Husband and wife are sharing household chores. Sulai Maganda is pounding ground nuts, and Joweri is washing plates. Before the project, only women did the pounding. Photo by Efulans Nakirada (right)

EVALUATION SUMMARY

LEARNING FOR GENDER INTEGRATION PLUS UGANDA: COMBINED PHOTOVOICE AND MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE METHODOLOGIES

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has piloted its Learning for Gender Integration (LGI) initiative in three projects around the world in Uganda, Nicaragua and India. This is a summary of the evaluation findings for the Uganda pilot project. With technical support from Cultural Practice, LCC (CP), a team of Evaluation and Gender specialists from LWR and peer organizations used a combination of evaluation methodologies to assess the impact of the *Farming as a Family Business* project conducted in Uganda. The findings presented here also draw on the project's monitoring data collected by project staff. All quantitative findings in this summary were drawn from the monitoring data.

PROJECT SUMMARY

LWR partnered with NAMUBUKA Grains Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE), a registered apex organization, to reach 7,766 smallholders farmers in Uganda. The project aimed to address gender-based constraints that men and women farmers face as well as the broader issues of food insecurity and low income. The project targeted families to implement the Farming as a Family Business (FaaFb) model that focuses on training men on the benefits of allocating more land to their wives for family gardens, investing in improved inputs for their wives' gardens and their own maize crops and supporting the marketing of their wives' crops. In the FaaFb model, both husband and wife are also trained on the importance of developing the family budget together. Additionally, the project sought to strengthen NAMUBUKA's institutional capacity to provide services to their members, including financial services, marketing, market information and technical support.

This project was a part of Learning for Gender Integration (LGI), an initiative of LWR to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities to benefit from LWR's work. The goal of the initiative is to enable LWR to better contribute to full human flourishing through gender-integrated programming. LGI projects are funded by LWR and the Foods Resource Bank. Cultural Practice, LLC provided technical support to the initiative.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This evaluation combines quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies. The quantitative methodologies included surveys (validated through focus groups and interviews) and project record reviews. The two qualitative methodologies are PhotoVoice (PV) and Most Significant Change (MSC). PV is an empowering methodology that uses images to convey issues that are important to stakeholders. (See Wang, C., & Burris, M.A., "Photovoice: Concept, methodology and use for participatory needs assessment." Health Education & Behavior, 24(3), 369-387, June 1997.) MSC is a bottom-up process of generating stories about change that was brought about through the project. (See Rick Davies and Jess Dart, "The 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) Technique: A Guide to Its Use." London, U.K., and Hastings, Australia: Clearinghouse and Mande, April 2005.) The evaluation used an adapted combination of these two proven evaluation methodologies in a multi-stakeholder approach to identify and assess changes in gender roles, decision-making and food security outcomes for men and women.

PV was used with project participants. Ten participants, half women and half men, were chosen from two communities. They were equipped with cameras, trained on how to use them and asked to photograph people and things in their community that, in their opinion, showed how men's or women's roles had changed since the beginning of the project. After presenting their photos to one another, the photographers identified common themes in the photos that they considered to be most important to their community. Some of these themes were concrete (e.g. new techniques introduced by the project) and others were more abstract (e.g. confidence). They selected a few photos that they considered to best visualize the themes.

> Ms. Namumbya Robina Tefula, a 65-year-old widow who became a member of her cooperative's leadership during the project, which was previously unthinkable, says, "It is now a known issue of involving women in decision making. And the cooperative could not operate differently."

MSC was used with project staff from NAMUBUKA. Eight staff members chose stories from the project that reflected significant changes that had taken place in the roles of women compared to roles of men in the project communities. They shared their stories with each other and discussed the major themes those changes reflected. They chose four stories that represented the most significant changes based on their self-selected criteria for what they considered "most significant".

The evaluation was intentionally designed with two similar but different methodologies for its two main stakeholder groups. PV does not require literacy, while MSC is more effective with literate participants. Both methodologies respond to a question, and the evaluation team crafted questions that would allow for similar types of responses. Facilitators using either methodology guide participants through a process to identify important themes that present themselves as part of the analysis, which allowed for cross-analysis by both sets of participants. In fact, the facilitators were not responsible for conducting analysis but for guiding the two groups to conduct the analysis themselves.

The two groups came together on the last day of the evaluation for a joint discussion. The discussion created a space for both PV and MSC participants to engage in a conversation about the themes that seemed important to them. Both groups were able to contribute equally to the evaluation's analysis by using their photos or stories to explain why the identified themes were important. Because each group used a different methodology and therefore had different products, the power dynamic was somewhat balanced. Leveling the playing field allowed for a more nuanced representation and understanding of changes in gender-based power relations that play out in agricultural and nutritional practices and project outcomes. The final step in the analysis was the triangulation of findings using quantitative data.

Through the generous support of Technical and Operational Support Program (TOPS), this evaluation provided a space to test this new combined methodology approach. A toolkit has been developed that provides facilitation guidance for this combined methodology approach, and is available at **lwr.org/gender**. The reports of the other two LGI project evaluations and a PhotoBook documenting the photos and stories generated through PhotoVoice are also available at that site.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS

Traditionally, women have always been responsible for cultivating a garden which fed the family while men were responsible for managing the larger plot of land to plant the cash crop - maize. Men retained control over all farming inputs like tools, seeds or fertilizer and the production and harvesting of maize took precedent over the family garden. Women would be called upon to assist men with the cash crop in addition to their garden work that provides food security for the family. The project did not seek to alter the fact that lands and resources are divided between men and women, with women being responsible for family gardens and men being primarily responsible for cash crop plots, but rather to increase the value the family afforded to the garden as well as women's access to farming inputs, training on modern farming skills and money.

Both the PV stories and the quantitative data indicate that project efforts to promote farming as a family business with increased role, resource and decision sharing and improved productivity were successful. Photographers shared numerous stories of men taking on traditionally women's roles both on the farm and at home and vice versa. For example, photographers captured images of men fetching water, washing clothes, weeding the garden, caring for children and carrying firewood. They also captured images of women using oxen and ploughs in the fields, making bricks, selling produce and participating in savings groups. When discussing these photos, the community emphasized how now men and women work and make decisions together to collaboratively raise their family's production and quality of life rather than adhere to restrictive gender roles that diminish their production potential.

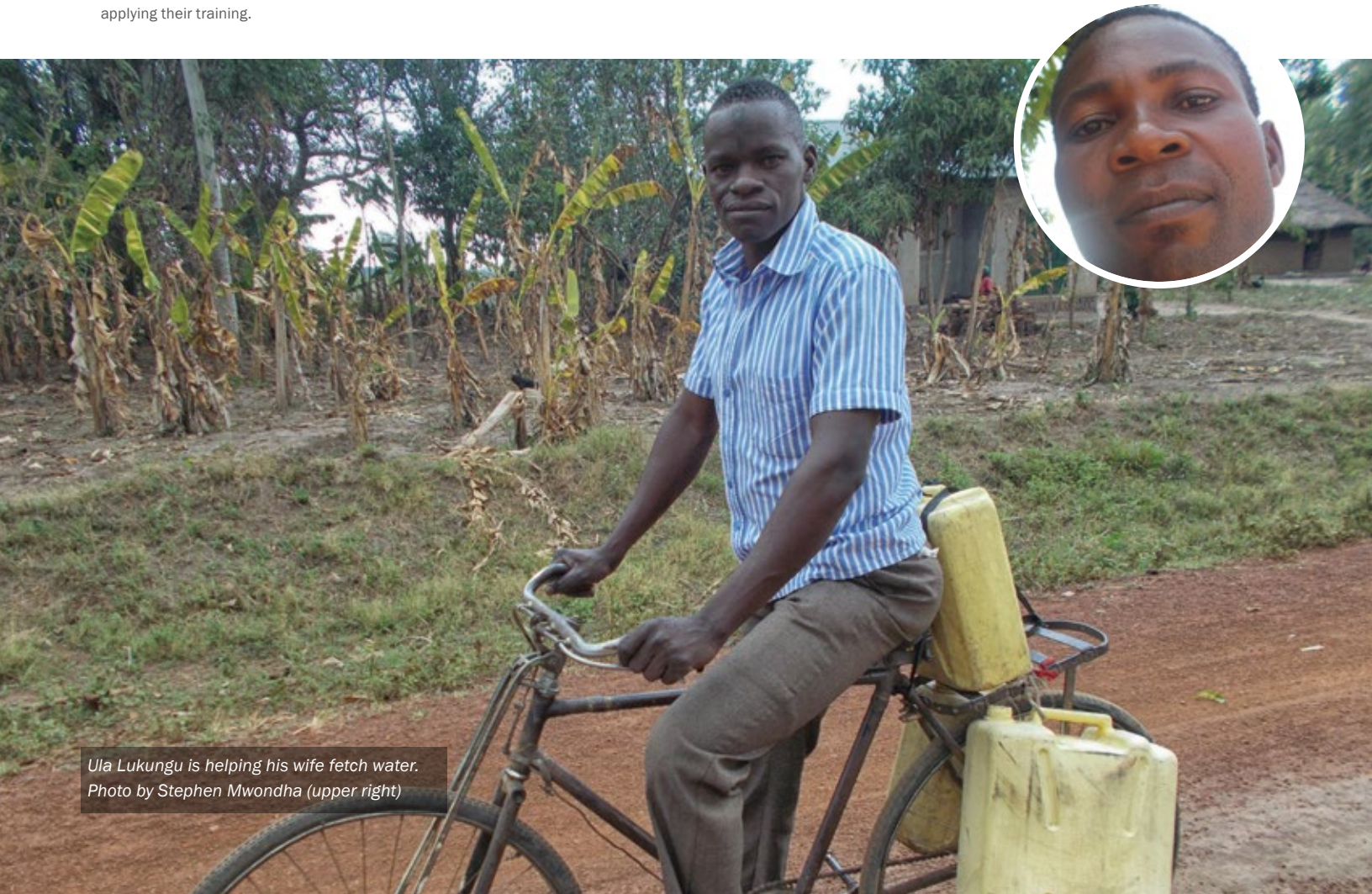
Both men and women received training on modern farming practices as well as on sharing roles in farming through their apex organization (a collective of farmers' cooperatives). Through these trainings, men and women learned about fertilizers, modern storage and drying practices, the importance of using oxen to pull ploughs and crop diversification to reduce ecological and economic risks. Many different photographers saw it fit to take pictures of various new storage techniques now being employed in the community, noting their value and impact on farmers' ability to sell crops throughout the year instead of just after the harvest. The apex organization was also charged with assisting its member farmers in launching collective actions such as bulk purchasing of inputs and collective marketing. However, this activity failed to get started by the end of the project and resulted in some members leaving the organization.

Photographers from the evaluation share their photos with one another.

The quantitative data shows that the productivity of both men and women increased significantly. Women's plots used for family gardens expanded from 0.5 acre to 1.8 acres on average. Since land ownership traditionally resides with men in these communities, it can be concluded that men gave more land to women to cultivate food for both family consumption and extra income after coming to understand the importance of women's contribution to the family's farming business. Women's production of maize increased by 195% and their production of beans increased by 430%. Women also began growing sweet potatoes for the first time, producing an average of 21 bags per acre. Men's production of maize increased by 87% and their production of beans increased by 115%. Like women, men began growing sweet potatoes as well, producing 22 bags per acre.[1] This increased productivity led to the men and women participating in the project increasing their income as a whole by 78% and 125%, respectively. Men and women not participating in the project also benefited from some of the shared knowledge of modern farming practices as their incomes increased by 22% and 60%, respectively, as well. As detailed above, the increases in productivity and the resulting increases in incomes were achieved through skills trainings on modern farming practices and the collaboration of men and women both in the field and at home, which maximized the efficiency of their time and effort.

PV stories also indicate that the increased productivity and role sharing meaningfully contributed to improving families' food security. The project's promotion of role sharing and modern farming techniques afforded women the time, space and skills necessary to plan and expand what vegetables they grow for their families to eat. Since women are now able to participate in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), as will be discussed in more detail below, they have access to loans which helps them buy better seeds of different vegetable varieties, increasing the quality, nutrition and choice of what the family consumes regularly. Proper storage helps families preserve vegetables for themselves longer. Since it is now acceptable for women to milk cows, which was previously a man's task, they no longer have to wait to provide dairy for the family to consume. The project also promoted drying dishes on a rack, which helps prevent the growth of mold and bacteria, improving the cleanliness of food served. Ultimately, by the end of the project, families began appreciating the family garden more than they used to and dedicated more resources to it in order to ensure their own food security and well-being.

1 Men's lower increases in production (compared to that of women) may be due to the fact that some employed farm laborers who had not participated in the agricultural practices trainings. Women, on the other hand, had less money and could not hire laborers to assist them. Therefore, women were more consistent in applying their training.



Ula Lukungu is helping his wife fetch water. Photo by Stephen Mwondha (upper right)

CHANGING ATTITUDES

As discussed above, men have begun working together with women and taking on more household and farming tasks that were previously thought to be exclusively women's work, as the men have come to realize this new division of roles and responsibilities resulted in a more productive use of their time during the project. The theme of changing attitudes towards gender was highlighted in nearly all PV stories and, therefore, should be considered to be a very important change experienced in the communities. Several stories indicated that men now viewed women as strong partners rather than as servants. Some remarked that this attitude change has already had an effect on the dowry system, placing at least a little more perceived value on women than existed previously. Photographers also discussed how trust is growing between men and women as they support one another in taking care of shared responsibilities and engage in decision-making together. They also noted the importance of the children growing up in an environment where they witness this new respect and collaboration between men and women, which they will hopefully replicate as they grow older.

One story that captures this theme well is that of Stephen Mwondha. Stephen, age 32, explained that before he participated in the project, he could not allow his wife, Ayo Scovia, to make any decisions because he believed that a man's word should be final and that it was the responsibility of a man to make decisions for his family. Before the project, he had harvested and sold 10 bags of maize without consulting Ayo. Ayo and the children did not receive any of the money from the sale nor was any produce left for them to eat. When Ayo realized what he had done and confronted him, Stephen says he abandoned the family and left his home. Without Stephen, Ayo struggled to feed their children.

Project staff encouraged Stephen to join one of the project's community meetings. The topic of the meeting Stephen decided to attend was gender based violence (GBV). The group discussed circumstances and attitudes that lead to GBV, its negative effects and alternative ways of handling problems in the family. When asked how he felt after the meeting, Stephen said, "Everything discussed in the meeting made me reflect on my life. After the training, I decided to try and change my behavior. I apologized to my wife for everything that had gone wrong. We are now working together and our relationship is stronger." Ayo added, "In just one year, we have been able to buy three cows, construct two houses and our children are now able to go to school because everything we do, we do it while respecting each other's opinions."

As the topic of the meeting in Stephen's story indicates, GBV is a troubling problem in the project's target communities. Though the project did not initially set out to directly address GBV, its prevalence required careful project intervention wherever possible. Many photographers consistently brought up the

Husband and wife, Halid Mulindo and Namaganda, are going to tend to the garden together. Previously, women would go to the garden alone. Photo by Edward Nkwirize (left).

Evaluation photographers discuss the most important changes they have seen in their community as expressed in their photos.

reduction in GBV in their stories as a change they felt was very important. However, it is critical to note that the photographers who did so were all men, which makes it difficult to confidently conclude that significant reduction in GBV has occurred. However, female staff did also note this reduction in their MSC stories. The PV participants credit the reduction in GBV to improved family relations as a result of the project. According to their PV stories, women are now more aware of their rights and know where to go for help in cases of GBV. They also say that women have greater freedom of movement than before. However, some men believe that women sometimes abuse their rights and over-report incidents of GBV. They also claim some women purposely marry and divorce men in order to get property rights. These sentiments indicate that while a majority of men did cite reduction in GBV as an important change in their community, some negative attitudes towards women have not gone away.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

In order to encourage saving, create means of credit and promote women's access to money, the project established 36 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the communities. In total, 586 women and 456 men joined the VSLAs with some women even participating in women's only associations. This is a significant change considering that prior to the project, men did not allow women to handle money at all. Some people went on to set up their own savings groups after learning from the project.

The VSLAs served as a mechanism for project participants to save portions of their increased incomes and create a loan system from their savings for group members to borrow from for on- and off-farm activities such as purchasing seeds or other agricultural inputs, paying children's school fees, building houses and starting new businesses. Cumulatively, women saved 35,424,000 Ugandan Shillings (10,418 USD) and accessed 31,212,000 Ugandan Shillings (9,180 USD) in loans. Men cumulatively saved 47,237,000 Ugandan Shillings (13,893 USD) and accessed 40,741,000 Ugandan Shillings (11,982 USD) in loans. These savings and loans have helped the men and women expand their farming activities, increase their production and according to many PV stories, raise their standard of living.

Discussions with the community revealed that men's attitudes towards women engaging in economic activities changed when they saw women actively participate in VSLAs and contribute to business plans and budgeting. Women now handle money regularly, selling produce and handmade items at market. Many men and women told stories of how families now decide together what portion of their harvest to sell and what to do with the income. Women now have far more say in their family's financial affairs than ever before, and the PV stories affirm that men are supportive of this change.

FEATURE ON MSC

In this evaluation, the Most Significant Change (MSC) methodology was used with project staff from NAMUBUKA. Eight staff members chose stories from the project that reflected important changes in the communities.

The staff were asked to think of stories about individuals or groups that responded to a specific question: "What is the most significant change that has taken place in the roles of women compared to the roles of men as a result of the project?" Each person wrote the story or drew a picture that represented their answer and presented it to the other staff and the evaluation team.

The group generated a total of eight stories. After listening to one another's stories, they created a list of themes that appeared throughout the stories. The table below is a summary of these themes. Some stories featured multiple themes. As the staff sorted stories into themes, they discussed if the changes seen in the story had impact on men, women, boys or girls. The numbers represent how many stories relate to a particular theme for women and girls or for men and boys.

THEMES	Number of Stories about Women/Girls	Number of Stories about Men/Boys
Decision-making	1	2
Workload sharing	2	1
Access to land	1	1
Leadership	1	1
Education	1	1
Participation	1	1
Collective action	1	1
Sharing of proceeds	1	1
Savings / Credit	1	
Farming as a family business	2	1
Food security	1	1
Modern agriculture	2	
Gender balance	2	1
Gender Based Violence (GBV) reduction	3	1
Stronger institutions	1	1

Nasime Jackline is milking her cow before taking it to graze. Before the project, women were not allowed to milk cows. Through sensitization and training, woman can now do what men can do. Nasime's husband is not home, but she can still milk the cow. Photo by Mark Mbarara (above).

Mukalu Mutanda, Minza Kafunko, and their son are doing carpentry work together. Before the project, women were not allowed to perform carpentry work with the men. Photo by Ismael Kirevu (right).

The criteria the staff chose to select the story that represented the most significant change were:

- Benefits to men and women as a result of the project
- Men or women's participation
- Leadership role of women
- Decision-making
- Empowerment
- Gender-mainstreaming

One of the stories that the staff selected as the Most Significant Change is about a real woman whose name, for privacy reasons, has been changed to "Julie". This is Julie's story.

Julie is a resident of a village with affiliation to the NAMUBUKA organization. She says that she is proud to have been a part of this project because before the project, she had to live in an environment of domestic violence and it prevented her family from achieving its full potential.

When the project began, the staff conducted trainings about Farming as a Family Business and how to set up and run a VSLA. Julie persuaded her husband to attend these trainings. As he became engaged in these trainings, he learned about new agricultural practices and how to save money through a VSLA. Julie and her husband began to practice what they learned in the trainings. The conflicts in their home stopped. Julie and her husband began to make decisions together. They used the money they have made from increased crop productivity as a result of greater cooperation to build a new home with solar panels and to purchase a cow.

Julie says that now her home shines.

FEATURE ON PHOTOVOICE

PhotoVoice (PV) was used with project participants. Ten participants were chosen from two communities. They were equipped with cameras, trained on how to use them and asked to photograph people and things in their community that answered the following research question: "What change have you realized as a man or a woman as a result of the project?" They then discussed the themes those changes reflected and selected a few that they considered to be most important.

Each of the photographers chose five of their photographs as the ones that demonstrated the most important changes that they saw during the course of the project. Within each community, the photographers shared these top five photos along with the stories that went with them with their fellow PV participants. After all the photographers had shared their photos and stories, the group discussed the themes that appeared most often or were most important to them. Based on these themes, they chose one to two photos that best exemplified each theme and presented them to the broader community for discussion. In both communities, the broader group validated the chosen themes.

Because this method was used in two different communities, it generated two different sets of themes. These themes are listed to the right:

THEMES FROM COMMUNITY 1	THEMES FROM COMMUNITY 2
Self esteem	Modern farming
Financial access	Financial access
Hygiene	Confidence
Standard of living	Decision-making
Gender balance	Storage
Food security	Sharing responsibilities
Dairy/Nutrition	Farming as a family business
Working together	Domestic violence
Family budgeting	
Attitude change	
Farming and ploughing responsibility	
Farming as a business	

Dawson Balindawa and family are working in the garden. Children now have a better understanding of why it is important to help their parents in agriculture. Photo by Stephen Mwondha (upper right).

The photos and captions below serve as a small sample of the types of photos and stories that were chosen to represent these themes.

FINANCIAL ACCESS | PHOTO BY MARK MBARARA

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) groups groups did not exist here before the project. The project trained us on the importance of the VSLA. The community started saving money which allowed us to increase income to meet family needs, pay school fees and purchase agricultural inputs. These savings have also helped us build improved houses.

STANDARD OF LIVING | PHOTO BY JULIET MIREMBE

Through increased agricultural productivity, VSLAs and working together, our standard of living has improved. Farmers have built improved houses, bought oxen and ox ploughs and improved seed quality to increase agricultural productivity. In this photo, one can see both the old style and the new style homes.

CONCLUSION

According to both PV and MSC participants, with further validation obtained through quantitative data, the conclusion is that the project was successful in increasing agricultural productivity, which led to increased incomes and food security, and in convincing men and women to work together and share roles previously assigned to one specific gender. The project was also effective in improving both men's and women's access to finance and in changing men's attitudes towards women on certain issues like participation in income generating activities, handling of money and having a say in family decision-making.

At the end of the evaluation, photographers, project staff and the community came together to discuss the stories which they picked as the most important and representative of the changes they had experienced throughout the project. These discussions were helpful in triangulating and identifying the major themes and sentiments expressed through the numerous photos and individual stories shared. Ultimately, it was agreed among those participating in the discussion that the project had many positive effects on their personal lives, relationships and financial well-being. The staff and several community members emphasized the importance of those who had experienced change as a result of the project to continue to serve as champions of change in the community moving forward.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND LEARNING

LWR MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Through project data, the NAMUBUKA staff found that women tended to save more than men as members of the VSLAs if they were empowered to make decisions. The LWR Uganda team and NAMUBUKA see this as an opportunity to ensure that more women than men become members of future VSLAs. This is also a sign that continued gender sensitivity training is needed in the communities so that men do not feel like their power is being threatened by women who want to save, but that they and their families will be better off when women can save collectively.

EVALUATION ACTION ITEMS

Though this project ended, LWR continues to work with NAMUBUKA leadership to pursue avenues for collectivized sales. This was an aspect of the project that did not come to realization during the project's timeframe but is still important to member farmers and to NAMUBUKA's leaders. The organization has access to collateral for a loan in the form of a warehouse that will store farmers' produce and it can use this loan to finance trade at the national and international level.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING

LWR approached all three LGI projects as learning opportunities to better integrate gender considerations into our food security programming. This evaluation in conjunction with the other two LGI projects has provided a great deal of insight into how best to work with partners, communities and individuals to ensure that all project participants reap benefits. Regarding project design, LWR has learned that both sides (LWR and implementing partners) must be committed to thorough needs assessments, interventions that simultaneously address food security and gender imbalances and monitoring and evaluation systems that provide sufficient data to analyze changes for men and women. LWR has also learned that the contexts in which communities and households function vary and these differences must be respected and taken into account by the project. Gender is one facet of those contexts and it closely interacts with other facets such as power structures, politics, poverty and education. LWR is committed to its vision of a world where every person lives in justice, dignity and peace, and we know that gender-sensitive programming enables this vision.

GRATITUDE

LWR thanks its peer partners who contributed time, resources and talent to this evaluation. Specifically, LWR thanks Lomogin Abdi, Learning and Information Officer at Mercy Corps, Uganda, and Sara Delaney, Senior Program Officer at Episcopal Relief and Development, USA, for their contributions to this evaluation.

Lutheran World Relief has nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world. LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being, and responds to emergencies with a long-term view. Our international team of experts develops the most effective tools to help people achieve self-sufficiency. We apply solutions specific to the needs of each community, such as providing access to capital for small businesses or helping farmers adapt to changing climate conditions. Our long history of partnership with local communities, businesses, and governments enables in-country professionals to lift up local knowledge and leverage relationships that drive results. And by working across issues such as gender, climate change adaptation, and agriculture, LWR continues to learn, share, and innovate with the global development community. By investing in people, their skills, and strengthening their ability to adapt, LWR enables those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

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