

GENDER PAYS OFF!



GENDER EQUALITY.

A GOAL IN ITSELF
AND A QUALITY FEATURE
OF OUR WORK!

Giving consideration to gender equality
makes our work more effective
and achieves more sustainable results.



GENDER EQUALITY – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK!

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The GIZ Gender Strategy:

- creates a uniform and binding framework for the entire company
- sets the goal of promoting gender equality across the board – with the support of every staff member inside and outside Germany, within the scope of our commissions and within the company itself
- serves as a basic source of reference and guidance for our commissioning parties and partners.

Gender mainstreaming is enshrined in the basic guidelines for GIZ's commission management. When carrying out development measures, we ensure that impacts on both men and women are investigated as an integral part of the results monitoring and evaluations, that the findings are actually put into practice and included in relevant reports.

Clients commission GIZ because of our recognized gender competence – Gender pays off!

GENDER EQUALITY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – A FLASH LIGHT



Shaping Germany's Future

Coalition Agreement - 18th legislative period.

Gender equality and the enforcement of the rights of women is a thematic priority of German development cooperation.



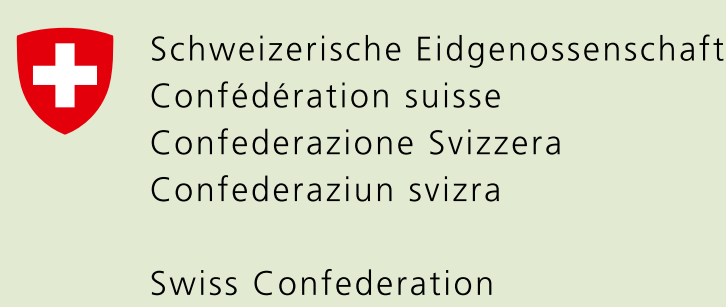
“We want to improve the lives of girls and women in every area of our international development work.”

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-lives-of-girls-and-women-in-the-worlds-poorest-countries>)



... promotes gender equality as one of ten priorities of the future development and sustainability agenda.

(http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/Position_fr_agenda_post-2015_version_anglaise_full_cle0b8463.pdf)



“... Switzerland promotes a stand-alone goal and advocates for gender equality as a transversal issue with gender-specific targets and indicators in all other relevant goals.”

(Swiss Position on Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Agenda, 10.10.2013)



European Union

“... the empowerment and rights of women and girls and gender equality ... are essential preconditions for equitable and inclusive sustainable development ... as well as important values and objectives in themselves.”

(The Overarching Post 2015 Agenda, EU Council Conclusions, June 2013)



African Union Commission

Gender Equality and Women and Youth Employment features as one of six strategic intervention areas

(3. Strategic Plan 2014–2017)



“... The goal of gender equality should be central to all three pillars of economy, political-security and socio-cultural of ASEAN,”

(H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN)



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

“There is no chance of making poverty history without significant and rapid improvements to the lives of women and girls in all countries.”

(Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: Towards an OECD contribution to the post-2015 agenda)



“The [monitoring] framework consists of a set of ten indicators that measure progress in improving the effectiveness of development co-operation in specific areas, such as the transparency and predictability of aid, gender equality and the contribution of the private sector to development.”

(<http://effectivecooperation.org>)



UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014–17

... identifies five key development issues: poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge, sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment, transitions from relief to development.



... We recognize that promoting gender equality, and empowering women and girls, underpins and advances progress across all the Goals.

(Outcome document UN Special Event, 25.09.2013)



FAMILY VEGETABLE GARDENS: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

TRIFINIO REGION (GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR):

PROTECTION OF TROPICAL FORESTS AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

The Trifinio Region is the border area shared by El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, as defined in the Trifinio Treaty and Plan. Here gender-based discrimination and women's marginalisation are widespread phenomena. This is particularly true for Mayan women in rural communities, such as the Quequesque in Guatemala and the Barrancón in Honduras. In these communities, 95 % of women are illiterate and have never participated in any form of training. To make things worse, the majority of them are victims of domestic violence.



In cooperation with the Tri-national Commission of the Trifinio Plan, the CAMARENA-GIZ Programme aims to improve the living standards of families in the above mentioned communities by introducing sustainable agriculture systems, amongst other initiatives. A gender analysis revealing low rates of participation among women led to the definition of a new strategy including concrete measures to encourage women's participation. The initiative *family vegetable gardens* is one of them.

STRATEGY

The initiative was designed with the Institute of Permaculture in El Salvador and used the *farmer to farmer* methodology. It is made up primarily of the following course modules:



1. **Improve food security** (60 % of the infants suffer from chronic malnutrition) **and increase self-esteem**. During a programme year women receive training, establish their own garden and participate in discussion groups to improve their knowledge and self-esteem.
2. **Improve inter-familial relationships**. For six months women and men work together in their diversified *milpa* (field with corn and beans) and take decisions together.
3. **Improve family income and financial autonomy of the women**. Women work in their garden with the help of their family members and sell part of their harvest in the community.

IMPACT

The Programme's monitoring system is based on the three dimensions of sustainability:

Economic: In the summer months the vegetable gardens account for an additional family income of 30 %, which is controlled by women.

Environmental: Better farming practices are introduced, which contribute to the adaptation to climate change and enrich bio-diversity.

Social: A strong sense of belonging is developed within the groups. This improves their individual self-esteem and reciprocal trust. Men expressed their admiration for the work done by their spouses and recognised their contribution to the family's income.

GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

As a whole, participation of women in other activities of the Programme increased by 85 %.

In the meantime other institutions have joined the initiative. Plan Trifinio donated a micro-drip irrigation system to each woman participating in the scheme. The Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food has assigned a female field technician to the group and provides seeds and other supplies. The Coffee & Climate Initiative (GIZ, Neumann group) offered one of their courses to women in neighbouring communities.



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A GENERATION'S DREAM OF TRANSFORMATION COMES TRUE

SUPPORT OF MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE PEACE PROCESS IN NEPAL

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

Gender inequality was one of the root causes of 10 years of armed conflict in Nepal. In the current post-conflict context, the Nepali-German Support of Measures to Strengthen the Peace Process (STPP) has been able to bring about a shift in the mindset of the target groups, transforming the roles of men and women in select communities. Although Nepal traditionally has a patriarchal structure, men are beginning to take on household chores and women are empowered to perform male dominated activities.



From 2012 onwards, the project has been active in several areas. STPP has been supporting the reintegration process of ex-combatants in selected communities, by focusing on skills development and conflict mitigation. In addition, STPP carried out gender sensitive measures by mobilizing women and men and organizing them into groups. Tailor-made capacity development measures enabled them to take charge of their social and economic empowerment. STPP also involves men in various awareness raising campaigns around issues related to women's rights and health.



By conducting a gender analysis, STPP was able to design activities in a way that takes the situations of men and women into account equally. Furthermore, gender sensitive indicators helped to monitor gender mainstreaming activities and the results achieved for more gender equality. The Gender Quality Circle, comprised of the gender focal persons of all GIZ supported projects in Nepal, has held a key function in ensuring the quality of gender mainstreaming.

GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The effectiveness and efficiency of the gender-sensitive delivery approach has convinced many local NGOs to follow similar modalities. The project is an active member of relevant coordination groups and was thus able to collaborate with many national and international organizations. Notably, the gender-sensitive approach of the project has led to a co-financing agreement with the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

GENDER IMPACT

Through informed choices, training and opportunities, women and men, ex-combatants and community members have moved beyond their confined roles and settings. Women now stand on an equal footing with men, and are

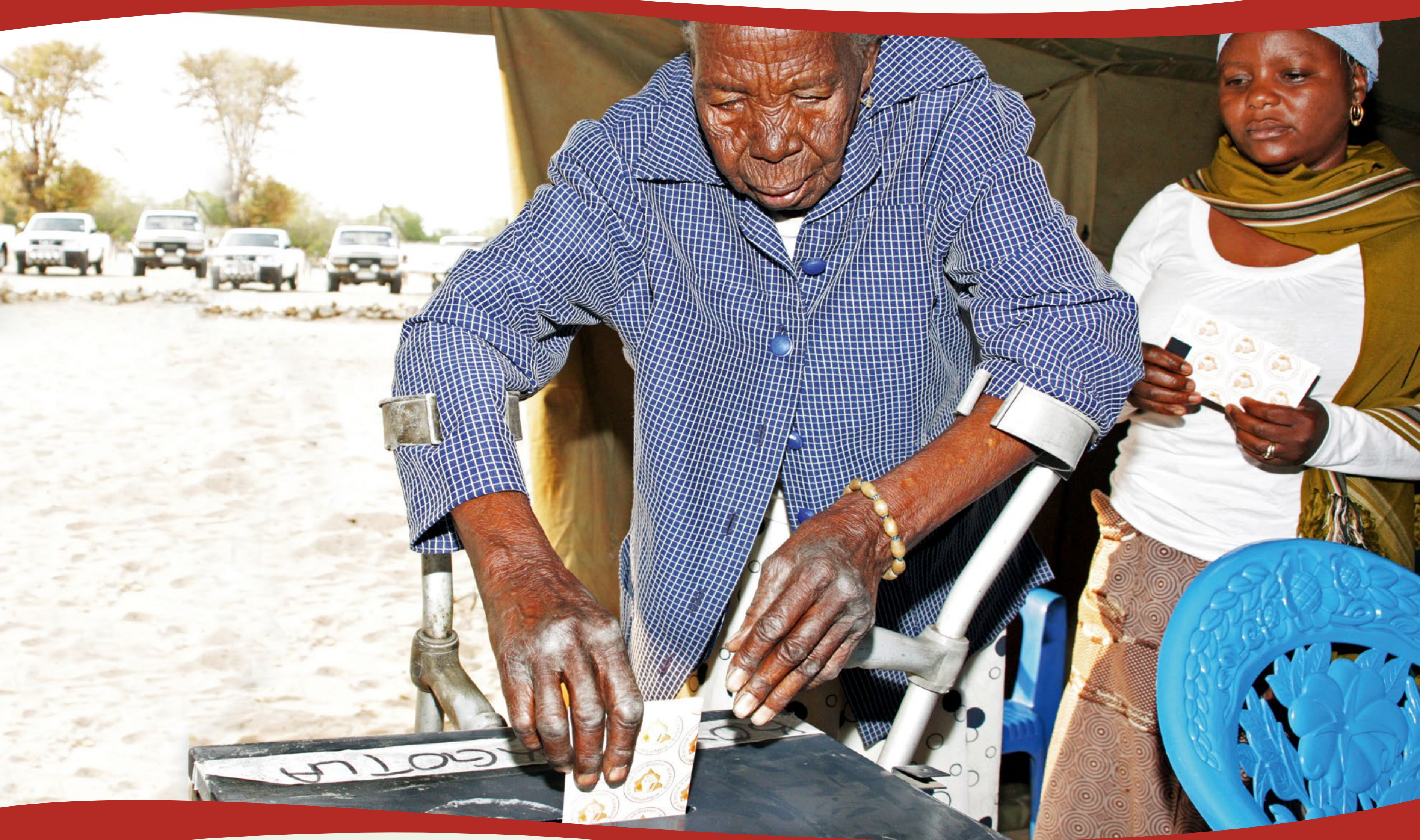
involved in farming activities, fixing pipes, repairing mobiles, and medically treating animals. Men, on the other hand, work alongside women and share in their household chores.

The national average of women in vocational occupation being around 5 %, STPP was able to achieve a great success by increasing women's participation in the labour market to 25 % in its partner communities, out of which 62 % are self-employed. At the community level, men used to be the dominant actors in meetings, work and decision making processes. Nowadays women's presence and participation (almost 40 %) is equally felt in community activities. Men's support to empower their wives, sisters and daughters has become stronger.



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TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

GIZ'S COLLABORATION WITH SADC IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING

CONTEXT

Achieving politically stable, socially just and sustainable economic development that reduces poverty is one of the greatest challenges in Southern Africa. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an alliance of 15 countries that takes on this challenge. Their shared objective is to develop solutions to transboundary challenges within the region. Inherent to GIZ's collaboration with SADC are the quality factors of gender sensitivity and gender mainstreaming. Interventions towards Gender Equality are implemented in the GIZ-SADC Portfolio through five programs.

INITIATIVE

The **GIZ-SADC Program for Institutional Strengthening** advises and supports the SADC Gender Unit by mainstreaming gender in all SADC Directorates. This is achieved by supporting awareness-raising and mainstreaming activities, such as the annual planning and member state outreach of SADC Gender Unit.

The **GIZ-SADC Programme for Peace, Security and Good Governance** aims to improve political integration between SADC member states, in close collaboration with the SADC Organ for Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Gender is an important component in the area of peace and security worldwide, as women are amongst the most negatively affected by wars and conflict.



The **GIZ-SADC Transboundary Water Management Programme** in SADC aims to strengthen the human, institutional and organisational capacities of the SADC-Water Division, and selected River Basin Organisations for the coherent implementation of transboundary cooperation in water management under consideration of gender mainstreaming. An overall gender mainstreaming guideline for River Basin Organisations is being developed and gender sensitisation workshops are organised.

The **GIZ-SADC Programme for Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources** in the SADC region actively promotes gender equality in its community-based, cross-border pilot projects in transfrontier conservation areas. The programme ensures for example that women and youth benefit equally from income-generating activities, such as in the development of cross border tourism products.

The **GIZ-SADC Promotion of Economic Integration and Trade Programme** identifies - and seeks to over-

come - major impediments to providing microfinance services and works towards better functioning credit information sharing arrangements. This is particularly significant for women, as they are less likely than men to have access to formal financial services.

IMPACT

Impact of GIZ's work can be measured at various levels. A successful implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was achieved, for instance, in Zambia by involving all line ministries in a series of training sessions, focusing on gender mainstreaming, gender sensitive budgeting and the protocol itself. As a result of that other member states requested similar activities.



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MALE INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING

PROMOTING MEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN BIRTH PREPAREDNESS IN CENTRAL ASIA

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

In Central Asia, religion and tradition strongly influence societal behavior, especially when it comes to power relations and gender perceptions. Firmly established family hierarchies impact virtually all aspects of life. In the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), precisely in aspects of Family Planning (FP), they may have negative implications when they hinder spousal communication and joint-decision making. Family members often considerably influence decisions about home or institutional deliveries, contraception, number of births and birth intervals. Women have little power to express their ideas of family life. Short birth intervals and high birth orders consequently adversely affect their health and that of their children.



The regional Programme Health in Central Asia contributes to improvements in SRHR in the partner countries Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Promoting gender equality is both a designated programme goal, and critical to improve maternal and child health. GIZ supported partners to establish Birth Preparedness Schools (BPS) and partnership in delivery. BPS instructors, mothers-in-law and

husbands, are trained on SRHR and gender. Using interactive teaching methods and materials, they stimulate discussion, raise awareness and encourage reproductive behavior change. They promote couples' access to professional FP counseling centres to enhance reproductive health and gender equality.



GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

Dedicated to transforming gender roles, the Programme incorporates gender into its impact monitoring system. The Gender Focal Point coordinates the development, implementation and quality control of its gender strategy. Emphasising gender capacity development internally and externally, GIZ conducts regular participatory Gender Workshops to sustainably anchor gender sensitivity and competence across the three country teams and their political and implementation partners at the national and regional levels.

GENDER IMPACT

Improving SRHR and promoting gender equality are mutually reinforcing, thus providing a unique opportunity to tackle both objectives simultaneously.

By bringing pregnant women and husbands together to prepare them for childbirth, BPS are shaping a culture of treatment and care in pregnancy. Trained couples significantly improved their knowledge of pregnancy, danger signs in pregnancy and delivery, postpartum life, and newborn care. They also acquired valuable practical skills, such as relaxation and pain relief methods, position and breathing during labour, and newborn care. By shaping health behavior, couples' knowledge improves maternal and child health, thus advancing progress towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. Evidenced by an increasing number of husbands attending deliveries, the programme promotes spousal communication and joint decision-making to advance gender equality, bringing the region closer to attaining MDG 3.

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DEALING WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION

GIZ CIVIL PEACE SERVICE IN CAMBODIA

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

The mass crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the period of 1975 to 1979 are well known. Under the command of a radical communist regime, the entire country was transformed into a labor and prison camp where more than one Million people perished. Less known is the fact that many women were raped, forced into marriage, sexually mutilated and/or tortured.

Today, a hybrid-international tribunal and a number of civil society initiatives were set up to deal with the past. The GIZ Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Cambodia is cooperating with many of these projects to contribute to justice and reconciliation. Many women supported by CPS partners were able to break their silence after decades. To them, the collection and publication of their experiences is equivalent to an acknowledgment of this violence as crimes and the appreciation of their persons without discrimination.



Together with its partners, CPS has accomplished ground-breaking work in addressing sexual violence against women during the Khmer Rouge regime. Through research studies, films, publications, radio shows, Women's Hearings and an internet platform, CPS and its partners contribute to giving a voice to the victims of sexual violence and to including their stories in the historic record.



GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The documentation process has resulted in an increased awareness among CPS partners. The work of CPS and its partners was frequently featured in local and international media. Project evaluations have shown that the issue of sexual violence during the Khmer Rouge regime is now much better known and more discussed among civil society organizations and the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

GENDER IMPACT

The documentation of sexual violence in the past helps fight the taboo surrounding gender crimes. Records of experiences of other women encour-

age today's victims of sexual violence to break the silence and claim the rights and dignity they are entitled to.

Victims of sexual violence who participated in the documentation process feel a sense of justice. Others feel empowered to see that they are not the only ones to have experienced sexual violence and who are combatting the consequences.

To provide evidence and prompt the international community and individual states to intervene against and prevent sexual violence, experiences are documented and published worldwide. Through the documentation of its own history, Cambodia makes an important contribution to the international movement against sexual violence in conflict.



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PROMOTING FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

SUPPORT TO PUBLIC FINANCE REFORMS (SPFR) PROGRAMME, KENYA

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

The public procurement sector in Kenya is mostly male dominated. Female procurement officers are lowly ranked and women often unable to access procurements, and/or unaware of procurement opportunities to start with. Business women cite corruption, credit availability and access to tenders as hindrances to their success. The SPFR programme assists the reform of the public procurement system by e.g. enhancing the capacity of practitioners and individuals involved in Public Procurement.



In order to empower women to participate and thus enhance gender equality in this sector, SPFR organized stakeholder forums with over 600 women to discuss and come up with objectives to improve women's involvement in Public Procurement. These included the goal to increase the number of contracts won by female-owned businesses from less than 1% in 2012 to 20% by 2016. Other goals are to enhance competition by introducing more female players to procurement, to increase the number of women holding higher positions to 30% by 2016, and to improve the legal framework and bid procedures. A strategy was developed accordingly.

GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The target group's reaction has been enthusiastic. There is a high demand for capacity development among business women, and therefore the initiative is encouraging other organisations to use the existing materials and concepts to conduct their own capacity development activities. The achievements of the initiative were officially recognized by the President of the Republic of Kenya and his deputy during a thanksgiving function in 2013, which was taken note of by the media, civil society and donor organisations.



GENDER IMPACT

27 specific training sessions for 1240 business women were conducted in 2013/2014.

- 93.6% of the participants felt that they were more knowledgeable about public procurement procedures after the training.
- 68% of the participants were able to prepare bid documents.
- 24% of the trainees registered their enterprises within 2 months after the training.
- 76.3% of the participants submitted tenders within 3 months after the course.

A five-day training and a mentoring schedule for female officers were also created. Four training sessions with 149 participants were organized in 2013/2014. As a result of all the procurement training programmes since 2011, 72% of the female officers who are registered as members of the professional procurement body had participated in procurement courses by the end of 2013. In addition, 46% were in higher procurement positions by the end of 2013.



A regulation gazetted in 2012 reserves 30% of government contracts to enterprises of youth, women and persons with disabilities. Also in 2012 a register and registration mechanism was set up for women-owned businesses to participate in procurement. In 2013, the treasury recorded a 70% increase in registration and a programme giving women-owned enterprises faster access to credits after they have been awarded a contract was launched.

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SHAKING UP GENDER ROLES IN THE “LAND OF NEVER-EVER”

INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES TO PROMOTE BOTTOM-UP TRANSFORMATION

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

“Our society is not ready yet!” is a common phrase one is confronted with in the course of working to promote gender equality in Morocco. Since the “democratic spring” in 2011, the country is marked by contradictory tendencies in terms of gender equality: on the one hand, the new constitution of 2011 holds the state responsible for achieving gender parity. On the other hand, ideas of traditional, complementary gender roles have gained support in public discourse.

In order to support a bottom-up transformation of gender perceptions and roles, the GIZ project joined forces with the local women’s rights organization *Fédération de la Ligue Démocratique des Droits des Femmes* and the Moroccan-based international organization *Quartiers du Monde* to develop innovative pedagogical material that draws on popular education approaches. This is how the “Land of Never-ever” was born – a trainer’s toolkit that builds upon a fictional world in which the roles of men and women are inversed: women are in power and take political and economic decisions; men fight against cultural stereotypes and day-to-day discrimination. The toolkit provides trainers with a series of short movies and manuals, adaptable to various contexts and target groups, on subjects such as political participation, sexual harassment and economic inequality.



GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The innovative gender approach used in the “Land of Never-ever” fully convinced the project’s government partner institutions, which helped to initiate new collaborations. The National Human Rights Council took over the patronage of the project; the Ministry of Interior uses the material in its work with female community representatives; and the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Affairs commissioned the project and its partnering NGOs to produce further movies and manuals. The material and films will also be used within a project by *Quartiers du Monde’s* Network *Femmes du Monde* co-financed by the French *Agence Française de Développement* in Columbia, Bolivia and Senegal. These new partnerships not only confirm the need for new creative approaches. They also show that dialogue and exchange between institutions from diverse political backgrounds and with differing value systems can be successfully initiated through the work on a common, innovative product.

GENDER IMPACT

The presentation of men and women in situations of inversed inequality aims to challenge common social constructions of gender roles and the acceptance of discrimination against women. Feedback received from participants of the training confirms the approach to be successful:

“We are so used to things as they are. We don’t realize anymore that there’s something wrong. When you see the boy being

harassed in the movie, it reminds us that that’s not normal, that it is an act of violence.” Souad, Fédération de la Ligue Démocratique des Droits des Femmes

“The visual is important! The movies help to put oneself in the place of the other. This will be very useful for the work with young men.” Mohamed, National Human Rights Council

“We need this moment of shock if we want to achieve change! That’s what will push people to ask questions, to start rethinking the status quo.” Hamid, Social Development Agency



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EMPOWERING WOMEN BY ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

HOME GARDENS IN YEMEN

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

Cultural, traditional and political norms in Yemen allocate mainly caring and reproductive tasks to women; their movement is often limited to their homestead and fields. The Sustainable Food Security Program, implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, succeeded in empowering Yemeni women in a culturally sensitive way: by involving them in home gardening. Activities involving women were only possible because of the trust and confidence developed between the recipient communities and the service providers (GIZ/GFA) through cash-for-work activities in rural communities. As such, women's empowerment took place within the framework of locally accepted gender roles and with the full acceptance of families and communities as a whole.



Aiming at relieving persistent food insecurity, which has been aggravated since the Arab Spring in 2011, the main idea of the project was to translate women's time and labour into direct contributions to their families' food security. Women were trained to establish small gardens and grow nutritious vegetables in their local environments. Simple practices like the use of local seeds, animal manure, kitchen waste water, botanical concoctions and crop rotation were promoted. The women also

received training on hygiene, healthy cooking practices, balanced diets and the consequences of diets lacking proteins, Vitamin A or iron.

The home gardens project was designed as a complementary measure to infrastructure-based cash-for-work activities carried out by men in rural communities.



GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE FOR OUR WORK

The best evidence for the quality of our work is the limitless motivation and satisfaction shown by the women. They say: "The gardens are a wonderful tool to keep my family healthy, to save cash and time in the hospital".

The success story of this well-accepted approach was shared through local food security and nutrition platforms, attracting visitors from the local government, BMZ, other donors and NGOs. Some NGOs such as Islamic Relief and the French PU-AMI have already adopted the approach. Furthermore, GFA Bridges has provided follow-up funding for a youth volunteer initiative to continue supporting the establishment of home gardens.

GENDER IMPACT

The project was originally designed as an emergency measure, but unfolded lasting impacts on family health and nutrition by strengthening women's role within the household and community. Women are no longer victims of the food crisis! They have become active in combating their families' food insecurity. From March to May 2013, the peak of Yemen's so-called 'hungry season', about 400 women in Hodeida Governorate planted gardens. They succeeded in improving the diets of about 2800 people, including 700 under five-year-old children and 225 pregnant or lactating mothers, who are particularly sensitive to the negative impacts of malnutrition.



Due to this communities have accepted the election of female members into their development committees – thus, a forum has been created for women to articulate their needs, participate in public affairs and to influence development in their communities!

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SUPPORTING THE POLICE IN FIGHTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

POLICE PROGRAMME AFRICA - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

As a result of violent conflicts, impunity and deeply embedded traditional, socio-cultural norms and beliefs, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) is a widespread problem in the DRC. In most cases, the primarily male perpetrators are not prosecuted, while the victims – mainly women and children – face physical and psychological health problems, stigmatization, and socio-economic marginalisation. The Congolese National Police (PNC) has been largely unable to assume its role of preventing and combatting SGBV, on the grounds of inadequate training, a lack of human resources and equipment, as well as corruption. Citizens often perceive the police force more as a threat than as a source of protection.

On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ is supporting the PNC since 2008. The goal is to enhance PNC's capacities and to build trust and confidence among citizens. Special emphasis was given to professionalizing and strengthening the police

victims, the project fostered the presence and advancement of women in the police force. Other activities included training of policemen and -women, sensitization for SGBV, constructing and equipping police stations according to international standards, promoting cooperation between the police and the judiciary, and connecting victims to organizations that provide legal and medical aid.



The activities were planned and implemented in close cooperation with the PNC, as well as with the EU police mission (EUPOL RD Congo), the EU Commission's justice project (REJUSCO), the UN peace-keeping mission (MONUSCO¹), and civil society organizations.

GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

Together with its partners, the project played a key role in inspiring other international donors to expand their activities in eastern Congo. Due to its successful work, the EU entrusted the project with the expansion of its activities regarding SGBV in three further provinces in 2013, in the framework of a larger EU programme with UNICEF.



GENDER IMPACT

The project contributed towards the achievement of equal rights of women and children, violence prevention, and the effective prosecution of gender-related crimes. Job opportunities for and the acceptance of women within the male-dominated police force have increased, and monitoring of SGBV-related data throughout criminal procedures has improved. Through the project's results-based monitoring, the impact and also the extent of the participation of policewomen in project activities could be tracked. The results and lessons learnt have been shared with colleagues from other police-supporting projects within GIZ, and have been disseminated both in Germany and DRC.



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in combating SGBV in eastern Congo. A holistic approach was applied in order to enhance framework conditions as well as institutional and individual capacities. Working towards gender responsive policing by respecting the needs of female citizens and



FAMILY DIALOGUES: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

SEXUAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS (PROSAD) IN BURKINA FASO

CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

Before the law, men and women are considered equal in Burkina Faso. However, in reality women's rights are continuously denied and neglected; violence against women by their own family or community members is very common. In a survey carried out by PROSAD, 40 % of the female participants stated that they had been victims of physical attacks within the last 12 months. Most of these attacks had happened within the family (78 %); in 68 % of the cases the husband had been the main perpetrator. The study also unfolded that most women are unaware of their own rights, not to speak of levels of awareness among other family and community members. This is rooted in Burkina Faso's patriarchic traditions and customs, which means that men are the center of power within a family or community – a position that can be taken advantage of too easily.



Within the GIZ project “Family Dialogues”, families are trained to be a forum in which all members can engage in active dialogue, exchange information, and learn to listen to each other. With the guidance of local trainers, family discussion rounds on topics such as violence against women, female genital mutilation (FGM), women's rights, and the importance of registering marriages and providing

education for girls take place regularly. Families also learn to implement this approach beyond the formal training sessions in their day-to-day decision-making and conflict resolution. The project aims to enable women to speak out to defend their rights, to give children the room to participate in family life and decision-making, and to foster mutual recognition and acceptance of reciprocal rights.



IMPACT

After three years of implementation, the “Family Dialogues” approach had clearly paid off. A new spirit of open dialogue has been established in the target families, facilitating a better equilibrium between men and women. Interestingly, not only women could improve their social status – men also claim to feel more comfortable in their community and family life, and children are actively involved.



Statistics show that violence against women in the target communities has decreased by 16 %; 99 % of the women now reject FGM (in contrast to 42 % three years earlier) and seek to protect their daughters from the practice. Men and women are aware of

women's rights: 86 % of men and 79 % of women think that women deserve the same rights as men (before, 46 % respectively thought so). All couples who had been involved in the project had formally registered their marriage (in contrast to 2 %). This clearly contributes to formal equality between men and women within their marriage. Finally, the school enrolment rate for girls has increased by 24 %, which will permit them to become more independent from their male family members.



GENDER – A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The successful approach of “Family Dialogues” has led to an increased demand by many other communities, villages and families to be trained as well. Partners within the Burkinabe Government, the private sector and civil society have become engaged in the PROSAD Program, and together with the regional program “Against Female Genital Mutilation”, the project has published good practices with regard to the “Family Dialogues” approach.

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