

# Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

**Project Title:** Addressing Women's Livelihoods & their Rights through Gender Equality

**Reporting Period:** December 2008

**Recipient Organisation:** The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women - CLEAR



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	DECEMBER 2008
Author of Report and Contact Details (Including email, phone, etc)	Nancy Amayo <a href="mailto:nancy@clearwomen.org">nancy@clearwomen.org</a> 254-020-4450461

Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 4,782
Funds remaining	€ 77,405

## **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 December 2008 of the program. It details the ongoing activities with CBO's already identified by CLEAR. In the reporting period, program activities focused on completing the baseline survey, ongoing capacity building of CBO's and CLEAR's involvement in guiding the Liberian Gender ministry in designing their gender policy 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 finalized working with Liberian gender ministry in designing their gender policy.

Liberia is recovering from more than two decades of violent conflict and on its path to reconstruction and development. Women, the primary victims of the conflict, continue to bear the brunt of the consequences of the war. Access to resources (social, political and economic) still remains a major hurdle for women. Gender based violence (GBV) remains rampant, hindering the progress of women and affecting the over all peace and security and the reconstruction efforts underway

While several initiatives have been undertaken in Liberia on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment to ensure that women and men, girls and boys fully participate and benefit from the recovery and reconstruction processes, there has not been a clear defined framework to guide this process. A National Gender Policy would provide the necessary guidelines for Government and stakeholders to ensure that gender is fully integrated in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, plans and policies in all areas and at all levels. The goal of the National Gender Policy is to create and strengthen gender responsive structures, processes and mechanisms for development in which both female and male participate, with equal access to and control over all resources and other benefits.

CLEAR worked with the gender ministry in the following areas:

Advising on relevant documents, including regional and international instruments (CEDAW, AU Protocol on Women's Rights, UNSCR 1325) and standards on gender equality and women's human rights which could be incorporated to enrich their document as well as ensure internationally acceptable standards were attained.

CLEAR was involved in regional and national workshops to validate the policy and suggest advocacy strategies for its adoption and implementation.

Finally CLEAR worked with and advised the ministry as they finalized the National Gender Policy and helped produce an implementation plan for the National Gender Policy, specifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, recommending technical expertise, capacity and resources required for successful implementation as well as provide a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

By the end of the period, the following were achieved:

A work plan was developed and approved by the Minister of Gender and development

A comprehensive review of documents, policies, laws, regional and international instruments was undertaken to inform the drafting of the policy.

A National Gender Policy was drafted

A comprehensive Guidelines for Action has been developed for the implementation of the Gender Policy

3 Stakeholders Meetings were held, although consultation processes are yet to be finalized in 2009, before the policy can be passed through the Cabinet and Parliament.

For CLEAR, this provided a good platform to reiterate some of the gender policy issues that women continually deal with as well as enlighten and guide the parties involved on gender policy, proposing some of the ways critical gender concerns can be incorporated into policy.

## **Component 2: Advocacy and Networking**

CLEAR in this month participated in the Launch of a campaign for an East African Declaration on Gender Equality (EADGE), held on 03<sup>RD</sup> December 2008, at Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi.

Organised by The Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) a sub regional organization working in eight countries in the Eastern African sub Region, the launch brought together the five countries of the East African Community with an aim of a regional federation that EASSI is launching to campaign for a "United AGender" for East Africa.

CLEAR recognizes that east African states are not all at the same level when it comes to policies and implementation of gender issues. To this end, CLEAR is keen on contributing towards gender equality and women's development and empowerment in the EAC by working together to consolidate and strengthen all the international commitments to gender equality (BPFA, CEDAW, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the MDGs) into one regional legal instrument in support of gender equality.

In the long term, it is hoped that this document is expected to develop into an East African Declaration on Gender Equality (EADGE) that will unite all East African Countries in one gender agenda. This forum was extremely useful for CLEAR in working for closer collaboration with the EAC and its organs.

### **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 2 CBOs in western and eastern provinces in Kenya respectively 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

Through its Local Action for Food Security (LOAFS) program, CLEAR\_Uganda continued to reach, mobilize and support the rural poor, including women, men and youth, who are the main producers of food but also the most food insecure to organize to produce more of the local foods to increase household food security.

Based on the overall outputs targeted under the LOAFS program, the identified core group of 10 women small-holder farmers in the villages of Makokha, Bunapongo and Bukisukye finalised their planning and prioritizing for 2009 to ensure household food security in their homes. Necessary inputs and seeds have to be acquired ahead of the planting season for millet, cassava, sorghum and beans. A planting timetable was developed.

### Bar Kobala Women's Group

During the period, CLEAR finalized the baseline assessment for the members of Bar Kobala women group. Overall the results show the women lack capacity to engage in economic empowering ventures and it is strongly anticipated that program activities will provide the much needed boost to ensure they both increase their incomes as well as have their capacity built to be involved in new ventures that improve livelihoods for their families and village as a whole. Other activities focused on weeding, field cultivation and continuous stocking of their grain/feeds shop. The group activities during the period were as follows:

Running the grain/seed shop – By the end of this month all the 33 group members were able to receive a profit of Kshs 1,500 each from the proceeds of the grain shop. Although the amount seems little, for the women it was a very encouraging thing and strengthened their resolve that they were capable of growing incomes if they focused on the business skills learnt from their workshop. Members were very excited and many exclaimed how for the very first time they would have some contribution to ensure their families enjoyed Christmas. In the light of the looming food shortage in the country, the women were also extremely happy that they had a stock of grain that they could rely on to feed their families as they awaited the short rains for this year. Overall they are starting to appreciate the impact the grain shop is having in their lives and the importance of maintaining this using appropriate business skills.

Reclaim Land and enhance food production - Sunflower and chillies were planted by the group and field cultivation continued to be done communally. Although the expected short rains failed and the crop is being affected by excessive sun the women are optimistic that they will still receive a good return. This coupled with their grain business will provide a basis for them to plan for the next rain season and will enable them to more aggressively increase the tracts of land under cultivation so more income can be received from this cash intensive crop. Harvesting is expected to start after another 2 months.

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.

### Kyaani Womens Group

During the period, the main activity with this CBO focused on ensuring sustainability of their sisal basket weaving activities in order to achieve maximum profits from the business.

CLEAR provided less hand holding to this group and monitored its progress from afar as a trial to ensure that the group could coordinate and conduct its activities independently. This was to ensure that they have the required skill to continue operating on their own and can make appropriate business decisions to ensure the groups overall wellbeing. Members are confident that they can manage supply and demand from their expanded customer base and to ensure continuous cash flow to the group from sales of baskets. Progress on this endeavor has been very encouraging and the women can independently transact their own activities now. The Kyaani women are now receiving inputs directly from their

source/input markets. They are negotiating for better prices for bulk purchases on their own and thus securing required volumes of sisal, dye and leather for making their products.

CLEAR is confident that this group has learnt very fast the business skills required to run their venture. Their proximity to end markets contributed to their ability to source and lock in new markets for their product as well as obtain new inputs that are useful to redesign new products and penetrate new markets for handicrafts in addition to baskets.

**Table 1: Targets and Results Summary Table**

<b>Results/ key deliverables</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	3	3	-
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	1	1	-
Linkages made with civil society on advocacy and networking issues affecting women land rights.	1	1	-
Baseline survey conducted for Bar Kobala CBO to track progress made from their activities	1	1	-

## **Challenges**

None.

## Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	January 09	Person Responsible
Baseline survey will be conducted for CLEAR Uganda to track progress made from their activities.	X	Program coordinator, Clear Uganda.
Develop action plans for 2009 with all CBOs	X	Program Coordinator
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	X	ED, Program coordinator