



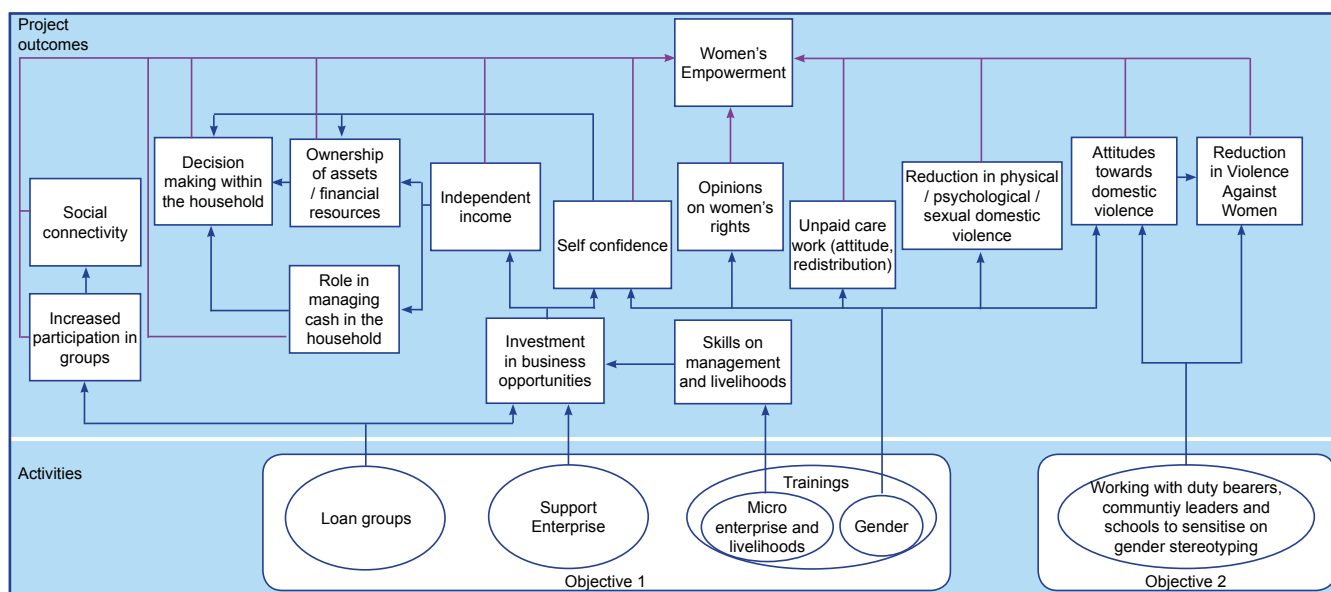
Uganda

Women's Empowerment

2014/15

Piloting gender sensitive livelihoods in Karamoja

The project intended to achieve two main objectives through the implementation of two distinct interventions. The first objective was to improve the livelihoods of poor women through the support of enterprises. The project implemented a Gender Action Learning System approach (GALS), a community-led empowerment methodology that aims to promote economic, social and political transformation to gender justice. The approach works with women and men jointly to develop achievable visions for change. The project also provided training on running small enterprises and businesses and supported women's groups to start them. The activities contributing to this objective are referred to as the project's WEE activities. The second objective was to reduce violence against women by promoting awareness and influencing attitude and behavioural change. Activities included training and supporting duty bearers and community leaders to implement positive actions to address violence against women within their communities, and holding awareness-raising sessions in schools through drama clubs on violence against women. The project also implemented a 'change makers' strategy, recruiting participants within project communities, talking to them about gender equality and the problems associated with domestic violence against women, and supporting them to reflect on and change their own attitudes and behaviours, and encourage others to do the same. The activities contributing to this objective are referred to as the project's VAW activities.



This logic model presents 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: July 2011 - March 2014

Evaluation: August 2014

Publication: December 2015

Evaluation method

The review adopted a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design, which involved comparing women that had been supported by the project with women in neighbouring communities that had similar characteristics in 2010. A household survey was carried out with women randomly selected from those who participated in the project activities using the GALS methodology; women selected within the social network of the project's change makers, but had not been involved in activities conducted under the GALS approach; and a comparison group of women never involved in any Oxfam project. See the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document for more information on evaluation design. Details about specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

Results

Project outcome	GALS		Change makers		Commentary
	Linked to project logic	Evidence of impact	Linked to project logic	Evidence of impact	
Overall measure of women's empowerment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Women involved in project's WEE activities present statistically significant higher levels of women's empowerment overall. On the other hand, women involved in project's VAW activities do not present higher levels of women's empowerment.
Self-perception, personal change and opinions	Yes	Yes	No	No	Women involved in WEE activities appear to have changed their opinions on women's economic role, gender rights, and property rights.
Personal freedom and violence	Yes	Not clear	Yes	Not clear	Results on attitudes to gender-based violence are unclear. The evaluation identified higher acceptability of gender-based violence among the group of women involved in VAW activities. However, the literature suggests that these estimates should be treated with caution as they may reflect instead a greater willingness to discuss the issue.
Access and control over resources	Yes	Yes	No	No	Women involved in WEE activities reported higher levels of contribution of personal income to the household; however, this is not reflected in higher levels of asset ownership by the household. The evaluation also found evidence that women engaged in the project's WEE activities had higher levels of access to savings and credit.
Decisions & influence	Yes	No	No	No	Women involved in project's WEE activities report lower levels of household decision-making power than women in the comparison group.
Support from social network	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The evaluation found higher levels of group participation associated with both groups of project participants, and higher levels of support from the different groups these women were involved with to pursue own initiative.
Care and unpaid work	Yes	No	No	No	Estimates suggest that women involved in project's WEE activities are associated with a smaller amount of time devoted to leisure, compared with women not involved into project activities.
Household wealth	Yes	Yes	No	No	There is evidence that women involved in project activities involving GALS methodology appear to have greater levels of household wealth compared with similar women not involved into the project.
Involvement in business activities	Yes	Yes	No	No	Women involved in project activities involving GALS methodology and support for establishing business appear to be more likely to be participate in business activities compared with similar women not involved into project activities.

Going forward

Based on positive findings from the evaluation, the GALS approach will be scaled up during 2016-2017 in Uganda and other countries in the Horn, East and Central Africa region, such as Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Learning from the review will also inform the design and development of the theory of change for a multi-country programme on women's economic empowerment in the region, under the coordination of Oxfam in Uganda. The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework will consider the inclusion of, as relevant, the indicators used in this review. It will be explored how areas of learning generated by this review will be disseminated and inform programme design in other countries in the region, especially around the impact of interventions on personal freedom and violence.

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