

Narrative Progress Report

Report Period July - Dec, 2009

Contract Ref. No. 03/core/12/GSHRDC
Contact Tel. No. 233 21 760 688

Organisation GSHRDC
Report Date

Report Prepared by Margaret Brew-Ward

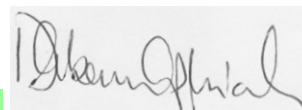
Report Approved by Dorcas Coker-Appiah

Signature:



Date: 31st January 2010

Signature:.



Date: 18th February, 2010

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

1. 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

Indicators	Baseline	Prior Period	Current Period	Cumulative
	June, 2008	Jan – Jun, 2009	July – Dec, 2009	July – Dec, 2009
1. HR Management <i>I. Leadership</i> <i>II. Core staff</i> <i>III. Support staff</i>	Leadership positions: 1 Executive Director 1 Programme Manager Core staff: 1 Programme Manager 2 Project officers 1 Accountant Support staff: 1 Programme support/documentation officer, 1 Driver 1 Office support/cleaner	Leadership positions: 1 Executive Director 1 Programme Manager Core staff: 1 Programme Manager 1 Project Officer 1 Accountant Support staff: 1 Programme support/documentation officer, 1 Driver 1 Office support/cleaner	Leadership positions: 1 Executive Director 1 Programme Manager Core staff: 1 Programme Manager 2 Project Officers 1 Accountant Support staff: 1 Programme support/documentation officer, 1 Driver 1 Office support/cleaner	Leadership positions: 1 Executive Director 1 Programme Manager Core staff: 1 Programme Manager 2 Project Officers 1 Accountant Support staff: 1 Programme support/documentation officer, 1 Driver 1 Office support/cleaner
2. Governance <i>I. Board</i> <i>II. Committees</i> <i>III. Documented board meetings and Management meetings</i> <i>IV. Staff meetings</i>	<i>i.</i> A board of Five members <i>ii.</i> No committee	<i>i.</i> A board of Five members <i>ii.</i> No committee	<i>i.</i> A board of Five members. Board to be expanded to 7 to ensure that there are enough members available for regular board meetings. <i>ii.</i> No committee	<i>i.</i> . A board of Five members. Board to be expanded to 7 to ensure that there are enough members available for regular board meetings. <i>ii.</i> No committee

	<p><i>iii.</i> 2 board meetings in a year</p> <p><i>iv.</i> Monthly staff meetings.</p>	<p><i>iii.</i> one board meeting</p> <p><i>iv.</i> 7 staff meetings were held. Annual Staff Retreat</p>	<p><i>iii.</i> two board meetings</p> <p><i>iv.</i> 14 staff/programme meetings. Annual Staff Retreat</p>	<p><i>iii.</i> two board meetings</p> <p><i>iv.</i> 21 staff & programme meetings and 2 Staff Retreats</p>
<p>3. Systems and Procedures Financial management systems <i>I. Budgeting</i> <i>II. Accounting</i> <i>III. Internal control</i> <i>IV. Financial reporting</i> <i>V. External audit</i></p>	<p><i>i.</i> Individual Project Budgets where used</p> <p><i>ii.</i> Accounting and Financial Manual and Excel Spread Sheets</p> <p><i>iii.</i> Controls as per Accounting and Financial Manual are Adhered to.</p> <p><i>iv.</i> Monthly financial reports prepared by accountant to the executive director.</p> <p><i>v.</i> External audit is done annually</p>	<p><i>i.</i> Organizational budget is being used</p> <p><i>ii.</i> Accounting and Financial Manual and Excel Spread Sheets. MYOB accounting package is being studied for use.</p> <p><i>iii.</i> Controls as per Accounting and Financial Manual are Adhered to.</p> <p><i>iv.</i> Monthly financial reports prepared by accountant to the executive director.</p> <p><i>v.</i> External audit is done annually</p>	<p><i>i.</i> Organizational budget is being used</p> <p><i>ii.</i> Currently using MYOB accounting package.</p> <p><i>iii.</i> Controls as per Accounting and Financial Manual are Adhered to.</p> <p><i>iv.</i> Monthly financial reports prepared by accountant to the executive director.</p> <p><i>v.</i> External audit is done annually</p>	<p><i>i.</i> Organizational budget is being used</p> <p><i>ii.</i> Currently using MYOB accounting package.</p> <p><i>iii.</i> Controls as per Accounting and Financial Manual are Adhered to.</p> <p><i>iv.</i> Monthly financial reports prepared by accountant to the executive director.</p> <p><i>v.</i> External audit is done annually</p>
<p>Operational Policies <i>VI. HR policy</i> <i>VII. Gender Policy</i> <i>VIII. Conflict of interest policy</i> <i>IX. Programme development policy</i> <i>X. Procurement Policy</i></p>	<p>HR and condition of service policy exist.</p> <p>No written gender policy</p> <p>No conflict of interest policy existed.</p> <p>Strategic Plan</p>	<p>HR and condition of service policy exist. Draft scheme of service exist.</p> <p>Started work on gender Policy Document. Envisage it will be completed by end of the year</p> <p>Planning to develop a conflict of interest policy.</p> <p>Strategic plan is being revised and is in the</p>	<p>HR and condition of service policy exist. A scheme of service has been finalized. Attached, please find the document.</p> <p>Working on gender Policy Document. Envisage it will be completed by end of June, 2010</p> <p>Will start working on conflict of interest policy at beginning of April, 2010</p> <p>Strategic plan has been revised and</p>	<p>HR and condition of service policy exist. A scheme of service has been finalized. Attached, please find the document.</p> <p>Working on gender Policy Document. Envisage it will be completed by end of June, 2010</p> <p>Will start working on conflict of interest policy at beginning of April, 2010</p> <p>Strategic plan has been revised and</p>

		final stages of completion. Find attached current draft document. Final document to be submitted by October 31 st , 2009.	completed.	completed.
	Procurement Policy Exist	Procurement Policy Exist	Procurement Policy Exist	Procurement Policy Exist
4. Funding base development <i>List long-term programmes (3yrs+)</i>	Dutch MGD III Fund (7Partners, GC was the lead Orgn.)	WOMANKIND- DFID UN Trust Fund OSIWA	We Know Politics II (WKP II) to DFID & European Commission (EC) (3 Implementing Partners)	WOMANKIND-DFID WKP II – DFID/EC
<i>List short-term programmes (1year)</i>	Global Fund for Women, Stars Foundation	AWDF WOMANKIND Worldwide (WK) GAC	GRAP	G-RAP AWDF WOMANKIND Worldwide, GAC
<i>Total dollar volume of programmes</i>	MDG III \$7,000,000, Global Fund for Women \$42,000, Stars Foundation \$110,000	WK/DFID \$727,677 GAC - \$214,286 GAC - \$250,000 UN Trust Fund \$1,205,000 WOMANKIND Worldwide \$90,000 OSIWA - \$517,295 AWDF- \$50,000	WKP II – DFID \$819,670 WKP II – EC \$893,651 GRAP \$175,280	WK/DFID \$727,677 GAC - \$214,286 WK \$90,000 AWDF- \$50,000 GRAP, \$175,280 WKP II-DFID \$819,670 WKP II – EC \$893,651
<i>Approved dollar volumes</i>	None	WK/DFID \$727,677 GAC - \$214,286 AWDF, \$50,000	Awaiting Approval	WK/DFID \$727,677 GAC - \$214,286 AWDF, \$50,000 GRAP, \$75,000
<i>Percentage overhead recovery</i>	None	WK/DFID 40% p.a (aver) AWDF- 14% GAC- 4% Global Fund for Women-11%	WKP II – DFID/EC 10% GRAP – 37%	WK/DFID 40% p.a (aver) AWDF- 14% GAC- 4% Global Fund for Women-11% WKP II – DFID/EC 10% GRAP – 37%

2. 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
Government - executive - judiciary - legislature	Min. for Women & Children's Affairs	<u>Implementation of DV Act:</u> Under the auspices of the DV Secretariat, the Gender Centre participated in a number of workshops as a member of the steering committee of the DV Act Implementation Coalition towards developing a) composite training manuals for the police, health and judiciary, b) developing regulations (i.e the Legislative instrument - LI) for the implementation of the DV Act to be forwarded to parliament and c) consultation on architectural design of shelters under the DV Act.	A proposed LI was developed and the document is being worked on by both the Ministries of Justice and MOWAC. A framework for draft composite training manual was developed for the police, health and judiciary. A proposed design of shelters for victims of DV under the Act was amended to suit its purpose and conditions in Ghana
	National Development Planning Commission	Participated in a two-day gender policy review and planning meeting which aimed at agreeing on priorities for new medium term development framework meeting at Sogakope on 7 th -11 th October, 2009	Made input into the gender component of the upcoming medium term development framework for Ghana. Draft priority areas was developed for the gender component of the document.
	Ghana Aids Commission through Pro-link Organization	<u>Addressing the gender related aspect of HIV and AIDS.</u> GAC is providing funding for this project through Pro-link Organization	Funds provided for project which is in its 3 rd quarter.
Coalition, network	b) Coalition on DV Legislation,	<u>Implementation of Domestic Violence Act:</u> As a steering committee member of the DV Act Implementation Coalition the Centre worked to see to the establishment of a partnership between coalition and MOWAC	The coalition signed a memorandum of understanding with MOWAC by which MOWAC would collaborate with the coalition to undertake activities on domestic violence. The organization serves on the steering committee of the DV Act Implementation Coalition and consequently participated in a number of workshops towards developing composite training manuals on violence.

	b) Netright	<p>The executive director is on the steering committee of netright. Staff participated in a number of activities organized by netright. These include the forum on oil and gas, membership meetings and end of year review of status of women in Ghana.</p> <p>The Centre also participated in national level civil society review of Beijing+15 and contributed to the writing of CSO report on progress in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).</p> <p>As a steering committee member of Netright, the Centre also participated in the Social Watch General Assembly held in Accra which was hosted by Netright.in Accra on 26 and 27 October, 2009.</p>	<p>Contributed to the writing of CSO report on progress in implementation of the BPfA.</p> <p>The executive director chaired the official opening session. She also made a presentation on protecting women’s human rights.</p>
Peers /CBOs	a). Amasachina, Pro-Link and Rural Watch – Ghana.	<p><u>Reducing Women’s Susceptibility to HIV infection due to Gender Inequality in Ghana.</u></p> <p>Partnered with the 3 organizations to address the gender norms that make women more vulnerable to HIV infection in 3 communities in. This is a 3-year project which started in June, 2009.</p> <p><u>Increased allocation of resources for HIV and Aids activities at District Level</u></p> <p>As part of the project the Gender Centre is collaborating with Amasachina, Pro-Link and Rural Watch – Ghana in monitoring the use of mandatory 0.5% of District Assembly Common Fund for HIV/AIDs activities in Kadjebi District, Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa East District.</p>	<p>Baseline studies on knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDs, gender norms, violence and condom usage conducted in 3 communities indicated high knowledge among respondents on modes of transmission. The study also revealed that age at first sexual intercourse is quite low as well as knowledge of gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV. The studies were conducted in Papasi in the Kadjebi District, Nsokwoa in the Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa Municipality.</p> <p>Community sensitization is on-going advocating for respect of women’s rights and abolishment of patriarchal attitudes/cultural practices that make women vulnerable to HIV infection. The project is also empowering women to negotiate safe sex. The project is only 6months old.</p> <p>Baseline information showed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delay in release of common fund to assemblies affect the implementation of planned HIV activities • 2 out of the 3 assemblies do not stick to the mandatory use of 0.5% common fund for HIV activities but use less. • Assemblies do not prioritize HIV activities

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies would like to spend on tangible things.
	c). Pro- Link Organization	<p><u>Addressing the gender related aspect of HIV and AIDS.</u> Sensitizing communities on women's rights, gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV as well as ST infections, modes of transmission and prevention in 2 districts (Dangme West and East) in the Greater Accra region.</p>	<p>As a result of the project, the Centre has successfully worked with the District Health Directorate to provide the Post –Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) services to victims of sexual abuse especially rape and defilement. in 2 districts (Dangme West and East) in the Greater Accra region.</p> <p>Also undertook awareness raising programmes among men, women and youth on cultural practices that make women and girls more susceptible to HIV infection and advocating for their abolishment.</p> <p>15,449 in and out of school youth and 17,256 adults reached with information on PEP services, HIV and STI's and rights of women and people living with HIV</p> <p>Increased collaboration between the District Assembly, DOVVSU, District Health Teams and District School Health Programme Coordinators in the 2 districts</p>
	d) WILDAF	<p><u>Implementation of CEDAW in Ghana</u> The Centre made a presentation on the work of CEDAW expert committee and the role of the convention in promoting and protecting Ghanaian women's rights on 13th -14th October, 2009.</p>	<p>The participants gained knowledge on the use of CEDAW to promote women's rights in Ghana.</p>

	<p>e) WILDAF, FIDA and Hunger Project</p>	<p><u>Women's Participation in Governance and Politics:</u> GC & partners of "We Know Politics" project reviewed the phase 1 and developed a phase II of the project for funding. A proposal has been submitted to the European Union and DFID/Netherlands Embassy. This is a collaborative effort among 4 organizations being co-ordinated by WILDAF.</p>	<p>Alternative strategies on how to increase women's political representation both at the District Assembly and national level have been developed into a proposal for funding. Though DFID/Netherlands Embassy have shown some enthusiasm about the project, no funds have been committed yet.</p>
	<p>f) Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), BEWDA and AMASACHINA</p>	<p><u>Reducing Violence against Women</u> Advocating for end of violence against women and children especially domestic violence in 15 communities in Wa, Bawku West, Kwaebibirem and Atwima Mponua Districts in the Upper West, Upper East, Eastern and Ashanti Regions through our community based anti-violence project. In this project community volunteers have been trained and are conducting educational programmes in these communities on the impact of violence, the content of DV Act, gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV and provide direct support to abused women and children in their communities and surrounding ones. We are also advocating for the abolishment of cultural practices fuelling the spread of HIV and AIDs.</p>	<p>This project has ensured that violence against women and children is no longer tolerated within the communities. Through working with Community Based Action Teams (COMBAT) this project fostered discussions regarding domestic violence, provided resources to survivors of violence and dismantled harmful myths surrounding gender and women's roles. In the project areas we have reduced Violence Against Women (VAW) from 71-30%. We anticipate it to reduce further.</p> <p>Focus group discussions with women and traditional/religious leaders show the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violence has reduced to almost 0% especially physical violence ● Gender inequality is gradually reducing ● Widow inheritance as a practice

			<p>has been banned in 3 communities in the Upper West region following the activities of the project. Steps are being taken to get the district assembly to pass a bye-law on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and children's rights being respected by men • Enrolment of children in schools increased
Donor agencies	G-RAP	<p><u>Transparency, Accountability and development of Oil and Gas industry in Ghana</u></p> <p>The Gender Centre participated in a 2 day conference in Accra on Nov 23 -24, 2009 organized by G-RAP to discuss management of Ghana's oil and gas sector.</p>	The conference identified gaps in existing policy framework to manage the industry now that Ghana has found oil. A communiqué was issued at the end of the conference.
	WOMANKIND Worldwide - UK	<p><u>30 Years of CEDAW</u></p> <p>Participated in an international conference in celebrating 30 years of CEDAW in London.</p>	The Executive is quoted extensively in the publication that was done as part of the celebration.
DA (please indicate district)	Dangme West & East,	<u>Addressing the gender related aspects of HIV and AIDS</u>	There is collaboration between the District HIV Focal Person, DOVVSU and District Health Directorate to help victims of sexual abuse access the PEP services and also prosecute offenders of rape.
Private Sector			

3. National pro-poor policies

Identified Policy Issue	Research/advocacy activities in relation to the identified policy area	What are the policy gaps identified from the research conducted	What is your organization's position on these issues supported by your research	What policy alternatives do you propose and how do you hope to achieve this policy change
Mainstreaming gender into key national HIV and AIDs policies and National Strategic Framework III (2011 – 2015) of the Ghana Aids Commission (GAC) to reduce the prevalence rate among women.	Desk review to identify gaps in NSF II (2006 -2010) and gender sensitive interventions funded by GAC.	The review revealed the following: 1) though the NSF II makes a fairly good analysis of the link between HIV/AIDS and gender, the NSF II lacks gender specific goals, objectives, outcomes and indicators which casts doubt over its commitment to addressing the gender dimensions of	Our position is that gender must be properly mainstreamed into the National HIV/AIDS Policy and the National Strategic Framework NFS III being developed for 2011 -2015. Such a policy change will lead to GAC setting criteria for	We are proposing that the 1). GAC develops monitoring and evaluation system that includes gender disaggregated indicators. 2). GAC strengthens the capacity of institutions tasked with mainstreaming gender equality to effectively discharge their duties.

		<p>HIV/AIDS, and make it difficult for implementers to work towards a specific target and measure progress in gender equality.</p> <p>2) There are no specific and comprehensive gender responsive strategies to tackle gender related factors that influence the spread and impact of the epidemic.</p> <p>3) The NSF II and its programmes of work do not specifically require implementing ministries, agencies and other partners to mainstream gender into their HIV/AIDS programmes.</p> <p>4) There are no initiatives that employ multiple strategies to address combined factors of gender norms, violence and low socio-economic status which predispose women to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>5) Allocation of funds is based on the 7 thematic areas making it difficult to trace funds allocated to tackle the link between gender and HIV/AIDS.</p>	gender component of grant applications.	<p>The Centre has formed a coalition of like-minded organizations and has developed an advocacy plan to put our concerns across.</p> <p>The document will be finalized and submitted to the Director-General and all the technical persons of the review committee.</p> <p>The Centre has already lobbied to get a member of the team that carried out our research on gender norms, domestic violence and women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS to be appointed to the technical committee set up to review the NSF II to ensure that the gaps identified in the current NSF is addressed in the new one.</p>
Reducing Women's Susceptibility to HIV infection due to patriarchal attitudes and gender norms in Ghana	a) The Centre finalized, published and disseminated its research findings on Gender Norms, Domestic Violence and women's Vulnerability to HIV and AIDs to key stakeholders at a launch in Accra September 9 th 2009 at the KAMA	Gender dimension of HIV and AIDs in Ghana is not being addressed sufficiently. Moreover, HIV prevention strategies used by the Government of Ghana and many NGOs continue to focus on the "ABC" approach (abstinence, being faithful and condom use). This approach is widely accepted as simplistic in	Our position is that gender must be properly mainstreamed into the National HIV/AIDS Policy and the National Strategic Framework NFS III being developed for 2011-2015. The findings of the	<p>All HIV and Aids projects must have a component that addresses the gender norms in our society that make women vulnerable as identified in the study.</p> <p>Secondly, gender must be made a criteria for funding HIV and Aids projects by the Ghana</p>

	<p>Conference Centre.</p> <p>b) A dissemination workshop was also organized in Kumasi on October 21, 2009 for civil society actors in the country who are into HIV and AIDs programming to improve their knowledge on the socio-cultural factors like gender norms which fuel HIV infection.</p>	<p>relation to understanding the issues of gender inequality and women's rights and does not address the differential ability of women and men to adhere to the 3 principles. The strategy Also limits the extent to which women have full control over their bodies and can therefore mitigate the likelihood of being infected with the virus.</p>	<p>research should be disseminated widely and used as a prevention strategy in order to reduce the rising prevalence levels of HIV and AIDs among women in Ghana.</p>	<p>Aids Commission and other development agencies.</p> <p>Women as well as men should specifically be targeted with information on HIV modes of transmission and prevention as well as practices that could make them susceptible to HIV infection</p> <p>We are advocating for bye laws to ban widow inheritance as this practice was found as one area of increasing the spread of HIV infection among women.</p>
	<p>c) Baseline survey have been conducted on levels of knowledge of HIV transmission, condom usage and attitudes towards gender, HIV and AIDS in 3 communities which are Papasi in the Kadjebi District, Nsokwoa in the Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa East District.</p> <p>d) 5 radio dramas on violence and HIV/AIDs have been recorded for airing in English, Twi, Ewe and Waali. for national awareness-raising.</p> <p>e) The research information has also been used to design and produce 6</p>	<p>Baseline studies on knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDs, gender norms, violence and condom usage conducted in 3 communities indicated high knowledge among respondents on modes of transmission. The study also revealed that age at first sexual intercourse is quite low as well as knowledge on gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV. The studies were conducted in Papasi in the Kadjebi District, Nsokwoa in the Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa Municipality.</p>	<p>Gender norms are preventing women from learning more about the virus and also seeking treatment. Women should be empowered to negotiate for condom usage even within marriage to protect themselves from promiscuous partners.</p> <p>These gender norms are not being addressed nor are policy makers and the general population aware that they are factors that increase women's vulnerability to HIV. Public awareness raising campaigns should continue to empower women to protect themselves.</p>	<p>Education is on-going in the 3 communities on the modes of HIV transmission and prevention. The education is also tackling cultural practices/gender norms fuelling HIV infection to encourage people change their attitudes and empower women through promoting and protection of rights.</p> <p>Prevention work on HIV and Aids should address the issues identified in the research.</p>

	different types of posters to be distributed to CSOs, NGOs, etc for advocacy.			
	f) Monitoring the use of mandatory 0.5% of District Assembly Common fund for HIV/AIDs activities in Kadjebi District, Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa East District.	Though it is mandatory for assemblies to reserve 0.5% of their common fund allocation on HIV/Aids activities, most assemblies are not complying and nobody/agency is monitoring it.	Our position is that the common fund must be released on time and its usage monitored	The monitoring started some few months ago so we will continue in the coming months and compile our findings for advocacy work to ensure resource allocation for HIV and Aids work increase.
Addressing The Gender Related aspect of HIV and AIDS	Sensitizing communities on women's rights, gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV as well as ST infections, modes of transmission and prevention in 2 districts (Dangme West and East) in the Greater Accra region. 40 community volunteers have been trained for this purpose.	Baseline information from pre-implementation meetings showed low knowledge of the gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV infection. It also indicated that though there is PEP services available to medical staff to prevent HIV infection in the course of discharging their duties should any accident occur, this service is not extended to most at risk populations like victims of rape and sexual abuse.	Our position is that until women's rights issues as well as patriarchal attitudes are addressed women will continuously be disproportionately infected with HIV. Our position is that the Ghana Health Service should make PEP services for non medical staff a policy to be implemented nation-wide.	Attention should be given to women's rights and socio-cultural factors fuelling the spread of HIV. The Ghana Health Service should implement PEP services nation-wide through a policy direction.
Building the capacity of local NGOs to promote and protect women's right.	Gender Centre organized series of training programmes for partners and community-based volunteers on	As part of our strategy to build stronger and gender focused sustainable organizations the Gender Centre in consultation with partners identified a	Organizations must be supported to build stronger, effective and efficient institutions	Regular training for partners and community level volunteers.

	<p>violence against women, women's human rights, HIV modes of transmission and prevention, gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV and laws that protect women's rights in Ghana. Thirty six (36) community volunteers, 18 persons from state agencies and 13 staff members from 5 partner organization's as well as staff of the Gender Centre benefitted from the training. The partner organizations are ProLink, Rural Watch -Koforidua, Amassachina Self Help Association, Wa, BEWDA – Bawku, and CEDEP - Kumasi.</p>	<p>gap in skills and knowledge in advocacy about women's rights. This training was organized to fill this gap. The aim of this is to equip partners and community volunteers with necessary skills and knowledge on women's rights to enable them become effective in their advocacy work</p>		
<p>Reducing Violence against Women in Ghana</p>	<p>a) The Centre published a book titled "The architecture of violence against women in Ghana" as part of its work to deepen knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin and sustain violence against women.</p> <p>b) Advocated for end of violence against women and children especially domestic violence in 15 communities in Wa, Bawku West, Kwaebibirem and Atwima Mponua Districts in the Upper West, Upper East, Eastern and Ashanti Regions through our community based</p>	<p>The findings point out to the impact of violence against women and some of the critical areas to be addressed in responding to violence against women.</p> <p>Even though the Domestic Violence Act was passed 3 years ago, its implementation is slow.</p>	<p>The contents of the book will be widely disseminated.</p> <p>The process of implementation of the Domestic Violence Act must be speeded up.</p>	<p>We are advocating for the implementation of the DV Act.</p> <p>Community-based approach could be adopted to reduce domestic violence in Ghana. We continuously share our lessons learnt from this project with policy/decision makers. A book on how to establish such a community-based system has already been</p>

	anti-violence project. Community volunteers have been trained and are conducting educational programmes in these communities on the impact of violence, the content of DV Act, gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV and providing direct support to abused women and children in their communities and surrounding ones.		published and distributed.
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4. Success Story

Briefly describe your organization's landmark achievement this period.

The Centre finalized, published and widely disseminated research findings on Gender Norms, Violence and women's vulnerable to HIV and AIDs to key stakeholders including persons living with HIV and Aids at a launch in Accra on September 9, 2009 at the KAMA Conference Centre. Dr Sylvia Annie Akwetey (Director, Policy and Planning, Ghana AIDS Commission) who launched the book commended Gender Centre and its partners for making available facts and data that provide answers to why more women than men are infected with HIV ever since GAC started its response about nine years. She also reported that GAC will put together a five year strategy for fighting HIV in Ghana next year (i.e 2010) and issues that came out of the research will be used to tackle the problem in a better way. After the launch the GAC requested for 10 more copies of the book for distribution. Attached, please find newspaper publication on the launch as well as TV coverage and copy of the book for your office.

The Centre also published a second book titled "The architecture of violence against women in Ghana" as part of our work to deepen knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin violence against women in order to address it. Though this book came out at the end of the year and has not been publicly launched, researchers have showed keen interest and keep coming to our office to get copies. Attached, please find copy for your office.

As part our work to ensure a gender responsive HIV and Aids programming in Ghana, a desk top review was conducted to identify gaps in NSF II (2006 -2010) and gender sensitive interventions funded by GAC. This document has not been finalized. Attached, please find draft report.

As a result of our awareness raising campaigns with our partners, 3 communities in the Upper West region have banned widow inheritance.

We have also used the HIV research findings to develop and produce 5 radio dramas for national awareness-raising on how gender norms such as widow inheritance, acceptance of male promiscuity, polygyny, sex as woman's marital obligation and infertility as a woman's problem make women vulnerable to HIV/AIDs infection. The dramas which are in 4 languages : English,

Twi, Ewe and Waali are ready for airing. The centre also designed and developed six different types of posters on gender norms which are being printed for distribution.

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?

Generally, RAOs maintain some credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of government and the public but there are times there appears to be some mistrust on both sides. Even some members of parliament believe that RAO's are there to use their beneficiaries to make money. As a result of this perception it has become difficult for RAO's to mobilize MPs for programmes.

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

Policy making in the country is still top-down. Sometimes the consultation is done just to enable CSO's approve what has already been done and satisfy requirements.

7. Grant and report related issues

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

Nothing to raise at the moment

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

None.

Contact information:

Location: Hse No. 8, Gbatsonaa Street,
Nyaneba Estate, Osu,
P. O. Box AN6192,
Accra North
Ghana.

Tel: (233 21) 760688

Tel/Fax: (233 21) 760687

Email: info@gendercentreghana.org, gendcent@yahoo.com

Website: www.gendercentreghana.org