The Feed the Future Advancing Women’s Empowerment (AWE) Program enhances women’s empowerment and gender equality in agricultural systems and programs by providing technical assistance to missions, implementing partners, the Bureau for Food Security, and USAID offices to increase women’s participation, productivity, profit, and benefit in agricultural systems. Our approach values co-design, participation, quality, and actionable leave-behinds.

WHAT CAN AWE DO FOR YOU?
Below are examples of the range of AWE’s support services, tailored to match your context and needs.

ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION
Context-specific, high-quality data on gender gaps, opportunities, and differences are crucial to understanding how gender norms influence agricultural value chains and market systems.

OPTIONS
Strengthening of strategies, action plans, designs or work plans by informing them with tailored gender analyses or studies, such as: 1/ Gender analyses for agricultural activities and agriculture-centric PADs; 2/ Barrier analysis to understand factors inhibiting women’s empowerment in agriculture, like barriers to technology adoption; 3/ Mapping of risks and drivers of gender-based violence, for example, in marketplaces; 4/ Organizational capacity assessments, including gender audits and activity assessments; 5/ Gender-sensitive agriculture market systems or value chain mapping to identify gaps and opportunities for vulnerable groups.

ILLUSTRATIVE SERVICE SNAPSHOT
Women-Led Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Mapping
To identify sub-sectors where women-led enterprises are concentrated, as well as the needs, constraints, and opportunities of this sub-market, AWE will map “hubs” and ecosystems of women’s enterprise in agriculture or related industries. Activities could include desk reviews, primary data collection, participatory workshops, and development of a landscape report with information on market size, needs, opportunities, decision-making, and enabling environment. Other support might include participatory strategy development to respond to findings.

MONITORING, EVALUATING, LEARNING
Gender-sensitive MEL increases teams’ abilities to identify and respond to gender-differentiated needs and opportunities, adjust implementation, identify and track gender gaps related to outcomes, assess and mitigate risks, and report on gender equality and progress.

OPTIONS
Support for collection, capture, and application of data: 1/ Custom gender-sensitive indicators and MEL plans; 2/ Data reviews to improve analysis and reporting from a gender perspective; 3/ Gender-integrated evaluations and research; 4/ Gender-sensitive collaboration, learning, and adapting workshops engaging partners; 5/ Effective reporting on gender best practices and lessons learned.

ILLUSTRATIVE SERVICE SNAPSHOT
WEAI and GIF Support for Design and Learning
AWE offers a participatory workshop for missions and implementing partners to apply the Feed the Future Gender Integration Framework (GIF) and Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture (WEAI) results to design activities and adjust ongoing activities. Participants identify domains of empowerment the most relevant to their work and get to know key resources for programming for women’s empowerment (e.g., the Intervention Guide for the WEAI). Complementary activities could include developing indicators or MEL plans for programming in prioritized WEAI/GIF empowerment domains, or mission- or activity-level learning plans.
CAPACITY BUILDING

Agriculture programs achieve their best and most sustainable results when everyone—technical experts, managers, evaluators, and stakeholders—has a shared understanding of, and basic knowledge and skills in, gender equality and women’s empowerment.

OPTIONS

Customized, applied, participatory, one-off or blended virtual and face-to-face learning opportunities, based on client needs and goals, grounded in self-identified needs, such as:

1/ Understanding and applying core concepts in gender equality and women’s empowerment to increase inclusion (e.g., building equitably managed cooperatives);

2/ Building missions’ and partners’ capacity to prevent and respond to risks of gender-based violence in agriculture programming;

3/ Providing a WEAI/GIF training-of-trainers workshop empowers missions to build staff and partner capacity to understand and use WEAI data over time;

4/ Training to design, implement, and manage gender analyses, assessments, and studies for agriculture topics (e.g., gender in value chain analysis);

5/ Understanding and applying gender considerations in mission-selected topics like land tenure, gender budgeting, or gender impacts of trade policies

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Agriculture programs achieve their best and most sustainable results when gender equality and women’s empowerment gaps and opportunities are continuously addressed during implementation.

OPTIONS

Support for gender integration and approach adaptation during implementation, like:

1/ Integrating gender priorities into partners’ activity action plans and work plans;

2/ Identifying gender-specific risks and managing unintended consequences, such as male takeover of traditionally female crops when profits increase;

3/ Exploring with missions and partners learning questions that arise during implementation (e.g., why are women-led cooperatives earning less than expected?);

4/ Scaling up promising practices (e.g., female farmers’ increased technology adoption)

ILLUSTRATIVE SERVICE SNAPSHOT

Gender Strategy Development for Cooperatives and Producer Organizations

AWE will conduct participatory training with target groups, missions, and implementing partners, and co-develop a gender strategy and action plan that can be monitored. This will strengthen understanding of the value of women’s participation and leadership, increase results and demonstrate measurable benefits of women’s participation and leadership, and identify markers of progress in gender equality and women’s empowerment in agriculture cooperatives, producer organizations, or other local agriculture organizations. Ongoing technical support could be provided to support identified milestones.

INTERESTED IN ENGAGING AWE?

Contact:

AWE COR Krista Jacobs (kjacobs@usaid.gov) and AWE Team Lead Lyn Messner (lmessner@encompassworld.com)

The AWE consortium is led by EnCompass LLC, which specializes in leadership, learning, capacity strengthening, gender and inclusive development, technical assistance, and evaluation. Core partners are ACDI/VOCA, a seasoned gender-sensitive agricultural market development organization, and MarketShare Associates, a consulting firm practicing, creating, implementing, and measuring economic development programming.