

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

EAST AFRICA

In East Africa, more than 50% of the population working in the agriculture sector are female, which includes adolescent girls. Girls may engage in a variety of tasks including taking care of poultry or other small livestock on their family's smallholder farm, and older girls of legal age may be employed in agriculture. While wage-earning jobs in agriculture can provide opportunities, traditional roles can have implications for education, earning, saving, safety, and wellbeing.



NATURE OF THE PROBLEM FOR GIRLS



LEARN

Girls engaged in domestic agriculture-related work on their family farms may be hindered or prevented from attending school, especially during harvest time.



EARN

Girls are often not paid for agricultural chores at home. Older girls have less access to resources and decision-making power than older boys and young men.



SAVE

While laws in the region are changing so that women may own, control, and inherit resources such as farm animals or land, often cultural norms supersede these laws. This continues to make it difficult for older girls to gain financial independence or start their own business.



STAY SAFE

Husbands generally control their wives' earnings. This dependence can make it difficult for a girl to remove herself from an abusive situation.

DEPTH: WHAT IMPACT CAN A SOLUTION BRING?



Time and labour saving tools could enable girls with domestic farming responsibilities to save time, allowing more time for education, rest, or leisure.



Providing safe, fair, and regular earning opportunities can increase girls' aspiration to tangible careers in agriculture. Training and lending for girls makes agriculture a more attractive path.



Promote financial independence for girls through microfinance (credit and savings) and financial literacy.








Help to mitigate against early marriage or abuse through improving financial security and independence.

FOCUS: WHICH GIRLS WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST?

The types of interventions that may be possible for this sector may either impact older girls employed in agricultural work or younger girls contributing to smallholder farming duties. Solutions may include agricultural time and labour saving devices, training, access to inputs, finance, advice, and markets.

SCALE: HOW MANY GIRLS CAN BE REACHED?

	% of girls 15-19 employed in last 12 months	% of girls 15-19 employed in agriculture
KENYA 	21.4%	28.6%
ETHIOPIA 	49.4%	52.6%
RWANDA 	61.7%	60.4%
TANZANIA 	51.9%	73.4%
UGANDA 	51.4%	60.2%

SPRING EAST AFRICA PARTICIPANTS WORKING IN AGRICULTURE

