



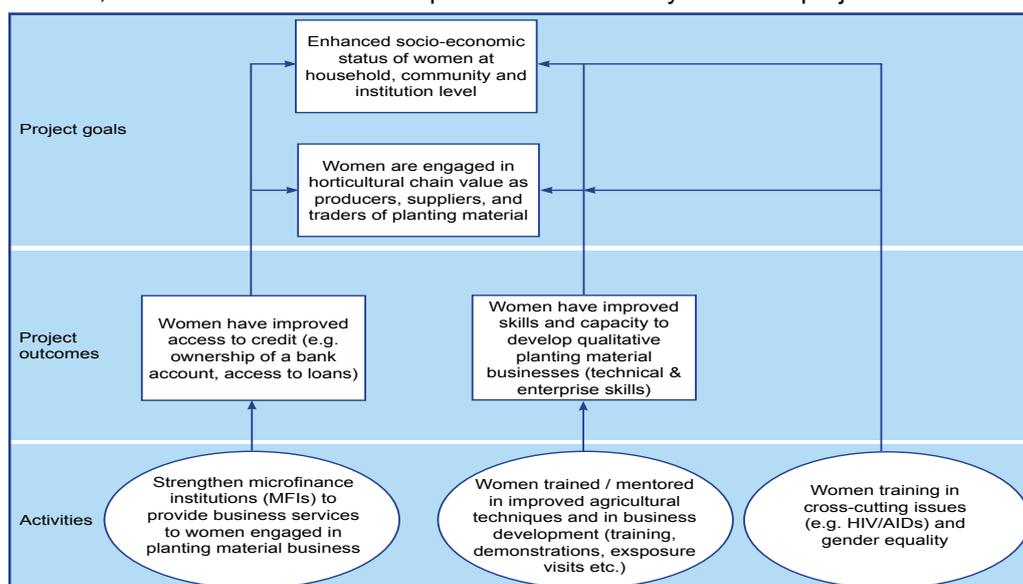
Rwanda

Women's Empowerment

2013/14

## Women's economic leadership through horticulture planting-material business

This project was implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Duterimbere, a local organisation, between 2011 and 2014. The project aimed at strengthening women's capacity for engaging in the production of pineapple planting material, and thereby to enhance women's socio-economic status at household and community level. Another important dimension of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the microfinance division of Duterimbere to provide finance and business services to women in the planting-material business. The project was implemented in four districts of Rwanda, but the Effectiveness Review focused on the project's impact among participants in Muhanga and Nyagatare districts, where activities had taken place since the first year of the project.



The above diagram presents a simplified explanation of how the project was expected to achieve change, through project activities and outcomes that were expected to contribute to the overall goal of the project.

Project date: August 2011 - March 2014

Evaluation: March 2014

Publication: March 2015

# Evaluation Method

The review sought to evaluate the project's impact among the women in Muhanga and Nyagatare districts who directly participated in the training provided under this project. A 'quasi-experimental' evaluation design was used whereby data from interviews with these project participants, as well as with women in nearby communities where the project had not been implemented, were analysed using propensity-score matching and multivariate regression.

See the document 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' for more information on evaluation design. Full details about the specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

## Results

Project outcome	Evidence of positive impact		Commentary
	Muhanga	Nyagatare	
Engagement in pineapple planting-material business	YES	YES	Most of the project participants were engaged in production of pineapple planting-material, and were generating significant revenue from sales.
Sales of agricultural products	YES	YES	Strong evidence that the project has enabled project participants to generate more revenue from sales of agricultural products, particularly in Nyagatare District.
Improvement in indicators of material wealth	NO	NO	Most project participants reported that their income has increased since 2010, but this is not clearly reflected in wealth indicators, such as asset ownership and housing conditions.
Improvement in women's access to credit	NO	YES	Respondents in Nyagatare were more likely to say that they could access a loan from a formal source if necessary – but those in Muhanga were not. Actual borrowing was no more common among project participants than among comparison households in either district.
Increase in women's saving	NO	YES	Respondents in both districts were more likely to have a personal bank account, but only in Nyagatare were they more likely to have made savings during the past month.
Women's empowerment	YES	YES	Evidence of positive impact in terms of various characteristics of women's involvement. Project participants scored positively in 55 per cent of the characteristics on average, compared to 48 per cent among comparison respondents.

## Going forward

Oxfam in Rwanda are committed to incorporating the recommendations that have emerged from the evaluation into current and future programming. From March 2015, Gender becomes a key pillar in the Oxfam in Rwanda's Country Strategy, which will provide greater strategic importance to women's rights in projects and programmes. It is also recognised there is a need to expand the scope of monitoring within projects to integrate the tracking of food security at household level and outcomes on wealth in general.

Staff capacity will be developed in the areas of both women's rights and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL). This will be initiated through the recruitment of a gender justice lead who will work with other thematic area leads. All staff will receive gender training throughout 2015. A MEAL lead will also be recruited to improve capacity to design and implement effective MEAL systems. These activities will help to build Oxfam in Rwanda's capacity to: undertake more robust gender analysis when designing projects; define clearer gender indicators that will help assess project progress and results; establish clear project baselines; implement adequate monitoring systems throughout the intervention; and define clear initiatives to identify and capture learning.

Photo credit: Simon Rawles/Oxfam