



# ANNUAL REPORT

2011.



A cross section of participants who attended the Arusha regional Business training review workshop and Exchange visit in November 2011.

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AWEPON	African Women's Economic Policy Network
WEPP	Women Economic Empowerment Programme
FLC	Fellowship of the least coin
FAC	Finance and Administration Committee
SMC	Steering and Management committee
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
WEPP	Women's economic Empowerment program.

### **A word from the Chairperson**



I am filled with great sense of pride and privilege to have the opportunity to serve in this leadership position this year and the past years. 2011 has been a year of such extreme delight in ensuring growth in AWEPON, for its success to and participation in the highest levels of promoting Economic justice and social transformation through training and advocacy.

Once again, on behalf of the African Women's Economic policy Network (AWEPON), I have the pleasure to present the 2011 annual report highlighting activities undertaken during the year. As you will discover, a number of activities aimed at enhancing the productive capacities of women were undertaken during the year. The report captures some notable achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and probable way forward for the organization.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Management and Steering Committee (SMC), the Finance and Management Committee (FAC), for guiding the policy direction of AWEPON that has enabled AWEPON to spearhead the advocacy agenda towards ensuring women's economic justice for women in Africa.

I would also wish to thank AWEPON staff for the wonderful work they have done for the organization this year, for their commitment and hard work which has led to the achievements attained during the year.

In 2011 AWEPON's activities continued to be focused on;

- Building capacity of African women in Business skills and Economic policy,
- Empowering women economically through provision of start up capital and productive resources,
- Supporting the access to national, and regional markets for women's products through training in value addition, appropriate technology and provision of market information using leaflets and ICT,
- Economic Policy analysis and advocacy through research, documentation and dissemination,
- Creating socio transformation of women economically, socially and culturally.

AWEPON's core challenge still remained limited core funding for programs and human resource to enable the organization to reach out to wider constituency in Africa, however, fundraising efforts are being made to ensure continuity of the Network's future activities.

We extend our sincere thanks to all those who supported AWEPON in any way in 2011, and we look forward to continued partnership with you all in the future.

**Thank you**

**Ms. Josephine Kamel**

**Chairperson, AWEPON**

### **A word from the Executive Director**

The year 2011 has been great with many achievements that saw the African Women Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) live up to its motto of “Standing up against Unjust Economic Policies” and continuing to be a voice for the African women. A lot was achieved in the areas of training through tailor made workshops, exchange visits and networking and the use of interns in order to build the capacities of young women graduates who are the future leaders of tomorrow.

In the area of Economic Literacy, a number of activities were undertaken but mainly under the DANIDA sponsored WEEP program. For instance, more trainings were done to build women’s capacity in Business and marketing skills and technology. Women were provided with productive resources where they can borrow cheap loans to run their Income generating projects.

To share WEEP experiences, AWEPON organized a Business skills regional review workshop which took place in Arusha – Tanzania. The major objective of this workshop was to facilitate knowledge sharing through networking and to reflect on country specific comparisons of the impact, best practices and challenges. The activity was combined with an exchange visit to enable women from the 5 countries learn what others in Tanzania were undertaking.

The activity brought together 31 grassroots based women from the 6 WEEP implementing countries which are; Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Cameroon and Lesotho. The women shared their countries’ and individual experiences about the WEEP, achievements, successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

In the line of Macro Economic policy advocacy, AWEPON disseminated the research finding on the impact of Global Financial Crisis on women. Research had indicated that Global financial crisis had greatly affected the incomes of the women as the prices of consumer goods escalated straining the already stressed household budgets. This in a way ate into the incomes of the women generated by some of AWEPON’s programs. During the dissemination workshop, women were given strategies on how to cope up with the crisis such as limiting spending and limiting borrowing..

During the year, AWEPON mentored three young women. These were from the three countries of Cameroun, Lesotho and DRC. By the end of the mentorship program, the interns’ capacities had been build in areas of research and reporting, training and some skills in proposal writing.

In the area of Gender and Trade, AWEPON spearheaded the climate justice tribunal which took place in Kampala and in Arusha Tanzania. The outcomes and recommendations of these tribunals were sent and discussed in Durban during COP17.

AWEPON also updated its financial software which has enabled the organization to implement an effective and transparent accounting system.

## **AWEPON ANNUAL REPORT 2011.**

AWEPON did also experience some challenges during the year, however, they were challenges that helped the organization to refocus and grow by looking at issues differently. Mainly these were limited funding and staff turn over challenges two officers (the Executive Director – Daisy Owomugasho; and the Program Officer – Ben Ariko) left the organization at the beginning of the year and at a very short notice. However staff issues were overcome and new and more efficient staffs were sought and hired. To address the funding challenge, AWEPON developed a funding strategy which will help it to broaden its income base.

I extend my appreciation to the SMC, FAC and staff of AWEPON for all this would not be possible without their guidance and technical support. Most importantly, AWEPON appreciates support from our dear development partners who supported our programs during the year; including DANIDA, ICCO, FLC and GCAP. We thank them for believing in the economic empowerment of women as a way to fight feminized poverty from the face of Africa.

We look forward to a better year in 2012.

Rosemary .M. Lukholo

**Ag Executive Director**

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The year 2011 saw more capacity building of grassroots based women in the six countries in areas of business and marketing skills, technology and socio transformation. More Income Generating Projects were started by women during the year. Testimonies of self development and socio transformation were given by the women beneficiaries during workshops and during exchange visits. All this was in line with AWEPON's mission of strengthening the economic capacity of women.

## **1.2 WHO WE ARE**

The African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) is a Pan African faith based Non Government Organization (NGO) with an active membership of 150 organizations in about 30 countries across Africa. In a search for economic emancipation of women and eradication of poverty, the network believes in enhancing the voices of African women to stand up against economic injustice, poor governance and promotes the rights of women to economic opportunities.

To AWEPON, the founding principle was that women have the fundamental right to shape the economic policies that impinge on their livelihoods and also make decisions on their development. The year 2011 was full of exciting activities as AWEPON mainly engaged in building the capacities of African women both at the grassroots, national and international levels.

### **Mission**

AWEPON seeks to strengthen the capacity of women especially at the grassroots and national levels to influence the shape of economic policy

### **Vision**

AWEPON works towards achieving economic justice

## **1.3 AWEPON CORE PROGRAMS**

### **Economic Literacy**

The AWEPON economic literacy program aims at demystifying economics by empowering rural women with basic economic policy analytical and advocacy skills so that they are able to speak out to demand for economic justice from the duty bearers.

### **Gender, Poverty and Macro Economic Policy.**

The program aims at monitoring economic policies from a gender perspective and advocating for policy review.

## **Gender and Trade.**

The overall objective of gender and trade is to integrate gender into the trade discourse at national regional and international levels.

## **Gender, Environment and Climate Change.**

In this program area, AWEPON aims at enhancing of the understanding of impact of climate change on women and the importance of environmental protection and management by all stakeholders.

### **1.4 AWEPON STAFF.**

In 2011, the organization was headed by Ms. Rosemary Lukholo as the Ag. Executive Director. She was assisted by Mrs. Florence Kasule the Programs Manager / Resource mobilizer, Ms Joyce Nsubuga the Finance and Administration Officer and a Receptionist Mr. Ben Mubeezi. Towards the end of the year, the secretariat recruited and was supported by 3 interns from the DRC, Cameroon and Lesotho.

### **1.5 MEMBERSHIP.**

AWEPON has been in the process of revamping its membership mainly from across Africa and a few from other parts of the globe. Membership is open to organizations, groups and individuals that subscribe to AWEPON's objectives.

## **2.0 PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE STRATEGIC YEAR 2011**

During 2011, AWEPON implemented projects under the five program areas of its strategic plan 2010 - 2012. In addition, AWEPON continued implementing the three year DANIDA funded WEEP whose major objective is to enable Africa to realize the potential of women in the development process through a process of social and economic transformation, as well as increased creation of Women's businesses and employment. AWEPON also implemented several activities funded by other development partners who include; Fellowship of the Least Coin, ICCO and GCAP.

### **2.1 PROGRAM AREA 1: ECONOMIC LITERACY.**

#### **1.6.3 Women's Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP)**

##### **1.6.3.1 Project description.**

DANIDA has been financing the African Women's Economic Policy Network in implementing a 3 year Women's Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP). The program covers 6 African Countries: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania and Uganda. The program aims at empowering women through;

- Enhancing their productive capacities
- Supporting them to access domestic and regional markets

## **AWEPON ANNUAL REPORT 2011.**

In 2011, AWEPON concentrated mainly in providing productive resources to grassroots based women in all the 6 countries as well as extending revolving funds to the women. The objective was enable women start income generating activities, promote savings cultures and ensure sustainable development.

AWEPON shared market information for the women's products through information leaflets and also electronically. This was to enable women access markets for their products to expand their income base.



AWEPON also enabled women to learn more and share information during the exchange visit that took place in Arusha Tanzania.

**Women of Manyago group – Entebbe Uganda who were provided with a ground nut grinding machine.**

### **1.6.3.2 Internship program.**

#### **1.6.2 AWEPON mentors and builds Capacity of Young African Women through the internship program. (August – December 2011).**

In the year 2011, AWEPON secretariat received three interns from the DRC, Cameroon and Lesotho. These interns were inducted and oriented about AWEPON, its policies and programs. Each one of them carried out research on one thematic area from AWEPON's strategic plan. The findings will guide



AWEPON on the best way forward in each thematic area. The interns also participated in the implementation of various activities at the secretariat as one of the ways to build their capacity through participation.

**The three young women who were selected for the internship program at AWEPON in Kampala – from left - Lala Lydie from the DRC, Rebeca Ngobel from Cameroun and Lekoba Christiana participating in a business skills training workshop at Seeta Mukono in Uganda in September 2011.**

### **1.6.3 The regional WEEP review workshop at Arusha - Tanzania.**

AWEPON organized a two days Regional - WEEP stakeholders' review workshop, at Hotel Equator, in Arusha – Tanzania. The workshop which was co - hosted with SASA Foundation which is AWEPON's focal point organization in Tanzania, brought together 31 participants from the 6 WEEP implementing countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Cameroon and Lesotho. The major objective of this workshop was to facilitate knowledge sharing through networking and to reflect on country specific comparisons of the impact, best practices and challenges of the WEEP especially in the area of business training, and business implementation processes among the Small and Medium Women Entrepreneurs who were WEEP

beneficiaries in the 6 countries. By the end of the workshop, participants had made feasible and viable recommendations and a SWOT analysis of their business environment.

#### **1.6.4 SUCCESSES OF THE WEEP.**

After sharing experiences in the review workshop, the following were observed in all the 6 WEEP implementing countries;

- The project had created a mind shift among most of the women beneficiaries. The attitudes had changed from women accepting poverty as their way of socialization and had become more innovative by exploiting business opportunities using available resources around them which had helped them generate personal incomes.
- Qualitatively, confidence and socio transformation had been built among the beneficiaries. Women can now stand up and talk about their achievements, challenges and recommend a way forward including participating in policy advocacy in their countries.
- By women coming together in groups which are now in process of becoming women cooperatives, a platform was created for women to socialize and share experiences, to laugh, as they shade off their stressful lives besides discussing real business issues.
- Women became economically empowered through training and skills development, and especially when they were given start up capital and revolving funds after the trainings. As they became economically empowered, they diversified their enterprises and also became more concerned about governance issues starting from their groups to assessment of community issues in their areas as they relate to their business development. This indirectly opened up and enhanced the women's leadership potentials within them.
- Practically, women started investing in activities that enhance wealth creation to ultimately eradicate poverty. Examples of Such investments include value addition, packaging and branding in Uganda, DRC and Cameroon to compete on the market, purchase of machinery such as milling machines in Tanzania and Kenya , purchase of ox – ploughs to expand on agricultural land, brick making machines , and briquettes making machines in Kenya and Uganda, purchase of fruits Solar drying machines in Lesotho, agricultural equipments in Cameroon to increase on cocoa production, and animal feed making machines in DRC among others.
- In countries such as Tanzania, Kenya and Cameroon, women groups which were provided with milling machines are now providing cheap milling services in the community. The milling services

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have generated income for the members in the groups, which can be borrowed to boost their businesses.

- Through provision of revolving funds and business skills training, women within their groups learnt a savings culture and have started creating capital fund reserves for sustainability in all countries from the interest earned and savings.
- The project has created integrated development initiatives. For instance, in all 6 countries, many women received funds for livestock production. The wastes from animal farms is being used as fertilizers in agricultural farms which has improved soil fertility and increased agricultural production, hence a diversified source of income and improved food security in the households.
- The WEEP has given a new direction for women to start a new page to study and advocate against bad taxation and customs policies that affect their cross boarder businesses. The women at boarder posts of Kenya and Tanzania had discovered that bad taxation and customs policies slowly pushed them out of business as they started to formalize their business and engage with cross border and regional trade.
- Out of the incomes generated from the women's projects, a number of unplanned but beneficial activities were started by the women which created a tremendous multiplier effect among the communities. Examples include creating sponsorship funds to cater for school fees for orphaned children in Kenya, starting functional literacy classes in Uganda and Kenya, and creating capital fund reserves for sustainability in all countries from the interest earned from the WEEP Revolving Fund.

### 1.6.5 WEEP "I" STORIES.

Mary Siso from Kenya had this to share;

***"I am a widow, and before benefiting from the WEEP, I was helpless with no income at all, and regarded as a vulnerable person. Under the WEEP project, in our group, we were trained about screen printing, and solar cooking. We started the projects. Out of the income from the projects and from the WEEP Revolving funds, I received a loan from the WEEP funds and started a cereal***

*trading business. In addition, I got training in business skills, which helped me to boost my income in a professional manner. With this empowerment, I am now a recognized community leader in my community, able to speak out and able to trade with bigger volumes, as a widow and am able to feed my children”*

Susan from Uganda had this to share;

*“AWEPON found me in a group and we were growing beans. The seeds were of poor quality and we were just selling them off. With training in value addition and with financial support under the WEEP we produced more beans and I started making bean cakes. I sell each cake between 20,000 and 30,000 Uganda Shillings. I bake cakes for birthdays and wedding functions on order. I also bake small cakes which I sell daily. This has greatly increased my income and has made me known in the community. I can now pay school fees for my children and am able to solve my personal financial problems without bothering my husband! My challenge now is I have no oven because I have been using a charcoal stove yet my business has expanded. Now, I need power driven oven to enable me satisfy my market”.*

#### **1.6.6 WEEP CHALLENGES.**

Some of the major challenges include limited funds to satisfy the interest generated by the WEEP in all countries and the need for more training especially in new areas of entrepreneurship, branding and standardization to effectively compete with other stakeholders and enhance their opportunities on the local, regional and global markets.

Other challenges include high illiteracy rates among most poor rural women, the short project period is also a challenge since it does not cause actual results and total transformation, Poor infrastructure within the rural areas and poor communication which limits the reaching of some of the rural poor women.

#### **1.6.7 RECOMMENDATIONS.**

There is need for;

- More funding from Development partners including governments to continue with this project in the formerly WEEP implementing countries as well as to expand to other African countries where possible since DANIDA support is coming to the end. These additional funds would go a long way in achieving the overall objective of eradicating feminized poverty in Africa.
- Integration of Functional Adult Literacy in new programs to help women learn how to read and write.
- Integration of improved modern farming methods in the projects since agriculture is the basis in all African Countries.
- Improvement of Rural infrastructure and communication services to support effective projects Implementation if we are to target and reach rural based women.

## **1.7 PROGRAM AREA 4: GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

### **1.7.1 AWEPON carries out climate change justice tribunals in Uganda and Tanzania (Oct – Nov. 2011).**

AWEPON's thematic program area 4 in its strategic plan 2010 – 2014 focuses on Gender, Environment and Climate change. The major objective of the activities under this thematic area is to ensure environmental sustainability through enhancement of women's knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the current climate changes and environmental degradation threats to their livelihoods.

AWEPON implemented and participated in the GCAP world wide campaign against climate change. AWEPON together with the G-CAP Feminist Task force undertook two Climate Change Tribunals. The major objective of the tribunals were

- To enhance awareness about the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of the vulnerable especially the women in Uganda.
- To generate messages to be sent to policy makers at national, regional and international levels that will help the affected communities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change

Activities which were undertaken included:

- Preparing a country climate change analysis paper.
- Capturing women's voices and taking video footages to show impact of climate change on the livelihoods of women. In Uganda this was done in three districts of Bududa, Kampala and Rakai.
- Undertaking two climate justice Tribunals in Kampala and Arusha.
- Organizing advocacy meetings with concerned Ministers and relevant government authorities.
- Reporting back to GCAP, whereby the final reports were presented in the Durban Cop 17 activities.

The activities largely involved the media to capture information and sensitize masses as much as possible.



The media press conference which launched the Climate change justice activities held at AWEPON secretariat offices in Kampala in October 2011.

### **1.7.2 The Climate Justice Tribunal in Uganda.**

The Climate justice tribunal was held in Uganda on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. During the Tribunal, the country analysis paper was presented, and women key witnesses from the three districts of Bududa, Rakai and Kampala gave their testimonies on the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of women. Below are pictures of the three women;



Witness from Bwaise Kampala.



Witness from Rakai



Witness from Bududa.

### **1.7.3 Outcomes and recommendations of the tribunal**

#### **1.7.3.1 Messages to the International community:**

1. Increased funding is needed to:
  - Undertake gender based research to assess actual impact on the vulnerable groups especially the women in developing countries including Uganda.
  - Support developing countries to implement activities that will help vulnerable groups especially the women to adapt and mitigate impact of climate change in developing countries
2. Ensure all developed countries especially those who contribute to gaseous emissions ratify the climate change international treaties and policies and implement them.
3. Ensure effective Monitoring to assess how the countries which signed the ratifications implement them and as required.

#### **1.7.3.2 Messages to the National Policy makers:**

- To mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in development planning for all ministries.
- To ensure allocation and commitment of enough resources to support the actions above in all sectoral budgets.
- To ensure implementation of these actions at community, local, and national level.
- To promote good governance as a requirement for the success of these interventions.
- To integrate the gender approach to mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the design, planning and implementation of policies, programs and projects at all levels that will lead to greater equitable management of resources, and environmental protection.
- In collaboration with civil society and NGOs, to enhance awareness/knowledge and information about climate change and associated impacts among the community especially among the vulnerable groups who also include the women.
- In collaboration with Civil society to harmonise national coordination of climate change adaptation initiatives including Intensifying on rain water harvesting technologies.

## **1.8 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN 2011.**

### **1.8.1 Challenges**

In the year 2011, AWEPON faced a number of challenges which are listed below;

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- The organization faced administrative challenges with limited number of staff on board. AWEPON has very many program areas which could have been tackled efficiently and effectively if there was adequate staff.

### 1.8.2 Opportunities.

- Experienced staff though few who were able to implement the planned activities. AWEPON also had the opportunity of a few Development partners who helped in funding all the implemented activities.

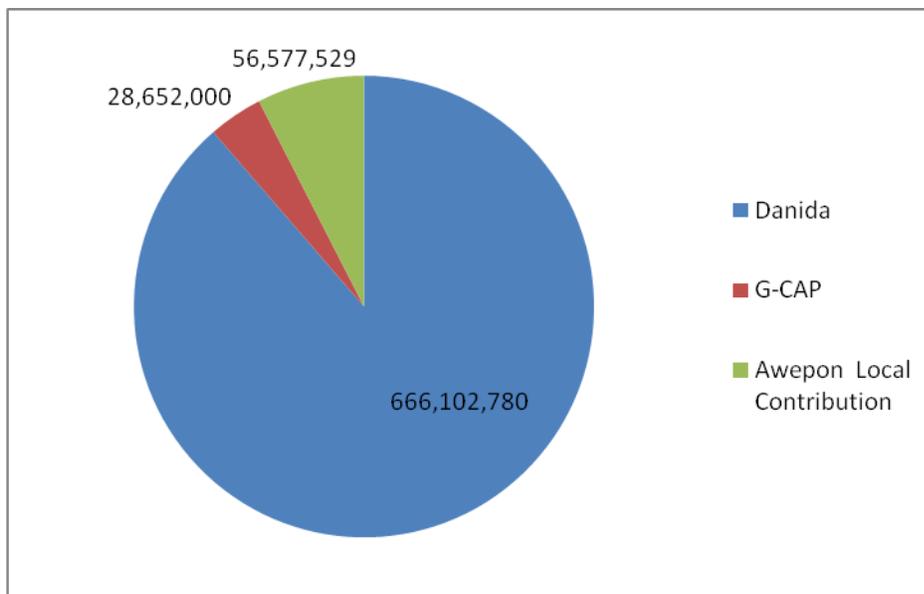
### 1.9 AWEPON DONORS / Development Partners in 2011.

AWEPON management and staff would like to appreciate our funders/ Development partners for the enormous support accorded to the organization. Their contribution has been a significant part of AWEPON's annual budget. Donors of AWEPON in 2011 include;

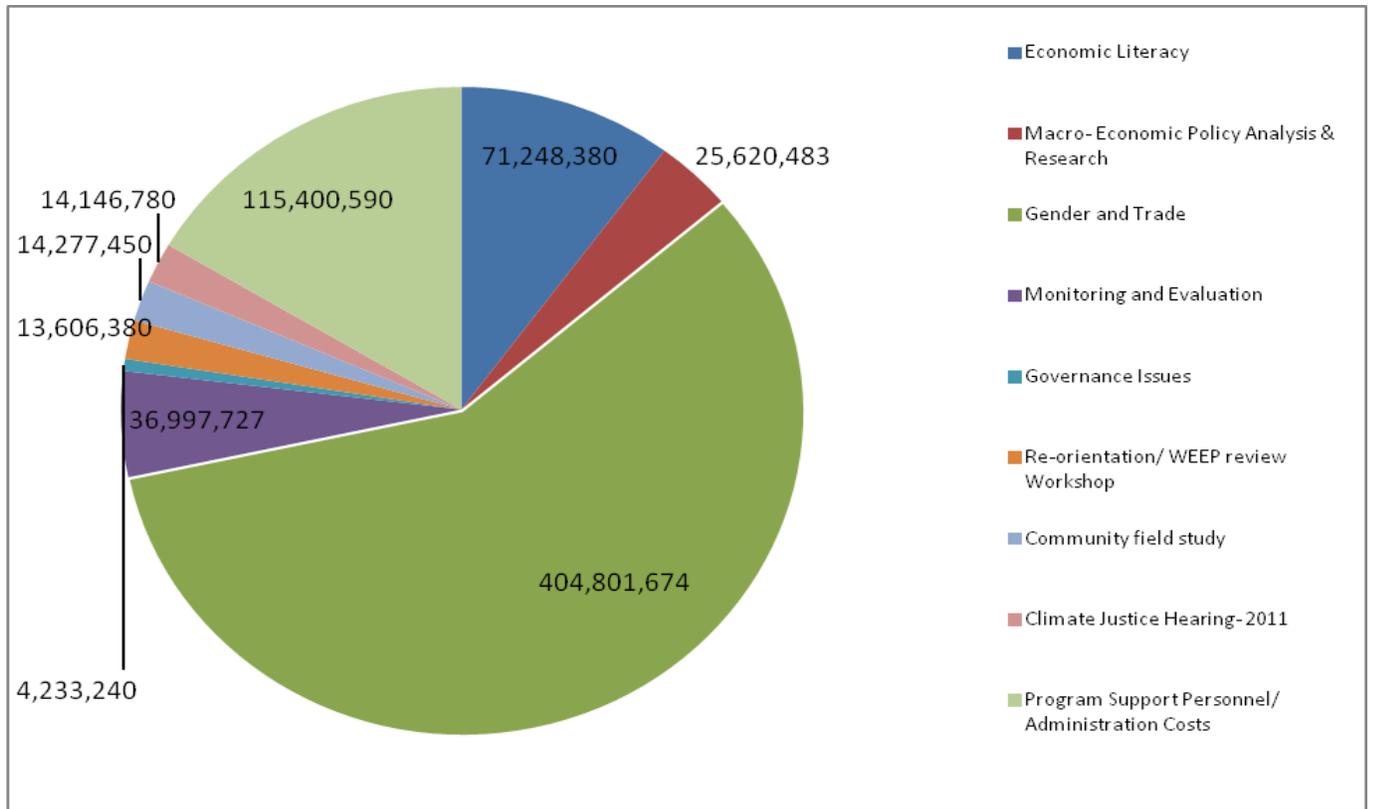
- DANIDA
- Kairos CANADA
- ICCO
- Fellowship of Least coin (FLC)
- GCAP

### 2.0 AWEPON'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT, 2011.

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR 2011



## EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR 2011



## DECLARATION DU REVENU POUR L'ANNEE, 2011

- Danida
- G-Cap
- La Contribution Local d'AWEPON

## DÉCLARATION DE LA DÉPENSE POUR L'ANNEE, 2011

- Alphabétisation Economique
- Analyse Macroéconomique & la Recherche
- Genre et Commerce

## **AWEPON ANNUAL REPORT 2011.**

- Evaluation et le Suivi
- Question de Gouvernance
- Atelier d'examen de WEEP/ Réorientation
- Etude sur le terrain communautaire
- Auditions de la justice du climat-2011
- Program du soutien de personnels/Frais Administratifs