

## STRUCTURED SUMMARY

# GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES IN PASTORAL AREAS

Good practices and recommendations

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## Motivation

Pastoral societies in Africa are often characterised by gendered labour divisions, unequal resource access and decision-making power, differentially impacting women's and men's well-being and resilience. Gender transformative approaches (GTAs) address structural inequities by aiming to change harmful and restrictive norms to more equitably reach, benefit, empower and support more inclusive and resilient pastoral development.

## Purpose

We aimed to identify gender-transformative interventions in pastoralist communities to learn how to better tailor GTAs for dryland communities.

## Approach and methods

We reviewed primary and secondary sources to understand GTAs in pastoral contexts in Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) countries in East and West Africa. Data sources provide insight on the aims of GTAs, target groups, mechanisms used to implement GTAs, and metrics used to assess impact.

## Findings

GTAs are implemented unevenly geographically, and they are often embedded in other sector-specific or cross-sectoral programmes. Interventions often aim to improve livelihoods, enhance resilience, reduce harmful practices, and improve health and resource governance. The most common focus of GTAs is to improve livelihoods, often supporting diversification into agricultural activities over livestock-based activities. Transformative impacts occur most frequently in women's decision-making, reductions in harmful practices and in changes related to resources, namely the role of women in their management and governance. Evidence of GTAs in mobile and pastoralist communities is lacking.

## Policy implications

Based on these findings that are detailed in the technical report, GTAs must consider how to reach and work with mobile and remote populations with limited access to services. Engaging with complex familial arrangements and

with customary institutions is critical to embed GTAs in pastoral contexts: but more needs to be done to enhance pastoralists' agency in setting the agenda. Practical guides and metrics are needed to build the capacities of practitioners and policy-makers to work in diverse pastoral settings and develop a better understanding of what works for whom, where, how and why.

Five specific recommendations stem from our study:

- 1.** Integrate intersectional approaches early in livelihood programmes
- 2.** Improve inclusive engagement through multigenerational and family-based approaches
- 3.** Bolster the voice and agency of pastoralists in setting pastoral development agendas
- 4.** Link and foster relationships between local champions and leaders of grassroots efforts in national, regional and global platforms
- 5.** Improve documentation of impact, including through innovative approaches to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for mobile populations.

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