

Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

Project Title: Addressing Women's Livelihoods & their Rights through Gender Equality
Reporting Period: May 2009
Recipient Organisation: The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women - CLEAR



A. Organizational Details

Name of Organization	CLEAR
Type of Organization	TRUST
Name of Project	ADDRESSING WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS AND THEIR LAND RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY.
Country where project is based	KENYA
Geographical coverage of project	EAST AFRICA
Reporting period	May 2009
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B. Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 5,066
Funds remaining	€ 45,145

Introduction

The Centre for Land, Economy and Rights of Women (CLEAR) is a Regional Trust Organization addressing social and economic justice, working with poor and vulnerable women and in solidarity with similar initiatives working towards improving women's livelihoods through secure and equitable access to and the utilization of land and other natural resources. Operationally, CLEAR's work is anchored on influencing policy, research, advocacy and networking, and capacity building on women's land rights. In collaboration with NEPAD, CLEAR is focusing as well on addressing women's livelihoods and their land rights through gender equality for a period of 3 years in the whole region.

This report describes the operations and implementation progress in the month of May 2009 of the program. It details the ongoing activities with CBO's already identified by CLEAR. In the reporting period, program activities focused on networking and advocacy, ongoing capacity building of CBO's and continuing implementation of this year's action plans with the targeted CBO's and partners among others.

Major Accomplishments

This section expounds the key activities undertaken during the period under review, and the associated accomplishments/progress realized from each of the components.

Component 1: Policy

In this month, CLEAR did not conduct activities on policy.

Component 2: Advocacy and Networking

In the period CLEAR was involved in networking with other stakeholders to address women's land/rights issues. CLEAR worked with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) KPA was involved in conducting an Environmental Management Study that required Socio-economic aspects to be addressed. CLEAR was able to work with them specifically to address:

- > Assisting KPA with issues pertaining to resettlement and land acquisition.
- > Assisting KPA with preparation on quarterly reports in resettlement and land acquisition.
- > Providing recommendations to improve the resettlement plan which is sensitive to women issues.

To this end, KPA was able to redesign and develop a Resettlement Action Plan that is sensitive to women's land rights issues which has been adopted by KPA management.

Component 3: Capacity Building

CLEAR through the NEPAD support aims at providing linkages between natural resource management, land and property rights, economic growth, inequality, poverty, peace, security and sustainability and the need to formulate and implement policies, which are addressing livelihoods through gender equality. To this end, CLEAR continued its work with CBO in western province in Kenya in building their capacity to bring about improvements in their livelihoods thus help play an active role in lesson learning and promoting exchange of experience among other women in the regions selected. In the period under review, CLEAR Uganda also continued its activities which focused on promoting socio-economic justice by working to improve women's livelihoods through secure and equitable access to and control over productive resources with women in Uganda. The main thrusts under this component in the period were as follows:

CLEAR Uganda

CLEAR-Uganda's work in the five neighbouring villages (Makokha, Katwaka, Bukisukye, Bunapongo (Lower) and Bunapongo (Upper) in one sub-county of Mbale District (Bungokho-Mutoto) focused mostly on planting during this years planting season. Together with FORINET-EU, the district wide drive for increased household food production during 2009 was achieved.

After a brief delay in the rains, the rains came in earnest this month and most of the gardens are doing very well. CLEAR Uganda did the final distribution of cassava cuttings early in the month which completed the seed distribution process. CLEAR-Uganda continued to play a coordinating role in this regard. Feedback on the distribution of the seeds and communication on how farmers are doing keep being compiled. The Food Security Team of the two women leaders (MP for Women Mbale District Hon Nagudi Rutangye and Mrs Joyce Werikhe - representing Hon Michael Werikhe), CLEAR-Uganda and FORINET-EU plan to travel around the district to visit farmers who received seeds. This will provide us with a clearer picture of the impact of our efforts on the ground and will enable us plan and prepare for the harvest period in July/August.

The grinding mill purchased last month is working well. CLEAR Uganda intends to visit the CBO running the mill to assess the financial inflows and outflows and give some basic training and additional support on how to make the mill a viable income generating activity for the group. The final installment on the mill of Ushs 300,000/= will be made mid-June.

The activities implemented in this reporting period significantly scaled up the work of CLEAR-Uganda as a result of the demand that the initiative to promote food security should cover the entire district of Mbale. The activities implemented have scaled up and contributed to the following outputs of the LOAFS program:

Overall Outputs

The following specific outputs have been achieved over the current reporting period:

Mobilisation of communities for LOAFS:

Continued mobilization was ensured by sensitization at Sub-county food security meetings which were held in all the fourteen sub-counties and municipal divisions. This second round of meetings was attended by 70 – 100 people representing a wide range of stakeholders (district and sub-county councilors, leaders of women, youth, PWDs, elders, opinion leaders and ordinary farmers). The highly interactive meetings confirmed the fact that food insecurity was a common phenomenon throughout Mbale District and the need for not only prioritizing it as a development concern but also taking practical steps at all levels to address it. Selected Sub-county Food Security Committees with representatives from each of the parishes/wards which make up the sub-county/division then scheduled follow up meetings to ensure issues arising were to be addressed and reported on.

The sub-county food security meetings praised the initiative by CLEAR to avail seeds of quality to farmers for this planting season. The fact that this need for seed among farmers was so staggering and yet there was no provision for assisting farmers through budgetary allocations at the sub-county or district local government levels is symptomatic of the extent of policy neglect of food security concerns. Supporting farmers to access these seeds, therefore, had been identified as one practical entry-point for assisting farmers in Mbale district to increase on their food production for 2009. A total of 807 kgs of millet, 1,089 kgs of sorghum, 1,657 kgs of maize, 1,200 kgs of beans and 140 cassava cuttings were bought¹ and distributed to the fourteen sub-counties and municipal divisions. In addition, seedlings of gravellier donated by one of the sub-counties (Busoba) were distributed to each of the sub-county headquarters. A total of 435 seedlings were planted.

Increased household food security:

The goal under this item is to demonstrate a marked increase in household food security for participating farmers focusing especially on local foods known to protect households from hunger and food insecurity. The activities undertaken to contribute towards this output include the purchase and distribution of improved seeds to each of the sub-counties where they have in turn been distributed to farmers. Records of distributed seed will be used to monitor progress in the levels of food production, generally, and the growing of food security crops such as millet and sorghum.

These seeds were also distributed on a loan scheme and farmers have been asked to give back twice as much seed as they received. This means that each farmer within parish will return double the amount of seed they received, each parish will return double the amount of seed they received from the sub-county and each sub-county will return double the amount of seed they received from the core team. CLEAR-Uganda, as secretariat, together with the core team, will work closely with the Food Security Committees in each of the sub-counties to monitor this progress.

Targeting vulnerable women farmers

CLEAR-Uganda meets regularly with the individual women who have been case studied and discuss ways in which they can be assisted to produce more food this year. As a result of this consultation, CLEAR-Uganda is supporting the women through direct financial contribution towards the costs of labor for tilling the land, negotiating and making land available for farming this year and providing seeds.

Group Plans and priorities for 2009

It is expected that the farmers involved in the LOAFS program will benefit greatly from this year's early planning and early start in ensuring that their gardens are ready and that they have the right quality of seed.

CLEAR is working closely with the core team to sustain the momentum achieved so far. There will be an on-going flow of communication with the sub-counties and at appropriate times monitoring visits will be made to the sub-counties and to individual farmers. Special effort continues to be made to strengthen the role of the Sub-County Food Security Committees including lobbying for them to be recognized as sub-county institutions.

Bar Kobala Women's Group

During the period, The Bar Kobala Women group activities focused on preparation of gardens in readiness for planting given that the rainy season was set to begin, soon. The specific outcomes for the month include:

Implementing their action plans for 2009 – The group was engaged heavily in planting seed for this years season. Focus was put on growing maize, beans, sunflower and chillies. While maize and beans will ensure sustained food supply, the cash crops planted will assist in boosting incomes for the women.

The group held two further sessions with a representative of a local micro-financing institution that is willing to provide loans to the women to engage in their agricultural activities. The women did take up the offer to obtain loans and each of them made applications for the same based on their personal requirements for funds for this planting season. They agree that this has helped them go a long way in purchasing seeds and fertilisers which they could previously never afford.

Currently, the women are deliberating over purchase of a tractor to assist them in weeding or acquiring some appropriate technology eg bulk maize shellers to handle the anticipated good harvest.

The activities of Bar Kobala were based on CLEAR's programme for reclaiming women's land rights, empowerment promotion, creating wealth and ending hunger at the household level.

Table 1: Targets and Results Summary Table

Results/ key deliverables	Targets	Results	Explanation
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	3	3	-
Engaging additional partners in the CLEAR Uganda LOAFS program	1	1	-
Linkages made with civil society on advocacy and networking issues affecting women land rights.	1	1	-

Challenges

None.

Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	June 09	Person Responsible
Monitoring visits for all CBOs	X	ED, Program Coordinator
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	X	ED, Program coordinator
Concretize forums and networking plans with partners and stakeholders	X	ED, program coordinator
Addressing policy issues with Liberia	X	ED