Exploring the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Methodology to Increasing Resilience and Youth Economic Opportunities

Session Presenters
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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of GALS methodology
3. GALS implementation in the DRC and Nicaragua contexts
4. Activity: Visioning Exercise
5. Wrap Up
1. An introduction of the GALS methodology and its effectiveness and limitations
2. GALS implementation in conflict-affected coffee-growing rural agriculture context – DRC and Nicaragua
3. Share lessons learned and best practices
What is GALS?
Youth resilience and economic empowerment

- Goal setting
- Positive framing
- Gender power dynamics
- Collective change
Why GALS?

• Social justice
• Participatory design
• Value chain development and integration
• Sustainability
Catalyst Workshop

Key elements:
• 5 days
• 4 tools
• Individual and group work
• Participatory facilitation
• Theater, songs, poems, fun!
• Community Day
GALS Tools: Vision & Vision Journey

Sueño Familiar

Ruta hacia la Visión del Futuro
GALS Tools: Leadership & Empowerment Map
Community Day
DRC: Who is GALS for?

DYNAMICS with Youth are Interconnected
DRC: GALS Results

Youth and Women Empowerment

Increased Education

Leadership and Governance

Asset Accumulation

Income Diversification

Conflict Avoidance

Remittances and Village Savings and Loans
DRC: Why We Used GALS

Vision Journey

- Simple and practical
- Visual
- Participative **means taking responsibility**
- Plan your life (economic vision)
- Identifying opportunities and challenges
- Develop decision-making skills
DRC: Increasing Resilience in Communities

- Reduce conflicts within households
- Increase private investments at the individual, household and community levels
- Restore hope to young people
- Increase self-confidence
DRC: Success Story

Meet Gisele Mukara, previously unemployed and relied entirely on her husband.
Adapting GALS in the DRC Context
Implementing GALS in Nicaragua

Salvador Garcia

Autopista de diferente Carriles

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Implementing GALS in Nicaragua
Purpose: accelerated workshops to validate outcomes from desk research

Look beyond youth employment and entrepreneurship programs to analyze household dynamics related to generational differences:

• Vision and Vision Journey
• Happy Family Tree: analyze power dynamics among generations
• Leadership Map
Activity

Now it’s your turn!
Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Be flexible
- Make it fun
- Lead from the back of the room
- Allow participants to draw their own conclusions, with facilitator ‘coaching’
- “Homework” every day
- Anyone can be a champion
Have Questions? Contact us!

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