



Ethiopia

Women's Empowerment

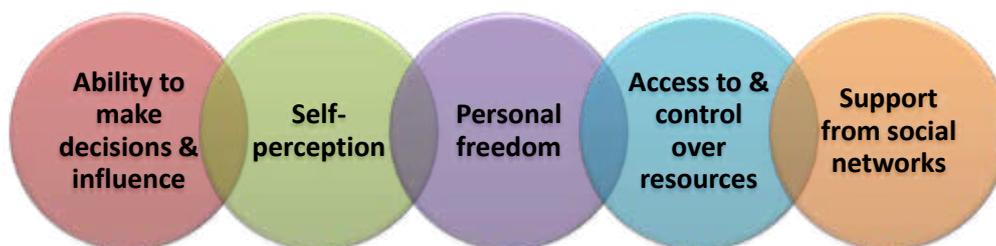
2013/14

Women's beekeeping and access to financial services

The project was carried out by Oxfam together with the Zembaba Bees Product Development and Marketing Cooperatives Union in seven woredas (districts) of Amhara Region. Its overall objective was to strengthen the livelihoods and empowerment of rural people – particularly women. The project facilitated the formation of 32 women's 'self-help groups' across seven woredas, by supporting their members in taking up or strengthening beekeeping activities (traditionally a male dominated activity). The project also improved access to financial services and other service providers in order to support production and marketing of agricultural products. The review was restricted to four of the seven woredas where the project was implemented. It should be noted that these four woredas are generally seen to have lower potential for honey production than the three that were not included in this review.

Key Dimensions of Women's Empowerment assessed in this effectiveness review

What affects a woman's ability to control her own
circumstances and fulfil her own interests and priorities?



Project date: May 2010 - April 2013

Evaluation: November 2013

Publication: November 2014

Evaluation Method

Focus groups discussions were held with self-help group members, and with male members of their households. In-depth interviews were also carried out with local leaders and extension agents, to provide deeper insights on the impact of the project than could be captured in the quantitative survey. Data from the interviews with women who participated in the self-help groups, and women from nearby communities where the project had not been implemented were analysed using propensity-score matching and multivariate regression.

For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Results

| Project outcome | Evidence of positive impact | Commentary |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Engagement in beekeeping | YES | More of the households of self-help group members are engaged in beekeeping. Women have increased their participation, and many have experimented with new technologies. |
| Sales of honey | YES | Revenue generated from sales of honey among households of self-help group members is more than double that of the comparison households – though it is still small in magnitude. |
| Savings | YES | Most self-help group members have some personal savings, and half had saved during the month prior to the survey. |
| Access to and use of credit | YES | Self-help group members are more likely to have borrowed both from the group and from microfinance institutions. |
| Dietary diversity | YES | Self-help group members and their households have a significantly more diverse diet than comparison households. |
| Women's empowerment | YES | There is a clear impact on women's personal savings and on participation in community groups. There is little or no indication of positive changes in other areas of women's empowerment. |

Results apply to all members of the 13 self-help groups established under this project in the woredas of Bahir Dar Zuria, Gozamen, Gondar Zuria and Lebokemkem who were available and willing to be interviewed at the time of the survey, with the exception of the approximately 10 per cent of self-help group members who live at particularly large distances from their kebele centre.

Going forward

Based on the learning from the project under review, the following points were incorporated into a long-term project to support women in honey value chain:

- More holistic programming, involving various stakeholders based on their added value (for example, an agreement was signed with local organisation SNV, to work on access to finance)
- A stronger and more holistic monitoring, evaluation and learning framework has been developed that involves different stakeholders at all stages. This includes using a randomised controlled trial, and a gender analysis focusing on a range of issues, including violence against women.
- A detailed gender strategy has been developed focusing on supporting women to negotiate new roles in their social and economic lives

A Rapid Care Analysis is being tested in two other projects in Ethiopia. Learning from this will be integrated in the honey value chain programme to enable women to manage potential risks related to workload.

Photo credit: Tom Pietrasik/Oxfam