Gender Assessment

SAP023: River Restoration for Climate Change Adaptation (RIOS)

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GREEN CLIMATE FUND

ANNEX 4

GENDER ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Restoration for adaptation to Climate Change (RIOS)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANVCC	National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change
WB	World Bank
CONAPO	National Population
CONEVAL	National Council for Evaluation of Social Development Policy
ENA	National Survey of
River	Restoration
ENDIREH	National Survey on the Dynamics of Household relationships
FMCN	Mexican Fund for Nature Conservation AC
FR	Regional Funds
IDG	Gender Inequality Index
HDI	Ta ice Human Development
IDRG	Index Development on Gender
INECC	Institute National Ecology and Climate Change
INEGI	National Institute of Statistics and Geography
INMUJERES	National Women Institute
UN	Organization of the United Nations
PAG	Action Plan Gender
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
UNDP	Program the United Nations for Development
SEDATU	Secretariat of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development
UP	Production Unit

1. Introduction

The RIOS project implements a set of actions in two basins in Mexico with high vulnerability to climate change that together cover an area of 59,011 ha directly benefiting 63,294 people (49.2% are women) and indirectly 865,634 people (52% are women). It will have the financial support of the GCF and it will be articulated with complementary and parallel investments, and it will have the participation of two Regional Funds (FR) [1] during its implementation.

The gender perspective is applied in this project not only to improve its results, but also to provide a platform for recognizing the problems of women who participate in the rural sector, to allow eliminating possible negative effects of the intervention on the living conditions of women that are directly or indirectly related to the activities that are planned to be carried out (some projects reinforce the gender roles that are seen as traditional), and to incorporate solutions that, together, promote progress for rural women, following the national and international agenda to strengthen gender equality, non-discrimination and the empowerment of women. This document in particular, and the entire RIOS project, adopt the following definitions:

Gender perspective: According to the General Law for Equality between Women and Men, it refers to: "The methodology and mechanisms that allow identifying, questioning and valuing discrimination, inequality and exclusion of women [to understand, design and implement] the actions that must be taken to act on gender factors and create the conditions for change that allow progress in the construction of equality between women and men "(Article 5, section VI).

Mainstreaming the gender perspective: According to the General Law for Equality between Women and Men, it is: "The process that guarantees the incorporation of the gender perspective to assess the implications that it has for women and for men in any action that is scheduled, in the case of legislation, public policies, administrative, economic and cultural activities in public and private institutions "(Article 5, section VII).

Equality between women and men: Defined by the same Law as: "The elimination of all forms of discrimination in any of the areas of life, which is generated by belonging to any sex" (Article 6).

Gender gap: refers to any disparity and inequality between the status of men and women because of their position or function in society. These are inequalities in terms of their participation, their access to opportunities, their rights, their ability to influence and make decisions, their income and benefits, and their control and use of resources.

Gender roles: they are stereotyped behaviors by each culture, which amount to socially accepted norms, about what a person is expected to do because of the sex to which they belong. Insofar as they are socio-historical constructs specific to each culture, they are susceptible to modification.

2. Legal status of women

Mexico has promoted important advances in the laws that protect the right, and position women in the public sphere, seeking to align its regulatory instruments with those of international nature to which it has subscribed. Among the variables that make up the Gender

[1] Fondo Golfo de México at Veracruz and Fondo Noroeste at Jalisco.

Inequality Index, the position of women in the political sphere is the one that has registered the most recent advances (UNDP, 2018).

International legal framework on the human rights of women signed by Mexico:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- American Convention on Human Rights.
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women.
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

National legal framework on women's rights applicable to the project

- Political Constitution of the United Mexican States
- General Law for Equality between Men and Women
- Law of the National Institute of Women
- Law of the National Commission of Human Rights
- Law of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples
- General Law of Electoral Institutions and Procedures
- Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination
- General Law of Access of Women to a Life Free of Violence
- General Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate crimes in the Matter of Human Trafficking and for the Protection and Assistance to the Victims of these Crimes
- Agrarian Law
- Law on Agricultural Chambers that hereinafter will be called Agricultural Associations
- General Law of Cooperative Societies
- General Law of Ecological Balance and Protection of the Environment
- General Law of Climate Change
- General Law of Sustainable Forest Development
- Law of Rural Sustainable Development
- Federal Labor Law
- General Law of Education
- Health Law
- General Law of Human Settlements, Territorial Planning and Urban Development
- General Law for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities
- NOM-035-STPS-2018 Psychosocial risk factors at work, identification, analysis and prevention

- NOM-046-SSA2-2005 Family and sexual violence against women
- NOM-007-SSA2-2016 For the care of women during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, and of the newborn
- NMX-R-025-SCFI-2005 Labor equality and non-discrimination

Legal status of women in the basins of incidence. The platform of the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) "México Rumbo a la Igualdad" evaluates mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the states of Jalisco and Veracruz, which has registered progress and identified pending issues[2]. Likewise, INMUJERES supports entities of the Federal, State and Municipal Public Administration through the Program for Strengthening Mainstreaming of the Gender Perspective and, PROEQUIDAD aimed at actions for the benefit of women in the territories. Both programs are part of the National Program for the Equality of Men and Women (PROIGUALDAD) that establishes the federal guidelines on the matter.

Political parity. In 2019 the Constitutional Reform of Gender Parity was approved, which legally proposes parity [3] the three powers and in the three levels of government, as well as in the autonomous bodies and indigenous communities. This reform is still in the process of being implemented, but by 2018, 48.4% of the public administration positions occupied by women were already registered (UNDP, 2019).

3. Demographic and economic characteristics of the population

3.1 National Gender Inequality

The Human Development Index (HDI) 2010 introduced the Gender Inequality Index (GDI), which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity (UNDP, 2011).[4] Mexico obtained in 2018 a value of 0.334 in the Gender Inequality Index, for which it ranked 74 out of 162 countries.

Table 1: Breakdown of the variables for the Gender Inequality Index of Mexico in 2018 compared to the region.

	IDG	Classification according to IDG	Maternal mortality rate	Adolescent fertility rate	Parliamentary seats occupied by women (%)	Population with at least one year of secondary education		Participation rate of the labor force	
						Women	Men	Women	Men
Mexico	0.334	74	38	60.4	48.4	58.4	61.1	43.8	78.9

[2] Available at: http://rumboalaigualdad.inmujeres.gob.mx/temas

[3] Parity is the principle used to guarantee equality between men and women in access to positions of political representation. It is a criterion stipulated in the Law to ensure equal participation in the definition of candidacies for positions of popular election.

[4] Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and fertility rates among adolescent girls; empowerment is measured through the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women and the achievements of each gender in secondary and higher education; and economic activity, based on the participation rate in the labor market corresponding to women and men.

Latin America and the Caribbean	0.383	-	68	63.2	31.0	59.7	59.3	51.8	77.2

The maternal mortality rate is expressed as the number of deaths per 100,000 live births; adolescent fertility rate is expressed as the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. Source: UNDP, 2019

However, the country's territorial extension, the distribution of its population and the concentration of infrastructure make it necessary to delve into internal differences in order to know the needs of specific sectors of the population.

Differentiated economic participation. Both men and women are mainly concentrated in populations with more than 2,500 inhabitants[5]. The average income increases as the size of the locality increases. In 2016, in towns with 100,000 and more inhabitants, the median income was $ 6,268 and $ 9,116 for women and men, respectively. On the contrary, in towns with less than 2,500 inhabitants, the average income was $ 2,403 and $ 3,728 for women and men, respectively, observing the highest gap (-35.6%) compared to the largest towns (INMUJERES, 2016).

The educational level is a determining factor, among others, to be inserted in the productive dynamics and obtain access to better working conditions. The average educational disadvantage of women amounts to 21.8%, while that of men is 19.4% (World Bank, 2018). Insufficient educational and health infrastructure is common in rural settings, so access to both services is subject to the ability to travel to nearby towns, support from government programs and subsidies, and in the case of women, to domestic agreements that facilitate or do not prevent it.

3.1.1 Situation of women in the country

Participation of men and women in the economy. Gender roles, whether adopted or imposed, show significant areas of opportunity at the national level. Unpaid work in women represents 25%, while male unpaid work barely exceeds 5% (INMUJERES with data from INEGI, 2018). This indicator reveals that unpaid work carried out in households has an important contribution to the national economy, providing fundamental support for the continuity of productive and social dynamics. These support activities are carried out by women in an approximate ratio of 4 to 1 without receiving direct remuneration for their contribution, delegating the mechanisms of remuneration to family agreements. Productive backyard activities are usually considered part of domestic work, so it is usually invisible for formal economic accounting purposes, and the importance of this activity for the family economy is not recognized either.

3.1.2 Women in the rural context

Land tenure distribution. 53% of the total land in Mexico is communal property, made up of 31,514 of a type of community property called *ejidos* and approximately 2,344 communities (World Bank, 2018). 62% of Mexico's forests are under a collective ownership structure (of the rest, 32% belong to small private owners and 6% are public property in the form of forest

[5] INEGI distinguish urban from rural using 2,500 inhabitants as a parameter, that is, it uses a parameter that internationally facilitates comparability between countries. (SEDATU, 2018).

reserves) (World Bank, 2018). Land tenure confers the legal right to vote in community assemblies and other decision-making powers.

Governance in the communities or *ejidos*. Of the 4.2 million Mexican members of communities in 2013 with land titles, only 18% were women. Furthermore, in 2013 women held only 12.5% of the 350,000 administrative positions in local assemblies and governing structures (World Bank, 2019).

Land tenure and decision-making. The highest proportion of women is resident (*avecindados*) of the *ejidos* (41.8% without private property rights, no voice, or vote), or have full rights as owners of the land (22.98% owners of private property, but without decision on the common land, neither voice nor vote), compared to a lower percentage of women who are owners as part of the community or *ejidatarios* (19.80%) and therefore participate in the decisions of the *ejido* (Table 2). The largest proportion of women living in these communities does not have a representation in community decision-making.

Table 2: Population by sex in the "ejidos" according to type of tenure, administrative positions and participation in non-agricultural activities.

	Total	**Men**	**Women**
"*Ejidatarios*" and other type of community owners	**4´210,830**	3´377,035	833,795
"*Ejidatarios*" with individual parcels	3´392,126	2´780,931	611,195
Land owners in the *ejidos*	1´442,807	1´111, 237	331,570
Residents in the *ejidos*	2´447,226	1´423,298	1 ´023,928
Presidents of the *ejido*	31,514	30,716	798
President of the *ejido* who speaks an indigenous language	Na	16.5%	0.2%

Source: Own elaboration with data from the *Ejido* Census, INEGI, 2007

Situation of women and men in agricultural production. According to the 2017 National Agricultural Survey, 14 out of 100 agricultural producers responsible for the management and decision-making of the Production Units (UP) are women (INEGI, 2017). The labor force employed in these UPs was 83.0% men and 16.7% women. The largest proportion of this labor participation is classified as unpaid labor (30.8%) and not economically dependent on the Production Unit (25.7%).

Table 3: Participation by sex in Agricultural Production Units.

	Men	**Women**
Total	83.0%	16.7%
Unpaid labor	69.2%	30.8%
Not dependent on company name	74.3%	25.7%
Producers *	85.1%	12.9%
Paid labor	87.5%	12.5 %

* 2% of respondents did not specify their gender during the survey.

Source: ENA, 2017

The set of existing gender gaps (land tenure, participation in governance bodies, unequal payments, unpaid employment and domestic care activities) keep women in culturally reinforced cycles of poverty that discourage the self-organization and individual efforts to overcome them.

3.1.3. Women and socio-environmental problems

Table 4 shows differentiated impacts between men and women of some of the main problems faced by the rural sector and agricultural production, which in many cases refers to environmental problems and vulnerability to climate change from a socio-environmental perspective. Women and men access natural resources differently and therefore the effects are also different when these resources undergo changes. This information is derived from assessments in the states where the watersheds were selected for the project as part of the design of the CONECTA project, which will co-finance RIOS. It is further enriched by the experience of the gender aspects of the "Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change" that took place in regions that included the RIOS basins from 2014 to 2019 and was financed by the Global Environment Facility.

Table 4. Main socio-environmental problems related to conventional agricultural and their differentiated impact on men and women.

Problems	Triggers	Impacts on men and women	Differentiated impacts on women
Degradation of soils	Bare soil, crops without soil conservation practices, overgrazing, compaction and wind and water erosion.	Loss of land value, high production costs to supply environmental services. Loss of income and livelihoods stimulates temporary or permanent migration.	No participation in decision making on productive resources. Greater losses since the lands managed by women generally have smaller surfaces and lower quality of soils for production than those managed by men. Increased tension, domestic violence and abandoned homes.
Loss of fertility in soils	Overexposure of soils to insolation (due to breakage), high use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.	High production cost due to having to use agrochemicals. Health risks from being in contact with pesticides, if they are not well managed.	Work overload to manage production for self-consumption, which requires work in the domestic transformation to sustain food.
Degradation of vegetation cover quality	Grazing/browsing of cattle in forests. Production oriented to monoculture, removal of tree cover and, in general, of natural vegetation as a condition for cultivation and grazing.	Dependence on productive packages and loss of rural knowledge. High temperature exposure during working with livestock and agriculture due to lack of shade. Increased exposure to pests and vectors.	Must enrich the family diet with production from backyard, without other options provided naturally by the ecosystem. Unpaid work overload.

Contamination of water sources	Contamination by feces and incorporation of suspended solids due to the entrance of cattle to rivers and springs for watering. Contamination of bodies of water by the use of pesticides.	Health risks and shortages.	Longer trips to obtain better quality of water or investment in rudimentary processes to make it drinkable. Their needs are excluded from decision-making processes in water management systems for productive purposes.
Fires in forests and natural grasslands	Poor management of fire in agricultural burns, for renewal of grasslands and as a final destination of waste (burning of garbage).	Risks of poisoning, injury and death in firefighting, which increases if communities are not trained. Economic losses.	Exposure to hazards and increased fatigue when searching for food or supplies that they used to take from nearby forests.
Increased vulnerability to hurricanes and extreme rains	Soil compaction, erosion and loss of pasture cover due to overgrazing, weakening of the slope in riparian areas due to livestock entry. Rivers get obstructed due to soil erosion of river banks and floods downstream become more frequent.	Risks of injury and death due to flooding from river overflows. Risk of diseases due to unsanitary conditions after the flood. Economic losses and increase in expenses Loss of patrimony.	Wide vulnerability of domestic chores that provide life support to the family unit (food and hygiene). Higher risks of injury or death since women generally cannot swim. No access to safe resources for eventualities. Women and girls face increased health and safety risks.
Increased vulnerability to drought	Loss of infiltration capacity due to overgrazing.	Water shortage. Increase need of resources in case of eventualities. Increase in expenses (for example, in bottled water). Forest fire risk.	Increased distance to obtain water, exposure to extreme fatigue and greater dependence on providers of drinking water. Low women participation in water councils and committees.
Loss of biodiversity.	Misuse of pesticides that generically affect beneficial herbs and weeds, insects and pollinators, and biota in general. Agricultural monocultures, introduction of exotic grasses.	Productive dependency on agrochemicals. Reduction of the diversity of productive and self-consumption options.	The wealth of the family diet depends on the productivity of the backyard, demanding additional work from women. Loss of local knowledge about the species and their traditional uses (ex. medicinal, religious, food, etc.).
Land-use change	Expansion of grasslands and crops at the expense of natural vegetation.	Appearance of exotic or invasive species, as well as exposure to pests and rupture of food chains. Soil depletion.	Limited decision-making in the land where they live. The productive practices adopted in the territories do not include female participation, which reduces their influence on the plot or backyard.

Exclusion of women and vulnerable groups	Land tenure concentrated on men. Patriarchal social structures and cultural practices that make women invisible. Discrimination against indigenous groups.	Resistance to change makes it difficult to adapt or adopt innovations. Power grabbing leads to chiefdoms. Decisions are made without considering the impacts on the diversity of the group.	Invisibility of the contributions of women and vulnerable groups to the productivity and sustainability of the family-productive nucleus. Lack of property rights hinders access to opportunities for economic independence. Associations, cooperatives and support networks in these sectors do not receive public recognition, are considered informal or playful and do not participate in community decision-making.
Low human development	Poor health conditions, low formal educational level.	Difficulties to overcome the cycles of poverty by their own means.	Most affected by less access to opportunities in cycles of poverty and scarcity scenarios.
Migration	Poverty, low indices of human development, lack of opportunities for improvement. Impoverishment of the ecosystems that sustain the strategies of rural life.	Exposure to risks during transfers or adverse conditions during migration. Loss of positioning in the community of origin during the absence of men.	Women do not inherit rights or powers during the absence of migrant men, limiting their capacities to manage the Production Unit during their absence.
Aging of the productive sector	Migration due to lack of employment opportunities, lack of prospects for human and economic development for young people. Void social security schemes and retirement provisions.	The family unit does not have the labor force or sufficient capacities to make better use of the territory. Land use is changed to manageable, though less profitable, options. Territories are rented and in extreme cases, properties are sold.	Women have less family and community support to migrate, and if they migrate, they are more exposed to various types of violence. They are culturally responsible for the care of the sick and the elderly, increasing their workload when migration occurs. Remittances do not alleviate women´s poverty; they are invested in patriarchal productive activities. Women are driven to start a family as the only option to have some type of heritage.

Source: Own elaboration from Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessments for the Implementation of Regenerative Livestock Processes 2019, and project reports, FMCN, 2020

Field interventions indicate that men and women assume these risks and disadvantages unconsciously, assimilated into the roles that men and women play.

4. Women in the RIOS incidence basins

The two regions in which RIOS will be developed are located within 14 municipalities, of which 12 are located in Veracruz and two in Jalisco.

INMUJERES, through the Gender Indicator System, provides some of the data at the municipal level that are projected below. It should be noted that this platform reflects for municipalities the Gender-Related Development Index (IDRG), which is an indicator prior to the Gender Inequality Index[6]. The IDRG examines gender inequalities in the HDI dimensions (health, education and income), it is an indicator that goes from 0 to 1, in which the unit represents the enjoyment of development for women and 0 represents a low developmental level. For 2010, the national IDRG was 0.7840.

The difference between the number of *ejidatarios* and the number of residents (inhabitants of the *ejido*s without full land rights, and without voice or vote in the assemblies) is exposed, since it allows contrasting the percentage of women who take part in the decisions in the rural territories of the municipalities, and the percentage of women in the presidency of the *ejido* gives us an idea of their participation in community decision-making.

4.1 Jalisco

In 2010, the state of Jalisco reflected a Gender-Related Development Index of 0.8257, ranking 13th among the 32 states of Mexico (PNUD, 2010). The state-level recorded in the household survey 25.4% of households with female heads, and it was detected that 83% of the single-parent households are supported by a woman (ENDH, 2018).

Table 5. Demographic characterization of women in the municipalities of the RIOS basins in Jalisco.

Municipality	Total population	Women %	Female economic participation rate (2015) *	Family households headed by women% (2015)	Gender-related Development Index (2010)
Mascota	14 245	50.79	32.1	22.8	0.8464
Talpa de Allende	14 410	49.93	31.3	25.6	0.8233

* Rate for every 100 women aged 15 and over.

Source: CONAPO (2010), CONEVAL (2010). INMUJERES (2010).

Regarding the gender gap, the National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change (ANVCC) of INECC (2019) shows data for the four indicators that make up the index (Table 6). This confirms that the gender gap in the incidence municipalities is rated as relatively low. Women register access to health and education services relatively similar to that of men, while the greatest disparity is found in the low income received and the greater performance of unpaid work.

Table 6: Indicators of the gender gap for the municipalities of Mascota and Talpa de Allende, 2015.

	Without access to health services		Without schooling		With low income		Who performs unpaid work	
	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %
Mascota	13.1	8.9	4.7	4.3	13.4	33.5	57.3	89

[6] The IDG replaces the Gender-Related Development Index (IDRG) and the Gender Empowerment Index (IPG), encompassing some of the aspects reflected in both, in a single index. The variation of the new Gender Inequality Index is inverse to the variation of the gender indicators used in the traditional methodology, whose value is closer to 1 when it reflects greater equality between women and men.

Talpa de Allende	11	8.2	6.4	5.7	17.8	37.3	47.6	87.1

Source: AVCC, 2019

The state diagnosis for Jalisco, through the consultation process, captured the interest of including the elaboration of handicrafts, gastronomic products, forest and livestock sub-products, and tourist services as an opportunity to insert the participation of women in the microregions of the basins. Although there is not enough information to determine the labor insertion of women in rural Productive Units, it can be inferred that they participate to some degree in these productive activities.

Table 7: Units of production and participation in the *ejidos* in the Jalisco Basins.

Municipality	***Ejidatarios* and** other type of community owners		**Residents (with no property rights)**		**President of the *ejido***	
	Total	**Women%**	**Total**	**Women%**	**Total**	**Women%**
Mascota	894	16. 55	96	12.5	16	6. 25
Talpa de Allende	1,745	21. 03	1,239	51.98	17	0

Source: *Ejido* Census, INEGI, 2007.

The intervention sub-basin of the Ameca-Mascota river is 43% in *ejido* property, distributed in ten *ejidos*. We can see that in the *ejidos* of the Municipality of Tlalpa there is a significant number of residents, of which 51.9% are women. There is no land tenure in these territories under the other community schemes.

The coastal region is an area of livestock importance for the production of meat and cattle for dual purposes, it is worth mentioning that dual-purpose production is for meat and milk, however, milk is used mainly in the production of cheeses and it is in the production of dairy products where the participation of women is important, since they are the ones in charge of supervising workshops (production) and marketing.

In the mountain region, there are also small producers of milk in smaller quantities, especially from family companies that sell cheeses and panela (for example, in the municipality of Mascota).

4.2 Veracruz

In 2010, the state of Veracruz registered a Gender-Related Development Index of 0.7819, ranking 28th among the 32 states (PNUD, 2010). According to the 2018 National Household Dynamics Survey, 30.1% of households with female heads were registered, the same sample indicates that 83.9% of single-parent households are headed by a woman (ENDH, 2018).

Table 9. Demographic characterization of women in the municipalities of the RIOS basins in Veracruz.

Municipality	**Total population**	**Women%**	**Female economic participation rate (2015) ***	**Family households headed by women% (2015)**	**Gender-related Development Index (2010)**
Camarón de Tejeda	6 224	50.14	11.9	18.9	0.7438

Comapa	18 713	49.09	11.6	14.9	0.6802
Huatusco	54 561	51.95	34.4	26.1	0.7828
Ixhuatlán del Café	21 407	50.76	23.7	19.4	0.7514
Jamapa	10 376	50.99	26.1	34.9	0.752
Manlio Fabio Altamirano	22 585	50.54	22.7	29.4	0.7931
Medellín	59 126	51.91	40.9	31.2	0.8111
Paso del Macho	29 165	50.66	19.3	21.5	0.7827
Soledad de Doblado	27 008	50.61	24.3	27.3	0.7781
Tepatlaxco	8 249	49.00	16.5	13.7	0.7330
Veracruz	552 156	52.63	40.9	36.9	0.8636
Zentla	12 379	49.87	15.6	17.1	0.7691

* Rate per 100 women aged 15 and over.

Source: CONAPO (2010), CONEVAL (2010). INMUJERES (2010).

Regarding the gender gap, the INECC's National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change (2019) builds a gender gap index based on four indicators (Table 10). In the case of the Jamapa river sub-basins, we found a municipality with a high index of gender gap (Zentla) and 4 municipalities with medium gaps (Tepatlaxco, Camarón de Tejada, Manlio Fabio, Comapa, and Jamapa).

Table 10: Indicators of the gender gap for the municipalities of the Jamapa sub-basin, 2015.

	Without access to health services		Without schooling		With low income		Who performs unpaid work	
	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %	Men%	Women %
Camarón de Tejeda	15.4	12.4	7.3	9.6	43.6	29.6	31.8	86.7
Comapa	21.6	16.2	13.4	14.7	41.1	26.9	32.1	87.2
Huatusco	25.1	22.1	8.4	10.4	39.5	34.5	53.8	88.6
Ixhuatlán del Café	27.4	24.5	10.6	12.9	42.8	27.9	46.8	90.5
Jamapa	28.2	21.9	8.1	8.7	28.4	33.8	36	87
Manlio Fabio Altamirano	30.9	24.9	7.9	8.7	29.9	39.5	46.3	89.7
Medellín	25.6	22.2	4.1	5.3	22	34.8	59.7	88.7
Paso del Macho	18.6	17.8	9.9	11	49.4	41.1	42.8	88.5
Soledad de Doblado	26.7	21.7	6.7	8.3	34.7	42.2	49.2	91.3
Tepatlaxco	15.1	9.8	11.5	13.4	35.6	23.2	46.6	90.2

Veracruz	26.8	23.6	2.9	4.2	19.4	29.9	53.9	87.4
Zentla	21.6	15.2	6.8	8.2	55.3	29.5	42.2	89.7

Source: AVCC, 2019

Like the IDRG, the AVCC exhibits wide variability between the municipalities of the sub-basins in areas such as access to health and education services. However, a general trend is that women's participation in unpaid activities is always higher than men's participation in them.

The regional influence of urban poles generates important contrasts between municipalities, which reflects in differentiated access to health services, education and paid employment.

Table 11. Units of production and participation in the ejidos in the Veracruz basins.

Municipality	*Ejidatarios* and owner of other types of communities		Residents (without property rights)		President of the *ejido*	
	Total	Women%	Total	Women%	Total	Women%
Camarón de Tejeda	401	10. 22	469	27. 29	5	0
Comapa	1,196	10. 03	471	11. 68	15	0
Huatusco	623	18. 14	5	0	10	0
Ixhuatlán del Café	1,311	18. 61	4	0	13	0
Jamapa	753	21. 12	1 677	79. 79	12	0
Manlio Fabio Altamirano	1,981	17. 87	3 808	48. 11	28	0
Medellín	2,150	30. 47	31 718	59. 91	33	6. 06
Male Pass	1,372	13. 99	2 104	27. 04	27	3. 7
Sheep Pass	1,720	16. 57	3 290	38. 21	26	0
Soledad de Doblado	1,464	13. 59	2,921	48. 82	26	0
Tepatlaxco	249	16.87	397	37. 28	5	0
Veracruz	825	22. 18	844	35. 78	16	6. 25
Zentla	567	14. 64	171	22. 81	3	0

Source: Ejido Census, INEGI, 2007

In the selected sub-basins of the Jamapa River in Veracruz, we find the presence of 59 ejidos (total and partial). 43% of the surface of the sub-basins belongs to one of these *ejidos*[7]. Likewise, there are no other type of communal lands in the sub-basins.

The beneficiaries of the upper part of the sub-basins are linked to productive activities such as the cultivation of coffee and corn, as well as backyard livestock. For the middle and lower part

[7] RAN (2019) Perimeter agricultural nuclei SHAPE Federal Entity Veracruz. Downloaded on April 23, 2020 from: https://datos.gob.mx/busca/dataset/datos-geograficos-perimetrales-de-los-nucleos-agrarios-certificados-por-estado--formato-shape

of the sub-basins there is the cultivation of sugarcane and tropical fruits such as mango, banana and citrus, in addition to extensive livestock.

4.3 Women perspectives as part of project consultation

The RIOS project went through a consultation process in March of 2020, which included workshops in the basins. The workshops were attended by women that have participated in previous projects with FMCN such as "Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change" (C6) and that have received capacitation in gender perspective as part of the gender strategy of C6 project. Women from new organizations also attended the consultation workshop. In the Jamapa basin 42% of the participants were women, while 22.5% of the people that attended the workshop in Mascota were women. Both men and women welcomed the RIOS project. Women suggested to include family businesses, as well as establishing backyard production as some of the activities to be developed through subprojects.

5. Conclusions

Overall, the analysis so far highlights various limitations and opportunities, depending on each context, in which strategic interventions can leverage the participation of women in activities, particularly economic ones.

The activities that women currently carry out are recognized in this analysis:

- Manufacture and marketing of dairy products.
- Elaboration and commercialization of artisan products.
- Administration in civil, community and productive organizations.
- Participation in rural tourist services.
- Solar management and backyard production.
- Domestic, upbringing and care tasks combined with productive activities.

Female leadership in productive enterprises (such as cheese factories, administrative functions in various types of productive organizations, the elaboration of handicrafts and retail trade) are usually considered successful achievements during interventions in rural areas. However, this success not only supposes a certain degree of economic independence and empowerment of the participants, but also supposes the displacement of domestic activities to other members of the family or community, the increase in unpaid working hours, and in some extreme cases, coercive or violent relationships can be detonated in the family unit or the community environment in which they are inserted. This reflects the need to increase the capacities of institutions and organizations in the territory to incorporate actions that are sensitive to existing gaps.

With these circumstances in mind, the RIOS project incorporates, through the Gender Action Plan, parameters that distinguish proposals that incorporate measures, crosscutting or specific, sensitive to the gender gap or aimed at increasing equal opportunities between men and women.

The implementation of the RIOS project results in a potential opportunity to induce changes in the productive activities and uses of the territories with favorable balances for the conservation

of ecosystem services, increase adaptation to climate change and strengthen the most vulnerable sectors, including the women.

Based on the information presented, as well as what was detected in the State Socioeconomic Diagnostics and in the consultation processes developed, the Gender Action Plan starts from the need to recognize and strengthen the role of women in the productive processes and use of the territories. This Work Plan will lead to activities aimed at:

- **Encourage access to participate in subprojects and Production Groups (PG)** that favor sustainable productive systems that generate income for women, such as, helping women to organize themselves in productive groups, empower them and provide technical assistance to stablish cheese and dairy fabrics or establishing supply chains for selling agro-ecological products grown as backyard production;
- Generate opportunities for men and women to **access to financial resources, technologies, training, information, and support for productive work compatible with domestic responsibilities that avoid work overloads and double work load** (as household and other activities);
- **Reduce the cognitive load that access to new activities implies for women, as they are saturated with obligations assumed in their double or triple shift**. Executing agencies in charge of training activities, technical assistance and workshops in all components will provide materials such as tutorials (short videos and infographics) that women can consult at their own convenience using technology accessible for women like smartphones (when possible) or printed materials. Technical staff will provide accompaniment to ensure women can access the materials;
- **Reduce scarcity scenarios for project beneficiaries by developing capacities in monitoring activities that will be financed,** capacities in developing familiar or community business, technical assistance to access or use technology that makes easier their daily activities, such as wood-saving stoves, hire women to develop monitoring activities related to water quality, also hire women to develop administrative activities, all these are new forms of participation and distribution of benefits under equal conditions.
- **Share successful experiences carried out with a gender perspective** among the participants of the different components of the project, as well as between both regions included. Learning community events, with specific time to exchange experiences among women to develop their capacities for effective participation to demonstrate the potential of women leaders to inspire and increase women participation.