

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2022 • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 2

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Gender Equity Benefits All!!

*David Mbuvi, Gender and Protection
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Development Program (HERD)*

BASIC TERMINOLOGY

Gender is a social construct: the way the relationships and power between men, women, boys and girls affect behavior within a society or a household. Gender equity entails fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between these actors. In a gender-equitable household, the specific needs and priorities of the vulnerable and marginalized are respected and appreciated, allowing them to participate meaningfully in household dynamics.

Gender transformative programming recognizes that women and men have different needs and power, and that these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies the imbalances. This ensures that both women and men participate in making decisions of the household.

GENDER EQUITY: GLOBAL IMPACTS

60% of global labor is provided by women, yet they earn just 10% of the income and own 1% of property compared to men, according to [Global Partnership](#). Women are also excluded financially: they lack savings, access to credit, control of household assets, and financial information to make informed decisions. Many are unable to make independent or interdependent decisions in the household. As a result, according to the [African Development Foundation](#), the continent has a \$42 billion financing gap between men and women.



Gender Champions trained through a Church of Uganda project in Nebbi, Uganda present a skit to prompt discussion on gender roles in their community

In Yatta, Kenya women couldn't engage in meaningful entrepreneurial activities because of prevailing socioeconomic barriers. They owned little and were expected to wait on their husbands to guide them. Worse still, many of their husbands, attracted by the myth that work can be found in cities, had migrated in search of work. Since the men had few relevant skills, meaningful jobs were hard to come by. Their pride would not let them come back home empty-handed, while their wives could not make use of the resources at home for lack of the power to make household decisions.

Through participation in a village savings group, organized by Christian Impact Mission, the women began saving and were trained on conservation agriculture. Jane Kisalu acquired a dairy cow, but feared that if her husband learned about her endeavors, this would cause conflict. One day, she sent for him from the city. When he came home, he found new clothes awaiting him. She told him what she had learned and done, ready for any reaction from her husband. She told him the dairy cow will belong to him, as the household head, but requested to have control over the milk. She also said she had saved enough money to put up a new house.

Jane's husband never went back for his belongings in the city. Together they have bought more dairy cows and expanded their conservation farming. By improving the household's wellbeing, Jane also improved her husband's self-esteem, which the city had destroyed. He helped source a market for her milk and sold the male calves, earning more than he ever made in the city. He joined a male support group where he was trained on transformative masculinity. He became an official in the local Dairy Farmers Sacco, influencing change among other men and boys.

Jane and her husband were now able to feed their family and educate their children, who have since graduated from university. Jane's empowerment developed into a household that upholds respect for all members, and encourages all to contribute to the well-being of the household and the community.

This lack of equity impacts the global economy in significant ways. Women and girls make up 49.6% of the world's population, but they produce only 40% of the world's gross domestic product. According to a McKinsey Global Institute report, if we had a gender equitable world, global GDP would increase by \$12 trillion in a single decade!

GENDER EQUITY: HOUSEHOLD IMPACTS

A lack of gender equity reveals itself at the household level in a variety of ways:

- Women's labor is undervalued since it is generally unpaid work.
- Women work longer hours than men, yet they have less access to labor-saving technology.
- Women and girls are underrepresented in household decision making.
- Inequity increases gender-based violence

These gender inequities have a direct impact on the food security and well-being of *all* the members of the household. In most of the developing world, agriculture is the primary source of income, and women play a major role in farming. However, they also have reproductive and other household roles that compete with their farming responsibilities. When their decision-making authority, access to inputs and labor-saving technology are limited, both farm production/income, and the quality of services provided to family members by women will suffer.

Gender equity in the household means addressing the unique needs of all family members by enabling women and men to each contribute using their unique gifts. It means increasing women's access to [labor-saving technologies](#) and training. And it means redefining roles and responsibilities which have been distributed inequitably by societal norms. All household members do themselves a favor when they strive to strengthen gender equity. And when it is achieved in the household, it will go on to impact the broader community.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER TRANSFORMATION IN THE HOUSEHOLD

- Involve *all* family members in gender transformative programming (not just women).
- Enhance gender awareness at the household level. Help household members discuss the socially-determined differences between men and women and identify the “blind spots” which hinder women’s access to resources and decision making.
- Stress that gender equity benefits the food security and wellbeing of the *entire* family.
- Promote women’s financial literacy and access to financial resources.
- Strengthen project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting/learning systems of gender equity.
- Model gender equity by placing women in positions of leadership and decision making within NGOs and local institutions.



As a participant in a National Council of Churches project in Tharaka-Nithi, Kenya, Beatrice Kauma, joined a Village Savings and Loan Association, which enabled her to finance a clothing business and expand her farming operation.

Electronic Data Collection for Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Florence Nduku, M&E Coordinator, Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development Program (HERD)

Electronic data collection is becoming more and more common with the use of smartphones and advances in technology. Canadian Foodgrains Bank Partners are increasingly using phones or tablets to collect data for their monitoring and evaluation activities. Electronic data collection is relatively easy to adopt, saves time, and makes data collection and analysis easier. It is increasingly possible as the accessibility of internet and the affordability of mobile devices continues to improve.

GETTING THE PROCESS RIGHT

Before you decide to begin using this approach, it is important to ensure that electronic data collection is appropriate for your context; that your organization has the infrastructure to collect, store and analyze data; and that staff are equipped with the right skills to use the data collection tools.

1. **Appropriateness of Electronic Data Collection** - While there are benefits to electronic data collection, it is not appropriate for all contexts. For example, conspicuous use of tablets or mobile phones might put enumerators at risk in some contexts. In other settings, participants may not be comfortable talking to an enumerator who is using an electronic device to record results. If either of these is the case, a paper-based survey is preferable.
2. **Data Management Systems** - As you plan for electronic data collection it is important that you have the appropriate equipment to collect data (smartphones or tablets), systems to transmit that data (i.e. access to internet at least daily), and a data management system to store and analyze the data that you have collected.

There are different mobile data collection applications, and one needs to choose the most appropriate according to one's context. Some are open-source, free apps and others are commercial apps requiring subscription fees. Foodgrains Bank recommends that Partners use KoBo Toolbox, which is [available here](#) at no cost. Foodgrains Bank guidelines for how to begin with KoBo Toolbox can be [downloaded from this link](#).

While internet-based storage is generally securely backed up, it is important to ensure that access is granted only to authorized persons to respect confidentiality commitments to respondents. It is also important to ensure that the data be retained in a format that it can be easily accessed if needed in the future.

- 3. Staff Resources** - Just like with a paper-based questionnaire, it is important that you have the appropriate staff resources and skills to make your survey a success. This includes making sure you have enough trained enumerators to implement your survey. As electronic data collection may be new for your enumerators, it is important that you train them so that they are comfortable with the technology and the survey tool.

Response Type	What it does
Select One	User can choose one of several pre-determined options
Select Many	User can choose one or more of several pre-determined options
Text	User can enter text
Time	User can enter a time of day
Date & Time	User can enter date and time together
GPS	User can record a GPS location
Photo	User can take or attach a picture
Audio	User can record or attach audio
Video	User can record or attach video
Note	User is shown a note (no response possible)
Barcode	User can enter a barcode by scanning it
Acknowledge	User is asked to confirm or acknowledge something
Calculate	A mathematical derivation from entered values
Electronic data systems can collect everything from text and numbers to GPS coordinates or audio and video.	

BENEFITS OF ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION INCLUDE:

- No paper transcription, which reduces labour and cost
- Richer data, including pictures, videos, GPS coordinates, etc.
- Real-time data entry checking, minimizing the risk of data entry errors
- Faster data collection
- Faster reporting of results
- Enhanced data security (internet-based so data cannot be lost or damaged in transit or in storage)
- Environmental benefits of reduced paper use

From 2015 through 2020, 11 Canadian Foodgrains Bank Partners implemented the Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture project in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. These Partners were trained extensively on the use of KOBO Toolbox.

- Kobo Toolbox was utilized during mid-term and end-line evaluation in all three countries.
- These Partners have now adopted KoBo Toolbox for their on-going monitoring and evaluation.
- Please contact us if you would like to learn from one of these experienced Partners in your country.

CHALLENGES IN ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION INCLUDE:

- Training time for enumerators unfamiliar with the technology
- Cost of mobile devices, and software
- Technology issues such as battery life or connectivity
- The speed of technology change
- Risk of theft of mobile devices
- Data security issues

Let us know if you are a Foodgrains Bank Partner interested in learning more about using electronic data collection.

Partner Profile: African Evangelistic Enterprise-Rwanda

Jean Twilingiyumukiza, Agriculture and Livelihoods Technical Advisor, Central/West Africa

African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE) is a Christian, non-governmental organization created in 1984 and dedicated to address the root causes of poverty in Rwanda. Since its establishment by the late Israel Havugimana, AEE has changed the lives of thousands of communities while spreading the love of Christ through its mission: *word and deed*. In 2021 AEE Rwanda employed 251 staff, 351 associates who received a monthly stipend, and 1,682 community volunteers working in 17 offices throughout the country.



Francine Nyiranayahaze, President of the Imboni farmer group, displays harvested chilli peppers ready for sale

AEE have implemented programs in education and child protection to realize children's rights and contribute to self-reliant youth; livelihoods and resilience to build strong families and communities; and discipleship and training to empower the church to effect change. Their food security and livelihoods programming partners with the Government of Rwanda and other organizations to promote sustainable livelihoods through provision of agricultural extension services, development of value chains, capacity building, and market development.

In 2017, Tearfund Rwanda partnered with AEE to implement the Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Development (SEAD) project in the Southern Province of Rwanda with support from the Scottish Government. The project targeted 30,000 households, improving agricultural productivity through agriculture techniques and access to savings & loans.

By 2022, SEAD had established 1,500 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 207 villages. Their Kinyarwanda SHG slogan says “Self Help Groups are a space where people who live in the same area, and have similar livelihoods, come together and discuss their problems and try to find solutions for themselves.” The project also used 621 Village Agriculture Development Facilitators (VADFs) and 150 Community Facilitators (CFs) to promote improved crop and livestock practices among the project participants. They also constructed six community selling points that can accommodate 228 agri-business owners. AEE recently received an extension to continue capacity building activities aimed towards an increased level of sustainability and strategic exit of the project.



Aloysie in the Duharanirekwigira self-help group's collective garden

ALTA TRAVEL SCHEDULES

Lilian Zheke

July, 2022

Agro Score, Mwenezi (BICC-CDS, KMTCC, PAOZ, ZCC)
Partner exchange visit

August, 2022

TSA – Malawi and AG Care (Tearfund)- Malawi visit and Training

September, 2022

PAOZ, ZCC
Training and projects visit

JEAN TWILINGIYUMUKIZA

5-14 July, 2022

Burundi
HCB and LWF Partner visits
Country-wide workshop

September, 2022

Oronkua, Burkina Faso
ODE Project visit

JOHN KIMATHI MBAE

July, 2022

Lodwar- Turkana- NCM & ADRA

September, 2022

Marsabit, Kenya
CITAM & SMM Partner visit- support

NEIL ROWE MILLER

5-14 July, 2022

Burundi
HCB and LWF Partner visits
Country-wide workshop

August, 2022

Geita and Mara, Tanzania
AICT Partner Visits and training

September, 2022

Ethiopia
EKHC, TDA and EGCDWO Partner visits