Rural Women Cultivating Change



Midline Evaluation

Prepared by: Common Path Consulting

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Acronyms

CAG	Community Action Group
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HHS	Household Survey
KII	Key Informant Interview
MLE	Midline Evaluation
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PMF	Performance Measurement Framework
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
RWCC	Rural Women Cultivating Change
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence

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Executive Summary

The *Rural Women Cultivating Change* (RWCC) midline evaluation (MLE) was a *formative* evaluation, guided by feminist research principles, with the primary objective to assess progress towards, and project contributions to, the achievement of planned results. The scope and coverage of the MLE focused on the actual communities of intervention in the three project countries from the start of the project in June 2021 to March 2024. It measured all intermediate outcome indicators identified in the logic model, as well as the ultimate outcome indicator. The MLE used a repeated cross-sectional design and mixed-methods approach, including both quantitative and qualitative research methods to collect primary and secondary data.

Comparability of the MLE to the baseline was limited by the number of indicators with data reported at baseline. Due to the need to develop new calculations for all intermediate and outcome indicators, all baseline figures were re-calculated in order to increase comparability to the results measured at midline. Targets should therefore be considered in light of the fact that they were set against the original baseline values, and not the recalculated baseline. Moving into the second half of the project, review and revision of targets should be undertaken against the recalculated baseline.

Under the first pillar, enhancing gender equality and empowerment of young and adult women, the project has shown significant progress, demonstrating statistical significance, particularly with regard to women's decision making.

The second pillar, regarding strengthening the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), had mixed progress. While Ethiopia and Tanzania have shown significant progress on the outcome index indicator, as well as on satisfaction with community prevention and response, Kenya's score slipped below the recalculated baseline. At the intermediate outcome level, the difficulty in gathering the data required to measure progress on the outcome likely necessitates the revisiting of the indicators and/or their data sources.

The third pillar, concerning enhanced climate-resilient and local food systems, all country programs have surpassed previously set midline targets, with Tanzania surpassing the original endline target, on the ultimate outcome index indicator. All countries have surpassed previously set endline targets at the intermediate outcome level for both women farmers reporting increased control over household income, as well as other agriculture-related decision making. Results are mixed with regard to community members implementing the agroecological strategies promoted by the program to reduce climate vulnerability, as well as community members practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources.

Evaluation Purpose and Scope

Evaluation Objectives

The *Rural Women Cultivating Change* (RWCC) midline evaluation (MLE) was a *formative* evaluation, focused on the project's design, delivery, and preliminary results. As a formative evaluation, the primary objective of this study is to assess progress towards, and project

contributions to, the achievement of planned results, to be utilized by project implementers for course correction and ongoing learning. Additionally, the MLE's specific objectives are to:

- Explore barriers and facilitators to project implementation and achievement of results
- Generate recommendations and lessons learned for course correction and continuous improvement
- Support the project's accountability and learning requirements

Evaluation Coverage

The scope and coverage of the MLE focused on the actual communities of intervention in the three project countries. In Kenya, surveyed communities included 31 wards within 4 counties; in Tanzania, surveyed communities included 9 wards within 6 districts; while in Ethiopia, the communities are in one zone, two woredas and 20 kebeles (see Annex A). The evaluation covered the time period from the start of project activities in June 2021 to March 2024. It measured all intermediate outcome indicators identified in the performance measurement framework (PMF), as well as the ultimate outcome indicator (see Annex B).

Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the measurement of results against the PMF indicators, the MLE assessed the following evaluation criteria, as defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria (see Annex C):

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change.
- **Effectiveness**: The extent to which the intervention achieved or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.
- **Efficiency**: The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.

Evaluation Principles

The MLE was guided by feminist principles that emphasize inclusive and participatory methods in which the process of data collection and analysis is itself empowering for participants and directly useful to support actions for social change. These include the following:

1. **Feminist evaluation has a central focus on the gender inequities that lead to discrimination.** It is not just about women but recognizes that striving for equality benefits everyone in both private and household spheres (e.g. labour, care, health, food systems, climate, science, technology, etc.).

2. **Discrimination or inequality based on gender is systemic and structural.** It considers the contextual understanding of inequality and lived experiences in particular settings and in a given time.
3. **Evaluation itself is a political activity;** the contexts in which it occurs are politicized, and the personal experiences, perspectives, and characteristics of evaluators bring to evaluation lead to a particular political stance.
4. **Feminist evaluation encourages evaluators to view themselves as part of the process,** output and outcome and to consider their positionality and bias.
5. **Knowledge and values are culturally, socially, and temporally contingent.** Knowledge is a powerful resource that serves an explicit or implicit purpose. Knowledge should be a resource of and for the people who create, hold, and share it. Consequently, the evaluation or research process can lead to significant negative or positive effects on the people involved in the evaluation research. Knowledge is also filtered through the holder.
6. **Relationships and interactive processes that involve emotions or intuition provide legitimate sources of knowledge.** There are multiple ways of knowing, some ways are privileged over others. Feminist evaluation gives voice to these multiple ways, including integrating reason, emotion, and experience. It seeks to recognize and give voices to different social, political, and cultural contexts that privilege some ways of knowing above others.

The tools and approaches developed were modified by partner MEL teams in order to ensure they were culturally responsive to the contexts in which they are being employed. Methods familiar to partners were prioritized such as the use of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in order to emphasize the importance of lived experiences. Recognizing the role and any given bias of the researcher/evaluator in these data collection activities was considered through training on positionality and on daily reflective feedback from enumerators.

Evaluation Methodology

Approach

The MLE used a repeated cross-sectional design and mixed-methods approach, including both quantitative and qualitative research methods to collect primary and secondary data. For the quantitative component of the evaluation, a non-experimental, repeated cross-sectional approach was used to assess the program's effectiveness vis-a-vis expected outcomes in the RWCC project's PMF. To this end, data was collected on intermediate and ultimate outcomes in the PMF, to statistically compare to baseline levels to measure achieved progress where possible.

For the qualitative component of the evaluation, a phenomenological design was used to assess the program's relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. In-depth insights were collected

through KIIs and FGDs to complement, contextualize and triangulate quantitative findings. Finally, project reports and other documents were reviewed to assess the project's effectiveness and efficiency.

Through each data collection method, the evaluation strove to collect sex-disaggregated and age-disaggregated data (i.e. older women, younger women, older men, younger men, etc.) while paying attention to and considering all intersectionality to ensure utmost inclusivity.

Data Collection Tools

The RWCC MLE utilized three data collection tools: a household survey (HHS), focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs).

The household survey (HHS) was administered to men and women (18 and above) respondents from the sampled communities who self-identify as beneficiaries of the RWCC project interventions (leadership, SGBV, agroecology and other supports).

The questionnaire consisted of several domains, covering sociodemographic and household characteristics; household decision-making practices and control over agricultural practices, expenditures, and income, assets including land, consumer durables, livestock, and agricultural equipment; community group membership; public speaking and leadership skills; time management; knowledge and attitudes towards gender-based violence; and use of agroecological inputs and methods. The instruments were translated into local languages Amharic (Ethiopia) and Swahili (Tanzania) but shared in English for analysis. See Annex D – Data Analysis Framework.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with project beneficiaries of various age and gender sub-groups including:

- Young women (18 - 35 years old)
- Older women (35+ years old)
- Young men (18 - 35 years old)
- Older men (35+ years old)
- Community leaders (18+ years old)

This method was used to gather the perspectives, opinions and case examples from beneficiaries in sampled communities. The FGDs also helped to explore: the relevance and timeliness of the project to community needs; observed knowledge, attitude and behavioural changes at the community level; differential outcomes; and factors affecting the achievement of results.

Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with RWCC project stakeholders, including: RWCC project staff of implementing partners, local government officials and sexual and gender-based violence duty bearers. In Tanzania and Kenya, this latter group included: police, health service providers, Social Welfare, NPA-VAWC-council level, DCDO and local partner

organizations. In Ethiopia, similar positions were interviewed as well as gender experts and the judiciary. This method was used to: gain a deeper understanding of individual perspectives and experiences with regards to the relevance and timeliness of the project to community needs; observe knowledge, attitude and behavioural changes at the community level; and document factors affecting the achievement of results, including the project's contributions. Interviews with project staff and stakeholders also explored project implementation aspects including the appropriateness, timeliness, inclusivity of and level of participation in project activities. Additionally, interviews with institutional duty bearers focused exclusively on results related to sexual and gender-based violence, including a structured interview module on survivor-centred care.

All data collection tools were standardized across the three study countries in order to ensure a common methodology.

In addition to the tools listed above, secondary data sources were reviewed and analyzed including from: the project implementation plan (PIP), logic model, PMF, gender assessments and strategy, project reports (semi-annual and annual reports, baseline study report, etc.), project monitoring data, and relevant policy documents to obtain information on the RWCC project context, design, and implementation.

Sampling Approach

The RWCC midline evaluation developed sampling guidance protocols for each data collection tool utilized in the evaluation (HHS, KIIs and FGDs). These protocols included a description of the sampling approach, an overview of the sample calculations, and resulting estimated sample sizes. A table with a list of the selected sites and target number of respondents per site (primary unit) can be found in Annex A. The sampling approaches reflected acceptable methods and standards and facilitated a statistically relevant comparison with the baseline evaluation conducted in 2021 (see Quantitative Analysis section below).

Sampling Approach in Support of Household Surveys

A stratified sampling approach was used for the household survey to ensure the generation of indicator estimates and facilitate the detection of changes with respect to the baseline *per country* and per key respondent group. The three main respondent groups are: i) women farmers having received training and other supports in agroecological strategies and practices; ii) men farmers having received training in agroecological strategies and practices; and iii) women farmers having received training in leadership and decision-making. The sampling frame therefore consists of all project beneficiaries, but not future beneficiaries.

The sample size was calculated with the specific aim to detect changes with respect to the project's indicators' baseline values, with a level of significance of 90%, and with the statistical power of 80%. As can be seen in the basic equation for proportions, it is also necessary to specify a baseline value and desired effect size, however, as will be expounded upon in the

limitations section below, at the time of beginning this study, few baseline values were available, and the data analysis framework lacked clarity. It was therefore decided to use the baseline value of a data point used in the calculation of at least one indicator, the proportion of women controlling income from crop sales (71% overall), as well as a desired effect size of 10%, resulting in a sample size of at least 220 per country per respondent type including an allowance of 10% for non-response. Furthermore, it was recommended to target at least 40 women who had received leadership training based on a minimum sample of 30, also with allowance for non-response.

$$n = (Z\alpha + Z\beta)2 * (P1 (1 - P1) + P2 (1 - P2)) /(P2 - P1)2$$

where:

n = required minimum sample size per survey round or comparison group

P_1 = the estimated level of an indicator measured as a proportion at the time of the first survey or for the control area

P_2= the expected level of the indicator either at some future date or for the project area such that the quantity (P_2 - P_1) is the size of the magnitude of change it is desired to be able to detect

Z_α = the Z-score corresponding to the degree of confidence with which it is desired to be able to conclude that an observed change of size (P_2 - P_1) would not have occurred by chance (α - the level of statistical significance), and

Z_β = the z-score corresponding to the degree of confidence with which it is desired to be certain of detecting a change of size (P_2- P_1) if one actually occurred (β - statistical power).

To develop the sampling frame, partner organizations considered the entire list of women and men that benefited from training in agroecology and leadership in the last 3 years. To ensure representation, the list was organized by target community and respondent type for each partner organization. This includes wards in Kenya and Tanzania and kebeles in Ethiopia. Details of the Sampling Frame can be found in Annex A. Samples were distributed using a probability-proportional-to-size approach per respondent type, sampling from each primary sampling unit.

The final sample sizes reached at midline, compared to baseline, are shown in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Final samples reached at midline, compared to baseline, by country and respondent sex.



Sampling Approach in Support of KIIs and FGDs

Qualitative data, disaggregated by gender, was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Nonprobability sampling approaches, i.e. purposive or convenience sampling, were used with conscious consideration to maximize diversity. For the FGD for leaders, teams aimed to achieve at least 60% female participants.

Analysis Framework

Analysis of the MLE data was guided by the evaluation matrix (Annex C). Evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness and efficiency) formed the main categories for the coding framework and within each category, a set of sub-categories referenced evaluation questions and sub-questions.

For evaluation question 2b, the RWCC project's PMF guided analysis of quantitative data. Index construction for all PMF indicators has been collaboratively finalized by the RWCC MLE Committee and evaluation consultants. For more information on the performance indicators involved, see Annex B.

Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data was collected using CommCare and was exported and analyzed with the Python programming language. Specifically, a script was created to perform data cleaning, exploratory data analysis, feature creation, and inferential statistical analyses. Data cleaning consisted of harmonizing datasets across countries and with the baseline to facilitate the re-computation of baseline indicators, in addition to the planned calculation of midline indicators

and comparisons with the baseline, while feature creation permitted for the construction of indicator values at the project, country and respondent type levels. Indicator calculations included weighting to correct for the oversampling of male respondents (see Annex D – Data Analysis Framework).

Analysis of quantitative data began with descriptive statistics (frequencies and/or mean scores), of key data points disaggregated by age group and gender, followed by inferential statistics to test for differences between women and men at midline, as well as to detect changes with respect to the baseline. Two sample t-tests were used to evaluate means, while two sample z-tests were used to evaluate proportions. All significance tests were two-sided, with alpha set to 0.05.

Results have been presented under each result level (project pillar) by *country,* with the data points shared first, followed by the results for the project's indicator. Graphs have been presented by country disaggregated by sex, with comparison to baseline where possible, however, the narrative highlights statistically significant results at the most granular level at which they were found, whether by sex or further disaggregated by age group.

Qualitative Analysis

FGDs and KIIs were recorded and transcribed; following the completion of field work in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, transcripts were synthesized with discussion notes, and translated into English. Qualitative data was stored and coded using Dedoose Version 7.0.23, a secure, web-based analysis software used for managing, analyzing, and presenting qualitative data.

Guided by the overall coding framework (per the evaluation matrix), qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis (examination, classification, and analysis of patterns or themes). Thematic codes were assigned to words, phrases or sections of discussion notes and transcripts, with multiple readings used to identify themes and sub-themes; sub-themes were subsequently analyzed for trends, patterns, relationships, similarities and differences, including by age group and gender. Narratives were developed to summarize each theme and sub-theme, responding to each evaluation question.

Contribution Analysis

Contribution analysis is used to assess whether non-experimental interventions with a clearly articulated theory of change have, with some level of confidence, made important contributions to documented results. While contribution analysis cannot be used to answer traditional causality questions, it can explore the project's role in and plausible contributions to observed results, given external factors.

To assess the contributions of the RWCC project to intended results, the project's Theory of Change was reviewed, including risks and assumptions (see Annexes E, F and G). Data generated by the MLE was used to explore progress to date with regards to project implementation intended outcomes. The pattern of results observed was triangulated with the perspectives of beneficiaries (young and adult women and men), community leaders, duty-bearers, local government officials, and project implementers, who shared their observations of results, project contributions thereto, and other contributing factors, in focus groups and interviews.

The evaluation strove to establish contribution analysis of *direct influence:* that is, to confirm that expected results in areas of direct influence of the theory of change were observed, and that the program was influential in bringing about those results, given other influencing factors.

Ethical Considerations

The evaluation's ethics framework was guided by the Feminist Evaluation Principles noted above and was considered during all stages of the evaluation process in order to be compliant. The full framework can be found in Annex H; what follows is a summary. Through the application of the ethical framework, the MLE strove to:

1. Recognize Intersectionality
2. Identify power dynamics
3. Implement participatory and inclusive approaches
4. Ensure gender-sensitive analysis
5. Recognize and contribute to ethics of Care
6. Contribute to transformative Action

Practical ethical guidelines that informed the data collection included the following:

1. Voluntary Participation
2. Informed consent
3. Confidentiality

Exposure to trauma is common in the countries where this project operates. The trauma-informed approach is guided by four elements: realization about trauma and how it can affect people and groups, recognizing the signs of trauma, having a system which can respond to trauma, and resisting re-traumatization. A Trauma-Informed and Survivor-Centered Approach was taken in the MLE, and included guidelines to establish:

1. Safety and Trustworthiness
2. Empowerment, Choice and Informed Consent
3. Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness
4. Encouragement of Peer Support
5. Collaboration and Partnership
6. Trauma-Informed Data Collection

7. Trauma-Informed Analysis and Interpretation
8. Trauma-Informed Reporting and Dissemination

Beyond these considerations, the following guidance was also provided vis-à-vis the communities in which data collection took place:

- Respect participants' position regarding sex, religion, political outlook & physical condition;
- Respect the laws and regulations of the country; and
- Abstain from discussing and presenting positions on political issues, whether or not enumerators or evaluators are part of the community or country.

PSEA and Safeguarding

All the parties engaged in the implementation of the MLE were obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevented sexual exploitation and abuse and promoted the implementation of project partners' codes of conduct. At all levels of the data collection process, respective project staff members had particular responsibilities to support and develop systems that maintain this environment.

To support this commitment, the following measures were implemented:

1. Sharing of an organizational Code of Conduct that explains standards of behavior expected of staff and enumerators with respect to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and ensuring that it was part of all enumerators' signed contracts
2. Identification of a Safeguarding/ PSEA focal point who was responsible for monitoring and managing Safeguarding risks and responding to any reports during the MLE.
3. Identification of referral pathways and support services for responding to Safeguarding issues.
4. Creation of a feedback mechanism through the consent form to ensure that respondents can report back any challenges that they will face.
5. Written guidance in place and shared with participants on the provision of SEA victim assistance and referral services.
6. Partner identification of Safeguarding reporting mechanisms with clear roles and responsibilities for responding to safeguarding issues.

Training for enumerators was provided that included information on partner organization PSEA and Safeguarding policies, and training on: safe data collection methods, how to respond to and report concerns, and informed consent principles. Opportunities to practice key research skills through role plays and pilot testing were emphasized, including how to maintain confidentiality, non-judgmental listening, how to ask sensitive questions to avoid causing harm, and managing and referring cases of distress.

Study Limitations

This research project took place against the backdrop of the following limitations:

Selection Biases - There was a possibility of selection bias since project implementing partners mobilized research participants. FGDs were moderated by enumerators recruited by the project partners, increasing the possibility of respondents giving the most desirable answer. Enumerators mitigated this limitation by asking respondents the same question in different ways and probing for responses to triangulate for consistency in responses.

Language Barrier – Project participants in project activities were drawn from rural communities where local vernacular is the most common language. There was the possibility of information undergoing multiple and undocumented translations during data collection, and information being lost in the process. To mitigate this, the training of the enumerators addressed the possible informal translation, with support teams present to better understand and recite questions in vernacular where needed.

Baseline Comparability - While the MLE was designed to collect data against ultimate and intermediate outcome indicators listed in the PMF, comparability to the baseline was limited by the number of indicators where indicator values were not reported. Furthermore, a data analysis framework detailing calculations for each indicator at baseline was not available at midline, leading to the redevelopment of the data analysis framework and recalculation of the baseline accordingly. Where data was not reported at baseline, midline data was analysed without comparison. While data was reported in the baseline disaggregated by sex, age and household head status, disaggregation in the MLE was only reported where the sample size was large enough to be statistically significant. Where possible, questions in the household survey were maintained in the same wording and format as the baseline study, to maximize the comparability between baseline and midline.

Findings - Relevance

The RWCC midline evaluation included a component to assess the project's relevance (is the intervention doing the right things?).[1] The relevance criteria of the RWCC MLE were grounded in the following evaluation questions:

1. How relevant is the RWCC project to the needs of beneficiaries and stakeholders?
    a. How relevant is the RWCC project to the needs of intended beneficiaries?
    b. How relevant is the RWCC project to the policies and priorities of stakeholders in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania?
    c. Does the project adequately account for community-level needs and context in its approaches?

[1] Relevance is defined as the extent to which the intervention's objectives and design respond to beneficiaries' global, country and partner/institution needs, policies and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change.
https://web-archive.oecd.org/temp/2024-05-13/81829-daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

d. Is the design of the RWCC project appropriate for its objectives and intended outcomes?

Relevance to Needs of Project Participants

The RWCC project is perceived by project participants to be relevant to the needs of participants as it has addressed significant priorities for participating communities. Program participants, who participated in the FGDs and KIIs for the MLE, frequently mentioned that the agroecological programming is highly relevant due to its direct influence on their livelihoods and economic empowerment.

Participants in Ethiopia noted that the project's training on composting has been particularly pertinent in addressing soil fertility issues in the region. The provision of seeds has also been seen as highly relevant due to the challenges associated with seed access. Agricultural workers observed that seed access has been a challenge because they are perceived by project participants to be expensive and distant.



SGBV

SGBV is an important issue in the program areas and is exacerbated in program areas in Ethiopia by the ongoing conflict and security situation, which has shifted government focus away from SGBV. Project participants highlighted the relevance of the project for women's empowerment, as women in the project areas face risks of SGBV. The project is perceived to be relevant as it fills an important gap. RWCC has provided awareness and improved capacity to prevent and respond to SGBV.

In Ethiopia, several participants highlighted the need for more SGBV programming given the security context. Participants frequently mentioned that the conflict and recent security context had both led to an increase in SGBV and a decrease in the government's ability to respond due to their competing priorities. The project intervention was seen as highly relevant by project participants as it addressed a high priority issue for the community. Some project participants



expressed a belief that the project has contributed to a reduction in cases of SGBV, due to the awareness raised by the project activities and the strengthened women's affairs groups.

In Tanzania, participants noted that the project was relevant and timely, given the local context. Specifically, the training on climate-resilient agriculture was seen as relevant for the agricultural communities facing climate risks and decreased soil fertility. A female FGD participant from Tanzania summarized, "Training on agroecology methods for climate resilient agriculture, women empowerment and fighting the SGBV all were long overdue, and we are glad to have been part of the project. We often lose crops to floods or drought, let alone middlemen at the market."

Participants in Tanzania emphasized the relevance of the project within the SGBV context in the communities where the RWCC project was implemented. According to some key informants, the understanding of SGBV in the community was limited before the project was implemented and there was a need for information to increase knowledge and awareness. The project has addressed knowledge gaps, which is contributing to a reduction in cases of SGBV.



In Kenya, many participants validated the relevance of the RWCC project to the needs of the communities. Key informants affirmed the project design responded to the needs of the community identified through community consultations. The project is perceived to have

responded directly to community priorities, most notably, women's empowerment, SGBV, and agricultural initiatives responding to the impacts of climate change. One key informant interviewed stated, "The training [has] been very helpful to the communities. They are providing a new way on farming in the advent of climate change."

Findings - Effectiveness

Effectiveness is evaluated to measure the extent to which an intervention achieved or is expected to achieve its results and observing differential results across different groups.[2] For the MLE of the RWCC project, effectiveness was measured through three main evaluation questions:

1. To what extent has the project achieved its intended results?
2. How has the RWCC project contributed to the achievement of results?
3. How has the RWCC project affected different target population groups?

Through the household survey, FGDs, and KIIs, the evaluation team sought to measure the extent to which RWCC's intended intermediate and ultimate outcomes have been achieved, or were on track to be achieved at the midpoint of the project, as well as determining the factors (enabling factors external to the project) that have influenced the achievement of results.

Achievement Towards the Ultimate Outcome (1000)

Achievement towards the ultimate outcome of the project, '**enhanced gender equality and empowerment of young and adult (Y/A) rural women in all their diversity in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania**,' was assessed using the outcome's three main indicators, which are scores on three indexes, reflecting the three pillars of the project, that each include various dimensions and related data points measuring rural women's empowerment (1000.1), communities' SGBV prevention and response (1000.2), and community climate resilient agriculture and business conditions (1000.3).

The total score (out of 10) on the ultimate outcome's **women's empowerment index (1000.1)**, **increased significantly** across all three country contexts **from baseline to midline.**

[2] https://web-archive.oecd.org/temp/2024-05-13/81829-daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistan ce.htm

1000.1 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	6.1	Ethiopia	8.0
		Kenya	5.4	Kenya	6.6
		Tanzania	5.7	Tanzania	6.6
Resources	• Ownership of productive assets (agricultural land and large livestock) • Access to equitable loan sources	Ethiopia	4.6	Ethiopia	7.6
		Kenya	3.7	Kenya	4.6
		Tanzania	3.4	Tanzania	4.4
Production	• Decision-making on productive assets, such as agricultural inputs and sales of agricultural products	Ethiopia	7.3	Ethiopia	9.1
		Kenya	6.7	Kenya	8.3
		Tanzania	7.2	Tanzania	7.9
Income	• Control over income on productive assets	Ethiopia	8.0	Ethiopia	9.4
		Kenya	6.8	Kenya	8.3
		Tanzania	7.5	Tanzania	8.6
Time	• Balance of time spent on productive and reproductive labour	Ethiopia	3.6	Ethiopia	3.0
		Kenya	5.6	Kenya	6.0
		Tanzania	6.0	Tanzania	6.6

Figure 1: National Scores on the 'Women's Empowerment Index" (1000.1), per country, at baseline and midline

When looking at the various dimensions of the index, **a significant increase** was seen in all three country contexts, in relation to the dimension of **resources,** namely ownership of productive assets and access to equitable loan sources. The significant increase in relation to this dimension in Ethiopia is due to an increased percentage of women indicating they owned livestock at the midline, and who also indicated they were able to access loans. In Tanzania, the significant increase in the resources dimension is explained by the increased percentage of women indicating they were taking out loans. In Kenya, a significant increase was seen only for women in the age group 36+ in their ability to take loans.

In terms of the dimension of **production**, namely decision-making on productive assets, such as agricultural inputs and the sale of agricultural products, a significant increase was seen in Ethiopia and Kenya. This increase was seen in Ethiopia due to an increase in female respondents indicating they had decision-making influence on the use of agricultural inputs at the midline compared to the baseline, and especially when it came to the sales of agricultural products. In Kenya, the increase in decision-making on productive assets was significant only for women 36+.

In Tanzania, no significant change was seen overall for this dimension, however a substantial increase was seen for women in the 18-35 age range, whose score increased from 4.6 to 7.0. Additionally, a clear theme emerged in the qualitative data of a shift in women's roles amongst targeted communities in Tanzania. This shift was largely seen in terms of women indicating they felt more engaged in decision making at the household level, and to a lesser extent, women working in other parts of the agricultural value chain, largely in selling of produce.

Scores related to the dimension of **income**, namely control over income on productive assets, a significant increase was seen in all three country contexts. In Ethiopia, a significant increase was seen in the percentage of female respondents indicating they had control over their household's income or income from crops at the midline compared to the baseline. In Kenya and Tanzania, significant increases in scores were seen for specific age categories, with a significant increase seen for women in the 36+ age group in Kenya, and for women 18-35 in Tanzania reflecting the trend in the production dimension.

A prevalent theme that emerged in the qualitative data from **Kenya** was that of increased self-sufficiency amongst the women supported by the project. Through the training they received by the project, the women were able to increase their agricultural yields, and therefore their income and savings. As a result, many of those who participated in FGDs stated that with this increased self-sufficiency, men experienced less stress, as the pressure to provide for the family and be the sole breadwinner was reduced with their wives/partners also contributing to household income. With this reduced pressure and stress, it was felt that men were less likely to be violent, leading to reduced domestic violence and household disputes. However, this reduction in domestic violence on account of women under the project becoming more self-sufficient does not necessarily indicate a gender equality impact, as the attitude that women have a right to be free from violence has not necessarily changed.

The dimension of time was measured as the balance of time spent on productive labor (work that is compensated) and reproductive labor (work that isn't compensated). Respondents were asked to indicate the number of hours spent on a range of common tasks, which could be broadly grouped into productive, reproductive, and social activities. Across all three country contexts, women had **significantly fewer hours to dedicate to productive tasks** compared to men, while spending a significantly greater number of hours on reproductive tasks. Time therefore was the only dimension of the index that saw **no significant change** in all three country contexts at the midline.

Indicator 1000.2, the national score on community SGBV prevention and response, is composed of two dimensions; SGBV prevention and SGBV response. Three data points were examined related to SGBV prevention, including awareness of community-based initiatives that work to prevent and respond to SGBV, having heard of laws on the prevention and punishment of SGBV, and having attended community meetings where SGBV was discussed. With respect to SGBV response, three datapoints were examined, including awareness of SGBV services, awareness of SGBV reporting mechanisms, and willingness to report a case of SGBV

The total score (out of ten) on the ultimate outcome's community **SGBV prevention and response index (1000.2) increased significantly** from baseline to midline **in Ethiopia and Tanzania,** with **no change** observed in **Kenya**. When looking at the two dimensions of the index, SGBV prevention and SGBV response, a significant increase on the SGBV prevention dimension in Ethiopia and Tanzania was observed at midline, but no change was observed in Kenya. For the dimension of SGBV response, a significant increase in scores was seen in both Ethiopia and Tanzania at midline, with a significant decrease in Kenya.

1000.2 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	4.8	Ethiopia	8.5
		Kenya	4.8	Kenya	4.6
		Tanzania	4.1	Tanzania	6.4
SGBV Prevention	Awareness with: • Community based initiatives that prevent and respond to SGBV • Laws that prevent and punish SGBV • Community meetings discussing SGBV	Ethiopia	4.7	Ethiopia	9.5
		Kenya	4.0	Kenya	4.4
		Tanzania	4.6	Tanzania	7.8
SGBV Response	• Number of SGBV services mentioned • Number of SGBV reporting mechanisms mentioned • Would report a case of SGBV	Ethiopia	5.0	Ethiopia	7.5
		Kenya	5.6	Kenya	4.7
		Tanzania	3.5	Tanzania	5.1

Figure 2: National Scores on the 'Community SGBV Prevention and Response Index" (1000.2), per country, at baseline and midline

Three data points were examined related to **SGBV prevention**, including awareness of community-based initiatives that work to prevent and respond to SGBV; having heard of laws on the prevention and punishment of SGBV; and having attended community meetings where SGBV was discussed.

In **Ethiopia**, awareness of all three types of prevention increased significantly since baseline, with no difference by sex or age group, as follows: community-based initiatives (from 49% at baseline to 98% at midline); laws (from 61% at baseline to 95% at midline); and community meetings (from 36% at baseline to 92% at midline).

In **Kenya**, awareness of the three types of queried SGBV prevention initiatives varied significantly from baseline, with no notable difference by sex. While a greater percentage of respondents were aware of community-based initiatives (from 30% at baseline to 48% at

midline) and community meetings addressing SGBV (from 30% at baseline to 46% at midline), significantly fewer had heard of laws related to SGBV (from 54% at baseline to 40% at midline).

Finally, in **Tanzania**, awareness of the three types of queried SGBV prevention measures increased significantly since baseline, with no difference between women and men at midline, as follows: community-based initiatives (from 37% at baseline to 80% at midline); laws (from 56% at baseline to 72% at midline); and community meetings (from 45% at baseline to 85% at midline). The data suggests that female respondents aged 18-35 are less aware than their older counterparts, where a 10-percentage point difference exists between the two at midline with respect to each of the examined data points.

With respect to **SGBV** response, three data points were examined: awareness of SGBV services, awareness of SGBV reporting mechanisms, and willingness to report a case of SGBV.

In **Ethiopia,** services mentioned by respondents differed significantly by sex, with men more often mentioning security services (80% versus 49%) and health services (97% versus 89%), while women more often mentioned legal services (86% versus 77%) and counseling services (46% versus 20%). The only notable difference by age group was the increased frequency with which security services are mentioned by older women compared to the younger cohort (55% compared to 43%). With respect to the baseline, the average number of GBV services mentioned by women and men has increased at midline compared to baseline rising from 2.1 to 3.1. In fact, the reference of all four examined services increased significantly since baseline, with the sole exception of security services by women which decreased significantly.

Relating to SGBV response mechanisms, the top three raised by women in Ethiopia were subnational gender offices (74%), elders (72%), and police (67%), while the top three mentioned by men were subnational gender offices (92%), police (84%), and elders (79%). Male respondents more often cited most of the reporting mechanisms compared to their female counterparts, apart from relatives which were more often cited by women (49% versus 38%). Compared to baseline, the average number of reporting mechanisms increased from 3.2 to 4.8, with a greater percentage of women and highlighting elders and relatives. Men also more frequently local administrative offices, faith and institutions at midline. Finally, the percentage of female and male respondents claiming they would report a case of GBV skyrocketed from 55% and 60% respectively at baseline, to 95% and 99% at midline.

At midline, the most frequently mentioned SGBV service in **Kenya**, irrespective of age group or sex, was health services (mentioned by 48%). Security services was the only type more frequently mentioned by men compared to women (49% versus 40%). With respect to the baseline, the average number of SGBV services mentioned by women and men decreased from 2.6 to 1.7 at midline, representing a significant decrease. Specifically, far fewer respondents were able to mention security services (dropping from 58% to 44%) and counseling services (dropping from 54% to 19%) at midline.

Relating to SGBV response mechanisms, the most common response amongst respondents in Kenya was elders, mentioned by 75% of respondents, followed closely by administrative offices raised by 74%. With respect to the baseline, the average number of SGBV response mechanisms remained at exactly 3.0, with older men able to identify more mechanisms compared to their female counterparts. Specifically, men more frequently mention administrative offices (78% versus 71%), faith groups (33% versus 17%), elders (82% versus 70%), and community action groups (32% versus 24%). More generally, police were less frequently mentioned at midline, falling from 66% to 50%, as were relatives (dropping from 52% to 17%), and friends (32% to 6%). Faith groups and elders were the only two reporting mechanisms to increase from baseline (11% to 22% and 55% to 75% respectively).

Finally, the percentage of female and male respondents in Kenya claiming they would report a case of GBV has not changed since baseline. Where 73% of women and 77% of men claimed they would report at baseline, at midline, those percentages became 79% and 80% respectively. This contradicts to some extent a theme that emerged from the qualitative data, which was increased confidence in reporting cases of SGBV, with community uptake of reporting mechanisms and enhanced community knowledge of reporting protocols cited.

In **Tanzania**, the most frequently mentioned SGBV service at midline, irrespective of age group or sex, was health services (mentioned by 83%). Security services was the only type more frequently mentioned by men compared to women (73% versus 59%), but incidentally, more often mentioned by women aged 36+ compared to the younger cohort (63% versus 47%). With respect to the baseline, the average number of SGBV services mentioned by women and men increased from 1.3 to 2.2 at midline. In fact, the reference of all four examined services increased by at least 30 percentage points, with the sole exception of counseling services which did not change.

Relating to SGBV response mechanisms, the most common response amongst respondents in Tanzania was administrative offices, mentioned by 90% of respondents, with no difference by age or sex. The next most commonly referenced SGBV response mechanism was the police, though more often mentioned by older respondents (50% compared to 35%). The frequency of both reporting mechanisms increased significantly since baseline, particularly the police, rising from 18% to 47%. Conversely, the mention of elders decreased significantly from 50% at baseline to 24% at midline.

Finally, the percentage of female and male respondents in Tanzania claiming they would report a case of GBV skyrocketed from 65% and 80% respectively at baseline, to 90% and 95% at midline, effectively closing the difference between the sexes. This increase was even more stark for young women whose frequency increased from 48% at baseline to 87% at midline.

The final ultimate outcome indicator, indicator 1000.3, is the national score on the **community climate resilient agricultural and business conditions index**, and is composed of two dimensions; agroecological inputs and agroecological methods. The total score (out of 10) on the index **increased significantly** across all three country contexts **from baseline to midline.**

1000.3 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	5.9	Ethiopia	7.6
		Kenya	4.7	Kenya	5.5
		Tanzania	2.9	Tanzania	5.6
Agroecological Inputs	• Use of green manure, animal manure, and improved seeds • Non-use of herbicide and inorganic fertilizer	Ethiopia	4.4	Ethiopia	5.9
		Kenya	4.8	Kenya	5.8
		Tanzania	4.6	Tanzania	6.6
Agroecological Methods	• Practice soil conservation, crop rotation, and planting in space	Ethiopia	7.3	Ethiopia	9.3
		Kenya	4.7	Kenya	5.2
		Tanzania	1.1	Tanzania	4.6

Figure 3: National Score on the "Community Climate Resilient Agricultural and Business Conditions Index" SGBV Prevention and Response Index" (1000.3), per country, at baseline and midline

Across all three contexts, the use of agroecological inputs increased from baseline to endline, with a significant increase across all examined data points in **Ethiopia**. The agroecological inputs at midline most frequently used by women and men in Ethiopia were farm saved seeds (97%), animal manure (83%), and composting (83%), improved seeds (77%), organic fertilizer (69%), and green manure (54%), with no difference by sex or age group. All other inputs were used by 25% of respondents or less. Since baseline, a notable rise in the use of all of the aforementioned inputs can be seen, particularly the use of farm saved seeds which rose 40 percentage points from 57% at baseline to 97% at midline. Likewise, use of improved seeds increased from 45% at baseline to 77% at midline and composting from 45% at baseline to 83% at midline. The mean number of agroecological inputs used by respondents also increased from on average 3.1 at baseline to 5.7 at midline.

In **Kenya**, a significant increase was seen specifically in the use of green manure and animal manure (the latter only amongst women) amongst respondents from baseline to endline, and a decrease in the use of inorganic fertilizer. At midline, the agroecological inputs most frequently used by women in Kenya were animal manure (82%), green manure (54%), farm saved seeds (47%), composting (44%), organic fertilizer (34%), improved seeds (27%), and biopesticides (26%). The percentage and order differed slightly among male respondents, with the top type of input being animal manure (80%). Male respondents more often reported using composting (54% versus 44%), biopesticides (47% versus 26%), and farm saved seeds (66% versus 47%) compared to female respondents.

Since baseline, a notable rise in the use of green manure (15% to 57%), composting (22% to 48%), and farm saved seeds (43% to 55%) can be seen by both sexes in Kenya, while the use of animal manure increased among women only (65% to 82%). The one input that saw a decrease in use by both female and male farmers was improved seeds, dropping from 53% to 30% at midline. Not surprisingly, the mean number of inputs used by farmers increased from 2.3 to 4.0, with a greater increase among men. Furthermore, the percentage of respondents who do not use non-agroecological inputs, such as inorganic fertilizers and herbicides, has increased since baseline in Kenya, from 41% to 70%, with no difference by sex. This is specifically related to a decrease in use of inorganic fertilizer which has dropped from 54% at baseline to 20% at midline.

In **Tanzania**, an increase was seen in the use of green manure and animal manure specifically, from baseline to endline, and the non-use of herbicide and inorganic fertilizer. At midline, the agroecological inputs most frequently used by women and men are animal manure (91%), farm saved seeds (63%), green manure (57%), organic fertilizer (56%), composting (47%), biopesticides (43%), and improved seeds (35%), with no difference by sex or age group. All other inputs were used by 5% of respondents or less.

Since baseline, a notable rise in the use of all of the aforementioned inputs can be seen in Tanzania, particularly the use of animal manure which rose almost 50 percentage points from 43% at baseline to 91% at midline. Other agroecological inputs seeing an increase in use since baseline are green manure (increasing from 31% to 57%) and composting (increasing from 28% to 47%). Conversely, the use of improved seeds decreased significantly, dropping from 47% to 35% while the use of farm saved seeds remained unchanged. The mean number of agroecological inputs used by respondents also increased from on average 2.4 at baseline to 4.4 at midline with no difference by respondent type.

Furthermore, the percentage of respondents who do not use non-agroecological inputs, such as inorganic fertilizers and herbicides, has increased since baseline notably among men aged 18-35 who saw the greatest increase, from 61% to 89%. Lesser changes can be noted for men aged 36+ age, increasing from 65% to 74%, and women aged 36+, increasing from 75% to 85%. No change can be noted among women aged 18-35 who already had a high level of non-use, with a frequency of 88% both at baseline and midline.

In **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**, a significant increase was seen in the number of respondents reporting the use of agroecological methods. In **Ethiopia,** the agroecological practices at midline most frequently used by respondents with no differentiation by sex were soil conservation (97%), crop rotation (97%), and planting in space (81%). Interestingly, women more frequently practiced crop diversification (39% versus 29%) and kitchen gardening (65% versus 50%) compared to men, whereas men more often practiced ploughing (56% versus 22%) and mixed cropping (56% versus 43%). With respect to age group, the data suggests that women 36+ are more likely than other groups to practice conservation technology, and that the older age group, irrespective of sex, prefers mixed cropping to their younger cohort. With

respect to the baseline, the use of several practices has increased significantly amongst respondents in Ethiopia, including soil conservation (increasing from 76% to 97%), conservation technology (from 39% to 63%), ploughing (from 16% to 32%), planting in space (from 33% to 81%), mixed cropping (from 38% to 47%), and integrated farming (from 19% to 26%). The average number of practices used by respondents also went up from 3.2 at baseline to 6.9 at midline.

In **Tanzania**, the agroecological practices at midline most frequently used by respondents are mixed cropping (78%), crop rotation (64%), planting in space (62%), kitchen gardening (50%), and intercropping (40%), with all others used by 25% of respondents or less. The only method used by men more often than women is soil conservation (55% versus 44%). No difference can be noted by age group. For practices measured in both the baseline and endline, it is possible to note an increase in the use of crop rotation (from 22% to 64%), conservation technologies (from 9% to 22%), and integrated farming (0.2% to 18%). It is also possible to detect decreases in mixed cropping (from 88% to 78%) and ploughing (from 28% to 19%).

In **Kenya**, no significant change was seen in the number of respondents indicating they were practicing agroecological methods at the midline as compared to the baseline. The agroecological practices at midline most frequently used by respondents were crop rotation (75%), and mixed cropping (73%), and kitchen gardening (65%), with no difference between female and male farmers. Methods more frequently used by men included conservation technologies (48% compared to 29%), crop diversification (40% compared to 25%), and intercropping (70% compared to 53%). No method is more frequently used by women.

With respect to the baseline, it is possible to note an increase in the use of ploughing (from 5% to 30%), and planting in space (25% to 37%) in Kenya, though the latter increase is only associated with male farmers. It is also possible to detect a decrease in the use of soil conservation among men (from 50% to 40%).

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1100

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1100, '**enhanced and more systematic engagement of and by diverse young and adult rural women in public leadership and gender-transformative decision-making processes,'** was assessed using the outcome's three main indicators, which included national scores on the participant-defined women's public leadership index (1100.1); an assessment of the percentage and total number of women leaders contributing substantially to decision-making in their positions (1100.2); and an assessment of the percentage and total number of women trained, reporting increased leadership or decision-making ability in climate change-related platforms (1100.3).

1100.1 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia		Ethiopia	6.7
		Kenya		Kenya	5.7
		Tanzania		Tanzania	7.1
Public Speaking	• Are at least fairly comfortable to speak in public • Number of issues on which they feel comfortable to speak in public	Ethiopia	2.9	Ethiopia	7.2
		Kenya	6.7	Kenya	5.8
		Tanzania	4.9	Tanzania	7.7
Leadership	• Are leaders of at least one group	Ethiopia	1.4	Ethiopia	5.7
		Kenya	9.5	Kenya	5.5
		Tanzania	9.7	Tanzania	6.0
Satisfaction with RWCC Training	• Agree that RWCC training has increased their leadership and decision-making ability	Ethiopia		Ethiopia	7.9
		Kenya		Kenya	5.8
		Tanzania		Tanzania	8.0

Figure 4: National Scores per country on the "Participant Defined Women's Public Leadership Index" (1100.1), at midline

Total scores on the **participant-defined women's public leadership index (1100.1)** could not be compared to baseline figures, because at least one data point of the index ('satisfaction with RWCC training') was not measured at the baseline. For the dimensions of 'public speaking' and 'leadership' of the index, comparisons were possible, as these scores were collected at baseline. In terms of the scoring on 'public speaking,' a significant increase in scores was seen at the midline compared to the baseline in **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**, with a significant increase in women indicating they felt comfortable speaking in public on a large number of issues. Interestingly in **Ethiopia**, while more men than women indicated they felt comfortable to speak in public at the baseline (48% of men stating so compared to 30% of women), that trend flipped at midline, with 72% of women feeling comfortable to speak in public compared to only 50% of men.

Qualitative findings from Ethiopia support these results, with the data suggesting that the project has contributed to increased confidence of women with public speaking through training of women on women's rights, equality, and leadership. Men and women reflected that women were generally shy and afraid of public speaking in the past. Following the project's trainings, women have increased confidence to speak in public meetings, particularly regarding their rights. One female leader expressed, "we had a high level of fear of speaking in front of

audiences and we did not engage in discussions. . . My fear is gone and replaced by equality with my husband."

In **Ethiopia**, while the mean number of issues respondents indicated they felt comfortable to speak about increased from baseline to midline (from 1.2 to 3.9), men, nevertheless, continue to feel more comfortable to speak on a larger number of issues. With respect to differences by sex, the data underlines that men feel more comfortable than women to speak on issues of social services (96% versus 69%), public wages (23% versus 5%), and the misbehaviour of public officials (64% versus 25%), whereas women feel more comfortable than men to speak on equal access to land ownership (62% versus 27%). No difference could be seen with respect to gender equality or SGBV. With respect to age, older women are more frequently comfortable to speak on issues of land ownership and the misbehaviour of public officials compared to younger women.

In **Tanzania,** men more frequently responded that they felt comfortable to speak in public compared to women, with 93% stating so at midline compared to 80% of women. However, the discrepancy between the two has decreased significantly since baseline, when it was close to 30 percentage points (81% of men versus 53% of women). The mean number of issues increased from baseline to midline, from 2.5 to 4.0 on average, with men generally feeling comfortable to speak on a greater number of issues. Specifically, male respondents more frequently feel comfortable to speak about social services (91% versus 81%), public wages (35% versus 20%), the misbehavior of public officials (55% versus 33%), and equal access to land ownership (67% versus 53%). No difference could be seen regarding comfort to speak on issues of gender equality or GBV. With respect to age, the data suggests that young women, specifically, are less frequently comfortable than their older counterparts to speak on issues of equal access to land ownership, gender equality, and GBV.

In contrast, in **Kenya**, there was a significant decrease in women indicating they felt comfortable speaking in public. Men more frequently indicated they feel comfortable compared to women, with 74% stating so at midline compared to 62% of women. This, however, represents a decrease in both the women and men feeling comfortable to speak in public compared to the baseline, where the percentages were 70% and 83% respectively. This decrease can be seen relating to the issues of social services, misbehavior of public officials, gender equality, and SGBV.

Despite this finding, the qualitative data from Kenya showed that the women who participated in the FGDs felt they had increased confidence in public spaces, with references to women showing more confidence in public forums, and more women speaking up, including on issues that affect them and the needs of the community.

With respect to the issues, male respondents more frequently feel comfortable to speak about the misbehavior of public officials (24% versus 32%), and equal access to land ownership (28% versus 39%), specifically among the older age group.

On the dimension of leadership, a significant increase was seen at the midline of the number of women indicating they were leaders of at least one group in **Ethiopia**, while the opposite was the case in **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. In **Ethiopia**, while only 14% of women and 38% of men were leaders of groups at baseline, those percentages rose to 57% and 67% respectively at midline. No difference is apparent by age group. In Ethiopia, women are generally leaders of women's groups or credit groups, with 81% and 18% of female leaders holding positions in those types of groups respectively, while men are more frequently members of local government, religious groups, and water user's groups, with 60%, 26%, and 25% of male leaders holding positions in those types of groups respectively.

In **Kenya**, the percentage of female and male respondents indicating being leaders of groups decreased significantly at midline, irrespective of age. While 95% of women and 99% of men were leaders of groups at baseline, those percentages dropped precipitously to 55% and 46% respectively at midline. Whereas women in Ethiopia are exclusively leaders of women's groups, women in Kenya appear to be leaders of far more varied types of groups. In descending order, they are agricultural groups (54%), religious groups (43%), credit groups (36%), and women groups (9%). During FGDs, it was also shared that women can be seen as leaders of farmers' groups as well as school and hospital committees. Any differences between the percentage of female leaders versus male leaders by group type are not significant.

While 97% of women and 99% of men were leaders of groups at baseline in **Tanzania**, those percentages dropped precipitously to 60% and 51% respectively at midline. Whereas women in Ethiopia are exclusively leaders of women's groups, women in Tanzania are leaders of far more varied types of groups. In descending order, they are agricultural groups (58%), credit groups (42%), religious groups (13%), and women groups (12%). Women are more frequently leaders of credit groups (42% of female leaders compared to 29% of male leaders), while men are more frequently leaders of religious groups (27% of male leaders compared to 13% of female leaders). No difference could be discerned by age group.

Despite the quantitative findings, a prevalent theme that emerged from the qualitative data was that women are increasingly assuming leadership positions, including in village councils, at the ward level and at the hamlet level. Another theme that emerged was women are participating more broadly in public forums, including in village meetings, speaking up in village/hamlet meetings, and women showing more motivation generally, for leadership.

In terms of the percentage of respondents indicating they agreed that the RWCC training increased their leadership and decision-making ability (the index's third dimension of satisfaction), nearly 80% of respondents agreed with this statement in Ethiopia and Tanzania, while 55% agreed with this statement in Kenya.

In **Ethiopia**, 216 women in total, or 81% of all female respondents, signaled having received RWCC leadership training, with 210 (97%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership and decision-making abilities. Qualitative data analysis from **Ethiopia** also supports these results. Project staff highlighted the effectiveness of the training provided by

the project, contributing to improved leadership capacity of women. Male community leaders observed that the project played a unique role with its encouragement for women to assume leadership positions. One male leader noted, “To speak the truth, there is no organization working like yours. . . to advocate that women could be presidents, to speak out loud about their rights, to not be dominated by men’s ideas.”

“Before we had only one woman in a leadership position but now we have 10 due to their increased capacity.”-*Male Leader FGD Participant*

In **Kenya**, 178 women in total, or 53% of all female respondents, signaled having received RWCC leadership training, with 159 (89%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership capabilities and 164 (92%) indicating that the training had increased their decision-making abilities. In Tanzania, **261** women in total, or 83% of all female respondents, signaled having received RWCC leadership training, with 252 (97%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership and 249 (95%) indicating that the training had increased their decision-making abilities.

The intermediate outcome’s second indicator, **indicator 1100.2,** sought to assess the extent to which the project’s leadership training supported women, **who held leadership positions**, in their decision-making as a leader. Comparison to the project’s baseline was not feasible, as trainings had not occurred yet. At the midline, female leaders who had been trained by the project generally felt the project had contributed substantially to their decision-making ability, with 98.6% women in Ethiopia, 94% of women in Kenya, and 98% of women in Tanzania indicating they felt they have been able to contribute substantially to decision-making in their capacity as a leader.

1100.2 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline	Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	Ethiopia	98.6%
		Kenya	Kenya	94%
		Tanzania	Tanzania	98%
Denominator	• Have received leadership training from RWCC • Are in a leadership position	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	142
		Kenya	Kenya	114
		Tanzania	Tanzania	168
Numerator	• Feel they have contributed substantially to decision-making	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	140
		Kenya	Kenya	107
		Tanzania	Tanzania	165

Figure 5: Results per country for indicator 1100.2 at midline

Out of the 151 female respondents in **Ethiopia** indicating they were leaders of at least one group, 149 stated that they had contributed to decision-making, representing 99% of female leaders. Of that number, 100% felt that they had contributed substantially to the decision-making, and 73% indicated having contributed frequently. The data suggests that older women more often feel that they contributed to decisions frequently compared to younger women (78% versus 69%).
In **Kenya**, out of the 153 female respondents who are leaders of at least one group, 138 stated that they had contributed to decision-making. Of that number, 96% felt that they had contributed substantially to the decision-making, and 83% indicated having contributed frequently.

Finally in **Tanzania**, out of the 188 female respondents who are leaders of at least one group, 186 stated that they had contributed to decision-making. Of that number, 99% felt that they had contributed substantially to the decision-making, and 87% indicated having contributed frequently.

The intermediate outcome's final and third indicator, indicator 1100.3, sought to assess the extent to which the project's leadership training supported women who **participate in climate change platforms**, in their ability to take on leadership positions and contribute to decision making in these platforms. Comparison to the project's baseline was not feasible, as trainings had not occurred yet. At the midline, female leaders who had been trained by the project generally felt the project had contributed substantially to their leadership and decision-making abilities in climate change platforms, with 97.6% women in Ethiopia, 91% of women in Kenya, and 98% of women in Tanzania indicating this at the midline.

1100.3 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline	Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	Ethiopia	97.6%
		Kenya	Kenya	91%
		Tanzania	Tanzania	93%
Denominator	• Have received leadership training from RWCC • Have participated in climate change platforms	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	165
		Kenya	Kenya	133
		Tanzania	Tanzania	170
Numerator	• Feel that RWCC training has increased their ability to take on leadership positions and contribute to decision making	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	161
		Kenya	Kenya	121
		Tanzania	Tanzania	158

Figure 6: Results per country for indicator 1100.3 at midline

Of the 216 women having received RWCC leadership training in **Ethiopia**, 165 (76%) signaled having participated in climate-change related platforms at midline. Interestingly, it appears that younger women more often participate in such avenues compared to their older cohorts (79% compared to 71%). Not surprisingly, this smaller subset of the women having received RWCC leadership training also highly valued the training with 161 (98%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership and decision-making abilities.
Of the 178 women having received RWCC leadership training in **Kenya,** 133 (74%) signaled having participated in climate-change related platforms at midline. Not surprisingly, the smaller subset of the women having received RWCC leadership training also highly valued the training with 123 (92%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership ability while 124 (93%) felt that it had increased their decision-making abilities.

Of the 261 women having received RWCC leadership training in **Tanzania**, 170 (65%) signaled having participated in climate-change related platforms at midline. Not surprisingly, this smaller subset of the women having received RWCC leadership training also highly valued the training with 162 (95%) of those respondents feeling that the training had increased their leadership ability while 159 (94%) felt that it had increased their decision-making abilities.

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1200

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1200, '**strengthened prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence,'** was assessed using the outcome's three main indicators, which included the number of SGBV cases reported to local authorities in the last twelve months (1200.1); the # and % total of actors incorporating improved survivor-centered prevention and response strategies, protocols, and or advocacy (1200.2); and the # and % total of women farmers reporting confidence with their community's prevention and response to SGBV (1200.3).

1200.1 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline	
Total Score	# of SGBV cases reported to local authorities in the last 12 months	Ethiopia		Ethiopia	62
		Kenya	0	Kenya	871
		Tanzania		Tanzania	35

Figure 7: Results per country for indicator 1200.1 at midline

Indicator 1200.1 measured the number of SGBV cases reported to local authorities in the 12 months prior to the time of data collection. The time frame April 2023-March 2024 was used as the 12-month timeframe for results reporting. While data was collected for this period, its collection was onerous and hampered by government regulation and requirements regarding the sharing of SGBV data, and may not represent a complete accounting of reported cases.

In **Ethiopia**, the Woreda Women's Affairs Office provided data for Guba Lafto and Habru woredas, with a total of 62 cases of SGBV being reported. In **Tanzania**, data was collected from all wards from the Gender Desks of the Social Welfare Offices, and in **Kenya**, data was collected from one partner, and some, but not all wards. Comparisons were not possible in the case of Ethiopia and Tanzania, as this data had not been collected at the baseline. Similarly, while the baseline figure for this indicator is reported as 0 at the baseline in Kenya, it is unlikely that there were in fact zero cases of SGBV reported to authorities in the entire project area, so this data should be set aside.

1200.2 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline	Midline	
Total Score	# and %/total of actors [duty bearers] (disaggregated by type of institution or organization) incorporating improved survivor-centered prevention and response strategies, protocols and/or advocacy as a result of the program	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	40% (4/10)
		Kenya	Kenya	0% (0/5)
		Tanzania	Tanzania	25% (1/4)

Figure 8: Results per country for indicator 1200.2 at midline

In assessing achievement towards indicator 1200.2, the evaluation team calculated the numerator as the amount of duty bearers interviewed, who answered affirmatively to their department/unit having survivor-centered protocols or guidelines; that their department/unit staff had been trained on the survivor-centered approach; and that their department/unit makes referrals for SGBV survivors when appropriate. The number of duty bearers interviewed served as the denominator.

In the case of **Ethiopia**, four out of ten duty bearers interviewed answered affirmatively to all three questions. In **Kenya**, out of five duty bearers interviewed, none were able to answer affirmatively to all three questions. Finally in **Tanzania**, only one out of four duty bearers interviewed could answer all three questions affirmatively.

Across the three contexts, there was limited awareness among duty bearers interviewed of the meaning of a "survivor-centered approach". While most duty bearers confirmed the existence of protocols and guidance, many noted that it is an organizational guidance and thus, not linked to the project's activities. The lack of familiarity of duty bearers with survivor-centered approaches suggests that the project could expand training on this topic. Additionally, although duty bearers consistently affirmed their intention to maintain confidentiality for survivors, the lack of separate rooms has been highlighted as a barrier to maintaining confidentiality.

1200.3 Dimension	Main datapoints	Baseline	Midline	
Total Score		Ethiopia	Ethiopia	73.3%
		Kenya	Kenya	34%
		Tanzania	Tanzania	69%
Denominator	• Awareness of a case of GBV	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	15
		Kenya	Kenya	157
		Tanzania	Tanzania	173
Numerator	• Perception that women are satisfied with community GBV prevention and response	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	11
		Kenya	Kenya	54
		Tanzania	Tanzania	120

Figure 9: Results per country for indicator 1200.3 at midline

Indicator 1200.3 required the measurement of women farmers' level of satisfaction with their community's prevention and response to SGBV. To do so ethically and within the framework of this feminist evaluation, respondents were asked whether they had heard of or met a person who has experienced SGBV, and if so, whether they thought women in the community were satisfied with their community's prevention and response.

In **Ethiopia**, the percentage of respondents stating awareness of a case of SGBV was too small to make any meaningful generalizations, with only 15 women (6% of total female respondents) and 13 men (11% of total male respondents) responding affirmatively to this question. This is a stark decrease with respect to the baseline where 37% of women and 38% of men had heard of or met a person who had experienced SGBV. In **Kenya** and **Tanzania**, 34% and 69% of female respondents at midline indicated they were satisfied with their community's GBV prevention and response efforts.

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1300

Achievement towards intermediate outcome 1300, '**enhanced benefit for women in climate-resilient and local food systems'** was assessed using the outcome's four main indicators, which included: the # and % total of women farmers who report that they have increased control over household income (13001.); the # and % of women farmers reporting that they make participation-defined decisions (1300.2); the # and % total of community members that implemented a minimum set of agro ecological strategies, technologies, or practices that reduce climate vulnerability (1300.3); and the # and % total of community members practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources (1300.4).

Project participants emphasized the improved economic standing of households as a result of the training and inputs received by the project to effectively apply agroecology to their household farms, with various economic benefits cited, including cost-savings (by not having to purchase certain agricultural inputs), increased income, including during off seasons (i.e., the dry season), participation in savings and credit groups, and increased savings.

The economic benefits experienced by program participants contributed to enhanced community well-being, including nutrition and food security benefits as a result of increased crop yields and income, and better health outcomes, including a reduction in disease from the use of less toxic inputs.

Indicator 1300.1 measures the percentage of women farmers who report control over their household income (Figure 10). Improvements from baseline values have been observed in all three countries. In Ethiopia, the % of women with control over HH income increased from 73% to 95%, while in Kenya and Tanzania, the indicator values increased from 70% at baseline to 82% in Kenya and 83% in Tanzania.

1300.1 Component	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline		
Total Score	% of women with control over HH income	Ethiopia	73%	Ethiopia	95%	Significant increase
		Kenya	70%	Kenya	82%	Significant increase
		Tanzania	70%	Tanzania	83%	Significant increase amongst 18-35 age group

Figure 10: Results per country for indicator 1300.1 at midline

Indicator 1300.2 measures the percentage of women farmers who make decisions about agricultural production and inputs as well as regarding the sales of agricultural products. The total indicator value is presented below for both the baseline and midline (Figure 11).

In Ethiopia, several participants observed that before the project, women would rent out their agricultural land; now they are increasingly engaged directly in agriculture. Women are applying the skills obtained through training provided by the project and, in some cases, even renting additional land to farm and increase their production. Women are engaging in income-generating activities and making decisions on asset management, including selling eggs, vegetables, and seedlings.

In Tanzania, benefits were cited not only at the production stage of smallholder farms, but downstream in the value chain as well, with mention of improved selling practices, improved



practices amongst farming groups, and standards being introduced in weighing of agricultural produce.

The project was perceived by many participants to have contributed to financial benefits. Financial benefits cited by participants include cost savings in agricultural inputs, reduced production costs, increased income, and the participation in savings and credit groups.

1300.2 Component	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline		
Total Score	% of women with control over agricultural production and inputs as well as regarding the sale of agricultural products	Ethiopia	70%	Ethiopia	87%	Significant increase
		Kenya	61%	Kenya	78%	Significant increase
		Tanzania	66%	Tanzania	77%	Significant increase amongst 18-35 age group

Figure 11: Results per country for indicator 1300.2 at midline

Indicator 1300.3 measures the percentage of respondents using a "minimum set of agroecological strategies" composed of soil and water conservation measures, crop rotation, planting in space. The total indicator value is presented below for both the baseline and midline. In Ethiopia there has been an increase in the proportion of farmers using the relevant agro ecological strategies, with an observed increase from 25% at baseline to 77% at midline. In Kenya the midline indicator value was 8%, while in Tanzania the indicator value was 29% at midline. In Tanzania, a comparison to baseline values was not possible due to unavailability of baseline data.

1300.3 Component	Main datapoints	Baseline		Midline		
Total Score	% of farmers using soil and water conservation measures, crop rotation, planting in space	Ethiopia	25%	Ethiopia	77%	Significant increase due to % increase practicing soil conservation and planting in space
		Kenya	12%	Kenya	8%	No change
		Tanzania	-	Tanzania	29%	Comparison not possible; not measured at baseline

Figure 12: Results per country for indicator 1300.3 at midline

In Tanzania, project participants indicated there has been quite an uptake of agroecological production techniques amongst program participants. From FGDs and KIIs ecological farming has been embraced by those supported by the project, with the use of indigenous seeds and organic farming inputs being the most cited during FGDs and KIIs.

According to project participants, the project's feminist agroecology approach, which focuses on women, has been beneficial in terms of gender transformation, economic empowerment and income generation. Particularly, training on composting has enabled many women to increase engagement in agriculture and has led to improved soil fertility. In Ethiopia, the provision of inputs and training related to animal husbandry, particularly poultry, has provided women with additional income, increased household food security, and economic empowerment. According to a female FGD participant in Amhara region, "Almost all of us stayed at home before the project, but currently we are engaging in income activities, mainly agroecology-related activities, so we are progressing, and we are using our land for vegetable production."

Indicator 1300.4 measures the percentage of respondents using at least two agricultural biodiversity resources, including on-farm and community seed bank conservation systems, seed multiplication, agroforestry, and selection and breeding of locally adapted crop varieties. These strategies were not examined at baseline; therefore, the total indicator value is only presented for the midline in Figure 13 below.

1300.4 Component	Main datapoints	Baseline	Midline		
Total Score	% of farmers using at least two biodiversity resources	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	42%	Comparison not possible; not measured at baseline
		Kenya	Kenya	13%	
		Tanzania	Tanzania	52%	

Figure 13: Results per country for indicator 1300.4 at midline

In Tanzania, project participants reported that project participants have increased their use of indigenous seeds. Multiple project participants and key informants highlighted the positive influence of the project on the use and sale of indigenous seeds. One male FGD participant noted, “The use of indigenous seeds . . . is due to the project activities in the area.” Similarly, a local official noted an increase in the use of indigenous seeds by women after participation in the ecological farming training.

In Ethiopia, a key informant observed that farmers that received seeds through the project have multiplied those seeds and shared with others.

The RWCC project’s contribution to the achievement of results

The project’s success factors were explored in the qualitative data collected at midline and considered elements of the project such as its interventions, partnerships, strategies, and tools.

In **Ethiopia**, three main enabling factors emerged from the perspective of project participants: i) strong collaboration between the project and government stakeholders, ii) learning exchanges, and iii) engagement of religious leaders.

Several participants noted the success of the project has been enabled through a collaborative approach between the project and government officials. Government stakeholders were actively involved in the project planning, implementation, and monitoring, which facilitates information exchange and problem-solving when challenges arise.

A second success factor is the learning exchange facilitated by the project through the SHGs, which multiplies the influence of the project. Several participants noted the project enables participants to meet to discuss topics and share experiences. Several participants that received training through the project highlighted the benefits of this exchange as all members are given an opportunity to speak about their work and share their successes with others. When challenges arise, the forum enables them to work together towards a solution.

A third success factor of the project is the engagement of religious leaders. After receiving training through the RWCC project on SGBV, religious leaders disseminated the awareness.

Given their influence within the project communities, religious leaders are an important partner for the project to continue to work with to raise awareness and achieve its objectives.

In **Tanzania**, three main themes emerged in terms of RWCC's main success factors, including i) effective engagement with targeted communities; ii) effective engagement with stakeholders; and finally, iii) effective interventions. In reference to the project success factor of engaging effectively with the targeted communities, two mechanisms were referenced, including the importance of community meetings, with one local official from Kwaraa said "incidents of gender-based violence have decreased in the community as a result of the project's community's meetings." The other mechanism was community motivation, and that the positive effect of the project on the community's motivation has led to significant changes. In terms of effective engagement with stakeholders, the main stakeholders referenced were ecological farming groups; government; MTAKUWA committees; local partners; information and knowledge centers; as well as male involvement in women's leadership initiatives.

One community leader from a focus group conducted in Mamire said "the farmers' groups and the knowledge center have contributed to sensitizing the masses on women's empowerment and fighting against GBV." Additionally, A local government official from Kwaraa said, in a key informant interview, that the collaboration between the project and her office make is easier for her to fulfill her responsibilities, especially in matters of gender-based and sexual violence, as she was supported to work with key actors (she referenced TGNP and PELUM) to address cases.

Finally, the third category of project success factors were the project's chosen interventions, with exchange visits, leadership seminars, and training cited. During a FGD in Endagile with female community members, one participant said the training and awareness raising provided by the project has been instrumental in ensuring increased awareness amongst the community on GBV, how to respond to and how to prevent it. In a FGD conducted with male community members in Kungwe, a participant shared that the project has contributed to many changes in the community, through the education provided, which is leading to significant transformations in his community, and has inspired women to engage in leadership roles.

In **Kenya**, project success factors were grouped into i) effective and appropriate interventions (mainly effective agro-ecological support), and ii) the staff and partners (i.e. the people) involved in implementing the project. In the case of the former, the specific support that was referenced as being a project success factor was access to agricultural inputs; Zai pits; seed banks; demo farms; exchange visits; teaching the right agricultural practices; and training. During a FGD with female community members in Kitui, a participant shared that the training has been highly beneficial, because they have been provided with both knowledge and the necessary materials.

In a women's FGD in Nakuru, a similar sentiment was shared, with a participant sharing "the most impact I can say has been the training on various agro-ecological practices."

In terms of the people that were involved in the project, and who contributed to the project's success, the Seed Savers Groups were mentioned, as was stakeholder collaboration; project staff; role models; community engagement; government involvement; and the champions leading the champion-led model. In a FGD with young men in Kitui, a participant shared "the meetings held by RWCC have brought community cohesion and togetherness through sharing of people's ideas, which has brought tolerance and transparency in decision-making." In the same FGD, a participant shared that the project has created a platform where members involved can meet their leaders and speak to them openly which has greatly improved relations and understanding.

The impact of the project on different target groups

The quantitative survey sample was not calculated to detect affects on specific sub-groups beyond sex and age. There were also no significant trends detected in the qualitative data to demonstrate impacts on different target groups.

Qualitative data from **Kenya** and **Tanzania** did not provide any insight towards this evaluation criteria.

Findings - Efficiency

Efficiency is evaluated to measure whether a project's resources (funds, human resources, time, etc.) were used in an economic and timely manner in the delivery of the planned results[3]. An evaluation of efficiency can explore economic efficiency, operational efficiency and timeliness. Within the limits of data collection undertaken by this evaluation, certain components of efficiency can be assessed, while others are beyond the scope of this evaluation.

Area of Efficiency	**Included in evaluation**	**Excluded from evaluation**
Economic Efficiency	Relative economic efficiency	Comparative cost efficiency
Operational Efficiency	Resource Utilization Decision Making (qualitative) Risk Management	Resource Utilization Decision Making (quantitative) Logistical Management
Timeliness	Completion within Planned Timeframe	

[3] OECD (2021), *Applying Evaluation Criteria Thoughtfully*, OECD Publishing, Paris. https://doi.org/10.1787/543e84ed-en

With regard to economic efficiency, the ability to compare the cost efficiency of the RWCC Project to other similar projects is hampered by the complexity of undertaking cost efficiency assessments, as well as the lack of comparable project assessments. As well, central principles of the project, such as working through community-based partners, and working with a number of partners across the three project countries, may not have been designed to maximize cost efficiency, but rather to leverage the expertise of a diverse group of partners who together contributed to the achievement of a unique set of results. Therefore, economic efficiency will be assessed with regard to progress made relative to the recalculated baseline, and the capacity of the project to use allocated resources in a manner to efficiently achieve those results. Original project targets were made in relation to the original baseline, so are not directly comparable to the recalculated baseline. Therefore, progress against targets should be used as a relative measure of progress, rather than absolute.

Project participants were asked about their perceptions of the efficiency of the implementation of the RWCC Project, and this feedback is shared below. A quantitative analysis of the efficiency of resource utilization and decision making, as well as logistical management, was beyond the scope of this evaluation.

Regarding the timeliness of the implementation of project interventions, the achievement of results against the recalculated baseline will be used as the basis of assessment.

Pillar 1: Rural Women's Empowerment

MLE data indicates that Ethiopia and Tanzania have made substantial statistically significant progress on their national score on women's empowerment, surpassing their original endline targets, while Kenya has made very good progress, surpassing its original midline target. At the intermediate level, all three countries have surpassed their previously set endline results with regard to women reporting that they contribute substantively to decision-making in public leadership positions, as well as women reporting increased leadership or decision-making abilities, particularly in climate-related platforms. These results indicate that the project team has been highly efficient and timely in the utilization of project resources for the realization of results under the first pillar of the RWCC Project.

Pillar 2: Prevention and Response to SGBV

MLE data indicates that Ethiopia and Tanzania have made substantial statistically significant progress against their national score on community SGBV prevention and response, surpassing their previously set endline targets, while Kenya's score has fallen behind the recalculated baseline score. Ethiopia and Tanzania have also made substantial statistically significant progress regarding women's improved satisfaction and confidence with their community's prevention and response to SGBV; Kenya's baseline units are unclear, and therefore the MLE results cannot be compared to it. These results would indicate that the Ethiopian and Tanzanian

partners have used program resources highly efficiently and achieved very timely results under this pillar.

Along with the other results targets, the targets set for Kenya for indicator 1200.3 should be reviewed, as well as the reasons behind the performance on the national score data points, with significant decreases in the percentage of women feeling comfortable speaking in public and women being leaders of community groups.

Pillar 3: Climate resilient and local food systems

At the national score level, Tanzania has made substantial progress related to community climate resilient agricultural and business conditions, while Ethiopia and Kenya have very good progress, indicating timely and efficient implementation of activities and realization of results under Pillar 3. As well, all three countries have made especially significant progress for women reporting increased control over household income and involvement in household decision making, indicating very high levels of efficiency and timeliness in the achievement of results.

A consistent conclusion on the timeliness of the implementation of activities on the agroecology and biodiversity interventions cannot be made across all countries. Ethiopia was able to surpass its originally set endline target on the percentage of community members implementing a minimum set of agroecological strategies, and is making very good progress on the percentage of community members practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources, demonstrating a good to high level of timeliness and efficiency in the implementation of related activities.

In Kenya, only 8% of community members reported implementing a minimum set of agroecological strategies, and 25% of community members reported practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources. This would indicate an inefficient application of project resources to the achievement of results, and/or a lack of timeliness in the implementation of activities. The Kenya partner organizations should explore the causes of the delays in the achievement of results, and dedicate resources in the second half of the project to catching up on progress.

In Tanzania, very significant progress has been made on community members practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources, indicating a high level of efficiency and timeliness in the implementation of related project activities. Progress on the percentage of community members implementing a minimum set of agroecological strategies has been slower, with 29% achieved. With an increase in the efficiency of resource utilization in the second half of the project, this gap could quickly be closed, with a concerted effort by project partners.

Conclusions

Summary of key findings by evaluation criteria

Relevance

The project is relevant to the needs of the project participants and contexts where the project is implemented as it effectively addresses priorities identified by the participating communities. Agricultural workers have expressed strong support for the agroecological programming, particularly highlighting the project's training on composting, provision of indigenous seeds, as a critical intervention for improving soil fertility and agricultural productivity.

Additionally, the project has addressed economic priorities by helping diversify income sources and reduce cost of agricultural inputs, providing increased economic empowerment opportunities for women.

The project has been relevant in addressing gender issues including SGBV, which remains a critical issue in the program areas. Participants across all three intervention countries expressed the need for SGBV programming and the importance of the RWCC project's contributions to prevent and respond to SGBV cases.

Effectiveness

Overall, progress has been achieved towards **the project's ultimate outcome**, with significant increases in scores related to the outcome's three indexes seen in all country contexts; with the exception of Kenya and its score on the SGBV prevention and response index (1000.2). Additionally, when drilling down to the scores of the various dimensions of the indexes, the dimension of time (1000.1) saw no significant change in all three country contexts, implying that women are taking on more productive work with no relief in the amount of time spent on their reproductive tasks, which could potentially lead to an overburden and burn out of women in the project's targeted communities.

In terms of the project's achievements towards **enhancing women's leadership (1100),** a significant increase at midline was seen in **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**, in terms of the number of women indicating they felt comfortable to speak in public, on a large number of issues, however in **Kenya**, the opposite was the case, with a significant decrease seen. While in **Ethiopia**, a significant increase was seen in the number of female respondents indicating they were leaders of at least one group, the opposite was the case in **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. Women who had been trained by the project generally had positive perceptions of the project's training, feeling that they contributed substantially to their decision-making and leadership abilities; this was the case for both women who held leadership positions at the midline as well as those who participated in climate change platforms.

Achievement towards **strengthening prevention and response to SGBV (1200)** has been limited. Data on the number of SGBV cases within a 12 month period (1200.1) in all three contexts was onerous and hampered by government regulations and requirements around

sharing of SGBV data, and because no data was collected at the baseline in all three contexts, comparisons were not possible. Across all three contexts, there was limited awareness amongst duty bearers interviewed of the meaning of the "survivor-centered approach" (1200.2), and in terms of measuring women's satisfaction with their community's SGBV prevention and response (1200.3), the number of women surveyed in Ethiopia was too small (15) to indicate significance, while only 34% of females in Kenya indicated that women were satisfied with community GBV prevention and response, with the result being somewhat more favorable in Tanzania, with 69% indicating a positive perception.

Efficiency

The RWCC Project has demonstrated high levels of economic efficiency and timeliness in the implementation of the first Pillar's activities supporting the empowerment of women.

For the second Pillar on the prevention and response to SGBV, project activities in Ethiopia and Tanzania have been implemented in a highly efficient and timely manner, while in Kenya, investigation should be made into the lagging results, particularly regarding the percentage of women feeling confident speaking in public, and the number of women leading community groups.

All three countries have demonstrated good to high levels of economic efficiency and timeliness in the achievement of Pillar 3 results related to community climate resilient agricultural and business conditions, as well as demonstrating high levels of efficiency and timeliness regarding implementation of activities related to women's increased control over household income and decision making. A consistent conclusion on the timeliness of the implementation of activities on the agroecology and biodiversity interventions cannot be made across all countries, with Ethiopia demonstrating a good to high level of efficiency and timeliness, Tanzania having a small gap to close, and Kenya required concerted focus to identify and address underlying reasons behind the performance in this area.

Report on Theory of Change

Ultimate Outcome:

With some variance in results across countries, the RWCC has demonstrated that its approach to empowering young and adult women, preventing and addressing SGBV and increasing climate resilience has indeed contributed to exceptional progress in the achievement of results.

Pillar 1: Rural Women's Empowerment

Under the first pillar, enhancing gender equality and empowerment of young and adult women, the project has made exceptional statistically significant progress, particularly with regard to women's decision making. The strengthening of women's leadership in the agricultural sector has enhanced their self confidence and agency, and women have experienced the transformative influence of their agency and autonomy in decision-making. Acceptance of

women's roles in public leadership, however, have been mixed across countries. Options to address pushback and resistance should be explored as potential additions to programming.

The Theory of Change notes evidence-based lobbying and advocacy as an intervention; however, the PMF indicators do not capture the project's influence on government policy related to climate change and women's and farmer's rights. While previous reporting does note women leading on discussions of climate adaption and agroecology, engagement with policy makers to change public policy is not visible. If this component is indeed key to the achievement of ultimate outcomes, the project could consider integrating means of reporting this impact, whether through revisions to the PMF or within index indicators.

A limiting factor on women's ability to dedicate increase time to productive task that emerged in the data was that women's reproductive tasks have not decreased. While this was identified as a barrier in the Theory of Change, more focus is needed the second half of the project to address this barrier specifically. Explore the issue of women's reproductive labour burden with project participants, particularly from a GE perspective, and identify ways in which women's domestic burdens can be alleviated through a more equitable division of labour at the household level. Emphasize this issue through any male engagement activities that may take place in the second half of the project.

Pillar 2: Prevention and Response to SGBV

The second pillar, regarding strengthening the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), had mixed progress. While Ethiopia and Tanzania made significant progress on the ultimate outcome index indicator, Kenya's score slipping below the recalculated baseline. Community-level interventions appear to have contributed to increased awareness of and confidence in prevention and response mechanisms. However, while social norms and attitudes may have been positively affected, influence on institutional duty bearers has not appeared to have had the desired effect. The project PIP notes the implementation of the WHO RESPECT framework for the prevention of violence against women. While the project appears to have successfully implemented most of the strategies, service delivery appears to require more support in the second half of the project. It has been noted in the most recent donor report that the project will be focusing on integration of global standards for survivor-centred approaches to SGBV prevention and response. This should be augmented in the second half of the project with the development and implementation of advocacy and training with government and duty bearers on a survivor-centred approach to SGBV prevention and response. This is a component that did not appear in the second pillar of the Theory of Change, and should be integrated moving forward.

The engagement of men does appear to have had a positive affect on their attitudes and perceptions towards SGBV, and their valuing of women as leaders, so assumptions made at the PIP stage regarding the project's ability to affect transform social norms through male engagement appear to have been confirmed.

Pillar 3: Climate resilient and local food systems

The third pillar, concerning enhanced climate-resilient and local food systems, all country programs made very good progress, with Ethiopia and Tanzania making significant progress, on the ultimate outcome index indicator. All countries made exceptional statistically significant progress at the intermediate outcome level for both women farmers reporting increased control over household income, as well as other agriculture-related decision making. The project's approach to increasing women's decision making over household income appears to have resulted in consistent increases in women's financial autonomy and agency in household decision making. While very good progress was made in some contexts, results are mixed across countries with regard to community members implementing the agroecological strategies promoted by the program to reduce climate vulnerability, as well as community members practicing sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity resources. The Recommendations from participants provide insight into steps that could be taken to enhance the success of this pillar during the second half of the project, where progress is lagging. At a Theory of Change level, however, this pillar appears to support progress towards the results desired by the project, and country teams are encouraged to review data point and sub-data point results as guides to adjustments potentially needed to support achievement of targets in the second half of the project.

Recommendations for PMF

Target Review and Revision

For all intermediate and ultimate outcome level indicators, at least one country was able to exceed endline targets, indicating that target setting at baseline may have under-estimated the project results. However, initial targets were set against the original baseline figures, and the MLE results were measured against the recalculated baseline figures, so it is a decision of the RWCC Project whether endline targets should be increased, in respect of the activities planned to be implemented in the second half of the project, or whether they should be maintained for the balance of the project.

Where the PMF has national-level index scores as the indicators (for the ultimate outcome, as well as 1100.1), rather than reviewing the index score targets, the RWCC Project may find it more meaningful to set targets for the data points that make up each index, rather than revising targets at the national score level. The data points link directly to the results of implemented activities, and would more clearly measure progress made in the second half of the project. Where data points lack baseline data, the midline results can serve as baseline. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of asset, source of income, or agroecological method, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.

In Kenya and Tanzania, the baseline figures for the percentage of women and men who are leaders of at least one group were very high. This is a data point under indicator 1100.1. Project

partners may want to discuss whether to accept the results of the MLE as a true decrease in leadership (and comfort speaking publicly) or to set aside the baseline figures, and develop new targets for the endline for this data point, based on the MLE results, as the achievements at midline are comparable across all three countries.

If the collection of data for 1200.1 and 1200.2 continues to be onerous, the Project Team should consider developing a new or a proxy indicator to measure the increased reporting of cases of SGBV. Consultation with government offices who hold the data will help to ensure that new or revised indicators have data sources that are accessible and meaningful to project planning. Inconsistency across countries in the setting of related targets should also be revisited.

Recommendations for Risk Management

Moving into the second half of the RWCC Project, SeedChange may consider making the following changes to the project's risk management framework:

- Decrease the likelihood of Covid-19 related risks, or remove entirely
- Review response mechanisms to backlash to women's empowerment on a country-by-country basis, and tailor response to evidence of pushback in some contexts
- Increase likelihood on women's increased workload, and review response mechanisms; ensure to reflect in activity planning

Recommendations

Typically, a recommendation would be made that resources remaining under areas of the project that have already achieved their results be reallocated to areas where midline results have not yet been achieved, in order to catch up to those targets, and increase the chances of achieving endline targets across all results areas. That recommendation is complicated in this project by two main factors; the first is the need to re-examine targets against the newly re-calculated baseline; and the second being the fact that resource allocation between the three countries and numerous partners is governed through separate contracts and sub-agreements with each partner, which limits the ability of SeedChange, as the main signatory to the Contribution Agreement with GAC, to reallocate resources. SeedChange is encouraged to explore with partners the establishment of revised targets, and reasons behind differentiate progress made across activities and countries, and whether a reallocation of resources, either within the respective partner budgets, or between partners, is necessary and possible at this point in the project.

Ethiopia

Pillar 1: Rural Women's Empowerment

Evaluation Team

- Expand savings groups to other Kebeles (directly or indirectly) to further amplify the project's positive impact

- Provide additional guidance for SHGs to manage the groups' planning and coordination within the challenging current security context
- Explore the issue of women's reproductive labour burden with project participants, particularly from a GE perspective, and identify ways in which women's domestic burdens can be alleviated through a more equitable division of labour at the household level. Emphasize this issue through any male engagement activities that may take place in the second half of the project.
- While targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of asset or source of income, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.

Participants

- Expand activities on women's economic empowerment, including vocational training
- Reassess the training delivery models to better reflect local culture, including use of audiovisual tools and discussion formats
- Increase financial inputs for SHGs to complement their savings
- Increase cash support provided for SGBV survivors
- Expand training and participation of religious leaders in SGBV prevention and response activities

Pillar 2: Prevention and Response to SGBV

Evaluation Team

- Develop an advocacy plan to engage government and duty bearers in the adoption of global standards of a survivor-centred approach to addressing SGBV at all levels of prevention and response.
- Expand training for service providers and duty bearers on a survivor-centred approach in order to improve stakeholder awareness of the term and to increase implementation of survivor-centred SGBV services.
- If the collection of data for 1200.1 and 1200.2 continues to be onerous, the Project Team should consider developing a new or a proxy indicator to measure the increased reporting of cases of SGBV. Consultation with government offices who hold the data will help to ensure that new or revised indicators have data sources that are accessible and meaningful to project planning.

Participants

- Increase awareness raising activities and training with religious and community leaders on topic of SGBV
- Increase financial support provided for SGBV survivors
- Increase awareness raising activities with young people, including working with young people in schools to improve SGBV prevention

Pillar 3: Climate resilient and local food systems

Evaluation Team

- As noted under the first pillar, while targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of agroecological input or method, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.

Participants

- Support farmers to access markets to sell their agricultural production and improve their earning potential
- Provide farmers with additional agroecological technology (i.e., vermicomposting worms, effective microorganisms)
- Provide larger livestock for farmers (i.e., sheep and goats)
- Increase the amount of local seeds provided for farmers
- Provide training on organic seed storage techniques
- Increase collaboration with the District Agriculture Office

Kenya

Pillar 1: Rural Women's Empowerment

Evaluation Team

- While women have been able to increase the time dedicated to productive activities, time spent on reproductive labour also increased for women. As noted for Ethiopia, explore the issue of women's reproductive labour burden with project participants, particularly from a GE perspective, and identify ways in which women's domestic burdens can be alleviated through a more equitable division of labour at the household level. Emphasize this issue through any male engagement activities that may take place in the second half of the project.
- Also as noted for Ethiopia, while targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where

additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of asset or source of income, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.

- While there were significant increases in women taking loans, women's decision making regarding productive assets, and women's control over productive assets for women over 36, no similar increases occurred for young women. This issue should be addressed during the second half of the project.
- Baseline figures for the percentage of women and men who are leaders of at least one group were very high, and the partners from Kenya may want to discuss whether to accept the results of the MLE as a true decrease in leadership (and comfort speaking publicly) or to set aside the baseline figures, and develop new targets for the endline, based on the MLE results, as the achievements at midline are comparable across all three countries.

Participants

N/A

Pillar 2: Prevention and Response to SGBV

Evaluation Team

- The targets set for Kenya for indicator 1200.3 should be reviewed, as well as the reasons behind the performance on the national score data points, with significant decreases in the percentage of women feeling comfortable speaking in public and women being leaders of community groups.
- Integrated greater focus on awareness raising on laws related to SGBV as well as SGBV services and reporting mechanisms available to communities
- Develop an advocacy plan to engage government and duty bearers in the adoption of global standards of a survivor-centred approach to addressing SGBV at all levels of prevention and response.
- Expand training for service providers and duty bearers on a survivor-centred approach in line with participants' recommendations above to increase implementation of survivor-centred SGBV services.
- If the collection of data for 1200.1 and 1200.2 continues to be onerous, the Project Team should consider developing a new or a proxy indicator to measure the increased reporting of cases of SGBV. Consultation with government offices who hold the data will help to ensure that new or revised indicators have data sources that are accessible and meaningful to project planning.

Participants

- The formalization of SGBV institutions and systems

- The need for a standard of practice and an ‘SGBV support kit’
- An increase in government investment, including increasing the number of resource centers and responders that are addressing SGBV
- Government funding of rescue and recovery efforts
- Establishing a standard and regular training curriculum and re-certification of providers on SGBV

Pillar 3: Climate resilient and local food systems

Evaluation Team

- The Kenya partners should explore the reasons behind the low results reported linked to the implementation of agroecological strategies, and how resources can be reallocated or used in a more efficient manner to try to achieve the endline results.
- If it feels like a material issue to the partner teams, explore potential reasons behind the decrease in ownership of agricultural land by women, and of large livestock by men, including seeking out additional sources of data which may challenge or corroborate the findings of the MLE before corrective action is taken.
- As noted under the first pillar, while targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of agroecological input or method, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.
- The Kenya team will want to review the uptake of agroecological methods, as no significant increase was measured from baseline under indicator 1000.3, and only 8% of farmers reported using a minimum set of agroecological strategies.
- As well, the Kenya team will want to review the uptake of agricultural biodiversity resources and approaches, as only 25% of farmers reported using at least two.

Participants

- A prevalent theme was additional support in helping build the business potential of smallholder farms. Recommendations that were raised included those related to facilitating access of households to financial services like loans. Another set of recommendations were around helping develop the market for organic produce in the targeted project locations, including helping to identify or facilitate market access for organic produce. Other suggestions were related to enhancing or building upon the trainings that had been provided by the project which were largely agricultural production focused, and included additional support in terms of packaging, marketing, soil conservation, water harvesting, selling produce, and training on value addition techniques.
- Related to this theme was another, and that was a series of recommendations related to the provision of agricultural inputs. The most cited recommendations in relation to this theme

centered on water, and included requests for the provision of water infrastructure, namely the digging of boreholes and installation of water tanks.

- Another prevalent theme that emerged was the request for systems level interventions, and in relation to climate resilient food systems, this included efforts at ensuring women's ability to own land, as well as support in acquiring certification of seeds.

Tanzania

The Tanzania partners should explore ways in which resources can be more efficiently used in the second half of the project to close the gap on results achieved linked to the implementation of agroecological strategies by community members.

Pillar 1: Rural Women's Empowerment

Evaluation Team

- While the MLE data does not explain the decreases in male ownership of agricultural land, or decision making regarding the use of agricultural inputs and sales of agricultural products, the partner organizations in Tanzania may seek out other sources of data that corroborate or challenge these results before taking corrective action.
- While the time women spent on reproductive labour decreased, the time spent on productive labour also decreased, and women continue to spend much more time than men on reproductive labour. It may be helpful to explore the issue of women's reproductive labour burden with project participants, particularly from a GE perspective, and identify ways in which women's domestic burdens can be alleviated even further through a more equitable division of labour at the household level. Emphasize this issue through any male engagement activities that may take place in the second half of the project.
- Also as noted for Ethiopia, while targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of asset or source of income, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.
- Baseline figures regarding the percentage of study participants who were leaders could be re-examined, as the percentage was close to 100%, making it impossible to increase the number of community members who take on group leadership. As well, KII and FGD responses seem to indicate an increase in the number of women taking up leadership positions, additionally calling the baseline figures into question. Similarly with Kenya, partners in Tanzania may want to discuss whether to accept the results of the MLE as a true decrease in leadership or to set aside the baseline figures, and develop new targets for the endline, based on the MLE results, as the achievements at midline are comparable across all three countries.

Participants

- Requests for more of the same interventions, and more social norms change initiatives, including in schools and village meetings, in order to shift beliefs rooted in superstition and harmful customs within the community (Morogoro district council)
- Amongst recommendations cited are requests for more of the same interventions, as well as providing more training, including providing training to community members to improve their understanding of issues related to gender equality and women's leadership, and the need for women to be sensitized (supported) in the upcoming election year.

Pillar 2: Prevention and Response to SGBV

Evaluation Team

- Ensure women are made aware of legal services related to SGBV, as the data indicates a very low level of awareness at midline
- Develop an advocacy plan to engage government and duty bearers in the adoption of global standards of a survivor-centred approach to addressing SGBV at all levels of prevention and response.
- Expand training for service providers and duty bearers on a survivor-centred approach in order to improve stakeholder awareness of the term and to increase implementation of survivor-centred SGBV services.
- If the collection of data for 1200.1 and 1200.2 continues to be onerous, the Project Team should consider developing a new or a proxy indicator to measure the increased reporting of cases of SGBV. Consultation with government offices who hold the data will help to ensure that new or revised indicators have data sources that are accessible and meaningful to project planning.

Participants

N/A

Pillar 3: Climate resilient and local food systems

Evaluation Team

- As noted under the first pillar, while targets were not set at baseline at the data point level, and some were not measured at baseline, the project may find it meaningful to explore where additional results are expected to be achieved in the second half of the project vis-à-vis the data points, rather than at the national index score level. Depending on the specific activities in the second half of the project, targets may even be set at the sub-data point level, for example, for a specific type of agroecological input or method, if that is more meaningful to the results sought by the project.

Participants

- Some of the recommendations shared by respondents in Tanzania in relation to this outcome included requests for marketing support of agricultural produce; seed banks;

livestock farming, value chains; the production of medicines for pests and weeds; and more economic growth initiatives.

- Recommendations in relation to additional inputs was also a theme that emerged from the qualitative data, including requests for farming infrastructure; livestock; farming machinery; livestock; and transport.

Annexes

Annex A: Surveyed Communities and Sampling Frame

Annex B: Performance Measurement Framework

Annex C: Evaluation Matrix

Annex D: Data Analysis Framework

Annex E: Theory of Change (revised May 2022)

Annex F: Theory of Change Infographic

Annex G: Risk Management Matrix

Annex H: Ethics Framework