

## Core Grant Narrative Progress Report

**Report period** February 2009 to July 2009

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

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

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**Report Date** July 31, 2009

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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
<b>1. HR Management</b>				
i) <i>Leadership</i>	9	9	9	9
ii) <i>Core staff</i>	2	2	2	2
iii) <i>Project Coordinator</i>	1	1	1	1
iv) <i>Support staff<sup>1</sup></i>	2	1	2	2
v) <i>Volunteers<sup>2</sup></i>	9	9	9	9
	<b>Baseline period: February 2009 to July 2009</b>			
<b>2. Governance</b>				
i) <i>Steering Committee</i>	3	2	3	3
ii) <i>Focal Points Meeting</i>	1	-	1	1
iii) <i>Membership Meeting</i>	2	2	2	2
iv) <i>Documented SC meetings</i>	3	3	3	3
<i>Focal Points meetings</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Membership Meetings</i>	2	2	2	2
v) <i>Staff meetings</i>	12	12	12	12

<sup>1</sup> Support staff are interns/service persons from our Ghanaian Universities. They are usually young women interested in gender equality issues.

<sup>2</sup> Volunteers are members of NETRIGHT who offer free services to NETRIGHT as part of their contribution to the Network

<p><b>3. Systems and procedures</b>  <i>Financial management systems</i>  i) <i>Budgeting</i>  ii) <i>Accounting</i>  iii) <i>Internal control</i>  iv) <i>Financial reporting</i>  v) <i>External audit</i></p> <p><i>Operational policies</i>  vi) <i>HR policy</i>  vii) <i>Gender policy</i>  viii) <i>Conflict of interest policy</i>  ix) <i>Programme development policy</i>  x) <i>Procurement policy</i></p>	<p>NETRIGHT has adopted the host organisation systems and policies to suit its own context.</p> <p>In accordance with host organisation systems and policies in place</p>	<p>As Before</p>	<p>As Before</p> <p><b>In addition, NETRIGHT has opened a new account for GRAP funds and set up internal controls for managing the account (find attached full details of strategies put in place)</b></p> <p><b>NETRIGHT's organisational development plan attached</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Funding base development</b>  <i>List long-term programmes(3yrs +)</i>  <i>List short-term programme(1 year)</i>  <i>Total dollar volume of programmes</i>  <i>Approved dollar volumes</i>  <i>Percentage overhead recovery</i></p>	<p>No long terms (3yrs+)  Funds in place yet.</p> <p>Short term sources based of project approvals have come from AWDF, Global Fund, Mama Cash and Others</p>		<p>Developed a resource mobilisation strategy paper to guide our fundraising</p>	

## 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.

	<b>Organisation /Coalition</b>	<b>Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Government</b> - executive - judiciary - legislature			
<b>Coalition, network</b>	Women's Manifesto	Governance and Decision	Supporting women's

	Coalition	Making (ongoing process)	participation in governance and decision making processes. <b>NETRIGHT participated in meetings and workshops of the coalition during the period.</b>
	Domestic Violence Coalition	Gender Violence (ongoing)	Awareness creation and advocacy to ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act <b>NETRIGHT participated in meetings to develop a strategy policy for the coalition during the period.</b>
	Civil Society Coalition on Land	Gender Equality and Land Reforms (ongoing)	Advocacy on gender and land reforms <b>NETRIGHT participated in meetings and programmes of the coalition during the period.</b>
	Social Watch Ghana	Poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice (ongoing)	Reports and advocacy on poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice. <b>NETRIGHT is the host of Social Watch Ghana. During the period, NETRIGHT coordinated the Social Watch Ghana 2009 Report which focused on the financial crisis. In addition, we organised two (2) coalition meetings, participated in a meeting in Cotonou and preparing to host the Social Watch 2009 General Assembly in Ghana in October, 2009.</b>
	Spousal Property Rights Bill Coalition	Inheritance and Property Rights (ongoing)	Awareness creation on the Spousal Property Rights Bill. <b>NETRIGHT is a member of the Steering Committee. NETRIGHT</b>

	<p>NETRIGHT, Women's Manifesto and Domestic Violence Coalitions Platform</p> <p>International and Regional Women's Networks/Coalitions</p>	<p>Critical issues of concern to women</p> <p>Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development (FfD) Processes (ongoing)</p>	<p><b>is represented on the Committee by LAWA Ghana.</b></p> <p>Maximising efforts to strategise on how to move forward the Women's Movement's agenda to promote women's rights and gender equality in Ghana. <b>NETRIGHT lead processes during the period to strategise on how to engage the new government.</b></p> <p>Women's Statement on the World Financial Crisis issued in New York during the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development, June 24-26, 2009. <b>NETRIGHT is a member of the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD).</b></p>
<b>Peers CBOs</b>	<p>ABANTU</p> <p>TWN Africa</p> <p>Women's Rights Organisations/Groups and CSOs including Labour and Media</p> <p>NETRIGHT CBO members</p>	<p>Women's participation in governance and decision making process (ongoing)</p> <p>Gender and Trade (ongoing)</p> <p>Gender equality and economic justice (ongoing)</p> <p>Gender equality and economic justice (ongoing)</p>	<p>Engendering governance and decision making processes</p> <p>Engendering trade and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) processes</p> <p>Engendering national processes, policies and programmes</p> <p>Gender and economic justice advocacy at the grassroots level</p>
<b>Donor agencies</b>	<p>CIDA</p>	<p>Future support to civil society and how to better coordinate and collaborate in line with the guiding principles of aid</p>	<p>CSOs identified areas for CIDA's support</p>

	GRAP	effectiveness.  GRAP provided space for research and advocacy organisations to interact and network with each other	Information sharing and networking capacities strengthened
<b>DA (please indicate district)</b>			
<b>Private Sector</b>			

### 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
Oil and Gas	Literature and policy reviews and baseline study	Review and baseline study ongoing	NETRIGHT will issue a position paper after the study	This will be addressed in the position paper that be issued after the study
Women's Mental Health	Presentations on women's rights and mental health	current mental health law NRCD 30 of 1972 does not protect women from human rights issues  women's access to social protection	Passage of the Mental Health Bill into law  Increase women's access to social protection programmes  Institution of special social protection programmes for women.	Lobbying advocacy for the passage of the mental health bill and the institution of social protection programmes that addresses the needs of women
Financial, Food and Fuel Crises	Consultations on the impact of the crises on women	Lack of political will by the government to honour its own commitments to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality  No consideration for the differential	New aid modalities have failed to respond to commitments to gender equality.  The government should abandon neo liberal policies and develop policies that address	Policies are urgently needed to strengthen agriculture, a sector that had been contributing almost 40% of the GDP  Reforming the financial system cannot be a

		gender impacts of the crises  General policy reform context gap between poverty reduction and real practises.	imbalances and social and gender inequalities  In spite of poverty reduction programmes , majority of female headed households are below the poverty line	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)
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**4. Success Story**

Briefly describe your organisation’s landmark achievement this period

The Network for Women’s Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) continues to hold its membership meetings, public fora and outreach programmes to discuss how to move the network forward and debate topical issues of concern to women. In addition, NETRIGHT provides 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. NETRIGHT focuses on three (3) core areas namely movement building, economic justice and land rights.

Some of our landmark achievements during the period were:

**Movement Building**

To strengthen its own capacity as a network and raise the knowledge base of staff, NETRIGHT has always been directed by the belief that information sharing and regular meetings among its members, and partnerships, collaboration and networking with other organisations are the most effective way to maximise resources and achieve results.

NETRIGHT has also emphasised the importance of participation in and contribution to meetings/conferences within and outside Ghana related to issues that border on the network’s stated objectives, because through this, NETRIGHT can improve its own capacity, learn best practices from others, be an influential member within the Women’s Movement and strengthen advocacy alliances in order to keep gender equality and women’s issues on the national agenda.

During the period under review, members and staff of NETRIGHT participated in a number of programmes and conferences which enhanced their capacities as well as strengthened the network’s capacity to work efficiently. In addition, it has enhanced our collaboration and networking with both local and international partners. NETRIGHT has

not only improved its national reputation but also gained international recognition as a credible women's rights organisation.

The network continues to expand. As part of efforts to strengthen the network and attract new members, funds from G-RAP have enabled NETRIGHT to work in the regions through its focal persons and have also enabled us to host activities of the three (3) Coalitions as well as support other initiatives.

### **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 three (3) meetings in February, April and June 2009. 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 April and June 2009. 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.

### **Focal Point Meeting**

NETRIGHT has strategically positioned itself to ensure that information sharing and public education are some of the ways it promotes its concerns to benefit women and their groups across all the ten regions of the country. Through its "Outreach Programmes", NETRIGHT has worked with focal persons/organisations to inform communities about its work and to generate discussion around economic and development policies in Ghana and the Women's Manifesto.

Focal point meetings are organised to give NETRIGHT and its constituencies a view of the relevance of their relationship, challenges and what is needed to be done differently to ensure a cordial working relationship between NETRIGHT and its focal points. In addition, the meeting also informs Steering Committee (SC) decisions about the relationships with focal points/persons.

The April meeting was used to discuss NETRIGHT's Gender, Oil and Gas project and how to develop working relationships and establish modalities for collaboration and consultation with other organisations and networks in the regions working on or interested in gender, oil and gas issues. The meeting also raised critical issues of concern to women with regard to the 'oil find'.

### **Mobilisation and Advocacy**

Our mobilisation and advocacy work facilitates our advocacy and strengthens our capacity on the issues we work on. We successfully carried out the following:

#### **International Women's Day**

This year's theme was ***"Women and men united to end violence against women and girls"***. NETRIGHT issued a press statement to mark this year's celebration. NETRIGHT saluted women and men and recognised the achievements made by women's rights advocates in demanding accountability from the government of Ghana on international and regional standards, instruments and agreements that guarantee the human rights of women. The statement also called on women and men to work together to dismantle obstacles and overcome challenges posed by social attitudes and policies that continue to condone and perpetuate violence against women and girls. Furthermore, it congratulated all Ghanaian women for their continued struggle for equality, peace and development in the wake of unfavourable economic, social and political conditions. The statement urged the women of Ghana to remain steadfast and resolute in the fight against violence against women and girls to sustain efforts in contributing to social change. It called on the government to implement the National Plan of Action on the Domestic Violence Act as well as all members of the society, especially men who hold power and positions to show commitment to end violence against women and girls. The statement was published by various newspapers and aired on TV and radio stations (see The Ghanaian Times, March 9, 2009, pp11, Public Agenda, March 9, 2009, pp.8, Daily Graphic, March 7, 2009, pp11). The wide coverage of the statement in the media can be linked to the active and strong relationship between NETRIGHT and the media.

#### **Public Forum on 'Women's Rights and Mental Health'**

As part of its activities, NETRIGHT holds public fora for its members, civil society groups, institutions and the general public to deliberate on issues and their implications from a gender perspective. NETRIGHT organised a public forum on the theme ***'Women's Rights and Mental Health'*** in **June 2009**. The forum afforded NETRIGHT members, policy makers and the general public an opportunity to discuss and be informed about mental health and its implications from a gender perspective. A total number of 160 participants from women's groups, civil society organisations, organised labour, institutions, religious bodies, policy makers and the media attended the programme. The forum was widely covered by both the electronic and print media.

#### **Northern Sector Outreach Programme**

Three (3) outreach programmes were successfully organised at the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions as part of regional consultations on the Gender, Oil and Gas

project to share information and create awareness on the project. The consultations also generated discussions and promoted awareness on the gender dimensions of oil exploration in Ghana. Each regional consultation was attended by over 100 participants drawn from a cross section of civil society organisations, social groups and institutions.

### **International and Local Initiatives**

Our participation in international and national initiatives help us to learn from other processes, share our own work and see how best we can utilise outcomes of such initiatives to promote women's rights. For the period, we participated in the following processes:

#### **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York from March 2 -13, 2009. This year's session was on the theme ***'The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS'***. The CSW session was attended by delegates and observers made up of government delegation from UN member states, UN agencies, multilateral institutions and civil society organisations. About 20 delegates made up of government officials and civil society organisations from Ghana participated in the Session. CSOs from Ghana that attended CSW53 include NETRIGHT, ABANTU, TWN Africa, WILDAF Ghana, WISE, FIDA Ghana and The Ark Foundation.

#### **NETRIGHT/ABANTU CSW Side Event**

NETRIGHT in collaboration with ABANTU organised a side event on ***'Aid Effectiveness, HIV/AIDS and Women's Unpaid Labour'*** on March 4, 2009, at Church Centre, New York. The programme provided an excellent opportunity for participants to discuss Development Aid in the context of HIV/AIDS and Women's unpaid labour. Women contribute a lot to our national economies and it is only fair that they are recognised and rewarded for their contributions. Thirty-five (35) participants attended the event.

#### **UN Conference on Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development**

NETRIGHT participated in the above conference held in June 24-26, 2009 at the UN Headquarters, New York. The UN High Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development created an opportunity for NETRIGHT and other women's rights organisations to be part of the ongoing discussions on the financial and economic crisis. Furthermore, the conference provided the space for women's groups to engage governments and all stakeholders on the issue as well as critically examine the impact of the crisis on development and make recommendations. NETRIGHT utilised the space to share its own experience on the impact of the crisis on Ghanaian women and Ghana as a whole. Prior to the conference, NETRIGHT participated in a meeting of the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) which issued a statement raising the gender implications of the crisis and recommending the reformation of the financial system, governments abandoning neo liberal systems and pursuing policies that promote social and gender justice. NETRIGHT is a member of the WWG on FfD.

### **Ghana Civil Society Aid Effectiveness Forum**

NETRIGHT participated in the Civil Society Aid Effectiveness forum during the period. Specifically, NETRIGHT submitted a report on its engagement in the Aid Effectiveness process to the Ghana CSOs Aid Effectiveness Secretariat to be incorporated in their report. Two meetings were held during the period. The meetings discussed the restructuring of the Aid Effectiveness Forum and its plan of action. The Convenor of NETRIGHT chaired those meetings.

### **NETRIGHT, DV and Women's Manifesto Coalitions Joint Initiative**

NETRIGHT led an initiative by the three (3) Coalitions namely The Coalition on Women's Manifesto for Ghana (WMC), Coalition on Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana (DV Coalition) and NETRIGHT to strategise on how to engage the new National Democratic Congress (NDC) government in order to push forward the women's movement agenda to promote women's rights in the country. Specially, two (2) strategic meetings were organised, a delegation was sent to congratulate and present a statement with demands from the coalitions to the Minister of Women and Children (MOWAC), press statement issued to congratulate women appointed as District Chief Executives (DCEs) and to express the disappointment of the women's movement about the government's inability to appoint 40% of women as promised in the NDC manifesto.

### **Gender, Oil and Gas Project**

The discovery of oil in significant quantities at Cape Three Points in the Western Region of Ghana and the prospects of Ghana becoming an oil and gas producing country has brought in its wake mixed feelings of both hope and fear, hope because it can lead to rapid economic growth and fear because large inflows could lead to conflict arising out of greed, corruption and struggle over ownership. NETRIGHT is interested in contributing to discussions and decisions on oil and gas issues from a perspective which promotes women's rights and gender justice. In view of this NETRIGHT, with funding support from G-RAP has engaged the services of three Consultants to undertake (1) baseline study, (2) policy review and (3) literature review as part of activities under its Gender, Oil and Gas Project. NETRIGHT has signed separate contracts with the Consultants to begin the study and the two reviews.

An Oversight Committee for the project has been set up with oversight responsibilities of ensuring the successful implementation of the project.

### ***Social Watch Ghana***

NETRIGHT is the Convenor of Social Watch Ghana and continues to lead the writing of the Social Watch Ghana Report. This year's report focused on the global financial crisis and its implications. In addition, NETRIGHT will host the Social Watch General Assembly in October, 2009. Social Watch is an international NGO network monitoring poverty eradication and gender equality. During the period under review, NETRIGHT has hosted two (2) coalition meetings and participated in a Social Watch meeting held in Cotonou, Benin in July, 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.

Although, there has been a recent change of government, 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. Women's rights RAOs met the new Minister of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) and presented a set of demands to the Minister. These demands include issues on economic justice, gender violence, and politics and decision making. Oil and gas issues were also discussed.

It is hoped that NETRIGHT's dissemination and advocacy programme on critical national issues will help strengthen the legitimacy of RAOs.

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

In spite of the change of government, the policy making environment has not changed. The new government continued to operate within the neo-liberal economic framework of SAPs.

It must however be noted that the policy making environment has both opportunities and challenges for RAOs' 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.

For instance, many sectors where women predominate have not been prioritised for policy responses although women are among the groups who suffer most from poverty. NETRIGHT believes that an alternative approach to economic policy making is needed to promote sustainable and equitable development that benefits women. The global financial and food crises make this an urgent task. This is because women are more likely to carry a disproportionate share of the burden of the crisis and be forced to accept lower quality jobs and to take responsibility for the provision of social services. It is therefore important that the government initiates an inclusive process of reviewing past economic policy failures as a basis for promoting a more just, sustainable and accountable one which yields benefits for women and the poor.

## **7. Grant and report related issues**

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

No issue in particular.

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

Detailed Financial Data