

Oxfam GB Project Effectiveness Review Management Response

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Name of Response reviewed: Strengthening and Linking Women-Led Efforts to Promote Women's Property and Literacy Rights in Sierra Leone

Date: August 2013

Summary of Results

A

Overall index of women's empowerment

Women in the project communities in Koinadugu District demonstrated empowerment in significantly more of the characteristics than did those in comparison communities. It is not clear that there is any such difference between women in the project and comparison communities in Kailahun District.

Dimension	Characteristic	Connected to project logic?	Koinadugu District		Kailahun District	
			Proportion of women in project communities above benchmark	Evidence of impact	Proportion of women in project communities above benchmark	Evidence of impact
Ability to make and influence decisions	Involvement in household productive decisions	No	40%	No	47%	No
	Involvement in household spending decisions	No	37%	No	42%	No

R	Involvement in other household decisions	No	47%	No	39%	No
	Influence in community decision-making	No	23%	No	13%	No
Self-perception	Attitude to women's political rights	Yes	82%	Yes	66%	No
A	Attitude to women's property rights	Yes	22%	No	36%	No
	Attitude to women's educational rights	No	36%	Yes	38%	No
	Opinion on early marriage	No	68%	Yes	51%	No
	Attitude to women's economic roles	No	63%	No	51%	No
	Attitude to women's domestic roles	No	31%	No	11%	No
	Self-efficacy	No	36%	No	30%	No
	Psycho-social wellbeing	No	27%	No	32%	No
Personal freedom	Literacy	Yes	24%	Yes	11%	No
A	Personal autonomy	No	41%	Yes	11%	No
	Spare time	No	90%	Yes	79%	No
	Support in achieving personal goals	No	30%	No	24%	No
	Attitude to violence against women	No	24%	Yes	32%	No
	Experience of violence	No	52%	No	59%	No
Access to and control over resources	Ownership of land and property	Yes	44%	No	48%	No
R	Ownership of other assets	No	20%	No	22%	Yes
	Independent income	No	46%	No	69%	No
	Role in cash management	No	40%	No	39%	No
	Savings	No	17%	No	19%	No
	Access to credit	No	42%	No	25%	Yes
Support from social	Social connectivity	No	21%	No	26%	No

networks	Group participation	No	49%	No	29%	No
R	Support from groups to achieve personal goals	No	49%	No	35%	No

Applicability: These results apply to women residing in the communities in Koinadugu and Kailahun districts where the project was implemented, with the exceptions of (a) Kailahun town and two other larger communities in Kailahun district, and (b) two chiefdoms in Koinadugu, which were too remote to be accessible for the purposes of the survey. The results relate only to the impact of the community-level interventions carried out under this project. The impact of the national advocacy work, the local radio programmes, and the capacity-building of district-level office holders is not covered in this report.

1. What follow-up to the review have you undertaken or planned (if any) e.g. discussion, analysis, workshop?

- A series of discussions took place to understand the outcome of the Effectiveness Review at country land project level
- The Effectiveness review process facilitated the final audit of the Women’s property and Literacy rights Project by taking into account the outcome of the review
- The project Coordinator in collaboration with the focal point in FAWE, initiated the discussion at District level with our partners KDC and Kailahun plus the Districts network as an exit strategy
- The management commissioned a Video documentary of 20 minutes on Women’s property and literacy rights with the objective of enhancing the dissemination of women’s rights and focussing on:
 1. Ability to make and influence decisions (involvement in house productive decisions, household spending and influence in community decision making)
 2. Access to and control over resources (ownership of land and property, ownerships of other assets, role in cash management and saving, access to credit)
 3. Support from social networks (social connectivity, group participation, support from group to achieve personal goals)

2. Overall, do the findings concur with your own expectations or assessment of the project/programme's effectiveness?

No, they don't.

The results may not reflect the full effect of the project activities since one district capital and two other market centres were excluded from the effectiveness review in Kailahun District and where a high proportion of women community leaders trained and are thought to come from those larger towns than from the rural areas.

The report mentions that there was no or only a slight significant difference in the project communities and comparison communities. The report should go further and understand the reasons behind this disproportion. For example ownership and control of land and property, which is the core value of the project; surprisingly, women in the project communities Koinadugu District were considerably *less* likely to report that they have control over some land or property than women in comparison communities.

3. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were particularly strong in the project (ie large impact)?

Yes, for attitude to women's political rights in both Districts the score was significant at 82% for Koinadugu and 66% for Kailahun, "73 per cent of women in project communities agreed that women have the right to vote for their preferred candidates, against only 65 per cent of women in comparison communities."

Another area where the project was strong, is the time available to the respondent to pursue their own activities. 90 per cent scored positively in the project communities of Koinadugu and 79% for Kailahun District, "respondents were considered to have scored positively if they said that they had two hours or more available to themselves."

4. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were weak or very weak (ie no or very little impact)?

Yes,

- Ability to influence and to make decisions, especially in influencing decision making
- Access to and control over resources, principally on ownerships of other assets and on savings
- Support from social Network, particularly on social connectivity

5. a) Is the reviewed project continuing? If yes, what actions are being taken in response to the weak areas identified in question 4?

No unfortunately the project ended in April 2013, however an exit plan was put into place to follow up those issues and the District Network composed by different CBO's took the lead. Specifically Koinadugu FAWE is hosting the District Network while Kailahun is hosting the Women's Network.

Another action conducted by the Project is to link the District Network to a Government body, and attain access to justice for the whole community.

To involve women as much as we can in the accountability forum within their community, and in the coming Rural WASH Governance Project in Koinadugu District.

b) What actions are you planning in response to the Programme Learning Considerations?

Programme Learning Considerations:

- **Ensure that mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which literacy training and campaign messages are disseminated by those trained directly under the project to other community members.**
 - *We will ensure that those campaign messages are disseminated by those trained under the former project. They have been integrated in the coming Advocacy and Campaign programme with our partners in those Districts, (ALLAT and Green Scenery)*
 - *As OXFAM will be implementing a WASH Governance Project in Koinadugu, an informal monitoring process will be conducted for changes taking place at District and community level in collaboration with the District Network*
- **Continue following up on progress with women's property and literacy rights in the project districts, to understand what effects this project has in the longer term.**
 - Well noted

6. If the project/humanitarian response is ending or has already ended, what learning from the review will you apply to relevant new projects in the future? How can the Regional Centre and Oxford support these plans?

- Access to justice (Legal support for women)
- More awareness on women's rights, land and property issues

- To expand the project to other communities

From the Regional Centre and Oxford, we will need some guidance and if possible to share with the Country management teams, the best practices from similar programmes implemented successfully in other regions.

7. The reports will be published by Oxfam. If you have objections to this, please say so and explain why.

We have no objection, however, we still have to take into consideration a slight bias towards wealthier households at the top of the scale in Kailahun and take into account that the project provided direct leadership training and training on the REFLECT methodology for adult literacy for only 130 women across the two districts (some of whom were based in the larger towns, which were not included in this effectiveness review). These women were then supported and encouraged in carrying out awareness raising, women's rights campaigns and literacy training in their own communities. These women were not themselves directly targeted for interview in the effectiveness review.