



community agriculture and environmental protection association – **cameroon**

evidence-based gender equity & transformative development

A preliminary step to achieving greater gender equity and gender transformative development is to collect, collate and strategize based on gender-specific data in key areas affecting women and girls. Building on CAEPA's evidence-base for its key interventions seeking to advance the rights of women and girls is critical to its program development and performance measurement. Household data will be collected periodically throughout its strategic plan, and will help to shape community animation.

The 2011 reforms announced at Cameroon's agro-pastoral assembly highlight the issue of land tenure and women's lack of access, ownership and control over land. While women have access to but no formal legal rights to land, through inheritance or otherwise, their ability to invest in their land in a sustainable way is fragile and wholly dependent on variables such as their marital status, whether they have children, the gender and age of their children, and customary law, etc.

CAEPA will form rural women's access and ownership committees to promote women's right to land, livestock and property ownership and development for farming and pastoral/transhumance communities within its catchment areas.

Beyond this lie numerous other key areas in which the legal rights of women and girls ought to be strengthened, however CAEPA will build on its previous work to engage communities and the judiciary in better protecting the rights of women and girls in cases of forced marriage and domestic violence. CAEPA will raise community and judicial awareness about violence against women and girls; will build their capacity to respond to violence against women, and will lobby the government to revise legal codes to include provisions related to violence against women.

CAEPA will engage pre-pubescent boys and girls in sexual and reproductive rights and empowerment workshops to raise awareness about consent, healthy notions about femininity and masculinity, and to inform children how to recognize and seek help in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Women's groups will also be engaged in discussions and shared-learning around basic family planning methods (moon beads, condoms, exclusive breastfeeding, etc), safe and consensual sex, VCT, and maternal and newborn nutrition and health. Men will be engaged in quarterly 'soccer socials' whereby key issues are discussed such as notions of masculinity and femininity; safe and consensual sex, VCT, communication and healthy intimate relationships in a relaxed social environment. Birth registration and school attendance of both boys and girls will be promoted in an effort to better protect the rights of every child.

helping families thrive in sustainable communities

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