

Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

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

Reporting Period: July/August 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	July/August 2008
Author of Report and Contact Details (Including email, phone, etc)	Nancy Amayo nancy@clearwomen.org 254-020-4450461

Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846.00
Total spent this month	€ 46,822.00
Funds remaining	€ 107,024.00

Introduction

The Centre for Land, Economy and Rights of Women (CLEAR) is a Regional Trust Organisation 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 utilisation 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 first two months (July - August 2008) of the program, and mainly details the setting up and roll out initial activities. In the reporting period, program activities focused on core administrative activities, including program set up, initial meetings with beneficiary CBO's and the development of adjusted work plans, 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 the period under review, CLEAR was nominated by the incoming President of the Conference of Gender Ministers as a member of the Committee Conference of Gender Ministers (2008). This nomination of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union gives CLEAR a good forum to share experiences on women's land rights and improving their livelihoods through gender equity.

The Committee, once established, will assume the advisory role for both the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), as well as the ECA African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS) on matters of gender equality and women's advancement throughout the Continent. Based on this, CLEAR attended a conference of gender ministers held on 25 – 29 August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she served in an ex-officio capacity, as a resource person for the conference.

In this new role CLEAR can work with others in the continent to ensure that there is a link between policy, research and implementation for organizations that work in different areas related to gender.

Component 2: Advocacy and Networking

CLEAR was involved in the AU Womens Pre-summit meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 21-24 June 2008. Dr. Akinyi of CLEAR presented a paper on *Women's Land Rights and Food Crisis in Africa* and also got a chance to share with other partners on progress made towards addressing womens land rights and the food crisis in Africa. CLEAR provided strong recommendations on the way forward being advocated for by themselves and which could be adopted by other stakeholders a summary of which is provided below:

Advocacy Issues: Linking Food Security and Women's Land Rights

CLEAR urged Civil Society Organisations to address the links between food security and women's land rights. Efforts to promote women's land rights are already being undertaken: to ensure gender-sensitive legislation; promote judicial capacity and effective litigation; and advance public awareness and understanding. Nevertheless, effective implementation will need diverse skills and experiences through greater collaboration and coordination working together with other stakeholders and government agencies.

Legislative Reforms

CLEAR appealed to all countries to amend/repeal all laws that violate women's land rights including the rights of widows. Adequate legislations should include, spousal co-ownership of land and equal division upon termination of marriage, equal inheritance rights, and a requirement of family consent for transfers of family land. Legal changes should include, enforcement of the law and establishment of appropriate judicial mechanisms, such as family courts, for prosecution of offenders

Litigation, Judicial Capacity and Legal Services

Measures should be taken to boost the capacity of the judicial sector to effectively interpret and apply national law with reference to international human rights treaties, thereby helping to domesticate relevant international laws that would protect and promote women's property and inheritance rights.

Education and Awareness Campaigns

These are critical to disseminate information and share experiences to create awareness about the linkages between, women's land rights and livelihood security. This will help sensitize and

influence policymakers and development workers about the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration for addressing the complex problems in rural development.

Organizing and Networking

In order to achieve meaningful change in policy and practice there is need for coordination and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Organizational networks are critically important for the promotion and enforcement of legal guarantees of women's rights to land and property. Networks at national and sub-regional levels are important for exchanging information and experiences related to property disputes and strategies for policy advocacy promoting women's equal rights to land. These networks in turn can benefit from relationships with global networks.

Research and Evaluation

CLEAR identified specific areas which need further research are: Customary law, changing family structures and women's rights to provide a base for developing and harmonizing policies on marriage, inheritance and succession.

Appendix 1 contains the paper presented by Dr. Nzioki.

Component 3: Capacity Building

The context of women's rights to land and livelihood shows the need to link land reform processes to wider policy agendas of Poverty Reduction and Economic Recovery Strategies. Women are a major resource in agriculture and food production as evidenced by their numerical proportions, their share of labour in agriculture and food production and the division of labour by sex in most of the African countries. However, despite the women's crucial role in agriculture and food production, their potential has neither been well understood nor appreciated.

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 identified in this period, 2 CBOs in western and eastern provinces in Kenya respectively and began to build their capacity to bring about improvements in their livelihoods and help play an active role in lesson learning and promoting exchange of experience among other women in the regions selected. The two CBOs identified were Bar Kobala Womens group in Bondo, Siaya district and Kyaani Womens group in Wamunyu, Mwala district.

Bar Kobala Womens Group

During the period, the main activity with this CBO focused on training in economic empowerment and business entrepreneurship. A workshop was held with the CBO at Vunduba Hotel Kisumu on 4-5 August 2008.

The number of participants at Bar Kobala Women Group workshop was forty five. In addition the workshop was attended by the Chief Guest, Ms. R. Muyu, the Vice Chair of Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation (MYWO) and an entrepreneur, Ms. Elizabeth Kharono the Director of CLEAR – Uganda, Mr. Michael Ochieng Odhiambo the Director of CLEAR Trust, Dr. Akinyi Nzioki, the Executive Director of CLEAR, Dr. Alex Awiti, and Mr. Koga Kere, Field Coordinators of Nyanza Farm Limited, Ms. Rosemary Hala, an Advocate of Kenya and Senior Trainer on Entrepreneurship, Ms. Betty Okero, Workshop Resource/Facilitator, and Coordinator of Civil Society Organisation, Ms. Olivia Amondi, Chief Rappateur, and Mary Ng'onga Opar, Administrative Assistant CLEAR.

The purpose of the workshop was based on CLEAR's programme for reclaiming women's land rights, empowerment promotion, creating wealth and ending hunger at the household level. Its objectives were to:

Share knowledge of rights of women in land ownership and rights.

Capacity enhancement in economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Practical steps in business start up and management.

Developing Business Plans

By the end of the workshop, the group was able to identify various options for economic empowerment that they would adopt and determined to

- a) Reclaim Land and Enhance Food Production
- b) Buying/Selling of Seeds, Fertilisers to the community
- c) Hiring Grain Storage for Keeping the Grains to be sold
- d) Building a Posho-Mill and a Grain/Seed Shop
- e) Capacity Enhancement for the Group
- f) Exchange visits

CLEAR was able to create linkages with another organisation, Nyanza Farmers Limited to provide technical backstopping to the CBO in pepper growing. As a cash crop, pepper would significantly increase incomes for women and aid in poverty alleviation especially when compared to the low yields received from maize, their traditional food crop.

The action areas identified by the CBO will be CLEARs focus as it works with this group over the next 12 months.

Kyaani Womens Group

During the period, the main activity with this CBO focused also on training in economic empowerment and business entrepreneurship.

Kyaani womens group was formed over 15 years ago in Ikalaasa, Wamunyu division. It has been dealing with weaving sisal baskets at the grassroot level and selling them through middlemen who deliver and sell the same at Kariokor market in Nairobi.

Two workshops were held with the CBO in this period. The first was held for 10 group leaders/officials at Machakos and the other for the 50 group members at Wamunyu town on 28- 29 August 2008.

The purpose of the workshops was also based on CLEAR's programme for reclaiming women's land rights, empowerment promotion and creating wealth. Its objectives were to:

Identify your skills in business

Share facts of Business

Business Skills & Entrepreneurship Development

Business Opportunity for SME's

Marketing

Business Finance/Money management

The women leaders learnt the importance of proper planning to ensure they operated using budgets for sustainability of funds. All members after the training attested to better understanding how to grow their business and the importance of proper marketing, money management and understanding your business. Stemming from the workshop, the women purchased stocks of materials for the basket business and committed to ensure proper

accountability to track increased incomes and growth of their business as they started the next phase of trading.

CLEARs focus as it works with this group in the next 6 months will be to ensure their business venture is grounded on proper principles as the women adopt the learnings from the training.

Table 1: Targets and Results Summary Table

Results/ key deliverables	Targets	Results	Explanation
Revised workplan and budget completed and shared with NEPAD	2	2	-
Kenyan CBOs identified for interventions with CLEAR	2	2	-
100 women trained in economic empowerment and business entrepreneurship. innovative farming technologies to enhance production	100 trained	105	-
Action plans developed with CBOs identified	2	2	-

Challenges

None .

Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	September 08	Person Responsible
Ugandan CBO identified for interventions with CLEAR	X	Executive Director Finance manager
Action plans of current CBOs implemented	X	As above
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	X	Executive Director