

From gender sensitive
to
gender transformative approaches
in extension

The “Gender Model Family” approach in
Sierra Leone

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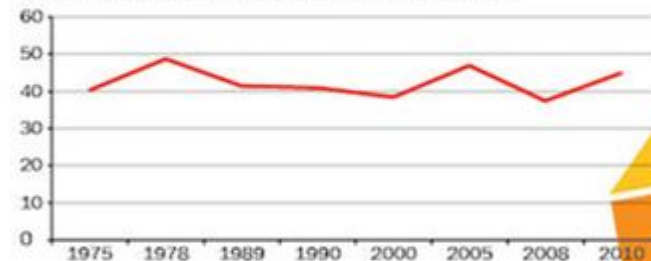
Stagnation in Development for 35 years in Sierra Leone

- High malnutrition rates
- Open defecation
- Limited access to drinking water
- Cooking on three-stone fireplaces
- Hygiene and sanitation problems
- Persistent gender inequalities

Making progress on malnutrition in Sierra Leone

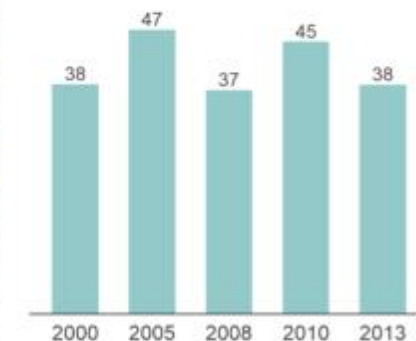
Sierra Leone is one of the world's most malnourished countries
Over the last four decades, attempts to reduce malnutrition have been met with mixed success.

% of under-5s stunted in Sierra Leone, 1975–2010*



The Government's new National Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, designed in collaboration with development partners, aims to do something about this problem.

Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 (%)



Limitations of a gender sensitive approach



- development community tried to include women in development - **but** no change of their workload at home!!
- development community became more **gender sensitive** – recognizing the workload and unequal opportunities (e.g. access to resources).
- West African **NGO SEND**: supported women with a loan scheme: **however**
 - women reported that **men took the loan** from them without repaying
 - **men complained** that loans are only given to women

Gender-transformative approach

Objectives:

- Sensitize and mobilize husbands to live equitably with their wives, and
- to ensure that their boys and girls will be given the same opportunities.

Gender Model Family



Gender Model Family: Project Implementation

Step 1	Community Sensitization
Step 2	Recruitment and Registration
Step 3	First Training
Step 4	Second Training
Step 5	Monitoring
Step 6	Monthly Meetings
Step 7	Experience Sharing



Expectations of being a Gender Model Family

- Fostering **unity** and **harmony** in their family and community
- joining the **path to development** and starting a **modern life**
- " **being better parents** and **"training children together"**
- engaging in business opportunities in which they **both trust each other**
- being **happy together** and enjoy **better relationships**



Perceptions of being a role model

- must "**watch themselves**" because the community is "watching them"
- are special and unique because they are "**doing something different**"
- are an example, **doing something good; doing the right thing**
- **are a light** for the community and need to **keep shining**
- are **agents of change**





Mid-term review of project

- 98 % (256) of husbands assist in food preparation (fetching water, firewood or cooking)
- 81 % (208) report about joint decision making in the house
- 48% (124) will give the better part of the meal to wives or children
- 33 % (85) will feed the children
- 27 % (69) of husbands will do household chores whilst the wife is breastfeeding



Qualitative findings from FGDs

- **economic effects** when husband and wife are managing household: saving money and avoiding wastage
- **social effects**— less domestic disputes, mutual respect, more 'peace'...
- **human capacity**: girls have more time and energy to study
- **recognition** in the community: benefit of GMF lifestyle,
- **promising spillover effect**



Gender Model Family: application

- **community mobilization** at the center of the approach
- can be used in a variety of projects (or on its own)
- experience in Sierra Leone: using it in **combination with nutrition education, agricultural support, WASH promotion and micro-finance.**

Thank you
for your
attention!!

Any
questions?

