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UN In Action

RWANDA: FIGHTING POVERTY WITH EQUALITY

VIDEO

FARM IN EASTERN RWANDA

EPIPHANIE AND HER FAMILY
WORKING IN FARM

EPIPHANIE ON-CAM
Farmer

FAMILY WORKING IN FARM

AUDIO

MUSIC

NARRATION

Like most farmers here in the Kirehe District of eastern Rwanda, Epiphanie Mukamurenzi is up with the sun. She and her husband Bosco work closely together during the daily morning milking session. (14)

This would have been unthinkable just a few years ago, when Epiphanie was confined to household chores while Bosco exclusively handled anything to do with their income. Things started to change when they took part in a livestock-training program five years ago (17).

EPIPHANIE MUKAMURENZI: F (In Local Language)

“My husband and I used to be very, very poor. We fought all the time. Everything changed when we received this cow and the training. In the past, my husband would spend our money without consulting me. Our family is so different now. We live in harmony

and we're both involved in financial decisions.” (23)

NARRATION

The training Epiphanie and her husband received is part of a government project called KWAMP which aims to increase farmers' incomes and food security. (11)

Supported by IFAD, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and Heifer International, qualifying families receive livestock and are trained to care for them. But it doesn't stop there. Everyone who receives livestock is also trained on gender equality. (19)

BOSCO ON-CAM
Farmer

BOSCO NDATIMANA: M (In Local Language)

“Happiness has been brought back into this house. The gender training was critical because I used to think that the money from milk and bananas was for me, and the money from beans and such was for women. We have been taught that the money we make is for the good of the entire family.” (19)

FAMILIES ATTENDING TRAINING

NARRATION

So far, about 6000 families have gone through this training. It is essential for them to learn about the link between gender equality in the household and poverty. (11)

RAYMOND ON-CAM
Gender Specialist, KWAMP

RAYMOND KAMWE M (In Local Language)

“Gender is a key part of our training program because we know the significant role that women play in lifting households out of

SHOT OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RWANDA

poverty. Women are crucial for the agricultural sector so we emphasise gender equality in farming so that they can contribute and share their vision for their family’s future.”

(22)

NARRATION

KAYILISA ON-CAM
Gender Coordinator, Ministry of
Agriculture

It’s all part of the Rwandan government’s nationwide push for gender equality. The east African country is the first in the world where women hold a parliamentary majority and new laws have given women rights to land, inheritance, employment opportunities and education. (19)

FAMILY ATTENDING WORKSHOP

KAYILISA CARITAS NDIAYE: F (In Local Language)

“We can’t talk about gender equality without talking about the independence, the financial independence of women. So we want our women to be economically empowered so that they can face their future.” (17)

NARRATION

LYDIVINE ON-CAM
Farmer

To help women become more economically empowered, the KWAMP project is also trying out something new. It is called the Gender Action Learning System or GALS. (12)

LYDIVINE WORKING IN FARM

Raymond has been working with couples to map out a common vision using counselling, drawings and visuals. Together they have developed a shared strategy and measurable goals for their family's development. (15)

LYDIVINE MUSABYIMANA: F (In Local Language)

"The training taught us how to work together in all aspects of our lives. Our love has come back and we share everything. We've built a toilet, renovated the house, bought livestock - anything is possible now." (15)

UN LOGO

NARRATION

And with Rwanda's focus on gender equality, anything is possible for many women. A recent study estimates that global GDP could increase by as much as US\$28 trillion by 2025 if more women like Lydivine and Epiphanie participated in economic growth. And it looks like Rwanda is on the way to achieving that. (26)

This report was produced by Okwi Okoh for the United Nations. (6)