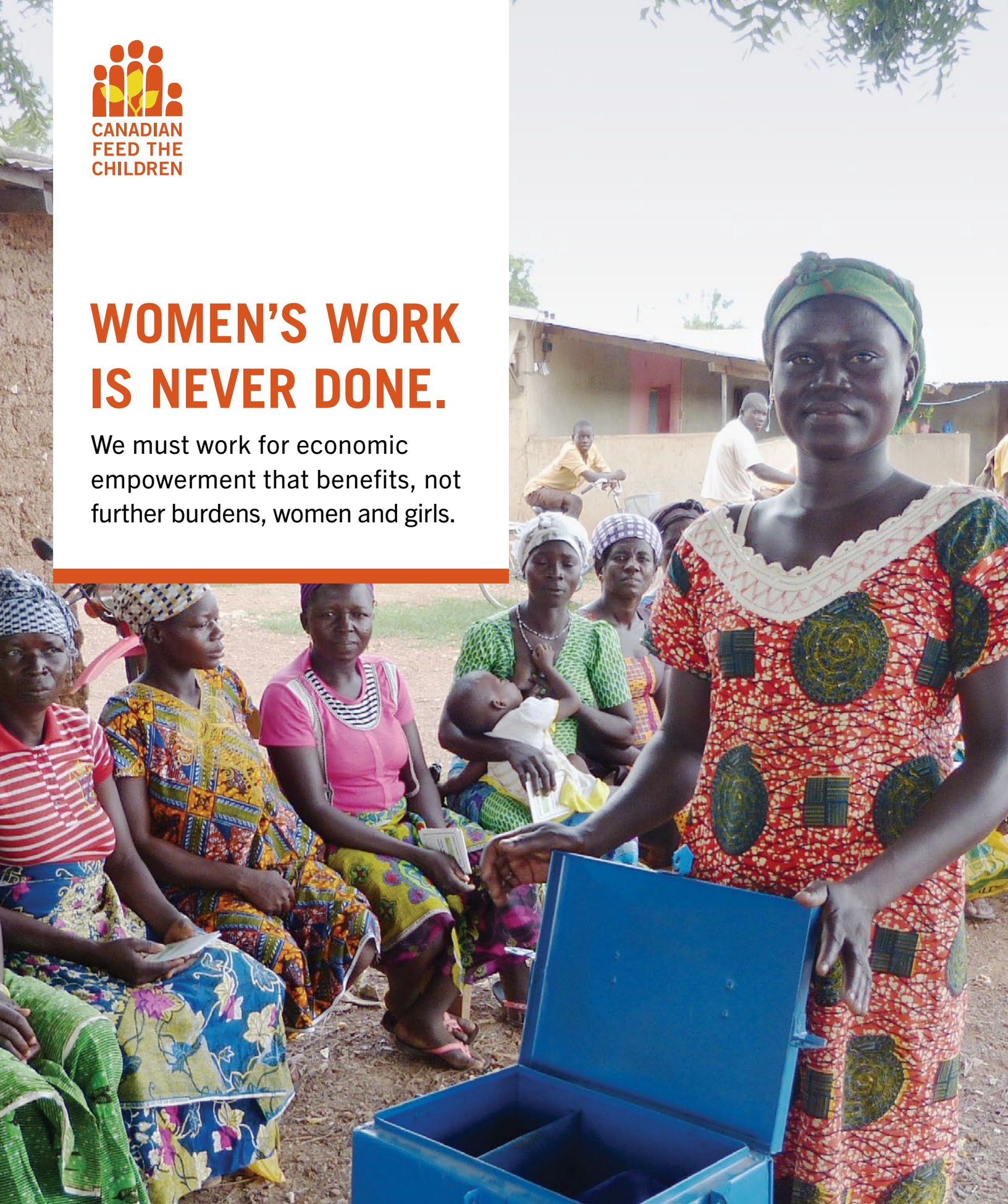




CANADIAN
FEED THE
CHILDREN

WOMEN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE.

We must work for economic empowerment that benefits, not further burdens, women and girls.



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CANADIAN FEED THE CHILDREN | February 2023

The language of gender justice activists in Africa is fundamental. They prioritize the development of a world where men and women are equals and strive to achieve a world that is also equitable. In a fair world, frameworks, resources, and laws are implemented and provided to ensure that women and girls have access to the necessary financial resources and tools that will close the gaps created by gender inequality and marginalization, directly transforming communities as a whole.¹

H.E. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, FORMER PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, 2022

When women are allowed equal access to tools, training, credit and other resources, their contributions can have a direct and significant impact on their children's health and wellbeing, their community's economic and social development, and their nation's – and the world's – prosperity. But a solely instrumentalist approach to women's economic empowerment (WEE) often comes at a cost to women, who end up shouldering more of a labour burden while still failing to attain full social and economic justice.

Income opportunities, training, land, goods and resources – the instruments of economic development – are vital, especially for poor rural women. Rights-based approaches, which address the systemic barriers to women's success, and equity-oriented approaches, which work to overcome historic inequities, can unleash women's full potential, engaging them as full participants in the structures that govern their lives and gaining them a seat at the table in family and community decision-making.

These approaches both acknowledge and protect women from the risks and unfair labour burdens

that come from challenging the status quo – challenges that frequently result in resistance, backlash, and even violence in patriarchal societies invested in maintaining male privilege and power.

While many in the international community have moved toward using rights and equity approaches to development assistance, there is work to be done to close the gap between national and international top-down strategies and the bottom-up, grassroots actions that convert these political goals into lived realities that truly improve the lives of women, girls and children.

At the family and community levels around the world there are still steep barriers to ensuring women's and girls' equitable participation in education, training, land ownership, and meaningful, safe work, as well as a pervasive and growing problem of gender-based violence.

These obstacles must be addressed materially, while we also work to uncover and dismantle the structures that prevent women from achieving full economic, social, and political empowerment.

THE CONTEXT

Beyond Assistance to Empowerment



The world is home to more than 1.1 billion girls under the age of 18, who have the potential of becoming the largest generation of female leaders, entrepreneurs and change-makers ever seen for the better future. Yet, women and girls continue to face persistent structural constraints that prevent them from fully developing their potential and hinder their efforts of improving their lives as well as their households and communities. ...We all need to work together to spark the necessary changes to empower women and girls, particularly those in rural areas.²

FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL QU DONGYU, 2021

The women's movement has inspired massive global change including in international development policy and practice. Civil society and governments have embraced the maxim that "women's rights are human rights" – a phrase popularized in the 1980s that became a rallying cry with Hillary Clinton's speech to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

A landmark 2001 World Bank study, *Engendering Development Through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources, and Voice*, was among the first and most influential to point to gender equality as a method for poverty reduction. The World Bank clearly described the two-way relationship between women's inequality and poverty:

On one level, poverty exacerbates gender disparities. Inequalities between girls and boys in access to schooling or adequate health care are more acute among the poor than among those with higher incomes. ... These disparities disadvantage women and girls and limit their capacity to participate in and benefit from development.

On another level, gender inequalities hinder development. While disparities in basic rights; in schooling, credit, and jobs; or in the ability to participate in public life take their most direct toll on women and girls, the full costs of gender inequality ultimately harm everyone. ... Ignoring gender disparities comes at great cost—to people's well-being and to countries' abilities to grow sustainably, to govern effectively, and thus to reduce poverty.³

According to UN Women, almost all countries in Africa have ratified the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* and more than half have ratified the *African Union's Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa*. Yet, despite ten years of intensive focus on women including the declaration of 2010–2020 as the African Women's Decade, UN Women acknowledges that many women continue to work in insecure, poorly paid jobs and that “while women are a source of economic vitality across Africa, discrimination hinders their opportunities.”⁴ This is true throughout the Global South and indeed around the world, as women even in high-income economies still earn less than their male counterparts^{5,6} and are still over-represented in insecure, part-time, and low-wage jobs.^{7, 8}

In 2014, Sweden became the first country to explicitly outline a feminist foreign policy. A handful of countries have followed, including Canada. In June 2017, the Government of Canada instituted its feminist international assistance policy (FIAP), reiterating the principle

that women's rights are human rights in this statement by then-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland:

It is important—and historic—that we have a prime minister and a government proud to proclaim themselves as feminists. Women's rights are human rights. ... Canada's first Feminist International Assistance Policy targets gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. We are positioning Canada at the forefront of this global effort. This is a matter of basic justice and also basic economics. We know that empowering women, overseas and here at home, makes families and countries more prosperous.⁹

The ‘knowing’ is easy. The ‘doing’ less so.



THE CURRENT STATE



Since the implementation of the FIAP in 2017, Canada's success targeting development assistance to women and girls, like that of other nations of the Global North, has been mixed. The FIAP has enabled Canada to invest in local women's organizations both in Canada and abroad, and support initiatives related to women, peace, and security.¹⁰ It has also had influence beyond our own borders as Canada's calls for investments in gender equality, women's rights organizations, and feminist movements have been echoed by the OECD, the United Nations, and other philanthropists and activists worldwide.¹¹

Canada's commitments to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment programming is significantly above the average of all OECD Development Assistance Committee members, meeting its own target of 15% by 2021-22. However, Canada's 2020 commitment dropped from a high of 25.4% to 15%,¹² clearly a COVID-related effect.

What this drop implies is concerning: when the going gets tough, Canada has de-prioritized its feminist principles in favour of a status quo approach. Equality Fund notes that the most recent *Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's Assistance* "downplays the FIAP, treating it as a programming sector rather than the overall framing of all development assistance. ... The section on COVID-19 fails to explain how feminist analysis or principles influence Canada's global approach to the pandemic [and] includes only a few marginal references to gender equality dimensions."¹³

There is no doubt that the global pandemic wreaked havoc on the best-laid plans. However, since its inception, the FIAP has been consistently criticized for its failure to live up to the feminist best practices of intersectionality, questioning power dynamics, and incorporating anti-racist and decolonizing perspectives.¹⁴

According to Rebecca Tiessen of the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa,

a fully gender-inclusive policy must address such variables as cultural norms, discrimination, political processes and institutionalized gender inequality, and examine how and where they intersect. Policy implementation must include input and advice from local organizations that are aware of marginalization, as well as from individuals who have lived the experience of inequality and understand its local context. ... Success will come when the FIAP's content is put into practice so that, together with local organizations and individuals, it promotes social justice, gender equality and the tearing down of systemic barriers that create and sustain inequality on so many fronts.¹⁵

NGOs including Canadian Feed The Children strive to attain this aspirational vision in on-the-ground programming. However, the world was failing to reach the UN's Sustainable Development Goals before the pandemic and has fallen even further behind since 2020.

The pandemic has widened the already existing gaps between the least and most vulnerable. The World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report 2021* estimates that gains made in women's rights and empowerment have been set back 39 years due to the pandemic.¹⁶ The WEF further notes that the unfair consequences of health crises on women and girls, including disparities in access to healthcare, income, education, food, and an increase in gender-based violence (GBV), have been seen before and "it seems we are not learning from the past."¹⁷

In the meantime, the war in Ukraine, inflation, an international food crisis, unequal recovery from the social, economic and livelihood losses of the pandemic, ongoing conflict, displacement, and the climate crisis continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and girls –

especially the poorest in the Global South. The "shadow pandemic" of GBV and the heavily skewed burden of unpaid care borne by women and girls, all of which were worsened multi-fold by the pandemic, add a further layer of misery to women's and girls' lives and demand an urgent and commensurate response.¹⁸

In the face of these immediate needs, organizations and governments working to address women's inequality at a structural level might well be forgiven for taking a 'staunch the bleeding' approach, focusing their efforts on direct if unnuanced support targeted to women and girls rather than intersectional, systemic change. **We should be able to do both.**

Feminists will rightly argue that we should be able to provide material assistance targeted to women and girls while also working at a structural level to remove the barriers to their full empowerment. And that, in fact, we can't do one without the other.



THE WAY FORWARD

Women are critical members of society, who play important roles in producing food, and in getting it on the table. Their rights and their access to food are heavily intertwined. More than that, gender equality is highly connected to food security at a local, national, and global level. Simply put ... the more gender inequality there is in a country, the hungrier people are.¹⁹

CARE, AUGUST 2022

While the effects of the pandemic and all that has followed have made things generally worse for everyone, rural women who are integrally involved in agriculture are the very last in line when it comes to economic empowerment. They are the most entrenched in poverty and they and their children are the least food secure. As such, focusing on gender equality at all points on the agricultural value chain presents some of the best levers to alleviate poverty, improve food security and nutrition for women and children, build sustainable, resilient food systems, and create more just societies for all.

A 2021 meta-analysis conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute concludes that

...women are key actors in every part of food systems, as farmers, processors, wage-workers, traders, and consumers. Despite their importance, the evidence shows that women's contributions are often undervalued, unpaid, and overlooked. This issue is also reflected in research that does not measure empowerment outcomes or examine how intervention strategies affect women's decision-making power. The lack of evidence on gender not only results in poor empowerment outcomes for women; it also makes programs less effective and leads to inefficient use of funds and food systems that are not equitable.²⁰

This disproportionality in the amount of labour women contribute and the low share of the benefits and income they receive from that labour is why equity matters as much as equality when it comes to women's economic empowerment. Yet it is here, in rural, agricultural communities throughout the Global South, where tackling these systemic drivers of women's inequality most forcefully hits the brick wall of the male-dominant status quo.

Deeply entrenched social norms, rigid gender roles, and long-held beliefs around the division of labour between men and women constrain women in their homes and in their communities at both informal and formal levels. Nowhere is this truer than in rural agricultural communities where women often comprise a majority of the (largely unpaid) agricultural labour force but earn a mere fraction of the income produced by it.

Providing the 'stuff' that will enable greater productivity – tools, credit, training, and so on – if that's all we do, will simply serve to engage women in a system that is set up to fail them. As Oxfam notes, "Efforts to support [women's economic empowerment] ... must address the social norms, laws and economic policies, and structural barriers that restrict women's choices and opportunities."²¹

What needs to happen is multi-focal:

Transforming food systems in equitable ways requires changes in gender equality...in women's and men's consciousness, capacities, and behaviour, ... [in] access to resources and opportunities, ... [and] in the deep structure and implicit norms and social values that undergird the way institutions operate, often in invisible ways. Finally, [in] formal policies, laws, and institutional arrangements to protect against social and gender discrimination and advance equality.²²

The way forward, for those involved in on-the-ground programming, is clear: **through local, community-led organizations, we must engage women and men to challenge and change the policies, practices, and norms that lead to the disparities in income and benefits women receive and the higher risks women experience.**

CFTC'S APPROACH TO WEE IN FOOD SYSTEMS

CFTC aligns with major actors in the sector in supporting rights- and equity-based approaches to women's economic empowerment. CFTC's focus is specifically on WEE in food systems.

There are two key strategies CFTC and its local partners use, which work together in alignment with core feminist principles and which have been found to be most effective in meaningfully achieving women's economic empowerment.

There is also a vitally important enabling strategy for ensuring this work has sustainable impact: **public-private partnerships**. CFTC is fortunate to be funded by private organizations, foundations, and institutional funders. This allows us to share learnings with and among local implementing partners, and monitor, measure and improve strategies to continue the work in successive projects, sometimes with new and different funders. It provides for funding stability that avoids the stop-start cycle that reduces impact when projects are carried out on constrained timelines.

BEST PRACTICES IN POLICY & PRACTICE FOR WEE IN AGRICULTURE

- ✓ **Creating paths to women's participation and leadership** in household, community, regional, and national decision making and collective action
- ✓ **Supporting women's and girls' ability to 'learn and earn'**, i.e., building literacy and numeracy, vocational, leadership, business, marketing and entrepreneurial skills through formal education and informal training
- ✓ **Addressing the climate crisis** incorporating cross-cutting climate adaptation and mitigation, environmental sustainability, and local indigenous knowledge into women's agricultural training and livelihoods development programming
- ✓ **Ensuring access to credit** and knowledge on using it to grow women's assets and savings, give women control over income, assets, and resources necessary to sustain an adequate livelihood, and build their resilience to shocks and risks
- ✓ **Contributing to safe and enabling environments** that: 1) recognize and work to distribute care responsibilities more fairly at the household and community level to reduce women's unequal and largely unpaid labour burden, and 2) work towards the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.



STRATEGY 1: WOMEN-LED FARM-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

At the individual level, Savings and Credit Co-Operatives (SACCOs), Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLAs), and farmers' or producers' organizations are exceptional ways to get concrete goods, credit, and skills training to women. Small investments can lead to big changes for women and their families, enabling them to build their assets and savings to better withstand shocks and stressors, generating women-controlled income streams, and fostering community economic development through women-owned businesses.

VSLAs and SACCOs are often the only form of banking available to rural women. As they build their savings and learn how to use credit, women can grow their farm-based businesses, expand into new ventures, and cover household expenses – especially for emergencies or to carry them through poor harvests or other economic shocks or stressors.

These groups also provide a channel for agricultural training and fill a gap in agricultural extension work that is typically under-resourced in many rural areas. Women learn from each other and may also work as community extension agents – skilled farmers who are nominated by their community

to work across groups and within a region to share their knowledge and support farmers' needs.

FBOs and other organizations like them also have less tangible but no less vital benefits. They develop women's self-esteem and leadership abilities, transforming the view and breadth of women's roles in their families and communities. They become recognized and respected structures for advocacy with local, regional, and national organizations. And most of all, they create solidarity and safety for women who can then act collectively for change.



100 women strong and thriving

Working with CFTC's local partner in Woliso, Ethiopia, Zenebech helped found the Megartu Savings and Credit Cooperative. She took the initiative to identify 100 women to join and they have maintained membership at that level since forming in 2015. Members receive seed capital in a revolving fund scheme and take turns receiving a share-out. Megartu has delivered hundreds of training sessions, teaching book-keeping and savings, credit, loans and cash management. The SACCO also teaches leaders like Zenebech how to organize and manage a co-operative.

Megartu boasts a loan repayment rate of almost 100% and they have been recognized and awarded at the regional and zonal levels for their exceptional performance. They received a water pump and decided to build their capital collectively to farm more profitably as a group to make best use of the pump. Megartu now leases and manages two hectares of land, has diversified its crops, and successfully harvests twice a year even during the dry season thanks to the water pump. They plan to become a middle-level enterprise within the next five years, working with CFTC, its local partner, and their zonal government to achieve that goal.

I think it is important that women have opportunities like this. It starts from coming together as a group. Besides the financial benefits, it helps us to break the beliefs and attitudes that women should stay at home and serve the needs of others.

ZENEBECH, SACCO LEADER, ETHIOPIA



Women leaders, leading women: Linnet, Uganda

Linnet is a Community Extension Volunteer (CEV). CEVs are community members who train and support fellow farmers to grow healthy crops. They are chosen by the community to work with the community and, although the position is unpaid, it is one of influence and status. It is also a critical liaison between community members and the formal regional and national structures that support agriculture and economic development.



Women represent only a small portion of CEVs in Uganda, where Linnet works. It is significant and vital to see more women in these roles to advocate for women farmers' interests and be their voice.

Linnet enjoys her role and understands not only the technical aspects but also the social impact she can have. She knows she is a role model proving, as she says, that “women can do what men can do.” She firmly believes that women should seek leadership positions and pursue farming and other business ventures not only to ensure children are safe and well-fed, but to help drive poverty alleviation efforts in their broader communities.

I advise women to do farming as a business, draw up a business plan before engaging in agriculture. Women and girls learn [to be] proactive and move away from the kitchen to the outside world and make changes in the community.

LINNET, COMMUNITY EXTENSION VOLUNTEER, UGANDA

Beekeeping for health and profit

Maria, a 40-year-old mother of five living in Ghana's Upper East Region, was initially skeptical about engaging in honey production. This activity had always been the work of men, she believed. On joining a local VSLA, Maria discovered that she and other women could engage in lucrative beekeeping activities, and she learned how to produce and market wax, body lotion, pomade, and honey-based drinks as a supplement to her main income from farming. She has increased her knowledge of the economic and health benefits of beekeeping while also building her savings. She's learned how credit works and has borrowed money to expand her beekeeping business and other agricultural activities, increasing and diversifying her income and providing her with a measure of independence.

***I used to depend entirely on my husband.
But with beekeeping and crop farming...
I have been able to save and support my
needs and those of my children.***

MARIA, MOTHER, FARMER, BEEKEEPER,
ENTREPRENEUR, GHANA



STRATEGY 2: GENDER TRAINING FOR MEN & WOMEN

CFTC is using various methods to bring people together to discuss and challenge the gender injustices that often underlie traditional approaches to agriculture and agri-business.

CFTC's Market-led Improved Livelihoods in Eastern Amhara Region project (MILEAR) was among the first to introduce robust gender equality training as a core component of agricultural development in that region of Ethiopia. Follow-on projects in Amhara Region (the Slight Livelihood & Gender Equality Fund) and in both Ethiopia and northern Ghana (SHINE, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Inclusion and Equality) also use a gender-responsive lens to build women's business and agricultural skills.

While the approaches vary based on the community's need and project goals, all use a community-led, participatory method for gender training that can include:

- separate men's and women's sessions followed by gender-combined discussion and action planning
- gender training sessions that involve life skills training and a role models approach
- agricultural asset distribution and seed capital targeted to women
- farm-based organizations, VSLAs and SACCOs use an equity approach to recruit members, with the result that most are comprised solely of or by a majority of women
- agricultural extension programs recruit and train women leaders for women's groups

In the Livelihood & Gender Equality project currently running in Amhara Region, Ethiopia, one of the project's goals is to address the prevalent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices (HTPs) that prevent girls from completing their education, often lead to risky migration to the Gulf states, and hinder women from earning an independent income through agricultural or other businesses.

Training on sexual and reproductive health and rights is incorporated into basic business skills training, giving women the confidence to pursue businesses and breaking down the traditional gender roles that increase women's labour burden and hamper their success.

Religious leaders, school inspectors, teachers and PTA members, police and legal personnel have been trained to understand their role in reducing HTPs and promoting education for girls. While still early, these efforts are leading to significant attitude and behaviour changes among the women and men involved in the project.

Through these initiatives, hundreds of women have established their own businesses, and are earning, saving and reinvesting to grow their family incomes. Women have gained status in their households and communities, they have greater access to and control over family resources, greater say in household decisions, and are enjoying greater participation in social, cultural, and political structures. Many couples are dividing household tasks more equally, men are playing a supportive role in their wives' businesses and advocating for women's rights in their communities, and couples are choosing to keep their daughters in school challenging societal pressure to arrange early marriages or engage in female genital mutilation.



“Our lives have been transformed.”

Through MILEAR gender training, Dawud and Misku learned how to understand and overcome the cultural stigma attached to helping each other in traditional men’s or women’s work. Dawud now collects firewood, cleans, fetches water, and takes care of the children while Misku participates in farming activities. This traditional role reversal has led to significant improvements in their family’s lives. They take pride in their well-kept home, their goats and chickens, and especially in their children who are in school and well-fed.

We have a good life now. Gender equality was the most important thing we learned. I never helped my wife. The food in our home was not good. We used to be sad in the market when we couldn’t buy any food or clothes for the children.

DAWUD, FARMER, ETHIOPIA



“Women should not be dependent on men for their livelihood.”

Taken out of school at age 10 and married at 12, Zahara felt she could make no life for herself in Amhara Region, Ethiopia. She made the harrowing journey to Saudi Arabia, as many youth in her village do, for a chance to earn an income and send money home to her mother.

Zahara met and married her second husband just before being deported back to Ethiopia. He joined her a few months later, but life was not easy for them. Her new husband was sick and unable to

work, and “there were times when my children went to bed without dinner,” Zahara said. “That was the most difficult time in my life.”

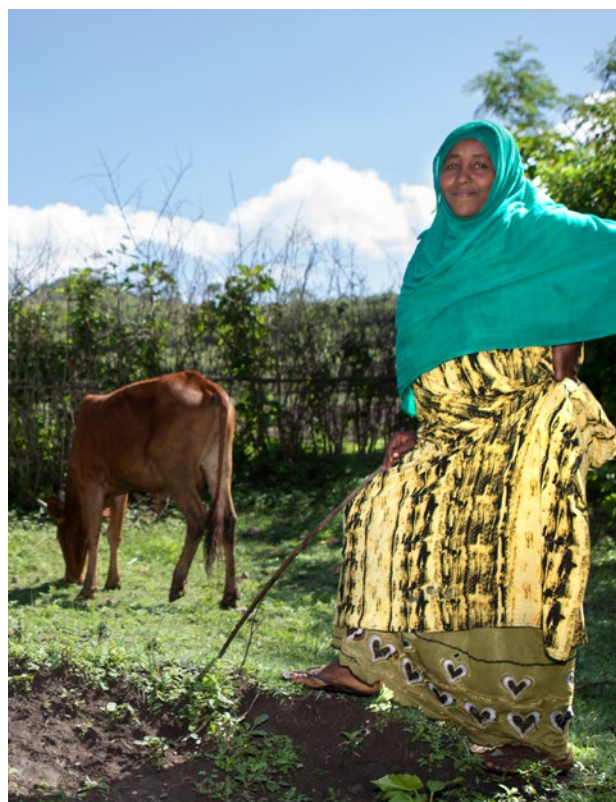
Through the Livelihood & Gender Equality Fund, Zahara received seed capital, training and support to start a poultry business. With the money she was able to earn and borrow, she then diversified her business, adding cows to her livestock farming and starting a small retail business. On top of what she earns, she has saved a considerable amount of

money giving her and her growing family a cushion to withstand unexpected shocks or stressors.

Zahara's husband works side-by-side with Zahara to support her business activities. He has taken on roles not usually done by men: "Now he has fully recovered, he supports me in household tasks when I go to market. He splits wood for me, fetches water, washes clothes, feeds the cows and takes them for vaccinations," Zahara said.

The training I received has changed everything, including how to live my life happily. Before, I could not even support myself, but now I am supporting the whole family. I have my own income and I am not dependent on anyone.

ZAHARA, MOTHER & ENTREPRENEUR, ETHIOPIA



"I am a person of power and influence."



Kelsuma credits gender training for her success. She left a difficult marriage, established her own farm, grew a thriving livestock herd, and joined with neighbours to bring irrigation and shared ploughing services to her community.

Kelsuma has put into practice the improved farming techniques she learned and was named Farmer of the Year by her community. She has also been trained by Ethiopia's Ministry of Health as a local sexual and reproductive health and rights advocate. Kelsuma continues to "speak truth to power" to create a more inclusive and prosperous community.

The gender training transformed me. People now call me the Oromio Ambassador.

KELSUMA, MOTHER, FARMER, ENTREPRENEUR, ACTIVIST

Reflecting on gender

Reflect Circles are another methodology in use by CFTC and its local partners in Ethiopia to bring people together to discuss community priorities such as food security, education, child protection, sanitation, and more. The topics are as varied as the groups themselves and are guided by the group's specific concerns. However, all raise awareness among men and women about how gender stereotypes and barriers to women's participation are at play in policy and decision-making and how these can be addressed, collectively, to create an even field for all to prosper.

Boja is a member of a men's Reflect Circle. The group identified that their top priority was to understand the business of farming better to improve their earning power. In doing so, they uncovered the undervalued contribution of women to farm productivity and the limitations and challenges women face as a result of their dual role as primary domestic caregivers to children and, usually unpaid, farm labourer.

Boja's Reflect Circle is now working together not only to earn more income individually and collectively, but also to strengthen their family lives. Boja has gained greater insight into the role he plays in raising his children and, conversely, the contribution his wife can make to the family's financial wellbeing.

The program has changed my children's lives by giving me awareness and ideas on how to nurture my children and also increase our family income. When we increase our family's income our children's lives also change positively.

BOJA, HUSBAND & FATHER, FARMER, ETHIOPIA



“Gender training is deepening women’s and men’s relationships”

In northern Ghana, SHINE is supporting woman farmers like Vida with gender-responsive agricultural business skills training and value-addition through business incubation hubs. Vida has now become a vegetable aggregator and trader, which means she is able to buy produce from other farmers, including her husband, and sell it for higher prices at larger markets. Prior to SHINE, she did not have enough capital to invest in scaling up her business. Now, she can not only buy more vegetables from other farmers, but she is using some of her profits to buy fertilizer and other inputs that increase her husband’s yields – a win-win for the family’s overall income.

The gender training has brought significant change to Vida and her husband’s lives, enabling them to communicate openly and honestly. “My husband’s view on gender roles and gender equality has changed since he attended gender training. In the past, he alone decided on land use and the type of crops to cultivate. He did nothing as far as household chores are concerned and was hiding his income from me,” Vida said.

As is traditional in northern Ghana, Vida had been limited to cultivating “women’s crops” – leafy green vegetables, tomatoes, and peppers, and her husband cultivated higher-value staple crops on his own land. But this year, her husband “allocated joint land for both of us to farm so that he can support me with land preparation and irrigate the vegetables when I am busy. I own part of the farm and its corresponding proceeds. Now he is more open about his income and consults me on his expenditures and other family decisions.” Vida’s husband now shares in household chores, looking after the children and tending to her crops when she is away at the market.

Vida says that her views on gender have changed too. “Now that we have learned about gender equality, I am more confident to contribute because

I see it as my role and my right. I am challenged not to limit myself because I am a woman but to be bold and take on agricultural and business roles to enhance my family and community’s well-being,” Vida said.

The gender training has really helped the entire community in terms of women’s and men’s relationships. We are now collaborating in business as well as in [family life].

VIDA, VEGETABLE TRADER

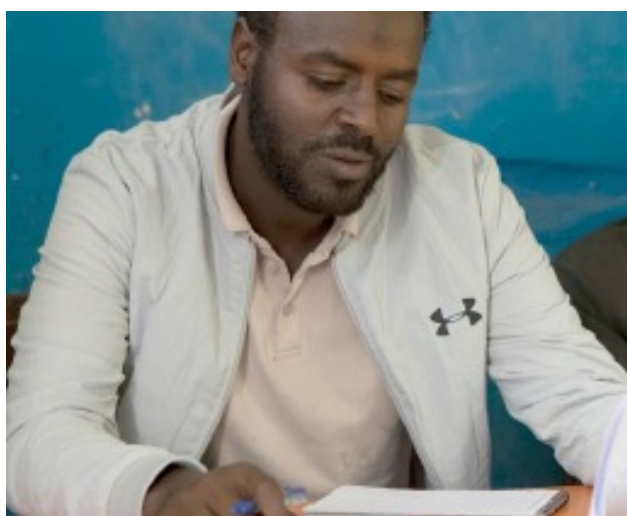


“My perspective on gender changed”

Although school management committees (SMCs) and parent-teacher associations (PTAs) are formally mandated in all schools in Ethiopia, they are frequently dysfunctional. Members are often unaware of their roles and responsibilities to remove barriers to girls’ education, rights and overall wellbeing.

Jemal, a head teacher, was one of these people. After attending training, he was able to see the

bigger picture and the impact of early marriage and other HTPs on girls’ futures. “The training led us to develop an action plan to address these issues in the community and in our school compound,” Jemal said. He is now working with other teachers and PTA members to deliver community awareness sessions on the value of girls’ education and on ways to keep girls healthy, engaged and performing well in school.



I started to reflect on my own life and my relationship with my wife. There were things that we used to do believing that it does not affect women: women do all household tasks, while men sit and enjoy their time. Now I have changed that. I am helping my wife at home, taking care of the kids, and I understand better how to support her.

JEMAL, HEAD TEACHER, GENDER TRAINING PARTICIPANT

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- ²² Njuki, J., Eissler, S., Malapit, H., Meinzen-Dick, R., Bryan, E., Qisumbing, A., *A review of evidence on gender equality, women’s empowerment and food systems*, Food Systems Summit Brief Prepared by Research Partners of the Scientific Group for the Food Systems Summit, May 2021.

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Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC) is an award-winning registered Canadian charity that envisions a world where children thrive free from poverty. CFTC has supported community-led food security, livelihoods, children's education, and health initiatives for more than 35 years in Canada and internationally.

CFTC has established a strong track record of success. Between 2013 and 2017 we delivered results with three Global Affairs Canada (GAC)-funded climate-adaptive and gender-responsive projects: **CHANGE** (Climate Change Adaptation in Northern Ghana Enhanced); **RESULT** (Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation) also in Ghana; and **MILEAR** (Market-led Improved Livelihoods in Eastern Amhara Region) in Ethiopia. Each was independently evaluated as having had a sustainable impact on poverty alleviation, gender equality, and environmental management.

Currently, we are supporting women's equality and agricultural development projects with local partners in Ethiopia and Ghana, including

GAC-funded **SHINE** (Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Inclusion and Equality) in Ethiopia and Ghana; African Development Bank-funded **CLIMATE** (Climate Information Made Available to Entrepreneurial Farmers) in Ghana; and **the Slight Livelihood & Women's Equality Fund**, funded by The Slight Family Foundation in Ethiopia.

Our staff has many decades of experience supporting climate-smart and gender-sensitive agriculture, food security and livelihoods programs in more than two dozen countries in the Global South. We also enjoy deep and long-term partnerships with local organizations that implement our projects, some of which date back to our earliest years as an organization. We are proud that we have been credited by many as key to their own capacity-building and strong governance.

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