



ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEMAND DRIVEN
DEVELOPMENT IN EMPOWERING WOMEN: THE CASE
OF BAMBASI WOREDA, BENESHANGUL-GUMUZ REGION.**

BY: HIZBAYESH GETAHUN ID. NO: GSE/8797/12

ADVISOR: AYNALEM MEGERSA (PhD)

JUNE, 2023

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER STUDIES**

JUNE, 2023

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Statement of Declaration

I, **Hizbayesh Getahun**, the under signed, declare that this thesis entitled: “The Role of Community Demand Driven Development in Empowering Women: The Case of Bambasi Woreda, Beneshangul-Gumuz Region, Ethiopia” is my original work. I have undertaken the research work independently with the guidance and support of the research supervisor. This study has not been submitted for any degree or diploma program in this or any other institutions and that all sources of materials used for the thesis has been duly acknowledged.

Declared by

Hizbayesh Getahun_

Name of Student

Signature

Date

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Center for Gender Studies

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Hizbayesh Getahun, entitled “The Role of Community Demand Driven Development in Empowering Women: The Case of Bambasi Woreda, Beneshangul-Gumuz Region Ethiopia” and submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Gender Studies, College of Development Studies complies with the rule and regulation of university and hopefully meets the accepted standard with respect to originality and quality.

Signature of Board of Examiner`s:

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Advisor	Signature	Date
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External Examiner	Signature	Date
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Internal examiner	Signature	Date

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDD	Community Demand Driven
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
CIGs	Common Interest Groups
DRDIP	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal year
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FHHs	Female Headed Households
HHs	Households
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
MHHs	Male Headed Households
MPC	Multiple Primary Cooperatives
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCDP	Pastoral Community Development Program
PASACCOs	Pastoral Savings and Credit Cooperatives
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
RUSACCOs	Rural saving and Credit Cooperatives
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nation
UNHCR	United Nation Hihger Commission for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WIMHHs	Women in Male Headed Households
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

Abstract

Women empowerment, which remains a substantial issue in Ethiopia, is taken as a research concern in Bambasi Wereda of Benishangul-Gumuz Region. Women in the study area were not empowered both socially and economically as men. This limited empowerment has resulted due to the presence of limited women's participation, lack of capacity building, denial of access and control of resources and deprivation of women to decision making. To avoid these restricting factors, a community driven development approach was implemented by the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project in the study area. This study pinned out the role of community Demand Driven Development in empowering women in the study area.

Both qualitative and quantitative research approaches (mixed research approach) were used. Questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions and document reviews were applied and data were collected concurrently to generate and analyze the data obtained through purposive, stratified, and random sampling techniques. A total of 197 people took part in the study, with 135 Women respondents (48 FHHs and 87 women in MHHs) in household survey, 20 in interviews with key informants, and 42 in focus group discussions. Secondary data were collected from review of related studies, project reports and plans, and other related literature. Quantitative data was coded, entered, validated, and analyzed by descriptive statistics using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-25). Qualitative data was also categorized by themes and then analyzed.

The results of the study indicated that community demand driven development interventions have significantly contributed to women's participation in economic and social issues, household and community decision makings, and improved income, which in turn increased women's empowerment in the study areas.

Gender norms which encourage the sphere of women at home and household tasks, prevents women from participating in community decisions and community meetings on an equal footing with men, their lower educational status, presence less seed money for common interest groups and rural saving and credit cooperatives which limited credit access to engage in business requiring more money were encountered problems for women.

Arranging convenient time for household work, sharing domestic workloads with young children and husbands, combating gender norms in community meetings through representatives of women committee-based members, getting support from their children and relative students in recording their expenditure and revenue, improving group saving to fill gaps to engage in big business and to diversify their business, and sharing of market information through mobile phones were among the coping mechanisms that women were used for encountered problems.

Conducting continuous awareness creation trainings on gender issues at grass root level; arranging appropriate time and meeting place, capacity-buildings; promoting women-leadership trainings; creating linkage with microfinances and increasing group saving; promoting women friendly agricultural extension services, adopting labor and energy-saving technologies, and encouraging adult education for women to adopt technologies are suggested recommendations by the study.

Key Words and Phrases: Capacity building, Community Demand Driven, Decision making, Nontraditional livelihood, Participation, Women empowerment.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Women's empowerment and gender equality are high on the agenda worldwide as gender inequality is pervasive in all cultures. In developing countries, gender disparities in education, labor force and political participation, as well as in the allocation of economic resources and participation, are widespread compared to developed countries (Ahmed et al., 2001). The mentioned gender inequality is due to the pervasiveness of deep-rooted socio-cultural gender discrimination, patriarchal domination, harmful traditional practices, conflict, racism and poverty (Endalkachew,2016).

According to the World Bank (2019), while the Ethiopian government has made significant commitments and investments to close the country's gender gap and empower women, gender gaps are not being minimized as expected. Ethiopian women still lag behind men on several key economic indicators, including employment rates, agricultural productivity, self-employment income and wage income. United Nations Gender Inequality Index (conducted assessment on gender-based inequalities in reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity), also showed that Ethiopia ranks 123rd out of 162 countries (United Nations Development Programme, 2019).

According to IDRC (2020) report, in Ethiopia, women still experience significant gender inequalities and economic marginalization. They have limited or restricted access to and control over productive capital resources such as land, financial, advisory and training services needed to increase and improve their economic skills and empowerment (IDRC, 2020). The labor force participation rate for women is 74.2% compared to 86.5% for men. Women are also a minority among professionals: 32.6% and 26.5% among managers and senior civil servants, and 16.5% among entrepreneurs (IDRC, 2020). Only 44% of women and 59% of men are literate, and almost 20% of girls and 12% of boys do not receive formal primary education (World Economic Forum,

2020). IDEA (2021) also reported that 41% of the seats in the People's House of Representatives are women.

The empowerment of women and gender equality are the prerequisites for equality to achieve political, social, economic, cultural and ecological security among people (Beijing, 1995). To achieve women's empowerment and gender equality, liberal feminists stated that reforms against gender discrimination have to be introduced through the formulation of laws and policies (Bimer E. & Alemeneh G. 2018). Ethiopia developed national instruments and ratified international conventions: international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights of the Child (1999) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Ratified in 1981 (Beyene, 2019). The country also developed national instruments such as the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (1997), which contains articles on rights, including the right to life, security and liberty (Articles 14, 16, 17); Rights to equality (Article 25) and marriage, personality and family rights (Article 34). Article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of Women advocates affirmative action, Article 42 protects her right to employment, promotion and equal pay, and Article 53 guarantees her right of access and control over resources and her right to consultation, the revised Federal Family Law of 4th July 2000 (Proc. 213/2000), the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation (No. 456/2005), the Civil Servants Proclamation (No. 1064/2017), the new Labor Code Proclamation 1156/2019 Art. 87 and Art 88, Gender Mainstreaming Directive Proclamation No. 1097/2018, Laws against Violence Against Women in effect since July 2004 and Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019.

There are also national policies and plans for women. These are: the 1993 National Women's Policy, the 2005 Family Law National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2006, Women's Development Plan 2006, National Action Plan for Harmful Traditional Practices 2013, Women's Development Plan 2017, health policy, Education and Training policy (1994), National Plan of Action for Gender- Equality (NAP-GE)), Plan for speed up and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP 2005/2006-09/10), Food Security Strategy, Water Sector Development Strategy, and also the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) I and II are among the milestones that further gender equality and empowerment have addressed (MoWCYA,2013).

To strengthen accountability, the government also recently issued proclamation No. 916/2015 that requires all government institutions to address women's issues in policies, laws, and development programs and projects (ibid). Following the aforementioned conventions, policies and laws, government and different development partners have been intervened to empower women through projects and programs.

World Bank recognized community driven development (CDD) projects and programs as means to emphasize community control over planning decisions and investment resources and to promote women empowerment and (Wong ,2012).

The Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) was a five-year CDD driven project implemented under Ministry of Agriculture from 2016-2021. The project is being implemented with funding of \$100 million loan from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and contributions in kind, labor and cash from the community. The project intervention areas are refuge hosting community of five regions of Ethiopia namely Afar, Beneshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray to mitigate the social and economic impact of the refugee situation (DRDIP,2016).

DRDIP PIM (2016) shown that DRDIP is a multi-level, multi-sectorial project which works with communities through decentralized structures of the local government to enhance the capacity to identify, plan, manage, mobilize resources and prioritize interventions aimed to improve access to basic social service, expand economic opportunities, enhance sustainable environmental management and improve the livelihood opportunities for host and refugee communities in the targeted areas. The project seeks to address the created problem through interlinked technical and investment components by improving social services, and economic opportunities. The Project comprises four major components (i) Social and Economic Services and Infrastructure; to improve the refugee and hosting communities' access to basic social services and economic infrastructure services and improve service delivery capacity of various implementing sectors. Sub projects identified, prioritized, implemented and managed by the community through performing Community Demand Driven Development (CDD) approach which boosts empowerment of women and vulnerable groups. (ii) Sustainable Environmental Management: to ensure that environmental and natural resources are carefully and sustainably managed so they can support current and future needs and livelihoods; (iii) Support to Livelihoods Program: is to

enhance refugee hosting communities' and the refugee livelihood options and increase their income to and (iv) Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure the timely implementation of the project according to its core principles and Project Development Objectives, effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) of results, including results related to crosscutting issues, and a consistent and effective approach to capacity development.

DRDIP social assessment (2016) showed that because of the demographic feature of refugee created scarcity of resources and the multiple roles of women have been the most vulnerable groups. Thus, to solve these created problems, the project implemented CDD approach. The major purpose of the study is to assess the impact of CDD approach to the empowerment of women at micro (individual) and meso /community/ level through all project components particularly in project's Sustainable Livelihood Programs specifically nontraditional livelihood sub component.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women make up about half of Ethiopia's population and are known to play important roles as mothers, producers, managers and community developers/organizers. However, as mentioned in the background, women are disadvantaged and have fewer economic, social and political benefits compared to men. Yishak A et al. (2015) points out those women generally have a low socio-economic status due to lack of essential resources (such as land, education, employment, health services and the protection of their rights). In addition, women also have less decision-making autonomy and are surrounded by violence and harmful traditional practices. The Ethiopian Population and Health Survey (2016) also showed that 30% of Ethiopian women do not make decisions about individual and family matters. This is due to the patriarchal nature of the country (Beyene, 2019 & Yishak A. et al., 2015) and to gender bias and gender blindness in the implementation of development activities.

Therefore, empowering women to participate fully in economic life in all sectors is essential to building stronger economies, meeting internationally agreed development goals and improving the quality of life of women, men, families and communities (UNWOMEN, 2014). As implied here, the economic empowerment of women triggers economic development across the country,

which in turn can lead to improvements in community life at all levels. Therefore, the economic and social empowerment of women should be a priority action for all in the development agenda.

As empowerment of women and gender equality are prerequisite for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among people (Beijing, 1995), the government of Ethiopia with the cooperation of different non-governmental organizations have implemented different policies and programs. The World Bank in Ethiopia is among the leading development partners which has been contributing its role to empower women.

According to World Bank (2017), implementation of a bottom-up approach, which is a community driven development approach for community empowerment, encourages women's participation in community development programs. The Approach stressed that the low level of women's participation in decision-making activities is seen as one of the greatest barriers to improve gender balance, which consequently hinders economic development. These will be alleviated if CDD approach is adopted (Steffen M.,2014).

Though CDD is important to bring changes in women's lives, there are barriers which impede the positive impacts of CDD on women. As reported from IFAD-supported CDD projects evaluation synthesis, yet women were benefited from increased voice and decision-making in CDD, and they also play an important role as agents of change, however, existing power relations can work against women's participation and empowerment, if unaddressed (IFAD,2020). Ziaey, A. J. (2021) also indicated that increasing women's participation in rural projects is a long-term endeavor and does not necessarily convert into sustainable changes in rural decision-making. This is happened due to numerous constraints, such as women's lack of confidence, the dominant patriarchal attitudes, and social norms in the majority of rural areas, development researchers and practitioners cannot safely assume that women would be willing and able to take part in decision-making processes to the best of their abilities. As implied from the above statements, continuous efforts have to be exerted to avoid problems dominant patriarchal attitudes, unwanted social norms, and to enhance women's decision-making and the likes.

Development response to displacement impacts project (DRDIP) is one of the World Bank financed projects which has adopted a community driven development approach. The project is praised being gender sensitive at the design level. The project implementation Manual (PIM) encourages women to participate in the program as beneficiaries as well as decision makers. It

has established appropriate institutional frameworks for the promotion of gender equality to meet the needs of women in social and economic infrastructure services and livelihood programs (DRDIP PIM, 2016). However, the extent to which the project contributed to women socio economic empowerment is not identified yet with empirical evidences. Thus, this research seeks to assess the role of CDD approach on the social and economic empowerment of women focusing on non-traditional livelihood programs in the case of Bambasi Woreda. During the assessment, the role of CDD on women participation, decision making (at household level and community level), access and control of local resources was examined thoroughly, and recommendations was drawn on how to strengthen CDD projects to government and non-governmental development projects in Ethiopia.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this research is to examine the role of Community Demand Driven Development approach in the social and economic empowerment of women through non-traditional livelihood programs in Bambasi Woreda, Beneshangul-Gumuz Region.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- To assess the role of the CDD approach in empowering women in terms of participation in nontraditional livelihood programs and capacity-building trainings.
- To assess the role of CDD approach in nontraditional livelihood in empowering women in terms of decision-making at household and community level.
- To assess the role of CDD approach in empowering women in terms of access and control of resources.
- To examine the challenges that women encountered, and
- To assess the coping mechanisms to overcome the challenges in implementation of non-traditional livelihood programs through CDD Approach

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are believed to show the social and economic benefits of CDD approach to women. Additionally, the study also identified the challenges that women faced in the course of CDD implementation and the coping mechanisms that women used to combat encountered problems. The information and data generated by this study and the recommendations provided will be supposed to be utilized by DRDIP in improving its implementation process and outcomes. The study will provide also information and guidance for those persons who are interested to conduct researches on the role of CDD in empowering women,

Moreover, policy makers are also expected to be benefited from the data and information on CDD projects which may assist them in development of future policy frameworks that will guide the funding and implementation of projects with similar approaches.

1.5 Delimitation of the Study

The CDD approach has been implemented by DRDIP in five regional states of Ethiopia. Namely: Afar, Beneshangu-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray regions, within 16 woredas and 117 kebeles with four components as described in the background part. However, as DRDIP PIM (2016) showed, among the components, sustainable non-traditional livelihoods program has given special attention for women and by this reason, the study focused on it. The study also covered two DRDIP intervention kebeles of Bambasi Woreda, Beneshangul-Gumuz region.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

Because financial and time constraints, the study was limited only to one woreda and 2 kebeles of study participant host communities who have been living in the project intervention kebeles since 2016 the project is implemented. The study did not cover the refugee community. So, it is difficult to generalize findings and facts to the whole DRDIP intervention woredas and kebeles. Another recommended study may cover the interventions

CHAPTER TWO

Related Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter examines various past studies and theories that are related to community driven development and women empowerment. To be able to understand these concepts, the researcher reviewed the theoretical literature, empirical works on CDD, and used conceptual frameworks.

2.2 Theoretical Literature

2.2.1 The Concept of Community Driven Development and Its Rationality

HP Binswanger-Mkhize (2009) noted that the role of communities has evolved and expanded from the time when development professionals consulted with communities to community involvement in certain aspects of development programs. Community participation is the main focus of poverty alleviation and achieving sustainable development for development practitioners. International and national development organizations present these perspectives in economic, social and development programs by taking different initiatives. CDD programs have been implemented in low- and middle-income countries to fund the construction or rehabilitation of schools, water and sanitation systems, health care facilities, roads and other types of public infrastructure. They have also been used to fund private cash transfer to individual households (World Bank, 2017). Community Driven Development (CDD) is not a project; It is an approach that aims to give both communities and local governments the resources and powers to use them flexibly and take control of their development.

The World Bank defines community-driven development (CDD) as programs which “operate on the principles of local empowerment, participatory governance, demand-responsiveness, administrative autonomy, greater downward accountability, and enhanced local capacity” It gives control over planning decisions and investment resources to the community by implementing interventions in the principle that community involvement in project implementation steps will result in better development outcomes (World Bank, 2017). One can understand that the

participation of all community members in programs and projects at grass root level is mandatory for sustainable development.

The World Bank recognizes the CDD approach as an effective poverty-reduction and sustainable development strategy which is a tool used to reduce poverty by enhancing community participation, inclusive participation and giving value the voiceless community (World Bank, 2021). As the above sentence revealed, CDD is a successful instrument for poverty reduction by accomplishing prompt and lasting results at grass root levels because CDD programs operate on the principles of transparency, participation, accountability, and enhanced local capacity (ibid).

The principle of CDD intervention is to empower local communities by implementing a decentralized approach at the grassroots level, encouraging community participation in the identification and prioritization of development projects, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (World Bank, 2017). The CDD approach builds the community to be owner of the development programs. It creates a link with the government; improves the decision-making skills of the community to manage their resources, saves resources, creates transparency, builds social cohesion within the community. The World Bank group (2017) also strengthened this by stating that CDD is a ‘bottom-up approach’ to poverty reduction, inclusive of poor and vulnerable groups, since it has the potential to empower poor people, improve governance, build social capital, and strengthen communities’ collective actions. Wong (2012) also showed that some CDD programs have been more successful than others at reaching marginalized and excluded groups. Social inclusion and inclusive growth are becoming a major policy issue. Within countries, lagging regions, growing income inequalities, and exclusion of vulnerable groups are some of the major challenges for government policy makers in developed and developing countries alike.

2.2.2 Community Driven Development Principles

CDD works to build opportunities, strengthen the people's voice to demand greater accountability of the institutions that are relevant to their livelihoods, and to promote sustainable development (World Bank, 2008), To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of CDD policies, programme design, and implementation, the following principles apply:

- i. Make investments responsive to informed demand. The project encouraged the community to select and prioritize their investment needs and options by promoting informed choice through arranged structures from federal to kebele levels (DRDIP PIM,2016). So, communities within their capacity and can afford to operate in the long run.
- ii. Build participatory mechanisms for community control and stakeholder involvement. CDD highly encourages involvement of all stakeholders in all phases of the CDD project. Since the DRDIP project was a multi-sectoral project, different stakeholders including the community participated in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluations. The project was proactively mainstream the targeting of women in community consultations through various methods, including a social mapping exercise that would identify inter alia women's groups and women leaders.
- iii. Invest in capacity building of community-based organizations (CBOs). The DRDIP completion report (2022) showed that CBOs were organized based on their interest and capacitated nearby villages. The CDD approach allowed the community, particularly women, to get training in their villages by saving time.
- iv. Facilitate community access to information: The project was supported by relevant information to study participant communities, CBO members and institutional stakeholders based on a clearly elaborated communication strategy and arrangements for internal learning by preparing different platforms like review meetings, workshops, experience sharing events, learning forums at community level, community meetings, and kebele notice boards (ibid)
- v. Develop simple rules and strong incentives supported by monitoring and evaluation: The CDD approach orders the community to access resources by governing simple rules and procedures that are easy for communities to interpret and apply. Then, the study participant community of the project had their own rules to manage their local resources. For instance, CBOs have bylaws for their non-traditional livelihood business. The project also conducted a participatory monitoring and evaluation with stakeholders and the community (ibid).
- vi. Ensure social and gender inclusion: The project PIM indicated that to increase women's participation and to minimize the gender gap in intervention regions, explicit gender-sensitive approaches were employed which supported CBOs individuals' and the interests of groups that are often excluded, including women, minority groups, individuals, and the poorest women and men. these gender disparities are minimized and then women as individual are empowered and

the community's beliefs have changed. As a result, in every component of the project, there is participation of women in different shares.

- vii. Design for scaling-up. To have a broader impact on a country's poverty, CDD needs to spread simultaneously in many communities, while respecting the unique features of specific communities. Key aspects of design for such scaling-up include mobilizing administrative and political support, adopting decentralized approval and disbursement processes, devolving responsibilities to communities, clustering programme activities, keeping procedures simple, monitoring and evaluating both processes and outcomes, and promoting networks among CBOs.
- viii. Invest in an exit strategy. Exit strategies for external support are vital. Permanent institutional and financial arrangements are required for recurrent services, at a cost that can be supported over the medium and long term. The Project has arranged the existing strategies through CDD approaches, which have been fully implemented within the existing government system. The local administrators are owners of the project and six community-based committees (kebele development committee, Community management committee, community procurement committee, community social audit committee, community facilitation team, community grievance committee) were established and served the project. The community contributed in cash and, kind and labor contributions to infrastructure investments to develop a sense of ownership and for the sustainability of the investments. Moreover, the community themselves developed criteria and CBOs developed their bylaws to administer their business.

2.2.3 Gender Features in Community Driven Development Operations

Addressing gender issues through considering gender differences is a matter of effectiveness for sustainable development (World Bank, 2010). Browne (2014) indicated that the CDD approach is essential to minimize the gender gap by reducing the barriers to women's participation in development by using principles as follows:

Elite capture is a significant concern since 'uncontrolled' CDD will not necessarily benefit women, the poor and other disadvantaged groups; women's participation is a central problem as they do not usually have the time and/or confidence to contribute to village planning processes; to reach women and other disadvantaged groups, CDD needs to have explicit targets for them or mandatory participation requirements; programs with an explicit gender strategy are more likely to impact on women's empowerment than

programs without clear gender equality goals; programs which allow women-only space appear effective in enabling women's voice and developing projects that respond to women's needs; and CDD programs struggle to change attitudes and norms around women's social position;

The above researcher concluded that a well-designed CDD produced positive gender outcomes, such as: improved participation of women in village-level meetings and processes; and personal empowerment and voice acceptance; women's access to services; increased skills and accounting income. It is understandable that the CDD project addresses gender differences at the family and community levels by creating an environment where men and women participate equally at grassroots level. As explained by the World Bank (2015), CDD projects support women to gain independence and improve their socio-cultural, economic and political status by enabling them to participate in meetings on grass-roots development agendas. CDD interventions that pay particular attention to gender impacts have the potential to produce better outcomes on the ground and become a vehicle for women's empowerment.

From the above-mentioned concepts, barriers of women like time constraints due to heavy domestic and agricultural workload, cost of travel to meetings and lost income, dependence on their husband's resources and permission, low levels of representation in village bodies, low levels of education and literacy, hampering women's ability to get elected, inability to challenge male domination, will be solved by implement using of CDD approach properly at local community.

The IFAD (2020) evaluation synthesis indicated that CDD interventions can be successful in addressing gender issues in design and implementation only if they are based on a good diagnosis of how and why the livelihood needs and strategies of men and women differ. Because the assigned roles and responsibilities for women and men are different, the ability of men and women to access resources at both the household and community levels is also different. From this, one can understand that the CDD projects that overlook these differences may not be effective in empowering women and it would also limit the effectiveness of the program. The World Bank (2017) report stated CDD projects that pay particular attention to gender impacts have the potential to achieve better results on the ground and succeed in empowering the whole community and women included.

2.3 Theoretical Overview of Empowerment

2.3.1 The Concept of Empowerment

Since the late 1970s, academics and aid workers in the English-speaking world, including in social services, social psychology, public health, adult literacy and community development have been adopting the term empowerment in their work (Emmanuelle (2009). Empowerment is a multi-dimensional occurrence within sociological, psychological, economic, and other dimensions. Empowerment also occurs at various levels, such as individual, group, and community. Empowerment, by definition, is a social process, since it occurs in relationships with others. Empowerment is a process that is similar to a path or journey, one that develops as we work through it. Other aspects of empowerment may vary according to the specific context and people involved, but these remain constant. In addition, one important implication of this definition of empowerment is that the individual and community are fundamentally connected (Perkins,2010). As the writer noted, empowerment has multidimensional definitions and is a mainstreaming concept in international development programs.

As Emmanule(2009), empowerment is an ideology that describes the ability of an individual or group to act to ensure their own well-being or their right to participate in decisions that affect them. According to this concept, empowerment ensures that individuals and groups have control over their lives. Furthermore, the World Bank defined empowerment as "improving the capacity of needy people to influence the state institutions that affect their lives by strengthening their involvement in political processes and local decision-making," as noted by Emmanuèle (2009). In this scenario, empowerment allows the poor and disadvantaged to make their own decisions and have their voices heard. In CDD initiatives, the World Bank (2015) defines empowerment as the expansion of poor people's assets and capabilities to participate in negotiating with, influence, control, and hold accountable organizations that touch their lives. In conclusion, CDD assists vulnerable populations in improving their lives through participation.

Furthermore, Rompteau et al. (2007) suggested that empowerment is important for individuals' ability to gain greater independence and self-determination as a means of broadening their opportunities, as well as for groups' ability to influence social change and progress toward a fair and equal society. In general, we conclude from the authors' description that empowerment entails

paying attention to personal growth and change, as well as communal growth in connection to political and societal developments.

2.3.2 Women's Empowerment

Since 1985, popular women's movements in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as feminist movements, have focused on improving self-esteem and confidence, as well as transforming gender relations in the economic, political, legal, and socio-cultural realms (ibid). Different scholars explain women empowerment in different ways. The process of empowering women is known as women empowerment. Accepting women's perspectives, ability to govern and benefit from resources, risk management, and enhancing women's wellness are some of the ways. Women's empowerment enables women to make life-altering decisions, reinterpret gender roles, and pursue their own goals with greater independence. Empowerment of women is viewed as a process rather than a finished product (Kabeer, 1999).

O'Neil et al. (2014) clarified women's empowerment as a process of personal and social change, taking place over interlinked and mutually reinforcing psychological, political, social and economic domains, and through which women individually and collectively gain power, meaningful choices and control over their lives.

USAID (2018) also describes women's empowerment as the state in which women have the opportunity to act freely in society, to exercise their rights on an equal footing with men, and to fulfill their potential as equal members of society, for example to achieve their life outcomes to determine. assume leadership roles and influence decision-making in households, communities and societies. Kabeer (1999) also reframed the issue of women's empowerment, aiming to promote women's self-esteem, their ability to make their own decisions, and their right to influence societal change for themselves and others. Here, building the psychological makeup of women is one of the basic themes to develop their decision-making ability and influence the community.

Eerdewijk et al. (2017) stated that the development field has to take gender inequity and women's empowerment more seriously. Many development efforts fail to achieve their goals because they ignore gender disparities. When development organizations place a high importance on women's

empowerment, they are able to achieve their objectives since women have the ability to change their family and society. According to the World Bank (2008), fostering women's empowerment is critical since women are typically responsible for their children and families. Therefore, empowering women also empowers society as a whole.

Because women and girls on today's globe struggle to govern their lives and futures in a variety of ways, international and national agreements and conventions have focused on their plight. Gender inequity, exclusion, and marginalization are addressed in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979, the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, the European Gender Institute set five components for women's empowerment up women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally (European institute for gender equality, 2016). To achieve these, capacity building programs, promoting the right of women to control and use of resources, transforming unbalanced gender roles, the dismantling of gender stereotypes are the basic tools.

Hansen et al. (2017) proposed a three-dimensional model of women's empowerment: (1) the micro-level dimension, which refers to individuals' personal beliefs and actions where personal empowerment can be observed, (2) the meso-level dimension, which refers to beliefs and actions in relation to relevant others where relational empowerment can be observed, and (3) the macro-level dimension, which refers to outcomes in a broader, societal context where societal empowerment can be observed. Women's self-confidence would be captured at the micro level, women feeling and behaving confidence in regard to their spouse or social network would be a meso-level consequence, and women's situation in society would be captured at the macro level in the context of women's empowerment. This definition reflects the attitudes and behaviors of individual women as well as the capacity of a community of women to organize and act collectively.

2.3.2.1 Impact of CDD on Women's Economic Empowerment

Without women's participation, economic development as one aspect of sustainable development is impossible (OECD, 2008). The importance of economically empowered women in accomplishing both women's rights and more general development goals, such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education, and welfare, is thus becoming increasingly clear (Golla et al., 2011). This makes it obvious that development projects should emphasize women's economic empowerment because it is encouraged as a means of accomplishing their objectives.

Different scholars described economic empowerment of women as follows: Louise Fox and Carolina Romero (2017), is defined as "the economic capacities and behaviors of women and girls within households, communities, and societies, as influenced by the institutions that govern these."; World Bank (2017) also explained that economic empowerment entails enhancing women's access to resources and employment, increasing productivity and earnings, and increasing their control over their income, assets, expenditure, and consumption.

UN Women (2014) furtherly describe women economic empowerment which includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets, access to and control over productive resources, decent work, control over their own time, lives, and bodies, and increased voice, agency, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels, from the household to international institutions.

The named authors and organizations have briefly stated that the economic empowerment of women is crucial for the realization of women's rights and the realization of gender equality.

Researchers indicated why development programs gave special attention to women's economic empowerment: among these, Golla et al., (2011) clarified that economic empowerment is one of the most powerful routes for women to achieve their potential and advance their rights; since women make up the majority of the 70% world's poor (World Bank,2017) meeting poverty-reduction goals requires addressing women and their economic empowerment; women who are economically empowered contribute more to their families, societies and national economies; discrimination against women is economically inefficient and working with women makes good business sense. Likewise, Duflo (2012) showed that because women's empowerment and economic development are closely related: in one direction, development alone can play a major

role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development. And also, it brings decision making skill and support for the improvement of children's welfare. UN women (2014) indicated that investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. On the other hand, OCED (2011) viewed that economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for sustainable development and pro-poor growth and the achievement of all the MDGs. From the above-mentioned descriptions, women's economic empowerment is a fundamental factor which supports increasing the all-rounded empowerment of women.

Hunt A. and Samman E. (2016) found that six key factors that directly affect women's individual and collective lived experiences enable or constrain women's economic empowerment: education, skills development and training; access to quality, decent paid work; unpaid care and work burdens; access to property, assets and financial services; collective action and leadership, and social protection. These elements will either increase or decrease women's economic empowerment by providing viable options and opportunities.

Based on World Bank Group Gender Strategy (2015), in most community poor women are likely to be more disempowered than their male neighbors. Because most CDD projects are implemented in rural areas, they can drive change where women tend to be at greater disadvantage and gaps are wider. CDD projects promote women's and communities' livelihoods by allowing women to participate in activities that lead to economic empowerment, ensuring women's involvement in community needs assessment and prioritizing, and allowing women to influence local decisions. CDD programs that support livelihoods or income-generating activities often succeed in improving women's access to credit, training, and jobs.

At the level of economic empowerment, for instance, CDD investments in infrastructure can improve women's physical access to markets and resources, and subprojects providing microfinance and livelihoods support can increase women's income generating activities and access to credit (World Bank, 2008). Also, by improving rural infrastructure, such as water supply, CDD can reduce the amount of time women spend fetching water, which in turn could allow them to spend more time in alternative activities potentially productive ones. By providing

training through livelihoods interventions, CDD can increase the quality of goods for market and increase good business practices (Bhatt and Brown, 2011 cited in IFAD, 2020).

Based on the DRDIP PIM (2016), livelihood programs include traditional and non-traditional livelihood businesses and other income-generating activities. All investments are based on community-identified priorities, technical feasibility and market assessments to ensure the livelihoods supported are viable and increase the income of target communities.

Because men and women have different gender roles and responsibilities, and gender differences in access to resources at both household and community levels, their needs and livelihood strategies differ for men and women (World Bank, 2017). The Bank believes that a CDD intervention that undermines gender disparities may not be effective in empowering women. Therefore, to be effective, CDD programs should recognize this difference in all implementation processes.

2.3.2.2 Impact of CDD on Women's Social Empowerment

Louise Fox L. and Romero C. (2017) defined women social empowerment defined by as the ability to exert control over noneconomic decision-making in the home. World Bank (2017) also indicated that women's social empowerment is determined by societal norms, gender roles in the household and community, and social capital

Constraints related to women's social empowerment have to do with patriarchal attitudes and social norms regarding women's roles that persistently limit women's ability to participate in community life. In some cultures, women's mobility is restricted, they are expected to stay at home, keep quiet in public meetings, and agree with decisions made by men. Attitudes of local male leaders may be particularly problematic (World Bank, 2015). Cultural barriers and male dominance restricted women to develop their decision skill which delays their social empowerment. To solve these problems, the world Bank used strategies through implementing CDD projects include women's quotas in community forums and project selection committees; women-only meetings; separate voting for men and women; minimum thresholds or earmarked allocations for the percentage of subprojects coming from women's groups; recruitment of

women's facilitators and community mobilizers; gender training and support to women beneficiaries and project staff.

CDD can make it easier for women to access decision-making arenas by decentralizing power to the community level (World Bank, 2017). CDD can also enable women's voices to be heard, and establishes precedents for women's participation in planning and decision-making which may be replicated in other fora (ibid). One can understand from the above sentence that CDD has a greater contribution for women's involvement in local development by creating favorable conditions to put forward their ideas and voice their needs in a supportive environment. CDD can build women's skills and confidence through training and capacity-building so that they can take up greater roles in community life to present, defend, and lobby for their priorities in the community (ibid).

2.4 Feminist Theories

Both Marxist and liberal feminist theory are used to support the study. Marxist theory, whose ideas are founded on Engels and Marx's, hold that the unchecked use of economic resources is the cause of women's subordination in society (Tong, 1998). Engels acknowledged the underprivileged situation of women and blamed the private property system for it. In addition, Engels claimed that women's participation in the labour force was essential to both their and men's emancipation. It is a truth that men predominately possessed resources in Ethiopian society, whilst women had fewer of them. Therefore, women should be economically independent in order to be free from oppression. Due to women's economic independence, household incomes and economic growth are significantly impacted.

Marxist feminists believed that capitalism's political, social, and economic systems were to blame for the subordination of women (ibid). Women experience discrimination based on their employment status. They are restricted to household pursuits, which limits their access to knowledge and comprehension of the outside world. Due to the weight of housework in Ethiopia, women have little time to participate in community meetings, which hinders them in several development areas. According to Armstrong (2020), women would become economically independent of males and would engage in activities on an equal basis with men in order to stop the oppression of women.

Giddens (2001) indicated that liberal feminist theory believes gender inequality is created by lowering access for women and girls to civil rights and allocation of social resources such as education and employment. Bimer E. & Alemeneh G. (2018) also stated that female subordination is rooted in a set of customary and legal constraints that block women's entrance to success in the public sphere. Lack of opportunities in life opportunities and outcomes of women inspired liberal feminists to overcome the problem through education and law (ibid).

It is also true in Ethiopia, laws and educational policies are the prominent strategies to mitigate women's marginalization and oppression. Then, Ethiopia has ratified and approved various national, regional and international human rights instruments which clearly recognized mechanisms to mitigate women's marginalization and oppression. In addition, Ethiopia has adopted different policies to overcome gender discrimination in different sectors. The Ethiopian Government, with the collaboration of the World Bank, has striven to overcome these barriers by developing a gender strategy. In the study areas, DRDIP, the World Bank fund, supported women to participate in the project's component through adopting CDD approach.

2.5 Empirical Review on Community Driven Development Operations

2.5.1 World Experience on Community Driven Development Operations

Women are increasingly recognized as a group that CDD interventions must reach out to with specific activities to ensure they reap the full benefits. CDD projects supported by the World Bank actively seek and generate high female participation (World Bank, 2017). Therefore, various countries around the world have implemented CDD projects in the last decade. Wong S. and Guggenheim S. (2018) showed that CDD has become a key operational strategy for many national governments as well as international aid organizations. Therefore, in the following, the researcher examined the experiences of some countries with the CDD approach.

Browne (2014) indicated that Afghanistan National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is a widely lauded example of a CDD project which has a strong effect on gender relations, like increasing women's access to education, health care and counseling, and girls' schooling. Women are increasingly optimistic about their economic situation. Local governance services for women have also increased, men's acceptance of women in leadership positions at local and national levels has increased, and women's participation in local governance has increased. As can be

seen from the sentence above, women in Afghanistan have benefited from CDD by providing access to social and economic infrastructure, which in turn led to local government accreditation. Furthermore, the World Bank-funded CDD approach in Haiti (2015) showed that mixed-gender project groups in Haiti were more likely to propose infrastructure sub-projects, while all-women groups preferred productive sub-projects. The rationale given was that both men and women saw construction as a man's business; And these productive projects offered women the most direct way to improve the well-being of their families.

The Philippines KALAHI-CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan—Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services) was a community-driven development (CDD) project that made special efforts to ensure the participation of women and indigenous people. Broadening the base of participation prevents elite capture of project activities and benefits. Demand-Driven KALAHI-CIDSS supported women with prioritizing their own needs and problems, designing their own subprojects, and making decisions on how resources are used. The project's gender actions contributed to a significant improvement in the participation and leadership of women in local activities (Asian Development Bank report,2012)

A study on the Kecamatan Development Program (KDP) in Indonesia, conducted by Wong (2012) for the World Bank, found that through community-prioritized sub-projects, there is an effective infrastructure delivery system that produces high-quality and low-cost village-level infrastructure improved household well-being and access to services; increased participation of women and the poor as well as improved sustainability of the projects.

According to Uganda DRDIP (2021), to manage the impact of the continued presence of refugees on host communities, Uganda has implemented the CDD approach as part of the DRDIP project. The CDD approach has supported the inclusion of women in three investment components related to basic social services and economic infrastructure, environmental and natural resource management, and traditional and non-traditional livelihoods by implementing a communication strategy that was gender specific and focused on raising awareness these issues focused particular challenges for women and youth; Social services have been designed with easy and safe access in mind, contributing to the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV). Also, the needs of women in terms of responsibility for forage and fuel collection were addressed to improve safe access and reduce time and energy in collecting those from remote areas. The

Project supported improved cook stoves and solar lighting, specifically addressing the needs of women to reduce their risk of exposure to GBV. Moreover, to improve women's income, the project enhanced income-generating opportunities for women through labor intensive public works, skills-based jobs/employment, access and ownership of productive assets, technical assistance, finance, and technology. In addition, strengthening women's social capital through women's savings and credit groups and membership in producer groups as platforms for addressing gender inequalities and limited access to economic networks. Therefore, from nontraditional activities in CIGs, 62% of 14,287 households and from 50,381 village level revolving fund study participant households 69% were female (ibid).

Kenya also implemented the CDD approach through the Western Kenya Community Driven Development and Flood Mitigation Project (WKCDD/FMP), with funds availed by a credit of USD 86 million from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank and USD 14 million from the Government of Kenya and community. Its objective was to empower the local communities of men and women to engage in sustainable and wealth-creating livelihood activities and reduce their vulnerability to flooding. The project worked with communities through the decentralized structures of the local government and the provincial administration to enhance the capacity to identify, plan, manage, mobilize resources and prioritize interventions aimed at poverty reduction (Ngugi,2016).

The project empowered women by giving them a platform to advance their own interests through their own choices and actions. Women empowerment has become a global effort and it is also an important component of any CDD approach to sustainable livelihoods. Through the CDD approach, women are now members of interest groups at community level. Ngugi (2016) also reported that women's involvement in decision making, training, planning, implementation and management of community initiatives has been on the increase since the project's inception. This is a clear indicator that efforts are being put forth to ensure women participate actively in CDD activities as opposed to the approach where only men lead and participate. This is key to the success of any CDD approach project as well as ensuring there is an improved livelihood, because women are almost involved fully in all the household livelihood aspects.

2.5.2 Community Driven Development Operations in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, World Bank fund project titled Pastoral Community Development Program Phase II (PCDP II) implemented CDD approach since it is a poverty reduction and sustainable development strategy (World Bank, 2016). The CDD approach ensured that the project gave particular attention to those segments of pastoralist society that were traditionally underserved such as women, youth and other vulnerable groups, by making sure that their voices were heard, and their interest reflected in all project activities. Efforts were made to ensure gender equity in all projects and sub project activities. For example, the project included gender disaggregated indicators in the results framework. As a result of these efforts, the project was able to achieve the successful participation of 48 percent women against a target of 50 percent as the direct project study participant. In addition, 94.4% of female household heads in project kebeles reported that available public services addressed their priority needs, which well exceeded the target of 80 percent (IFAD,2021).

The world Bank (2016) revealed that PCDP II through CDD approach brings positive results like: the increase of enrollment of girls in PCDP II built schools, and in the improvement of women's health outcomes through better pre- and post-natal care delivered by human health posts. The decision-making power of women increased owing to the CDD approach followed throughout the project. In addition, increased participation of women in pastoral saving and credit cooperatives (PASACCOs) and income generating activities (IGA) was observed. Improved access to potable water played a major role in empowering women as it helped them to save a lot of time. Initially, women traveled long distances to fetch water which on average took around 5 hours. The access to potable water in the residential areas of the beneficiaries most likely enabled the women to devote more time in taking proper care of their children. The project also assisted significant number of women headed households to get involved in diversified income generating activities by providing technical assistance support and establishment of PASACCOs.

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee hosting countries in the Horn of Africa, sheltering about 808,531 registered refugees and asylum seekers as of the October 2021 UNHCR report. Refugees often live in historically underserved border areas that are also environmentally fragile. Those refugees are sharing scarce social, economic, and infrastructure resources with the host

community. Because of these, host communities are facing a dangerous socio-economic situation plagued by food insecurity, limited access to basic social services and economic infrastructure, poor livelihood opportunities, and a degraded natural resource base (DRDIP PIM, 2016). DRDIP social assessment (2016) also showed that the competition created by scarce social and economic services and infrastructure creates additional work burden and limited service for women and girls, which aggravates the existing gender disparity. As limited access to basic social services and infrastructure, weak institutional capacity, a high unemployment rate, and poverty characterize the refugee hosting area, it seeks to call for government and international organizations joint efforts to address the social and economic problems. For that reason, DRDIP implemented the CDD approach because community-driven development programs have proven to be useful where government institutions are weak or under stress (Wong S. and Guggenheim S., 2018).

DRDIP PIM (2016) showed that DRDIP is a 5-year project being implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture since 2016. It is being implemented with funds availed by a credit of USD 100 million from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. The project has been implemented in refugee hosting border areas that are also environmentally fragile in the Afar, Beneshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali, and Tigray regions. The implementation started in 2016, and the project has completed phase one. Currently, phase two has been implemented.

DRDIP was a multi-level, multi-sectorial project that worked with communities through decentralized structures of the local government to enhance their capacity to identify, plan, manage, mobilize resources, and prioritize interventions aimed at improving access to basic social services, expanding economic opportunities, enhancing sustainable environmental management, and improving livelihood opportunities for host communities in the targeted areas. The project addressed the problem through interlinked technical and investment components by improving social services and economic opportunities. The project comprised four major components which were mentioned in the background part (ibid).

According to DRDIP completion report (2022), DRDIP, as a development agent, has implemented the CDD approach to empower the local community. The community itself is the implementing agency of the project. Entry points for initial sensitization, awareness creation, and

general consultations that include prior and informed consultations on the project’s modalities and rules, social mapping, and a gender awareness campaign were conducted at the sub-kebele level. Situation analyses at the sub-kebele level include identification and prioritization of communities’ primary development problems, the development of a community vision, and the selection of representatives for the preparation of a community development plan for 3–5 years. Thus, the Kebeles' annual plan was drawn from this community development plan. During this time, the community, women, vulnerable groups, and youth prioritized their needs and interests. To manage the local resources, community-based committees are established, whose members are composed of women, men, and youth.

DRDIP completion report (2022) presented, the project provided 75,000 USD as a grant for one community investment sub project per kebele. To develop sense of ownership and for the sustainability of the sub components, the project study participant community of five intervention regions contributed 5% cash 45,602,671.49 Birr and 10% labor in kind contribution (74,849,213.51 Birr). The poor women and vulnerable groups were exempted from the cash contribution while participated in labor contribution. Subsequently, the study participant community through implementing CDD approach constructed 745 community investment sub-projects out of which 720 sub-projects are functional and access was created to a total of 1,323,440 beneficiaries that were benefited directly and/or indirectly from the project deliverables; out of which 632,305 (47.7%) were females. The following table showed the construction of sub projects by sector.

Table 1: Community investment Sub-Projects Implemented by DRDIP

S/N	Type of subproject	New Construction/upgraded, expanded	Completed
1	Education	233	225
2	Human Health	101	98
3	Animal Health	48	48
4	Water supply	227	220
5	Feeder Road	126	120
6	Warehouse	5	5
7	Primary market center	5	4
	Total	745	720

Source: DRDIP completion report (2022)

Non-traditional livelihoods are among the sub-components of the DRDIP project, which is largely based on non-agricultural activities. It is identified based on market assessment to impart skills for increased employability, enterprise development, and to promote other income-generating activities (DRDIP PIM, 2016). The PIM also presented that the main intervention area in non-livelihood includes building strong community institutions like community-based organizations like primary cooperatives, rural saving and credit cooperatives (RUSACCOs), and common interest groups (CIGs), providing skill trainings and capacity building activities with targeted reinforcement of existing groups and the formation of new CBOs.

The project PIM (2016) directed that since women in intervention area more affected by refugee impacts, priority was given for them during the selection of in nontraditional livelihoods. Women were enabled to organize based on their interest either mixed sex or by single sex groups (themselves).

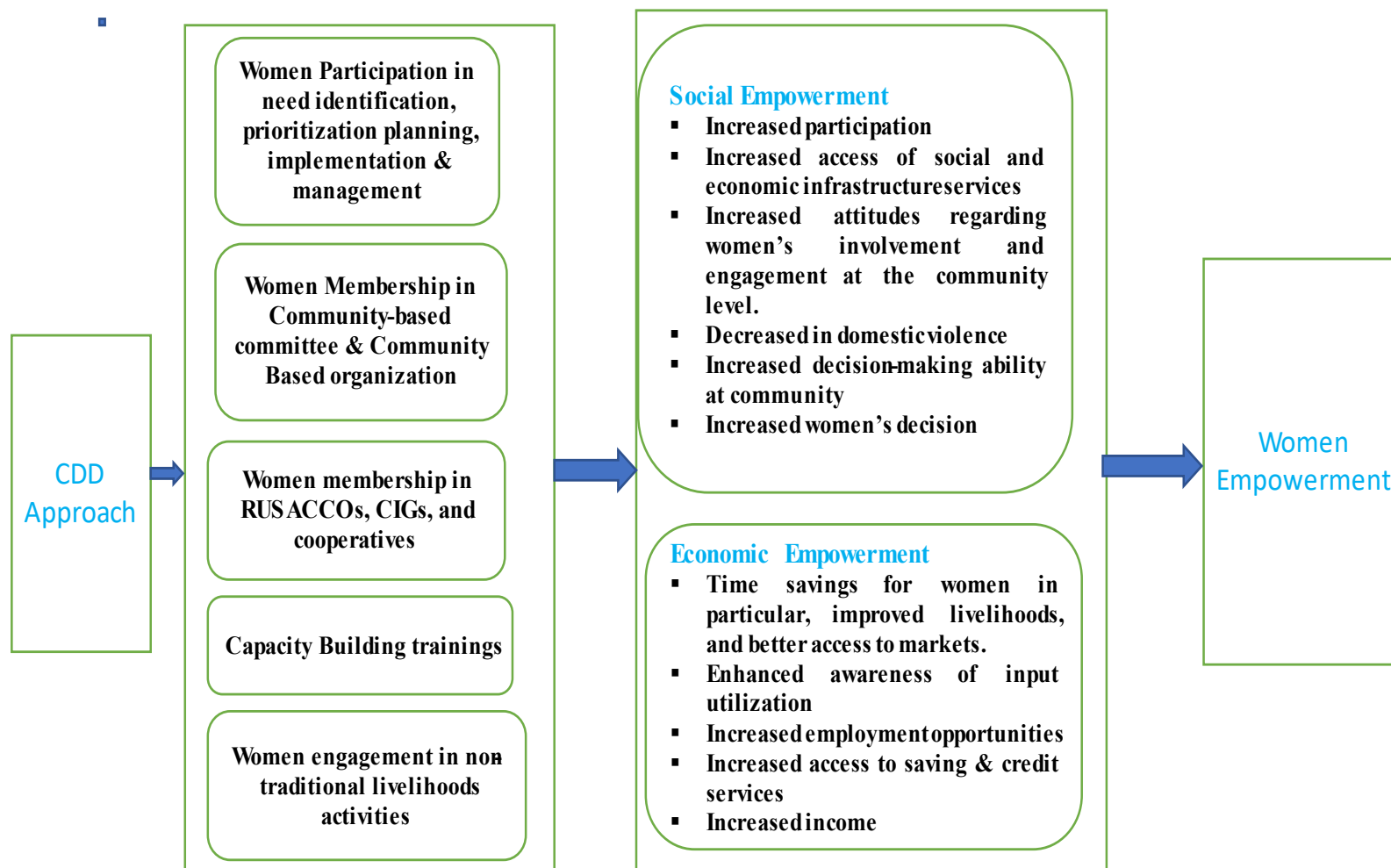
2.6 Conceptual Framework for Women Empowerment

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) describe a conceptual framework as a hypothesized model identifying the concepts under study and their relationships in a diagrammatic form. It simply describes the relationship among the explanatory variable, the explained variable and its indicators are as well. The explanatory variables are grouped on the left, the indicators are at middle and an explained variable on the right.

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) describe a conceptual framework as a hypothetical model that identifies the concepts under study and their relationships in diagram form. It merely describes the relationship between the explanatory variable, the variable being explained and its indicators. The explanatory variables are grouped on the left, the indicators in the middle, and an explained variable on the right. This framework showed that the contribution of the CDD approach to women's empowerment is becoming visible step by step. Initially, the CDD approach encouraged women to identify and prioritize their needs and plan these activities based on their priorities. They have also been forced to engage in non-traditional activities to expand their income alternatives and increase their income. In order to make women successful in their commitment and strengthen their implementation skills, they were continuously offered capacity-building measures. The implementation of the above parameters as a package led to improve access to social and economic

infrastructure services, which opened up opportunities to save time and improve livelihoods, especially for women. In addition, women were included on the community committee members to manage the community investment projects. This helped women improve their decision-making skills at the community level and improve community attitudes towards women's skills in problem identification, prioritization, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Own, 2023

2.7 Key Terms and Words

- **Capacity Building:** It is strengthening the capacity of women and the community as a whole through trainings, awareness creations and consultation.
- **Community Based Organizations (CBOs):** are organizations formed at the community level to improve livelihoods of the community. CBOs include Rural Saving, Credit and Cooperative, Multiple Primary Cooperatives and Common Interest Groups.
- **Community Consultation:** It is the discussion process with community and with their representatives at grassroot level for the purpose of planning for the use of the project's resources, implementation of interventions, monitoring performance and learning from results.
- **Community Driven Development Approach:** The World Bank defines it as an approach that gives control of development decision making and resources to community with the aim of empowering communities, delivering cost-effective infrastructure, enhancing livelihoods and improving community dynamics.
- **Economic Empowerment of Women:** A process of involving women in income generating activities which can enable them have access to and control over the resources earned. Indicators of Economic empowerment are: accesses and control of economic resources, improved livelihoods, and better access to markets, enhanced awareness of input utilization, increased employment opportunities, increased access to saving & credit services and increased income.
- **Social Empowerment of Women:** The capacity of women to participate in community meetings, freely raise ideas, getting acceptance and dignity, resisting gender norms, and, engaging in community and household decisions. Indicators of social empowerment: increased women participation in community meetings, increased women's decision-making ability at community level, increased women's decision-making ability at household level, increased attitudes regarding women's involvement and engagement at the community level, decreased domestic violence and domestic work
- **Non- traditional livelihood activity:** is a type of off farm income generating activities worked by community members in addition to their staple crop and livestock production. For instance, Animal husbandry, Fattening, Crop trading, Petty trading, and Apiculture

- **Primary Cooperatives:** are a collection of different individuals established voluntarily to fulfil their economic and social common interest.
- **Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative:** are established by individuals on voluntary basis to collectively solve their economic problems through saving and credit services.
- **Subprojects:** Any investment subprojects like; construction of a school, health posts, veterinary clinic, feeder roads and bridges, irrigation infrastructure to increase access of the social and economic needs of the community.
- **Participation:** is involvement of women in needs identification, prioritization, implementation and follow up.

CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

3.1 Description of the Study Area

The Beneshangul-Gumuz region is located in the western part of Ethiopia. It shares common borders with the Amhara Regional State in the north and northeast, the Oromia Regional State in the northeast and south, and the Sudan and South Sudan in the west. Administratively, it is divided into 3 zones and 21 Woredas, 1 special woreda, 3 city administrations, and 535 kebeles. The region covers 50,699 km² and has an estimated population of 1,066,001 inhabitants, made up of 541,002 males and 524,999 females. (Beneshangul-Gumuz Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, 2022).

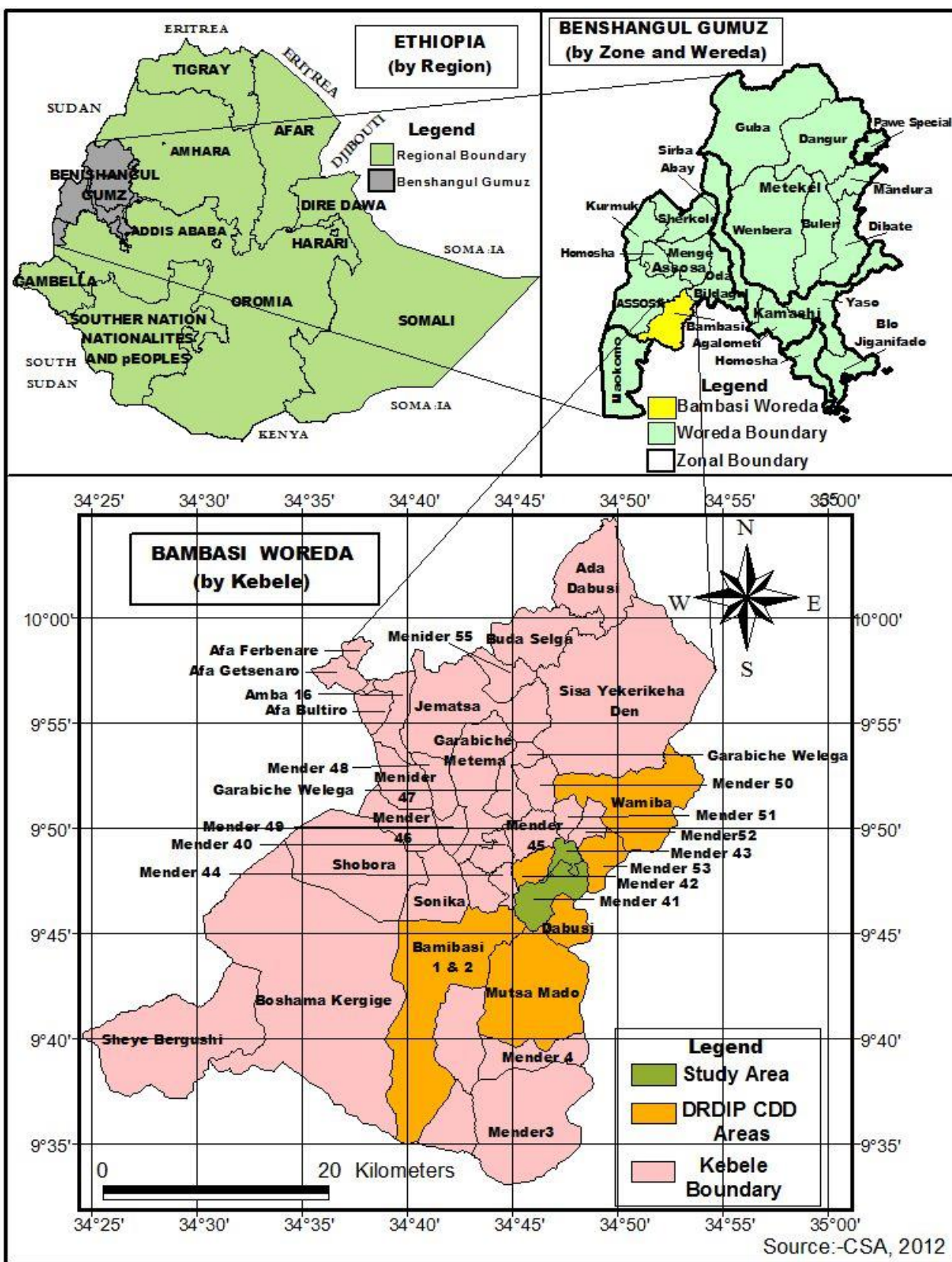
There are five ethnic groups in the region: Berta, Gumuz, Shinasha, Mao, and Komo. 76,770 refugees were hosted in the region. They were from South Sudan, Sudan, and a smaller number from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other countries (UNHCR, 2023). The three basic physiographic zones are the cool temperate agro-climatic zone, the warm temperate agro-climatic zone, and the lowlands of the zone. Agriculture is the dominant economic activity and trade; hunting and fishing have minor importance for the region (Beneshangul-Gumuz Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, 2022). UNHCR (2023) estimated that 76,770 refugees were hosted in the region. They were from South Sudan, Sudan, and a smaller number from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other countries.

Bambasi Woreda, the study area, is one of the 21 Woredas of the Beneshangul-Gumuz region in the Assosa zone, located 42 km East of Assosa, the capital of the Beneshangul-Gumuz Region. It is 640 kilometres West of Addis Ababa. It is bordered by the Mao-Komo special woreda on the southwest, Assosa town in the northwest, Oda Woreda in the northeast, and the Oromia Region in the south-east. The total area covered by the woreda is 1,462.35 Sq. Km. There are 44 kebeles, out of which 2 are urban. The size of the woreda population is estimated to be 79,616; 40,415 (50.8%) were male and 39,201 (49.2%) were female. out of which 26,335 are urban and 53,281 are rural residents. The woreda is the home of a number of ethnic groups. Namely, Berta (33.6%), Amhara (42%), Gumuz, Shinasha, Mao and Komo, Oromo (12.2%), Tigrawa (5.8%), and others.

The population's main means of livelihood is agrarian and semi-agrarian agriculture with animal and plant farming. The major or dominant religions are Muslim (66%) and Orthodox (26%); the remaining are others, like protestant. The Woreda has 33 health posts, only 2 health centers, 46 schools, 261 water points with water coverage of 89.25%, and HHs getting electricity at 16.2% only from 11,143 HHs. Since the woreda has huge potential for commercial agricultural investments, only 20,850.4 hectares of land are owned by 86 national and local investors. Among these, only 13,500 hectares of land are cultivated (ibid.). In addition, the Bambasi camp, which is found in Womba kebele, hosted 20,336 refugees from Sudan (99.56%), South Sudan (0.15%), and others (0.29%) (UNHCR, 2023).

The Annual report of Bambasi Woreda DRDIP (2022) also presented that the population of Mender 41 is 627 of which 331 are female and 80% are Amhara and 20% are Tigre. The population of Mender is 919 of which 457 are female with 43% are Amhara and 3% are Tigre.

Figure 2: Location of Bambasi Woreda and Study Kebeles in Benishangul- Gumuz Region



3.2 Research Methods

The researcher used both mixed research methods and concurrent design. However, more emphasis has been placed on the qualitative data because, as Jane and Lewis (2003) quote in Meron (2007), feminists have used qualitative research methods to make women's diverse voices and experiences heard. It ascertains participants' experiences and perceptions through observation, questionnaires, in-depth interviews, interviews with key informants, and focus group discussions. The researcher also used quantitative methods, using questionnaires to capture the demographics of the participants, women's participation in livelihood programs, and the proportion of women in decision-making.

3.3 Types and Sources of Data

Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. This helped the researcher to examine the implementation processes of CDD approach opportunities and challenges in the study area.

Primary Data

The primary sources supported are intended to obtain direct information and opinions from research participants (beneficiaries) involved in the project's study area. The primary source of data was generated through questionnaires, interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and observations. Data was collected from Woreda beneficiaries of the DRDIP intervention, community-based committee members, community-based organizations (common interest groups, rural savings and credit associations, and members of multi-purpose primary cooperatives), Woreda project staff, and key implementation sector officials.

Questionnaire (Household Survey)

The household questionnaire contained two main sections. The first section looked at respondents' demographics, including age, education, marital status, and number of people in the household. In the second section, detailed questions were asked that assessed the overall assessment of the success of CDD projects in terms of their contribution to women's empowerment. It is said that women are empowered when their participation in economic and social affairs increases, when their decision-making at household and community levels is improved, and when their access to and control over resources is adequately improved. Therefore,

questionnaires are created and the necessary data are collected to find out facts about the above topics. The questionnaires are attached in Appendix 1.

Since the respondents could easily understand and communicate the purpose of the study, the questionnaires were translated from English to Amharic since the communication media in the targeted Kebeles is Amharic. The Bambasi Woreda Annual report showed that 80% from Mender 41 and 97% from Mender 43 are Amharas, and 20% from Mender 41 and 3% from Mender 43 are Tigraway since they came from Amhara and Tigray regions in 1984 and settled in the study areas. In addition, in order to read and explain the questions to the respondents and fill out the questionnaires on their behalf according to the answers given, a researcher employed two male and one female enumerator who provided guidance on the research objective and the content of the survey questionnaire and its administration. The enumerators were selected in collaboration with a researcher and implementing sectors at non-sample Kebeles based on their experience in the field and their communication skills. The data were collected from 23th November to December 23th 2022.

Fifteen (15) key informant interviews are used to capture different views, and also to gather additional information that is not captured using a close-ended structured questionnaire based on their closeness to the appropriate information. Woreda cooperative expert and Kebele DAs were interviewed to understand women's participation in non-traditional livelihood programs (off farm activities, membership of CIG, RUSACCOs and primary cooperatives, and access to credit). The interview with women and children's Affairs experts and woreda DRDIP staffs were undertaken to assess the status of women beneficiaries in livelihood programs, the level of their participation in CBOs, in planning and decision making of the community development activities, and the effectiveness implementation of the CDD approach to women empowerment in non-livelihood programs, and to investigate the opportunities and challenges for women empowerment with in CDD approach implementation. Moreover, the interviews with male community members were undertaken to understand the attitude of the community towards women's empowerment in the study area. A key informant interview guide was prepared by the researcher for those key informants and based on this, the interview was conducted by the researcher. The key informant interview guide is in Annex II.

Four (4) focus group discussions (FGD) were held, in which two FGDs were conducted in two sample kebeles each; Two FGDs were conducted with female CBO members to assess women's

participation in the CBO in terms of membership and decision-making, benefits of non-traditional livelihoods, and women's challenges and opportunities in empowering women in non-traditional livelihoods. Together with the Kebele Development Committee and the community Procurement Committee, two FGDs were conducted to assess women's decision-making, their involvement in the implementation of the CDD approach, and the effectiveness of the CDD approach in empowering women.

FGDs were conducted separately with women CBO committee members only (FHHs and women in MHH) and mixed groups with men and women community committee members in both Kebeles. In Mender 43, 5 women in MHHs and 4 FHHs members of CBOs, and 4 women and 8 men participated in the FGDs members of the Kebele Development and Procurement Committee where all community committee members rather than experts. The discussions were held at Kebele FTC for two days. The focus group discussions at Mender 41 took place at the Kebele Center. The participants were; 6 Women in MHHs members of the CBO and 4 FHHs, and 3 women and 8 men members of the Kebele Development and Procurement Committee. A total of 42 people participated in four FGDs. The guide to the focus group discussion is in Appendix II.

Five (5) in-depth interviews were conducted with three women in MHHs and two FHHs to capture the concrete implementation of CDD and the changes that have occurred in household and community livelihoods over the past five years. In addition, the case studies helped to understand the socio-economic structure of the communities. In-depth interviews guide is in Appendix II.

Table 2: Summary of Primary Data Sources

Study Kebeles	Questionnaire		FGD				In depth interview	Key informant interview
			Women CBO committee members		Mixed FGDs			
	Women in MHHs	FHHs	Women in MHHs	FHHs	Men community committee members	Women community committee members		
Mender 41	55	28	6	4	8	3	2	5
Mender 43	59	27	5	4	4	8	3	5
	114	55	11	8	12	11	5	15(5 from woreda)
Total	169		42				20	

Source: Field survey data, 2023

Secondary Data

Secondary sources of information on women empowerment issues and the role of CDD approach and women empowerment were reviewed and presented through gathering relevant research literature from previous related studies, books, brochures, articles, reports, etc.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Purposive and stratified sampling methods were used to select the study kebeles and the participants in the research. Sampling of Kebeles was done in consultation with Bambasi Woreda DRDIP office. 8 kebeles in Bambasi woreda were under the DRDIP interventions. While two Kebeles; Mender 43 and Mender 41 were purposely selected for their representativeness in CDD implementations because all components especially non-traditional livelihoods have been implemented fully in these kebeles. In addition, accessibility of kebeles from woreda center was the criterion for selecting those kebeles.

The sample frame of the research was women beneficiaries of nontraditional livelihoods. Women beneficiaries were stratified into women spouses (women in MHH) and Female heads of households (FHH) from which samples were selected. To select women in MHHs random sampling was used. As DRDIP social assessment (2016) showed that FHHs were the most vulnerable community where the project gave priority. Because of this, the study purposely selected all FHHs as sample HHs. And they have significant information for study. A total of 169 women respondents (55 FHH and 114 women in MHH) were selected for the household survey.

Fifteen Key informants were selected purposively, based on their closeness for the appropriate information. Concerning FGDs, FGDs with women committee members of CBOs were taken from each CIG, RUSACCOs and primary cooperative members purposely. FGDs with community committee members were purposely taken because kebele development and community procurement committee from each kebeles had great role in CDD implementation. In addition, purposive sampling technique was employed to select five in-depth interview participants because those respondents selected purposely were supposed to have sufficient information about issues as they were selected due to their presence in the project from the beginning and full participation in problem identification, prioritization and planning.

3.5 Population

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), population refers to a complete census of all items or people in a researcher's area of study. Accordingly, the researcher took 294 HHs in two kebeles, namely: Mender 41 and Mender 43 of the target woredas's households as population. In addition, to crosscheck the data, CBOs, the Community based committee, DRDIP project staff and key implementing sector experts were part of the target population.

3.6 Sample Size

For the purpose of selection of the sample size, the researcher adopted a mathematical formula which has suggested by (Taro Yemane,1967).

$$n = N / 1 + N(e)^2 \quad \text{Where: } n = \text{Sample Size}$$

$$N = \text{Population size)}$$

$$e = \text{Level of precision (at 95\% confidence level.)}$$

Assume the researcher used the conventional confidence level of 95% to ensure a more accurate result from the sample. Based on population size of 294 HHs and the error term equal to 0.05, the sample size was drawn from the calculation as follows.

$$n = 294 / 1 + 294(0.05)^2 = 169$$

Therefore, out of 294 HH populations, 169 HHs (114 women in MHHs and 55 FHHs) who were non-traditional beneficiaries were used as sample HHs.

3.7. Data analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in data analysis and data collection. The qualitative data collected with different instruments were systematically categorized and analyzed. The data obtained from the household survey were coded, entered into a computer and quantitatively analyzed using descriptive statistics. Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS) version 25 was used to facilitate quantitative analysis.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

Reliability is about the consistency of measurements, and validity is about the accuracy of a measure. To assure whether the questionnaires were valid or not standardized questionnaires which

were implemented and tested by other researchers were used for this study. This helped to obtain pretested questionnaires on validity and reliability. Cronbach's alpha is one of the most commonly accepted measures of reliability. It is a convenient test used to estimate the reliability, or internal consistency of a composite score. The normal range of Cronbach's Coefficient-Alpha value ranges between 0-1 and the higher values reflects a higher degree of internal consistency. According to Nunnally (1978), though different authors accept different values of this test in order to achieve internal reliability, the most commonly accepted value is 0.70 and above. Therefore, the researcher tested the reliability by Cronbach α for the entire questionnaire. The result was 0.728 and this implied that the presence of good reliability or consistency as it is greater than 0.7.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Before running the research processes, the researcher consulted the ministry of agriculture and got permission. Next, two kebeles were selected by the consent of Bambasi woreda DRDIP Office. In the course of data collection, the researcher was committed in doing the job with the necessary diligence, not to make personal judgments where the data are insufficient.

The respondent women were informed about the purpose of the study from the beginning. The interviewees, focus group discussion participants and women respondents were briefed by the researcher and reached on consensus before the research tools were administered. All the necessary data were collected by their agreement and consent only. Respondents were also informed in prior that they could decline or withdraw from the interview if they observed unwanted signs during the study. The information collected from them was kept anonymous (mysterious without identifying their name) and confidential. Finally, the researcher made all efforts to present the findings truthfully.

CHAPTER FOUR

Results and Discussions

4.1 Results

4.1.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the main results of the study are presented and discussed using various data processing and analysis methods. In the first section of the chapter, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the households and the implementation of the CDD approach by the DRDIP project in Bambasi Woreda are presented. In the second section, the factors of women's empowerment were discussed through the respondents' experience with the CDD approach. The overall results were presented in terms of the implementation process of the CDD approach and its impact on women's empowerment in the selected kebeles.

4.1.2 Community Driven Development Approach Implementation in Bambasi Woreda

Bambasi woreda DRDIP Annual report (2022) showed that, the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) has been implemented in 8 intervention kebeles of Bambasi Woreda since 2016 as part of the CDD approach. The aim of the project was to improve access to basic social and economic services, expand livelihood opportunities and improve environmental management. In target kebeles, there are no other interventions rather than the CDD project. The project was implemented by the Woreda Agriculture Office. And its overall implementation was monitored, directed and coordinated by the Woreda Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was chaired by the Woreda Administrator and the Woreda Project Coordinator acted as Secretary. Members included officials from agriculture, finance, women's and children's affairs, water and energy, education, health, the road sector, the job creation sector, and cooperative promotion offices. Technical assistance was provided by experts from the established technical committee of the above-mentioned offices.

The Kebele Development Committee is the lowest existing government structure and the highest political decision-making body in Mender 41 and Mender 43. These committees were responsible for planning and following up the implementation of the DRDIP project activities in Kebele. One of its responsibilities is to create favorable conditions for the proper implementation of the project. Community-based committees were established under the leadership of the Kebele

Development Committee (KDC), namely: Community Project Management Committee (CPMC), Community Procurement Committee (CPC), Community facilitation Team (CFT), and Community Social Audit Committee (CSAC). whose members were selected by the community of Mender 41 and Mender 43. These committees were drawn from community members rather than experts. Their role was primarily to manage and enable community investment sub-projects and mobilize the community. Each committee had different responsibilities. As shown in Table 3 below, 5 committees have a total of 61 (21 female) members at Mender 41 and 64 (22 female) members at Mender 43. Of these women, the proportion was 32.8% and 34.4% at Mender 41 and Mender 43 respectively (Bambasi Woreda DRDIP,2022). Woreda and Kebele key informants and focus group discussions revealed that employing of gender quotas and creating favorable conditions for women supported to be active members of various project committee.

Table 3: Member of community-based committee of Mender 41 and Mender 43

Sample kebele	Kebele Development Committee		Community Project Management Committee		Community Procurement Committee		Community Social Audit Committee		Community Facilitation Team		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T	M	F	T
Mender 41	6	4	7	2	3	2	5	2	19	30	40	21	61
Mender 43	9	3	7	3	3	2	4	3	19	30	42	22	64
Total	15	7	14	5	6	4	9	5	38	60	82	43	125

Source: Bambasi Woreda DRDIP data, 2022

Annual report of Bambasi Woreda DRDIP (2022) also presented that at the start of the project, at least 80% of the community members including women, youth and the elderly, were invited to a meeting and identified their needs and prioritized interests at their villages. Out of which 49% of whom were women in MHHs and FHHs. Accordingly, community members, with the support of Kebele Development Committee members and Woreda experts, developed a Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), a 5-year community plan. The CDP is created in a three-stage process:

- (i) An initial sensitization, awareness creation and general consultations that include prior and informed consultations on project modalities and rules, social mapping and gender awareness campaign and agreement on ethical principles, including outreach to vulnerable groups in the target communities;

- (ii) Situation analyses at the sub-kebele level that includes identification and prioritization of communities' primary development problems, development of community vision, and selection of representatives for CDP development; and
- (iii) Development of a 5-year rolling Community Development Plan (CDP) at kebele level that translates the development visions from each sub-kebele into a kebele-wide plan. The CDP was served to update and elaborate the existing Kebele Development Plans, to ensure consistency and alignment. The project tried to maximize synergies between activities under the three main components component 1; social and economic services and infrastructure; component 2: Sustainable environmental Management; and Component 3: Sustainable livelihood program.

The project provided 75,000 USD as a grant for one community investment sub project per kebele. And also, to develop sense of ownership and ensure the sustainability of the project, 8 project intervention kebele community contributed 5% in cash Birr 5,681,179 and 10% labor in kind contribution Birr 10,002,449.3. The poor women and vulnerable groups were exempted from the cash contribution while participated in labor contribution Accordingly, various sub-projects were constructed near to villages through CDD approach. The sub-projects include: 1 water point, 1 health post, 1 school, 1 animal health point, 1 foot bridge, a 7 km feeder road in Mender 41 and in Mender 43, 1 health center, an elementary school, 2 water points, a strengthening farmer training center, and 1 irrigation canal (ibid).

In addition, women were key users as members in livelihood programs such as CIGs RuSaCCos, and primary cooperatives, for which DRDIP had invested seed money to support their lives. As Table 4 below indicates, in Mender 41, 8 CIGs with 70 members, out of which 30 were female, and in Mender 43, 7 CIGs with 48 (28 Female) members were established. The CIGs had 12–15 members and were organized voluntarily. CIGs had received seed money from the DRDIP project with a maximum of 150,000 Birr based on the group's business plan. The members got trainings on life skills, group strengthening, income-generating activities, identification processes, and business planning. CIGs engage in different non-traditional livelihood activities such as cattle and goat rearing, ox fattening, grinding services, pity trading, crop trading, and Apiculture (Bambasi Woreda DRDIP,2022)

At Mender 41, a RUSACCO with its name 'Tesfalen' has 71 members, out of which 35 are female, and also at Mender 43, a RUSACCO with its title 'AdisAmba' has 53 members, out of which 23 are female. After capacitating RUSACCO members, the project provided them seed money as a

grant up to a maximum of Birr 100,000 for each RUSACCO for the purpose of credit service for members. Moreover, two multiple primary cooperatives were established and have served the community: 'Ediget behibret' multiple primary cooperatives at Mender 41 with 215 (99 female) members, and 'Enegetesfa' multiple primary cooperatives at Mender 43 with 87 members, out of which 27 were female. The project provided goods and other utilities costing up to 100,000 Birr for each multiple primary cooperative (ibid). The following table shows the established CBO committees at Mender 41 and Mender 43.

Table 4: Member of community-based organizations of Mender 41 and Mender 43

Sample kebeles	CIGs		RUSACCOs		Multiple Primary Cooperatives		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Mender 41	40	30	36	35	116	99	192	164	356
Mender 43	20	28	30	23	60	27	110	78	188
Total	60	58	66	58	176	126	302	242	544

Source: Bambasi Woreda DRDIP data, 2022

4.1.3 Response Rate of Respondents

Table 5: Respondents' Response Rate

Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires Returned	Percentage
169	135	80

Source: Field survey data, 2023

As shown in Table 5, of the 169 questionnaires distributed to women respondents, 135 were properly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 80%. Yet, 20% of the questionnaires were not incorporated in this analysis because 18% of the respondents were albescant and the rest 2% filled the questionnaires incorrectly. However, according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of over 70% is very good for studies being accurate and reliable. Therefore, the analysis was performed based on the responses of the 135 women respondents, of whom 87 were women in MHHs and 48 were FHHs, as this was sufficient to conduct the study. From the 135 questionnaires received, 74 were from Mender 43 and 61 were also from Mender 41 (representing a response rate of 55% by mender 43 and 45 by mender 41).

4.1.4 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 6 shows that the proportion of women respondents in the 31–40 age groups is 39.3%, while the proportion of women over 50 is 25.9%. Few (9.6%) of women are 20–30 years old. In general, the age of the majority of respondents are found in the age range from 31 to 50, which represents a prime working age that facilitates economic empowerment.

The marital status of the women respondents, 87 are from women in MHHs and 48 are from FHHs, and can be divided into four categories. Of these, 64.4% are married and living with their spouse, 20.7% are divorced, and the remaining 14.8% are widows. This shows that the majority of women respondents are married.

In terms of educational status, 61.5% of respondents cannot read and write (they were supported by the enumerators), 24.4% can read and write, and only 14% had formal education, as shown in Table 6. Participants in the women-only focus group discussion noted that their unable to read and write has affected their personal and family lives. Based on these facts, they have decided to send their children to school, as opportunities have been created through the DRDIP project to use schools near them.

A larger family size is associated with higher poverty levels. Respondents were asked to indicate the number of people living in their household. As can be seen from the responses in Table 6, 37% of the respondents had 3 to 4 household members, 35.6% had 5 to 6 household members, 17% had more than 6 household members, and only 10.4% had 1 up to 2 household members. These figures suggest that most of the target households have large families, which is usually characteristic of high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas where women's livelihood empowerment is sought.

Table 6: Respondent's characteristics by Percent

	Freq.	Percent
Age		
20-30	13	9.6
31-40	53	39.3
41-50	34	25.2
50 and above	35	25.9
Marital status		
Married	87	64.4
Widow	20	14.8
Divorced	28	20.7
Educational status		
Cannot read and write	83	61.5
Read and write	33	24.4
Primary level (from 1-8 grade)	18	13.3
Secondary level (from 9-12 grade)	1	0.74
Number of household members		
1-2	14	10.4
3-4	50	37.0
5-6	48	35.6
Above 6	23	17.0
Total	135	100.0

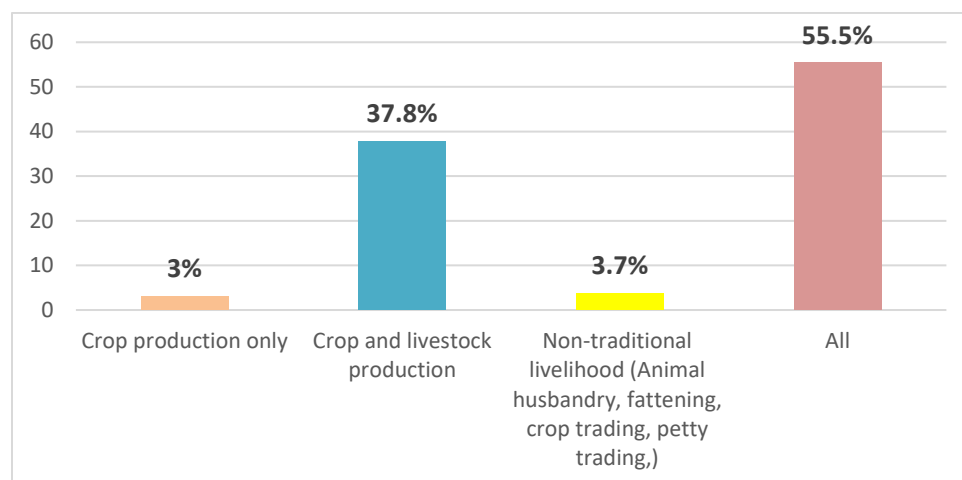
Source: Field survey data, 2023

4.1.5 General Characteristics in Relation to Women's Empowerment

4.1.5.1 Income

Respondents were asked about their source of income, and their responses are summarized in Figure 3. As can be seen from the table, the main sources of income of the respondents were 37.8% Crop and livestock production, 3% only crop production, and 55.6% came from all income-generating activities (crop and livestock and non-traditional livelihoods). In addition, 3.7% of respondents received their income from non-traditional livelihoods.

Figure 3: Respondents Source of Income



Source: field survey data, 2023

The respondents also asked their estimated annual income from non-traditional livelihood after the project is commenced at the time of survey and the result was summarized as follows:

Table 7: Respondents Estimated Annual Income after CDD approach implementation

Estimated Annual income	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 10,000 Birr per Annum	4	3	5.0
10,001-12,000 Birr per Annum	12	15	20.0
12,001-14,000 Birr per Annum	26	32.5	52.5
14,001-16,000 Birr per Annum	35	43.9	96.3
More than 16,000 Birr per Annum	3	3.7	100.0
Total	80	100	

Source: Field survey data, 2023

The survey result in table 7 indicated that 43.9% of the respondents' annual income from non-traditional livelihoods ranged from 14,001 to 16,000 Birr per annum, 32.2% were between 12,001 and 14,000 Birr, 15% were between 10,001 and 12,000 Birr, 3% were less than 10,000 Birr per annum, and only 3.7% of respondents reached more than 16,000 Birr. 76.4% of respondents get an annual income between 12,000 and 16,000 Birr from non-traditional livelihood activities. This was supported by a married 42-years-old woman that "I was engaged in crop production only before the implementation of the project. I have not seen any changes in my life. But, after the implementation of the project in our kebele, I joined the non-traditional livelihood programs

(fattening of small ruminants) as a result, my income has improved. I could have developed the capacity to cover my family expenses."

A key informant confirmed the above information. As he explained, the CDD approach helped to increase their income by creating employment opportunities, developing a saving culture, and providing capacity development activities.

The end line survey of DRDIP (2023) also revealed that the annual average income of female-headed households from non-traditional livelihood before five years was 11,000 birrs while currently their income has increased to 27,808 Birrs. The survey also showed that the average household annual income of Beneshangul-Gumuz region is 26,926 Birr for MHHs and 28,163 Birr for FHHs. In addition, the end line survey showed that the average areas of irrigated plots of land for FHHs increased from 1.28 hectares at baseline to 1.47 hectares. Moreover, the survey revealed that 58% percent of the beneficiaries experienced an increase in income due to economic development activities. Figures from the project assured that CDD programs that support livelihoods or income-generating activities often succeed in improving women's income (World Bank Group Gender Strategy,2015).

4.1.5.2 Women Participation in CDD Projects

A key informant reported that "women's participation in need assessments and community planning was encouraged by creating favorable conditions for women such as holding village-level community meetings to save their time and energy, limiting male dominance in discussions, and giving women the opportunity to express themselves. And conducting separate women-only meetings, where gender norms prevent women from speaking in front of men". Respondents also indicated that the project aims to involve women in every step of its implementation process.

According to the DRDIP PIM (2016), 50% of women's participation was planned in various community consultations and needs identification, and 30% to 50% were for project-related meetings. The results of this research indicated that actual outcomes at the grassroots level for women's involvement in community consultations ranged from 33% to 50%. The Bambasi Woreda DRDIP Annual Report (2022) showed that among the participants in the community consultation sessions, 49% were both women in MHHs and FHHs. The report also noted that the CDD approach helped increase women's participation by creating favorable conditions. The women respondents informed me that "we had attended various meetings organized by the

DRDIP project. We are actively involved in identifying sub-projects based on our choices." Women FGD participants also reported that "the CDD approach enabled us by creating a suitable environment to participate in various community meetings." More importantly, the approach supported us to members of the project committee. As a result, we were part of project decisions."

According to women respondents, women's participation in government meetings was poor because the venues they conducted discussions were far from villages. Moreover, the discussion was not comfortable for them to discuss freely about their issue. A key informant expounded that, to alleviate these difficulties, the project created convenient environment like conduct meetings and discussions at the vicinity of dwelling places and engendering separate sessions for women only groups and mixed groups. These availed them to develop confidence to express their conceptions liberatingly and justify subprojects to be implemented in their village. The other fortifying factor for active participation was considering the meeting place to be near villages. These all-availed women to identify and prioritize their concerns.

A key informant from Bambasi woreda described the trend of women engagement from time to time as "During the commencement of the DRDIP project, women were silent in meetings because the culture circumscribed them. But the CDD approach enables them to get earnest grassroots level training and support. Thus, through time, women commenced to challenge the priorities set by men. For example, if men wanted irrigation schemes development and water was the specific need of the community, then women were dominant to change the priorities for instance construction of water schemes."

Male FGD participants indicated that they felt great pleasure in the participation of women in community meetings with them and that the community had changed its attitude towards women's involvement in development issues. They expressed that women's participation and attendance at community meetings had increased over the past five years. They also reported that the Kebele community also listened to the women's ideas; Women are enjoying with community in more rewarding ways than ever before. In addition, they are proud to be involved in the formation of the committee.

In general, the study found that DRDIP, which adopted a CDD approach, created a participatory environment in which women had the opportunity to attend various meetings organized by the Kebele Development Committee. From the above results and testimonies, it is evident that

women's engagement has improved through the implementation of the CDD approach through the DRDIP project. Although culture and religion are still challenging, the project has encouraged women's participation by creating an enabling environment. In addition, an expert from Bambasi Woreda explained that the changes in women's participation were due to the project making gender provisions mandatory and also providing gender-specific training for project staff and implementers. Therefore, they have given particular attention to women's participation and all have worked to improve women's participation in all aspects. These ideas were supported by Browne (2014), who argued that the CDD approach is essential to minimize the gender gap by reducing the barriers to women's participation and creating an enabling environment in development activities. In summary, the research results showed that women actively participated in the DRDIP project.

4.1.5.2.1 Women Participation in Community Investment Prioritizations

The respondent women were asked about their involvement in the needs assessment, prioritization and planning of community meetings, whether or not their ideas were accepted and whether the design and construction of the sub-projects was based on their interest in institutionalizing the CDD approach.

Accordingly, the survey in Table 8 revealed that a majority of the 121 (89.6%) women respondents replied that they were part of the need assessment and prioritization of community investment, while the remaining 10% did not participate because different reasons like maternity period, went to schools and with social affairs. They also said that they were actively involved in identifying sub-projects they wanted to implement in their community. One participant in an in-depth interview emphasized the following:

I participated in several meetings organized by DRDIP Project. Women are better involved in all project activities compared to other governments and non-government organizations meetings. We are actively engaged in community consultation meetings, decision making and implementing of development activities in our community. We believe the DRDIP Project has benefited us and other community members.

As for the women respondents who bring up their need assessment and prioritization ideas in community meetings, 75% of female respondents said they raised their issue while the remaining 25% did not raise it. Of those respondents who presented ideas, 80.5% indicated that their ideas

were accepted by the meeting, but 19.5% responded that their ideas were not accepted. The survey in Table 8 also revealed that 76.3% of women respondents replied that the design and construction of social and economic infrastructure services (health centers, schools, water points and access roads) based on their preferences and 23% also responded to some extent, that these services take our preferences into account. Only one woman reported that building these social and economic services was not based on her interests. According to the majority of respondents, the social and economic services built in two kebeles are based on the preferences of female respondents. A key informant (Woreda DRDIP coordinator) also indicated that the implementation of the DRDIP project takes into account the needs and choices of vulnerable groups such as FHH. Married women, youth, the disabled and the elderly of the community were taken into account.

A researcher also observed women were active participants during a focus group discussion and participants expressed great joy and satisfaction with the accessibility of socio-economic infrastructure such as schools, water points, feeder roads, human health centers/posts and animal health posts in their villages. A key informant said, "We are benefiting from the development activities after 30 years!" This project is a gift from Allah

Table 8: Women participation in community investment prioritizations

S. No_	Factors (Variables)	Category	Freq.	Percent
1	Participation in needs identification and priority	Yes	121	89.6
		No	14	10.4
		Total	135	100.00
2	Raise ideas in needs identification and priority	Yes	90	75%
		No	31	25%
		Total	121	100.00
3	Idea's acceptance	Yes	70	80.5%
		No	17	19.5 %
		Total	87	100.00
4	The design and construction of social and economic infrastructure services based on respondents' preference	Yes	103	76.3
		No	1	7
		To some extent	31	23.0
		Total	135	100
5	Rate village level community needs identification, prioritization and planning in enhancing their benefit.	Unsuccessful	1	0.7
		Successful	49	36.3
		Very successful	85	63.0
		Total	135	100

Source: field survey data, 2023

The respondent women were asked to rate their village-level participation in community needs identification, prioritization, and planning to improve their benefits. Thus, the result of table 8 above showed that 63% of the respondents rated the question forwarded to them as very successful, 36.3% of them rated it as successful, while only 0.7% rated it as unsuccessful. In general, the majority of respondents (99.3%) rated the identification, prioritization, and planning of needs at the village level as important in increasing their utility, as it created favorable opportunities to participate in the discussion.

From this, one can understand that since the beginning of the project, the community has been convinced that the participation of women and the incorporation of their ideas, needs assessment, prioritization, planning, and implementation are crucial for the sustainability of the project activities.

4.1.5.2.2 Women Membership in Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Women respondents asked whether they are members in the community-based organization of which the DRDIP project was established or strengthened through the CDD approach. The responses in terms of percentage of women, who participated in any of the different types of CBOs (community-based organizations comprised of common interest groups/CIGs/, rural saving and credit cooperative organizations /RUSACCOs/, and multiple primary cooperatives organized voluntarily to develop saving culture, to give credit services and supply agricultural inputs for their members) are summarized in Table 9. As a result, it indicated, 43% of women were CIG members, 43% were rural saving and credit members and 64% were primary multiple cooperative members. The woreda CBO data reported that all 135 respondent women were members of CBOs.

Table 9: Participation of women in community-based organizations

S.	Factors (Variables)	Category	Freq.	Percent
1	Membership in CIGs	Yes	58	43
		No	77	57
		Total	135	100.00
2	Membership in RUSACCOs	Yes	58	43
		No	77	57
		Total	135	100.00
3	Membership in Multiple primary cooperatives Primary Cooperatives	Yes	86	64
		No	49	36
		Total	135	100.00

Source: own survey result, 2023

The results of the FGDs and the in-depth interviews also showed that the majority of the CBO members were encouraged and informed by the project to become members of the community-based organizations. The result also showed that membership was voluntary. Especially women's communities that maintain good relationships and know each other are very happy about their membership. They reported that their previous social contacts had strengthened their membership. They also said that we have agreed mostly in our business management, sharing of responsibilities and profits.

In addition, Kebele key informant expressed that membership was voluntary and based on one's own interests. In Bambasi Woreda, the project supported a Birr 9,450,725 seed grant to set up 64 Common Interest Groups (CIGs) with 651 members, 338 of whom were women; 1,100,000 Birr for 11 RUSACCOs with 778 members (588 women) and 1,100,000 Birr for 11 multiple primary cooperatives with 603/328 women. According to this report, the proportion of women in RUSACCOs, multiple primary cooperatives and CIGs was 75%, 54% and 52%, respectively. Experts also reported that women who previously communicated well are more effective in the CIG business. Their membership supported women to improve their social and economic experiences by connecting with each other at regular meetings (DRDIP Endline,2023). A respondent woman specified that "the project empowers women by encouraging us to attend community meetings and consultations, to raise ideas, to share decisions, by allowing us to be members of community committees, to create opportunities and opportunities by organized us through CIGs. This has increased our income and has helped us cover our household expenses, fund our children's school supplies, our children are happy and proud of us and our community respects us. Because of our mill, the burden, distance and cost for women decreased."

A key informant from Bambasi woreda reported that in the DRDIP project, the share of women participating in rural savings and credit cooperatives, common interest groups and multiple cooperatives increased from time to time. Women and young people have been the main beneficiaries of CIGs. Their CIGs business by developing their skills, saving culture, increasing their income, meeting their household expenses and serving the demands of the grassroots communities. In addition, the DRDIP federal project completion report (2022) showed that in five intervention project regions, female membership was 45%, 47%, and 64% in RUSACCOs, several primary cooperatives, and CIGs, respectively.

Table 10::Area of participation in non-traditional livelihood and access to credit and saving services

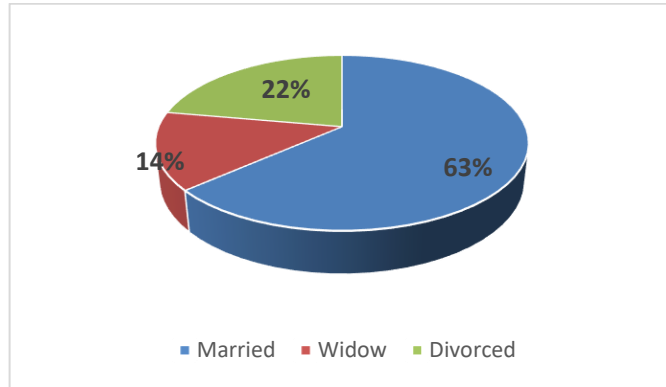
S.No_	Factors (Variables)	Category	Freq.	Percent
1	Have you participated in non-traditional livelihood?	Yes	80	59.3
		No	55	40.7
		Total	135	100.00
2	Animal husbandry	yes	35	43.7
	Fattening	yes	25	31.3
	Crop trading	yes	11	13.5
	Petty trade	yes	6	7.5
	Apiculture	yes	3	3.7
	Total	yes	80	100
3	Have you got credit accesses?	Yes	63	46.7
		No	72	53.3
		Total	135	100.00
4	Do you believe that saving helps you to increase your income?	Yes	131	97.04
		No	4	2.96
		Total	135	100.00

As we can see from Table 10, 59.3% of women were involved in non-traditional livelihood activities and 41% of them were involved in agricultural activities like crop and livestock production. This shows that the majority of women were supported by non-traditional livelihood activities. The impact of the CDD approach is believed to be readily visible as most respondents have been involved in non-traditional activities by being members of community-based organizations for over five years.

As shown in Table 10, 43.7% of the respondents were engaged in animal husbandry and 31.3% in fattening of ox or small ruminants while 13.5%, 7.5%, and 3.7%, were on crop trading, petty trading and apiculture respectively.

In the survey, respondents were also asked whether or not they use credit services from financial institutions on their Kebele. Table 10 showed that 46.7% of women respondents responded that they had access to credit services while 53.3% had not. As indicated in figure 4, 63% of the respondent women were married while 16.4% were widows. Respondents who divorced were 22%. This shows that the great majority of the respondent women who had credit services were married.

Figure 4: Percentage share of respondent women in credit services



Source: own survey result, 2023

The FGDs participants believed that they could get a loan if they wanted too. Mender 41's key interviewee reported that credit access was better than before the project. As the study's literature review showed, CDD programs that support livelihoods or income-generating activities are often successful in improving women's access to credit, education, and jobs (World Bank,2017).

4.1.5.3 Capacity Building

Capacity building is among the main activities of the CDD project which support to increase women's skills and ability to run and manage their livelihoods as well as increase their self-reliance. Capacity building in this study was evaluated women participation in community-based organizations' capacity building training and request of skills and knowledge from the trainings. Respondents were asked whether they had participated in community-based organizations' capacity building training by DRDIP project through CDD approach.

Table 11:Capacity Building Trainings

S. No	Factors (Variables)	Category	Freq.	Percent
1	Capacity Building trainings on sustainable management of CIGs (group strengthening, book keeping and recording, and business planning.)	Yes	57	42.2
		No	78	57.8
		Total	135	100.00
2	Capacity building on RUSACCO and Cooperative (on saving and credit, and financial management training)	Yes	112	83
		No	23	17
		Total	135	100.00

Source: survey result, 2023

The World Bank (2015) indicated that the CDD approach operates on the principle of enhanced local capacity. Thus, the capacity of women must be developed to enhance their active participation in development. The DRDIP project trained women and men in sustainable management of CIGs (group strengthening, bookkeeping and recording, and business planning). As shown in table 11, women respondents were asked whether they had attended any capacity building training on sustainable management of CIG activities. Thus, 42.2% of the respondents participated while 57.8% did not participate. This is because, as in table 9, 43% of the respondents are CIG members who did the project provided training on the management of CIGs for CIG members only. As we see in table 11, 83% of women participated in RUSACCO and Cooperative training while 17% did not participate because of their social issues. The key informant reported that before providing seed money for CIG members, they took training about the group strengthening, bookkeeping and recording, business identification and business plan preparation at kebele center.

In addition, a key informant man stated that " the project provided trainings on gender equality, women participation, and gender-based violence for community members including husbands. Therefore, men's attitude on women's engagement in community meetings is changed relatively than the previous time as a result husbands permitted wives to participate trainings and community meetings."

According to DRDIP completion report (2022), the project to improve the service delivery capacity of CBOs, which include RUSACCOs, CIG, cooperatives, farmers, pastoralists and

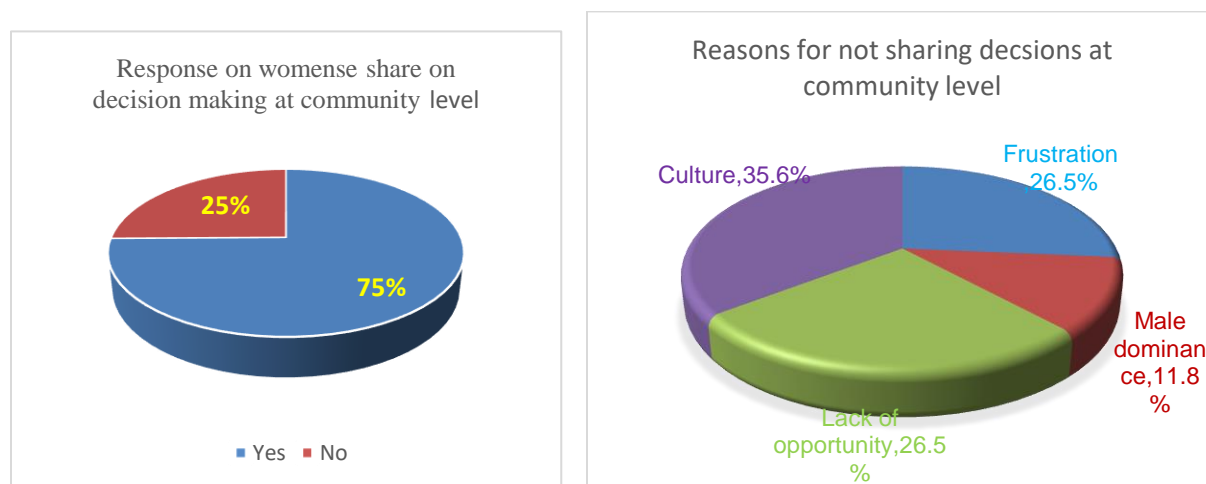
community-level committees, included training on group empowerment, savings, financial literacy, accounting, etc. provided for 13,997 participants, 48% of whom were women.

In general, capacity-building training is one of the key tools to empower women by improving their communication skills and giving them access to information and access to technology. By considering these points, the DRDIP project, which implemented a CDD approach, prioritized the study participant women in the intervention areas and encouraged them to train.

4.1.5.4 Decision Making Empowerment

The project staff reported that it has established five (5) committee-based committees to manage and follow up the community investment projects, and to enhance community decision-making skills. Each committee member has participated in decision making. Of the committee, at least two (2) members were women. Women committee members shared and developed decisions at community level through these committee. In addition, women were involved as members and as leaders among CIGs and CBO committee members, which helped them to improve community-level decision skills.

Figure 5: Women’s response in sharing of decisions at community level and Reasons for not sharing

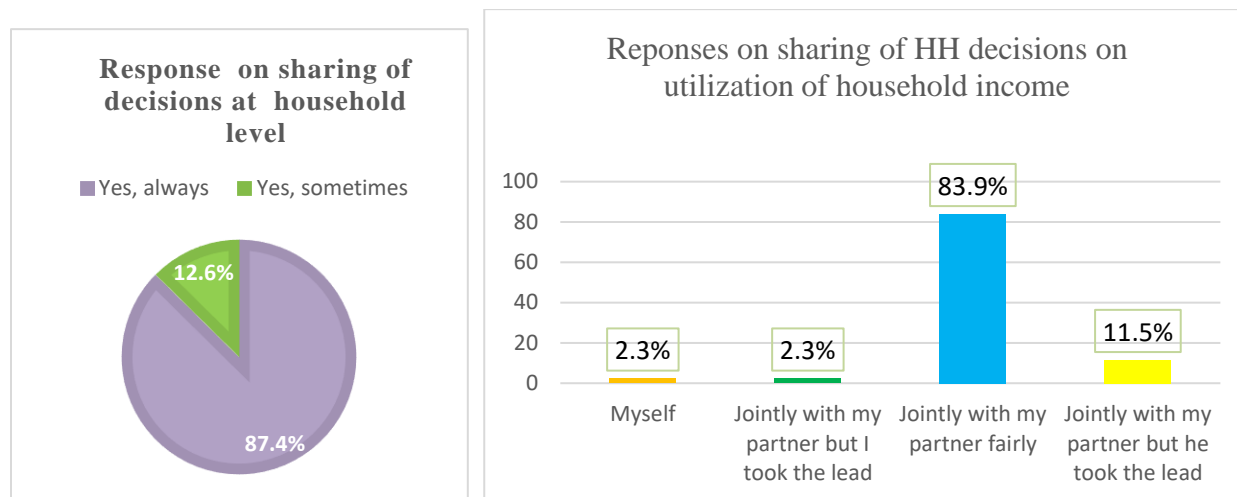


Source: own survey result, 2023

As can be seen from figure 5, 75% of 135 women respondents were involved in community-level decision-making, while 25% responded that they were not involved in community-level decision-making. The reasons given by women respondents for not sharing decisions at a community level were cultural influence (35.6%), frustration (26.5%), lack of opportunity (26.5%), and male

dominance (11.8%). As the reasons presented by Women respondents showed, though cultural influence took the lion's share, all facts prevailed in the study area.

Figure 6: Women in MHH's response in sharing of decisions at household level and on utilization of household income



Source: own survey result, 2023

Regarding women's decision making at household levels, the above figure 6 showed that 87.4% of the 87 women in MHHs respondents replied that they always shared decisions at household level and 12.6% replied that they sometimes shared decisions. The figure also indicated that 83.9% of women in MHHs reported that they made the major decisions on the utilization of household income jointly with their partners fairly; 11.5% made those decisions jointly with their partners but he took the lead; 2.3 reported that they made decisions jointly but he took the lead; and 2.3% replied that they made those decisions by themselves. In general, 98% of the household decisions were made jointly by the wife and husband, while 2% of made independently by wives.

Moreover, women FGD participants stated "the project increased the ability to negotiate through encouraging us to be members of committee members of CIGs, CBOs and community committee members, and then decision-making experience was available for us. We also discussed decisions on our saving and credit of allocated money, service charges during repayment, allocation of share for sale, and community cash and kind contributions for community investment in infrastructure construction. These supported us to share decisions at household level." A key informant also stated that "the project has provided access to finance to women in their villages which provides alternatives for them to empower themselves through saving and credit organization. And also, they have developed decision-making roles on issues in their day-today-

activity. For instance, women decided to be membership in CBOs, the amount of saving and share.”

The woman respondent indicated that " A 27-year-old lady replied that jointly with my husband set decisions concerning our household income and children’s issues after I have joined in non-traditional livelihood activities and as committee members of CBOs". While a 50-year-old participant described that "I somewhat participated in decisions regarding our household income."

In addition, a key informant (husband) expressed that " after I got continuous discussions and consultations which enabled me to share decisions with my wife fairly concerning our household incomes and children’s issues. I also observed in our community wives’ involvement in households’ decisions." The findings of the study also showed that during the survey FGDs, women were very active participants for the implementation in the project.

The above survey results are also supported by Bambasi woreda Annual (2022) report, at kebele level, the women participation in committee was above 30 percent which was encouraging, whereas at woreda level, the participation was lower than 20 percent.

According to the aforementioned findings, when the DRDIP project introduced the CDD strategy, husbands began consulting their spouses about decisions. The CDD strategy assists women in making better choices regarding how to spend household income, raising their idea both economically and socially. Because household decisions made by women have an impact on decisions made in the community and society as a result, it may be said that the CDD approach is a step towards women's empowerment. Asian Development Bank report (2012) indicated that CDD supported women with prioritizing their own needs and problems, designing their own subprojects, and making decisions on how resources are used. The project contributed to a significant improvement in the participation and leadership of women in local activities.

4.1.5.5 Access and Control of Resources

Education

Distance from schools and an inconvenient school environment is among the factors which hamper girls’ attendance, which limits their empowerment. Interviewed staff indicated that the CDD approach enabled women to address these issues and prioritize their needs at a grassroots level. Accordingly, the project, with the management and follow up of study participant

communities including women, constructed primary and secondary schools' nearby villages. During construction, women were part of community management, and they contributed cash and labor contributions. The DRDIP completion report (2022) presented that the project constructed 223 functional educational sub projects in considerable proximity to villages. The time to go to school is shortened.

Therefore, students traveling long distances are minimized and encouraged to learn in nearby villages; Fears of sexual harassment decreased, girls attended courses in the closest locations and in safe conditions, and the number of girls enrolling increased. Bambasi woreda's annual report (2022) showed that the project created a conducive learning environment for students. As a result, 3,835 students (51.8% female) attended the schools established in projects. In addition, the class ratio of students decreased from 1:74 to 1:48.

Health Centers

The distance between health care facilities and the associated lack of transport mean that women do not use health care facilities. Key informants to Woreda experts described increasing the focus of community consultations on gender and reproductive health issues so that women can benefit from the services. Then, to solve this problem, the project set up a health center (mother-child center) at Mender 43 and a health post at Mender 41. The time to get health services is reduced. The CDD approach enabled women to identify their health issues, as Women respondents indicated that they were able to choose their priorities in terms of having access to health care services and getting maternal and child health services

DRDIP implemented 97 additional functional human health facilities in 5 intervention regions (DRDIP 2022). This shortens the average walking time to the nearest health facility. The researcher found that health centers and health posts were partially built near villages with complete equipment and facilities. The women FGD participants at Mender 43 expressed the following:

DRDIP project enabled us to share our voice and concerns and decided to upgrade the previous health post to a maternal and child health center. As a result, a health center for mothers and children with a nurses house was built. Nowadays in our village we receive health services such as delivery services, child care and reproductive health services. We are so happy that we chose this sub-project and participated at all levels, including contribution of cash and my support in kind.

Water Points

Traditionally, fetching and managing drinking water were given to women as part of their daily routine of transporting water over long distances. Therefore, the DRDIP project, through the CDD approach, supported women in identifying the construction of water points at their villages. An interview with Bambasi woreda DRDIP project coordinator reported that during needs identification and prioritization community meetings, women dialogued with the community and influenced the community members by explaining created problems related to frequent movement to fetch water from long distances, like sexual violence and physical violence, and that the time they waste to fetch water would be used to participate in income-generating activities. Then the communities accepted the women's idea and set their priorities for water points to be constructed in their villages. Women also participated in environmental and social screening processes through their representatives to select the construction sites. As a result, five water points were constructed closer to their villages (Mender 41 and Mender 43) and have been serving the community. A woman respondent from Mender 41 stated that "at the beginning of the project our communities were called for a meeting to needs identification and prioritization, and then we women identified water points as first priority, while the men's priority was a warehouse. After a dialogue, the community members approved our choice. Then, the project constructed solar-based water points at the center of our village. We feel great pleasure as our voice is accepted by the community. This is all because CDD approach considers our issues and gives us a chance to prioritize our needs." A woman respondent from Mender 43 also specified that "our traveling long distances are reduced and time to fetch water is reduced, and their exposure to gender-based violence is considerably reduced and we saved time to accomplish economic activities. For instance, the time to fetch water decreased from 1:00 hours to 30 minutes."

Feeder Roads

The development of feeder roads has provided road links, market links, transport services and employment opportunities for rural communities. With these facts in mind, the study participant community identified the road sub-project using the CDD approach. Similar to the above sub-projects, both women in MHHs and FHHs identified and prioritized road sub-projects. Beneshangul Gumuz Region DRDIP Project Report (2022) showed that the project built 95 km

of feeder roads, saving women time and making it easier for girls and women to participate in activities for income generation and educational opportunities.

A key informant also reported that because of road accesses, women are getting ambulance services when giving birth and during their follow ups. The community especially women Loading and transporting/agricultural products, crops and vegetables for market, grinding mills using transport service than on foot by caring goods on their backs and some used donkeys.

During focus group discussions, women reported significant changes were: FGD in mender 43 showed that "the feeder road was muddy and difficult for transportation during rainy season before. At this time the project has constructed rural feeder roads in our areas and now, we have upgraded and better assess transportation service for our agricultural and industrial products to markets". FGD in Mender 41 also showed that "the quality of roads in our community has improved and women are getting ambulance services when giving birth and during their follow-ups". In addition, A respondent of 44-year-old woman said that "because DRDIP project constructed a feeder road to our village, our fear from sexual harassment is reduced, and our children have attended regularly." Moreover, a 33-year-old woman also stated that "We are obliged to go on foot carrying agricultural products for sell to Bambasi Town, since we do not have roads for vehicles. But now, DRDIP project constructed the feeder road we have used to transport agricultural products. Transportation hours were reduced from 1 hour to 15-20 minutes so that the project supported us to improve our economic status."

Table 12: Impact of CDD project on Women empowerment

S. N	Factors (Variables)	Category	Freq.	Percent
1	After the project is constructed health posts/centers, the use of reproductive health service has improved.	Disagree	0	0
		Neutral	17	12.6
		Agree	105	77.8
		Strongly agree	13	9.6
		Total	135	100.00
2	The increment in using agricultural inputs has improved production and productivity	Disagree	20	14.8
		Neutral	39	28.9
		Agree	70	51.9
		Strongly agree	6	4.4
		Total	135	100.00
3		Disagree	0	0
		Neutral	18	13.3

	After the implementation of the CDD, the right to control and to use of women household resources has increased.	Agree	112	83
		Strongly agree	5	3.7
		Total	135	100.00
4	Project's constructions like road, primary market, health, schools and water points near to your villages has supported to increase your income.	Disagree	3	2.2
		Neutral	12	8.9
		Agree	116	85.9
		Strongly agree	4	3
		Total	135	

Source: survey data 2023

As explained in table 12, after the construction of health posts/centers near to villages, respondents have been using a reproductive health service. 77.8% responded agree and 9.6% replied as strongly disagree while 12.6% of them replied as neutral. Totally, with the exception of 12.6% of respondents, 87.4% of respondents replied as they agreed that they are beneficiaries of reproductive health service supported by a project through CDD approach. From this, people who can use reproductive health services can limit the number of children and keep her health, which is a good opportunity to participate in non-traditional livelihood activities.

Women respondents were asked, whether the increment in using agricultural inputs has improved production and productivity by the help of CDD approach and their response showed that 28.9% replied neutral and 14.8% reported no increment in the use of agricultural inputs and did not improve in production and productivity. 55.4% of the respondents testified that the project helped them to improve production and productivity. Therefore, the CDD approach through DRDIP project has contributed positive significance to the production and productivity for women. A 45-year-old woman showed that "the agricultural extensions and input provisions for caring for our animal health by extension workers were some improvements after the commencement of the project in our kebele." Her idea is also supported by a key informant, that "after the project has strengthened the farmers' training centers and provision of gender training for us, the provision of agricultural extension services and inputs has improved."

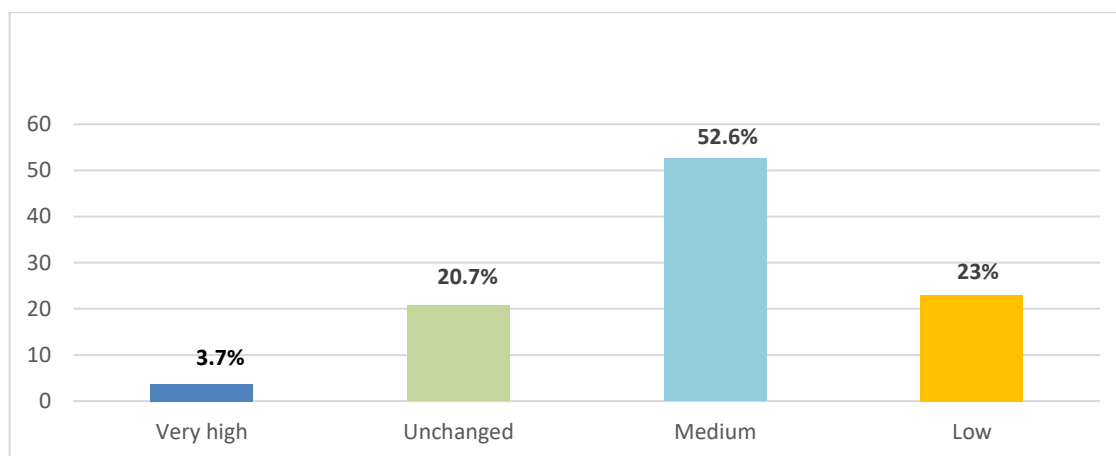
As indicated in table 12, the respondents were asked after the CDD implementation whether their right to control and use of women's household resources has increased or not. Accordingly, 87% of them replied that the project supported them to increase their awareness of the right to control and to use of women's household assets, while 13% of them reported as neutral. Women were made to be member of CIGs and RUSACCOs which enabled them to have access for financial sources. This membership created them the chance for financial freedom to increase savings and

to buy household related expenditures. As women themselves explained during FGD, they used reproductive health services without husbands' and cultural influences which implied that their reproductive services are under women's control. From the above analysis, one can suggest that the project through CDD approach, contributed key roles in raising women's access and control of resources.

4.1.5.6 Domestic Work Load

Figure 7 indicates that 3.7% women respondents reported as domestic workload is very high (means women's household work become increased) and 20.7% of the women respondents reported that it was unchanged (women's domestic work load is not reduced). But 77% (52.6% medium and 23% low) of respondents indicated that the workload had relatively decreased after the CDD approach is implemented.

Figure 7: Rate of domestic work load by sample respondents



A 33-year-old woman specified that "water sources are near to our villages; roads are being built, we drive to market instead of walking, mills are being built in our village by CIGs, saving our time and energy; additionally, our frequent movement to collect firewood will be reduced due to the project's provision of alternative energy sources. This minimized housework compared to before the project. In addition, due to awareness creations on gender issues by the project and woreda women's affairs office, my husband helps me with the domestic work. He feeds babies and cleans the house." FGD men participants also supported this idea "the project provided us awareness creation on gender roles and responsibilities of domestic work; we have started to share housework tasks."

The above figures are supported by the key informant; she said, the construction of social and economic infrastructure services in their vicinity contributes a lot to minimize the distance they travel and the time they vested before. She added that the alternative energy sources that the DRDIP project provided are minimized to some extent the time to collect fire wood. She also explained that the project's training on gender issues and gender-based violence enabled husbands to share household chores. One can understand that the awareness raising carried out by the project and the access to social and economic services created through the CDD approach has helped to minimize the domestic workload of women.

Therefore, the results showed that the domestic workload decreased to some extent after the project provided access to social and economic services near villages in the intervention areas.

4.1.5.7 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence prevents women from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the right to a person's life and security, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to education and to participate in public life. In the DRDIP intervention area, women were exposed to domestic violence due to existing socio-cultural gender issues and economic dependency (DRDIP Social Assessment, 2016). To minimize these problems, the project has empowered women by creating employment opportunities through organizing CIGs and CBOs

In this survey, respondents were asked about the status of domestic violence. They reported that after the projects had started in the intervention area, domestic violence had decreased compared to its previous level. Respondents indicated that the project and the Woreda Office of Women's Affairs provided capacity development training on women's rights and preventing violence against women: the project improved negotiation skills by encouraging us to be a member of committee members and the project supported us in this be economically independent by prioritizing and creating employment opportunities in GIGs, RUSACCOs and several primary cooperatives. Because of all the mentioned activities, husbands' attitudes have changed. This reduces domestic violence to a certain extent before the project's implementation.

Based on the above findings, continuous grassroots awareness programs play a role in minimizing gender inequality at the community and household levels. In addition, the employment opportunities for women and young people in activities to secure a living are increased, which

leads to an economic empowerment of women. Since the economic empowerment of women as a protective factor against violence against women (Beijing Declaration, 1985) they all worked to minimize domestic violence.

4.1.6 Women's Challenges and Coping Mechanisms in CDD Approach Implementation

4.1.6.1 Women's Challenges

The respondent women explained that they encountered different challenges throughout their involvement in problem identification, prioritization, planning and implementation through the CDD approach. They reported that due to gender norms, women's sphere is at home and household chores are reserved for women and girls. As a result, women did not have the time to regularly attend community meetings. Furthermore, gender norms limit women to speak in front of men and to participate in community-level decision-making on an equal footing with men, although these issues are minimized from time to time through ongoing capacity-building training. Some community members believed in male dominance, allowing men to take the lion's share of leadership positions while limiting women's share. Also, few Women respondents indicated that they were unable to take on leadership roles at the community level because of the existing gender norms and patriarchal system that led them to believe. A key respondent woman also added that women's decision-making share at community level was not as equal as male due to the presence of few women at kebele level who have a capacity and experience to manage community decisions. Women also thought that the mentioned gender norms and male dominance hampered them from participating in decision issues equally like husbands at household level, as one key informant explained. In addition, they reported that household workload lagged them in the ability to participate in community meetings as expected.

The main problem women faced, according to the women interviewed, was their lower educational status, which prevented them from obtaining agricultural and other development information from technologies (brochures, newspapers, etc.). In addition, due to their lower level of education, they encountered recording problems of their expenditures and revenues due to their lower educational level.

Respondent women described that the seed money which the project provided for CIGs did not cover businesses which need a lot of money, like grain mills. And have limited to diversify to

different business types. They also informed that the amount of seed money given to RUSACCOs by the project is less, it is not able to accommodate many borrowers and it has limited them to have credit access to engage in various income-generating activities. In addition, Women respondents reported that there is a gap in marketing for their products. Women respondents who were engaged in non-traditional livelihood business activities like cattle and goat breeding, oxen fattening and other business did not get regular technical support from Development Agents (DAs). They stated that women could not get agriculture extensions as properly as males. Because of cultural and religious factors, male DAs were not interested in agricultural extension services provision from home to home like health extension female workers.

4.1.6.2 Coping Mechanisms

Women respondents asked their coping mechanisms for their encountered problems and their responses are summarized as follows:

- Arrangement of convenient time: like waking up early in the morning for early accomplishment of household work to participate in community meetings.
- Sharing the household works with girls, older sons and husbands
- Female members of CIGs discussed with their members and agreed to do their business in shifts. And some members gave permission for mothers who have many family members.
- To challenge existing gender norms, women have raised this issue at community meetings through their representative members women committee-based members. They also discussed how to minimize these problems at group gatherings and their social gatherings like coffee ceremonies. Additionally, they engaged in ongoing conversations with their husbands to minimize male dominance at the household level, which also helped minimize this dominance at the community level.
- The DRDIP project initiative, which mandates the obligatory participation of women in all project activities, created a good opportunity for women to organize in non-traditional livelihood activities. Because of this enabling environment, they explained, they discussed issues such as preventing domestic violence and improving decision-making.
- Regarding bookkeeping and record keeping, they elected committee members who can read and write. In addition, respondents reported that their children and relatives supported them in recording their expenses and income (accounting). Women

diversified and expanded their businesses by borrowing from friends and relatives to fill their financial gaps. They used it as an alternative to enhance group saving and shorten the repayment time of loan services

- To avoid marketing problems and to increase their market potentials for their products, they reported, they communicated and exchanged market related information with each other through mobile phones.

4.2 Discussions

Though CDD has contributed a lot to empower women through capacity building, livelihood engagement and women's involvement in problem identification, prioritization, and implementation and follow up of status of activities, changes on women in the study area were not as expected. According to the European Gender Institute, women are said to be empowered when five components are fulfilled: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally (European institute for gender equality, 2016). When the contribution of CDD to women empowerment in the study area was evaluated based on the above five empowerment components, it is still low and needs special attention. The project through CDD strived to develop women's sense of self-esteem, access of opportunities and resources, control of their own lives and influence the direction of social changes to create just social and economic order though changes on these variables are not as planned since backlogs and the deep-rooted social and economic problems of women bounced these efforts partly. Even though different interventions were implemented by the project through CDD approach, due to the nature of women empowerment, the planned changes were not recorded within the project life. Empowerment of women is viewed as a process rather than a finished product (Kabeer, 1999).

However, there is a difference between what was planned and achieved; the research confirmed that there were changes on factors of women empowerment like women participation, capacity building, access and control of resources and nontraditional livelihood engagement of women. UN Women (2014) furtherly describe women economic empowerment which includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets, access to and control over productive resources, decent work, control over their own time, lives, and bodies, and increased voice, agency, and

meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels, from the household to international institutions. Considering the above fact, the project in the study area applied CDD approach to bring changes on the aforementioned factors.

The participation of women has been increased relatively than before the project since CDD approach created conducive environments like village-level community meetings, selecting women convenient time, levying 50% prescribed number of women participations in needs identification and prioritization. As the survey result showed, 89.6% of respondent women were participated in needs identification and prioritization. Without women's participation, economic development as one aspect of sustainable development is impossible (OECD, 2008). Therefore, 89.6% of women participation through CDD implied that they were contributing for sustainable development and women empowerment. When women participated in economic and social issues, they raised their issue in meetings, assured real involvement in community planning, voluntary labor and cash contribution for infrastructure construction that helped them to develop sense of ownership, which in turn helped women develop self-confidence in utilizing the resource.

As the study showed the engagement of women in non-traditional livelihood businesses, helped them to increase their income. 76.4% of respondents' annual income ranged from 12,000 to 16,000 Birr was obtained from non-traditional livelihood which was 11,000 Birrs before CDD implementation. The project was working on women's income increment believing that when women's income increased, they would be free from male dependency and become empowered. UN women (2014) indicated that investing in women 's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

The participation of women in community committee and community-based organization committees helped them to improve their decision-making ability at household and community level. In some cultures, women 's mobility is restricted, they are expected to stay at home, keep quiet in public meetings, and agree with decisions made by men. Attitudes of local male leaders may be particularly problematic (World Bank, 2015). Therefore, to improve women's decision-making ability, different efforts were made by the project through CDD approach. The survey assured that 74.8% of women respondents indicated that they were involved in community-level decision-makings and 87.4% of women in MHHs were participated in household decision makings.

The construction of social and economic infrastructure services nearby villages gave women good opportunities to easily access social and economic services at their premises. This saved distance and time and encouraged women to participate in non-traditional livelihood programmes. The presence of additional time due to the presence of infrastructures at their vicinity, women were encouraged to participate in community-level meetings and capacity-building trainings which improved women's participation in community development programs, personal empowerment, skills and attitudes towards women's participation.

To conclude, due to the application of CDD approach women participation, decision making abilities in development and social agendas, income, access and control of resources has been improved than before the project though they were not as expected. The improvement of the abovementioned factors led to the improvement of women empowerment since women empowerment is a function of decision making, capacity building, participation, income, access and control of resources and the likes.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary of Findings

The participation of women in project activities was a problem before CDD was implemented through the project. CDD approach enhanced women participation by means of creating favorable environments like village-level community meetings, selecting convenient time for women, and giving 50% mandatory women participation in needs identification and prioritization. The survey result showed that 89.6% of respondent women reported that they were participated in needs identification and prioritization. The Approach helped to manage elite and male dominance to some extent which supported all women fairly to raise their ideas and get acceptance by the community. The result of the survey revealed that 75% of women respondents reported as they raised their issue in the meeting, and 80.5% of them indicated that their ideas were accepted by the community. In addition, real involvement in community planning and volunteering labor and cash contribution for infrastructure construction helped them to develop a sense of ownership, which in turn helped women develop self-confidence in utilizing the resource.

The creation of women only group brought conducive environment for women to freely reflect their ideas, and share social and economic issues. These supported them to strengthen their membership in CBOs. To address the economic problem of women, CDD implemented explicit gender targets or mandatory involvement requirements for women which in turn improved their participation in non-traditional livelihoods and increase their income. In addition, interest-based business plan empowered women's non-traditional livelihood businesses, which helped them increase their income. The result showed that 76.4% of respondents' annual income ranged between 12,000 and 16,000 Birr from non-traditional livelihood which is an increment from 11,000 Birrs before the CDD implementation.

CDD Approach taken as a compulsory women's inclusion strategy for decision making on community committee and community-based organization committees, supported women to increase their decision-making ability at household and community level. The survey assured that 74.8% of women respondents indicated that they were involved in community-level decision-makings and 87.4% of women in MHHs were participated in household decision makings.

The construction of social and economic infrastructure services near villages gave women good opportunities to easily access social and economic services in their businesses. This saved distance and time and encouraged women to participate in non-traditional livelihood programmes. The survey result showed that 89% of the respondents showed their consensus on the idea that infrastructure constructions like roads, health facilities, schools, and water points near villages and primary markets at the woreda level supported the increment of income. Community-level meetings and capacity-building trainings improved women's participation in community development programs, personal empowerment, skills and attitudes towards women's participation.

5.2 Conclusion

This study examined the role of the Community Demand Driven Development approach in empowering women in non-traditional livelihood programs using questionnaires, interviews and secondary data. As indicated by the study, as a result of the CDD approach, women's involvement in community needs identification and prioritization, planning, community decision-making, and community committee membership in non-traditional livelihood activities was enhanced.

As the CDD approach promoted the mandatory inclusion of women in community committees and community-based organizations, they increased their role in decision-making at the household and community levels. The CDD approach also gave women the opportunity to be heard, develop self-confidence and improve their ability to engage with local authorities. The study also ensured that capacity development training supported women to improve their skills and knowledge.

The CDD approach created an enabling environment for women's involvement in non-traditional subsistence activities, which enabled them to improve their savings culture, diversify their business and increase their income. The study showed that women's incomes were relatively better than before the implementation of the CDD approach. In addition, their access to and control over resources, as well as their ability to manage local resources, were improved to some extent, and had an impact on economic empowerment.

Though the CDD approach implementation had encountered problems like gender norms in some extent and budget scarcity to conduct continuous trainings and technical support for CIGs and CBOs, the approach was positively accepted and appreciated by almost all women beneficiaries in the study area.

The empowerment of women has become a global issue and is therefore also at the heart of the implementation of the CDD approach in non-traditional livelihood programs. The results of the study showed that increasing women's involvement in project activities, non-traditional livelihood and capacity building work resulted in higher levels of participation and genuine engagement in all project activities. Improved community and household decision-making and improved access to social and economic infrastructure services have been a result of women's participation, capacity building, and non-traditional livelihood engagements. Access to nearby social and economic infrastructure services resulted in more free time for women and opened up opportunities to engage in non-traditional subsistence and other income-generating activities. This excess time also allowed them to become more involved in community-level development activities, which in turn helped them increase community acceptance and change attitudes. The presence of more participation, improved decision-making, improved access and control of resources, improved employment opportunities for women, and a decrease in domestic violence are features that demonstrate improving women's empowerment. During the implementation of the community-oriented development approach, the above explanatory variables showed improvements and contributed significantly to the empowerment of women than before the project.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher has drawn some recommendations on the implementation of CDD approach through DRDIP project:

1. To enhance women's participation and freely express their ideas in community meetings, it is better to: invite women by name rather than inviting a household representative; strengthen women's only separate meetings; put women in the front rows of meetings; appoint female facilitators at the grassroots level; and design a training schedule and venue to suit rural women. So that more women can benefit.
2. Women leadership trainings and grass root level gender forums are suggested to improve women's decision-making role within the community and at household level.
3. Improving women friendly agricultural extension services at grassroot level is suggested.
4. Promoting women-friendly and labor-saving technology like solar based efficient cook stoves, coffee grindings, baking machines is recommended to reduced house work burden which in return saves women's time to increase women's engagement in nontraditional livelihood activity.

5. Creating a network among CIGs and CBOs with microfinance or any other financial institutions, will resolve budget scarcity of those women who have the interest to expand their business
6. The project or government organizations will better promote adult education for women so that they can use technology to understand agricultural and market information, and to record their incomes and expenses.
7. Formulating an integrated awareness creation programs on gender and working towards changing the unbalanced gender attitude. This could best be achieved by working closely working with religious institutions and community.
8. The researcher also suggests more further detailed qualitative research studies on CDD approaches and their impacts on women empowerment compared to the earlier approaches to community development This would help bring out the effectiveness and efficiency as well as sustainability of the CDD approach as compared to the centralized approaches to community development

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Annexes
Annex I: Questionnaire

Addis Ababa University College of Development Studies
Center for Gender Studies

Household Survey Questionnaire (for Women spouses and Female headed households)

Dear respondent, this questionnaire is designed to collect data for the study titled with ‘The Role of Community Demand Driven Development Approach in Empowering Women: The Case of Bambasi Woreda, Beneshangul-Gumuz Region. The objective of the study is to examine women’s socio-economic empowerment opportunities and to assess women’s challenges and the coping mechanisms in community development approach implementation by Development response to displacement impacts project. The study result will have contributions as knowledge source in the area of studying on social and economic empowerment of women. Your responses will be kept secretly and used only for academic purpose. The successful completion of this study and the value it adds depends on your genuine and honest response. Hence, I kindly request your cooperation to respond all questions.

Name of Enumerator _____, Date _____

Part I: Demographic characteristics of respondents

1) Kebele

2) Age

3) Religion

1 Orthodox

2 Muslim

3 Catholic

4 Protestant

5 Other

4) Marital status

1	Married
2	Widow
3	Divorced
4	Single
5	Other

5) Educational status.

- 1 Cannot Read and write
- 2 Read and write
- 3 Primary level (1-8)
- 4 Secondary Level (9-12)
- 5 Diploma

6). Number of household's members

1. 1-2
2. 3-4
3. 5-6
4. 7 and above

Part II: Women's empowerment factors

2.1 Level of Income

1) What is the primary source of income of the household? (put 'x' in front of your source of income)

1	Crop production only	
2	Livestock production	
3	crop production & livestock	
4	Non-traditional livelihood	

2) What was your estimated annual income from Non-traditional livelihood after the project is commenced at your kebele? (put 'x' in front of your estimated annual income)

S. N	Level of income	Remark(x)
1	Less than 10,000 Birr per Annum	
2	10,001-12,000 Birr per Annum	
3	12,001-14,000 Birr per Annum	
4	14,001-16,000 Birr per Annum	
5	More than 16,000 Birr per Annum	

2.2. Participation

1) Did you participate in needs identification and problem prioritizing community meetings at your locality over the last 5 years?

1. Yes
2. No

- 2) If your answer for question number 1 is yes, did you raise ideas?
 - 1 Yes
 - 2 No
- 3) If your answer for question number 2 is yes, did your idea get acceptance?
 - 1 Yes
 - 2 No
- 4) How do you rate village level community planning and consultation in empowering yourself?
 - 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 To some extent
 - 4 I don't know
5. Do the economic and social infrastructures construct near to villages by considering your need and preferences?

2.3 Capacity Building

- 1) Have you ever attended any training programs regarding?

Type of training	Yes	No
Capacity Building trainings on sustainable management of CIGs (group strengthening, book keeping and recording, and business planning.)		
Capacity building on RUSACCO and Cooperative (on saving and credit, and financial management training)		

- 2) If your answer Q 2.2.1 is no, why didn't you attend the training?
 1. No training sessions organized
 2. Training venues too far
 3. Was not convenient to my time
 4. Other (Specify)

3) How many times did you receive trainings on non-farm livelihoods?

1	Four times in a year
2	Three times in a year
3	One in a year
4	None

2.4 Membership to Community based organizations (CBOs)

1)

Name of CBOs	1. Yes	2. No	If your answer is no why
Common interest groups			
Rural Saving Credit and cooperative associations			
Multiple Primary Cooperatives			
Participated in management of project core activities			
Regular savings in RuSACCOs and CIGs			
Do you believe that saving helps you to be empowered			
Have you got credit accesses			

2). Have you participated in non-farm livelihood?

1. Yes

2. No

3). If your answer for question No, 7 is yes, in which of the off-farm activities your household is engaging in at present?

Off farm activities	1. Yes 2. No
livestock production (Dairy, poultry, beekeeping, fish, shoat)	
Selling fattened Cattle	
Selling fattened Shoats	
Crop trading	
Petty trade	
Grinding services	
Apiculture	

2.5. Decision Making

1. Did you share a decision in your group CBOs?

1 Yes

2 No

2. If your answer 2.4.1 is no, why did you share ideas on decision making?

1. Not participatory
2. Frustration
3. Male dominance
4. Lack of opportunity
5. Culture

3. Are you consulted in household decision making? (For married women)

- 1 Yes, always
- 2 Yes, sometimes
- 3 Not at all

4. Who makes the major decision on utilization of household income? (For married women)

1. Myself
2. Jointly with my partner but I took the lead
3. Jointly with my partner fairly
4. Jointly with my partner but he took the lead

2.6. Access and Control of Resources

1. Women's household work load

1. The Load is very high
2. Unchanged
3. Medium
4. Low

2. If the household workload of you is reduced, why? Explain?

Kindly confirm your level of agreement with the following points on the issue Access and Control of Resources of women.

Strongly disagree =1

Agree =4

Disagree =2

Neutral=3

Strongly Agree =5

S. No	Survey questions	Response				
		1	2	3	4	5
3)	CDD approach supported the construction of social and economic infrastructures near to villages which increased access of resources for empowering women.					
4)	After the project is constructed health posts/centers near to villages, you have got a reproductive health service.					
5)	The increment in using agricultural inputs has improved production and productivity.					
6)	After the implementation of the CDD, the right to control and to use of women household resources has increased.					
7)	Project's constructions like road, primary market, health, schools and water points near to your villages has supported to increase your income.					
8)	After implementing of the CDD, women household asset ownership has increased at present as compared to the previous times.					

3. Women Empowerment

- 1) How do you evaluate the status of domestic violence? If it is reduced why? Explain
- 2) How does your husband view your contribution to the household after your joining non-traditional livelihoods?
- 3) How do you evaluate the community's perception for you after your joining non-farm livelihoods?
- 4) How the community driven development approach enables you to participate in social and economic affairs at your locality?
- 5) How the community driven development approach supported you to increase your incomes?

6) Would you explain the barriers that limit your participation in non-farm livelihood programs?

7) How did you overcome these barriers?

8) Do you have any recommendations to empower women?

End: Thank you the Respondent for their Patience and Contribution

Annex II: Interview and Focus Group Guide

I. Key Informant Interview

1.1. Woreda Women's Affairs and Project Staff

1. What is the office done to promote gender mainstreaming in the CDD approach?
2. Does the office run the management of CDD project at the woreda and Kebele levels? 1. Yes, 2, No If yes, what is its role?
3. How do you observe the level of women participation and involvement in project planning, implementation and management of CDD projects in their communities?
4. How do you see the role of CDD in affecting women's decision making at household and at community level?
5. How do you evaluate women's participation in the various income-generating activities?
6. Do you think /observe any change in the life of women after they join to non-farm livelihood programs after CDD is implemented in their locality? In what ways? Elaborate!
7. What challenges are that women encountered during CDD implementation?
8. What coping mechanisms are adopted by women to overcome the challenges during the implementation CDD approach?
9. What are your recommendations on the CDD approach to be effective on women empowerment?

1.2 Cooperative Experts & DAs

1. What is the role of your office to motivate women to join the non-traditional livelihood programs and CBOs?
2. Do you believe that you are extending the trainings on agriculture extensions and non-farm livelihood equally to female and male farmers? What disparities do you see?
3. How do you explain the opportuneness of financial option for women before they become a member of CBOs?
4. How do you assess women's participation and leadership in various leadership positions before and after their membership in CBOs?
5. What is your observation on women's participation in the program? Are women benefiting or otherwise?

1.3. Men Community Leaders

1. How was the participation of wives in community planning, implementation, managing of the CDD projects? Do you share household decisions for your wife/women spouses? If your answer is yes, how? why?
2. Do you share household tasks/ why?
3. Do you believe that your wife/women spouse engagement in non-farm livelihoods changed their status at community level? Why? How?
4. What are the challenges which hinder wives/women participation in the CDD projects?

2. Focus Group Discussion Guides

2.1 Community based committees

1. How do you evaluate women participation in needs identification and prioritizing community meetings?
2. How do you evaluate women as members in community-based committee members? Did they raise ideas and get acceptance?
3. Do you think CDD improves women's decision-making power after they become in community-based organizations/CBOs/? At household level and community level? How? Why?
4. Do you think women who participated in the community-based committee and CBOs increased their status in the community? How? Why?
5. What are the challenges that hinder women to participate and to be accepted their voice in the committee? Elaborate mechanisms to solve these challenges?

2.2 Women CBO members

1. Do you think that the CBOs (Saving and Credit Program, common interest, cooperatives) contributed for the economic wellbeing of your own and your family?
2. Do you think the saving and Credit Program, common interest, cooperatives programs increase women's income?
3. Do you think CDD enable CBO women members to have access and control over resources?
4. Do you observe improvements in women's decision-making power after they become in community-based organizations? At household level and community level? How? Why?
5. How do you observe women's self-confidence after they become a member of CBOs?
6. What are the key challenges that women encountered during CDD implementation? How do you cope up?

2.3. In-depth interview with Women Spouses and FHHs

Age _____

Religion _____

Marital Status _____

Level of Education _____

Kebele _____

Number of household members permanently live	Male	Female
School children		

1. How do you compare your participation in community planning, implementation and managing of community projects and local developments before and after you become a member of CBOs?
2. How do you evaluate the decision-making role at household and at community level at present as compared before the DRDIP project implementation? Elaborate!
3. What opportunities did you draw in your project participation in CBOs?
4. How social and economic infrastructures support you in easing household tasks?
5. How evaluate your self-confidence after your joining non-farm livelihood?
6. How do you evaluate trainings provided for you on CBOs?
7. Do you think that the CBOs contributed for the economic wellbeing of your own and your family? How?
8. Do you think CBOs (RUSACCOs, CIGs, and primary cooperatives) enable women to have access and control over resources?
9. Do you believe that your economic status brings about a change in your social relations in your community? 1. Yes 2. No if your answer is yes, how?
10. What are the key challenges are that you have encountered during CDD implementation? How do you cope up?