



Acaba Robert (64)
Farmer / Beekeeper
Married
7 Children in household

“ This change [in financial status, being able to provide for the family] is fundamental in my life because it resulted into other changes; my wife came back to live with me and the children because I am financially stable. I am able to provide all the family needs. ”

LOOKING BACK AT THE LAST 5 YEARS, DO YOU THINK THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN OCCURRENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA?



FINDINGS SURVEY

Although gender-based violence is a sensitive and salient topic to measure, the impact study also included measurements on the incidence and awareness around gender-based violence. The results are mixed, as the graph shows



STORIES OF CHANGE

Changed attitudes towards gender-based violence are intangible results and therefore not easy to fully capture with a quantitative survey. Therefore, the organisations decided to collect Stories of Change on this domain.

Source: WCP Uganda 2014, N = 4953

HOW DO LIVELIHOOD & RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS ACTUALLY INTERACT?

LESSONS FROM STORIES OF CHANGE



During the reflection workshop after the impact survey in August 2014, one of the questions raised was about the relationship between improvement in livelihood circumstances and gender-based violence. Does a livelihood improvement lead to more GBV instead of less, participants wondered. Indeed, a livelihood improvement without a change in the relationship between the spouses might lead to more inequality and more violence between husband and wife.

A total of 17 stories report on both improvements in the livelihood circumstances of the family as well as an improved relationship between the spouses. Analysis of these stories shows that the changes are related in different ways. There is not one way to solving livelihood & relationship problems: in some cases an improved livelihood leads to a better relationship between the spouses, in other cases it is the other way around. In a third category, the two changes happen, but they are not directly influencing each other.

The following three quotes from Stories of Change illustrate how livelihood and relationship situations can interact.

INTERACTION OF LIVELIHOOD & RELATIONSHIP: FROM IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD TO IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP



“ After TAC and CEW-IT had trained me, I got information about my rights. Whenever my husband would come back home for a few days I would share with him, though he showed a lot of resistance. But I never gave up sharing with him. Finally, he accepted me to keep going for meetings and trainings. His character slowly started changing as well and he started saying that it was good to get information. While my husband was away from home, I constructed a three bedroom house, and a two room lock up in the centre and I rented it out. Upon knowing it, my husband was happy this time round and he allowed me to own them in my names. I have the titles. ”

Anonymous (46), Peasant farmer and civic educator, Married, 6 Children in household

INTERACTION OF LIVELIHOOD & RELATIONSHIP: FROM IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP TO IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD



Lucy N. Angua (33)
Farmer
Married
4 Children in household

“ When I joined ESAFF my husband too later joined to find out what I was going for, this was because he didn't trust me. Slowly he liked what was being taught especially visioning and the challenge action tree and whenever we would gather our teacher would encourage us to stick together and work together. This woke my husband up and indeed one day he requested me to join him and discuss some things as he was about the leave to the country (to work in southern Sudan). From this discussion we came up with a land vision where we would love to see ourselves producing more crops for selling to get more money and be able to participate in community meetings to share with others. From then on my husband started to include me in the planning for the home and eventually I had started to realize some change, though it took some time having joined ESAFF in 2011 and this happened in 2013. ”

INTERACTION OF LIVELIHOOD & RELATIONSHIP: NO LINK BETWEEN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD



Letio Demonica (46), Farmer, Married, 7 Children in household

“ It's not still as good as I want because my husband even up to now sneaks and takes what we produce for the family to his third wife's children without asking me. This makes me break in tears because I told him to dig for his wife separate but he doesn't want it so this has continued to bring us problems, because of this he insults me, he talks of land issue though I have my plans for the family but it's tied up, because he tells me where shall I head with my money. ”

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER AS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE DECREASE IN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?



FINDINGS SURVEY



Source: WCP Uganda 2014, N = 3142

INSIGHTS GAINED THROUGH STORIES OF CHANGE



The Stories of Change demonstrate that the most lasting results for women's economic empowerment are interventions that aim both at changing:

- the livelihood situation
- improving the relation between partners

This is an argument for paying attention to gender aspects in livelihood projects, but also for paying attention to livelihood improvement if a meager livelihood is among the causes of gender based violence.

KEY LESSON: FOCUSING ON THE LIVELIHOOD AND THE RELATIONSHIP TO TACKLE GBV



For households in which husband and wife live together, gender-based violence and livelihood interventions are most successful when they go together. This way they can reinforce each other and the ultimate outcomes in the lives of the people. Interventions focusing on an improved livelihood only, might not lead to a lasting change if the relationship of the two spouses is not taken into account.

For female headed households, supporting the woman to gain economic independence (through supporting her to increase her income and/or enhance her access to critical resources such as land) is crucial. This way, she is not forced to go back to an aggressive husband or to get married for financial purposes.

The objective of this study is to measure and understand the changes in people's lives caused by the programmes of Oxfam and partners. For this, Oxfam Novib's World Citizens Panel research methodology was used. This combines quantitative (the survey) and qualitative research (the Stories of Change).

IMPACT SURVEY



170 interviewers
4.953 interviews
Data collection:
June - September 2014

STORIES OF CHANGE



8 organisations
52 stories
Data collection:
October - December 2014

In 2014 in Uganda, an impact study was carried out by Oxfam and 17 partners, each partner in their own area of intervention. All partners interviewed project beneficiaries (target group) and people who had not participated to their projects but who have identical characteristics (control group). Based on the outcomes of the impact survey, Oxfam and partners identified the domains "land rights for women" and "gender-based violence" for more in-depth investigation through the collection of Stories of Change. A reflection workshop was organized in January 2015, in which Oxfam and partner organisations together analyzed a selected number of stories and discussed the findings.



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