

LEARNING FOR GENDER INTEGRATION

Photo book 2017

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Joweri and Sulai Maganda, husband and wife, share household chores that were traditionally done by women only (left, Uganda). Levi Mesis and her children are work together in their new family garden (center, Nicaragua). Women and men harvest rice together, instead of men migrating to find work (right, India).

LEARNING FOR GENDER INTEGRATION

In 2012, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and its local implementing partners launched the Learning for Gender Integration Initiative (LGI), an innovative program to address gender inequality in the context of food security. LGI's goal was to address inequalities to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities to benefit from LWR's food security work. LGI focused on learning about good practices in gender integration while piloting three gender-integrated food security programs in India, Nicaragua, and Uganda. These projects, which ended in 2016, were designed to create and adapt tools for use in future LWR projects.

In June of 2016, LWR won a Program Improvement Award from TOPS to conduct a final evaluation of LGI's three projects. Under the grant, Cultural Practice, LLC (CP) designed and led a participatory evaluation using two qualitative methodologies, Most Significant Change and PhotoVoice, to capture changes in food security and gender inequalities. The evaluation teams were made up of CP, LWR, and other peer organization staff. CP worked with the evaluation teams to produce this facilitation guidance on the combined methodology. The photos showcased here are from that evaluation. Many were taken by the project participants themselves.

TRAINING ON PHOTO VOICE (PV)



TRAINING ON PHOTO VOICE (PV)



The LGI Evaluation teams loaned cameras to farmers who had been participants in the LGI projects. After a brief introduction on how to use the cameras, photographers took photos that showed how women's and men's roles had changed since the beginning of the LGI project. The evaluation teams then guided the photographers through a process to identify which changes were most important to them by sorting them into domains, or themes.

ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



Ananias Suarez is posing next to the operating system of a hydraulic dam built. Water is now more easily accessible. "My wife or I use to have to haul water, but now I have more time to talk with the family or play with the children," he says.

*Photographer Ananias Suarez
(Nicaragua)*

ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



Muhamad and Amina Mugoya, husband and wife, work together to store sacks of grain. As a result of the project, they learned how to store sellable grain as a way to increase family farming income.

*Photographer Edward Nkwirize
(Uganda)*

ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



Sabit is using a sprayer to treat a field of eggplant with organic pesticide. Before the project, they did not grow a variety of vegetables and did not know how to treat different pests. “It feels good to know what to do when plants have pests and how to reduce infections. They use organic pesticide made of local materials.” she said.

Photographer Uma Tudu (India)

FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



Elida Ochoa's son, Eslien Yadio, helping in the onion garden. Elida is proud gardening together has helped improve household nutrition and brought her family closer together. "The kids are excited about agriculture and eating more vegetables. My son says, 'Hey Mom, I'm going to get a cabbage' and then he can run to our garden to grab one," she said.

Photographer Elida Ochoa (Nicaragua)

FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



The Castro family together in their family farm. Their communication has improved since participating in gender and masculinity training. “We now talk about how our days went, our ideas, and make decisions together. We include our daughter to engage her and nurture her love of nature,” she said.

Photographer Ana Castro (Nicaragua)

FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



Upendra and Sumi Mummu bundle rice together. Their village self-help group has been able to successfully cultivate previously barren land thanks to their new pump irrigation system. Irrigation also lets them grow crops outside of the monsoon season, so they have year-round food security. Because of the improved farming practices and technologies introduced, their annual yields have increased so significantly that fewer men have to migrate for work and can stay to help farm. “Before the project, we sometimes had to sow the seeds twice. Now, we only have to sow once and we get a lot of rice,” they said.

Photographer Meena Soren (India)

FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



FARMING AS A FAMILY BUSINESS



Zanbiya Nakalendiza is farming and her children are helping by dropping seeds and fertilizer. As a result of the project, all family members are working together to help each other.

*Photographer Janat Mutesi
(Uganda)*

WORKLOAD SHARING



WORKLOAD SHARING



"My neighbors are building their house with their family. This kind of family unity was encouraged by the project. There is now more communication between the father and his children."

*Photographer Julio Palacio
(Nicaragua)*

WORKLOAD SHARING



WORKLOAD SHARING



Josehina Mutei and Gorge Tiweta, wife and husband, are transferring bricks together. They will be using the bricks to build another house.

Photographer Efulans Nakirada (Uganda)

WORKLOAD SHARING



WORKLOAD SHARING



Mukalu Mutanda, Minza Kafunko, husband and wife, along with Muhamed Kagolo and Mutanda Bakali are doing carpentry work together. Before the project, women were not allowed to perform carpentry work with the men. Now, carpentry is shared among the family.

*Photographer Ismael Kirevu
(Uganda)*

WORKLOAD SHARING



WORKLOAD SHARING



Rammohan Hasda is bringing paddy from his field to thresh. Before the project, only women were carrying the heavy bundles. As a result of the project, men and women are now sharing the hard work of carrying heavy bundles.

*Photographer Baburam Hasda
(India)*



REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



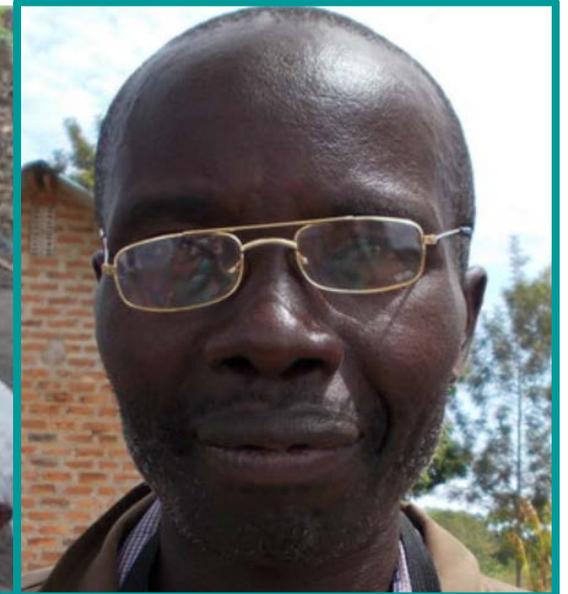
Rosibel Mesis' husband is washing dishes after dinner. Rosibel started sewing to earn extra income and her husband supports her by helping out with chores. "The project has contributed to my development and I plan to stay in the cooperative," she said.

*Photographer Rosibel Mesis
(Nicaragua)*

REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



Magai Muhamana and Sauma Kagoya, husband and wife, sit with their family while Magai serves lunch. “Men used to eat separately from the family with his own meal. Now, it is acceptable for men to serve food and eat together with his family,” he said.

*Photographer Mark Mbarara
(Uganda)*

REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



Bilali Mukwaya is tailoring while his wife, Nusura, is selling mukene or silverfish. As a result of the project, both women and men take part in income-generating activities, whereas before the financial responsibility was not shared.

*Photographer Ismael Kirevu
(Uganda)*

REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



REDEFINING GENDER ROLES



Ram Kishore Hasda and his wife are using a threshing machine provided by the project. They are very happy that it now takes much less time to complete this task.

Photographer Baburam Hasda (India)

JOINT DECISION-MAKING



JOINT DECISION-MAKING



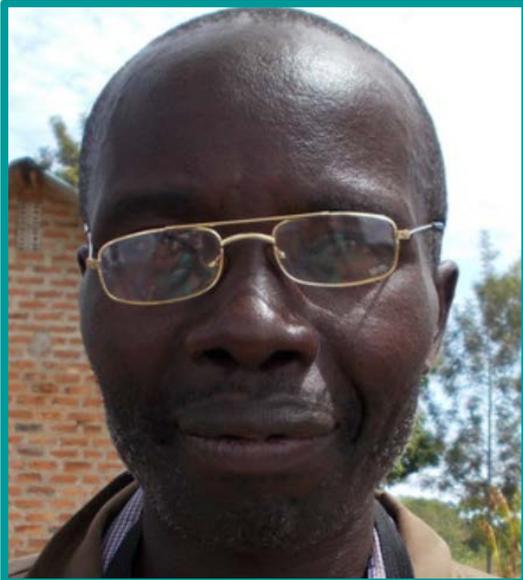
The community created a gender balanced Board of Directors to help advance their organization. "Project progress faster with good leaders. They have to organize and direct, as well as foster better communication and transparency about assets and funds," he said.

*Photographer Alfredo Perez
(Nicaragua)*

JOINT DECISION-MAKING



JOINT DECISION-MAKING



The women and men meet with their local village savings group. Community members save together for their future, which promotes good relationships and interactions among the members. “They work together as a team and there is love and harmony in the families. The change is important because it has brought people together and has helped increase their savings,” he said.

Photographer Mark Mbarara (Uganda)

JOINT DECISION-MAKING



JOINT DECISION-MAKING



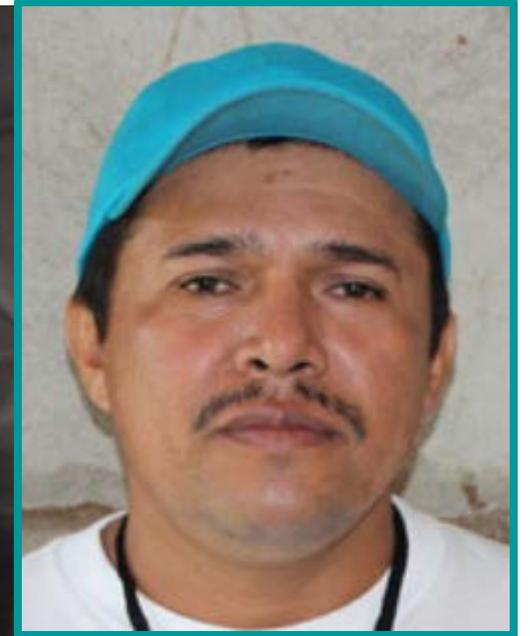
A group meeting of families who are interested in enrolling their children for the next school term. As a result of the project, farmers harvested higher vegetable yields and increased their income. "I felt very happy seeing so many people who participated in the project able to send their children to school," she said.

Photographer Mary Bisra (India)

SELF-CONFIDENCE



SELF-CONFIDENCE



Sandra Lopez is organizing her store. Sandra was empowered to take charge of her household and confront her husband about his excessive drinking through participating in gender workshops. She now owns her own business and is a gender promoter in the community.

Photographer Juan Arceda (Nicaragua)

SELF-CONFIDENCE



SELF-CONFIDENCE



Mercedes Chavarria Ochoa is telling her children and grandchildren about how she managed to purchase land and become the first cooperative member of the family. As a result of the project, the whole family is empowered and involved with the cooperative.

*Photographer Alfredo Perez
(Nicaragua)*

SELF-CONFIDENCE



SELF-CONFIDENCE



Esther Ajambo selling items in her family's her shop. Before, only men were allowed to sell in shops. Now, because she saved enough money in her savings group, Esther was able to open a family shop to earn a bit of income. She is able to earn money to pay school fees and support other needs at the home.

Photographer Mark Mbarara (Uganda)

SELF-CONFIDENCE



SELF-CONFIDENCE



Manjeli is selling organic tomatoes directly to a buyer. As a result of the project, small holder farmers have surplus vegetables from their family gardens which can be sold for additional income. “The women feel good about selling vegetables instead of the fuelwood from the forest. It’s less tiring and time consuming to grow vegetables and sell them, than collecting fuelwood,” she said.

Photographer Uma Tudu (India)

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



INVESTING IN EDUCATION



Levi Mesis helps her son with his homework. As a result of the project, Levi was empowered to make changes in the household for her children's benefit. "I want to try and expand my son's knowledge. This includes extra learning activities that he could learn at home that I can teach him," she said.

Photographer Levi Mesis (Nicaragua)

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



INVESTING IN EDUCATION



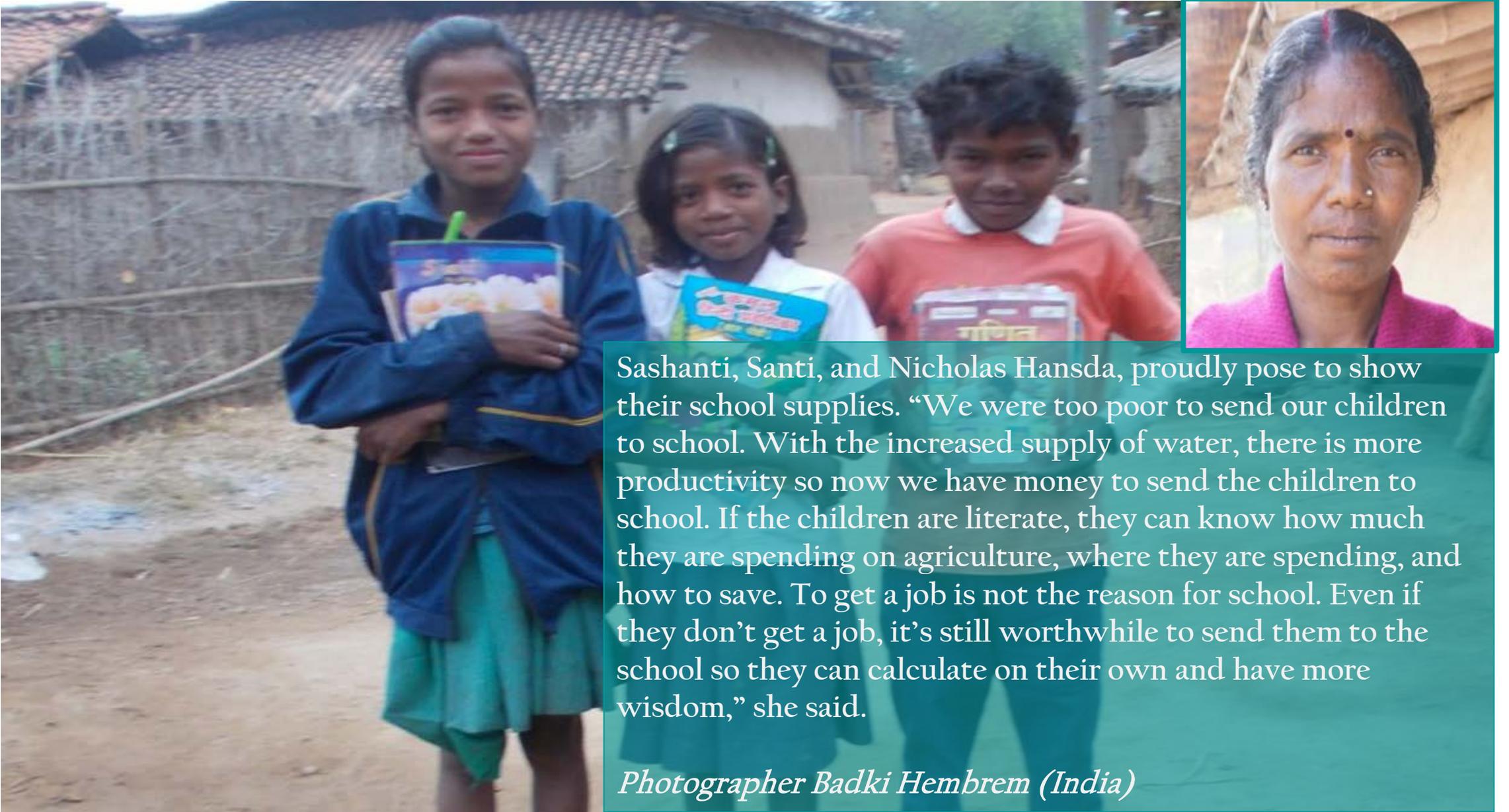
Farahaji Wasuwas and Halima Namakula, husband and wife, discuss who will take the children to school. Before the project, women could only stay home. Now, men and women have a better understanding about the importance of mobility. “Halima, and other mothers, can now take their children to school,” he said.

Photographer Ismael Kirevu (Uganda)

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



INVESTING IN EDUCATION



Sashanti, Santi, and Nicholas Hansda, proudly pose to show their school supplies. “We were too poor to send our children to school. With the increased supply of water, there is more productivity so now we have money to send the children to school. If the children are literate, they can know how much they are spending on agriculture, where they are spending, and how to save. To get a job is not the reason for school. Even if they don’t get a job, it’s still worthwhile to send them to the school so they can calculate on their own and have more wisdom,” she said.

Photographer Badki Hembrem (India)



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