

Advancing Poultry Keeping as an Alternative Livelihood for Pastoral Communities: A Case Study of Achey Self-Help Group, West Pokot County, Kenya

The Challenge

Driven by their desire for an alternative livelihood option, Achey Self-Help Group, a predominantly pastoral community in West Pokot, Kenya started a poultry keeping initiative as an important income generating activity for its 32 members. The objective of the group was to improve the livelihoods and food security situation for group members, majority of whom were female (53.1%).

Gender Mainstreaming Action

The initiative sought to comply with RPLRP developing objective number 5 (PDO 5) which states the number of direct Project beneficiaries of which must be (percentage) female. The Kenya national policy on gender and development year 2000 recognizes that it is the right of men, women, boys and girls to participate in and benefit from development and other initiative.

The project addressed gender concerns through:

- Gender sensitive community action plans after Kapchok ward undertook Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) to prioritise community development needs;
- Applying the one third gender rule when electing group officials i.e. the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer to manage the PFS;
- Nomination of equal number of men and women to RPLRP County Project Steering Committee which provides policy guidance and strategic leadership to the West Pokot county project implementation unit;
- Gender sensitive recruitment of PFS facilitators and ensuring that both genders facilitate trainings;
- Ensuring gender inclusive PFS membership and engendering the PFS activities;
- Engendering the PFS capacity building trainings.

Beneficiaries

Achey self-help group has a membership of 32 community members (15 men and 17 women) from Kapchok ward.



Live birds inside the poultry house

Results

- The group was comprised of both men (46.9%) and female (53.1%) beneficiaries based on PDO 5;
- Incomes to both female and male group members;
- Improved linkages and access to poultry markets and service providers;
- Poultry initiative attracted other partners (AAH) to scale up IGAs in the neighbouring community of Kasei ward;
- Group members have replicated the initiative in their homesteads leading to increased incomes.



Group members cleaning the drinkers. All genders are involved

Lessons Learnt

- Mainstreaming gender in governance structures enhances group dynamics and redress mechanisms;
- Improved access and linkages to markets and service providers increases potential benefits at group and individual household level;
- Participation in alternative livelihood activities (IGAs) increases beneficiary incomes, enhances community cohesion and resilience.

Plans to adapt, scale or replicate the action

The PFS prepares monthly and quarterly activity implementation reports. The Quarterly PFS reports are presented to the RPLRP County Steering Group meetings and county stakeholders forums for deliberation and dissemination to county stakeholders. The practice is also shared to the rest of the community in community public barazas and forums.