What Works

MAINSTREAMING GBV IN FOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS

World Vision
south sudan
The Project

A gender sensitive approach to food security & livelihood resilience in South Sudan

Partners: World Vision, Care, Oxfam

Implementation Period: April 2015 – March 2018

Budget: $20M CAD

Donor: Global Affairs Canada (Bilateral)
FEED Overview

FEED is founded on two complementary intermediate outcomes.

1. Strengthening agriculture extension services, and increasing skills transfer for improved agricultural production, adoption of climate smart technologies, market development and food utilization.

2. Intentionally address gendered social norms that restrict equitable participation in food production and market activity, including that which contributes to gender-based violence.

Targeting 215,144 people (135,645 female and 79,499 male)
IMPACT
Proportion of vulnerable households as per the vulnerability index score has reduced from 32.67% to 11.4% (55% female headed HHs)
In February 2017, famine was declared in South Sudan. Most FEED counties were identified as IPC Level 4. Despite this, no payam participating in FEED recorded any higher than Level 3. This was also observed during conflict periods, where women continued to farm.
IMPACT
Proportion of female-headed households using improved agricultural technologies increased by 145%
IMPACT
Percentage of women operating viable income generation activities increased by 60%
IMPACT
Percentage of women in positions of leadership in community structures – Increased from 55 to 67%
IMPACT
Perception of men and women regarding ability of women to take a role in decision making
M: Increased 50% to 88%
F: Increased 59% to 72%
IMPACT

Willingness to report an incident of GBV

5% increase

(Female: 84% Male: 78%)
IMPACT
Reduction in GBV incidents by 5%
(B: 33% E: 27%)
Best Practices - Design

- All project activities & implementation approach informed by in-depth Gender Analysis (focused on agriculture, livelihoods, market access)

- Intentional inclusion of GE/GBV Mainstreaming in LM, Indicators & targets, Budget, Project Management Structure but no specific “gender staff”

- Affirmatively targeted females

- Flexibility in project design & budget to adapt activities to affirmatively engage women

- Consistently worked with the same communities over 3 years, reducing harm of sudden affirmative targeting approach
Implementation

LEARNING

- Priority of childcare & HH duties
- Time burden of moving from home; Risk of GBV incident
- Unintentional risk of contributing to IPV from targeting women & women producing/earning income
- Key barrier to market access was illiteracy for women (85%)

ADAPTATION

- Constructed basic shades at field sites & established childcare rotations
- Moved activities closer to tukkols; conducted more trainings closer to home with less participants
- Extensive work on gendered norms, attitudes & behaviours, with men, and with men together with women.
- Female business skills training started with literacy & numeracy; Market visits were accompanied
Best Practices - Implementation

- Intentional employment of female staff with agricultural or agronomy backgrounds at all levels, including management
- Use of Farmer Groups as an entry point to discuss gender roles, stereotypes and harmful norms
- Farmers Groups created space for women to build confidence in their skills & have leadership opportunities (i.e. Lead Farmer)
- Skills transfer allowed men to see women’s capacity & be more encouraged to include in FSL-related decision-making
Best Practices - Implementation

- Framing gender equality & women’s rights within the context of agricultural production & livelihoods (ex. Land & property rights; Decision-making on income & agricultural products)

- Intentional male engagement on gender equality & GBV issues, led by male-female national staff teams

- Year 1 – Separate; Year 2 – Advanced groups mixed; Year 3 - Mixed
Challenges

- Conflict, displacement & accessibility interrupted at times

- Economic crisis, inflation, increasing cost of inputs, availability of seeds, poor road network – escalated throughout the project implementation period

- Though HH vulnerability for male & female HHs reduced, female HHs still had a higher vulnerability compared to men

- Land & property ownership for women remains challenging

- Low awareness of statutory laws that provide for equal rights in land, property, marriage, etc.
Reflections on Protection from GBV

- Incidence of all forms of GBV still remain high, reducing from 33% to 27%
- Gender Analysis & regular consultation with female Farmer Groups by female staff (and eventually, trusted male staff) was critical
- Consultations resulted in adjustments; Often analysis or consultation is done, but projects lack the flexibility or duration to take these up practically & effectively – FEED had the time, flexibility & intentionality
- Risk analysis for safety or GBV issues repeatedly conducted throughout the life of the project, in all locations; Risk mitigation recommendations taken up in consultation with female and male participants
Reflections on the Protection from GBV

- Agriculture / food / addressing hunger is the most important issue to both men and women in South Sudan; this made for a ‘ready made’ audience for more difficult GBV topics.

- Dialogues on gender roles, norms, equality, respect and non-violence were mainstreamed in every Farmer Group ag skill transfer + intentional session on GBV themes = increased impact.

- Other WV FSL projects without this dual approach did not have a measurable impact on protection from GBV.

- Findings suggest that even in conflict / humanitarian contexts, approaches that tackle root causes of GBV in multi-sector (i.e. FSL) interventions are possible; mainstreaming can have an impact on GBV reduction.
CONCLUSIONS

- Intentional inclusion of Gender Equality / GBV Reduction in Logic Model, Indicators with targets at Outcome & Output level help ensure FSL Project Team commitment to GBV mainstreaming realization

- Multi year interventions help build trust with communities & time to work with men and women together on gender equality issues at the heart of GBV

- GBV mainstreaming in FSL interventions can have measureable impact on protection from GBV, including in humanitarian crisis contexts