

GEDSI Learning and Leadership Hub: Economic Inclusion

Key learnings from the meeting held on 25th March 2025.

Welcome

Heidi Tavakoli, Senior Responsible Officer, UK PACT, FCDO

Heidi welcomed everyone to the first GEDSI Learning and Leadership (L&L) Hub meeting. GEDSI is a key priority for UK PACT so having the GEDSI L&L Hub is hugely important to share lessons of how we can advance this work most effectively across our programmes globally.

There has been an increased focus on GEDSI in UK PACT across the project life cycle over the last year. This includes the introduction of national GEDSI experts, additional support provided to implementing partners on developing GEDSI action plans, and hosting learning spaces like this.

Key Concepts: Why does Economic Inclusion Matter for UK PACT?

Rebekah Martin, UK PACT GEDSI Manager, Social Development Direct

Action on climate change can create rapid improvements in the economic empowerment of women and other excluded groups if a GEDSI responsive approach is taken. At the same time, measures these inclusive approaches can support better climate and economic outcomes.

The UK PACT project *Electric mobility capacity building in India*, found that despite women transport users preferring to have women drivers and women being interested in employment in the electric vehicle industry, there were no women auto drivers in the target city of Kakinada. Providing training for women to take on these roles, and GEDSI sensitization training for the wider sector, promoted women's economic empowerment and the sustainability of the project as women were more likely to use services with women drivers. Read more [here](#).



Electric Vehicle Driving Workshop. Source RTI.

Research from the Work and Opportunities for Women Helpdesk identified **opportunities to advance climate action and women's economic empowerment**. It highlights the importance of 1) addressing gender-specific constraints and enablers, 2) access to decent work and control over work-related decisions, and 3) access to and control over economic assets. Read more [here](#).



Beekeeping workshop. Source: Pronatura Sur A.C.

Learning from UK PACT Projects in Mexico

Teresa Durand, UK PACT Latin America GEDSI Expert

Teresa shared insights from UK PACT projects in Mexico: *Supporting sustainable farming and agriculture in Mexico's rural south* implemented by Pronatura Sur A.C. and *Solar Ejidos* implemented by Mexico Climate Initiative.

Traditional gender roles led to low participation of rural women in livestock and resin value chains. Teams identified the importance of sensitising communities on gender equalities and masculinities to address this, alongside ensuring agriculture trainings were held at suitable times and in safe spaces for women to attend. The governance model for Sonora Solar Energy Program included parity between men and women in the plants' governing bodies,

consideration of women's conditions in the lists of beneficiary households, and the principles of fair distribution applied in the benefit-sharing mechanism.

These projects showed how **climate-related projects must focus on the unequal and intersectional power relations** that drive the vulnerability of both women and men, including considering the needs of men forced to migrate due to climate change.

Gender transformative approaches for forest and land restoration

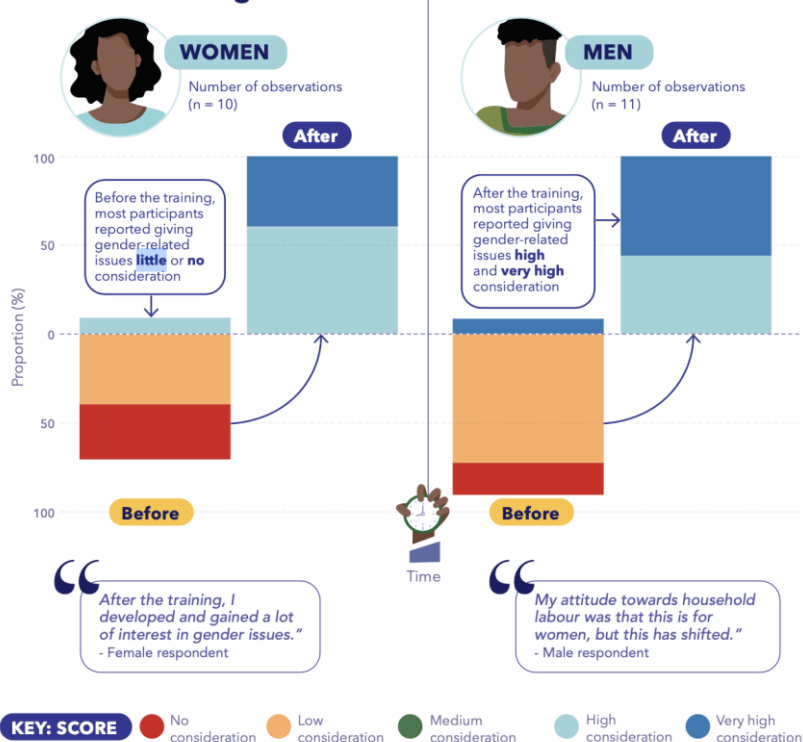
Denis Wakaba, CIFOR-ICRAF

Denis shared learnings from the UK PACT project *Promoting nature-based solutions for land restoration in Kenya*.

The project led community dialogues to engage communities in an open dialogue on gender perceptions, gender-related constraints and opportunities, and how these influence the landscape, their livelihood strategies, and their well-being. The community dialogues involved activities including bargaining role-play, developing progress markers, and a gender balance tree.

This led to positive outcomes including better division of household and farm tasks due to understanding of burdens and better communication on decision making within the household. Read more [here](#).

Change in attitude towards gender-related issues before and after training



Results from the community dialogue. Source: CIFOR-ICRAF.

To sign up for future GEDSI Learning and Leadership Hub Meetings, please contact Rebekah Martin at rebekah.martin@sddirect.org.uk