

Gender Analysis Report

SELEVER PROJECT BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by Sita Zougouri and Emily Cook-Lundgren
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tanager
an ACDI/VOCA affiliate

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The Soutenir l'Exploitation Familiale pour Lancer l'Élevage des Volailles et Valoriser l'Économie Rurale (SELEVER) project is a five-year project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented by Tanager (formerly Agribusiness Systems International), an affiliate of ACDI/VOCA. The project aims to improve the nutritional status of women and children in Burkina Faso through an integrated strategy that: 1) increases household poultry production and incomes and 2) empowers women in society, the economy, and the household. SELEVER seeks to build women's empowerment and entrepreneurship capacity through increased poultry production, which will ensure an increase in women's incomes and capacity to control the income as well as improved nutritional behavior for women, children, and the whole household. SELEVER's gender approach stems from a theory of change that women's increased decision-making capacity, self-efficacy, and influence over household nutrition behavior is necessary to ensuring that increased poultry production and incomes will result in better household nutrition.

The purpose of this gender analysis is to identify and make recommendations to address gender gaps, challenges, risks, and opportunities related to the SELEVER project in order to improve income and nutritional status for women and children through participation in poultry production and to increase women's empowerment in the household and community. The analysis explores what gender norms, gender-specific barriers, and community engagement level could influence possibilities and opportunities for women to become more involved in poultry production and other entrepreneurship domains in order for them to be empowered and to impact positively on households' (particularly women and children) nutritional status.

The analysis focuses on four main themes, including 1) division of labor and time use; 2) control over productive assets; 3) economic barriers and opportunities; and 4) local governance and decision making. Building upon a gender desk review conducted in September 2015, the gender analysis targeted the Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre Ouest regions of Burkina Faso where the SELEVER project will be implemented. Major findings and recommendations are reported below.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND REPRESENTATIONS

Key findings from the gender analysis include:

- **Women spend a majority of their time on unpaid household and care work.** Domestic work is considered a woman's responsibility, and women report little time spent on rest or leisure. During the rainy season, women also spend a substantial amount of time on agricultural activities. Despite these heavy time burdens, neither women nor men considered women's time use an obstacle to participation in poultry activities.
- **Women do engage in paid work outside of the household, depending on the region.** The paid work may be agricultural, small trade, or handling of construction activities. Women generally expressed interest in increased participation in income-generating activities.
- **Women have limited control over resources.** Women's belongings are few and typically include kitchen utensils, her clothing, her poultry and pigs, and the millet she cultivates. In many places, however, everything in the household, including the woman herself, is ultimately considered the property of the man. Further, women have limited control over income from the sale of animals (and poultry in particular). Even though the decision to sell may come from women, men generally are the ones who control any revenue from animals, even if the animals belong to the women in practice.

- **Women do not own or inherit land.** While women may have access to a portion of land for farming, the land tends to be less productive than men's land. Women's limited access to and control over land has implications for poultry production in terms of building a poultry house and the time she spends tending to her allocated parcel of land, which may detract from other income-generating activities.
- **Prevailing gender norms limit women's autonomy as poultry producers.** While women are often the primary caretakers of poultry—responsible for feeding, watering, and hygiene—they are not considered the owner or producer. Further, women are typically prevented from selling birds at the market; in some cases, women are allowed to sell birds at home to a roaming purchaser, but they have little leverage in setting prices.
- **Access to inputs and information also serve as obstacles to women's poultry production.** Women face difficulties accessing quality poultry feed and obtaining housing for birds, and lack information or technical knowledge, for example, about poultry vaccination.
- **Poultry production is not viewed as an income-generating activity.** Communities tend to view poultry production as insurance rather than a commercial activity. In addition, women view their contributions to poultry production as domestic work, not as a productive activity.
- **Community-level interventions are not sufficient for addressing women's exclusion from poultry production.** Even in a community where a past intervention worked at the community level to lift the ban on women raising poultry, there remains low poultry production among women.

Based on these findings, recommendations to address the cultural, social, and economic obstacles to women's poultry production include the following:

1. Secure local buy-in at the individual, household, and community levels to gain support for women's increased role in poultry production from key stakeholders including women themselves, husbands, and community and religious leaders
2. Facilitate women's access to finance and key inputs, including credit to initiate poultry production, as well as vaccines, nutritious poultry feed, poultry houses, and land
3. Enable technical training and information-sharing on good practices in poultry production, including vaccinations, nutrition, and access to price information
4. Strengthen women's ability to sell their poultry by working with men and women to shift cultural norms and attitudes around women selling poultry, creating linkages to traveling buyers and facilitating access to price information
5. Promote a culture of poultry production as an income-generating activity, demonstrating the potential benefits to the household
6. Mitigate against risks including domestic violence and increased burden on women's time use by providing information, training, and reporting resources on gender-based violence and through

sensitizations on sharing household responsibilities

7. Consider future targeted research, including further gender analysis to better understand the gender dynamics of household nutrition; barrier analysis to elucidate some of the obstacles to women's poultry production, such as women collecting termites; and periodic monitoring to gauge changes in women's time use and control over resources