

GRAND CHALLENGES:

A Win-Win for Gender, Agriculture and Nutrition

Testing a Gender-Transformative Approach from Asia in Africa

CARE Burundi's work on climate change and resilience.

A Win-Win for Gender, Agriculture and Nutrition: Testing a Gender Transformative Approach from Asia in Africa funded by **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** is a four-year research program from 2016-2019 implemented in six communities in the provinces of Kirundo and Gitega, Burundi. The program is set up as a two-pronged study to compare: 1) a Gender Transformative model (the EKATA model) for gender equality; with 2) a typical gender-mainstreamed approach (Gender Light model) in the agriculture sector. *Win-Win* has three program objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To contextually adapt EKATA, a proven and impactful Gender Transformative approach, for use in a multi-sectoral agricultural intervention in Burundi.
- **Objective 2:** To evaluate the differences in outcomes and processes of the Gender Transformative EKATA approach compared with a standard Gender Light approach in the outcome areas of gender equality, and food security and economic well-being.
- **Objective 3:** To determine the differential costs and capacities required to support lasting transformations in gender equality and improved sectoral outcomes through a Gender Transformative approach (GTA), compared with the standard Gender Light model.



CARE's research design will provide evidence to answer the question: ***What is the added value and what are the associated costs of applying a Gender Transformative approach within a livelihoods intervention, in terms of accelerating lasting transformations in gender equality, food security and economic well-being?***

CARE's hypothesis is that an explicit and more intensive focus on gender and women's collective action can be a win-win for gender justice and improvements in agriculture productivity, income and food security. The Gender Transformative model used in *Win-Win* is adapted from the EKATA approach of CARE Bangladesh, a Freirean approach to critical consciousness-raising and challenging discriminatory beliefs and social norms through a cycle of reflection, community dialogue and collective action.

CARE Burundi leads the program in collaboration with the Africa Gender Center for Gender, Social Research and Impact Assessment. Technical assistance is provided by CARE Bangladesh (to adapt the EKATA approach to Burundi) and CARE USA. Local implementing partners include the University of Burundi, which works in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), for introduction of improved rice production technologies; RBU 2000+, for implementation of activities related to agriculture and market extension, nutrition education and market engagement; and the Great Lakes Inkingi Development (GLID), which implements the Gender Transformative approach as well as builds capacity around VSLA formation and linkages to microfinance.

How does the project address questions about climate change and resilience?



CARE Burundi implements its programs through the Village and Loans Association (VSLA) approach as a gateway to all interventions. The accumulation of savings through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) helps women access credit to meet immediate needs during the crisis. In addition, the VSLA approach is a means of increasing agricultural activities through access to credit for the purchase of agricultural inputs and other means of production such as renting land and other agricultural equipment.

VSLAs members give themselves to production activities by adopting a resilient agriculture in which producers put in place at the same time diversified crops (seasonal crops, crops resistant to diseases and climatic conditions, etc.), water and soil management. With this resilient agriculture, not only producers find a quantity of food throughout the year but also their exploitation remains well valued all year round, not to mention a good rehabilitation of natural resources.

In addition, being community-based associations, VSLAs contribute effectively in addressing climate change. Women VSLA participate in High intensity labor force activity (watershed management, seedling production, reforestation, slope rehabilitation, etc.) initiated by other organizations working in the field on climate change and resilience in the Win Win intervention provinces (Food for Hungry, Welt Hunger Hilfe, Food Agricultural Organization of the UN, etc.). 50% of the income earned by women is saved and invested in income-generating activities to meet the daily needs of their households. The other part is used to increase the capital of IGAs. In addition, the local government also solicits these VSLAs to participate in the planting of agro-forestry trees, cleaning of the anti-erosion ditches, protection of the buffer zone, planting of the fixing herbs on the erosion ditches during community works.