

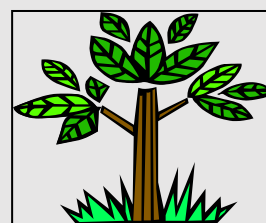
Contribution of the UN Peace Building Fund to Women's Economic Empowerment and Peace. A Participatory Rural Poverty Assessment of the Project:

creating peaceful societies through improved access to women's management of natural resources, land tenure right and economic empowerment in Sierra Leone



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Green Scenery

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Executive Summary

Green Scenery is one of the Implementing Partners of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) of the project titled Creating Peaceful Societies through Improved Access to Women's Management of Natural Resources, Land Tenure Rights and Economic Empowerment in Sierra Leone. The project was supported by the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UNPBF). Green Scenery implemented as part of the overall project in Port Loko district.

This study was to interrogate the second outcome of the intervention which states: Sustained peace in the household due to increased income and domestic food and nutrition security through women's livelihood activities and village saving scheme. We wanted to find out whether the PBF support added value to the empowerment of women by improving women's income, to what extent in the home. What is or would be the degree of peace that would exist in the home if there is improvement in income and food?

We used a combination of methods to elicit data and information as seen in the methodology. We emphasised participatory approach to determine the outcome of this study. The study had a fixed pre-determined sample size of 60 participants who are the beneficiaries of the above listed project. These participants are equally spread among the four villages of Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie, implying 15 beneficiaries per village. The analysis, findings of each village relates exclusively to the 15 beneficiaries. We used the sustainable livelihood frame work to determine the status of the beneficiaries in terms of indebtedness or savings by simply calculating income against expenditure of their normal livelihood strategies. We further explored the income derived from the additional farming support from the UNPBF. We quantized the derivatives of the farming outputs and monetized it to arrive at the income generated from farming activity supported by PBF. We then undertook a simple gap analysis by simple difference between income versus expenditure of what obtained before the PBF project support and income derived from PBF support.

What the data presented:

That over 60% of the female household heads are still in fertility age range,

That a large number of dependants (813) are associated with the 60 households

That out of the 813 dependants, 53.14% (432) are children and of the 432 child dependants, 48.61% (210) are girls and the rest 222 (51.39%) are boys.

Of the 432 child dependants, 70.1% (303) children are going to school and 29.9% are not going to school.

That except in one village, Rokupr Wosie, whose beneficiaries had savings prior to the UNPBF project support, the rest of the other villages; Rosint, Matete and Kalangba had their beneficiaries indebted by Le 1,330,000, Le 5,769,000, and Le 7,685,000 respectively.

That the additional support from the UNPBF project increased their income levels to bridge the deficit and realise savings. Data shows that put together beneficiaries of Kalangba made a savings of Le 15,335,000, beneficiaries of Matete made a savings of Le 12,256,000, beneficiaries of Rosint made a savings of Le 13,590,000, while beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie made the highest savings of Le 20,605,000.

Even though the data did not capture information that would determine a reduction or otherwise in domestic conflict or quarrels, however, data showed that beneficiaries engage in domestic quarrels. To a very large extent the quarrels are over feeding in the home. However, the harvest of crops supported by the UNPBF project indicates that domestic conflict over feeding in the home would be significantly reduced as stated in a monitoring exercise carried out at another time in line with this study.

Findings

1. The study shows that the UNPBF supported project contributed to generating wealth for the beneficiaries by improving on their savings rather than re-enforcing indebtedness. It means therefore that their poverty level was positively impacted
2. It is also implied that domestic conflict especially over feeding for the home would be significantly reduced since food and levels of money would at hand for use in the home.

3. The supply of farm inputs at about the crucial time of the planting season may have contributed to the good harvests of crops as data shows.
4. The farming inputs also triggered women's demand for land to carry out their farming, which they got according data, showing that their tenure rights are being recognized.
5. The investigation shows that wealth generation depend on other factors and not necessarily livelihood strategy alone. If the other factors (capitals) are unfavourable, income generated may be limited or very poor.
6. Some communities had very high expenditure lines, while others had low expenditures. Rokupr Wosie is a typical example of a low expenditure village. This low expenditure presented the opportunity to make more gains in the savings. It will be useful if the other villages learn from this village.

Creating Peaceful Societies through Improved Access to Women's Management of Natural Resource, Land Tenure Right and Economic Empowerment in Sierra Leone

Study background

This study is set to investigate the above titled project, supported with funding from United Nation Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) through the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO). The project had as its introduction, expected result, and outcomes as stated below.

Introduction

Investment in women's empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, equity, poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Women make enormous contributions to the growth of society whether they are in business, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. However, research show that they remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. Gender discrimination means women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. It curtails access to economic assets such as land and loans. It limits participation in shaping economic and social policies, and because they perform the bulk of the housework, they often have little time left to pursue economic opportunities.

Therefore, fostering women's empowerment and access to political, legal, economic, and social rights is a core dimension of peacebuilding efforts. In Sierra Leone, land tenure and access to natural resources lie at the heart of this debate. The complex land tenure and ownership system and unequal access to natural resources are among the primary causes of conflicts in the country. Farmers – particularly women – operate in an informal and precarious system without any legal safeguards.

The initiative is time-sensitive, as the new Government has committed to the implementation of the long-due land reform through the National Land Policy (NLP). Further to this, the government has also developed the National Development Plan in 2018, which was recently launched. The NDP dedicates an entire cluster/chapter to women's empowerment.

The initiative is consequently innovative, as the only initiative in the country that promotes women's land tenure security, economic empowerment, and peace building, building on the implementation of land reform. The project is also in line with the government's efforts to foster national cohesion, as local conflicts will be prevented through dialogue, with the support of a network of trained insider mediators. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation also identified land issues and land rights as priority areas for the UN peace building architecture in Sierra Leone, during a videoconference with the Peace building Commission in May 2018.

A range of discriminatory laws, including statutory and customary laws, further reinforces these. Even when national laws such as the Gender Acts of 2007 are passed to address the inequalities, they remain difficult to enforce, largely due to the deeply held traditional practices and socio-cultural norms that reinforce discrimination. These gender acts remain to be tools for advocates and passive legislation in governance simply because they are weakened by a dominant constitutional requirement/clause which promotes culture and tradition and by extension customary practices.

With this scenario, improvement of governance of tenure will require engaging a broad range of stakeholders with different and, sometimes, conflicting interests. Building on the existing wide consensus on the need to strengthen women's empowerment and participation at all level of society, as well as to sustain social cohesion by preventing escalation and political use of land conflicts, the project will serve as catalyst to mobilize local and national political will to engage powerful elites who benefit from weak tenure governance and women's exclusion.

This initiative will use an innovative geospatial technology developed by FAO (SOLA Open Tenure software) to record land rights and tenure relationships in the field. The technology empowers women to participate in harmonization and demarcation of the land boundaries as well as address land disputes through mediation.

Expected Result of the project

Improved gender equality and discriminatory practices against women and increased women's economic empowerment through knowledge and skills to access finance and market, small scale businesses, swift and credit and improve on their agricultural practices.

Outcome

- Land related disputes and discriminatory practices against rural women's access and ownership of land and other productive assets are reduced and women's decision making increased at all levels.
- Sustained peace in the household due to increased income and domestic food and nutrition security through women's livelihood activities and village saving scheme.

This participatory rural poverty assessment (PRPA) was one that was carried out during the course of the project. It assessed the livelihoods of the women beneficiaries and their coping strategies. It further assessed the income and expenditure of the beneficiaries and dwelt on the local conditions that would serve as enabling or disabling environment for the empowerment of women. The assessment took into consideration various capitals in the communities that can be harnessed by the beneficiaries to reduce their poverty condition or enhance their empowerment.

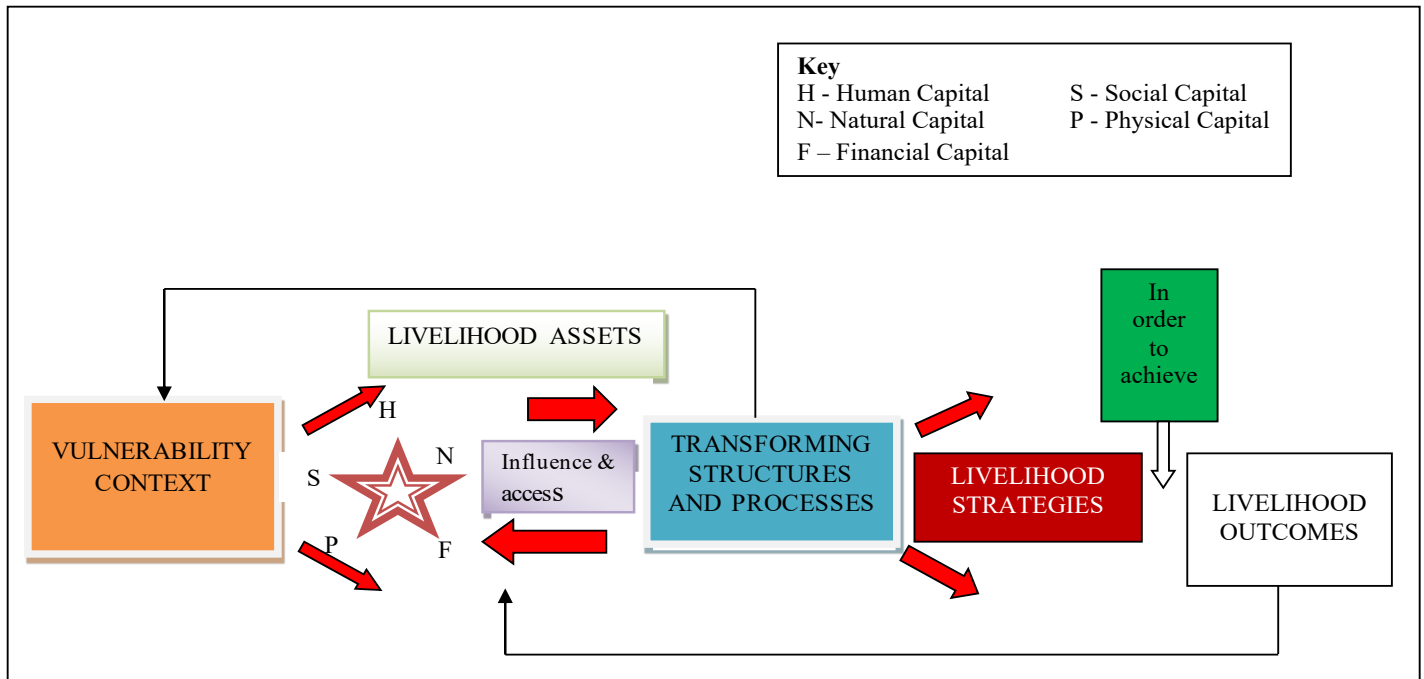
Understanding the level of poverty and available community capital is bound to inform on the kinds of intervention strategies that could be put in place to facilitate sustainable livelihood strategy where our understanding of sustainable livelihood to mean, ***“The maintenance or enhancement of resource productivity on a long-term basis that guarantees adequate stock and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs.”*** Once sustainable livelihood is established it therefore becomes paramount that this livelihood is secured in all its aspects. From this perspective our views of sustainable livelihood security is ***“the secure ownership or access on a long term to enhanced resource productivity that guarantees adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs.”*** Sustained livelihood is a guarantee source of income, bound to reduce poverty.

The Methodology

The approach used in this assessment was of the mixed type and was targeting strictly the beneficiaries of the project and, meaning our sample size was a total of 60 women in Rokupr Wosie, Rosint, Matete and Kalangba villages in the Bureh Chiefdom. Fifteen beneficiaries per village and most of them wives from either landowning families or married into land owning families. The beneficiaries were selected by the Village Area Land Committees (VALC) to benefit from the project. The assessment therefore had a pre-determined sample size.

Questionnaires were designed, tested and administered to solicit specific information from the sample participants. Cluster meetings (focused group) comprising three women per cluster with a total of five clusters per village were held. Two sets of questionnaires were administered at two different times. One, soliciting varieties of information and the other specifically soliciting crop harvest data. Meetings with key informants were organized in all of the three villages. Transect walks were done in each of the villages to assess the extent of their sizes, available natural resources, available services such as water and sanitation, schools, clinics and other features of interest.

Sustainable livelihoods framework



Source: Department for International Development Natural Resources Policy and Advisory Department.

Fig.1

The sustainable livelihood framework above is adopted for this report to guide the investigation, assess the vulnerability of the beneficiaries, determine their livelihood assets, and understand present livelihood strategies that lead to the current livelihood outcomes. Once these are established a close look at structures and processes inhibiting or slowing down sustained livelihood will be examined and necessary recommendations made for addressing them.

The following are the types of capital that were assessed in the villages:

- A. **Personal Capital:** Peoples’ internal motivations, their will to act to promote change, their drive to assert their rights and the spiritual side of their lives.
 - i. **Human Capital:** The skills, knowledge, ability to work and good health that together enable people to pursue their livelihood goals.
- B. **Social Capital:** This represents the informal networks, formal groups, relationships of trust and exchange – upon which people draw in pursuits of their livelihood strategies.
- C. **Physical Capital:** Comprises infrastructure and producer goods needed to support livelihoods. E.g. tools, equipment, affordable transport, secure shelter and buildings, adequate water supply and sanitation, clean and affordable energy and access to information.
- D. **Financial Capital:** These are financial resources used to achieve their livelihood goals. Key sources include: available stock such as cash, bank deposits, livestock, and jewelry. Others are access to credit, and regular inflows of money such as earned income, wages, pensions and remittances.

E. **Natural capital:** This is the natural resource stock from which resources and services useful for livelihood are derived. These can be nutrients, rainfall, erosion protection, land, swamps, and natural vegetation such as forests.

Available human and other forms of capitals in the four villages

village	Carpen- ters	Black smiths	Bike Riders	Tape Repaire	Tea- chers	Nurses	Craft persons	Village Governance	Motor Drivers	Bike Repairer	Safe w sanitation	School	Clinics	Paved roads
Rosint	2	2	6	0	3	0	1	Village govt. & VALC	1	0	1, out of order	Pmy 1	0	Main road
Rokupr Wosic	4	2	4	3	5	0	0	Village govt. & VALC	1	0	1, out of order	Pmy 1 Sec 1	0	Main road
Matete	4	1	8	0	3	0	0	Village govt. & VALC	1	1	1, in school	Pmy 1	0	None
Kalangb a	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	Village govt. & VALC	0	1	1, clinic	0	1	None

Safe water = dug well installed with standing hand pump

Sanitation= installation of public toilets or households installed with toilet facilities

Pmy = primary, Sec = secondary

Table 1

The PRPA process entailed assessing the capitals in the communities that facilitates or setback options for livelihood strategy and hence reduces or increases poverty. The need for capital assessment is necessary to determine how much resources are available in the communities that can be built upon to facilitate and sustain the choice of livelihood options of the beneficiaries. Understanding the level of poverty and available community capital is bound to inform Green Scenery whether the intervention strategies put in place to facilitate sustainable livelihood strategy were appropriate, where we understand sustainable livelihood to mean, ***“The maintenance or enhancement of resource productivity on a long-term basis that guarantees adequate stock and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs.”*** Once sustainable livelihood is established it therefore becomes paramount that this livelihood is secured in all its aspects. From this perspective Green Scenery further views sustainable livelihood security as ***“the secure ownership or access on a long term to enhanced resource productivity that guarantees adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs.”***

SHARED CAPITAL

To inform on common resources/capitals it was imperative to scan the villages by conducting transect walks in order to validate which capital/s were being shared among villages. It was discovered that Matete and Kalangba situated very close to each other less than one kilometer apart had shared capitals. Both villages share a vast swamp situated adjacent to the villages. Both villages farm rice during the rainy season. In the dry season they farm vegetables, and groundnut.

Next with sharing is a primary school hosted by Matete, which is shared by both villages. The school teachers are also shared by both villages even though there are school teachers in both villages, they are however serving the single primary school hosted by Matete.

In Kalangba there is a health clinic. But there is none in Matete. The Clinic or health post is shared by the two villages and women from both sides have benefited from its facilities. During the transect walk, lactating mothers from both villages were observed in the clinic. The house nurse confirmed that the facilities were meant to be shared by the villages including anyone who visits away from the two villages.

Kalangba has neither carpenter nor black smith. The skills of these category of skilled person are available at Matete. Beneficiaries in Kalangba express that when in need of the services of the carpenter or black smith they are hired to carry the required tasks and then pay for the service.

Sharing common resources/capital can present an opportunity for growth or a danger for conflict. Despite the intermarriages between families from both villages at least one major conflict occurred between Matete and Kalangba which led Matete to close the bridge linking the two communities. This infuriated the Kalangba inhabitants, causing them to construct an alternative road from their own village to the feeder road heading to the main highway. This way a major row between the two villages was avoided and including the swift intervention of the Paramount the conflict became short lived. But the dispute was over the shared resources – the clinic.

A wrangle occurred between the resident nurse and the Kalangba community members over the running of the clinic, which stalled the provision of health service. Residents of Matete saw the stall as a way of preventing the health service from benefiting them. Hence blocked the bridge between the two villages as a way of preventing the children from Kalangba to access the primary school in Matete. Through the Paramount Chief, the resident nurse was transferred, another nurse was sent in and resumed the services. The bridge became accessible and the children from Kalangba went to school in Matete.

The lesson both villages learnt was that they were both indispensable to each other and therefore required to cooperate for the sake of peaceful co-existence and development. Since that conflict, both villages have learnt to be at peace, even as there is competition between them. The common capital has been seen both as a cause for conflict or an opportunity for development.

The beneficiaries saw the shared capital as a saving because if these capitals were absent, it would cost them a lot of money in transportation, to go in search of medic-care, for their children to attend school, for them to get farm tools like cutlasses, hoes or access carpenters on time when they need them. These savings even though not obvious, virtually adds to the domestic purse of the family ostensibly reducing poverty.

The secondary school

The other villages Rosint and Rokupr Wosie are quite a distance apart about 1.5km. Both villages are located along the highway so are easy reach to each other. Seen as proximate distance to each other, one would expect that the presence of a secondary school in Rokupr Wosie could serve as shared capital for the villages of Rosint and Rokupr Wosie. Interestingly, this is not the case for the beneficiaries in Rosint who prefer to let their children attend secondary schools in nearby Mange, the Chiefdom Headquarter. Beneficiaries see the distance to Mange as shorter compare to Rokupr Wosie. They also believe that their children will receive better teaching in the Mange Schools, been a growing town attracting highly skilled and qualified persons compared to the school in Rokupr Wosie. Some also see the advantage of letting their children purchase some basic items for the home when returning from school. This facility is also lacking in Rokupr Wosie.

The main road

The one common capital however shared by both is the highway that runs through the villages and can further extend to the weekly market (Luma) at the Sierra Leone-Guinea boarder. They count the tarmac road as a

blessing because it helps their movements for instance to Rokupr where they can purchase seed rice for farming and consumable rice. The road is also beneficial to them because they can take their surplus harvests to the weekly market (Luma) and get cash in return. This cash they can use for other purposes, including purchasing items for the home at the market, or seeking other services in the city of Port Loko and beyond by means of the highway.

The women are of the opinion that because the road is paved, it allows for smoother and shorter time arriving at their destinations and their return home on time, less exhausted to perform other domestic chores. This savings in time permit multiple task within the day including going to the Luma to trade and back hence maximizing their use of time for gainful work which would otherwise not be the case if the road were to be unpaved and rouged slowing down vehicle movement and attracting high wear and tear and eventually high transport cost, as well as increasing fatigue and reduced domestic chores. The optimum use of this capital supports in enhancing the income.

Other Capitals

Motorcycle taxis

Common to all the villages is the availability of motorcycle taxis (okadas). Hazardously, the riders of these taxis can take as much as four passengers in addition to incredulously large quantity of load. But this means of transportation is one that is fast to acquire as they are readily available. Accustomed as the women are to it many recounted that they are also risky yet very handy. They can be hired to transport agricultural goods to the weekly market. Because the riders live with us, they can grant us credit to transport our goods, after which they are paid. Transport vehicles are not easily accessed because they are already overloaded when they arrive at the villages and costs can also be high with inflexible payments.

The motorbike taxis are seen as an asset by the women because they are accessible, affordable, flexible and trusted. With these qualities highlighted, the women believe these qualities add up to their income because it reduces transaction cost on their time, income generation on market days and social interactions such as quick visits to family members in nearby locations. Motor bikes are also invaluable when it comes to traveling to the interior villages such as Matete and Kalangba or the converse. In these regions hardly would transport vehicle be found, not only because of the bad road networks but also because of very low traffic of passengers. The motor bikes have therefore filled the gap in the absence of vehicles, the riders have accentuated this by their agility of being capable of conveying up to a metric ton of goods with their taxis.

Primary Schools

Apart from Kalangba all of the other villages have primary schools with teachers. With the recent government policy of free, quality, education, women are saving monies they ought to be paying for school charges every term/year. They now only worry about lunch for their children even though there is supposed to be school's feeding programme to take care of lunch for the children. The savings derived by the women from school charges for primary schools also extend to the secondary school. Some women are benefiting two folds as they have children in both primary and secondary.

Health center/clinic

Except for the clinic in Kalangba that is shared with Matete, the other two villages do not have a health post or clinic. To seek health services, the women have to travel to either Rokupr, Mange town, the chiefdom headquarter or Port Loko city. Transportation then becomes an issue that would deep into their income. Malaria and child health care are the common health issues frequent in the villages according to the women. Women beneficiaries of Rokupr Wosie and Rosint are not appreciating savings, rather savings are depreciating due to the lack of this capital.

Safe drinking water and sanitation

Seemingly, there is present, sources of safe drinking in all the villages but is not accessible by the communities. For instance, in Rokupr Wosie and Rosint the sources of this water are wells fitted with hand pumps that are

dysfunctional and thus not providing the required service. The women have to seek alternative sources of water for domestic and other purposes. Because the sources of this water are not safe they present risk for water borne diseases such as Cholera especially at certain times of the year. Diarrhea are also associated with the risky sources of water in the two villages. In Matete and Kalangba, there are sources of safe drinking however, these are not easily accessible by the communities. In Matete the water well is installed in the compound of primary school. In Kalangba the water well is installed in the compound of the clinic. The community has since stopped accessing it due to some misunderstanding. It can be inferred that all beneficiaries do not have access to safe drinking water and therefore are exposed to health risks arising from water borne diseases. These risks present expenses on the health bill, thus contributing to poverty.

Natural capital

All of the villages are endowed with natural resources such as ample wetlands containing abundant water resources for utilization of swamp rice and other vegetable production. There are also riparian vegetation observed around the swamps which offer ecological services such as protection of the water from rapid evaporation, controlling erosion of the edges of the swamps. The swamps are largely used for crop production, although there were some portions set aside to flourish with diversity of swamp plant species apparently with the intention of supporting other forms of life forms such as fish etc. in the swamps thereby allowing the swamps to be the sources of protein such as fish for the villages.

In addition to the riparian forests are other forest covers. The four villages all have forests surrounding them and extending over a spread of available unfarmed land. The forests are no longer primary forests. They appear by and large to be secondary forests in some cases and in others tertiary forests. The forests are seen providing ecological services to the villages. One typical service observed is the provision of cooling effects i.e. tempering local climate regime of the villages. The services such as wind breaks that would prevent damages to houses and other community of infrastructure, supply of healthy air and moderating soil erosion are some of the services provided by the forests as was observed. There are however threats to available forests as a result of population increase and the need for food production. Increase in demography is likely to lead to land fragmentation. Because customary land ownership, largely communal tenure system, the net result from population increase will be distribution of land including forested land.

Availability of land was obvious in all of the villages and this was exemplified by the land parcel surveys and mapping. Although the population is growing and may out-strip the available land yet the area of land for each village is enough to support welfare and wellbeing of the present inhabitants of the villages.

Governance

The Chiefdom is headed by a Paramount Chief and the Chiefdom Council these are elected at village and section levels. The Chiefdom council is responsible for development, peace and security at the chiefdom.

They set and enforced bye laws, which among others ensures law and order in the chiefdom.

At the village level their exist a village chief or village headman who reports all village activities and development issues to the Section Chief, the Section Chief is accountable to the Paramount chief. The chiefdom council is highest decision-making body of the traditional governance structure. This structure has been made to interface with the local councils in the decentralization process of the Local Government Act. The interfacing relationship is however laden with challenges such as control and power over what and when. The challenges are presenting their own setbacks. Nevertheless, these structures are responsible for the fundamental development of the wards, chiefdom, and the district and feeds into the national security system at district level. Very little development programmes have dawn these villages and as a matter of fact many villages in the Bureh chiefdom. This can be attributed to a number of reasons some of which are:

- The local governance structure at the chiefdom level is weak and cannot aspire to attract development in the communities including Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie.
- Capacity of authorities in the governance structure is lacking and is affecting the ability to design viable community projects that will help alleviate poverty

- Very little support is given to the local government at the chieftom level to engender any meaningful development
- Poor accountability at the local level leading to poor delivery of development initiative and the recompense in even revenue generation.

Whatever are the reasons, the bottom line remains clear the communities live in poverty and the future holds little for their children. Women are the most vulnerable, therefore levels of development interventions are required to deliberately target women for increased empowerment that would promote their active participation in the communities. The governance structures are generally not very conducive for women’s empowerment and development.

Local courts are in operations at the level of the village and the chieftom. They serve as the primary sources of justice at the community levels. In the event that justice cannot be served at these levels, matters can be referred to the Magistrate court at the district level.

Study Data Analysis

This section is exploring the data accumulated from questionnaires designed to solicit targeted information to determine parameters that enables the uncovering of “wealth creation” of the 60 women household heads, serving as beneficiaries of the UN Peace Building Fund support. Villages mentioned in this section must be understood strictly as representing the beneficiaries of the village. Therefore, a mention of Kalangba would imply unless otherwise stated, the 15 women household heads targeted in Kalangba.

Age Range of Beneficiaries

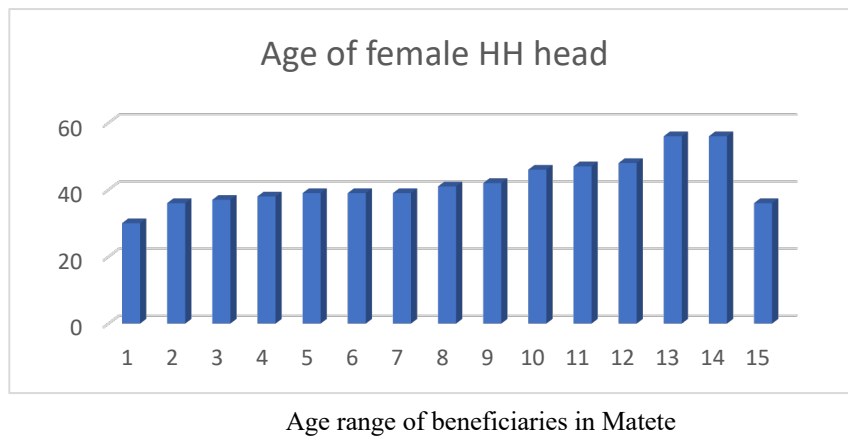
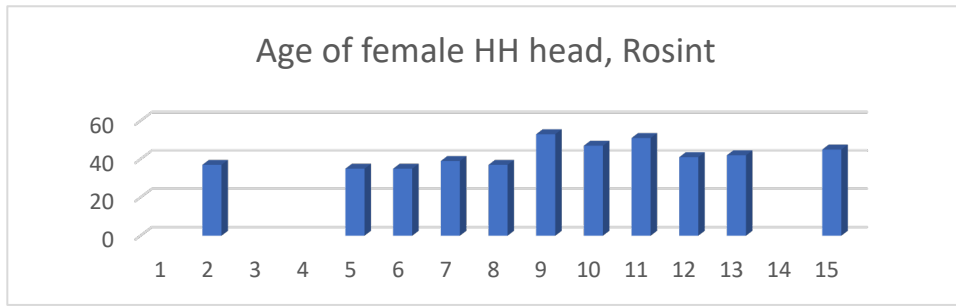


Fig 2

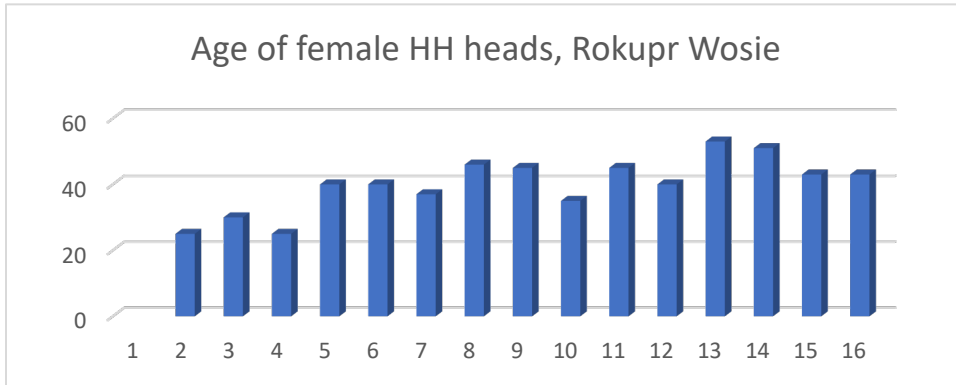
The ages of the beneficiaries range from 30 years to 58 years with most ages in their forties. With 10 of the 15 still at the child bearing age of between 30 – 42 years implying that the women in Matete are still in fertile stage of bearing children. In Rosint, four of the women did not provide their ages. However, of those who provided their ages, the age range is 35years to 53years and seven are of child bearing ages. Rokupr Wosie has as age range of 25yrs to 53yrs. Of these ten women are of child bearing age.

Fig 3



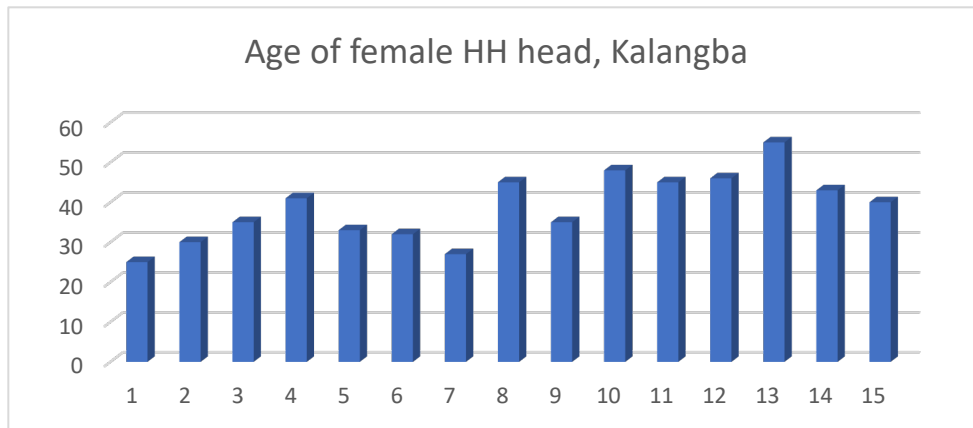
Age range of beneficiaries in Rosint

Fig 4



Age range of beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie

Fig 5



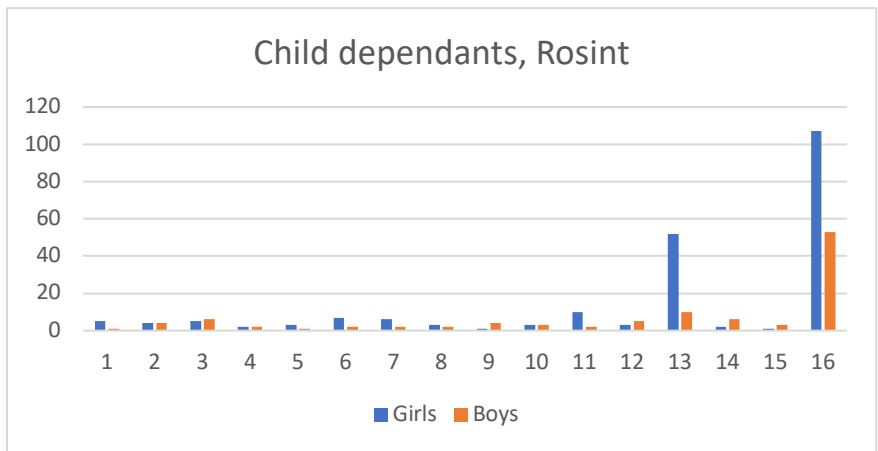
Age range of beneficiaries in Kalangba

Beneficiaries of Kalangba have an age range of 25yrs to 55yrs. Out of this range 10 beneficiaries are of child bearing age of between 25 and 43 years. Of the 60 beneficiaries 61.7% about 62% are still of child bearing age. This implies that there is high possibility of demographic change in the villages of Matete, Rosint, Rokupr Wosie and Kalangba in the years ahead. While the population in each of the communities cannot be said to be at optimum as examined through transect walk, yet increasing demography is bound to impact on available resources, including natural resources such as land for farming and forests for energy and other uses. There will arise health issues for both the women and their young babies or children in the future. In addition, expenditure

on care giving, education, clothing and feeding will arise. Since these are future expenditures, planning for the future will be necessary starting now with savings from generated income.

Dependants

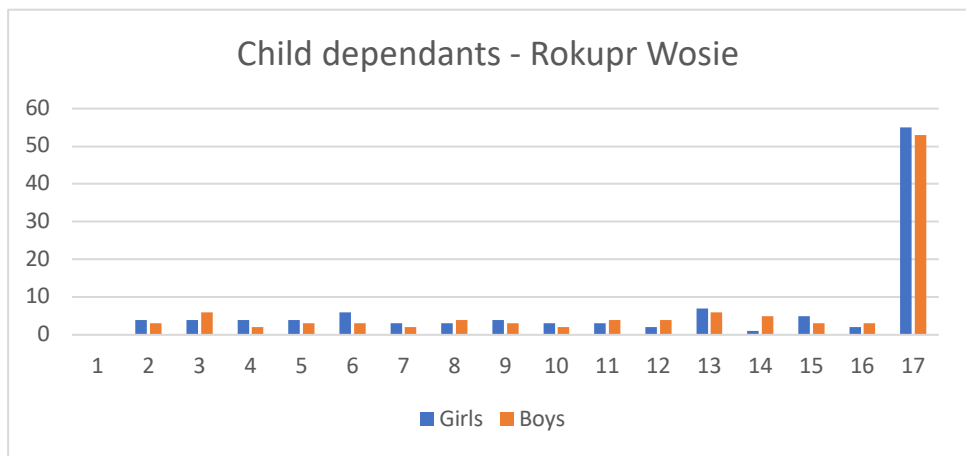
Fig 6



Child dependants in Rosint

Based on data provided, there are 813 dependants on 60 households in the four villages. These dependants are categorized into boys, girls, adult males and females. They were further distributed into age brackets of 0-10years, 11-20years and above 20years. Of the 813 dependants, 53.14% (432) are children. The rest are adults. Of the 432 child dependants, 48.61% (210) are girls and the rest 222 (51.39%) are boys.

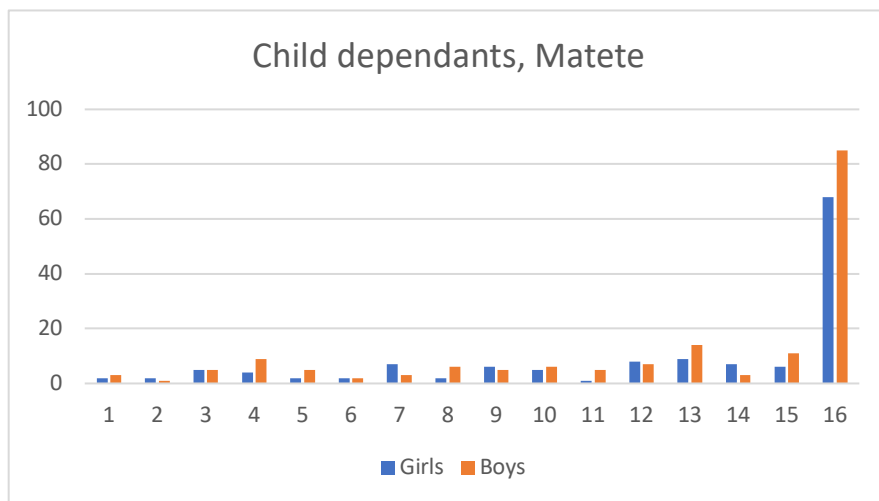
Fig 7



Child dependants in Rokupr Wosie

The large number of children is an indicator that care giving or care taking is bound to be high and that would go along with cost. Health, clothing, food, school expenses other than school fees, will be the likely areas of expenditure from the family income. Therefore, the larger the number of child dependants, the likely higher the expenditure on the family income.

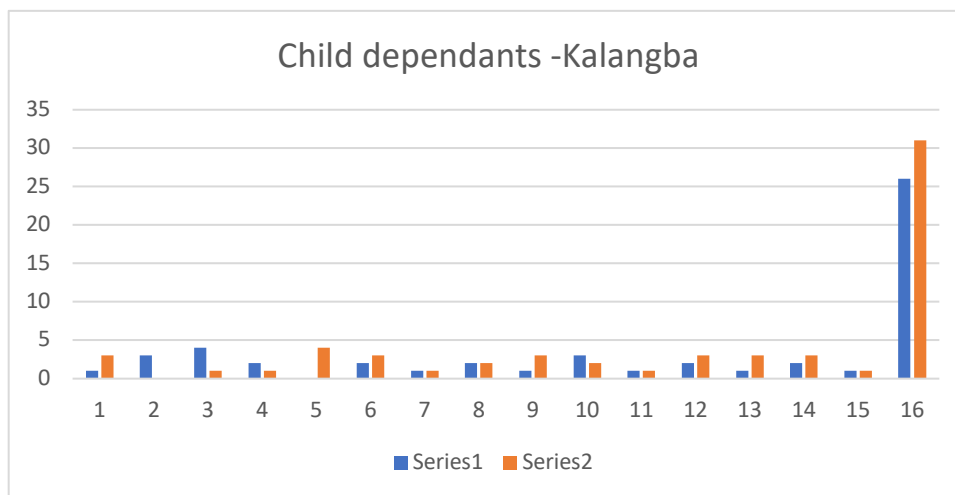
Fig 8



Child dependants in Matete

Out of the total dependants of 813, in all four villages, 178 (20.6%) are aged above 21. The assumption for this category of age group is that they are very likely old persons. In this regard, this age group are also going to be cared for in the home and that would take some portion of the family income.

Fig 9



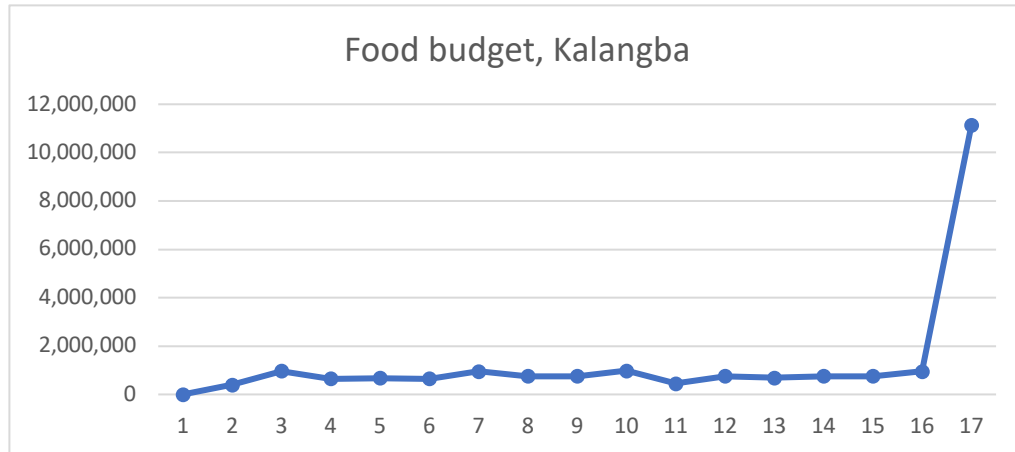
Child dependants in Kalangba

There are 432 child dependants in the four villages, out of this figure, 70.1% (303) are school going children and 129 of that number are not going to school. The village with the highest school going children from the beneficiaries is Matete with 133 children and Rosint has second highest with 82 children. As mentioned above, child dependants are bound to take much on the domestic income. But children in schools have a lot more special needs such as buying of books, uniforms, foot wears, attending to school needs like sports etc. these are in addition to what the project beneficiaries would allocate to the other children not in school. Therefore, even when parents are not required to pay certain school charges, they will have to spend on other school sundries.

Food Budget

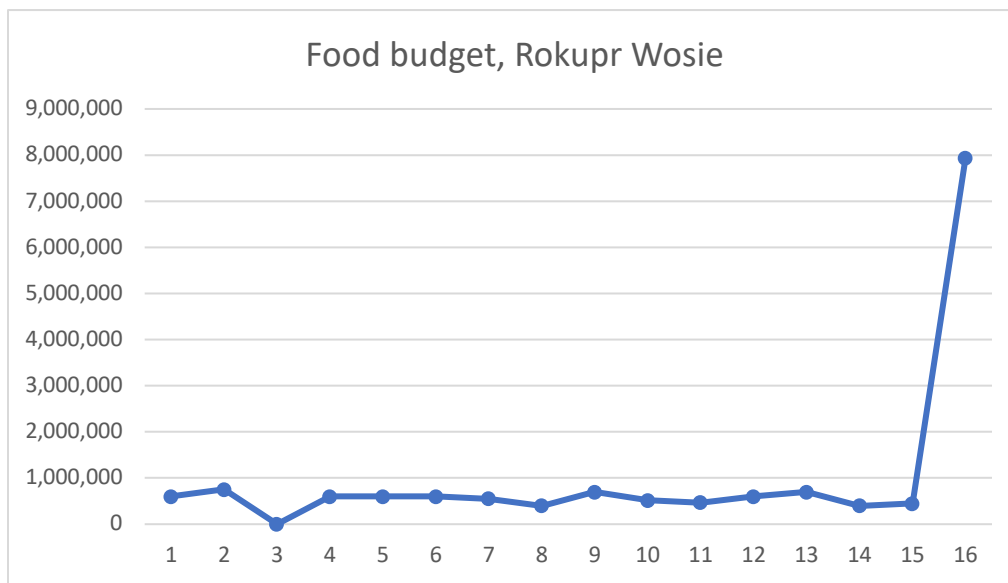
Based on data (813) dependants are distributed among 60 household heads in four villages. With Kalangba 126, Rokupr Wosie 205, Rosint 212 and Matete 270. Noting the high number of dependents, it is expected that food and feeding will be the highest affected in the domestic budget. It stands to reason that families in Matete will be confronted with the highest expenditure on food, second highest will be Rosint, third highest will be Rokupr Wosie and the least expenditure will be experienced in Kalangba.

Fig 10



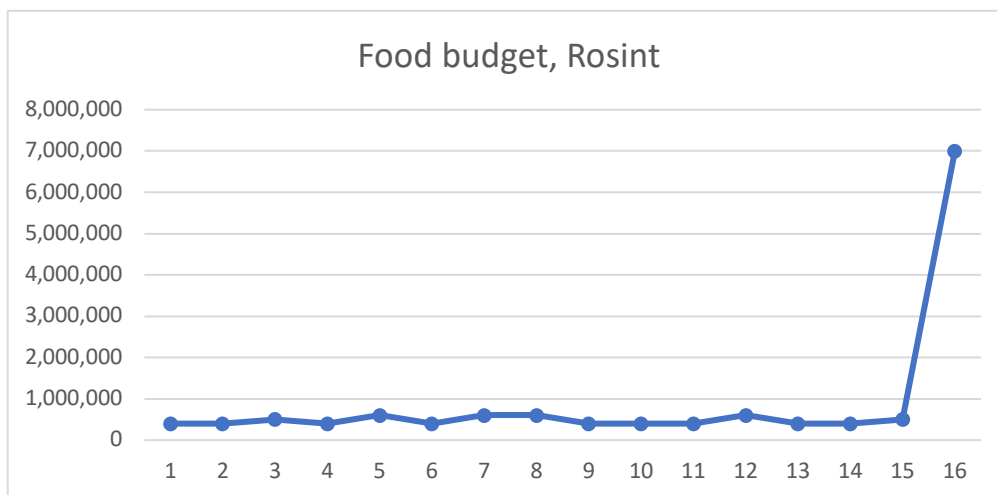
Total Food budget of Le 11,135,000 for beneficiaries in Kalangba with dependents of 126 persons

Fig 11



Total Food budget of Le 7,935,450 for beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie with dependants of 205 persons

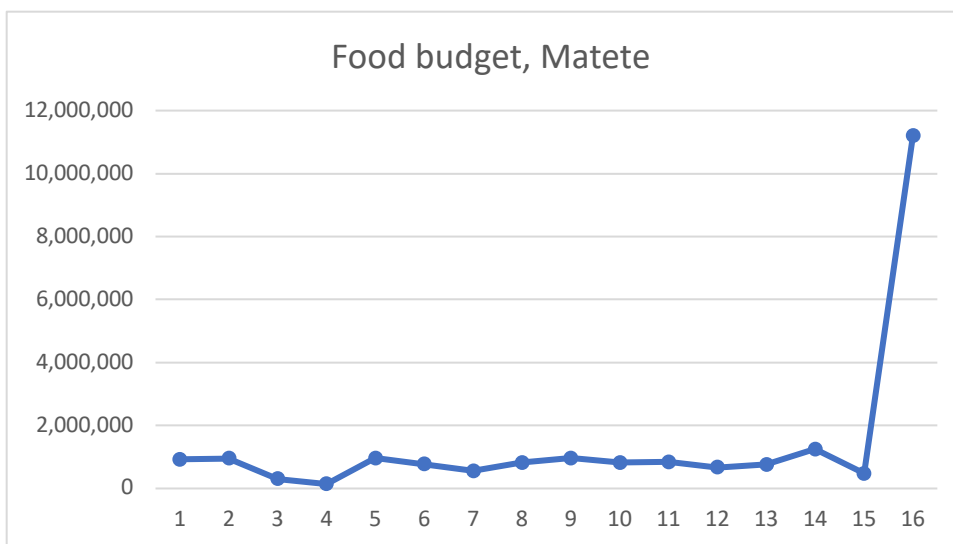
Fig 12



Total Food budget of Le 7,000,000 for beneficiaries in Rosint with dependants of 212 persons

An interesting observation in the analysis and postulation that the highest number of dependents would have a large food budget is not exactly the case. In this analysis even though the first instant is correct in which Matete commanding the highest number of dependants correlates with the highest budget, the opposite appears to be the case for Kalangba which is the village with the least dependants but the second highest in food budget.

Fig 13



Total Food budget of Le 11,192,000 for beneficiaries in Matete with dependants of 270 persons

Interestingly the village with the highest dependants show the least food budget. Possible reason/s for this could be that Kalangba prioritises food in the family and ensuring that the home is always food secure. Rosint on the other hand may have the beneficiaries underfeeding their dependants as a result of food insecurity. In spite of whatever reason for the available quantum of food in the home, it clearly shows that food is a very important expenditure item in the home of all the beneficiaries and command the highest expenditure.

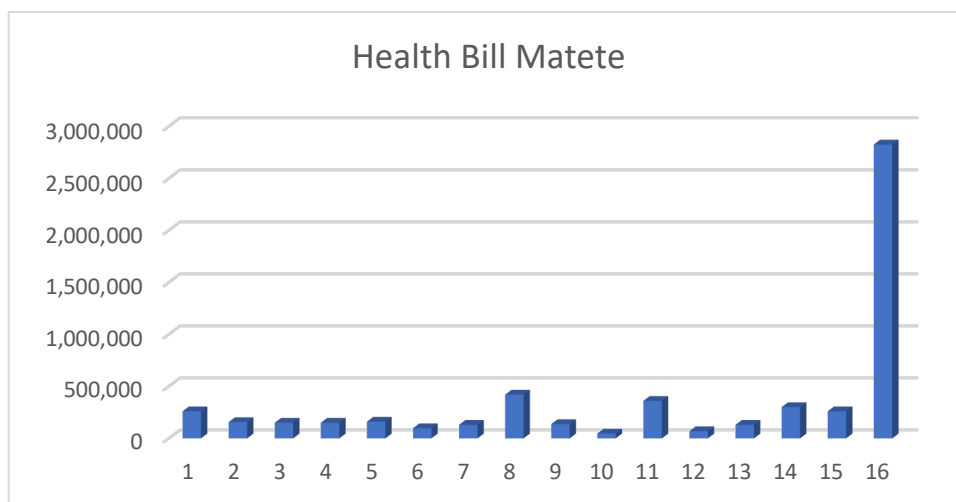
Health Budget

The total health bill for all the four villages amounts to Le 8,456,000. Of this amount Kalangba spends 43.65% (Le 3,691,000), Rokupr Wosie spends 10.64% (Le 900,000), Rosint spends 12.3% (Le 1,040,000) and Matete spends 33.4% (Le 2,825,000). Why would Kalangba and Matete spend more than the other villages on health? It is likely that because both villages share a health clinic and are closer to the facility could be a plausible reason. It is possible that many/most health issues in these villages are taken to the clinic hence attracting costs. On the other hand it is likely that the two communities are always stricken with illness and hence have to spend more on health care.

Rosint and Rokupr Wosie are further away from clinics. The closest they can get is Mange Bureh, the chiefdom headquarter. It would require transport cost, time, inconveniencies and health/clinic cost resulting to a reduction in the visit to clinics, and hence the reason for a lower expenditure on health, ostensibly, the most critical health cases are those that may be referred to the health center/clinic.

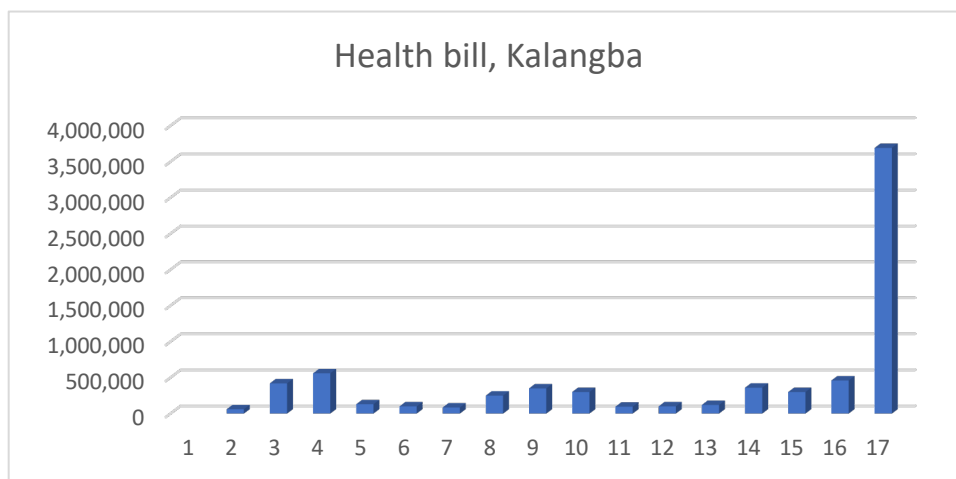
Analogically, Rosent's health bill is slightly higher than that of Rokupr Wosie, this could be attributed to the fact that Rosint is much closer to a health center in Mange than Rokupr Wosie, causing relatively frequent visits by beneficiaries from Rosint to the clinic and therefore the disparity in health bills. Conversely, there is a likelihood that these villages hardly encounter health issues that would warrant high expenditures.

Fig 14



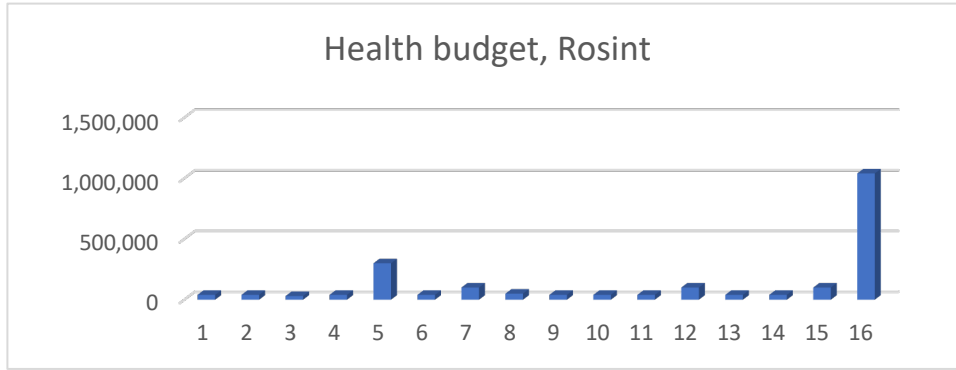
Health bill in Matete amounting to Le 2,825,000

Fig 15



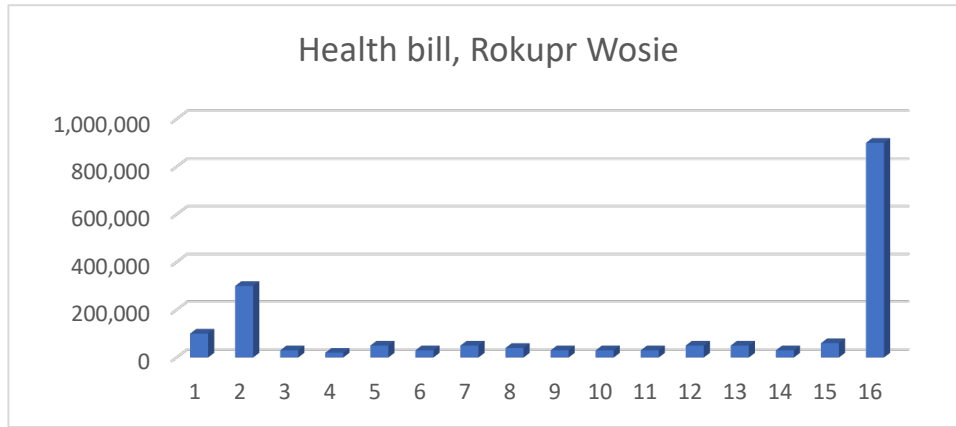
Health bill in Kalangba amounting to Le 3,691,000

Fig 16



Health bill in Rosint amounting to Le1,040,000

Fig 17

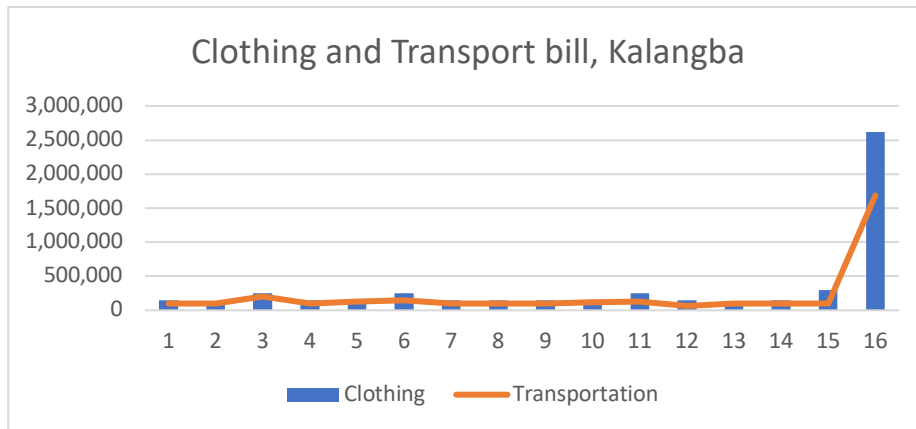


Health bill in Rokupr Wosie amounting to Le900,000

Clothing and transportation

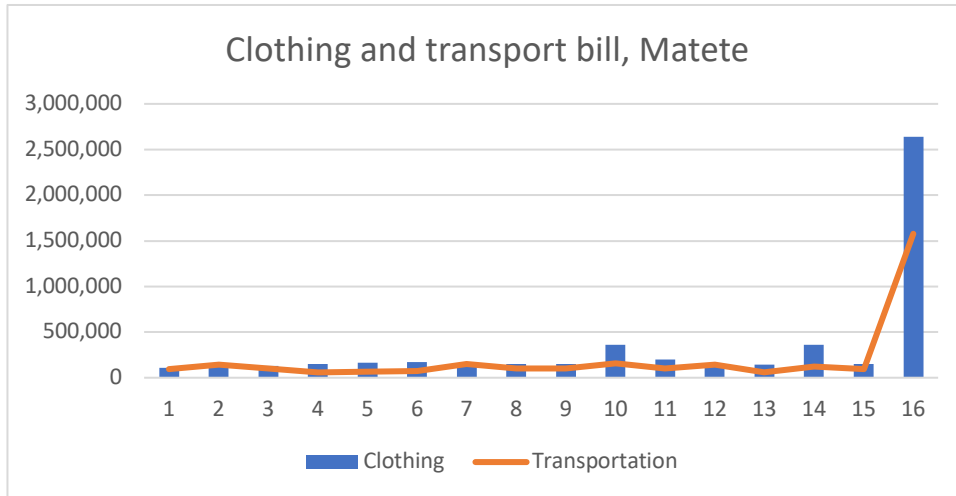
Put together the sixty beneficiaries in all four villages say they spend a total of Le 12,273,000 on clothing and transportation, where clothing takes up 59.6% (Le 7,310,000) and transportation takes up the rest 40.4% (Le 4,963,000). Of all the four villages Kalangba with the least dependants, 126 spends the most Le 4,306,000 on clothing and transport while next to Kalangba is Matete, spending Le 4,217,000 on the two expenditure lines. The others, Rokupr Wosie and Rosint spend Le 1,400,000 and Le 2,350,000 respectively.

Fig 18



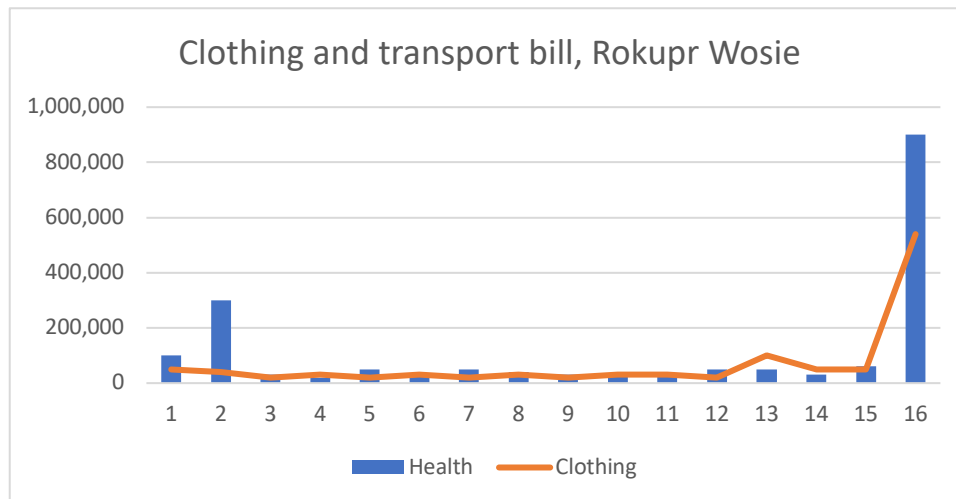
Clothing and transportation bills for beneficiaries in Kalangba

Fig 19



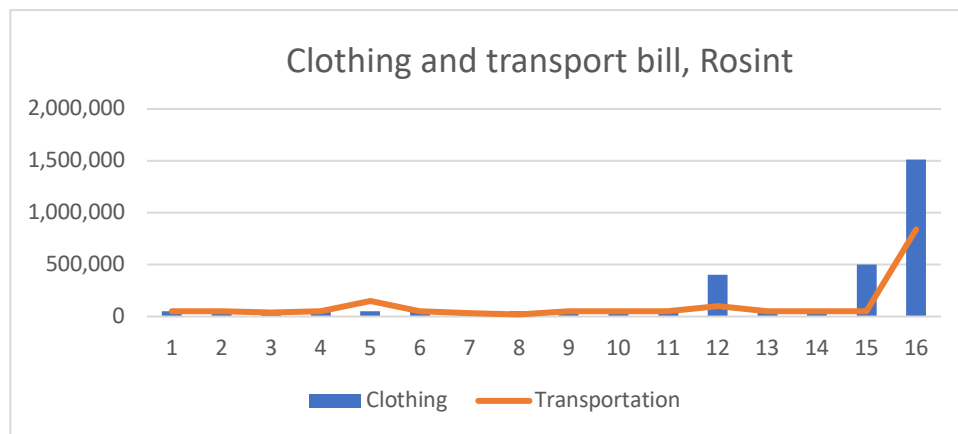
Clothing and transport bill for beneficiaries in Matete

Fig 20



Clothing and transport bill for beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie

Fig 21



Clothing and transport bill for beneficiaries in Rosint

In the four villages total expenditure on clothing supersedes spending on transportation by significant margins. Clothing is seen therefore as an important expenditure line for all beneficiaries of the project.

Education, Funeral, Culture and Tradition

Education, funeral, culture and tradition will be examined to understand how beneficiaries allocate domestic income to each and how and what effect it will cause on the overall income. A closer look at which of the villages have the highest expenditure combined and disaggregated will inform this section.

The 60 beneficiaries in Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie collectively and cumulatively expend the total sum of Le 19,198,000 on education, funerals and culture and tradition. The highest spender village is Kalangba with a total of Le 9,620,000 and Matete following with an expenditure of Le 7,478,000. The least spender village is Rokupr Wosie with an expenditure of Le 660,000. Rosint spend an amount of Le 1,590,000 on these expenditure lines.

For the highest spending village, Kalangba, expenditure on education is the least with Le 2,485,000, while funerals occupy the highest level with Le 4,185,000 and trailing behind funerals is culture and tradition with Le 2,950,000. The inference here is that Kalangba pays less premium on education, than they do on funerals (Le 4,185,000) and Culture and tradition (Le 2,950,000). However, also considering that education is now practically free, it would be a case that lesser investment in education is done.

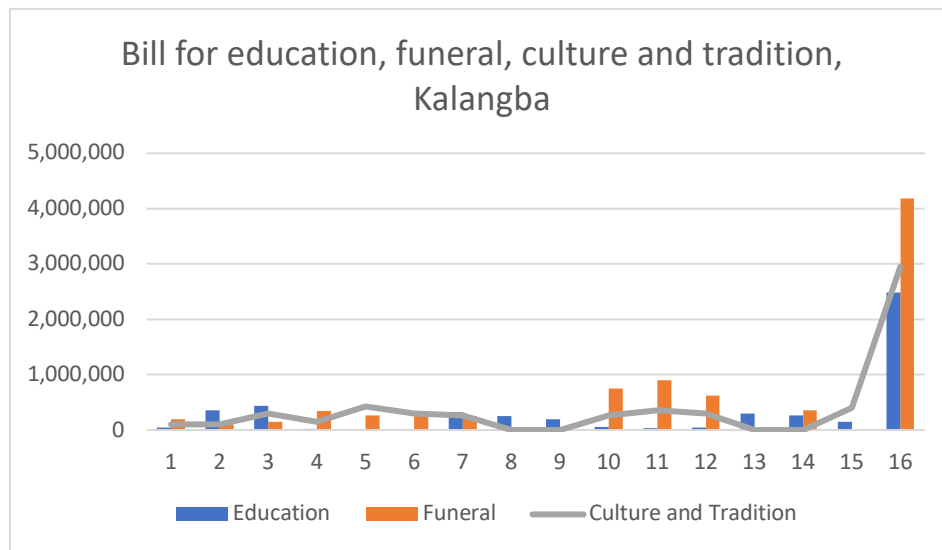
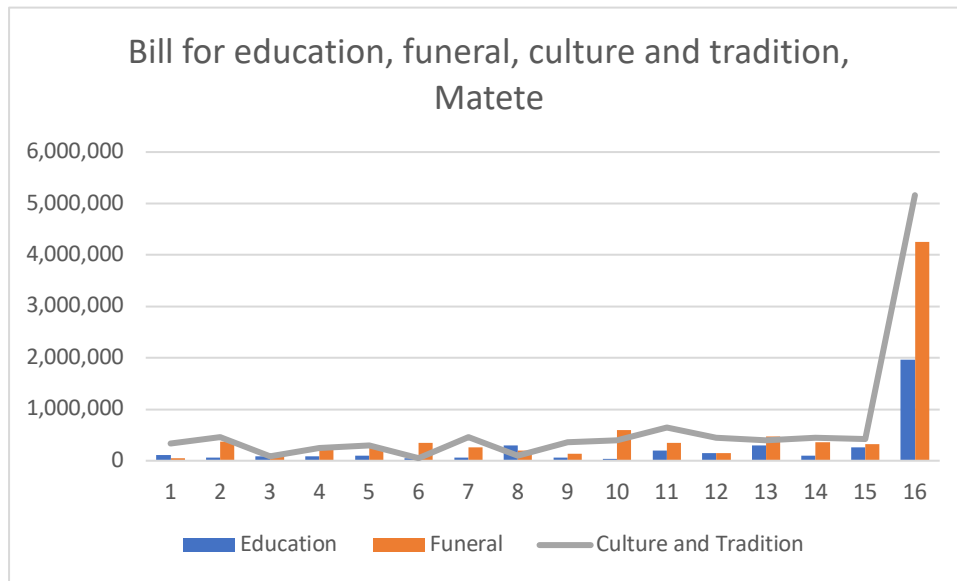


Fig 22

Expenses on education, funerals, and culture and tradition in Kalangba

In terms of prioritizing expenditures on the three items; beneficiaries in Kalangba and Matete appears to put premium on Funerals and culture and tradition. Education appears to be in third place for these communities. In Rosint, Education and funerals are the top, with expenditure on education the highest for the beneficiaries. In Rokupr Wosie, expenditure is highest on education and next highest on culture and tradition, with spending on funerals the least.

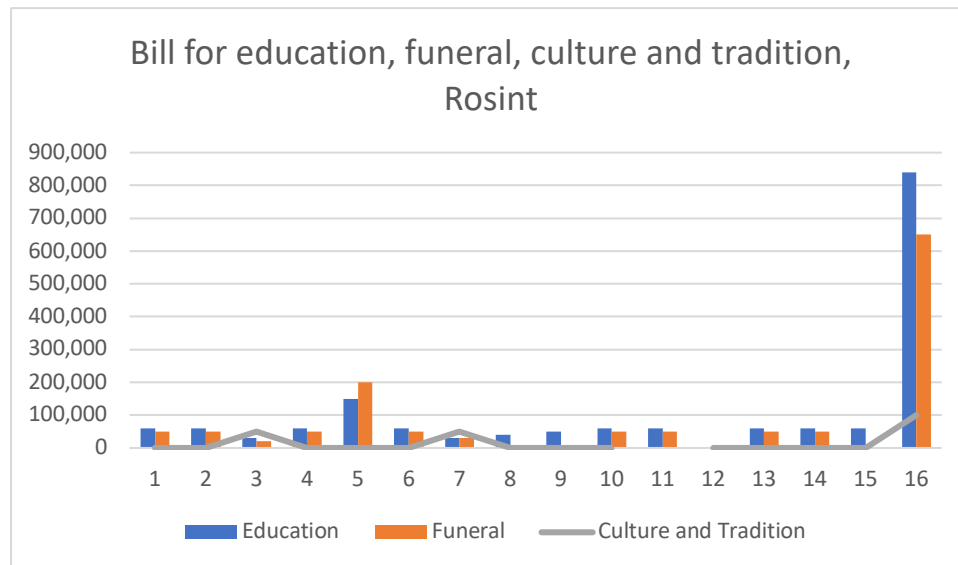
Fig 23



Expenses on education, funerals, and culture and tradition in Matete

There seems to be interesting observations on these expenditure lines for the four villages. Beneficiaries in Rosint and Rokupr Wosie from data prioritise education more than Kalangba and Matete. However, in real spending Rosint and Rokupr Wosie spends less; Le 840,000 and Le 500,000 respectively compared to Kalangba, Le 2,845,000 and Matete, Le 1,967,000.

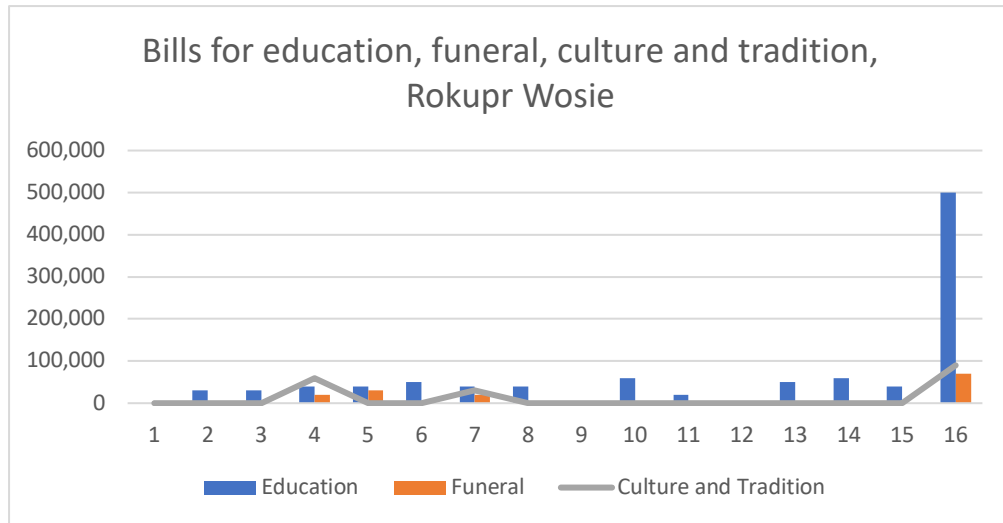
Fig 24



Expenses on education, funerals, and culture and tradition in Rosint

Of the total expenditure by beneficiaries of Le 19,198,000 on education, funerals and culture and tradition in Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie, only 30.16% expenditure is dedicated towards education, while funerals account for 47.69% of the domestic expenditure and culture and tradition accounts for 22.15% of domestic expenditure. To these beneficiaries, education is second place compared to funerals based on expenditures, however as indicated earlier this could also be due to the government’s free, quality education programme.

Fig 25

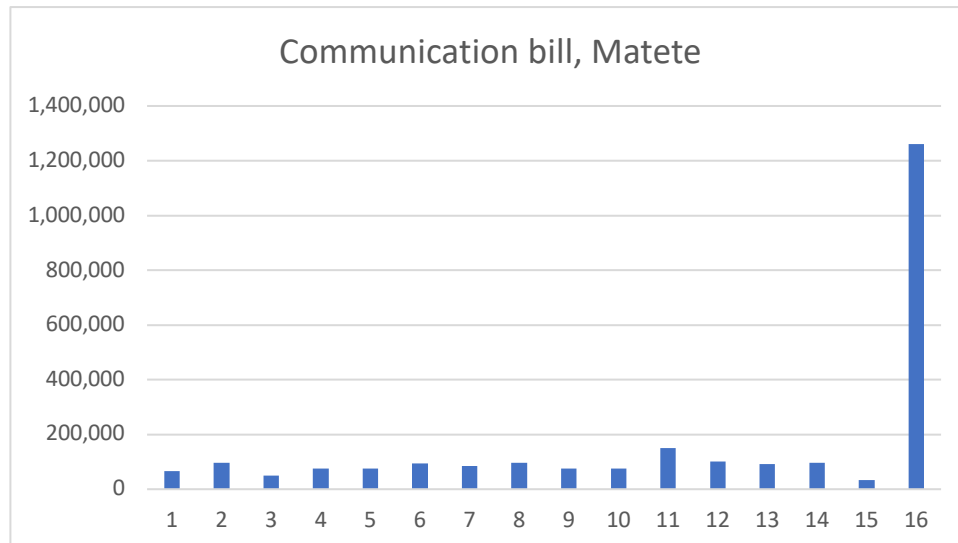


Expenses on education, funerals, and culture and tradition in Rokupr Wosie

Communication

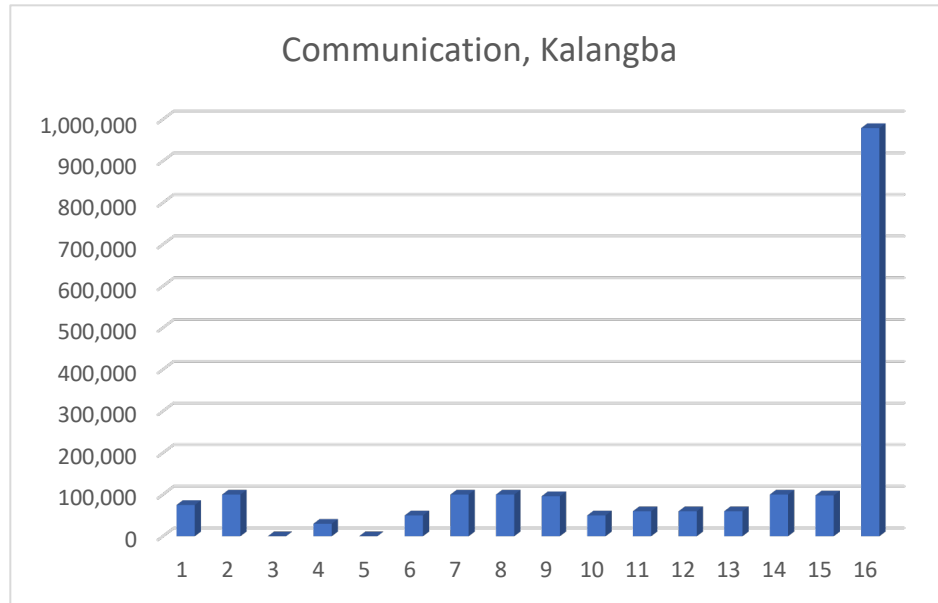
In modern day, communication is an important feature in the life of people everywhere in the world, Sierra Leone is not an exception. In the enclave of Bureh chiefdom in the villages of Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie communication appeared on the beneficiaries’ expenditure lines. Where communication implies the use of mobile phones. Although not all of the beneficiaries spend on communication however, a total on the communication bill for the four villages stands at Le 3,245,000. Beneficiaries in Matete spend Le 1261,000 and are the highest spenders, second to Matete is Kalangba with Le 979,000. Both of these villages are internally located, quite a distance from the highway. It is also possible that the beneficiaries of these two villages have more reasons to make phone calls as well as more contacts to call.

Fig 26



Matete beneficiaries spend highest on communication

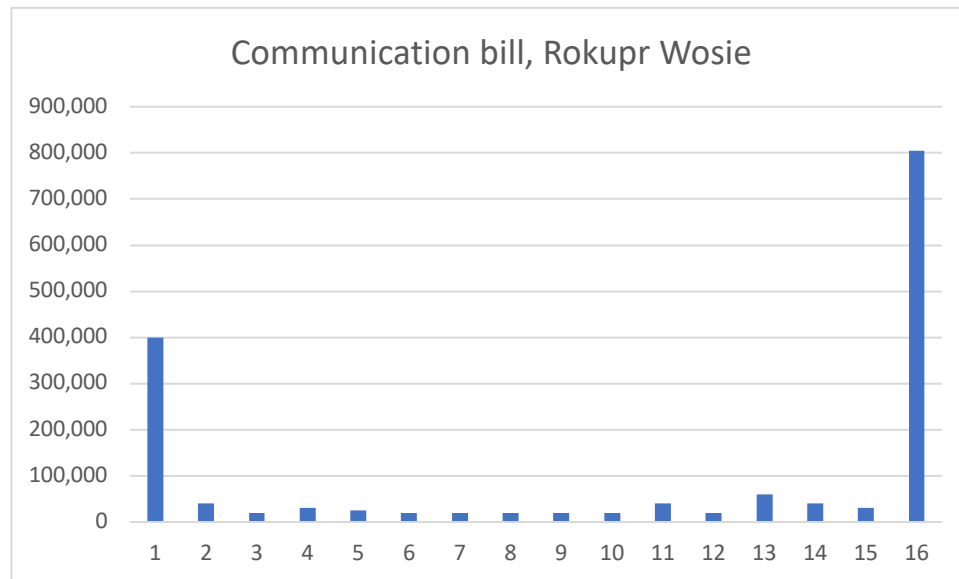
Fig 27



Kalangba beneficiaries spend second highest on communication

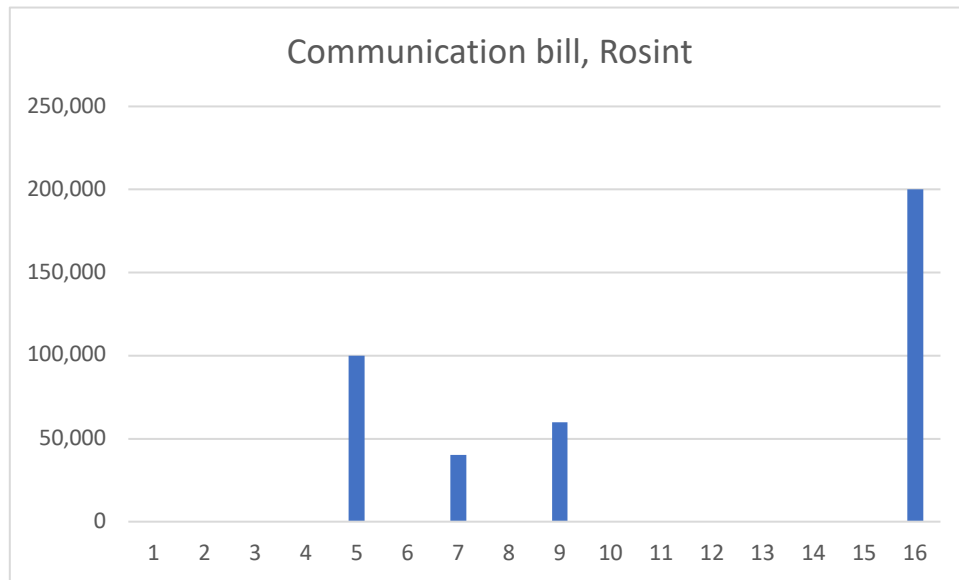
Beneficiaries of Rokupr Wosie and Rosint located along the highway spend Le 805,000 and Le 200,000 respectively. It is possible that beneficiaries of these two villages have lesser reasons and fewer contacts to make phone calls. It is also observed that in Rosint only three out of the 16 beneficiaries expend on communication, the rest do not. It can be stated that zero expenditure would mean that these beneficiaries do not own a mobile phone. In Kalangba there are also two beneficiaries spending zero on communication indicating that they might also not owners of mobile phones.

Fig 28



Rokupr Wosie beneficiaries are third highest spenders on communication

Fig 29



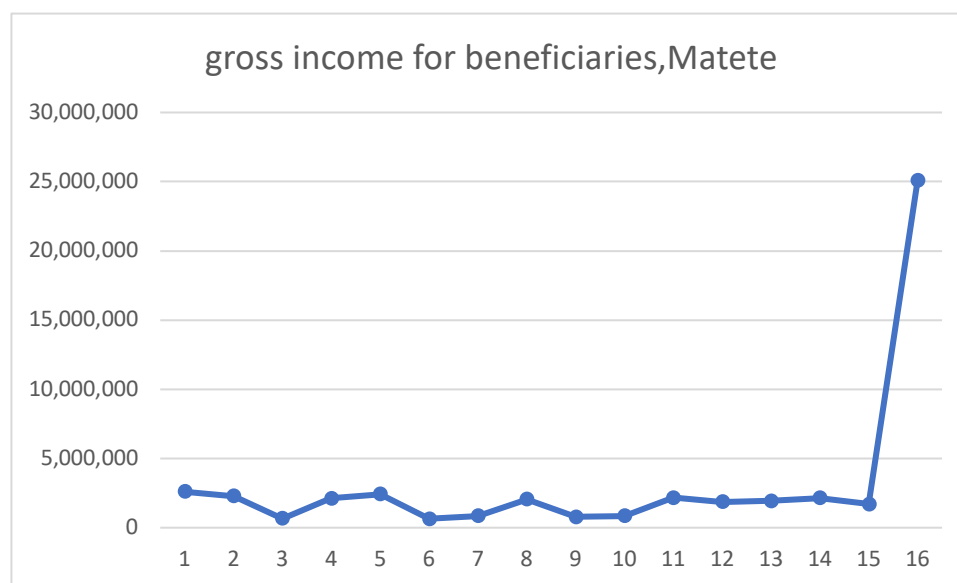
Rosint beneficiaries are the least spenders on communication

Annual Income and Expenditure before PBF Project

This part of the analysis will explore the income of the beneficiaries, assessing their level of monetary gains in the year. It will further juxtapose the expenditure against the income to determine whether or not beneficiaries in the villages under this assessment are making savings.

Domestic income of the beneficiaries in the villages of Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie are derived from farming activities. Some extra income by a few beneficiaries are derived from either petty trading or thrift (osusu) or both in some cases.

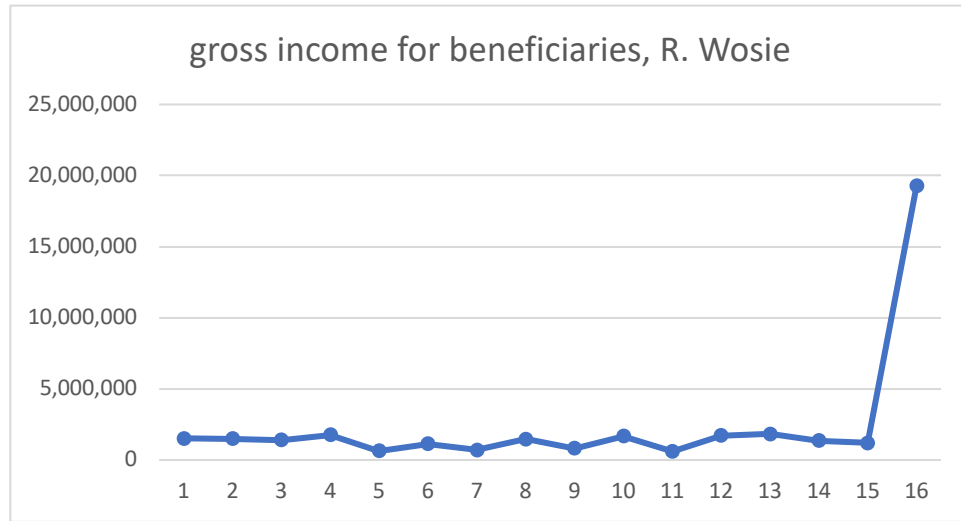
Fig 30



Individual and cumulative beneficiaries income in Matetre

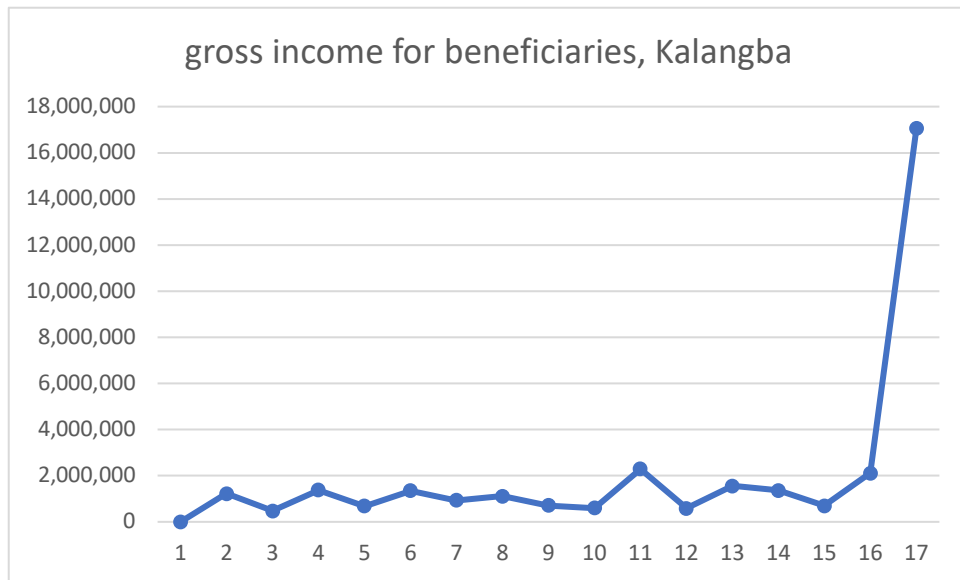
Beneficiaries of all the four villages have a gross income of Le 72,401,000. Uncoupled as follow: Kalangba, Le 17,046,000; Matete, Le 25,105,000; Rosint, Le 10,970,000 and Rokupr Wosie, Le 19,280,000. From the data Matete has the highest income with Le 25,105,000 and Rokupr Wosie the second highest domestic income with Le 19,280,000. Kalangba and Rosint generate lesser domestic income of Le 17,046,000 and Le 10,970,000 respectively.

Fig 31



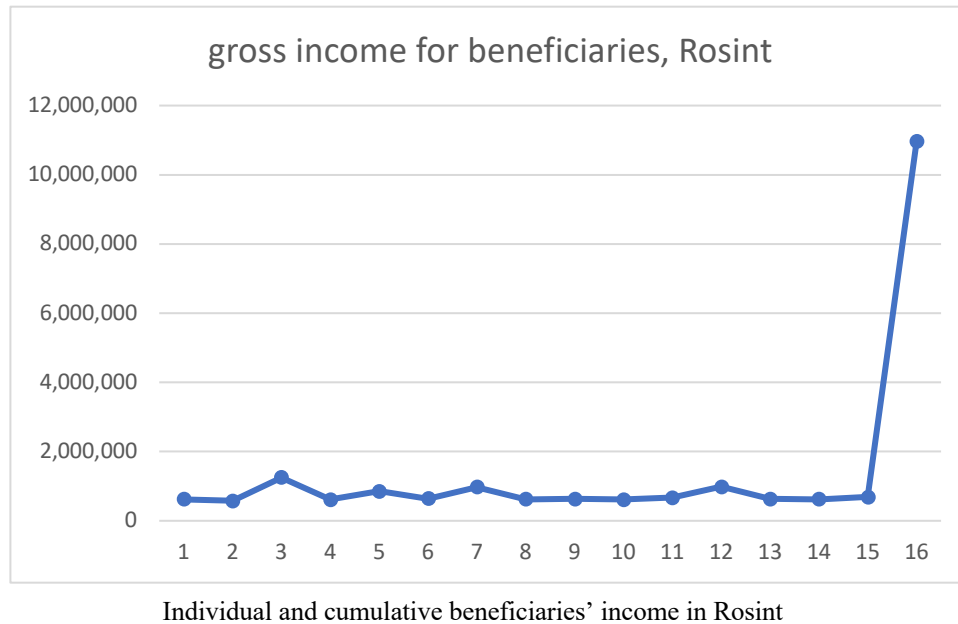
Individual and cumulative beneficiaries income in Rokupr Wosie

Fig 32



Individual and cumulative beneficiaries' income in Kalangba

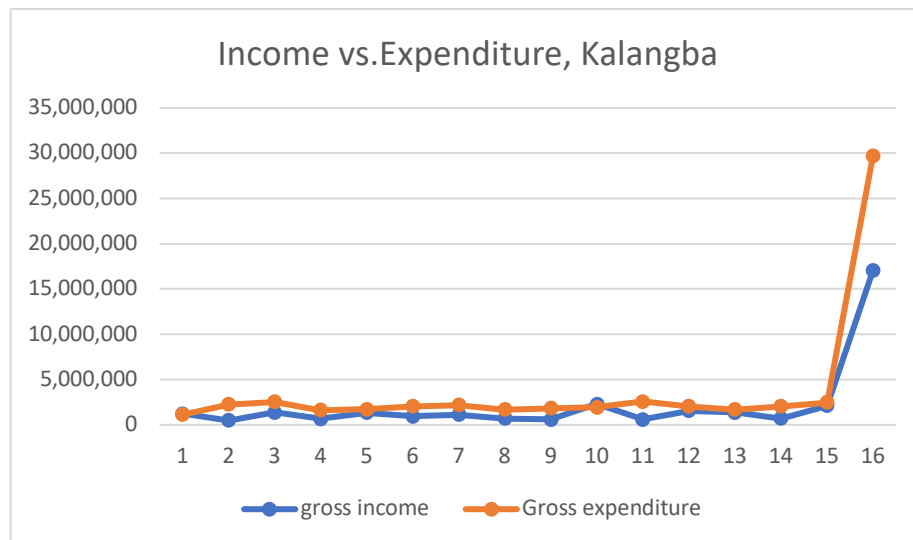
Fig 33



Income versus Expenditure

The expenditure lines of the beneficiaries in the four villages have been analysed about. This section is dealing with each of the villages how they fared in terms savings or deficits. It will look at income as against expenditure to picture whether the beneficiaries are making savings based on the income they generate and the expenditure they incur. This way it will be determined if before the PBF project beneficiaries had surplus or deficit income. In this discussion the individual beneficiaries will not be assessed, rather they will be collectively assessed as has been done with the rest of the analysis.

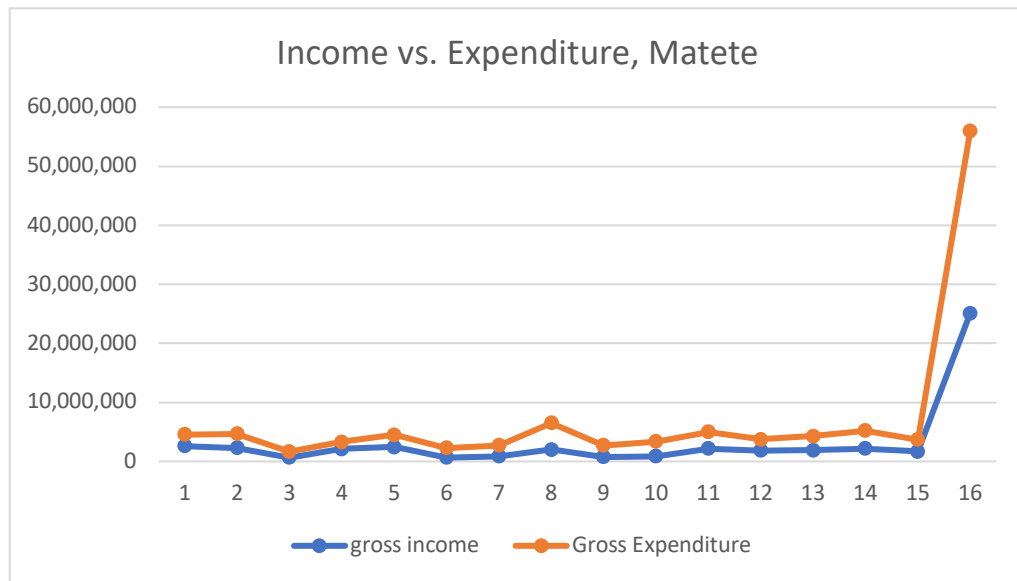
Fig 34



Before the PBF, it shows that beneficiaries in Kalangba are often in deficit.

Of the four villages Kalangba spends more money than it can generate as the data shows. The deficit based on the data is Le -24,731,000 +17,046,000 is Le -7,685,000. This implies that beneficiaries are indebted indicating some level of poverty.

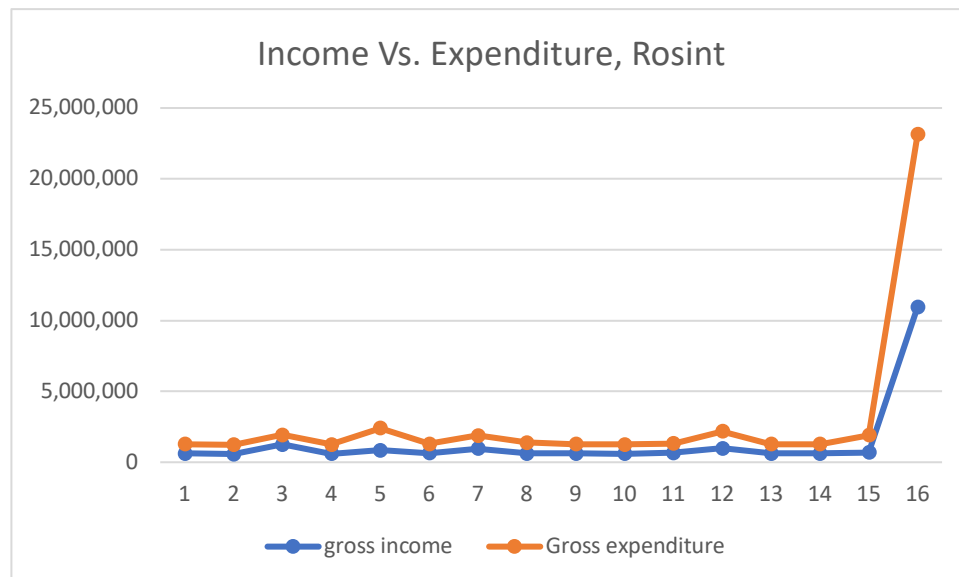
Fig 35



Before the PBF, its shows that beneficiaries in Matete are often in deficit.

Matete’s beneficiaries registered a gross income of Le 25,105,000, but considering the expenditure level standing at Le 30,874,000 makes Matete fall into the deficit category for which the beneficiaries would be classed as being in debt. The deficit for Matete stands at Le -5,769,000.

Fig 36

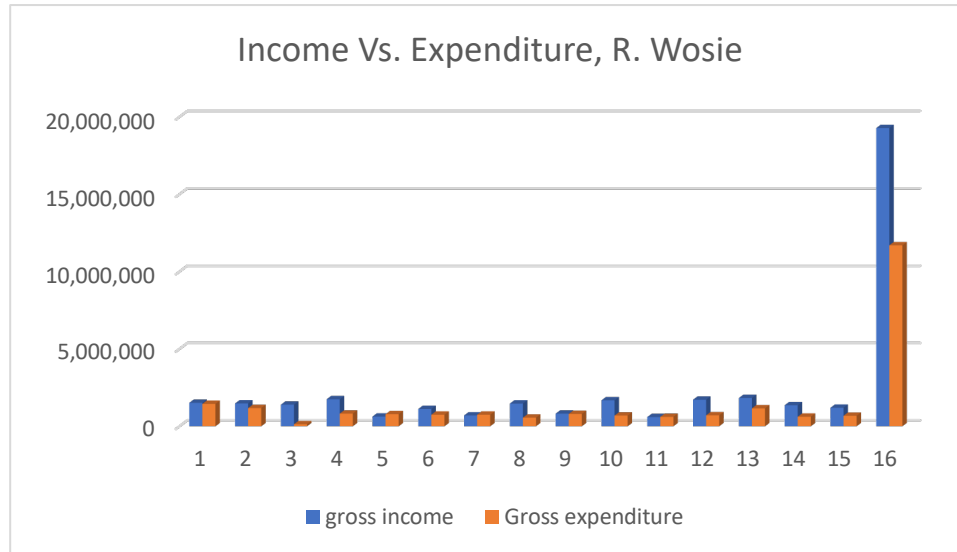


Before the PBF, its shows that beneficiaries in Rosint are often in deficit

Data shows that even though expenditure lines for Rosint are small, yet the beneficiaries in Rosint are not able to break even with the income they generate. As can be seen the total income generated is Le 10,790,000, while the total expenditure

is Le 12,180,000. The debt is therefore Le 1,330,000. This implies that Rosint like the other three villages are in a state deficit. They can be said to be in debt.

Fig 37



Before the PBF, its shows that beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie are in excess

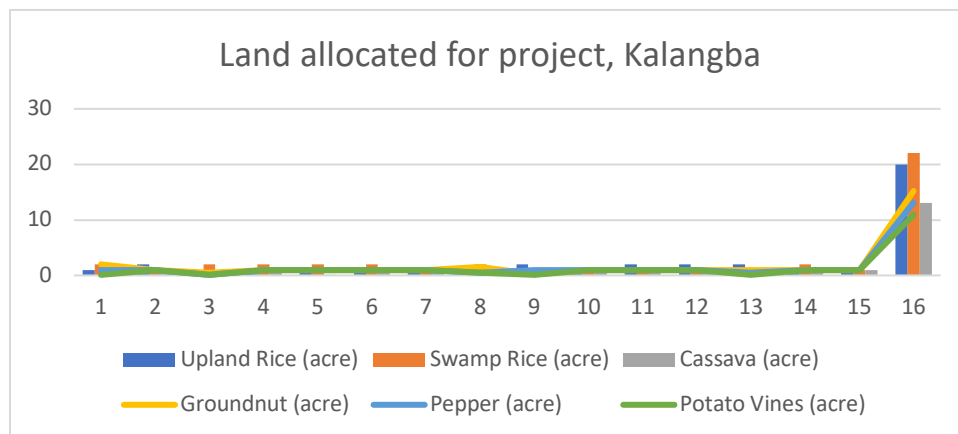
Of the four villages, only beneficiaries in Rokupr Wosie from compiled data are making savings. Data shows that the beneficiaries of the village are netting an income of Le 19,280,000, while their expenditure stands at Le 11,745,000. Total savings as observed is Le 7,535,000.

The United Nations Peace Building Fund project

The project was meant to support women in the livelihood villages of Bureh Chiefdom. This support was expected to either trigger women’s livelihood or serve as knock-on effect, meaning that it helps bolster the income of women thereby soothing their poverty status in the home.

The beneficiaries of the four villages agreed to allocate some portion of land for the PBF project investment. The land were to be use purposefully for the project and not land used for their normal farming activities. In the data collection the land sizes were captured. This section will look at the cumulative land sizes allocated by the beneficiaries. That assessment will then generate results of the yield acquired form the first batch of seeds supplied to the beneficiaries. An analysis will follow assessing to what extent yield contributed in reducing the gap between the income and the expenditure.

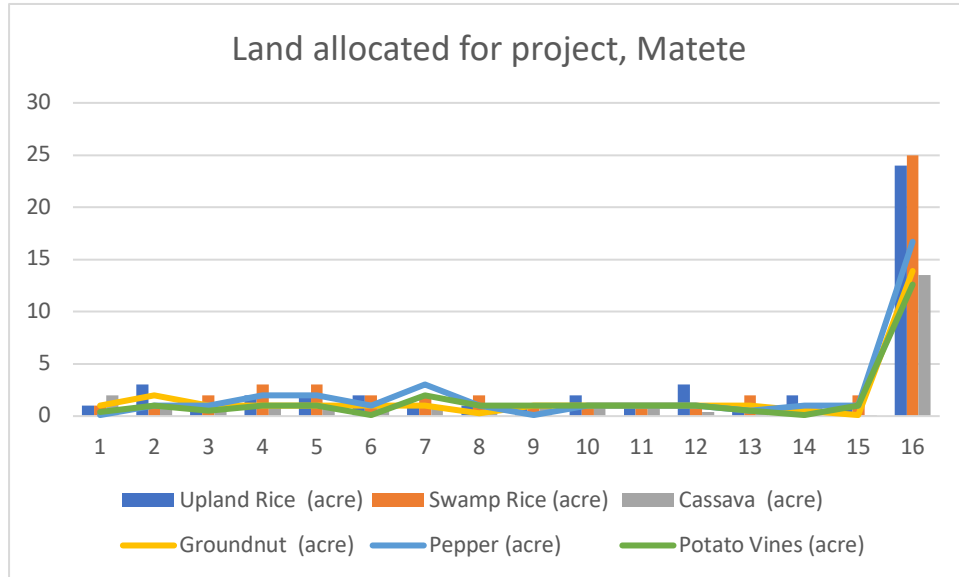
Fog 38



Kalangba allocates 19.23% of the total land area allocated for PBF project

The beneficiaries of Kalangba, Matete, Rosint and Rokupr Wosie allocated a total of 490.5 acres (196.2ha). Out of this figure, Kalangba allocated 19.23% (94.3ac), Matete allocated 105.7 acres or 21.55%, Rosint allocated the largest portion of land amounting to 151 acres or 30.78% while Rokupr Wosie allocated the second largest land area 139.5acres or 28.44%.

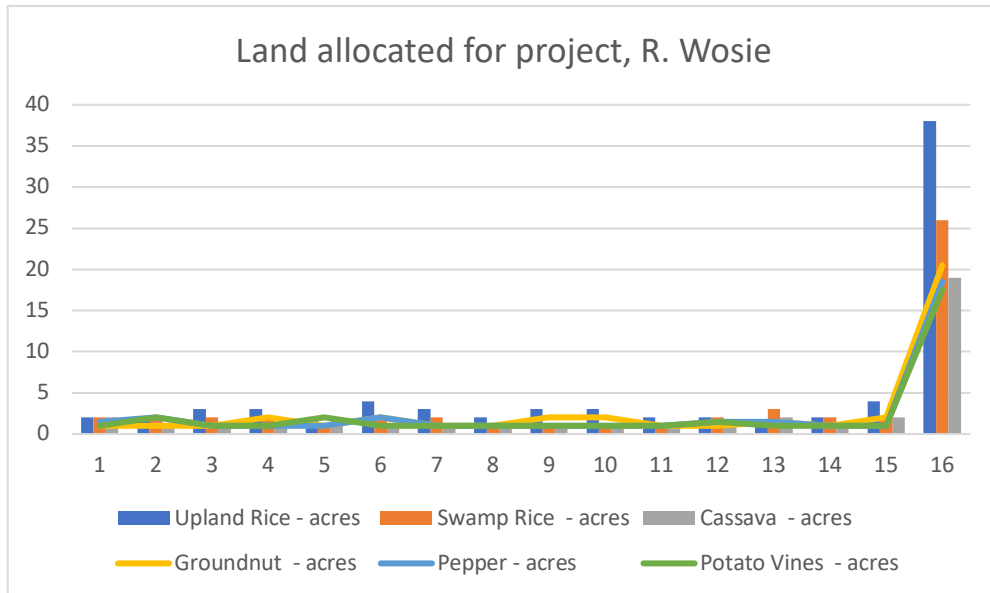
Fig 39



Matete allocates 21.55% of the total land area allocated for PBF project

In Kalangba, 10 or 66.67% out of the 15 beneficiaries say the land they use is owned by their husbands, while five or 33.33% of the beneficiaries claim that the land is theirs and was acquired through inheritance.

Fig 40



Rokupr Wosie allocates 19.23% of the total land area allocated for PBF project

In Matete, like Kalangba, 66.67% or 10 beneficiaries say the land they farm on is owned by the husband. Three of 20% say the land is owned by the father and two or 13.33% say the land is owned by the family. The total area of land can only be assessed if some transect walk in the villages is done. For this case actual visitation to the farming locations were done in order to verify if land was available for the project. A follow up during the monitoring exercise was done to ascertain if crops were actually grown on the land. Both exercises did give an impression that such plots of land were ascribed to the project.

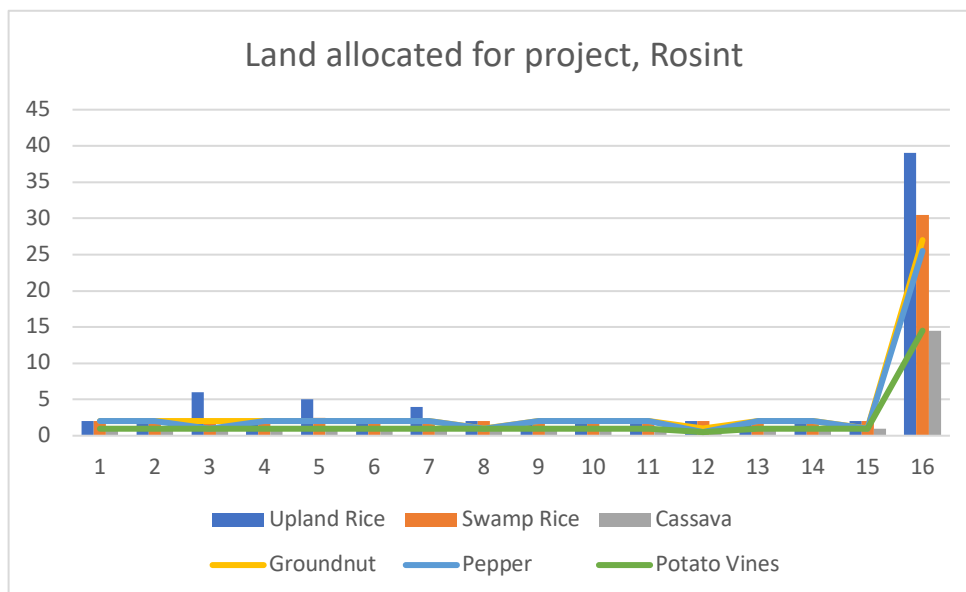


Fig 41

Rosint allocates 30.78% of the total land area allocated for PBF project

Rokupr Wosie’s beneficiaries said their husbands own the land they farm this is indicated by 86.67% and the rest 13.33% said the land belongs to them. In Rosint, 66.67% said their husbands own the land they farm, 20% said they own the land the another 13.33 said the land was acquired by inheritance.

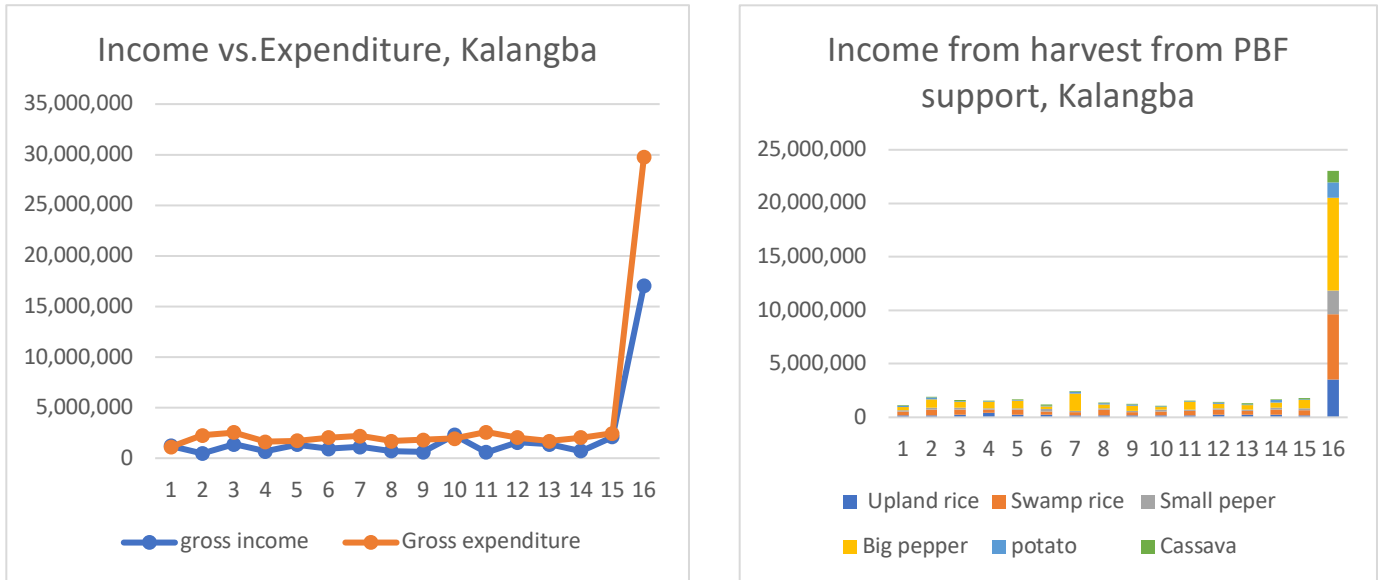
The results show that women in these villages have access to land and that some others own land either by themselves or through inheritance. Those who have access to land do so through their husbands, implying that their access to land is by way of their marital status. It can be further observed that each beneficiary committed specific plot of land to a crop she would grow on the land. The cumulative of each beneficiary over the number of crops she grows represent her total land area contributed to the village total in the assessment. During the monitoring exercise, it was discovered that beneficiaries had their crop planted not in one site. Some would have two location others three. But there are also those who had most of their crops on one parcel of land.

Harvests due to UNPBF support and gap assessment

In this report we monetised the harvest to acquire the income. We requested the quantum of harvest per crop per person and asked its market value. We then converted the harvest into money by a simple multiplication. This was done over the range of crops harvested per beneficiary to obtain the income from the harvests. The sum total income of all beneficiaries in each village represents the total income of the village and thus used in the analysis. Upon generating each village income, a gap assessment is done to present the extent to which the PBF support to the beneficiaries was meaningful or not. That way it can be an assessment of how much indebtedness has been reduced or how much savings has been made implying to an extent some aspect of the many definition of poverty is addressed.

What this section is attempting to achieve is to determine if gaps between income and expenditures have been narrowed or has resulted to savings.

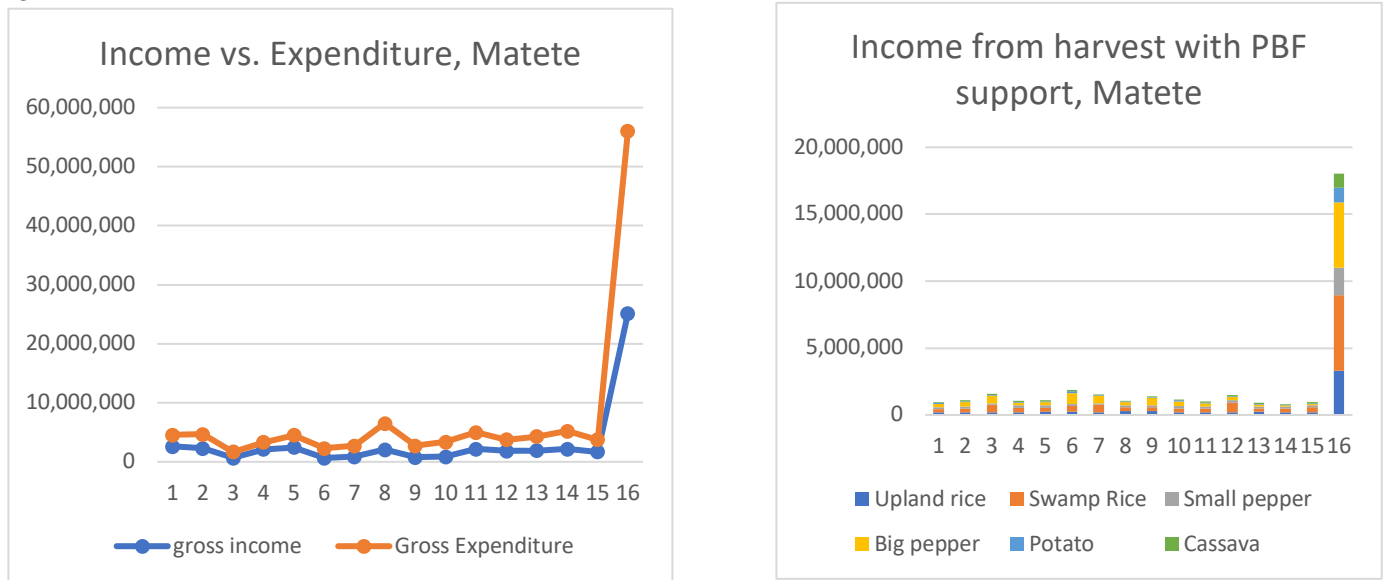
Fig 42



Kalangba made net Savings after deducting deficit from additional income from harvest of crops supported by PBF Project

Kalangba’s income – expenditure gap stands at Le -7,685,000. Data shows that the beneficiaries have been incurring deficit or debt. The implementation of the PBF project supporting women’s empowerment by way of providing farm inputs (basic farm tools, seeds, and other cultivars) for the women beneficiaries in the villages have the following total yields. Kalangba registered a total yield equivalent to Le 23,020,000, therefore the deficit of Le 7685,000 was covered and a savings of Le 15,335,000 was made by beneficiaries of the village.

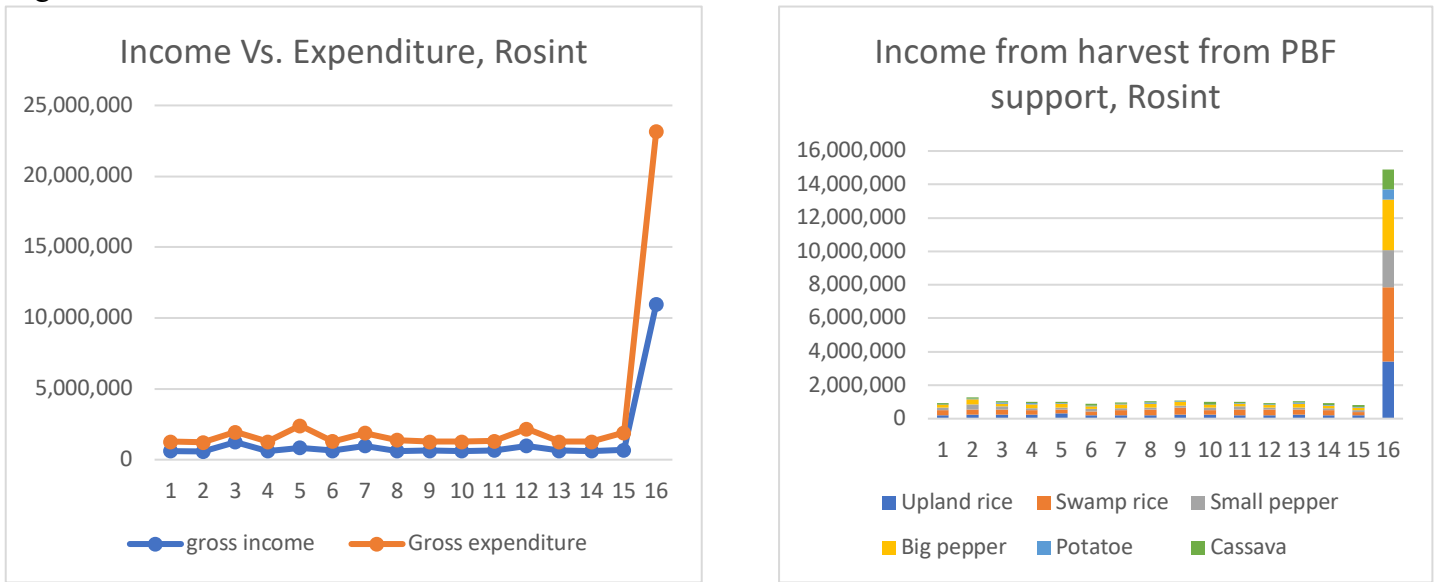
Fig 43



Matete made net Savings after deducting deficit from additional income from harvest of crops supported by PBF Project

Beneficiaries of Matete upon analysis of their income and expenditure was observed to have a deficit of Le -5,769,000. With the support for farming as part of the PBF project support, a harvest from crops equivalent to a total sum of Le 18,025,000, making the village rise from a state of deficit to savings amounting to Le 12,256,000.

Fig 44

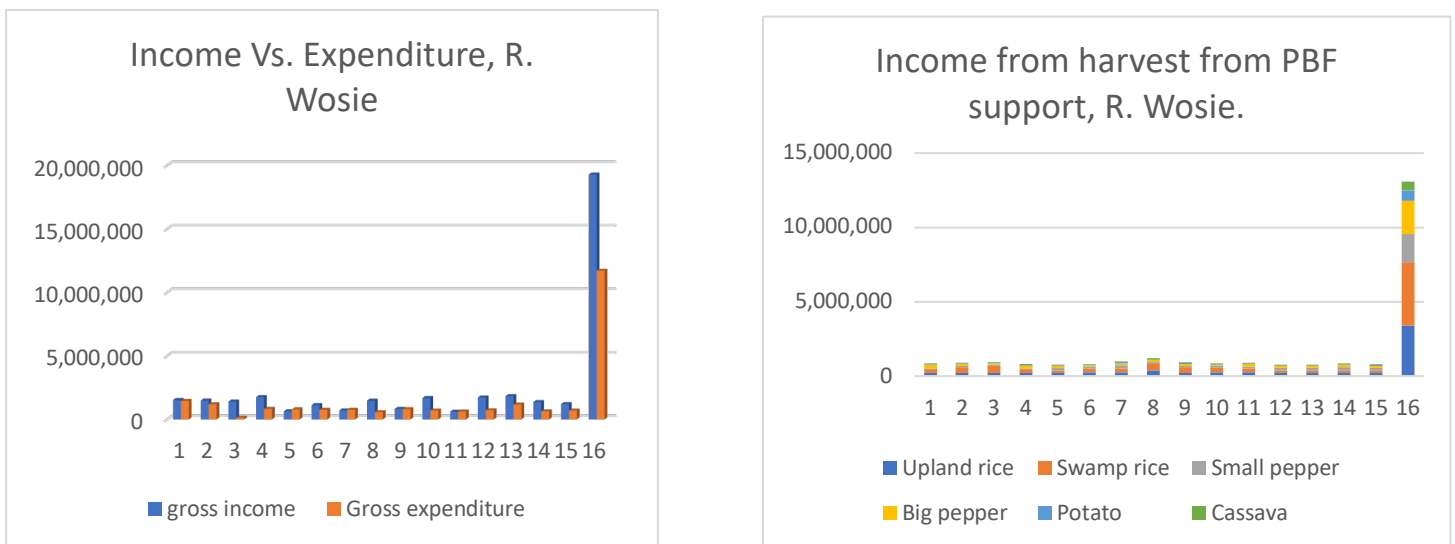


PBF support has raised Rosint from a deficit village to a savings village.

The village of Rosint has its beneficiaries making a gross extra income from harvests of crops grown with the support from the PBF project which, equivalent harvest in terms of income stands at Le 14,890,000. In earlier income versus expenditure analysis, Rosint was observed to have had a deficit of Le 1,330,000. With the support of the PBF project and as data shows, the income generated from harvest seems to have closed the deficit gap and Rosint now has a net savings of Le 13,590,000.

Rokupr Wosie was the only village in which data showed that beneficiaries make savings. After income and expenditure analysis was done, it was observed that the village made a net savings of Le 7,535,000.

Fig 45



PBF support has raised Rokupr Wosie's savings significantly by adding to savings it already generated without PBF support.

Analysis of data from beneficiaries of the Peace Building Fund support to women in Rokupr Wosie show that the monetary equivalent of the harvest of the crops amounted to a total of Le 13,070,000, increasing the savings of Rokupr Wosie to a total sum of Le 20,605,000. Therefore, of the four villages Rokupr Wosie has the highest level of savings, Kalangba in spite its huge expenditure bill came next in savings while Rosint and Matete respectively came next in savings. It is very clear that all the beneficiaries of the villages put in a lot of efforts to benefit from the project and the monetary outcome of the harvests exemplifies this.

Domestic conflict (quarrels)

Data show that in Kalangba all (100%) said they quarrel with their husbands and 11 (73%) said they quarrel at least 2 times in the month. Feeding, farm work, jealousy are some common reasons why they quarrel. The quarrel is however short leaved and is largely self-resolved.

Interestingly only two (13%) out of 15 beneficiaries in Rosint said they quarrel with their husbands at least two times in the month, often over feeding and jealousy and the quarrels are self-resolved.

In Rokupr Wosie, 14 (93.33%) out of 15 beneficiaries said they quarrel with their husbands, with 4 (26%), 2 (13%), and 6 (40%) indicating the frequency of quarrel to be respectively two, three and four times in the month. Quarrel is largely over feeding and jealousy and is mostly short lived and self-resolved.

In Matete, except for one beneficiary, all (93.33%) said they quarrel with their husbands. Thirteen (86%) said they quarrel at least two times in the month and only one said they quarrel three times in the month. Reasons for quarrel are feeding (86%), farm work (80%) and jealousy (73%). Quarrel is normally short-lived (80%) and self-resolved.

A common thread running through the villages over the reason for quarrels in the home is feeding. When the husband do not provide resources for the wife to prepare food for the home is said to be a proximate cause for quarrel and therefore leads to not less than two quarrels.

Other measures to benefit from

The four villages also benefited from a second seeds supply meant for second cropping. These were more of vegetables like crain-crain, okra, cucumber, garden eggs. These were to be planted along with groundnuts for the majority who did not plant ground at the onset due to the time of the season that the ground nuts were supplied.

In addition, to farming, the project made provision for the women to benefit from a village saving and loan association. This entailed training and the provision of savings boxes and passbooks that would allow the women to engage in saving scheme that will net in more income in addition to the savings from farming.

The benefit that is likely to be accrued from these two more activities which the data did not capture is very likely bolster the savings in all of the villages putting women particularly in advantage position both in the home and in the village community for which they can have their voices heard and can participate in actively in community life, demonstrating empowerment.

Synthesis

The beneficiaries in the four villages are exposed to some capitals that can support them improve on their wealth generation if well managed in a strategic manner. There are also certain capitals that are absent and may cause undue loss of generated wealth. There are, also certain capital that stand in the way of progress to generate wealth by the beneficiaries.

The data, monitoring, and transect walks show that the villages have land, forests, swamps and water. These capitals are crucial to wealth generation. The upland, is generally used to crop tree/cash crops as well as annual crops such as rice, pepper, maize, millet, vegetables such as egg plants, cucumber, etc. A part from the permanent crops/tree/cash crops, all other crops are normally farmed annually based on rainfall. The typical annual farming done on the upland is rainfed. Harvesting is practically done only once, at the end of the rains after which all annual farming activities cease until the next rainy season. Wealth generation from the upland is limited to only half the year. However, more can be actualized if the method is changed in the way that would make water

available on the farm throughout the year and introducing conditions that would temper the scourge of the sun. In the absence of this agro-climatic conditions, the beneficiaries are generating wealth partly in the year.

The swamps offer longer periods for farming. Because of their low-lying nature, swamps are at lower heights on the water table presenting the opportunity for prolong farming as a result of water availability. But swamps too have their disadvantage. In long waterlog condition, swamps have limited crops that can thrive in such condition. In the villages only rice can be produced under waterlog conditions for six months and more. Tree crops and perennial crops cannot survive such inundation conditions. However, when water table recedes other crops especially vegetables, maize, groundnuts can do well.

Unless for Rosint, the other villages; Rokupr Wosie, Matete, and Kalangba have large measures of swamps, even though they cannot take care of all the farming needs of the beneficiaries considering that they are not the only residents in the villages requiring swamp land to farm. It was observed from data that the beneficiaries utilized both farming ecologies to generate wealth.

The forests of the villages are used to collect fire wood, saving beneficiaries costs that could have been incur otherwise. They harvest logs for timber and would pay saw men to process the logs into timber they use for housing and furniture. They still make savings on the cost of logs compared to traveling from their villages to Port Loko where cost of timber are very high as a result of attendant costs from source of production to point of sales. The forests are also offering none-timber products such as wild fruits and food. These can be consumed in the home at no cost or can be sold in the market for a cost that adds to the income. All the villages are enclosed by forests. The enclosure offers protection to the houses and other village infrastructures from heavy rainfalls, high speed winds and storms. They further offer cooling effects to the villages. Beneficiaries benefit from these services. For instance, they would have to pay for repairs or construction cost of houses if every year storms and heavy rains damage their houses.

Primary schools are found in almost every village except for Kalangba. School fees have been dropped due to the government's free education policy. The policy has caused savings in the home even though parents still do spend money on education, but data indicate that they don't pay school fees/charges, implying that they could have spent more if school charges were also added to the list of school expenditure. None payment of fees/charges is freeing up money that is being used as investment into children's education.

According to data, health of beneficiaries appears important because they spend on health. Rosint and Rokupr Wosie do not have proximate locations of clinics and so are to an extent disadvantaged since beneficiaries have to travel out of the villages to the closest health centers, they are required to spend more but not necessarily on health. Matete and Kalangba share the same clinic situated in Kalangba, making it very easy and less cumbersome to access health care.

The fact that the beneficiaries invest in health depicts the need for vitality and good health to sustain them continue generating wealth. The saying "health is wealth" cannot be discounted here because beneficiaries need to stay strong and healthy to be able to undertake the hard tasks on the farm. Therefore, investment in health is not only a basic necessity but also a means of generating income.

Access to financial capital such as through banks or credit companies like Brac are none existent. Beneficiaries do not have the facilities exposed to them to access such capital. But even if the banks were to be available, the women may not qualify for loans because of loan conditions often tied to collaterals that the beneficiaries cannot afford. The access to finance are largely from sales of harvest and from credits acquired from local mobile business people who would provide cash at discount level for farm product after harvest. The debt encountered in the expenditure section of this report is to a large extent attributed to the informal arrangement.

Mobile traders move around with cash establishing acquaintances in villages that produce food stuff on farms. The cash in credit form usually provided is at a discount and comes at a targeted time, when farmers are in desperate need for money. Too often the credit is to the disadvantage of the farmers in this case the women beneficiaries. The credit should be paid in the equivalent to the value of the crop earlier bargained for. At harvest time the local traders pursue the farmers for their farm products.

For this to happen a relationship should and a social contract established between parties, this way a social capital is created upon which parties in the contract draw upon for livelihood resilience. Data shows that beneficiaries may be trusted and are credit worthy.

What this intervention has accomplished as per data, is reducing the debt burden and helping the women beneficiaries to have extra savings that may further reduce future indebtedness. Seed banks are expected to be established and will be used from this support hence serving as guaranteed source of seeds for planting.

For many of the beneficiaries in the four villages, farming is the only livelihood strategy employed as a means of existence. There are inferences from data also that other beneficiaries employ different strategies such as thrift and credit, osusu, petty trading as additional means of diversifying income. In Rokupr Wosie all the beneficiaries are also petty traders from which some additional incomes are realized adding to the overall income and making their income become higher than their expenditure.

Local governance structures exist in the four villages. This comprises, the village headman/chief and a small council of elderly men and would also include youth representatives and women's representatives. The compositions are skewed towards men and decisions largely taken are male-centric and rarely seek the interests of women. These governance structures in the villages are responsible for land matters, local justice and peace. Gender research in Sierra Leone point to women in disadvantage situations, these include inclusive participation in community activities and governance thereby affecting their involvement in decision making. One such decision making is about women's right to access, own and control land of which the men are the decision makers. The aspect of distribution of this key natural resource has always done been to the disadvantage of women to the extent that males must be involved as proxy or other such forms before women are granted access to land.

Even though the data did not capture information that would determine a reduction or otherwise in domestic conflict or quarrels, however, data showed that beneficiaries engage in domestic quarrels. To a very large extent the quarrels are over feeding in the home. When the husband fails to provide resources to the wife to make meals for the family, is confirmed by all villages to be one of the causes of domestic quarrels.

The FAO initiatives in the chieftdom is in line with the national land policy and the Voluntary Guidelines both of which have empowered women to access, own and control land without any form of restrictions that are not legal. Prior initiative in the current villages had training, awareness and other forms of exposures of stakeholders as part of the package in the initiative undertaken to change the old narrative into modern perspective of equality for all and nondiscrimination to especially women.

In this regard, the previous initiative constituted a Village Area Land Committee with dealing with land issues as part of its mandate. The VALC constituted representatives of landowning families and other prominent members of the villages. Composition strength is 25 persons, 13 of whom are women. The VALC is a government mandate developed by the Ministry of land to reduce land conflicts at community level. The VALC was intended to likely countervail the actions of the local governance structure's action on land matters.

This Peace Building Fund supported project emphasised the empowerment of women to take advantage of the outcomes of prior intervention. From data set land was available to women to farm amounting to 490.5 acres (196.2ha). Few of the women beneficiaries claimed they own the land. The available land added a lot of value to the income generated by the beneficiaries the outcome of which shows that the villages moved away from

debt to some levels of savings. This work needs to understand to what extent the VALC could have contributed to the freeing up of land for the women to farm such a large acreage of land. But data also indicated that land allocated to women to carry on farming were small prior to now.

Although the data did not capture whether the quarrels over feeding for the home is reduced due to the time data was collected, yet during monitoring in December close to harvest time, beneficiaries in interviews expressed that quarrel over feeding will be reduced because they were anticipating good harvests of the staple rice and with some money from the sales of the other crops supported with the funds from UNPBF.

Findings

1. The study shows that the UNPBF supported project contributed to generating wealth for the beneficiaries by improving on their savings rather than re-enforcing indebtedness. It means therefore that their poverty level was positively impacted
2. It is also implied that domestic conflict especially over feeding for the home would be significantly reduced since food and levels of money would at hand for use in the home.
3. The supply of farm inputs at about the crucial time of the planting season may have contributed to the good harvests of crops as data shows.
4. The farming inputs also triggered women's demand for land to carry out their farming, which they got according data, showing that their tenure rights are being recognized.
5. The investigation shows that wealth generation depend on other factors and not necessarily livelihood strategy alone. If the other factors (capitals) are unfavourable, income generated may be limited or very poor.
6. Some communities had very high expenditure lines, while others had low expenditures. Rokupr Wosie is a typical example of a low expenditure village. This low expenditure presented the opportunity to make more gains in the savings. It will be useful if the other villages learn from this village.

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