



Presented By:

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**Gendered Youth Transitions to
Adulthood in the Drylands: Implications
for targeting**

Contextual analysis

2015	2060
1.2 billion	2.9 billion

Population will increase by almost 2.5 times

In 2050, 1 in every 4 people (25%) in the world will be African

Region and sub-region	% of the continent's population in 2015	% of the continents population in 2030
Northern Africa	19	13
Western Africa	30	33
Eastern Africa	33	36
Middle Africa	13	15
Southern Africa	5	3

Knowledge Gap

- Quite a number of studies have done on youth realities and aspirations

BUT

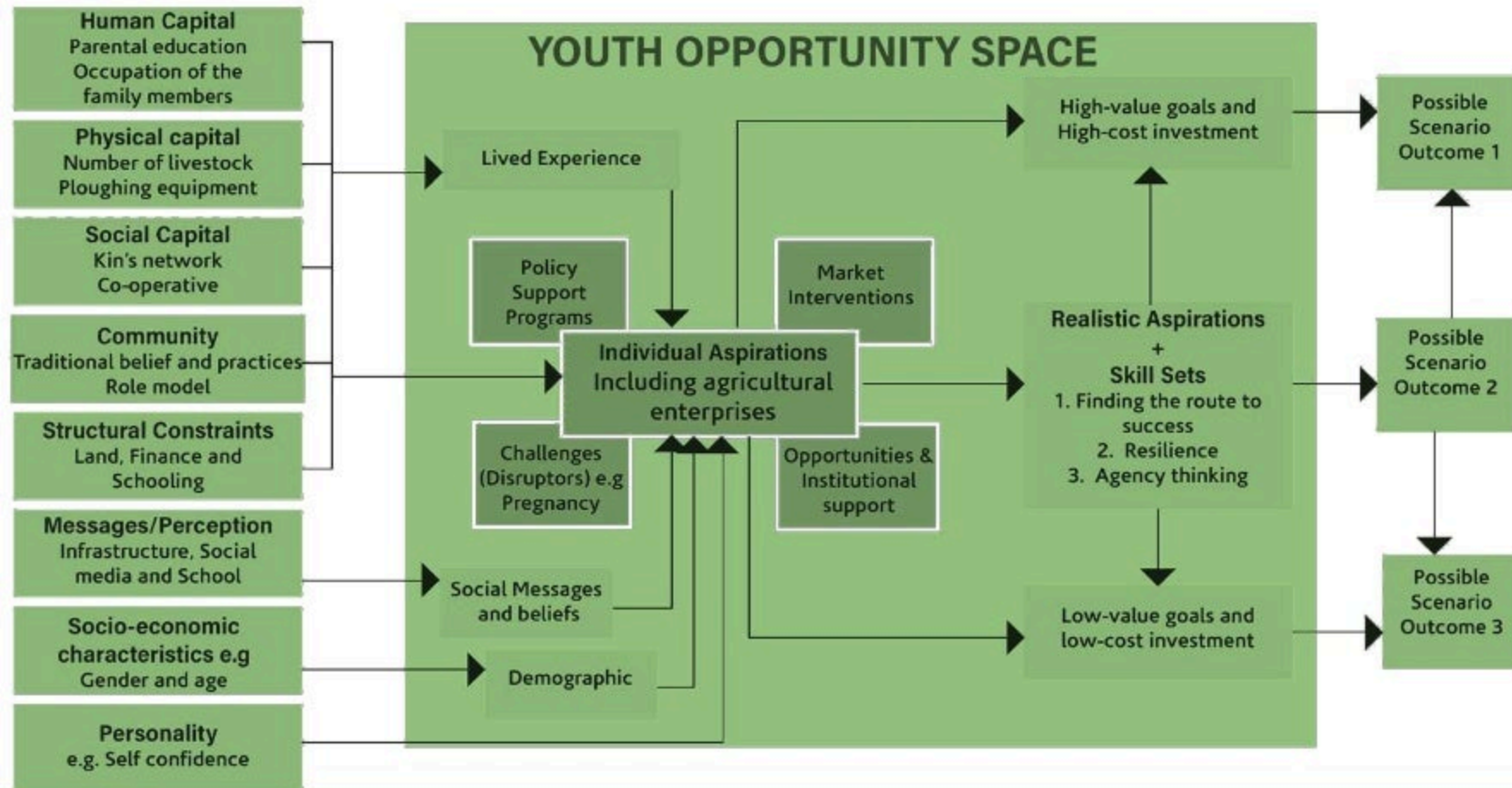
- Most studies treat youth as a **homogeneous group of people**
- They fail to pay attention to sometimes **varying and conflicting interests** of individuals with different ethnic, socio-economic, occupational groups, gender and religious groups
- Besides, there is no empirical evidence on **dry land youth realities and aspirations** in Africa.
- Also, not much is also **known about the transitions** (outcomes of the aspirations) of the young people.
- **Dryland opportunity structures and youth participation** in the agricultural value chain remain unknown

Focus of study

- **Understanding who the dryland youths are and what their aspirations and values are**
- To characterize youth realities, aspirations and transitions in dryland agriculture.
- To understand challenges youth face while transitioning to adulthood in dryland areas.
- To evaluate opportunity structures for youth that enable successful transitions into adulthood and into desiring dryland agriculture.
- To assess youth participation in drylands agricultural value chain
- To determine how dryland agriculture systems can successfully engage more targeted youth

DEVELOPING ASPIRATIONS

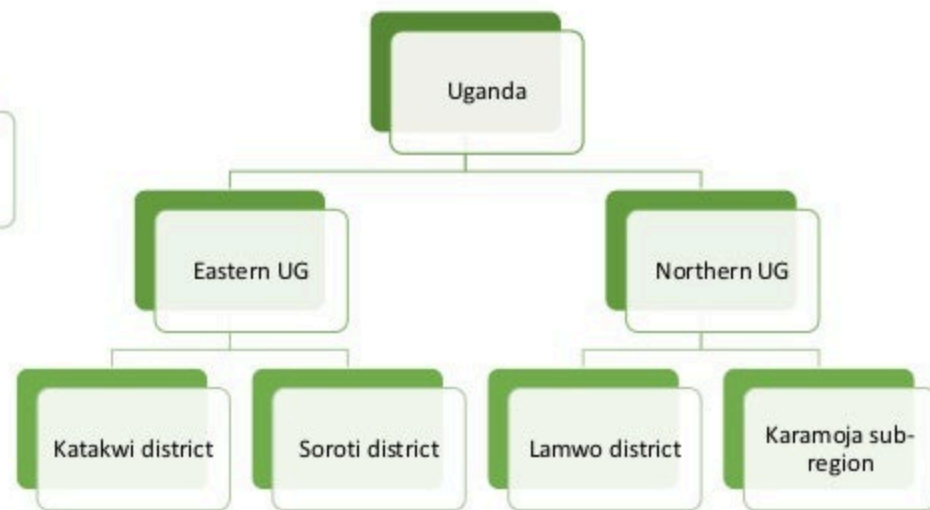
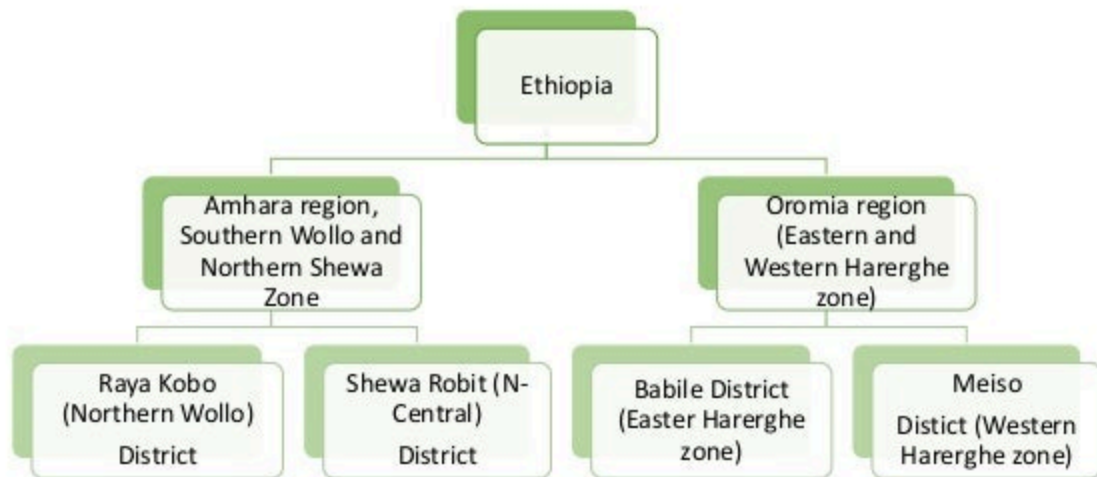
ACHIEVING ASPIRATIONS



Methodology

- Four main qualitative methods are being used for data collection
 1. Key informant interviews (KII)
 2. Focus group discussions (FGD's)
 3. Life history

Checklists have been developed to guide all four processes.



Study areas



JUST BECAUSE

AJEM WAS BORN IN LOIMA SHE IS...



15

times less likely than an
average Kenyan to get a job

13

times less likely
to earn more than
KSh. 7,200 per month



times less likely to learn how
to read and write

17

times less likely
to have a primary
school education

63

times less likely
to have a secondary
school education
and above



3

times less likely
to be able to
access water

63

times less likely
to have access to
sanitary facilities



82

times less likely to live in
a house with a cemented floor
or a solid roofed house

336

times less likely
to live in a house with
cross/brick walls

34

times less likely to start
with LPS, Bwiba & Dhanu

100%

less likely to use electricity



SHOULD A PERSON'S PLACE OF BIRTH
DISADVANTAGE THEM SO MUCH IN LIFE?

Youth realities

- Young people's present state (situation) and daily activities they engage in.



Youth aspirations

- An individual's desire to obtain a status object or goal such as a particular occupation or level of education (what one hopes will happen in the years to come). Education or career ambitions of young people.



Transitions

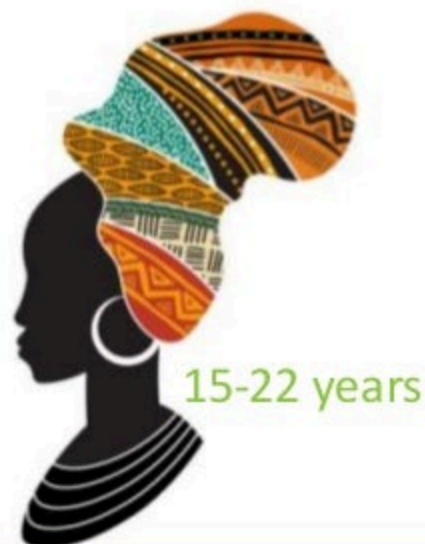
Youth transitions refer to different changes young people go through from childhood to adulthood such as moving out of home, forming relationships, finding work etc.



Some early results from Tanzania field work

Definition of who the youth are in the drylands? Insights from Tanzania – Songwe and Mtwara

1. In the drylands, the transitions to youthhood is a highly cultural and gendered process with clear norms that guide it e.g. finish school, get married
2. The transition pathway for the boy child is much longer than the girls transition period.



Gendered transitions

- ✓ If a girl child falls pregnant – *a beginning of social exclusions* - sets in
 - **at the households**
 - **in the institutions and**
 - **in programming of research and development programs**
- ✓ The girls 'don't identify as youth'...social norms don't allow them to...
- ✓ The boys identify as youth even if they have fathered children in their teens...and continue to enjoy the benefits of 'youth targeted programs'

Consequences of the short transitions for young mothers

1. Very early marriages that result in divorce and further exclusion from the society
2. High teenage pregnancies and generational transfer of poverty, nutritional challenges

Youth transitions, farming and choice

- Dryland farming **is a reality** for the youth (small scale, limited to food provision, markets are underdeveloped)...**not an aspiration**. Agriculture as a main economic activity is constantly messaged from childhood (it is like indoctrination)
- Education investment is a pathway out of the drylands... to other careers. Those that don't succeed in this pathway, most probably fall back into dryland farming. However there is a challenge in pursuit of education as, children are critical in providing farm labor, most times at the expense of their education resulting in low primary to secondary school transitions
- The cultural prioritization of agriculture over education means primary school is the end of schooling for most Tanzanian children in the dry lands. Literacy levels of parents helps

Culture, youth transitions and access to land

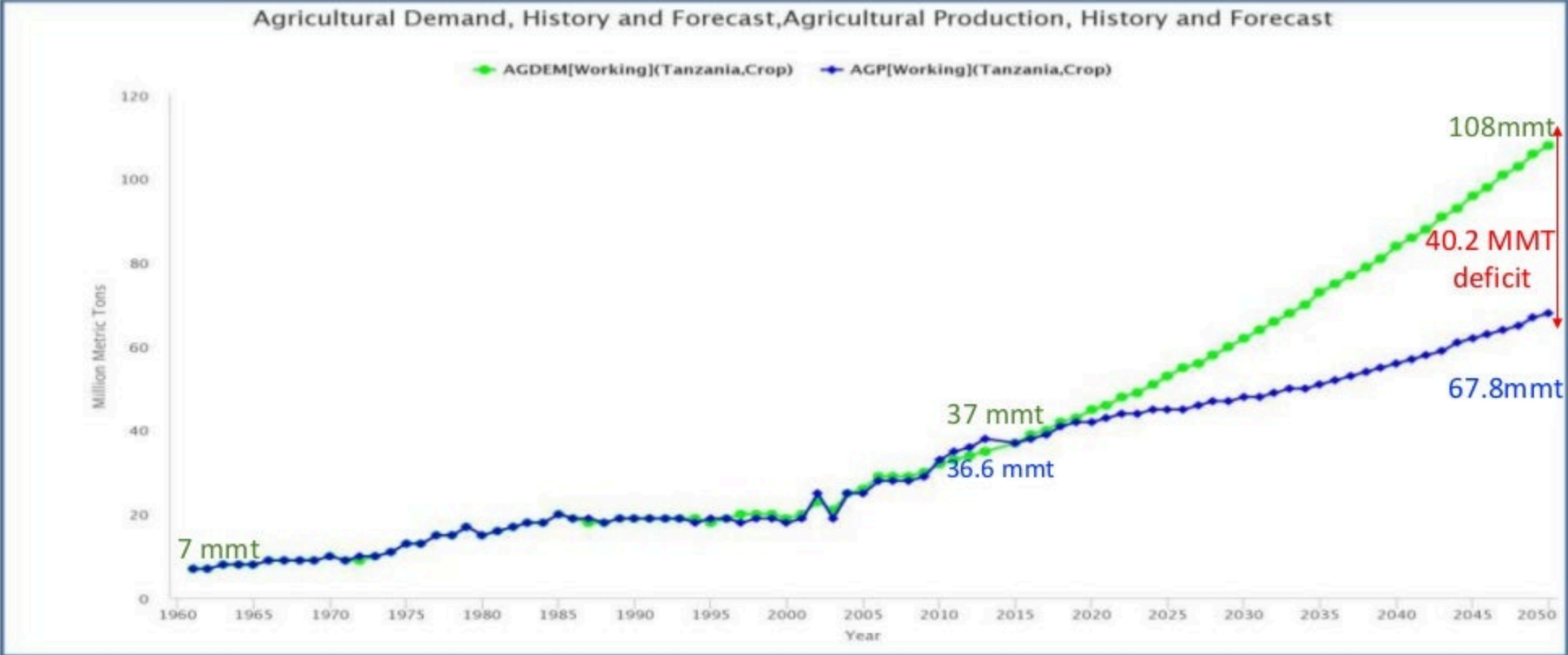


- In patrilineal communities e.g Songwe, land is owned by men and inherited through the male lineage; women can farm until they get married. Older women are strongly against women inheriting land (from parents) because ‘they will not be submissive to their husbands’.
- **Marriage is therefore an important transition option for young girls to access land resources through their husbands**
- Unfortunately divorce (*Kusafisha gala*) or dis-inheritance by family members disrupts that access.
- **Lack of control rights relegates young girls to the role of production, but men make decisions on sale and expenditure of resources**

Implications for GLDC targeting

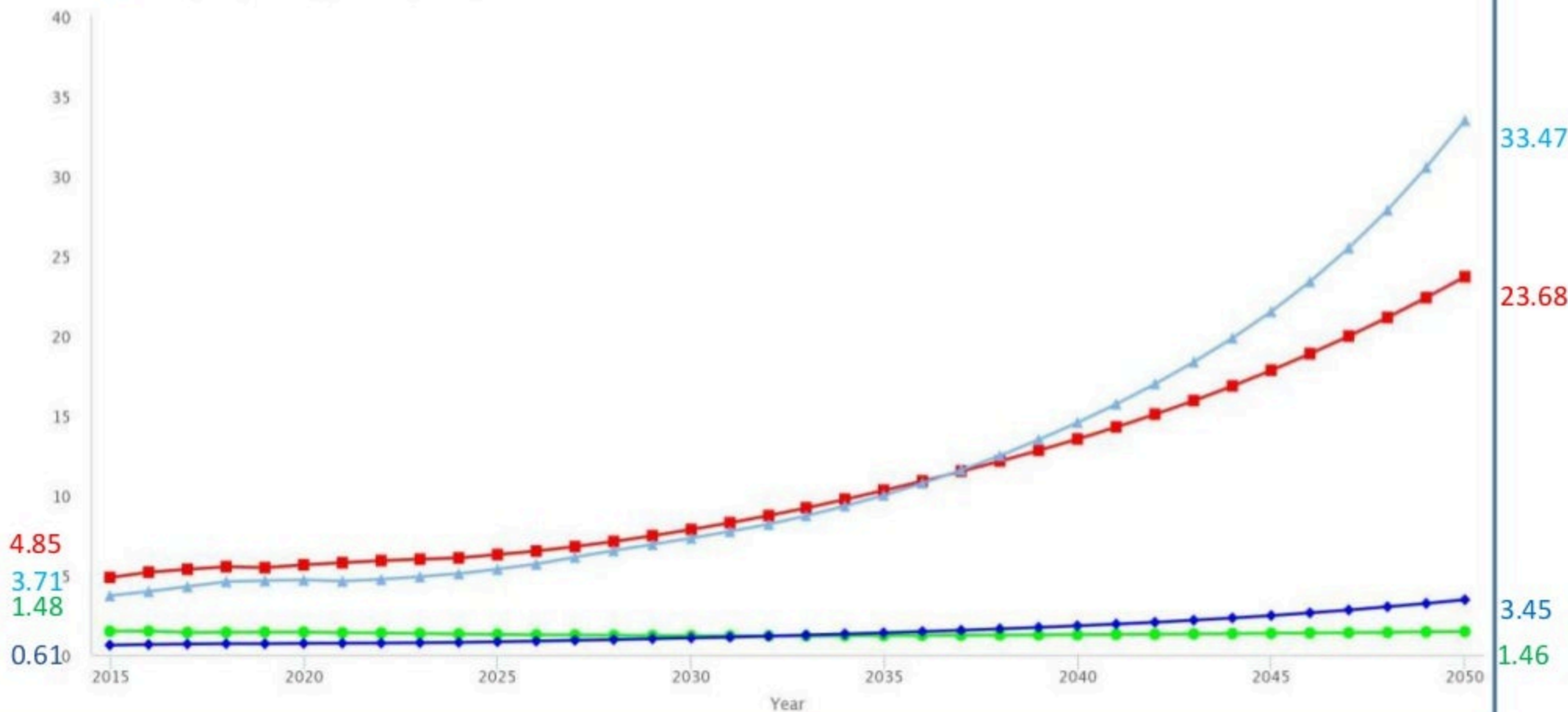
- **Young men have a higher probability of migrating to the cities with two outcomes – *those that come back into farming* and those that don't come back into farming**
- For the ***young mothers*** – the probability that they will get into dryland farming/and stay in two pathways - as married or un-married women. From farm survey data: women farmers are a majority of the rural households?
 - ✓ ***Are we conscious of their needs of these young women? Do we reach them? Are we ready to scale GLDC technologies to this particular group considering social norms around access, decision making, empowerment challenges?***
 - ✓ ***How is this scenario different in Uganda and Ethiopia? Is it a global issue?***

There is a rise in food demand from 7 million metric tons in 1960 to 37mmt in 2015. Fortunately the food production has inconsistently kept up with the demand between 1995 and 2015.



Labor productivity by sector

VADD/LABS[Working](Tanzania,Agriculture) VADD/LABS[Working](Tanzania,Manufactures) VADD/LABS[Working](Tanzania,Services)
VADD/LABS[Working](Tanzania,ICTech)



GLDC AVISA: Proof of concept



- **AVISA/GLDC – Seed revolving fund, youth engagement and gender inclusion (Proof of concept in Tanzania)**
- Identification of commodity corridors, Seed Revolving Fund to stimulate seed company investments into groundnut/sorghum seed value chains
- Working with aggregators/processors driving demand in the commodity corridor for options for :
 - **Youth engagement** – *seed information, behaviour change communication (branding/information pack), aggregation of grain (trust?)*
 - Role of **women youth** , *empowerment training, financial access would easily exclude the young mothers*
 - *Focusing on a role of the ‘young mothers specifically’.*



Discussions

Case study 1 – targeting young mothers in Malawi

- Care groups were created in Malawi to help provide nutritional platforms to the communities.
- Unfortunately girls between 15-19 years did not fit into the groups as they were stigmatized. To resolve this issue; a government driven project known as Adolescent Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture was born.
- ✓ **The project is implemented by the Malawian government through farmer unions with technical backstopping from CIAT and Harvestplus. With funding from the Japan Social Funds through the World Bank and it targets younger (10-14 years) and older adolescents (15-19 years).**
- ✓ **The project looks at production and utilization of biofortified crops (high iron and zinc beans, orange flesh sweet potatoes and orange maize).**
- ✓ **Adolescents targeted are in and out of schools including young mothers.**

Case study 2 – targeting young mothers in Tanzania and Uganda



Increased production of bean based products in Lake and Northern Zone targeting young mothers in hospitals

Case study 2 – targeting young mothers in Tanzania and Uganda Cont'd

Increased production of bean based products in Lake and Northern Zone targeting young mothers in hospitals



Case study 3 – Opportunities in Burkina Faso and Mali

- Young mothers in Burkina Faso and Mali who are not married have more opportunities as they are considered free agents who can actively participate in any activity and do not need permission from home to be mobile
- While young mothers who are married are restricted as a result of their new status as married women
- Culturally norms especially amongst the Mossi in Burkina Faso, pushes young mothers to move to the city for greener pastures as a result of stigmatization. Same has been observed in Rwanda, were few young mothers can be found in villages



Thank you