



Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project – Kenya

Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming to Transform Livelihoods in PFSs in Turkana, Kenya: A Case Study of Nawamor, Songot and Nanaam Pastoral Field Schools

THE CHALLENGE

- ❑ Food and Agriculture Organization (F.A.O) introduced PFS in Turkana but it did not pick on well although it was an important forum through which pastoral and agro pastoral community members can improve on what they know or introduce new ideas that will improve their living standards.
- ❑ Adult males generally engaged in productive roles while adult female in reproductive roles.
- ❑ Decisions on income and spending is controlled by the adult male with little consultation of the females.



Songot PFS has sold 20 bags of pasture seeds 10kg @ksh1,000 per kg and 300 bales of hay at ksh 300 per bale. Fattened castrate goats are sold to traders from Jupa at ksh 3,500 each

GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTION

In order to address the identified gender gaps and concerns, the project took a deliberate decision to mainstream gender in most of its interventions. Specifically, the following gender-focussed interventions were made:

- ❑ Conducting gender trainings
- ❑ Ensuring gender inclusivity in decision making (election of PFS officials)
- ❑ Gender action planning (engendering the PFS action planning process)
- ❑ Utilization of nominated gender champions to act as agents of change
- ❑ Use of experiential learning to influence communities' perception on gender aspects.

BENEFICIARIES

Three sub-counties have benefitted from PFS initiative i.e. Loima (Nawamor PFS-Breeding), T/West (Songot PFS-Pasture production) and T/West (Nanaam-PFS-Breeding) targeting alternative livelihoods activities where gender mainstreaming has contributed in improving decision making capacity within local communities to stimulate local innovation in the usage of range resources

RESULTS

Trainers of Trainers document effects of gender mainstreaming through observation and use of surveys as follows:

- ❑ Improved gender inclusivity in all PFS activities.
- ❑ More females engaged in the group activities and in group leadership
- ❑ Enhanced group harmony
- ❑ Increased participation of male youth in household activities
- ❑ Group behavioural change from traditional to commercial production.
- ❑ Increased productivity and incomes to groups that embraced gender in their IGAs, leading to improvement in health of women and the youth
- ❑ Decisions like breeding selection criteria is now being done by both women and youth
- ❑ Reduction in gender stereotypes.

LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Mainstreaming gender in project formulation supports effective implementation of projects
- ❑ It is important to undertake baseline survey on gender mainstreaming before roll out of project activities
- ❑ Gender mainstreaming is a process and not an event
- ❑ Gender inclusivity in projects bridges delivery gaps

SUSTAINABILITY

- ❑ Incorporated gender mainstreaming into the PFS by-laws
- ❑ Frequent refresher courses on gender (twice annually)
- ❑ Active change ambassadors in the PFS to demystify gender stereotypes
- ❑ Grievance redress committee within the PFS to handle gender based issues