

**ANNEX 5****Narrative Progress Report****Report period** January-June 2007**Contract Ref. No.** 02/CORE/18/FIDA**Organisation** : International Federation of  
Women Lawyers**Contact Tel. No.** 021-229283**Report Date** July 18<sup>th</sup> 2007**Report Prepared by** SUSAN ARYEETEY  
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*Please do not write in green coloured sections; refer to notes at last page for explanations***1. National pro-poor policies****What do you think were the most important changes in pro-poor government policies in the last six months? What were the main causes? What contribution did your organisation make to any of these changes?**

Ghana can boast of a domestic violence law. After many months of advocacy, lobbying and sensitisation by civil society organisations the law has become a reality. In the month of May the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs held a consultative meeting with selected civil society organisations to map out the way forward in getting a policy framework for addressing violence against women and children from a coordinated approach. Among other things the meeting addressed institutional arrangements and planning for implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, whilst also addressing violence against women and children. This proactive move by the Ministry was timely and compliments the concept paper and consultative workshop on the policy framework which members of the DV coalition had prepared for review and possible adoption by the Ministry. FIDA-Ghana as an initiator of the process for the passage of the bill (reference- memorandum of the DV Act) — believes that the passage of the DV Bill could not have come at a more opportune time to facilitate our work. As an organisation we were also part of the Domestic violence coalition that mounted pressure to ensure the passage of the bill.

The Law Reform Commission has embarked on a review of the Rent Act of Ghana. The policy behind this review is to expand essential basic services to the vulnerable and excluded. The rent act as is currently stands governs land lord and tenant relationships and issues that are mainly not covered by contract and this is mainly the domain of the poor who form a greater percentage of the population. Because these relationships are not covered by contract there is so much abuse and violation of rights of especially women and children.

An urban poverty reduction project was lunched in Apam in the Gomoa District Capital. An urban poverty reduction project was lunched in Apam in the Gomoa District Capital. The project is under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment. Under one of its components, the Social Capital and Investment Support, a programme known as the Social Inclusion Transfers in the form of grant will be made to about 12,000 in about 4,000 households, especially single mothers with five or more children and those who live below the poverty line to support them.

FIDA's contribution has been in the form of media advocacy, through the issue of press releases and participation in radio and television discussions to drum home to government and society the need not to delay anymore issues of gender and equitable development of our society and to pay more attention on issues concerning the poor, since it's the only way of turning the tide of underdevelopment in our society

## 2. Public image

**How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? What is your interpretation? Is there a reference to this evidence of change?**

The legitimacy and credibility of FIDA as a mouth piece for women in Ghana and its ability to deliver results based advocacy has become stronger. This is because through G-rap's support the organisation has grown stronger since changes in internal mechanisms and systems have positioned it to attract more funds to enable it sustain its programmes. FIDA-Ghana has been able to attract a two year funding to increase women's access to justice in the northern part of the region which is underserved. The publicity that this program has attracted has deepened the visibility of FIDA and has enabled the organisation to keep its track record of advocating for women's rights. This visibility has made FIDA attractive to other organisations and has received invitations to serve on boards of various public institutions to contribute towards the strategic policy directions of those organisations. There have also been invitations from other RAO's to collaborate and work together on advocacy initiatives to strengthen women's role in our society. On a daily basis invitations are received from government departments/institutions to participate in stakeholder meetings or consultations strategies to improve and enhance women's status and visibility.

## 3. Collaboration, coalitions and networking

**Using the format below, list the most important organisations you collaborated with over the period, under each of the sectors listed below. For each organisation, give an indication of the issues or themes you worked on, its status and the outcomes.**

	Organisation or coalition	Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
<b>Government</b> - executive - judiciary - legislature			
<b>Coalition, network</b>	NETRIGHT	Organised a March and rally to highlight achievements of women to commemorate Ghana's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations-ended	Created public awareness on Women's accomplishments and contributions during the fight for independence.
<b>RAO, NGO, I-NGO</b>	ARK FOUNDATION	1. To plan a coordinated approach in the implementation of the domestic violence act-ended.	1. A policy advocacy brief was presented to relevant ministries, departments and agencies for consideration and action.
	MOWAC	2. Policy framework for the implementation of the domestic violence act.-ongoing. This was in the form of discussions with civil society.-ongoing	2. A draft work plan by MOWAC is ongoing.
	MOWAC	3. To design strategies for enhancing women's	3. A strategic framework

		participation in decision making-ended	developed, for a more co-ordinated impact to enhance women's participation in decision making.
<b>Donor institution</b>	CORDAID	To improve women's access to justice in Tamale and Bolgatanga through collaboration with NGO's. This is a two year project to enhance women's capacity to report cases of rights violations and to promote an environment where women's rights are respected.	<p>The profile and image of FIDA amongst it's local donor partners has been enhanced with the realization that the project is filling an important gap in the Legal system. In an environment where donor fatigue affects the sustainability of projects , this good will should make it easy to attract financial support for long term sustainability of the project</p> <p>The dissemination of copies of resource directory on NGOs in the North has become a major reference point for donor partners.</p> <p>Partnership approach has enhanced greater synergy co-ordination, and to a large extent resulted in the achievement of project objectives.</p> <p>Formation of six sister watch groups in both regions. These groups have been able to identify rights violations and offer a support to victims. .</p>
	GERMAN DAY OF PRAYER	To provide legal literacy education to women in selected districts in the Ashanti region. It sought to bring to the doorsteps of community members an awareness of their rights which will ultimately result in their development.	<p>One significant outcome was the coaching given to one of the participants, a teacher by profession, to represent herself at the family tribunal to successfully demand for maintenance from her estranged husband for her children.</p> <p>Enhance capacity of 1,200 women to recognise and report rights violations</p>
<b>CBO/DA (please indicate district)</b>			
<b>Other</b>			

#### 4. Outputs on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Workplan submitted to G-RAP.

Make sure that you:

- Indicate estimated levels of completion per output
- Indicate target groups that used / received the output delivered
- Attach copy of concept paper per output
- Attach copy of product output

<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>Estimated levels of completion</b>	<b>Target groups that received or used the output delivered</b>
<b>For more details: see addendum</b>		
1.OUTPUT : Creating the awareness on Rights of Women and Children Central and Volta Regions	Completed	Women men and community members
2.OUTPUT: Capacity of national & local institutions strengthened to respond to the needs of women & disadvantaged groups	Completed	Women and community members
3.OUTPUT: 500 women provided with legal Aid Services	Completed	Women
4.OUTPUT:500 women and men educated on the rights of Women in Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions		Women, men and community members
5.OUTPUT: Sensitization workshop on HIV/AIDS and the Law in Brong Ahafo, Volta and Ashanti Regions	Completed	Teachers, community based organizations, parents, & children
6.OUTPUT: Teachers, parents and school children in 50 basic schools in Accra sensitised on the rights of children	Ongoing	Teachers, parents & children
7.OUTPUT: Women's access to justice improved in Northern Ghana	Ongoing	Community Members, women and children
8.OUTPUT: Rural women and children given legal aid	Completed	Women, children, community & traditional leaders
9.OUTPUT: Promoting Legal Aid for the Advancement of Women	Ongoing	Women
10.OUTPUT: Research findings on the impact of the intestate succession law on women's inheritance conducted	Completed	The people of Ghana but especially women

#### 5. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change

What are major changes in the organisation's circumstances that are likely to have impacted your outputs over the period?

- **Organisational structure / board / management team**
- **Strategy / planning / decision making / knowledge management**
- **Human resource issues**
- **Marketing / communication / public relations**

##### **Organisational structure**

An organisational chart/department profile and job descriptions have been developed for FIDA that fits FIDA's strategic thinking for the next 3-5 years. A board operating manual to guide board members has been developed.

**Strategy/ planning/decision making/knowledge management**

FIDA now has a revised strategic plan and this serves as a framework to achieve the organisation's mission and vision for the next three to five years, monthly management meetings are held to review activities and programmes whilst adjustments are made where necessary to ensure that we are achieving results based objectives.

**Human resources issues**

.A human resource policy manual has been developed for FIDA as well as a career development plan. The consultants as a way forward has provided FIDA with a report for support to setting up of human resource and administrative systems. The recommendations made in the report will form the basis for further review in the area of staff recruitment, development and retention of staff as well as HR planning.

**Marketing/communication/public relations**

Press coverage of FIDA activities have improved, by both print and electronic media and the internet. Information, Education and Communication materials have also enhanced our visibility as an organisation and re enforced the message of promoting and protecting the rights of women against gender based violence. Several radio outreach programmes have been conducted.

**6. Grant and report related issues**

**6.1 What issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?**

**6.2 What parts of the report are confidential or cannot be shared without prior consent?**