

Core Grant Narrative Progress Report

Report period August 2008 to January 2009

Contract Ref. No. 03/core/44/Netright

Organisation Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT)

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Signature & date

Signature & date

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Please do not write in green coloured sections; refer to notes at last page for explanations

1. Institutional/Organisation Development: 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

Indicators	Baseline	Prior Period	Current Period	Cumulative
1. HR Management				
i) Leadership	9	9	9	9
ii) Core staff	2	1	2	2
iii) Support staff	2	1	1	1
2. Governance				
i) Annual General Meeting	1	1	1	1
ii) Steering Committee	2	2	2	2
iii) Documented AGM (meetings)	1	1	1	1
Steering Committee meetings	2	2	2	2
iv) Staff meetings	12	12	12	12
3. Systems and procedures				
Financial management systems	In accordance with host organisation systems and policies in place	As Before	As Before	
i) Budgeting				
ii) Accounting				
iii) Internal control				
iv) Financial reporting				
v) External audit				
Operational policies	In accordance with host organisation systems and policies in place			
vi) HR policy				
vii) Gender policy				
viii) Conflict of interest policy				
ix) Programme development policy				
x) Procurement policy				
4. Funding base development				
List long-term programmes(3yrs +)	No long terms (3yrs+)			

<p>List short-term programme(1 year) Total dollar volume of programmes Approved dollar volumes Percentage overhead recovery</p>	<p>Funds in place yet.</p> <p>Short term sources based of project approvals have come from AWDF, Global Fund, Mama Cash and Others</p>			
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2. Collaboration, coalitions and networking

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

	Organisation /Coalition	Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
Government - executive - judiciary - legislature			
Coalition, network	Women's Manifesto Coalition	Governance and Decision Making (ongoing process)	Supporting women's participation in governance and decision making processes
	Domestic Violence Coalition	Gender Violence (ongoing)	Awareness creation and advocacy to ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act
	Civil Society Coalition on Land	Gender Equality and Land Reforms (ongoing)	Advocacy on gender and land reforms
	Ghana Social Watch Coalition	Poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice (ongoing)	Reports and advocacy on poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice
	Spousal Property Rights Bill Coalition	Inheritance and Property Rights (ongoing)	Awareness creation on the Spousal Property Rights Bill
	International and Regional Women's Networks/Coalitions	Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development (FfD) Processes (ongoing)	Women's Statement on Aid Effectiveness and FfD Engendering Aid Effectiveness and FfD processes and ensuring that women's rights and gender equality issues remain on the Aid and Development agenda
Peers CBOs	ABANTU	Women's participation in governance and decision making process (ongoing)	Engendering governance and decision making processes
	TWN Africa	Gender and Trade ongoing)	Engendering trade and

	Women's Rights Organisations/Groups and CSOs including Labour and Media NETRIGHT CBO members	Gender equality and economic justice (ongoing) Gender equality and economic justice (ongoing)	Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) processes Engendering national processes, policies and programmes Gender and economic justice advocacy at the grassroots level
Donor agencies			
DA (please indicate district)			
Private Sector			

3. National pro-poor policies

Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	What are the policy gaps identified from the research conducted	What is your organisations position on these issues supported by your research	What policy alternatives do you propose and how do you hope to achieve this policy change
Poverty Reduction	Review of GPRS II and its gender implications	GPRS based on neo-liberal framework Process too technical Limited consultations Gender insensitivity	Gender analysis and processes in GPRS II is flawed given that the gender analysis was limited	Shift from neo-liberal policy framework to people centred and gender sensitive policies that address the needs of the poor and vulnerable
Land Tenure Reforms	Research on women's land rights	No concrete measures to address gender inequalities although there is a gender strategy being developed. Therefore while it has established 38 customary land secretariats, the programme did not address the participation of women in the governance of customary land secretariats. LAP deals with technical issues of institutional	Land Policy has no programmes in place to reform customary laws and deal with among others pastoralists, migrant farmers and women but has elaborate programmes to strengthen chieftaincy rights and affirm customary laws/ rules which put some social groups such women and tenant farmers at a disadvantage	The need for a fundamental transformation in customary tenure systems and land administration practices which goes beyond the Land Administration Policy (LAP)

		strengthening and law reform, but has failed to address adequately questions of equity in land distribution and land tenure systems such as tenancy agreements.		
Aid and Development	Research on the reality of aid for women and development	<p>Lack of political will by the government to honour its own commitments to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality</p> <p>No consideration for the differential gender impacts</p> <p>General policy reform context gap between poverty reduction and real practises.</p>	<p>New aid modalities have failed to respond to commitments to gender equality.</p> <p>The donor community continues to be the driving force behind policy and funding processes in Ghana. Such external interferences have constantly altered development processes to reflect global trends and donor interests rather than evolve out of the concrete experiences and lessons learnt from the ground.</p> <p>Donor aid to Ghana has increased over the past three years or more, however funds for women's rights work is on the decline.</p>	Reforming the aid system cannot be a neutral technical process, there must be a broader participation and consultation of all stakeholders (the citizens of the country have a key role to play in our development)

4. Success Story

Briefly describe your organisation's landmark achievement this period

As a NETWORK, we continue to give support and information to members and organisations/individuals that request for such support/information. The Secretariat is in constant touch with its members, partners and other civil society organisations through the internet, telephone, ordinary mail and regular interaction. Through these processes, the Secretariat has been able to reach out to other NGOs in the regions and interact with some organisations outside Ghana.

Some of our landmark achievements during the period were:

Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development Processes

NETRIGHT is actively involved in the Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development (FfD) processes. NETRIGHT in collaboration with regional and international women's rights organisations are working together to keep gender perspectives on the aid effectiveness and FfD agenda. Both members and staff have participated in regional and international consultations by women's groups to engender the process.

NETRIGHT facilitated the participation of women's groups in the Aid Effectiveness CSOs Parallel forum and the High Level Forum (HLF3) held in Accra from 31st August to 4th September, 2008. Rose Mensah-Kutin and Hamida Harrison represented NETRIGHT at the HLF3. Prior to the CSOs forum, NETRIGHT hosted a one-day international forum for women's groups on the 30th August, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Airport. Two hundred and fifty (250) participants attended the Accra International Women's Forum. Again, NETRIGHT in conjunction with other international and regional Networks organised two side events during the CSOs parallel forum.

The Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness documented case studies on best practices by CSOs on Aid Effectiveness. NETRIGHT was among the organisations selected to share its work on the Ghana (Growth) Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) process. NETRIGHT's work on GPRS and Governance was submitted to be used as a case study for best practices.

In addition, NETRIGHT organised consultations on 'gender and aid effectiveness' across the country to create awareness, deepen knowledge and raise interest among women's groups, media and the public to critically assess the aid effectiveness process. This ensured that gender became an integral part of discussions around making aid effective.

Again, NETRIGHT sent a four-member delegation to Doha to participate in Global Civil Society Forum prior to the Doha FfD Review Conference. The delegation did not only participate in the various meetings organised but also shared NETRIGHT's work around the Aid Effectiveness process with other CSOs at the forum.

NETRIGHT's participation in these processes enabled the NETWORK to broaden its information sharing on economic justice issues, shared our experience and work globally and strengthened our position in CSOs/State engagement processes in Ghana.

AWID 2008

NETRIGHT participated in the AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development held in Cape Town, South Africa from November 14-17, 2008. The AWID forum is the largest international summit on gender equality outside of the United Nations System and one of the most important global meetings on women's rights. The Forum offers delegates an unparalleled opportunity to develop strategies, share ideas, build skills and provide support - all to advance the goals of gender equality and social justice. AWID 2008 was on ***the Power of Movements***. NETRIGHT participated in various panel discussions to share its work with other participants of the forum.

Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee (SC) provides the policy direction of the NETWORK as well as implements decisions made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In addition, SC members support the Convenors and the secretariat to manage the NETWORK. This is done through regular and emergency meetings; retreats and online discussions on several issues that need immediate attention.

During the period under review the Steering Committee had two (2) meetings in October and December 2008. Apart from these meetings, there have been several online discussions to

enable the SC reach agreements on issues that need immediate attention. The Convenor also sends regular updates to SC members to enable them to be abreast with NETRIGHT's activities.

Membership Meetings

The membership meetings are used as a platform to update members on activities of NETRIGHT as well as discuss critical issues of concern to women and NETRIGHT's intervention in such issues; and the work of NETRIGHT members. Two (2) meetings were held in August and October 2008. The meetings provided information about issues of national importance and offered internal education about NETRIGHT's work programme as a basis for enhancing NETRIGHT's advocacy work. This has helped in the growth of the NETWORK.

End of Year 3-Day Programme (AGM, Aid Effectiveness Review Meeting and the End of the Year Review of the Status of Women in Ghana)

NETRIGHT has the mandate of organising an Annual General Meeting (AGM) as well as the End of Year Review Event at the close of its calendar year (January 1 – December 31). The AGM enables the membership to examine what it set out to do during the year, the extent of achievements in relation to the mandate of NETRIGHT, challenges and the key issues that should be prioritized for action in the coming year. The End of Year Event which is held separately is a public event which provides space for NETRIGHT to share its work and achievements/challenges during the year with a wider audience. Highlights of the event include a presentation on **"Assessment of Issues of Concern to Women"** with reference to the specific year and awards to outstanding individuals and organisations that have contributed to the promotion of women's rights during the year.

This year has been an exciting and challenging year for NETRIGHT. Whereas our work is mainly located within the national space even though we engage with international processes to deepen our understanding of global issues and strengthen our solidarity across boundaries, NETRIGHT found itself having to directly work on international issues during the year as well as becoming the focal point for women's groups during international meetings organised in Ghana. It is against this background that the organisation of NETRIGHT's end of year activities was modified to include a review of our engagement with the Aid Effectiveness processes.

As compared to the 2007 AGM and End of Year Event, the 2008 programme was very successful in terms of participation and content. The 2008 End of Year Event for instance was attended by over 200 participants from the labour movement; women's groups/organisations; religious bodies, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); NGOs; Media and the public in general. To ensure that more NETRIGHT members from outside Accra participated in the end of year programme, NETRIGHT provided the relevant logistics (accommodation, meals and transport allowance) to support three (3) members each from the regions with the exception of Greater Accra to participate in all the activities lined up for the programme. Three (3) individuals were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the promotion of women's rights in Ghana. The occasion was also used to launch the 2008 Social Watch Report. NETRIGHT is the Convenor of Social Watch Ghana.

Recruitment

NETRIGHT has employed an additional Programme Officer whose appointment commences on February 2, 2009.

5. Stakeholder Perception

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?

Measuring the effectiveness of policy advocacy is difficult and it is even more difficult to indicate whether a change in policy or behaviour is due to advocacy or other factors. In spite of this difficulty however, we believe major social changes have been achieved due to the work of RAOs.

We believe the Government of Ghana (GoG) recognises RAOs as credible and legitimate organisations who have made immense contributions to the development of the country. Even though policy makers do not often attribute policy changes to advocacy by RAOs, RAOs can take credit for certain positive changes. A most recent example is the role played by RAOs in helping to avert political chaos during the recently held 2008 Elections. Several RAOs including NETRIGHT were involved in different activities leading up to the elections which stressed the importance of a peaceful, issues based election, and provided space for different candidates to present their political agendas.

In the case of the particular Oil and Gas project, it is too early to assess changes in the eyes of the GOG and the general public. Project activities have to be fully implemented before such an assessment can be made. At this stage, we can say that NETRIGHT is interested in changing perceptions about oil and gas policy and also about the role of RAOs in policy advocacy and therefore will direct its activities to this end.

6. What is your perception on the general policy making environment in Ghana

The policy making environment has both opportunities and challenges for RAO engagement with policy and for successful policy advocacy. The opportunities include the general acceptance by government and its apparatus of the importance of engaging RAOs in policy discussions. Donors also recognise this and have supported RAOs with resources to enable them to engage. The challenges are that there are no clear ground rules for policy engagement and governments can take or leave what agreements are arrived at during consultations. RAOs are often not given adequate time to read policy documents and make meaningful inputs because of tight programme time-tables. Often, fundamental questions of policy are not up for discussion because of prior agreements between governments and donors. This does not reinforce the need for governments to account first and foremost to the people of Ghana. As well, the sheer workload of policy formulation and implementation and the range of government agencies involved makes policy advocacy complicated and time consuming and many civil society organisations do not have the financial and human resources to properly monitor key government policies.

In the case of gender equity advocacy, the weak resource base of MOWAC disables it from leadership in policy advocacy and providing vital information and other resources to RAOs. Last but not least, the gender biases of policy makers and the lack of a strong contingents of gender equity advocates within government makes policy advocacy in this area particularly difficult. Therefore while governments pay lip service to the goal of gender equity, many government officials are not prepared to work consistently to promote gender equity.

7. Grant and report related issues

7.1 What issues do you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?

None for now.

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

Detailed Financial Data