

Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

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

Reporting Period: November 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	NOVEMBER 2008
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Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 5,707
Funds remaining	€ 82,187

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 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 November 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 the implementation of 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 this month, CLEAR began working with Liberian gender ministry in designing their gender policy. For CLEAR, this provides 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. The full detail of this will be incorporated in next months report.

Component 2: Advocacy and Networking

CLEAR participated in a peer review workshop and launch of the East African Declaration for Gender Equality Campaign held between 6th -8th of November at Novotel, Umbano, Kigali. The forum brought together participants from the east African region to share their country status reports on progress made after the east african declaration on gender equality. Considerable progress has been made by participating countries to implement the issues from the declaration and these were shared out during the workshop and the way forward by different

partners determined. This workshop provides a peer sharing forum that is extremely useful in helping understand how neighboring countries are conducting their gender activities.

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 organise 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 began 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.

Exposure visits have been scheduled to learn more from experienced successful farmers to be started in the next season.

Based on the outcomes of the District Women Leaders Forum held in the previous month, follow-up actions included one further meeting with county and district councils to influence district and sub-county policy and budgeting processes for the benefit of small-holder farmers, in general, and women farmers, in particular. Councils are beginning to embrace the concept and are ready to work with the women further.

Bar Kobala Womens Group

During the period, CLEAR conducted a baseline assessment for the members of Bar Kobala women group. 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 – The group during this month attempted to obtain more grains to stock but like many others were amazed at the rapid increase in price of the commodity. There was an acute shortage of maize resulting in prices rising such that to the consumer a 2 kg bag was selling at Kshs 120 up from Kshs 85 and compared to Kshs 48 at this time last year. The women however do have old stock available and will ensure that they have their own supplies despite the looming shortage.

Reclaim Land and enhance food production - Sunflower and chillies were planted by the group and field cultivation continued to be done communally. The women have been receiving advice from Nyanza farmers Ltd on best agricultural practices to adopt to ensure high production and since this is their first attempt, they scheduled frequent sessions with the experts to boost their knowledge and expertise in chilli growing and huge harvests are expected in the future.

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 continuing their sisal basket weaving activities in order to achieve maximum profits from the business.

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.

At the market end, the group is sourcing for alternative buyers for their product. They have for a long time been selling to middlemen who then get better prices for the same product when they sell at higher value markets. The women therefore feel that if they were able to reach the end markets themselves, they would obtain higher prices and thus increase their incomes faster. One such opening was locked in with a buyer for their products this month. The group

was very excited to have to directly deal with her and lock out middlemen thus increase their profit margins per sale.

Table 1: Targets and Results Summary Table

Results/ key deliverables	Targets	Results	Explanation
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	3	3	-
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	1	1	Event started in late October and is still ongoing, will be reported on in December
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	Baseline report is being compiled and will be shared in next report.

Challenges

None .

Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	December 08	Person Responsible
Baseline survey will be conducted for CLEAR Uganda to track progress made from their activities.	X	Program coordinator, Clear Uganda.
Complete sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	X	Executive Director
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	X	ED, Program coordinator