



GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRI-VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

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ABOUT ASDSP I

**□ Bilateral program between GOK and GOS Implemented
2012 – 2017 in 47 Counties**

- ✓ Sector wide Agri- Value Chain Development (VCD)
based program**
- ✓ Institutional & Capacity Development Component**
- ✓ Environmental Resilience and Social Inclusion Component**
- ✓ Value Chain Development Component.**

PROBLEMS

- Few institutions in the agriculture sector have strategies for mainstreaming gender;
- Lack of designated gender budgets except for bi-laterally supported programs;
- Low gender capacity and awareness;
- Gender mainstreaming in most institutions is left to gender units while other program staffs are not made to account for gender;
- Women, though active in value chain are concentrated in lower, less profitable levels, the youth are generally poorly engaged.

TARGET/ACTORS

- ❑ Targets Small holder VC Actors (Crop, Livestock, Fisheries) from Input suppliers to consumers:
 - ✓ Vulnerable groups (Women & Youth);
 - ✓ Men
- ❑ Agriculture Advisory SPs;
- ❑ Institutions (Public, Private, CSOs, CBOs, FBOs);

SOLUTIONS

❑ Sector Gender Process Documents:

- ✓ Sector Gender Policy
- ✓ Sector Youth in Agribusiness Strategy
- ✓ Sector GBV Strategy

❑ ASDSP GSI Process Documents & Structures:

- ✓ ASDSP GSI Strategy;
- ✓ Strategic GSI Action Plan (SGSIAP)
- ✓ County Specific GSI Action Plans (47 GSIAPs),
- ✓ National and County GSI TWG,
- ✓ Women VC Groups
- ✓ Youth VC Groups
- ✓ Mixed Groups (Women, Youth, Men)

SOLUTIONS

- ❑ Gender Responsive VC Prioritization, Analysis, Budgeting, Tracking and Reporting;
- ❑ Mechanisms to Coordinate & Supervise Integration of Women & Youth in VCD (Social Audit Teams, Committees of Experts, GSI Officers);
- ❑ Capacity building for Coordination; Implementation & Supervisory Structures and Women/Youth VCOs Formed & Trained;
- ❑ Established Innovation Fund for Women/Youth by Women/Youth;
- ❑ Leveraging opportunities for women and youth engagement in decent work, value chain structures, organizations and local decision making organs (e.g. Community level workers, VCPs, VCCG, SAT).

Critical Dimensions for Success

- ❑ Innovation plays a considerable strategic role in fostering long term gender responsive development;
- ❑ Transparency, Accountability and Participation: Informed and watchful target groups is an incentive for good practice from programs;
- ❑ Cutting Edge Technology;
- ❑ Policy Coherence and Integration;

KEY CHALLENGE

- ❑ Facilitating a gender and socially inclusive development is very **COSTLY** (*Money, Time, Energy, Skills*) – Swimming against deep seated assumption, beliefs, cultures, religion that people, institutions hold closely to their hearts.
- ❑ Culture continues to play a big role in how gender issues are perceived and addressed, and these are projected in the institutions edging out women and youth from key leadership positions and development initiatives;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ **Any support to women and youth actors should build on the roles they are already playing in value chain development.**
 - ✓ Instituting innovative funding mechanisms to improve their access to resources;
 - ✓ Strengthening value chain segments with high prospects for women and youth empowerment;
- ❑ **Creating more opportunities for women and youth engagement in male dominated value chains through innovation grants.**
- ❑ **Leverage on under-utilized resources/investments within the Counties.**
- ❑ **Establishing Mentorship/Coaching programs to incentivize the youth particularly graduates from Universities/Colleges.**

FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ❑ Commercially viable development initiatives by their very nature are driven by profit and therefore find it difficult to accommodate women, youth and vulnerable groups who face constraints that limit their competitiveness in development initiatives:
- ✓ How can governments/organizations institute mechanisms for overcoming their constraints while maximizing their contributions and benefit from development Initiatives with-out isolating them?
- ✓ How can Kenya Enhance the Benefits of Government Affirmative Initiatives (**AGPO, YEDF, WEDE, NGAAF**) for Women and Youth?

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