



Inclusive Investment Opportunities for Unleashing the Power of the Pastoral Sector

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What Does Gender Have to Do with Market Access for Pastoralists?

Pastoralism is a Community System

- Pastoralist communities conserve rangeland biodiversity, protect the ecosystem and maintain a sustainable balance with the surrounding environment. Women are the main custodians of this knowledge and are a cornerstone of pastoralism
- Generally, pastoralist women are responsible for collecting fodder to supplement the feed of livestock kept close to the homestead; look after pregnant stock, and then their calves, kids and lambs, and take care of sick animals that cannot keep up with the main herd. They milk lactating animals and make sour milk and butter, which are important parts of the diet of many pastoralist families. They also sell these products at markets. (WHOA)

Barriers to Women's Market Participation

- Less mobile than men (gender norms--mobility and duty division)
- Lack of access to media and internet can be a barrier to markets
- Trade in local markets rather than national markets
- Frequently engage in farm gate marketing or informal cooperatives
- Level of education (early marriage, pregnancy, and lack of access)
- Lack of ability to negotiate (limited information)

Recommendation—Understand the Whole

- Social networks critical to survival during drought and climate disasters
- Talk to pastoralists—women and men—to identify specific barriers and needs and desired outcomes
- Openly discuss the intervention with communities—conduct a situation analysis to avoid doing harm

Recommendation: Support Diversified Markets

- Also invest in products that women sell (dairy, poultry, small ruminants) and markets that women have access to (farm gate and local markets).
- Work with local women's groups or organizations that can organize women around production and marketing cooperatives. Support food and drink processing and services for female-dominated occupations (i.e., dairy processing—butter, yogurt, sour milk) and formally organize cooperatives (training, mentoring, information exchange) to enable women to reach high value markets.
- Train women para-vets and extension workers to work with women pastoralists, and employ more female extension personnel to reach them.
- Design programming for women and children who are left behind when men migrate. Identify their specific needs for information and training, and focus on reducing workload.

Ethiopia

- Encourage policy makers to adopt Afar's legal language related to pastures: Land held by community; certificate of holding issued in the name of the community
- Camel milk has potential for increasing women's income and empowerment; main buyers and sellers of camel milk, traditionally, in Afar and Somali region; recognize informal cooperatives, allowing them to enter into formally organized camel milk businesses.
- LSA: Under a poverty reduction focus, cattle, goats and village poultry in all systems would get priority.
- In the pastoralist areas of Afar and Somali regions (lowlands), women's access to income is almost exclusively related to livestock and livestock products; in agro-pastoralist areas, many women also engage in trading.
- Education and training needed

Nigeria

- National Livestock Transformation Plan does not present clear strategy to protect poor pastoralists, especially women, against exclusion
- No indication that Fulani women are participating in large national markets participate in informal and periodic markets, closer to the homestead.
- Livestock products sold by women: dairy, eggs, poultry and small ruminants.
- Use farm gates and decentralized collection centers that feed into bigger markets
- Use technology to get information to and from pastoralist sellers
- Use women's groups to consolidate products and access markets, to conduct training, provide veterinary services, and introduce new technology
- Diversify livelihoods – non-livestock income can mitigate loss of seasonal livestock income
- Numeracy and literacy skills improve women's access to markets and income

Burkina Faso

- Men predominate in milk value chain as milk dealers, animal healthcare agents, AI providers, and extension staff, and income from milk goes exclusively to women until the decision is made to sell the milk to a dairy
- Women have limited control over resources and income from sale of animals (poultry in particular). Even though women may decide to sell, men generally control any revenue from animals; typically cannot sell birds at market; but possibly can sell from home to a roaming purchaser.
- By law, community decisions, including allocation of community land and enforcement of customary rules made by village development councils and local chiefs, which are dominated by farmers not pastoralists, and often fail to establish pastoralist areas, and discriminate against transhumant pastoralists, women and youth.
- Strengthen farm gate markets
- Gender sensitization for men and women
- Training and education for women who need number literacy