Accelerating Rural Women's Access to Markets and Trade (P130785)

AFRICA | Kenya | Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice Global Practice |
Recipient Executed Activities | Specific Investment Loan | FY 2012 | Seq No: 4 | ARCHIVED on 14-Apr-2017 | ISR24831 |

Implementing Agencies:

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 12-Mar-2012
Effectiveness Date: 30-May-2012
Original Closing Date: 30-May-2016
Revised Closing Date: 31-Mar-2017

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)
The project aims to contribute to women’s economic empowerment and improve livelihoods through enhanced agricultural production and access to markets. The underlying rationale is to equip women with relevant knowledge and skills as well as enhance their leadership and organizational capabilities to enable them become drivers of their own social and economic transformation.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?
No

Components

Overall Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Previous Rating</th>
<th>Current Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progress towards achievement of PDO</td>
<td>● Moderately Satisfactory</td>
<td>● Highly Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Implementation Progress (IP)</td>
<td>● Moderately Satisfactory</td>
<td>● Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The project implementation was broadly successful. The project was mostly classified as ‘moderately satisfactory’ and ‘satisfactory’. Where challenges were encountered, appropriate interventions were devised to address the specific implementation challenges.

Component 1: Organize Women Farmers to Work Collectively to Economically Improve their Livelihoods
The main aim was to mobilize women farmers to form groups, have them registered with the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, establish a formal leadership structure and capacity build them on agribusiness development and management, leadership and governance. The
approach was highly participatory, to encourage members to take ownership of the groups and foster responsibility for achieving project objectives. The result was establishment of 133 groups.

While the Project encountered initial challenges that delayed the process of group formation, the bottlenecks were identified and appropriately addressed and the project moved on well, to be within the stipulated timeframe.

**Component 2: Enhance Women Farmers Lobbying and Advocacy Capacities for Essential Services to Improve Production**

The objective of the component was to enhance farmers’ lobbying and advocacy capacities. It involved identification of Advocacy Champions and capacity building them so that they may use the knowledge and skills gained for the purpose of bringing about social change. The champions work together with the communities to identify their interests, needs and concerns and then communicate the needs to decision makers to address the concerns.

Lobby and advocacy efforts have resulted in construction of maternity wings in most dispensaries to make child delivery and maternal care safer; construction and maintenance of rural access roads to ease movement of goods and people; construction of water infrastructure and improvement of water supply system to ensure ease of accessibility of water for domestic, livestock and irrigation purposes; and, inclusion of women in county development committees.

**Component 3: Enhancing Women Farmers Business Capacities and Market Linkage**

The objective of component three is to improve women’s knowledge of the market and to enhance their farm management and agribusiness development skills. 235 community coaches were identified and trained on production and agribusiness development so that they are in turn able to deliver capacity enhancement to women farmers on agribusiness.

The result of the intervention is the increase in production levels. For example, the milk yield per cow per day increased from 5 litres to 25 litres, yield of grain crops increased from one 90 kg bags to 3 bags per acre due to improved crop husbandry practices. Farmers have also been linked to reliable markets that supply better remunerative prices. For example, dairy farmers have been linked to Brookside and GORTA dairies in Nakuru, where they are paid Kshs 34 per litre of raw milk. This is an improvement from previous Price of Kshs 28 per litre. Poultry farmers are linked to the following markets: Burma in Nairobi, Ruiru, Kalundu market in Kitui and Dillon Hotels in Thika, where they receive Kshs 550 for one live bird delivered. This is an improvement from the previous price of Kshs 250 per bird.

**Component 4: Empower Women to Improve their Production Capabilities on Specific Commodities and Enhance their Access to Microfinance to Strengthen Enterprises**

The objective of the component is to improve smallholder farmers’ access to financial services and provide funds for investment in agriculture by smallholder farmers and agripreneurs to support sustainable economic growth.

The intervention has resulted in the establishment of the Seed Grant Fund (SGF). The SGF provides three financial products:

1. **Basic Needs Fund (BNF):** Provides grants to smallholder farmers to purchase inputs and services so that they may start-off a farming enterprise.
2. **Group Revolving Fund (GRF):** The funds are accessed as individual loans through their registered groups. The purpose of the loan is to provide seed capital for scaling up production, trade and marketing. The loan attracts a subsidized interest rate.
3. **Lead Entrepreneur Fund (LEF):** The Lead Entrepreneur Fund is to provide collateral to women agripreneurs who have potential to establish successful agribusiness and want to access commercial credit from financial institutions. The Basic Needs Fund, Group Revolving Fund and Lead Entrepreneur Funds have been rolled out and farmers have been mobilized to establish savings accounts in banks and other financial institutions.

**Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Management**

This component was tasked with the responsibility of establishing an appropriate management structure for stakeholder engagement, project management, reporting, accounting and monitoring and evaluation.

The project maximized stakeholder engagement through integrated approach that included direct engagement of the beneficiaries, local leaders, county government departments and other relevant stakeholders. The project also established web based management information system (MIS) infrastructure for data capturing, analysis and transmission. The process results in data based decision making to enable improvement of implementation process and businesses development.
**Risks**

**Overall Risk Rating**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Category</th>
<th>Rating at Approval</th>
<th>Previous Rating</th>
<th>Current Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Project Development Objective Indicators**

- **Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Core)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Actual (Previous)</th>
<th>Actual (Current)</th>
<th>End Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>3,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Female beneficiaries (Percentage, Core Supplement)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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**Overall Comments**

The project has met and/or in most instances exceeded its targets.

**Component 1: Organize Women Farmers to Work Collectively in Order to Economically Empower and Improve their Livelihood**

1. Three thousand five hundred (3,500) women farmers have been reached exceeding the target of 3,400 farmers.
2. The women have been organized into 133 Common Interest Groups based on the three value chains – horticulture, indigenous poultry and dairy.
3. 1,359 men champions have been recruited and trained to support women in agribusiness development and lead advocating for attitude change towards women empowerment.
4. 25 women have purchased land using proceeds from the business.
5. 516 women have made improvements in their homes such as electrification, construction of permanent houses and build toilets to improve household sanitation.

**Component 2: Enhance Women Farmers Lobbying and Advocacy Capacities for Essential Services**
Six (6) advocacy teams have been established and trained and their efforts contributed to government funding of 23 roads out of 26 identified being graveled and drainage system improved.

Four (4) women have been nominated to sit in the Tender Committees for water projects valued at Kshs 6.5 million each in their locations.

In Kitui, 14 out of 20 roads prioritized by the women groups have been opened up and leveled.

Two (2) women in Kitui Central are members of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Groups in Kitui were able to leverage support from the County Government to establish and equip three poultry slaughter slabs and install four incubators.

A total of 235 community coaches have been trained on marketing and business development skills who have trained other women resulting in milk yield per cow/day increasing from 5 to 25 liters.

Four dairy farmers have been linked to Brookside and GORTA dairies in Nakuru. They have a reliable, stable market and better remunerative prices.

Nine (9) out of the planned ten (10) market champions have been trained and mentored and as a result have established profitable businesses.

In addition, a total of 235 Community Coaches (Peer Trainers) have been trained to transfer skills to group members and to the wider community. This aspect is likely to continue even when the project closes.

Intermediate Results Indicators

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Core)</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall Comments

**Data on Financial Performance**

**Disbursements (by loan)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Loan/Credit/TF</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>Cancelled</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
<th>Undisbursed</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>TF-12019</td>
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**Key Dates (by loan)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Loan/Credit/TF</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
<th>Signing Date</th>
<th>Effectiveness Date</th>
<th>Orig. Closing Date</th>
<th>Rev. Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Cumulative Disbursements**
**Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

**Related Project(s)**

There are no related projects.