

Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

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

Reporting Period: March 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	March 2009
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B. Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 8,825
Funds remaining	€ 55,399

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 March 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 beginning the actual 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 participated in the following initiatives:

Fifth-third Session on Commission on the Status of Women held in New York on 2-13 March 2009.

The ED presented CLEAR at the above meeting where she held panel discussions on *Situation Analysis on Food Security in the Context of HIV&AIDS, Women's Land Rights and Poverty*. A brief summary of the paper is provided below:

In monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action over the past ten years, CLEAR identified issues that require more in-depth research in order to catalyze sub-regional and national actions on them. One such issue is situation analysis on food security in context of HIV&AIDS, women's land rights, poverty and to develop advocacy strategies for the sub-region. Key findings are:

African agriculture is in crisis, since most of the people are farmers, mostly women farmers, yet they are not able to feed themselves for many decades now. In Africa, 340 million people, or half of the population, live in less than US\$ 1 per day.

In Eastern Africa alone, 72 million people (46% of the total population of the region) are chronically malnourished. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men in the continent.

While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to support services and their minimal participation in decision-making processes.

Sub-Saharan Africa has just over 10% of the world's population, but it is home to more than 60% of all people living with HIV – that is 25.8 million out of which 13.5 million are women.

This is a cause for concern as it is estimated that in African women work on agricultural sector more than any category of people in the society, providing approximately 80% to 90% of labor in subsistence production. The impact of HIV/AIDS is felt most acutely at the household level with the burden weighing most heavily on the poorest households most of them headed by women, those with the fewest resources with which to cushion the economic impact. With all the suffering HIV and AIDS brings, food insecurity is now the greatest threat of the future of Africa and yet most programmes addressing HIV and AIDS have not changed to reflect the current reality.

HIV/AIDS like all communicable diseases is linked to poverty. Adequate conceptualization of the complex relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS is central to understanding the impact of the epidemic in rural livelihoods.

Preliminary evidence indicate that the potential of women's rights to land helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS by promoting women's economic security and empowerment and reduces their vulnerability to domestic violence, unsafe sex, and other related AID-risk factors. Conversely, the denial of women's inheritance rights to land drastically reduces the capacity for households to mitigate the consequences should a member be infected with HIV. In other words, without guarantees to land rights, women's chances to prevent HIV/AIDS or mitigate its impact are thus drastically reduced.

This paper recommends that at the national level: All countries should among others, amend/repeal all laws that violate women's land rights including the rights of widows; Domestic international human rights treaties, to protect and promote women's property and inheritance rights and; Educate, create awareness and share experiences on the linkages between HIV&AIDS, women's land rights poverty and food security.

Advanced Training on Women's Human Rights towards Gender Equality

CLEAR being a right based organization working on women's advancement and gender equality, and given the Executive Director's role in providing intellectual and strategic direction to CLEAR the ED was identified by SIPU to attend a 9 month continuous course (theory and practical) to strengthen her capacity to advise, implement, monitor and to provide meaningful change to the lives of the people targeted in CLEAR's programs. The course was finalized on 30th March 2009, with assessment made on the overall impact to the organization.

As a result of the training:

CLEAR's work is more focused, given its programme objectives, expected results/outputs and activities.

The use of ICTs and communication with stakeholders has been enhanced.

The pilot projects under NEPAD/Spanish Fund in Kenya and Uganda targeting Women's CBOs is likely to be a best practice with regard to women's economic empowerment.

Skills developed in Logical Framework, Communication Strategy, and Use of ICTs has been extremely beneficial to CLEAR.

Passing Skills to Colleagues in the Organisation

The change project from the course has been institutionalized at CLEAR, skills imparted on:

Logical Framework and 5 Year Strategic Plan Developed (2008/12)

Stakeholders Analysis Conducted

CLEAR Developed a Communication Strategy being used together with stakeholders

Use of ICTs and Statistical Analysis enhanced

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

During the 2007/2008 planting season, CLEAR-Uganda's work was limited to five neighbouring villages (Makokha, Katwaka, Bukisukye, Bunapongo (Lower) and Bunapongo (Upper) in one sub-county of Mbale District (Bungokho-Mutoto). This initial effort has generated the momentum which is evident in the activities of CLEAR-Uganda in 2009. Among the remarkable developments is the fact that CLEAR-Uganda is no longer the only organization championing the need to reclaim local foods and take practical action to ensure that there is household food security.

The idea to immediately scale up action to cover the entire district of Mbale in 2009 was championed by Mrs Joyce Werikhe, who was the guest of Honour at the 2008 WFD celebrations organized by CLEAR-Uganda and the Mbale District Woman MP, Hon Nagudi-Rutangye. Together with CLEAR-Uganda and FORINET-EU, these two women leaders make up the core team which has initiated the district wide drive for increased household food production during 2009. CLEAR-Uganda is the secretariat and coordinating office for this team.

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:

Mobilization of farmers and key stakeholders has not only been district wide, it has also been at different levels – district, sub-county, parish and village level. The following highlights provide an indication of the extent of mobilization which has been achieved at the start of the 2009 planting season.

The initiative to mobilize communities for local action on food security has moved from village-level to a district-wide initiative. The initiative has also moved from one being championed by CLEAR-Uganda to one championed by a core group which includes two high profile women leaders in Mbale District and two NGOs (CLEAR-Uganda and FORINET-EU). The program which this core group devised in turn mobilized a wide range of district and sub-county level stakeholders for action to promote household food security in Mbale District. The district wide sub-county food security meetings organized by the core group and the wide publicity which this program got brought awareness to the issue of food security which went beyond the district of Mbale.

Sub-county food security meetings were held in all the fourteen sub-counties and municipal divisions. Each of these meetings was attended by 50 – 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. To ensure that food security continues to receive attention at each of the sub-counties, Sub-county Food Security Committees with representatives from each of the parishes/wards which make up the sub-county/division were formed at the end of each meeting.

The sub-county food security meetings revealed that indeed food security concerns were district-wide and a major constraint to farmers was accessing good quality seeds either because they were unavailable because most farmers have stopped growing crops such as millet and sorghum, or the seeds were too expensive with the result that farmers were buying very little seed for planting (this was the case for maize and beans seeds). Having identified this need, the core team decided to immediately follow-up the meetings with a computation of the number of farmers whose gardens were ready for planting but who needed support with acquiring the seeds. The number of people who needed this support throughout the district was overwhelmingly large, indicating the extent of the need.

The fact that this need 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, was 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. A record of the quantities of seeds received by each of the sub-counties has been kept and sub-counties have kept a record of the number of farmers and the quantities of seed received. These records 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

As part of the 2008 WFD celebrations, five case studies were developed which highlighted the situation of women farmers in Bungokho-Mutoto sub-county and some of the challenges and constraints they work under in order to fend for their families. As follow-up to these case studies, the women farmers whose testimonies were included in the case studies have been targeted for specific attention and assistance so that they increase on their food production during 2009.

Specifically, CLEAR-Uganda has met with the individual women and discussed ways in which they can be assisted to produce more food this year. As a result of this consultation, CLEAR-Uganda will support the women through direct financial contribution towards the costs of labor

¹ The two MPs – Hon Nagudi Rutangye and Hon Michael Werikhe – utilised their own resources to purchase these seeds.

for tilling the land, negotiating and making land available for farming this year and providing seeds.

Group Plans and priorities for 2009

One of the main activities of CLEAR-Uganda over this reporting period has been to plan with farmers ahead of this year's planting season. Two meetings were held with the core group of farmers involved in the LOAFS program to review both their activities in 2008 and their plans for 2009. These farmers prepared their gardens well-ahead of time and decided on the crops they will grow this year. They also benefited from the district-wide mobilization and distribution of seeds.

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

CLEAR will work 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 an appropriate time monitoring visits will be made to the sub-counties and to individual farmers. Special effort will 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 group was also able to consolidate the sales figures from the previous season and recorded extremely good returns as follows:

The group purchased cereal/maize for Kshs 130,640 and they sold all of it at 179,800 thus making a profit of Kshs 49,160. Each group member thus earned Kshs 1,300 from the profit. A total of 72 sacks of maize and 4 bags of millet were sold.

CLEAR purchased 40 kilos of sunflower seed for the Bar Kobala CBO and each member received 1kg to plant. The table below summarizes outputs from this venture.

LIST OF THE GROUP MEMBERS & WHAT THEY GOT FROM THE HARVEST

Name	Amount of Seed Received	Amount planted	Amount Harvested	Amount of Sunflower oil processed.
1- Patricia Ongile	1. kg	1kg	60.kg	20 Litres
2- Jenipher Ouma	1. kg	1kg	8.kg	2 ½ Litres
3- Emilly Omondi	1. kg	1kg	15.kg	5 Litres
4- Jane Ngonga	1 .kg	1.kg	10.kg	6 Litres
5- Beatrice Achieng	1. kg	1/4kg	3.kg	½ Litres
6- Anastasie Boy	1. kg	½ .kg	10.kg	5 Litres
7 -Emilly Muga	1. kg	½,kg	30.kg	5 Litres
8- Jane Nyagudi	1.kg	¼ kg	2 .kg	0 Litres
9- Chriistine Yongo	1.kg	1.kg	14.kg	0 Litres
10- Danita Ngonga	1.kg	1.kg	25.kg	10 Litres
11- Risper Odero	1.kg	½. kg	3.kg	0 Litres
12-Siprose Oketch	1.kg	1.kg	46.kg	20 Litres
13 -Margaret Obell	1.kg	¼. kg	2.kg	¼ Litres
14- Fransisca Otieno	1k.g	1.kg	15.kg	10 Litres
15-Rose Mwalo	1.kg	¼. kg	3.kg	½ Litres

16- Jane Oballa	1.kg	½. kg	8.kg	3 Litres
17- Mary Odinga	1.kg	1.kg	8.kg	5 Litres
18- Sakina Ajuang	1.kg	1.kg	1.kg	0 Litres
19- Beldine Opiyo	1.kg	½. kg	10kg	6 Litres
20 -Millicent Abony	1. kg	1.kg	45.kg	15 Litres
21- Pamela Otieno	1.kg	1.kg	10.kg	3 Litres
22- Mary Obiero	1.kg	1.kg	5.kg	20 Litres
23- Anjeline. M. Agola	1.kg	1.kg	20.kg	5 Litres
24- Helida Awala	1.kg	1.kg	10.kg	5 Litres
25Teresa Otieno	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
26-Monica Ongaro	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
27- Dina Oballa	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
28- Mary Adhiambo	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there	Non	Non

		was no rainfall.]		
29- Mary Obura	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
30- Jane Arum	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
31- Joel Awiti Nyagudi	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
32- Mary Aoko Ongalo	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
33- Alice Oludhe	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
34- Grace Aboka	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
35- Alice Odero	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
36 -Millicent Anyango	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there	Non	Non

		was no rainfall.]		
37 -Mary Ajuang	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
38- Rose Awino	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non
39- Jane Angute	1.kg	Non [Did not plant due to time and there was no rainfall.]	Non	Non

As a group, the women had a common garden where they planted 3 kilos of sunflower from which they harvested 80 kilos. This was processed to produce 25 kilos of oil which the women will sell and the money will be put in their bank account. Sales of oil processed is being recorded and will be provided later.

Implementing their action plans for 2009 – The group was engaged heavily in preparing the land for cultivation in the rainy season that was soon to begin. By the end of March rain was anticipated to start anytime.

The group held two 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 MFI was offering them loans at 10% interest rate which is slightly lower than the market rates that stands at 17%. The women are still discussing whether to engage in this and had been given time to review the terms and conditions before moving on to accept the offer.

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	-
CLEAR participates in the CSW forum	1	1	-

Challenges

None.

Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	April 09	Person Responsible
Monitoring visits for all CBOs and distribution of seeds under the CLEAR Uganda program.	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