

Core Grant Narrative Progress Report

Report period August 2009 to January 2010

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

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

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Report Date January 25, 2010

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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) <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 staff¹</i>	2	2	1	2
v) <i>Volunteers²</i>	9	9	9	9
	Baseline period: August 2009 to January 2010			
2. Governance				
i) <i>Steering Committee</i>	3	3	3	3
ii) <i>Focal Points Meeting</i>	1	1	1	1
iii) <i>Membership Meeting</i>	2	2	2	2
iv) <i>AGM</i>	1	-	1	1
v) <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

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

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

AGM vi) <i>Staff meetings</i>	1 12	- 12	1 12	1 12
3. Systems and procedures <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> <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>	NETRIGHT has adopted the host organisation systems and policies to suit its own context. In accordance with host organisation systems and policies in place	As Before	As Before NETRIGHT has opened a new account for GRAP funds and set up internal controls for managing the account NETRIGHT's organisational development plan attached	
4. Funding base development <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>	No long terms (3yrs+) Funds in place yet. Short term sources based on project approvals have come from AWDF, Global Fund and Others		Developed a resource mobilisation strategy paper to guide our fundraising	

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)	<p>NETRIGHT participated in meetings and workshops of the coalition during the period.</p> <p>Awareness creation and advocacy to ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act</p> <p>NETRIGHT participated in strategic and coalition meetings during the period.</p>
	Civil Society Coalition on Land	Gender Equality and Land Reforms (ongoing)	<p>Advocacy on gender and land reforms</p> <p>NETRIGHT participated in meetings and programmes of the coalition during the period.</p>
	Social Watch Ghana	Poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice (ongoing)	<p>Reports and advocacy on poverty eradication, gender equity and social justice.</p> <p>NETRIGHT is the host of Social Watch Ghana. During the period, NETRIGHT hosted the 4th Social Watch General. In addition, we organised coalition meetings and launched the 2009 Social Watch Report on the theme 'Making Finances Work: People First'. The Ghana Report was titled 'Inequality: the biggest challenge'. We also published Ghana Social Watch Reports from 1996-2009 and other informational materials on Social Watch.</p>
	Spousal Property Rights Bill Coalition	Inheritance and Property Rights (ongoing)	<p>Awareness creation on the Spousal Property Rights Bill.</p> <p>NETRIGHT is a member of the Steering Committee. NETRIGHT</p>

	NETRIGHT, Women's Manifesto and Domestic Violence Coalitions Platform	Critical issues of concern to women (ongoing)	is represented on the Committee by LAWA Ghana. 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. NETRIGHT lead processes during the period to strategise on engaging MOWAC and the government to ensure that women's rights issues remain on the national agenda
	Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network (OGSN)	Institutionalise and promote stakeholder adherence to the cardinal principles of good governance in Ghana's Oil and Gas industry	Maximising efforts to ensure good governance, gender equality and social justice in Ghana's oil and gas industry. NETRIGHT is an active member of the network and engaged in the activities of the coalition during the period.
	Right to Information (RTI) Campaign	Passage of RTI bill (ongoing)	Maximising efforts to ensure passage of bill. NETRIGHT had a meeting with the coalition on gendering the process and participated in the RTI march
	International and Regional Women's Networks/Coalitions	Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development (FfD) Processes (ongoing)	Women's Statement on the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on 'Aid Transparency and Mutual Accountability', issued in Vienna. NETRIGHT represented the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) in the DCF High level Symposium (HLS) held in Vienna on November 11-12, 2009. NETRIGHT took part in a panel discussion on

			“Review of trends and progress to make aid more transparent’ under the theme ‘Strengthening international aid transparency and information-sharing’.
Peers CBOs	<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>Production of the Ghana NGOs Alternative Report on Beijing+15 Review. NETRIGHT coordinated the production of the report.</p> <p>Gender and economic justice advocacy at the grassroots level.</p>
Donor agencies	<p>GRAP</p> <p>AWDF</p>	<p>GRAP provided space for research and advocacy organisations to update their knowledge on developments in the oil industry in Ghana as well as interact with civil society actors.</p> <p>Resource Mobilisation training for its grantees and an Evaluation Meeting for Grantees</p>	<p>Information sharing and networking capacities strengthened. NETRIGHT shared its research preliminary findings on the oil and gas at the meeting</p> <p>Capacity building and agreement on core support for grantees</p>
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
Oil and Gas	<p>Literature Review on ' The impact of oil and gas discovery and exploration on communities with emphasis on women'</p> <p>Review of 'Gender Dimensions of Ghana's Oil and Gas Policy'</p> <p>Baseline Study on 'The Impact of Oil and Gas Exploration on Women's Access to Land in the Oil Communities of the Ahanta West District'</p>	<p>Policy document and its related draft regulatory frameworks have not mainstreamed gender issues in order to ensure ample regulation to address gender issues in the incoming petroleum sector.</p> <p>The current petroleum laws play a role in hindering gender equity in the sector. The illusion is being created that gender equity exists in all spheres of life because there are gender equal laws and women's concerns are considered in the formulation of legislations. In less developed countries like Ghana, many laws relating to women's economic citizenship have remained discriminatory</p> <p>There is strong emphasizes on profitability and interest of investors as main incentives for ensuring good governance in the sector. This flawed</p>	<p>Address Gender Differential Impacts</p> <p>Strong citizens' participation including women's rights and gender oriented organisations in policy dialogues in the sector will contribute to better management of the industry in a way that ensures transparency, equity, and accountability and deliver benefits to the entire country.</p> <p>Government must engage in dialogue with civil society groups to comprehensively formulate and implement policies related to promotion of gender mainstreaming in the sector.</p> <p>Government should resource the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) to promote policies, implement strategies, represent in the enactment of laws and accompanying regulations that support gender mainstreaming.</p>	<p>A Contract Labour Act that could provide for a percentage women employed as contract labour.</p> <p>A Maternity Benefit Act that would particularly address the child bearing and child caring characteristics of women,</p> <p>An Equal Opportunity for women and men in hitherto "men only" jobs in the sector,</p> <p>Welfare Fund Act that would particularly be beneficial to all employees of the industry regardless of sexual exigencies.</p> <p>Positive steps should be supported at overcoming barriers to women's participation, in order to ensure that the country's oil and gas sector benefits fully from their ideas, contributions and alternative working styles.</p> <p>Lobbying and</p>

		<p>and parochial focus does pose political, regulatory, and governance challenges to the country as a whole.</p>	<p>MOWAC's objective should be the setting of targets, tapping into women's networks, facilitating the avoidance of gender stereotyping in the sector and using positive role models to give speeches at schools and universities to boost the moral of female students.</p> <p>All stakeholders in the design of the oil and gas industry to develop gender sensitive policies and organisational initiatives to address inequities in the sector.</p>	<p>advocacy to promote good governance, gender equality and social justice in Ghana's oil and gas industry</p>
<p>Financial, Food and Fuel Crises</p>	<p>Consultations on the impact of the crises on women</p>	<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 of the crises</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 government should abandon neo liberal policies and develop policies that address imbalances and social and gender inequalities</p> <p>In spite of poverty reduction programmes , majority of female headed households are below the poverty line</p>	<p>Policies are urgently needed to strengthen agriculture, a sector that had been contributing almost 40% of the GDP</p> <p>Reforming the financial 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)</p>

Ghana Aid Policy	Gender Critique of Draft Ghana Aid Policy	<p>Gender Equality is referred to once in the Ghana Aid Policy, in the Managing for Development Results section on page 19 where it is identified as a goal and outcome of development. No other section of the Aid Policy makes reference to gender equality or women's empowerment.</p> <p>Some of the gender issues identified in the document do not have accompanying strategies for addressing them (i.e. agricultural research from a gender perspective, women's access to extension services, sex disaggregated data, inadequate attitudinal change relating to gender). Similarly a number of gender related strategies are identified without any link to the issues in the sector.</p>	<p>Gender must be more effectively integrated into this policy document.</p> <p>With women making up a disproportionately high number of those living in poverty, aid cannot be considered effective unless it addresses the "central issue of women's rights and gender equality (GE)</p> <p>Need for political recognition of women's disadvantaged position in society, relative to men, which can make them more vulnerable to and/or worsen their experience of poverty. While the experience of poverty is shared by all members of the family in a household, it can also be differentially and unequally distributed between women and men and boys and girls within the family unit.</p>	<p>In order for the Government of Ghana to implement sustainable and gender equitable development and for the commitment to gender equality to be more meaningful in the Aid Policy, a results framework with women's rights and GE targets specifically outlined is needed, with the necessary resources to finance these results. This needs to be reinforced with a commitment to collecting and using gender disaggregated data to inform policy making.</p> <p>It is equally important that Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) undertake a gender analysis of economic and development strategies and policies against a backdrop of the lives of poor women and men, women's disadvantage relative to men and the gender relations imbued with power, which influence their lives.</p>
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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) is a membership organisation made up of 57 organisations and 126 individuals from different parts of Ghana. Several of these organisations such as the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC), General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU), the Women's Manifesto Coalition and the Federation of Muslim Women Association Ghana (FOMWAG) are themselves membership organisations.

The main mission of NETRIGHT is to promote women's rights in Ghana through critical analysis of the gender dimensions of national processes and policies and advocacy for policy change.

NETRIGHT believes in renewing itself as a basis for holding itself accountable to its members and achieving its overall vision of promoting gender justice in economic and land policy making issues. From inception, NETRIGHT has prioritised organisational development principles, practices and outcomes as critical for effective policy advocacy and commitment to women at all levels of the society. It does this by applying the values of equality, equity, inclusiveness, innovativeness and openness in its vision, programming and implementation.

NETRIGHT members participate in the decision-making processes and activities of the organisation through lending their expertise and time to reports, statements and public events, paying dues and participating in quarterly membership meetings and in the annual general meeting (AGM). They also receive regular information through the electronic mailing list.

As a membership organisation, the highest decision making body is the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM, members review NETRIGHT's activities for the year, agree on priorities issues for the following year and strategise on the way forward.

The Steering Committee (SC) is the next highest body after the AGM and is made up of nine (9) members who are either representing their organisations or on their individual capacity. The SC implements the decisions of the AGM. The SC is headed by the Convenor and the Deputy Convenor. The term of office of Rose Mensah-Kutin and Adwoa Sakyi, Convenor and Deputy Convenor respectively ends in December 2009. After a one-month transitional period, Akua Britwum will take up the Convenorship of NETRIGHT at the end of January 2010.

NETRIGHT is hosted by a member organisation who provides office space, administrative and logistic support and manages NETRIGHT's financial and accounting procedures. The Third World Network Africa (TWN Africa) has hosted NETRIGHT since 2003.

The Secretariat which works under the supervision of the Convenors has Programme Officers who implement the work programme of NETRIGHT including the day to day running of the Secretariat. The Programme Officers are assisted by interns.

To ensure that NETRIGHT maintains a stronger presence in the regions, it has focal points/persons who implement NETRIGHT's activities/programmes in the regions. The focal points work closely with the Secretariat to implement such activities/programmes.

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. Our work is based on three (3) core functions: movement building, economic justice and land rights.

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 working on similar issues is the most effective way to maximise resources and achieve results. Specifically, NETRIGHT's movement building is divided into six (6) sub-themes: NETRIGHT Internal Meetings, Finance and Administration, Mobilisation and Advocacy, Participation in International Initiatives, Participation in Local Initiatives and Research and Publications.

As a women's rights and economic justice advocacy network, the economic justice component of our work is our main core area and activities of the other two (2) core areas namely movement building and land rights are derived from our economic justice work. Specifically, the economic justice component of our work is divided into sub-themes: Economic Justice and Capacity Building Programme (EJCBP), Gender Budgeting, Financial and Food crises, Informal Economy/Women Traders, Social Watch, Gender and Trade, Gender, Oil and Gas Project.

Most of our land work has been done through our focal points/persons at the grassroots level. At the Secretariat, the main activity has been our involvement in the activities of the Civil Society Coalition on Land (CICOL). We must admit that, there is an urgent need for NETRIGHT to pay more attention to its land rights work.

As usual, the year 2009 has been very busy for NETRIGHT. Within our workplan for 2009, we actively engaged both local and international processes. At the local level, we led an initiative by the three coalitions namely Domestic Violence Coalition, Women's Manifesto Coalition and NETRIGHT to engage the current Government through the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC), as well as led the production of the Ghana NGOs Beijing+15 Alternative Report. During the year, we also carried out research and advocacy on our Gender, Oil and Gas project including a gender critique on a draft Ghana Aid Policy. At the international level, we engaged processes including the UN High Level Forum on the Global Financial Crises and the UN High Level Symposium on Development Cooperation, Aid Effectiveness and Financing for Development (FfD). As the Convenor of Social Watch Ghana, we successfully hosted the Social Watch General Assembly and the Coordinating Committee meeting which were held in October, 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

Measuring 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 women's rights/gender-oriented organisations.

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

The NETWORK is grateful to the entire membership for their continued support and participation in NETRIGHT's activities and salutes its members, partners and funders for their commitment to NETRIGHT for the past ten (10) years.

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 working on similar issues is 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 gained national reputation but also international recognition as a credible women's rights organisation.

Specifically, NETRIGHT's movement building is divided into six (6) sub-themes: NETRIGHT Internal Meetings, Finance and Administration, Mobilisation and Advocacy, Participation in International Initiatives, Participation in Local Initiatives and Research and Publications.

NETRIGHT Internal Meetings

The NETRIGHT Internal meetings which are a component of our institutional strengthening function are used to review NETRIGHT's activities, take decisions, agree on priority areas and strategise on the way forward. The internal meetings are

also used to update members on the implementation of NETRIGHT's programmes and activities while members on the other hand, use the space to share their own workplan with other members.

These meetings consist of Steering Committee Meetings, Membership Meetings, Focal Point Meetings and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The following meetings were organised as scheduled in the workplan for 2009.

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 as scheduled in August, October and December, 2009 to discuss and evaluate NETRIGHT programmes.

The meetings discussed critical national issues of concern to women and the development of the network. Other issues that were brought to the attention of the SC included the national census, global crises and its gender implications within our national context, Ghana's Oil and Gas Industry, Financing for Development (FfD), ILO Convention 183 on Maternity Protection, domestic workers, social protection and the hosting of the 4th Social Watch General Assembly. The SC looked extensively at the literature review on experiences of countries producing oil and gas, the Oil and Gas Policy review and the baseline study on the impact of the oil find in the Western Region on women in the surrounding communities.

Apart from these meetings, there have been several online discussions to enable the SC reach agreement on issues that needed immediate attention. The Convenor also sends regular updates to SC members on issues of concern to NETRIGHT' as well as be abreast with NETRIGHT's activities.

Membership Meetings

The Membership meetings offer a platform for NETRIGHT members to discuss issues of importance to the network and women in general. It also serves as an opportunity for the secretariat to report on activities undertaken and thus keep members informed and abreast on issues and activities of NETRIGHT.

Two membership meetings were held in August and November 2009. The meetings discussed NETRIGHT's engagement with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC), the Gender, Oil and Gas Project (GOGP), Gender Responsive Budgeting and the hosting of the 2009 Social Watch General Assembly. Most of the issues discussed at the SC level were also discussed at the membership meetings.

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. Members also use the space to share information on their 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 the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (GPRSPs), the Women's Manifesto, financial and food crises and the 'oil find'.

The focal points represent NETRIGHT in the regions and act as a strong voice on NETRIGHT's issues and ensure that NETRIGHT has an active presence in the regions through the effective implementation of NETRIGHT's activities. Focal points/persons are responsible for articulating the issues of concern to women at the regions.

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.

A Focal Point meeting was held in December, 2009 to discuss critical issues of concern to NETRIGHT in 2010 and its implications for focal points. The meeting also evaluated the relationships between NETRIGHT's purpose and overall goal of promoting gender perspectives in economic and land policies and the need to strengthen membership capacity at the local level to secure effective change in those core areas of work. It also discussed critical issues affecting women, evaluated focal points existing relationship with NETRIGHT; how it has worked, challenges and lessons learnt and outlined strategies for strengthening relationships between NETRIGHT and its Focal Points/Persons. In general, the meeting enable NETRIGHT to review what have been done over the years, have a better clarity about what would be done in 2010 and how to support focal points.

ANNUAL General Meeting (AGM)

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 i.e. 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 is held separately as a public event.

Based on a proposal by the Secretariat in 2008 to the Steering Committee (SC) to merge the end of year programme (AGM and End of year Review Event) to ensure cohesion and greater regional representation, the SC accepted the proposal and institutionalised the end of year programme to include the AGM and the End of Year Event. Thus, NETRIGHT organised a two-day programme of activities to evaluate NETRIGHT's work for 2009, draw out lessons learnt, and agree and strategise for the way forward. 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.

As compared to the 2008 AGM, the 2009 AGM was more successful in terms of participation and content. The AGM was well attended. Members agreed on priorities for 2010 and also extensively discussed organisational development issues and the way forward for NETRIGHT. The outcome of the 2009 AGM formed the basis of our work for 2010.

Mobilisation and Advocacy

Our mobilisation and advocacy work facilitates our advocacy and strengthens our capacity on the issues we work on. The following activities were implemented during the year:

Beijing +15 Review Process and the Production of Ghana NGOs Alternative Report
A national consultative meeting was organised by NETRIGHT on Beijing +15 review process and the production of a Ghana NGOs Alternative Report in September, 2009.

The meeting created a platform for participants to discuss the twelve (12) critical areas of concern and the extent to which gender sensitive policies and measures have been implemented and their impact on women in Ghana; take stock of the progress made in Ghana on gender equality and women's empowerment from an NGO perspectives and how to address the major challenges ahead; discuss the development of the Ghana NGOs Beijing+15 Alternative Report and contribute to the African Regional and Global 15 year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

The outcome of the meeting was used to develop the Ghana NGOs Beijing+15 Report. The report will be incorporated into the Africa NGOs Beijing+15 Report to the UN CSW. The report has also been sent to the NGO CSW Forum in New York to be posted on its website.

As part of the review process, NETRIGHT is sending a delegation to participate in the Global Forum for Women and the 54th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)/Beijing+15 Review in New York from February 27 - March 12, 2010. NETRIGHT will organised a side event on ***'Fifteen Years of Implementing***

Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in Ghana: The Way Forward' in New York on March 2, 2010 at the CCUN Building. The event seeks to present perspectives from Ghana about how far the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) have been implemented to promote women's rights. The role of the women's movement and challenges confronting them in engaging on women's rights issues will be discussed. The session will end with a strong call for collective global action as the way forward for Beijing+15.

2009 End of Year Review

The End of Year Event which is part of NETRIGHT's end of year programme is held separately as a public event. The forum 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 and gender equality during the year. The End of Year Review for 2009 took place at the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA) House, Roman Ridge On December 22, 2009.

The reviewer, Dr. Agnes Apusigah, a Senior lecturer at the University of Development Studies (UDS) and a member of NETRIGHT assess the situation of women in 2009 by looking at happenings at the international, regional and local levels. She pointed out the fact that we still live in a world where neo-liberal economics continue to dominate development thinking with the market place in spite of its demonstrated deficiencies and the might of nations overruling any sense of justice and rights. Dr. Apusigah said while there is the general appreciation of justice and rights for all as provided for under global, regional and national frameworks such as the UN Charter, African Charter and National Constitution, this remains superficial. The same tokenism and lip service continue to characterise practice and to slow down progress. What has changed however is perhaps the resolve and agency of deprived and vulnerable constituencies in their resistance and challenge of domination as they intensify their demands for dignifying lives and rights to life and safe livelihoods.

She recalled reports about atrocities meted out to women, the action and inactions of governments and their lack of political commitment in promoting women's rights and gender equality in spite of numerous international and regional standards/agreements to promote women rights and the role the women's movement with particular emphasis to Ghana in ensuring that women's rights remains on the national agenda.

Dr. Agnes Apusigah congratulated NETRIGHT for its 10 years in existence. She said NETRIGHT has been able to establish itself as an important lobby and advocacy group through its leadership, participation and communication of gender equality and women's rights causes. Its participation in international fora with other players, sharing of critical resources and information through its member listserv, outreach programme and media encounters continue to draw attention to gender equality commitments, inform its constituents and challenge political actors on the issues. Another major triumph for NETRIGHT has been its ability to work with and influence

donors to put money into gender equality and women's rights work citing NETRIGHT's encounter with the Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (G-rap). Dr. Apusigah's review was titled *'The Year 2009 in Perspective: Critical National Issues and their Implications for Gender Justice'*

Three (3) individuals were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the promotion of women's rights in Ghana. They were:

1. Ms. Fatima Addy - Leader, Abooman Women's Group (Pantang, Ga East District) for bringing about change by enhancing women's knowledge base and impacting positively on their lives. NETRIGHT recognised the important contributions she and her organisation are making in increasing women's opportunities and improve the living conditions for this generation and generations to come.
2. Ms. Ama Achiaa Amankwah - Journalist, Public Agenda for the tremendous contribution she is making in generating public awareness and commitment in placing the promotion of women's rights and gender equality principles as central to her work as a journalist.
3. Mr. Adolf Awuku Bekoe - National Coordinator, DV Coalition for his dedication, resolve and sacrifice combined with years of service and unwavering passion to the cause of ending gender-based violence in our society.

A special citation was presented to the outgoing Convenor of NETRIGHT, Rose Mensah-Kutin for her lifelong unwavering commitment and dedication to the cause of women's economic, political and social justice as well as her unique leadership qualities.

The occasion was also used to launch NETRIGHT's 10th Anniversary Celebrations.

Dr. Agnes Akosua Aidoo who chaired congratulated NETRIGHT for being a very important force in our development. She said the institutionalisation of the End of Year Event to assess the extent to which gender and specific women's concerns have gained currency and public attention in our development and public space is a major contribution to the democratic growth and maturity of our country. The year 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and felt proud that three (3) Ghanaian women Dr. Charlotte Abaka, Prof. Akua Kuenyihia and Mrs. Dorcas Coker-Appiah have served with great distinction on the CEDAW Global Monitoring Committee. Mrs. Coker Appiah, a NETRIGHT Steering Committee member, is still a very effective member of the 23 member Committee.

CEDAW, according to Dr. Aidoo has been a transformative force in the world, however, as with other human rights treaties including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, greater efforts are still required to disseminate the Convention more widely and to help stakeholders to know it better and apply its principles and provisions. The greatest stumbling block to gender equality remains **discrimination** against women and girls and out of that and other reasons come persistent,

humiliating, life threatening and even fatal violence against women and girls. From the disproportionate levels of domestic violence to sexually assaults and defilements, trafficking and economic exploitation of women and girls, any ideas of their human rights seem to be lost at the several levels of society. Despite their legal obligations under various human rights treaties, many governments still continues to pay inadequate attention to these violations. She said there were many structural dimensions to the struggle for gender equality which required greater efforts by all-women, men, boys and girls - government and international organizations to address.

Dr. Aidoo urged all to understand and insist on a human rights based approach to development and development cooperation. Dr. Agnes Akosua Aidoo is the Vice-Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and Former Gender Adviser of ECA and UNICEF Headquarters.

NETRIGHT's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Last year marked the 10th Anniversary of NETRIGHT. NETRIGHT was established in November, 1999. To celebrate the occasion, the Steering Committee set up a committee chaired by Adwoa Sakyi, the immediate-past Deputy Convenor of NETRIGHT to plan activities for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary.

The committee drafted a programme which was presented to the Steering Committee and the membership for approval. The draft programme was discussed at a membership meeting and adopted and then presented to the SC for approval. The following programme was approved to mark the 10th Anniversary celebration of NETRIGHT:

- A documentary on NETRIGHT
- Negotiate for TV slots to show documentary
- Show photo slides of NETRIGHT for the past 10 years at the 2009 End of Year Event
- Institutionalised a yearly public lecture or symposium titled 'Women's Lecture Series'
- Dedicate one Akoben publication to the 10th Anniversary
- Select 10 best statements issued by NETRIGHT for publication in Akoben
- Release a statement on 10 years of NETRIGHT
- Radio and TV discussions on the 10th Anniversary
- Launch a website for NETRIGHT

The 10th Anniversary celebration was launched at the 2009 End of Year Event. Photo slides of NETRIGHT's 10 years in existence was shown.

Local Initiatives

Ghana Civil Society Aid Effectiveness Forum

NETRIGHT is a member of the Ghana Civil Aid Effectiveness Forum and the focal point for gender. NETRIGHT participated in the Ghana CSO AE Forum during the year. 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. In addition, NETRIGHT through its convenor, Rose Mensah-Kutin developed the gender component of a proposal for the Ghana CSOs AE Secretariat as well as participated in meetings that were held during the year. The year 2009 was devoted to the restructuring of the Aid Effectiveness Forum and the development of a plan of action and proposal. The Convenor of NETRIGHT played a leading role in the work of the forum.

NETRIGHT, Domestic Violence 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 and finally, another delegation to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to discuss some concerns of the women's movement.

A tracking team was set up to track MOWAC on the issues presented and hold it accountable to its responsibilities.

Coalition on the Women's Manifesto for Ghana (WMC)

NETRIGHT continues to be a leading member of the coalition and has actively participated in all programmes organised by WMC during the year. Specifically, we participated in coalition meetings, a biannual conference for assemblywomen and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Coalition on Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana (DV Coalition)

NETRIGHT participated in two Strategic meetings organised by the DV Coalition to develop a strategic policy and contributed to the development of the strategic policy. Also, NETRIGHT participated in the DV Coalition's General Meeting in November 2009. The meeting amended and adopted a draft constitution for the network and made changes to the coalition's strategic plan. The meeting was used as an opportunity to brief members on the activities of the coalition.

Right to Information (RTI) Campaign

The Right to Information (RTI) coalition meet NETRIGHT during the last quarter of 2009 to discuss how the two (2) coalitions can maximise efforts to engender the RTI process and ensure the passage of the bill. At its AGM, NETRIGHT decided to take an active part in the campaign and urged its members to join the campaign. A march was organised in January, 2010 to increase awareness on the RTI bill, raise the need for a thorough review of the text of the current RTI bill to ensure compliance with

international best practice standards before its passage into law and to enquire on the status of the RTI bill from government.

Women's Leadership and Human Rights and Advocacy Training Program

The Women's Law and Human Rights Institute established by The Ark Foundation runs a 'Women's leadership, Human Rights and Advocacy Training Program' to develop the potential and capacity of young women for leadership especially in women's human rights promotion as well as initiate a forum for young women to meet, build alliances and network for mutual support in women's leadership and human rights.

As part of our objective of encouraging young persons to take up leadership roles especially in the women's movement, NETRIGHT sent two interns to participate in the training program held in May and September 2009 respectively. The interns also participated in the 5th National Women's Leadership and Alumnae Conference which was organised in December, 2009 by The Ark Foundation.

Member/Partner Organisations

During the period, NETRIGHT through its staff and members participated in several programmes/activities organised by member and/or partner organisations on critical national issues.

International Initiatives

AWID/UNIFEM Strategy Meeting

NETRIGHT participated in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) strategy meeting on Aid Effectiveness held in August, 2009 in New York.

The main objective of the meeting was to enable women's groups get a clear and common understanding of the changes in the geo-political and economic environment, which has an impact on women's advocacy for gender equality and women's rights, evaluate the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in August 2008, strategise and examine the issues they are involved in prior to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which will take place in Seoul, South Korea, in 2011. The meeting developed an action plan.

UN Development Cooperation Forum

The Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) was part of the Development Cooperation Forum consultative group for the High-level Symposium on 'Aid Transparency and Mutual Accountability' that took place in Vienna, Austria.

Prior to the Vienna meeting, WWG asked its members to contribute to a discussion on 'gender and mutual accountability', NETRIGHT sent its contributions to the WWG. As a result of WWG's active engagement in the DCF process and the call on the DCF to incorporate gender perspectives in all the processes, WWG was invited to the DCF

meeting in Vienna, Austria in November, 2009. NETRIGHT represented the WWG at the DCF meeting.

The first High-level Symposium to prepare the ECOSOC 2010 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) discussed and agreed on a set of recommendations for global and national mutual accountability mechanisms as well as for international aid transparency and information sharing. The Symposium galvanized the commitment of a wide range of stakeholders (including developing and developed countries, civil society, parliamentarians and local governments) to change by promoting broad agreement on issues for action in mutual accountability. It also facilitated discussions on the DCF's upcoming work in South-South development cooperation and policy coherence.

The NETRIGHT representative, Patricia Blankson Akakpo was the 1st respondent of a panel discussion on 'Review of trends and progress to make aid more transparent' under the theme 'Strengthening international aid transparency and information-sharing'. The discussions focused on the need for stronger aid transparency and its impact on mutual accountability objectives as well as key challenges and potential incentives for partners to fulfil respective commitments in this area. As the 1st respondent, Patricia Blankson Akakpo questioned the commitment of governments in promoting aid transparency and mutual accountability by using examples from Ghana, Nigeria, Nicaragua and Bangladesh. Basing her argument on five (5) main points i.e. access to information, information gap, availability of information and timeliness, policy advocacy and aid transparency, she pointed out that aid transparency does not automatically lead to mutual accountability and that unless there is a shift in the focus of governments away from donors (in terms of accountability) and in the direction of accountability to citizens there will be little change. She indicated that the assumptions about the relationship between the two are difficult and that democracy has become a business plan, with a bottom line and assumed result for every human activity.

Ms. Akakpo noted that too many citizens in developing countries are unable to meet their basic needs because of how decision-makers have tended to ignore their concerns and because they have no way of holding them accountable to their responsibilities. The financial crisis for example is once again pointing to the ways in which inequalities are perpetuated when there is lack of accountability to marginalised groups such as women, the aged, and children. Transparency is important for the poor because if we are able to track how resources are being used we can demand that they specifically target those who need those resources most. Areas such as health, education, water and food are critical in this respect. Finally, she called on development actors to be genuinely committed to transparency at all levels and in all socio-economic sectors to help ensure that aid is used in the most efficient way, so that resources can be used judiciously in fighting poverty and promoting gender equality.

Gender Budgeting Dissemination Workshop

NETRIGHT was represented at a one-day regional dissemination workshop on gender responsive budgeting tracking project in four (4) West African countries. The workshop was organised by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) Nigeria on November 25, 2009 at the Springview Hotel, Asokoro, Abuja. The aim of the workshop was to share the key project findings and recommendations on a Gender Responsive Budget Project in Niger, Mali, Ghana and Nigeria, so that participants can actively engage with their national governments and regional institutions on the need to promote gender responsiveness in budgets. The specific objectives were to:

- Provide an opportunity to get feedbacks from stakeholders on the achievements of the project.
- Give beneficiaries the opportunity to share experiences across board.
- Identify how and where CDD can provide future support to Gender Responsive Budget programmes with partners and beneficiaries.
- Create a space for networking across stakeholders.

The workshop gave participants the opportunity to share experiences on gender responsive budgeting.

TWN Africa Meetings

The 2009 Annual Review and Strategy Meeting of the Africa Trade Network (ATN), on **Africa and the Global Economic Crises**, took place in Accra, Ghana, from 11-14 August, 2009. The meeting brought together members of the ATN and other networks of civil society organisations working on finance, trade, investment and economic development in Africa to discuss and develop shared positions on the current crises of the global economy and their implications for Africa's development. The 4-day conference discussed issues related to the global crises of food, energy, finance, trade and production; impacts and alternative responses; and developed a framework within which on-going African civil society advocacy and campaigns on the EPAs, WTO, debt, resource extraction and other economic policy concerns can, both specifically and in their inter-relations, take on board the challenges posed by these crises of the global economy. NETRIGHT was represented at the meeting.

Research and Publications

Research and publications is another area of activity which builds the capacity of the network. During the period NETRIGHT published the following:

1. Akoben Newsletter, Vol. 9, Issue 1
2. Compilation of the Yearly Review on the Status of Women in Ghana: 2003-2008
3. Rethinking Feminism - A Report on Ghana's First National Feminist Forum
4. Affirming Ourselves as Women - Ghana at 50 Independence Anniversary Celebration
5. NETRIGHT's Brochure
6. Social Watch Brochure
7. Social Watch Ghana 2009 Report - Inequality the Biggest Challenge

8. Social Watch Ghana 2008 Report - Free Markets and the Threat to Basic Food Rights
9. 4th Social Watch General Assembly - People First: Social Watch's Response to the Global Crises
10. Compilations of Social Watch Report: 1996-2008

Funders Meetings

GRAP Meetings/Training

As part of its goals in building an effective and sustainable community of civil society organisations capable of holding the Ghana Government accountable on its pro-poor policies, GRAP contracted a consultant to provide technical training on financial management for its grantees. The programme was aimed at improving the financial management capacity of RAOs. In July, the consultant provided a two-day training in financial management and reporting to NETRIGHT staff and the staff of TWN Africa's Finance and Administration Unit. After, the training programme, GRAP organised a one-day workshop to provide feedback on grantees reports and to have a detailed working session with grantees on GRAP narrative and financial reporting. The meeting presented key findings of the financial management technical support that was provided to some RAOs. Again, GRAP profiled its grantees in the Public Agenda. NETRIGHT was profiled in the Public Agenda on 16th October, 2009.

The GRAP roundtable discussion on the 'oil and gas find' provided a platform for stakeholders in the research and advocacy community to update their knowledge on developments in the oil industry in Ghana. It also enabled the RAO community to interact with civil society actors on the Extractive Industry Transparency International (EITI) Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG). The meeting afforded stakeholders the opportunity to know the new government's commitments to transparency and governance issues in the oil sector. NETRIGHT shared its research preliminary findings on the oil and gas at the meeting. Ms. Akakpo represented NETRIGHT. The meeting was held on September 15, 2009.

The RAO Convention 2009 on 'Transparency, Accountability and Development in Oil and Gas Governance in Ghana' was held on November 23 and 24 at the Alisa Hotel. The 2009 Convention was organised to create a platform for civil society, private sector and other stakeholders in the oil sector to engage government on proposals for developing credible frameworks for Ghana's emerging oil sector. The convention afforded stakeholders the opportunity to discuss government's commitments to transparency and accountability issues in the oil sector. A communiqué was issued after the Convention. The communiqué called on the government as a matter of urgency to complete the comprehensive policy framework that will guide the development of the necessary legal and institutional frameworks for the effective management of the emerging oil and gas industry before the first production of oil in 2010. Again, it called on the government to put in place equitable social protection policies and measures aimed at addressing the probable social dislocations and related problems, example the livelihood of fisherfolk as well as probable negative environmental impact that will arise following the exploitation of oil and gas

resources. In addition, the government was to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all policies, strategies and programmes related to the emerging oil and gas industry. Civil society was urged to build a strong and united front to demand accountability and ensure transparency from government, state institutions, parliament and the oil companies for effective governance of the oil and gas industry. The communiqué also called on the private sector to actively engage the government in the development of the local content policy and relevant policies and law while the media was urged to extend its watchdog role to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights of citizens in the oil producing communities.

AWDF Meetings/Training

As part of an ongoing evaluation of AWDF funded projects/programmes of which NETRIGHT was a beneficiary, a Consultant - Shamillah Wilson visited NETRIGHT in September, 2009 to evaluate a two-year grant awarded to NETRIGHT in November 2007 by AWDF. A consultative meeting was organised in October, 2009 to share the findings of the Consultant with AWDF grantees that benefited from the funding. The meeting enabled grantees to evaluate the relationship between AWDF and its grantees, shared experiences as well as strengthened networking among grantees.

Resource Mobilisation Certificate Course

The Certificate Course in Resources Mobilisation for Non-Profit organisations (NGOs) was organised by African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) in partnership with the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and the International Resource Alliance (RA) from 7th September to 2nd October 2009. The objective of the course was to equip participants with critical knowledge and skills required for effective fundraising in a highly competitive non-governmental organisation (NGO) environment.

Participants at the four weeks course were taken through various sessions on principles of resource mobilisation, leadership and fundraising, the role of communication in resource mobilisation, types of fundraising, NGO governance, building corporate partnerships, proposal writing and presentation. In addition participants were trained in event management, budgeting and financial management.

The course was very relevant for NETRIGHT's development because as a grant-maintained network, it is important to know the different dimensions and intricacies of mobilising resources to be able to raise funds and other resources needed for the effective implementation of NETRIGHT's programmes and activities to ensure the sustainability of the network. It also informed participants on the need to communicate in a concise and precise manner, as well as how an organisation will present itself before donors for optimum results when mobilising resources.

Economic Justice

As a women's rights and economic justice advocacy network, the economic justice component of our work is our main core area and activities of the other two (2) core areas namely movement building and land rights are derived from our economic justice work. Specifically, the economic justice component of our work is divided into sub-themes: Economic Justice and Capacity Building Programme (EJCBP), Gender Budgeting, Financial and Food crises, Informal Economy/Women Traders, Social Watch, Gender and Trade, Gender, Oil and Gas Project.

The following activities were implemented during the period:

Gender Budgeting Training Workshop

NETRIGHT organised a training workshop on Gender Budgeting for its members as part of its three-year Economic Justice Capacity Building programme (EJCBP) on gender and economic policy analysis and advocacy.

The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of NETRIGHT's members on economic justice issues and their gendered implications. The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To create a space for NETRIGHT's members to strengthen their networking and advocacy efforts on gender budgeting
- To educate members on the processes, structure and content of the national budget so that they can actively engage with the government on the need to promote gender responsiveness in the implementation of budgeted programmes and activities.

The two (2) day training workshop which took place in August, 2009 was attended by 28 participants. Resource persons were drawn from civil society and the Ministries. A resource person from Nigeria who works on gender responsive budgeting was invited to share her organisation's experience with the participants.

Participants were enlightened on the importance of Gender Budgeting and how to analyse a budget from a gender perspective. At the end of the workshop participants released a statement on the 2009 Budget which was published and broadcast by the print and electronic media.

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 crises and its implications.

Social Watch Ghana launched the 2009 Social Watch Report at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in October, 2009. Rose Mensah-Kutin, Convenor of NETRIGHT who launched the report drew participants attention to critical issues in the 2009 Social Watch Report such as the identification of the need for a human rights' response to the financial and economic recession, the need for reforms in the global decision-making processes on economic policy, a critique of how financial entities

manage to transfer burden of risk-taking to the most vulnerable in the society and the fact that the financial crisis has worsened women's already precarious living conditions at all levels of the economy.

As one of the Social Watch partners implementing a Social Watch Global Project on Capacity Building and Strengthening of national Social Watch Coalitions, NETRIGHT hosted the 4th Social Watch General Assembly and Coordinating Committee meeting which took place in Accra, Ghana in October, 2009. Prior to the General Assembly, a Planning Committee was set up with oversight responsibilities for the hosting of the General Assembly. The theme for the 4th Social Watch General Assembly was '**People First: Social Watch's Response to the Global Crises**'. The assembly examined the implications of the systemic crisis on human, social and gender rights, and proposed alternative solutions to end the crises and transform the current economic and developmental model. There were five (5) workshops which will focus on sub-themes under the broad theme. Watchers from different regions and with different expertise will spoke on the sub themes. The three (3) day Assembly also dealt with governance issues and adopted a 3-year Strategic Plan for Social Watch.

The Assembly was attended by 111 participants (53 women and 58 men) from across the world

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.

The policy and literature reviews have been submitted by the consultants. The consultant for the baseline study is in the process of finalising her report. The Project Oversight Committee in consultation with the Steering Committee have re-commissioned Dr. Thomas Akabzaa who did the policy review to do another review and a comparative study using the current Energy and Local Content policies' and the withdrawn draft oil and gas policy. The 1st review was based on the draft oil and gas policy of the previous government.

Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network (OGSN)

NETRIGHT has joined the Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network (OGSN) and participated in activities organised by the network in 2009. The network is hosted by Kumasi Institute of Technology and Environment (KITE).

NETRIGHT participated in the Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network meeting (OGSN) held on October 13, 2009 at La Palm Beach Resort. The meeting was part of activities earmarked for implementation under the Oil and Gas Research and Advocacy Project (OGSRAP) which sought to institutionalise and promote stakeholder adherence to the cardinal principles of good governance in Ghana's Oil and Gas industry. The objective of the meeting was to update members on the emerging issues in the Oil and Gas sector, brainstorm on how to form a common front for civic engagement in the Oil and Gas sector and devise a common strategy for sustained engagement in the Oil and Gas sector.

Way Forward

NETRIGHT seeks to build an organisation that utilises women's own experiences and the material conditions of their lives as a basis for establishing a stronger presence within the Ghanaian public space for promoting women's rights as a core component of democratic governance and social justice. By focusing on the energy within the network and acting to foster a sense of interest and ownership among members, NETRIGHT is increasingly enhancing its organisational capacity to mobilise members for action and effective change on women's rights and gender equality issues.

Conclusion

NETRIGHT is grateful to G-rap for providing core grant to the network for the period August 2008 - January 2010. The core grant provided the needed support for the growth of NETRIGHT.

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 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 with particular reference to women's rights/gender-oriented organisations.

However, we believe the new government recognises RAOs and in particular, the women's movement as a credible and legitimate movement which has made immense contributions to the development of the country. For instance, the joint initiative by the 3 coalitions namely DV Coalition, WMC and NETRIGHT in addressing critical national issues of concern to women as a collective has been recognised by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC). As a result, MOWAC consults the 3 Coalitions whenever the need arises - the 3 coalitions through NETRIGHT were contacted to send a representative to the Human Trafficking Board, MOWAC Advisory Board and recently on the National Task Force on Preparatory Activities towards Beijing+15 Review.

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

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 the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAPs).

It must however be noted that the policy making environment has both opportunities and challenges for civil society engagement with policy and for successful policy advocacy. The opportunities include the general acceptance by government and its apparatus of the importance of engaging Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in policy discussions. 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. CSOs 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 the government and its development partners. This does not reinforce the need for the government 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 CSOs 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 the women's movement. 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 crises 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