

SPF Narrative Progress Report

Report period August 2009 – January 2010

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

Contact Tel. No. 021 511189, 503669 **Report Date** January 25, 2010

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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
Media Awareness raised and sensitivity to gender dimensions of oil and gas increased	Media engagement	Generate national debate and create awareness of the gender dimensions of oil and gas exploration, development and use in Ghana.
Gender responsive campaign strategy and messages on oil and gas to influence policy change	Development of campaign strategy and messages	Generate national debate and create awareness of the gender dimensions of oil and gas exploration, development and use in Ghana. Campaign and lobby for inclusive and equitable oil and gas policies
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

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. As a NETWORK interested in economic justice issues, we embarked on a **Gender, Gas and Oil Project** to enable us engage policy makers and all other critical actors in the oil and gas exploration process in Ghana. NETRIGHT is interested in contributing to civil society engagement on oil and gas issues in the country from a gender perspective. In particular, we are interested in how the decision making processes around oil are involving and taking the concerns of women into account and whether the decisions are prioritising national interest and citizens rights. NETRIGHT is equally interested in engaging with the process to ensure that oil as a vital energy service becomes easily accessible, reliable and affordable for women. This should happen through increased investment in basic infrastructures that utilise oil and gas to reduce women's burdens.

In view of the above, NETRIGHT has embark on a research and advocacy project to promote women's rights and gender justice in the oil and gas industry. The following are activities carried out during the period:

Gender, Oil and Gas Project Oversight Committee

The committee held meetings to discuss the drafts submitted by the consultants, assessed project activities and discussed strategies to be adopted to enhance advocacy and NETRIGHT's engagement with policy makers, media and other critical stakeholders. In addition, the committee met the NETRIGHT Steering Committee to discuss the final literature and reviews submitted by Drs. Akosua Darkwah and Thomas Akabzaa respectively. There was a consensus on the need to re-engage Dr. Thomas Akabzaa to do another review using the current Energy and Local Content Policies. It was agreed that the consultant, after the 2nd review should also do a comparative analysis of the draft oil and gas policy of the past and current government. The committee also had several online discussions to agree on issues that needed immediate attention. This 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 engage 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. The draft policy review was circulated to members and discussed at consultative meetings held in September, 2009. Comments from the meetings were used in finalising the policy review.

The consultant - Dr. Thomas Akabzaa of the Geology Department of the University of Ghana using the mining sector as an example noted that women bear the brunt of the negative impacts of mining activities including a loss of livelihoods, loss of incomes among others. However, there is enough evidence about the lack of serious consideration of gender issues in the country's mining sector. He pointed out that policy developments in the petroleum sector should therefore seek to learn lessons from such negative outcomes in the mining sector. According to him, there is the need for the government to comprehensively formulate and implement policies related to the promotion of gender responsiveness in the sector.

According to Dr. Akabzaa, the main areas of gender concerns in the proposed oil and gas policy framework should include fiscal and legal framework, health and safety, petroleum, good governance, revenue management, environmental, and social and economic impact management. There is also the need for specific clauses that address gender discrimination in employment and building of skills of local women to maximise their chances of employment. Gender sensitive clauses may include the allocation of a percentage of contract labourers as women, maternity benefits and equal opportunities for women and men in the sector.

Dr. Thomas Akabzaa has submitted the policy review. The Project Governance Committee and Steering Committee after reviewing the policy review has agreed to reassign Dr. Akabzaa to do another review using the current Energy and Local Content Policies. NETRIGHT will use the policy review to influence discussions on oil and gas policies in the country.

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 commissioned a consultant to review existing literature on the experiences of other countries with oil and gas.

After the submission of the 1st draft, literature review was circulated to some gender experts and advocates for their comments. The findings were also presented at regional consultative meetings that were organised. Comments received on the review were used by the consultant in finalising the literature review.

The literature review revealed that the economic base of women who form 70% of farmers are destroyed in oil extracting communities but no significant efforts are made to develop alternative means of livelihoods. Compensation claims are usually paid, to mostly male traditional rulers and local elites who are seen as the owners of local resources such as land and water. She alluded to the situation of Nigerian women, who have become victims of harassment and repression at the hands of the state and multinational oil companies. Several women have been stripped, beaten, maimed, raped and killed.

According to Dr. Darkwah, oil exploration increases the risk of health hazards of especially women living around oil extracting sites. For instance, pregnant women living close to oil fields are 2.5% higher at risk of spontaneous abortion than other women.

The consultant - Dr. Akosua Darkwah of University of Ghana and a member of NETRIGHT has completed and submitted the literature review.

Baseline Study

A Consultant - Dr. Rudith King of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) was contracted 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 - Dr. Rudith King of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has undertaken a reconnaissance survey in communities around 'Cape Three Points' in the Western Region. She was assisted by NETRIGHT's focal person, Ekua Ansah-Eshon in the Western Region.

The preliminary findings of the reconnaissance survey revealed an expression of fear of a capital intensive sector taking over from a highly labour intensive subsistence agricultural sector controlled by women. In brief, the oil exploitation may not create the balanced growth and development being touted. Some of the gender concerns that the survey revealed are:

- Land and livelihoods
- Security for the youth (commercial sex workers, HIV/AIDS, etc.)
- Changes in livelihoods
- Widespread unemployment

- Ecological degradation - destruction of virgin forests and farmlands as a result of physical Development
- Loss of aquatic lives
- The use of divide and rule tactics (chiefs in oil/gas communities as against their own people).
- Lack/absence of social amenities.
- Lack of job opportunities for indigenes - oil companies are more likely to show preference for outsiders (non-indigenes) but skilled for the job

Dr. King explains that the gender concerns are being raised to enable women and their groups to engage effectively on oil and gas policies and their implementation. The preliminary findings have been shared with a wider audience discussed at consultative meetings organised in September, 2009. It is expected that discussions at the consultative meetings will serve as guide to enhance the baseline study.

Dr. Rudith King has submitted a report on the reconnaissance survey. The consultant will submit the report on the baseline study by the end of February, 2010.

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. NETRIGHT has initiated a process of engaging networks/ coalitions involved in mining, oil and gas and land tenure in Ghana to solicit ideas for possible collaboration and terms for civil society engagement in the oil and gas industry.

Regional Consultations

In September 2009, consultative meetings were organised in the Greater Accra and Western Regions under the theme “Engaging with Oil and Gas Issues from a Gender Perspective”. The preliminary findings of the research component of the Gender, Oil and Gas project were discussed. Participants especially women in the fishing trade (fish mongers) shared their personal experiences and the negative impact of the oil discovery on their livelihoods.

Issues ranging from economic empowerment and livelihood, transparency and accountability, corporate social responsibility (CSR), rural urban migration, recruitment expectations, health impacts and resettlement among several others emerged during the discussions. The issues were discussed with from a gender perspective.

Oil and Gas Workshop

A workshop was organised in August, 2009 to build the capacity of NETRIGHT members in oil and gas issues from a gender perspective to enable them raise and respond to critical issues of concern to women in the oil and Gas Industry. Participants were drawn from all the regions.

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 (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.

GRAP Oil and Gas Roundtable Discussions

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 organised roundtable discussions on oil and gas to maximise efforts by RAOs to ensure good governance, gender equality and social justice in Ghana's oil and gas industry.

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. The meeting was held in September, 2009.

The RAO Convention 2009 on 'Transparency, Accountability and Development in Oil and Gas Governance in Ghana' was held in November 2009 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.

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 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.

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 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.

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