Unraveling Inequalities:
Men’s Role in Women’s Economic Empowerment in Agriculture
Engaging and Working with Men: Key Insights and Considerations in Agriculture

Findings from LEO

*Presented by Wade Channell, USAID*
Five Findings by LEO (heavily paraphrased)

1. Allies and Agents: Positive Roles for Men
2. Address the Elephant: Men are Gendered Too
3. Together and Apart: Both/And, not Either/Or
4. Role Models Matter
5. Identify Harm, Then Don’t Do It
Women for Women International
Afghanistan
Men’s Role in Women’s Economic Empowerment
WfWi’s Approach to Women’s Economic Empowerment

- Organize Group Meetings of Women (2x/week)
- Create Safe Spaces for Earning and Saving
- Provide Training:
  - Business
  - Vocational
  - Hands-On Assistance

Our program in Afghanistan

Participant Profile:
- 18-24 (39%) Average age
- $0.13 Average daily reported income
- 2 Median number of children in care
- 91% Illiterate
- 87% No formal education

Vocational skills & Training:
- Animal husbandry
- Agriculture
- Tailoring
- Handicrafts

Our reach
- Total women served (since 2002): 109,900
- Women served (2016): 7,200
- Total men reached (since 2007): 1,900

Where we work
- Kabul
- Parwan
- Kapisa
- Nangarhar

Headquarters
Men’s Engagement Program (MEP)

- Origin – requested by women
- Focus
  - Reduce resistance
  - Increase buy-in
- Methods
  - Increase knowledge
  - Change attitudes
  - Motivate improved behaviors

**Increasing Men’s Awareness and changing Behavior**

- Graduates report having knowledge of women’s rights compared to 98% before the program.
-Report having positive attitudes regarding women’s role in family decision-making, compared to 99% before the program.
- 42% report taking action to stop own violent actions against women, compared to 16% before the program.
Religious scholar giving presentation on women rights from Islamic point of view
MEP Training Curriculum

- **Structure:**
  - 90 days
  - 24 sessions
  - 90 minutes per session

- **Content:** Islamic Perspective on
  - Family and Society
  - Rights of Family Members
  - Education
  - Marriage
  - Violence
The Cascading Training Approach

98% graduation rate!!
Knowledge-Related Indicators

Knowledge of women’s rights
Self-reported “medium,” “high” or “very high” on a scale of “no knowledge” to “high knowledge.”

Enrollment 9%
576 respondents

Graduation 98%
560 respondents

Knowledge of what constitutes violence against women
Share of respondents who selected all four definitions presented as violence against women: “abuse to a woman’s emotional well-being,” “physical beating,” “rape,” and “withholding money or income.”

Enrollment 1%
576 respondents

Graduation 53%
560 respondents
Results – Attitudes

Changes in Attitude

KEY: Neutral Agree

Report positive attitudes regarding women’s rights in household
- Enrollment: 10% Agree, 87% Neutral
- Graduation: 99%

Report positive attitudes regarding women’s role in family decision-making
- Enrollment: 0% Agree, 6% Neutral
- Graduation: 99%

Report positive attitudes regarding the punishment and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women
- Enrollment: 72% Agree, 26% Neutral
- Graduation: 3%

Report positive attitudes regarding the role of husbands and community leaders in the community reintegration of female victims of violence
- Enrollment: 48% Agree, 50% Neutral
- Graduation: 2%

Report disagreement with justifications for violence against women
- Enrollment: 91% Agree, 6% Neutral
- Graduation: 39%

Report attitude that violence against women affects whole communities
- Enrollment: 27% Agree, 60% Neutral
- Graduation: 5%

576 Enrollment Respondents; 560 Graduation Respondents
Response options were Agree, Neutral, Disagree, therefore figures will not total 100%

“Before, we did not give inheritance to daughters or wife, but now we have learned that they are also part of our inheritance.”

WfWI focus group participant, Khalazayee
Results – Behavior

**Behavior Change**

**KEY:** Planning Action

- **Enrollment**
  - Taken Action
    - 27%
    - 15%
  - Graduation
    - 48%
    - 39%

Report having taken action to share information with their community about the effects of violence against women.

- **Enrollment**
  - Taken Action
    - 27%
    - 16%
  - Graduation
    - 52%
    - 41%

Report having taken action to support a female victim of violence.

- **Enrollment**
  - Taken Action
    - 27%
    - 16%
  - Graduation
    - 36%
    - 42%

Report having taken action to stop own violent actions against women.

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**Percent of Men Who Agree or Partially Agree with Select GEM Scale Items**

Low percentages represent high support for gender-equitable norms.

- **Woman's most important role is to take care of her home & cook**
  - **Enrollment**: 92%
  - **Graduation**: 28%

- **A man should have the final word about decisions in his home**
  - **Enrollment**: 60%
  - **Graduation**: 26%

- **A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together**
  - **Enrollment**: 80%
  - **Graduation**: 20%

50 Enrollment and Graduation Respondents

*We present comparisons between pre-training and post-training participant data here, which reveal interesting changes. We do not collect routine monitoring data from a valid comparison group to allow for causal inference.*
Women Engaging in Agricultural and Income Generating Activities

Nisa, one of WfWI graduates selling her Mushroom products in International AGFAIR

Practical Agriculture Training

Practical Tailoring Training
Thank you
CONSTRUCTIVE MALE ENGAGEMENT

FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS FOR ALL
CONSTRUCTIVE MALE ENGAGEMENT
AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS FOR ALL
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| **PREVENT** | Home visitations  
Make the case for women's economic participation in Agriculture | Home visitations  
Communications  
Dialogue | awareness on the law, Barazas |
| **RESPOND** | Early Warning – Women self-elected clan elders *abatureti*  
Accompaniment: Where abuse has happened, the women leaders accompany victim to law enforcement | Financial/economic contribution  
Socio-economic support | Summoning of men on wrongdoing, referral, protection Barazas |
| **TRANSFORM** | Training, dialogue, awareness  
Ultimate goal: transform relations at HH level | Relationship building  
Visioning  
Collaboration | Support for women’s economic empowerment  
Change of attitudes, norms |
Women’s ownership rights: Most women we work with have no rights to property, do not own land. And this severely impacts their decision-making and control over agricultural produce.

Systematic Evaluation: How do we systematically evaluate progress on male engagement? What does failure look like? How about success? What is transformative?
THANK YOU!

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