

Spilling the Beans: Inclusive Development in the Coffee Sector | Text Transcript | GIDS

This is a text transcript for the recorded webinar “Spilling the Beans: Inclusive Development in the Coffee Sector” presented by the Guelph Institute of Development Studies (GIDS) at the University of Guelph and Planet Bean Coffee. The event is part of the World in 2030 Speaker Series. The guest speakers were Isabel Uriarte Latorre and Rizkani Ahmad. The event was moderated by Meghan Brockington.

Transcript:

Meghan:

Okay, let's get going because we have a lot of amazing things to cover today. First, let me welcome you for joining us today on this incredible event that is global and time zone spanning. Today's event is called 'Women Uplifting Women: Spilling the Beans About Inclusive Development in the Coffee Sector' and we are incredibly honored to be facilitating this global event in partnership with Planet Bean as part of the Guelph Institute of Development Studies World in 2030 Speaker Series.

I just wanted to let you guys know that we are recording this today, and I would like to remind you to mute your microphones for the duration of the event to minimize background noise. So, my name is Meghan Brockington and I'm a PhD candidate in population medicine and international development studies here at the University of Guelph, and I have the absolute pleasure of moderating today's discussion.

This evening we have the honor of learning from our wonderful speakers about the role of governance and functioning of women's fair-trade coffee cooperatives and the transformative impacts of these on individuals, households, communities, and women around the globe.

Before introducing our speakers and getting started I'm going to provide you a bit of background and information on fair-trade practices, coffee cooperatives, and more specifically the efforts of our speakers and co-hosts Planet Bean in contributing to women's well-being and gender equality, both abroad and right here in Guelph.

So, fair-trade coffee or fair-trade is both a practice and a regulatory body. It ensures that producers around the world can engage in international trade in a way that is equitable and encourages socially and environmentally sustainable production practices. In order for coffee farmers to participate in fair-trade they must be part of an organization that they own and control, like a cooperative, which is also known as a co-op.

A co-op is when producers join together to take ownership as a group in order to better leverage resources, opportunities for trade, training, and security. Fair-trade provides farmers, in the case of coffee, with a minimum price for their beans and also fair-trade premium that the

co-op can use for community projects. The international fair-trade system establishes standards or rules that participating co-ops must follow including improving environmental practices, including women in decision-making, and encouraging young people to participate.

For today's event we have the honor of hearing from the managers of two women's cooperatives from Peru and Sumatra respectively, and their experiences running these respective cooperatives, the impacts of the co-op on themselves and their communities, and the important contributions they are making to gender equality and women's well-being outside of their own communities in our university and the wider Guelph community.

So, now just a little bit about Planet Bean. Planet Bean Coffee is a coffee roasting company located in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, which imports and roasts certified fair-trade and certified organic coffee. Planet Bean sells the fair-trade coffee purchased from co-ops at its own local coffee bars, as well as in supermarkets, shops, restaurants, and at the University of Guelph. The coffee beans that Planet Bean uses are a blend of those grown by the cooperatives run by our two guest speakers, Isabel from Peru and Rizkani from Indonesia.

Both of these cooperatives are 100 women owned and operated, and belong to a broader women's coffee program called Cafe Femenino which began in Peru around 2004. During our event we will learn more about the Cafe Femenino and its efforts to protect and improve the lives of women in all communities where Cafe Femenino's beans are supplied and enjoyed, which includes Guelph.

In 2017, Planet Bean worked with the University of Guelph to develop the Gryphon Coffee Blend which some of you today probably have had. The Gryphon blend is sold on the university campus and in the community of Guelph, and a portion of the sales goes to support women's athletic scholarships at the University of Guelph. Beyond their efforts to support female athletes at our university, Cafe Femenino sales go towards supporting women who experience domestic and gender-based violence in the communities in which their coffee is sold.

Specifically, Sister Story Coffee, a new blend recently launched by Cafe Femenino and Planet Bean, offers a socially conscious option for buyers where by purchasing this roast, the consumer will direct fifteen percent of the sale towards their choice of one of forty-seven women's shelters across Canada. On a personal note, I have worked in international development for several years, I am now doing a PhD in it.

I specifically worked on sexual and reproductive health care access and sexual and gender-based violence protection in refugee communities globally. I was also a Canadian senior national swimmer and a Division One NCAA athlete during my undergraduate degree, and so the work of Cafe Femenino is very close to my heart, and it is an absolute pleasure for me to introduce to you our very accomplished speakers today.

We'll start by introducing Rizkani Ahmad, she was born into a family of farmers in the Gayo highlands of Sumatra. Her father was able to establish a successful agricultural business, but when she got into farming herself, she noticed that the women didn't have much of a voice in

this sector. So, in collaboration with some of her cousins and friends in the community she decided to create a farming business specifically for women. We are grateful she is here to share a story with us today.

Next, we have Isabel Uriarte-Latorre who grew up in a farming family in Cajamarca region of Peru. She is the co-founder of the Cafe Femenino program, and we look forward to learning how her initiative to support women coffee growers has expanded into a successful global movement over the past two decades. Isabel's last trip to Guelph took place in 2015 and we're excited to welcome her back today. Thank you for joining us, Isabel.

And today we are lucky, because we are doing a global event that has many different languages, so, to assist us in our translation during our event today, we are also welcoming our two wonderful interpreters. We have Widha who is a digital marketer from Indonesia, and we have Cynthia who hails from Mexico and is a long-time friend and supporter of Cafe Femenino. Between them we are bridging not just linguistic divides, but also a 12-hour time difference, and we are very lucky and grateful for their support throughout today's webinar.

So, for the next hour we will be hearing from Rizkani and Isabel about their important work with the co-ops and the impacts of these efforts at the individual community and broader levels. Afterward, we will have a little time for audience questions and for our Q and A we'll be using the chat function in the Zoom. So, please submit your questions as they come up and we will do our best to address them at the end. So, let's get started and let's hear from our first guest from Peru, Isabel and Cynthia, the stage is yours.

Cynthia:

Thank you, Meghan.

[Cynthia speaking Spanish]

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

Isabel thanks all of you for this opportunity and the chance to talk to everyone about Cafe Femenino, their story, how much they've grown over the years, and she also says hi to Bill, thank you for the invitation, and she's very happy to be part of this. Thank you to the University of Guelph, and now we're gonna be starting.

[Cynthia speaking Spanish]

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

Okay, so, to start a Cafe Femenino it's a value chain with gender's perspective and it has an economic and inclusive outcome. They are looking to provide farmers with the opportunity of

having a way to have an income for their household. 95 percent of their partners have less than one hectare of land, and most of them, what they do is that they share that land with others. So, they don't have the opportunity, or it's very hard for them to have the opportunity, to have a title, a land title, and to own land, and that is one of the issues that Cafe Femenino has been able to target with this program.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, as we can see on the on the slide some of the issues in the coffee business in Peru is that farmers do not have the ability to access credit opportunities and sources, so, that has a huge impact on the technical and productive levels that they have. Also, the high prices and scarcity of organic fertilizers, because as you know, Cafe Femenino it is an organic coffee, they need to find fertilizers that comply that certification.

So, they sometimes are very expensive and that is another challenge that farmers have to face. Also the impact of global warming in places where they are below 1200 meters above the sea level, they are looking at a very huge impact on their plants and that along with, or that provokes a very low productivity on the plant because they might not have the access to have those resources that will make them grow bigger, give a good product, and if they don't have the technical information to have them, to have a better quality a product that is a better quality, that is another issue that they find.

And one of the things that Cafe Femenino addresses as well is that there is a tendency in the Peru to make the woman's labor, the woman's work invisible, it's not recognized. So, with this project, with this cooperative, what has been, what they've been trying to do is to make it visible, to make people to recognize the hard work women do.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, this project, what it realized is that they started asking themselves is what are the circumstances of female coffee growers? And as we can see on this slide they were, even though they were doing a lot of the work in the house and at the field, they were not being recognized and they had no control about the product and about how to sell it to others.

They had, we could say they had, even though they had a voice they were not heard, and they were not taking into account to make those decisions in the family. So, they had very limited opportunities to go to school, they were not be offered that opportunity, they had no access to education, they were getting married at a very young age, and that was sort of like the cycle they were in.

They, most of, like a seventy percent of them, they were victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The presence of this machismo, it led women to be submissive, to accept

whatever men told them to do, whatever men told them that they had to do, they had to not to do, and they were not being an active part, an active member of the community, they were not an active part of the family, even though they were doing most or a lot of the work.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, Cafe Femenino, it's a project that puts the woman at the center, and they firmly believe that they have the same capacity as them to produce good, excellent, quality coffee. They can grow coffee that is one of the best, they have the knowledge, they have the capacity, they have the ability to do that, and if anything, they have not been given the opportunity to do that. They have not been given the opportunity to prove that and to show that to the rest of the community, to the rest of the city, to the rest of the world.

So, Cafe Femenino, they said we want equity, we want equality, we want women, because they always are looking, they look, they're looking for their family, so they want them to be the ones that provide that opportunity to their family members, they want to be the ones that are recognized for all the hard work they do. So, that's one of the main points, the pillars of thought of Cafe Femenino.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, Cafe Femenino started in 1999 - I'm sorry 1992 and they started making this call to women to be part of it. They started to do in workshops, they started to do information sessions for women to know, for men to know about human rights, and about how to grow a business, how to be better, how to make your plantation better. However, they didn't receive a lot of people joining or interested in being part of that.

So, they started with five women and then after a few years seeing that that was maybe the way to approach communities, they started with the idea of separating the coffee that it was grown by women, so they could get the benefit of their coffee that they were growing. So, they started to partner with OPTCO, that was their only partner and in the development of this market and they were very pleased with this idea.

Women were very happy to learn about that, they were very happy to have that, the ability to have the opportunity to have their own income, to have something that they will receive directly, and Isabel is very thankful to Bill because he was one of the partners that was there to support this idea, and to encourage them to grow more, and to grow bigger, and to develop this more and more.

So, women started, they saw this as an opportunity for them to have their voice being heard, to have their work being recognized, because they will be getting the income directly to them, and

in 2004 they were, they were able to have 350 women as members of their organization and the brand Cafe Femenino was created.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

As the project continued to grow, they started another organization that it was the Female Association of Coffee and Quinoa, and that organization became formalized and that is - that was within CECANOR which is the name of the co-op, the big co-op, they decided that there was not a good move to separate those as they were the same women, and they had the same principles and objectives.

So, they started to, they formalized that association and in 2020 they grew to be 714 women that were part of the Cafe Femenino program. Nowadays, Cafe Femenino has grown, and it's been carried by 60 communities and 18 districts in the region of Lambayeque, Cajamarca and Amazonas and in more than 12 countries in Latin America and Africa.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, Cafe Femenino it's a fair-trade coffee and being fair-trade is one of the most important parts of this project, because women that are part of this, they get benefited directly like this, they receive a premium for being part of Cafe Femenino and they get incentives from fair-trade as well. So, that gets that makes women to be that want to be part of this, they want to be, they do see it's the benefit they see it it's visible it's something that changes their direct reality.

They through Cafe Femenino they have been given the opportunity to - I'm sorry through Cafe Femenino foundation they have also been able to receive support about food programs, health campaigns, education and other things that have supported and helped them improve their community, and the way they live, and their life quality as well.

They also collaborate with Saint Jerome's University and this university sends students every year to do internships and to have, to assist these foreign farmers with knowledge with this exchange of knowledge and to have the financial support to improve their irrigation and infrastructure.

One of the things that Isabel mentions that is crucial and it's one of the main benefits of being fair-trade is that it gives the opportunity to farmers to develop their capacities, and not only of knowledge but also to be able to say and to decide what they want to do what, how they want to move forward, what is the direction they want to go, and that is something that they will - they really appreciate and they really love about this scheme, the fair-trade scheme.

It's something that they appreciate a lot. They have the opportunity to learn to improve their knowledge to have the abilities, to have the infrastructure, to have the materials they need, and it is because of being, they are part of the fair-trade scheme.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, over the years of course Cafe Femenino has had huge achievements, one of them, like all of them are important. One of the things that they've noticed is that women have - it has had a very positive impact on the self-esteem in women that are part of this co-op, that are part of this project.

There has been a reduction in the violence and mistreatment inside of the families that are part of this project because they have had the opportunity to learn more about different ways to establish relationships with others, they have had the opportunity to learn about their rights, they have had the opportunity about how to treat others without being disrespectful, without being - that there's other ways to manage everything, to manage the family, to manage, and to relate with others.

They have learned and because they've been able to see, they've been exposed to other opportunities and they have had access to more opportunities as well, that women and they have access to education, they their families are more respectful within the family members.

Now they have 120 women that are in leadership roles within the organization and that is a huge change if we think that at the beginning of what we were saying, at the beginning of the presentation, that women had their voices were not being heard, they were being kept invisible, right?

So, now one hundred and twenty women are in leadership roles within their organization and also some of them have gone beyond the organization and they have - there are - they are active members in their communities. The program has had the expansion to twelve countries, the participation of twelve hundred women, they're land-owners, and this is among CECANOR and other organizations, over sixty companies in England, Holland, Canada, USA and Australia buy and distribute the Cafe Femenino brand.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, we can see on the slide some of the numbers of Cafe Femenino as for exported kilograms of coffee, the premiums they have got it through fair-trade and all of that had a big impact in in the families of these women. And even though Isabel mentions these numbers might look very - or might look little compared to those huge corporations, we have to take into account that this was achieved by a group that started a few years ago and that started with five women,

and they've gone this far, and this product has a very has a clear impact in the lives of these families of these women.

Now that we had or they were under the state of emergency due to the pandemic, this, they had a family agricultural woman - I'm sorry program, and that facilitated this source of or that facilitated families to have access to food. They had another program funded by the Cafe Femenino foundation to improve the coffee quality and they have every year they have had events around Christmas times, Christmas holidays that benefit two thousand - over two thousand children of coffee producers, and they also deliver food and personal hygiene products to 350 children from 15 early education centers.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, now looking at the future we those are some of the challenges, what we can see on the slides those are some of the challenges that Cafe Femenino has. Right now, 52 percent of the members of the co-op are women who are being part of this, being receiving training, receiving all kind of materials and support for them to continue growing.

They have to, they have the talents of continue having their certifications, they want to continue being organic, they want to be continue - uh, they want to be fair-trade and those, that's very important for them. They also want to continue promoting diversification, so they can guarantee food security for the farmers that are part of this co-op, because they don't want to tie their producers to just one type of product, they want to be - they want to keep growing, they want to be, continue diversifying what they do.

So, they also want to guarantee that women still have the same opportunities as men and they want to, they want them to be part and involved in this project, and they want them to be a crucial and main part of this project as they've been so far. And I believe that's all.

[Isabel and Cynthia speaking Spanish]

Meghan:

Thank you both, that was perfect timing 29 minutes and 53 seconds, well done! That was a phenomenal presentation I thank you so much and I can't wait to hear more during the question and answer period. For right now, we will hand it over to Rizkani and Widha if you guys would like to share your screen.

Widha:

Yes please, perfect.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, she's saying good morning to everyone, welcome to the presentation. It's right now early in the morning at 7am in Indonesia and she's also welcoming, saying thank you to Stephanie, Meghan and Bill, and also Soo Jung from Korea for being here.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Yeah, she wants to introduce herself, so her name is Rizkani, she's from the Kokowagayo organization in Indonesia.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, Kokowagayo is not only specifically for coffee but also trying to incorporate and develop how women's are growing in Indonesia specifically for the Sumatra region.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, Kokowagayo originally started because there is some issue that is happening around the coffee organizations, and also company around Sumatra especially. So, within the time there wasn't really a lot of women or like a woman figure around the coffee business, so, there are also limited options where women can have, can speak their voice to the market and also to the people around the area.

And then the numbers of contribution that actually women are have been giving out on this commodity has not really been seen it's somewhat like hidden compared to what is shown on the public, usually a lot of the males are more dominant, so that's why the Kokowagayo organizations are trying to build a better, a better community, and a better situations where women are able to be shown and more respectedly. Yes.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so the Kokowagayo organization is built at 2004, and then this is all our four women and then built by women. The main development that they're trying to do here is not only through the nature conservative, but also to commit on building the well-being of all the women's that are involved. And then also through the business side, up until the productions, and then also the - and then also to develop the economical standards of how people are living around Gayo region Sumatra. Yeah, next slide, okay.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, since this organization has been established on twenty fourteen Kokowagayo has strived to be a cooperative that empowers women as the key to value in the sustainable principles applied. Now they are holding up until four hundred and nine participants of women, all around Gayo, and then it is organized by three heads, which is all women as well. Here are some of the details if anybody here is interested to know, and then some of the legal details on the organizations. Okay, next slide please.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Yeah, if you if we want to look at our locations on the map, it's actually at the very left part of Indonesia it's almost at the very end of Sumatra.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, Kokowagayo is also known for the coffee to be exported out around the world such as Canada, America, Europe, Australia, and also Korea, and then they are also licensed and permitted for all this coffee trading activities.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, there are four main points where they really want to build on the community. The first one is to increase the quality of life around women farmers and their family through agriculture, coffee, and trade, and then also not only on those, on those specific points, but also trying to reach out to them and then tell them about how to build a better finance in terms of family and then also on individuals.

And then the production wise, Kokowagayo is also trying their best to deliver as much knowledge and information where they can use in order to for them to develop a more, better strategy, and then a more better technology, in order to increase their productions, and also to give a social awareness about how females are actually equal and have the capability to be involved in this kind of company, or like in this kind of community around the world.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so here are a little bit of the details of the coffee that are provided by Kokowagayo for maybe everyone that has been tasting it before.

So, the Kokowagayo women organic coffee have a different kind of variety beans such as listed on the presentations, and then also a little bit of the details of the quality, and then great type and, the moisture, the moisture percentage of the coffee, and then maybe what's interesting is the soil type, that is where these coffees are being planted, which is a round of andosol type of soil diet, because the coffee are planted around a volcanic area, which actually gives, and then gives and create a specific scent and then flavor for the coffee.

That is what actually creates the authentic flavor of Kokowagayo women organic coffee.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, there's for a little bit of issues during this time is, we have been decreasing in numbers of sales. It's because of the also some of the climate that have been affecting the process and then also...

[Rizkani and Widha speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then also there are several issues on the standards that have been - that needs to be required. There are still some knowledge that needs to be delivered to the farmers so that they are able to sell the coffee beans, their coffee beans, outside of Indonesia as well. Yeah.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, at the beginning of [audio cuts out] usually women doesn't really have all these trainings where they can implement on how they form the coffees, and then how they do with all the process of the coffees, but now with Kokowagayo here they are able to have all these access and all this information, and then they are also for us producing even a better beans and then also more effective ways. Yes.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, in this picture we can see how the honey coffee process and fully wash process have been being done. We also work together with Cafe Femenino. Cafe Femenino...

Rizkani:

Yeah.

Widha:

You know in order to create for the tables and then also the settings of all this.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, here are the pictures of how we dry the coffees from the, from after. We semi wash the coffees and then we dry them, this are some sort of a storage as well.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, here is the milling parchment for the coffees and the area where this are located is...

[Widha speaking Indonesian]

[Rizkani replying in Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay and then it's located in one of the villages in Wonosari.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, here is also some of the pictures of how we do the coffee drying in Wonosari.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, in order to give more information and more knowledge to the farmers, Kokowagayo also work together with some roasters in from Australia where they will come and then share that knowledge with all the farmers, and then teach them how to do the cupping trainings and then know which what kind of beans are the good quality one, and which what are classified as second classes. Yeah, and then this informations are quite informative for them and they're very excited and like happy to know all of this.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Yeah, here are some of the pictures of the activities that have been running through the time in Kokowagayo.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, because we're - we Kokowagayo couldn't use the chemical compost, so they decide they are doing a training where all of the female farmers are able to create their own compost to be used for the coffees.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, this building is actually where all the meetings and all the learning and sharing are happening around Kokowagayo. So, there are two places which are Wonosari in Wonosari village and then Temas Munang village. Yeah, Mumanang sorry, and then yeah, and then these buildings are also in collaboration with Cafe Femenino.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, every year Kokowagayo also received so many supports from many roasters around the world, and for example on this picture is where a project where they are supported by Cafe Ibis where they got provided for these tables, where they can dry racks or the coffees.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, here are some of the pictures where we had the, a yearly meeting activity between all the organizations members, these are held in order to maintain the organization's socialization with one another and also from the outside of the organizations as well.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, in this particular event, which is on eighth of November that Kokowagayo had, there's a specific training that they do with all the women organizations members which are on the leadership training, and also financial management training, and then they are working together with that.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then here are some of the pictures where Kokowagayo organizations members are participating with the collectors, and delegates, and operators, and also workers so it's like more of a gathering of all the community, and also like the parts of people that are involved.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, here is where we call all the delegates of the organizations, and then we train them in order for them to be able to teach other people in their villages and then also other farmer - female farmers in the in their village.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then here are pictures of some of the similar trainings but instead of just focusing on the coffee, Kokowagayo also trains them about of personal health or like awareness for health, yes.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, the training is also on the safety sides. So, for example when they're doing harvesting of the coffees and like the beans, there are some regulations that they need they need to know in order to keep their health secure and safe, like for example trying to cover their eyes though, or like other kinds of procedures to keep them safe.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Yeah, and then here are some of the activities, or like also another awareness that Kokowagayo is trying to raise as well. During the events when there are people from outside of Indonesia that came, or you know or is there any exhibitions that Kokowagayo has the opportunity to share their projects. They will also have the - they will always take the opportunity for it, yes. And then also try to incorporate all the young people around Kokowagayo organizations and also Sumatra which, to raise awareness of this.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, like for example on the top left pictures, that that is one of the traditional clothes of Sumatra and Kokowagayo had the opportunity to provide them with those kinds of the outfit for them, and then to do a traditional dance and like showcase our culture to the people that are like the visitors that came to Kokowagayo organizations, yes.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, another activities that Kokowagayo also done with the community around is Kokowagayo work together with universities and schools in order to encourage them to plant more trees, like for example in this picture is one of the activity where Kokowagayo provide a hundred trees seeds and then encourage all the students and the university and also in the schools to plant them around the area.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, here are some of the pictures of the Kokowagayo kindergarten that has been created. So, the reason why this are formed is because a lot of the female farmers sometimes does not feel like safe or secure when they go to the farm and they have to leave their kids at home alone, so that's why this kindergarten are provided for them so that they will be able to feel safe and feel secure, and then they'll know that their kids are actually in good hands and then they don't have to worry and then they can focus more on their work.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, here this project is also supported by Cafe Femenino and also roaster...

[Widha and Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Allegro roaster, yes.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, usually these activities are happening during the October and November time when it's like a lot of harvesting system, but because due to Covid there are a lot of restrictions that is happening around, so these are for now, it has it's still been postponed.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, here is also a distribution of organic compost, so, and then also try to give knowledge and encourage all the female farmers not to use the chemical pesticides instead use the organic one, and then like try to give them knowledge more on how to maintain the plants.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, also another organization activities that have been done previously which is giving out a lot of food supplies to the female farmers for the premium members.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Yeah, this is also the same thing, especially for during the Covid-19 a lot of the female farmers are being affected, so we try to help them in hand through giving out food supplies.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so the organization also provides a lot of seeds, so not only...

[Rizkani and Widha speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Also, not only throughout the process, and then the harvesting and producing, but also the seeds are all provided by Kokowagayo.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then in order to keep all the people that are involved in organizations and in the work area safe, Kokowagayo decided to have their own ambulance in order for any emergencies that is required then it can be done, it can be take in hand as fast as possible.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then here are some of the pictures of the health examination that have been done through the organizations.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

And then there's also help and support from Korea during the Covid 19 they provide us with a lot of Covid supplies for example mask and then health check-up, regular ones.

Rizkani:

Next.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, and then in order to raise awareness of how cleanliness is very important, Kokowagayo also provides a lot of these washing hands bins and that have already been delivered to all the villages.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, thank you very much for all the attention center for, and then for the opportunity here are some of the details if anybody would like to have - a keep in touch or have questions feel free to contact us, thank you.

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Meghan:

Thank you Rizkani and Widha for that fantastic presentation, and I want to thank you all again both Rizkani, Isabel, Cynthia and Widha for your contributions today, I think we all learned a lot. We have about 15 minutes for questions, so, I want to remind you guys to add any questions that might have popped up into the chat.

I will ask a few that we have actually prepared on our own to get us started, but if anything pops up feel free to put it in the chat and we will ask our wonderful speakers. So, let's start with a question, a bit about your own journey, so we would like to hear a bit more about your personal journey with the cooperative. How has the participation impacted you your family and your community?

Widha:

Okay, maybe we can start with Rizkani first? Okay.

[Widha and Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, personally for her overall, she feels a lot of happiness and joy on herself while doing all this program and activities that has been running.

The reason why is because she noticed that a lot of women are now having their voice heard and then trying - starting to show awareness of all these people, especially in the coffee world in Indonesia, actually seventy percent of the people involved are women so she will, she have the longing for all these people to be noticed, and then starting now it's been going better and better every day.

So, she feels proud, she feels happy and then it's not only to the people that are affected, but also to herself.

Meghan:

Thank you that's a fantastic answer. Cynthia, Isabel would you like to take a stab?

Cynthia:

Of course.

[Cynthia and Isabel speaking Spanish]

[Cynthia speaking Spanish]

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, Isabel mentions that on a personal, at a personal level being part of this co-op and being the manager of it has contributed for her to have a bigger, like, to be more confident when she makes decisions, because a lot of people depends on her, so that of course creates the necessity for her to be informed, to know more, to learn more, to being informed about what's going on in the world, what's going on beyond the community, beyond the reality in Peru, so she has been able - she has had the need to study, to learn, to grow and develop more.

In terms of the family, they have had the opportunity to have a different vision that relates to the way they raise their children, and now they're raising them with the idea of equity and equality. So, they broke, they break this traditional, this ways of seeing women in a certain way that doesn't allow them to do, to say, to create, to another word, they can see themselves as pairs.

And in terms of the community, they have, the community has learned to see women that have the same capacity as men, and they have, they can make very useful and important contributions to them as well.

Meghan:

Thank you that's a great answer. We have a few questions from our audience here. So, we'll start with a great one from Katie, she wonders if, did the fair-trade and women's cooperative programs encounter any resistance with their initiatives, if so, how did you guys deal with it?

[Widha speaking Indonesian]

[Rizkani speaking Indonesian]

Widha:

Okay, so, it's actually a good news, whenever she tried to, the Kokowagayo tried to - trying to initiate any ideas, actually it is all worked up by the other parties, a lot of other parties, as we all know - as everybody maybe should have known about this, that 90 percent of the land around Gayo is already used for coffees, and then all of them are mostly led by males, so when Kokowagayo decided to have this all these programs and try to incorporate a lot of females they actually welcome all these programs, and then they're very proud and happy to know that actually their wives or like maybe a lot of females are actually willing and like wanted to take a step and then try to be more informed in the programs, in the coffee community building.

And then for other kinds of initiatives there's not really much of a obstacles, but other than that maybe a lot more on the market sides, if like they're sending out, like exporting coffees in sense, yeah.

Meghan:

Thank you.

[Cynthia starts to speak]

Meghan:

Sorry, yeah go ahead.

[Isabel speaking Spanish]

Cynthia:

So, Isabel mentions that they started working in this program since 1992, and at the beginning there was some mistrust regarding the program because they were not very well informed, and they thought that they were gonna, like, they were looking for a separation between women and the co-op and they were gonna be left behind, and they were not gonna be part of this anymore, they were not gonna have anything else to do, or a way to be part of this.

So, but when they learn how this program was gonna work and how it's gonna be, it was gonna be built and how it was gonna be, it was going to be beneficial or it will be beneficial to the whole family, and they will have, they will be benefited in a way that their life quality will be improved, they said 'okay, then this is good we would want to be part of this, we want women in the community to be part of this.'

They realize that they wanted to work as a team instead of excluding people in the community, they realized that it was about working as a team towards improvement on their live quality conditions, and they realized that their support was important.

And they started to do that, and now Isabel mentions that now their male partners are the ones that are, they encourage women to be part of this, they want them to be part of this, they talk

to them about the benefits of being part of Cafe Femenino, and that they never had the issue of encountering such a huge resistance, that they were not able to continue or they were not able to invite other women or families to be part of this.

Meghan:

Fantastic, great answers, thank you. I wish that we had all night to ask questions because this has been an absolutely fantastic conversation, and I saw that we have a few more questions, but unfortunately in the spirit of keeping this on time I'm going to wrap things up for the evening.

So, I want to first and foremost thank you guys again, Isabel, Rizkani, Cynthia, Widha, for your fantastic presentation and contribution tonight, tonight and this morning, I guess for Rizkani and Widha. You guys got up nice and early for us, and we thank you so much. I also want to thank our audience tonight for coming in and listening, and for asking thoughtful questions, and engaging with this event.

We hope to see you guys at our next GIDS speaker event, which is actually next week on the 22nd and they - we will be hosting a panel of displaced scholars, and we will be learning about their experience with forced migration which will be very interesting. So, stay tuned and check your emails for details. Thank you, guys, again, and have a wonderful day and a wonderful evening.

[End of transcript]