

# Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

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

**Reporting Period:** October 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	OCTOBER 2008
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Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 10,700
Funds remaining	€ 87,894

## **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 October 2008 of the program. It details the ongoing activities with CBO's already identified by CLEAR. In the reporting period, program activities focused on world food day celebrations, 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 the period under review, CLEAR participated in a gender forum addressing the proposed national land policy held at the 680 hotel and organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

The purpose of the forum was to review of the Proposed National Land with specific reference to the following broad themes: -

1. The background factors that led to the need for a national land policy formulation process, as well as highlight the process itself.
2. The proposed framework for ensuring equitable access to land for all Kenyans.
3. The proposed policy and legal instruments to ensure land tenure security.
4. The proposed dispute resolution mechanisms with respect to land related disputes.
5. The proposed measures towards harmonizing the differing land administration/tenure policies and laws.
6. The proposed framework for ensuring proper/sustainable land use in the country given the various competing interests and tensions arising.

7. The proposed mechanisms for obtaining a rational land market.
8. In view of the past Land Commissions (Njonjo and Ndung'u) and Inquiries, and in view of the post-election violence witnessed this year, map out a strategy for the sustaining the momentum towards attaining a land policy that balances all the interests of the differing interests and communities in view of the fact that the National Peace Accord set out that a Land commission shall be established to deal with this issue.
9. The gender dimensions of the land reform debate

These issues are critical on CLEARs agenda and given that the draft land policy has yet to be discussed by cabinet, this provided a good platform to reiterate some of the issues and enlighten stakeholders on the progress made so far on this.

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

During the period, CLEAR was continued its activities with a local partner – Actionaid Kenya, in developing and launching a blue print training manual for Women's right to land and property issues that is adjustable to every target group and/or community in Kenya which will be rolled out later in the year to train women in the coastal region of Kenya.

Two critical meetings were held with stakeholders addressing women's land rights issues, access and ownership of land by women in the coast region on 17<sup>th</sup> October and between 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October at Sai Rock Hotel, Mombasa.

Key objectives of the meetings were to enhance participants understanding of women's right to land & property in terms of access, control and ownership highlighting contradictions and consequences in policy and law. As facilitators CLEAR outputs included refining the approaches and strategies in delivering women's right to land and property in Coast region by addressing WRLP Communication Strategy, WRLP Campaign Plan – designing a campaign plan to be adopted by stakeholders in the Coast Region, conducting an analysis of stakeholders in the region and training on the WRLP Campaign Toolkit to be used by trained resource persons.

Finally the stakeholders present designed a WLRP action plan that they will adopt and will be implemented for the coast region by Actionaid to create awareness and lobby for relevant authorities to start taking action in the region to address WLRP issues and hence form a formidable force to petition the government on these issues should the need arise.

### **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 began 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 seeks 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. CLEAR\_Uganda's program is initially being piloted in Bungokho-Mutoto Sub-County, Mbale District, starting with 10-20 subsistence farmers (mostly women) from the neighboring villages of Makokha, Katwaka, Bukisukye, Bunapongo (Lower) and Bunapongo (Upper).

The following overall outputs are targeted under the LOAFS program:

10-20 farmers (mainly women small-holder farmers) in the villages of Makokha, Bunapongo and Bukisukye will be organised in a CBO focusing on ensuring that there is household food security in their homes;

Increased household food security (millet, cassava, sorghum and beans) for participating farmers

Case-studies and testimonies of women farmers on key challenges and opportunities to food security will be documented

Group plans and priorities for food production for 2009 including acquiring the necessary inputs and seeds ahead of time.

In the period under review, CLEAR Uganda managed to:

Mobilise a core group of farmers (mostly women) in the villages of Makokha, Katwaka, Bukisukye, Bunapongo (Lower) and Bunapongo (Upper),

Hold exposure visits, create linkages and design follow-up action,

Hold the 2008 World Food Day celebrations,

Hold a District Women Leaders Forum and design the follow-up actions arising from this meeting.

A core group of 11 adults (7 women and 4 men) and 6 youth and children (2 girls and 4 boys) in the villages of Makokha and Bukisukye were directly involved in the planning and organisation of this year's

World Food Day in Makokha Village. This core group was assisted by many other members of the village, including family members and other farmers from neighbouring villages. CLEAR\_Uganda will work closely with these farmers in the coming year to increase further on their current level of production and, through more linkages and support from research institutions, ensure that the trend towards household food security is irreversible.

Hosting of the 2008 WFD as a local event in Makokha Village was a key focus of the month. The event was characterised by exhibitions of local foods, seeds, and technologies, performances by school children on the need to grow more food, and talks by community groups, local leaders and officials from the Sub-County of Bungokho-Mutoto. A wide range of IEC materials on the need to grow more local foods, support women's rights to land, and ensure the right to food, especially by the children, were developed and displayed. The presence of a large group of women from Kenya added considerable energy to the occasion and the need to take action to address household food insecurity. Representatives of women's organisations in two other parishes (Mooni and Bumboi) were also invited to the celebrations. Several women councillors who had attended the Women Leaders' Forum the previous day also attended. The Guest of Honour presented awards to farmers in Makokha Village, including children and youth, who had taken steps in the year following the 2007 WFD celebrations to grow more food and address their household food security through concerted effort. These awards were highly appreciated by the farmers and are expected to provide motivation and encouragement to the farmers in the coming year.

The highlight of the 2008 WFD celebrations was the presence of forty women from Western Kenya in the Village of Makokha. The arrival of this powerful group of women, in a bus, singing and dancing, did more to highlight the importance of the occasion and the issues of food security than anything else the organisers of the event could have thought of. The group of women from Kenya met and interacted with women from Uganda, they listened to presentations about the food crisis in Uganda and shared their own stories of their struggles to sustain their families in Kenya.

CLEAR\_Uganda organised the first-ever District Women Leaders' Forum on Food Security on the eve of the 2008 WFD celebrations (October 24<sup>th</sup>). The main purpose of the Women Leaders' Forum was to get women leaders to discuss the food security crisis in the district. To permit an informed discussion of the issues, two key in-puts were presented: a background paper commissioned by CLEAR\_Uganda on the *State of Food Security in Mbale District and Case Studies on the Challenges of lack of effective land rights faced by Women Farmers in Bungokho-Mutoto Sub\_County*. The two presentations provided the basis for the facilitated discussion which followed and which highlighted the critical importance and need for women councillors acting within their mandates to ensure that food security issues are not prioritised and receive appropriate policy response and funding both at the district and sub-county local government levels. Participants in the Women Leaders' Forum included: district and sub-county women councillors and women leaders from CBOs and the NGO sector. Six women leaders from the Kenya group also participated. The Women Leaders' Forum concluded with a resolve amongst the participants to do more in their individual and official capacities to support efforts to address household food

insecurity in their respective areas of operation. Women Councillors, in particular, requested CLEAR\_Uganda to work in partnership with them to influence both the sub-county and district councils to prioritise food security concerns, in general, and support to women farmers to address food insecurity, in particular. CLEAR\_Uganda will build on this good-will to not only scale-up the LOAFS programme, but to also influence district and sub-county policy and budgeting processes for the benefit of small-holder farmers, in general, and women farmers, in particular.

CLEAR\_Uganda registered considerable progress in its LOAFS programme and that the momentum generated by the recent activities will make it possible to achieve the remainder of the outputs in the coming months.

### Bar Kobala Womens Group

During the period, the members of Bar Kobala women group focused on planting, field preparations and continuous stocking of their grain/feeds shop. The group activities during the period were as follows:

Running the grain/seed shop – The group has started receiving orders from bidders to purchase large volumes of maize. A nearby school was ready to buy maize at a premium of Kshs 600 more per bag than the price the women initially purchased and the women are significantly encouraged that they can actually make good margins on the maize stocked in times of scarcity. An additional 20 bags of maize was stocked in the period as prices are expected to rise even further.

Reclaim Land and enhance food production - Sunflower and chillies were planted by the group and field preparations were done communally. Chilli production is a labour intensive process and should be ready for harvest after a period of 3 months. 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.

Lastly 40 members of the group participated in an exchange visit with Ugandan counterparts during world food day. A key component of this visit was to share ideas on beneficial food crops and how these can be appropriately grown to ensure sustainable food supplies for women and their families. Strong bonds of friendship were established between the community based organizations in Uganda and Kenya. Both sides of the boarder were inspired by the visit and groups on both sides have made a commitment to not only have something to show next year, in terms of what they have grown but to also share on how they have increased incomes from empowerment lessons learnt.

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.

The Kyaani women are now receiving inputs directly from their source/input markets. They are currently negotiating for better prices for bulk purchases on their own and thus securing required volumes of sisal, dye and leather for making their products. Although they wanted to negotiate with suppliers to develop some kind of supplier contracts where they receive materials on credit and pay for the same after an agreed period there has been some delays and reluctance from suppliers due to interference from established middle men. This activity was therefore not completed as expected and further meetings with targeted suppliers have been scheduled.

At the market end, the group has begun 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. The group leaders are thus working closely with some established individual women outside the group to discover the possibility of accessing markets directly. No new openings have as yet been identified.

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

<b>Results/ key deliverables</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
World food day to be marked by women in Uganda and exchange visit by Kenyan CBO to witness Ugandan counterpart activities during the event.	1	1	-
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	3	3	-
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	1	0	Event started in late October and will be reported on in November
Linkages made with civil society on advocacy and networking issues affecting women land rights.	1	1	-

Baseline survey will be conducted for Bar Kobala CBO to track progress made from their activities	1	0	Activity rescheduled to November to allow women prepare for exchange visit.
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## Challenges

None .

## Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	November 08	Person Responsible
Baseline survey will be conducted for Bar Kobala CBO to track progress made from their activities.	X	ED, Program coordinator
Participate in a regional forum for addressing women's land rights issues.	X	As above
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	X	Executive Director
Kenyan and Ugandan CBOs continue implementing their action plans	X	ED, Program coordinator