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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya Training Manual

4.2.3 SUB-MODULE 3: GENDER AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender is defined as a social relationship between men, women, and youth that is determined by society. The relations refer to a complex system through which women, men, and youth socialise. These relations determine the role and access to power, access to resources and control over their use.

Gender mainstreaming means integrating a gender equality perspective at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and projects. Asset ownership, access and control of resources. Ownership defines to whom the livestock belongs and makes decisions pertaining to; access is the opportunity to make use of a resource, control is the power to decide how a resource is used, and who has access to it.

Gender mainstreaming ensures that policy making and legislative work is of higher quality and has a greater relevance for society, because it makes policies responds more effectively to the needs of all citizens – women, men and youths (girls and boys).

Principles of gender mainstreaming

There are five principles of gender mainstreaming and these include

- Gender-sensitive language
- Gender-specific data collection and analysis
- Equal access to and utilization of services
- Women and men are equally involved in decision making
- Equal treatment is integrated into steering processes.

Why is it important?

Gender mainstreaming ensures that policy making and legislative work is of higher quality and has a greater relevance for society, because it makes policies that respond more effectively to the needs of all citizens – women, men and youths (girls and boys).

A good practice example of gender mainstreaming could be actions that lead to a positive change in:

- Policies.
- Strategies / approach
- Advocacy efforts.
- Legislation.
- Research and other analytical work.
- Statistics- greater sex disaggregation, improved gender analysis of data, or identifying gaps in the data base.

Challenges of gender mainstreaming

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The main institutional barriers affecting gender mainstreaming process include;

- Lack of political goodwill from the government.
- Slow pace of developing gender policies by various ministries
- Lack of sensitization of staff on gender related issues.
- Lack of adequate budget.
- Ingrained cultural and social norms.

Gender empowerment

- Empowerment is about people - women, men and the youth - taking control over their lives; setting their own agenda; gaining skills; building self-confidence; solving problems; and developing self-reliance.
- No one can empower another: only an individual can empower him/ herself to make choices or to speak out
- Institutions including international cooperation agencies do support processes that nurture self-empowerment of individuals or groups.

Gender equality versus gender equity

- **Gender equality:** means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development.
- **Gender equality:** is therefore the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in their home, their community and their society.
- **Gender Equity:** is the process of being fair to men, women and the youth
- To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women, men and youth from operating on a level playing field.
- **Equity:** is the means while Equality is the result.

Gender analysis

Gender analysis is the process of analysing information in order to ensure that development benefits and resources are effectively and equitably targeted to different gender categories. It helps to successfully anticipate and avoid any negative impacts from development interventions especially to women or gender relations. Exploring and highlighting the relationships of the different gender categories in society - by asking:

- Who does what?
- Who has what?
- Who decides?
- How?
- Who gains?

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- Who loses?
- Which men?
- Which women?

Gender analysis allows the identification of critical issues and existing constraints facing specific target groups and enables the articulation of effective development strategies to overcome the identified limitations. The ELRP employs the value chain approach as the framework for delineation of the different roles and responsibilities of men and women along the priority livestock value chains. In selected agricultural value chains, men and women perform various primary value chain functions, which include input supply, production, processing, storage, wholesale, retail and consumption. Secondary actors or ancillary workers perform secondary service roles that support primary functions, such as transportation, brokerage and service processing. Both men and women can undertake activities at either the primary or at the secondary level of a value chain.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

It refers to any type of harm that is perpetuated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and or gender identity. The causes of GBV can be due to four main factors that include: Cultural, legal, economic and political.

Further reading

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