Livelihood and gender analysis

Summary of field observations and results

Afar region – ASAL/GIZ

- Field work: November – December 2015

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January, 2016

Overview

- **Study approach – scope of work and description of location**
- **Livelihood and gender analysis at the implementation project level**
  - Livelihood systems observed
  - Gender roles and relations in the studied areas
  - Household livelihood structures and NRM
- **Gender integration strategies at the programmatic level (ASAL/GIZ)**

Background and context: Natural resource management and gender

- Water crisis increasingly problematic for all people, but women seem disproportionally affected (Hanson and Buechler, 2015)
- Land rights → water rights usually vested on men
- Watershed projects → most frequently 'male-focused'

Background and context: Natural resource management and gender

- NRM governance structures usually a male domain
- Poor **consultation** about needs of natural resources (land and water), not only to women but also to less influential men
- Women have usually limited **access** to **extension** and other **technical services**

Scope of work

1. **In-depth livelihood and gender analysis in one ASAL project location (Chifra) covering:**
   - Area with the WSW project already constructed (*Shaqayi-boro, Chifra*);
   - Area with the project designed but not yet constructed (*Mosquit, Chifra*);
   - Control: area with no project and severe erosion and land degradation problems (*Sidihadaba*)

2. **Gender assessment at the programmatic level (ASAL project)**
   - Review of GIZ gender policy
   - Review of project partners' gender policy: BoPAD; APDA
   - Interviews to project team members

Study approach - Data collection

- **Document review**
- **Semi-structured and open interviews**
  - Individual interviews
  - Group interviews
- **Direct and participatory observations**

Mosquit, Nov 23, 2015

Gariro, Dec 17, 2015

- *29 in-depth interviews to key informants*
- *23 in-depth interviews and focus groups to rural communities*

Summary of interviews conducted to stakeholders

- Regional Government:
  - BoPAD
  - Water Bureau
  - BoWYC
- NGOs:
  - International: Save the Children
  - Local: APDA
- UN Agencies: WFP - UNICEF
- Universities and research institutions:
  - Adadale Polytechnic College
  - Samara University
  - Awra Research Centre
- Private sector: Cooperatives; private enterprise
- Kebeles/Communities: Saqayi-boro; Mosquit; Sidihadaba; Awra; Assayta; Hida; Mile

Study approach -Timetable

Dates	*Activities performed*
Nov 6 -17, 2015	Desk study/literature review
Nov 18, 19 and 30; Dec 1, 7, 8 and 21	Study assessment in Addis
Nov 19 to 29	1st field trip: Samara – Chifra
Dec 8 to 20	2nd field trip: Samara – Chifra-Assayta – Awra
Jan – Feb 2016	Data analysis and writing report

Considerations for the field work

- A number of similar or complementary studies in process or recently completed
- Several days to find appropriate translator
- Several activities undergone at the time of the study; limited availability of the Afar team in the study area

Study locations

1. Area with project constructed: Shaqayi-boro tabia

- Tabaoye kebele
- Clan: Arabta
- Population[1]: 5559 people

[1]: Information provided by Office of Finance, Chifra, Dec 2015

Shaqayi-boro (1)

- Source of water for domestic use: city piped water and Mile River
- No perennial water source for farming
- Pastoral community with limited incorporation of rain-fed agriculture
- Poor community, dependent on external support
- Some experience of fenced areas for farming and pasture

Study locations

2. Area with project designed but not constructed: Mosquet kebele

- Clan: Arabta
- Population[1]: 3956 people

[1]: Information provided by Office of Finance, Chifra, Dec 2015

Mosquit kebele(2)

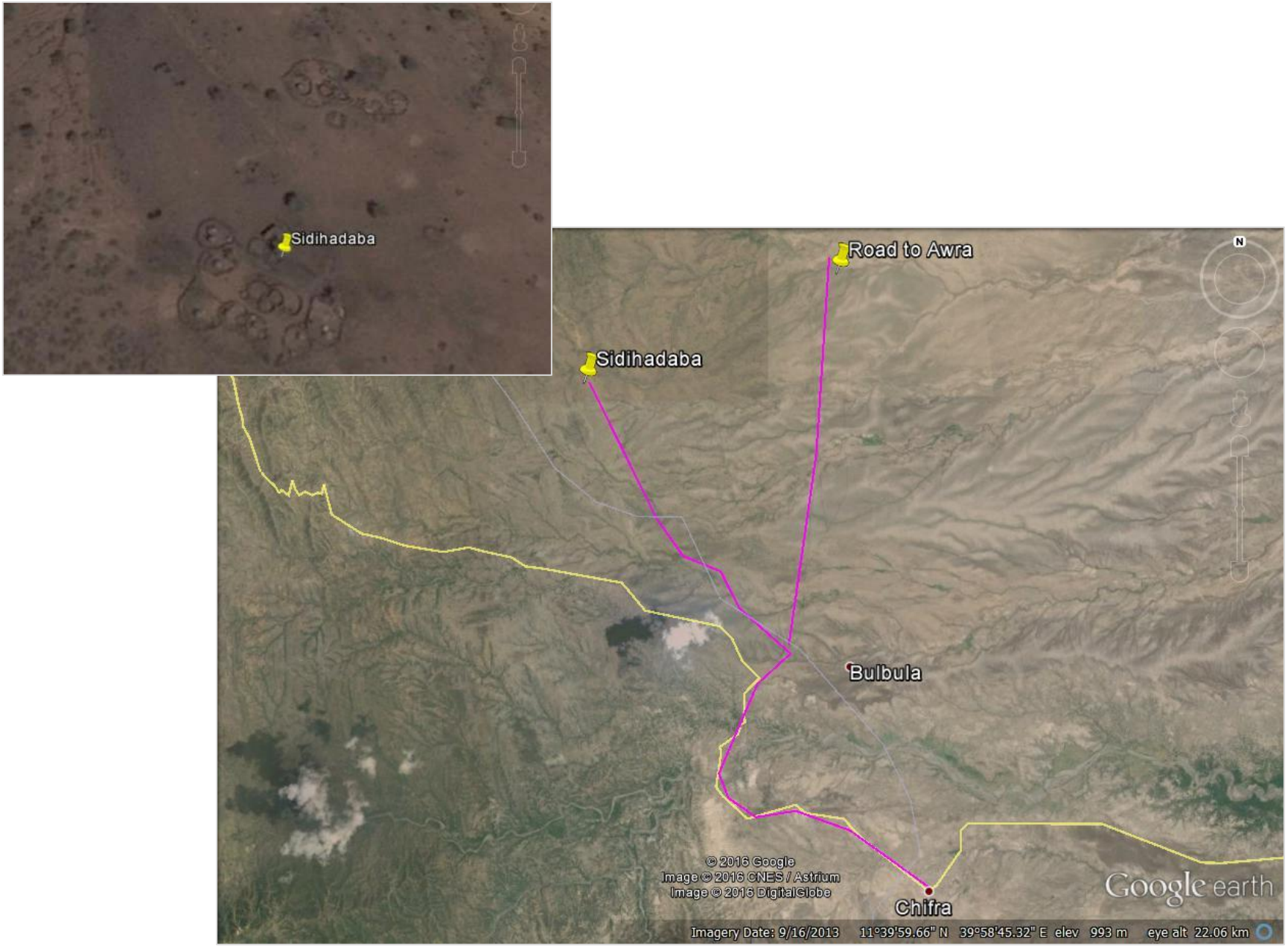
- Religious centre
- Agro-pastoral community
- Farming for long time
- Water source: perennial river (Mile River); deep well with piped water (provided the pump functions and there is fuel)

Study locations

3. Area with no project: Sidihadaba tabia

- Jarra kebele
- Clan: Arabta
- Population[2] of tabia: 150 HH
- Distance to Chifra: aprox. 21 km

[2]: Information provided by kebele chairman


Sidihadaba
Road to Awra
Sidihadaba
Bulbula
Chifra
© 2016 Google
Image © 2016 CNES / Astrium
Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe
Google earth
Imagery Date: 9/16/2013 11°39'59.66" N 39°58'45.32" E elev 993 m eye alt 22.06 km

Sidihadaba (3)

- Medium to severe soil erosion
- Good community organisation capacity
- Already local initiative to manage land (enclosure of pasture areas)
- Low external support

Livelihood Systems

Livelihood systems in Afar

- Over 83% of the population live in rural areas
- Worst human development indicators of Ethiopia
- Rural population overwhelmingly dependant on **livestock** as livelihood source
- When a **perennial water source** is present, agriculture has the potential to support livelihoods
- **Women** with major role in functioning of households: securing water, food, fuel, housing among others.

Livelihood systems observed in the visited kebeles

- Impoverished pastoralists
- Impoverished pastoralists initiating some rain-fed farming
- Agro-pastoralists
- Farmers

Livelihood systems observed in the visited kebeles

Impoverished pastoralists

All over, e.g. Kalkasa

Impoverished pastoralists with some diversification

- Animal fattening (Chifra)
- Fishing production (Mile)
- Rain-fed agriculture

Livelihood systems observed in the visited kebeles

Agro-pastoralists

Mosquit kebele

Farmers

Mille River - Mosquit kebele

(Mile River, Mosquit kebele; Awra River, Hida kebele; Awash River, Assayta)

Gender Roles and Relations

Gender Considerations (1)

- Gender mainstreamed across all government structures
- Limited capacity at local levels to implement policies
- Most of Afar community members look (and feel) 'disempowered' – *loss of the control of their own resources and loss of means of production and security*
- Women empowerment mostly misunderstood as income generation activities (IGA)

Gender Considerations (2)

- Traditional gender social relations and roles changing significantly, alongside deterioration of natural resources and traditional power structures

  - Women overtaking role of bread winners
  - Coexistence of traditional customary leaders and government representatives;
  - Reduction of animal herd size, used to be a sign of male power and possibility to afford weapons

Gender Considerations (3)

- FGM a primary health issue and gender inequality concern
  - Apparently most girls in rural areas circumcised
  - Practice currently penalized and controlled by police
  - Afar Region implementing a 'model' policy framework
- High mortality rates during births
- When **livelihood systems** are **improved**, i.e. rangelands and water, gender inequalities tend to be **less acute;** women and children in particular result **less vulnerable**

Gender roles and relations in agriculture/livestock management

- Women with a dominant role in securing food, water and fuel
- Women care for small ruminants; milk cattle and goats
- When women increase their share of production responsibilities, apparently greater decision making in livestock management
- Men are responsible for camels, cattle, and migration
- Marketing of animals is shared by men and women, but tends to be a male activity
- Men are responsible for land ploughing
- Children spend significantly part of their time herding livestock, specially boys

Typical household productive work distribution by gender

Livestock management	Men	Women (a)	Children	**Agricultural work**	Men	Women	Children	Paid labour (c)
Feeding animals	Whoever has time			Land preparation (b)	XXX			XXX
Animal health care		XXX		Sowing	XXX			XXX
Milking	X (camels)	XXX		Weeding	XX	XX	X	
Moving herds to pasture areas (b)	XX	X	XX	Harvesting (d)	XXX	XX	X	XXX
Bringing animals to market	XX	XX		Cleaning seeds	X	XXX	X	
Buying new animals	XX	XX						
Selling animals	XX	XX						

Gender domestic and community roles

- Women and girls perform the bulk of the HH domestic work
- Male customary roles do not include any HH work
- Men in charge of family (physical) security and community representation
- **Female participation in community organizations dependant on age and social relations specific of each community**

Typical household reproductive work distribution by gender

Activity	Men	Women (incl. older daughters)	Children	Time spent/day	How often?
Cooking	---	XXX	---	At least 4 hr	3 times/day
Cleaning	---	XXX	---	1-2 hr	Every day
Grain grading	---	XXX	---	Variable (a)	
Water collection	---	XXX	---	1-7 hr	1 or 2 times/day(b)
Firewood collection	---	XX	X	Variable; up to half of a day	
Hut/house construction	X (new, mud)	XXX (traditional)	---	Not specified	
Taking care of old people/small children	---	XX	X	Not specified	
Making of utensils and handicrafts	---	XXX	---	Not specified. Done during spare time	

Gender roles and relations (cont.)

- **Male youth** mostly found herding animals and replacing head of household during migration
- **Female youth** mostly getting married at early ages
- Affirmative policy action towards promoting schooling of girls, however boys are found skipping school significantly
- Significant child trafficking problem indicated by the BoWYC

Household livelihood structures and natural resources

- Land
- Water
- Production systems
- Resource use, management and distribution

Livelihoods and Natural Resources
Land use

- In Afar Region, rangelands belong to clans by *de-facto*. However, communal land tenure rights are not recognized with land titles

- Conflict of interest of government and clans

- ***Who will use the rehabilitated land? Who will claim rights? No yet clear***

Livelihoods and Natural Resources
Rangelands

- Rangelands used communally by clans
- Inheritance: Sharia rules
- When fenced areas for rainfed agriculture=> individual use
  - Exception: Sidihadaba kebele - communal

LAND – Rangelands

- **Severe processes of land degradation**
- **Causes of rangeland degradation:**
  - Overgrazing
  - Fire fuel extraction
  - Conversion to rain-fed grain production of low market value
  - Invasive species

LAND – irrigation and farming

- Irrigated areas of Mile River, land certification process started 6 months ago
- Fencing an area for farming individually seems to require only kebele members' permission
- *Risk of land concentration? – case of Mosquit kebele*

Mosquit kebele, 11.12.15

Livelihoods and Natural Resources

Water

Wet and Dry Seasons in Afar Region

Administrative Zones	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
All Zones	***Karma* rains: Mid Jul-end Sept**			*Gilaal* dry season: dry & cold Oct - Feb		*Dedaa rains* mid/late Dec -early Jan			***Sugum* rains: (Mid-March-April)**		*Hagai* dry season: May-June	
	Most important rainy season; performances of these rains is important			*Gilaal* dry season: 5 dry months with possibility 2-4 days of *dedaa* rains in mid-Dec, late Dec, early Jan.					Sugum rains replenish water sources & regenerate pastures		Hot & dry season; hottest months	

(Source: Livelihood Analysis, Save the Children, 2008)

- Rain unpredictability indicated to have increased in the last 5 – 10 years

WATER: domestic use

- Water overarching problem for all
- **Domestic water**: a permanent water source diminishes vulnerability in particular of women and children
- Quality of drinking water: paramount importance and unresolved (e.g. water used directly from river with limited treatment)


Sidihadaba kebele, 26.11.15


Mille River, 12.12.15

WATER: productive use

- **Production water:** a permanent water source ensures sustainability of livelihood system

- However, irrigation systems and water use found to be inefficient


Mille River, 12.12.15


Hida Kebele, 16.12.15

Livelihoods and Natural Resources
PRODUCTION SYSTEMS - Livestock

- Main source of income for all livelihood systems through animal sales
- Milk is rarely sold. Exception observed: milk cooperative in Assayta
- Practiced extensively in severely degraded rangelands
- Partial migration is the most frequent pattern found
- Rangeland enclosure present but still very limited

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS – Agriculture

- Important source of food and some income for communities along a permanent water source (river beds)
- Irrigated agriculture: mostly practiced for subsistence; low diversification
- Practiced mostly individually by households
- Rain-fed agriculture: limited to self consumption of HH
- Generalised lack of farming knowledge among Afar communities

Wealth categories in areas of the study

	Rich		Better – off*	Medium		Poor	
	1990	*2015*	*2008*	*1990*	*2015*	*1990*	*2015*
Shoats	100-300	--	30 - 50	0 -30	10 -20	30	0 - 15
Cows	400	--	20 - 25	40-100	10-20	10	0 - 5
Camels	0 - 100	--	20 - 25	Many	5 -20	0	0 - 5
Donkeys	?	--	1 - 3	Few	A few	0 - 5	0 - 2

According to Save the Children (2008) 25% 40%* 35%*

Observations of the study:

Few **medium** per kebele and most HH **poor**

Resource use, management and distribution

- **Household incomes**
  - **Livestock**: main source of income for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists
  - Crop production mostly staples (grains) for **self consumption**
  - Commercial agriculture currently limited
  - Wage labour opportunities scarce, sporadic and insufficient; mostly limited to PSNP and other aid programmes
  - In the study areas, petty trade, charcoal and firewood sales are very limited; when present, done by highlanders

Resource use, management and distribution (cont.)

- **Household expenditures**
  - Bulk of household expenditures is food

- **Food and nutrition**
  - Food consumption with important seasonal variations:
    - Rainy season: milk is base of diet consumed with traditional Afar bread
    - Dry season: poor families –bread; when some cash available –shiro
  - Two meals per day –breakfast and dinner, repeating meal ingredients

Examples of income diversification alternatives observed during the field work

Dara credit and saving coopeartive – Anderkalo kebele

Sidihadaba credit and saving cooperative – Sidihadaba kebele

Formal and informal income generating organisations interviewed (cont.)

Women's agricultural cooperative – near Assayta

Arrado milk cooperative - Assayta

Formal and informal local organisations

Mosquit irrigation users' association

Women IGA - Mile

(in collaboration with Fikalo fishing cooperative)

Migration patterns of pastoralists

- Field observations indicated that full nomadic life is not longer a choice for households
  - Loss of livestock
  - Access to food aid
  - Access to services: schools, health post, other
- Sedentary or partial, seasonal migration
- Average distances mentioned during study:

  20 km (local riverside areas) – 50 km (Amhara region) –

  150 km (Dubti; Assayta)
- Responsibilities of household assumed according to age of woman staying at home when male head of HH migrates

Communication profile by gender

- Dago system: all
- Mobile phones accessible by all men
- Women less able to pay for mobile phones. However, during migration remaining household members access a household mobile phone
- Community meetings: both male and female gather information from kebele representatives

Participation –community roles

- Coexistence of customary leaders and rules, and government representatives
- Women usually represented by a small number of female elders or knowledgeable women
- **Social power relations very specific to communities**
- **Each community seems to impose their own rules and regulations**

Typical public get together activities for men and women

Men get together for	Women get together for
Going to mosque, learn the Koran	Traditional house making
Herding animals	Supporting when a woman gives birth
Marriage and funeral ceremonies	Marriage and funeral ceremonies
Organising conflict resolution strategies	Washing clothes; fetching firewood or water
Chewing chat	Collecting grasses for fodder or construction of houses, usually in areas further away from home
Searching for animals when are stolen	Milling grain and cooking
	Praying together

Livelihoods, Natural Resources and Socio-economic Aspects - Summary

- Population growth: key driver of overgrazing pasture areas
- **Livestock** is the critical asset for Afars, even for agricultural livelihoods
- Women are major actors in NRM with limited decision making power and high vulnerability
  - Reduction in rangeland productivity directly affects women: more time spent in securing water and fire fuel
- **Prevalent land management systems unable to secure long-term sustainable pastoral, agricultural and livelihood use**

Opportunities and recommendations

- Opportunities for livelihood diversification are very limited for men and women in the project areas; women suffer additional constraints and stringent cultural barriers
- There is necessity to improve people's assets:
  - Water
  - Land
  - Livestock
  - Knowledge

1) Access to water

- Overarching importance for communities: necessary to reduce chronic water shortage
  - WSW
  - Water harvesting
  - Local water reservoirs
  - Ground water??

- Once water is available, essential to use it in the most cost-effective way: support central (agro) pastoral livelihoods assets – **livestock**
  - **Drinking water and forage**

2) Landscape management

There is need of a resilient landscape, adaptable to changes in climate patterns; biological diversity

- **Restoration of all strata of vegetation**
  - Perennial grasses
  - Shrubs
  - Trees

➔

• use of native species with low water requirements
• detailed ecological studies of native grasses

- **High value perennial crops when possible:**
  - Fruit trees
  - Vegetables
  - Nursery

- **Prevention of invasive vegetation - still limited incidence in the study area**

Awra Research Centre, 16.12.15

Shaqayi-boro, Nov 2015

3) Livestock productivity

- After securing water and forage, important to manage **livestock quantity** and **productivity**
- Risk of tendency to increase livestock numbers
- Important to improve livestock condition:
  - Animal health; fertility; nutrition
  - Topic for further studies
- Increase return from commercialization: improve market information of pastoralists and bargaining power => *Save the Children*

4) Farming practices and opportunities

- Increase technical knowledge of irrigation and farming practices
  - Adapted irrigation systems; salinity?
  - Soil nutrient management (e.g. use of manure)
  - Selection of crop varieties
  - Use of pruning and grafting techniques
  - Use of appropriate varieties and mother stock for fruit production
  - Post-harvest management
- More efficient use of water, in particular water obtained by strong physical effort or expensive water (ground water)
- Potential to support and promote high value crop alternatives

Opportunities

- Upgrade training skills of men in cash crop production
- Use of shorter cycle maize varieties
- Need to work on grain storage appropriate facilities – both of seeds (seed banks) and grains
- Specialise women in some agricultural activities such as nurseries for fruit trees; seedlings (tomato, pepper)
- Fodder production with irrigation for animals

5) Community selection

- Selection of suitable communities for piloting methodologies
- Define criteria, e.g.:
  - Willingness to share communal resources and intervention benefits
  - Willingness to allow equitable representation and decision making power of all community members, including women
  - Willingness to engage in long-term project activities even when project support is discontinued
- Identification and involvement of community facilitators trusted by the community

6) Community mobilization

- Essential for a meaningful impact of an NRM programme
- Very weak in Afar Region
- The appropriate management unit seems to be **the community**
- Community empowerment through:
  - Technical knowledge (NRM, livestock, agriculture, irrigation)
  - Land rights or public-private agreements of long-term land use rights
  - Development of robust community institutions for sustainable rangeland management

- Essential to comprehensively understand social dynamics of every project community – highly community specific

- Prevailing land right systems and communal use of resources may generate conflicts or unequal concentration of project benefits
  - **Essential to carefully understand and discuss with communities**

7) Participation of gender

- Support work of women in landscape management
- Entry point to work with women:
  - Appropriate and cost-effective income generation activities
  - **Knowledge**

- Support female representation and **decision making power** in community institutions
- Men have lost most of their traditional responsibilities: they respond effectively when being useful and productive (e.g. masonry training course; farmers)

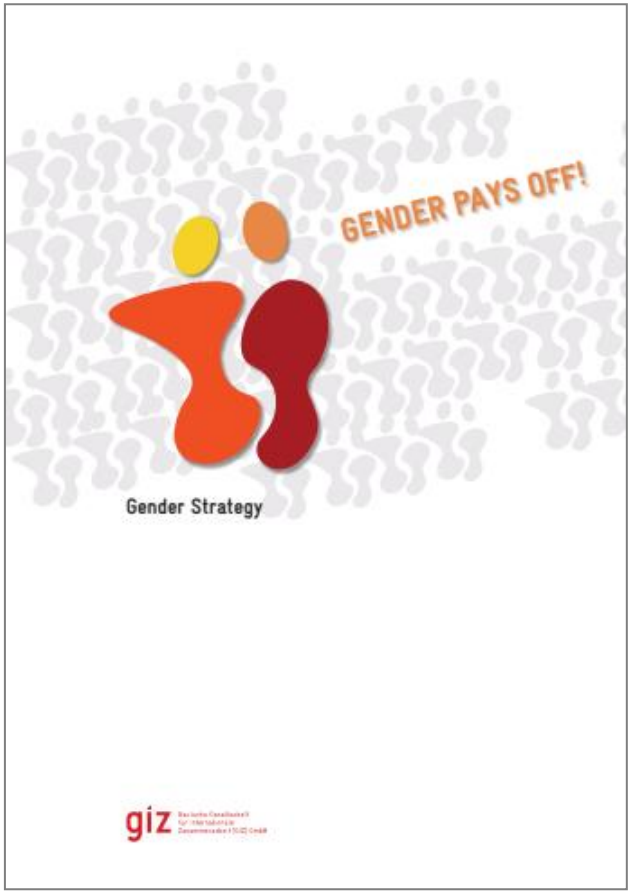
8) Selection of priority interventions

- Interventions that provide alternative resources to compensate reduced off take from rangelands, i.e.:
  - technical assistance for the production of **fire fuel** (plantation of appropriate trees)
  - **reserve forage** (with appropriate lowland, rain-fed forage species)
  - CAREFUL implementation of agricultural activities in rehabilitated areas
  - Employment opportunities appropriate for men and women

Gender integration strategies at the programme level – ASAL/GIZ

- GIZ has a written policy and gender strategy

- GIZ also offers substantial gender on-line resources: http://www.gender-network.net/



Some general observations

- Employees do not seem to be aware or to have read the GIZ gender policy (except ex-patriate project directors)

- General feeling of gender equality in the workplace

- Explicit pro-gender equality initiatives at programme level, although no standardized procedures
  - Difficulties for monitoring and evaluation
  - Risk of discontinuity with turn over of Programme Directors

Opportunities and recommendations

- The ASAL programme would benefit from:
  - Having a gender focal person at programme level
  - Coordinating and integrating 'technical' activities with livelihood and gender approaches
  - Develop an explicit (and written) **gender integration work plan**

Opportunities and recommendations

- Gender integration work plan would aim at improving gender roles in the ASAL programme areas and fostering opportunities for livelihood diversification:
  - Integrate gender in both the institutional and technical levels of programmes and projects
  - Build team work
  - Address systemic constraints on rural Afar women in the ASAL project areas to women's economic empowerment, e.g. access to land, water, finance, inputs, equipment, and markets
  - Engage men as stakeholders and partners in gender equity efforts

Gender integration approach

An effective gender integration approach should:

1. Consider gender as a cross-cutting approach enmeshed in all components of the project, but also as a component in itself, with allocated human resource(s) and budget
2. Focus on watershed and agriculture oriented activities
3. Build partnership across a range of stakeholders
   - BoPAD
   - Bureau of Women, Youth and Children
   - Water Bureau

3. Include baseline assessment of **women's multiple roles** in the target communities to monitor the actual benefits a project is providing to her
4. Measurement of project success should include tangible benefits for women, men and families, i.e.:
   - How different community members use the rehabilitated land and additional water. *Who benefits and who loses?*
   - How individuals (men and women) manage the extra-income
   - How it is spent
   - Changes in the distribution of tasks between husband/wife
   - Level of voice women have in her home and in her community

5. Profile of potential beneficiaries of such gender integration work plan:
   - Afar female university students and graduates of related careers
   - Female civil servants (DAs and PADO officials)
   - Male and women pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (focus on youth)
     - Individual farmers/pastoralists
     - Women's cooperatives and associations

Thank you