



International Resources Group

Gender



Examining the complex roles men and women play within the greater context of international development can provide critical insights into daunting development challenges. Whether strategizing to overcome obstacles to economic empowerment experienced differently by men and women or obtaining women's unique perspectives on energy use, **International Resources Group** understands that integrating this cross-cutting area into its programming approaches can illuminate critical issues that may otherwise go unnoticed. IRG seeks to address the needs of both men and women throughout the project cycle, ensuring that all voices can make a contribution towards development solutions.

Representative Projects

Applying Gender-Responsive Approaches to the Hydropower Industry

USAID, through IRG, employed several measures to ensure women's unique perspectives were incorporated into this project dedicated to hydropower reform. Among them: a training course and manual dedicated to gender participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment of Hydropower Projects; a database of women engineers and Kathmandu-based women's NGOs; and a highly successful workshop on gender participation in Hydropower Development projects. Successful outcomes of the project include: increased numbers of women participants in decision-making; increased capacity of women's groups to participate effectively in hydropower development-related processes; greater numbers of women participants in EIA training courses at the School of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development; greater understanding by public agencies of gender issues and increased capacity to develop gender-responsive strategies related to hydropower development.

Nepal: Private Sector Hydropower Development

Balancing Stakeholder Participation in the Decentralization of Water Management

Women play an integral role in this project dedicated to increased decentralization of decision making regarding water management in Egypt. In addition to ensuring that 10% of all branch canal water user associations are female, the project has focused on increasing female participation across the board in terms of trainings, study tours, and field work. The increased participation has led to faster resolution of conflicts, increased crop yields for women farmers as a result of improved irrigation procedures, greater communication and

Capabilities

- ◆ Gender Assessments
- ◆ Gender Integration
- ◆ Disaggregated Data Analysis
- ◆ Gender Equitable Policy Design
- ◆ Capacity Building and Training
- ◆ Project Mainstreaming



increased awareness within communities sensitizing them to water concerns.

Egypt: Livelihood and Income from the Environment

Equipping Women with the Tools they Need to Address Environmental Challenges

USAID’s Sudan field office focused on improving its environmental management and monitoring capacity by conducting pilot environmental assessment trainings. Three “all women” trainings were held to help women gain knowledge, skills and experiences to equip them with both theoretical and practical approaches to tackle various environmental challenges in Southern Sudan. These women were particularly targeted due to their involvement with local organizations, UN agencies and other development partners that would employ EIA (Environmental Impact Assessments) skills in their work. Various gender-aware strategies were used to ensure women’s participation, including gaining buy-in from family members, addressing logistical and transportation concerns, encouraging supervisors to nominate candidates and developing strategies for appropriate follow-up. **Sudan: Transitional Environment Program**

Assessing the Impact of Fuel-Efficient Stoves in Conflict Communities

In Northern Uganda, a project that promoted the use of fuel-efficient stoves contracted IRG to perform a gender assessment of women in IDP camps most likely to make use of these stoves. A total of six focus groups were held in three different IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps to obtain an in-depth understanding of stove use, related attitudes, perceptions and behaviors among those residing in the camps. This information, along with water boiling tests and cooking contests was used to determine the overall effectiveness of the stoves. **Uganda: PED IQC, Task Order**

Men and Women Fulfill Distinct Roles in Implementing Forest Conservation and Managing Protected Areas

Men and women share responsibility for conserving local forests in this co-management project in rural Bangladesh, although their roles are distinct. To increase participation

among women in the area, IRG organized an awareness building exercise among 15 of the most prominent Bangla women with the hope that their influence would help to positively affect the conservation and improved management of Bangladesh’s dwindling area of protected forests. In the project’s second year, the IRG team developed a set of strategies to ensure that it fully recognized the differential roles played by women and men both at site level and in its own project offices. The third year is ensuring these strategies are adopted in two ways: at the site level, recommendations target women’s groups and segments of the population for greater involvement and at the national level, a focal person for gender issues will be appointed and will work to increase hiring levels of women throughout the project. One milestone will be to ensure that over 60% of new hires to the project at all levels are women. Additionally, staff will undergo three days of gender awareness for promoting gender neutral behavior.

Bangladesh: Co-Management of Tropical Forest Resources (Nishorgo Support Project)

Men and Women Work Together to Increase Rural Household Incomes and Strengthen Enterprises

This project, which is focused on increasing competitive enterprise while protecting the natural resource base, acknowledges the distinct roles men and women play in the harvesting and processing of non-traditional agricultural and non-timber forest products. To date, IRG has assisted in training 11,503 men and 9,970 women (for a total of 46.4% female participants) and has ensured that men and women benefit equally by allotting more than 15% of small grants to bolster women’s producer groups. By identifying the various sector and subsector groups according to male and female farmers and producers, men and women can be accommodated according to their unique needs along the value chain to ensure a more equitable distribution of revenues. For example, during the course of this project, demand for jujube cakes, made from the jujube (a small berry-like fruit) has begun to increase. Because of women’s roles as the primary harvesters of jujube and due to their participation in the manufacture and sale of jujube cakes, they have been able to experience firsthand the fruits of their labor—profits that can be immediately poured into helping feed their families and sending their children to school. **Senegal: Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Program**