

SPF Narrative Progress Report

Report period February 2009 – July 2009

Contract Ref. No. 03/SPF/44/Netright **Organisation** Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT)

Contact Tel. No. 021 511189, 503669 **Report Date** July 31, 2009
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Signature & date

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

1. Project Outputs on research and advocacy and/or services delivered

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

Make sure that you:

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

Outline outputs during this period	What specific policy issues does this target	What advocacy outputs were informed by your research
Oil and gas policies reviewed	oil and gas policies in Ghana	Dissemination of information on gender dimensions of oil and gas policies
Literature on the experiences of other countries reviewed	policies from other countries with oil and gas	Awareness creation on experiences of other countries about the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration, development and use in countries
Baseline study conducted and key issues of livelihoods, land tenure and social problems outlined.	oil and gas communities in Ghana.	Dissemination of information and awareness creation on research findings about the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration, development and use on communities in Ghana
NETRIGHT position paper on gender and oil and gas developed	NETRIGHT's Position paper on oil and gas from a gender perspective	Dissemination of information and awareness creation on the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration, development and use on communities
Awareness of policy makers raised on the gender dimensions of oil and gas policies	policy makers working on oil and gas issues.	Engagement with policy makers and awareness creation of the gender dimensions of oil and gas exploration, development and use.
Actors and social groups informed and consulted about	regional consultations on gender implications of oil and gas exploration in Ghana	Generate national debate and create awareness of the gender dimensions of oil and gas exploration, development and use

oil and gas policies		in Ghana.
Meetings held with networks to establish modalities for collaboration	modalities for collaboration and consultation with networks involved in mining, oil and gas and land tenure in Ghana	Advocacy for equitable distribution of the benefits of oil and gas and policies which protect the livelihoods of local populations
Internal monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place and used for project implementation effectiveness.	Project Evaluation	Strengthen the capacity of NETRIGHT and its members on oil and gas issues specifically and economic justice in general.

2. What is the organisations success in undertaking this special project

Gender, Oil and Gas Project Oversight Committee

The NETRIGHT Steering Committee at its meeting in February, 2009 set up a sub-committee mandated with an oversight responsibility for the implementation of the Gender, Oil and Gas Project.

The Gender, Oil and Gas Project Oversight Committee during the period under review met twice on March 18 and April 9, 2009 to discuss the project and agree on timelines. The Committee also drafted a Contract and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for three (3) Consultants to undertake a baseline study, policy and literature reviews separately as part of activities outlined for the project. The draft contracts and TORs have been reviewed and approved by the NETRIGHT Steering Committee.

The Committee also engages in online and phone discussions on issues that need immediate attention. This has enhanced the processes for taking decisions on key issues relating to the project.

Review of Oil and Gas Policies

To be able to engage policymakers effectively and raise awareness on the gender dimensions of oil and gas policies, NETRIGHT has engaged the services of a Consultant to review oil and gas policy in Ghana paying particular attention to the assumptions and underlying philosophies of the current policy framework, its key components and its implications for local communities and social groups such as women.

A contract has been signed between the Consultant and NETRIGHT. The Consultant has submitted the first draft of the policy review.

Literature Review

In order to draw valid conclusions and produce research and analysis about the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration, development and use on communities, NETRIGHT is undertaking a literature review on the experiences of other countries with oil and gas.

The contract for the literature review has been signed and the Consultant has submitted the first draft for review.

The draft literature review has been circulated to some gender experts and advocates for their comments. The comments will be given to the Consultant to use in finalising the literature review.

Baseline Study

A Consultant has been engaged to conduct a baseline study of oil and gas communities in Ghana. The study will outline key issues of livelihoods, land tenure and social problems and produce an analysis about the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration, development and use on communities around the 'oil find'.

The Consultant has undertaken a reconnaissance survey in communities around 'Cape Three Points' in the Western Region. She was assisted by NETRIGHT's focal person in the Western Region.

Establish Modalities for Collaboration and Consultation

One of the objectives under the project is to establish modalities for collaboration and consultation with other organisations and networks working on or interested in gender, oil and gas issues. To be able to identify such organisations and networks across all the ten (10) regions of Ghana, NETRIGHT organised a meeting for its regional focal points to discuss the project, identify the relevant organisations, groups and networks for possible collaboration and terms for the engagement. The meeting also raised critical issues of concern to women with regard to the 'oil find'. Issues raised had been forwarded to the consultant undertaking the baseline study.

Regional Consultations

Three regional consultations had been held in the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions with a cross section of civil society organisations, social groups and institutions to discuss oil exploration in Ghana. The consultations were aimed at information sharing and awareness creation. The consultations also generated discussions and promoted awareness on the gender dimensions of oil exploration in Ghana.

NETRIGHT Position Paper on Oil and Gas

NETRIGHT will develop a position paper based on the findings of the study for advocacy and engagement with policymakers, critical actors, communities around the 'oil find' and the public.

Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network

NETRIGHT has joined the Oil and Gas Stakeholders Network (OGSN) and participated in two (2) workshops organised by KITE, host of the network.

3. Stakeholder Perception

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

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

Although, there has been a recent change of government, we believe the Government of Ghana (GoG) recognises RAOs as credible and legitimate organisations who have made immense contributions to the development of the country. Women's rights RAOs have met the new Minister of Women and Children (MOWAC) and presented a set of demands to the Minister. These demands include issues on economic justice, gender violence, and politics and decision making. Oil and gas issues were also discussed.

In the case of the particular Oil and Gas project, even though, it is too early to assess changes in the eyes of the GOG and the general public, experiences of other countries that have had access to oil has not been a happy one. It is also a fact that citizens have been excluded and denied the chance to participate fully in critical decisions that can address issues of rights and equity in production, distribution and utilisation. More specifically, women as a constituency have been ignored in such policy making spaces in spite of the growing awareness of the relevance of promoting gender equality and women's rights in all social and economic processes of development. Oil and gas issues are often defined within the science, technology and economic fields where women's presence and issues have tended to be limited and where the interrelationships between power, access to resources and inequality are often ignored by policy makers. This is why 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.

For NETRIGHT to make a valid assessment on RAOs in relation to the 'oil find', our project activities have to be fully implemented before such an assessment can be made. At this stage, we can say that NETRIGHT is interested in changing perceptions about oil and gas policy and also about the role of RAOs in policy advocacy and therefore will direct its activities to this end. It is hoped that the dissemination and advocacy programme being planned by NETRIGHT would strengthen the legitimacy of RAOs.

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

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

It must however be noted that the policy making environment has both opportunities and challenges for RAOs' engagement with policy and for successful policy advocacy. The opportunities include the general acceptance by government and its apparatus of the importance of engaging RAOs in policy discussions. Donors also recognise this and have supported RAOs with

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

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

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

5. Grant and report related issues

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

No issue in particular.

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

Detailed Financial Data