



Regional Cooperation Newsletter – East and South Africa Region

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1. Getting down to business: Women’s economic and social empowerment in Burundi - IRC

Women’s economic and social empowerment is an accepted part of development programming, yet many questions remain about how or if these programs also put women at risk. Understanding the risks and benefits of economic empowerment programming is crucial in designing programs that maximize benefits and minimize harm. Can increasing a woman’s access to resources also increase her control over those resources in the household? Can increased economic empowerment influence how much abuse she experiences at home? Can improving communication between couples help women safely assert more control over the economic resources they contribute to the household?

The International Rescue Committee seeks to determine; what is the most effective way to support women’s empowerment in conflict - affected settings. Drawing on extensive field experience, the IRC designed a program in Burundi that actively involved both women and men in an economic program and a discussion series around household finances. IRC’s EASE (Economic And Social Empowerment for women) program ultimately aims to increase women’s decision-making in the home and decrease intimate partner violence (IPV).

The IRC partnered with Professor Radha Iyengar from the London School of Economics to rigorously examine if adding a discussion series for couples was more effective in increasing decision-making and reducing violence, rather than just an economic program on its own. Results of the evaluation show that adding the discussion series resulted in significant reduction in the incidence of partner violence.

The discussion series also positively affected attitudes towards violence against women, as well as brought about relatively significant and positive changes in household decision-making and negotiation between couples.

[https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/resource-file/Burundi %20EASE% 20Imact% 20Eval%20Formatted%20Final.pdf](https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/resource-file/Burundi%20EASE%20Impact%20Eval%20Formatted%20Final.pdf)

2. Empowering Pastoralists in Garba Tula, Kenya

The Garba Tula District is like many other arid and semi-arid districts in Northern Kenya, populated mainly by pastoralists who keep livestock across communally managed rangelands. These rangelands are home to about 40,000 Boran pastoralists, who, for centuries, have utilized customary rules and practices to successfully balance wildlife conservation and their pastoral livelihoods in the area between Meru, Mwingi and Kora National Parks, which supports important populations of elephants, lions, cheetahs, rare antelopes and dozens of other species.

In recent times, however, the customary rules and practices of pastoralists have been ignored or lost as a result of insecure land tenure, weakened traditional governance institutions, and formal natural resource law and policies that do not value indigenous natural resource management knowledge.

1. Lost indigenous knowledge

“This is how our elders used to do it, except that it is not written” said Daoud Abkula an elder from Garba Tula, after seeing a map of their area during a community based rangeland planning exercise. Historically, traditional rangeland planning was based upon the specific conditions, and organized around community units, beginning with households (*Olla*), to villages (*Ardha*), and then to a cluster of villages (*Dedha*). Resource planning started at the Olla level, which was then coordinated with the higher unit for coherence and consistency, allowing pastoral communities to optimize the use of resources.

For centuries, Boran elders worked through these community units to apply indigenous knowledge, perfected through experiences and passed down orally from generation to generation, to plan their use of natural resources in ways that optimized use of water and grasslands, avoided parasites and diseases, and planned for droughts and other environmental shocks while avoiding conflicts with neighboring communities.

However, in recent decades, the more centralized conventional planning mechanisms of the state have disregarded these traditional structures.

2. Weakened traditional governance systems in Garba Tula

According to Garba Tula elders, while colonial law recognized these customary governance mechanisms, state interventions since independence have predominantly ignored local structures

and systems for natural resource management. In addition, external factors such as increases in population pressure and climate change further threaten these customary institutions.

Divorcing local indigenous knowledge from conventional planning has proved to be counter-productive for rangeland planning, especially in the face of increasing climate variability. Over generations, people have built up a knowledge base of how the climate varies and how to adapt to climate variability through seasonal use of different areas and resources. That knowledge would be hard to find anywhere else but in the local communities. In addition, as these communities have developed crucial mechanisms of conflict management that allow for negotiation of resource distribution, rights and access that are crucial to sustainable rangeland use, especially in times of resource scarcity.

3. Insecure Land Tenure and Links to Poor Land Management

Communal ownership of land is a crucial aspect of natural resource governance for pastoral people, since clear understandings of land ownership and use regulates who has access to the area, who can use its resources, and how these resources are managed.

This is especially critical for pastoralists in dry lands, who must regulate the movements of livestock, preserve the land, and avoid conflicts when resources are scarce. Moreover, sustainable management of land requires investments in terms of labor, capital and equipment. People will only undertake these investments if they have secure land rights, as the payback period for significant investments are usually long-term. For pastoralists, such investments may include the development of reliable water sources, veterinary care, and planting of supplementary sources of food or forage.

As communally managed land, the land in Garba Tula has been held in Trust by the County government since the introduction of the Kenyan Trust Land Act in 1963. Under the Act, County Councils should have been accountable to the communities and made decisions based on traditional rules and norms. However, the Trust Land system has resulted in appropriation of community resources for individual benefit, with local communities poorly informed of their rights. This has steadily weakened the traditional tenure system, and led to the loss of traditional rules and knowledge as the communities were no longer in control of their land. Without rights to the land, people also lost the incentives to manage and regulate its use. Furthermore, the appropriation of land contributed to promotion of individual tenure systems, which disrupted grazing routes and resource access, and led to land degradation.

Despite the challenges, changes are occurring in Kenya that provide important opportunities for pastoralists and other communities who rely on communally managed landscapes. The evolving system of County Councils and the provision for Community Land tenure systems in the new Kenyan Constitution (2010) and National Land Policy provide for greater opportunities for and empowerment of local people to engage in decision-making processes regarding the use and management of natural resources.

4. Benefits and Impact

The entire process and the resulting by-laws have strengthened the customary system, empowered local people, and laid the basis for improved natural resource governance on a wide scale.

<http://www.focusonland.com/countries/impact-story-empowering-pastoralists-in-garba-tula-kenya/>

3. Gender Responsive Budgeting and the Aid Effectiveness Agenda: Experiences from Mozambique By Nathalie Holvoet and Liesbeth Inberg

This article examines how gender-equality objectives have been addressed within the context of the Paris Declaration and related aid-reform processes. The focus of the article is on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), an approach that is being increasingly advanced to increase the gender sensitivity of changing aid modalities, but which has thus far remained understudied.

With our case study of Mozambique, we aim to fill this gap. It highlights the contribution of GRB towards increasing the gender sensitivity of national policy documents and budget processes with which donors increasingly (Intend to) align, within the context of changing aid processes.

Additionally, our study explores the underlying mechanisms that explain the benefits of GRB which makes our findings also interesting beyond the Mozambique context

<http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1753&context=jiws>

4. Opportunities and Constraints to Youth Entrepreneurship in Swaziland

Swaziland faces a major youth employment challenge, as evidenced by one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Africa and widespread youth idleness. At the same time, policymakers have increasingly recognized entrepreneurship as a key driver of economic development by fostering growth, technology adoption and innovation as well as poverty alleviation. Despite the importance assigned to entrepreneurship and youth in national development strategies, research on youth entrepreneurship in Africa has been limited. The lack of evidence has impeded designing policies addressing the youth employment challenge.

Swaziland is particularly interesting and relevant for analysing drivers and impediments of youth entrepreneurship, given the high youth unemployment, low growth and wide inequality of the past two decades. Findings of the report could inform policies in other middle income countries in Southern Africa, which face similar challenges. The Swaziland study also gives a picture of a country in transition, where the private sector is still to realize its potential.

This UN Swaziland report, which presents findings of the first systematic study on opportunities and constraints to youth entrepreneurship in Swaziland, contributes to closing the knowledge gap on youth entrepreneurship in Swaziland and other African countries. It is based on primary data gathered through survey of 640 entrepreneurs (255 young and 385 adult) in urban Swaziland. The survey was supplemented by six focus group discussions with young entrepreneurs and students of entrepreneurship at the University of Swaziland.

Young Swazis are drawn to entrepreneurship out of both necessity (to escape unemployment and build livelihoods) and opportunity (to realize their vision and contribute to their country and community). A mix of factors – institutional, social and personal traits – can foster or impede youth entrepreneurship in Swaziland. While well recognized constraints in the business environment (e.g., access to credit, property rights) undoubtedly play an important role, other factors such as positive societal support and culture of entrepreneurship are also critical for fostering youth entrepreneurship. Implications for policies point to the need to:

1. *Support training and technical assistance for youth beyond the nascent stage of their businesses* to ensure higher perseverance and ‘graduation’ to higher value activities;
2. *Develop new and innovative sources of finance* taking into account specific characteristics (higher risk, innovativeness, use of ICT) of youth; and
3. *Improve the regulatory environment*, including transparency and accountability.

The study highlighted that young Swazi entrepreneurs are often not familiar with conditions they need to meet in order to start a business or obtain a loan. They are also not aware of all the supporting institutions and services available to them. A well-targeted training could help in this regard. Given the high perception of corruption and limited access to finance, the importance of reforms aiming at increased transparency and accountability, also in provision of financial services, cannot be overemphasized. Experiences of other countries emphasize the need to implement integrated reform packages rather than individual measures.

Finally, a key message from the Survey that needs to be underscored is that supporting youth entrepreneurship is a responsibility that should be shared by the Government, NGOs, the financial sector, the private sector and development partners. While some aspects, such as creating an enabling business environment fall mostly under the realm of public policy, the broader enabling youth entrepreneurship framework conditions are a responsibility of all stakeholders, including young people themselves.

<http://www.sz.undp.org/content/swaziland/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2013/01/18/opportunities-and-constraints-to-youth-entrepreneurship-in-swaziland.ht>

5. Social Protection and Uganda: Role in Development Efforts and Current initiatives

Social Protection is globally recognized as a critical component of national development strategies and key to achieving inclusive, pro-poor, equitable development.

Social protection directly reduces poverty, supports excluded citizens to access services, provide a foundation on which to build productive livelihoods and enables citizens to live a life of security and dignity.

It enables all Ugandans to contribute to, and benefit from, our social and economic transformation. Direct Income Support is at the core of most national social protection systems. Direct Income Support (also known as social transfers or cash transfers) consists of regular, small transfers of money to vulnerable or excluded citizens. Examples include senior citizens grants, disability grants, or child grants.

Social Protection is a Government priority and is grounded within the national legal and policy framework:

- a) The NRM manifesto includes a commitment to Support the elderly. On page no. 41 it states, “The NRM government will roll out the cash transfer program for older persons.”
- b) Uganda’s 2010-2015 National Development Plan outlines objectives for expanding social protection to reduce vulnerability and enhance productivity of the country’s human resource. Specifically, the NDP outlines activities to “develop and implement Direct Income Support programmes including cash transfer programmes, to the elderly, persons with disability and the poorest quartile of the population” (p283).
- c) Uganda’s National Policy for Older Persons, 2009 includes “Priority interventions” to “establish an older person’s grants scheme”. The National OVC Strategic Plan, 2010 identifies the need for “grants to vulnerable households”.
- d) Chapter 4 of Uganda’s Constitutions stipulates the rights and freedoms every Ugandan should enjoy, including the right to basics of life and a life of dignity. Article XIV Uganda’s Constitution (1995): states: All Ugandans enjoy rights and opportunities and access to education, health services... decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security and pension and retirement benefits. The National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy state that “the State shall make reasonable provision for the welfare and maintenance of the Aged.”
- e) Income security is a basic human right to which all citizens are entitled. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 guarantees the right to social security and an adequate standard of living.
- f) Uganda has signed up to regional commitments on Social protection namely (i) Livingstone Call to Action (2006) calling on countries in Africa to put in place costed plans for the implementation of Direct Income Support programmes and (ii) the African Union Social Policy Framework (2008) which calls on member governments to recognize that social protection is a state obligation, with provisions in national legislations. The provision of Direct Income Support through SAGE is a key opportunity for achieving NDP objectives and commitments in the NRM Manifesto and represents a new and innovative strategy through which the Government of Uganda can directly reach its most vulnerable citizens. Without Direct Income Support, there will remain a section of Uganda’s population who are disconnected from Uganda’s growth.

<http://www.socialprotection.go.ug/pdf>

1. News and Events

- a) **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016.** June 2016 - 30 June 2016: Location: Seoul, South Korea: Main Theme: Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People.
- b) **3 Month CAS Program in Peace building, Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Security and Intercultural Dialogue.** **Date of Winter Academy:** 15 - 25 February, 2016. **Date of 3 Month CAS Program:** 15 February - 14 May, 2016) **Location of Winter Academy:** Zug, Switzerland. **Venue:** Eckstein Zentrum. www.zentrum-eckstein.ch **Deadline for Applications:** 20 November, 2015

Scholarship: IPD offers several type of scholarship support to reduction the participation fee amount for most needed potential participants from all over the world counties. In this matter to request discount on the participation fee amount payment, please write your request briefly via email before or during the application submission period till the **1 October 2015**. Unfortunately IPD scholarship program can't cover all the participation fee amount and international travel expenses.

Winter Academy 2016 web page: <http://www.ipdinstitute.ch/Winter-Academy-3-Month-CAS-Program-2016/desktop/>

- c) **Call for abstracts for International Community Development Conference in Minnesota, USA, and July 2016.** The Community Development Society (CDS) and International Association for Community Development (IACD) are hosting a joint Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota in July 2016 with the theme: *Sustaining Community Change—Building Local Capacity to Sustain Community Development Initiatives*. The Call for Abstracts is now open!
- d) **The 18th Annual global conference. The dynamics of inclusive leadership. November 2-5 , 2016, Atlanta, Georgia, USA**

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