



Good Practices and Innovations from the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP)

## **NAROK COUNTY**

### **APPLICATION OF PASTORAL FIELD SCHOOL APPROACH TO PROMOTE GENDER MAINSTREAMING THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER ACTION PLANS**



Women and men planning together. Credit: RPLRP Narok County, Kenya.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Initially it was difficult to bring pastoralists together to work in a unified group and be able to interact with one another across gender. It was almost impossible to convince men to sit in the same forum with women or youth and come up with common resolutions to the problems they faced. Decision making was thus left mostly to men, even if the decisions affected everyone in the community.

With the initiative of RPLRP, formation of Pastoral Field Schools (PFS) provided an opportunity to bring pastoralists together to discuss and jointly agree on addressing problems that faced them. To achieve more on this, the project conducted deliberately interactive training of the PFS members on mainstreaming gender in their activities. Thereafter, the groups developed gender mainstreaming action plans which adequately highlighted activities geared

towards equitable engagement of all gender categories in day to day activities, sharing of benefits and control of assets in households. The trainings were conducted in two PFSs (Kiribwet and Ololulung'a) in November 2017. The action plans have been implemented to date. The main objective of the practice was to integrate all members of households into development activities both at household and community level.

Through implementation of the action plans, women who used to be overworked have been relieved of the workload and youth have been engaged in productive activities. This has resulted in increased household incomes and cohesion.

### **GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

The interventions were implemented in Kiribwet, Kapsasian Ward, Transmara East Sub-county and Ololulung'a in Narok South Sub-County, Narok County.

### **STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS**

- The practice targets members of the PFS in Narok County established by the RPLRP. Ninety-six members were trained (56 male and 40 female).

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- Institutions involved in the practice include the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (KENTTEC).

### **METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

While implementing the plans, men, women and youth were engaged in doing the various activities as agreed by the groups and the success of the plans depended on ability of the members to accept to fully participate in the activities.

- The first activity done was to train trainers at the project service units (TOTs).
- TOTs then practically trained the members of the selected PFS for a period of four days each.
- At the end of the training the PFS developed gender mainstreaming action plans.
- The action plans prioritized issues that required immediate interventions to promote involvement of all gender categories in activities.

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## RESULTS

- Engagement of the youth in productive activities
- Tree planting for woodlots (2,500 seedlings)
- Sourcing of and installation of improved jikos.
- Establishment of improved pastures (up to 200 acres) in the individual farms and more than 20 constructed hay barns to store grass.
- Adoption of biogas technology as an alternative source of energy and to reduce destruction of trees.
- Establishment of water harvesting structures i.e. tanks in households.
- Improved dairy production with increased milk yields from an average of 2-7.5litres per cow per day.
- Conservation of natural environment through established trees and vegetation cover.
- Improved incomes due to increased participation of all members of the households in productive activities.
- Positive change in the attitudes of men and women in the society to appreciate the division of labour and resources/benefits accrued to households and consequently improved family relations.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

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For the intervention to achieve intended objectives, there must be a positive attitude of the household members especially men.

## LESSONS LEARNT

Mainstreaming of gender in all project activities provide impetus towards achieving project goals and objectives within shortest period. The intervention triggers and awakens realisation by community members that more often, specific gender categories are overworked while full participation by all results in increased productivity and unity of purpose in households

## SUSTAINABILITY

Gender mainstreaming should be introduced in all programmes and training curriculums. The community values systems should be strengthened to emphasise on the need to promote equity and equitable distribution of resources, benefits and sharing of responsibilities. Additional resources should

be directed towards programmes that strengthen gender mainstreaming in the society.

Implementation of this practice results in multiple benefits because action plans developed promote environmental conservation, increase household productivity



Women and men planning together. Credit: RPLRP Narok County, Kenya.

thus increase incomes and enhance cohesion and tranquillity in the families and society as a whole.

### **REPLICABILITY AND UPSCALING**

The practice has not been replicated much in the usual extension approaches. Gender mainstreaming thus need to be embedded in different projects and programmes to promote participation of the entire community members to improves productivity and increases on household incomes. Policies should be developed to legalise the use of the approach to promote cohesion, improve productivity and equity in the society.