

Gender, Protection and AAP Report

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Introduction:

SDC, in collaboration with WFP, is implementing the Kobciye Project in four villages: Laacdheere, Rabaable, Balley, and Cuun, in the Garowe district of the Nugal region. The Kobciye project has been formulated under the Food Systems lens with the overall objective of improving food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers through strengthened resilience against prevailing shocks.

The project's implementation period is one year, from February 2023 to January 2024. The project will particularly focus on assisting internally displaced persons, women, and youth. The overall objective is for producer groups to develop production capacity, elevate household consumption of nutritious foods, increase commercialization of products, and diversify livelihoods for improved income security.

Therefore, SDC takes women's participation as a crucial part in every project they implement whereby women play important roles in agriculture, going through a broad sphere of activities that relates to food production, processing, and marketing. Women's participation in agricultural production therefore cut across various agricultural processes such as planting, weeding, harvesting, processing, and marketing as well as tending to livestock.

The Background of the Assessment

The Kobciye project team conducted an assessment on Gender, Protection, and AAP, by gathering data from female smallholder farmers. The team gathered primary data from female smallholder farmers in four villages of the Nugal Region in Garowe District, namely Laacdheere, Rabaable, Balley, and Cuun. To collect the data the team used Focus Group Discussion and observation. The primary purpose of the assessment was to determine the level of representation of female smallholder farmers in the farming sector and their involvement in the decision-making process and active participation.

Objectives

- a. To assess the representation and involvement of female smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities in decision-making.
- b. To determine the active participation and engagement of female smallholder farmers and the affected population.

- c. To ensure gender equality and empowerment of female smallholder farmers is maintained.

Methodology

The assessment was conducted in four sites of (Laacdheere, Rabaable, Balley, and Cuun), the methods used were focus group discussion and observation. The target number of the assessment was 32 participants from each site and further divided into 11 from Laacdheere, 10 from Rabaable, 8 from Cuun, and 7 from Balley.

Source of Data Collection

The source of data collected for this assessment was primary data generated using Focus Group Discussion, and observation from all four sites.

Data Collection Method

The assessment employed one data collection methods to collect data from the respondents of the four sites, Focus Group Discussion and observation were held.

Data Analysing Method

Once the data had been gathered, the first step was to organise it by identifying any missing information and verifying its accuracy. The data was then analysed using content analysis.

Discussion of the findings

Based on the focus group discussion, the majority of female smallholder farmers are well-represented in the farming sector, particularly in Laacdheere and Rabaable compared to Balley and Cuun, where most farm owners are women, which indicates 72% of Kobciye project in Laacdheere site are female, whereby Rabaable is 45%. These women are involved in every community decision-making process, including those related to farm management and access to resources. As per the female smallholder farmers in Cuun, their participation and collaboration in the decision-making process are generally positive. However, they said that sometimes they face challenges in attending meetings for urgent matters due to household responsibilities and the timing of the meetings.

During the observation, most female smallholder farmers were eager to get inputs, training, and extension services, which they mentioned will help them improve their productivity, resilience, knowledge, and skills. However, they mentioned had support from WFP through cash-based assistance for vulnerable households' community cover our basic needs. Also, they added that they didn't receive any training and support for women farmers, but in the future, if these kinds of opportunities come, they think it will be easy for them to access it. Moreover, they made their point about the reasons that cause the low participation of females in the farming sector where they stated that the workload of the farm, low household income, lack of time due to multitasking, and the physical demands of farm work are challenging for women to handle, thus they manage this issue by hiring temporary workers. Nevertheless, Female beneficiaries are making dedicated efforts to enhance their involvement and representation in the farming sector.

The assessment highlighted some areas of strength that female smallholder farmers of the four sites have in common: their involvement in the community, whether in the decision-making process, ensuring the welfare of vulnerable women, empowering each other through knowledge, mentorship and advocacy and supporting each other financially. As it is observed the participation of women in the decision-making process accounts 46% in Kobciye project lead farmers/project management committee.

According to the questionnaire, when asked about their participation in the decision-making process, female smallholder farmers emphasised the importance of their input due to their knowledge of the food consumed in their households, with most fruits and vegetables coming from their farms. As a result, they feel it is crucial for them to have a say in what crops are planted and grown which will make them a backbone for key decision-making based on farming and food consumption, also they added that women are more insightful and experienced in situations that concern households due to the primary caregiving and more profound understanding of the needs and preferences of the community. Besides, the respondents of the four sites suggested ways to enhance the participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making, with an emphasis on promoting their representation in the community and creating a safe space for them to share their perspectives, needs, and the challenges they face.

Furthermore, most female farmers face challenges such as difficulty covering expenses and a lack of inputs and training. To manage the financial gap, they organized a free interest rotating savings system to cover both farm and household expenses.

In Cuun, female smallholder farmers pointed out the lack of transportation due to improper road infrastructure and the inaccessibility of transportation vehicles on a daily basis. However, it has been observed that

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

The findings of the assessment of female smallholder farmers in four different sites highlight their representation in the farming sector, involvement in decision-making processes, and eagerness to receive training and extension services to improve productivity. However, challenges such as household responsibilities, low income, lack of time, physical demands of farm work, and inadequate transportation affect their participation.

The assessment also identified areas of strength among female smallholder farmers, including their involvement in the community, supporting each other financially, and advocating for vulnerable women. The respondents suggested ways to enhance the participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making, emphasizing the importance of their representation and creating a safe space for their voices to be heard.

Additionally, the use of a free interest rotating savings system is a practical solution to managing financial gaps. The findings provide valuable insights into the challenges and strengths of female smallholder farmers and could inform interventions to improve their participation and productivity in the farming sector. The identified transportation challenge in Cuun also highlights the need for infrastructure improvements to facilitate access to markets and other essential services.

Recommendation

Providing training and support to female smallholder farmers is crucial to enhancing their productivity, resilience, knowledge, and skills. Such training could include best practices for farming, access to inputs, and credit facilities to help them manage their financial gaps.

However, even with improved productivity, female smallholder farmers may struggle to sell their produce and earn higher profits without improved market linkages. Therefore, it is essential to improve market linkages for female smallholder farmers to access markets, sell their produce, and earn higher profits. One potential solution could be the establishment of market centres that provide a platform for farmers to sell their produce, access market information, and connect with potential buyers.

Additionally, promoting climate-smart agriculture practices could further enhance the resilience of female smallholder farmers. Such practices could include training on appropriate crop and livestock production practices, soil conservation, and water management. By implementing these recommendations, female smallholder farmers could improve their productivity, profitability, and participation in the farming sector, contributing to food security and poverty reduction in the communities they serve.

Annex

Assessment Photos



Figure 1&2: female beneficiaries and Kobciye team during the data collection of GPAAP assessment.



Figure 2&4: female beneficiaries alongside with Kobciye team during the GPAAP assessment.

Assessment Questionnaire

Program	
District	
Name of data collector	
Date of data collection	
Q1: You are invited to participate as a volunteer in a gender assessment study about smallholder female farmers, the goal of this assessment is to identify the representation and participation of smallholder farmers in their involvement in decision-making, will you accept to continue?	
Q2: How are women farmers involved in decision-making?	
Q3: In your opinion what makes women less participate in the farming sector?	
Q4: Do you face any challenges in participating in decision-making? If yes, what kind of challenges do you face in participating in decision-making?	

<p>Q5: What suggestions do you have when it comes to strengthening the involvement of women in decision-making?</p>	
<p>Q6: How important is it to you that you are involved in decisions about your community?</p>	
<p>Q7: How do you empower yourself and the women around you in difficult times?</p>	
<p>Q8: What do you think can empower women to get more involved in farming?</p>	

<p>Q9: Have you received any training or support related to women’s empowerment in the agricultural sector? Follow-up, if yes, please the type of training or support you received.</p>	
<p>Q10: Have you faced any challenges in accessing training or support related to women’s empowerment in the farming sector?</p>	
<p>Q11: Have you ever faced any gender-related barriers in collaborating with male farmers or how have you addressed these barriers?</p>	

<p>Q12: What are the most significant challenges you are facing at the moment? How do you deal with these challenges?</p>	
<p>Q13: What support would you like to see to help you manage these challenges?</p>	
<p>Q14: Have you ever experienced harassment, discrimination, or violence while you were in the farming sector?</p>	
<p>Q15: Have you received any training or support related to women’s protection in the farming sector?</p>	

Q16: How we can promote women's leadership and participation in the farming sector?