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WID - COUNTRY STRATEGIES: KENYA  
Outline: Improving Opportunities  
of Women in Kenya



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Women in Development - Country Strategies - Kenya Outline Improving Opportunities for  
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February 19, 1986

OUTLINE  
Improving Opportunities of Women in Kenya

This outline is written in broad terms now to permit scope in deciding where to focus. Decisions on focus will be made in the early phases of the work as the more promising areas become clearer.

**I. Broad assessment of Kenya's development objectives and ways to further those objectives by assisting women.**

- A. Kenya's objectives: summarize development goals and policy and program approaches, particularly in agriculture, education, and health and population.
- B. Linkages with women's opportunities: Explain how improving women's opportunities can help reach development goals more efficiently in such areas as:
  - women and agricultural productivity;
  - women and overall employment;
  - women and family welfare;
  - women and population growth.
- C. Focus: This study will focus on three sectors as suggested by the discussion in B: agriculture, education, and health and population. Within these sectors, focus will be determined during the early phases of the work as noted above.

**II. Women and Agriculture.**

- A. Introduction: Summarize Kenya's agricultural situation and women's roles (sketching out regional variations). Cover as practical the following issues, depending on available information:
  - basic production patterns (cash and subsistence agriculture, particularly in settled areas);
  - what work women do (using time studies and other sources to discuss employment patterns, such as food preparation and storage, provision of household water and fuelwood, and family care, particular farming tasks showing specialization by crop or animal or by type of work, household responsibilities);
  - population pressure, land scarcity, settlement patterns, and implications for farm productivity;
  - impact of basic agricultural policies (product and factor prices, labor-capital substitution and patterns in technology, major institutions);

- women's access to resources:
    - . land situation, farm size, and ownership
    - . extension services
    - . physical inputs
    - . savings and credit
    - . marketing mechanisms
  - Income: patterns in level, source, control and disposition
  - Women-headed households
- B. Promising approaches for assisting women (implications for complementarities or trade-offs with other objectives)
1. Summarize and discuss the fundamental importance of basic macro-economic and institutional policies, noting what they are.
  2. Explain the need for special efforts to overcome special disadvantages: women are not "just poor."
  3. Introduce some promising measures, from which we will select a few for focus in this study:
    - agriculture sector: particularly extension, some discussion of inputs and credit, and potential for stronger involvement of cooperatives and NGOs;
  4. Introduce briefly the role of education (impact of formal and non-formal, link to NGOs) -- referring to discussion of education later in paper;
  5. Introduce briefly the impact of improved health -- referring to discussion of health later in paper;
  6. Introduce briefly the need for time-saving technology for household work;
  7. Introduce briefly the work involved in obtaining water and fuelwood.
- C. Extension services: a closer look.  
(We will probably focus considerably on extension)
1. Assess in detail Kenya's efforts to provide extension services to women farmers. Discuss costs and results for the women and for agriculture more generally, bringing out practical approaches that others outside Kenya might wish to consider.
  2. Suggest ways to reach women more effectively (particularly the poorer, smaller-scale farmers). Discuss potential costs and results in detail.

3. Per request from Resident Mission, possibly collect new data on the impact of Bank's extension project in Kenya if agreement can be reached with the Adviser on Women in Development, Programs and Agricultural Projects Divisions, and the Resident Representative.
- D. Improving access to resources: physical inputs and credit (probably particularly through cooperatives). (We understand current complexities in this area and will seek advice from the Resident Representative on how to handle).
- Discuss current access to various sources, constraints, promising approaches, and possible future steps, bearing in mind Bank's particular concerns about credit at present. Probably focus on cooperatives.
- E. Organizing to get assistance and "grouping for scale": particularly via NGOS. Given particular interests of Projects and Resident Representative, will discuss potential for strengthening women's opportunities via NGOs, noting their capacity to provide information, resources, credit, and help with marketing. Identify particularly effective NGOs. Suggest how the Bank might assist or support government efforts to assist NGOs.

(The agriculture section will be coordinated with Bank Agriculture staff).

### **III. Women and Education (see separate TOR for education and health)**

Here, as in agriculture, we will determine where to focus in early stages of the work.

- A. Discuss linkages between education for women and other development goals (agricultural productivity, family welfare, population growth).
- B. Summarize patterns and trends in literacy, schooling, and non-formal education.
- C. Discuss policies, programs, and key issues affecting women and girls.
  1. Formal:
    - a. rising primary enrollment rates and the drop-out problem: keeping girls in school.
    - b. financing expansion: quality/quantity trade-offs, capacity for community finance, and implications for female education.

2. Non-Formal:
  - a. agricultural extension;
  - b. health;
  - c. NGOs and women's organizations;
  - d. other.

(This section will be coordinated with Bank Education staff.)

#### **IV. Women, Health and Population (see separate TOR for education and health)**

Here, as in other sectors, we will determine where to focus in early stages of the work.

- A. The "seamless web" per World Development Report, 1980: poverty, insecurity, ignorance, poor health and high fertility.
- B. Family size: ways of improving women's opportunities (especially in agriculture and education) that may build demand for smaller families.
- C. Supplying health and family planning services: ways of giving attention to women's attitudes and needs, especially at the community level, to improve the efficiency and impact of basic health and family planning services.
  1. Summarize key issues in provision of services (improving acceptance and continuation; patterns of use, quality of care; scope for outreach; affordability and cost recovery).
  2. Promising examples from government, NGOs, and private sector.
  3. Potential of "safe motherhood" as well as child survival approach for improving family health and encouraging smaller families.

(This section will be coordinated with PHN staff.)

#### **V. Conclusions**

First things first: probably focus on 2-3 key areas in agriculture (extension, cooperatives, possibly some aspects of credit, NGOs); keeping girls in school and some non-formal adult education; community-based health and family planning services. Suggest practical steps that would improve women's opportunities and thus further Kenya's other development objectives. Suggest how the Bank might help most effectively.

cleared with and cc: K.Y. Amoako