural labor productivity to increase local supply to meet growing urban demand. Trainings will facilitate the development and management of the agricultural landscape in a context of adaptation to climate change on the one hand, and to improve access to markets on the other hand, and to make the value chain more

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<sup>38</sup> National survey on the employment situation and child labor, ENSETE 2013

viable and more attractive. Trainings will facilitate agricultural employment opportunities for the youth of the Poro region. In addition, the capacity building of youth will provide support to the activities of women's groupings to promote climate change resilient agriculture. For example, activities tailored to the physical strength of young people can be identified such as the construction of stone cordons around the farms.

## **7.2 Improved access to water for agricultural activities**

Women farming food crops in the area generally use three sources of water: rainwater, water from wells and water from boreholes. Rainfall remains the main source for farmers. Rain-fed agriculture is well-known in the Poro area. Yet, rainfall patterns are characterized by a decrease over many decades, as well as by an uneven interannual distribution of rainwater.

Water availability is therefore becoming a major problem, especially for vegetable production. As rainfall decreases, women now have to spend more time searching for water for crops. There is not enough water for off-season crops, and the hand-dug wells on the farms dry up in the dry season. This poor access to water considerably limits women's work and leads to a drop in productivity. Pumped water is also very limited in the area. To improve their access to agricultural water, most women farmers combine rainfall and well water. Many women's groups use wells to water their fields, instead of boreholes, which are more expensive.

To improve access to agricultural water, some groups have implemented strategies to optimize the distribution of rainwater. These include hedgerows and stone barriers around farms. The implementation of the stone bay barrier requires manpower and money, and therefore the implementation of such bay barriers is achieved with the support of the community members (men, women and youth).

## **7.3 Sustainable agricultural production and implementation of resilience strategies**

The effects of climate change on women's activities in the food crops sector are primarily characterized by a decline in production. Given their reduced access to inputs and other production factors, they use pesticides that are not appropriate for food crops. In addition to the use of inappropriate pesticides, the crop is characterized by an excessive use of pesticides to increase production. Climate change has induced a change in cultivation practices: In the past, vegetables were associated with maize. However, due to land depletion, there is now a segregation of crops. In addition, the booming demography has reduced the cultivable surface, so that the practice of fallowing has become difficult to implement.

## 7.4 Informed crop planning and local adaptation techniques

The population assesses the climate variability through the shortening of the rainy season as the dry season grows longer, the rapid and early drying up of wells, backwaters and boreholes, and repeated and unexpected disruptions of the rains during the rainy period, together with the change and inconsistency in planting periods. According to the women, the depletion of wells and backwaters is now both common and earlier than ever before. In their opinion, this used to happen in the period from February to March. But now, as early as December, they observe that the wells begin to be depleted. Nowadays, they indicate that they have to wait until June for planting, or even until early July for those who are late. As adaptive measures to cope with the long dry periods identified during this survey, they include the use of lowlands during dry periods, digging wells or boreholes in the fields, either by the farmers themselves or by support organizations to agricultural projects, or using water from water reservoirs (dams) or backwaters to feed their crops.

No, or poor access to climate related information for planning and decision-making purposes also increases the unfamiliarity of the crop calendar, resulting in planting at inappropriate periods. In the past, traditional field preparation work began early, in November or December, followed by clearing and felling of large trees in January and February. This operation ended with the burning of the previous rice fields.

In the Poro region, sorghum is the crop best adapted to current climate conditions. Along with cotton, it has improved management techniques and is now the food crop that provides relative food security in the savannah regions of the north. This is why maize toh, or dezro in Senoufo (a meal made from maize flour), has become the most widely consumed food in the region, overtaking pounded yam (fosro in Senoufo) and rice (monnon in Senoufo).

## 8 Strengths and Weaknesses highlighted by the Analysis

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilization of contact persons</li> <li>- Strong contribution of women in agriculture</li> <li>- Mainstreaming of gender issues at the institutional level (Land access, education, access to inputs...)</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low access of women to land and to the key production resources.</li> <li>- Low representativeness of women in local decision-making bodies</li> <li>- Low organizational capacity of women in the food crop sector</li> <li>- Low level of literacy among women</li> <li>- Low professionalization of young people in agricultural employment</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women's responsiveness to environmental issues</li> <li>- Community buy-in for increased women's and youth involvement and access to resources</li> <li>- Youth buy-in for increased access to agricultural jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highly dominated by men in terms of land ownership.</li> <li>- Failure to include women and adolescents in decision-making regarding the distribution and use of arable land</li> <li>- Opposition of youth to the implementation of the project</li> </ul>

## 9 Recommendations

Given the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as women and youth in the face of the impacts of climate change, the following recommendations can be made to improve their resilience and response capacity.

- Reduce gender disparities in land rights and access by promoting an inclusive approach to the integration of women and youth into local decision-making processes regarding resource allocation. Climate-smart land restoration will increase land availability, and this will increase land for women FO. The project's focus remains securing farm plots at household (family gardens) and FO for staple and vegetable production. Access to productive assets and infrastructure will be negotiated within communities whereas land will be negotiated for groups.
- Adopt gender-youth-sensitive adaptative technologies
- Enhance the participation of women and youth in decision-making bodies
- Improve women and youth access to markets
- Improve women and youth access to loans and financing mechanisms for agricultural activities
- Improve women and youth access to production resources (supply of seeds and inputs)
- Build women and youth capacity in storing and processing agricultural products
- Build women and youth capacity for practical literacy
- Improve productivity in food crops and storage conditions for better access to markets
- Increase access of women and youth to climate related information and to parameter-based micro-insurance products
- Strengthen the capacity of small-scale producers, including women and youth, in the conservation and processing of local foods;
- Promote good nutritional practices among women and youth for social behaviour change;
- Promote hydro-agricultural infrastructure including rainwater harvesting to facilitate irrigated farming and fish farming for the benefit of women and youth;
- Promote climate-smart agriculture (agroforestry, off-season food production, responsible fishing, etc.);
- Advocate for the creation of a resilience fund to strengthen productive social safety nets and IGA programmes for women and youth.

## 10. Gender Action Plan

The whole project is based on gender-sensitive activities, so this gender action plan is directly integrated into the project ToC. In the table below the alignment between the project activities is highlighted.

In the light of the inequalities and challenges faced by women and youth, specific needs and priorities shall be considered for the development, implementation and monitoring of the project. Specific measures included in the gender action plan are the following:

### **Area 1: Improving the access to appropriate tools, products and services by women and youth**

- Providing technical support in structuring women's and youth groups
- Promote integration of women and youth into local decision-making processes
- Building technical capacity in adapting and disseminating climate-resilient practices and technologies
- Improving the supply of seeds of drought tolerant varieties
- Implementing techniques for water conservation and sustainable management

### **Area 2: Building the technical capacities of groups**

- Building community capacity to manage climate risks through capacity building of women and youth groups
- Capacity building sessions for youth and the provision of transformative technologies such as digitalization will help improve agricultural labor productivity to increase local supply to meet growing urban demand
- Implementing sensitization activities
- Providing climate-related information to vulnerable populations to help them adapt the cropping calendar (through the use of local media, for example)
- Improving the storage of food products
- Providing support to the culinary processing of market garden products

### **Area 3: Contributing to increased market access and financial inclusion of women and youth**

- Promoting financial literacy
- Promoting market linkages with school canteens and local markets
- Promoting climate-proofing investments for sustainable food production
- Establishing village loans and savings groups
- Facilitating livelihoods diversification opportunities for women and youths

### **WFP Gender Capacities**

In terms of gender mainstreaming, WFP is guided by the organization's Gender Policy 2022<sup>39</sup>. The policy sets out three objectives to address the gender inequalities that continue to exacerbate food insecurity and poor nutrition outcomes: I. Achieve equitable access to and control over food security and nutrition – by broadening WFP's assessment, implementation and monitoring activities to better respond to

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-gender-policy-2022>

intra-household food distribution dynamics. II. Address the root causes of gender inequalities that affect food security and nutrition – by challenging the barriers that influence the meaningful participation of all household members as agents of change. III. Advance the economic empowerment of women and girls in food security and nutrition – by using food and nutrition assistance as entry points to livelihood opportunities that increase equitable access to productive assets, financial services and technologies.

In this regard, the action plan presented below is aligned with the institution's requirements. The project will consider additional measures to strengthening stakeholder engagement in the different activities such as meetings schedules; cultural norms and beliefs; patterns of power and decision-making, among others. During project implementation, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will oversee the implementation of the action plan with the support of the country office. The PMU will be composed of a project coordinator, a gender, environmental and social officer, a finance officer, procurement and administrative support.

Activities	Indicators	Targets and Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs (USD) <sup>40</sup>
<b>Project Title:</b> WOMEN-ADAPT: ENHANCING THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF SMALLHOLDER FARMER COMMUNITIES IN PORO REGION, FOCUSING ON VULNERABLE WOMEN AND YOUTH				
Impact Statement: Achieve food and water security, adapt food production systems to a changing climate among vulnerable women and youth groups in Poro through the implementation of community-based adaptation/risk preparedness measures, better access and use of climate-related information, scaled-up climate-resilient technologies, and an improved access to financing and markets				
<b>Outcome Statement:</b>				
<b>Output 1. Increased dissemination of community-based risk preparedness measures and use of climate information services and insurance products</b>				
<b>Activity 1.1. Integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures in local development plans</b>				
Women are strongly involved in the review of local development plans and integration of climate change adaptation measures	<p>% of women participating in the review of the community development plans</p> <p># of plans that include gender-sensitive climate change adaptation measures</p> <p>Extent to which women are involved in the review of local development plans and integration of CCA measures?</p>	<p>At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth</p> <p>At least 50 plans include gender - sensitive measures</p> <p>Conduct FGDs (sex-disaggregated), and key informant interviews</p>	WFP – Country office	85,000

<sup>40</sup>The amounts indicated in the budget cover the implementation of the entire activity and it is not specifically targeted at the gender-related element. The reason is because the entire project (and activities) focuses on women empowerment and implementation of gender transformative climate-resilient measures.

		Timeline?		
<b>Activity 1. 2. Implementation of community-based adaptation / risk management measures in vulnerable villages</b>				
Women are trained and participate equitably in the implementation of community-based adaptation measures in vulnerable villages. Resultingly, women are able to participate and become key stakeholders/decision-makers in community-based adaptation.	# of women trained on community-based adaptation % of women-led FOs trained using community based/ adaptative risk management techniques in their activities # of women involved in climate-resilient restoration measures  How equitable is the participation of women in the implementation <b>and</b> decision-making on community-based adaptation measures?	Year 1 – 3600 participants (1800 women and 720 youth) Year 2 – 7000 participants (3500 women and 1400 youth) Year 3 – 12000 participants (6000 women and 2400 youth)  Conduct FGDs (sex-disaggregated) and KIIs	WFP ANADER (The National Agency for Rural Development Assistance)	510,000
<b>Activity 1.3. Provide Index-based Insurance to mitigate climate change impacts</b>				
Female-headed households use Index-based Insurance products to mitigate the impacts of climate change hazards	% of female-headed households using microinsurance products # of women-led FOs which benefit from capacity building to contract microinsurance products % of women-led FOs trained which are able to contract microinsurance with insurance firm	At least 40% of smallholder producers insured against climate shocks are women and 20% youth Year 2	Insurance Firm WFP	425,000

		<p>At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 2-3</p> <p>At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 4-5</p> <p>Conduct FGDs (sex-disaggregated) and KIIs</p>		
<p><b>Activity 1.4 Scale up the access and use of reliable, tailored and timely climate information and weather forecasts</b></p>				
<p>Female-headed households and women farmer organizations have access to and use reliable, tailored and timely climate-related information and weather forecasts</p>	<p># women which benefit from adaptive tools to facilitate regular access to climate information</p> <p># community members disaggregated by sex trained in transmitting regular climate information to FOs</p> <p>% of women-led FOs with increased access to climate information which adapt cultural techniques</p> <p>How do women-led FOs benefit from an increased access to regular climate information &amp; weather forecasting</p>	<p>At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Year 2-5</p> <p>At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 2-5</p> <p>At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Year 4-5</p>	<p>WFP</p> <p>SODEXAM</p> <p>ANADER</p>	<p>340,000</p>

		Conduct FGDs (sex-disaggregated) and KIIs		
<b>Output 2 Increased women smallholders' adoption of climate-resilient practices and technologies</b>				
<b>Activity 2.1 Awareness-raising, capacity-building and organizational empowerment of smallholder farmers with focus on women and youth</b>				
Women are effectively trained and women-led organizations improve their operational capacity through awareness-raising and technical assistance	# of FOs members (Women) trained in functional literacy # of FOs (women) trained in organizational empowerment % of women-led FOs trained which are legally constituted  To what extent are women and women's-led groups effectively provided with technical assistance and awareness-raising sessions?	At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 3  At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 3  At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Year 5  Conduct FGDs (women and women-led) and KIIs	WFP ANADER	1,105,000
<b>Activity 2.2 Dissemination of adaptive nature-based agricultural practices, technologies and approaches</b>				

<p>Women participate in the implementation and dissemination of adaptive nature-based agricultural practices and technologies</p>	<p># FOs members disaggregated by gender trained in adaptative nature-based practices, technologies and approaches          % of FO members disaggregated by gender trained using adaptative nature practices, technologies and approaches in their activities          # of women implementing and/or disseminating climate adaptation practices and technologies            To what extent did women meaningfully participate in the implementation and dissemination of adaptive nature-based agricultural practices &amp; technologies?</p>	<p>At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Years 2- 5            At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Years 2- 5            At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Years 2- 5            Conduct FGDs (women, men and mixed) and KIIs</p>	<p>WFP ANADER</p>	<p>2 125 000</p>
<p><b>Output 3 Smallholder FOs reduce post-harvest losses, improve market access, set savings schemes and leverage partnerships to strengthen the financial support across the food value chains</b></p>				
<p><b>Activity 3.1 Support FOs to develop business plans and community-based saving and loans mechanisms for climate-proofing investments</b></p>				

Women members and leaders of FOs implement climate-resilient value chain business plans and have access to community-based saving and loans schemes	# women-led and members of FOs trained to business plan development and savings mechanisms % women-led and members of FOs trained which have developed business plans % Women-led FOs which use savings mechanisms in their activities # of women accessing microfinance instruments	At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Years 2 – 5  At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Years 2 -5	WFP ANADER	340,000
<b>Activity 3.2 Improve processing and storage capacity to reduce post-harvest losses due to climate shocks</b>				
Women FOs and individual smallholders reduce post-harvest losses of staple and vegetable products	# of women trained in improved processing techniques # of adaptive storage and processing assets provided to FO organization disaggregated by gender # direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender trained in adaptive post-harvest practices, technologies and approaches	At least 40% of participants are women and 20% youth Years 2 – 5 At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Years 2 -5	WFP ANADER	1,700,000
<b>Activity 3.3 Build farm to market alliances in particular between FOs and school canteens and local markets</b>				
Women-led FOs and female-headed households establish marked alliances with school canteens and local markets for sustained food value chains	# Women-led and members of FOs which have established alliances with school canteens and local markets # FOs members disaggregated by gender which have regular information about the local market price # Women FOs which have established alliances with school canteens and local markets # Women FOs which have regular information about the local market price	At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Years 2 – 5	WFP ANADER	425,000

<b>Activity 3.4 Systematization of good practices and knowledge-sharing of adaptive solutions across food value chains</b>				
good practices and technologies that address gender inequalities are systematized and disseminated to scale-up adaptive measures	<p># FOs members disaggregated by gender which benefit from knowledge-sharing session in other villages</p> <p># Exchanges organized between women farmers</p> <p>% of women accessing technical and evidence-based materials</p> <p>Good practices and technologies that address gender inequalities are systematized and disseminated to scale-up adaptive measures.</p>	<p>At least 40% of beneficiaries are women and 20% youth Years 3 - 4</p> <p>Use feedback already generated from FGDs</p>	WFP ANADER	170,000