

SESSION SIX: Gender Analysis Application and Tools

COUNTRY CASE STUDY: THE REPUBLIC OF KASHABA

Kashaba is a large country with a population of 21 million, representing a mixed ethnic background with substantial Indian, European and Chinese minorities. Population growth, currently at approximately 2.4% per annum, is subdued due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Sixty-seven percent of the population lives in poverty, according to the World Bank. The country has been politically stable since independence, and multi-party elections are now the norm. However, governance standards remain a concern due to corruption, poor accountability of public officials and limited capacity of government institutions for implementing economic reforms and regulating markets.

Kashaba gained political independence in 1967. During the 1970s, the government pursued 'nationalist' economic policies, which included the nationalization of large parts of the transport and financial infrastructure, core industries, and the establishment of trade monopolies especially for agricultural exports. However, this policy led to capital flight and economic inefficiencies which, combined with fiscal profligacy and the oil price shock, led to declining macroeconomic performance. Since the mid-1990s, Kashaba's government has worked with multilateral agencies on economic reform, with so far only partial success.

In the last 5 years, GDP growth has averaged 2.6%. This rate allowed slim gains of the per capita GDP, but these are insufficient for addressing widespread poverty. Also, Kashaba remains one of the most aid-dependent countries in the world. In its Poverty Reduction Strategy, agreed with major multilateral donors, the government has now agreed upon a pro-poor growth strategy that focuses on further liberalization of the economy combined with budgetary reforms and limited intervention in favor of poverty alleviation targets.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the dominant sector of Kashaba's developing economy, providing employment to more than 70% of the total population and contributing to more than 45% of the GDP. It remains a poor country, even for Africa, with an annual per capita income of US\$ 280. Smallholder production predominates, accounting for over 55% of maize, 60% of all milk, and 80% of beef and other meat. There are about three million smallholder farms of which 80% are less than two hectares. Despite its importance to the overall economy, the agricultural sector, particularly cereal production, has been stagnating over the past five years. Some sub-sectors have, however, shown modest growth, such as fruit and vegetable production, particularly in some peri-urban sites and in rural areas transected by major roadways. Hot peppers and okra are becoming a profitable export venture for small farmers.

With increasing urbanization, there is a growing demand for more milk, dairy products, beef, goat, and mutton. Kashaba's livestock sector has had good years and bad years. Recently its performance has been improving, with a positive growth rate of 1%, primarily from smallholder dairying. Marketed meat originates from pastoralists as well as settled agriculturalists who raise cattle, and there are also several large-scale ranches that are privately owned. Since 1996 the

economy has been experiencing both internal and external shocks. For several years there has been low rainfall in many regions and fluctuations in the prices of its primary exports crops of coffee and tea.

Liberalization changed the economic structure underpinning the sector. Since the mid-1990's various policy changes were undertaken in the agricultural sector as part of a structural adjustment program. Numerous subsectors have been affected by the removal of price controls and other aspects of market liberalization, including meat, animal feeds, fertilizers, milk and cheese, and maize.

Recently the government created marketing incentives in the auctioning of export crops to permit producers to earn foreign exchange directly. Parastatals have been dismantled, and producer organizations are flourishing in the wake of legal and institutional reforms that support the formation of private sector enterprises and reduce delays in the procurement of business licenses and other services.

The only parastatal that has not been dismantled is the cashew board. Despite pressure to privatize, the GOK argues that earnings from both raw and processed cashews are a significant contribution to GDP. India purchases all of the raw cashews while the U.S. purchases most of the processed cashews. Still, the government is considering selling the processing plants because the efficiency of production is dropping. Thousands of workers have been laid off. Production at the farm level has also dropped off.

In 2002, the government and donors undertook a comprehensive agricultural sector review. The review identified the following constraints:

- (a) Lack of competition
- (b) Inefficiency in agricultural inputs supply, poor seed quality, and little use of fertilizers and other inputs
- (c) Low and declining government budgetary support to services like extension, research, and veterinary services,
- (d) Poor rural infrastructure,
- (e) Lack of secure land tenure, and
- (f) Lack of credit, and limited access by small farmers to large-scale retailers or exporters.

Based on these findings, the review recommended efforts to revitalize the agricultural sector by initiating the transformation of smallholder agriculture into more commercial farming in selected crops with high growth potential, using a value chain approach. Revitalizing Kashaba's agricultural sector holds both opportunities and obstacles. While much of the country is arable, with fertile lands and excellent sources of groundwater, the rural population is scattered over large areas making per capita costs of marketing, service provision, and infrastructure development very high, and presenting formidable development challenges. Smallholders also lack market and product knowledge, and market information systems are inadequate. Smallholders' lack of business skills and access to finance severely constrain the entrepreneurs most likely to interface between markets and rural households.

Supermarkets are a growing arena for both domestic and regional trade. Supermarkets now handle 36% of retail food sales, a rapid rise in the last five years. The supermarkets, which are primarily owned by foreign companies, have strict standards as to the quality and quantity of food they purchase. Outside of the supermarkets, retail food sales continue to be channeled through small stores in both urban and rural areas or through weekly markets.

Kashaba is centrally located in a wider regional economic community, and its government is working with those of its neighbors to reduce intra-regional trade barriers. The GOK has demonstrated a commitment to private sector development, and Kashaba's enabling environment (policies, public support institutions, and transport infrastructure) is generally encouraging, but contract law is still weak and corruption is a major problem at customs.

SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN KUSHIBA

The eight districts that are participating in the projects are located in a fertile, well-drained valley that has adequate water for agriculture and livestock production in all but the worst drought years. Water for drinking and washing is provided by shallow wells that are maintained by a community government committee. When the wells do not function, water is drawn from a river that is approximately three-quarters of a mile from each community. Adult women and girls from the age of about ten are responsible for fetching water, a task that takes about two hours each day per household.

Daily life in the community for most adults centers on farming and cattle keeping. Average household size varies from 6 to 13 members. The majority of the households in the project community farm for both home consumption and sale to local markets. They produce staple food crops such as maize and millet, vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, spinach, and eggplant, and also have fruit trees of mango, coconut, and oranges. Except for maize and tomatoes, the farmers use unimproved seeds and little to no fertilizer or pesticides on their fields. Yields are relatively low. Over the course of the agricultural year, adult men are responsible for preparing the fields, primarily with hoes and/or cattle-drawn plows. Few households hire tractors. Both men and women cooperate in planting maize and millet. Women are responsible for weeding those fields two or three times in the growing season, but the whole family participates in the harvest. The average time spent on agricultural tasks is three to four five hours per day for men and four to five hours per day for women, though the exact figure varies widely over the agricultural season. Women (and young girls) prepare the harvested grains for storage and also have responsibility for the daily processing and cooking of grains for household meals. Cooking and collection of firewood averages two hours a day per household. Women and girls carry out care of younger children and infants, generally in conjunction with other tasks. On average, school age girls work a minimum of three hours per day on household chores and childcare.

Men generally retain the revenue from sales of staple grains and fruits. Women retain the revenue from sales of fresh vegetables. Both men and women pay for educational expenses; men generally pay for their children's clothing, while women's income is used to pay for health care and household supplies such as matches, kerosene, and supplementary food items.

Most households both farm and keep livestock (poultry, goats, and some cattle) to supply themselves with milk and meat, occasionally selling surplus to the local market. Some households rely more heavily on sales from milk and meat for a larger portion of their income. Men and boys herd the cattle, buy veterinary inputs, and take the animals for dipping and vaccinations. They occasionally milk the cows and take the milk to the local market. A few of the wealthier households have begun experimenting with improved feed and artificial insemination (AI) at the direction of the veterinary extension agent, who meets with interested men monthly. Women carry out the bulk of the milking; they also cut grass for the stall-fed animals, clean their sheds, feed the animals, and sell milk to neighbors and to the local market. The care and feeding of stall-fed animals takes between two and four hours per day; herding animals outside the homestead involves five to six hours daily.

Many households receive remittances of relatives in urban areas and overseas. Local teachers and government officials are salaried, and entrepreneurs, such as transporters, carpenters, and merchants depend upon the success of their trade for their earnings, but they also farm for home consumption. Proximity to a main road offers community residents access to transport to a major urban center three hours away.

Community government consists of an elected committee composed of twelve adults. Women are allowed to serve, and two of the six communities each have four women committee members. Adults in all the communities participate in social networks to arrange funerals, weddings, and other rituals. A woman's group was organized in the community some years ago, but the savings scheme it started has lapsed. It occasionally takes on new schemes, but has not been successful in carrying them through. It lacks start up capital and none of the members have had business training. Men have no corresponding group, but the community government as a whole has discussed the possibility of forming a community based producer group for some horticultural crops whose market appears to be expanding. Because men and women have different social roles in these activities, the time they allocate to these events also varies.

Time-hunger is a significant problem for women in these communities because of their multiple responsibilities. On a typical day during the growing season, a woman wakes up at sunrise. She prepares breakfast, cleans up the homestead, fetches water, and milks the cows. She gets to the farm by 9 am, works for about four hours and returns home, collecting firewood along the way, to prepare lunch. In the afternoon she goes to the market or collects grass for the livestock, fetches water, and prepares dinner. She goes to bed around 10pm. A man typically wakes up at 7 am, takes breakfast, tethers the livestock and/or milks the cows and reaches the farm around 8:30 am. He stays there until 2 pm, when he returns home for lunch. In the late afternoon, he may go to the market or a neighboring village to meet with his peers. He returns home between 7 and 8 pm for dinner, and goes to sleep by 10 pm.

The land laws of Kashaba are currently being revised. While all Kashaban citizens are legally entitled to own land, only men may inherit land. If husbands and wives do not register title to their land jointly, a widow may be left without legal rights to property she has farmed for years.

Assignment: Using the information in the case study, complete the gender tool that your group was given.

